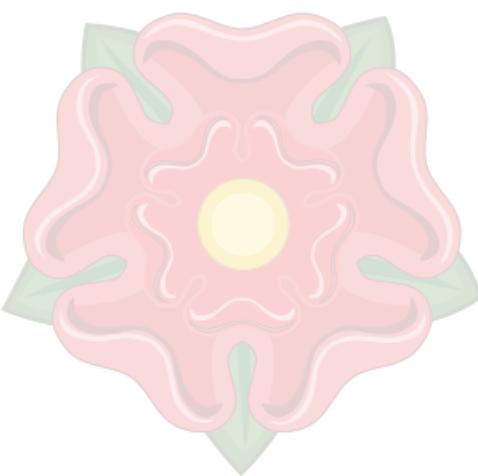


MCR Freshers' Guide

2016 / 2017

NEW COLLEGE



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August 2014

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1. Introduction

Dear New College MCR Freshers of 2016,

On behalf of the Middle Common Room (MCR), I am delighted to welcome you to New College.

New College is home to one of the oldest and most active MCR communities of any of the colleges at Oxford, and is comprised of approximately 330 graduate students spanning more than 25 countries across the world.

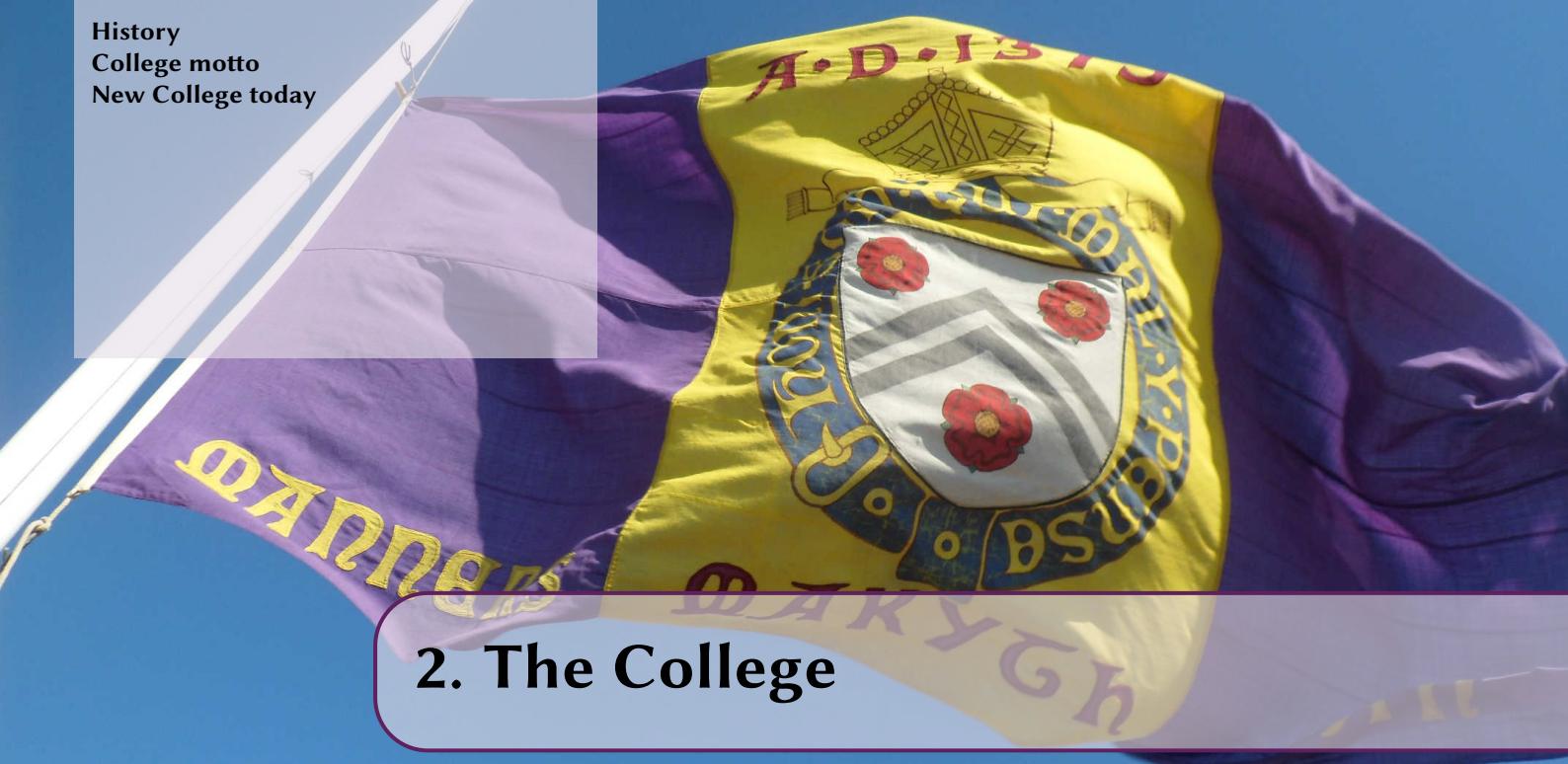
The MCR is designed to be a graduate's home during their time at Oxford and is supported by the MCR committee, which organise several events each term, such as formal dinners, exchanges with other colleges, academic colloquia, and much more.

Our committee has put together this guide as a useful resource to help you settle into life at New College.

There is also plenty of useful information on the MCR website [website](#), which has additional resources and up-to-date information about all our activities on our live calendar.

