MEET THE PORTERS

Oxford Colleges have special reception areas called the ‘Lodge’, and in the Lodge you’ll find the College Porters. We’ll let the students tell you what that’s all about...

How would you describe the role of the porters and their Lodge?

“"The Lodge is the main entrance and exit to the College—kind of like the front door.‘”
Rachel, History

“The Porters are the first people you see when you walk into College, and they have an important role in looking after everyone in College. There’s always a Porter in the Lodge, 24/7”
Melissa, English

“The Porters look after us!”
Elke, Classics, Archeology and Ancient History

“They’re basically the go-to people for solving an immediate problem in College”
Max, History

“Locked yourself out of your room by accident? Go to the Lodge. Need change for the tumble dryer? Go to the Lodge. Need an absolutely shaped screwdriver to fix a bike light? You get the idea.”
Adam, PPE

“The Lodge and the porters are what make College a home as opposed to a series of rooms.”
Hannah, Medicine

“Plus, of course, they care for Percy, the College tortoise.”
Jessa, Classics

“The first time (of many) that I locked myself out of my room, I went to get my spare key and was a bit confused I’d get a telling off (I didn’t know at this point that many people do this on a regular basis). The porter instead gave me my key and a chocolate bar!”
Emma, History

“The hearing didn’t turn on after the vacation, so my room was insanely cold. I asked one of the porters about when the heating would be back; he didn’t know but an hour later he showed up with a heater he procured from one of the meeting rooms for me! Saved me from cold until the heating was fixed two days later.”
Nuam, Chemistry

“I stayed at Uni after the end of term for a few weeks to help with the admissions interview process, which happens just before Christmas. One of the porters turned up one day in a full-Miser Father Christmas outfit—complete with fake white beard and all, ready to make an appearance at the Children of Israel Christmas party. He was quite grumpy because the bearditched, but looked very convincing!”
Melissa, English

This is Bob, the senior head Porter.

This is Percy, also and the other porters look after too.

Thank you to everyone who is working so hard to make the Alternative Prospectus happen. Big thanks to all the Uni students who generously contributed their photos and time.

Thank you to the staff who kindly participated in our interviews.

The publication is also available in digital format on our website.

Designed by Andy Weather & printed by The Guardian Print Centre.
**Location**

Look at a map of Oxford, and University College is the place to be! We’re equidistant from all the important libraries, near the centre of town and the best shops, pubs, clubs, cinemas and venues in Oxford. We are a two minute walk from the serene and beautiful Christ Church Meadows. Best of all, Uni is next door to some of the lecture halls!

**Facilities**

Uni manages to combine reasonable rents with some great facilities and opportunities on offer. Firstly, every student is signed up for free membership at the Iffley Road gym and swimming-pool, a great consideration if you want to keep fit whilst at uni. There is also a squash court in college, and we are proud owners of the newest and sexiest bargehouse on the river. Our recently refurbished butley (that’s what we call the common room) is a great venue for barbecues and parties. The common room has a stage, a bar, a seating area with a sofa, and a large screen for watching football matches. It’s a great place to relax and spend time with your friends.

**The JCR**

All undergraduates studying in an Oxford college are automatically affiliated to the “Junior Common Room” (JCR), which is the slightly confusing name for both an actual room and the name of the social events that are held there. The JCR is a great place to meet new people and socialize with your fellow students. There is a large common room with sofas, chairs, and a piano, as well as a kitchenette with a fridge, microwave, and coffee machine. The JCR also has a games room with pool tables, air hockey, and table tennis. The JCR is open from 8 am to 11 pm, and there is a barista service available from 9 am to 5 pm.

**Food**

Oxford Colleges have ‘catered’ accommodation, which means that they cook three meals a day for the students and everyone eats together in Hall. Eating in Hall is compulsory, but you’ll probably find you want to most of the time as it’s a great chance to catch up with friends, the food is delicious and the portions are very generous! Having College cook (and wash up!) saves students a lot of time and effort so they can focus on studying and having fun.

Students pay for their food on a “pay-as-you-go” basis, which means you only pay for what you eat and you’re free to eat in town or prepare your own meal when you want to.

As well as having meals cooked for you every day, you can use the fridge in your room to keep drinks and snacks, so if you want to have a sit-down meal at home you can always have it in your room. There are several kitchens dotted around the college, which are open to undergraduates to use (we have a few keen bakers who like to make the most of the oven!)

