

The Queen's College
International Freshers' Guide
2019-20

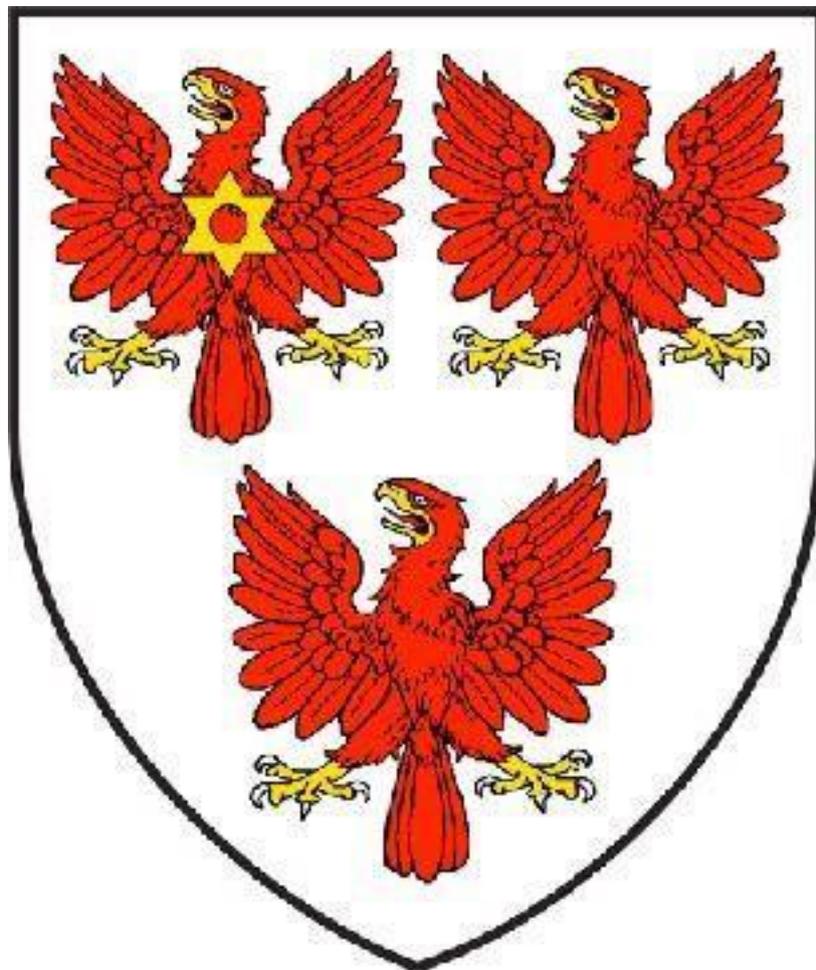


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1. Welcome

Dear International Freshers,

Welcome to The Queen's College and congratulations! This guide contains some advice to help you get by your first year at Queen's as an international student. Being an international student in Oxford certainly has its challenges, but we are here to help and we hope you find it an enriching experience.

We are the International Reps for the undergraduates at Queen's. Our job is to represent all international students in discussions with the college concerning issues that affect us. We are here to support you with any questions or concerns you may have so please don't hesitate to contact us! We will be in college from the **2nd of October (Wednesday)** to help you settle in.

We know you have already received a lot of information from college about rules and regulations etc. Don't stress too much about it. We found that everything seemed a lot stricter than it actually was prior to arrival. Queen's is a very friendly and welcoming college with a great undergraduate environment.

College have sent you information about your rooms. If you have any questions in relation to your room you believe we can help you with, please do get in touch. You can find more information about accommodation at Queen's here:

<http://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/accommodation-and-meals>

We believe many of you would appreciate a few extra days to move into your rooms, buy essential stuff and perhaps rehabilitate from jet-lag. Furthermore, we will be organising a few events for you international freshers' at Queen's from the evening of the **2nd of October** until the start of freshers' week, where all domestic students are going to arrive - **6th of October**. It is not obligatory to arrive before that but we think some of you might appreciate having a bit more time to get the stuff you need and prepare for Freshers' as well as the beginning of term.

