

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CENTRE**  
**Application to join an OPAL course, 2011-2012**

Surname..... First Name(s)..... Title.....(e.g. Mr/Dr/Ms)

University Card No. .... (the number *above* the bar code)

**Status: (please tick)**

Undergraduate  Staff Member  Recognised Student   
 Graduate student  Member of Congregation  Academic Visitor   
 Post-doctoral/contract research staff  Visiting Student  Associate Status

College .....Dept/Faculty/Institution .....

E-mail address .....Nationality.....

Degree course (if applicable) .....Year of Study .....  
 (e.g. BA in Modern languages, MSc in Software Engineering)

Preferred OPAL course: Language.....Level.....

Current Level:.....Online placement test score .....  
 (Level 1; level 2 etc – see table below) (French/German/Italian/Spanish only)

**Common European Framework/ALTE levels**

LEVELS	Listening/Speaking	Reading	Writing
C2  Level 5	CAN advise on or talk about complex or sensitive issues, understanding colloquial references and dealing confidently with hostile questions.	CAN understand documents, correspondence and reports, including the finer points of complex texts.	CAN write letters on any subject and full notes of meetings or seminars with good expression and accuracy.
C1  Level 4	CAN contribute effectively to meetings and seminars within own area of work or keep up a casual conversation with a good degree of fluency, coping with abstract expressions.	CAN read quickly enough to cope with an academic course, to read the media for information or to understand non-standard correspondence.	CAN prepare/draft professional correspondence, take reasonably accurate notes in meetings or write an essay which shows an ability to communicate.
B2  Level 3	CAN follow or give a talk on a familiar topic or keep up a conversation on a fairly wide range of topics.	CAN scan texts for relevant information, and understand detailed instructions or advice.	CAN make notes while someone is talking or write a letter including non-standard requests.
B1  Level 2	CAN express opinions on abstract/cultural matters in a limited way or offer advice within a known area, and understand instructions or public announcements.	CAN understand routine information and articles, and the general meaning of non-routine information within a familiar area.	CAN write letters or make notes on familiar or predictable matters.
A2  Level 1	CAN express simple opinions or requirements in a familiar context.	CAN understand straightforward information within a known area, such as on products and signs and simple textbooks or reports on familiar matters.	CAN complete forms and write short simple letters or postcards related to personal information.
A1  ALTE breakthrough level	CAN understand basic instructions or take part in a basic factual conversation on a predictable topic.	CAN understand basic notices, instructions or information.	CAN complete basic forms, and write notes including times, dates and places

College Senior Tutor's agreement (applicable to students wishing to seek partial re-imbusement from their Colleges on successful completion of course)

I support the above-named student's application for a place on OPAL.

Name:..... Signature.....

College.....

**Personal statement by applicant**

Please state as fully as possible your reasons for wishing to join an OPAL course and studying the language you have chosen (for Proficiency Level only, write the statement in the language you wish to study. E.g. write the statement in French if you wish to study French at Proficiency level, in German for German Proficiency etc.). Please also explain how you expect to be able to put in the effort required to meet the standards expected in order to complete the course. You should ask yourself the following questions:

1. **Why exactly do I want to learn this language?** - *Distant goals such as usefulness in the future for a career will not sustain active learning very well. Immediate or well-focused needs may sustain effort as may personal reasons such as family ties with the language.*
2. **What interests me about an OPAL course?** - *Is it the pace, the small group size (average 12), the timing, the certificate, the need for commitment by all those taking the course?*
3. **Can I commit myself to at least 4 hours study a week (2 class + 2 independent study hours) during term time?** - *How will you manage when there are other work pressures? Do you have good time management skills?*
4. **Can I commit myself to 2 terms of class study?** - *Will you be busy in Hilary Term?*
5. **Do I wish to continue for the certificate term?** - *Do you have other commitments in May and June?*