

# MCR Freshers' Guide

## 2021 / 2022

NEW COLLEGE



Copyright © 2021 New College MCR <http://mcr.new.ox.ac.uk/>

This guide builds on and modifies the *The Legrand Orange Book* template originally written by *Mathias Legrand*, subsequently edited by *Vel* for *LaTeXTemplates.com*, published under a CC-NC-SA 3.0 licence.

This edition of the MCR Freshers' Guide was edited by Russell Buchanan.  
*August 2021*

# Contents

<b>Contents .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1 Greetings from your MCR President .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 The College .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.1 History .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.2 College motto .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.3 New College today .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.4 Further Reading .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 The People .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.1 The MCR Committee .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.2 People in College .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4 Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5 Facilities .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.1 New College .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.1.1 The MCR - The Rew Noonan Spoom .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.1.2 The JCR .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.1.3 Hall .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.1.4 College Bar &amp; JCR Wine Cellar .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5.1.5 Sports .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5.1.6 Gym .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>5.1.7 MCR BBQ .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.1.8 The Library .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.1.9 Internet and Technology Services .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.1.10 Chapel .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5.1.11 The Gardens .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5.1.12 Chalet .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5.1.13 Pigeon hole .....</b>	<b>20</b>

<b>5.2</b>	<b>The University</b>	<b>20</b>
5.2.1	Libraries .....	20
5.2.2	Sports facilities .....	20
5.2.3	Students union - OUSU .....	20
5.2.4	The Oxford Union .....	20
5.2.5	The University Club .....	20
5.2.6	The Careers Service .....	20
<b>6</b>	<b>MCR social life .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Freshers' Fortnight</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Guest night</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>End-of-year garden party</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Exchange dinners</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Brunch</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Bar nights</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6.7</b>	<b>Bops</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6.8</b>	<b>The New Collection</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6.9</b>	<b>Other events</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Accommodation .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Weston Buildings</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Castle Mill</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Arrival and Settling In .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Bod-card</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8.2</b>	<b>Room key</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8.3</b>	<b>E-mail lists</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Things to bring</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Shops</b>	<b>28</b>
8.6.1	Sporting clubs .....	28
8.6.2	Bars, Pubs and Clubs .....	29
<b>8.7</b>	<b>Gowns and academic dress</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8.8</b>	<b>Terms</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>8.9</b>	<b>Bicycles</b>	<b>30</b>
8.9.1	MCR Bike Share Program .....	30

<b>8.10 Transportation</b>	<b>30</b>
8.10.1 Buses . . . . .	30
8.10.2 Trains . . . . .	30
8.10.3 Airports . . . . .	31
<b>9 Finances . . . . .</b>	<b>32</b>
9.1 Battels	32
9.2 Till account	32
9.3 Travel grants, hardship grants and bursaries	33
9.3.1 College Grants . . . . .	33
9.3.2 Hardship . . . . .	33
9.4 Working	33
<b>10 Welfare . . . . .</b>	<b>34</b>
10.1 LGBTQ+ students	34
10.2 Contacts	35
10.2.1 MCR Welfare support . . . . .	35
10.2.2 College welfare support . . . . .	35
10.3 Additional Welfare Resources that may be Useful	37
10.3.1 Peers of Colour . . . . .	37
10.3.2 Rainbow Peers . . . . .	37
10.4 Doctors	37
10.4.1 Overseas students and visiting students . . . . .	38
10.4.2 Dentists . . . . .	38
<b>11 Information for Overseas Students . . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
11.1 Money	39
11.2 Banking	39
11.2.1 Online Only Banking . . . . .	39
11.2.2 Major Banks . . . . .	40
11.3 Electricity and appliances	40
11.4 Work	41
11.5 Health care	41
11.6 Mobile phones	41
<b>12 Glossary of Oxford Terminology . . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>13 Map of New College . . . . .</b>	<b>47</b>





## 1. Greetings from your MCR President

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2021,

I am delighted to welcome you to New College, and the Middle Common Room (MCR) that will be at the heart of your college community. Thank you for allowing me to guide you through the beginning of your exciting adventure, which I promise will be a memorable experience that lasts for a lifetime.

Founded in 1379, New College is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford. It is also undoubtedly one of the most architecturally striking colleges. We have a strong choir tradition, a group of genuine and welcoming friends, and a set of facilities and beautiful grounds that have impressed people for centuries. Our founder, William of Wykeham, endowed us with the first non-Latin motto of any Oxford college: "Manners Maketh Man," which means that regardless of one's upbringing, attitude is what defines a person. Like our motto has stated, New College has maintained the style of weaving traditions with an open and modern spirit.

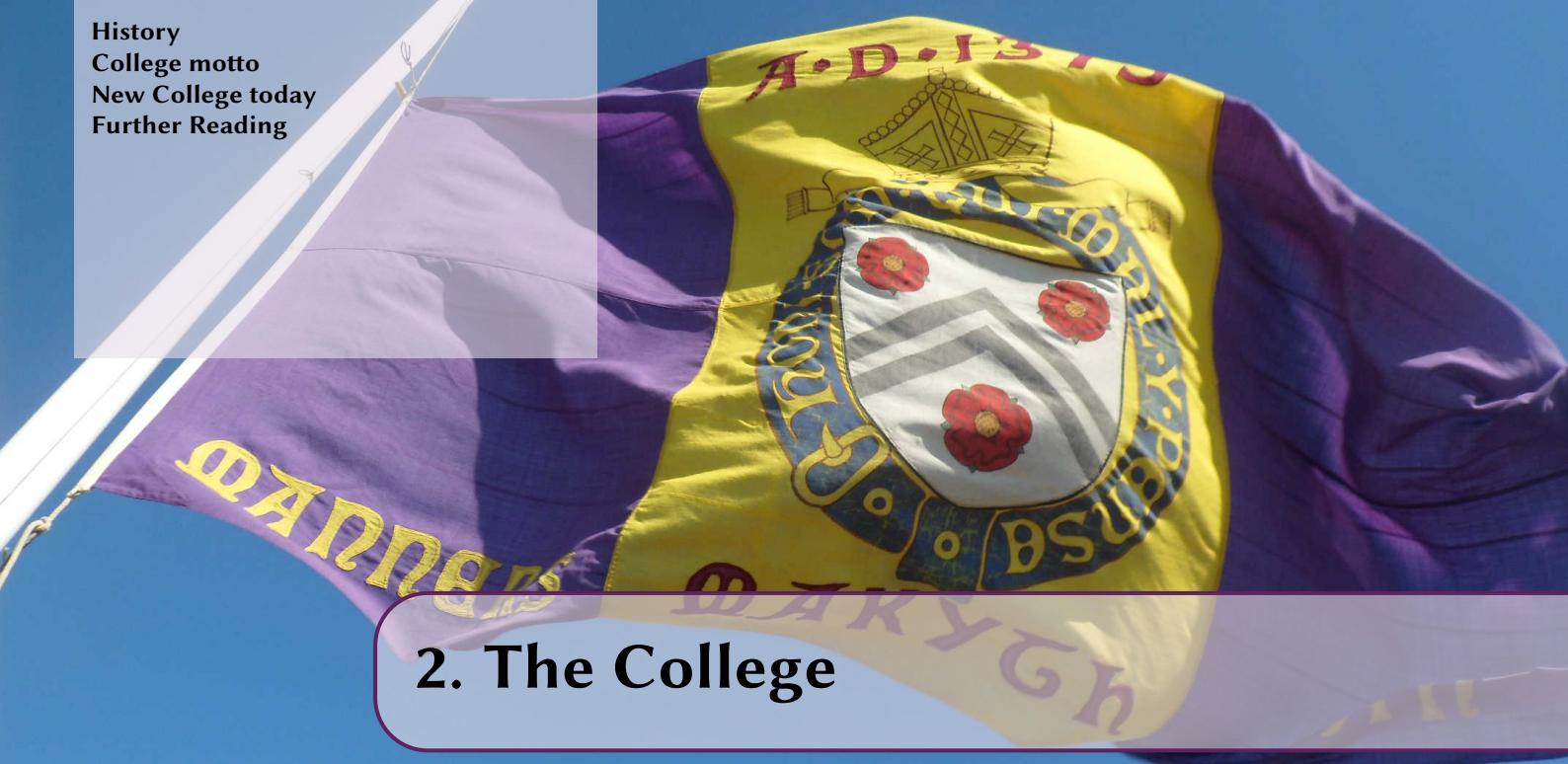
The New College MCR is the community of all graduate students at the college as well as a student-run organization headed by the MCR committee. In addition to maintaining and developing the physical MCR facilities, we organize a wide range of events for you throughout the year: bops, formal dinners, bar and movie nights, exchange dinners with other colleges, competitive and recreational sports, artistic and cultural events, and much more. I hope that during your time at the MCR, you will meet interesting and diverse people, widen your intellectual horizons, and make close and lifelong friends like many of us already have experienced during our time here.

The MCR also provides significant resources for the mental, emotional, and academic welfare for you during the ongoing global pandemic. 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 throughout your journey at Oxford. Please don't hesitate to approach any committee member by email or personally if you have any questions.