For the vast majority of meals, you choose your own food from a huge range of options in the College’s lovely bistro. However, 3 times a week you have the option to go to Formal Hall, which is a second sitting held later than normal dinner where you get dressed up and are seated at the table. Students take formal hall when it is someone’s birthday, as it’s much cheaper than going to a restaurant- it’s also a popular thing to take friends and family to when they visit.

Let’s see what Uni’s resident foodie, Classics student Delia, has to say:

“The food in Uni is great, and most people eat all their meals in Hall. You can have breakfast from 8-9, and then have lunch from 12-2. And you can find out the menus for the whole term in advance, and plan to get there early for a sausage pie! The food is amazing, I love diving into the new menu every day and then going over to other colleges in return, as you get to experience another college’s food. It’s definitely a huge highlight of uni.”

In the evening, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday there is a choice of formal or informal hall (you need to book [formal in advance, but can just turn up to informal]). Informal has the same sort of food as lunch, but formal is a bit more special. It’s a three course meal served at the table, and the food is amazing! I love inviting friends to formal, and then going on to other colleges in return, as you get to experience another college’s food. It’s also a huge highlight of uni.

The best thing is that you get to meet people by eating in Hall, and it provides a great chance to catch up with your friends at various points in the day when sometimes you’ve been hidden away in the library, but they will want to have lunch with you, and it’s a good excuse to get stuck in the morning.”

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*This is Pimms: she looks after the butley so she’s pretty much a VIP in a College.*
Accommodation

For most people moving away to university, a key concern is accommodation.

Unio has a fantastic reputation for the range and standard of facilities. Located right on the High Street, with a second site in Kelly north Oxford and we couldn’t have a more convenient location.

Range of rooms

Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, with the first of its colleges established in the 13th century. So as you’d expect, it’s built some pretty amazing buildings during its long history! But don’t be intimidated by how grand some of them look—they’re very cozy inside, and the students make themselves right at home.

"Living in a college is a lovely atmosphere; it feels really homely and relaxed. All of your friends are around you all the time.”
Elina, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Most colleges accommodate their undergraduates in a range of buildings—some hundreds of years old, and some brand new. Although age, shape and size of rooms at Unio vary, all rooms come with great facilities that are the envy of other colleges. Wherever it is in College, your room will be well-decorated and may include a sink and fridge, chairs, and generous pinboards for sticking reading lists, photos and tickets for gigs! Most people share a shower and WC with four other people, but there are some en-suite rooms as well. The students enjoy the opportunity to live in quirky, historical and beautiful surroundings:

"I like the fact that all the rooms are different - there are some with sloping ceilings, panelled walls and little nooks and crannies, which gives lots of character to the rooms and makes you feel like your room is your own and not just a copy of someone else’s." Melissa, English

"It is rare that you find a room that doesn’t have an amazing view - whether of the High Street or the College’s various lawns and gardens." Max, History

How is First Year accommodation arranged?

Upon arriving at College for your first year, you will already have been assigned a room—all first years are guaranteed College accommodation, so you don’t have to worry about sorting any of that out. Some will be right at the heart of College, some in octagonal Queen’s College on the High Street, some in the modern Durham or Goodhart buildings. But all are within a two-minute walk to Main Quad.

Cost

Rent is reasonable: students are charged approximately £1,000 for 3.5 weeks terms if you’re feeling concerned about money, turn to page 24. Although the shape, style and size of rooms vary, all accommodation at Unio costs the same.

"I like the fact that everyone pays the same price for rooms - there’s no segregation between people on different incomes and you can’t tell who is on a higher income or not." Vicky, SRE

We’re constantly looking to make improvements!

Unio has just recently completed an exciting building project to renovate the Goodhart Building, our most modern accommodation block. It’s had a big makeover and now has 57 en-suite student rooms (most with double beds), more fully-equipped rooms for students with disabilities, some huger and brightly coloured kitchens, and social spaces for students to relax in—all while becoming more energy-efficient.
TUTORIALS

As well as doing lots of reading, attending lectures, classes and (depending on what course you do) labs, students have tutorials at least once per week. The tutorial system is what makes Oxford and Cambridge Universities really special, and is at the heart of the intensive style of learning that these two universities offer. Oxford students refer to their tutorials as ‘tutes’, and Cambridge calls tutorials ‘supervisions’, but the idea behind them is the same.

