

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE OXFORD

Alternative Prospectus



@thequeenscollegejcr



admissions@queens.ox.ac.uk



Archie, Undergraduate Chemistry student

A welcome from our JCR Vice President

Welcome to The Queen's College! As you embark on your academic journey, you'll discover that Oxford University is more than just a prestigious institution: it's a vibrant community with a space for everyone. With stunning architecture, excellent tutors, and a warm atmosphere, the college provides a nurturing environment where all students can thrive. Queen's is one of many colleges steeped in history and tradition, but it's the friendly faces that make us THE one! Whether you love sharing stories over dinner in hall, getting lost in a book in the library, or heroically scoring (or missing) goals for the college football team, you'll find a place where you can be yourself. This alternative prospectus is here to give you an honest insight into life at Queen's. We hope it helps you picture yourself here - not just as a student, but as part of a welcoming and diverse community.

Student Profiles:

Hey! I'm Heather and I am a Second year reading History at Queen's. I am from Stockport in Manchester, where I studied my A-Levels at a Catholic state college. At the time I was not aware of Queen's reputation as the northern college (which it is trying to live up to at the moment!) despite that, everyone here is very friendly and my settling in was made far easier by the friendly second years who enthusiastically took to the college family scheme and acted as a pastoral link for me and my newfound friends/distant relatives.

My advice as a fresher would be get stuck in to as much as you can - whether that's college life such as the JCR, a sports team or getting close to people who do your subject, or the wider university. I helped set up Star Wars soc in my first few weeks (and it's a really chill place to hang out and watch stuff please come along.) At Queen's we also have a strong ice hockey contingent (it's very beginner don't worry). Uni and Oxford is a scary and daunting place at first, but no matter where you come from, or where you've been educated, as freshers you're all in the same scared boat, so reach out to each other!



Heather, Undergraduate History Student

My name is Kyla and I'm originally from Scotland but I grew up in Lancashire. There's so many opportunities available at Queen's, both as in-subject support and as extracurricular activities. Biochemistry is a pretty intense course first year, studying a massive range of topics from chemical kinetics to quantum physics, averaging around 2 or 3 lectures a day with practicals once every week. One of the most important things is to become good friends with the people in your college who do the same degree, as it makes walking to lectures in the morning and tutorials much easier to get through! Like most other Oxford colleges we have a Junior Common Room (JCR). The JCR is a committee which uses college funding to help undergraduates at Queen's. I'm currently the Secretary of Queen's JCR. At the start of my degree I was rather shy but being a member of the JCR committee has built my confidence, resilience, and interpersonal skills, to name a few.

I also did an Internship at the Max Planck Institute in Gottingen last Summer. This is an opportunity which is only offered to students at Queen's. Not only did I get a stipend to cover living costs while I was in Germany, but the College is paid for my travel costs.

Overall, Queen's is a great and supportive college. Even though our year groups are fairly large there's a tight-knit community here.



Kyla, Undergraduate biochemistry student

Hi, I'm Hannah, a first-year English undergraduate student, and I am from a small town near Cologne in Western Germany. I have absolutely no self control when it comes to books and I love all kinds of literature. Since *Pride and Prejudice* was the first English novel I read, Jane Austen will always hold a special place in my heart, but I enjoy Mary Oliver, the Brontës, Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, and translated Asian fiction (specifically Japanese and Korean fiction) just as much!!

I absolutely LOVE Queen's and whilst the College has a reputation for being nice, the people are my absolute favourite part of the College. Everyone is so friendly, welcoming, and the College truly feels like a family.

I usually spend my mornings in the English faculty attending lectures and come back to Queen's around lunchtime to eat lunch in hall with my friends. It's a great way to catch up and laugh about the extensive workload together. My afternoons are spent in classes or tutorials with my professors (which are really fun) followed by some essay writing in the library.



