MCR Freshers' Guide

2020 / 2021

NEW COLLEGE

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August 2020

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1. Greetings from your MCR President

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2020,

I am delighted to welcome you to your new home for the next part of your life. For those of you that don't know what this means yet, Oxford colleges divide students into communities regardless of subject, giving you both the resources and advantages of a large university, and the personal and more intimate support of a smaller organization.

Despite its name, New College is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford; it is also one of the prettiest and has some 700 students from around the world who you will be joining. Founded in 1379 and situated in the heart of Oxford, New College 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 non-latin motto of any Oxford college: "Manners Makyth Man" which means 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 the community of all graduate students at New College. It is also a student run organisation headed by the MCR committee. In addition to maintaining and developing the physical MCR facilities, we organise a wide range of events for you throughout the year: bops, formal dinners, bar and movie nights, exchange dinners with other colleges, competitive and recreational sports, artistic and cultural events, and much more, to provide you with a fun, engaging, and friendly community to be part of.

The MCR will be the heart of your life here at New College and the base to build your Oxford experience. As we are brought together by our affiliation to the same college, not by the subjects we study, you will get to know people that may spend most of their time thinking about radically different things than you. This may mean a welcome break from your own studies, unlocking a new perspective on your work, or simply a chance to learn something new. I hope that within this diverse company, you will meet interesting people, widen your intellectual horizons, and make close and lifelong friends.

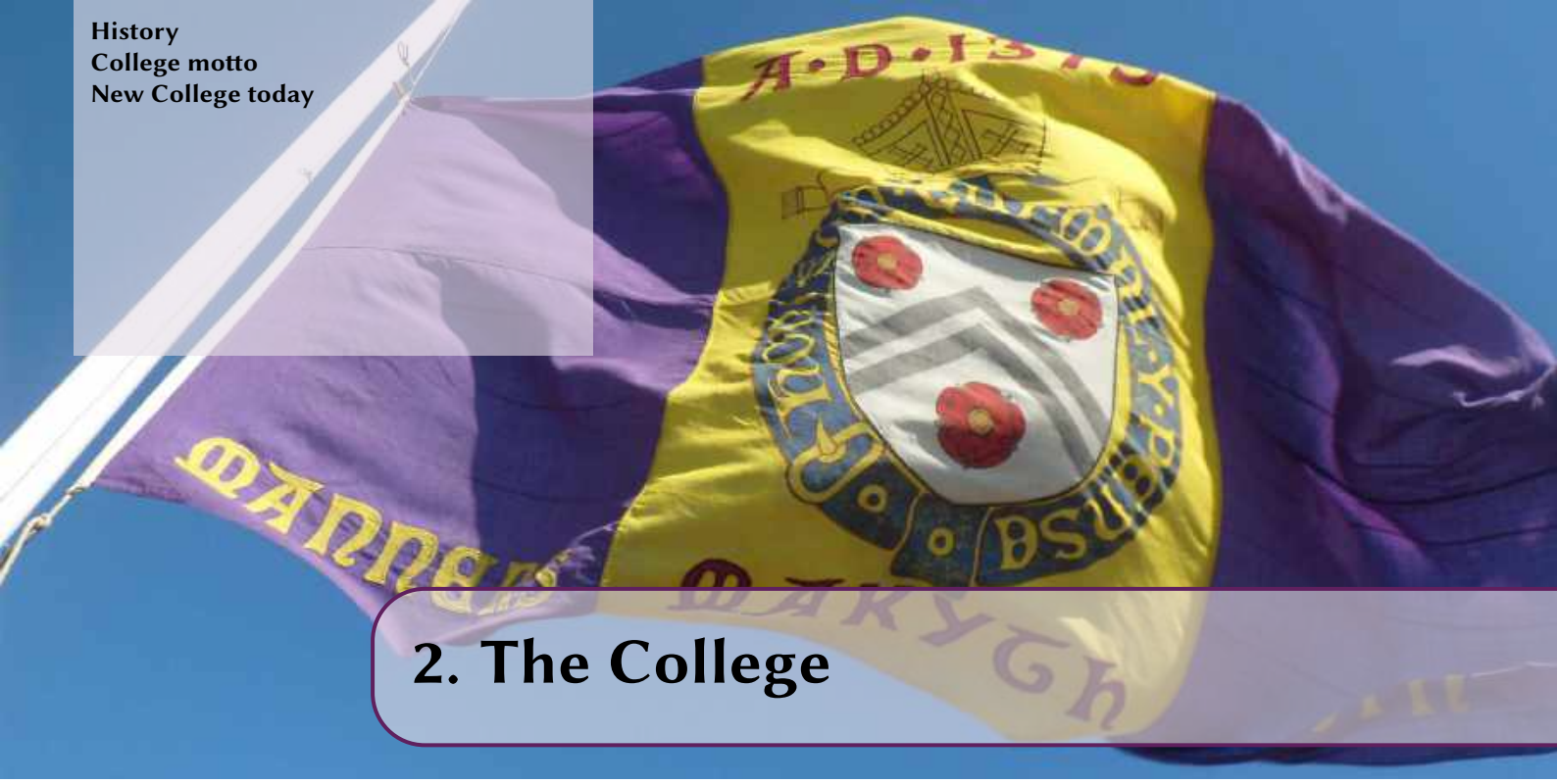
The MCR also provides significant resources for the provision of the mental, emotional, and academic welfare for our members. Our welfare representative, Peer Support Team, representatives for various identity groups, and a group of friends and colleagues are here to help you navigate the ups and downs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

We maintain this support especially in the face the current global pandemic, which will mean that this year will at least initially feel very different, and it might feel a bit scary to go to a new place. In this time, your MCR will be there for you and help you as much as we can. We will ensure that everyone will be able to obtain food, particularly when self-isolating, and continue to put on a wide array of social events balancing safety and making new friends.

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. There is also 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 the path that has brought you here, your time at Oxford will be a unique experience and will provide you with memories to last a lifetime. Even and especially in the midst of a pandemic, 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.

Steffen Ridderbusch
MCR President 2020–2021, email: *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.

Fig. 2.1: William of Wykeham's coat of arms, including his motto

Fig. 2.2: One of the nicer views of New College

2.3 New College today

New College is an intellectual community and one of the best-known colleges in Oxford. New College has some of the most beautiful grounds and buildings in Oxford and an endowment of over £250 million. It has approximately 60 Governing Body fellows, 28 lecturers, 26 research fellows, 290 graduate students (including 110 expected freshers this year) and 420 undergraduate students.

The College is governed by the Governing Body, which consists of professors, tutorial fellows, and senior College officers. Some members of the Governing Body also hold University chairs. 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 and associate members which include 4th year undergraduate students, visiting students, a few post-doctoral researchers without a college allegiance and some recent alumni. 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. The College has recently built a number of state-of-the-art music practise studios for all students to use. Additionally, New College has started the process of building a new quad, the Gradel Quadrangles, on Mansfield Road, which will mainly contain undergraduate accommodation, but also an exhibition space, a concert hall, as well as additional study space. The building project is targeted to be completed in 2022.

3. The People

3.1 The MCR Committee

The MCR is run by a committee of students. The committee organises events, provides welfare supports, and represents the postgraduate student body to the College and University. The committee members are a good point of call if you have any questions, any suggestions, or wishes. Especially upon your arrival at the College, 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*.

The MCR committee is made up of executive and non-executive positions. 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.

Steffen

President: Steffen Ridderbusch

Steffen is reading for a DPhil in Autonomous Intelligent Machines and Systems, a topic that is too trendy for how much mathematics it involves. Apart from labouring over mathematics and code, he sweats through various workouts and might row again next year. His spare moments are being using to read articles from various news sources, sometimes while marinating tofu. As President, Steffen serves as the representative of all graduate students in College, and his main role is to advocate for the MCR and its members with College and University administration. He is the main point of contact for any MCR member with questions, comments, or suggestions about any facet of College life, and everyone is encouraged to reach out to him.

Malina

Vice-President: Malina Graf

Malina is doing a DPhil in Clinical Neurosciences and spends her days trying to keep her neuronal cell cultures alive and looking in awe at microscopy pictures. In her free time, Malina enjoys rowing, baking, photography, music, chatting about important and unimportant things, and chocolate.

