



HERTFORD COLLEGE

alternative
prospectus

written, edited, and designed by the students of Hertford College, Oxford



Welcome To HERTFORD

Come one, come all and have a read of our wonderful Alternative Prospectus! This isn't about boring entry requirements and course structure, but about the things you really want to know when you're making a decision about whether Oxford is the right place for you to go.

We hope you think it is, and we hope that Hertford will be the college for you too, for all reasons given in this prospectus. Hopefully, this will debunk a few of the myths which surround the University of Oxford, and convince you that Hertford College really is an amazing place to live and to study, no matter where you're from or where you're planning to go next!

At Hertford, we are doing everything we can to prove that the only barriers in the way of you and an Oxford education should be academic ones, and not social or economic. Oxford University has one of the most generous bursary schemes in the entire country, and at Hertford we go one step further, guaranteeing further financial support to any student who qualifies for a University bursary or fee reduction.

More than that, we are more pro-active than ever in taking this message, that Hertford welcomes absolutely anyone with the academic potential to study here, to students across the country. The JCR, that is the 'Junior Common Room', the undergraduate community at Hertford, have been working extremely hard with the SCR, that is the 'Senior Common Room', the staff and academics at Hertford, to develop a number of new access and outreach schemes. With a new Outreach Fellow, we now go to more schools, and have more schools coming to us, than ever before. In the summer of 2013, we embarked on our first ever Student Roadshow, to tell hundreds of students that Oxford and Hertford can be the perfect place for them to study, and have carried this on since! Dozens of students directly help out with access projects at Hertford every year, showing just how committed undergraduates are to making sure our community is reflective of society-at-large.

In this prospectus, lots of students will give you a true perspective on being at Hertford College, and tell you why it's something you should definitely consider.

The experience here is unique: from the biggest student-run Music Society in Oxford, to tens of teams playing almost every sport imaginable, there really is something here for everyone. If you're less interested in sports and the arts, and more interested in politics and current affairs, the 'Hertford Conversations' bring huge names from the world of business, the media and parliament to your doorstep – a few years ago Hugh Grant even rolled up for a visit! Combine this with tutors at the cutting edge of their disciplines and an amazing community spirit, and Hertford College really does have so much to offer you.

I could go on and on about why you should think about coming here, but I think my peers will do a much better job than I ever could. We hope this provides a useful insight into what choosing to come here would be like and that, off the back of reading this, you decide to apply – we'd love to have you!

Ella Drake

JCR President



Contents

1	Welcome to Hertford	11	Sport
2	The College	13	International Students
5	Life at Hertford	14	Welfare
7	'Days in the Life'	15	Finances
9	Extra-curriculars	15	Get in Touch
10	Music and HartFest		

The College

Hertford is located on Catte St, right in the centre of Oxford

We're five minutes' walk from the main shopping area, ten minutes from the main clubs, and fifteen minutes from the sports centre. Two of Oxford's most iconic buildings - the Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera - are right outside our front door.

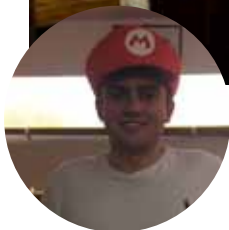
Hertford has three quads: OB (Old Buildings), NB (New Buildings), and Holywell. OB is, unsurprisingly, the oldest,

and contains the main dining hall, library, lodge and a really lovely lawn. NB is home to a few students, and, perhaps most importantly, both the bar and gym. Finally, Holywell houses the majority of the freshers and the JCR (Junior Common Room - we have a FIFA room, PS4, Sky HD, movie projector, pool table, quiz machine and even a ball pit!) so you'll always be able to catch up with people milling around.



Lydia Benazaize
Medicine, 2nd Year





THE BAR

James Ross
PPE, 2nd Year

Hertford College Bar, often referred to as DTB (down the bar) is located at the back of the college's NB quad. It is a characterful underground cavern of mystery and mischief, boasting five distinct rooms to suit any mood or occasion – a particular highlight being a room decorated with 'permanently borrowed' street signs from around Oxford.

Furnished with a darts board, football table and a games machine, the bar is the social hub of college, equally perfect for quiet drinks and big nights out.

Drinks are considerably cheaper than any local pubs or bars, with an average pint costing around £2 and a single mixer, £1.50. Additionally, the bar hosts several events such as a weekly charity bar quiz and termly 'open mic nights', making it one of the most frequented college bars in Oxford.



THE GYM

Lily Erskine, Spanish and Portuguese, 2nd Year

Our recently-renovated gym has been designed with the aim of having something for everything - we have a full range of free weights and barbells, a cable machine, a treadmill, bikes and rowing machines for when rowers can't get out on the water! Hertford gym is an inclusive, friendly environment and everyone is welcome to use it regardless of fitness level. Best of all, it's free to use for both JCR and MCR members.



THE LIBRARY

Though we might not like to think it, our library is a pretty central part of life at Hertford. Every college has its own library which caters for the subjects that the college offers; only students from the college can borrow from their college library. You might wonder why we need a library in college when we have access to much bigger libraries around Oxford - Hertford library is a friendly and familiar place to work, and it's really handy if you live on the

THE JCR

Archie Jones
English, 3rd Year

The College 'JCR' is two things; a place to relax in Holywell Quad (complete with kitchen, pool table, sofas and a PS4), as well as a collective term for all undergraduate students at Hertford. The physical area provides a chilled alternative environment to the library. A range of specific events also run throughout the year (Welfare Teas, Hartfest Arts Weekend etc.). Our JCR now boasts to be the only JCR in Oxford to have their own ball pit, something we won in a competition against our college rivals St Hilda's.

