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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 that a smaller organization offers.

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 Maketh Man,” which means that regardless of background or upbringing, it is attitude that makes you who you are. New College has maintained this style of 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 fun, engaging, and friendly community to be a 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 your affiliation to the same college, this means that 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. As the president of the MCR, I hope that within this diverse company, you will meet interesting people, widen your intellectual horizons, and make close and lifelong friends.
Chapter 1. Greetings from your MCR President

The MCR also provides significant resources for the provision of 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 of 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 here 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 the fresher-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 the 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 one thing 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 as the seventh college. It was established by William of Wykeham, who was Bishop of Winchester, Chancellor of England, and a churchman and administrator in the King’s service. His eventual wealth overshadowed his humble origins. He established and endowed the college on a scale that far outstripped any rival institution. The first part of the college to be built was the Front Quad and the adjoining cloisters, which were constructed between the foundation and 1400. His wealth was so great that he was able to build the first purpose-built quadrangle in Oxford and to acquire unusual rights, such as the right to walk in the middle Pre-dating this were the city walls, which date from the thirteenth century. New College is obliged to maintain these and the former beautiful backdrop to the College gardens.

In 1651 New College was fortified by the Parliamentary 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 eighteenth century, Holywell Quad, with its associated New Buildings, was built. In the sixties, making New College the first of the ancient colleges to build a common room especially for the graduate students. Since 2011 the MCR has been located in the cricket pavilion, which stands beside 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 Make Thy Man.” The motto was revolutionary in many respects. Firstly, it was written in English, rather than Latin, which makes it very unusual in Oxford, particularly in high-status colleges. The College’s motto is a verse of Catherine’s College, founded in 1385. The Latin motto is “Mannae” and the English translation, “Social Statement,” while true of the benefits of having good manners, is not capturing the full scope of the motto. The true meaning is that a person’s birth, money, or property that an individual is defined by, for example, or the behavior of the individual towards other people.
2.3 New College Today

New College is an intellectual community and one of the best-known colleges in Oxford. New College has some of the most beautiful grounds and buildings in Oxford and an endowment of over £250 million. It has approximately 60 Governing Body fellows, 26 lecturers, 26 research fellows, and 290 graduate students (including 100 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 and oversees all aspects of the College. The Warden represents the College to the world and current Warden 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, and in their offices.

The MCR is made up of graduate students and associate members which include fourth-year undergraduates, visiting students, and some 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 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 and associated choir school. Many of the fellows have written many of the world’s leading textbooks in the discipline. The College has recently built a music practice studio for all students. Additionally, New College has started the process of building a new quad, the Gradel Quadrangles, on Mansfield Road, which will contain undergraduate accommodation, exhibition space, a concert hall, and additional study space. The building project is targeted to be completed in 2022.
3. The People

3.1 The MCR Committee

The MCR committee is committed to students. The committee organises events, provides welfare support, and represents the postgraduate student body to the College and University. The committee members are always on hand to answer any questions, provide suggestions, or offer 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 email addresses can be found on the committee webpage above, 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 email 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 a fun and a good way of being part of College life. You will hear more about how you can do this during Freshers’ Fortnight.

President: Steffen Ridderbusch

Steffen is reading for a DPhil in Autonomous Intelligent Machines and Systems, a topic that is so trendy, you have to do a PhD in it. He enjoys spending his time working on various projects that involve lots of mathematics and code. He spends his free time running, playing sports, and trying to stay in shape for the next year. His spare moments are spent reading articles and news sources, sometimes while marinating tofu. As President, Steffen serves as the representative of all graduate students in College and is the main point of contact for any MCR member with questions, comments, or suggestions about postgraduate life. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to him.

Vice-President: Malina Graf

Malina is doing a DPhil in Clinical Neurosciences, and she spends her days trying to keep her neuronal cell cultures alive and looking beautiful in microscopy pictures. In her free time, she enjoys reading, baking, photography, music, chatting, and chocolate.
Chapter 3. The People

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 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. 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, a nanhealthy degree of memorising useless trivia, and spending time alone. His pub quiz skills are his primary motivation for 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 and be a hub for finding diners, doing both sports and rowing, he is a hub for playing squash and tennis and more. And most importantly, he is 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 anytime via email or find him in the MCR.

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’s not there, she’s in the MCR, doing writing, painting, sketching, taking photos of nature, and being a peer supporter. She is also available for 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 our welfare officers are there for all MCR members to ensure that the MCR is as inclusive as possible.

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 his terrible mistake by 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 social secretary, Aeron is responsible for fun things that happen in and around college during term time and sometimes on holidays. And when these fun things happen, he was the responsible for the ill-fated dry cork rally. He is alsocharge of making sure you’re out for fun whenever you have a study break.