As Vice-President, Malina advises the president, runs committee elections, and organises fresher's fortnight together with the Fresher's Rep. As former president, she sees it as her moral obligation to protect the president from scandals and prevent the MCR from turning into chaos. Not that they'd need it.

Secretary: Lorenzo Venturini

Lorenzo is doing a DPhil in Biomedical Imaging, and spends his days looking at brains and trying to figure out how they fit together. As the MCR Secretary he is responsible for the smooth running and administrative issues of the MCR committee, and spends a lot of time writing emails to the committee and the MCR as well tending to the mailing lists. He is also responsible for the elections and the housing ballot.

Lorenzo can reliably be found at MCR events, especially those which involve free food and drink. He enjoys rowing to an unhealthy degree, and memorises useless trivia in his spare time to hone his pub quiz skills. His primary motivation in life is the consumption of large quantities of cheese.

Treasurer: Wieland Götzke

Wieland is a fourth year DPhil student in Organic Chemistry. Aside from trying to make molecules in the lab, you can find him doing a lot of sports (rowing for the boat club, playing squash and tennis and more) and most importantly enjoying good food and drinks.

As treasurer, Wieland oversees the MCR's expenditures and pays for the subscriptions, licences and all other expenses of the MCR. If you have any good ideas and suggestions on how the MCR should spend its budget, feel free to contact him at any time via mail or talk to him in the MCR.

Wieland

Welfare Officer: Irene Yang

Irene is in her third year of a DPhil in Musculoskeletal Science looking at just the outer halves of each knee. Irene spends most of her time in Headington but when she is not there, she is in the MCR, or writing, painting, sketching or taking photos of nature. As a peer supporter, she is also available to chat confidentially and support students with any matters of concern.

As Welfare Officer, Irene works closely with the sports officer, the social officers, the Equality and Diversity rep, women's rep and LGBTQ+ rep (and the rest of the MCR committee), to ensure that your welfare is well taken care of. She enjoys listening, caring and supporting all MCR members to ensure that the MCR is as inclusive as possible.

Irene

Social Secretaries: Aeron Laffere and Thomas Caganek

Aeron is reading for a DPhil in Neuroscience. After more than two decades in London, he moved all the way to Oxford just last year. He made the terrible mistake of joining the rowing team in his first term but was saved by inclement weather and a pandemic from a sentence of early mornings and drinking bans. Now he makes up one half of the MCR social team, which arguably is as physically demanding a role as rowing when done correctly.

As your Social Secretary, Aeron is responsible for fun things that happen in and around College during term time and sometimes in the holidays. And when fun things happen that he wasn't responsible for, he will often try to take credit for them anyway. Make sure you tell him if you're bored – though you do have to study at some point, right?

Thomas is doing an MSc in Chemical Biology. He grew up in Vienna and moved to the UK for his undergrad 3 years ago. Besides spending his time in the lab he's into weightlifting and fishing.

As Social Secretary, Thomas is organising a variety of social events within the MCR - this includes guest nights, bops and exchange dinners. If you have any ideas for future events that you'd like to see

Aeron

Thomas

or any other suggestions please get in touch with Aeron or Thomas.

House Officer: Victoire Dejean

Victoire is finishing her DPhil in Chemistry and spends her days trying to understand the reaction that allows birds to use the geomagnetic field to navigate. She's also a keen rower and liked it so much she decided to organise it and served as the boat club women's captain last year. She'll be very happy to answer any rowing-related questions!

As House Officer, she is mainly responsible for the upkeep of the MCR. Due to Covid-19, her job is now more focused towards ensuring that the MCR pavilion is fully equipped to host very-cool-yet-extra-safe-and-socially-distanced events. If you ever need to self-isolate or are shielding and need some logistical support, don't hesitate to contact her and she'll do her best to help.

Bar Rep: Charlie Baker

Charlie is in his second year reading for an MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature (and he didn't name the course). His research is on Homeric scholia and ancient scholarship as literature. He is also involved with Green Bean Machine, a New College-based funk band, and the College Boat Club. As Bar Rep, it is his responsibility to keep the MCR Bar stocked with refreshing beverages and organise volunteers to staff it. He is happy to accommodate MCR requests for drinks - if there's an alcoholic or soft drink you'd like stocked get in touch!

Charlie

Equality and Diversity Representative: Paula Larsson

Paula is in her final year of a doctoral degree in the History of Medicine. Born in Canada, her research focuses on the history of vaccine policy over the past century. She is founder and director of Uncomfortable Oxford, a student led enterprise that seeks to raise awareness of local histories of inequality and discrimination. In her free time, she is an enthusiastic writer and story-teller, and enjoys playing board games of all types. Although terrible at croquet, she can never refuse when challenged.

Women's Representative: Helen Potts

Helen is in the fourth year of her DPhil in Cardiac regeneration where she is trying to mend broken hearts. She loves all things sport (especially rugby), as well as brews, biscuits and chats.

As your Women's Rep, she is here for any self-identifying woman to talk about any of your issues, no matter how big and small. She aims to make sure New College is an inclusive and equal environment where women can support women to look out for her emails with info about interesting talks and our very own women's events and please don't hesitate to get in touch with any ideas you might have.

Paula

LGBTQ+ Representative: Giulia Bernardini

Giulia is doing a DPhil in History in the spare time when she is not playing as striker for the New College Women's Football Club. As LBGTQ+ representative, Giulia is here to provide help and support with any LGBT-related issue you may experience during your time at New College and she organises events for our lovely rainbow community, from dinners and movie-nights to talks and meetings. Want to get involved with our community? Got questions about LGBTQ+ life at New College or in general? Feel like talking to someone? Come say hi at MCR events or feel free to drop her an email anytime at *giulia.bernardini@new.ox.ac.uk*

Giulia

Disability Representative: Mallory Perillo

Mallory is a second year Economics MPhil student with a research focus in applied microeconomics as it relates to issues of systemic racial inequality. In between her weekly scheduled existential crises, Mallory enjoys taking walks, listening to music, and learning British slang.

As Disability Rep, she is responsible for representing the interests of MCR members with disabilities (both visible and invisible). As the point of contact for disability-related issues, Mallory will do her best to address the questions and concerns about accessibility at New College from any current or prospective students.

Mallory

Sports Officer: Sam Kessler

Sam is a third year DPhil student in Machine Learning. Aside from work you can probably find him rowing, running, playing tennis or football

Sam is in charge of everything sports related for MCR students at New College. This includes maintaining sports equipment and facilities, organizing sporting events, and keeping everyone informed of sporting activities inside and outside of College.

Sam

Arts and Culture Officer: Simon Nagler

Simon is reading for the BPhil in Philosophy in Oxford and a master's in Logic and Philosophy of Science at the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy. Whenever he is not talking or writing about some weird mathy philosophy, Simon enjoys some rowing, classical music, and boardgames. As Arts and Culture rep, Simon organises Arts and Culture related trips and visits as well as talks, workshops, tastings and other events in College. He wants to interpret his domain as widely as possible, ranging from music, architecture and theatre to games, food and wildlife. If

Simon

Russell

you have any questions, ideas or projects, which you want to discuss or need support with, feel free to reach out to Simon.

Freshers' Representative: Russell Buchanan

Russell is reading for a DPhil in Robotics Engineering which is hopefully the last career that is completely automated. Not only is Russell passionate about teaching machines to do tasks a two-year-old finds easy but he also enjoys distance running, rock climbing and (recently) rowing. As First Year Representative, Russell is responsible for planning Freshers week and adds to the social calendar by organising weekly movie nights both during term time and out of term.

