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1. Introduction

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2019,

I am delighted to welcome you to your new home for the next part of your life. Despite its name, New College is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford and boasts some 700 students from around the world who you will be joining. This ancient college, founded in 1379 and situated in the heart of Oxford, is full of history and tradition. However, it has always been possessed of a modern outlook; its original founder William of Wykeham gave it the first vernacular motto of any Oxford college: ‘Manners Makyth Man’ that regardless of background or upbringing, attitude is what makes you who you are. New College has maintained this style merging the traditions of Oxford with an open and welcoming pattern of university life.

The Middle Common Room (MCR) is at the heart of your life here at college and the base to build your Oxford experience. In this community of postgraduate students within the college, you will meet students from all corners of the world studying a wide variety of subjects. I hope that within this diverse company, you will meet interesting people, widen your intellectual horizons, and make close and lifelong friends.

The MCR is a student run organisation which is headed by the MCR committee. As well as maintaining and developing the physical MCR facilities, the Committee organizes a wide range of events for you throughout the year: bops (college parties), formal dinners, bar and movie nights, exchange dinners with other colleges, competitive and recreational sports, artistic and cultural events, and much more, all designed to provide you with a fun, engaging, and friendly community to be part of.

The MCR also provides significant resources for the provision of the mental, emotional, and academic welfare for our members, with our welfare representative, our Peer Support Team, representatives for various identity groups, and a group of friends and colleagues to help you navigate the ups and downs of student life here and be on hand throughout.

You will be kept up to date on MCR news and events on a weekly basis via email and through updates on the MCR Facebook page, which you can join prior to your arrival.
Chapter 1. Introduction

There will also be an MCR Freshers page which will allow you to keep abreast of all the freshers-only activities and information for your first weeks at college. Regardless of your path that has brought you, your time at Oxford will be a unique experience and will provide you with memories to last a lifetime. We are your MCR and are here to help you make the most of your time at Oxford. Don’t hesitate to approach any committee member by email or personally if you have any questions or queries about anything. We will do our utmost to help. That only leaves me to say welcome to New College and I hope you have an amazing and life affirming time here.

Malina Graf
MCR President 2019–2020 mcr.president@new.ox.ac.uk
2. The College

2.1 History

St Mary’s College of Winchester in Oxford, commonly known as New College, was founded on the 26th of November 1379. It was the seventh college, of those still in existence, to be founded at Oxford. Since 1400 it has been known as New College to distinguish it from the other College of St Mary (now Oriel College). The College was founded by William of Wykeham, who was the Bishop of Winchester, Chancellor of England and a churchman and administrator in the King’s service, whose eventual wealth and power overshadowed the humble obscurity of his origins. He established and endowed the college on a scale that, at the time, dwarfed any rival institution. The first part of college to be built was Front Quad and the adjoining cloisters, which were constructed between the foundation and 1400. This was the first purpose-built quadrangle in Oxford and is unusual in that it has an oval lawn in the middle. Pre-dating this were the city walls, which date from the thirteenth century: New College is obliged to maintain these, and they form a pleasant backdrop to the college gardens.

In August 1651, New College was fortified by the Parliamentarian forces, and the cloister was used for musketry training. In 1685, Monmouth’s rebellion involved Robert Sewster, a fellow of the college, who commanded a company of University volunteers. These volunteers were mostly of New College and exercised on the Bowling Green.

The college was extended between 1681 and 1707 with the addition of the beautiful Garden Quad. At the end of the nineteenth century Holywell Quad, with the associated New Buildings, was built to cope with expanding numbers in College. The Sacher Building was built for graduate students in the sixties, making New College the first of the ancient colleges to build a common room especially for graduates. Since 2011, the MCR has been located in the cricket pavilion located at the Weston Buildings. The Governing Body began considering the admission of women in 1964, and New College’s first female students matriculated in 1979.

2.2 College motto

The college’s motto, created by William of Wykeham, is "Manners Makyth Man". The motto was in many respects fairly revolutionary. Firstly, it was written in English, rather than Latin, which makes it very unusual in Oxford, particularly in light of the college’s age: even St Catherine’s College, founded in 1965, has a Latin motto. Secondly, the motto makes a social statement. While it might initially seem to suggest the benefit of having good manners, this reading does not capture its full scope. The motto’s true meaning is that it is not by birth, money, or property that an individual is defined, but by how he or she behaves towards other people.
2.3 New College today

New College is an intellectual community and one of the best-known colleges in Oxford. New College has approximately 60 Governing Body fellows, 10 junior research fellows, 290 graduate students (110 freshers this year included), 420 undergraduates, an endowment of over £250 million, and some of the most beautiful grounds and buildings in Oxford.

The college is governed by the Governing Body, which consists of professorial fellows, tutorial fellows, and other officers of the college. New College has around 10 professorial fellows who hold University chairs. There are around 45 tutorial fellows who teach undergraduates in College as well as having University positions.

The head of college is the Warden, who chairs the Governing Body, oversees all aspects of the college, and represents the college to the world. The current Warden, appointed in 2016, is Miles Young, the former Chairman and CEO of Ogilvy & Mather, a leading global communications firm.

The fellows and senior college officers make up the Senior Common Room, or SCR. Physically, this is located between the Front and Garden quads. You will encounter SCR members at dinner, when they dine at High Table in the hall, or in their offices.

The MCR is made up of graduate students, people reading for second undergraduate degrees, visiting students, a few post-doctoral researchers without a college allegiance, and 4th year undergraduates in sciences, languages, and some other subjects. Graduate students are primarily taught by the University but have college to provide additional resources and to serve as a social base.

The JCR, or Junior Common Room, is the undergraduate body. They are taught between College, where they have regular tutorials (hour-long sessions with their tutors, individually or in pairs), and the University, where they have lectures and practicals. Admission of undergraduates is the responsibility of the colleges.

New College is particularly famous for its musical and cultural education. It houses a world-class choir with an associated choir school, and the fellows have written many of the world’s leading textbooks in the discipline. New College has started the process of building a new quad on Mansfield Road, complete with student accommodation, educational facilities, and social and cultural event spaces. Construction on the new project is scheduled to begin soon.
3. People

3.1 The MCR Committee

The MCR is run by a committee of students. Getting involved in the committee is great fun and a good way of being part of College life. You will hear more about how you can do this during Freshers’ Fortnight. You can find the current MCR committee officers and their bios on: http://mcr.new.ox.ac.uk/?n=Main.PeopleCommittee

Please feel free to contact the committee with any questions you might have about New College or the University.

Our e-mail addresses can be found on the committee webpage above, or by simply following the usual pattern of firstname.lastname@new.ox.ac.uk (which is valid for most members of the College). If you are unsure of an e-mail address you can also search on www.ox.ac.uk/contact.

3.2 People in College

The Warden  The Warden is the head of College, and is ultimately responsible for all aspects of College life. Since August 2016, this role is held by Miles Young, the former Chairman and CEO of one of the world’s largest communications groups, Ogilvy & Mather.

The Warden lives in The Warden’s Lodgings, accessed via the Front Quad. He also has a private garden (the Warden’s garden - starting to get the conventions?) which has amazing views of New College, Hertford College, and All Souls College. Appointments to see the Warden can be made through the Warden’s PA (warden@new.ox.ac.uk).

Tutor for Graduates  The Tutor for Graduates, Dr. Rosalind Temple, is a College fellow who, in addition to her academic duties, oversees the general well-being of the MCR within the New College community. The Tutor for Graduates also reviews each graduate student’s termly reports, and negotiates with faculty supervisors and College advisers as appropriate. Additionally, she signs graduate applications for transfer or confirmation of status, and liaises with the Proctors, the University’s regulatory officers, on the behalf of College members.

Graduate students may also draw on certain academic allowances, and the Tutor for Graduates reviews all these applications, as well as advises on scholarship possibilities. The Tutor for Graduates meets the MCR President regularly over lunch to discuss academic and social life in the MCR, invites regular groups of graduates to High Table dinners, and hosts a couple of full MCR dinners in Hall each year. Finally, the Tutor for Graduates represents the MCR to the Governing Body, the sovereign body of College, which meets around nine times a year.