Thomas is doing an MSci in Chemical Biology. He grew up in Vienna and moved all the way to the UK for his undergraduate degree. He can go for days without a smile, but always manages to stay on top of 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, he’s always keen.
3.1 The MCR Committee

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 navigate. She’s also keen on rowing and likes to think much too much. She decided to organise and serve on the boat club’s women’s team last year and she’s very happy to answer any rowing-related questions!

As House Officer, she is mainly responsible for keeping the MCR Covid-19 safe. Her job is now more focused on ensuring that the MCR pavilion is fully equipped to host very cool-yet-extra-safe-and-socially-distance events. If you’re self-isolating or shielding, she can provide some logistical support. Don’t hesitate to contact her if she can 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. He did (name the course). His research focuses on Homeric scholia and ancient scholarship, and he is 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 of any kind. He’d love to know what alcoholic or soft drinks you’d like stocked and bits of feedback you’d like to give.

Equality and Diversity Representative: Paula Larsson

Paula is in her final year and is working on a DPhil 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, an ox-sourced enterprise that seeks to raise awareness of local histories of inequality and discrimination. In her free time, she is an enthusiastic writer and history-teller, and enjoys playing board games of all types. Although terrible at croquet, she can never refuse a challenge.

Women’s Representative: Helen Poós

Helen is in her fourth year and is working on a DPhil in cardiac regeneration where she’s trying to mend broken hearts. She loves all things sport, especially rugby, and enjoys making biscuits and hats.

As your Women’s Rep, she is here for any self-identifying woman, to talk about any issues that matter, however big and small. She’s also keen on making sure New College is an inclusive and equal environment where women can support women. She looks out for her emails in the inbox about interesting talks and lurks very own women’s events and please don’t hesitate to get in touch with any ideas you might have.
Chapter 3. The People

LGBTQ+ Representative: Giulia Bernardini

Giulia is doing a DPhil in History in her spare time when she is not playing as striker for the New College Women’s Football Club. As the LGBTQ+ representative, Giulia is here to provide help and support with any LGBT-related issues 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 at MCR events or feel free to drop her an email anytime at giulia.bernardini@new.ox.ac.uk.

Disability Representative: Mallory Perillo

Mallory is a second-year Economics MPhil student with a research focus in applied microeconomics and an interest in systemic racial inequality. In her weekly scheduled existential crises, Mallory enjoys taking walks, listening to music, and learning British slang. As the Disability Rep, she is responsible for representing the interests of MCR members with disabilities (both visible and invisible) and as the point of contact for disability-related issues. Mallory will do her best to address your questions and concerns about accessibility at New College from any current or prospective students.

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, facilities, organizing sporting events, and keeping everyone informed of sporting activities both inside and outside of College.

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 board games. As the Arts and Culture Rep, Simon organizes Arts and Culture-related trips and visits to well-known museums, workshops, and other events outside of College. He wants to interpret his domain as widely as possible, ranging from music, architecture, and theatre to games, food, and wildlife.
3.2 People in College

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

Fresher's Representative: Russell Buchanan
Russell is reading for a DPhil in Robotics Engineering which 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 Fresher's Week and adding to the social calendar by organising weekly movie nights both during term time and out of term.

The Warden
The Warden is the head of College and ultimately responsible for all aspects of college life. Since August 2016, this role has been held by Dr. Miles Young, the former Chairman and CEO of one of the world’s largest communications groups, Ogilvy & Mather. The Warden’s Lodgings are accessed via the Front Quad. He also has a private garden (the Warden’s garden), 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 College. In the Tutor for Graduates, Russell is responsible for mentoring and supporting graduate students. Additionally, the Tutor for Graduates signs DPhil graduate applications for transfer or confirmation of status, and liaises with the Proctors, the University’s regulatory officers.

Your College Advisor
Your College Advisor is typically a College Fellow who works in the subject area of your advisee. If you have any academic difficulties, your advisor is a valuable resource. Contact Dr. Rosalind Temple at rosalind.temple@new.ox.ac.uk.

The 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 the Bursar can be made either in person or by email (bursar@new.ox.ac.uk).

Home Bursar
The Home Bursar, Gez Wells, is responsible for the domestic side of College life, including accommodation and staffing. If you have any questions, please contact him via email (gez.wells@new.ox.ac.uk) or in the Home Bursary on the ground floor of 4OB.

Dean
The Dean of the College is responsible for discipline at the College. Day-to-day management of disciplinary matters is carried out by the Assistant Dean in Junior College. If you would like to hold a meeting in College, you should apply to the Assistant Dean for permission. Hopefully, his...
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 someone who can.