Regardless of the path that has brought you here, your time at New College will be a unique experience. I hope you have an amazing time, and I am looking forward to seeing you around!

Nico Han

MCR President 2021–2022, 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 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1379. It was the seventh college, of those still in existence, to be founded at Oxford. Since 1400 it has been known as New College to distinguish it from the other College of St Mary (now Oriel College). The College was founded by William of Wykeham, who was the Bishop of Winchester, Chancellor of England and a churchman and administrator in the King's service, whose eventual wealth and power overshadowed the humble obscurity of his origins. He established and endowed the College on a scale that, at the time, dwarfed any rival institution. The first part of College to be built was Front Quad and the adjoining cloisters, which were constructed between the foundation and 1400. This was the first purpose-built quadrangle in Oxford and is unusual in that it has an oval lawn in the middle. Pre-dating this were the city walls, which date from the thirteenth century: New College is obliged to maintain these, and they form a pleasant backdrop to the College gardens.

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

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

### 2.2 College motto

The College's motto, created by William of Wykeham, is "Manners Maketh Man". The motto was in many respects fairly revolutionary. Firstly, it was written in English, rather than Latin, which makes it very unusual in Oxford, particularly in light of the College's age: even St Catherine's College, founded in 1965, has a Latin motto. Secondly, the motto makes a social statement. While it might initially seem to suggest the benefit of having good manners, this reading does not capture its full scope. The motto's true meaning is that it is not by birth, money, or property that an individual is defined, but by how he or she behaves. And this not only reflects our founder's humble upbringings but it is the creed that guides our College to this day.



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



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

### 2.3 New College today

New College is an intellectual community and one of the best-known colleges in Oxford. New College has some of the most beautiful grounds and buildings in Oxford and an endowment of over £250 million. It has approximately 60 Governing Body fellows, 28 lecturers, 26 research fellows, 350 graduate students (including 100 expected freshers this year) and 430 undergraduate students.

The College is governed by the Governing Body, which consists of professors, tutorial fellows, and senior College officers. Some members of the Governing Body also hold University chairs. The head of College is the Warden, who chairs the Governing Body, oversees all aspects of the College, and represents the College to the world. The current Warden, appointed in 2016, is Miles Young, the former Chairman and CEO of Ogilvy & Mather, a leading global communications firm.

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

The MCR is made up of graduate students and associate members which include 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate students, visiting students, a few post-doctoral researchers without a college allegiance and some recent alumni. Graduate students are primarily taught by the University but have college to provide additional resources and to serve as a social base.

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

New College is particularly famous for its musical and cultural education. It houses a world-class choir with an associated choir school, and the fellows have written many of the world's leading textbooks in the discipline. The College has recently built a number of state-of-the-art music practise studios for all students to use. Additionally, New College has started the process of building a new quad, the Gradel Quadrangles, on Mansfield Road, which will mainly contain undergraduate accommodation, but also an exhibition space, a concert hall, as well as additional study space. The building project is targeted to be completed in 2022.

### 2.4 Further Reading

A College history ranging deep into the middle ages can hardly be done justice in a few paragraphs. So, to anyone whose interest is piqued and who wants to learn more about our College, we wholeheartedly recommend the following books: 'New College' edited by Christopher Tyerman [2010] as being the most accessible, 'New College 1379-1979' by Buxton and Williams [1979] as being the most scholarly, and 'New College' by Rashdall and Rait [1901] as being an excellent and exceedingly witty albeit older account of our history. 'New College, Oxford, and its Buildings' by A. H. Smith [1952] is focused more on the College architecture and there is a series, called 'Victoria County History', in which the section on New College is very good [Oxfordshire series, Volume 3, 1954]. For more miscellaneous readings, have a look at the 'New College Notes', a small online journal for College matters.

## 3. The People

### 3.1 The MCR Committee

The MCR is run by a committee of students. The committee organises events, provides welfare support, and represents the postgraduate student body to the College and University. The committee members are a good point of call if you have any questions, any suggestions, or wishes. Especially upon your arrival at the College, please feel free to contact the committee with any questions you might have about New College or the University. Our e-mail addresses simply follow the usual pattern of [firstname.lastname@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@new.ox.ac.uk) (which is valid for most members of the College). If you are unsure of an e-mail address you can also search on [www.ox.ac.uk/contact](http://www.ox.ac.uk/contact).

The MCR committee is made up of executive and non-executive positions. Getting involved in the committee is great fun and a good way of being part of College life. You will hear more about how you can do this during Freshers' Fortnight.

#### President: Nico Han

Nico studies MPhil in International Relations. She spends her time attempting to theorise big and small things of social realities. Nico was born in China and later immigrated to Canada. In addition to being active in MCR, Nico is a founder of the Oxford Diplomatic Society. She loves nice chats over long breakfast, and long walks after lunch.

As President, Nico represents New College MCR members in relation to the College and Uni. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to Nico regarding anything about College life.



Nico

#### Vice-President: Ufuk Altunbüken

Ufuk is reading for an MPhil in Economics and spends his days scribbling cryptic equations on his oversized whiteboard. In his free time, he can be found playing basketball, reading and writing in the New College cloisters, or having joyful banter with our porter Stewart.

As Vice-President, Ufuk advises the president, runs committee elections, and is responsible for the academic community within the MCR. He also organizes Freshers' Fortnight and examines the accounts of our treasurer in excruciating detail.



Ufuk

**Secretary: Steffen Ridderbusch**

Steffen is reading for a DPhil in Autonomous Intelligent Machines and Systems, a topic that is too trendy for how much mathematics it involves. Apart from labouring over equations and code, he sweats through various workouts and might row again next year. Having recently discovered mindfulness, you might spot him sitting very still on a bench outside.



Steffen

**Treasurer: Jordan Lian**

Jordan is an MPhil student in the Medieval and Modern Languages department studying Russian. More specifically, her research focuses on ballet and dance in the Russian Empire and Soviet Union. In her free time, Jordan enjoys music, art, watching films, running and working out,



Jordan

**Welfare Officer: Veerle Brans**

Veerle is a fourth-year DPhil student in Biomedical Engineering, where she looks into the application of microbubbles and ultrasound in immunotherapy. Next to her degree, she can be found doing all kinds of sports, including running, hockey, tennis and rowing.

As Welfare Officer, she cares about your experiences at Oxford and facilitates the practice of holistic health among MCR members, for example by organising welfare teas, art nights, mindfulness and meditation workshops, and yoga. Along the MCR team of trained peer supporters, she is available to chat confidentially and on a one-to-one basis about anything that might concern you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch!

**Social Secretary I: Alexandra Swanepoel**

Alex is Head of Operations of Ufonia, an Oxford University Innovation Startup developing natural-language artificial intelligence for clinical settings. She's also an Admitted Attorney of the High Court of South Africa, and is now reading for the MSt in International Human Rights Law having previously completed her economics and LLB degrees at the University of Cape Town. Alex is passionate about using tech to solve complex challenges in health and law in order to help make people's lives easier.

In her spare time during the pandemic she watched countless hours of Netflix, cooked just-above-average food, started many books she never finished, and endlessly scrolled for memes. She's looking forward to organising fun (and Covid-safe) social events for the MCR, so she can hang out with real people again.



Veerle



Alexandra

**Social Secretary II: Makiko Miyazaki**

Makiko is doing an MPhil in International Relations. Born in Japan, she has spent most of her life abroad in the States, Switzerland, and the UK, and she considers Oxford one of her favourite places in the world. When she is not discussing IR theories and historical evidence, she sings in the Oxford Belles, Oxford's oldest all-female a cappella group. She loves Broadway musicals, Disney films, and British comedies (especially Blackadder!) and is always excited to meet new people.

As Social Secretary, Makiko organises events for the MCR community, a task she finds particularly meaningful as the pandemic has shown us the value of staying connected. If you have any events you'd like to see or would just like a chat, please do get in touch!



Makiko

**House Officer: Siddhartha Datta**

Siddhartha is pursuing a DPhil in Computer Science, robustifying neural network architecture against hurting others (and sometimes itself). When not working in the Wolfson Building, you will find him working in the MCR Spoom, working in the TV room, working ... the pandemic closed all the fun stuff in Oxford, you get the picture. In another time and land, Sidd takes aerial photographs of cities and scenery with drones, proving once more that it is talent, not technology, that makes good art.

Being House Officer means he is committed to pampering, nurturing, and investing in the Pavilion. His time goes to retaining a warm and positive atmosphere. This means keeping all the facilities clean and upgraded, providing new and exciting provisions for consumption or social use, and managing our MCR's physical assets in this precious real estate.



Siddhartha

**Bar Representative I: Amalie Bronér**

Amalie is reading for an MPhil in European Politics and Society, which makes her a very dedicated committee member when she's got an essay she's trying to avoid. Her procrastination has driven her to be Bar Rep, keeping the MCR bar well-stocked and running smoothly for any other MCR members who need to procrastinate.