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 DPhil 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 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, 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 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. You will probably first meet your College adviser during the graduate dinner in freshers' fortnight. If not, your advisor will 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 contact 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

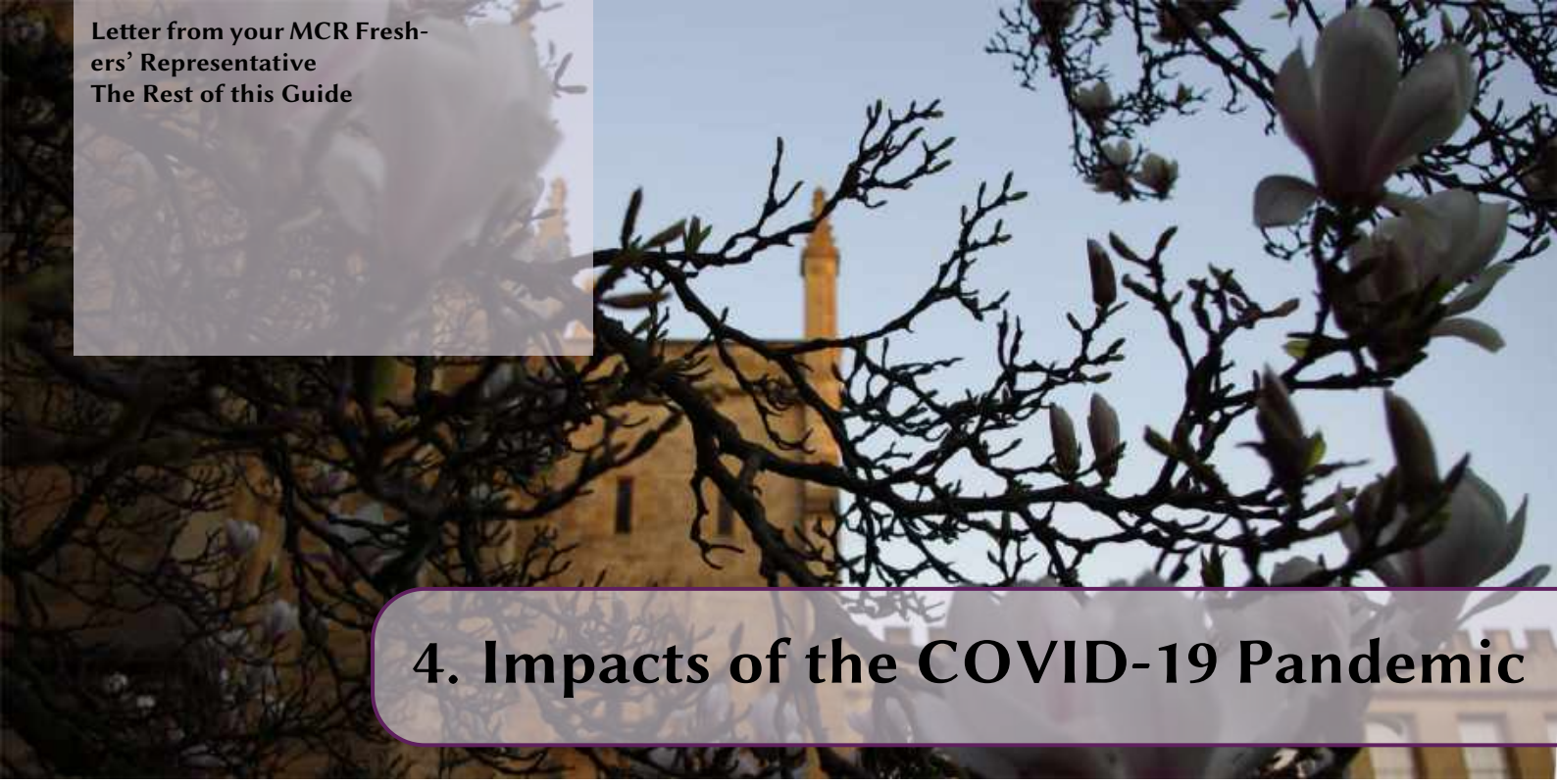
is the only time you will have to see the decanal team!

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 *helpdesk@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. Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

4.1 Letter from your MCR Freshers' Representative

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2020,

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome to the University of Oxford and to New College. I first came to Oxford one year ago and I know how overwhelming all of this new information can feel. I also know how concerned everyone is about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our studies, social lives, and mental health. I have prepared this Freshers' Guide with these concerns in mind and with the goal of showing you what life at Oxford is like both under "normal" circumstances and what it will be like this year. The university has been working very hard to continue lectures and to provide services for researchers. New College has also been working for us to provide typical services such as the Library and Chapel as well as keeping up social activities. Finally, your MCR committee, of which I am a part, has been working through the summer to provide usual array of social events and welfare activities despite COVID-19 restrictions.

I want to assure you that everyone here is doing our best to ensure you are comfortable and experience the best that Oxford has to offer. This is regardless of whether you are an MSt, MPhil or DPhil student or whether you will be in Oxford or studying from another country. We are here to welcome you into the Oxford community and this new stage in your life.

Best Regards,

Russell Buchanan, DPhil Engineering Science

MCR Freshers' Rep 2019–2020 email: *russell@robots.ox.ac.uk*

4.2 The Rest of this Guide

The remainder of this guide will present information as accurately as possible for this upcoming year. It will also expose the reader to what life is "normally" like at Oxford. This will involve describing certain activities and events which typically take place every year but which may be cancelled or altered this year to ensure people are safe and social distancing is maintained. In these cases an info box will appear bellow the paragraph which will provide additional information specific to this year. An example of one of these info boxes is bellow:

[COVID-19 Info] Example Info Box

This is an example of an info box with additional information related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regulations and information in these times are constantly changing. Please consult the official College and University information pages on Covid-19.

5. Facilities

5.1 New College

5.1.1 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*. Since 2009, the Spoom has been located in the Weston Sports Pavilion and is undoubtedly one of the most comfortable and inviting MCRs in Oxford. 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 contains the *MCR Bar* which is opened regularly - usually on Wednesday and Saturday 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 in 2021. 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 2022, and to a more extensive refurbishment of all remaining gendered New College bathrooms by 2024/25.

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 Steffen Ridderbusch (*steffen.ridderbusch@new.ox.ac.uk*), or the maintenance team (*maintenance@new.ox.ac.uk*).

[COVID-19 Info] MCR Access

Currently access to the Spoom is restricted. However, we have recently re-opened the MCR bar on Saturdays following government guidelines and implemented a take-away system. Brunch has also moved to a take-away system with the option to picnic on the sports ground in new outdoor furniture. Access to the TV room remains open for printing and we have implemented borrowing schemes for guitars and board games.

Fig. 5.1: The Rew Nooner Spoom

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 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. For meals that do not require booking you pay with your Bod card and tills. You may bring guests but you will have to pay for them as cash and bank cards are not accepted. Booking for meals are made online and is usually available on Thursdays for the next week.

Breakfast: Breakfast is available from 8:00 am to 9:00 am on weekdays and 11 am to 1 pm at weekends. A choice of an *English* cooked breakfast (sausage/vegi-sausage, potatoes, mushrooms etc) or *continental* breakfast (cereal, yoghurt, fruit, pastries etc) is available and charged per item, for a total typically around £2.00-£2.50. Breakfast is paid for with your Bod card and tills. No prior booking is required

Lunch: Lunch is available 12:15 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 ∼£5. Lunch is paid for with your Bod card and tills. No prior booking is required

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 ∼£7.23 inclusive of soup, salads, a main course, potatoes/pasta, vegetables, and dessert. **Formal hall requires booking** and is paid from your battels. 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.

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.

Informal hall is available every day, cafeteria style, and food can be bought between 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm (7:15 pm on Monday and Wednesday). Informal hall is paid for with your Bod card and tills. No prior booking is required and there is no dress code.

Guest Nights: 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 ∼£ 17.75 per person (or ∼£ 23.10 for non-Oxford guests). **Guest Nights require booking** and is paid from your battels. No gowns are required but dress code is smart.

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*).

[COVID-19 Info] Dining in Hall

The hall will be open this year but with many additional restrictions. Plastic dividers have been put up along the tables and overall capacity has been reduced.

Breakfast: Breakfast will be served by staff with PPE, no more self catering. Entrance to hall will be via the internal stairway.

Lunch: Lunch will be served by staff with PPE, no more self catering. Entrance to hall will be via the internal stairway.