We will be hosting a range of activities and are also trying to organise a few activities with the international students from other colleges, however very few colleges allow their international students to arrive before the domestic students. Therefore, most activities with other international students are going to be held later throughout term. It is never going to be obligatory to participate in international events. If you have any ideas or inquiries in relation to international activities please do get in touch.

Please do notify us about when you are arriving so we can plan and organise activities for you during the days before Freshers' week begins.

Please also remember to advise the College on what day you will be arriving so that they may prepare your room.

All of you should have been contacted by your college parents by now. If that is not the case, please send us an email and we'll ensure that your parents do get in touch with you.

The Queen's College certainly appreciates its international students and we would like to give you the best experience possible. Therefore, we encourage you to get in touch whenever you have questions or concerns.

Our contact details are: E-mail: zuzanna.borawska@queens.ox.ac.uk and nancy.xt.ding@gmail.com

To contact the College for general enquiries, please phone the Porter's Lodge: +44 (0) 1865 279120

We hope you all have a great summer and we are looking forward to meeting you all!

Zuzanna Borawska & Xiaotong Ding
International Rep

(Disclaimer: this guide is unofficial and does not represent the views of the College or the University. I would also like to thank previous international reps, as their guides have contributed to the making of this one, particularly that of Lucy Nason, 2015 and Sara Pripitu, 2018).

Draft plan for international freshers 2019/20:

Plans might change depending on various factors and lots of activities might be added on or deleted. We now are in the process of working out the specific schedule for freshers week. Soon you will receive an email from us with the activities for the days before the start of the Freshers' Week.

As mentioned, the activities are not obligatory – you can come and go as you like.

Hopefully some of the international students from 2nd and 3rd year are going to join us!

2. Visas, Medical Information and Insurance

Information on these very important aspects of being an international student will differ depending on your personal situation.

- Visa
 - Make sure you get your visa approved well in advance. Most international students from outside the EU are on a Tier 4 International Student Visa. You need to email the college ASAP if they didn't send you the CAS number.
 - Make sure you have your visa and important travel documents with you when you leave home.
 - Check online or with your UK Embassy what your requirements and obligations are e.g. registering with the police, your right to work.

- Medical information
 - Bring with you a letter from your doctor containing your medical history, as this will help you register with a doctor in the UK.
 - The College suggests that you register with a doctor affiliated with the College and they will send you a medical form to fill out. This is part of your enrolment process in first week. This is very important for your life in Oxford. Again, if you have any doubts please don't be afraid to contact us.
 - Check whether your country has reciprocal rights with the UK re access to their National Health Service and emergency treatment.
 - Make sure that medical treatment is included in any insurance policy you take out.
 - Bring with you any medication you require and perhaps a prescription from your doctor.
 - You need prescription for your eyesight (one for glasses and one for contact) if you want to buy them here.

- Insurance
 - It's better to be on the safe side and take out insurance – some travel insurance policies will also encompass medical insurance. Insurance is important especially if there are problems with flights such as cancellations or lost luggage.
 - It's important when taking out a policy to check what works best for your individual situation e.g. how often you will be returning home, your medical history etc.

3. Arrival Dates, Term Dates, and Getting to Queen's

Arrival in Michaelmas Term 2019

Permission has been granted for new international students to arrive at Queen's from **Wednesday the 2nd of October**. You may choose to arrive at any time between this date, and **Sunday the 6th of Oxford** when all freshers are required to be in residence. You will be allocated a room in either Main College or Carrodus Quad (QLQ, right next to Main College). All rooms in QLQ are en suite (have their own bathroom). In Main College there are some rooms en suite, in most cases the bathrooms are shared. Both Main College and QLQ are really conveniently located and beautiful! Please advise the College and the international rep (us) of the date and time you intend to arrive via telephone or e-mail.

● Luggage:

- Some international students choose to send their luggage to the UK with a company such as "sendmybag" (<https://www.sendmybag.com/>) since it can be cheaper and also easier than bringing all your stuff by plane. If you do choose to send your luggage, please do get in touch with the porters (lodge@queens.ox.ac.uk) before you book anything in order to ensure that they are willing to receive your luggage before you yourself arrive.

