



FRESHERS' GUIDE 2014



HERTFORD MCR
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FOREWORD	1
-----------------	----------

KNOW YOUR OXFORD JARGON	2
--------------------------------	----------

FIRST THINGS FIRST	3
---------------------------	----------

1) COLLECT YOUR KEYS AND GET THE DOOR CODES	3
2) VISIT THE COLLEGE OFFICE DURING WORKING HOURS	3
3) REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT	3
4) START THE PROCESS OF GETTING A BANK ACCOUNT	4
5) REGISTER WITH THE POLICE	4
6) TAKE THE TOUR	4
7) WORK OUT HOW TO ATTEND BOTH FRESHERS' WEEK AND YOUR DEPARTMENTAL INDUCTION	4
8) BUY SUB-FUSC	4
9) HANG OUT IN THE MCR ROOMS (NB7)	5
10) CONSIDER STANDING FOR A GROUP 2 OR 3 POSITION ON THE MCR COMMITTEE	5
11) ATTEND THE FRESHERS' FAIR	6
12) ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS & PARTNERS	6

FACILITIES AND SERVICES	7
--------------------------------	----------

13) ACCOMMODATION	7
14) KITCHEN FACILITIES	7
15) DINING HALLS	8
16) HOUSEKEEPING	8
17) LAUNDRIES	9

18) PARKING	9
19) INTERNET ACCESS	9
20) PHONES	9
21) RECYCLING	10
22) COLLEGE GYM	10
23) SPORTING FACILITIES	10
24) MUSIC PRACTICE ROOMS	10
25) PUNTING	11
26) THE COLLEGE BAR	11

MOVING IN, SETTING UP, GOING SHOPPING 12

27) GROCERY SHOPPING	12
28) KITCHEN EQUIPMENT	12
29) FURNITURE, TVs ETC	12
30) PHARMACEUTICALS & TOILETRIES	13
31) STATIONERY	13
32) BICYCLES	13

SOCIAL STUFF 14

33) GUEST DINNERS	14
34) EXCHANGE DINNERS	14
35) MATRICULATION BALL	14
36) BOPS	14
37) ARTS & SPORTS EXCURSIONS	14
38) FILM NIGHTS AND ACADEMIC SOIREES	15

39) BBQS, PICNIC & PUNTING	15
40) MAY DAY	15
41) THE END-OF-YEAR PARTY	15
42) COLLEGE BALLS	15
43) PLUS LOTS OF OTHER DINNERS...	15

OTHER COLLEGE INFO **16**

44) COLLEGE RENT & BATTERED GOODS	16
45) SAFETY	16
46) SECURITY	16
47) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAVEL GRANTS	17
48) COLLEGE SPORT	17
49) COLLEGE MUSIC	17
50) GRADUATION CEREMONIES	17

USEFUL MAPS **18**

51) OXFORD CITY CENTRE	18
52) THE GRADUATE CENTRE	18
53) HERTFORD RESIDENCES	19
54) MAIN COLLEGE SITE	19

ESCAPING FROM OXFORD **21**

55) AIR TRAVEL	21
56) TRAINS/BUSES	21



FOREWORD

The Hertford MCR is a friendly, relaxed and stimulating community and we're glad you chose to be part of it. Academically, socially, culturally and sporting wise, Hertford has a terrific reputation. We throw great parties, organize many joint events with other colleges, and each term organize a range of activities that appeal to all interests. All of which we realize you'll probably care more about once you've unpacked, so...

Welcome to Hertford! So, you've finally arrived and it's time to use this guide to get you settled into your new college surroundings. No doubt all you want to do at the moment is sleep or sort out the chaos that is your new room (or forget about it all and find the nearest pub). Whatever way you choose to cope with your new surroundings, we, the Committee, are here to make sure that the weeks and months ahead are among your best. With that in mind, we've put together this guide to help answer some of the common questions that arise when first moving in, along with essential information you'll need for getting used to Oxford and Hertford. Notwithstanding, if any of your questions remain unanswered, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us on the Committee.

MCR Committee

KNOW YOUR OXFORD JARGON

Battels – Termly bill from the College, that includes your rent, food purchased in hall, and any items charged to battles from the MCR, e.g. dinners, wine, etc.

Black Tie – Dinner Jacket (tuxedo) or dark suit and black bow tie for men, and appropriately equivalent smart dress for women.

Bop – A party involving music and dancing. Generally, MCR Bops are held in the Octagon. Smart dress is seldom required; fancy dress is often involved.

Hilary – The spring term, which is ironic given that it's dark and raining for the majority of it.

JCR – Junior Common Room. Refers both to the body of undergraduate students and their common room, situated in Holywell Quad

Matriculation – A ceremony that grants you admission to the University of Oxford. You cannot sit exams or graduate if you have not matriculated. It's essential that you attend!

MCR – Middle Common Room. Refers both to the body of postgraduate students and their common rooms, located in NB7 staircase.

Michaelmas – The autumn term, when fun and frivolity prevails and we are all oblivious to work.

Octagon – The octagonal shaped MCR common room in the NB7 staircase.

Punting – Traditional summer pastime, whereby people slowly propel themselves in a boat with a long pole down either the Isis or Cherwell River.

Sconce – Historically a fine imposed for a breach of university or college discipline but today reserved for after formal dinner in hall where a person has to drink his beverage for an untoward act committed.

Scout – The domestic staff member who comes into your room to clean (and most likely wake you up from your slovenly lifestyle).

SCR – Senior Common Room. Similar idea to the JCR and MCR, but for the fellows (tutors and lecturers) of a college.

Simpkins – Version 6.0 of the College cat. Also the name of the 'informative' JCR gossip sheet.

Sub-Fusc – The apparel worn for any University-wide event, such as Matriculation and exams.

Termcard – A calendar of (social) events organized for each eight-week term by your MCR. Refer to it to know what's going on, where and when!

