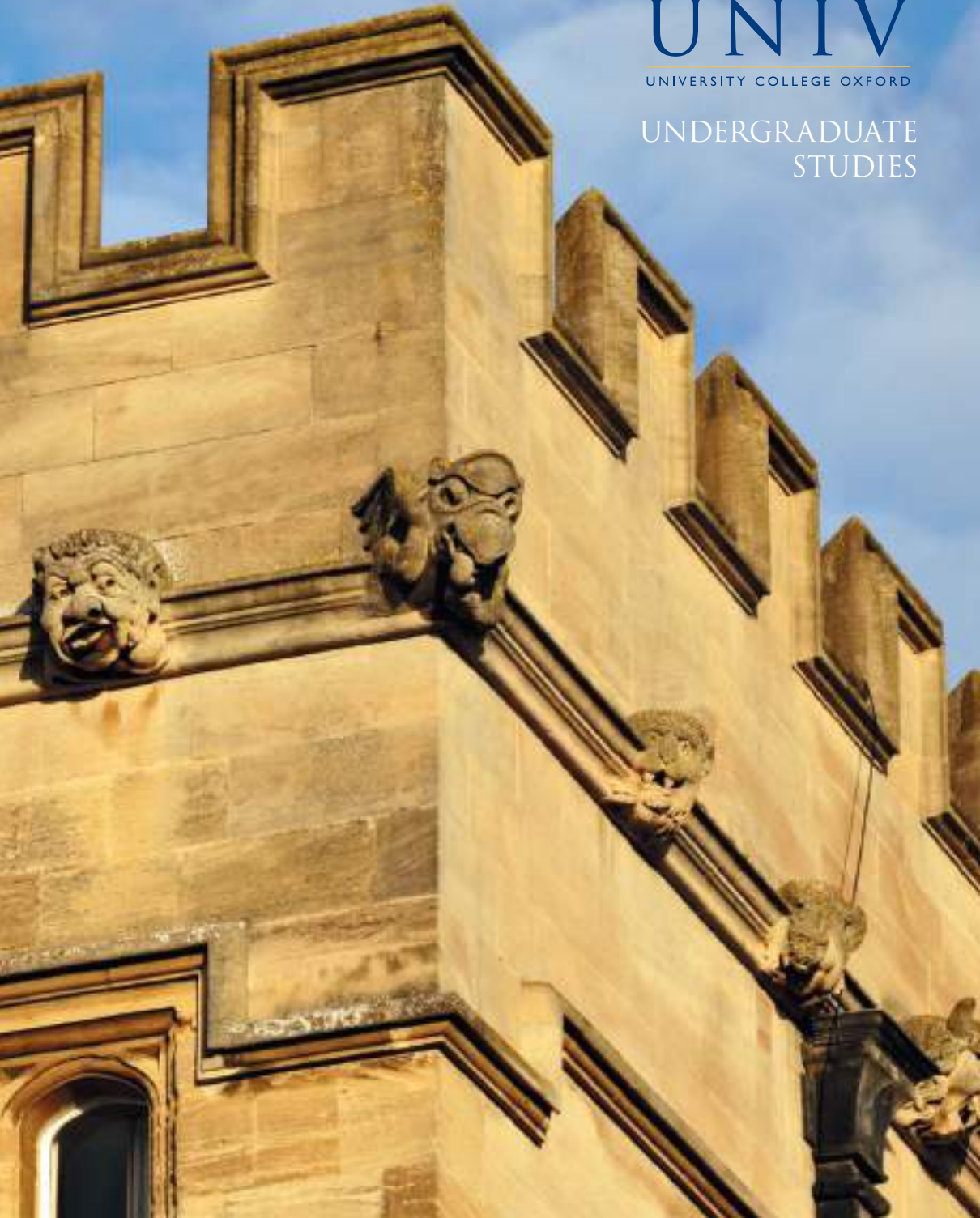




UNIV

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDIES





MASTER'S WELCOME

Towards the end of their first term I ask the 1st-year undergraduates what has struck them most about Univ so far and the most common replies are 'It's incredibly friendly', 'I thought everybody else would be different but they are just like me' and 'You have to work really hard but I'm enjoying it'. If you have done well in your exams, and you are serious about making the most of your academic abilities, then Univ has a lot to offer you and we think you could be very happy here.