There is another porters' lodge at the Weston buildings, though this runs more limited hours: from 8.00 am – 10.00 am on weekdays and 2.00 pm – 9.00 pm on Saturdays, and 10.00 am – 3.00 pm on Sundays.
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 came to Oxford one year ago and I knew how overwhelming it was to hear information and feel also how concerned everyone was 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 is like in Oxford like it's both in 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 and students, as well as to provide typical services such as the Library and Chapel. We are also keeping up social activities as much as possible. Finally, your MCR committee and I have been working through the summer to provide a 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, regardless of whether you are an MSt, MPhil, DPhil student or whether you are studying from another country. We are here to welcome you to 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, and will also expose the reader to what life is normally like in Oxford. This will involve describing certain activities and events which typically take place every year, but which may be cancelled or altered this year due 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.
5.1 New College

5.1.1 The MCR - The Rew Nooner Spoom

This is your common room - the actual MCR was named after the Rev. Spooner, Warden of New College from 1903-1924, who was famous for his verbal gags known as "Spoonerisms." 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 a selection of newspapers. The TV is equipped with Netflix, Amazon Video, and a wide 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 with a separate 42" television with a Nintendo Wii and a PS4 (doubling as a 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.

New College takes pride in its inclusiveness and gender-neutral toilet facilities will be in place at the MCR building by 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 in addition, an extensive refurbishment of the remaining gendered New College bathrooms by 2024/25.

Access to these rooms and indeed the Sports Pavilion is since 2013 by your bod-card. You are confronted with any bod-card malfunction issues by contacting 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 and Saturday following government guidelines and implemented a take-away system. Brunch has also moved to a take-away system with the exception of picnic and sports group meals. New outdoor furniture is available at the TV room, and we have implemented borrowing schemes for guitars and board games.
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 Quadrangle and has Satellite TV, pool table and game consoles. There are also a few computers that are 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 Bodcard and tills. You may have guests but you will have to pay for them as cash and bank cards are not accepted. Booking for meals is made online and is usually available on Thursdays for the next week.

Breakfast: Breakfast is available from 7:00 am to 9:00 am on weekdays and 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on weekends. All choices of an English cooked breakfast (sausage/vegi-sausage, potatoes, mushrooms etc.) or continental breakfast (cereal, yoghurt, fruit, pastries etc.) are available and charged per item. The total typically around £3.00-£5.00. Breakfast is paid for with your Bodcard and tills. No prior booking is required.

Lunch: Lunch is available 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm on weekdays. Lunch can be charged per item individually. A meal consisting of main, potatoes, veg and salad will be charged at around £5.00. Lunch is paid for with your Bodcard and tills. No prior booking is required.

Dinner: Dinner comes in two sittings, early and late. For meals, it is generally referred to as informal hall and formal hall respectively. For 2019, evening meals cost £7.23 inclusive of soup, salads, main course, potatoes/pasta, vegetables and dessert. Formal hall requires booking and is paid for from your battels. Attendees of formal hall must sign up by 10 am on the day of dinner in the hall. This is done online 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. The dinner in formal hall is served at 7:15 pm. Attendees must be seated by 7:00 pm and after grace has been said. Unusually for Oxford diners cannot leave until after grace has been said.

Unusually for Oxford, evening meals are served at 7:00 pm when the Fellows leave. In the evening, dinner is served. During these dinners, only College members but not their guests or even non-member of the University must wear their gowns. Casual clothing is worn underneath.

Informal hall is available every day and is served from 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm. It is served on Monday and Wednesday. Informal hall is paid for with your Bodcard and tills. No prior booking is required and where you specify a dress code.

Fig. 5.1: The Rew Nooner Spoon
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 extremely popular amongst MCR members as they are offered at a reasonable price and provide a three-course meal. Each guest night dinner is a great opportunity to socialise with other students and enjoy a good meal at a reasonable price.

Dining on High Table: Fresher graduates may dine on high table once during their first year with the Tutor for Graduates. This will be advertised during term. Additionally, up to four MCR members can also sign up for high table on Thursdays during full term by contacting the SCR butler (hassan.hamed@new.ox.ac.uk).

Guest Night: There will be no guest nights.

High Table: The fellows have moved to the SCR for dining. It is unknown if dining on 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 and 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, which is also open. There are sometimes open during term and sometimes open during vacations. It is open all day on Saturdays, and during the day on Sundays. It is open for dinner on weekdays from 6 pm to 11 pm. The bar is accessed from beneath the hall or through the insect from Monk's Passage.