A tutorial is where you sit down with one of your tutors for about an hour, with one or two other people doing the same course (your tutor ‘partners’), to talk about what you have been learning that week. It’s an amazing chance to ask your burning questions, get lots of attention from your tutor and make sure you really understand the material and develop your learning.

Let’s hear what these Oxford students have to say about tutorials...

**How did you feel before your first tute? What was it like, and how did you feel afterwards?**

“I was anticipating the sort of stuffy, ageing don that stereotypical you expect to inspect who would mercilessly rip apart the clumsy essay I had submitted a few days previously. Needless to say, my fears were completely unrealised. My tutor was young, friendly, and (amazingly) normal! Rather than the terrifying creature I was expecting, what followed was simply an hour of casual but deep conversation, about the texts we had been assigned, and more importantly our own views on the topics raised. I left feeling upbeat, and armed at myself for ever entertaining my initial fears and prejudices!”

Adam, PPE

**What role do tutes play in your education at Oxford?**

“Lectures teach us the basic knowledge, and show us some examples of how to apply them, but we really need to do the tute sheets to properly understand how to do something. Our tutors go over our answers to make sure that we understand the concepts of each question and provide more knowledge around the subject.”

Ciera, Physics

“What tutes means is that you should really study, otherwise you will have nothing to contribute to the discussion. You can’t just attend, you have to participate.”

Alex, Biology

“Tutes are an opportunity to have more in-depth discussions with your tutor and also to get feedback on what you have done. They are usually very friendly and engaging, and you get the chance to ask questions in a relaxed, small-group setting.”

Sasha, Chemistry

**Tell us about your best ever tute**

“It would have to be one of my language tutes, but out of those it would have to be with my tutor on the ‘Infinite Jest’ course. He was so knowledgeable and had such a passion for the book. It was so engaging and I was really motivated to keep reading.”

Julian, Chinese

“My best tute was a tutorial on freedom and what freedom means. I went in with a clear idea of what I thought it was, and throughout the tute continued to back up my view. But by the time I left my tute I was so impressed with all the other ideas I had heard that I realised I had completely changed my mind! I spent the rest of the day wondering whether I was actually right.”

Vicky, PPE

“I have had a few ‘best’ tutes with a few different tutors. After the best tutorials, you leave with a completely new landscape of the material in your mind. It’s stimulating and fascinating, and yes, you still don’t understand everything, but you actually feel like the world is somehow a bit different because of the amazing conversation you just had.”

Krista, Law

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Krista, Law
Your FIRST WEEKS AT UNIV

PART One

The prospect of going to university is exciting and daunting at the same time. Read on to find out about what you could expect if you were coming to Uni as a first year...

COLLEGE PARENTS

Before you arrive at Uni, you will be assigned at least two current Uni students from the year above you (so just finished their first year) who have volunteered to be 'College Parents'. The College parents' job is to help you settle in at Uni. You'll have College siblings and College grandparents as well (the College parents of your College parents), so you'll find you've got a whole extended family before you even arrive!

Once you have had your exam results and your place at Uni has been confirmed, your college parents will write to you to introduce themselves and to give some tips and advice about coming to Oxford.

When you arrive for your first week in College, your College parents will be there to help you settle in. They'll do things like come and meet you on your first day and go for dinner with you. They'll take you through the buttery, show you how it all works and sit with you in Hall. They'll then meet up with you again later in the week to check everything's going OK. Usually, one of your College parents will be studying the same subject as you, so this is a good chance to ask them about the course before you get started.

While College Parents' most important job is to welcome you to College, many continue looking out for their College families and meeting up with them throughout the year - you'll probably get to know a lot of each other's friends, so it's a good way of meeting people outside your own year group.

I think that the nicest part is that I share a common interest in Earth Sciences with my subject Mum so I got really good advice on how she subject will work, books, etc. Diana, Earth Sciences

It's great to have someone looking out for you - even after first year. Having my college mum come up and check on how my revision is going and reassuring me about the lack of revision progress was a real morale-boost. Hannah, Medicine

I'm really looking forward to meeting up with my College parents on Saturday morning - we have a 10am tour which should be great! Jess, Medicine

My College parents were really supportive throughout the whole of my first year. Receiving cookies and a card from them before sitting my first year exams definitely helped put me at ease at a time when I was feeling really anxious. Clare, Physics

College families are a great way to make links and friends with the years above and below you. We all still find it quite funny to still joke about what happened last year to each other. Ella, CAAN

There are some unique words for everyday things...