As a student body, the JCR meets regularly to canvass and then represent student interests over pretty much every aspect of College life (from sport to food and housing). The JCR is also a constituent member of OUSU (Oxford University Student Union), which engages more directly with departments and the central University over student Welfare and Academic Affairs.

college site. There is also the advantage of being able to request any books you need for your course that aren't already in the library - this means you never have to spend money on expensive textbooks! Hertford's library is open 24/7 and is self-service, which means you can borrow and return books whenever you like, and work in there for as long as you need. Perfect for making that 9am deadline you forgot about...



ICT Paavan Patanj Buddhdev
Computer Science and Philosophy, 3rd Year

Hertford has a huge range of technology for students to use. Students can use the cinema projector in the JCR to watch movies or play using the games consoles, rent mini-projectors to watch films on the walls or ceilings of their rooms, and access superfast wired and wireless internet in all Hertford buildings.

On top of being able to work in our computer rooms, everyone also gets a license to use MS Office for free on their own machines. But most importantly, we have an amazing and friendly IT team that can help out with any faulty laptops and even loan out replacement netbooks.



FOOD & ACCOMMODATION

Alex Foster, Geography, 3rd Year

Hertford's main site dining hall ('Hall') offers three meals a day during the week and brunch on Saturday and Sunday. For those living in South Oxford there is a dining room in Warnock house (located behind the Head of the River pub). Our head chefs, Frankie and Nigel, cook fantastic food and accommodate nearly all dietary requirements.

For a more 'Oxford' experience, Hertford holds two formal dining nights a week (Wednesdays and Sundays), where you can get a three course meal for less than £10, and other less regular 'guest nights' and special events like Christmas formals.

All the food you eat in college is paid for termly. You use your university card (Bod card) each time you eat in Hall or Warnock, so there's no upfront payment, and you only ever pay for the meals you eat. There is no compulsory catering charge.

Hertford, unlike most colleges, guarantees housing for all three or four years of your degree. All freshers are housed

on the main college site in the centre of Oxford, with everything needed for Oxford life within a five minute walk. Second, third, and fourth years 'ballot' for their accommodation with a group of friends, and this random ballot decides on the order in which people get to choose their rooms.

The college holds a range of properties in order to suit the different styles of living that you, as a student, may wish to experience. In South Oxford there are two halls-style accommodation areas (Warnock and Abingdon House) and three houses, and in North Oxford, there are five houses of varying sizes. No property is further than a 15 minute cycle from college, with most properties within a 10 minute walk. This isn't to say that all non-fresher students live outside the college main site, some students are able to move back in for their third and fourth years at Oxford. On top of this, students going into third year choose their rooms before other students (except for scholars), so you'll be in a great room for your final year.



From top to bottom: NB Quad, Holywell Quad, Mary Warnock House, and Geoffrey Warnock House



Alternatives

A freshers' guide to college cooking

Lily MacTaggart, History, 1st Year

I arrived at Hertford a vegan laden with Ikea utensils and excited to learn how to cook at uni... But disaster struck! My mum and I spent a good ten minutes exploring my staircase but there was no kitchen, only a measly couple of fridges.

I ate in hall for the first few days, but since then I've only gone to hall so I can eat with a wider range of people. The kitchens are small and there isn't anywhere to sit, but they're always busy so it's pretty sociable!

There isn't lots of space, there's only a couple of hobs per kitchen, so occasionally you have to wait, but it means you can chat with people (I definitely have friends I've only met through cooking). There's a lot of fridge space and although there are only two ovens in college (one in the JCR kitchen) they work pretty well and are never in high demand!

I'd buy the basic cooking equipment and see if you need anything else after arriving, it's

easy to get hold of stuff here! Many people hardly ever cook, but as someone who only ever cooks I'd say it's not as hard and lonely as you might think.

Finally, to those who say student food consists entirely of pasta and pesto I offer the proof of the pie I baked this weekend. Yep, a whole pie. Cooking in Hertford isn't always ideal but it's very much possible.



Life at Hertford



COLLEGE FAMILIES

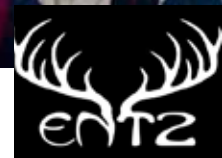
Frankie Martin, PPE, 4th Year

Life in Hertford does not lack in home comforts. You have cooked meals, your bin changed and a pet (albeit communal) cat called Simpkins.

Our cosiness stretches to the formation of 'college families'. Before you arrive as a Fresher you will be contacted by your 'parents', a couple of second year students. One of them will do your subject and you are likely to have at least one college sibling, corresponding to your other parent's course of study. They will be there to help you through any pre-term worries, and you will meet them for a meal soon after arriving. Without even trying you've got at least three friends: a 'sibling' in your year and a pair of second years to help guide you through your first term. They will be able to offer invaluable academic advice, some moral support and provide a stepping stone to friendships with the other years.

We take our family history seriously, and you are likely to find yourself being introduced to grandparents and uncles and aunts and cousins. The ease with which such familial titles are used is surprising at first, but soon you will learn to meet the statement 'I'm meeting my great-grandmother down the bar' without raised eyebrows.

