THE QUEEN’S JCR

The Queen’s College
Alternative Prospectus
Welcome to The Queen’s College Alternative Prospectus! We’ve done our best to include everything there is to know about College and University life, and to explain some of the traditions that go on here. As you’ll gather, there is lots to take in but hopefully you’ll see how much fun studying at university is, and even more so when you’re living in a small college community like Queen’s!

Oxford has its own jargon which will be used throughout the prospectus, but never fear - our glossary on page 28 will explain these for you.

We hope you enjoy learning about life at Queen’s and look forward to seeing you soon!
Welcome!

THE QUEEN’S JCR
The Lodge

The Lodge is the first port of call for all general enquiries about College life and the porters are there to help with any problems you might have – from welfare issues to using the internal post. This is also where the student pigeon holes are – mainly used for post, but it’s also fun to pidge surprise chocolate to friends!

The JCR

JCR stands for Junior Common Room; whilst this is used to refer to the undergraduate body as a whole, it is refers to the common room in college where all undergraduates can go to socialise and relax. JCR tea is held here every day at 4pm, involving lots of tea, biscuits and cake!
On Sundays there is also JCR brunch from 10-11! The television is also free for everyone to use as well as the table football, games and international and national newspapers and magazines. This is also where JCR meetings are held, which are open to everyone to come and discuss changes and improvements to JCR life. Free pizza usually features too!

**The Hall**

The Hall is where everyone has their meals: college provides a great selection for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Because Queen’s is a fully catered college, meal times are always a really sociable occasion and most students go to each meal, however, you’re not obliged to go to meals if you don’t want to. Breakfast and lunch operate on a ‘canteen style’ system and dinner is a set menu which you sign up for online. College catering always has an excellent variety of options and the kitchen is able to provide for those with special dietary requirements. Food in College is generally very reasonably priced, with the average breakfast costing £1.51, lunch £2.91 and dinner £4.13. There are two sittings for dinner during the week, with gowns worn for the second sitting only. Formal hall is held every Saturday and special dinners are held throughout the term for events such as subject dinners, Burns Night and sports dinners.

**Library**

The Library is open 24 hours a day, so it is available to use whatever your working habits! It is one of the best stocked college libraries in Oxford with around 50,000 volumes in the lending collection. If it doesn’t have a particular book you need for your course, you can use the book suggestion system and the Library will buy it for you! The Library has computer, printing and photocopying facilities, which all students can access. Queen’s is also only a five-minute walk from the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian Library, as well as being close to many other faculty libraries if you ever fancy a change of working scene.
**College chapel**

The College chapel is one of the busiest in Oxford, with reputedly the city’s best mixed-voice choir singing Evensong three times a week. It has seen regular services since 1719 and is particularly admired for its curved far wall, beautiful stained glass windows and Frobenius organ, which turned 50 in 2015! There are up to eight choral scholarships available each year for the Choir, while two organ scholars accompany the services. The services are run by the College Chaplain. With such a beautiful room in the centre of College, services are not just a place for worship (for those of any faith), but also somewhere to reflect and take a break from study with amazing music to accompany your thoughts!

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**Moffat Room**

This is the college IT Room, equipped with computers, printers and photocopiers for all students to use; it is also a good alternative to the Library as a place to work.
**Beer Cellar**

The Beer Cellar is open every evening and is a great place to meet up with friends and relax, play pool or dance along to your favourite song on the jukebox. Every two weeks the beer cellar is packed full of students in fancy dress for the legendary college B.O.Ps. Quiz nights, jazz evenings and open mic nights organised by the Entz team are also held here throughout term.

**The Boathouse & Sports Ground**

With rowing being such a big sport in Oxford, the boathouse is a buzzing part of College, though located a 15-minute walk away. The boathouse gets particularly busy when the different crews take part in the many races throughout the year, and crowds fill the banks to cheer on their respective colleges. Directly across the river from the boathouse are the College’s sports grounds, including football and hockey pitches, tennis and netball courts, a cricket square and a club-house with changing and showering facilities and a bar. This is where the many College sports teams play and train, for example the renowned ‘Animals’ football team; the grounds also host the annual Trinity term sports day. Besides the Queen’s sports grounds, there is a new table-tennis room in the Back Quad of College and two recently refurbished squash courts, said to be the best in Oxford, in the Cardo annexe! Queen’s is also one of the few colleges to have its own gym, which is in the Carrodus Quad annexe on Queen’s Lane. The gym is free for any College member to use and includes rowing machines, exercise bikes and weights machines.
Like all its other great features, Queen’s works in a unique manner with its accommodation too.