Trinity – The summer term, when the sun shines and students are finally allowed to walk on the grass in OB quad (unlike college fellows who can do so whenever they please!)

FIRST THINGS FIRST

1) COLLECT YOUR KEYS AND GET THE DOOR CODES

Once you arrive head straight for the porters' lodge where you can pick up your room key, swipe card (which opens most common doors in college) and wicket key (which opens the MCR post room). It is also vital that you ask for the college door codes and write them down– keys alone will not be enough to get you in to your room. You should then find your room (see the maps provided), unpack and settle in. If you're living in the graduate centre and have travelled by car you may find it difficult to park since there are only two parking spaces on site and these are strictly not for student use. Don't look at me, I didn't design the place. If you can pull in here and unload your belongings rapidly without blocking any cars or causing a traffic accident then personally, I would do so but don't tell the college I said this. If you want to park up for longer there is some residential parking opposite the graduate centre and a pub down the road where you may park but expect a few minute walk with your belongings.

If you want to use your internal phone in your college room to make external calls you must also collect a phone card from the lodge.

2) VISIT THE COLLEGE OFFICE DURING WORKING HOURS (MON–FRI, 9–12, 1.30–5)

Go to the lodge and ask where the college office is. It is behind a coded doorway – remember to ask the lodge what the code is! Visit the College Office in OB1 to pick up your Bodleian University card (aka 'Bod Card'). You need your Bod card for just about everything in Oxford – libraries, entry to buildings, other colleges, obtaining discounts, and so on. After collecting this very important card you may want to register your email account in the IT office.

3) REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT

Using your newly acquired Bod card, register your e-mail account and get set-up to use the college IT facilities. Locate a member of staff in the college IT Office (Mon – Fri, 9 – 12, 1.30 – 5) in the basement of OB1 staircase and ask them to create your email account, as well as an account so you can use the MCR computers located in NB7 and the Grad Centre. Ask them to forward your details to the MCR computer clerk who will put your new email address on the MCR mailing list and register you an account so you can use the "Secure Area" of the MCR website. The computer clerk will also activate your Bod card so you can swipe into the MCR in NB7. You need to do this to ensure you're a part of the MCR information superhighway, and that regular and informative email updates will henceforth find their way to you. You should also register you PC / laptop with the IT Office and get anti-virus software and if you don't already have some, otherwise you won't be able to use your machine on the college network.

4) START THE PROCESS OF GETTING A BANK ACCOUNT

If you don't have a UK bank account, whilst at the College Office, ask for a bank account authorization letter (some banks will also accept your College bill (or Battels) as proof of address). If you have an account, congratulations. If you don't, welcome to the wonder that is consumer banking in the UK. In short, opening a bank account can be very difficult here, and you'll almost certainly require this letter, plus your passport and other ID to do so. The easiest option is actually to do it from abroad; if you still have time, fork out that bit extra as it'll save you a lot of time and hassle. If that's no longer an option though, visit a bank ASAP to make an appointment to open an account. Depending on the volume of student traffic things may take a while, so get in early. Some banks also attend the OUSU Freshers' Fair and will let you begin registering there. Most students get 'basic accounts' which should be sufficient for most purposes. As opposed to many other places, cheques are still widely used in Oxford as many student societies and sports clubs ask that you pay for events by cheque. While it is not strictly essential, a chequebook can come in handy.

5) REGISTER WITH THE POLICE

If you're not from the EU, the Commonwealth or the USA, you need to register with the Police within 7 days of your arrival. The closest Police Station can be found on St Aldates, just across the bridge from the Grad Centre.

6) TAKE THE TOUR

Everyday from Monday the 24th of September to Fri the 28th The MCR Committee members will be giving new students either a tour of the main college site or a tour of some key places in Oxford (see the freshers' fortnight timetable for details). Meeting points will be 5:15pm in the Lodge. These are detailed on the freshers' fortnight timetable so no need to remember. Afterwards, there will be a drinks receptions in the Octagon, where you'll get to meet other Committee members also. See the freshers' fortnight timetable for the exciting events we have planned afterwards....

7) WORK OUT HOW TO ATTEND BOTH FRESHERS' WEEK AND YOUR DEPARTMENTAL INDUCTION

As a graduate student, you'll undoubtedly have to attend some sort of induction program with your department during -1st and 0th weeks. This will inevitably clash with some of our plans for MCR Freshers' Week – despite the Committee's best efforts to organize most events at night. Compare your departmental program and Freshers' Week card to work out how to best attend both – both are important in the grand scheme of things – after all, you'll need to know what you're doing at work but college social events are much more important for making friends! You must attend the compulsory college meetings (also listed on your card).

8) BUY SUB-FUSC

This is just a fancy name for the ceremonial dress we are required to wear to take exams or to attend matriculation. Traditionally men wear a dark (preferably black) suit, white shirt, white bow tie, gown and cap. Women wear a white shirt with collar, black skirt, black velvet ribbon worn around neck, gown and cap. The University, however, no longer requires students to adhere to the traditional gender references. The gowns are worn often, including at all formal Hertford dinners.

The MCR has an agreement with Walter's on High Street where, if we order in bulk, the MCR is given 15% commission on Academic gown orders, and 10% commission on clothing accessories and college clothing and regalia – the commission goes into the MCR budget, and ultimately to you, while you don't pay more for what you buy. You order by filling in the form attached with your freshers' pack and pidging it to the Treasurer, Ross Johnstone, before September 30.

You are also welcome to buy your sub-fusc at one of the shops on Broad Street, Turl Street or the High Street. The main suppliers are Walter's, Shepherd and Woodward, Castell & Son and Ede & Ravenscroft. Don't worry where you get it from, because it all costs the same. Most of them have second-hand gowns which are a bit cheaper, but they go fast so get in quick. NB. For graduates, you are allowed to wear your gown and cap from your 'home' university, so bring it if you have it!

