welcome to New College

New College is a community. Whether you are a student, a tutor, a member of staff, or an Old Member, you are part of the New College family.

As a College, we seek to create a friendly, warm atmosphere in which every one of our many members can flourish, both socially and in their academic or professional work, regardless of their background.

“a welcoming atmosphere that truly makes it feel like a second home”
Architecturally, New College is one of the University’s most impressive colleges, with our original buildings dating from the 14th century. We have three main quads, as well as lovely gardens, one of the best-preserved sections of medieval city wall in the country, and such beautiful cloisters that they featured in Harry Potter.

We are located in the heart of the city, offering convenient access to subject departments and the cafés, pubs, and shops of the city centre.

One of the nicest things about New College, though, is that despite this central location and the fact that we are one of the largest colleges (both in terms of our student numbers and the size of our site), we are relatively hidden away. Even though we’re just two minutes’ walk from the bustle of the city centre, walking around our peaceful grounds it feels more like two miles!

“whatever your background, come and help to create a New College for the future!”
Despite being called ‘New College’, we are actually the 9th oldest college of Oxford University. Our original name was ‘The College of St Mary of Winchester in Oxford’ but because there was already a college dedicated to Mary (and because that name is a bit of a mouthful), we became known as ‘New College’.

New College featured in the 4th Harry Potter film, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire – Draco Malfoy was turned into a white ferret in our cloisters!

The year we were founded by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester and twice Lord Chancellor of England.

The approximate number of undergraduate students we have in our New College family.

The Library
As our teaching system requires a significant amount of written work from all students, library facilities are indispensable. New College Library is one of the best-stocked college libraries with around 100,000 volumes, including about 70,000 modern texts, most of which are easily accessible on open shelves.

Over the years, the Library has developed wide-ranging collections covering all academic disciplines taught at New College. These collections are continually expanded and updated to ensure that students can access the essential books (often in multiple copies) and the supporting texts they require for their courses. Our internationally-renowned special collections and archives constitute one of New College’s principal assets and provide outstanding research materials for dissertations and theses.

The Library has a WiFi connection throughout the building and it provides individual and group study seating areas and desks with power sockets for readers’ laptops. There are also photocopying, scanning and printing facilities and computer terminals.

Sport
New College has a large number of sports teams, and has its own sports ground just a few minutes’ walk from the main college site. It includes:

- Main field with football and rugby pitches, used for cricket in the summer
- Hard court - for tennis, basketball, netball
- 6 grass tennis courts (available in the summer)
- Squash court
- Table tennis table
- 2 cricket nets
- Erg machine room for rowing
- Changing rooms and WCs

Our approximate number of undergraduate students we have in our New College family.

A magnificent section of the old 13th century Oxford city wall runs through the college. When New College purchased the land from the City, it was made a condition that the city wall was maintained well – to this day the Mayor and Councillors come to inspect it every 3 years!

Our dining hall is 50 feet tall – the tallest of any Oxford or Cambridge college.

Dedicated music practice rooms available as part of our new Clore Music Studios.

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The approximate number of undergraduate students we have in our New College family.
“whether it’s collaborating on problem sheets with coursemates, working with brilliant tutors who are extremely dedicated to my academic growth, or walking to the boathouse with fellow rowers at 6am, there’s never a dull moment here!”

We also have a boathouse on the River Thames for rowing, a number of punts for use in the summer, and our students have access to the University gym at the Iffley Sports Ground for free.

Music
New College has a rich musical tradition, headlined by our internationally-renowned choir. As well as a number of different musical student societies, the College offers a variety of practice facilities.

The Clore Music Studios (completed in 2019) offer the best rooms for practice, with 7 studios – 5 of which contain pianos – available for students to book at their convenience, just 2 minutes from the main College site. There are also a number of rooms with pianos on the main site, though these are not dedicated music rooms.

Bar/Café & JCR
We have our own bar, adapted from a 14th century cellar(!), which also functions as a café during the day – a space for our students to relax, get some essential refreshments, and work more collaboratively than you can in the library.

The JCR (Junior Common Room) similarly offers students a space in which they can get together, relax and get away from studying for a while. It has sofas, tea and coffee facilities, a TV, games consoles, a pool table, and a table tennis table.