Firstly, there is a guarantee of a room in a College building for the duration of your degree (three or four years). And, since the main College grounds have a lot of (stunning) garden space, not all of our rooms are in main College, including rooms for first years. Many colleges house their first years on the main site, and in their subsequent years students move out or into different annexes. But at Queen’s this works in the opposite way, to great advantage: freshers live together independently and so get to know each other really quickly; the finalists, who live in College, have easy access to the Library and other facilities they require more; and instead of staying on the same site in the same buildings throughout your course (which can get a bit stale) you get a taste of different parts of Oxford by living in different buildings.

Another unique thing about accommodation at Queen’s is that the rent rate remains the same regardless of what building you’re in: the daily rate is £20.37 (or £1201.93) per term, with a few smaller rooms and sets (shared) costing 20% less.

After the automatic room allocation in first year, Queen’s uses a ballot system to decide who will live where each year. Names are randomly assigned a place in the ballot, with the top spaces gaining rooms in College or large rooms in Carrodus Quad or Cardo, and the bottom spaces being for the smallest Carrodus Quad and Cardo rooms. The system works fairly, so if you are at the bottom in second year, you’ll be at the top the year after (and vice versa).

So finalists choose their rooms first, followed by second years, and if you’re on the bottom of the second year ballot, you’ll be the last person to choose their room in College (but the first the following year!).

The Florey Building

The Florey Building, renowned for its spaceship-like exterior and unique interior, houses about 70 freshers, with the remaining living in the Cardo building. There are three floors of single floor rooms and a fourth, top floor where 16 bedrooms have a mezzanine level. Though the building is due to be fully refurbished and partially rebuilt in the next few years, there are plenty of toilets, showers and fridges on every floor, a common room and breakfast room – where breakfast is served every weekday morning – and there are microwaves for students to use too.
The building is a seven-minute walk over Magdalen Bridge into College – or an even quicker cycle! Because of its shape and design, Florey is a really social building so there is always something going on and everyone bonds really quickly – if you don’t believe us, we asked the freshers what the best thing about living in Florey was, and here’s a selection of their responses: ‘The community spirit - the fact that you’re living in corridors as opposed to staircases really makes a difference when you’re making friends in freshers’ week!’ , ‘The rooms are really light and airy, really nice to work and chill in’, ‘You can see if people are in because of all the windows’, ‘Floor length mirrors on every floor to see your full outfit every day!’ , ‘You can just pop down to breakfast on site in the morning and it’s gorgeous’.

Cardo Building

The other annex which houses a small number of freshers and students from other years is the Cardo Building, a little further from College along Iffley Road. The interior was more recently refurbished than the Florey Building and though toilets and showers are shared, each of the 51 rooms has its own fridge. Much like Florey, this building has a common room and breakfast room, complete with a table tennis table, TV and the College’s squash courts.

What’s it like to live here instead of in Florey? The students said the best bits of Cardo are that: ‘The rooms are really nice’, ‘You get to know people from different years more quickly’, ‘Common room TV’, ‘There’s a small and intimate group of people you become very close friends with’.
**Carrodus Quad**

Much closer to College – in fact a mere few seconds’ walk just next door on Queen’s Lane – is Carrodus Quad. The annexe most recently refurbished, it has 70 en suite rooms for second years and above. It also houses a meeting room, music practice room (with grand piano) and the College gym. Just off of the inner courtyard is a bike store, which complements the store beneath Front Quad in College if you do not wish to park your bike in the street (though there are also many racks on Queen’s Lane).

**Main College site**

Accommodation in the main College site on the High Street is available for a few lucky second years and principally finalists. Front Quads hosts 43 student rooms which have shared WC facilities with 38 en suite rooms in Back Quad. The bathroom facilities are pretty much the only difference between the two, as both boast views across the timeless Oxford surroundings and are located on traditional wooden staircases around each quad. Their principle benefit is their close proximity to College facilities such as the Hall, the Library and the JCR. The main College site also houses a few smaller rooms and sets to be shared between two students – offered at a lower rent rate.
St Aldates House

Last but not least is St. Aldate’s House, a building shared between undergraduates and postgraduates. It is (predictably) on St Aldate’s, a street just 10 minutes’ walk along the High Street from College. Around 20 rooms, on the first floor, are allocated to international students, third years and above – or those who specifically request to live in the building. As well as en suite facilities, each room has access to a shared kitchen. The rest of the building’s rooms are for postgrads. The kitchens are shared between a maximum of nine rooms and are equipped with modern facilities and seating.
The Queen’s College’s Eglesfield Musical Society is the oldest college music society in Oxford and runs various college ensembles and events during term time. Its name is based on that of the college’s founder, Robert de Eglesfield. The ensembles are open to any member of the University, although typically the majority of musicians are from the Queen’s JCR and MCR.