Dinner: Dinner will be served by staff with PPE. Entrance to hall will be via the stone stairway from the Chapel and Front Quad. Dining will be broken into three time slots with the dining hall disinfected between slots. MCR members are welcome to book into either of the two last slots: 6:25 pm to 7:10 pm or 7:20 pm to 8:00 pm. You MUST book your dinner in advance. There will be a take-away option. There will be NO formal dinners and NO guests are allowed

Guest Night: There will be no guest nights.

High Table: The fellows have moved to the SCR for dining. It is unknown if dining at High Table will still be an option for MCR members.

5.1.4 College Bar & JCR Wine Cellar

The College bar, beer cellar, or JCR bar, is primarily College run. It is open all day offering sandwiches, cakes, coffee and cold beverages. It is a popular space for work during the day, along with the adjacent Undercroft. It serves alcohol from 6 pm to 11 pm every day during term, and is sometimes open during vacations. The bar is accessed from beneath the Hall, or through a side door from Monk's Passage.

Drinks are cheap (considerably cheaper than in town), and only slightly more expensive than at the MCR bar. It is cheaper to pay using your Bod card, but the bar accepts cash and cards as well.

The JCR operate their own wine cellar in the basement of Garden Quad Staircase 7, which is also available to the MCR. It is usually open before formals and occasionally before MCR guest nights. The wine cellar offers good wines at wholesale prices, and the cost is charged to your Battels account

[COVID-19 Info] College Bar

The College bar will remain open but social distancing guidelines must be followed.

5.1.5 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 borrow 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.

W1 looking far too serious.

M1 attempting to carry their cox safely.

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. Additionally our lovely porter Howard Weller runs twice weekly circuits training open to all. 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 and is a very good way to meet lots of people, stay fit and try something typically Oxonian. 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. Most rowers start out as beginners and learn in the first term. 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. All the specifics will be provided during the welcome event run by the New College Boat Club (NCBC) during Freshers' week. Some of the MCR committee officers are keen rowers and will be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

[COVID-19 Info] Sports

Many of the College sporting facilities remain open such as the tennis courts, croquet sets and punts. The Squash court is currently closed. The status of rowing at Oxford this year is still unknown, however it is unlikely there will be large races attracting crowds of people.

5.1.6 Gym

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.

[COVID-19 Info] Gyms

Gyms in the UK are currently open with restrictions in place. The university gym remains closed although is offering online fitness courses through their Active Anywhere membership. More info online.

5.1.7 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.

Fig. 5.2: The College sports ground

5.1.8 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 use the book purchase request service; 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.

[COVID-19 Info] Library

Library hours and capacity are likely to be reduced for this year. Books will be available for pickup but the building may be closed for individual study.

5.1.9 Internet and Technology Services

All rooms in College have ethernet access. This connection can be activated by plugging in your computer into the provided router (Make sure the PoE connector is connected to the wall. You can disconnect the other cable from the wall and plug in your own computer), opening your internet browser and following the automated security program. There is also Wi-Fi in the Spoom, Weston Buildings, JCR and Library via "NewcWifi". The New College IT manager will email you the password. Alternatively, you can connect to "eduroam" using your Oxford credentials. IT services are continually working to improve wireless internet connectivity throughout the College.

There is a computer and printer in the MCR Tv room. There are also printers in the College Library. 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: *https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/it/email?wssl=1*

5.1.10 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.

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 (*https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/chapel*), and the choir website (*www.newcollegechoir.com*).

[COVID-19 Info] Chapel Services

The chapel will be open for individual prayer only. There will be no worship services and no tourists or guests allowed.

Although we cannot gather in the chapel, you can still experience the peace of evensong in our New College Chapelcasts for Trinity term, which bring together music recorded in previous terms with new readings, reflections and prayers. A new service is published every Sunday at 5pm. You can find the weekly Chapelcasts here.

5.1.11 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!

5.1.12 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

The College hall

The *chalet des anglais*

The cloisters from New College tower

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*).

5.1.13 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.

5.2 The University

5.2.1 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/*.

[COVID-19 Info] Library Services

The Bodleian Libraries are expected to be open in Michaelmas Term but with restrictions. It currently operates a click and collect service to pick up any book you may need, a scan and deliver service of any book sections you are interested in, and is in the process of opening its reading rooms.

5.2.2 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*) or sign-up at the Freshers' Fair during Freshers' Week.

[COVID-19 Info] University Gym

The University Gym is closed until further notice due to the pandemic, but is offering online fitness courses through their Active Anywhere membership. More info online.

5.2.3 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 *https://www.oxfordsu.org/* for more information.

5.2.4 The Oxford Union

The Oxford Union is not a student union and is in fact a student run debate club. The membership fee is £286.34, or £257.50 during Freshers' Week, and is for life. The Union runs many good events and attracts famous speakers (some notable speakers include: Theresa May, Malcom X, Bill Clinton, Judi

Dench, Emma Watson, W. B. Yeats and Manny Pacquiao). The club is highly polarising and in recent year membership has become somewhat controversial. We strongly encourage you to talk to many other MCR members (many of whom are Union members) before deciding to get a membership. 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: *https:// www.oxford-union.org/*

[COVID-19 Info] The Oxford Union

The Oxford Union has transitioned to online interviews which are uploaded to Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts. This means the talks are available to anyone who subscribes to those services regardless of whether they have paid for a membership.

5.2.5 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*

[COVID-19 Info] University Club

The University Club is closed until further notice due to the pandemic.

5.2.6 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* 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).

Freshers' Fortnight
Guest night
End-of-year garden party
Exchange dinners
Brunch
Bar nights
Bops
The New Collection
Other events

6. MCR social life

[COVID-19 Info] Impacts of the Pandemic on Social Life

At the time of writing, it is uncertain how social distancing measures will affect the way events operate in 2020/21. We hope that most events will be able to proceed as originally intended. If not, then we expect some will move online or outside while others may continue in a reduced capacity.

Indoor events are most affected under any social distancing measures. Since you start your time at Oxford in the colder months, there is little comfort in knowing we have access to a beautiful playing field to picnic on. Instead, many of you living in College accommodation in your first year will find that your household becomes the focus of your social activity. Books, board games, and musical instruments are available to borrow from the MCR, and we will be expanding those resources if indoor socialising remains limited.

Times when we share food and drink together are also especially sensitive to social distancing. We were able to continue running bar nights and brunch as takeaway services through social distancing last year, and there is no reason to think this will change. However, guest nights and "bops" were impossible to run in a recognisable format during the lockdown. At the time of writing these have not yet returned.

It is not all bad news though – from experience last year, social distancing brings opportunities for new ways of thinking about events. From online murder mysteries to picnic brunches and DJ sets on sunny days, we are discovering how to adapt to this way of life all the time. Whatever happens this year, we promise it won't be boring!

6.1 Freshers' Fortnight

One of the most important things that the MCR does is provide two weeks of entertainment and orientation for you. Details will be published when you arrive (both in your email and posted around accommodation).

[COVID-19 Info] Matriculation

Normally Freshers' Fortnight ends with the matriculation ceremony on Saturday of 1st week when you formally become part of the university. This year matriculation will be very different. The university will be producing a live broadcast to welcome you to Oxford virtually. New College will host a viewing party outdoors or in a marquee. You will be welcome to attend in sub fusc and participate in socially distanced photographs after.

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*)

6.2 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 ∼£17.75 (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 2-4pm on the preceding Thursday.

[COVID-19 Info] Guest Nights

There will be no Guest Nights in Michaelmas 2020.

6.3 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!

6.4 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, keep an eye on the MCR Facebook page and the mailing list!

[COVID-19 Info] Guest Nights

There will be no Exchange dinners in Michaelmas 2020.

6.5 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!

[COVID-19 Info] Brunch

During the previous term our weekly brunches went virtual. Food was available for takeaway and small groups of students could have social distanced picnics. We hope to continue this in some form.

(a) A brunch in the Spoom

(b) Enjoying the bouncy castle at the garden party

6.6 Bar nights

The MCR operates a student-run bar in the Spoom between 9.00-11.00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays during term times and on most Wednesdays outside of term time. 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. Whether you are getting ready for a big night out or are looking for a quiet evening, feel free to come around!