I look forward to meeting you at Freshers' Fortnight in October.

Lauren Burton
MCR President 2016-2017
Lauren.Burton@new.ox.ac.uk



2. The College

2.1 History

St Mary College of Winchester in Oxford, commonly known as New College, was founded on the 26th of November 1379. It was the seventh college, of those still in existence, to be founded at Oxford. Since 1400 it has been known as New College to distinguish it from the other college of St Mary (now Oriel College). The college was founded by the Bishop of Winchester, William of Wykeham, a churchman and administrator in the King's service, whose eventual wealth and power overshadow 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 the Front or Old 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 are from the 13th 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 in the Bowling Green.

The college was extended between 1681 and 1707 with the addition of the beautiful garden quad. At the end of the 19th Century the 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. As of 2011, graduates are no longer housed in the Sacher building and are instead located all together in the lovely Weston Buildings. In 1979, the first women were admitted, after Governing Body initially began considering becoming co-residential in 1964, making it one of the first all male colleges to do so, but one of the latest to actually usher in this change.

2.2 College motto

The college's motto, created by William of Wykeham, is "Manners Makyth Man". The motto was in many respects fairly revolutionary. Firstly, it was written in English, rather than Latin, which makes it very unusual in Oxford, and is especially revolutionary considering 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 be suggesting that it is beneficial to have good manners, this does not really capture its full scope. What it really means is that it is not by birth, money, or property that an individual is defined, but by how he or she behaves towards other people.



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



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

2.3 New College today

New College is an intellectual community and one of the best-known colleges in Oxford. New College has approximately 60 governing body fellows, 10 junior fellows, 325 graduate students (109 freshers this year included), 420 undergraduates, an endowment of over £160 million, a turnover of £13 million, and some of the most beautiful grounds and buildings in Oxford.

The college is governed, surprisingly, democratically, by the governing body which consists of professorial fellows, tutorial fellows and a few others. New College has around 10 professorial fellows who hold university chairs. There are around 45 tutorial fellows who teach undergraduates in college as well as having university positions.

The primus inter pares is the Warden who serves as the figurehead of the college. Our new warden is Miles Young, who is the Chairman and CEO of one of the world's largest communications groups, Ogilvy and Mather.

The fellows and senior college officers make up the senior common room, or SCR. Physically this is located between the Front and Garden quads. They dine to near Michelin star standard, have a wine cellar of 40,000 bottles and have luxurious offices in the Old Quad buildings.

The MCR is made up of graduate students, people reading for second undergraduate degrees, visiting students, a few post-doctoral researchers without a college allegiance, and 4th year undergraduates in sciences, languages, and some other subjects. Graduate students are primarily taught by the university, but have college as a social base and to provide additional resources.

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 associated choir school, and the fellows have written many of the world's leading textbooks in the discipline. New College has just received planning permission for a new music building, adjacent to the Victorian Savile House in Mansfield Road. The building, designed by John McAslan and Partners, will offer three floors of accommodation: the top floor will contain two chamber music studios; the first floor, four practice rooms; and the ground floor, a large rehearsal room for opera and drama. Work will begin during the summer of 2015.



3. People

3.1 The MCR committee

The MCR is run by a committee of students. 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. You can find the current MCR committee position holders and their blurbs on: <http://mcr.new.ox.ac.uk/?n>Main.PeopleCommittee>

Please contact the committee with any queries.

Our e-mail addresses can be found on the committee webpage above, or by simply following the usual pattern of firstname.lastname@new.ox.ac.uk (which is valid for most members of the college). If you are unsure of an e-mail address you can also search on www.ox.ac.uk/contact.

3.2 People in college

The Warden The Warden is the head of college, and is ultimately responsible for all aspects of college life.

From August 2016, this role will be taken by Mr Miles Young, who is the 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 college secretary (warden@new.ox.ac.uk).

Tutor for Graduates The Tutor for Graduates is a college fellow who, in addition to his or 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, he or she signs 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 MCR committee members regularly over lunch to discuss academic and social life in the MCR, and also 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 three times a term.

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 College Office, which administers for the Tutor for Graduates.

The Tutor for Graduates is currently Prof George Ratcliffe. A letter from him welcoming you to New College was sent to you during the long vacation. You can contact Professor Ratcliffe through george.ratcliffe@new.ox.ac.uk.

Your College Advisor The Tutor for Graduates assigns each graduate student an academic 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.

Your advisor should 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 make contact with them. If you have any problems with your adviser 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 (4OB1) or by emailing bursar@new.ox.ac.uk.

Home Bursar The Home Bursar, Caroline Thomas, is responsible for the domestic side of college life, including accommodation, college staff, and food. She is also part of the welfare team. Contact her either by e-mail (caroline.thomas@new.ox.ac.uk) or in the Home Bursary on the ground floor of 4OB.

Dean The Dean, Dr Michael Burden, is responsible for discipline in college. Day-to-day running of this side is carried out by the Assistant Dean and three 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 James Dore is the college's IT Officer. His team 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 it-support@new.ox.ac.uk

Welfare Fellows (Cox/Salvesen Fellows) College employs two Junior Research Fellows who also have a welfare role; they are called the *Cox and Salvesen Fellows*. They are currently Tom Cutterham (tom.cutterham@new.ox.ac.uk) and Ryan Hanley (ryan.hanley@new.ox.ac.uk), respectively.

