

Accommodation and Food at Univ



Where do students live in first year?

Kate, Experimental Psychology, 2nd year, Harrogate (Yorkshire): The way accommodation works in Univ is that in first year everyone is randomly allocated to a room on the main site of College, which is on the High Street in the centre of Oxford. Typically this will be in staircases and everyone has their own bedroom but some people have a shared study between two people. Bathrooms are generally shared and the amount of people to a bath room varies around College.

My room was on Main Quad so it was one of the older more traditional rooms. It consisted of a bedroom with a large study attached, it had a sink and fridge and very big pinboard, which meant that I could make the room feel more like my own. I was a little bit apprehensive about having to share the bathroom facilities with the other people on my staircase but over the year this actually wasn't a problem at all.

Amy, Earth Sciences, 2nd year, Portishead (Somerset): I loved my rooms in both 1st and 2nd year. In 1st year I was on the ground floor right on the High Street and I loved being part of the hustle and bustle of the city. I couldn't believe how much space I had with a whole bedroom and study to myself, loads of storage, loads of light and I was right across from the JCR (Junior Common Room) so I could wander over in my pyjamas for movie nights with my friends.

Elsa, Music, 2nd year, Stockport: In my first year, I had a room in College. I had a room on Radcliffe Quad, it was in two parts so half was a bedroom and half was a study. It had windows overlooking the Radcliffe Quad on one side and the High Street on the other. I think my favourite thing about this room was possibly the window seats overlooking High Street, which were really relaxing and comfortable.

Lewis, Biochemistry, 2nd year, Telford: My first year room in College was very different to my second year room in Stavs (Staverton Road Annexe in North Oxford). My first year room had a single bed, mini fridge and a shared study like many of the other rooms in College. One of best things about that room was the view. I was on High Street so I had a really nice view into the main quad of Queen's College. My second year room on paper was probably a lot better. I had a double bed ensuite and the room was generally a lot bigger. One of the great things though is that it doesn't matter what room you get at Univ you'll still pay the same price for that room, which really helps to avoid any sort of socioeconomic divide between students?

Where do students live in second year?

Becca, Earth Sciences, 2nd year, Portsmouth: In second year Univ can't offer you onsite accommodation, there isn't enough space, but second years get to go live in an annexe, which is about half an hour walk north of Univ where there are four houses and four accommodation blocks. Me and my friends were really fortunate, we got to go in one of the houses called Redcliffe-Maud House, which is a beautiful 12-bedroom house and the four of us had the four rooms on the top floor with a shared bathroom.

Kate, Experimental Psychology, 2nd year, Harrogate (Yorkshire): And then in second year, students live in an annexe which is in North Oxford so that's a selection of houses and flats. And in order to decide who lives where Univ conducts a randomized ballot so people can choose to enter the ballot either in groups or individually then people choose their rooms in order of the names which come out the ballot. So the accommodation rates for the annexe are the same as on main site. Personally I lived in a flat with four of my friends and I loved the experience. It was really nice to be a different part of Oxford and it was also a bit more independent than living in College.

Connie, PPE, 2nd Year, Liverpool: In my second year I had a really lovely room in the Greenwood Building of our Stavs annexe. It was a flat with all of my friends, which I loved, and the bathroom situation was such that I only had to share a shower with one other person who's one of my best friends, which is pretty good going. We also had a lovely kitchen that were able to share and it was lovely to cook in the evenings and in the mornings. One of my favourite parts about living in Stavs is that there was always someone in the kitchen when you wanted a cup of tea or a chat. I love the location of Stavs and particularly the view from my room. My room had floor to ceiling windows which meant that in the morning I could open the curtains and look out onto some lovely gardens.

Where do students live in third year?

Kate, Experimental Psychology, 2nd year, Harrogate (Yorkshire): In third year the way it works is another randomised ballot, this time everyone is entered into the ballot individually and everyone choose from all of the rooms on College's main site. This means that they can choose to have a more traditional room or a more modern room. So personally when I lived in College in first year I had a traditional room on Main Quad so this time I've decided to live in Univ's newest building for third year in which all of the rooms are ensuite. In third year I'm going to be living in Univ's newest accommodation so that's the Goodhart Building on main site, which means I'll have an ensuite and there are also two kitchens per floor in the building. I'm really looking forward to coming back to Univ and moving into my new room.

Lizzie, Medicine, 3rd year, Preston: So in third year I lived in a modern area of College on the main site and I had a very luxurious room. It had an ensuite and I also shared a kitchen and it was very nice to be able to make my own meals but also be on the main College site where I could also get to all the places in Oxford quite quickly and to decorate my room I had a lot of plants and also a lot of the drawings I did I stuck up on my pinboard.

Where do you eat in Univ?

Lizzie, Medicine, 3rd year, Preston: In terms of eating in Univ, in first year I tended to eat in the Hall and you just have a Pay As You Go system and there's breakfast, lunch and tea and on the weekends there's brunch and tea. And this was really useful to get to know people because you'd all go to Hall together and sit with new people every time you went. Also, another thing that's really good about being in College is that three times a week there's what's called a "formal hall" and this is a good way to celebrate special occasions and wear something a bit fancy and eat a three course meal. It's a bit like going out to a restaurant with friends so that's another really nice thing that I might do two or three times a term for someone's birthday for example and then there's also a few kitchens on the main College site. In first year I cooked a little bit but not too much, in second year I was off the main site and I had access to a kitchen and I cooked everything all year (that was really good for having the

freedom to have whatever food I wanted to cook) and then in third year I was on the College site and I had easy access to a kitchen so I mainly cooked food and occasionally when I wanted to meet up with friends we'd go and have lunch in Hall.

George, Engineering, 3rd year, Glastonbury (Somerset): In first year the rooms are randomly allocated and I had a nice old room looking out onto Logic Lane. There was a kitchen in the basement that I used to cook from time to time but most evenings I went to Hall with my mates and that's on a Pay As You Go kind of system so you don't have to choose strictly catered or non-catered.

Elsa, Music, 2nd year, Stockport: In second year I've cooked for myself a lot more. This is particularly because the kitchen facilities this year are a lot better for me. The Greenwood flats have good kitchens, they're quite spacious and modernised as well. The fact that not many people share one kitchen means that you can get a lot done and there's lots of space to work.