2. Summer Term.
3. The three-month term in the summer.
4. The academic dress of Oxford. You'll need to wear this for exams and formal hall. You get to wear a foppish gown and smart dress.
5. Spring Term.
6. Place where you get food. Until I found a restaurant and cheap - we're especially famous for our branches at the weekend where everything from soups and pies to bacon rolls to souvenirs bagels are on offer.
7. Each student has their own pigeon hole in the college meal room.
8. Autumn Term.
9. The abbreviation that refers to our actual common room but also the student body in college.
10. Sit down meal served three times a week. Be warned - Uni has the largest grace of any Oxford college - read in Latin by a Scholar.

College Parents' tips on 'Coc-Zo'. Oxford University Students' Union.

About those funny gowns...

We only really wear them to sit our exams. What's more interesting is the carnation flowers we wear. They have special meaning here at the university as they signify how far through your exams you are. White is for the first exam, pink for those in between and red for your final exams. Friends and sailors supply you with the flowers as a supportive gesture as you head off to the exam hall!
**Your FIRST WEEKS AT UNIV**

**PART TWO**

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**WELCOME WEEK**

Welcome Week gives you a chance to get used to living away from home (often for the first time), settle into life at Oxford and meet the people you will be spending the next 3-4 years with, before the week truly starts.

It's a great opportunity to make loads of new friends and talk to as many people as possible, get loss learning the sights of Oxford and to get your room set up, just as you like it.

Vicky, PPE

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**MATHS WEEK**

If you're studying Biochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science (and joint schools), Earth Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics (and joint schools), Medicine, or Physics at Uni, you'll be invited to come to College before the start of your first term for Maths Week.

UniOX is pleased to offer a pre-term maths course; it might sound a bit daunting, but you’ll find it’s a big advantage when term starts and you’ve already revised a lot of material you will need later on. Even better, Maths Week is free: tuition, accommodation in college, and food are all provided with no charge.

Maths Week helps you to consolidate the maths skills needed for your subject, helping you to make a strong start to the work in your first term at Oxford. As well as revisiting key mathematical concepts that you may have covered in the past at school, you'll be learning how to apply these concepts to your chosen subject at university level.

Maths Week can be a bit intense after the long summer break, but it's assured it's not all work and no play; the second-year students put on a series of social events for Maths Week participants during the week, making sure you have the opportunity to settle into all aspects of college life.

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**ARTS & HUMANITIES**

Typically an Oxford arts student seems to have an uncluttered timetable, but that doesn't mean they have no work to do.

A lot of arts learning at Oxford is done independently, so time management is a good skill to pick up, but once you get the hang of it there is plenty of time to relax and get involved in societies.

You will usually be set one or two essays a week, and it's up to you to look at the suggested books, go to the library and decide which ones look useful. It's incredibly rewarding to be able to really study the things you find interesting and to discuss them with tutors and other students every week, in a setting where you are actually encouraged to put your opinion across — as long as you can back it up! The tutors are very enthusiastic about their subjects and at the cutting edge of research you might never find their work on your reading list.

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**SCIENCES**

The first thing you'll notice about doing science at Oxford is that you seem to have much more on your timetable than an arts student.

True you will probably have 8am lectures, a couple of days a week, where you might be in labs all day and have three tutorials a week, but for many scientists this means you can be done by 5pm everyday (and you never have to face the dreaded 'essay crisis'.

You will usually be set problem sheets, which are questions to be answered for tutorial; you discuss these in your tutorial with the tutor and other students as well as looking at the wider topic that they are on.

The tutors are at the forefront of research and are really passionate about their subject. Rest assured, you're being taught by the best minds out there. This is supplemented by lectures and more practical work in the University's very well equipped labs in the Science Park Area (about 10 minutes' walk from college). It's a fantastic opportunity to get to grips both with the theory and to test out the practical side too!
Oxford is a very exciting city with lots of nooks and crannies to explore. We asked Uni students to share their favourite spots and secret places. Here they are for your enjoyment...