Porters The Porters live in the lodge in the Holywell Quad (there is also a lodge at the sports ground) and are the first port of call for all everyday issues in college, e.g. lost keys, light bulbs, etc. The Porters work long hours and deal with all the various and quirky needs of college members. Please be polite and friendly when dealing with staff at either lodge.

4. Facilities

4.1 New College

4.1.1 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 or *Spoonerisms*: hence the name. The MCR is commonly called *the Spoom*. It is accessible 24 hours a day and has a 42" television, Nintendo Wii, PS3 (doubling as BD/DVD-player), board games, books, coffee machine, wi-fi, and newspapers as well as other publications. It also has a bar area which is opened regularly - usually on Wednesday and Thursday 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.

Since 2009, the Spoom has been located in the Weston Sports Pavilion. Refurbished recently, the Rew Nooner Spoom (New Spooner Room) is undoubtedly one of the most comfortable and inviting MCRs in Oxford. The facilities are split across the main living room area upstairs and the television and computer room downstairs, which also has a small library (set up by Evgenia Ivanova in 2013). 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 Arnold Mathijssen (arnold.mathijssen@new.ox.ac.uk), or the deputy clerk of works, Chris Conway (chris.conway@new.ox.ac.uk).

4.1.2 The JCR

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

4.1.3 Hall

Hall refers to the dining hall in college. The Hall is located in the oldest part of college with the buttery next to it. Food is available to graduates during term time; all meals are charged to your till account and paid for using your Bod-card (see below).

Breakfast: Breakfast is available from 8 am to 9 am on weekdays and 11 am to 1 pm at weekends. A choice of an *English* cooked breakfast, *continental* breakfast, cereal etc. is available and charged per item, for a total of about £1.50-£2.00.

Lunch: Lunch is available 12 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 £3.50.

Dinner: Dinner comes in two sittings, early and late, usually referred to as *informal hall* and *formal hall* respectively. As of October 2012, evening meals cost £6.26 inclusive of soup, salads, a main course, potatoes/pasta, vegetables, and dessert. Students MUST book their meals before 10 am



Fig. 4.1: The Rew Nooner Spoom

on the day they want to go to 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.

Informal hall is available every day, canteen style, and food can be bought between 5:45 pm to 7:00 pm (6:30 pm on Fridays).

Formal hall is held every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday during term time, and is served. For formal hall diners have to be seated for 7.15 pm, stand when the Fellows enter, then sit after saying grace. Unusually for Oxford, we do not stand up when the Fellows leave at the end of dinner. During these dinner we have to wear gowns, but can wear them over casual clothing. There are occasionally other dinners, in particular guest night dinners, which are held fortnightly on odd-numbered term weeks. These guest dinners are a great favourite of the MCR for their lavish 3-course catering and the customary after-parties. One great perk of New College dining is that MCR members may bring up to 4 guests. Guest night dinners are charged at £ 15.55 per person.

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 and persuade your college adviser to invite you to dine at high table.

4.1.4 College Bar

The college bar, beer cellar, or JCR bar, is primarily college run. It is open all day offering sandwiches, cakes, coffee and beverages and starts serving alcohol from 6 pm to 11 pm during term, and often out of term as well. The bar is located under the hall and has games such as table football.

Drinks are cheap (considerably cheaper than in town), and priced at the level of the MCR bar. You can pay cash but it is slightly cheaper to use your Bod-card and charge it to your till account.

4.1.5 Sports facilities

New College has one of the best and most beautiful sports grounds in Oxford, located a five-minute walk from college on St. Cross Road. This has football and rugby pitches, a cricket pitch and nets, one hard tennis court and six grass courts and a volleyball court in the summer. There is a squash court and table-tennis table in the pavilion. Many of the facilities can be in the Weston lodge or using the online

booking system. There is plenty of equipment in the Weston lodge for many of these sports for use by MCR members.

College has sports teams in a wide range of sports: details will be available during freshers' fortnight. The MCR also has its own football team and cricket team. The collegiate nature of the university makes it very easy to get involved in sport whilst at Oxford.

Rowing is very popular in Oxford. College has a boathouse on the Isis and a very active boat club. There will be several novice boats run during Michaelmas, as well as opportunities for experienced rowers. Again, these will be advertised in freshers' fortnight.

We also have a punt shed located at the sports ground; punts may be taken out from here during the summer. New College does not have its own gym. However, members of college have free access to the university gym at the Iffley Road. To access the Iffley Road gym, simply bring your Bod card to the gym's front desk and inform the attendant of your college membership. You will be asked to fill out some paperwork. Another work-out option is the University Club, which is very close to New College on Mansfield Road, and of which all Oxford graduate students are members. A year-round pass to the Club's gym may be purchased for around £60.



Fig. 4.2: The College sports ground

4.1.6 MCR BBQ

In 2013 we had a communal BBQ built behind the cricket pavilion overlooking the sports ground. It is currently available for MCR events only, but is intended to be accessible for any MCR member's private function in the future. The MCR committee usually organizes BBQ-related events in the end of Trinity term and during the summer break.

4.1.7 The Library

The College has a library which is located in the Holywell Quad. It is open from 8.30 am to midnight during term and from 08.30-17.00 out of term (the student body is campaigning hard to lengthen these hours). The library's collection is aimed mainly at undergraduate studies; however, the library is also available for graduates to use for work. Books and DVDs may be borrowed from the College library.