All ensembles except the college string quartet are non-auditioning, intended to be a way for all students in college to come together and make music for fun, regardless of ability or experience. Practises are held once a week, and all ensembles showcase their abilities in the Michaelmas and Hilary concerts. Jazz Band also performs in our exclusive-to-Queen’s termly Fifth Week jazz night, which is also organised by the society.

**EMS Chorus**

EMS Chorus is designed to be a relaxed, informal alternative to the intensity of many of Oxford’s more famous choirs. Like all EMS groups, it is entirely student-run and sings a wide range of music, from classical masterpieces to popular hits. Our repertoire should appeal to the more experienced musicians in college, but won’t be beyond the abilities of complete beginners, so, whether you’re the Royal Opera’s biggest star or you’ve only ever sung to your shampoo bottle, EMS Chorus is for you.

**EMS A Cappella**

The newly formed EMS A Cappella group aims to allow students from Queen’s and other colleges to sing vocal arrangements of well-known pieces, but without the pressure of better known ensembles. The music ranges from smooth jazz to pop, and the weekly student-led rehearsals are always fun. As well as performing in EMS concerts, the A Cappella group has the opportunity to providing entertainment at college events.
EMS Orchestra
The EMS Orchestra is a student-run ensemble which welcomes players of mixed abilities, as well as being a form of integration between the undergraduate and postgraduate scenes within the College. Recent undertakings include Dvorak’s Symphony No.8, Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony and Beethoven’s Coriolan Overture.

EMS Jazz Band
The EMS Jazz Band allows musicians of all abilities to come together and enjoy a variety of styles including jazz, swing and funk. Oxford has a big jazz scene but it can sometimes be intimidating if you’re not a seasoned jazz musician, so if you’re Grade 8 classical sax or Grade 2 trumpet, a pro at improvisation or terrified at the mere thought, come along to the EMS Jazz Band and have fun. There are plenty of opportunities for solos for those who want them, but those with less experience and confidence will have a great time too.

String Quartet
The college string quartet is the only auditioned EMS ensemble and plays to a high standard, both in college and at external events. Vacancies are advertised within college - all Queen’s JCR and MCR members are welcome to apply.

The Eglesfield Players
The Eglesfield Players is The Queen’s College’s drama society. A major student production company and funding body for Oxford drama, the society helps finance productions all around the city as well as putting on their own shows in the Provost’s garden, with members of Queen’s and other colleges as actors. Every Trinity term the society runs a summer musical in Queen’s: last year’s show, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Forum, received rave reviews, and this year’s Into the Woods looks set to follow this success. The society also aims to help any drama enthusiasts get into the thriving theatre scene in the University. The best way to get involved in drama at Oxford is to enter ‘Cuppers’– each college enters a short play to be performed at the end of Michaelmas Term: in past years, Queen’s has made it to the final!
Sports

Queen’s is the most fantastic place to get involved with plenty of sport, whether you are a dedicated and experienced athlete wanting to represent the University (most Blues also play their sport for their college too!) or someone just wanting a bit of fun. Many sports are represented at Queen’s: athletics, cross country, badminton, basketball, cricket, croquet, football, hockey, lacrosse, netball, rowing, rugby, table-tennis, tennis and Ultimate Frisbee clubs all put out teams in inter-collegiate competitions (‘Cuppers’ or Leagues) aiming for victory.

And if your sport is not listed here, don’t worry - there is sure to be a university sports club that is for you (and you’ll find them all at Freshers’ Fair - kickboxing or Quidditch, anyone?), or you could easily set up a college club of your own. Each Queen’s sports is open for everyone in college to join and enjoy both for the sport and the social side. For example, QCAFC (the football club, and probably the largest sports club in college) has three men’s team, from the competitive 1st XI to the affectionately titled ‘Animals’ (the 3rd team) as well as a women’s team. QCAFC holds an annual Christmas dinner and black-tie dinner in college in the spring, QCBC (the boat club) holds termly dinners after every rowing regatta, and every team has regular socials (ranging from evening drinks to ‘crewdates’ in which you go out for dinner with another team from a different college - or from Queen’s!) open to all of their members.
Many of the college teams even put on tours, often to go and challenge college teams in Cambridge (in recent years, the Queen’s lacrosse, rugby and football teams and the Boat Club have all taken on various Cambridge colleges).

