

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2017,

On behalf of the entire Middle Common Room, I am delighted to welcome you to New College!

The New College Middle Common Room is made up of over 300 students from more than 25 countries around the world, studying every conceivable academic discipline, each with a unique story all their own. In keeping with our college motto, no matter where you're from or what brings you to Oxford, what matters here is who you are and how you show it, and we are genuinely happy and excited to have you here with us.

The MCR is at the heart of college life, and by extension, the Oxford experience. The MCR Committee, which administers the facilities and social programming of the MCR, is here to serve your needs and the interests of all members. As well as maintaining our physical common spaces, the Committee organizes a wide range of events throughout the year: formal dinners, exchange nights with other colleges, competitive and recreational sports, artistic and cultural programs, and much more, all designed to foster fellowship and community. The MCR also provides significant resources towards promoting the mental, emotional, and academic welfare of the membership, with our Welfare Representative, our Peer Support Team, representatives for various identity groups, and a company of friends and colleagues all ready to help you navigate the rocks and shoals of student life here.

Graduate students will be informed of these events on a weekly basis via email and through regular updates on the [MCR Facebook page](#), which you can join prior to your arrival. (You should also join the [MCR Freshers' Facebook page](#), which will allow you to meet fellow Freshers and keep abreast of Freshers-only activities and information!) The Committee has also put together the MCR Freshers' Guide as a resource to help you settle into the college.

No matter where you are in your intellectual journey, your time at Oxford ought to be a challenging and rewarding experience, and the MCR is here to help you get the most out of it. Please feel free to reach out to me or any other Committee member with questions, comments, or suggestions about college life or Oxford in general. Coming to this place can seem daunting at first – for my part, I had never lived abroad or even visited this country when I started my degree. But I soon found a home in this community, and I hope you will too.

My best wishes for the rest of your summer, and I look forward to meeting you all at the start of term in October!

Danny Hatem

MCR President 2017-2018

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