4.1.8 IT

All rooms in college have ethernet access. This connection can be activated by plugging in your computer using an ethernet cable, opening your internet browser and following the automated security program. There is also wi-fi in the Spoom, Weston buildings, JCR and library which is activated in the same way. Returning students should find that wi-fi coverage has now improved with reasonable signal reaching even the upstairs rooms. IT services are continually working to improve wireless internet connectivity throughout the college.

There is an MCR computer room in the Sports Pavilion containing two PCs and a laser printer. There is also a JCR computer room in NB2, which has some more advanced printers. 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: <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/email/config/>

4.1.9 Chapel

The chapel welcomes all college members to its services, which take place during the eight weeks of 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 every weekday evening apart from Wednesday. College communion is at 9 am on Sunday and is followed by breakfast. Advent and Christmas Carol Services are held on the Sundays of 8th week and 9th week of Michaelmas Term.

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, and the choir website (www.newcollegechoir.com).

4.1.10 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 an offence, not just at college, but also at university level and the punishment is to be sent down.

4.1.11 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 Rudi Rahn (rudi.rahn@new.ox.ac.uk).



Fig. 4.3: The hall, set for a medieval dinner



Fig. 4.4: The *chalet des anglais*



Fig. 4.5: The cloisters from New College tower

4.1.12 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.

4.2 The University

4.2.1 Libraries

Oxford has numerous different libraries. As a student, you are a reader at the famous Bodleian and the associated Radcliffe Science Library. There will 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/>.

4.2.2 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 (£82/year), running track (where Roger Bannister ran the first four minute mile), tennis courts, squash courts, sports hall, indoor cricket nets and a number of other facilities.

There is also a wide range of university sports teams. Find out about these either online (www.sport.ox.ac.uk) or sign-up at the freshers' fair during freshers' week.

4.2.3 Students union - OUSU

Oxford students are also represented by the student union. This has its headquarters in Bonn Square. They are a useful source of information on a number of topics; check www.ousu.org for more information.

4.2.4 The Oxford Union

Although not officially part of the university, the Oxford Union is closely associated with it. The membership fee in 2013 was £236, or £213 during freshers' week, but is for life. However, the Union runs many good events, attracts many famous speakers and are one of the leading debating societies in the world. 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: <http://www.oxford-union.org/>

4.2.5 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

4.2.6 The Careers Service

The University Careers Service, located at 56 Banbury Road, is the main resource for what happens after you leave Oxford. Whether it is landing an internship or job, applying for postgraduate study or a postdoc anywhere in the world, or just going to a Careers Fair to get free stuff, it is recommended to register with them on their website: www.careers.ox.ac.uk to be able to access the range of advice and information. The Director of the Careers Service, incidentally, is a member of the New College SCR (Jonathan Black).

4.3 Town

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

4.3.1 Sporting clubs

As well as University clubs, there are many town sports clubs, i.e. not part of the university. These are often more expensive than university clubs, but some have better facilities and they will have a different atmosphere. Many graduate students use gym facilities which are not part of the university.

4.3.2 Pubs and bars

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.

4.3.3 Clubs

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.

4.4 Doctors

Occasionally we all get ill and need to go visit the doctors. New College has a Nurse and doctors visit the site. During term and out of term the doctors can be found in their practice on 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 following information on going to the doctors has been taken from the college website: <http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/medical>.

The College Medical Officers, (College Doctors) Dr John Sichel and Dr Clare Stephenson have agreed to accept any member of the College who is resident in the UK for longer than 6 months as an NHS patient. Their practice is at 28 Beaumont Street (01865 311811; www.28beaumontstreet.co.uk), and they hold a surgery in College in 1 NB in term times.

4.4.1 College Surgery

The College Doctors hold a surgery in 1 NB on a **Monday 12.00 pm - 12.40 pm and Thursday from 12.30 pm - 1.10 pm in term times (1st to 8th Week)**. It is advisable to book ahead, if possible, for one of these appointments. To book an appointment, you can drop in, telephone the practice on 01865 311811, or email Tara, the College Nurse (4.4.2). The College Doctors are very experienced in dealing with students and will always respond sympathetically to students' needs.

4.4.2 College Nurse

The College Nurse, **Tara McGuinness**, can be seen in the surgery in **1 NB from 0th to 9th Week**. Tara provides a **strictly confidential** nursing service along with many of the treatments you would expect from your practice nurse, including contraceptive advice and free contraceptives. The service she provides is friendly and professional, please drop in to the college nurse surgeries - no appointment is necessary.

- Telephone: 01865 (2)79579 or 07741 312828 - there is voicemail if you wish to leave a message.
Out of surgery hours you can call the porters at 01865 (2)79500 and they will reach the nurse for you.
- Email: college.nurse@new.ox.ac.uk

Monday	11.30 - 12.00 (Female college doctor 12.00-12.40)
Tuesday	9.00 - 12.00
Wednesday	1.30 - 4.30
Thursday	12.00 - 12.30 (Male college doctor 12.30-1.10)
Friday	9.00 - 11.00

Table 4.1: Surgery Opening Hours

4.4.3 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). In order to do that, the students must 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](#). There are two NHS dentists that are known to take on students: Studental (located at Oxford Brookes University in Headington; telephone: 01865 484068, e-mail: reception@studental.co.uk) and Oasis (22 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2NA; telephone: 01865 243702, e-mail: reception.oxford@oasis-healthcare.com).