In terms of facilities, Queen’s has a gym in Carrodus Quad (over the road from main college), playing fields and a clubhouse down by the river which are about a 15 minute walk from college, and a boathouse just over the river from the pitches, equipped with plenty of rowing machines, boats and anything else you could possibly need! These are available for all members of the college to use.

The sports community is a thriving, inclusive and vibrant one at Queen’s and the support at the major sporting events (Cuppers finals, and especially the rowing regattas) is astounding. There is so much spirit at Queen’s which makes it such an awesome community to be a part of, and it really is exemplified by the sport here.
Religious societies

Christian Union

The Christian Union at Queen’s is a busy and friendly group, which besides the weekly prayer meeting, held after Sunday Communion, meets regularly for religious and social events. For example in Hilary Term 2015, it ran a ‘Text a Toastie’ evening to answer religious-based questions for any students in college, where every answer was accompanied by a toastie, and met at the end of term for a dinner in the St. Aldates Building. Anyone is welcome to come along to explore faith in general or develop their Christian beliefs. More widely, the CU takes part in OICCU’s (Oxford University Inter-Collegiate Christian Union) events, of which there are several every week.

Volunteering

A&O

As a complement to the friendly nature of the Queen’s community, Access and Outreach plays an important role in college life. Though the college is closed to tourists, Queen’s welcomes applicants and school groups into college on a daily basis, ranging from an informal tour with one of our Ambassadors or taking part in a formally run event with talks, lunch and a tour. A large number of undergrads are part of the Ambassadors programme, which means that anyone who wants help run the Queen’s part of university Open Days, the interview period and the countless smaller events which take place throughout term, can. Besides spreading the word about Oxford and helping to debunk some of its myths, volunteering as an Ambassador is a rewarding way to take a break from work during the day and meet new people!
In addition to the wealth of societies and extra-curricular opportunities available here at Queen’s, there exist over 200 other university-wide societies which cater for every taste imaginable. From unusual sports (Quidditch, Assassins...) to re-enactment and war-gaming societies, subject societies such as Chinese or Mathematics to the Table Tennis Society, there is definitely something for everyone.

You can write for a student newspaper such as the OxStu, volunteer in the local area and make a real difference through charities such as Schools Plus and Keen, or play first trumpet in the Oxford Philharmonic!

Not forgetting the city itself, Oxford is a beautiful place to live with new and exciting sights around every corner. From the iconic buildings of the city centre and the breathtaking panoramic views available from the University Church tower, to the wealth of independent shops and restaurants down Cowley Road, Oxford really does have something for everyone. Our May Day celebrations on Magdalen Bridge bring the whole city together to celebrate the arrival of Spring, the paths around Christ Church meadows make a relaxing walk for a Sunday afternoon, and many other places such as the Ashmolean, the Museum of Natural History and the Botanic Gardens offer free entry for students.
The Addison Society

The Addison Society is a dining society open to all students at Queen’s. It hosts 5 dinners per year and invites an interesting speaker to each one. Past guests include writer Ed Docx, the former editor of ‘Newsnight’ Michael Crick, and Sally O’Neill, the Chief Operating Officer of the Royal Opera House. As well as giving you a chance to try some of the College’s best food, signing up to a dinner gives you the exciting opportunity to hear people such as these speak, and to ask them questions, in a more intimate environment than that of the Union. Dinners are great social occasions too, with the opportunity to get to know people from other years.
The 1341 Society and Events

The 1341 Society, named after the year of foundation of The Queen’s College, raises funds for academic, cultural, sporting and extra-curricular endeavours of students at Queen’s. It supports the College Book Grant System, the Student Hardship Fund, and the 650th Anniversary Trust Fund. Termly fund-raising events such as lunches for current students and their families, exhibitions in the Upper Library, and garden parties all with performances from the Eglesfield Music Society, are held with great success. Thanks to continual support, a substantial sum of money is contributed yearly to support students during their time here at Oxford.

Subject Dinners

Queen’s organises subject dinners once every academic year, creating fun social events which allow you to get to know other Queen’s students who study your subject, topped off by excellent food and drink! The dinners are open to all year groups, and are looked forward to all year long. Other special dinners which take place every academic year are:

All Saints Gaudy

This takes place in Michaelmas term, and is a celebration of academic achievement within the College.

Halfway Hall

This is a dinner for second year students which is held in the middle of Hilary term, and thus celebrates the halfway point in their course.

Christmas Dinner

You’ve got it! At the end of Michaelmas Term, Queen’s students sit down for an evening of celebrations in the Main Hall. Think crackers, Christmas pudding and carols sung by the Choir - all followed by the famed Christmas End of Term Event later the same evening.
Our daily life

If you are wondering how exactly students at Queen’s spend their days - here is a sneak peek on some of their day plans!