● Flights:

- To avoid flights getting full and being unavailable, and to save money, it is best to book flights well in advance.
- Most international students book refundable tickets, because you never know what can happen!
- Check whether your airline offers student tickets and **check your baggage allowance** before you travel.

● Dates:

- Weeks at Oxford are denoted not by calendar dates, but by numbered weeks i.e. 0th-9th.
- It is VERY IMPORTANT not to go solely by the dates listed on the university website in terms of booking flights. The university website lists the official start and end dates of term for the purpose of classes and lectures. But in most cases, it is likely you will need to arrive earlier than the official start of term. Usually this date is the Wednesday before the first week of term (0th week) because you will sit Collections (tests) on the Thursday and Friday of 0thweek every term except for your first.
- Term ends on the Friday of 8th week. However, you may still have classes on that day and you will need to pack up your room so sometimes it is best to leave on the Saturday morning rather than the Friday night.

● Getting to College:

There are 3 main transport options for getting to Oxford: a bus, a taxi, or a train. Catching a bus is the cheapest option, and if you fly into an airport actually the easiest!

- Arriving from an airport:

- If you fly into **Heathrow** or **Gatwick**, I personally recommend “the airline” bus.
- From Heathrow, the bus runs frequently (every 20-30 minutes) from the Central Bus Station (connected with Terminal 1,2&3) and Terminal 5 to Oxford (if you arrive in terminal 4 you will need to change terminals via train). The journey takes around 80 minutes. From Gatwick, the bus departs from the South Terminal Lower Forecourt, and also stops at the North Terminal. The journey takes about 2 hours.
- You can buy ticket on the bus – buy a return ticket if you will be returning to the airport at the end of term. Please see the company’s website: <http://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/>
- From **Stansted** or **Luton**, you should take The National Express bus (be careful you get on the right one!). At Stansted go to the bus bays outside the main terminal entrance and look for the bus running to Oxford “service 737”. At Luton go to the bus bays outside the terminal and board the “service 737” to Oxford. From Stansted the journey takes about 3 hours and 20 minutes, and from Luton about 1 hour and 45 minutes. The bus runs 8 times a day.
- For departure times and ticket bookings please see the website: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>
- Coach card: You can save money on the National Express Busses by purchasing their Young Persons Coachcard: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/offers/coachcards/young-persons-coachcard.aspx>
- Arriving from London:
 - From London you have a couple of options for getting to Oxford besides a cab. You could take the Oxford Tube bus (<http://www.oxfordtube.com/>) or the Oxford Express the X90 (<http://x90.oxfordbus.co.uk/>), which both run very frequently and stop in multiple locations. Alternatively, you could take the train (www.nationalrail.co.uk)
 - I suggest you book tickets online if you decide to take the train, as it can be very crowded and booking in advance is cheaper. If you take the train you will probably need to take a cab from the Oxford train station to College.
- Address



- You are advised to go to the Porter’s Lodge in College to collect your key.
- If you arrive by bus, it’s easy! You will need to get off at the High Street stop, which is just across the road from Queen’s.

- This is Queen's! The bus stop arriving into the city is opposite the entrance and up the road a little.

4. College Vacation and Storage Arrangements:

You are encouraged to go home during the vacation to get a break from study and from Oxford, as it can be quite intensive. Further, the College rents out most of the rooms during the vacation so it's in their interest to have you go as well! However, as College understands that it is not always possible for us to return home every vacation due to distance and cost. This applies to Christmas and Easter vacations mainly.