Any graduate who wishes to discuss their academic or social progress is referred to their College adviser in the first instance, but if you encounter any problems requiring more urgent attention,
Chapter 3. People

the Tutor for Graduates is always available. All enquiries concerning graduate matters should be directed to the Tuition Office, run by Freyja Madsen (freyja.madsen@new.ox.ac.uk).

You should have received a welcome letter from the Tutor for Graduates during the summer. You can contact Dr. Temple at rosalind.temple@new.ox.ac.uk.

Your College Advisor The Tutor for Graduates assigns each graduate student an advisor in College, typically a College fellow who works in the subject area of their advisee, but who is not their advisee’s main supervisor. Your advisor is supposed to be your first port of call if you have any academic difficulties on which you would like an independent opinion.

Your advisor should contact you during your first term via your Oxford email address. The purpose of this contact is purely to touch base and ensure your transition to Oxford is proceeding smoothly. You are also encouraged to make contact with them. If you have any problems with your advisor please contact either the MCR President or the Tutor for Graduates.

Bursar The Bursar, David Palfreyman, is responsible for the College’s finances. If you have any unforeseeable financial difficulties, he may be able to help you. Appointments to see him should be made through his secretary, either by going to the Bursar’s Office (4OB 1) or by emailing bursar@new.ox.ac.uk.

Home Bursar The Home Bursar, Gez Wells, is responsible for the domestic side of College life, including accommodation, college staff, and food. He is also part of the welfare team. Contact him either by e-mail (gez.wells@new.ox.ac.uk) or in the Home Bursary on the ground floor of 4OB.

Dean The Dean, Prof. Michael Burden, is responsible for discipline in College. Day-to-day management of disciplinary matters is carried out by the Assistant Dean and Junior Deans. If you want to hold an event in College, you have to apply to the Assistant Dean for permission. Hopefully, this is the only time you will have to see the decanal team!

IT Officer The IT team, led by James Dore, is responsible for the computer provision in College. They are available to deal with any computer-related issues you may have. They have an office in the Garden Quad (12OB 2) and can also be reached through it-support@new.ox.ac.uk.

Welfare Fellows (Cox/Salvesen Fellows) College employs two Junior Fellows who also have a welfare role; they are called the Cox and Salvesen Fellows. These fellows are specifically devoted to student welfare, and any student should feel free to reach out to them for any reason concerning their academic, social, or personal life. Currently the Cox Fellow is Katie McKeogh (katie.mckeogh@new.ox.ac.uk) and the Salvesen Fellow is Daniel Harkin (daniel.harkin@new.ox.ac.uk).

Porters The Porters operate from the lodge at the Holywell Street entrance, and are the first port of call for all everyday logistical issues in College, e.g. lost keys, security, post, etc. The Porters lodge is available 24 hours a day, and deals with all the various and quirky needs of College members. If they cannot help you, they can almost certainly find you someone who can.

There is another porters’ lodge at the Weston buildings, though this runs more limited hours: from 8.00 am–10.00 pm on weekdays, 12.00 pm–9.00 pm on Saturdays, and 10.00 am–3.00 pm on Sundays.
4. Facilities

4.1 New College

4.1.1 The MCR - The Rew Nooner Spoom

This is your common room - the actual MCR. It was named after the Rev. Spooner, Warden of New College from 1903-1924, who was famous for his verbal gags known as *Spoonerisms*, adopted in naming the room. The MCR is commonly called the *Spoom*. It is accessible 24 hours a day and has a 49" television, table football, board games, books, coffee machines, Wi-Fi, and newspapers as well as other publications. The TV comes equipped with Netflix, Amazon Video and a selected range of channels. It also has a bar area which is opened regularly - usually on Wednesday and Thursday nights during term time, as well as after guest night dinners. It is also used for other purposes, including a free brunch each Sunday morning during term time.

The MCR building also contains a TV room which has a separate 42" television with a Nintendo Wii and PS4 (doubling as Blu-ray/DVD player). The selection of channels is wider than in the Spoom and includes Sky Movie, Sky Atlantic, Sky Sports, BT Sports and ESPN. There is also a mini book swap where you are welcome to donate books and borrow books for as long as you like, the mix is quite eclectic.

New College takes pride in its inclusiveness. Gender-neutral toilet facilities will be in place at the MCR Building from academic year 2019/20. Moreover, the New College MCR urged the administration to commit to refurbishing the gendered bathrooms inside the MCR pavilion into individual gender-neutral toilets with integrated washing facilities and floor to ceiling doors before the academic year 2021/22, and to a more extensive refurbishment of all remaining gendered New College bathrooms by 2024/25.

Since 2009, the Spoom has been located in the Weston Sports Pavilion. Refurbished recently, the Rew Nooner Spoom (New Spooner Room) is undoubtedly one of the most comfortable and inviting MCRs in Oxford. The facilities are split across the main living room area upstairs and the television and computer room downstairs, which also has a small library - feel free to add to it. Access to these rooms and indeed the Sports Pavilion is since 2013 by your bod-card. If you are confronted with any bod-card malfunction issues, contact either Malina Graf (malina.graf@new.ox.ac.uk), or the clerk of works, Michael Collett (michael.collett@new.ox.ac.uk).

4.1.2 The JCR

Graduate students are also members of the Junior Common Room (primarily the undergraduate body of college). The physical JCR is located in Garden Quad and has a satellite TV, a pool table and games consoles. There are also a few computers that can be accessed with New College credentials.
4.1.3 Hall

Hall refers to the dining hall. The Hall is located in the oldest part of College with the Buttery next to it. Food is available to graduates during term time; all meals are charged to your till account and paid for using your Bod-card (see below).

All the following prices are estimates, the final list was not released in time for the guide’s release.

Breakfast: Breakfast is available from 8 am to 9 am on weekdays and 11 am to 1 pm at weekends. A choice of an English cooked breakfast, continental breakfast, cereal etc. is available and charged per item, for a total of about £2.00-£2.50.

Lunch: Lunch is available 12 am to 1.30 pm on weekdays. Lunch can be charged per item individually, a meal consisting of main, potatoes, veg and salad will be charged at ~£3.50.

Dinner: Dinner comes in two sittings, early and late, usually referred to as informal hall and formal hall respectively. As of 2019, evening meals cost ~£6.96 inclusive of soup, salads, a main course, potatoes/pasta, vegetables, and dessert. If you want to go to dinner in hall, you must sign up by 10 am on the day of dinner in the Hall. This is done on-line at http://food.new.ox.ac.uk/, where you also have to specify the sitting you wish to attend.

Informal hall is available every day, cafeteria style, and food can be bought between 5:45 pm to 7:00 pm (6:30 pm on Fridays).

Formal hall is held every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday during term time, and is served. Those dining must be seated by 7.15 pm. Attendees stand for grace and sit after grace has been said. Unusually for Oxford, diners do not need to stand up when the Fellows leave at the end of dinner. During these dinners all College members (but not their guests - even if a member of the University) must wear their gowns, but casual clothing can be worn underneath.

There are occasionally other special dinners, in particular guest night dinners which are held fortnightly on odd-numbered weeks of full term. These guest dinners are a great favourite of the MCR for their lavish three-course catering and the customary after-parties. One great perk of New College dining is that MCR members may bring up to three guests. Guest night dinners are charged at ~£ 17.05 per person (or ~£ 22.20 for non-Oxford guests).

Dining on high table: Fresher graduates may dine at high table once during their first year with the Tutor for Graduates (if they reply fast enough to the invitation emails). This will be advertised during term. You could also try to persuade your College adviser to invite you to dine at high table. Additionally, up to four MCR members can also sign up for high table at their own expense on Thursdays during full term by contacting the SCR butler (hassan.hamed@new.ox.ac.uk).
4.1 New College

4.1.4 College Bar

The College bar, beer cellar, or JCR bar, is primarily College run. It is open all day offering sandwiches, cakes, coffee and beverages and serves alcohol from 6 pm to 11 pm during term, and occasionally out of term as well. The bar is located under the hall and has games such as darts.