Religion
The Chapel has been a part of College life since 1379. Everyone is welcome to our Chapel Services. We are an inclusive community and seek to ensure that the Chapel provides a place where anyone can come for peaceful reflection supported by liturgy and music. For Muslim students, a Muslim Prayer Room is also available on the College site.
New College offers accommodation for first and second years (and fourth years if you’re on a four year course).

This means that you will have the chance to get to know everyone in your year group for two years, before deciding who to live with when you move out into private accommodation in third year.

Around 70% of our rooms are en suite and our rooms are decided by ballot – if you happen to have a smaller room in first year, you’ll be at the top of the ballot for second year so it’s all fair!

First year rooms are let for 60 days per term (we have 3 x 8 week terms) so that you don’t have to pay for them when you’re back at home or on holiday. College accommodation for other years is normally let on a 39 week basis.

All of our first years are housed together in ‘New Buildings’ in our Holywell Quad, which helps them get to know each other and make friends. All rooms come with a bed (thankfully!), desk, fridge, wardrobe, lamps, and a pin board.

“lovely people and fantastic student support”
student finance

Oxford is no more expensive than many other UK universities and there are a number of financial benefits associated with studying at Oxford, and New College.

Accommodation – in your first year, you only pay for your College room in term time (60 nights for each of the three terms), so the room rent turns out to be cheaper than at some other universities. In other years, College accommodation is normally let on a 39 week basis so that students can stay here over the Christmas and Easter vacations.

Academic resources – our College library contains 70,000 open access books, journals and other publications, including the main texts that you will need for your course. When you combine this with the other Oxford libraries, you won’t have to buy many books while you are here.

Reasonably priced meals – our Dining Hall operates on a not-for-profit basis so that meal costs for students are kept low.

Activities and entertainment – student societies, clubs and social events are subsidised by the New College JCR, using funds given by the College.

Funds and Bursaries – in addition to the University’s financial support resources, New College offers additional funding and bursaries, including hardship funds, sport and travel grants, and vacation residence grants.

“looks like a castle but it’s definitely a home”
University is not just about stretching yourself academically – it’s also about trying new things, exploring your interests, and meeting new people. Oxford is a fantastic place to do all of this, with over 400 different student societies. Here at New College, we have lots of societies for people who want to pursue their interests with other members of the College family.

The New College JCR also organise regular social events for our students, from Welfare teas to ‘Bops’ (College club nights).

Sport
College sport is usually a little more relaxed than playing at a university level, involving less of a time commitment both in terms of training and travel, as you're playing against other colleges instead of other universities.

Here are some of the sports teams that New College offers (and complete beginners are always welcome!)
• Football (Multiple Men's teams and a Women's team)
• Rowing (Multiple Men's and Women's teams)
• Men's Rugby
• Tennis
• Netball
• Hockey
• Mixed Lacrosse
• Badminton
• Basketball
• Squash
• Rounders
• Pool

Music
We have a variety of musical groups for students to join, as well as fantastic new practice facilities available to all students.
• New College Music Society
• The Holywell Singers (a choral society)
• New College Chamber Orchestra
• The Wykeham Consort (an auditioned baroque group)
• Lunchtime recitals
• Chamber groups
• Open Mic Nights & Karaoke
• Band Room

Drama
There is a big drama scene in Oxford, both in terms of the university and the city itself. The New College Drama Society holds workshops and puts on plays, as well as competing in the university's Drama Cuppers – where drama teams put on a succession of half hour shows for prizes.
The welfare of our students is incredibly important to us. We want to make sure that all of our students have the best possible university experience.

As well as the welfare services provided by the University, we have a variety of people here at New College who are available to listen when someone needs support – whether with something academic, social, or personal.

They include:
• Tutor for Welfare
• 2 Welfare Fellows
• Academic Registrar
• Welfare Administrator
• College Nurse
• Trained peer supporters from the JCR.

Students with Additional Needs
New College makes every effort to accommodate students with additional needs, and works closely with the University’s Disability Advisory Service (DAS) for this purpose.

The College has built a new suite of rooms specifically for students with a disability – the Kimber Wing. They have been designed to be best in practice in consultation with David Bonnett Associates, a firm specialising in accessible architecture.

Some key spaces within the college (Dining Hall, JCR, Lecture Room 6) are all accessible to wheelchair users, but the very old, listed buildings that make up a lot of the College do make some areas difficult or impossible to access.