Univ is informal and relaxed but academically serious. We expect students to be self-motivated and disciplined in their studies, unafraid to be stretched and challenged, and open to new ideas. The tutorial is at the heart of Univ life, in which learning is the outcome of a close relationship between tutor and student.

The College is committed to allowing its students to enjoy fully all aspects of university life, and the small, supporting community of an Oxford College allows us to provide individual help and guidance as and when students need it. Our Tutors get to know their students very well, support their academic progress and care about their personal well-being. In addition a dedicated welfare team is at hand to give students all the support they need.

Academic study is central to Univ life, but there is still time for other interests. Many students choose to complement their studies with other challenges. Sport, music, drama all play their part in Univ life, and some students pursue these interests at a very high level.

Other Univ students are involved in politics, journalism and voluntary work, and some go on to careers in these fields. If you want to spend your free time enjoying the libraries, student societies and social opportunities of this world-class university, that's fine too. One of the many benefits of studying here is developing the ability to manage personal time and balance priorities.

Univ is one of Oxford's most ancient foundations but it is thoroughly modern in its approach. We have developed pre-entry mathematics courses for scientists, student reviews of teaching and, as part of our support for undergraduates from modest-income households, vacation grants and bursaries.

We are proud of the diversity of our students and seeks to admit talented students with high academic potential from all backgrounds. In 2016 we pioneered the Univ Opportunity Programme, the first of its kind in Oxford, opening up 10 extra undergraduate places each year, to be filled by able students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

Past and present students share a sense of belonging to Univ's integrated and supportive community. Among all the Oxford colleges, Univ has by far the highest proportion of former students who have chosen to stay in contact with the College. We like to think that this reflects the quality of their experience and the affection in which they hold the College and the community they were part of whilst in Oxford.



Sir Ivor Crewe





UNIVERSITY COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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STUDYING AT UNIV

'Students at Univ have three things in common: a love of their subject, a strong record of academic achievement and the commitment to make a success of their chosen course. We are a college with academic ambition and support our students in fulfilling their potential. Our students are taught and guided in their work by our tutors who also engage in world-class research.'

The tutorial system is at the heart of undergraduate education at Oxford. Each week students work independently, reading and writing essays or preparing problem sheets. Tutorials are a chance to delve into the ideas encountered in their preparation, in discussion with their tutors and fellow students.

They usually take place in a tutor's office with one or two other students and last for about an hour. The tutorial is a challenging teaching method but is also tailored to each student and offers an exhilarating learning experience. Tutorials are supplemented by a variety of classes and lectures and Univ tutors play a crucial role in guiding the academic development of their students.

At Univ we are committed to helping our students settle into their new academic environment. We provide a free of charge pre-term maths course. This course is offered to all first-year students studying Biochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science (and

joint schools), Earth Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics (and joint schools), Medicine and Physics. It helps students to get a real head start in their studies by consolidating the maths skills they will require in their studies.

There is also support in place within the student body. All new undergraduate students receive 'College parents' on arrival. These are students in the year above, one of whom will normally study the same subject, who are there to help new students settle in to academic and social life in the College. Univ also runs an Academic Skills Mentoring Scheme which pairs up students who could benefit from extra academic support with graduate students to support them with essential academic skills. This scheme provides a friendly and supportive contact for participating students to talk through any academic issues or ideas.



Prospective applicants may wish to visit our website to find out more about the academic research interests of our tutors.

For more information visit: www.univ.ox.ac.uk

UNIV LIBRARY

Univ's well-stocked and comfortable libraries play a vital role in College life. Both our libraries are open 24 hours a day for most of the year with professional staff on hand to help. Our collections include more than 60,000 books, as well as DVDs, CDs, a model brain, and a model skeleton. Book suggestions from students are encouraged, and a generous budget allows us to buy around 1000 items each year.

Loan allocations are ample and books may be borrowed for an entire term or vacation. As well as two large, quiet reading rooms, we offer a Law Library and two bookable rooms for group study.

A generous book grant of £60 helps Univ students to buy key literature in their first term.



University College admits students for most, but not all, of the courses offered by the University of Oxford.

For more information, see the college website.