1. The Eagle and Child
A lovely old pub, where JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis liked to hang out.

2. The Covered Market
Filled with cute independent shops, cafes and an amazing cake shop—has a real "shy-woody" feel.

3. Plush Lounge
Oxford's LGBTQ club.

4. Parking
Punting yourself down the river with a boat. Better than it sounds.

5. Botanical Gardens
Free entry for university students—bring your lunch on a nice day.

6. Pie Minister
Fresh homemade pie and mash.

7. Edamame
Amazing home cooked Japanese food.

8. Park End Nightclub
Oxford's biggest nightclub with plenty of student nights.

9. Zapp's Bike Café
A bike shop and café in one!

10. The Alternative Tuck Shop
Perfect for hungry Uni scientists—it's on the way to the science park.

11. Freud
Former church transformed into a cocktail bar—great music and atmosphere.

12. Hardy's Original Sweet Shop
A traditional sweet shop right opposite Uni—perfect for when you need a sugar rush.

13. The Mission Burrito Bar
The best quick eat in Oxford. Cheap and tasty burritos to eat in or take away.

14. The House
Cocktail bar hiding down Blue Boar St. Uni students get a discount!

15. Ice Rink
Only around fifteen minutes walk.

16. Moo-Moolo's
Milkshake and smoothie bar.

17. Pitt Rivers Museum
See the shrunken heads!

18. Ultimate Picture Palace
First UK cinema to have sound. (June St.)

19. Ahmed's Kebab Van
There is one main canteen to get your stomach to Ahmed.

20. The Old Fire Station
Theatre and art exhibition hub with a hub.

21. University Parks
Great for walks/runs. Tennis courts and beautiful trees.

22. Gloucester Green Market
Traditional open air market with a great atmosphere—great dumplings!

23. The Cellar
Best alternative club night- DnB, Dubstep, Funk, Electro, Indie...

24. The Three Goats Heads
Best in Oxford!

25. Olives
Just opposite Uni. Amazing French & Italian deli. food.

26. The King's Arms
Popular student pub, affectionately named the "KA."

27. Jericho Tavern
Pub and music venue with a small band.

28. Phoenix Picture House
Tiny cinema with a bar and showing obscure films.

29. Port Meadow
For walks amongst the cows. (e.g Walton Well Rd.)

30. The Missing Bean
The best cup of coffee this side of London. You decide.

31. Turl Street Kitchen
Independent local foodie spot with volunteering hub upstairs.

32. The Shelley Memorial
A statue by Edward Onslow Ford of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Shelley was expelled from Uni for writing a pamphlet called The Necessity of Atheism. He is depicted lying dead on the Italian seashore, a fate that befell him on the eve of his 30th birthday. Students once filled the memorial with water and live goldfish as a student prank.
**FUN Stuff**

It's not all work and no play here at Oxford. There is so much on offer outside of study that finding time to fit it all in is the challenge! But to quote ex-Unioite Stephen Hawking, 'Life would be tragic if it wasn't fun'.

**Societies**

There are hundreds of university-wide student societies at Oxford. You can choose from ultimate Frisbee, a cappella singing, debating, comedy... I could go on but you get the picture. If you don't have the society you're looking for then we can help you to set it up too.

**Music**

The college choir is the largest non-selective choir in Oxford. Anyone can turn up and join in, and sing alongside the college orchestra at termly concerts.

**Nightlife**

Oxford’s nightlife caters for all tastes, from clubs playing mainstream, cheese, R&B and more, to stylish bars and traditional pubs.

There are different student nights throughout the week, giving you a chance to meet people from other colleges as well. Uni is lucky enough to have a recently refurbished bar open six evenings a week, fully equipped with table football, pool table, darts, quiz machine, TV and cheap drinks. The bar plays host to all sorts of student-organised events, from open mic nights to quizzes and college-wide parties, usually called 'bops'. Bops take place three times a term and each bop has a different theme, we traditionally kick-off the year with the 'Boga Bop'—so bring beadsheets!

**Volunteering**

For those who want to help ensure that the most able people are getting into Oxford, we have the Ambassador scheme. This is Oxford's most active college-based access scheme; students visit schools and invite them to Uni, to encourage talented pupils to apply regardless of background or their schooling.