Helen – Modern Languages student

8am – 9am – Get up, eat a wonderful cooked breakfast in my accommodation building with friends
9am – 11am – Finish putting some ideas together from my reading for my tutorial later on, send some emails
11.30am – Walk to college, meet friends and sit in Front Quad in the sun and chat.
12.30pm – Lunch in college!
1pm – Translation class in Queen’s. We go through the work together and compare our different approaches to interpreting the text
2pm – Quick trip to the Taylorian Library to pick up some books for my next essay. Stop by the Playhouse to pick up some tickets for a play I’m going to see later in the week and by Tesco to get some motivational chocolate!
3pm – Spanish Tutorial in Merton. We talk about the essay I handed in and about the wider questions posed by the text
4pm – Head back to Queen’s to have tea with a friend, and get some reading done before dinner
6.30pm – 7pm – Dinner in college. I catch up with my friends doing other subjects who I haven’t bumped into all day
8pm – Orchestra practice in the Chapel
9pm – Post-practice drinks in the Beer Cellar
10.30pm – Walk home to bed!

Sorcha – Material Science student

8am – Wake up, have cooked breakfast and cycle to the department building for lectures
9am – Lecture on electronic structures
10am – Catch up with friends in the department café
11am – Lecture on fatigue and creep in metals
12pm – Cycle back to college for lunch
1pm – Go to the library quickly to continue some tutorial work
EITHER
14.00 – 17.00 – practical work in the labs
OR
14.45 – Look over topic of tutorial in preparation
15.00 – Tutorial: go over set work sheet and discuss difficult problems with tutor
16.00 – Do some work on laboratory report
17.00 – Rowing training
19.15 – Dinner in hall
20.00 – Chill in the beer cellar/ watch a film / go out clubbing
Charlie – PPE student

9.00am - Alarm goes off. After a couple of ‘snoozes’ I head down to breakfast, get some strong coffee and treat myself to an English breakfast (I’ve got a long day ahead I tell myself…).

9.50am - Quick cycle over to the lecture theatre on the High Street. Today’s Politics lecture is on the US, looking at the constitutional basis for the separation of powers and the implications on modern American governance.

11.00am - Lecture number two - this time on Macroeconomics - focussing on the implications of the global financial crash on optimal monetary and fiscal policy.

12.30am - I then head back to Queen’s to the dining hall for college lunch. Catch up with friends and think about team formations for the afternoon’s football game.

1.30pm - Donning the famous ‘blue and white’ striped kit, I head over to the Queen’s football pitch dubbed the ‘Fortress Riverside’ for a 2.00pm kick off against St. John’s in a cup match. It’s a standard cagey college game, 1-1 at half time. After a rousing half time team talk we started the second half in style winning 3-1 in the end.

4.00pm - We head over as a team to the common room for ‘JCR tea’ which is a staple of the day. Coffee, snacks and chocolate are provided by the Junior Common Room and a Disney film is on the big screen.

4.30pm - I head over to my tutorial on Political Theory, this week theorising different conceptions of Liberty - one of my favourite topics. Initially I find it quite difficult to get my head around the abstract side of the topic but after discussing some more practical examples I come out of the tutorial feeling more confident but have completely revised my initial thoughts.

5.30pm - Walk over to the Bodleian library to get some books and start the reading for next week’s ethics lecture on J.S. Mill’s Utilitarianism.

7.45pm - Dinner and drinks in a Cowley Road curry house with a few friends from other colleges.

9.30pm - Head over to the college bar for some drinks – I’ve got no deadlines for a few days so it’s time for a night out!

11.30pm - On to Bridge night club for a great boogie.
Although university is one of the most exciting times of your life, there may be the occasion when you need some extra help and support. Queen’s has a wealth of different people you can turn to in situations where you need advice or help on any issues, be they academic, social or health related. Alternatively, there is also a University-wide counselling service open to all students. At Queen’s, you can seek help from fellow students: the male and female welfare reps of the Junior Common Room (JCR) are always there to provide confidential support.

The JCR also has an Equalities Committee with officers to represent disabled students, international students, women, LGBT and BME students: these officers are available to provide support and advice for any students who feel they need it. As well as providing confidential help, the welfare team for the JCR organise lots of events throughout term to keep everyone entertained and to give people a break from work – events in the past have included weekly yoga, zumba, a petting zoo, cake decorating, welfare brunches and self-defence classes!

