

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE OXFORD

Alternative Prospectus




@thequeenscollegejcr



admissions@queens.ox.ac.uk

A welcome from our JCR Vice President

Hi everyone, and welcome to Oxford: more specifically, Queen's! Apart from just being the objectively best college, Queen's has an amazing community where it's really easy to find your own crowd and share your interests. We have incredibly unique architecture, friendly and down-to-earth tutors, as well as exciting music and sport opportunities, here and abroad. Queen's (and Oxford more generally) may seem like this incredibly daunting institution, where you must act a certain way or do certain things to fit in, but that's not true. I can't really speak for other colleges, but I know at Queen's I haven't felt like that once, and everyone agrees that you can make your Oxford experience uniquely yours, and the same goes to Queen's! This alternative prospectus serves to give you a more personal narration of life at Queen's - the Oxford life you can live, in your own way. Maybe I'll see you in the beer cellar at some point!



Nikhil, Undergraduate
Material Science student

Student Profiles:

Hey! I'm Heather and I am a third 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

Hi I'm Durva and I'm a 1st Year studying Medicine. I'm from a sunny little island called Singapore! I applied to Queen's because the name sounded pretty and the college's beauty has definitely lived up to the name.

I've loved studying Medicine and the tight-knit community we have at Queen's. There's always someone willing to go on a mid-day coffee run or have an impromptu therapy session over an essay crisis. It's been really enjoyable getting to know the nitty-gritty science of the human body. People often think that Medicine's all about memorisation but I appreciate that at Oxford, a lot of the course is structured around understanding things from first principles. It's always fun to have a crazy fact about the body to share over one of the majestic formal dinners we get to attend at Queen's!

The beauty of college life is that you make friends with people from such a variety of courses. Everyone is very friendly and so open. As an international student, I was very nervous about fitting in but the everyone is very welcoming and open-minded. Whether you're out tanning in Drauda Gardens or discussing the latest season of Traitors over drinks at the Beer Cellar, there's always someone to chat to.

I've enjoyed being the Entz Rep in Hilary. Queen's bops are amazing and a great way to catch up with people in between the hustle and bustle of term. I'm also the Oxford Malaysian and Singaporean Society's Publicity Officer. This helps me ward off any homesickness and allows me to remain connected to the international community at Oxford.

My advice as a Fresher would be to take it easy and give yourself grace. Everyone is just as nervous as you are. Don't be afraid to speak to people first and put yourself out there



Durva, Undergraduate
Medicine student

Hi, I'm Hannah, a second-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 Brontes, 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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Hey, my name is Caroline, I study Chemistry at Queen's and am originally from London.

I've loved my first year at Oxford and am so glad I'm at Queen's. It is such a lovely, welcoming college that definitely lives up to its friendly reputation which made settling in at the start so much easier. This is also a huge upside of the college system in general, as it provides a built-in group of people to meet from the start as well as a support network through students and staff, which really helps to ease some nerves about starting uni. Queen's also has so much going on, so there'll always be something that interests you to get involved in, whether it's sports, music, arts or something else! Oxford is also such an incredible place to study, with the tutorial system meaning that you get very focused attention academically from experts in your subject. While the workload is definitely intense, it is so rewarding too as you get to explore your subject in ways that you can't do at other universities. For me, I've found chemistry quite an intense degree, with a lot of contact hours, but making friends with the other chemists both in and out of college makes this a lot more manageable since you're all in it together. Overall, I think Oxford is an incredible place to study and I would recommend Queen's to anyone who wants to apply here!



Caroline, Undergraduate Chemistry student

Hi, I'm James, a first-year PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) student from Guildford.

In my first year here, I've really valued all of the opportunities to get involved with student societies and other stuff beyond the subject. PPE gets a bit of a bad rep for its workload, but I have had plenty of time to give to other pursuits, new and old. I arrived at the college having never rowed before, but I wanted to give it a try, and QCBC (the college boat club) offers (free) rowing all year-round, allowing me to start as a complete beginner and progress into the men's 2nd boat. We had such a great time together as a boat and this translated to a really successful Summer Vllls campaign (the pinnacle of college rowing). When I am doing my course, I usually work in the Queen's library but switch it up occasionally with trips to the nearby Rad Cam. Us PPE-ists are very fortunate to have all our lectures in Exam Schools, which I can see from my Carrodus Quad bedroom window, so you never have to travel far for a morning lecture. Queen's is such a tight-knit community, and there is something for everyone to get involved with, whether sporting, musical, artistic or something else. The college system at Oxford makes settling in as a fresher a lot smoother, and the support system in place is second-to-none.



James, Undergraduate PPE 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

A welcome from our JCR Access and Outreach Representative:

Welcome to Queen's! My name is Joel, and I've just finished my first year as an Undergraduate studying History and Politics! More importantly, I am the Access & Outreach Officer in the JCR, and it has been my pleasure to help put this alternative prospectus together for you. Filled with stories from current students, highlights of life here at Queen's and insights into the workings of the college, I hope that this prospectus will be a real source of excitement and encouragement as you think about applying here. I came to Oxford with such a sense of Imposter Syndrome, and I hope that this prospectus will help to ease any fears in that regard! Take a look at all of the information, and do get in touch if you have any more questions!