Hannah, Undergraduate English and Joint Student



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I'm Klara and I'm about to begin my third year reading French and Linguistics. I'm from Sydney, Australia, which meant that I was very unfamiliar with the application process for Oxford before looking into it myself.

It is important to remember that you are expected to have done all the reading and preparation before turning up to a tutorial, contrasting with the way most lessons in school were structured, where one would consolidate knowledge through homework after new content was introduced in a class. The Oxford system is unique in this way and allows you to engage in more substantial discussions in tutorials and make the most of the time you have with your tutor, which admittedly is not a considerable amount in the course of the short eight-week terms!

Outside of tutorials and time spent writing weekly essays, I was often rushing between a number of societies to which I had signed up during the Freshers' Fair, including just about every language society, Physics society, Philosophy society, the Bibliophile society (which holds fantastic events that allow you to visit rare collections in the libraries of other colleges), amongst others. There was a brief spell of coxing too, which afforded a lovely view of the river Isis at sunrise, and much bell-ringing, several times a week before Evensong.



Klara, Undergraduate French and Linguistics student

I'm Hattie, a music student at Queen's. I'm originally from Guildford, in Surrey, and attended a state school.

I love studying music at Oxford because it is so broad and interdisciplinary. In my first year alone, I studied everything from French medieval polyphony to global hip hop, week-to-week learning all sorts of different information and skills. Like all Oxford subjects, we have tutorials which involve a small group of students and a tutor discussing the work for the week – usually, for music, an essay. This immediate feedback and chance to explore your ideas further with experts and your peers makes the course so rewarding, and is one of the unique things about the Oxford course.

Queen's as a college is beautiful and super friendly – the size is also good as there are lots of people to meet but not too many that it becomes overwhelming. My favourite thing about Queen's is the active music scene. We have the oldest music society in Oxford, the Eglesfield Musical Society, which runs an orchestra, acapella group, jazz band and puts on termly concerts, open mic nights, musical theatre nights and the annual Queen's musical. It was so enriching to be involved in EMS in my first year, participating in lots of music and meeting a wonderful group of people.

In addition to musical activities, I have been involved in the Oxford 93% club, the state school society. This is a great way to meet people of similar backgrounds, as well as being part of the work to make Oxford a more inclusive and transparent place.



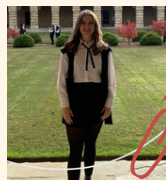
Hattie, Undergraduate Music student

I am a third year History Student at Queen's from a small seaside town in Suffolk. When picking my degree, the biggest priority was choosing a subject I loved and have a real curiosity for investigating further. The course at Queen's was everything I was looking for. It offered a great range of modules to pick from, covered the topics and periods of history that interested me, and allowed me to focus on sources that really have peaked my interest, namely art and fashion. Being able to experience all this choice whilst being taught in small group environments by experts in the field meant it was the perfect place to apply to.

I love the close-knit nature of Queen's and the fact it's community! The college system made starting uni much smoother and the settling in process a lot easier as all Queen's members live in provided accommodation and on site in the first year so you rarely go a day without seeing anyone.

My favourite place to work is the Queen's new library.

Its silent working environment and popularity with students means I can gain focus on the task in hand quicker than if I were to be in my room. After lunch, I often find friends to work with for the afternoon. I try to get the bulk of my reading, writing, or re-watching lectures done during this block of time. The afternoon is often broken up by a must-have coffee break! I then like to cook with friends in the Cardo kitchen in the evening (my favourite thing about living out this year) and attend any social events I may have – such as QCBC rowing, the Oxford Fashion Society, or formal dinners.



Megan, Undergraduate History student



Adam, Undergraduate Biochemistry student

A welcome from our JCR Access and Outreach Representative:

Hello and welcome to Queen's! This booklet has been designed by current students for prospective pupils to give you a brief insight into our life at The Queen's College. I came into Oxford unsure of if I'd fit in, where I'd be living and what I'd do, so this new prospectus should ease up any worries! We have highlighted some of our favourite things about the college along with some thoughts on the accommodation, examples of a day in our lives and some of the societies/clubs we are involved in. Take a look at the information and feel free to reach out if you have any additional questions!