When not serving drinks and restocking the bar, she is a keen rower and will try to recruit you to the boat club. She is lactose-intolerant and doesn't like cheese, which makes her Lorenzo's arch-nemesis. She's always on the lookout for new recommendations for drinks to add to the bar's stock for any student who needs to drown their sorrows.



Amalie

**Bar Representative II: 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 bar rep, he works to keep the bar well-stocked, and regularly samples our selection for quality control.

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



Lorenzo

### **Equality and Diversity Representative: Paula Larsson**

Paula Larsson is in her final year of a doctoral degree in the History of Medicine. Born in Canada, her research focuses on the history of vaccine policy over the past century. She is founder and director of Uncomfortable Oxford, a student led enterprise that seeks to raise awareness of local histories of inequality and discrimination.

In her free time, she is an enthusiastic writer and story-teller, and enjoys playing board games of all types. Although terrible at croquet, she can never refuse when challenged.



Paula

### **Women's Representative: Breanne Boughan**

Breanne is a DPhil student in Zoology studying wild chimpanzee behaviour in Uganda. When she isn't running around the world chasing primates of all types, she enjoys music, reading, and generally being outdoors.

As women's officer, she is responsible for representing the interests of self-identifying women within the MCR. She aims to promote inclusivity and be available to all women to support them through any issues they may be facing during their time at Oxford, either as an ear to listen or as an advocate for possible solutions. She will also curate and communicate events across Oxford aimed at women and organise smaller events specifically for the MCR.



Breanne

### **LGBTQ+ Representative: Sophie Nagler**

Sophie is reading for the BPhil in Philosophy. Whenever she is not talking or writing about logic, Sophie enjoys regular workouts on the Sports Field, rowing, classical music, and boardgames.

As LGBTIQ+ officer, Sophie organises both educational events aimed at the broader MCR community as well as get-togethers for the MCR's LGBTIQ+ community such as regular dinners, film nights, or boardgame nights. She also has an open ear for all LGBTIQ+-specific welfare concerns and will energetically support you should encounter any issues during your time at New College. Whether you are looking for a one-on-one chat, new LGBTIQ+ friends, or information about the community at New College, do not hesitate to contact Sophie.



Sophie

### **Disability Representative: Malina Graf**

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

Malina represents MCR students with disabilities in the MCR committee, New College, and the university. This includes all kinds of disability, such as physical, mental, sensory, cognitive, or developmental, whether recognised or not. As your disability rep Malina will be someone to talk to if you need a chat about how your MCR, college, and the university can support you better and how to go about getting the support you need.



Malina

### Sports Representative: Giulia Bernardini

Giulia is doing a DPhil in History in the spare time when she's not playing as striker for the New College Women's Football Club. Understandably bored of being secluded in dusty archives, she decided to join the MCR Committee back in 2018 undertaking the role of LGBTQ+ Rep before moving on to Sports Rep.

Her job is to make sure that the MCR is equipped with rackets, croquet clubs, balls, dumbbells and much more, as well as keeping you up to date with the latest news regarding sports facilities available to you at New College. If you have any question related to sports activities on college grounds (including punts!), feel free to get in touch via email at [giulia.bernardini@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:giulia.bernardini@new.ox.ac.uk). Alternatively, the easiest way to track Giulia is to leave a trail of snacks leading to the PlayStation in the TV room at the Weston Pavilion.



Giulia

### Arts and Culture Officer: Jemma Paek

Jemma is reading a MSt in Russian, with a special focus on queer representation in post-Soviet cinema. When she is not speed-writing essays (down to the wire) she enjoys nothing more than eating delicious things, drinking delicious things, knitting and watching Twin Peaks simultaneously (knitting more intently at the scary bits), long walks on the beach, etc. etc.

As an Arts and Culture rep alongside Sophie, Jemma is focused on organizing COVID secure events such as online talks with authors and sports personalities. She has her fingers crossed for the opportunity to host more in-person events in 2021, like pottery workshops in Jericho and guided tours around the Ashmolean. If you have any questions or suggestions for things you'd like to see from the Arts and Culture committee, don't hesitate to get in touch.



Jemma

### Bike Representative: Russell Buchanan

Russell is doing a DPhil in Robotics Engineering which, hopefully, will be the last career to be completely automated. As a result of the pandemic he has found new passions in sourdough, gardening and discovering the UK through hiking and camping.

As the Bike Rep, Russell maintains the MCR's fleet of bicycles which are free for members to borrow. He also organizes bike repair workshops during term where members can tune up and repair their bikes for free or very little cost.



Russell

### Freshers' Representative: Juliette Holland

Juliette is doing an MSt in Modern Languages, and spends her days trying (and generally failing) to get to grips with French philosophy. While normal activities are off the cards in COVID times, her hobbies are currently restricted to far too many walks and trips to Pret.

As First Year Representative, Juliette organises social events throughout the year and is looking forward to holding some in-person events soon!



Juliette

## 3.2 People in College

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

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

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

The Tutor for Graduates meets the MCR President regularly to discuss academic and social life in the MCR, invites regular groups of graduates to High Table dinners, and hosts a couple of full MCR dinners in Hall each year. Finally, the Tutor for Graduates represents the MCR to the Governing Body, the sovereign body of College, which meets around nine times a year.

Any graduate who wishes to discuss their academic or social progress is referred to their College adviser in the first instance, but if you encounter any problems requiring more urgent attention, the Tutor for Graduates is always available. All enquiries concerning graduate matters should be directed to the Tuition Office, run by Freyja Madsen ([freyja.madsen@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:freyja.madsen@new.ox.ac.uk)). You can contact Dr. Temple at [rosalind.temple@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rosalind.temple@new.ox.ac.uk).

**Your College Advisor** The Tutor for Graduates assigns each graduate student an advisor in College, typically a College fellow who works in the subject area of their advisee, but who is not their advisee's main supervisor. Your advisor is supposed to be your first port of call if you have any academic difficulties on which you would like an independent opinion. You will probably first meet your College adviser during the graduate dinner in freshers' fortnight. If not, your advisor will contact you during your first term via your Oxford email address. The purpose of this contact is purely to touch base and ensure your transition to Oxford is proceeding smoothly. You are also encouraged to contact them. If you have any problems with your advisor, please contact either the MCR President or the Tutor for Graduates.

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

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

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

**IT Officer** The IT team, led by James Dore, is responsible for the computer provision in College. They are available to deal with any computer-related issues you may have. They have an office in the Garden Quad (12OB 2) and can also be reached through [helpdesk@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:katie.mckeogh@new.ox.ac.uk)) and the Salvesen Fellow is Annabella Massey ([annabella.massey@wadham.ox.ac.uk](mailto:annabella.massey@wadham.ox.ac.uk)).

**Porters** The Porters operate from the lodge at the Holywell Street entrance, and are the first port of call for all everyday logistical issues in College, e.g. lost keys, security, post, etc. The Porters

lodge is available 24 hours a day, and deals with all the various and quirky needs of College members. If they cannot help you, they can almost certainly find you someone who can. There is another porters' lodge at the Weston buildings, though this runs more limited hours: from 8.00 am–10.00 pm on weekdays, 12.00 pm–9.00 pm on Saturdays, and 10.00 am–3.00 pm on Sundays.



## 4. Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2021,

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome to the University and to New College. As the Vice-President of your MCR, I am responsible for planning your Freshers' Fortnight, a series of colourful, inclusive, and fun welcome events that will carry you through the first two weeks of this new chapter in your life. Me and the rest of our graduate community could not be more delighted to be welcoming you soon and our preparations for your arrival are in full swing. Amidst this excitement, however, we must take note that the Covid-19 pandemic is still somewhat looming not only over our Freshers' Fortnight plans but also our new academic year at large.

Of course, there is good news. After the virus has dominated public, private, and academic life for more than one and a half years, the situation in the UK looks determinedly better than it has for the previous cohort. As of the latest national guidance, we are hopeful that you might have a largely unobstructed year at Oxford in which most in-person teaching, our long-standing traditions, and Oxford's rich student life can be reinstated and held largely in regular fashion. And yet, the pandemic is not over. The spread of the virus has proven unpredictable in the past, variants of it have changed its trajectory before, and it remains our shared responsibility to take appropriate precautions.

I, too, came to Oxford during the pandemic. I know how daunting this uncertainty can feel and how overwhelming the information can be that you are receiving from all directions. Therefore, I would like to provide you with some context of our Covid-19 response from a *student's perspective*. I set this up as an *informal* guide that can help you make sense of but in no way replaces the *official* updates and communications that you are receiving from the university, from your departments, and our College. Further, I will focus only on those pillars that I believe to be the unchanging bedrock of our response in a pandemic that requires us to remain adaptive in all its stages. Of course, these are to be seen as an addition to the basic hygienic precautions such as handwashing, face coverings and social distancing.