9) HANG OUT IN THE MCR ROOMS (NB7)

There's no better way to start getting a feel for the MCR community than to hang out in the MCR, located at the main college site. Old members will inevitably be loafing around and be happy to chat to a new person! There are four rooms, each with a different purpose and vibe:

- The Tea Room is stocked with free tea, instant coffee and fruit, as well as magazines and the day's newspapers. We have also recently acquired a Nespresso coffee machine and we charge just 35 pence per capsule (through an honesty system). The Tea Room is a loungy, chilled space, where people frequently hang out watching bad TV and eating lunch together. The pin board on the wall also contains copies of important notices from college, the MCR, the University and so on.
- The Octagon, heathen locale of some of our bigger events by night, is by day a generally quieter space to drink tea, chat to your friends and sit by the fire. Some people will study in the Octagon. However, the MCR is primarily a social space and there exist 5 substantial libraries within 100m of the MCR and there are study desks in the Computer Room.
- The MCR Computer Room is equipped with a half-dozen or so PCs that you could launch space shuttles with as well as printers (including one high quality colour laser) a scanner, and lockers in case you need a place to store your stuff in the MCR (contact the Secretary if you want to get a locker space). There are also desks that you can use to study at.
- Finally, the Waugh Room is where you can pick up your mail, make a phone call, read, relax, and muse about life away from all the hustle of upstairs. All MCR rooms are equipped with the university's wireless internet access (OWL or Eduroam) – see www.oucs.ox.ac.uk for more details.

10) CONSIDER STANDING FOR A GROUP 2 OR 3 POSITION ON THE MCR COMMITTEE

The MCR committee is made up of Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3 Officers. Group 1 are the Treasurer, Secretary and President who are basically in charge of money, record keeping and being figureheads for the MCR. The group 2 Officers are the members of the committee who actually get things done (!) such as Bar Manager and Social Sec, Welfare Officer and Computer Clerk. Group 3 positions are equally important roles, but generally involve less work than group 1 and 2. Each year the MCR

Committee keeps some group 3 positions on the committee unfilled so that freshers may apply in the hope of getting you involved in the running of your MCR. This year the following positions are open:

- **Group 2:** Social Secretary and Steward
- **Group 3:** Arts Rep, Equipment Officer, Sports Officer, OUSU Rep

Group 3 positions are non-elected offices appointed by the group 1 and 2 officers of the Committee. Candidates for Group 2 positions will be asked to stand in a by-election. Freshers are encouraged to apply, and usually quite a few of the posts are filled by incoming students.

To be considered for a position just talk to one of the current committee members. You then have to submit a short letter giving a few details of why you want the job and any ideas you may have about what you'd like to do when appointed. Applications close on Thursday of 1st Week of Michaelmas Term so you have a few weeks to think about it once you arrive, and applicants are notified about whether they have been successful on Saturday of that week. Contact the President if you have any additional questions.

11) ATTEND THE FRESHERS' FAIR

From October 3-5 OUSO runs the annual 'Freshers' Fair', a riot of club and society stalls, ranging from the banal (OU Forest Soc) to the bizarre (OU Teddy Bear Soc). All hobbies, interests, subjects, sports, ideologies, political favours, religions, and nationalities are catered for. To attend you need a ticket (which will only be valid for a particular time and day). We'll give you one when you arrive and encourage you to go and find yourself extracurricular endeavours to immerse yourself in!

12) ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS & PARTNERS

There is a special form of membership that gives access to the MCR, the Associate Membership. As an Associate member you gain: unrestricted access to the MCR and its facilities; the right to attend and speak at General Meetings; and to run for Group 3 Committee positions. So who is eligible to apply? Anybody who fulfils one of the following criteria:

- Former Member
- The partner of a Member
- Postdoctoral research students
- SCR members
- Any applicant who demonstrates a desire for a connection with the Hertford MCR and would benefit from such a connection and who can demonstrate sponsorship from one or more members of the MCR.

The Associate Membership is an excellent way to involve your partner/spouse or other close friends from your department that might not otherwise get to access the College community.

To become an Associate Member an eligible person must pay an annual fee of £60. In case of hardship the Committee may consider to waive the fee. The Associate Membership expires at the end of the Academic year unless the fee is paid once more.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

13) ACCOMMODATION

Hertford owns excellent graduate accommodation throughout Oxford. Comprehensive details about each of the graduate residences can be found on our Housing Database at <http://hertfordmcr.org/>, where each location and room available is described in some detail. To summarise some of the main things you may wish to know though:

- **Graduate Centre (South Oxford)** – has three wings, two of which house graduate students, and one of which is shared with conference guests, visiting students and undergraduates. It contains 80 individual rooms with en-suites, and was opened in the year 2000. Living there is kind of like living in a self-contained apartment with some communal spaces.
- **North Oxford Houses** – these house all other graduate students who elect not to move out to private accommodation. There are several of them, most (but not all) of which are as close to the Main College Site as the Grad Centre. They generally have more communal space and living, as well as gardens. Living in them is much more share-house oriented, though you still have your privacy if you want it.
- **College Main Site (Central Oxford)** – only houses undergraduates who are in their first and final years, as well as tutors, fellows, the chaplain, Principal and a couple of graduates members (including the MCR President).
- **Which is best?** It's entirely a matter of personal preference. Some people prefer the new facilities at the Grad Centre; others prefer the intimacy and quiet of the North Oxford houses. Reflecting this, Committee members for example, are spread across the different residences. Most first years though, are allocated Grad Centre rooms.
- **How is housing allocated?** In your first year, the college allocates your room. In subsequent years, rooms are allocated by the MCR based on a housing ballot (more details are available on the website and further details will be provided later in the year, when the time comes).
- **Does Hertford provide guaranteed housing to graduate students?** Technically, no. This applies only to undergraduate students at Hertford. However, the college does endeavour to house all graduates who want college accommodation in each of their first 3 years, and almost always does so successfully. So no ironclad guarantees.
- **Is living in college cheaper than private accommodation?** Almost always, unless you're prepared to live a considerable distance from the centre of Oxford.

