The Columbia Publishing Course does not discriminate among applicants or students on the basis of race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, color, or handicap.
The Columbia Publishing Course provides an unparalleled overview of the entire publishing process, teaches basic publishing skills, and offers students the opportunity to meet and learn from top publishing professionals. The Columbia Journalism School is proud to announce the creation of a sister programme in the United Kingdom. The Columbia Publishing Course at Oxford University will give aspiring publishing professionals the opportunity to experience CPC’s distinctive brand of practical, intensive training, tailored for the demands and nuances of the British job market. Seventy students will receive an in-depth, four-week introduction to all aspects of book publishing, from evaluations of original manuscripts to the sales and marketing of finished products. Students will learn from leading editors, publishers, design directors and illustrators, marketers, and publicists. Dozens of publishing professionals will converge upon Oxford to describe the nature of their work, conduct workshops and seminars, and answer questions in classroom discussions and informal sessions.

The curriculum will be very intensive. Students will learn about publishing through a rigorous schedule of lectures, seminars, and workshops, and by completing professionally evaluated assignments. By spending time with speakers and instructors at meals and in late-night discussions, working on assignments after class, and living with like-minded colleagues for four weeks, students will take part in a unique total-immersion programme that cannot be duplicated by a series of part-time courses. In the process, students will discover a capacity to assimilate and produce more than they ever imagined possible.

The Columbia Publishing Course will provide a comparison of career options within book publishing which will help students determine their professional goals. Columbia Publishing Course students study every element of the process: manuscript evaluation, agenting, editing design, production, publicity, sales, e-books, and marketing. Students will also learn about different types of publishing houses, publishing strategies, and career paths. The class will then divide into smaller groups for a seven-day book workshop. Each workshop group will simulate the operation of a publishing house, giving students a chance to apply what they’ve learned and to gain hands-on experience in a particular area of book publishing.

The course’s brevity and emphasis on practical work skills prepare students to take publishing jobs right away, making it an appealing alternative to longer, more academically-oriented courses of study that exist elsewhere. By the end of the four weeks, course graduates will have a greater understanding of book publishing than many people now working in the field. Individual and group careers guidance sessions will be offered throughout the course.

Exeter College

The Exeter College at the University of Oxford, Exeter is located in the centre of Oxford, next to the world-famous Bodleian Library. Students will be housed in single rooms and take their meals in Exeter’s historic dining hall. Oxford itself has a small but thriving publishing scene, and London is just over an hour away by train, providing students with additional opportunities to immerse themselves in the literary world and pursue professional connections. The week following the course there will be a job fair and a reception for recent graduates, faculty, and friends of the Columbia Publishing Course.

Course Faculty

The Columbia Publishing Course in New York is known for the excellence of its instructors and lecturers, and CPC at Oxford will likewise draw expert speakers from all areas of the publishing industry. Faculty members are selected to represent the diversity of career options within publishing; some are executives in multinational conglomerates, others are successful entrepreneurs, some work with blockbuster franchises, others strive to reach specialised markets.

Editing Seminars and Assignments

In preparation for the programme, all students must complete advance reading and assignments. These assignments cover many of the topics to be discussed in lectures and are evaluated by publishing professionals. They are short, practical, and require students to perform tasks related to the publishing process. Short seminars will be held during the course to teach the fundamentals of manuscript evaluation. For the manuscript evaluation seminar, each student reads an unpublished manuscript and writes a reader’s report recommending whether or not to publish. Students will meet in small groups with editors to discuss the editing process and methods of manuscript evaluation.

Book Workshop

Students will apply what they’ve learned in lectures and advance assignments during the keystone of the programme: the hands-on book workshop. This week-long exercise is an intensive, collaborative simulation that requires interaction with writers, agents, illustrators, and advertisers. Based on his or her particular areas of interest, each student will be assigned to a workshop group and have specific job responsibilities. Each group will form a publishing company and develop six potential titles for publication, determining the company’s editorial mission, evaluating book ideas and manuscripts, and contacting authors and agents. Teams of carefully selected mentors will work with each group, facilitating discussion and providing guidance and professional advice.

Students will create marketing, publicity, and subsidiary rights plans for each book and present their titles to the class at a simulated rights auction. They will design book jackets, set production specs, and use computer models and industry databases to create financial projections for each title and for the publishing house as a whole.

At the end of the workshop, top publishing leaders will carefully evaluate each group’s proposal, giving constructive criticism and real world feedback. The book workshop will equip students with the practical knowledge, experience, and confidence needed to succeed in their careers.
Testimonials

The Columbia Publishing Course was the best thing I could have done to launch my publishing career. I not only got my first job through a publisher I met during the book workshop, but it was also just an incredible amount of fun and inspiring in a way that far exceeded my expectations. The total immersion meant that we completely soaked up the flavour of the publishing industry, frolicked in a bit of glamour, met a remarkable range of people that it would usually take a lifetime in the industry to even shake hands with, and also gained immediately applicable skills, including very practical careers advice. I made friends for life, began my publishing career, and got a transatlantic perspective of the industry, which has been incredibly applicable and valuable working in the UK.