- Vacation residence application:
 - Towards the middle/end of each term (usually 5th week), you will be asked if you wish to apply for vacation residence – you will need to fill out this form and state your reason if you plan on staying at Oxford beyond 10am on Saturday of 8th week (e.g. to board a flight leaving on Sunday), and the College will decide whether to accept or reject your application.
 - There will be an email explaining vacation residence in more detail around that time! If you have any problem please come find us.
- Guidelines in relation to vacation leave:
 - You are asked to **completely vacate your room** at the end of each term. You won't be allowed to leave clothes or sheets or towels in your room or anything like that. International students are allowed "2 boxes (the boxes are what they call it 'tea chest sized boxes')" of storage. In QLQ and Main College they are quite strict in relation to the amount of stuff you may leave. Most international students leave their linen, towels, cutlery, and winter clothes. Space is provided for international students to leave their "boxes" either in their rooms or in storage rooms in College. More information will be sent out on this by the Domestic Bursar later throughout term.
 - Note that at the moment College don't provide you with boxes or anything to help you with storage so you will need to source these on your own, or use a suitcase. Sometimes you'll be able to get used boxes from supermarkets like Tesco and Sainsbury's free of charge.

5. Packing

Since you will need to pack up your room completely every 9 weeks, it's important to pack light! Furthermore, most rooms are not much bigger than 11 squared metres so you won't have space for a lot of stuff.

- For your room:
 - All the rooms have basic equipment, which varies a bit from room to room. However, all rooms are equipped with a bed, a drawer, a desk, and a small sink. College will furthermore provide you with 1-2 pillows and a duvet.
 - To be honest, the bed and the duvet are not of the best quality. If you care about how you sleep, you could you bring your personal duvet and also a top-mattress. Alternatively, you can buy duvets and top mattresses quite cheaply in shops like Argos (<http://www.argos.co.uk/>). From Argos you can even pre-order your stuff and then pick it up in Oxford when you arrive. You can also buy a kettle quite cheaply in Argos or Tesco, which is quite convenient to have.
 - The rooms are quite plain so you could you bring some stuff to shine it up a bit - you might want to bring some mementos from home or special things to make your room a place that you feel comfortable in. You'll also definitely need some **warm clothes and a raincoat or umbrella** as it gets wet and cold in England!
 - If you are interested in sports, it is a good idea to bring gym clothes and also football boots and shin pads (boys as well as girls at Queen's are quite keen on football!!)

- For outdoor use:
 - Since most of you are probably coming from outside the UK, it is probably not going to be very convenient to bring your bicycle. However, you might find it helpful to bring a helmet (or purchase one!). Traffic is quite dangerous in Oxford. An umbrella, water-proof clothes, and quite warm clothes would also be useful to bring.

- Kitchen related:
 - Don't bring pots and pans, since the JCR is going to have most equipment for cooking. I found it quite useful to bring/buy mugs, cutlery, and a few plates.

- Important documents:
 - It is essential that you bring important travel documents including your PASSPORT and STUDENT VISA. Depending on what country you're from you might need additional documentation or even to register with the police. Please check the Oxford international student website or your local UK Embassy. You may also need to bring medical records with you so you can register with a doctor in the UK, and a certificate of insurance. These important documents you should bring with you in your hand luggage. You should also bring some passport-sized photographs for application forms. Please remember to bring with you any medication that you require.

- Clothes for sub-fusc and fancy dinners:
 - You will need “sub fusc” clothing – sub fusc is like Oxford’s uniform for special occasions and exams. You must buy your mortar board, gown, and tie in Oxford (I recommend Shepherd and Woodward on High Street), which you can buy whenever you like - we can even go together!
 - You should however have it by matriculation, where you are going to use it for the first time. Your matriculation is going to be about mid-October. From home you should bring:
 - **For girls: white shirt, black tights, black skirt or black pair of trousers, suitable black shoes;**
 - **For boys: black suit, white shirt, suitable black shoes.**
 - Oxford and Queen’s host quite a few formal events throughout the term such as dinners and cocktail events and it would be worthwhile to have an outfit or two that would be appropriate for Black Tie. The JCR put on “bops” (college parties) every couple of weeks including Freshers’ week, and these are usually fancy dress. But there are costume shops and 2-dollar shops in Oxford where you can buy things to wear – it’s really up to you how seriously you take it.

- Technical equipment:
 - Travel adapters! Britain uses a 3-pin “Type G Plugs” <http://electricaloutlet.org/type-g>
 - Computer
 - External hard drives – it is extremely important to find a way of backing up all your work before you start at Oxford. A few years ago some finalists’ lost their documents just before their exam, which I am sure was not very pleasant!