14) KITCHEN FACILITIES

Each room — whether in the Graduate Centre or one of the North Oxford houses — has access to a communal kitchen with an oven, microwave, kettle, toaster and fridge. Students are expected to provide their own crockery, cutlery, tea towels and so forth.

15) DINING HALLS

Hertford has two student dining halls, one on the main college site and another in Warnock House, which is a Hertford College undergraduate hall on the other side of Folly Bridge. The latter only serves Breakfast and Dinner (no lunch, brunch or formal hall) and is only open during term time. The following are common to both though:

- Payment is made by means of scanning your Bod Card; you get billed for the total you spend on meals in your battels.
- Meals are served at the following times during term:
 - Breakfast: 8:15 am to 9:00 am, Monday to Friday
 - Lunch: 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm, Monday to Friday
 - Brunch: 11 am to 12:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays during term
 - Dinner: 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm, Monday to Friday
- Formal Hall: 7:15 pm prompt Sunday and Wednesdays only during term; sign up at the bottom of the Hall staircase when the list is up
- There is no dinner on Saturday night, except for the first Saturday of Michaelmas term.
- Out of term dinner times are...variable. There doesn't seem to be a hard and fast rule, as it depends on how many students are still in college and general demand. The MCR will endeavour to keep its member updated though.
- A vegetarian option is always provided.
- The earlier you turn up the better, as food runs out
- Breakfast costs about £1.50, lunch about £2.50 and dinner about £3.50.
- Formal Hall is a three-course meal and you can bring your own wine. You need to dress smartly (shirt and tie for men) and you must wear your gown. It costs just over £7.
- If you have comments on the food either fill in one of the questionnaires in the dining hall or contact the MCR Food and Housing Officer or the Catering Manager, Antony Barrett.

16) HOUSEKEEPING

Each house or corridor is allocated a 'Scout' (i.e. cleaner / housekeeper). Scouts are employed to empty bins, clean bathrooms and kitchen surfaces and vacuum floors. They are not employed to do your washing-up or tidy your room. A precise list of what you can expect from your scout, and what you are obliged to do re housekeeping, will be given to you on arrival.

You will need to bring your own bed linen and towels. Bed linen can be bought from college if your suitcase is already full to the brim.... see the freshers section on the college website.

17) LAUNDRIES

All College washings machines cost £1.60, and £1.80 for a 'super-cycle'. The driers cost 70p for about 35 minutes. Both are available at the following places:

- Graduate Centre – on the 2nd floor of the South wing. 59 Banbury Road – in the 'conservatory' at the back of the house. To get in, either walk through the gardens from 8, 9 or 10 Winchester Road, or go through the back gate, into the garden from 57 and 59 Banbury Road. You will need your college key to get into the gardens and the laundry itself.
- 189 Banbury Road – at the back of the house.
- 204 Woodstock Road – use the one in 189 Banbury Road
- Main College site – in NB6 down the steps, and just to the right.

18) PARKING

The best advice here is to not bring your car if you have one – space is at a premium in Oxford. As far as college parking goes, there are no parking spaces at the Grad Centre for student use. The access driveway adjacent to the South Block is owned and used by Salter Brothers, and a barrier is in place so only their employees can use the facilities. At Winchester Road however, there are two parking spaces available. These are allocated by ballot by the Food and Housing Officer.

19) INTERNET ACCESS

All college rooms are equipped with ethernet access so if you have a PC/laptop you can plug into the college network as soon as you register your MAC address with the college IT Office, and confirm that you are running appropriate virus protection software (which they will provide if you don't have any). For set-up support, contact the IT office.

There is also a computing service in the university, which may or may not be of help. Oxford University Computing Service (OUCS), 13 Banbury Rd, tel. (2)73239 or e-mail advisory@oucs.ox.ac.uk

20) PHONES

In your room you'll find a phone. A card for making external calls with this phone can be collected from the Lodge. The card is used by loading it with credit using a credit card. Dial '9' from your phone, enter the long number displayed on the card and then dial the number you wish to call. Credit is deducted from your phone card. Alternatively, when you run out of credit, you can purchase new cards from the Lodge. All internal university calls (including calls to any other Hertford room phone) are free.

Your direct line will be printed on a sticker attached to the phone socket on the wall, though it'll be a 0870 (premium call) number. This means that people calling it will pay dearly to contact you! Hence when getting people to call you (especially from overseas), the best thing to do is get them to call the Lodge (01865 279400) and ask to be put through to you; this way the charge is only for a normal call.

As far as **mobile phones** go, there are many options, deals and carriers; our best advice is simply to shop around for the deal that best suits you. There are multiple mobile phone dealers along Cornmarket and in Westgate Shopping Centre. Some things to bear in mind though, include:

- You'll need a bank account to get a 'contract' phone (i.e. where you pay monthly)
- Pay as you go deals are more expensive for making calls

Using Skype is definitely the cheapest (i.e. free) way to make international calls to anywhere. Check www.oucs.ox.ac.uk for the settings you have to change in order to use Skype on the university network. www.localphone.com is also apparently quite good.

21) RECYCLING

The MCR is committed to recycling waste of various types, including glass, cans, cardboard and plastics. There are various recycling bins available at all graduate residences into which you simply have to deposit clean materials when you're done using them. The Environment Rep in tandem with the domestic staff oversees the rest.

22) COLLEGE GYM

The College has a newly refurbished gym in the bottom of the NB3 staircase. It contains a range of machines, free weights, ergometers, bikes, cross trainers and a stereo! To use it, you need to undergo an induction from the JCR/MCR Sports Officer. You will then be charged £5 a year, and will be able to sign a gym key out from the lodge.

