



## Why Univ

**Nelli Chamings-Manley: Schools Liaison and Access Officer:** Hello, I'm Nelli. I'm the Schools Liaison and Access Officer based at University College. It's my job throughout the year to give advice and guidance to students considering applying to Oxford. This video is designed to show off some of the distinctive things about living and studying at University College.

We're officially called University College but, as you'll hear later, most of the students will call it "Univ" for short. I'm going to hand over to Univ students who will be telling you some of their favourite things about Univ and why they chose to apply to the College.

We hope what they say allows you to make up your mind about whether you'd like to apply to Oxford and, if so, whether you'd like to make Univ your college choice.

### Why did you choose Univ?

**Kate, Experimental Psychology, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Harrogate (Yorkshire):** I chose Univ for a variety of reasons so I had a very methodical approach to choosing a college. The first thing to consider for everyone is which colleges offer your course so once I had those ones I used a set of criteria to decide which one to apply to.

The first thing was accommodation. I wanted to choose a college, which would try to offer me accommodation for all of my degree and I also compared the cost of the accommodation between different colleges and I felt like Univ's rate was really good compared to some of the other ones.

The next thing was location. So, I wanted a college that was fairly central and close to everything in the middle of Oxford like the Tesco and Univ is on the High Street so that met that criteria.

The last thing was that I wanted a college with a hockey team cause hockey is something I like to do in my spare time and I now captain Univ's mixed hockey team.

**Lewis, Biochemistry, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Telford:** Why I picked Univ? For me, Oxford seemed like a slightly overwhelming, bit of a foreign place when I first visited (that was on an Open Day). I went to Univ though and had a tour of the College and chatted to some of the student helpers who were really friendly and it made me realise I could feel at home in Oxford and I can safely say as a student now I still feel at home in Oxford.

**George, Engineering, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Glastonbury (Somerset):** So, why did I choose to apply to Univ? Well I only chose to apply to Oxford after the Open Days had been so I had to use a lot of online resources to make my choice. I was particularly interested in things like accommodation and location. And, I decided on Univ because they try to offer College-owned accommodation for all the years of your undergraduate study, which is not something many colleges do. And Univ is also on the High Street so it's really central and it's also next to Exam Schools where most subjects have exams at the end of the year, which is really handy.

**Elsa, Music, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Stockport:** I initially applied to Univ because it has many musical opportunities, which mean I can continue doing what I love to do.

## **Favourite things about Univ?**

**Elsa, Music, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Stockport:** I think my favourite thing about Univ is that it feels like a family. The year groups are small enough that you can get to know everyone in your year and also it's great to mix with people who don't do the same subject as me. Also, a good thing about the college system is that you get to know the college staff as well, such as the Porters, and they work to make the College feel really safe and welcoming.

**Rebecca, Experimental Psychology, 3<sup>rd</sup> year:** I think my favourite thing about Univ is undoubtedly the Univites, aka my fellow students. There's just such a great sense of community at Univ, which I really really rate. You know, you can't walk across the quad without someone smiling and giving you a wave or walking into Hall without finding someone to sit next to. There's always people who are up for a natter and some of my friends that I have met at Univ my interactions have been purely limited to just running into each other around College and the conversations that we've had. So, yeah. I really really enjoy that about Univ. The people are just lovely.

**Connie, PPE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Liverpool:** One of my favourite things about Univ is the way it facilitates the relationship between you and your tutors. In the first week of term you go a formal called the Altschul Dinner, which is free as it's funded by an Old Member of this family. Beforehand, you're able to go mingle with your students and get to know them a bit better. It's really great and it breaks the ice between you and the people who're going to be teaching you for the duration of your degree.

One of my favourite things about our relationship with our tutors is that it's clear from the off that they want you to do well. This is show through both verbal and written feedback that you get in and from your tutorials and also from the other events that your tutors put on. I've personally found that an invite has always been extended to undergraduates, which has made me feel both valued and secure in my academic abilities, something which I was worried I wouldn't feel before coming to Oxford.

**Elsa, Music, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Stockport:** My favourite part of Univ is the Chapel. Lots of music-making goes on there and it's also just a really quiet and beautiful space, which is great to go to and relax after a busy week.

**Lewis, Biochemistry, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Telford:** One of the great things about Univ is the sense of community. When you arrive in College for the first time you're introduced to your college parents who are in the year above you and that really helps for good integration between year groups. In my first year as well a lot of the people who lived on my staircase studied different subjects so your friends also aren't limited to people who study the same subject as you.

**Amy, Earth Sciences, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Portishead (Somerset):** One of my favourite things about Univ is all the sports and societies you can get involved in. I'd never tried rugby before I came to un, went to the taster session for the women's rugby club and absolutely loved it. The coaches are amazing, really friendly, and I've made so many great friends in the team and through all of my training I even got to play in a University Varsity match against Cambridge.

**Lizzie, Medicine, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Preston:** My favourite thing about Univ is the community spirit and that's not just about the friends I've made along the way, it's also about the events put on in College by fellow students, the College ball.... It's about going to a formal dinner in our dining hall or being part of a College sports team. No matter what your interests there's always a chance to get to know people in the College community better.

**Nelli Chamings-Manley: Schools Liaison and Access Officer:** We hope you found that helpful, we're so sad not to be meeting lots of students in person this year because of the lockdown measures but we hope lots of you choose to apply to Univ so we can potentially meet you in the future. Please ask us any questions you have, large or small, we'll do our best to answer them.