College children aren't found under gooseberry bushes, and to have children of your own you will have to get married. Snaring a spouse is not something to stress about. It isn't considered a precursor to a real relationship, and it's actually advisable to steer clear of someone you fancy: imagine how awkward the family meal with your kids will be if it doesn't work out. Hertford is a progressive college and same-sex relationships are not merely common but unavoidable as Hertford normally boasts a male-female balance in which the ladies outweigh the lads.



Being on the ENTZ team is probably (definitely) the most fun position on the committee of reps within Hertford.

We're basically in charge of making sure that everyone has a good time.

We organise both alcoholic and non-alcoholic events that the entire student body of the JCR can be involved with. This mostly means we organise bops - at Hertford a bop is basically a massive whole college party where we book out a club, get outrageous drinks deals and encourage ridiculous fancy dress. The whole college comes together and these always turn into the biggest nights of the term. (We try not to take any responsibility for the repercussions the next day.)

We also organise a lot of non-alcoholic events as well - these include pub quizzes down the bar and events such as *Hertford does 'Take Me Out'*. ENTZ are around to make sure that everyone takes enough time out from their degree to have a good time, a role that is really important if you go to Oxford! It's a really fun job and is open to Freshers, so it's a great way to begin getting involved in college life early on in your degree, as well as giving great experience of event planning and organising large groups of people.





LGBTQ+

Mahmoud Ghanem
Computer Science
and Philosophy
2nd Year

Oxford might not be the biggest city but it has an active and exciting LGBTQ social scene. The university has a thriving society which organises weekly drinks and fortnightly brunches as well as speaker events throughout the year and special events for trans people, bisexual/pansexual people, asexual and aromantic people as well as women's events. Outside of this Oxford boasts three LGBTQ clubnights each week.

Hertford is an inclusive and welcoming college for all its students where you should feel safe and secure to be yourself regardless of your sexual orientation or gender identity. As well as our brilliant and friendly Welfare Officers there's also a college LGBTQ+ rep who you can speak to if you have any welfare questions or complaints, or who can put you in touch with the university-wide network of rainbow peers who are always happy to talk.

Many choose to come out at university, and Hertford is a really positive place to do so, but it's important to remember that you are under no pressure to tell the whole world, or everyone all at once. The LGBTQ+ rep runs a secret LGBTQ+ Facebook group which doesn't advertise its membership to anyone, where we organise events and share friendly advice.

And finally, if you want to get involved with campaigning there is the OUSU LGBTQ campaign which is an autonomous body currently working on university lobbying and school outreach programmes.



NIGHTLIFE

Emily Ding, History, 3rd Year

One of the major misconceptions about Oxford is that 'normal' university nightlife culture is non-existent. However, I cannot stress how wrong this is. Oxford has student nights on every night of the week, and whilst there is no pressure to attend all, or any of these, there are plenty of people who do with gusto.

A few of the most popular are Parkend, Bridge and Wahoo. The sticky floors, slightly suspect sofas and strobe lighting of these wouldn't be out of place in a club in a town lacking the 'dreaming spires' of Oxford. Like most other unis, Wednesday night is sports social night and you can find sports and nonsports players alike enjoying a VK on one of the three floors of Parkend. Bridge follows on Thursday and with resident Hertford DJs and great drink deals, it's always a popular night in college. However, a personal favourite is Wahoo – the sign above the door proclaims 'let the good times roll' and it definitely delivers. Arguably impossible to have a disappointing visit, this steak restaurant during daylight hours is famed for its cheap drinks and people all over the university wear the distinctive winged stamp on their wrists the next day with pride.

Although Hertford favourites, Oxford nightlife is not limited to these clubs and whether RnB, chart or cheesy pop classics are to your taste, every genre is catered for. For those who fancy a change, venues like The Cellar offer a range of nights such as the 80s-style Burning Down The House, and Supermarket, which plays loads of 90s & 00s R&B. They're always packed mostly because the club is tiny, but also because they put on some great nights.

Whichever club you go to, nights out usually start with a Pango in Hertford Bar and always end at Hassan's. Hassan's is a kebab van that has recently been awarded with a Trip Advisor 'Certificate of Excellence', beating countless boutique restaurants in bourgeois Jericho, this kebab van is legendary. Attracting both businessmen heading home after a late night at the office and sweaty students having boogied the night away at one of Oxford's clubs, the menu is extensive to say the least. There are hundreds of other kebab vans in Oxford to serve the 21,000 students, but in the view of a Hertfordian, Hassan's really is a cut above.



RELIGION

Jenny Rixon, French & Spanish, 4th Year

Whatever your religion, there'll be a group in Oxford ready to welcome you in. University-wide societies include Budsoc (Buddhism), OICCU (Christianity), Hum Soc (Hinduism), OUISoc (Islam) and JSoc (Judaism), and Hertford even has its own CU.

Hertford CU is a friendly tight-knit group of Christians from all years and denominations who meet once a week

for a meal, Bible study, fellowship, prayer and fun! We also have morning prayer meetings during the week. Along with every other college CU, Hertford forms part of the university CU, OICCU, (Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union), and there is chance to meet with all the other college CUs at least once a week. Together we run events in our colleges: a particular Hertford favourite is Text-a-Toastie which is designed to answer our friends'

questions and objections to faith. We also have 'main event' weeks when we run events with the other CUs for the whole university. As a Christian in Oxford, you'll be spoilt for choice with great churches, but having CU in college is an amazing extra support, and everyone is welcome - whether you've grown up a Christian, are new to faith, are curious, or just want some dinner and chat!