Drinks are cheaper (considerably cheaper than in town) and only lightly more expensive than the MCR bar. It is cheaper to pay using your Bod card, but cash and cards are also accepted. The JCR operate their own wine cellar in the basement of Garden Quad staircase 7, which 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 some 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 court for use throughout the year. In the summer, the cricket pitch and nets, as well as the tennis courts and bowling machine, are available for use. There is also a squash court, table tennis and a bowling machine. All of these facilities are booked with the porters in the Weston lodge by using the online booking system. You can borrow equipment from the Weston lodge for most of these sports.

Wellington College is located next to the Weston sports grounds, and these may be taken out from there for use during the summer.
Chapter 5. Facilities

New College has a wide range of sports teams and the collegiate nature of the University makes it very easy to get involved in sports 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 a very good way to meet lots of people. Typically, Oxonian New College has an active boat club with a healthy rivalry with Magdalen and often run joint crews. Several novice boats run during Michaelmas term. Opportunities for experienced rowers are also available. The highlight of the rowing calendar is Summer Eights, a multi-day competition in May where all colleges try to “touch” or “bump” into each other. This is a fantastic event with plenty of drinks! For specific details, welcome event 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 in 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 a gym, however members of College have free access to the University gym at the Iffley Road Sports Centre, which is conveniently located very close to Weston accommodation. Alternatively, the University Library offers a student pass to a gym also located nearby on Mansfield Road. New College does not have its own gym, but there is also the Oxford City Centre GYM. Look online for more details and current availability and prices.

[COVID-19 Info] Gyms

Gyms in the UK are currently open with restrictions in place. The University gym remains closed, although it is offering online fitness courses through its 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 CRC events only. The MCR committee usually organizes BBQ-related events in the end of Trinity term and during the summer break.
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 in other areas of research strength which can support research as well. All New College graduates and students are encouraged to use the library, and they have borrowing privileges for books, lending collections, 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 use the Library's Group Study Room. Further information on what New College Library and Archives provide is available via the website. You can connect with New College Library on Twitter and on Facebook too. Graduate students interested in contributing an article or note about the College's special collections or its history to the College's scholarly 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 ethernet cable from the wall and plug it into your own computer, then follow the automated security program. There is also WiFi in the Spoom, Weston Buildings, CR, and Library in New College. The New College IT manager will email you the password. Alternatively, you can connect to eduroam by 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 an email address. Your address will be in the form `firstname surname@new.ox.ac.uk`. You will most certainly have a second one in your department but with a few exceptions, your address will be the same. Here are some details on how to set up your account and 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, 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 but aims to be inclusive as possible and to focus on issues of the wider world. Any College member is welcome to get involved in chapel life as readers, servers, and chapel wardens.

Services are held from 15:15 on Monday to Saturday (except for Wednesdays when there is no service) and on Sunday at 09:00. Advent and Christmas carol services are held on the Sundays after the 3rd week of Michaelmas Term. Watch out for announcements about tickets.

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

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 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 at 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 18:00. You can find the weekly Chapelcasts here.

5.1.11 The Gardens

New College has some beautiful gardens, which are the responsibility of the Gardens Fellow, Robin Lane Fox. Nobody is permitted to walk on the grass in the Front Quad, but the other areas are open to all 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 the decorative Mound. Do not 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 a 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, we host three groups from New College and one from Balliol, with a mix of undergraduate and postgraduate students from the UK and overseas. The trip is very inexpensive (usually less than £5 per day), and travel by air from Geneva or another European city.
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. William Poole (william.poole@new.ox.ac.uk).

5.1.13 Pigeonhole

You will be given a pigeonhole, referred to as your pigeon, in the postroom by the porters' lodge. This is where you collect your mail, both internal and external. Your address will be:

Yourname,  
NewCollege,  
HolywellStreet,  
Oxford,  
OX12BN,  
UK.

You can send post internally across the university by dropping it in the porters' lodge there. The postbox for external mail is 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. They currently operate 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 a 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), an excellent swimming pool (£88/year), a running track (where Roger Bannister ran the first four minute mile), tennis courts, squash courts, sports hall, indoor cricket nets, and numbers 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 has closed due to further notice by the pandemic. We are still 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 students 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 the student union and is in fact a student debate club. The membership fee is £286.34, £257.50 during Freshers' Week. The Union runs many good events and attracts famous speakers. Some notable speakers include Theresa May, Malcom X, Bill Clinton, Judi

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Dench, Emma Watson, W. B. Yeats, and Manny Pacquiao. The club is highly polarising and in recent years, 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 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 New College on Mansfield Road. The good news is that basic membership is free. It has a bar, lots of screens to watch sport, 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’s 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’s recommended to register with them on their website: www.careers.ox.ac.uk. You can access the range of advice and information. The Director of the Careers Service, incidentally, is a member of the New College SCR (Jonathan Black).
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, we expect some will move online or outside while others may continue in reduced capacity.