- 
- Freshers' Fortnight
 - Guest night
 - End-of-term dinners
 - End-of-year garden party
 - Exchange dinners
 - Brunch
 - Bar Nights
 - Bops
 - New Collection
 - Colloquia
 - The MCR play
 - Other events

5. What the MCR does for you

5.1 Freshers' Fortnight

One of the most important things that the MCR does is to provide two weeks of entertainment and orientation for you when you arrive. Details will be published when you arrive (both in your pidge and posted around accommodation). The first event will be held in the Spoom4.1.1 on Sunday of 0th week (4th October). This will be followed by a wide range of events: parties, dinners, pub crawls, quizzes, teas and many more events to help you settle in. It all finishes with the matriculation ceremony on Saturday of 1st week when you formally become part of the University. You do not need to matriculate if you have already studied at Oxford, Cambridge, or Trinity College, Dublin. Remember to wear your sub-fusc and gown to matriculation!

5.2 Guest night

Our main regular social events are *guest nights*. MCR guest nights happen on Friday of odd weeks so there are four a term. Dinner is usually of a very high standard and costs £15.55. Members may invite up to four 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 are second desserts 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 this even if you didn't attend the dinner.

Guest nights are very popular and you need to sign-up early on food.new.ox.ac.uk to avoid disappointment. Sign-ups start a week early: at 12:01 am on the preceding Friday.

5.3 End-of-term dinners

The last guest night of term is an end-of-term dinner for which the MCR puts up a subsidy to make this last dinner extra special. Guests are limited to allow as many MCR members as possible to attend. Expect a theme, decorations, free drinks and an after-party with a DJ in the MCR.

5.4 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 a bouncy castle, games, Pimm's and other summer delights taking you from the day to dancing at night, and pray for good weather!

5.5 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 desserts are included. These events vary between being a special dinner with high table food or occurring during regular formal dinners. The MCR also tries to do an exchange with a Cambridge college once a year.

5.6 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!



Fig. 5.1: A brunch in the Spoom



Fig. 5.2: Typical scene at the garden party

5.7 Bar Nights

During term the MCR opens the bar between 9.00-11.00 pm on a Wednesday and Thursday. The bar is also open on alternate Friday evenings and the occasional Saturday evening.

5.8 Bops

Bops are the highlight of the MCR party scene. Around once a term the MCR will throw parties with a fun theme and a DJ in the Spoom. They normally occur after guest night dinners and the bar remains open later than usual. Other colleges also host their own Bops located on their grounds, which you are welcome to attend if advertised.

5.9 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



Fig. 5.3: Absolutely typical bar night



Fig. 5.4: A bop

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.

5.10 Colloquia

Each term, members of the MCR are invited to present their research in colloquia. Around 2009, we introduced a new tradition, collaborating with the SCR for the first time. The colloquia comprise a 20-30 minute talk by a graduate student, followed by a response from a member of the SCR working in the same field. The floor is then opened to general questions and discussion, with members from not just the MCR, but also JCR and SCR invited to attend. These talks are an excellent opportunity to gain presentation experience, but more importantly the Graduate Colloquia are the cornerstone of our intellectual engagement with College. The atmosphere is informal and supportive, and offers a chance to learn what it is your peers may be working on in labs and libraries when away from Weston and the Spoom! The new SCR involvement also offers a great chance to get expert feedback on your work from someone other than your supervisor. Past colloquia have covered topics ranging from The Universe, to Crime fiction. The goal is to present an academic topic in which you are presently immersed to an audience who may or may not have experience of the concepts.

The MCR Vice-President organizes the colloquia and is always seeking MCR members willing to present a colloquium, so please consider doing so, emailing Tanja Collavo (tanja.collavo@new.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested.

Since last year, a fervour forum has been introduced as well, always organized by the MCR Vice-President. The Fervour Forum consists of 5 minutes presentations/demonstrations of an MCR member's hobby or passion and followed by 5-10 minutes Q&A. Usually there are 3-4 presentations in the same way and they represent a great way to know better other MCR members and learn new, funny and interesting things.

5.11 The MCR play

The Arts and Culture organizes every year a theatre played performed in Trinity term either in the college garden or cloisters. Actors and Production team are selected primarily from volunteers from the

MCR. The play is usually on stage for an entire weekend and requires around six weeks of preparation and rehearsals. In 2015 the MCR produced *Hay Fever*, a comedy set in the '20s, obtaining a great success across both college and non-college audiences. If you want to be involved with the next MCR theatre play, get in touch with Dionysios (dionysios.kyropoulos@music.ox.ac.uk).



Fig. 5.5: The 2015 MCR play, *Hay Fever*

5.12 Other events

The MCR puts on several other events during the term in addition to the regulars. These include orchestral concert trips, MCR quizzes, a play, cheese and wine tasting, etc. These occur regularly throughout term, so keep an eye on the MCR mailing list and Facebook page for adverts.



Fig. 5.6: Cheese and Wine tasting



Fig. 5.7: Freshers' Week Pub Crawl



Fig. 5.8: Narnia-themed End-of-term Dinner



6. 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 growing numbers of students living in Castle Mill and Warham House. All accommodation costs approximately £130 per week.

All College-owned graduate rooms are single study bedrooms that have a wealth of facilities including desk spaces, lamps, bookshelves, internal telephone, Ethernet connection, and heaters. As of 2013, the buildings have also been fitted with wireless Internet access. Rooms will have 240 V electrical sockets as well as sockets for razors near the basins.