Drinks are cheap (considerably cheaper than in town), and only slightly more expensive than at the MCR bar. A small discount is applied if you use your Bod-card and charge it to your till account, or you can alternatively pay in cash.

4.1.5 Sports

New College has one of the most beautiful sports grounds in Oxford, located next to the Weston Buildings on St Cross Road. This has football pitches, rugby pitches and one hard tennis/netball court for use throughout the year. In the summer the cricket pitch and nets, six grass tennis courts and a volleyball net become available for use. In the pavilion there is also a squash court, table-tennis table and a rowing machine suite. Many of these facilities can be booked with the porters in the Weston lodge or by using the online booking system. You can also take equipment from the Weston lodge for most of these sports. We also have a punt shed located at the Weston sports ground and these may be taken out from here for use during the summer.

New College has a wide range of sports teams and the collegiate nature of the University makes it very easy to get involved in sport at whatever level suits you, from playing socially to competitively. Most teams include members of both the JCR and MCR. You will receive more details about how to get involved with the College sports teams during Freshers’ Fortnight.

Rowing is the most popular sport in Oxford. New College has a very active boat club, with a healthy rivalry with Magdalen. If you want to try it, several novice boats run during Michaelmas term, along of course opportunities for experienced rowers. The highlight of the rowing year is Summer Eights, a multi-day competition in May where all colleges try to touch (or “bump”) into each other. Tens of thousands of people come down to watch, with plenty of drinks.

![Fig. 4.2: M1 chopping down the river](image)

New College does not have its own gym however members of College have free access to the University gym at the Iffley Road Sports Centre. To gain free access to Iffley Road gym, simply bring your Bod card to the centre reception and inform the attendant of your College membership. You will also be asked to fill out some paperwork. There are other work-out options, with their own various extra fees attached. Linacre College gym is open 24 hours a day, which is conveniently located very close to the Weston accommodation on St Cross road. Alternatively the University Club offers a student pass to its gym, also located nearby on Mansfield Road. There is also a PureGym facility within Oxford city centre. Look online for more details and current membership availability and prices.
4.1.6 MCR BBQ
In 2013, the MCR had a communal BBQ built behind the cricket pavilion overlooking the sports ground. It is currently available for MCR events only. The MCR committee usually organizes BBQ-related events in the end of Trinity term and during the summer break.

4.1.7 The Library
The College has a library which is located in the Holywell Quad. New College Library is open daily from 8:00 am–2:00 am during term and from 8:00 am–8:30 pm during vacation. The Library’s collections serve the needs of taught-course students at New College, but they also include internationally renowned holdings of early printed books and manuscripts and archives and other areas of research strength which can support research as well. All New College graduate students are encouraged to use the Library and they have borrowing privileges for its lending collection of books, films on DVD, CDs, and music scores. The Library welcomes book purchase requests from all New College students. To suggest new books for the Library, please contact the Librarian, Dr Christopher Skelton-Foord; MCR members may also book the Library’s Group Study Room. Further information on what New College Library and Archives provides is available via its website. You can connect with New College Library on Twitter and on Facebook too. Graduate students interested in contributing an article or a note about the College’s special collections or its history for the College’s scholarly e-journal, New College Notes (ISSN 2517-6935), are also invited to contact the Librarian.

4.1.8 ICT
All rooms in College have ethernet access. This connection can be activated by plugging in your computer using an ethernet cable, opening your internet browser and following the automated security program. There is also Wi-Fi in the Spoom, Weston Buildings, JCR and Library which is activated in the same way. Returning students should find that wi-fi coverage has now improved with reasonable signal reaching even the upstairs rooms. IT services are continually working to improve wireless internet connectivity throughout the College.

There is an MCR computer room in the Sports Pavilion containing two PCs and a laser printer. There is also a JCR computer room in NB2, which has some more advanced printers. Printing is charged to your Battels.

All College members will have a college e-mail address. Your address will be in the form firstname.surname@new.ox.ac.uk. You will almost certainly have a second one in your department but (with a few exceptions) they all go to the same account. There will be details of how to set up your account in your pidge soon after you arrive. There is a webmail interface, but the account is easy to configure for an e-mail client. See: http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/email/config/

4.1.9 Chapel
The chapel welcomes all College members to its services, which take place during the eight weeks of each university term. We hope the chapel will be a place where anyone can find community, inspiration in words and music, and calm during busy weeks. Services follow the pattern of the Anglican church: the music is sung by the chapel choir, which has an international reputation, and the liturgy is formal to fit in with the building and the music, but aims to be as inclusive as possible and to focus on issues in the wider world. Any College member is welcome to get involved in chapel life - as readers, servers, and chapel wardens.
4.1 New College

Services are held at 6.15 pm from Monday to Saturday (except for Wednesdays when there is no service) and on Sundays at 6.00 pm. Advent and Christmas Carol Services are held on the Sundays of 8th week and 9th week of Michaelmas Term, so watch out for announcements about tickets.

The beautiful chapel is also close to the scenic cloisters, a favourite spot of many for its peaceful, shaded ambience. The scene in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire where Draco Malfoy is turned into a ferret was filmed in the cloisters here.

All information about the chapel may be found on the termly chapel card copies in pigeon holes and on the chapel and lodge notice boards and on the chapel page of the College website, and the choir website (www.newcollegechoir.com).

4.1.10 The Gardens

New College has some beautiful gardens, which are the responsibility of the Garden Fellow, Robin Lane Fox. Nobody is permitted to walk on the grass in the Front Quad, but all other areas may be used by students. Croquet may be played in the Holywell Quad, but no other ball games are allowed. The main gardens are surrounded by the city walls and contain a decorative Mound. Do not climb, or let your guests climb, the city walls: this is a serious College offence!

4.1.11 Chalet

During your time at New College, please take advantage of our chalet in the French Alps. With Balliol College and University College, we share an historic property near Mont Blanc, which in 2009 celebrated its 100th birthday following its reconstruction after the original 1865 chalet was accidentally burnt down in 1906. Each summer, two or three groups from New College spend 10 days reading and walking in one of the most beautiful parts of Europe. All members of the College are welcome. Groups are normally a mix of undergraduates and postgraduates with a few members of the SCR. The trip is very inexpensive (usually less than £5 per day), and travel by air through Geneva or on the sleeper train from Paris is easy. For more information, please consult the College page on the chalet (http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/new-College-chalet) or contact Dr. Will Poole (william.poole@new.ox.ac.uk).

Fig. 4.4: The college hall  
Fig. 4.5: The chalet des anglais  
Fig. 4.6: The cloisters from New College tower
4.1.12 Pigeon hole

You will be given a pigeon hole, referred to as your *pidge*, in the post room by the porters’ lodge. This is where you collect your mail, both internal and external. Your address will be:

Yourname,
New College,
Holywell Street,
Oxford,
OX1 3BN,
UK.

You can send post internally across the university by dropping it in at the porters’ lodge. There is a postbox for external mail under the Holywell arch and the closest place to buy stamps is the Tuck Shop on Holywell Street.

4.2 The University

4.2.1 Libraries

Oxford has numerous different libraries. As a student, you are a reader at the famous Bodleian and the associated Radcliffe Science Library. There might also be a library in your department. Most of the academic libraries in Oxford are part of the Bodleian Libraries system. See: [http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/).

4.2.2 Sports facilities

The University’s main sports facilities are located a 10 minute walk from College on Iffley Road. This site has a gym (free to New College students, excellent swimming pool (£88/year), running track (where Roger Bannister ran the first four minute mile), tennis courts, squash courts, sports hall, indoor cricket nets and a number of other facilities.

There is also a wide range of university sports teams. Find out about these either online ([www.sport.ox.ac.uk](http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk)) or sign-up at the Freshers’ Fair during Freshers’ Week.

4.2.3 Students union - OUSU

Oxford students are also represented by the student union, headquartered on Worcester Street. They are a useful source of information on a number of topics; check [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org) for more information.