Best Regards,

Ufuk Altunbüken, MPhil in Economics  
MCR Vice-President 2021–2022 email: [ufuk.altunbuken@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ufuk.altunbuken@new.ox.ac.uk)

### 1. National Guidance

Most changes to restrictions pertaining to our student life are initiated by changes in national guidelines which are then swiftly adopted by our university, faculties, the Bodleian libraries, and Colleges. The current national guidance, therefore, is always a good first place to look: In February of this year, Prime Minister Johnson announced the government's roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. This roadmap outlined four steps for a gradual easing of Covid-19 restrictions. On the 19th of

---

July, the government decided to move to the final step of this roadmap, thereby removing almost all legal limits on social contact.

In contrast, testing and quarantine rules that must be followed right before, while, and right after *entering* England are still far-reaching. As of the writing of this letter (14th of August), what you must do when you arrive in England from abroad depends on where you have been in the 10 days before you arrive. More specifically, it depends on whether the countries and territories you visited are classified as 'red', 'amber' or 'green'. For further information, please have a look [here](#). Keep in mind that our Freshers' Fortnight event series commences on Sunday, the 3rd of October, and to ensure you can join us from day one, we wholeheartedly encourage you to arrive in good time to be released of any quarantine requirements by this date. If you wish to arrive ahead of the 1st of October into Weston Buildings accommodation you need to contact Emily Meeson via e-mail at [emily.meeson@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emily.meeson@new.ox.ac.uk).

Once you entered England and have finished any testing or quarantine requirements, as of the writing of this letter (14th of August), life is largely back to normal. To give you a feel for this, currently [the following is in place nationwide](#): Almost all legal restrictions are lifted on the number of people you can meet (at home and in a public place) whether indoors or outdoors, the '1m-plus' social distancing requirement is removed from almost all spaces, face coverings are no longer required by law (although the government still 'expects and recommends' them in crowded and enclosed spaces, and most shops and transport operators still require them), nightclubs have reopened, pubs and restaurants are no longer table-service only, there are no limits on people attending concerts, theatres or sports events, and fully vaccinated adults no longer need to self-isolate after contact with a positive case.

## **2. College Guidance and the Role of the Collegiate University System**

While national guidelines are broad-brushed and try to encapsulate the direction of the entire country, each university and at the University of Oxford also each College has some discretion over the way in which these guidelines are interpreted and adopted. This allows our College community to be exceedingly responsive both to any signs of rising Covid-19 cases in Oxfordshire, among Oxford's wider student body, or among our own College community, as well as to any individual circumstances and concerns voiced by our members. [This piece](#), written by our Warden, captures the full scope of this point beautifully and illustrates, thereby, what an invaluable asset the collegiate system of the University of Oxford has proven to be in this time of crisis.

For us students, one implication of this is that the guidance we receive from College, chiefly communicated by our Home Bursar, is the one to adhere to for any events taking place on our College premises and that this guidance can, on occasion, deviate from national guidelines. To name an example: Upon entering stage 4 of the government roadmap (described above), there was a considerable surge of Covid-19 cases in Oxford. Mindful of this development and of our responsibility towards the local community, our College decided to temporarily uphold some of the social distancing measures until the situation has eased. These measures are constantly monitored and are put in place to ensure the safety of us students, university and College staff, as well as the safety of our local community.

## **3. Vaccinations**

A chief reason for the nationwide lifting of many Covid-19 restrictions is the success of the national vaccination campaign. As of the writing of this letter, 89% of England's adult population has received their first Covid-19 vaccination and 76% of the adult population is fully vaccinated. Latest figures can be found [here](#). Importantly, anybody aged 16 or over in the UK is eligible for the Covid-19 vaccination for free, regardless of their nationality or immigration status.

This means that all of you will be eligible to get vaccinated for free and the process is extremely unbureaucratic. At the end of the previous academic year, for instance, we even saw temporary Oxford University Vaccination Centers being set up in three locations across town. These were run by the NHS and any student could just 'walk-in' to get their vaccination without prior appointment. Information on how to register for a vaccination or where to find the nearest walk-in center is provided online by the [university](#) and the [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#), and I emphatically encourage you to look out for official university and College communications for latest updates.

**4. Symptom-free testing for Covid-19 (Lateral Flow Tests)**

Symptom-free testing through so-called Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) was among the key reasons why we were able to reinstate College events in a safe and responsible manner at the end of last year and, as such, they have become an integral part of our day-to-day student life. Currently, it is undecided to what extent LFTs will continue to be required for College events in the new academic year. For updates on this, please look out for e-mails from our College. - In case they will continue to form an important part of our response, it might help you to hear what LFTs are, and how we used them in the past:

Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not have symptoms. Lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. The test involves taking a sample from your tonsils and from your nose, using a swab. It is true that this form of testing does not identify all cases of Covid-19, which is why it is essential to continue to follow Covid-19 precautions even if you receive a negative result. It does, however, detect the most infectious cases in the community, those in whom the viral load is large enough to trigger a positive result. It is also very unusual to have a false positive.

Last year, we could pick up LFT testing kits (each of which contains multiple LFT tests) at any time, for free, from one of our two Porters' Lodges. Each LFT testing kit includes clear and simple instructions on how you can self-administer them. We simply did it in our rooms. It only takes a few minutes, and the result is displayed after half an hour. Once we obtained the result, we were asked to report them with the NHS as well as the University's Early Alert System. This is done by simply scanning a QR code.

Before attending any College or university events, all participants were asked to take an LFT at home. If your result was negative, you were clear to attend the event. This was particularly important for larger-scale events such as the matriculation ceremonies and while it might sound cumbersome, given how easy these tests were to obtain and administer, they became completely habitual and natural parts of our student life in no time.

**5. College Community**

The response to the pandemic is and has always been a community effort, and just what a close-knit community we have at our College became evident at every stage of the pandemic. All of us are working together and play our distinct roles in our response to the virus:

Every one of us who regularly takes LFTs and reports their results, every volunteer who brings groceries to those of us who need to self-isolate, our MCR committee members who found creative ways to run events even at the height of the pandemic, our Home Bursar who continuously monitors Covid-19 case numbers and introduces temporary measures whenever the situation requires, our library staff which has continuously adjusted their seating and booking system to mirror the current stage of the pandemic, our catering team which upheld operations even during the worst stages of the pandemic, our chapel and welfare services who offer support when it is most needed and yet most difficult to provide, our Warden who works with all other Oxford Colleges to find the best way forward, and so many more.

In all these efforts, we are mindful that some of us have health conditions, shielding responsibilities or other reasons that warrant Covid-19 related caution that goes beyond current national guidelines. As such, beyond vaccinations and symptom-free-testing, and even though most Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted on national level, whenever possible, we continue to take measures beyond what is obligatory to ensure that our events and facilities are inclusive to all our members. If you ever have concerns about Covid-safety, know that you can always reach out to any member of College staff or the MCR committee. I am sure that, together, we can find a solution.

**Further Information**

Further information is found on the official coronavirus information pages of the University of Oxford and the UK government, and I cannot stress how important it is for you to read carefully through any updates e-mailed to you by the University of Oxford, by your department and our College. For questions specifically related to your first weeks in Oxford and your Freshers' Fortnight, please feel free to reach out to myself ([ufuk.altunbukan@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ufuk.altunbukan@new.ox.ac.uk)) any time. Lastly, if you are interested in the latest academic research on Covid-19, you are warmly invited to sign-up [via this link to a virtual multi-disciplinary forum](#) by the Health Economics Research Centre taking place on the 8th of September.



## 5. Facilities

### 5.1 New College

#### 5.1.1 The MCR - The Rew Nooner Spoom

This is your common room - the actual MCR. It was named after the Rev. Spooner, Warden of New College from 1903-1924, who was famous for his verbal gags known as *Spoonerisms*, adopted in naming the room. The MCR is commonly called *the Spoom*. Since 2009, the Spoom has been located in the Weston Sports Pavilion and is undoubtedly one of the most comfortable and inviting MCRs in Oxford. It is accessible 24 hours a day and has a 49" television, table football, board games, books, coffee machines, Wi-Fi, and newspapers as well as other publications. The TV comes equipped with Netflix, Amazon Video and a selected range of channels. It also contains the *MCR Bar* which is opened regularly - usually on Wednesday and Saturday nights during term time, as well as after guest night dinners. It is also used for other purposes, including a free brunch each Sunday morning during term time.

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

New College takes pride in its inclusiveness. Gender-neutral toilet facilities will be in place at the MCR Building in 2021. Moreover, the New College MCR urged the administration to commit to refurbishing the gendered bathrooms inside the MCR pavilion into individual gender-neutral toilets with integrated washing facilities and floor to ceiling doors before 2022, and to a more extensive refurbishment of all remaining gendered New College bathrooms by 2024/25.

Access to these rooms and indeed the Sports Pavilion is since 2013 by your bod-card. If you are confronted with any bod-card malfunction issues, contact either Steffen Ridderbusch ([steffen.ridderbusch@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:steffen.ridderbusch@new.ox.ac.uk)), or the maintenance team ([maintenance@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:maintenance@new.ox.ac.uk)).

#### 5.1.2 The JCR

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

#### 5.1.3 Hall

*Hall* refers to the dining hall. The Hall is located in the oldest part of College with the Buttery next to it. Food is available to graduates during term time. For meals that do not require booking you pay with your Bod card and tills. You may bring guests but you will have to pay for them as cash and bank cards



Fig. 5.1: The Rew Noonan Spoom

are not accepted. Booking for meals are made [online](#) and is usually available on Thursdays for the next week.