Graduate 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.

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 Joan Fraser (joan.fraser@new.ox.ac.uk), but arrange this well in advance since these rooms are very popular during each term.

6.1 Weston Buildings

The Weston Buildings are located alongside a branch of the River Cherwell at the College Sports Ground, which is a short seven-minute walk from the main college site. The buildings provide 96 rooms for graduate students, which are divided into 16 houses. 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.

6.2 Warham House

Warham house has 9 rooms for first-year and returning graduate students. It is located on Mansfield Road about two minutes' walk from college. It has recently been refurbished to a very high standard. The rooms are mostly large, although they are all different. There are a couple of kitchens, five toilets and four bath/shower rooms. There is one washing machine and tumble dryer.

6.3 Castle Mill

Castle Mill is a university accommodation complex situated in central west Oxford close to the Railway Station, which is a ten-minute bike ride from the college and many research buildings of the University. Each of the newly constructed 18 bedrooms earmarked for New College has en-suite bathroom facilities with a kitchen and dining room that is shared between the four to six students on each floor. There are four washing machines and dryers available on site.



Fig. 6.1: The Weston complex, Warham house and Castle Mill accommodation sites.



Fig. 6.2: A kitchen and a typical room in the Weston buildings

7. Money

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 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 food.new.ox.ac.uk. You can also make payments through the golden letterbox in the wall, even when the Bursary is not open. If you have issues with payments, you can contact Linda Goodsell (linda.goodsell@new.ox.ac.uk) or visit during opening hours. Bear in mind that the bursary is extremely busy in the first few weeks of term.

7.1 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 first battels will be put in your pidge, but after this it will be e-mailed to you. 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) through the food.new.ox.ac.uk website.

7.2 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 *CAN NOT* go in debt in the college and MCR bars, unlike in the hall, where you can go in debt without interests 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 food.new.ox.ac.uk website and your debit card, however, you can also pay by cheque to the bursary.

7.3 Travel grants, hardship grants and bursaries

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/graduate-awards.

There are numerous other funds for various things, particularly sport and other *meritorious* activities which will be advertised throughout the year in communication by college.. 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.

Outside of 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 (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/alf>). The University website has further information on possible sources of financial support at www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/graduates and OUSU offers an advice service (advice@ousu.org).

There are some other 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/graduate-awards. You can apply for them via the Bursar, David Palfreyman (bursar@new.ox.ac.uk)

7.4 Earning money

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 no one is guaranteed to get a teaching opportunity. 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.



8. Essential admin after arrival

8.1 Room key

The first thing to do when you arrive is to 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.

8.2 Bod-card

Your Bodleian reader card, always referred to as your *Bod-card*, is effectively your university card. You need it to get into college and college buildings, buy food in hall, drinks in the bar and to get into most buildings and departments across the university. It is therefore something you need to get hold of as soon as possible. You can collect your Bod card from the graduate office in 4OB3 as soon as you arrive.

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 in 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 (it-support@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 and add you automatically, but a lot of people don't get signed up, so you should do this yourself. E-mail newmcr-l-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk from any e-mail account to be added to the list. In order to unsubscribe you can e-mail newmcr-l-unsubscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk.

Things to bring
Gowns and academic dress
Bicycles
Welfare
LGBTQ+ students
Terms
Transportation

9. Local information

9.1 Things to bring

For your room: 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 no longer provides 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.

For the kitchen: You will need to bring or buy your own plates, bowls, mugs, glasses, cutlery and storage containers. Sandwich toasters, bottle openers and the like can be especially handy. College DOES provide kitchens with a microwave, a toaster and a kettle. Boswells and other general goods stores in Oxford offer discounts on all home-ware purchases in the first few weeks of term on presentation of your Bod card. Robert Dyas is a good bet as they do a year-round student discount. Your kitchen may have some of these items left over from previous students, and your kitchen-mates may be happy to share what they have: check before you spend!

Clothes: Despite the impression given by the photos in this guide, it 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. There will be a few formal occasions when College serves up its finest cuisine, and many more optional black tie events besides, so pack some classy clothes. For men, there are many opportunities to wear dinner suits and although it is easily possible to get by without one, if you bring one or buy one in Oxford you will get good use out of it.

9.2 Gowns and academic dress

One of the classic images of Oxford is students going around in gowns and academic dress. You also need a gown for dining at formal hall and various other occasions in college; at New College it can just be worn over normal clothes for formal hall. Most graduate students will wear a graduate gown, although you can wear the gown of your old university.

You need academic dress, called sub fusc, for formal university events such as matriculation, university exams and research degree vivas as well as for graduation. This is special 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, but you might want to choose the less common soft cap as an alternative, which was traditionally worn by women. 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 in the first couple of weeks of term.



Fig. 9.1: Oxford natives in traditional costumes



Fig. 9.2: *EVERYTHING* in Oxford is done in sub fusc and gown!

9.3 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 expect to pay more than £50. Bike theft is the most common crime committed against Oxford students, so a high-quality D-lock is essential (£15 for students <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/ouss/cra/cyclesecurity/>).

9.4 Welfare

College provides a constellation of people attuned to all manner of welfare matters: there are the Cox and Salvesen Fellows, both experts in the ways of pastoral care; the Chaplain, who can advise on any issue, spiritual or otherwise; the porters, frequently indispensable in times of need; the Dean, the Assistant Dean, and the two Junior Deans; as well as our MCR welfare officer and trained peer supporters. See below for contact information.