- What not to bring - suggestions:
 - Printers – they are a pain to store and College gives everyone a printing allowance for the College printers.
 - Sheets, towels, kettles, and cutlery you can all buy in Oxford and there is plenty of choice, so you don’t need to waste the space in your suitcase.
 - Warm clothes - It might also be worth buying some winter clothes (like a good winter coat) when you arrive in the UK if you come from a country with a very different (i.e. warmer) climate!

6. Setting up a Bank Account, Finances

The Oxford university website publishes a guide for international students to open bank accounts in the UK. It lists all the documents that you will need to supply (including your enrolment certificate, which you can print from Student Self- Service once you have been enrolled <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice>). It also compares the different services the Oxford banks provide so you can decide which best suits your needs. Banks will offer different interest rates and deals as incentives to bank with them. All the major banks have branches in central Oxford from whence you can set up and manage your account.

- Main banks:
 - The main banks in Oxford are HSBC, Lloyds, NatWest, and Barclays. The websites of these banks will contain up to date information on what they provide for clients, including information for students. (Other banks include Santander and the Royal Bank of Scotland).

- Setting up a bank account:
 - Try to book an appointment to open your account—the banks are very busy in Freshers' week signing up all their new clients so it's important to do this as soon as possible.
 - It will take you at least a week, even 2-3 weeks to set up a bank account and have a debit/credit card mailed to you, so it is VERY IMPORTANT to bring enough cash with you/ a credit card you can use in the UK to hold you over until your account is set up. This is especially essential because you tend to do a lot of purchasing to get yourself set up at the start of term.
 - Oxford doesn't have many ATM locations around the city compared to somewhere like London. A handy one is Lloyds on the corner of High Street and Cornmarket Street. But in the UK, most places don't charge a surcharge for paying with card and most people use their contactless debit card to purchase everyday items. This is very handy - the only thing to worry about is keeping track of your spending!

- Expenditure:
 - How much you spend per term will very much depend on you, but it should be around 800 pounds per term not including battels (college bills e.g. room charge).
 - More information can be found here: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/living-costs>

- Financial support from college:
 - Our college has an Academic Support Grant (for academic purposes), 650th Trust Fund (for extra-curricular purposes), and Book Grant system (reimbursement for a certain percent of book fees) – these are really easy to get and really useful! Please refer to <http://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/finance-and-student-support/> for more information.
 - Please visit <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding> to search for scholarships and funds which are applicable to your degree and country.

7. Mobile Phone

There are many companies in the UK that offer a wide variety of phone plans, so there will definitely be one that is right for you; I suggest you do some Internet research or walk into a phone shop when you get to Oxford. Phones are handy to have to communicate with friends/family back home, and also friends in the UK.

- Phone Companies:
 - Traditional phone companies e.g. T-Mobile, Vodafone, Orange, O2, Three, Virgin
 - Specialised phone companies e.g. those that cater to international users, such as Lebara
 - New online phone companies e.g. Giffgaff
 - The major phone companies, O2, Vodafone, Three all have stores located in central Oxford. The bigger networks tend to have better coverage (although Oxford can be dodgy with reception especially 3G) and more customer support.
 - Lebara is popular amongst international students for its very cheap international rates, but there is less customer support.
 - Online phone companies tend to be much cheaper (for calls inside the UK), but have less customer support and worse network coverage compared to the big networks. [SEP]

- Types of plans:
 - Pay-as-you-go
 - Most flexible plan, and can be expensive. You have a SIM Card with a certain amount of credit. Each phone call/SMS/data usage detracts credit from your SIM. You can top it up at the provider's shop, calling the provider, online, or even at some supermarkets. The benefit of this type of plan is that you only pay for what you use. The downside is that you have to remember to keep your phone topped up and try to keep track of how much it is costing you. (For this type of plan you will need to bring a phone)