4.2.4 The Oxford Union

Although not officially part of the university, the Oxford Union is closely associated with it. The membership fee is £262.65, or £232.65 during Freshers’ Week, but is for life. However, the Union runs many good events, attracts many famous speakers, and is one of the leading debating societies in the world. During Freshers’ Fortnight it is open to all, so check it out then even if you do not choose to join. The building is on St. Michael’s Street. See: [http://www.oxford-union.org/](http://www.oxford-union.org/)
4.2.5 **The University Club**

The University Club is open to all graduate students and staff of the university. It is located near to New College on Mansfield Road. The good news is that basic membership is free. It has a bar, lots of screens to watch sport on, gym facilities, a small astro-turf and a playing field. It also has football and cricket teams which several New College graduate students are involved in. See: [www.club.ox.ac.uk](http://www.club.ox.ac.uk)

4.2.6 **The Careers Service**

The University Careers Service, located at 56 Banbury Road, is the main resource for what happens after you leave Oxford. Whether it is landing an internship or job, applying for postgraduate study or a postdoc anywhere in the world, or just going to a Careers Fair to get free stuff, it is recommended to register with them on their website: [www.careers.ox.ac.uk](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk) to be able to access the range of advice and information. The Director of the Careers Service, incidentally, is a member of the New College SCR (Jonathan Black).

4.3 **Town**

Oxford has a large non-student population and there is a lot going on outside of the University. The following list barely scratches the surface of what you can do. [www.dailyinfo.co.uk](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk) is a good source of information on what is going on around the city.

4.3.1 **Sporting clubs**

As well as University clubs, there are many town sports clubs. These are often more expensive than university clubs, but some have better facilities and they will have a different atmosphere. Many graduate students use gym facilities which are not part of the university.

4.3.2 **Pubs and bars**

Oxford has a fantastic selection of pubs and bars. Sadly, with the notable exception of the King’s Arms, few pubs are open past 11 pm (the traditional closing time for pubs in the UK). The MCR committee will do its best to familiarise you with some of these during Freshers’ Fortnight.

4.3.3 **Clubs**

There are also some nightclubs in Oxford. Many of these are very student-centric during term-time. London is also only an hour away and there are excellent bus and train links.

4.4 **Doctors**

Occasionally we all get ill and need to go visit the doctors. During term and out of term the doctors can be found in their practice at 28 Beaumont Street. Your medical registration will occur during the 1st week of Michaelmas term, after which you will have access to the College doctors. Information about the registration procedure will be given by the College during the Freshers’ Week.

The following information on going to the doctors has been taken from the College website: [http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/medical](http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/medical), where additional information about out of hours service or emergency care can be found.

The College Doctors, Dr Matthew Easdale and Dr Rachel Allan, have agreed to accept any member of the College who is resident in the UK for longer than 6 months as an NHS patient. Their practice is at 28 Beaumont Street (01865 311811; [www.28beaumontstreet.co.uk](http://www.28beaumontstreet.co.uk)), and they hold a surgery in College at 1 NB in term times.

The College Nurse is Heather Duignan. She runs a drop-in service from the surgery on the ground floor of 1 New Buildings (opposite the Library). Opening hours are 0th to 9th week inclusive Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday between 9.45 am and 12.15pm. The telephone number for the surgery is 01865-279579, but do remember that the nurse may be with a patient and unable to pick up the phone.
4.4.1 Overseas students and visiting students
All overseas students who are studying here for more than 6 months can register and have access to the UK National Health Services (NHS). In order to do that, the students must register with the College doctors. It is particularly important that overseas students register with the College doctor as soon as possible. Please note: you will not be able to register if you have less than 6 months of your course left.

Visiting students on courses longer than 6 months are eligible for NHS treatment (please see above for details). Those in Oxford for a course less than 6 months (in effect, less than 3 terms of study) will not be eligible for medical treatment under the NHS, and are required to make arrangements for private medical insurance before arriving in the UK. You should make an appointment to see the College Doctor, who may be able to offer special private terms, but will be unable to offer consultation or treatment within the National Health Service unless your usual country of residence has a reciprocal health agreement with the UK.

For more information on charges for NHS treatment and exemptions for people visiting the UK, see the Department of Health’s website for overseas visitors.

4.4.2 Dentists
There are two NHS dentists that are known to take on students: Studental (located at Oxford Brookes University in Headington; telephone: 01865 484068, e-mail: reception@studental.co.uk) and Oasis (22 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2NA; e-mail: reception.oxford@oasis-healthcare.com, telephone: 01865 243702).
5. MCR social life

5.1 Freshers’ Fortnight

One of the most important things that the MCR does is to provide two weeks of entertainment and orientation for you when you arrive. Details will be published when you arrive (both in your pidge and posted around accommodation). The first event will be a welcome brunch held in the Spoom (see Section 4.1.1) at 11am on Sunday of 0th week (1st of October). This will be followed by a wide range of events: parties, dinners, pub crawls, cultural events, teas and many more events to help you settle in. It all finishes with the matriculation ceremony on Saturday of 1st week when you formally become part of the University. Remember to wear your sub-fusc and gown to matriculation!

You may not re-matriculate if you have already matriculated at Oxford for a previous course. Under an ancient agreement, graduate students of Cambridge University and Trinity College, Dublin are permitted to incorporate their Cambridge or Trinity College, Dublin degrees, so long as they are pursuing a prescribed course of study at Oxford University. If you fall into this category, and would like to incorporate, please send a copy of your graduation certificate to Felicity Reeves in the Academic Office. (student.services@new.ox.ac.uk)

5.2 Guest night

Our main regular social events are guest nights. MCR guest nights happen every second Friday of odd weeks, bringing the total to four a term. Dinner is usually of a very high standard and costs ~£16.05 (on your battles). Members may invite up to three guests to join them, although many prefer to enjoy the evening with friends from college. Dress is smart, but gowns are not required. After dinner, there is second dessert provided by the MCR which include a selection of cheeses, fruit, chocolate and port, as well as the bar being open. Everyone is welcome to come to second dessert even if you didn’t attend the dinner.

Guest nights are very popular and you need to sign-up early on food.new.ox.ac.uk to avoid disappointment. Sign-ups start a week early: usually around 2pm on the preceding Thursday.

5.3 End-of-year garden party

At the end of Trinity term the MCR holds an end-of-year party to say goodbye to the many people leaving Oxford. Enjoy bouncy castles, music, sun (hopefully!), games, Pimm’s, amazing food and other summer delights taking you from the day to dancing at night!
5.4 Exchange dinners

We have exchanges with other colleges, whereby we host them at New College for drinks and dinner and then they do the same for us. Drinks and second dessert are included. These events vary between being a special dinner with high table food or occurring during regular formal dinners. We also sometimes have bar exchanges and wine and cheese exchanges, which provide an opportunity to mingle and drink lots without having to commit to sitting next to anyone. The MCR also tries to do an exchange with a Cambridge college once a year. This year, we will be getting in touch with King’s College, Cambridge, our sister college at the other place, so keep an eye on the MCR Facebook page and the mailing list!

5.5 Brunch

During term, and occasionally out of term, the MCR hosts a free brunch in the Spoom on Sunday mornings at 11 am. This is a good way to catch up with friends and meet new people. Arrive early to avoid missing out on the smoked salmon!

(a) A brunch in the Spoom (b) Enjoying the bouncy castle at the garden party

5.6 Bar nights

The MCR operates a student-run bar in the Spoom between 9.00-11.00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Drinks here are cheaper than the main college bar and much cheaper than in town. It’s run by students and for students, so please let us know if you’d like us to get specific drinks.

The bar is also open on alternate Friday evenings and the occasional Saturday evening. Whether you are getting ready for a big night out or are looking for a quiet evening, feel free to come around!

Out of terms the bar is usually also open at least once a week, although this depends on volunteers, College’s summer closure and other factors - expect slightly more erratic opening times.

5.7 Bops

Bops are the highlight of the MCR party scene. Around twice a term the MCR will throw parties with a fun theme in the Spoom. They normally occur after guest night dinners and the bar remains open to the small hours of the morning. MCR members take turn Djing at the bops, so make sure to email Eleanor Lischka (eleanor.lischka@new.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested. Other colleges also host their own Bops
located on their grounds, which you are welcome to attend if advertised. The MCR sometimes co-hosts a bop with another college - last year we successfully hosted a bop together with Balliol College!