FRENCH & HISTORY

Sarah Edwards
2nd Year

6am: Alarm goes off and I roll still half asleep out of bed and make myself breakfast while trying not to wake up my neighbours.

7am: Arrive, by bike, at the boathouse for rowing. We spent an hour and a bit on the water, doing drills, racing practice and enjoying the beautiful scenery surrounding us.

8.30am: Head to Warnock (one of the accommodation blocks) where cooked breakfast is served, and have some well-deserved eggs and hash browns.

10am: After returning for a speedy shower, I rush to the History faculty for my first contact hour of the day; a lecture for my Global and Imperial history course. Being quite a small group we sit around a square of tables and we spend the hour learning about what the world looked like in the nineteenth century, and how historians interpret it – fascinating stuff!

11am: I return home to make a start on some reading for my next French essay. I skim through a few chapters drinking lots of tea, frequently looking up to chat to my friends who are working with me.

1pm: Have a break to make myself a sandwich for lunch, and then get back to some more reading.

3pm: French class: we look over a translation from English into French that we had prepared in the week, going round each person to correct our grammar and vocabulary. Get a bit confused over some obscure grammar rule, but definitely understand more by the end of the hour.

4pm: More studying! I continue reading for my essay and then do some work on French grammar.

8pm: Meet some friends from other colleges in town to go for dinner. After debating what we felt like eating, we make the decision to go with where the best student deals are. We have a good long catch up and many laughs.

10pm: Back at home, my friends and I curl up in pyjamas with bowls of popcorn to watch a film –most likely something Disney – to switch off from the day, and then it's time for bed.

Days in



PHYSICS

Patrick Taylor, 2nd year

7.45am: Alarm goes off! It's only the other scientists and the cleaners who are up in my building at this time. Once I've gotten ready, had breakfast, and – most importantly – had a cup of coffee, I head off to the physics department.

9am: Arrive by bike at the department. Most days I'll have 3 or 4 hours of lectures in the morning. Sometimes I have labs instead, which involves two consecutive days performing a physics experiment with a lab partner.

1pm: My last lecture for the day ends, by this point I'm ravenous. I rush straight to hall in Hertford with a few of the other college physics students for lunch. In hall you can catch up with friends, get up to date on all the gossip from the last 'bop', or moan about how many lectures you've just had.

1.30pm: Often I'll head to the library and crack on with a problem set for the next week's tutorial. I might also have volunteered to do some access work for the college, which is basically just having a chat with some prospective students visiting Oxford.

3pm: Tutorial. This will be in college with two other physics students. The tutor goes over the last problem set they gave us to do. It was on electromagnetism, so there are loads of tricky integrals and expansions they have to explain how to solve. Luckily they have some tricks which will hopefully make the next problem set a bit easier.

4:15pm: Head back to my room. Now I review the lecture notes I made earlier so I can attempt a few more of the problems I've been set. Once I'm satisfied with the work I've done, I make dinner in the kitchen down the corridor. Tonight it's my specialty – a nice cheese omelette. While I eat I have some arrangements to make for a formal(ish) termly society dinner in hall that I'm organising. It's for all the college's physics students, tutors, and alumni to attend, so it's going to be a big one, and myself and two others have to arrange payments, wine orders, etc. for it.

9pm: Time to relax now, so I meet up with some mates in the pub. If this is a particularly busy week I might go back to work at my desk again ... or go to the pub anyway and chill a bit. Occasionally I'll head out to a party or a club, and a few times a term to one of the famous college 'bops'. I probably shouldn't stay out too late though ... I'll normally have a lecture at 9am the next morning I ought to attend!

The Life



MEDICINE

Lydia Benazaize, 2nd Year

8.00am: Alarm goes off

8.20am: Roll out of bed and hurry to get ready. Eat breakfast in order to prevent large stomach rumbling during the morning's lectures. Make coffee to go because honestly 8.20 probably is a little too late to get out of bed.

8.45am: Run to get bike and madly cycle up St Aldates (a not too steep but ever painful hill).

8.59am: Arrive at lecture, pick up the always useful lecture notes and find friends to chat with for the 30 seconds before the lecture starts

10.00am: Head to practical. Being a medic this can either consist of looking at specimens, looking down microscopes or analysing the effect of drugs on various tissue types.

1pm: Eat a glorious panini from the gem of the science buildings that is the Biochem Cafe.

2pm: Stats class. Apparently medics are renowned for being incompetent at stats so now we have small group teaching sessions.

3pm: Head to the Missing Bean (the local coffee shop) to top up the daily caffeine dose.

3.20pm: Head to the library to start work on the essay I probably should have already finished.

4.30pm: Procrastinate in OB quad for 10 minutes as a well deserved library break.

5.55pm: Head to hall (5 minutes early in order to beat the 6pm rush) to get some dinner. Treat self to cake as a well deserved treat for being in the library.

6.40pm: Head back to the library to finish essay!

7.30pm: Triumphant finish essay. Inform all poor unfortunate souls still undergoing essay crisis that you have finished and are now abandoning them.

7.50pm: Head to dance for one of your twice weekly rehearsals.

10.00pm: With rehearsal finished you are being tempted to Park End. You try to resist but settle on only staying an hour once you arrive.