 - Monthly roll-over contracts
 - A hybrid between pay-as-you-go and a monthly plan – you top up credits into your SIM card like pay-as-you-go, but you can also sign up for a monthly bundle that gives you free minutes/SMS/data for a set price. At the start of every month you can sign up for this bundle again, change bundles, or drop out of the plan. The positives of this plan are that it is more flexible than a monthly contract (which tends to last 6-12 months) and is more value for money than a pay-as-you-go. The downsides are that if you don't use your portion of additional minutes/SMS from your bundle they will be taken away each month; and also if you exceed your free portion additional minutes/SMS are deducted from your SIM card at a higher rate, which can be costly. (You generally need to bring a phone for this type of plan).

 - Monthly plans
 - Sign up for a long-term contract and get a free (or discounted) phone, and get monthly bills (which can be set up to be automatically deducted from your bank account) and a free bundle of minutes/SMS/data every month. Some countries require a credit history

before signing up, but most don't e.g. Vodafone – it's important to check. The downsides of this plan are that you will have to pay monthly fees even when you are on holiday and potentially not in England (unlike a monthly-roll over contract) and thus tend to be low value for money, but the plus sides are that these are convenient and user- friendly (very easy and extremely quick to set up with face-to-face service and good customer support) and can be more cost effective if you use your phone a lot, or you need to purchase a new phone.

- Most international students bring a phone with them or purchase an additional cheap one at home separately to purchasing a plan, as this gives you greater flexibility. It is important if you bring a phone to the UK to make sure that it is "SIM-UNLOCKED" so that it can take a SIM card from any provider (UK phones tend not to have unlocked SIMS so it might be best to bring a phone from home).

8. Handy Shops

- Supermarkets

- The two main supermarket chains in England are Sainsbury's and Tesco's - both conveniently located on Cornmarket Street, very close to College.

- Food (outside College)

Unfortunately, there aren't many international food options, but there are a few hidden gems.

Most restaurants are located either on the Cowley Road, or in the centre of Oxford

- Best coffee: The Missing Bean on Turl Street (Antipodean Café)
- Best take-away: Pret-a-Manger on Cornmarket, Itsu on Cornmarket – 30 min before closing time Itsu and Wasabi have 50% reduction on the food that is left – really helpful if you try to save money and love sushi ;)
- Best sandwiches: Taylor's or Olive's on High Street
- Best Japanese: Sushi Corner on Cowley Road (near Atomic Burger), Edamame on Holywell Street
- Best Lebanese: Pomegranate on the Cowley Road
- Best continental Europe style food: Zizzi's
- Best English/pub food: Cocos on the Cowley Road
- Best Italian: Jamie's Italian on George Street
- Best Chinese: My Sichuan near Gloucester Green Bus Station
- The Covered Market, entrance off High Street, is an undercover marketplace, which sells fresh food.

- Stationary/Tech

- WH Smith on Cornmarket Street has plenty of binders, notepads, pens, etc. I advise you not to bring anything from home and pick it up here.
- Argos on Queen Street (near Cornmarket Street) has batteries, adapters, chargers and other useful things, also a good place to buy boxes if you need them for storage at the end of term.

- Department Stores

Oxford has several department stores where you can buy some essential items to set you up for college including towels, linen, blankets, cutlery etc.

- Debenhams: Located at the bottom of Cornmarket Street, on George Street, is this large department store – wide range of products at varying prices
- Marks and Spencer: Located on Queen Street, near Cornmarket Street, also has a wide range of products
- Boswell and Co – generally less pricy, great for students (enquire about discount) but not as wide a range, less linen. Better for cutlery and setting up your room

- Pharmacy

- Boots on Cornmarket will cater to all your pharmaceutical needs including prescription medicine, over the counter medicine, and makeup/toiletries.

- Cycle Shops

- Many students, and many people in the Oxford community in general cycle as their main form of transportation. The university is spread out over the entirety of Oxford so libraries, faculties, and your tutorials may be a considerable distance apart from one another. There are bike storage facilities in QLQ and on Queen's Lane.
- Oxford is a cycling friendly city and motorists are very used to being wary of cyclists. If you are a confident cyclist, you may consider purchasing a bike. For information on bike shops and servicing please see <http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/bikes>
- In England, wearing a helmet is not mandated by law but it is recommended. You must have bike lights switched on if you are cycling at night/after dark, and this is something that police do regularly check.