(a) The bar in its active state. (b) Christmas bop (c) Themed guest night: Masquerade

5.8 **The New Collection**

The MCR’s own multi-disciplinary academic journal, *The New Collection*, aims to present the breadth and depth of work currently being undertaken by the graduate members of New College. All work contained within the journal is by current graduate MCR members and every MCR member is encouraged to get involved by either submitting an article or during the editorial phase.

*The New Collection* provides members the unique opportunity of learning both how to write and review journal articles all within the supportive structure of New College, making us the envy of other colleges. Successful articles this year came from a variety of disciplines and were aimed at a broad readership, which is the original aim of *The New Collection* - to bring the current work of our MCR members to a larger intellectual audience.

5.9 **Other events**

The MCR puts on several other events during the term in addition to the regulars. These include film nights, a charity auction, orchestral concert trips, MCR quizzes, a play, sports days, cheese and wine tasting, cocktail making masterclasses, BBQs and an Easter egg hunt. These occur throughout term, so keep an eye on the MCR mailing list and Facebook page for adverts.

(a) Cheese and Wine tasting (b) Freshers’ Week Pub Crawl (c) Guest night
6. Accommodation

The majority of New College graduate students are housed in College accommodation for their first year of graduate study with a reasonable chance of receiving second year housing. New College graduates receive some of the most desirable accommodation facilities that are provided for students living in Oxford. Graduate students are mainly housed together in the Weston Buildings, with growing numbers of students living in Castle Mill. All accommodation costs approximately £150 per week.

All College-owned graduate rooms are single study bedrooms that have a wealth of facilities including desk spaces, lamps, bookshelves, WiFi, Ethernet connection, and heating. Rooms will have standard UK 3-pin 230 V electrical sockets as well as 2-pin 110 V and 240 V sockets for electric razors near the basins.

Graduate rooms are kept clean by the College scouts. The scouts tidy communal areas each weekday and thoroughly clean your room on a weekly basis. It is usual to tip your scout either at Christmas or when you leave at the end of the academic year. The scouts are an integral part of College life so please do not hesitate to introduce yourself when they come by.

The College housing regulations state that graduates may invite guests to stay in their rooms, but only for a maximum of two nights at a time. Alternatively, students can book one of the JCR single or double guest rooms, which are available very cheaply. If you wish to book one of these rooms please contact the Home Bursar’s secretary Emily Meeson (emily.meeson@new.ox.ac.uk), but arrange this well in advance since these rooms are very popular during each term.

6.1 Weston Buildings

The Weston Buildings are located alongside a branch of the River Cherwell at the College Sports Ground, which is a short walk from the main College site. The buildings provide around 90 rooms for graduate students, which are divided into 16 houses of (usually) 6 rooms each. The rooms are modern, have a sink, and are well proportioned. Each house has a large self-catered kitchen with a patio area, four toilets, and three shower rooms. Laundry facilities are located in a small building opposite House 16.

6.2 Castle Mill

Castle Mill is a University accommodation complex situated in central west Oxford close to the Railway Station, which is a ten-minute bike ride from College and many research buildings of the University. Each of the bedrooms earmarked for New College has en-suite bathroom facilities with a kitchen and dining room that is shared between four to six students on each floor. There are four washing machines and tumble dryers available on site.
Fig. 6.1: The Weston complex and Castle Mill accommodation sites.

Fig. 6.2: A kitchen and a typical room in the Weston buildings
Everything to do with money in College is in some way connected to the Bursary, located on the ground floor of staircase 4OB. It is open weekdays between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm, and again between 2.15 pm and 3.30 pm. This is where you can go to pick up grant cheques and other such payments. You can also go here to pay your battels at the beginning of each term and to add money to your till account (Bod card), but these processes are more easily done online via food.new.ox.ac.uk. You can also make payments through the golden letterbox in the wall, even when the Bursary is not open. If you have issues with payments, you can contact Linda Goodsell (linda.goodsell@new.ox.ac.uk) or visit during opening hours. Bear in mind that the Bursary is extremely busy in the first few weeks of term.

### 7.1 Battels

Have you been skipping over sentences with the word battels in them? If so, then this paragraph is for you. Battels are your bill for accommodation, dinners and other little things, such as some MCR events; you have to pay it at the start of each term. Accommodation is paid in advance at the beginning of the term, but dinners and other small expenses are not charged until the beginning of the next term. Your battels will be e-mailed to you, generally in 0th week of term. It is usually possible to negotiate a short extension to the payment deadline if it’s really necessary. Any Junior Member who has an outstanding battels debt at Noon on the Friday of 1st Week, and who has not seen the Bursar or emailed the Bursary to agree a timetable for settlement of this debt, will be required to pay an administrative charge of £5 and will be barred from further credit facilities within College. Further payments will be imposed if Battels are still outstanding at Noon on Friday of 2nd Week. Battels can be paid in person at the bursary or online with your debit card (or credit card at a 1.92% surcharge) via food.new.ox.ac.uk.

### 7.2 Till account

This is the account you use to pay for food in hall and drinks in the College bar, which you do with your Bod-card. You CANNOT go in debt in the College and MCR bars, unlike in Hall where you can go in debt for breakfast and lunch up to £15: this debt will be added to your next Battels. The easiest way top up your account is online using the food.new.ox.ac.uk website and your debit card, however, you can also pay by cheque to the bursary.

### 7.3 Travel grants, hardship grants and bursaries

College has a research fund for graduate students. This is primarily for necessary travel (e.g. conference attendance/archival visits), but some purchases (e.g. essential software) will be considered on their
merits. Taught master’s students can get up to £200 and research students can get £375 per year (and this can accrue if not used). Medics on Electives can apply for special travel grants: £750 per year for placement outside the U.K. Forms are on the College website at www.new.ox.ac.uk/graduate-awards.

There are numerous other funds for various things, particularly sport and other meritorious activities which will be advertised throughout the year in communication by College. If, and only if, your circumstances change adversely after you get to Oxford, then you are eligible for a hardship grant from The College Financial Aid Committee. Make an appointment with the bursar, who is usually very helpful if you are in genuine need.

Outside of College, those experiencing unexpected financial difficulties can also apply to the University Hardship Fund (http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/uhf) by the fourth week of each term. UK students can also apply to the Access to Learning Fund (http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/alf). The University website has further information on possible sources of financial support at www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/graduates and OUSU offers an advice service (advice@ousu.org).

There are some other bursaries and small pots of money which may be available. a list of these is on the College website at www.new.ox.ac.uk/graduate-awards. You can apply for them via the Bursar, David Palfreyman (bursar@new.ox.ac.uk)

7.4 Sports and leisure activities
Talk about sporting and cultural fund, etc.

7.5 Earning money
You are primarily in Oxford to study and your supervisors will expect you to spend most of your time learning or doing research. However, there are opportunities to do part-time work. There are part-time opportunities in town, shifts in the College library, etc.

There are also teaching opportunities, although you are not required to teach, and nobody is guaranteed as a student to have the opportunity to teach. Graduate students can take undergraduate tutorials and some may even be appointed to college lectureships. Scientists also have the opportunity to demonstrate in practical sessions. Talk to your supervisor if you are interested in teaching.
8. Essential admin after arrival

8.1 Room key

The first thing to do when you arrive is to go to the main Porters’ Lodge, next to the Holywell Street entrance to New College, where the porters will tell you where you will be living and where you collect your room key.

8.2 Bod-card

Your Bodleian reader card, always referred to as your Bod-card, is effectively your University card. You need it to get into College and College buildings, buy food in hall, drinks in the bar and to get into most buildings and departments across the University. It is therefore something you need to get hold of as soon as possible. You can collect your Bod card from the graduate office in 4OB3 (you can ask at the Porter’s Lodge for directions) as soon as you arrive.

8.3 E-mail lists

E-mail is the standard form of communication within the university, and you should check your account regularly. You must activate your College email address as soon as possible after arrival. There are two e-mail lists in College which you need to know about:

1. Main list: The main list is run by College and important information is sent out using it. E-mails come through with the subject line [new-mcr]. College should sign you up to it but inevitably they miss a few people. If you don’t seem to receive any e-mails with this subject, report it to the College IT support (it-support@new.ox.ac.uk), because you need to be on this list.