2am: You are still in Park End. You have no idea how this happened but resign to get yourself home as fast as possible.

2.30am: You down a pint of water and roll into bed already feeling the sting of the 8am alarm.



PPE

Olivia Shillabeer
3rd Year

7am – You wake up to finish essay due in a few hours. You should have finished it last night but the new episode of Grey's Anatomy was released!

10am – You head over to the Exam Schools for a few lectures. Depending on the modules you choose you may have between 4-8 lectures a week .

1pm – You grab something to eat from hall and run over to a tutorial in North Oxford. Tutorials are held by tutors who are specialists in your subject so you may not be in your own college for all of them!

2pm – You leave the tutorial and head back to Hertford library for a few hours of reading for your next essay and catching up on Buzzfeed.

5pm – You run off to a meeting for Hertford Business and Economics Society. You are leader of a project about looking at well-being economics in government and discuss writing the report with your team.

6pm – Time for another meeting with a different Society. You wonder why you signed up to so many things before getting all excited again over a new finding. There are a lot of exciting research and consulting societies to get involved with in Oxford, and you can always find a project that plays directly to your strengths and interests.

7pm – Grab a snack and head off for a Latin dance class with the OU Dancesport team. You have a competition coming up in a few weeks and need the extra hours with your dance partner!

9pm – You limp home after a few hours training, and make some dinner which you promptly eat in bed with a good TV show in the background.

12am – You have spent the last few hours reading for essays and procrastinating, but now it is time for bed.



Extra-curricular

THEATRE

Stan Carrodus, English, 2nd year

Theatre at Oxford is mainly a university-wide thing and extremely diverse. Hertford has many talented students who get involved in a vast range of productions. It's a great way of meeting people with similar interests both at Hertford and elsewhere.

There are many ways to get involved with theatre in Oxford. OUDS (Oxford University Dramatic Society) is the central, university-wide body of thespians in Oxford. OUDS promote the plays and musicals that are put on in Oxford so enable you to get involved in acting, singing and dancing. You are also able to try your hand at being a producer, director, choreographer or musical director!

If you're more interested in production TAFF (Tabs Are For Flying) is the central body of techies in Oxford, your pathway to all things backstage, be it lighting design, sound design, stage managing, or spotlighting.

Alongside standard theatre Oxford also provides opportunities to get involved in more niche projects such as film and dance productions. The OUFF (Oxford University Film Foundation), OBA (Oxford Broadcasting Society) and the annual Oxford Film Festival in Hilary are great ways of getting involved in film. There are also a range of dance opportunities in Oxford with Dancesport competing in latin

and ballroom and the Broadstreet Dancers competing and performing in ballet, jazz, tap and contemporary.

At the fresher's fair in Michaelmas it is worth signing up to anything you're interested in and going to the auditions! Don't be scared by auditions, I've honestly had great fun at the auditions I've been to!

If you are a keen actor you should get involved in drama Cuppers in Michaelmas of first year. A group of freshers from each college group up, find or write a short (and usually funny) play, and put it on as part of Cuppers. It is overseen by OUDS and a great way to get to know the other thespians in your year.

JOURNALISM

Dom Hewett, English
3rd Year



Like most unis, Oxford is a great place to get involved in student journalism, regardless of whether or not you have any experience before you arrive.

There are two weekly student newspapers, Cherwell and Oxford Student, both of which are constantly looking for writers, designers, subeditors, businesspeople, creatives and anything else you can think of (The Tab is also an option if you like your news sensationalist and vapid). The ISIS is a prestigious and historic termly magazine which features interviews, investigative pieces, opinion, and poetry – sometimes pretentious, but usually interesting.

There are also several liberation zines, Skin Deep, No HeterOx and Cuntry Living, which feature important writing on issues of race, sexuality, and gender. If you're into science, you may be interested in Bang!, and The Oxymoron is an extremely popular satirical magazine, published once a term. Ultimately, the great thing about the student press is how unbelievably easy it is to get involved – have a look around, and you'll find your thing! Good luck!



VOLUNTEERING AND SOCIAL ACTION

Freya Turner, History
3rd Year

Lots of Hertford students are keen to bridge the 'town-gown divide' and make a positive impact on and connection with the wider city. Volunteering or campaigning is a great way to meet people from other colleges and year groups, and engage with local charities and politicians to make change happen!

The Oxford Hub co-ordinates volunteer opportunities which can be anything from soup runs for the homeless, to teaching primary school kids about environmental issues, to helping OxCoop with their affordable ethical food shop.

If campaigning is more your thing, OUSU (Oxford Uni Students' Union) oversees a variety of campaigns which have - to give

just a few examples - successfully lobbied the University to be a Living Wage Employer; defeated Oxford City Council's attempts to criminalise rough sleeping; and pressured the University to divest from coal and tar sands.

Being part of a campaign or volunteer group is a rewarding and fun way to break out of the academic bubble, and the time commitment can be tailored to suit you. One of the best things about Oxford is the atmosphere created by the passionate and motivated people you meet in college, which also makes you feel like you can take the initiative and start up social action projects of your own – if you see something that could be better, go out and make it happen!

Hart Fest

The variety, standard and commitment of Hertford talent never ceases to amaze me. This year, Hertford held one of the biggest arts festivals in Oxford, with over 20 events across three days in early May.

This small task was led and organised by our newly appointed Arts Rep, Ava Scott. Hertford's wealth of creative students was fully exploited: the weekend included many workshops and events in art, drama, comedy, film, dance and music.