ADMISSION TO UNIV

We seek to attract the most talented students regardless of background. Admission to Univ is on academic merit only: students are selected by tutors on the basis of their educational record and their academic potential. This is assessed with reference to the context of the student's own particular educational background. Univ is in complete support of University-wide efforts to promote fairness in admissions, and the College also runs an extensive outreach programme guiding students through the application process.

As part of our continued commitment to widening access to Oxford, the College pioneered the Univ Opportunity Programme in 2016-17. This initiative has created 10 additional undergraduate places per year at the College specifically for UK students from disadvantaged backgrounds. These students receive targeted academic support in the form of a summer bridging course to ensure that they are able to transition effectively to high-level university study.



University College runs an extensive outreach programme for schools and students.

For more information please feel free to contact us, or search the college website.



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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

‘My Univ bursary freed my mind of any concerns over financial matters during my time here and also helped my Mum to not have to worry over me at all. I felt I could take part in any activities that friends were taking part in, and never felt left out. In summary: it gave peace of mind and freedom to enjoy my time at Univ.’

Univ is committed to ensuring that students who come here can focus on their academic studies and enjoy all aspects of College life without too much about making the financial sums add up. Eligible students benefit from an extremely generous financial support package. We are committed to supporting students from low and middle income families through our Univ Old Members’ Trust Bursary Scheme.

There are many other sources of financial support available at Univ. All students who find themselves in unexpected hardship can apply to funds such as the University College Student Support Fund. Awards are frequently made to students in the form of grants or interest-free loans.

The Academic Opportunities Fund provides grants to students to undertake extra research, travel or to do internships in the vacations. Finally, we have a number of Travel Scholarships available to assist students in funding fieldwork and other trips linked to their studies.

Univ can also contribute to non-academic activities. Examples include, the Blues fund which is allocated to students who compete in any sport at University level which may involve extra costs, support in the form of extra residence if needed by students participating in extracurricular activities, or partial funding for courses at Oxford’s language centre.



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

Additional information is also available on the College website.

DISABILITY SUPPORT

Univ strives to be a diverse and inclusive environment in which all students have the opportunity to succeed. We welcome students with disabilities into Univ and work closely with them to reduce any barriers to their full participation in College life.

Disability support may be available to anyone with a diagnosed long-term physical impairment, mental health condition, social or communication impairment (such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Asperger’s Syndrome) and/or a Specific Learning Difficulty (such as dyslexia or dyspraxia).

If you tell us that you have a disability, we will make reasonable adjustments to support your individual needs so that you are able to access both your studies and other aspects of college life. We work in liaison with the University Disability Advisory Service to ensure that the support offered is right for you.



WELFARE SUPPORT

Univ’s welfare team is here to support all of our students throughout their time with us. We take proactive steps to help students feel at home here. This begins in the very first week at Univ when we offer an inclusive ‘Welcome Week’ for all new students. Students are free to enjoy their first days at university with social events and orientation activities as they settle into a new environment.

Welfare-related issues can affect anyone and we encourage all of our students to seek support if they experience any such issues, no matter how big or small.

The welfare team at Univ comprises experienced professionals and trained student peer supporters. Along with other welfare professionals within the wider university, we are here to respond to students who experience any difficulties. We are available to listen to any concerns that our students may have and to offer advice, guidance and support. Every student will always be taken seriously, listened to and respected.





LOCATION AND FACILITIES

Our central location means that we are nestled amongst libraries, shops, museums, theatres and restaurants. The beautiful old buildings that make up Univ have been fully modernised for 21st century needs, and despite our city centre surroundings we have several peaceful courtyards and gardens with grass and trees.

Nowadays Univ has around 390 undergraduates and approximately 200 graduate students, from around 50 countries. The College strives to offer undergraduates College-owned or managed accommodation for the duration of their studies but students can choose to live out if they wish. The College has approximately 300 rooms on main Colleges site for both Undergraduates and Graduate students. There are also over 100 rooms elsewhere in the city, including at our annexe in North Oxford where the majority of second year undergraduates live together. Most rooms have shared showers and bathrooms but some have en suite bathrooms, and each room is fully networked for computer use.

Because Univ is an old college the rooms vary in size and style, from unique older rooms with lots of character, to the highly modern en suite rooms in our Goodhart building, refurbished in 2016. All our accommodation is both high quality and affordable.