Best wishes,
Adam



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A Day In The Life: Bryony

The thing about Oxford is that it's INTENSE – you're fitting a lot of work, but also a lot of fun social things into a short eight-week term. But it's really important that you're not just working. It's definitely possible to hand in all your work in on time, but also be doing a sport, sleeping, and socialising.

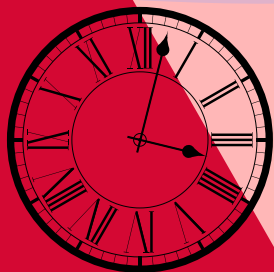


It might just mean that you use the holidays to consolidate things from last term, and do next term's pre-reading.



Morning

If I'm not in a lecture, I normally use the morning as my main time to work. There are loads of beautiful libraries in Oxford, so it's great to change around to add variety, but I like the modern part of the Queen's library most, because of its big shared desks where you can sit with your friends even if working independently.



Afternoon

Tutorials and classes are normally after lunch. For my degree, my main task for the week is writing a 2,000 word essay, which you have a tutorial on. This is where you and your tutor talk about your essay in more depth. They're very good at stretching your thinking and getting you to come up with new ideas on the spot! It's nice to be in a small group, often with just one other student, because the tutors will talk about shared ideas between your essays, which often means you see the question in new ways. Classes are similar to tutorials, except it's with more people (normally four to eight, for me), and you don't write an essay beforehand: the tutor will set some reading to do before, and we'll talk about this during the class.

Evening

This is often when uni sport happens, if there hasn't been a morning session. For rowing, we'll often have a water session or fitness around 5pm – it's really important for me to do this and take a break from work, but also have a social group around college sport. I rarely ever work later than 7pm, so it means that the evenings are generally free for socialising. This might be a chilled pub / college bar trip, or cooking and then chatting in someone's room. College has bigger organised social events every two weeks or so, called BOPs, which are always really fun!



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A Day In The Life:

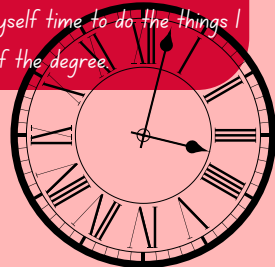
Elyse

A STEM timetable

8am	Breakfast and getting ready
9am	Lecture prep in the Library
10am	Lecture 1: 'The geography and Ecology of speciation'
11am	Lecture 2: 'Genetic resistance and susceptibility to infectious disease'
12:30pm	Lunch in college
1pm	Group work in science library
3pm	Tutorial: Essay on 'The evolution of Intelligence'
4pm	JCRT! Unique for Queen's!
4:30pm	More library time
6:30pm	Dinner in college with friends
7pm	Society event, usually MMA
9pm	Post event social at the pub
11pm	Bedtime



STEM subjects have more contact hours than humanities, but I think this actually makes the work a lot more interesting as it is varied (It's also really great to get to meet all the other people on your course). I'm more of an early bird so I tend to prefer to start my day around 8am and have my evenings to do society stuff/sports/socialise, but I know a lot of people who prefer to wake up later, and stay in the library until 10pm; and there is definitely the flexibility to do either depending on what you prefer. As you can see you definitely don't need to work every hour of the day! I especially find that my work is a lot more productive when I make sure to give myself time to do the things I enjoy outside of the degree.