Main events included Jazz on the Quad on the Friday, with Hertford Jazz band accompanied by Pimms, strawberries

and cream. On the Saturday, the scratch orchestra and the ceilidh brought more music to the college, and the Will Hutton portrait session produced many beautiful artworks paying tribute to our Principal. On the Sunday we saw these pieces, alongside life drawings from the weekend, in an exhibition in the Chapel.

The Open Mic night was a musical-comedic finale to the weekend, which raised over £70 for the local food bank, via cake sales. The weather was warm and balmy, making for a truly festive weekend.

Ella Drake, JCR President



Music

Chris Cottell, Music, 2nd Year



The Oxford music scene is massive! There's a multitude of venues and styles, from notorious clubs such as Atik (commonly known as Park End), Bridge and the infamous Purple Turtle, to incredible live music at the O2 Academy, Freuds and Varsity Club, to astounding shows and musicals at the Playhouse and Theatre, to an immense concert repertoire in the University's own Sheldonian Theatre- and that's not even going into any college music.

The amount of music at Hertford is overwhelming: from ska-punk gigs and open mics events down the bar, to Freshers' Jazz and Cocktails and Boatie Cocktails in the Octagon, to weekly evensongs in the chapel, there's always something to hear or play in. As well as being at all these events, musicians from Hertford get involved around the university, in the University orchestras and

ensembles, in the casts, bands and crews of musicals and shows and in independent bands, like current wunderkind Emily The Snake, playing gigs like "Gin and Phonics" at Freuds.

Hertford College Music Society (HCMS) is the largest and most welcoming college music society in Oxford. Whether you're an internationally renowned Italian opera singer, or you hit the "DJ" button too many times and caught the bug, there's an opportunity to get involved: with three big non-auditioning ensembles, the Orchestra plays classical music, the Concert Band plays classics alongside wind arrangements, and the Jazz Band plays jazzy big band charts and original arrangements. Even if your instrument doesn't fit into one of these ensembles, there's always an opportunity to play in one of the weekly recitals, with the sighs of tourists filling out the chapel's lovely acoustic. HCMS

gets together at the termly themed dinners and regular trips DTB (down the bar) after rehearsals and concerts, facilitating many musical friendships and regularly emptying wallets.

If you're a singer, Hertford has the best non-auditioning chapel choir in Oxford. With low week by week commitment, but free food and drink and international touring, it's probably some of the most fun you can have with your socks on. Last year we visited both Dublin and Krakow, singing in many venues including Dublin's cathedral and an incredible underground chapel dug out of the salt mines below Krakow.

But Oxford isn't all trips abroad: the mainstay of the experience is bopping and essays, with a side-salad of very interesting chats over dinner. HCMS's motto is "Play Hard, Play Hard": just like the rest of Oxford, we really get stuck in.



FOOTBALL

Sam Broadey,
2nd Year, E&M

Enter into the crazy world that is college football. I don't think there is quite anything that can prepare you for this competitive, yet informal string of football. With weekly league games for Hertford 1st XI and Hertford 2nd XI, as well as the famous Cuppers competition, there is plenty of football to be played here.

The club prides itself on being open to all abilities and pushing those who want to reach the higher levels, with 5 players in the uni squad. Socials are held in just as high esteem as the games and both teams feel it is now time to move up through the leagues. Rumour has it this season is the one.

In the next few years off the pitch, we look to build the foundations for regular tours and strong links with the Old Boys. There truly is no better way to keep this childhood obsession alive.

Chantal Paine,
2nd Year, Biology

Women's football is on the rise at Hertford, and welcomes players from all ranges of abilities. Our team is very relaxed, playing around one match a week. Most of our players have never played football before, and so our team provides the perfect place to try out a new sport.

We are a joint team with Keble, meaning not only does playing football provide a great way to meet people from other years, but it's also a great way to meet people from another college! And for those of you who enjoy the social aspect of being on a team, we also love organizing evening events such as crew dates and team dinners.

Hertford's football team is also very successful: we have just been promoted to the Women's first division, having beaten out a whole range of others last year.

We are a friendly and inclusive team, and encourage anyone with even the slightest interest to come along and give it a go!

Sport at Hertford is, primarily, a lot of fun. Whether you've played for your county or barely managed to make it out of the changing room without tripping over your own feet, everyone's encouraged to join in. (If you actually, genuinely hate sport though, that's definitely ok too.) We've got rugby, tennis, football, hockey, squash and rounders clubs, to name but a few, and if there's a sport you like that we don't have sorted, you can always find some like-minded people and set it up yourself, with money from our college Sports Fund.

Naomi Vides, Maths, 4th Year

Not sure where sports would fit into your life as a uni student? Take this quiz to find out!

START

Do you think you'll have enough time between your degree, socialising and other commitments to do any sport?

No

There's always time for sport! The Oxford term can get pretty stressful at times, and having a balanced lifestyle gives you a way to get away

yes

Would you consider yourself a sporty person?

No

Do you own a pair of trainers?

yes

Do you like to try new things?

