



## From the Tutor for Undergraduates

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### A word about suspension of status

Suspension of status represents a significant interruption in a course, intended to give students the opportunity to devote their full attention to their welfare until they are able to return to continue successfully in their course. Rather than a response to disappointing academic results, suspension of status is justified in cases when a student is deemed unfit for study. Both the University and the College have put in place a number of structures and policies with the goal of making a student's suspension a successful one. You can find them online, and I detail and explain some of the basic points in this document. I encourage you to familiarise yourself with them and invite you to contact your Moral Tutor or me with questions.

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### The University

The university's guidelines concerning changes in student status are available online, here:

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/undergraduate/status](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/undergraduate/status)

(Home > Oxford students > Academic matters > Study guidance > Undergraduate > Changes in student status, last accessed 16 October 2018).

As the university's policy states, during their suspension, students ...

- **can** keep their University card and SSO access and, with them, can continue to use University libraries and online resources, including email;
- **can** use the Counselling Service and receive the same level of support as other students, including online support for those who live far from Oxford;
- **can** remain in touch with their disability advisor (if relevant), but **cannot** access disability services (which can include specialist SpLD tuition, specialist mentoring, assistive technology training, proof-reading and library assistance); and
- **will not** receive any formal teaching (including access to lectures, whether in person or recorded).



## The College

Consistent with the University, the College regards the health and welfare of students as top priorities. We extend this consideration to all students, suspended (for whatever reason) or not: our imperative of providing a safe community and productive academic environment to all students is always of the utmost importance.

As you embark on your period of suspension, you may feel that you would like to continue to spend time in the College to interact with other students. The College understands this, but recognises that one of the key aspects of suspension is that it provides time away from the College environment and its academic, social and other components, precisely to allow you to focus on your health and well-being. This time away from the College during a period of suspension is a precious opportunity to cultivate your health and prepare yourself for a successful return. The College is also mindful that it exists as a place for academic work and that the presence of suspended students on College premises can lead to a very difficult environment for on-course students, significantly affecting both their work and, potentially, their own welfare.

In light of these considerations, the College policy stipulates that students are not permitted to come into College while they are suspended. In this way, everyone can focus on what is most important to their welfare and success: suspended students on preparing for a successful return, and on-course students on the academic demands of their course and their own wellbeing.

With these goals in mind, students who have suspended their status...

- **are not permitted to return to College** (cf. College regulations, 6.5);
- **must obtain permission** from the Dean and Tutor for Undergraduates in advance if they wish to come into the College for a specific purpose;
- **may not** leave any belongings in storage during their suspension (cf. College regulations, 18.4); and
- **will** remain in regular contact with their moral tutors, who are charged with keeping track of suspended students' progress as they prepare to return to College.

## Returning from suspension

A number of people in College can help ensure that your return is as successful as we all hope it will be, and so it is important to remain in touch with: your moral tutor about what will be expected of you in your course upon your return; the College Office about your fitness to study, including any documentation required before you return; and the Domestic Bursar's office with any questions regarding accommodation.



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In addition, please be sure to contact people who can assist with the welfare side of your return: that might include friends in College, the College's welfare team, the University Counselling Service, members of the JCR executive board, and/or the University's Student Union.

We look forward to your return to College.