Indoor events are most affected and unless social distancing measures are relaxed, familiar options such as scattered chair cushions and playing fields for picnics may not be practical. Instead, many will be living in College accommodation in their first year, and that household becomes the focus of their social activity. Books, board games, and musical instruments are available to borrow from the MCR, and we are expanding these resources.

Times when we share food and drink together are also especially sensitive to social distancing. We were able to continue running bar nights and brunches as takeaway services through social distancing last year, and there was much to think this would change. However, guest nights and “bops” were impossible. Unrecognisable formats during the lockdown of March 2020 limited these events.

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).

Normally Freshers’ Fortnight ends with the matriculation ceremony on Saturday of week one 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 subfusc and participate in socially-distanced photographs after.

**6.1 Freshers’ Fortnight**

One of the most important things that the MCR does is to provide two weeks of entertainment and orientation for you. Details will be published when you arrive (both in your email and posted around accommodation).
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 ensure that the copy of your graduation certificate is sent 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 of four in 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 includes 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 to enjoy bouncy castles, music (and hopefully), James’s amazing food and other summer delights making you want to stay dancing all 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 host us for drinks and second dessert 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 with others 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 Sundays at 11am. 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 brunch event was virtual. Food was available for takeaway and small groups of students could have social distance picnics. We hope to continue this in some form.
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 time and on most Wednesdays outside of term time. Drinks here are cheaper than the main College bar and much cheaper than 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 guidelines for social distancing and have added a takeaway option. Come by and order from our wide selection of drinks, socialise safely and 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 into the small hours. In the morning, MCR members take turns DJing at the bops, so make sure to mail Thomas Caganek (thomas.caganek@new.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested. Other colleges also host their own Bops, which you are welcome to attend if advertised.

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

(a) The bar in its active state
(b) Christmas bop
(c) Theme guest night: Masquerade
Chapter 6. MCR Social Life

(a) Cheese and Wine tasting  (b) Freshers' Week Pub  (c) Guest night Crawl

[COVID-19 Info] Bops

Your hardworking 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 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 the term. 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), and 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.
Chapter 7. Accommodation

students, which are divided into six houses, 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 when you leave, or 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.

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 bedroom is adorned with an en-suite bathroom facility with a kitchen and dining area 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 their own cleaning. A regular cleaning service is provided for the common areas.

![Fig. 7.2: A kitchen and a typical room in the Weston buildings](image)

[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 be told to self-isolate for 14 days. NHS guidelines on getting tested can be found here.
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 at the bar and to get into host 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 staying and where you collect your room key.

[COVID-19 Info] Arrival

The process of collecting your Bod card and key may be different this year. Keep an eye out for emails.

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 e-mail 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 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 the subject line [newmcr-l]. It is used by the president, vice-president, social secretaries, welfare and sports reps for sending out notices and information about what is happening in the MCR. We will try to add you automatically but do let people know if you are signed up. If you should lose your e-mail newmcr-l-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk from any e-mail account, check it under lists and in order to unsubscribe, you can e-mail newmcr-l-unsubscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk.
Chapter 8. Arrival and Settling In

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. Transformers and conversion plugs will also provide outlets for your room. Sheets and duvets for the beds. Remember these will be coming into your clothes 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, utensils, and storage containers for the kitchen. Though much of College accommodation is furnished, College accommodation does not include appliances such as a microwave and toaster. You may also find sandwich toasters, rice cookers, bottle openers, and the like can be particularly handy. However, housemates may be happy to share what they have. Check before you spend! Boswells and other general goods stores in Oxford offer discounts in the first few weeks of term on presentation of your Bod card. Robert Dyas is a good bet for slightly more expensive options.

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 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, here will be several formal occasions when the College serves up its finest cuisine. Many, however, optional activities also involve fast food and larry's 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 your bed sheets and cookware shipped in advance. If you are struggling to get the things you need while self isolating, they 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 the University. The following barely scratches the surface of what is available. For more information, visit www.dailyinfo.co.uk for a good source of information.

8.6 Shops

Here are some good shops in Oxford and some nice things you can get there.
- Tesco and Sainsbury are major supermarkets/grocery stores. The central Oxford store is Tesco, but both are on Cowley Road. They are approximately the same size.
- Waitrose and Marks & Spencer are upscale supermarkets. Groceries here will cost more, but the quality is higher.
- Tahmud Store is a Middle Eastern grocery store. Good for bulk purchases of spices, rice, lentils, and other staples.
- Seoul Plaza is a Korean supermarket good for Asian food.
- Cycle King Oxford has a 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 graduates
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8.7 Gowns and academic dress

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

8.6 Bars, Pubs and Clubs

Oxford has a fantastic selection of pubs and bars. Sadly, with the notable exception of the King’s Arms, few bars 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 need a gown for your matriculation ceremony and 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.