No

Have you ever played sport to a regional/national level or higher?

yes

No

yes

University-level

They say you've done well if you leave Oxford with either a 1st, a spouse or a 'Blue'. Spending 3 years in a library is boring, and who wants a long term relationship at 18? Your best bet is the elusive 'Blue'. By representing your Oxford sports team against Cambridge in your 'Varsity Match' and fulfilling other criteria, you can be awarded a Blue

College-level

So maybe you're not cut out to be a Blue, but representing your college in anything from netball to ultimate frisbee, is a great way to get some exercise, make new friends and have some fun a few times a week (unless you do college rowing, in which case say goodbye to sleep and baby soft hands)

Want to get involved?

Not everyone dreams of Olympic glory - maybe your calling is for one of the many non-sporty Oxford or Hertford Societies. However, there's no reason you can't get involved in cuppers (inter-college sports), college exercise classes (we have Yoga at the moment), or of course our well-loved college gym



NETBALL

Ella Drake
E&M, 2nd Year



One of the college's most popular sports, playing netball is a great way to represent Hertford and meet people from different years. The atmosphere is really relaxed and playing netball or any other sport is not only a great (and fun) way to get some exercise but a chance to relax outside of lectures.

Our team is extremely inclusive (we even let boys come and play sometimes) and everyone who wants to gets a match. We normally play one to two matches a week, a few tournaments throughout the year and sometimes even squeeze a practice in between.

We also run a number of socials because from time to time we just don't get enough organized fun at netball.



CRICKET

Matt Edwards, Law, 2nd Year

Cricket is one of Hertford's most inclusive sports, many of our team didn't play before coming to Oxford but gave it a try and enjoyed the sport here.

Cricket is played during Trinity term and thus it is a great excuse for an afternoon in the sun to take a break from revision during exam season, both for players and supporters.

Hertford's first XI are currently in the Second Division of the 1 college league, and, this year, we were triumphant in winning the college Cuppers cricket tournament!

In the last 2 years we have had tours to Budapest and Prague, including a game against the Hungarian national side, and we are planning another tour this summer as well.



RUGBY

Charlie Beard, Maths, 2nd Year

Rugby has a proud tradition in Hertford College and has recently seen a significant renaissance in quality and commitment, both on the pitch and off it.

HCRFC has a reputation for being friendly and inclusive, with some of the current squad not having played rugby before coming to Hertford. Last year saw Hertford reach the semi-finals of the inter collegiate cuppers tournament for the first time in 40 years. We also sealed back to back promotions, and are pushing for another run deep into cuppers this year.

We also have an annual tour, previous destinations have been Mongolia, Malta, and Belgium, which are all ridiculously fun and slightly mad. We always have social events most weeks which are great fun and worth playing rugby for. This year we will be touring Mongolia again, and the following year the early talk is Japan, hope to see you all there.



ROWING

Marie Becker, Law, 2nd Year

Rowing is one of the biggest sports in Oxford and HCBC is a great place to try this fantastic sport, whilst also having a lot of fun, both on and off the river.

Membership is open to anyone, irrespective of the level of experience, with the majority of members having never rowed before coming to university. This also means that it is a very flexible commitment, adaptable to how often

people want to train and at what level.

With great facilities and a dedicated coaching team, HCBC has continued to be extremely successful over the past few years, competing in both inter-collegiate and external regattas, making it a very rewarding experience.

It is however not only about the races and sport itself, but HCBC is a very inclusive and

friendly community, with a very vibrant social scene. With people from all year groups and subjects, there are plenty of whole club events or low key socials to enjoy. Termly highlights include Boat Club Dinners and 'Boatie Cocktails' alongside many others, such as BBQs at the boathouse, Pub Golf and Crew Dates.

International Students



Khai Yen Chew
PPE, 2nd Year

Hertford prides itself for its diversity, and being international is one of them. Hertford accepts students from all over the world, and together with the visiting students from international universities, we make up quite a sizeable community in Hertford!

We are a welcoming and friendly college, and international students will most certainly find it easy to integrate into the college community - whether from joining the various sports clubs / music societies, or from just mingling with people from your staircase.

The best thing about Hertford (from an international perspective) is that free storage space is provided for international students, making packing at the end of term a relatively easy process. Accommodation is provided for the entire duration of your undergraduate course, so you wouldn't need to worry about looking for somewhere to stay in the subsequent years. And if you don't plan to return home during the Christmas and Easter holidays, Hertford will most probably be able to accommodate you as well.

Hertford's central location is also convenient when arriving from overseas - the bus from the airports stops just round the corner!

International students tend to arrive a few days earlier compared to the local students, and you will be able to move

straight into your room as soon as you step foot in Hertford (as long as you inform the college in advance!). The Freshers' Committee will be there to greet you upon arrival, and they will be around to help you settle into your new environment - from setting up your bank account to registering with the police.

During term-time, the JCR international rep will also be available to help you with any international-related issues that may arise. You can also approach the college welfare support system (consisting of the welfare reps, peer supporters, tutors, nurse etc.) should you face any difficulties during your time here in Oxford.

If you are thinking of applying to Oxford as an international student, Hertford should definitely be at the top of your list!

I'm Polish and grew up in Ankara, Turkey – that makes me a cultural unicorn at Hertford College. Far from detracting from my university experience, being foreign has made it all the more exciting. The most mundane of daily routines, starting with a full English breakfast and ending with a pint down at Turf Tavern Pub all have a distinct cultural flavour.

More importantly however, education at Oxford is not about amassing information as in continental systems. With Hertford's tight-knit community, education goes beyond tutorials - you find yourself constantly challenged and intellectually shaped running into tutors in the main quad and chatting with them over tea. You can even get used to the cooking.