[COVID-19 Info] Bar

The Bar is open! We follow government guideline for social distancing and have added a takeaway option! Come by and order from our wide selection of drinks, socialise safely or take them back to your home.

6.7 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 thte morning. MCR members take turn DJing at the bops, so make sure to email Thomas Caganek (*thomas.caganek@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.

(a) The bar in its active state.

(b) Christmas bop

(c) Themed guest night: Masquerade

(a) Cheese and Wine tasting

(b) Freshers' Week Pub Crawl

(c) Guest night

[COVID-19 Info] Bops

Your hard working and creative MCR committee is still working on ways to have safe bops. Some ideas include outdoor events and silent discos. Either way you will not lack a party this year!

6.8 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.

6.9 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.

[COVID-19 Info] Other events

We are doing our absolute best to provide you with safe and responsible social events. Some activities we have already trialled include: virtual board game nights, pub quizzes, murder mystery nights, outdoor BBQs, team workout sessions and much more!

7. 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 a few students living in Castle Mill. Accommodation costs approximately £670 monthly (daily rate is £22.15) including utilities and network.

Fig. 7.1: The Weston complex (left) and Castle Mill (right) accommodation sites.

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. All accommodation-related rules and the license agreement can be found in the dean's handbook.

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.

7.1 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.

Weston Buildings 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.

[COVID-19 Info] Cleaning

Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance to every Weston building. Scouts will increase cleaning of shared spaces and maintain social distancing.

7.2 Castle Mill

Castle Mill is a University accommodation complex situated in central west Oxford close to the Railway Station and Port Meadow park, 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. Note that tenants are responsible for the cleaning of their own rooms but a regular cleaning service is provided for the common areas.

Fig. 7.2: A kitchen and a typical room in the Weston buildings

[COVID-19 Info] Self Isolation

If someone in your household develops symptoms you should all self-isolate. That person should get tested for Covid-19 and if they are positive then the whole household will bee to self-isolate for 14 days. NHS guidelines on getting tested can be found here.

Bod-card
Room key
E-mail lists
Things to bring
Town
Shops
Gowns and academic dress
Terms
Bicycles
Transportation

8. Arrival and Settling In

8.1 Bod-card

Your Bodleian reader card, always referred to as your *Bod-card*, is effectively your University student card. You need it to get into University and College buildings, buy food in hall, drinks in the bar and to get into most buildings and departments across the University. The first thing to do when you arrive is 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.

8.2 Room key

Once you have your Bod card you can 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.

[COVID-19 Info] Arrival

The process for collecting your Bod card and keys may be different this year. Keep an eye out for emails on this!

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 at New 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 (*helpdesk@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@maillist.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@maillist.ox.ac.uk*.

8.4 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: New 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. The weather in Oxford typically ranges from 0-10°C in Winter and 10-25°C in Summer.

Additionally, there will be a series of formal occasions when the College serves up its finest cuisine, and many more optional black tie events besides, so pack all of your classy clothes. For men think dark suit and tie; a black bow-tie would also be wise. For women classy dresses will get lots of use!

[COVID-19 Info] If you need to self isolate

If you are coming from abroad and will need to self isolate the MCR will help you get anything you need. Most supermarkets are delivering food and you can have bed sheets and cookware shipped in advance. If you are still struggling to get the things you need while self isolating we can purchase things for you and bring them to your house.

8.5 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* is a good source of information on what is going on around the city.

8.6 Shops

Here it a list of some shops in Oxford and the nice things you can get there.

Tesco and Sainsbury Major supermarkets/grocery stores. In the town centre the Tesco is large but on Cowley street they are aproximately the same size.

Waitrose and Marks & Spencer More upscale supermarkets, groceries here will cost more but, in theory, be of higher quality.

Tahmud Store 53 Cowley Road. Middle Eastern grocery store. Good for bulk purchases of spices, rice, lentils and other staples.

Seoul Plaza 59-63 Cowley Road, Korean supermarket good for Asian food.

Cycle King Oxford 128 Cowley Rd. Bicycle shop, cheaper than the ones in the city.

8.6.1 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 sign up for gym facilities which are not part of the university such as Buzz Gym and Pure Gym.

8.6.2 Bars, Pubs and Clubs

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.

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.

[COVID-19 Info] Face Coverings

The law in England currently requires everyone in shops and on public transport to wear a face covering. This does not apply to pubs and restaurants.

8.7 Gowns and academic dress

One of the classic images of Oxford is students going around in gowns and academic dress. You will nee a gown for your matriculation ceremony and also for dining at formal hall and various other occasions in College. For formal dinners at New College it can just be worn over normal clothes.

You need full academic dress, called *subfusc*, for formal university events such as matriculation, university exams and research degree vivas as well as for graduation. This is specific clothing that is worn underneath your gown.

- *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, or 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. Additionally, you can usually buy used gowns and motar boards from leaving students through Facebook or GumTree. We recommend getting your subfusc as soon as possible as you will need it for matriculation, which takes place on the Saturday after the first week of classes.

8.8 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.

Fig. 8.1: Oxford natives in traditional costumes

Fig. 8.2: *EVERYTHING* in Oxford is done in sub fusc and gown!

8.9 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 *Oxfords Reconditioned Bicycles*, 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 from the University Security Services *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 buy a bike make sure to **register it** at the porters' lodge! The porters occasionally go around Weston Buildings and remove unregistered bikes.

Never ridden a bicycle before? The University offers up to 6 hours of free biking lessons for total beginners. Take a look here.

If you only need a bike in the immediate/very short term then the MCR owns a couple bikes that you can borrow. You have to register beforehand (only the first time) by filling out this form: *https://forms.gle/emA41Qu2rEzc63gV8*. Then you will be able to borrow a bike whenever your want! Contact the Freshers' Rep if you have any questions about the process.

8.10 Transportation

8.10.1 Buses

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. There is a coach service called *Oxford Tube* which goes between Oxford's central bus station at Gloucester Green and London Victoria Station. Coach buses are long distance buses which can take you between cities. You can buy a *Coachcards* to save 33% on all fares.

8.10.2 Trains

The main connections to London are by road or rail. 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. Some aggregated search websites such as nationalrail.co.uk and The Trainline let you book tickets across multiple train companies. If you plan to take the train a lot make sure to get a Railcard and save 33% off all tickets. University students can get a 16-25 Railcard for £70 for 3 years.

8.10.3 Airports

Luton and Standsted 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). Alternative booking sites like *Easybus* may also get you a better deal.

[COVID-19 Info] Transport Services

All transport services are functioning but capacity and times may be different so it's important to check the websites. If you are arriving in the UK and need to self-isolate, you are allowed to take public transport to get to your accommodation. Face coverings are required on public transportation in England.

Battels
Till account
Travel grants, hardship grants and bursaries
Working

9. Finances

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 *https://newmeals.new.ox.ac.uk/sso/Main.aspx*. 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.

9.1 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*.

9.2 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 *https://newmeals.new.ox.ac.uk/sso/Main.aspx* website and your debit card, however, you can also pay by cheque to the bursary.

9.3 Travel grants, hardship grants and bursaries

9.3.1 College Grants

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/scholarships*.

There are numerous other funds for various things, particularly sport and other *meritorious* activities For example, the College has an allocated fund for student sporting and cultural activities, including charity and voluntary work, funded by donations from old members. All members of the JCR and MCR are eligible to apply for an award of up to £300 each term towards costs incurred through participation in an extracurricular activity whilst at New College. You will receive emails about this.

There are some additional 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/scholarships*. You can apply for them via the Bursar, David Palfreyman (*bursar@new.ox.ac.uk*)

9.3.2 Hardship

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.

In addition to the College hardship fund, in 2020 the MCR committee will be launching a new initiative: the MCR Solidarity Fund. This is a student-funded project which aims to support MCR members who are experiencing serious or continued financial distress. The fund allocates small subsidies between £5 and £60 with two goals: providing quick, easily accessible relief for students who are struggling financially due to unexpected expenses (i.e. unforeseen medical bills, sudden device failure, etc), and to mitigate the chronic exclusion of low-income and underprivileged students from college community life (i.e. by subsidising participation to formals and Guest Nights, purchase of college stash, etc). To know more about this initiative and to see how you can apply, you can download the full prospectus of the MCR Solidarity Fund here [LINK TO COME].