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

**Lunch:** Lunch is available 12:15 am to 1.30 pm on weekdays. Lunch can be charged per item individually, a meal consisting of main, potatoes, veg and salad will be charged at ~£5. Lunch is paid for with your Bod card and tills. No prior booking is required

**Dinner:** Dinner comes in two sittings, early and late, usually referred to as *informal hall* and *formal hall* respectively. As of 2019, evening meals cost ~£7.23 inclusive of soup, salads, a main course, potatoes/pasta, vegetables, and dessert. **Formal hall requires booking** and is paid from your battels. If you want to go to dinner in hall, you must sign up by 10 am on the day of dinner in the Hall. This is done on-line at <http://food.new.ox.ac.uk/>, where you also have to specify the sitting you wish to attend.

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

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

**Guest Nights:** There are occasionally other special dinners, in particular guest night dinners which are held fortnightly on odd-numbered weeks of full term. These guest dinners are a great favourite of the MCR for their lavish three-course catering and the customary after-parties. One great perk of New College dining is that MCR members may bring up to three guests. Guest night dinners are charged at ~£ 17.75 per person (or ~£ 23.10 for non-Oxford guests). **Guest Nights require booking** and is paid from your battels. No gowns are required but dress code is smart.

**Dining on high table:** Fresher graduates may dine at high table once during their first year with the Tutor for Graduates (if they reply fast enough to the invitation emails). This will be advertised during term. You could also try to persuade your College adviser to invite you to dine at high

table. Additionally, up to four MCR members can also sign up for high table at their own expense on Thursdays during full term by contacting the SCR butler ([hassan.hamed@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hassan.hamed@new.ox.ac.uk)).

#### 5.1.4 College Bar & JCR Wine Cellar

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

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

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

#### 5.1.5 Sports

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



W1 looking far too serious.



M1 attempting to carry their cox safely.

New College has a wide range of sports teams and the collegiate nature of the University makes it very easy to get involved in sport at whatever level suits you, from playing socially to competitively. Most teams include members of both the JCR and MCR. Additionally our lovely porter Howard Weller runs twice weekly circuits training open to all. You will receive more details about how to get involved with the College sports teams during Freshers' Fortnight.

Rowing is the most popular sport in Oxford and is a very good way to meet lots of people, stay fit and try something typically Oxonian. New College has a very active boat club, with a healthy rivalry with Magdalen. If you want to try it, several novice boats run during Michaelmas term, along of course opportunities for experienced rowers. Most rowers start out as beginners and learn in the first term. The highlight of the rowing year is Summer Eights, a multi-day competition in May where all colleges try to touch (or "bump") into each other. Tens of thousands of people come down to watch, with plenty of drinks. All the specifics will be provided during the welcome event run by the New College Boat Club (NCBC) during Freshers' week. Some of the MCR committee officers are keen rowers and will be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

#### 5.1.6 Gym

New College does not have its own gym however members of College have free access to the University gym at the Iffley Road Sports Centre. To gain free access to Iffley Road gym, simply bring your Bod card to the centre reception and inform the attendant of your College membership. You will also be asked to

fill out some paperwork. There are other work-out options, with their own various extra fees attached. Linacre College gym is open 24 hours a day, which is conveniently located very close to the Weston accommodation on St Cross road. Alternatively the University Club offers a student pass to its gym, also located nearby on Mansfield Road. There is also a PureGym facility within Oxford city centre. Look online for more details and current membership availability and prices.



Fig. 5.2: The College sports ground

### 5.1.7 MCR BBQ

In 2013, the MCR had a communal BBQ built behind the cricket pavilion overlooking the sports ground. It is currently available for MCR events only. The MCR committee usually organizes BBQ-related events in the end of Trinity term and during the summer break.

### 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 pm during term and from 8.00 am–8.30 pm during vacation. The Library's collections serve the needs of taught-course students at New College, but they also include internationally renowned holdings of [early printed books and manuscripts](#) and archives and other areas of research strength which can support research as well. All New College graduate students are encouraged to use the Library and they have borrowing privileges for its lending collection of books, [films on DVD](#), CDs, and music scores. The Library welcomes book purchase requests from all New College students. To suggest new books for the Library, please use the book purchase [request service](#); MCR members may also [book the Library's Group Study Room](#). Further information on what New College Library and Archives provides is available via its [website](#). You can connect with New College Library on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#) too. Graduate students interested in contributing an article or a note about the College's special collections or its history for the College's scholarly e-journal, [New College Notes](#) (ISSN 2517-6935), are also invited to [contact the Librarian](#).

### 5.1.9 Internet and Technology Services

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

There is a computer and printer in the MCR Tv room. There are also printers in the College Library. Printing is charged to your Battels.

All College members will have a college e-mail address. Your address will be in the form *firstname.surname@new.ox.ac.uk*. You will almost certainly have a second one in your department but (with a few

exceptions) they all go to the same account. There will be details of how to set up your account in your pidge soon after you arrive. There is a webmail interface, but the account is easy to configure for an e-mail client. See: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/it/email?wssl=1>

### 5.1.10 Chapel

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

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

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

All information about the chapel may be found on the termly chapel card copies in pigeon holes and on the chapel and lodge notice boards and on the chapel page of the College website (<https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/chapel>), and the choir website ([www.newcollegechoir.com](http://www.newcollegechoir.com)).

### 5.1.11 The Gardens

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

### 5.1.12 Chalet

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



The College hall



The *chalet des anglais*



The cloisters from New College tower

**5.1.13 Pigeon hole**

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

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

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

## **5.2 The University**

**5.2.1 Libraries**

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

**5.2.2 Sports facilities**

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

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

**5.2.3 Students union - OUSU**

Oxford students are also represented by the student union, headquartered on Worcester Street. They are a useful source of information on a number of topics; check <https://www.oxfordsu.org/> for more information.

**5.2.4 The Oxford Union**

The Oxford Union is not a student union and is in fact a student run debate club. The membership fee is £286.34, or £257.50 during Freshers' Week, and is for life. The Union runs many good events and attracts famous speakers (some notable speakers include: Theresa May, Malcom X, Bill Clinton, Judi Dench, Emma Watson, W. B. Yeats and Manny Pacquiao). The club is highly polarising and in recent year membership has become somewhat controversial. We strongly encourage you to talk to many other MCR members (many of whom are Union members) before deciding to get a membership. During Freshers' Fortnight it is open to all, so check it out then even if you do not choose to join. The building is on St. Michael's Street. See: <https://www.oxford-union.org/>

**5.2.5 The University Club**

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

**5.2.6 The Careers Service**

The University Careers Service, located at 56 Banbury Road, is the main resource for what happens after you leave Oxford. Whether it is landing an internship or job, applying for postgraduate study or a

postdoc anywhere in the world, or just going to a Careers Fair to get free stuff, it is recommended to register with them on their website: [www.careers.ox.ac.uk](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk) to be able to access the range of advice and information. The Director of the Careers Service, incidentally, is a member of the New College SCR (Jonathan Black).

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



## 6. MCR social life

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

At the time of writing, it is uncertain how social distancing measures will affect the way events operate in 2021/22. We expect that most events will be able to proceed as originally intended but if not, then we expect some will move online or outside while others may continue in a reduced capacity. Please have a look at chapter 4 of this guide for further details.

### 6.1 Freshers' Fortnight

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

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

### 6.2 Guest night

Our main regular social events are *guest nights*. MCR guest nights happen every second Friday of odd weeks, bringing the total to four a term. Dinner is usually of a very high standard and costs ~£17.75 (on your battles). Members may invite up to three guests to join them, although many prefer to enjoy the evening with friends from College. Dress is smart, but gowns are not required. After dinner, there is second dessert provided by the MCR which include a selection of cheeses, fruit, chocolate and port, as well as the bar being open. Everyone is welcome to come to second dessert even if you didn't attend the dinner. Guest nights are very popular and you need to sign-up early on [food.new.ox.ac.uk](http://food.new.ox.ac.uk) to avoid disappointment. Sign-ups start a week early: usually around 2-4pm on the preceding Thursday.

### 6.3 End-of-year garden party

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



(a) A brunch in the Spoom



(b) Enjoying the bouncy castle at the garden party

## 6.4 Exchange dinners

We have *exchanges* with other colleges, whereby we host them at New College for drinks and dinner and then they do the same for us. Drinks and second dessert are included. These events vary between being a special dinner with high table food or occurring during regular formal dinners. We also sometimes have bar exchanges and wine and cheese exchanges, which provide an opportunity to mingle and drink lots without having to commit to sitting next to anyone, keep an eye on the MCR Facebook page and the mailing list!

## 6.5 Brunch

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

## 6.6 Bar nights

The MCR operates a student-run bar in the Spoom. It's usually open between 19.30-23.00 on Wednesdays and Saturdays during term time and as often as possible outside of term time. It is run by our Bar Reps and manned by committee members as well as volunteers from the MCR community. Volunteering at the MCR bar is a great way to get involved and an easy way to get to know a lot of the people in the MCR.