The university sports facilities on Iffey Road has a larger but older gym, and a swimming pool.

23) SPORTING FACILITIES

Are located down the cycle path by Linacre college. See the map on the MCR website for more details.

The college playing fields incorporate a rugby pitch, football pitch, hockey pitch, cricket pitch, tennis courts and squash courts, all available to any members of the college. In addition, the Hertford College Boat Club (HCBC) possesses a boathouse on the river, which offers everyone a chance to discover how to row whilst at Oxford.

To use the squash courts, you will need to book a time on the timetable in the lodge, and then sign a key out.

24) MUSIC PRACTICE ROOMS

For musicians, unfortunately there is only one music practice room located in college in the NB2 basement and it's not particularly soundproof. Still it's usable and contains an upright piano. For pianists, there is a nice baby grand piano located in the Chapel, and two other upright pianos in the Baring Room (top of HW5) and Ferrar Room (above the dining hall). The piano in Chapel can be used anytime there isn't a service or choir rehearsal going on. To use the other facilities, you simply book a time slot in the Lodge, collect the relevant key and return it when you're done.

25) PUNTING

Hertford has access to punts at the Cherwell boathouse and at the Magdalen Boathouse, which are available to all students during Trinity term and the summer vacation. All members will be charged a flat-rate fee for using punts, so make use of the facility and amble down the river sometime in the quintessential Oxford way! To book a punt, visit the lodge to make a booking with the porters, then collect your booking slip prior to picking up the punt. Punt sign-up lists go up in the Lodge at 9am on Friday for the following week (Sunday to Saturday). It is advisable to get in early to book punts for Fridays and Saturdays during term time, since the JCR are also active punters.

26) THE COLLEGE BAR

The College Bar is a subterranean, labyrinthine affair that's open from 7-11pm all week (earlier on Fridays and Saturdays), during term time and sporadically in the vacation. The beer is cheap at around £2.00 per pint, the cocktails are cheaper and it's not much above 50 pence for a coke. Whether you're a drinker or not, it's a great place to hang out and meet other people from college. Why not try out the Table Football?

MOVING IN, SETTING UP, GOING SHOPPING

27) GROCERY SHOPPING

Sainsbury's in the Westgate Centre (located on Queen St, but with a closer back entrance on St Ebbe's Street) or Tesco Express (corner of St Aldates and Speedwell Street) are probably the best options for those of you in the Grad Centre, while a Sainsbury's Local (Magdalen St) and a large Tesco provide a better selection of goods at the north end of the city centre. For more bourgeois fare, there's a Marks and Spencer on Queen St, and for the technologically savvy, you can also order from most of these stores on the internet and they'll deliver for a £5 surcharge. If you're in North Oxford, another good option is the Co-op on Walton St, which notably also possesses a cashpoint (thin on the ground in Jericho). Those of you in Summertown are sorted –you've got a large Co-op, a Somerfield and a Marks and Spencer (all on Banbury Road) to choose from.

For those seeking market goodies, the open-air market is held in Gloucester Green every Wednesday from 9-5pm; get there early if you're after good fresh produce though. There's also the Covered Market in the centre of town (entrances on High St, Market St and through Golden Cross on Cornmarket), which is great for quality fresh produce, meat and deli goods (it comes at a price though). It closes at 5.30pm and is now open for a shorter time on Sundays.

Finally for the semi-gourmand, there is an Oriental grocer near the Said Business school on Hythe Bridge Street, and numerous Asian (Indian, Bangladeshi etc.) grocers down Cowley Road past Tesco's. They're a bit of a trek, but they have some of the best fresh produce, and definitely the cheapest meat with in-house butchers out the back of most stores.

28) KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Depending on the quality of what you want, try the Argos store on Shoe Lane, out the back of the Clarendon Centre. It has a large selection of all kitchen goods for very low prices. Likewise try Boswell's (on the corner of Broad St and Cornmarket) and Robert Dyas the Ironmonger, especially for kitchen and cooking appliances. Debenhams in the centre of town is another option, though it can be more expensive.

29) FURNITURE, TVs ETC

For cheap furniture, lighting, tables, sofas, cushions, and so forth, try Argos again, or alternatively somewhere like the Futon Store on Hythe Bridge Street. For electrical goods like TVs and stereos you'll struggle to find anywhere cheaper than Richer Sounds on Park End Street. Debenhams, Dixons and other department stores are generally dearer. NB. To watch normal TV in the UK, you need to purchase a TV license or risk a hefty fine!

30) PHARMACEUTICALS & TOILETRIES

Boots on Cornmarket St is a pharmacy, optician's, chiropodist's and more, stocked with a wide range of toiletries. It's generally cheaper than the Boswell's pharmacy (also on Cornmarket) and has a better selection. It also has one of the best quality photo processing services in Oxford on the first floor. Superdrug is a drugstore opposite Boots on Market St and has a great selection of toiletries, and other necessary items, and is sometimes cheaper than Boots. There is also a late- night (10pm) pharmacy on Woodstock Rd (near Winchester Rd houses in North Oxford). For Summertown residents, there is a Boots on Banbury Road, opposite Marks and Spencer.

31) STATIONERY

For stationery needs, Rymans on Queen Street near Carfax is good; most things are there though the options are minimal. Alternatively, there's WH Smith in Cornmarket, or for a mega selection of all stationery goods, try Office World on Park End Street.

32) BICYCLES

No, you don't absolutely need one, but it will definitely make life a lot easier. One of the best places to get a cheap one is on Wednesday mornings at the Oxford Union on St Michael's Street. Get there very early or you're likely to miss out. Another good place to try is the Oxford Daily Information website (<http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk>). Other than that, a sure-fire bet at standard prices (£100) is Cycle King on Cowley Road. Note that bike theft is common in Oxford, so the best bikes are the ones that will get you around without drawing much attention. Rust is good. Make sure you get a good lock and always lock your bike! Cyclists must register their bike with College, which will help you in the event it gets stolen.