2. Social list: This list is administered by the MCR Secretary and has subject line [newmcr-l]. It is used by the president, vice-president, social secretaries, welfare rep and sports rep for sending out notices and information about what is happening in the MCR. We will try to add you automatically, but a lot of people don’t get signed up, so you should do this yourself. E-mail newmcr-l-subscribe@mailist.ox.ac.uk from any e-mail account to be added to the list. In order to unsubscribe you can e-mail newmcr-l-unsubscribe@mailist.ox.ac.uk.
9.1 Things to bring

For your room: Extension cords and multi-plugs are a good idea, given the rather quaint notions the College holds about electricity. Transformers which convert cycles as well as volts will also be needed for any electrical goods purchased overseas. It also might be worthwhile to bring transformers and conversion plugs. College does not provide pillows, sheets and duvets for the beds, so remember these or you’ll be turning your clothes into a make-shift pillow on the first night.

If you are an international student looking to purchase items for your room, stores like Argos and ASDA generally provide cheaper options for furnishing, while stores such as Marks and Spencer and John Lewis have slightly more expensive options.

For the kitchen: College does not provide plates, bowls, mugs, glasses, cutlery and storage containers for the kitchen, though in much of College’s accommodation a collection has accrued over the years. College accommodation kitchens DO come furnished with a microwave, a toaster and a kettle. You may also find sandwich toasters, rice cookers, bottle openers and the like can be especially handy, but your house-mates may be happy to share what they have, so do check before you spend! Boswells and other general goods stores in Oxford offer discounts on all home-ware purchases in the first few weeks of term on presentation of your Bod card. Robert Dyas is a good bet as they do a year-round student discount.

Clothes: Despite the impression given by the photos in this guide, the weather is not always sunny. So, apart from the required academic dress (see below), perhaps the most important items to remember are warm clothes for the winter and coats that will keep you dry. Additionally, there will be a series of formal occasions when College serves up its finest cuisine, and many more optional black tie events besides, so pack all of your classy clothes, dresses, ties, bow ties and shoes. There are many opportunities to wear dinner and lounge suits, so you should probably consider bringing yours or buying one in Oxford: you will get good use out of it!

9.2 Gowns and academic dress

One of the classic images of Oxford is students going around in gowns and academic dress. You also need a gown for dining at formal hall and various other occasions in College; at New College it can just be worn over normal clothes for formal hall. Most graduate students will wear a graduate gown, although you can wear the gown of your old university.

You need academic dress, called subfusc, for formal university events such as matriculation, university exams and research degree vivas as well as for graduation. This is special clothing that is worn underneath your gown.
Chapter 9. Local information

• one of:
  – dark suit with dark socks, or
  – dark skirt with black tights and stockings, or
  – dark trousers with dark socks or dark hosiery
• dark coat if required
• black shoes
• plain white collared shirt or blouse
• white bow tie, black bow tie, black full-length tie, or black ribbon

You also need a mortarboard, but you might want to choose the less common soft cap as an alternative, which was traditionally worn by women. The white bow tie is the traditional option for men, though in 2013 the black bow tie and straight black full-length tie became legitimate alternatives. It was also in 2013 that the subfusc regulations were made non-gender specific, see https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress for more info.

There are outfitters around town (Shepherd & Woodward, Walter’s) who provide a gown, mortarboard and white bow tie/black ribbon, usually as some part of package deal (for around £25) in the first couple of weeks of term. We recommend visiting one of these stores soon after arriving as you will need sub fusc for matriculation, which takes place on the Saturday after the first week of classes.

Fig. 9.1: Oxford natives in traditional costumes

Fig. 9.2: EVERYTHING in Oxford is done in subfusc and gown!

9.3 Bicycles

Some people cannot live without their bike in Oxford, whilst others get by fine without one. A lot depends on your lifestyle, particularly the distance between your accommodation and where you will be spending most of your time working (department/lab/favourite library). Buying a new bike in Oxford can be expensive but due to the high bike-to-person ratio there is a large second-hand market. The DailyInfo website is a good place to start looking (as are the usual websites such as Gumtree), and you should expect to pay more than £50. Another handy website is OxfordsReconditionedBicycles, where you can acquire a bike with all the specific features you may want. The MCR facebook group is also an excellent place to look for someone selling their old bike. Bike theft is the most common crime committed against Oxford students, so a high-quality D-lock is essential (£15 for students https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/ouss/cra/cyclesecurity/). A high end bike repair kit is available from the Weston lodge and maintained by our sports rep.

If you only need a bike in the immediate/very short term then the JCR owns a couple bikes that you can borrow. You have to register beforehand (only the first time) with the JCR bike rep, who will explain where you can find the College bikes, how to unlock them and how long you should take them out for. There is also an Oxford based start up for renting and sharing bikes called Cycleland (https://listings.cycle.land/).
## 9.4 Welfare

College provides a constellation of people attuned to all manner of welfare matters: there are the Cox and Salvesen Fellows, both experts in the ways of pastoral care; the Chaplain, who can advise on any issue, spiritual or otherwise; the porters, frequently indispensable in times of need; the Dean, the Assistant Dean, and the Junior Deans; as well as our MCR welfare officer and trained peer supporters. See below for contact information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Welfare Contacts</th>
<th>Telephone and e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Porters’ Lodge</td>
<td>01865 279500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston Porters’ Lodge</td>
<td>01865 281081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightline (8 pm-8 am, 0th-9th week)</td>
<td>01865 270270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling Service</td>
<td>01865 270300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Advice Service</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk">reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td><a href="mailto:advice@ousu.org">advice@ousu.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9.1: Welfare Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New College Welfare Team</th>
<th>Telephone and e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erica Longfellow, Chaplain (3OB6)</td>
<td>01865 279451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Crook, Cox Fellow</td>
<td>01865 279514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Harkin, Salvesen Fellow</td>
<td>01865 279531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Thomas, Domestic Bursar</td>
<td>01865 279560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9.2: New College Welfare Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCR Peer Supporters</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saskia Brueske (Welfare Officer)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:claire.wright@new.ox.ac.uk">claire.wright@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idil Cazimoglu (Peer Supporter)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dragos.mosneagu@new.ox.ac.uk">dragos.mosneagu@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Kendrick (Peer Supporter)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idil.cazimoglu@new.ox.ac.uk">idil.cazimoglu@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leah Lazar (Peer Supporter)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leah.lazar@new.ox.ac.uk">leah.lazar@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priyanka Panchal (Peer Supporter)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:priyanka.panchal@new.ox.ac.uk">priyanka.panchal@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9.3: Peer Supporters

Please make an appointment in advance (preferably via email) to see the Cox or the Salvesen Fellow. In an emergency, however, contact the Porters’ Lodge and they will get in touch with a member of the welfare team for you straight away.
9.5 LGBTQ+ students

There is a lot going on at Oxford for everyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. The College may date from 1379, and the University from about 200 years before that, but you’ll find that attitudes have moved on a long way since then. There are LGBTQ students in the New College MCR, town, and University, so there will be plenty of friendly faces to show you the sights and give you the insiders’ tips on the best places to go out. Whether prospective or current New College student, whatever your gender identity, expression, and/or sexual preferences/orientation, you can get in touch with Giulia (giulia.bernardini@new.ox.ac.uk) and Moritz (moritz.reithmayr@new.ox.ac.uk), your very own LGBTQ+ reps on the MCR committee, who keep you updated with all the weekly events and are always approachable for one-on-one talks and to answer your questions about LGBTQ+ life at New College. OU LGBTQ+ Society (http://oulgbtsoc.com) has heaps of info on their website, and is a great group to join with lots of fun social events. Keep your eyes out for the OUSU LGBT handbook, and OUSU also have a Queer Rights group if you are interested in the more activist side of things. More information on freshers’ events outside College will be available in Freshers’ Fortnight.