(a) Bar staffed with two volunteers



(b) Outdoor seating on sports field



(a) The bar in its active state.



(b) Christmas bop



(c) Themed guest night: Masquerade

Drinks here are cheaper than the main College bar and much cheaper than in town. The bar caters to all tastes and has plenty of choice when it comes to both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks – and if you feel like something is missing from the assortment just get in touch with our Bar Reps. Whether you are getting ready for a big night out or are looking for a quiet evening, feel free to come around!

## 6.7 Bops

Bops are the highlight of the MCR party scene. Around twice a term the MCR will throw parties with a fun theme in the Spoom. They normally occur after guest night dinners and the bar remains open to the small hours of the morning. MCR members take turns DJing at the bops, so make sure to email our social secretaries if you are interested. Other colleges also host their own Bops located on their grounds, which you are welcome to attend if advertised.

## 6.8 The New Collection

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

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

## 6.9 Other events

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



(a) Cheese and Wine tasting



(b) Freshers' Week Pub Crawl



(c) Guest night



## 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](mailto:emily.meeson@new.ox.ac.uk)), but arrange this well in advance since these rooms are very popular during each term. All accommodation-related rules and the license agreement can be found in the dean's handbook.

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

### 7.1 Weston Buildings

The Weston Buildings are located alongside a branch of the River Cherwell at the College Sports Ground, which is a short walk from the main College site. The buildings provide around 90 rooms for graduate

students, which are divided into 16 houses of (usually) 6 rooms each. The rooms are modern, have a sink, and are well proportioned. Each house has a large self-catered kitchen with a patio area, four toilets, and three shower rooms. Laundry facilities are located in a small building opposite House 16.

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

**[COVID-19 Info] Cleaning**

Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance to every Weston building.

## 7.2 Castle Mill

Castle Mill is a University accommodation complex situated in central west Oxford close to the Railway Station and Port Meadow park, which is a ten-minute bike ride from College and many research buildings of the University. Each of the bedrooms earmarked for New College has en-suite bathroom facilities with a kitchen and dining room that is shared between four to six students on each floor. There are four washing machines and tumble dryers available on site. Note that tenants are responsible for the cleaning of their own rooms but a regular cleaning service is provided for the common areas.



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



## 8. Arrival and Settling In

### 8.1 Bod-card

Your Bodleian reader card, always referred to as your *Bod-card*, is effectively your University student card. You need it to get into University and College buildings, buy food in hall, drinks in the bar and to get into most buildings and departments across the University. The first thing to do when you arrive is collect your Bod card from the graduate office in 4OB3 (you can ask at the Porter's Lodge for directions) as soon as you arrive.

### 8.2 Room key

Once you have your Bod card you can go to the main Porters' Lodge, next to the Holywell Street entrance to New College, where the porters will tell you where you will be living and where you collect your room key.

### 8.3 E-mail lists

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

1. Main list: The main list is run by College and important information is sent out using it. E-mails come through with the subject line *[new-mcr]*. College should sign you up to it but inevitably they miss a few people. If you don't seem to receive any e-mails with this subject, report it to the College IT support ([helpdesk@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:helpdesk@new.ox.ac.uk)), because you need to be on this list.
2. Social list: This list is administered by the MCR Secretary and has subject line *[newmcr-l]*. It is used by the president, vice-president, social secretaries, welfare rep and sports rep for sending out notices and information about what is happening in the MCR. We will try to add you automatically, but a lot of people don't get signed up, so you should do this yourself. E-mail [newmcr-l-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:newmcr-l-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk) from any e-mail account to be added to the list. In order to unsubscribe you can e-mail [newmcr-l-unsubscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:newmcr-l-unsubscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk).

### 8.4 Things to bring

**For your room:** Extension cords and multi-plugs are a good idea, given the rather quaint notions the College holds about electricity. Transformers which convert cycles as well as volts will also be needed for any electrical goods purchased overseas. It also might be worthwhile to bring

transformers and conversion plugs. College does not provide pillows, sheets and duvets for the beds, so remember these or you'll be turning your clothes into a make-shift pillow on the first night.

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

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

**Clothes:** Despite the impression given by the photos in this guide, the weather is not always sunny. So, apart from the required academic dress (see below), perhaps the most important items to remember are warm clothes for the winter and coats that will keep you dry. The weather in Oxford typically ranges from 0-10°C in Winter and 10-25°C in Summer.

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

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

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

## 8.5 Town

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

## 8.6 Shops

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 8.6.1 Sporting clubs

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

### 8.6.2 Bars, Pubs and Clubs

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

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

## 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 also for dining at formal hall and various other occasions in College. For formal dinners at New College it can just be worn over normal clothes.

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

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

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

There are outfitters around town (Shepherd & Woodward, Walter's) who provide a gown, mortarboard and white bow tie/black ribbon, usually as some part of package deal (for around £25) in the first couple of weeks of term. Additionally, you can usually buy used gowns and mortar boards from leaving students through Facebook or GumTree. We recommend getting your *subfusc* as soon as possible as you will need it for matriculation, which takes place on the Saturday after the first week of classes.



Fig. 8.1: Oxford natives in traditional costumes



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

## 8.8 Terms

Oxford has three terms: Michaelmas from October to December; Hilary from January to March; Trinity from April to June. Terms formally last eight weeks: weeks 'start' on Sunday and are numbered from one through to eight. Thus, within Oxford, you tend to describe dates using this system: so, for example, you might say, *my exam is on Tuesday of 7th week*. The week before first is called 0th week and the one before that minus 1st week etc. The gaps between terms are the *Christmas, Easter* and *Long* vacations.

Undergraduate teaching takes place during weeks of full term. For those doing taught courses, teaching will be focused during term but you may well have to do assignments out of term: so check this before you book a six week holiday in the Easter vacation! For research students terms are less relevant, and what time you get away is largely up to you and your supervisor.

## 8.9 Bicycles

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

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

### 8.9.1 MCR Bike Share Program

If you only need a bike in the immediate/very short term then the MCR owns a couple bikes that you can borrow. You have to register beforehand (only the first time) by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/eaA41Qu2rEzc63gV8>. Then you will be able to borrow a bike whenever you want! Contact the Freshers' Rep if you have any questions about the process.

## 8.10 Transportation

### 8.10.1 Buses

The public transport system in and around Oxford relies mainly on the *Oxford Bus Company* buses. The single fare in the city centre is £2.00 (or around £3-4 for return and day tickets), with no student discounts available. Tickets can be purchased from the driver and you can pay with change or by card. There is a coach service called *Oxford Tube* which goes between Oxford's central bus station at Gloucester Green and London Victoria Station. Coach buses are long distance buses which can take you between cities. You can buy a *Coachcards* to save 33% on all fares.

### 8.10.2 Trains

The main connections to London are by road or rail. By rail, *First Great Western* offers the service connecting Oxford to London Paddington, and *Chiltern Railways* between Oxford and London Marylebone. All options offer various fares depending on booking date, return date, number of tickets bought, etc. The cheapest fare is £13 for a return ticket, but the availability terms and conditions vary. Some aggregated search websites such as [nationalrail.co.uk](#) and *The Trainline* let you book tickets across multiple train companies. If you plan to take the train a lot make sure to get a Railcard and save 33% off all tickets. University students can get a *16-25 Railcard* for £70 for 3 years.

**8.10.3 Airports**

Luton and Stansted airports can be reached by bus via [National Express](#), and Heathrow and Gatwick airports via the [Airline](#), a bus operated by the Oxford Bus Company. Tickets for all of them can be bought via the [National Express page](#), or the Airline tickets also via the [Airline page](#). Fares vary depending on time of day, advance booking, return dates and other more mysterious criteria. A single trip to Luton costs up to £18, to Heathrow up to £25, to Stansted up to £27 and to Gatwick up to £30, return and off peak tickets are often cheaper. In many cases creative routes can lower the costs (e.g. taking the bus from Gatwick to Victoria, followed by the coach to Oxford comes to £21). Alternative booking sites like [Easybus](#) may also get you a better deal.

**[COVID-19 Info] Transport Services**

All transport services are functioning but capacity and times may be different so it's important to check the websites.

Battels  
Till account  
Travel grants, hardship grants and bursaries  
Working



## 9. Finances

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

### 9.1 Battels

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

### 9.2 Till account

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

## 9.3 Travel grants, hardship grants and bursaries

### 9.3.1 College Grants

College has a research fund for graduate students. This is primarily for necessary travel (e.g. conference attendance/archival visits), but some purchases (e.g. essential software) will be considered on their merits. Taught master's students can get up to £200 and research students can get £375 per year (and this can accrue if not used). Medics on Electives can apply for special travel grants: £750 per year for placement outside the U.K. Forms are on the College website at [www.new.ox.ac.uk/scholarships](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 an allocated fund for student sporting and cultural activities, including charity and voluntary work, funded by donations from old members. All members of the JCR and MCR are eligible to apply for an award of up to £300 each term towards costs incurred through participation in an extracurricular activity whilst at New College. You will receive emails about this.