For more information, please contact the Academic Registrar: tuition@new.ox.ac.uk

New College was founded on the basis of providing academic excellence. Today, we are completely committed to continuing that with a sense of openness and accessibility.

Our Outreach Team works with groups that are currently under-represented at the university – both encouraging them to apply to Oxford and helping them to build a competitive application to a selective university, whether that ends up being here or not.

We work with a variety of other institutions and organisations for this purpose, such as the UNIQ Summer School, Target Oxbridge, Into University, and The Brilliant Club, as well as running our own outreach initiative, Step Up.

Step Up
Our Step Up programme, launched in 2017, is designed to inspire and support state school students throughout Years 11, 12, and 13.

Over 7 steps, either at their school or here at New College, we familiarise high achieving students from our partner schools across the country with what being an Oxford student is really like, and help give them the tools they need to build a competitive university application.

For more information about the programme, and a full list of the schools that we work with, please visit www.new.ox.ac.uk/step-up.
When is the application deadline?
You must submit your UCAS application by 6pm (UK time) on 15th October.

What are Tutors looking for?
Above all, a real passion for your field of study and academic ability. Beyond this, they look for candidates that can think critically and independently, and are able to work accurately under pressure. We are looking for students with these capabilities, regardless of their background.

What are interviews like?
Interviews are intended to mimic a tutorial, and are entirely academic. Tutors are interested in what kind of person you are, in particular your approach to learning and work, and in your motivations for applying to Oxford, but they will approach these by setting you difficult problems from your field of study. You should expect that interview problems will be new to you, and take you beyond your work at school.

The important thing is to listen carefully to the question you are asked and do your best to grapple with the problem, without getting worried about the fact that you don't know the answer. Quite often, there isn't an 'answer', or if there is, it will be an unexpected one. Remember that a University education at Oxford is given to you by people who are engaged in advanced research, where the 'answers' are always surprising!

What are tutorials?
Tutorials are one of the things that set Oxford (and Cambridge) apart. They are weekly meetings with a tutor, along with normally 1 or 2 other students, for which you are expected to have prepared independently, and perhaps written an essay or completed a problem sheet. You will go through this work as well as your ideas and opinions on the reading you have done surrounding that week's topic. This small group teaching grows student confidence and gives them access to personalised feedback and discussion with a tutor.

What is the JCR?
JCR stands for Junior Common Room. It is used to describe both a room in the College where students can relax, and also to talk about the entire undergraduate student body at a college – when you join a college, you will automatically become a member of its JCR.

Do you accept international students?
Yes, we welcome applications from international students. 17% of Oxford undergraduate students are international citizens.

Do students have a social life, or do they just have to work?
An Oxford degree is certainly hard work but students definitely have free time, and are encouraged to make the most of their university experience, whether that's taking part in student societies, pursuing their interests, meeting friends at cafés, pubs and clubs, or just relaxing. It's not just studying that's done here!

How do I choose a college?
Whichever college you go to, you will be studying for the same degree. Colleges tend to have a lot in common but you may find the following criteria useful:

- Size of college (both physically and how many students there are in each year, or studying your course at that college)
- Location – how close is it to your subject department, or to the city centre?
- Course – make sure they offer the course you want to study!
- Facilities (sport, music, library etc.)
- Accommodation – how many years is it provided for?
- Access – are students with a disability able to access the key parts of the college?
- Grants or funding available

It's worth noting that you can only express a preference through your application – you may receive an offer from a college that you did not apply to.
These are all of the courses that we currently offer at New College. For more detailed course information, please refer to the University prospectus, the University website, or the New College website.

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<tr>
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<td>Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular) (4)</td>
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<td>Biology (4)</td>
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<td>Chemistry (8)</td>
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<td>Classics (Literae Humaniores) and Joint Schools (6)</td>
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<td>Computer Science (8 – for Maths and Joint Schools, including Computer Science)</td>
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<td>Economics and Management (3)</td>
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<td>English (9)</td>
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<td>History and Economics</td>
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<td>Law (8)</td>
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<td>European and Middle Eastern Languages</td>
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get in touch

admissions@new.ox.ac.uk
@newcollegeoxford
@newcollegeoxford
@NewCollegeOx
01865 279512
www.new.ox.ac.uk