We have a smart and modern canteen-style Buttery which serves three meals a day during the week and a brunch and an evening meal at weekends. All meals are optional and are purchased on a pay-as-you-go basis. There are some limited self-catering facilities in pantries across the College. The food selection at Univ is varied and students can always find something to suit their tastes amongst the many hot and cold options available.



THE HISTORY OF UNIV

University College owes its origins to William of Durham, who died in 1249, which gives us a good claim to be the oldest college in Oxford or Cambridge. Our full name is 'The Master and Fellows of the College of the Great Hall of the University of Oxford' but we are often called Univ.

Most of our current buildings were constructed in the 17th century. Work began on the main quadrangle in 1634 but was not finished for over thirty years because of the English Civil War. Univ's Chapel, part of the main quad, has stained glass windows designed by Abraham van Linge, a Dutch artist, which date back to the Civil War. The other main quadrangle, Radcliffe Quad, built in only three years, 1716-1719, thanks to a bequest from one Old Member, John Radcliffe, whose statue can be seen there.

Univ's main library was built in 1858-61. It was commissioned with the purpose of housing two statues of two of Univ's Fellows in the 18th Century, Lord Eldon and Lord Stowell, gifted to the College by the subjects' family. In the 18th century, the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley studied at Univ, but was expelled for writing seditious pamphlets. Visitors to the College can view the grand memorial to him.

Many Univ students have gone on to excel in their field. Former students include British prime-ministers, Clement Attlee and Harold Wilson; other political leaders, Bill Clinton and Festus Mogae; physicist Professor Stephen Hawking; literary figures C. S. Lewis, Andrew Motion, and Sir V. S. Naipaul; media figures Christina Lamb and Paul Gambaccini; and sports personalities Roz Savage, and Acer Nethercott.



COLLEGE LIFE

'My favourite part of the academic experience at Univ is definitely the tutorials. Every single one is different and you leave your tutor's office with many things to think about, as you go off to eat in Hall, or meet up with friends.'

Life outside of study at Univ is rich and varied in opportunity. Univ students run the 'Junior Common Room' which is the focus for social activities for undergraduates of the college. The College bar provides a hub for social events, such as open mic nights.

Many of our students volunteer as part of Univ's Ambassador scheme, working with schools and young people to encourage them in applying to Oxford. We have a long list of societies here at Univ including drama, debating, music and much more. In addition to this, Univ is home to an active choir which performs concerts, makes recordings and goes on tour regularly. During term time the choir sings one service a week, allowing its members also to pursue other extra-curricular interests.

We have a wide range of sports clubs from rugby to darts, from rowing to badminton. Anyone can take part in College sport - whatever their level of achievement or experience. Our sports facilities are located approximately 10 minutes away by cycle ride and students benefit from a state-of-the-art boathouse on the River Thames. Univ is also a 10 minute cycle from the University's main sports facilities. All Univ students get free access to the gym and swimming pool in addition to being able to use a small gym/exercise room on the College's main site.



Students can also become involved with university-wide societies and clubs as well as those available at Univ. The Univ Alternative Prospectus - which can be found on the college website - offers a rich insight into this side of student life.



PHOTO PLATES



Cover
Gargoyles on the Radcliffe Quad tower at University College.



Page 1
Book spines in Univ's historic library collections.



Pages 3–4
The gates leading onto Logic Lane.



Page 5
Students in the Quad at Univ.



Pages 7–8
Students in a tutorial.



Pages 11–12
The University College boathouse on the River Thames.



Pages 15–16
Students enjoying lunch in the dining hall at University College.



Pages 20
A student kitchen in The Goodhart Building.



Pages 20
Students studying outside in one of University College's Gardens.



Pages 20
University College's men's first VIII rowing in Torpids.

NEXT STEPS

Why not come to one of our Open Days?
More information available at:
www.univ.ox.ac.uk/opendays

Become a fan of Univ on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/universitycollegeoxford

Follow us on Twitter:
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Follow us on Instagram:
[@univcollegeoxford](https://www.instagram.com/univcollegeoxford)

For general admissions information please visit:
www.admissions.ox.ac.uk

Please do contact us with any further questions
by emailing: admissions@univ.ox.ac.uk

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Design & Direction – Andy Welland
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Rowing photo: Oliver Vince.