- dark suit with dark socks
- dark skirt with black tights and stockings
- 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 is traditionally worn by women. The white bow tie is the traditional option for men though from 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](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 mortarboards from leaving students through Facebook or GumTree. We recommend getting your *subfusc* soon as possible so 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 eight with the week before first week called 0th week. The gaps between terms are the Christmas, Easter, and Long vacations.

Undergraduate teaching takes place during weeks one to full term. 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 you do depends largely upon you and your supervisor.
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Chapter 8. Arrival and Settling In

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 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 anywhere between 50 and 200 for a reliable second-hand bike. Oxfords Reconditioned Bicycles is another excellent place to look for someone selling their old bike. A high-quality D-lock is essential (£15 for students from the University Security Services). 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 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 for the immediate/very short term then you can borrow the MCR's own couple bikes that you can register beforehand. If you need a bike for longer, you can buy one and take a high-quality D-lock from the University Security Services. If you need a bike repair kit, you can buy it at the Weston Lodge. The porters occasionally remove unregistered bikes.

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), without student discounts. Tickets can be purchased from the driver and you can pay with change or by card. There are several services between Oxford and London's Victoria Station. You can buy coachcards to save 33% on all fares.

8.10.2 Trains

The main connections to London are by rail and by coach. First Great Western offers the service connecting Oxford and London Paddington. Chiltern Railways runs between Oxford and London Marylebone. All options offer various fares depending on booking date, travel time, and ticket type.
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 TheTrainline 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 6-25 Railcard for £70 for 3 years.

8.10.3 Airports
Luton and Stansted airports can be reached by bus via National Express, and Heathrow and Gatwick airports via the Airline, a bus operated by the Oxford Bus Company. Tickets can all be bought via the National Express page for 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. 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.
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. You can find out more easily online at 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 can be 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 some small things, such as MCR events. You need to pay it at the start of each term. Accommodation is paid in advance at the beginning of each term, but dinners and some small expenses are charged until the beginning of the next term. Your battels will be e-mailed to you generally in the 0th week of term. It is usually possible to negotiate a short extension of the payment deadline if it’s really necessary. Any Junior Member who has an outstanding battel debt at Noon and the Friday of the 1st Week and who has not seen the Bursar or e-mailed the Bursary to agree an informal 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 on any Junior Member with an outstanding debt at Noon of the Friday of the 2nd Week.

9.2 Till account

This is the account you use to pay for food in hall and drinks in the College bar, which you will use 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 to 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 at the Bursary.
Chapter 9. Finances

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 per year and research students can get £375 per year. Medics in electives and medi (e.g. placement outside the U.K.) can also apply for special travel grants up to £750 per year. Forms are available on the College website at [www.new.ox.ac.uk/scholarships](http://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 a fund for student sporting and cultural activities, including charity and voluntary work. Funded by donations from members of the College, the fund allocates travel grants for placement outside the U.K. towards costs incurred through participation in extracurricular activity. Forms are available on the College website at [www.new.ox.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/scholarships).

There are additional bursaries and small pots of money which may be available. A list of these can also be found on the College website at [www.new.ox.ac.uk/scholarships](http://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 your circumstances change adversely after you get to Oxford, 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 is launching a new student-funded initiative: the MCR Solidarity Fund. This aims to support MCR members who are experiencing serious financial distress. The fund allocates small subsidies between £5 and £60 to help with unexpected expenses, such as unforeseen medical bills or sudden device failure, etc. The fund is designed to mitigate financial exclusion and provide quick, easily accessible relief for students who are struggling financially due to unexpected expenses, e.g., unforeseen medical bills or sudden device failure, etc.

Outside of New College, those experiencing unforeseen financial difficulties can also apply to the University Hardship Fund [http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/) and the Access to Learning Fund [https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/alf?wssl=1](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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding?wssl=1). 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 for part-time work. There are part-time opportunities to do library work and shifts in the College library, etc.

There are also teaching opportunities. Although you are not required to teach, you are strongly encouraged to do so. Graduate students can take undergraduate tutorials and some may even be appointed to college lectureships. Scientists may also have the opportunity to demonstrate practical sessions. Talk to your supervisor if you are interested in teaching.
If you are a member of New College and need any welfare support, please do not hesitate to contact any of the members of the Welfare Team with whom you feel comfortable. A separate document with all MCR welfare information is available here.