Please note that the phone numbers without brackets are from internal lines (e.g. using the phone in your room at Weston). From outside lines, including your own mobile, dial the area code 01865, then 2 and then the number. Please make an appointment in advance (preferably via email) to see the Cox or the Salvesen Fellow. In an emergency, however, contact the Porters' Lodge and they will get in touch with a member of the welfare team for you straight away

Welfare Contacts	Telephone and e-mail
Main Porters' Lodge	(01865 2)79500
Weston Porters' Lodge	(01865 2)81081
Nightline (8 pm-8 am, 0th-9th week)	(01865 2)70270
Counselling Service	(01865 2)70300 <i>reception@counsel.ox.ac.uk</i>
Student Advice Service	<i>advice@ousu.org</i>
Emergency	999

Table 9.1: Welfare Contacts

New College Welfare Team	Telephone and e-mail
Erica Longfellow, Chaplain (3OB6)	(01865 2)79451 <i>erica.longfellow@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
Tom Cutterham, Cox Fellow	(01865 2)79514 <i>tom.cutterham@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
Ryan Hanley, Salvesen Fellow	(01865 2)79531 <i>ryan.hanley@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
Caroline Thomas, Domestic Bursar	(01865 2)79560 <i>caroline.thomas@new.ox.ac.uk</i>

Table 9.2: New College Welfare Team

MCR Peer Supporters	e-mail
Belinda Faust (Welfare Officer)	<i>belinda.faust@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
Martin Hallmannsecker (LGBTQ+ officer)	<i>martin.hallmannsecker@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
Cristina Golomoz (Women's Officer)	<i>cristina.golomoz@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
Erika Lam (Peer Supporter)	<i>erika.lam@new.ox.ac.uk</i>
Richard Millar (Peer Supporter)	<i>richard.millar@new.ox.ac.uk</i>

Table 9.3: Peer Supporters

9.5 LGBTQ+ students

There is a lot going on at Oxford for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transexual and intersex students. The 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. There are LGBTQ students in the New College MCR and all across the town and University, so there will be plenty of friendly faces to show you the sights and give you the insiders' tips on the best places to go out. Alternatively, get in touch with the lovely Hamish (*martin.hallmannsecker@new.ox.ac.uk*), your very own LGBTQ+ rep on the MCR committee, who keeps you updated with all the weekly events and is always approachable in case you need someone to talk to. OU LGBTQ+ Society (<http://oulgbtsoc.com>) 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, and OUSU also have a Queer Rights group if you are interested in the more activist side of things. More information on freshers' events outside college will be available in freshers' fortnight.

9.6 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.