Maria Wilczek, PPE



As a visiting student from Australia, I arrived at Hertford with very little idea of what to expect. However I soon found out that Hertford's reputation as "friendly and open" couldn't be more true. The students here are open-minded and interested, and I formed genuine friendships from the very first day. I couldn't recommend applying more strongly!

Louise Utting
visiting student from Australia



Hertford is down to earth, cozy, and just plain nice. There are few pretenses, and most students are smart, hard working, and interested in getting to know you just so long as you make the effort to get out there. Hertford is less traditional than the usual college, but as an international student, I think that just makes it a friendlier place to be.

Mathew Kuruvinkunnel
visiting student from the USA





Will Barnes, PPE, 2nd Year

Katie Broke, History, 2nd Year

Hertford is not a big college which makes it easy to get to know lots of people and makes it virtually impossible to spend time in college without bumping into a friendly face. Hertford is famous for its welcoming, fun, friendly and caring atmosphere and students' happiness and welfare is really important to everyone in college.

As with any university, coming to Oxford can be pretty stressful. Our terms are only eight weeks which means there's a lot to pack in and things can sometimes get quite intense. Whilst many of you may never need to make use of it, the college has a great welfare system to help with any issues (however big or small) you may have whilst at university. The welfare team aims to maintain a high profile in college so that students always know

that if problems arise, or if they just feel a little blue, there are loads of people around who are always very happy to chat about it. The team is made up of a group of trained Peer Supporters, an on-site nurse, the Chaplain, three Junior Deans and us (the Welfare Officers). The entire team are lovely, very approachable, completely non-judgemental and trained in dealing with a huge variety of issues. There is also a university-wide welfare system, which amongst others includes the Counselling Service, the Student Advice Service and the Disability Advisory Service. We can put you in touch with these services and give you information about them and other services available in the wider Oxford area.

There are two Welfare Officers, one male

and one female, elected annually by the JCR. Part of our role essentially involves carrying out regular raids on Tesco to get chocolates to deliver to everyone in the middle of term and food for welfare teas (which are really relaxed events where everyone can just come and eat food, drink tea, and chat). We also give out free welfare supplies and occasionally organise speaker events. We represent the welfare of the undergraduate student body on the JCR Committee and in dialogue with College. The most important part of our role, as peer supporters, is to be there to listen and help with any social, academic, financial or health-related problems you may have (and to make a world class cup of tea).

Will and Katie

Mia Smith
Hertford College
Chaplain



Hi, I'm Mia, and I'm chaplain of Hertford College. I'm part of our wonderful welfare team, which offers 24 hour support to the Hertford community - we want nothing to get in the way of you being and doing your best during your time with us. I'm available for confidential chats - often with cake on the side - about life, relationships, work, stress, faith, or anything else you would like to chat about.

I am also an Anglican priest and, with an enthusiastic student team, lead services in the Chapel. The Chapel has one of the best student choirs in Oxford, which goes on international tours twice a year, but, more importantly, it is non-auditioning: you can just turn up and sing! With the choir, we do the traditional Choral

Evensong every Sunday evening in term, as well as lots of other events.

We believe it is important that services and events in the Chapel are always open and welcoming to people of all faiths and none. We never lock the Chapel, so it is a great place for students to come and sit quietly, read a book, pray, or practise music in the wonderful acoustic.

There are University chaplains for all the major faiths and denominations in Oxford. Working together, we make sure that the needs of students of different faiths are met — from food and festivals, to finding places of worship and religious consultations. Both the Hindu and Jewish chaplains have recently spoken at Chapel events.



Finances

Hertford is absolutely committed to ensuring that financial considerations aren't a barrier to undergraduates studying and enjoying their time here.

When compared to other universities, the combination of lower than average rent, cheaper general student living costs and substantial bursaries makes an undergraduate degree at Hertford College Oxford one of the best value educational courses in the world.

Oxford University boasts one of the most generous support packages of any university in the UK for students from the lowest-income backgrounds, which includes fee waivers and bursaries.

Hertford is also proud to offer its own range of bursaries (or in some cases loans), including the Hertford Undergraduate Bursary of £1000 to anyone with a household income of below around £50,000, as well as a student support fund

for any student experiencing unexpected financial hardship during their time here.

The college also provides great employment opportunities throughout all academic vacations, and students are also able to work down the bar during term time.

Ben Lewis
E&M, 2nd Year



Get in Touch

Still have questions? You can email the JCR Access Officer (a student elected by other students to help with Hertford's outreach programmes), the Academic Registrar (a member of staff, responsible for the overall admissions process at Hertford), or our Outreach Fellow, from the college's website, www.hertford.ox.ac.uk.

Search for:

JCR Access Officer

to send in any questions you might have about studying at Hertford, or any of Hertford's student-run outreach programmes

Admissions Officer

to ask any questions about the admissions process or about the requirements for particular subjects

Academic Registrar

to ask any questions about your application to Oxford, or about visiting Hertford. (If you prefer, you can also phone on 01865 279399)

Outreach Fellow

to arrange a visit to your school, or for an academic taster session at Hertford

If you'd like to visit, Hertford's open to prospective applicants all year round, and the Open Days are a particularly good opportunity to meet current students and hear about life at Oxford first-hand.



Hertford College, Cattle St, Oxford, OX1 3BW

www.hertford.ox.ac.uk

01865 279400