## LGBTQ+ Students

There is a lot going on at Oxford for everyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. New College is over 600 years old, but you'll find that attitudes have moved on a long way since then! The MCR prides itself on open 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. There will be plenty of friendly faces to show you the sights and give you insider 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), a fellow postgraduate and LGBTQ+ representative on the MCR committee. She organises events open to all MCR members who identify as LGBTQ+ and keeps you up-to-date with what's happening across the University. Giulia 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 information can be found on the Health Welfare page [https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/health-welfare](https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/health-welfare). Oxford University LGBTQ+ Society ([http://oulgbtsoc.com](http://oulgbtsoc.com)) also has heaps of info on their website, and the great group of people at New College host lots of fun social events. Keep your eyes out for the DUSU LGBT+ Handbook. More information and freshers' events outside college will be available in Freshers' Fortnight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Support Contacts</th>
<th>Telephone and e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Porters' Lodge</strong> (24 hours, 7 days a week)</td>
<td>01865 279500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weston Porters' Lodge</strong> (Weekdays and Saturdays)</td>
<td>01865 281081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency Services</strong></td>
<td>999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<td>999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10.1: Immediate Contacts
Chapter 10. Welfare

MCR Welfare Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCR Welfare Officer</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irene Yang</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr.welfare@new.ox.ac.uk">mcr.welfare@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Potts</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helen.potts@new.ox.ac.uk">helen.potts@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veerle Brans</td>
<td><a href="mailto:veerle.brans@new.ox.ac.uk">veerle.brans@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sybilla Pereira</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sybilla.pereira@new.ox.ac.uk">sybilla.pereira@new.ox.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 your first 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, and 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 in 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 wellbeing issues should be discussed 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 support available within College and the university. Katie is available by appointment during (working hours through email), after 5pm and on weekends.

The Academic Registrar

Freyja Madsen is available to talk to all students about personal matters, support for disabled students, suspension, or any other academic concerns. She is the 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 talk to all 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). She can be reached on 01865 279241 or email camilla.gray@new.ox.ac.uk.
New College Welfare Team

| Tutor for Welfare: Jonathan Black | Telephone: 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 79451
erica.longfellow@new.ox.ac.uk

Assistant Chaplain: Susan Bridge
01865 89081
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

Table 10.4: Welfare Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Useful Welfare Contacts</th>
<th>Telephone and e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nightline (8pm–8am, 0th–9th week)</td>
<td>01865 270270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| University Counselling Service | 01865 270300
| reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk |
| Samaritans 24 hr (listening in crisis) | 08457 090909 |
| Student Advice Service | advice@ousu.org |
| Emergency | 999 |
Chapter 10. Welfare

- 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 MCR members). The role is wide-ranging and although it excludes individual pastoral matters, does take into account the general welfare of Junior Members. Information for the members can be found at 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 in 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 an 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 do our best to provide support and comfort during your time at New College.

10.4 Doctors

Occasionally we all get ill and need to 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 first week of Michaelmas term. After which you will have access to the College doctors. Information about the registration procedures will be given by the College during 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 three months as an NHS patient. Their practice can be found at 28 Beaumont Street (01865 311811; www.28beaumontstreet.co.uk). Their surgery is open during term times. Read more about visiting 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 Service (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 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 courses less than 6 months in length, 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. You will be unable to offer consultation and 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, 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 condition or symptom. You will be offered a telephone appointment if you are advised to do so.

When coming to the practice for a face-to-face appointment please wear a face mask if you have one, or if you do not have a mask please ask the reception team for one on your 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 this becomes necessary.

[COVID-19 Info] COVID-19 Medical Info

You can find the latest information 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 these symptoms and you can read more here.

Anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus or is advised to be tested should check if they have the virus. Some people without symptoms can have the disease. Get your free NHS test here.
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 those studying at the University with 138 nationalities currently represented. The University has a comprehensive guide for new coming international students here. Below is some additional information which the University’s guide does not cover.

11. 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 are an American Express office and Marks & Spencer which offer a currency exchange. Also, 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. 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.

Revolut

Revolut is an online only payment system and is 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 Revolut’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 the process 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 bank to start paying in GBP quickly.

If you don’t want to use a local online-only bank and ideally arrange with your bank in your home country to issue a Banker’s Order in Pounds Sterling, or 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 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 open 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: 25 Giles (corner of Giles and little Clarendon Street)
- Nationwide: 44 Queen Street
- Santander: Carfax
- TSB Bank: 7 George Street

A quick comparison of banking deals is available here.

Once you have your bank account, it can take weeks before you have a cheque book, debit card, cheque guarantee card (essential for cheque payments), or credit card. 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 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 your enrollment certificate from the university’s online student self service.

