Frequently Asked Questions about Winter Term

for detailed info please see the winter term website
www.oberlin.edu/winterterm

First-year and transfer students are invited to a Winter Term information session on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, in Wilder Main at 7 p.m.

What is Winter Term?
Oberlin provides a Winter Term in January to encourage and enable students to discover the value of self-education. Winter Term affords students an opportunity to devise and pursue programs of independent study or research and to undertake—individually or with a group, on- or off-campus—other projects of educational value that the structured curriculum during the academic year cannot easily accommodate. Winter Term provides an opportunity for variations and supplements to the usual course offerings, with an emphasis on experimentation and creativity, intellectual independence, and personal responsibility. Projects may be proposed by faculty, students, and, occasionally, by members of the administrative and professional staff or alumni.

How do I decide on a winter term project?
You should meet with a potential sponsor (faculty or approved administrative and professional staff member) no later than early November (during advising appointments prior to registration for the spring semester is a good time) to discuss your winter term plans. Many international projects are organized earlier in the semester and advertised at the Study Away Fair in late September. Group projects will also be posted on the winter term website, beginning in late August. Your academic advisor may be a suitable sponsor, or if not, may be able to suggest others. Here are some general thoughts to help you get started. During Winter Term, you might:

• pursue a subject related to a first-semester course
• work with a particular faculty member
• explore a potential career field through an internship offered by the Career Center
• volunteer with a community group through the Bonner Center for Service and Learning
• study a musical instrument
• take an intensive foreign language course
• participate in a theatrical or musical production
• explore a new field of inquiry
• participate in an international group project

What is the winter term requirement?
• In order to graduate from Oberlin, students pursuing a bachelor’s degree are required to complete three full winter term projects.
• Transfer students must complete one full project in each Winter Term during their enrollment at Oberlin, unless this would result in more than three projects.

**Are winter term projects the same as academic courses?**
• Winter term projects are not the same as semester courses/credits. Although winter term project credit is required for graduation, it is not applied in the same category as the required overall course/credits for graduation.

**What are the most important deadlines for Winter Term?**
• November 28, 2016: the last day to apply for winter term internships through the Career Center
• December 2, 2016: the last day to register for Winter Term 2017
• January 3 – January 25, 2017: Winter Term beginning and end dates

**Are there any special winter term fees?**
There are no additional tuition or room fees for Winter Term. Students may purchase (or use their OCID cards to charge) individual meals at Stevenson during winter term. Students may also use remaining flex dollars to purchase meals at Stevenson.

Some projects, especially those directed by an invited specialist or requiring travel, may require a fee from each student participant to help defray expenses. Remember: A student registered for winter term credit may not be paid for work associated with his/her project.

**Where can I find more information or ask for help?**
• Come to the Information Session for First Year and Transfer Students on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at 7 p.m. in Wilder Main.
• Visit the Winter Term Fair, Monday, October 24, 2016, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
• Visit the winter term website (Oberlin.edu/winterterm) for comprehensive updated information and forms.
• Talk to your academic advisor(s) about project ideas and possible sponsors.
• Contact the Office of the Dean of Studies (for students in the College of Arts and Sciences, 775-8540) or the Office of the Conservatory Associate Dean (for students in the Conservatory, 775-8200) if you have specific questions about the winter term requirements.
• Contact the Career Center (775-8140) if you are interested in winter term internship opportunities.
• Contact Amy Moniot (775-8540), assistant dean of studies, if you are interested in participating in international group winter term projects.
• Contact the Bonner Center for Service and Learning (775-8055) for information about community service projects.
• Contact the Winter Term Office in Peters 205 (775-6499), if you have general questions or need other information.