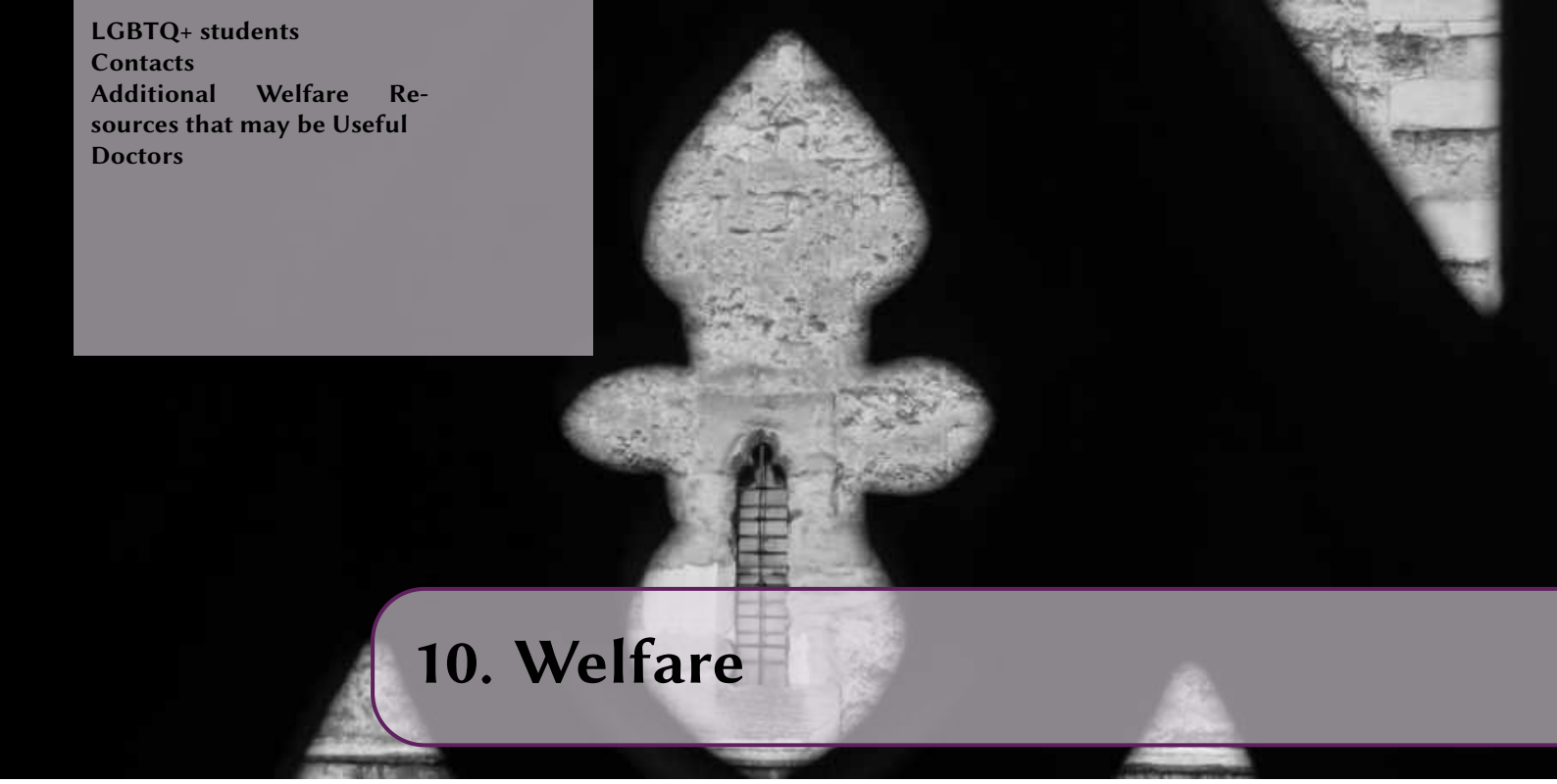
Outside of New College, those experiencing unexpected financial difficulties can also apply to the University Hardship Fund (*http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/uhf*) by the fourth week of each term. UK students can also apply to the Access to Learning Fund (*https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/alf?wssl=1*). The University website has further information on possible sources of financial support at *www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding?wssl=1* and OUSU offers an advice service (*advice@ousu.org*).

9.4 Working

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.

LGBTQ+ students
Contacts
Additional Welfare Resources that may be Useful
Doctors



10. Welfare

If you are a member of New College and need any welfare support, please do not hesitate any of the members on the Welfare team with whom you feel comfortable. A separate document with all MCR welfare information is available here.

10.1 LGBTQ+ students

There is a lot going on at Oxford for everyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. New 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! The MCR prides itself on our acceptance of diversity and a lovely LGBTQ+ community will be here to welcome you. 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 all the insiders' tips. Whether prospective or current New College student, whatever your gender identity, expression and/or orientation, you can get in touch with Giulia (she/her, *giulia.bernardini@new.ox.ac.uk*) who is a fellow postgraduate and your LGBTQ+ representative on the MCR committee. As LGBTQ+ rep, during term she organises events open to all MCR members who identify as LGBTQ+, keeps you up to date with what's happening accross the University and she is always approachable for confidential one-on-one talks or to answer your questions about LGBTQ+ life at New College.

If you would feel more comfortable talking to a senior college member instead, the New College Welfare Team is always a good first point of contact available to all students. More info can be found on the Health Welfare page (https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/health-welfare). Oxford University LGBTQ+ Society (http://oulgbtsoc.com) also 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! More information on freshers' events outside College will be available in Freshers' Fortnight.

Immediate Support Contacts	Telephone and e-mail
Main Porters' Lodge (24 hours, 7 days a week)	01865 279500
Weston Porters' Lodge (Weekdays and Saturdays)	01865 281081
Emergency Services	999
(Let the Porters know if you call an ambulance)	

Table 10.1: Immediate Contacts

MCR Welfare Team	e-mail
Irene Yang (MCR Welfare officer)	*mcr.welfare@new.ox.ac.uk*
Helen Potts (Peer Supporter)	*helen.potts@new.ox.ac.uk*
Veerle Brans (Peer Supporter)	*veerle.brans@new.ox.ac.uk*
Sybilla Pereira (Peer Supporter)	*sybilla.pereira@new.ox.ac.uk*

Table 10.2: MCR Welfare Team

10.2 Contacts

College provides a constellation of people attuned to all manner of welfare matters. In summary, the welfare team is made up of a range of MCR members, as well as members of College, who all work together to offer welfare support for any New College member in need. From the MCR, there is the welfare officer, as well as the MCR peer supporters, who are all trained to listen and support anyone and are a great first point of contact regarding any welfare matters. Working with and alongside the MCR welfare team, College also have a fully established welfare team, who are comprised of the Cox Fellow, the Chaplain, the Dean, the Junior Deans.

In an **emergency** you should contact the **Porters' Lodge** and they can assist you with getting in touch with any member of the welfare team for you straight away.

10.2.1 MCR Welfare support

The MCR committee has an elected welfare officer who can refer students to the right people for advice and guidance.

MCR welfare officer

If you would like to get into contact with a friendly and approachable person from the MCR community about any welfare concerns, Irene Yang is a DPhil student at New College and the MCR welfare officer. She is here to talk, or listen and support you in this time and can be contactable by email on: *mcr.welfare@new.ox.ac.uk*.

10.2.2 College welfare support

Tutor for Welfare

The College has appointed Jonathan Black, a senior member of the College, as the Tutor for Welfare. His role is to oversee the provision of student support within the College. Email:*jonathan.black@new.ox.ac.uk*. Jonathan works with an experienced College welfare team. This team is available to listen to student concerns and offer support. Graduates can contact the Welfare team - contact details below. However, please note that we are unable to discuss welfare issues with parents or guardians.

The Cox and Salvesen Fellows

Katie McKeogh, a Cox Fellow, is happy to talk to all New College students and is a good first port of call for information about services and support available within College and the university. Katie is available by appointment during working hours (through email), after 5pm and at weekends.