If you would prefer talking to someone who’s not part of the student body, then the College Nurse and Chaplain are there to listen to anything you might want to discuss with them in confidence, however big or small your problem might be. College tutors are also very willing to talk through any issues you might be struggling with.
Studying with a disability at Queen’s

Queen’s has many provisions in place to help students with disabilities. The Disabilities Officer on the JCR exec makes sure that disabled students’ voices are represented in the student body and is there to provide confidential support for those that need it. There is also a “Buddy System” in place where disabled students are paired with other student volunteers who can provide day-to-day logistical help around College, such as handing work in and returning library books.

Queen’s has accommodation and bathroom facilities for those who suffer from hearing impairments or mobility difficulties, and College can provide a managed laundry service for those who need it. The Library also has a wide range of provision to help disabled readers, such as extended loans, height adjustable desks and coloured acetates.

For a more comprehensive list of what we can provide, please see the College website.
Students at Queen’s

To give you an even clearer picture on our college, our students share with you their experience of Queen’s life!

Naomi, Classics, 2nd year

Hi, I’m Naomi, a 2nd year Classicist who has become devoted to college sport during my time at Queen’s. Believe it or not, I was actually pretty lazy before I came to Queen’s, but had played lacrosse and netball before, so I knew I would be taking those up again when I came to university. I have dabbed in women’s football as well, and I was also determined to try rowing at least once during my degree, and ended up loving it so much on my first outing in Freshers’ Week that I made it into the 1st VIII in my second term of Oxford - and I am now somehow Women’s Captain and loving it! In my first year, college sport provided me with the best friends I could hope to make and many frequent, welcome study breaks! Everyone back home was certainly a bit shocked when at the beginning of my second year I was lacrosse captain, athletics and cross country captain, and Women’s Vice-Captain for rowing - but taking part in college sport has been so rewarding and enjoyable for me that I couldn’t imagine a better way to spend my time, and I know that I will continue to love the camaraderie and awesome feeling I get from college sport for the rest of my time at Oxford.

Leon, Chemistry, 2nd year

Greetings, fellow test tube-lovers! I am Leon, currently a second year Chemistry undergraduate at Queen’s.

I was about to go on about how amazing it is to have tutorials with Simon, our tutor for Inorganic Chemistry, how he puts us on the spot and makes us answer his questions on the whiteboard without our notes in hand and when we think on our feet and have a “click” moment and give a good response it feels like we’ve achieved something for the day - but then I realized this is supposed to be an *alternative* prospectus so I’ll tell you something besides the fact that we typically have way more work to do than anyone else.

As a science nerd there’s really no better place to be than Oxford - here I get to write news articles for our own student science magazine, attend so so so many talks and seminars by
eminent scientists, Nobel laureates and the likes, and contribute to actual research work over the summer vacation whether it is hard science, pedagogy, or even non-chemistry (yes, you get to work in other departments if you ask) that you’re interested in. As far as my time is concerned, the teaching labs in which we did our weekly practicals were a bit aged (okay maybe *very* aged), but by the time you come in the new £15M teaching lab, furnished with a state-of-the-art analytical suite will be completed! Talk about exciting times.

If you’re worried about the old stereotype that Oxford is ancient, old-school, and really too backwards to do a science degree in, let me just bring up a point or two to illustrate - we have the £50M Oxford Martin School dedicated to researching solutions for potential technological, societal, and environmental challenges that may crop up in the future; our industrial linkages are robust (the fact that the expensive facilities in our new teaching lab is funded by them says something!); and on the students’ side, Oxford Entrepreneurs is the largest student entrepreneur society in Europe!

I can go on and on, but in the interest of available print space I implore you to come to Oxford and find out for yourself. There WILL be a lot of work, I kid you not.

### Nataly, Experimental Psychology, 2nd year

I am a second year Experimental Psychology student and my life in Queen’s is a crazy mix between academic and extra-curricular work, where I sometimes get confused as to how do I manage to do so many things! My degree is fairly flexible and integrative compared to some other courses, which makes me learn substantial volumes of information, both via contact and academic learning. In my 2nd year I had 9 very different modules which covered several aspects of human behaviour and perception - a really exciting mix which truly alters your views on the world!

Alongside a very rich academic curriculum I am also widely involved in several extra things. Queen’s is a place which has such a broad range of opportunities, that no matter what you are into - sports, arts, music, drama, helping others - you will always find something your heart will belong to! I am mainly involved in Access and Outreach work, where we aim to make Queen’s accessible and welcoming to every prospective student! As part of A&O I do plenty of things such as college tours, mentoring programmes with local schools and Q&A sessions! Apart from A&O I am mostly into teaching which allowed me to participate in several educational projects for children - such as Jacari (where I teach English to a small boy from Nepal) and Splash (where classes are taught to whoever wants to attend!).