9.6 Terms

Oxford has three terms: Michaelmas from October to December; Hilary from January to March; Trinity from April to June. Terms formally last eight weeks: weeks ’start’ on Sunday and are numbered from one through to eight. Thus, within Oxford, you tend to describe dates using this system: so, for example, you might say, my exam is on Tuesday of 7th week. The week before first is called 0th week and the one before that minus 1st week etc. The gaps between terms are the Christmas, Easter and Long vacations. Undergraduate teaching takes place during weeks of full term. For those doing taught courses, teaching will be focused during term but you may well have to do assignments out of term: so check this before you book a six week holiday in the Easter vacation! For research students terms are less relevant, and what time you get away is largely up to you and your supervisor.

9.7 Transportation

The public transport system in and around Oxford relies mainly on the Oxford Bus Company buses. The single fare in the city centre is £2.00 (or around £3-4 for return and day tickets), with no student discounts available. Tickets can be purchased from the driver and you can pay with change or by card.

The main connections to London are by road or rail. There are two coach services travelling slightly different routes, both of which go between Oxford’s central bus station at Gloucester Green and London Victoria. One is the Oxford bus company’s X90 service and the other is the Oxford Tube. By rail, First Great Western offers the service connecting Oxford to London Paddington, and Chiltern Railways between Oxford and London Marylebone. All options offer various fares depending on booking date, return date, number of tickets bought, etc. The cheapest fare is £13 for a return ticket, but the availability terms and conditions vary.

Luton and Stansted airports can be reached by bus via National Express, and Heathrow and Gatwick airports via the Airline, a bus operated by the Oxford Bus Company. Tickets for all of them can be bought via the National Express page, or the Airline tickets also via the Airline page. Fares vary depending on time of day, advance booking, return dates and other more mysterious criteria. A single trip to Luton costs up to £18, to Heathrow up to £25, to Stansted up to £27 and to Gatwick up to £30, return and off peak tickets are often cheaper. In many cases creative routes can lower the costs (e.g. taking the bus from Gatwick to Victoria, followed by the coach to Oxford comes to £21), as can Coachcards and Railcards, which allow you to save a fixed percentage of the fare for many routes. Their usefulness depends heavily on your travel style, but they may be worth a look. Alternative booking sites like Easybus may also get you a better deal.
10. Information for Overseas Students

See also: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/international

10.1 Banking

The following banks have branches in central Oxford:
- Barclays: 54 Cornmarket Street
- The Cooperative Bank: 13 New Road
- Halifax: 22 Queen Street
- HSBC: 65 Cornmarket Street
- Lloyds: 1-5 High Street (corner of High, Cornmarket, Queen, and St Aldate’s Streets).
- NatWest: 43 Cornmarket Street
- Royal Bank of Scotland: 32 St Giles’ (corner of St Giles and Little Clarendon Street).
- Nationwide: 44 Queen Street
- Santander: Carfax
- TSB Bank: 17 George Street

The details of bank accounts change rapidly; an up-to-date comparison of student accounts can be found at: http://www.savethestudent.org/money/student-banking/student-bank-accounts.html

Opening an account is surprisingly difficult. It is worth asking your bank at home if they can set up an account for you with an English bank (or another agency such as Thomas Cook in Australia). When opening your bank account, you will usually need:
- A means of proving your identity and immigration status: your passport with visa OR your EU national photo ID (whichever is applicable),
- Proof of your UK address: your admissions letter from College should do this as well (at least in the first weeks of term). Sometimes banks will be difficult about this, demanding bills which you logically will not yet have; this may be a sign that they are not the bank for you.
- It may also be necessary to provide details of your previous bank accounts (i.e. a statement)

We recommend visiting the bank of your choice to set up an appointment as soon as you arrive; alternatively, it may be worth calling ahead to request an appointment. With all the freshers arriving it can take over a week to get an appointment to set up a bank account if you wait too long! If you’re unsure of which bank you want to use, many of the banks will have stalls at the International Students’ Orientation with exact descriptions of their current requirements.

Once you have opened an account, it can take weeks before your cheque book, debit card, cheque guarantee card (essential for payment by cheque), or credit card are available. Likewise, expect all deposits (except cash) to take up to one week before funds are made available to you.

Bureau de Change counters are available in every bank for converting currencies. There are both American Express and Thomas Cook offices on Queen Street. Marks and Spencer on Queen Street also
offers a currency exchange, as does the exchange service at the tourist information on Broad Street.

Many overseas students have found it difficult, costly, and time-consuming to access funds from their home countries. Ideally, arrange to arrive in the UK with a certified cheque issued by your bank already in Pounds Sterling for however much of your money you wish to have available here. Most ATMs accept overseas debit cards, allowing you to withdraw cash from your account back home, but your bank will usually charge you for this. Credit cards are similarly useful, although the fees and interest costs are potentially prohibitive. There is also a policy of not issuing international students with a UK credit card until they have been in the UK for at least 6 months. You can arrange with the New College Bursary to pay your fees by international wire transfer. Information on this process will be sent to you with your bill each time it is due.

10.2 Electricity and appliances

With the proper precautions and planning, you should be able to bring most of your electrical appliances with you to Oxford. Be forewarned, however, that the UK’s different electrical current and cycle rate has cost many the ill-prepared graduate some piece of much-loved equipment.

Electricity in the UK operates on a AC 220-240 V, 50 Hz system. If your equipment is designed to run in a range that includes both these figures, you simply need to purchase an adaptor which will allow you to fit your devices’ plug(s) to the wall outlets here. Check your devices’ specifications. Many recent computers, for instance, are designed to be used in 110-240 V, 50-60 Hz ranges, thus requiring nothing more than an adaptor for use here. These can be picked up at any number of stores in Oxford during your first weeks here (Boswells on Broad Street is a good all-purpose department store).

If your equipment is not rated for the UK electrical system, you will need to purchase a transformer which will alter the electrical current used in the UK to the appropriate current for your equipment. American products, for example, are usually built for AC 110 V, 60 Hz. While almost all transformers will easily handle the step down from 220 V to 110 V, only very expensive ones will change the cycle rate, ie the 50 Hz to 60 Hz. Any equipment that needs to run constantly at a certain speed from an internal motor (e.g. CD players, blenders, cassette tape players, and clocks) may not work here, and may be damaged through trying them. Again, if in doubt, check your products’ specifications and inquire at the dealer or manufacturer.

If your equipment will work with a transformer, make sure you get one that is powerful enough for everything that you plan to use. Transformers can only handle a certain amount of wattage. Add up the total amount of watts used by all of your equipment and make sure it is less than your transformer can handle, or you’ll fry your transformer and potentially destroy your equipment. The Oxford University Computing Centre at 13 Banbury Road sells transformers although you would be best advised to pick them up in your home country before you arrive.

If you are living in College, there are a wide range of restrictions on your use of electrical appliances: see the Dean’s Handbook, 4f (pg. 27).

10.3 Work

The International Student Office which runs an Orientation programme for all international students at the start of your Oxford career, will be your best and primary resource for advice on visas, work permits, funding, etc. Citizens of the UK, EEA and Switzerland have no work restrictions. Holders of Tier 4 visas are restricted - your passport sticker should state the exact restrictions (see here: http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Can-you-worklayer-5316). These restrictions apply to paid teaching or pastoral work undertaken for a College or the University. The UK government has a scheme for doctoral students to stay in the UK to work after finishing a degree, and full details can be found on their website: http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studieslayer-3780/. The University Careers Service offers sessions and resources on working internationally or staying to work in the UK.
10.4 Health care

See also
- http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/international-visiting-students

New College belongs to the medical practices 28 Beaumont Street; you will be signed up for this service during College orientation. NHS provides free emergency care for all. However, unless you are a citizen of the UK, the EEA, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand or the Falkland Islands, you will have to pay a Health surcharge of £300 per year, as part of your visa in order to get access to non-emergency NHS services. You cannot opt out of this. With that paid, you will have a right to free hospital care, free visits to your GP, subsidised prescriptions (£9.00 for most medicine), and subsidised dental care. Sight tests, contact lenses and glasses are not covered by NHS.