There are some additional bursaries and small pots of money which may be available. A list of these is on the College website at [www.new.ox.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/scholarships). You can apply for them via the Bursar, David Palfreyman ([bursar@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bursar@new.ox.ac.uk))

### 9.3.2 Hardship

If, and only if, your circumstances change adversely after you get to Oxford, then you are eligible for a hardship grant from The College Financial Aid Committee. Make an appointment with the bursar, who is usually very helpful if you are in genuine need.

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

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

## 9.4 Working

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

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

## 10. Welfare

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

### 10.1 LGBTQ+ students

There is a lot going on at Oxford for everyone who identifies as LGBTQ+. New College may date from 1379 and the University from about 200 years before that, but you'll find that attitudes have moved on a long way since then! The MCR prides itself on our acceptance of diversity and a lovely LGBTQ+ community will be here to welcome you. There are LGBTQ+ students in the New College MCR, town and University, so there will be plenty of friendly faces to show you the sights and give you all the insiders' tips. Whether prospective or current New College student, whatever your gender identity, expression and/or orientation, you can get in touch with Sophie (she/her, [sophie.nagler@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.nagler@new.ox.ac.uk)) who is a fellow postgraduate and your LGBTQ+ representative on the MCR committee. As LGBTQ+ rep, during term she organises events open to all MCR members who identify as LGBTQ+, keeps you up to date with what's happening across the University and she is always approachable for confidential one-on-one talks or to answer your questions about LGBTQ+ life at New College.

If you would feel more comfortable talking to a senior college member instead, the New College Welfare Team is always a good first point of contact available to all students. More info can be found on the Health Welfare page (<https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/health-welfare>). Oxford University LGBTQ+ Society (<http://oulgbtsoc.com>) also has heaps of info on their website, and is a great group to join with lots of fun social events. Keep your eyes out for the OUSU LGBT handbook! More information on freshers' events outside College will be available in Freshers' Fortnight.

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

Table 10.1: Immediate Contacts

MCR Welfare Team	e-mail
<b>Veerle Brans (MCR Welfare officer)</b>	<i>mcr.welfare@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
<b>Irene Yang (Peer Supporter)</b>	<i>irene.yang@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
<b>Thomas Caganek (Peer Supporter)</b>	<i>thomas.caganek@new.ox.ac.uk</i>

Table 10.2: MCR Welfare Team

## 10.2 Contacts

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

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

### 10.2.1 MCR Welfare support

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

#### MCR welfare officer

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

### 10.2.2 College welfare support

#### Tutor for Welfare

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

#### The Cox and Salvesen Fellows

Katie McKeogh and Annabella Massey, the Cox and Salvesen Fellows, are happy to talk to all New College students and are a good first port of call for information about services and support available within College and the university. More information can be found [here](#).

#### The Academic Registrar

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

#### The Student Welfare and Staff Support Officer

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

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

Table 10.3: New College Welfare Team

**Chaplaincy**

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

**Advisor to the Welfare Team**

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

**College Nurse**

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

**Surgery hours:**

- Monday: 09.45-12.15

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

Table 10.4: Welfare Contacts

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

### Decanal Team

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

#### [COVID-19 Info] Office Hours

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

## 10.3 Additional Welfare Resources that may be Useful

### 10.3.1 Peers of Colour

Next to our own team of trained peer supporters, you may feel more comfortable speaking to a Peer of Colour, a peer support trained student within the university who identifies as a PoC. The university has a university-wide email address: [peersofcolour@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 go visit the doctors. During term and out of term the doctors can be found in their practice at 28 Beaumont Street. Your medical registration will occur during the 1st week of Michaelmas term, after which you will have access to the College doctors. Information about the registration procedure will be given by the College during the Freshers' Week.

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

#### 10.4.1 Overseas students and visiting students

All overseas students who are studying here for more than 6 months can register and have access to the UK National Health Services (NHS). You may be required to pay an NHS surcharge as part of your visa application. Once you arrive in Oxford you will also be required to register with the College doctors. It is particularly important that overseas students register with the College doctor **as soon as possible**. Please note: you will not be able to register if you have less than 6 months of your course left.

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

For more information on charges for NHS treatment and exemptions for people visiting the UK, see the Department of Health's website for [overseas visitors](#).

#### 10.4.2 Dentists

There are two NHS dentists that are known to take on students: Studental (located at Oxford Brookes University in Headington; telephone: 01865 689997, email: [reception@studental.co.uk](mailto:reception@studental.co.uk)) and Bupa Dental Care Oxford (22 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2NA; telephone: 01865 243702; email: [reception.oxford@oasis-healthcare.com](mailto: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 or you will be advised if you need to be seen by a doctor, and safe arrangements for this will be made.

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

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

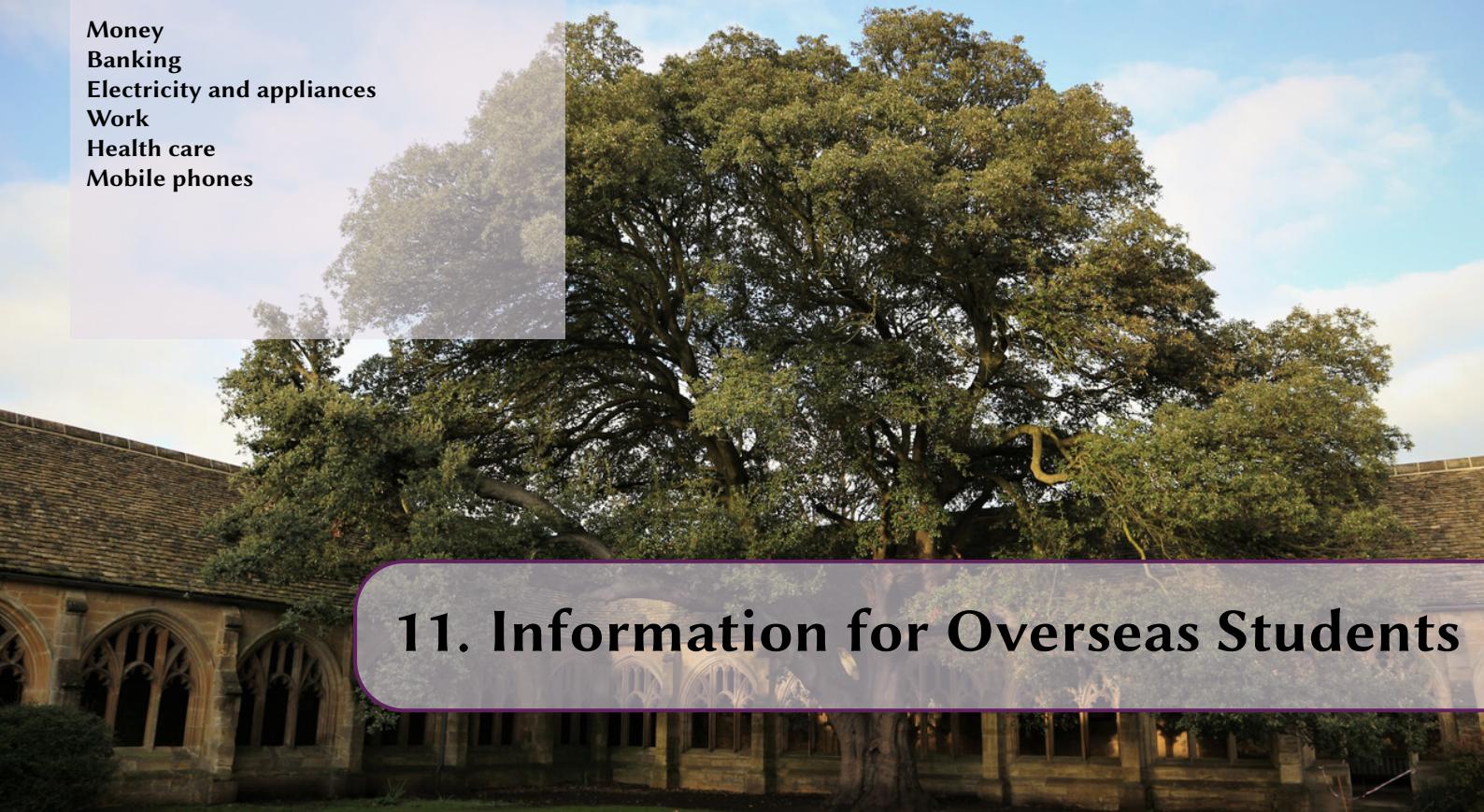
#### [COVID-19 Info] COVID-19 Medical Info

You can find the latest info on coronavirus from the NHS [here](#).

The main symptoms are:

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

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms and you can read more [here](#).



## 11. Information for Overseas Students

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

### 11.1 Money

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

### 11.2 Banking

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

#### 11.2.1 Online Only Banking

##### **Monzo**

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

##### **Revolute**

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

### 11.2.2 Major Banks

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

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

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

The following major UK banks have branches in central Oxford:

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

A quick comparison of banking deals is available [here](#).