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Accommodation



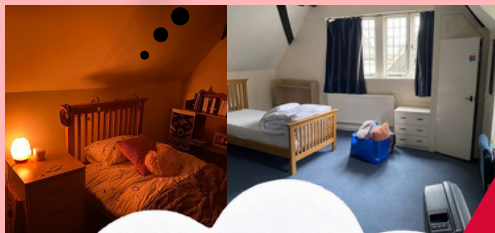
Carrodus Quad:

- The rooms in Carrodus are all modern with a rustic feel. They really are the best of both worlds.
- The location of the Carrodus annex is great! It's just across the road from Queen's, Exam Schools (where most lectures take place) and many coffee shops.
- The facilities in Carrodus are perfect with all rooms being en-suite bathrooms, there being a quad to sit in during the summer, a separate bike shed which is a lifesaver during the busy exam period and a lift - super handy when moving your belongings in and out of your room.



Front Quad:

- The showers are newly refurbished so they are very modern. the rooms are also a good size and some even come with a separate study room and bedroom space - this is what I had.
- Personally, I had a really good view - from some of the FQ rooms you can literally see the Radcam.
- The main benefit of Front Quad rooms is definitely the proximity to Hall - going to breakfast in the mornings is actually feasible, and dinner is only a 2-minute walk away.
- The views out of Front Quad rooms are unbeatable, especially at sunset! I can't count how many photos I've taken on nice days.



Little Drawda:

- It is great how close I am to the college facilities like the Hall, the library etc as I can go straight to places without a commute!
- I love being next to Drawda garden as it's lovely being surrounded by nature.
- I really like the older architectural features of my room like the wooden beams and the fact I get to live in a cottage



First Year:

Queen's accommodation system ensures fairness with everyone paying the same rate no matter what room they pick/are given. First years are typically given their room, however the college will always take into consideration any additional requirements when issuing rooms.



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Accommodation

Some statements from our current students explaining their favourite parts of Queen's accommodation...

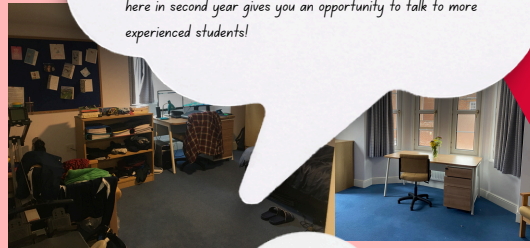
James Street

St Aldates:

- St Aldate's is in a great location: literally above a Tesco and not too far from college. It's very close to the Taylorian, some science faculties, and the centre of town. It's also just across the road from Christ Church Meadows which is perfect for walks (or if you're a rower!)
- We're also lucky enough to have really good sized en-suite bathrooms.
- The other great thing about Aldate's is the kitchens. Though kitchens are shared, they're only shared between maximum 6 people in total. We're provided with plenty of fridge/freezer space, as well as communal pans, microwaves and other utensils/items, making cooking for yourself really easy.

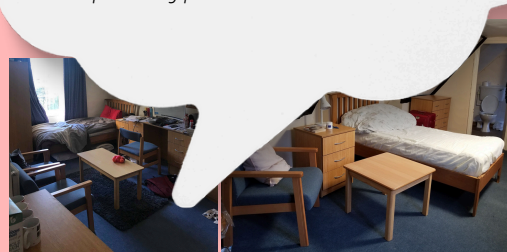


- James street is nearby the cardo building in Cowley, and lets you live nearby your friends in Cardo without having to choose a worse room come ballot day!
- Less rooms than the Cardo building, but equally generally more calm and with larger rooms on average and much better kitchens
- Nearby Iffley sports centre, lets me have easy access to the gym and track based societies.
- Mainly 3rd and 4th year students choose to live here, so moving here in second year gives you an opportunity to talk to more experienced students!