SOCIAL STUFF

Each year the MCR organises a range of social events and activities for you to enjoy. All of these are listed on Termcards, your social calendars which will be posted on the website each Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity. To attend events, you usually have to sign-up online on the MCR website (<http://hertfordmcr.org/>) during the week preceding the event. The sign-up list is removed a few days prior and you are assumed to be booked in (for catering purposes and the like) if you've signed-up. This means, if you don't show up, you will still be charged – so make sure you come! Also, it's worth noting that at all events and parties, non-alcoholic drinks are always available; Hertford's MCR encourages responsible service and consumption of alcohol, as well as a members' choice to not imbibe. Some of the events planned for this year are elaborated on below.

To use the sign-up lists on the website, you'll need an account. Email the MCR computer clerk (mcr_sys@hertford.ox.ac.uk) once you've obtained your email account from the IT office to get set-up.

33) GUEST DINNERS

These generally black-tie events allow you to bring friends from outside Hertford to enjoy a nice three-course meal in Hall and after-dinner entertainment in the Octagon. Also, in early Michaelmas we will host Waugh's Birthday Guest Dinner – a dinner dedicated to praise and scorn of the illustrious novelist who attended Hertford in the 1920s and hated the place. It will be celebrated in 1920s apparel with a decadent afterparty...

34) EXCHANGE DINNERS

These semi-formal events involve us going to another college for dinner, and then having their MCR back for dinner at Hertford. They are a really good way of meeting people from other colleges and we've had some very successful (and notorious...) ones in past years.

35) MATRICULATION BALL

Matriculation is a special day in your Oxford experience, and in recognition of the fact, all matriculating students this year will be able to attend the Matriculation Ball. Basically the day will consist of roll call and the ceremony in the morning, and a mini ball with live entertainment in the evening. It's a chance for you to really get to know your MCR peers and to celebrate this unique event.

36) BOPS

A bop is just another word for a party!

37) ARTS & SPORTS EXCURSIONS

Once a term the Arts Rep will try to organise a trip to the theatre, opera, ballet, a concert, or something similar so we can go on masse to do something cultured and a bit different. The events are heavily subsidized too, so they are usually a real bargain for the entertainment you get! Likewise, there are many subsidized sporting excursions we undertake too, mostly to support Oxford in the various varsity matches.

38) FILM NIGHTS AND ACADEMIC SOIREES

Once weekly the MCR screens a film in the Grad Centre where we provide the munchies and you provide the audience. Academic Soirees are likewise events where you supply the crowd, whilst a member of the MCR presents a pre-dinner talk on some fascinating topic or another. These are usually followed by an opportunity to dine at high table.

39) BBQS, PICNIC & PUNTING

As we approach summer the focus of events turns decidedly outdoors as we organize several outings on the water and char meat liberally. The plan is always to make the most of the sunshine while it lasts!

40) MAY DAY

On the night of April 30, Oxford comes alive with all night revelry to pre-empt the 6am May morning Magdalen (this should be pronounced Maawwlden when in Oxford) College choir sing a hymn welcoming spring. Spring thus greeted, people traditionally try and kill themselves by jumping off Magdalen Bridge and into the Cherwell River. These days, the Police have put a stop to such shenanigans, and so instead everyone heads off to the Turf for breakfast beers.

41) THE END-OF-YEAR PARTY

At the end of Trinity we have an annual end of year MCR party. In past years this has taken the form of either a boat party or a garden party – so stay tuned in. The festivities culminate in the ceremonial crowning of the MCR President-elect.

42) COLLEGE BALLS

Around mid-to end of Trinity Term, most Oxford colleges start to have Balls. These are very dressy (and extremely expensive) all-night events with ridiculous entertainment, which you should go to at least once in your time here.

43) PLUS LOTS OF OTHER DINNERS...

Including Christmas dinner and the end of year Graduate Dinner hosted by the Principal and Tutor for Graduates... the list goes on and on.

One event to especially look forward to is the Burns Night dinner in Hilary Term, with haggis, bagpiping, Octagon ceilidh, poetry recital and whisky.

OTHER COLLEGE INFO

44) COLLEGE RENT & BATTELED GOODS

At the beginning of every term you'll receive your 'battels' – a bill from the College that includes your rent, food purchased in hall, and any items charged to battels from the MCR (e.g. dinners attended, wine purchase from the cellar, etc.). This bill has to be paid by Friday of 3rd Week in every term. If you don't you will be charged interest. If you're going away for a period of 3 weeks or more and inform the accommodation office 2 weeks in advance, you can sign your key back into the lodge to receive a 50% rent rebate while you're away.

It should also be noted that you will only ever be charged for a maximum of 46 weeks rent in a year. So for those of you who are planning to be almost continually in residence, it might not be worth taking advantage of the 50% rebate mentioned above if it means you fail to reach the 46-week ceiling.

45) SAFETY

Oxford is generally a safe place, but can get dangerous at night when fewer people are on the streets. There are some vagrants in the city centre, who may approach you in the street, especially around Cornmarket and the Radcliffe Camera. It's something you get used to after a while and they're generally harmless, but exercise a little caution, especially at night. Personal alarms are also available for free from the Welfare Officer.

It's a good idea to travel in groups after dark whenever possible, but if you are alone, there is an MCR Taxi Service available for travel between 9pm and 6am to your Hertford College residential site, or to a non-Hertford residence which you must register with the MCR treasurer. To use this service, call the lodge and ask them to book you an MCR taxi. This service is available to be used up to four times each term; usage on top of that will be charged to your termly battels. Trips to hospitals and doctors are free of charge.