9. Outside University

- Gym Membership:
 - The Oxford University Gym:
 - The Oxford University Gym is located on the Iffley Road. Facilities include a gym, a pool, and a running track (which is free). To be honest the Gym is not of the best quality but it is quite cheap. You can ask for permission to try out their Gym before you make up your mind.
 - The gym offers discounted student rates for one year's entry and for 3 years to cater for the large student population. They also offer different membership combinations e.g. gym only, gym + pool. If you play sport at a university level you may receive discounted or free membership – you should contact a college sports rep to advise you. If you don't want to commit to membership, this gym offers regular boxercise, circuits, and spin classes for 5 pounds each. To find out more:
<http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/membership/membership/student-membership/>
 - Pure Gym:
 - Pure Gym is located in the centre of Oxford on St Ebbe's street. You can pay for a 6-month membership up front or you can pay \$45 per month. The handy thing about LA fitness is that you can freeze your membership when you go on vacation (so a 6 month membership generally lasts a year) or not renew your membership for the months that you are away. However, it is generally pricier than the University gym. The gym offers gym and change room facilities, free classes to all members, and a swimming pool.
<https://www.puregym.com/gyms/oxford-central/>
 - There are also numerous social and competitive sports teams based in Queen's or University-wide. You will have an opportunity to sign up for these at the Freshers' Fair and the Queen's Freshers' Fair.
- Volunteering:
 - If you are passionate about volunteering you should visit the Oxford Hub, which aims to connect interested students with various charities <http://www.oxfordhub.org/> about. There is also a Queen's charity committee if you would like to get involved via college.
- Religious worship:
 - This website has a list of where the major religious centres are located in Oxford for multiple faiths <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/religion>.
- Clubbing and Nightlife:
 - Oxford has a vibrant student nightlife, with most clubs offering a special Oxford students' night. England has quite a prominent drinking culture, especially amongst youths at university. You should in no way feel pressured to take part, but if you do, be safe, and these are the major clubs you should check out!

10.Support:

College is generally a very fun and positive experience, but there are definitely hard times, especially for international students living far from home in first year, and it's important to be aware of who you can talk to and what services are available.

- Student support

Within College your first port of call within the student support network would be:

- International Rep – Zuzanna & Nancy
- Equalities Rep – Ellie Whiteside
- Female and male Welfare Reps

- Senior support

- The College nurse Victoria. Her room is Front Quad 1a, Room 6 (ask the porters if you are unsure how to get here).
- The College chaplain – Katherine Price. Katherine is very supportive and understanding. She is very popular with students and happy to talk to anyone regardless of religious views. As Katherine Price is on maternity leave, in Michaelmas Term the covering chaplain will be Reverend Laurence Price (her husband)
- Your Moral Tutor. He/she is responsible for your personal academic development and you should let them know if any significant personal issues are affecting your studies. They can help you sort out alternative hand-in arrangements for your assignments with your other tutors.

- Counsellor service:

- The university runs a counselling service, which is here to listen to any concerns, small or big, that you have and want to talk about. The service offers free and confidential support. For information on how to make an appointment and for the specific services that the university provides please see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling>. For more general information about university-wide health and welfare please see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare>

- Phone Line:

Nightline is an independent support and information service run for and by students of Oxford University if you need to talk to someone outside of normal hours. The service runs every night from 8pm to 8am. <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~nightln/>

11. Societies

There are many societies in Oxford that are country-specific, designed to be networks for international students. You may want to join to connect with other students of your nationality from other colleges at Oxford. The sizes of these societies and the frequency of their events will depend on how many members they have – many have websites where you can find out more. Your opportunity to sign up to these societies will occur at the Freshers' Fair in 0th week.

