

# Staying one jump ahead – what to do after A-levels



**W**hat to do now that you have finished your A-levels can be a stressful time, especially as all that you really want to do is ride. Do you go to university? Do you get a job in a stable? Do you have a gap year? In fact, the options are endless. Oxford Media & Business School may have the answer – studying on the nine-month (September – July) full-time Professional Business Diploma provides you with outstanding Interpersonal, IT, Business, Marketing and Management Skills while simultaneously allowing time to continue with your passion for riding. At the same time it gives you the most unbelievable work skills that you can take to any job in any industry, be it for a permanent role or a temporary one to fit in with riding.

An important part of coming to OMBS is for the student experience. Oxford has a thriving student scene, the city is full of young people and is buzzing with things to do. There are great bars and clubs which organise numerous social events; you can even join the Oxford Union. OMBS has its own student houses which means you get to live with other students, allowing you to become independent, responsible and above all form some amazing new friendships.

OMBS is a very popular route for riders and below are just some of the things they are saying about us.

"I attended OMBS in 2018-2019. I was accepted into university in London to start after my gap year but made the decision to go to OMBS primarily to learn skills that would be useful in everyday life. I also didn't want to go through three years of university when I could do OMBS for nine months and have two years of work experience on top of that before my friends at university even graduate. So it was a simple decision for me!

"I conveniently live 40 minutes away from Oxford, so it became a weekly habit to travel back and forth schooling the eventers before their competitions at weekends. I was also lucky to share a house in Oxford with four other girls, so I wasn't always travelling home during the week if I had large assignments and deadlines due in.

"The tutors at OMBS were so understanding about my equestrian pursuits and, whilst studying, I was able to event three horses at 3\* level. This was hugely down to the support that was offered whilst studying as I had to take days off for training or competitions, my fellow students and tutors would make sure I was given any tasks I missed so I never got behind with my work. Of course I had to make sure that deadlines were met on time and this meant I had to be organised and plan thoroughly for each week.

"Despite being as busy as I was, I was still able to experience the student social life, going out in Oxford and meeting up with all my friends who were studying at Oxford Brookes.

"As an ambitious and driven young rider, I would advise anyone with similar interests to study at OMBS as it gives you the flexibility to still compete and, along the way, I met plenty of girls with the same interests as me. OMBS has opened so many new doors for me and gives you a great foundation to progress in to working life." **Chelsea – 2019 graduate**  
 "After making the decision not to go to university, I was not sure what route to take. However, I still wanted to experience the student life. During my gap year, I bumped into a friend who had previously studied at OMBS. She highly recommended the course and it sounded very suitable for myself especially having horses. Three years of studying at university did not appeal to me. I wanted to continue show jumping my horses, which OMBS has allowed me to do. I have been able to go home every weekend to ride and sometimes during my spare time at OMBS during the week.

"The one-year course has been everything I have wanted. Oxford is a great city with a high number of students and I have definitely experienced living the university lifestyle. The course has allowed me to start work much sooner than the majority of university students and has made me feel very prepared to enter the workplace. I think OMBS is a great alternative to university and ideal for those with horses!" **Georgia – 2019 graduate**

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