46) SECURITY

There's no substitute for being careful and sensible — always lock your door and make sure that the front doors to the houses and the doors to the gardens shut properly behind you. If people come to a college door and want to be let in, ask whom they are here to see; there will be a list of the residents of each block or house at the bottom of each staircase (in the Graduate Centre) or inside the front door (in College houses). Shut your windows when you go out, especially if you live on the ground floor. Please don't leave valuables lying around your room, particularly chequebooks, cash, and credit cards. Consider getting student room insurance; some banks offer an insurance package with their student account or try Endsleigh Insurance. If a theft occurs, report it to the Lodge and the Police (tel. 266000).

47) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAVEL GRANTS

For financial assistance, consult the MCR welfare pages or contact the MCR Welfare Officer. Both can give you information about funding schemes to which you may be entitled to apply. 'Home' (non-overseas) students may also apply for financial hardship funds allocated by college each term. All MCR members are also entitled to a one-time travel grant for travel related to your studies. To access this money, speak to Sue Finch in the College Office. If you require additional travel money from college, there are opportunities to apply for additional amounts (up to £300) on a competitive basis.

48) COLLEGE SPORT

Oxford University has an enviable reputation for sport with the varsity matches against Cambridge being the highlight in all of the 57 sports in which they are contested. For those competing at a slightly lower standard though, there is a wealth of opportunity afforded by inter-collegiate sporting competitions. Whilst this is largely organised by the JCR, MCR participants are always welcomed with open arms! Hertford fields teams in nearly every sport available and at various levels of competition to cater for everyone's interests. The MCR also fields its own football team, and, in the past, several successful rowing crews. If you interested in playing college sport make sure you attend the college sports fair during freshers' week, keep an eye on the sports board outside the lodge, and speak to the MCR Sports Rep for relevant information.

49) COLLEGE MUSIC

There is a thriving music scene in Oxford at University level with the OU Orchestra, Philharmonia, Sinfonietta and Big Band being the premier ensembles in town. Auditions to join them are organized through OU Music Society, who you can register with at Freshers' Fair. Again though, for people who are keen to participate but perhaps not playing at the highest standard, the college offers several outlets, principally through the Hertford College Music Society. The HCMS oversees the college orchestra (no audition required) and the college choir, which performs regularly in the chapel. The college has set up a number of choral scholarships that you audition for. Check notices from the chaplain for when the auditions take place and the amount of money that is rewarded.

50) GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Whilst this might seem a way off(!), for those of you doing one-year courses it's worth noting that you don't automatically get allocated a graduation ceremony date at Oxford. Rather, once you've completed your course see the College Office so you can book a place at an upcoming ceremony; there can be a delay of up to a year sometimes, so get in early. Also, bear in mind that students from across disciplines can graduate together, so you may want to co-ordinate a big day with your college peers.

USEFUL MAPS

Whilst geographically small, Oxford can be deceptively difficult to get around and find things in. With that in mind, here are some useful maps to help you get around...

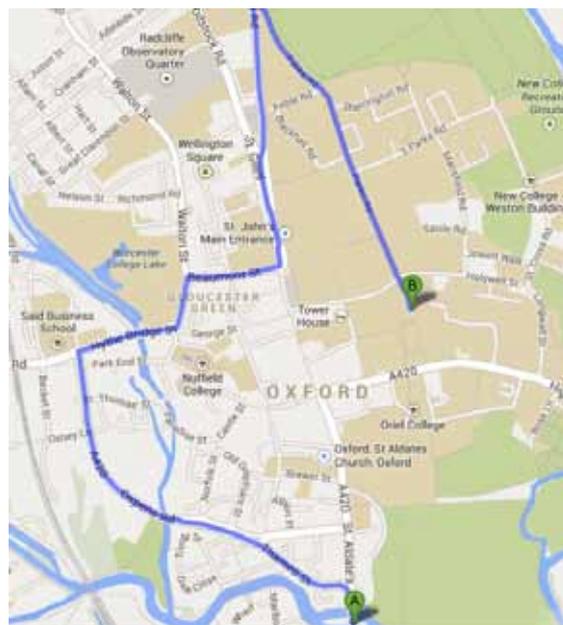
51) OXFORD CITY CENTRE

First off, here's where the main college site is relative to the entirety of the City Centre:



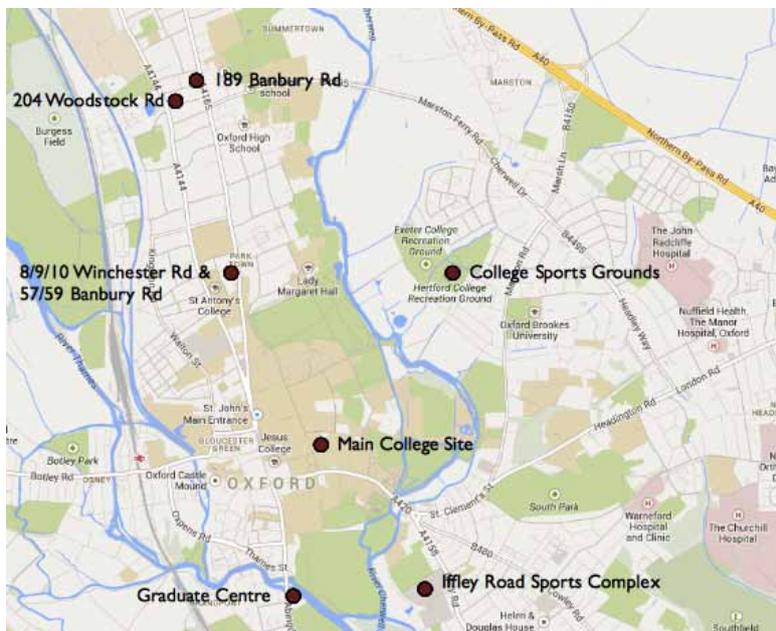
52) THE GRADUATE CENTRE

The Grad Centre is where many of you will live though in your first year. Getting to it from the main college site can be a complete mystery given Oxford's countless one-way streets. So here's the fastest route to take when you're first arriving with a taxi/car full of suitcases:



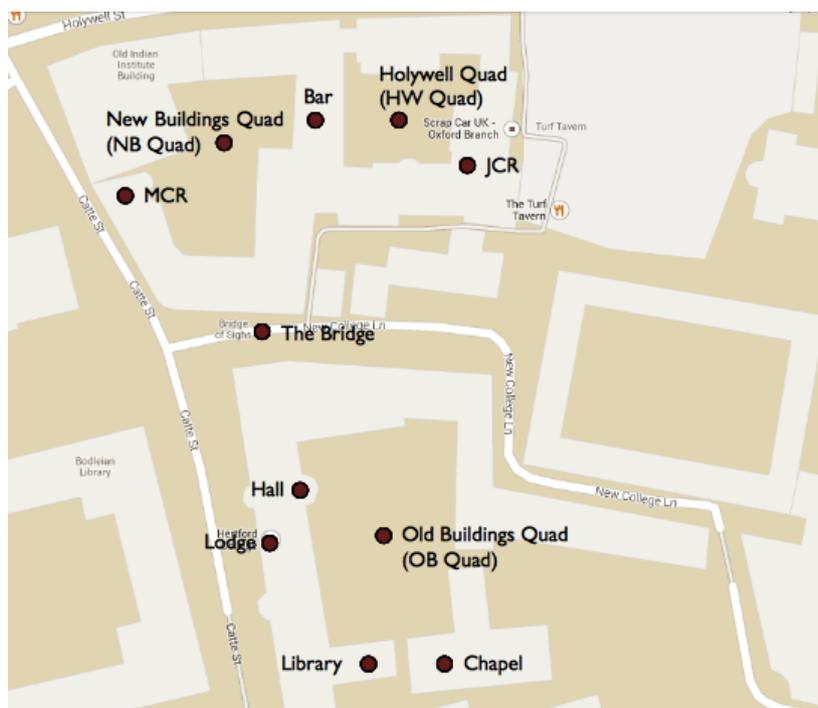
53) HERTFORD RESIDENCES

Owing to space restrictions, not all of you will be living in the Grad Centre. Thankfully though, Hertford owns residential accommodation throughout Oxford. This map shows you the main residences where students live:



54) MAIN COLLEGE SITE

Meanwhile the main college site is itself a somewhat labyrinthine affair. So here's a map for you to cross-reference with your tour with the President:



Some points to note so that you can find stuff again after you've forgotten it on the tour:

- The lodge is where you go to get your keys when you first arrive, where you go to book punts, where you deposit your keys if you leave Oxford, where you collect parcels, where your calls are received before being transferred to you, and where Simpkins lives
- All MCR rooms – the Octagon, Tea Room, Waugh Room and the President's Room – are located in NB7, which require swipe card access
- The College Office in OB1 is where you go for all your academic needs and to collect your Bod card
- The Bursary staff (to whom you pay your battels) can be found in OB2
- The College Chaplain's rooms can be found upstairs in NB2
- The Domestic Manager (head housekeeper) can be found on your left as you enter NB1
- The Swift Room is the JCR chill out room, which you are most welcome to also relax in
- The Baring Room is where JCR general meetings are held, the college orchestra rehearses, and the sports fair sign-up takes place
- For athletes, the gym is located at the bottom of NB3
- For armchair athletes, the JCR is where you can watch Sky and satellite TV
- For musicians, there is a nice baby grand piano located in the Chapel, and upright pianos in the Baring Room (top of HW5), Ferrar Room (above the dining hall) and music practice room (NB2 basement)

ESCAPING FROM OXFORD

Finally, everyone needs to escape Oxford once in a while, so once you're settled in, here are some things to keep in mind for when you want to get away.

55) AIR TRAVEL

As you'll probably already know, London is the throbbing nucleus of cheap European air travel. Numerous companies offer incredibly cheap flights, for example:

- Ryanair (www.ryanair.com)
- Easyjet (www.easyjet.com)
- British Midland (www.flybmi.com)

Birmingham International Airport is probably the quickest airport to get to from Oxford, so it's worth considering flying from there too.

In all cases, to get the cheapest seats at the craziest prices, you have to book early or very close to your intended journey, be prepared to travel midweek, and avoid obvious peak periods (Easter, July, August, Bank Holiday weekends). For last minute deals, charter flight companies are an option – try visiting one of the many travel agents about town.

For longer haul destinations, the student travel agents, STA Travel (www.statravel.co.uk) on George Street offer great deals and allow you to change your flight dates and times for a minimal fee. They also handle bookings for the Eurostar to Paris, Brussels and beyond! (It's not technically a plane, but it's almost as quick, and much less hassle.) You need an ISIC card to benefit, but they don't cost much (around £7).

56) TRAINS/BUSES

Firstly, unless you plan to do very, very little traveling by bus or train, it's advantageous to get a 16-25 Railcard, which offers you a third off rail travel and other benefits here and there. These cards, along with International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) can be purchased at STA travel or at any Railway station (provided you have a passport size photo on you too!). They are not just for people aged between 16 and 25 – if you are a student and have proof of this (from the college office or your department) you can get one.

Secondly, buses are often nearly as fast on short journeys (e.g. to London), and the tickets are usually more flexible. The Oxford Tube and Oxford Express buses to London run every 10 minutes, during peak hours, and more or less hourly throughout the night. You can catch them at Gloucester Green Coach Station or on the High Street at Queen's Lane. There are buses to Heathrow every half hour and to Gatwick every hour. You can catch them at the same spots.

Finally, when traveling around the UK, booking ahead with companies like Megabus is by far the cheapest way to go; for less than £5 you can often traverse half the country! But, long bus rides are not everyone's cup of tea, so you might want to fork out for the National Rail train ticket – it's much faster on long trips and definitely much more comfy.

FRESHERS' GUIDE 2014