The experience that Queen’s offers is truly exceptional - academical and extra-curricular opportunities will allow you to have a rich and all-rounded, busy but very exciting life!!
Finance

Finance is certainly not something you should be worried about at Queen’s because both the College and the University are brilliant in their financial support for those who need it, beyond the student loans provided by the government. The ethos of both the College and the University is that your financial situation should not deter you from applying here or accepting an offer to study.

Books
College offers up to £75 a year to reimburse books you buy for your course, and a fund provided by Old Members of the college offers even more, meaning that you can get over £100 per year back (up to 75% of the cost of the books).

Aside from this, the college library is incredibly well-stocked and the librarians will get any books that you need for your course for the college library within a few days if you request them. And of course, the Faculty libraries and the Bodleian library between them have every book you could possibly want.

Travel Grants
If you want to go abroad for your course (such as visiting ancient sites in the Mediterranean if you are a Classicist) college will provide you with some money to help you fund your trip. Travel grants may be up to £250, but may not cover more than half of your trip.

Sports Funds
Taking part in University sports can be expensive with high subscription fees (‘Subs’) and prices for your equipment, so College will help you to subsidise the cost so that you can enjoy this rewarding aspect of University life without having to worry about money.

Subsidised Living Costs
College uses the vacation time to put on conferences using the student accommodation which means that the accommodation rates and the meal prices are heavily subsidised so that they are as affordable as possible.
JCR Hardship Fund
The Junior Common Room (the undergraduate body of Queen's) has a large pot of money each term to distribute to those most in need. Anyone in the JCR can apply for money from this fund and it is all done confidentially through the Welfare team and the JCR Executive members.

Scholarships
Queen’s rewards its academically high-performing students with scholarships based on results in Preliminary examinations. Queen’s also participates in the Jardine scholarship scheme which offers full bursaries for some international students.

University support
Oxford as a whole is also incredibly generous with its bursaries and scholarships for those who need financial support: please see the University’s website for more details (http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/ug-funding/oxford-support).
Glossary

Ball – a themed event usually in Trinity term with live music and entertainment held on college grounds.

Battels – the termly bill for accommodation, food and other expenses built up during each term and paid at the end.

Beer Cellar – the Queen’s college bar.

Blue – someone who plays for the University team in the annual series of games against Cambridge (‘Varsity’).

Bod Card – your university ID card used to access buildings, pay for food and take out library books, named after the Bod(liean) library, the central University library.

B.O.P. – Big Open Party - a fortnightly college fancy dress party in the Beer Cellar.

Bursary – the College office in charge of finances (who you go to about battels, bursaries, grants etc).

Cherwell – one of the rivers in Oxford (which runs past Florey) and the name of a student newspaper.

Collection – the name for mock exams taken at the start of each term to revise what was covered in the previous term.

Crewdate – two sporting teams from different colleges coming together for a meal and then going out clubbing together, a great way to make friends across the University with similar interests!

Cuppers – inter-college sporting competitions.

Dean – a college fellow in charge of welfare and discipline in college (being ‘deaned’ is what happens if you break a rule and are sent to the dean).

Exec – the Junior Common Room committee (includes the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Academic Rep, Access & Outreach Rep, Food Rep, Machines Rep, Welfare Reps, Chair, OUSU Rep, Social Secretary, Entz (Entertainment) Reps, Equalities Rep, Charities Rep, Environment & Ethics Rep and a number of officers who don’t sit on the Exec: LGBTQ Rep, International Rep, First Year Rep, Disabilities Rep, Women’s Rep).

Fellow – an academic in College who sits on the College Governing Body.

Finals – final year exams (a finalist is somebody who is sitting them, a final year student).

Formal – special dinner (every Saturday at Queen’s) with three courses which people usually bring wine to as well.

Gown – part of the sub-fusc outfit and to be worn for matriculation, exams, collections and at second sitting of dinner.

Hall – where you eat in Queen’s.

High Table – where tutors and their guests eat at dinner-time and which Latin grace is said from).
**Hilary** – the second term lasting from January to March.

**Isis** – one of the rivers in Oxford (a section of the Thames) which is home to the boathouses and where intercollegiate rowing takes place; it is also the name of a student newspaper (the oldest in the UK).

**JCR** – stands for ‘Junior Common Room’ and denotes the physical room located in Back Quad and the body of undergraduates at Queen’s, represented by the Exec (equivalent terms exist for postgrads – MCR – and tutors – SCR).

**Lodge** – where the college porters are located and the first port of call in College to get any help you need.

**Matriculation** – a traditional ceremony in which you officially become a student of the University, to which you wear sub-fusc, fascinate all the tourists and attend a special ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre.