Back Quad

- Around half of all finalists secure a room in Back Quad, with convenient access to hall food, the kitchen, library and exam schools, back quad rooms are perfect for finals!
- All rooms have all have an ensuite bathroom, and most even have a second room attached.
- The thick walls in college meaning that (for the most part) it is a particularly peaceful environment



Cardo Building



- The environment in cardo is very friendly and social with there being social spaces like the dining room and common room downstairs.
- The location is great! It's in a different part of Oxford (Cowley) which has its own high street with shops, cafes and bars.
- It is only a short walk from Queen's so feels separate from college helping to create a greater work/home separation. There's even a bus stop right outside the building if you don't want to make the 15-minute walk to the centre!
- Most rooms in Cardo are also a great size - with many rooms having large bay windows, high ceilings and plenty of storage space.



Second/Third/Fourth Year:

All rooms without a shared kitchen in first, second, third and fourth year come with a mini fridge. A desk, lamp, and bedding are also provided in all rooms.

Rooms in the remaining years are assigned through a ballot system. For instance, if you're at the bottom end of the ballot (a list of names of people in your year) in second year you'll be at the top in third. There is flexibility with your positioning as people can swap during the ballot period.



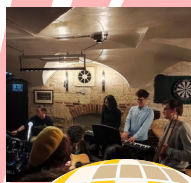
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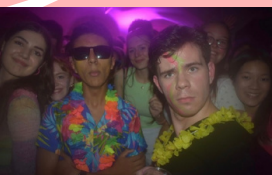
End of Term Events:

Fifth Week Blues
Jazz Night



Entz Entz Entz

Essential to any college would be the myriad of social events meticulously co-ordinated by our social secretaries, and Queen's is no different! BOPs adopt many different themes throughout the year and are an exciting way to decompress and let go after a long week of stressful work!



BOPs
(Big Organised Parties)

Queen's Ball 2025!!!



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Sports and Societies:

On the post-it-notes below are some details about just some of the sports and societies Queen's has. We have teams for almost every sport where fees are paid for by the college and so are free to all students. The flexibility of college clubs also means that if you are wanting to form a society that doesn't already exist at Queen's you can do so. For instance in 2024 a collection of students started the Queen's Women's* Society.

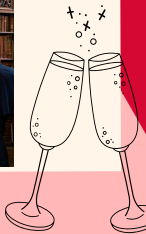


1341 SOCIETY

Megan - 1341 Society 23/24 Marketing Director and Third year BA History Student

The 1341 society is our college's student fundraising society. The committee helps to subsidise things like book grants, sports fees and ball tickets alongside offering grants for things the university or college doesn't offer.

We aim to promote a state of equality and equity for every student at Queen's. We raise money through termly events for instance, Christmas and Spring luncheon or Summer Garden Party. These occasions are the perfect opportunity to show family and friends the Queen's experience whilst also supporting a great society by attending.



WOMEN'S* SOCIETY

Ellie and Rachael - Women's* Society Founders and Second Year Queen's Students

The Queen's College Women's* Society is open to all women*. It was started by students to offer a safe space to support and promote all those who identify as women* at our college. We run weekly talks in which a variety of topics are discussed ranging from informal discussions about approaching womanhood to debates on all things relating to such. It is important we stress is one in Oxford if you are not a Feminist group, although there have the opportunity to share their views among other women* without feeling ashamed to express themselves or to address taboos otherwise ignored in mainstream media.



REGINAE

Eve - Reginae 23/24 President and Third Year History and Politics student

Reginae is the Queen's College Women's* Dining Society. It is open to anyone who identifies as female and offers a chance for women at Queen's to meet and get to know each other in a fun environment. We host a dinner every term open to members and a Garden Party in Trinity Term where members and friends can come along. It is a very relaxed society but an amazing opportunity to make friends across year groups, get dressed up and have a fun evening.



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Sports and Societies:



Women's 2022-23 Team:



Post-match winning celebrations:



Men's 2021-22 Team:



FOOTBALL (QCAFC)

Fin - Men's 23/24 Social Sec and Second year BA English and Spanish student

Men's football at Queen's has really started to take off in 2023/24, with our 1s involved in a promotion race in our league and the 2s reaching the cuppers final played at the uni sports ground in Iffley. Though sadly neither went our way this year, the team is showing real improvement and enthusiasm from our current cohort. The vibe is a really good mix of chilled and friendly whilst remaining competitive on the pitch - there's no real barriers to entry, especially with the 2s side (any experience or ability is more than welcome in that team). There's normally a few socials throughout the year as well which are always a good laugh, the highlights including the football formal dinner and the annual weekend tour to Cambridge.