**Other fun stuff**

There are also many quieter activities to take part in, from chilling in the JCR with a cup of tea, to movie nights, charity events and the occasional 'Boke Off' competition!

**Oxfordly things**

The summer also provides opportunities for other famously picturesque Oxford pastimes, such as punting on the River Cherwell and playing croquet on the Goodhart Lawn.

**Sports**

With a brand new boathouse and tennis courts, football, rugby and cricket pitches, it's not a surprise that Uni has been well-equipped for sporting success, consistently doing well in intercollegiate competition, commonly known as 'cuppers'. Yet it isn't all serious; most people enjoy a leisurely splash on the river or friendly knock about on the college squash court at some point. Second string sport is often just open to anyone who wants to turn up, and the emphasis is entirely on having fun and keeping fit rather than victory (although we are normally victorious anyway)! All Uni students have free membership of the University gym and swimming pool.
MEET OUR TUTORS

We interview the interviewers.

Qualities you look for in applicants/students?

KM: Curiosity, self-ambition, candor, diversity, and above all, work ethic.

TS: I look for someone who is passionate about their work, is willing to put in the effort, and is able to think critically.

NY: Enthusiasm for the subject, a genuine curiosity, and a strong work ethic.

TF: I am looking for students who are passionate about their subject, can think critically, and are willing to put in the effort.

RJ: I am looking for students who are curious, are willing to take risks, and are able to think critically.

What will you wear in interviews?

NM: I usually wear a suit and tie.

KM: I wear a suit and tie.

TS: I usually wear a suit and tie.

NY: I usually wear a suit and tie.

TF: I wear a suit and tie.

RJ: I wear a suit and tie.

An ideal essay/problem sheet is...

KM: A well-organized essay that demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and shows originality and passion.

TF: A well-organized essay that demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and shows originality and passion.

NY: A well-organized essay that demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and shows originality and passion.

TS: A well-organized essay that demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and shows originality and passion.

RJ: A well-organized essay that demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and shows originality and passion.

Finally...dinner guests?

NM: I am frequently having my dinner guests - with friends (who are often my colleagues).

KM: Shakespeare, obviously. Then a couple of literary people with Union connections.

TS: I love hosting dinner parties.

NY: I pick three psychologists. They are some scientists who, when you're reading their work, make the process seem so clear and simple. David Morris is one of these people. He transformed the way I think about the brain processes involved in decision making.

TF: I love hosting dinner parties.

RJ: I pick three psychologists. They are some scientists who, when you're reading their work, make the process seem so clear and simple. David Morris is one of these people. He transformed the way I think about the brain processes involved in decision making.

MK: I love hosting dinner parties.

Michael Kestenbaum

President of the University

1998-2008
Going to Oxford is an amazing experience. It connects students who share the same interests and provides a great opportunity to expand one’s knowledge and horizons. This year, the University also introduced a new program called “Oxford’s Global Village,” which aims to bring together students from different backgrounds and cultures. It has been a wonderful experience to meet people from all over the world and to learn about their perspectives and experiences.

Academic Life

Oxford University is one of the top universities in the world, and it provides a challenging and stimulating environment for students. The academic year is divided into three terms, and each term is typically four weeks. Classes are held in the mornings, and students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials. In addition, each student is assigned a tutor who provides support and guidance.

Sports

Oxford University has a strong tradition of sports, and there are a wide range of teams and clubs to join. I belong to the Oxford University Netball Club, which is one of the most successful in the country. I have enjoyed playing in various tournaments and competitions, and it has been a great way to meet people and stay active.

Social Life

Oxford University has a vibrant social scene, with a wide range of events and activities to enjoy. I have attended concerts, theater performances, and cultural events. In addition, there are numerous societies and clubs for students to join, which provide a great opportunity to meet people with similar interests.