Helen Thomas, Class of 2006
Editorial Director
Orion Children’s Books & Indigo Hachette

I was looking for a course that would give me real, practical skills, taught by people working in the industry today, and that’s exactly what CPC gave me. It’s a unique opportunity to meet fascinating people from all areas of publishing and make amazing contacts you just wouldn’t get a chance to elsewhere. It’s also an incredibly fun few weeks! I came away from the course with an amazing network of friends; friends who will also be my colleagues for the rest of my career. If you want to be part of the book publishing industry, apply for CPC.

Tig Wallace, Class of 2014
Assistant Editor, Fiction
Penguin Random House UK Children’s

The course was absolutely fantastic in teaching me the breadth and scope of the publishing industry, both in magazines and books. It made me realise the endless possibilities and that my interest didn’t have to be limited to editorial.

The opportunities to interact with and learn from those at the top of their game were unprecedented. And we all got access to and insight into the innermost workings of a fast-paced and exciting industry. Shaye Areheart’s knowledge of the publishing industry is pretty much unsurpassed.

Jessica Heald, Class of 2014
Assistant to the Chief Executive, Bloomsbury Publishing
Careers Planning and Placement

Over the years, publishers have come to recognise the advantages of hiring applicants who possess the skills and knowledge gained at the Columbia Publishing Course in New York. The percentage of course graduates placed in publishing jobs each year is very high, often as much as 95% in the first year for students who stay in the New York City metro area. The Columbia Publishing Course at Oxford University will likewise offer job placement support for graduates who wish to work in the United Kingdom.

A careers fair will be held the week after the course ends. Representatives from a wide range of publishing companies will meet with graduates to discuss employment opportunities. At a reception honouring the class, students will be introduced to publishing professionals working in London and other parts of the UK, including alumni of the Columbia Publishing Course in America.

During the course every effort will be made to prepare students for entry into the job market. Students will participate in workshops on CV and cover letter writing, and will meet with course staff throughout the programme to discuss career plans, interests, and goals. Faculty members will also be valuable resources for those seeking information and advice, as they are in the New York programme. Upon graduating, students will become part of a global alumni community that stretches throughout dozens of countries around the world.

While students are not guaranteed job placement, the course offers extensive careers placement and support services. New job listings will be posted during the programme and continuously throughout the year. The wide-ranging network of course graduates provides students with access to individual companies and publications as well as information about specific openings and general employment opportunities.

Who Should Apply

The course is aimed primarily at recent university graduates but other applicants are not discouraged. Many students have worked in publishing briefly and would like to broaden their understanding of the field or have decided to make a career change from an unrelated field.

Publishing is by no means restricted to the editorial function. While most applicants have studied English and the humanities, many have degrees in other disciplines, particularly art, history, economics, business, law, music, and the sciences.

Students with a demonstrated interest in publishing have always gained the most from the course. Those who have held publishing internships or worked on school publications are familiar with publishing’s long hours and constant deadline pressures. Those with bookstore, library, or office experience have skills and insights that publishers find valuable. Many types of interests, work, or volunteer experiences can be considered related to publishing. For instance, photography, graphic arts, sales, or marketing experience can be good training.

Because of other available educational opportunities, the course does not emphasise instruction in journalism or creative writing. Applicants with writing experience who seek new ways to apply their skills within the world of publishing—as editors, publicists, designers, marketing and business managers, or publishers—are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should note that the Columbia Publishing Course is a highly intensive four-week session, with students expected to attend classes and workshops...
weekday mornings, afternoons, and some evenings, as well as weekends. As a result, students can expect little free time during the course.

**APPLICATIONS**

APPLICATIONS ARE accepted any time after 2 November 2015. Applications are due on 15 April 2016; early consideration will be granted to those who submit all materials by 15 January 2016. The following items must be submitted as part of a complete application:

1. A completed application form (available on the course website)
2. £17.00 nonrefundable application fee (payable by credit card)
3. A two-page personal statement and a short answer response (essay prompts for 2016 will be listed on the course application)
4. Two to three letters of reference from employers and/or professors
5. University transcripts listing degree date or projected degree date from each undergraduate and graduate institution attended as a degree-seeking student
6. A current curriculum vitae

Applicants who apply before 15 January will be notified of the admissions committee’s decision by 15 February. All other applicants will be notified of acceptance by early May 2016. Those accepted are required to make a £1,000.00 non-refundable deposit to guarantee enrolment.

**FEES**

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<tr>
<th>Tuition &amp; Workshops</th>
<th>£3450</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>£1490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>£580</td>
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THE MANDATORY BOARD plan includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner on weekdays. Students living off campus will be assessed a £580 fee for the mandatory board plan.

Fees will be charged in US dollars at a rate of 1.52 USD to GBP.