The Academic Registrar

Freyja Madsen is available to chat to students about personal matters, support for disabled students, suspension, or any other academic concerns. She is a first point of contact for all students and is available during office hours - drop into her room (4 OB 5).

The Student Welfare and Staff Support Officer

Milly Gray is available to chat to students and talk about personal matters or concerns around life in College and is available during office hours - drop into her room (4 OB 5). She can be reached at 01865 (2)79241 or email *camilla.gray@new.ox.ac.uk*.

New College Welfare Team	Telephone and e-mail
Tutor for Welfare: Jonathan Black	01865 284632 Mobile:+44 7776 185415 *jonathan.black@new.ox.ac.uk*
The Cox and Salvesen Fellows: **Katie McKeogh & Daniel Harkin**	Via Porters Lodge: 01865 (2)79555 *welfare@new.ox.ac.uk*
The Academic Registrar: Freyja Madsen	Via Porters Lodge: 01865 (2)79596 *tuition@new.ox.ac.uk*
Chaplain & Dean of Divinity: **Erica Longfellow**	01865 279451 *erica.longfellow@new.ox.ac.uk*
Assistant Chaplain Susan Bridge:	01865 289081 *susan.bridge@theology.ox.ac.uk*
College Nurse:	Via Porters Lodge: 01865 (2)79596 *new.nurse@nhs.net*
Out of Hours GP Service	111

Table 10.3: New College Welfare Team

Chaplaincy

Chaplain & Dean of Divinity Erica Longfellow and Assistant Chaplain Susan Bridge are both experienced in pastoral listening and support in secular and religious contexts. They are available to listen to any member of college, and they won't talk about religion unless you do.

Advisor to the Welfare Team

As former Director of Student Welfare and Support Services, Elsa Bell provides guidance and advice to the Welfare Team. To get in touch with Elsa, please email *welfare@new.ox.ac.uk* or contact through the porters lodge.

College Nurse

New College students have access to a drop-in clinic on-site, located at 1 New Buildings. In addition to offering advice and support on minor illness and minor injuries, The College Nurse is able to offer advice and support on minor illness and minor injuries in addition to providing supplementary support for those experiencing issues affecting their mental health. They can be reached at *new.nurse@nhs.net*.
Surgery hours:

- Monday: 09.45-12.15

Other Useful Welfare Contacts	Telephone and e-mail
Nightline (8 pm-8 am, 0th-9th week)	01865 270270
University Counselling Service	01865 270300 *reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk*
Samaritans 24hr (listening in a crisis)	08457 909090
Student Advice Service	*advice@ousu.org*
Emergency	999

Table 10.4: Welfare Contacts

- Tuesday: 09.45-12.15 13.00-15.00
- Wednesday: 09.45-12.15
- Thursday: CLOSED
- Friday 09.45 -12.15 13.00-15.00

Decanal Team

The New College Dean, Michael Burden, is in charge of the discipline of the College's Junior Members (including the MCR members). The role is wide-ranging, and although it excludes individual pastoral matters, does take account of the general welfare of Junior Members. Information for the members on the Decanal team, can be found https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/decanal-team.

[COVID-19 Info] Office Hours

Due to working from home orders and social distancing the college welfare team may not be available at their offices in the college. We recommend emailing or calling first to arrange any appointments.

10.3 Additional Welfare Resources that may be Useful

10.3.1 Peers of Colour

Next to our own team of trained peer supporters, you may feel more comfortable speaking to a Peer of Colour, a peer support trained student within the university who identifies as a PoC. The university has a university-wide email address: *peersofcolour@admin.ox.ac.uk* which is monitored by Dr Kam Dhillon (https://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/dr-kam-dhillon), a trained counsellor at Balliol College.

10.3.2 Rainbow Peers

Next to our own team of trained peer supporters, you may feel more comfortable speaking to a Rainbow Peer, a peer support trained student within the university who identifies as LGBTQ+. The university-wide email address to be put in contact with a Rainbow Peer is: *rainbowpeers@admin.ox.ac.uk*.

[COVID-19 Info] Welfare and Social Distancing

The New College welfare team is here to support you in any difficulties that you may be facing or experiencing. Over and above the normal reasons why someone may be feeling down or anxious, we are particularly aware that given the current circumstances with COVID-19 and the restrictions that have been enforced, there may be possible repercussions of working from home, social distancing and the concerns that you may be feeling as a result. We also understand that students may be worried about friends and family members, and our thoughts go to all those affected by this outbreak. We will to our best to provide support and comfort during your time at New College.

10.4 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 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*), and they hold a surgery in College at 1 NB in term times. Read more about going to the doctors here.

10.4.1 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). You may be required to pay an NHS surcharge as part of your visa application. Once you arrive in Oxford you will also be required to 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.

10.4.2 Dentists

There are two NHS dentists that are known to take on students: Studental (located at Oxford Brookes University in Headington; telephone: 01865 689997, email: *reception@studental.co.uk*) and Bupa Dental Care Oxford (22 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2NA; telephone: 01865 243702; email: *reception.oxford@oasis-healthcare.com*).

[COVID-19 Info] Seeking Medical Treatment

As part of the NHS's efforts to protect you and health workers at this difficult time, Oxfordshire GP practices have changed the way they work in your area.

Please do not visit the GP surgery in person. If you need health advice for suspected coronavirus, contact NHS 111 online or by phone. You can also contact your GP practice through its online consultation service or by telephone if you are concerned about coronavirus or any other health conditon or symptom. You will be offered a telephone appointment or you will be advised if you need to be seen by a doctor, and safe arrangements for this will be made.

When coming to the practice for a face to face appointment please wear a face mask if you have one. If you do not have a mask please ask the reception team for one on arrival.

Please be aware that your usual doctor, nurse or other health professional may not be available and you may have to travel to another location for face-to-face care if that becomes necessary.