NETBALL (QCNC)

Rhiannon - QCNC 24/25 Co-Captain and First Year BA History student

QCNC is Queen's College's Netball Club. We're a mixed netball club so open to all genders and all abilities too (even if you have never played you're welcome to join). Membership is free and you can also just drop into matches/ training when it fits your schedule. We are very chill and joining requires low commitment. There's usually one match every weekend and we are also planning on introducing weekly training but it's all optional and not super competitive - although we do like to get in a win as much as possible! :)



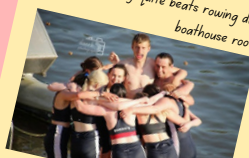
Our QCBC Women's 1st VIII Torpidss Blade Winning Boat:



ROWING (QCBC)

Charlotte Wheatley - QCBC 23/24 President and Third Year Material Science student

The Queen's College Boat Club (QCBC) is one of the oldest Boat Clubs in the world, it was established in 1827 and is still going strong today. QCBC is open to all Queen's students, whether you have rowed before or not! Every year we run a novice program where people who have never even sat in a boat before learn how to row and/or cox, as well as having a strong senior program for more experienced rowers. There are multiple races throughout the year, with the biggest events being Torpids in Hilary and Summer Eights in Trinity. Summer Eights also usually involves a BBQ at the boathouse for all Queen's students! There are usually 3 men's and 3 women's boats entered into Summer Eights so there is something for everyone whether you want to train 5 times a week or just once! Contrary to popular belief rowing isn't all about early morning outings (each crew usually has less than one a week!) and we often have lovely evening sessions in Trinity term. Nothing quite beats rowing down the river in the warm sunshine followed by yoga on the boathouse roof watching a glorious Oxford sunset.



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The Queen's College Choir:

"One of the world's most renowned choirs"~Classic Fm

Students within the choir experience a completely unique student experience compared to others, going out to performances across the world during term time, performing evensongs and various other events held throughout the year and form very close relationships with their peers. Queen's specifically boasts one of the worlds best choirs, and during your time here watching one of their performances is a must-do!



Sebastian,
Undergraduate

The Chapel Choir of Queen's College Oxford (QCCO) has been an amazing experience throughout my Second year here. QCCC is Oxford's top mixed choir, and we sing three times a week with evensong services on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Not only has it been hands down the most welcoming environment that I have experienced in Oxford so far, some of my closest friends that I have made at Oxford have been through choir.

Following on from this, the choir socials are often a noteworthy part of term. This includes Choir dinner and who can forget pre and post drinks provided by the organ scholars... QCCC also hosts fabulous concerts throughout the year.



Jemima,
Undergraduate

Queen's choir is one of the best mixed voice choirs in Oxford (so without trebles from schools) which is especially amazing if you are a soprano and can't sing at the choral foundations like Christchurch (as they have children instead). We do lots of amazing music and lovely services, and plenty of other events too - the annual village trip to one of the college's affiliated parishes is always a highlight as much frolicking in fields occurs both before and after the service.

In 2023 we sang for King Charles, and we also go on tour abroad each year. We do three services a week - Wednesday, Friday, Sunday - and one short lunchtime rehearsal on another day. Being in choir has been one of the best things about my experience of Queen's so far, everyone is really lovely and it creates such a sense of community. Choir outings/pub trips/swimming trips/punting are frequent and always lovely. Our director, Prof Owen Rees, is wonderful and the organ scholars are also fantastic, and overall the choir has been an incredible part of my time so far at Queen's.



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