Conclusion

Overall, my experience at Oxford University has been incredibly rewarding. I have had the opportunity to learn from some of the best minds in the world and to explore new ideas and perspectives. I have made lifelong friendships and have grown both academically and personally. I would highly recommend Oxford University to anyone who is looking for a challenging and fulfilling university experience.
COMMUNITY & DIVERSITY

SEXUALITY

Whenever your concerns are when coming to Uni, sexuality should not be one of them. Whether you’re already open or very secretly curious and unsure, both Uni and Oxford offer societally opportunities to be you in a supportive, non-judgemental atmosphere. There are multiple university-wide societies for LGBTQ+ students, which offer great chances to get to know people from other colleges whether politics, going out, or simply free food is your thing; there are LGBTQ+ pubs and gay club nights on a weekly basis too! At Uni we also have an elected student as our LGBTQ+ rep who is there if you have any concerns at all, and regularly runs social events (usually including free pizza!) in college, as well as setting up socials with other colleges too.

DISABILITIES

Having a disability is not reason at all to put you at a disadvantage at Uni, or to make you think you won’t have a great time here. Uni is made up largely of quite big buildings but we are so very good at ensuring easy access whatever your needs. The College even added some state-of-the-art, disabled-access bedrooms and kitchens when we renovated our newest accommodation block! Other needs are also catered for in college, such as extra time on exams – all you have to do is let the University Aware what you need and help is on hand! We have a Welfare team in college who can point you in the right direction and there is lots of help available through the central student union OUSU too if you’re not sure where to begin.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

At Uni we have lots of international students from all over the world who are an active part of the student body just like everyone else. Want that that Uni is a very welcoming place for people of different cultures and races. Uni has students from around 50 different countries. We have a college ‘families’ as a friendly point of contact for any concerns as well as a brilliant Welfare team and a designated International Student Rep who can lead you to a local community that you will always have someone to turn to. However small or large the problem, the college-wide extent there are international films nights, international food themes, formal halls, the list goes on.

Here at Uni we recognise that international students may have some extra requirements. As an international student, you are the proud owner of a precious passport space over the vacations unlike others, there is a good chance that you will need to travel home or to abroad as a student atUni also like to cook for each other in our kitchen during the regular ‘Come Down With Me’ event – a great chance to meet new people.

Being centrally located is an added bonus – Uni is right across from the High Street bus stop going to Clayhall, Camberwell and London. Think: less painful boggling of routes and down town side roads to obscure colleges and the chance to sleep on every 15 minutes when you’ve got too much to carry early bus to the airport at the end of terms. Bliss. With all these practical benefits and support, who can say that Uni isn’t the dream place for an international student?

I’m the Women’s Representative in the JCR this year. This means that I work with the Access Officer and the LIBGE, International Students’ BME, and Disabled Students’ reps to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in college.

We organise fun events and film screening as well as doing practical things to make the JCR more accessible. For example, this year I’ve introduced the ‘Free Periods’ scheme to provide free sanitary products for members of the JCR.

Life at university can sometimes feel stressful, unexpected events can occur, and occasionally we all just feel a bit worse than usual. This will not stop you getting the most out of being here though as help is on hand if ever you need it.

University College is a fantastically supportive community and soon you’ll make friends for life in whom you can turn if you need them. Sometimes though, you might think that it’d be good to speak to someone different. That’s why we have two Welfare Officers and a team of Student Peer Supporters: two students who have been elected specifically to help the transition to university life easier and to be a support throughout your time at Oxford. They’re a brilliant link between you and College and can help from the smallest of concerns to the biggest issues. Everybody has at some point had a quick chat over (sugar free) tea and doughnuts, or something more serious. College Welfare is well trained, good listeners always available to talk to in complete confidentiality, and on your side. They can also help you decide who to contact if you need to approach the counselors or other staff dealing with welfare at College or university. Welfare supplies, on request, including: condoms, pregnancy tests and personal attack alarms (free of charge and completely confidentially).

Chances are most of your time here will be brilliant, you’ll get stuck into enjoying all that Oxford has to offer – academic and otherwise! But university isn’t necessarily plain sailing for everyone all of the time. They run regular welfare events which are always well attended as they provide continuous amounts of good food and tea to get you through the term, and it’s also a good chance to catch up with the rest of College! There is no stigma attached to seeking welfare-based help at Uni: anyone is free to use the service completely confidentially.

Most people have a great time at Uni, and find that they don’t need to use these services at all – but they are there if you need them.

www.ouls.ac.uk/content/welfare
Finance

Living away from home for the first time presents many new challenges, not least of all managing your money.

As a fresher, the last thing you want to be doing is spending time worrying about your overdraft and wondering whether you’ll have enough money to see the term out. Don’t worry; we try to make sure that this is never a problem at UniOX.