Some that may be relevant are:

- Oxford University Australia and New Zealand Society
- Oxford Austrian Society
- Oxford Scandinavian Society
- Oxford University Chinese Society
- Oxford University German Society
- Oxford University Malaysian and Singaporean Students' Association
- Oxford University Malaysia Club
- Oxford University Polish Society
- Oxford Russian Society

● General

Freshers' Fair:

During Freshers' week an event named "Freshers' fair" is going to be held in the Examination schools. During the event all societies affiliated with the university are going to have a stand, from which they will promote their society. The event can be quite overwhelming since everyone wants you to join their society. We suggest that you have an idea of which activities you would like to be engaged in outside your academic life and then look for such activities specifically.

Don't worry too much if you do not sign up for everything during freshers' week. Most students find new interests throughout their degree and hence join new and different societies. Queen's also has a few societies and clubs such as:

- Sports clubs (athletics, football, squash etc.)
- The Addison's society – A dining society (<https://www.facebook.com/addisonsocietyoxford/>)
- The Queen's musical Crew
- The Queen's Choir

● Clubs and societies:

- There is a club or society at Oxford for just about every activity you could imagine whether your interests are academic, sports, social, or Harry Potter trivia – over 200! There is also the famous Oxford Union, the debating society which hosts famous speakers (such as former US Presidents, music and film stars) and panel debates each week.
- For a full list of clubs and societies please see: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs/list>
- There are also student newspapers and the student union (OUSU). For more information please see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs>

Checklist

Living away at university will most likely be different to anything you've experience before and the list below is there to give you an idea of the things you may need but it's by no means exhaustive. But if you take any bit of advice onboard – LESS IS MORE! Not only are the rooms probably smaller than you're used to but at the end of every term you'll have to pack everything back up again and take it home, so you really don't want to bring too much you probably won't need.

Bedding

1. Bedsheets x2
2. Duvet cover x2
3. Mattress topper
4. Alarm clock

Crockery

1. Mugs
2. Plates
3. Cutlery
4. Glasses
5. Washing-up Liquid
6. Dishcloth
7. Tea towel

Clothing

1. Day-to-day clothes
2. Formal wear
3. Fancy dress
4. Sub Fusc (items which you can bring from home, items which you buy in Oxford)

Useful paperwork

1. Bank account details
2. Insurance details
3. Student Finance information
4. Medical information (NHS number, etc)

Other

1. Towel
2. Toiletries
3. ID !!
4. Laptop (and charger)
5. Mobile phone (and charger)
6. Room decorations (photos, plants, rugs, posters)

🚫 DON'T BRING CANDLES, INCENSE, GRILLS OR RICE COOKERS!

These items are not allowed and will be confiscated due to fire safety. Make sure you read the college regulations for full details.

🚫 Don't want to haul it all with you in the car or want to go on a Uni Shopping Spree? Not to worry there are some great shops in Oxford where you can buy many of the things on the list so don't fret if you forgot anything or simply don't have it.

Sainsbury's and Tesco

For all those everyday items (detergent etc.) and the necessary snacks and drinks there are a Sainsbury's and a Tesco's right in the town centre.

Boswell & Co. – 1- 4 Broad St, Oxford OX1 3AG

This is the one stop uni shop in Oxford – a great department store that caters to the students needs, from storage boxes to cutlery to accessories. It may be a bit pricey but bring your parents along, and don't forget to ask for a student discount (usually 10%).

Argos – North Bailey House, New Inn Hall Street OX1 2RP

There's one in town and great for buying that kettle and toaster you're missing, it's also right near Robert Dyers, which also have a range of kitchen appliances – so take your pick.

Blackwell's Poster Shop - 27 Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BS

This shop has some great posters of all sizes ranging from vintage/retro designs to oxford pub drinking maps to ones creatively encompassing text from your favourite book – it's definitely worth a look and although it may be prices they often do 3 for 2 deals, especially at the start of the academic year.

There are heaps more shops to cater for your needs, if in doubt of where to get something or advice on what to, and what not to, bring please ASK YOUR COLLEGE PARENTS. That's what they're there for and will be more than happy to help.

We look forward to meeting you all in October!

Please do get in touch if you have any questions:

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