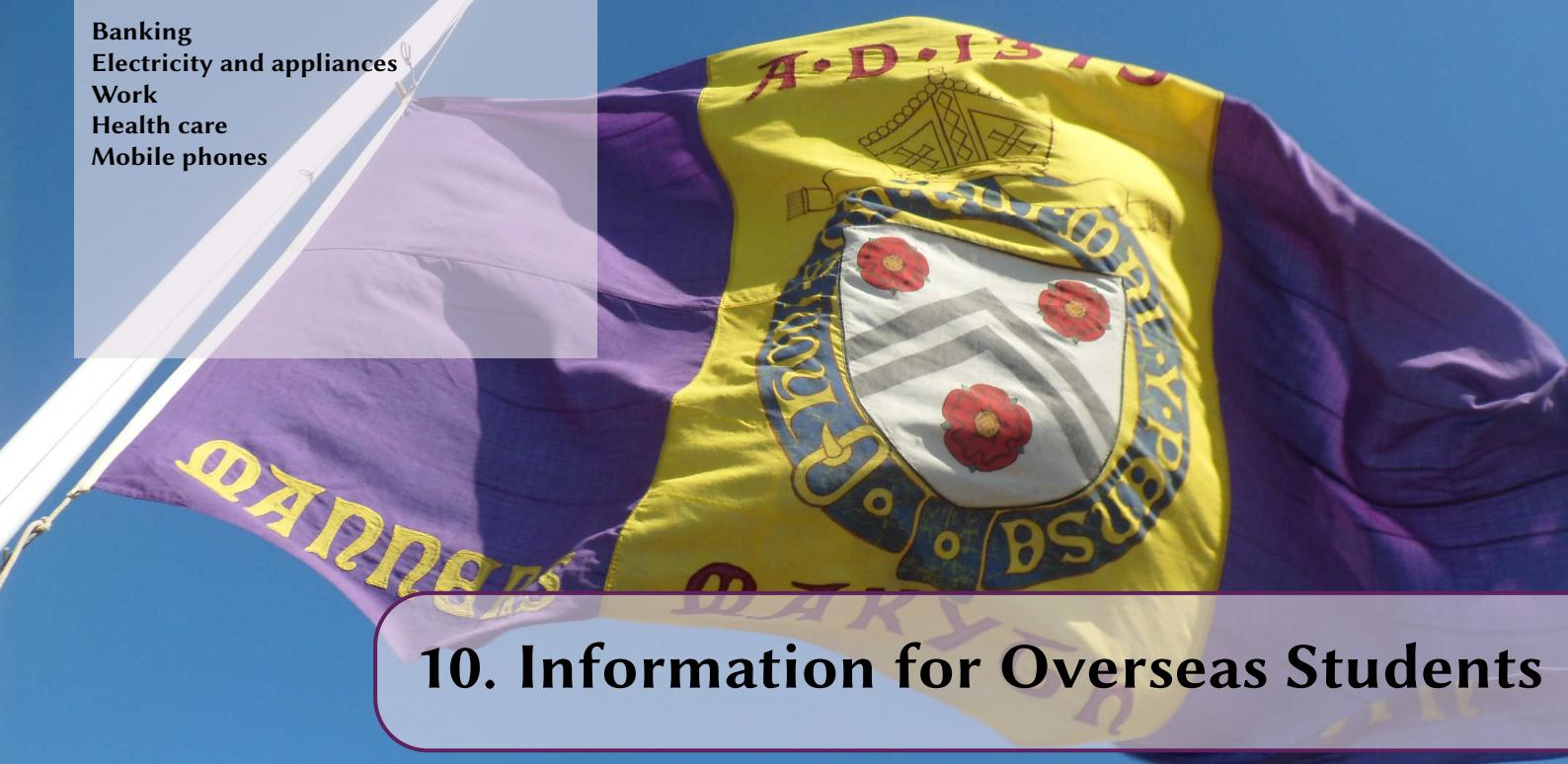
9.7 Transportation

The public transport system in and around Oxford relies mainly on the *Oxford Bus Company* buses, the single fare in the centre region is £1, to be paid to the driver (they prefer exact change).

The main connections to London are run by the *Oxford Tube*, a bus line from Oxford's central bus station at Gloucester Green to London Victoria, and *First Great Western*, the train carrier connecting Oxford to London Paddington. Both offer various fares depending on booking date, return date, number of tickets bought, etc. The cheapest fare for both of them is £10-12 for a return ticket, but the availability conditions vary.

There is now also a new train connection between Oxford and London Marleybone run by *Chiltern Railways*.

Luton and Stansted airports can be reached by bus via *National Express*, Heathrow and Gatwick via the *Airline*, a bus operated by the Oxford Bus Company. Tickets for all of them can be bought via the *National Express page*, 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 Oxford Tube to Oxford comes to £21), as can *Coachcards* and *Railcards*, which allow you to save a fixed percentage of the fare for many routes. Their usefulness depends heavily on your travel style, but they may be worth a look.



10. Information for Overseas Students

See also: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/international>

10.1 Banking

The following banks have branches in central Oxford:

- Barclays: 54 Cornmarket Street
- The Cooperative Bank: 13 New Road
- Halifax: 13A New Road
- HSBC: 65 Cornmarket Street
- Lloyds: corner of High, Cornmarket, Queen, and St Aldate's Streets.
- NatWest: 121 High Street and corner of Cornmarket and George Street
- Royal Bank of Scotland: corner of St Giles and Little Clarendon Street.
- Nationwide: 44 Queen Street
- Santander: 114 St Aldate's Street
- TSB Bank: 17 George Street

The details of bank accounts change rapidly; an up-to-date comparison of student accounts can be found at: <http://www.savethestudent.org/money/student-banking/student-bank-accounts.html>

Opening an account is surprisingly difficult. It is worth asking your bank at home if they can set up an account for you with an English bank (or another agency such as Thomas Cook in Australia). 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 admissions letter from College should do this as well (at least in the first weeks of term). Sometimes banks will be difficult about this, demanding bills which you logically will not yet have; this may be a sign that they are not the bank for you.
- It may also be necessary to provide details of your previous bank accounts (i.e. a statement)

Many of the banks will have stalls at the International Students' Orientation with exact descriptions of their current requirements.

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.

Bureau de Change counters are available in every bank for converting currencies. There are both American Express and Thomas Cook offices on Queen Street. Marks and Spencer on Queen Street also offers a currency exchange, as does the exchange service at the tourist information on Broad Street.

Many overseas students have found it difficult, costly, and time-consuming to access funds from their home countries. Ideally, arrange to arrive in the UK with a certified cheque issued by your 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.

10.2 Electricity and appliances

With the proper precautions and planning, you should be able to bring most of your electrical appliances with you to Oxford. Be forewarned, however, that the UK's different electrical current and cycle rate has cost many the ill-prepared graduate some piece of much-loved equipment.

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*, 4f (pg. 27).

10.3 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. Citizens of the UK, EEA and Switzerland have no work restrictions. Holders of Tier 4 visas are restricted - your passport sticker should state the exact restrictions (see here: <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Can-you-worklayer-5316>). These restrictions apply to paid teaching or pastoral work undertaken for a College or the University. The UK government has a scheme for doctoral students to stay in the UK to work after finishing a degree, and full details can be found on their website: <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studieslayer-3780/>. The *University Careers Service* offers sessions and resources on working internationally or staying to work in the UK.

10.4 Health care

See also

- <http://www.new.ox.ac.uk/international-visiting-students>
- <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSENGLAND/Pages/NHSEngland.aspx>

New College has its own GP (medical doctor) on 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 £150 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 (£8.20 for most medicine), and subsidised dental care. Sight tests, contact lenses and glasses are not covered by NHS.

10.5 Mobile phones

The UK is a very mobile-phone-centred nation and you will really need a mobile to stay in touch with friends while here. Most Brits use texts (also known as SMS) or phone-based internet chat as their main form 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! Without a bank account and/or proof of steady income, you will most likely not qualify for the *pay monthly* option, and will have to purchase a *pay as you go* plan. It is highly recommended therefore that, after you have your bank account set up, you go and sign up for a monthly contract rather than a pay as you go plan.