

A Virtual Tour of Univ



Student introductions

Connie, PPE, 2nd Year, Liverpool: Hi everyone. My name's Connie. I'm from Liverpool and I'm a second year PPE student here at Univ. I specialise in Philosophy and Politics, and while I'm not doing my degree I enjoy just walking around the city and having a good time with my friends. I also enjoy getting involved in the various societies that the University and the College has to offer, as well as attending extra seminars and speaker events alongside my course. I'm really excited to be showing you around Univ today, and I hope you enjoy the impression you get of the College.

Glyn, PPE, 2nd Year, Ceredigion: Hi there, I'm Glyn and I'm from Ceredigion, West Wales. I've just completed my second year of PPE here at Univ, specialising in Political Philosophy. Outside of academia, I love getting involved in student plays, attending out-of-college society events, and I've just finished my year on committee for the LGBTQ+ society. Come and enjoy this virtual tour with me.

Dag, PPE, 1st Year, London: Hi I'm Dag, I'm from London and I've just finished my first year of PPE here at Univ, though next year I'll be specialising in just Politics and Economics. When I'm not doing my degree I really enjoy playing football or going out with my friends. Next year I will also be the JCR president. I'm really excited to show you around Univ, virtually.

Entrance Lodge and Main Quad

Dag: The entrance to Univ is on the High Street in Oxford. You enter through a wooden door up some stone steps, and the first people to greet you will be the porters. The porters look after the security of the college and collect and deliver the post. They are friendly and generally a great point of call if you need a bike pump or the spare key if you ever lock yourself out of your room!

Beyond the porters' lodge, is our main quad – short for quadrangle. It's the oldest part of the college. It was built in the Seventeenth Century when the college outgrew its existing Medieval buildings. Most of the windows that you can see standing in Main Quad are student rooms. Univ is great because there is such a range of accommodation, from the more traditional rooms in Main Quad where students share a large study and have their own bedrooms, like on this Quad, to the modern bedrooms in Goodhart Building.

Dining Hall and Bar

Connie: This is Univ's dining hall. Students have the option to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in Hall each week day, and brunch and dinner at weekends. It's on a pay-as-you-go basis which means you can also choose to cook for yourself if you'd prefer. Food is collected from the buttery just next to the hall. There are lots of hot options as well as sandwiches and a salad bar.

Three days a week there's also the opportunity to sit for a more formal sit-down dinner. It's called a formal hall. Occasionally there are themed formals, like LGBT formal, or burns night, or Chinese new year. Eating in hall is a great way to hang out with friends in the middle of a busy day, and formal

halls are great to be able to celebrate something special for example a birthday or one of the themed events that I just mentioned.

The portraits on the walls of Hall are mostly people associated with the college from the past. That includes some presidents and prime ministers like the former British Prime Minister Clement Atlee and the former Botswanan President Festus Mogae. There are also some more recent Univ graduates on the wall whose photos feature in a “Young Univ Gallery”.

Underneath the hall is our college bar. It’s open 5 days per week. It sells pretty cheap drinks. The Bar is also the location of Open Mic nights and college pub quizzes. It’s a real focal point whether you enjoy drinking or not. We also have BOPs (which are college-wide fancy-dress parties) here every other week! These are some of the best events of term, and it is great to have all of the members of the undergrad student body here having a great time together.

Old Library

Glyn: In the gardens behind the dining hall and bar, stands Univ’s “Old Library”. This is one of two libraries in Univ. The other one – the “New library” - is over on the other side of College. The “Old Library” holds most of the books for Humanities and Science students. The new library, which was recently renovated is the space for Social Science books.

Both our libraries are open 24 hours a day. Students can check out books themselves anytime and, during the daytime, the librarians are available to help you locate resources you might need.

If you’re interested in the history of the “Old Library”, it was built in the 1840s after a guy called Lord Eldon gifted a set of large statues of himself and his brother to the college, along with a library in which to house them. In the 1930s a mezzanine floor was added, meaning now there are two floors of books and desks.

Chapel

Dag: Most of Oxford’s older colleges have a chapel onsite. Univ’s is used once per week where the college choir sing an evensong on a Sunday night. They follow that up with a free formal dinner. The choir put on special services in the chapel like Remembrance Day, and Christmas carols. Auditioning to join Univ’s choir is just one way that students can get involved in music at the college. Other ways involve joining the occasional college orchestra or playing in one of the mini concerts hosted in the Master’s Lodgings.

The most remarkable thing about Univ’s chapel has got to be the windows. They were made just before the English Civil war of the 1640s and tell bible stories in beautiful detail and bright colour.

Shelley Memorial

Glyn: To the right of the main entrance is a memorial to Percy Shelley a former student of Univ. Shelley was a poet. You might recognise the name of his more famous wife Mary Shelley who wrote Frankenstein.

He wasn't a student for very long though. He wrote a pamphlet called 'The Necessity of Atheism' at a time when the University of Oxford was highly religious. Shelley was expelled for refusing to renounce what he'd written. When, Percy Shelley drowned tragically at the age of 30, his daughter in law, Jane Shelley, commissioned the statue you see here for Percy's burial place. When it was found to be too big for his tomb, she offered it to Univ with money to pay for enclosure

The Shelley Memorial is rumoured to have been the subject of many student pranks, apparently, including filling the enclosure with water and fish.

Outdoor Spaces

Connie: We also have some really nice outdoor spaces in College too, like the Fellows' Lawn outside of the library where we'll often work or relax when the weather is nice in Trinity Term, which is our summer term.

We also have Helen's court which is tucked away at the back of college and comprised of mainly third year rooms. Furthermore, we have a lawn in front of our Goodhart building. In the summer, you'll typically find groups of friends frolicking about or enjoying their lunch in our outdoor spaces.

And when he's not in hibernation, you may also find our college tortoise Percy chilling in our outdoor spaces too. Percy's named after the ex-Univite and poet, Percy Shelley, and he's well looked after by our college staff. Soon he's going to have a purpose built run in our Master's garden.

Radcliffe Quad and Master's Garden

Glyn: To the left of the Main Quad is Radcliffe Quad. This was built 100 years after the main one, but made to look exactly the same. John Radcliffe, an influential doctor in the 18th century, commissioned the quad. He's commemorated in a statue overlooks it. Every window here represents a student room – someone even gets to live in the tower!

Over the wall from Radcliffe Quad is the Master's House. The Master is the head of the college, and also involves themselves in college life by welcoming students at the start of their degree and meeting with them once per year for a progress meeting.

The Master's garden is the venue of the annual Univ garden play, which is completely student run. Last year, we put on a production of Amadeus featuring a live band.

Logic Lane and JCR

Dag: Running through the college is a road called 'Logic Lane'. From Logic Lane you can see the modern Goodhart building that was renovated in 2015 and has 57 ensuite rooms.

Here is also the Junior Common Room (or JCR). It's a lovely space to relax with sofas, table football, an xbox and a TV. One half has desks so it's a nice informal space to work too. It's the site of JCR committee meetings which happen fortnightly. I'll be the JCR president in my second year. The committee votes on issues it cares about and is one of the ways that the collective student voice is heard.