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

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

When opening your bank account, you will usually need:

- A means of proving your identity and immigration status: your passport with visa OR your EU national photo ID (whichever is applicable).
- Proof of your UK address: your enrollment letter should work for most banks. HSBC is known to be difficult on this and will insist on demanding bills which you logically will not yet have. You can generate your enrollment certificate from the university's online student self service.

### 11.3 Electricity and appliances

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

If your equipment is not rated for the UK electrical system, you will need to purchase a transformer which will alter the electrical current used in the UK to the appropriate current for your equipment. American products, for example, are usually built for AC 110 V, 60 Hz. While almost all transformers will easily handle the step down from 220 V to 110 V, only very expensive ones will change the cycle rate,

ie the 50 Hz to 60 Hz. Any equipment that needs to run constantly at a certain speed from an internal motor (e.g. CD players, blenders, cassette tape players, and clocks) may not work here, and may be damaged through trying them. Again, if in doubt, check your products' specifications and inquire at the dealer or manufacturer.

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

If you are living in College, there are a wide range of restrictions on your use of electrical appliances: see the *Dean's Handbook*, Ch 4, pg. 24.

## 11.4 Work

The *International Student Office* which runs an Orientation programme for all international students at the start of your Oxford career, will be your best and primary resource for advice on visas, work permits, funding, etc. Currently citizens of the UK, EEA and Switzerland have no work restrictions (See ??). Holders of Tier 4 visas are restricted - your passport sticker should state the exact restrictions (see here: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Tier-4-work>). These restrictions apply to paid teaching or pastoral work undertaken for a College or the University. The UK government has a scheme for international students to stay in the UK to work after finishing a degree, and full details can be found on their website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-2-year-post-study-work-visa-for-international-students>. The *University Careers Service* offers sessions and resources on working internationally or staying to work in the UK.

## 11.5 Health care

See also

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

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

## 11.6 Mobile phones

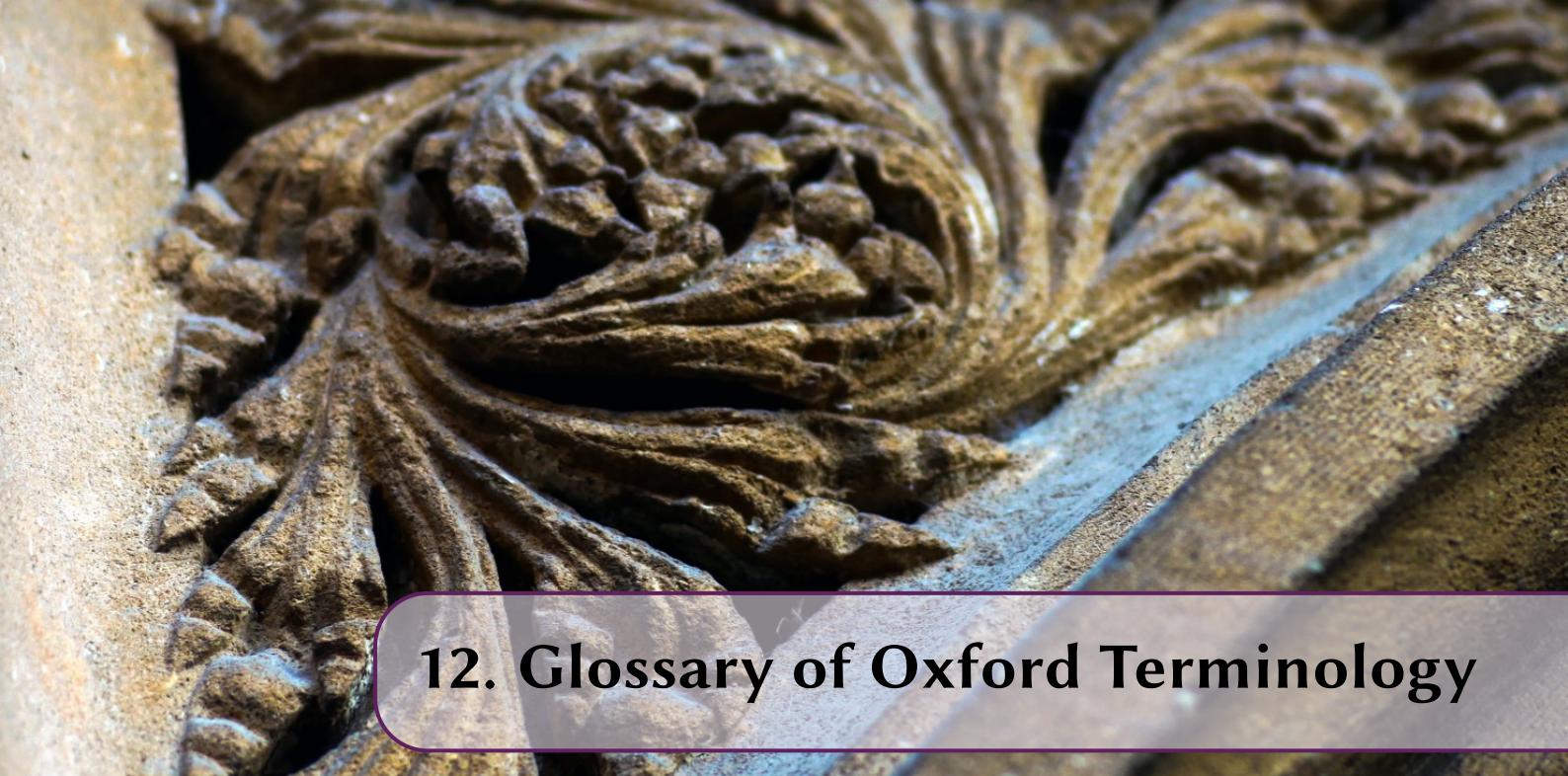
The UK is a very mobile-phone-centred nation and having a cellphone and UK sim card will probably be very helpful to get in touch with friends while here. Texts (also known as SMS) and phone-based internet chat are two of the main forms of communication, since these are cheaper than calls. If you don't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

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

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

**[COVID-19 Info] Self-isolation on arrival**

As of the writing of this guide (14th of August), what you must do when you arrive in England from abroad depends on where you have been in the 10 days before you arrive. More specifically, it depends on whether the countries and territories you visited are classified as 'red', 'amber' or 'green'. For further information, please have a look [here](#). Keep in mind that our Freshers' Fortnight event series commences on Sunday, the 3rd of October, and to ensure you can join us from day one, we wholeheartedly encourage you to arrive in good time to be released of any quarantine requirements by this date. If you wish to arrive ahead of the 1st of October into Weston Buildings accommodation you need to contact Emily Meeson via e-mail at [emily.meeson@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emily.meeson@new.ox.ac.uk).



## 12. Glossary of Oxford Terminology

As you will have gathered if you have read this far, Oxford has much terminology which is not often heard outside its grey walls. The following is a list of a few of them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dean's handbook** Your bible for all College related rules, to be found at <http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/>

*deans-handbook*

**Don** An academic.

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

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

**Fellow** An academic member of a college and a member of the SCR. Usually also a tutor for undergraduates.

**Fresher** A new student, whether undergraduate or grad.

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

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

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

**Hilary term** The second term which runs from January to March.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MCR** Middle Common Room.

**Michaelmas** The first term between October and December.

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

**New College** The best college in Oxford, always called "New College", never "New".

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

**Oxford SU** The Oxford University Students Union.

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

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

**Pigeon post** Free University-wide internal mail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sent down** To be expelled.

**Sub fusc** Academic dress.

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

**Torpids** A rowing competition between colleges in Hilary.

**Town** Anything or anyone not part of the University.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wykkie Bear** The MCR mascot.



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

# Credit must go where credit is due

Title page background: Photo credit to Fabian Krusa . . . . .	i
Chapter header <i>From the Mound</i> : Photo credit to Sohpie Nagler . . . . .	1
Chapter header <i>Flag</i> : Photo credit to Sarah White . . . . .	3
Chapter header <i>Window</i> : Photo credit to Rudi Rahn . . . . .	5
Chapter header <i>Branches</i> : Photo credit to Kira Liebert . . . . .	12
Chapter header <i>Lantern</i> : Photo credit to Kira Liebert . . . . .	15
Chapter header <i>Hall</i> : Photo credit to Irene Yang . . . . .	22
Chapter header <i>Weston</i> : Photo credit to Sohpie Nagler . . . . .	25
Chapter header <i>City</i> : Photo credit to Sophie Nagler . . . . .	27
Chapter header <i>Candles</i> : Photo credit to Irene Yang . . . . .	32
Chapter header <i>Dagger</i> : Photo credit to Oliver Clarke . . . . .	34
Chapter header <i>Harry Potter Tree</i> : Photo credit to Sohpie Nagler . . . . .	39
Chapter header <i>Arch</i> : Photo credit to Ollie Clark . . . . .	43

# New College

Tel: 01865 279555 Fax: 01865 279486  
Oxford OX1 3BN

**MAIN  
ENTRANCE**