**Michaelmas** – the first term of the year which lasts from October until December.

**Mods** – the first exams taken by students in certain subjects (taken at different times to other subjects’ Prelims, eg by second year classicists).

**OUSU** – stands for the Oxford University Student Union which represents every student at the University to its governing body and NUS (the National Union of Students).

**Pidge** – informal name for your pigeon hole (located adjacent to the Lodge) which you can expect to find post, marked work, invitations (and occasionally chocolate) in.

**Porter** – a really nice, helpful person at the Lodge who can answer all of your questions.

**Prelims** – first year exams taken in most subjects at the end of Trinity.

**Provost** – the head of the college (called ‘Principal’, ‘President’, ‘Master’, ‘Rector’, ‘Dean’ or ‘Warden’ in some other colleges).

**Punt** – a little boat propelled with a long pole; they appear mostly in Trinity along the Cherwell.

**Scout** – a lovely person who empties your bins and cleans your room every weekday.

**Servery** – where you queue up to get your food at breakfast/lunch-time, ie when food isn’t served (it’s opposite the Buttery, where you buy alcohol for formals and tickets for special dinners).

**Sub-fusc** – the University’s official academic dress, composed of (typically) either a black suit, white shirt and white bowtie or black skirt, white blouse and black ribbon.

**Trinity** – the final term of the year which runs from April until June.

**Tutorial** – the unique ‘Oxbridge’ small group teaching system with a tutor and usually between one and five students.
**Fun facts**

Queen’s has its fair share of interesting past alumni (old students)…

Rowan Atkinson (of Mr Bean, Blackadder and Johnny English fame) matriculated as a postgraduate student at Queen’s in 1975. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, computer scientist and inventor of the World Wide Web, studied Physics at Queen’s from 1973 to 1976.

The playwright William Wycherley, famous for his controversial play The Country Wife and for coining the expression ‘nincompoop,’ left Queen’s without finishing his degree in the 17th century.

Astronomers Edmund Halley (who discovered the orbit of Halley’s comet in 1705) and Edwin Powell Hubble (immortalised by the 1990 Hubble Space Telescope) also attended Queen’s.

Henry V, King of England 1413 to 1422 and famous for his unlikely victory at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, is said to have spent some time at the college.

Tony Abbot (28th Prime Minister of Australia), Alfred Enoch (Dean Thomas in the Harry Potter film franchise) and the Rt Hon. Ruth Kelly (former UK Cabinet and Government minister) all studied at Queen’s.
Some fun facts about Queen’s…

Some colleges have pet cats and tortoises – here at Queen’s, we much prefer our friendly Boar’s head mounted on the wall of the JCR. Legend has it that it all started centuries ago when a Queen’s student reading in a nearby field was attacked by a boar, and stuck a copy of Homer down its throat in order to escape a gory death.

In Freshers’ Week of Michaelmas 2014, a Mr Blobby-themed obsession gripped the Queen’s JCR – this led to a Mr Blobby levy for all students, and since then, Blobbies have been sighted on the Back Quad lawn buried in snow, in windows of rooms in college, and hiding in crates in the lower library.

On our college crest, a star can be seen on the left-hand eagle – this is because Robert de Eglesfield, the founder of Queen’s, was not the first-born son in his family and therefore was not permitted to use the full crest.

Queen’s is the sister college of Pembroke College in Cambridge: this means students at both colleges have the right to dine and book accommodation at their sister college. The holding of joint events between JCRs is also common.

Queen’s is one of the oldest constituent colleges of Oxford University. In the 17th century the medieval college was partially destroyed by a fire, which led to the college being rebuilt with Baroque style architecture. The wall of the Provost’s Garden is all that remains of the original college dating from around 1341.

At the start of the second weekly dinner sitting, a trumpet call is sounded across Back Quad to summon students to dinner. This practice is one of the original statutes for the college which are still followed today.
What first-year students say

We asked our freshers what they wish they’d known when they were joining, to give some advice from them to you, or to tell us the best things about Queen’s. Here is a selection:

‘Queen’s is the friendliest community I’ve ever been part of’

‘Talk to everyone you can!’

‘Join as many sports teams as you can’

‘Queen’s is awesome’

‘Don’t be nervous (you’ll realise there was no need to be very quickly!)’

‘Always have a new side of Oxford that is personal to you: enjoy the cafes, see strangers, meet new faces’

‘JCR Tea is great’

‘You won’t be in the library every day and you won’t need to be’
THE QUEEN’S JCR

Queen’s College JCR Alternative Prospectus
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