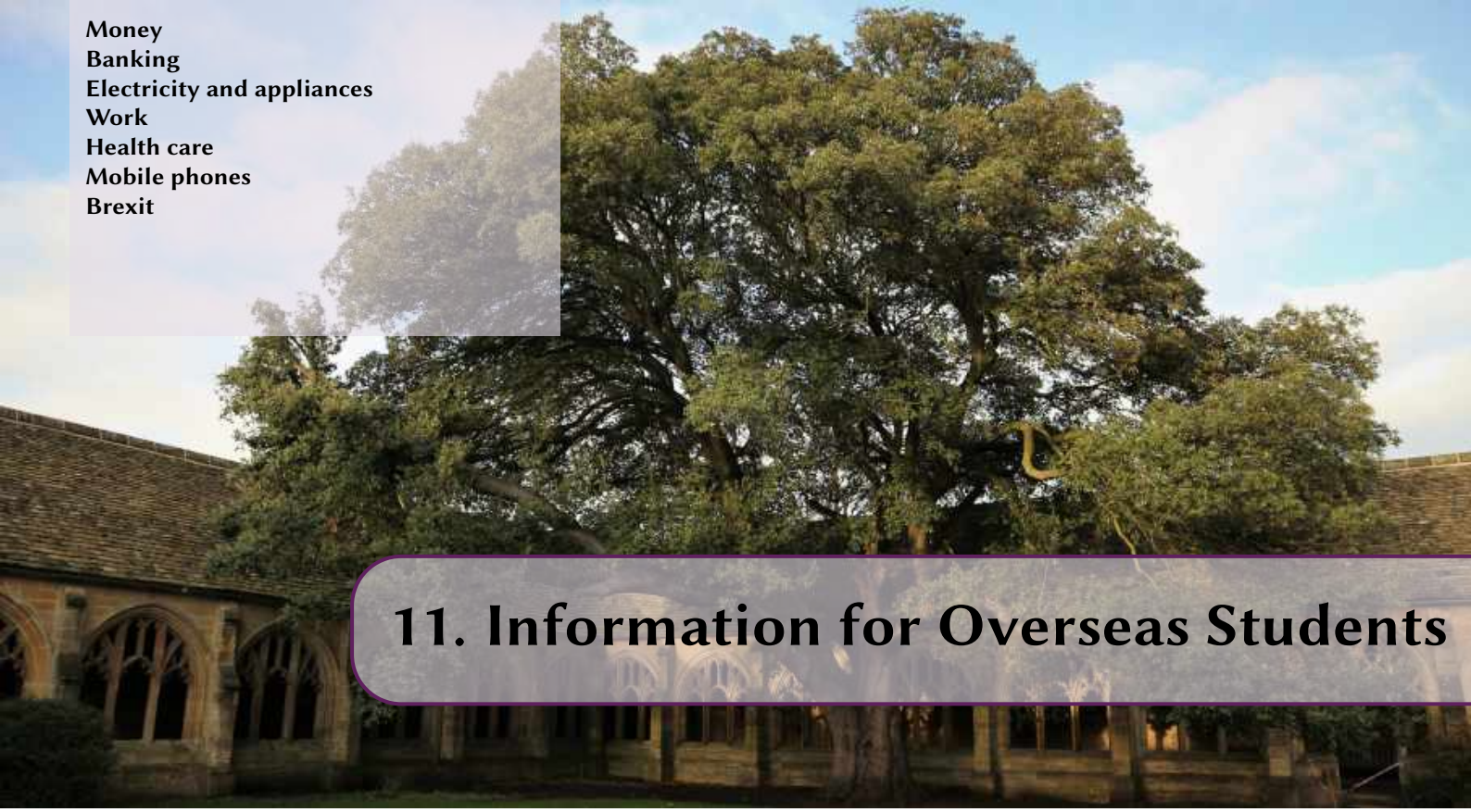
[COVID-19 Info] COVID-19 Medical Info

You can find the latest info on coronavirus from the NHS here.
The main symptoms are:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough**
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms and you can read more here.
Anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus can get a free test to check if they have the virus. Some people without symptoms can have the test too. Get your free NHS test here.

Money
Banking
Electricity and appliances
Work
Health care
Mobile phones
Brexit



11. Information for Overseas Students

The University welcomes some of the brightest minds from across the globe to study at Oxford every year. International students make up over a third of all those studying at the University, with 138 nationalities currently represented. The university has a comprehensive guide for new coming international students here. Bellow is some additional information which the university's guide does not cover.

11.1 Money

The currency in the UK is Pounds Sterling £, sometimes abbreviated to GBP (Great British Pound). Bureau de Change counters are available in every bank for converting currencies. On Queen Street there is an American Express office and a Marks and Spencer which offer a currency exchange, as does the exchange service at the tourist information on Broad Street.

11.2 Banking

Opening an account in the UK is surprisingly difficult for foreign students. This is particularly true for accounts with the major banks. Recently however several online-only banks have started up and they are much easier to open accounts. To save money, it is recommended to open a UK bank account as quickly as possible.

11.2.1 Online Only Banking

Monzo

International students can open an account with Monzo immediately upon arrival by taking a photograph of their passport and visa. You can transfer money to your account right away and start paying with GBP in a few days. Monzo is a fully regulated bank in the UK and will issue you a contactless debit card. You will even be able to withdraw cash at ATMs. See Monzo's website here.

Revolute

Revolute is an online only payment system and not officially a bank. Therefore you won't be able to get a savings account. They are however regulated and will allow you to pay in GBP from your local currency quickly and easily. You can request a contactless card to be shipped to you in Oxford. See Revolute's website here.

11.2.2 Major Banks

While there is more security in opening a bank account with one of the major banks, the process can take between weeks and months. Many overseas students have found it difficult, costly, and time-consuming to access funds from their home countries while waiting to open an account at a major UK bank. It might be a good idea to use an online-only in addition to a major bank to start paying in GBP quickly.

If you don't want to use an online bank then ideally, arrange to arrive in the UK with a certified cheque issued by your home 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.

To open a traditional bank account 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 up to a month to get an appointment to set up a bank account! 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.

The following major UK 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

A quick comparison of banking deals is available here.

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.

If your home bank has branches in the UK it might be worth asking if they can set up an account for you in the UK (HSBC for example has branches around the world).

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 enrollment letter should work for most banks. HSBC is known to be difficult on this and will insist on demanding bills which you logically will not yet have. You can generate you enrollment certificate from the university's online student self service.

11.3 Electricity and appliances

With the proper precautions and planning, you should be able to bring most of your electrical appliances with you to Oxford. 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*, Ch 4, pg. 24.

11.4 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. Currently citizens of the UK, EEA and Switzerland have no work restrictions (See 11.7). Holders of Tier 4 visas are restricted - your passport sticker should state the exact restrictions (see here: *https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Tier-4-work*). These restrictions apply to paid teaching or pastoral work undertaken for a College or the University. The UK government has a scheme for international students to stay in the UK to work after finishing a degree, and full details can be found on their website: *https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-2-year-post-study-work-visa-for-international-students*. The *University Careers Service* offers sessions and resources on working internationally or staying to work in the UK.

11.5 Health care

See also

- *http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/international-visiting-students*
- *https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/*

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 about £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.

11.6 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!

If you are binging your own phone you can find a break down of sim-only plans here: *https://www.savethestudent.org/bills-utilities/mobilephones/sim-only-deals.html#deals*.

11.7 Brexit

Information in this section is only accurate as of the writing of this guide (this may be out of date by the time you read this!).

The UK formally left the EU on 31 January 2020, and is currently in a transition period while discussions take place. The transition period is scheduled to end on 31 December 2020. During this period, the UK will continue to follow all of the EU's rules and its trading relationship will remain the same.

EU/EEA students commencing their studies in the 2020/2021 academic year will be charged fees at the home rate for the duration of their course. Existing student loans will remain available to EU students for the duration of their course. If you are arriving in 2020 then you may want to consider applying for pre-settled status which will allow you to stay in the UK for five years. Read more about pre-settled status here.

EU/EEA students commencing their studies in the 2021/2022 will not be eligible for home rates. Information on Brexit and Oxford is available here.

[COVID-19 Info] Self-isolation on arrival

The UK requires arrivals from certain foreign countries to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival. To see if you must self-isolate, consult this webpage.

12. Glossary of Oxford Terminology

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 hosts extravagant formal parties known as balls (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 (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 rowing race. Also provides bragging rights for life.

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

The 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.

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 *pennying*.

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/*

deans-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 An academic member of a college and a member of the SCR. Usually also a tutor for undergraduates.

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 The second term which runs 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 first 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 third 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.

Fig. 12.1: *Ursus wykehamensis collegiinovi*, rare type of ursid, lives in the beams of the *Spoom*

New College

Oxford OX1 3BN

Tel: 01865 279555 Fax: 01865 279486

MAIN ENTRANCE

Savile House
Warham House
SAVILE RD
New College School
MANSFIELD ROAD
HOLYWELL STREET
HOLYWELL STREET
Surgery
New Buildings
Library
Holywell Quadrangle
Bell Tower
The Slype
City Wall
NEW COLLEGE LANE
Cloisters
Chapel
Hall
Beer Cellar
Undercroft
Kitchen
Muniment Tower
Old Lodge
The Barn & Brewery
Warden's Lodgings
Front Quadrangle
Old Bursary
SCR Entrance
Garden Quadrangle
Old Buildings
Bursary
Long Room
Gardens
The Mound
21 Longwall
18 Longwall
Sacher Building
Bodicote House
Longwall Houses 8
LONGWALL STREET
CATTE STREET
QUEEN'S LANE
Warden's Garden
Summer House
A420
HIGH STREET
A420

New College Oxford: Surrounding Area

New College Sports Ground
Weston Buildings and Pavilion
St. Cross Building
SOUTH PARKS ROAD
PARKS ROAD
ST CROSS ROAD
MANOR ROAD
MANSFIELD ROAD
SAVILE ROAD
JOWETT WALK
HOLYWELL STREET
BROAD STREET
COLLEGE LANE
New College Oxford
QUEEN'S LANE
CATTE STREET
LONGWALL ST
A420
HIGH STREET

Key: New College Oxford OX1 3BN

- A Porters' Lodge
- B Conference Office
- C Lecture Room 4 (Noel Salter Room)
- D Lecture Room 6
- E Conduit Room
- F McGregor-Mathews Room
- G J.C.R.
- H Founder's Library
- S Sun Dial

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