10.5 Mobile phones

The UK is a very mobile-phone-centred nation and having a cellphone and UK sim card will probably be very helpful to get in touch with friends while here. Texts (also known as SMS) and phone-based internet chat are two of the main forms of communication, since these are cheaper than calls. If you don’t bring a telephone to Oxford from your home country which will work in the UK, you can purchase a phone at any of the telephone retailers - most of which are located on Cornmarket Street (Vodafone, Orange, O2, etc). These retailers can also provide you with telephone service for your mobile. There are two main types of payment for mobile phone usage:

1. Pay as you go plan. This means that you deposit money towards your phone account and can make calls and texts until your money runs out.
2. Pay monthly. You pay a certain amount a month, for which you get set amounts (sometimes unlimited) of minutes for calls, texts, and internet allowance. The amount of each you get depends on how much you are willing to pay per month!

10.6 Brexit

As of the writing of this guide (this may be out of date by the time you read this!) the UK is scheduled to leave the European Union on 1 November 2019.

EU/EEA students commencing their studies in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic year will be charged fees at the home rate for the duration of their course, whether a deal for leaving the EU is in place or not. Existing student loans will remain available to EU students for the duration of their course. The UK government has confirmed that existing postgraduate training support and funding from UKRI research councils will remain available to EU students who are commencing their studies in 2019/20 for the duration of their course. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal you may need to apply for pre-settled or settled status depending on the duration of your stay in the UK, particularly if you wish to remain after December 31, 2020.

No changes in fees, funding or immigration status as a result of Brexit are expected for Home or non-EU/EEA students. Official guidance, answers to further questions, and the option to submit additional Brexit-related questions to the university may be found here: http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/oxford-and-the-eu
As you will have gathered if you have read this far, Oxford has much terminology which is not often heard outside its grey walls. The following is a list of a few of them.

**Balls**  Virtually every college has a ball (some smaller ones are called events). They vary greatly in scale. New College rotates hosting a *white tie* Commemoration ball every three years with Magdalen and Worcester Colleges. New College is next due to host a Commemoration ball in 2022!

**Battels**  The bill you receive from College for the various debts you will have incurred, e.g. drinks, chocolate, Guest Night dinners, accommodation.

**Black Tie**  A dress code for formal events. *Men*: dinner suit (AmE tuxedo), though you can usually get away with wearing a black suit, with a bow tie of any colour apart from white; *women*: stylish cocktail-length, or long dress, or equivalent.

**Blades**  An award given when a college rowing team bumps a boat in front for 4 consecutive days in a regatta. Also provides bragging rights for life.

**Blue**  University award for exceptional achievement in some sports, notably rowing and rugby league.

**Boat Race**  The famous competition between Oxford and The Other Place (see *Cambridge*) rowing eights in London.

**The Bod**  The Bodleian Library. Not merely the glorious building housing the oldest library in the English-speaking world, but now something resembling a huge multinational corporation that controls all the books in Oxford.

**Bop**  A college party organised by the JCR or MCR. Often themed/fancy dress, usually accompanied by music and dancing.

**Bumps**  A type of rowing race - usually served with Pimms around the end of Hilary and Trinity (see below).

**Cambridge**  A town somewhere to the north-east of Oxford where there is another university. Commonly referred to as *The Other Place*, and those who study there are known as *Tabs* (short for *Cantabridgienses*).

**Cherwell**  A pleasant tributary of the Isis (Thames), upon which you will spend most of your summer punting.

**Crew date**  A dinner held between two sports teams or other societies. Generally involves large quantities of wine and lots of *pennyng*.

**Cuppers**  A competition between different colleges at sport.

**Dean**  The Fellow in charge of discipline and eradicating fun at College. He will be the one who calls you to his office if you destroy college property or reputation. He’s helped in his lonely mission by an Assistant Dean and a number of Junior Deans (who get free accommodation and High Table food in exchange for becoming humourless).

**Dean’s handbook**  Your bible for all College related rules, to be found at [http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/)

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deeans-handbook

Don An academic.

Eights week The week in Trinity during which Summer eights are held.

Exchange dinner A pair of formal dinners held between two colleges’ MCRs. A good occasion to meet grad students from other colleges, and enjoy lots of wine and cheese.

Fellow Most academics are fellows of a college and all are involved in its governance.

Fresher A new student, whether undergraduate or grad.

Front Quad New College’s oldest quad. This name stems from back in the days (a very long time ago) when the location of the lodge was at the New College Lane entrance.

Going down Depends on the context, but it can mean to leave Oxford.

High table Where the fellows of the college eat dinner. Students may occasionally be invited to join them. Students generally eat at common table, but 4 up to MCR students can apply to dine at High Table every Thursday.

Hilary term Term running from January to March.

Isis The big river in Oxford. This is the same river that elsewhere is called the Thames. However, where it flows through Oxford it is called the Isis - it is incorrect to call it the Thames.

JCR Junior Common Room. The undergraduate body of students and their physical common room. Graduate students are members of this.

JRF Junior Research Fellow. Similar to a post-doc. Usually funded from a college’s endowment.

Long vacation Usually referred to as the long vac. Summer vacation between June and October.

Matriculation Ceremony where you formally become part of the University. Done in sub fusc at the end of 1st week in Michaelmas.

Mound A small hill with steps in the garden with no apparent purpose other than photograph opportunities and the elusive promise of decadent parties at the top. Best enjoyed with a bottle of Bollinger. Be prepared to be distinctly underwhelmed if anyone offers to demonstrate the ‘world-famous quack’.

MCR Middle Common Room.

Michaelmas The term between October and December.

New Buildings New Buildings (NB) are in the Holywell Quad. The porters’ lodge is there and some lecture rooms but it is mainly undergraduate accommodation.

New College The best college in Oxford, always called “New College”, never “New”.

Old buildings Old buildings (OB) is the name given to the staircases in both the Front Quad and the Garden Quad.

Oxford SU The Oxford University Students Union.

Oxford Union Often shortened to The Union. A world famous debating society, connected to the university. Beer is £1 a pint, and membership fee is above £200 - at least the priorities are clear.

Pennying Banned in College. A practice at crew dates and less reputable colleges, involving trying to insert a penny into someone’s wine glass while they are holding it. Victims of pennying MUST then immediately finish their drink!

Pigeon post Free University-wide internal mail.

Porters’ lodge Where you find porters, and your post (in the post room).

Proctors Academics who are responsible for discipline and welfare across the University.

Punting A way to move around on water slowly, and, unless very practised, hilariously, and something to spend summer doing. At the Other Place they punt from the wrong end of the boat.

Quad Short for quadrangle. A roughly square-shaped space, surrounded by buildings. Called court in The Other Place.

Rad Cam The Radcliffe Camera, part of the Bodleian library.

Rustication Not quite expelled, but sent to live far away from College while suspending studying at Oxford as a result of having done a bad, bad thing.

Scout The person who cleans your room. Be very nice to them.

SCR The Senior Common Room. Where Fellows, and other senior college officers, eat and socalise. Also a collective name for the Senior Members.

Sent down To be expelled.

Sub fusc Academic dress.

Summer Eights The main rowing competition between colleges, held in Trinity term.

Torpids A rowing competition between colleges in Hilary.
**Town**  Anything or anyone not part of the University.

**Transfer of status**  A rite of passage for every DPhil student, involving long vivas and written documents. You will often find DPhil students complaining about this.

**Trashing**  A celebration at the end of exams where the examinee is covered in gloop and sparkles by their friends. This is considered to be a prerequisite for the drinking ahead.

**Trinity**  The term between April and June. Also a college.

**Tute**  A Tutorial - usually used as an excuse for a lack of fun or responsibility, as in 'no I can’t I have a tute'.

**University Parks**  A large park owned by the University containing one of the best cricket grounds in the country.

**Varsity**  Used to describe a sporting contest between Oxford and The Other Place.

**Viva**  Short for viva voce, an extended oral examination. All DPhil students and some undergraduate and Master’s students have to face this.

**White Tie**  A dress code for events which are more formal than black tie. A couple of balls (known as Commemoration Balls) each year are white tie, including the New College ball. For men there is a complex and restrictive set of rules on dress (Google is your friend!). For women it generally means full-length ball gowns.

**Wykkie Bear**  The MCR mascot.

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Fig. 11.1: *Ursus wykehamensis collegiinovi*, rare type of ursid, lives in the beams of the Spoom