1. The University makes available numerous bursaries for students who come from low-income families, details of which are available at www.uniox.ac.uk/funding

2. A generous bank grant of £500 helps you buy key literature for your course, whilst the college library can buy books otherwise inaccessible to you. Extra finance required for fieldwork or academic research can be found through departmental grants or through one of the College’s trust funds.

3. There are various funds which students can apply to if they find themselves in temporary financial difficulty, either in the form of an emergency loan or grant. These are based purely on how much money a student has at their disposal.

4. Our Old Members’ Trust Bursary Scheme is one of the most generous college-based bursary schemes in the whole University. We will support students from low- and middle-income families in studying with us. More information is available at www.uniox.ac.uk/funding

5. The University makes available numerous bursaries for students who come from low-income families, details of which are available at www.uniox.ac.uk/funding

6. There are also 7 additional funds to help students who find themselves in unexpected financial difficulties.

7. We can also contribute to your non-academic activities.

8. The College also has a fund which provides grants to students who want to undertake extra research based or do internships in the holidays. All they have to do is come up with a plan, and sometimes this will broaden their academic horizons even more about their studies. The College will choose to give money to the students with the best suggestions.

9. The Blue Fund is allocated to students who compute to study at University level and which may include expenses for equipment, transport or specialized materials.

For the most up-to-date student funding information visit our dedicated website: www.uniox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/student_funding

Travel Scholarships

During the summer of 2015 I spent two weeks on an excavation site near Naples, Italy.

One of UniOX’s Travel Funds covered my flight costs, which meant I was able to relax and enjoy the surroundings whilst touring the city. I was also able to earn some extra money through various student perks and I was able to have a little disposable income to enjoy the city and visit the various attractions.

I happened by to be travelling with my fellow Classics student, Beth, and so we were able to share a hotel room and make the most of our time in Italy and visit the various attractions.

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Lucinda Rhodes

During this time, I learned an immense amount about archaeology and topography, both practically and in the classroom. My days were spent half on the dig-site, and half inside working on the pottery we found. On the dig-site I was taught how to accurately trace sections of the building, that had been uncovered by the careful use of penciltape and measuring tape and I also learnt how to use a travel correctly.

While there we discovered many pieces of pottery, a broach, and a number of objects that had been used for child burial. Back inside the accommodation I learnt how to mark pieces of pottery for recording by practicing with ink and fountain pens and then covering the writing with mud. I also learnt how to identify where the different parts of pottery had come from, according to colour and texture, and how to determine what kind of item they had been part of originally. We also had the chance to see some pots and amphorae that had been fully restored through careful reconstruction.

White Road, I was also able to visit Pompeii, which was extremely exciting as I had never visited Pompeii or Italy before. This was very helpful for my Classics, as I was able to see many of the painting and items that are in my "Tales of Roman" paper in real life. I was also able to visit the Villa D’Este and to go into Naples for the evening. All of this was very enjoyable and helped further my research in learning more about Ancient Rome.
STAIRCASE

Visit our website WWW.STAIRCASE12.ORG!

University College Oxford’s website especially for school and 6th form students

Get ideas for reading around your subject with our Online Reading Bank of book reviews from current Oxford students.

Explore ways to stretch yourself academically beyond the school curriculum by checking out the Resources section— a gateway to lectures, podcasts, courses and more, all available for free online.

Watch interviews with our tutors to find out about different subjects at Oxford—and what they’re looking for in students.

Get a feel for student life in Oxford by browsing our student’s photo albums in our UniLife section— or let them take you on a ‘stop-motion’ tour of our College!

@UNIVSTAIRCASE12

UNIV Facts

UNIV IS THE OLDEST COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Our story began in 1249 when William of Durham, a high-powered theology lecturer who had retired to County Durham, left in his will £10 Marks (a lot of money in those days) for the support of poor scholars.

The rest is history!

Univ has its very own pet tortoise called Percy (hint: look at the top of the page!)

He’s currently limbering up for the annual tortoise race against other colleges.

Univ is amongst the largest colleges in terms of population: 370 undergraduates and over 200 graduate students too!
THE MASTER AND Fellows OF THE COLLEGE OF THE Great Hall OF THE University OF OXFORD