11.3 Electricity and Appliances

With proper precaution and planning, you should be able to bring most of your electrical appliances with you to Oxford. Electricity in the UK operates at 220-240 V, 50 Hz. If your equipment is designed to operate in a range that includes both these figures, you simply need to purchase an adaptor which will allow you to plug your devices into outlets where they can be used.

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 allow the electrical current used here to be compatible with your equipment.

American products, for example, are usually built for 110 V, 60 Hz. While most transformers will easily handle the step down from 220 V to 110 V, only very expensive ones will change the cycle rate.
### Work

The [International Student Office](https://www.InternationalStudentOffice.org) runs an Orientation programme for all international students and helps start your Oxford career. It will give you essential advice on visas, work permits, and legal issues. Currently citizens of the UK, EEA, and Switzerland have no work restrictions (see 11.7). Holders of Tier 4 visas are restricted - your passport should state the exact restrictions (see here: [https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Tier-4-work](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 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-2-year-post-study-work-visa-for-international-students).

The [University Careers Service](https://www.UniversityCareersService.org) offers sessions and resources on working internationally or staying to work in the UK.

### Health care

See also:

- [http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/international-visiting-students](http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/international-visiting-students)

New College belongs to the medical practices at 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, EEA, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, or the Falkland Islands, you will have to pay a Health surcharge of about £300 per year for access to non-emergency NHS services. 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.

### Mobile phones

The UK is a very mobile-phone-centred nation and having a cellphone and UK sim card will probably be very helpful. You can touch with friends while here. Texts are also known as SMS and phone-based internet has become the main form of communication. Since these are cheaper than calls, you don't have to register a mobile phone with your home country which will work in the UK. You can purchase a phone and number at any phone or cellphone retailer. Most of which are located on Cornmarket Street (Vodafone, Orange, etc.). These retailers also provide you with cellphone service for your mobile. There are two main types of payment for your cellphone services:

1. **Pay-as-you-go plan**. This means that you deposit money towards your mobile account and can make calls and text, using your money as you go.

2. **Pay monthly**. You pay a certain amount per month for which you get a certain amount of allowances sometimes unlimited minutes for calls, texts, and internet allowance. The amount for each does depend on how much you are willing to pay per month.

If you are bringing your own phone, you can find a breakdown of sim-only plans here: [https://www.savethestudent.org/bills-utilities/mobilephones/sim-only-deals.html#deals](https://www.savethestudent.org/bills-utilities/mobilephones/sim-only-deals.html#deals).
Chapter 11 Information for Overseas Students

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/EEA 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.

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. If you must self-isolate, consult this webpage.
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 list is by no means exhaustive:

**Balls**
Virtually every college hosts extravagant formal parties known as balls; 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 bills you receive from College for the various debts you will have incurred, e.g. drinks, chocolate, 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 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 also the headquarters of a huge multinational corporation that controls all the books in Oxford.

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

**Bumps**
A type of rowing race, usually served with Pimm's around the Hilda 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 home to students and Tabard (short for Cantabrigiensis).

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

**Crewdate**
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 in sport.

**Dean**
The Fellow in charge of discipline andgrading. He will be the one who signs your office if you destroy college property or reputation. He is helped in his lonely mission by an Assistant Dean and a number of Junior Deans who get the accommodation and High Table food in exchange for becoming humourless.

**Dean's handbook**
Your bible for all college-related rules. Found at [http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/]

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 at a good occasion to meet graduate 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 college’s administrative building was at the New College Lane entrance.

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

High Table
Where the fellows of the college and all students may occasionally be invited to join them. Students generally eat at common table, but up to four 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 and not 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 subfusc at the end of the first week in Michaelmas.

Mound
A small hill with steps in the garden with no apparent purpose other than to photograph opportunities and the occasional party in the top. Enjoyed with a bottle of Bollinger, but not particularly. Distinctly underwhelmed if anyone offers to demonstrate the ‘world-famous quack’.

MCR
Middle Common Room.

Michaelmas
The first term which runs from October and November.

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

Pennying
Banned in College. A practice at crew dates and less reputable colleges, involving trying to insert a penny into someone’s wineglass while they’re 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).

Proctor
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. Generally involves drinking lots and inserting a penny into someone’s wineglass while they’re holding it. Victims of pennying MUST then immediately finish their drink.

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

Rustication
Not quite expelled but everyone leaves a row from college while suspending studying.

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

SCR
The Senior Common Room. Where fellows, and other senior college officers, gather and socialise. Also the collective name for the senior members.

Sent down
To be expelled.

Subfusc
Academia 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 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 lack of fun or responsibility. As in: no one can 't 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 sporting contests 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. 2.1: Ursus wykehamensis collegiinovi, a rare type of ursid, lives in the beams of the Spoon.