

## Side Events Guide

2026 What Works Hub for Global Education Conference | 15-16 September | Oxford

### A note about planning side events

The What Works Hub for Global Education's Biannual Conference brings together a remarkable community of researchers, practitioners and policymakers working to improve the implementation of effective education reforms at scale. We recognise that the value of this conference lies not only in its quality sessions but also in the gathering of hundreds of great minds that will all be present together in Oxford. We encourage participants to take advantage of this proximity and use this moment to convene, connect and go deeper on the issues that matter most. Side events are a wonderful part of what makes this gathering so valuable.

To ensure everyone can fully participate in the full week's programme, we kindly request that you **do not schedule side events on the days of the conference, 15 and 16 September**, so these days can be fully dedicated to delivering and participating in a quality conference.

**Side events are welcome on Thursday 17 September or Friday 18 September.** Monday 14 September is also available, though please note we will have a WWHGE Community of Practice event in the afternoon, so if you or your side event attendees are likely to be interested in attending you may wish to avoid this option.

The WWHGE has created this guide to support you in planning your side event.

## Schedule at a Glance

Date	What's Happening
Mon 14 Sep	<b>Community of Practice Event(s)</b> — <i>if you anticipate that you or your side event attendees would like to attend the WWHGE Community of Practice event, then we advise not scheduling a side event on Monday afternoon.</i>
Tue 15 Sep	<b>Main Conference</b> — <i>please do not schedule side events on this day.</i>
Wed 16 Sep	<b>Main Conference</b> — <i>please do not schedule side events on this day.</i>
Thu 17 Sep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Side Events Day 1</b> – your event is very welcome here!
Fri 18 Sep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Side Events Day 2</b> – your event is very welcome here!

## Finding a Venue in Oxford

Oxford has a range of excellent venue options to suit different group sizes and formats. Here are some commonly used options:

- **Blavatnik School of Government** – modern facilities near the city centre with seminar rooms and larger lecture theatres available for hire. Same location as the conference. To book, please contact [events@bsg.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@bsg.ox.ac.uk).

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- **Oxford colleges** – many offer meeting and events room hire to external organisations. Colleges such as St Anne's, Rewley House, and Exeter are experienced at hosting external events. Availability can be limited, so book early. Visit the [Conference Oxford](#) website for availability at a number of colleges and university venues or contact the colleges directly.
  - **Saïd Business School** – modern facilities near the city centre with seminar rooms and larger lecture theatres available for hire. Visit the [Saïd Business School website](#) for details on how to book space.
  - **Oxford Martin School** – hosts events with a global development focus and has well-equipped meeting and event spaces. For more information on spaces and availability, please contact: <mailto:events@oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk>.
  - **Bodleian Libraries venues** – for smaller, high-profile gatherings, several library spaces are available for hire. To book a space at the library, please visit the [website](#).
  - **Hotels with conference facilities** – the [Old Bank Hotel](#), [Randolph](#), [Malmaison Oxford](#), and the [Oxford Spires Hotel](#) all offer meeting rooms and event spaces.
  - **Community and arts venues** – the [North Wall Arts Centre](#), the [Oxford Town Hall](#) and the [Old Fire Station](#) are flexible spaces suitable for workshops and public-facing events. Visit their websites for more information.

*Tip: Most venues require bookings at least 4–8 weeks in advance.*

## Accommodation in Oxford

Oxford city centre is compact and most conference venues are within walking distance of a range of accommodation options:

- **Oxford colleges (bed & breakfast)** – several colleges offer affordable, characterful accommodation during vacation periods. Check the [University Rooms](#) platform for availability or the [Conference Oxford](#) website.
- **Hotels in the city centre** – the Randolph Hotel, Malmaison, Mercure Oxford Eastgate, and the Old Parsonage Hotel offer central locations. The Premier Inn and Travelodge on Botley Road and Pear Tree Interchange provide more budget-friendly options with transport links to the city centre.
- **Slightly further afield** – Abingdon (15 mins by bus) and Witney offer additional hotel options at lower price points, with good transport links into Oxford.
- **Short-term rentals** – Airbnb and similar platforms have a good range of options across the city and surrounding villages.
- **Book early** – Oxford accommodation fills quickly, particularly in September. We strongly recommend booking as soon as your participation is confirmed.

## Getting Around

- Oxford city centre is largely pedestrianised and most venues are within a 15-minute walk of each other.
- Buses – Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach run frequent services across the city. The X90 connects Oxford to London Victoria.
- Trains – Oxford station is a 10-minute walk or short taxi ride from most central venues. Direct services run to London Paddington (approximately 55 minutes).
- Taxis and ride-sharing – Royal Cars and 001 Taxis are reliable local operators. Uber also operates in Oxford.
- Practical information about Oxford can be found on the [Visiting Oxford](#) and [Experience Oxfordshire](#) websites.