Joel, Undergraduate History and Politics student



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A Day In The Life: Nancy

Hi, I'm Nancy, a first year studying English and German!

Oxford terms are such a whirlwind- they'll feel like the longest and shortest eight weeks of your life!

Especially as a joint honours student, learning to balance your time is really important. But if you throw yourself in, give everything you can a go and keep your calm,

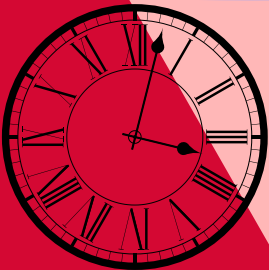
you'll make the most fun and unforgettable memories!



Morning

To me, the best way to start a morning is with the (incredibly cheap and delicious)

Queen's breakfast! In the morning I might attend a lecture, and then I tend to go to the library to do some work. For me, this could be a translation, reading for a seminar/class, or an essay for a tutorial!



Afternoon

I usually return to Queen's for lunch, which I'll either eat in our dining hall or, when weather allows, in our beautiful gardens. After that, I might have an English tutorial to discuss my essay, or a German class, focusing either on translation, speaking or literature. Usually at 4pm, I go to JCR Tea, where you can grab a snack and catch up with your friends, and it's usually the highlight of my afternoon. I've also really loved playing sports here at Oxford- before dinner I might have a rugby training session, a rowing outing, or an inter-college football match.

Evening

Dinner could be anything from a Queen's formal (2 courses for £3.30!), or a kebab from Ahmed's (Queen's favourite kebab van!). After that, the evening is the perfect time for side quests and to unwind after a busy day. I could be doing anything from watching friends perform in a play, attending a college BOP or sports social, embarrassing myself at a pub quiz, going to a student jazz night, learning how to ceilidh, or playing pool at the college bar!



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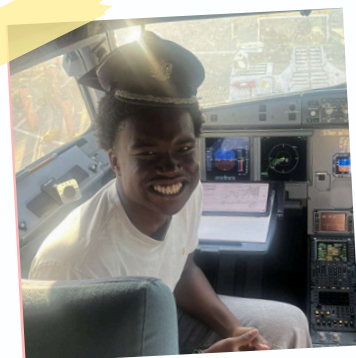


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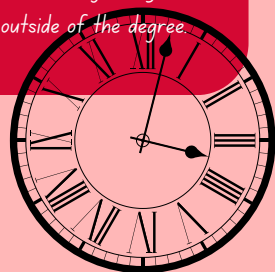
A Day In The Life: Kanyin

A STEM timetable

8am	Shower & head to breakfast
8:45am	Head to the department for lectures
12pm	Leave department at the end of lectures and head back to college for lunch
1:15pm	Play some table tennis or Play Station in the JCR
1:45pm	Back to the department for labs
5pm	End of labs, back to college & try and find a seat in the library!
6pm	Dinner
6:30	Back to the library to try and do some work on a problem sheet
9pm	Go to the beer cellar!
11pm	Off to bed for some well needed rest



STEM subjects have more contact hours than humanities, but I think this makes the work a lot more interested 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 socialise, but I know a lot of people who prefer to wake up later, and stay in the library until 11pm, 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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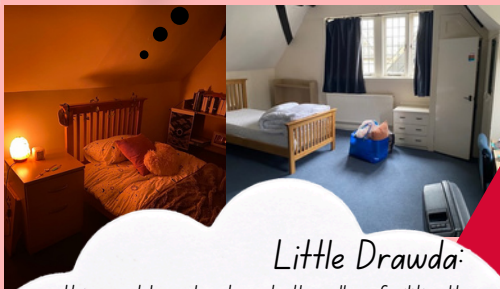
Some statements from our current students explaining their favourite parts of Queen's accommodation...

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 having ensuite bathrooms, a gym, 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.



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



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.



First Year:

Queen's accommodation system ensures fairness, with everyone paying the same rate no matter what room you 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...

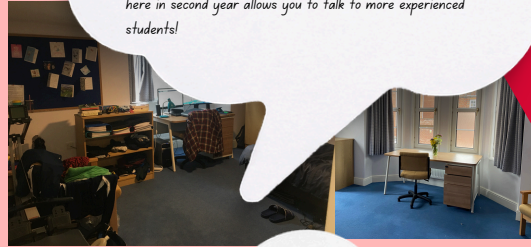
James Street

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 a maximum of 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.

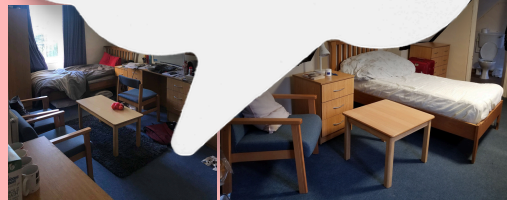


- James Street is near the Cardo building in Cowley, and lets you live near your friends in Cardo without having to choose a worse room come ballot day!
- Fewer rooms than the Cardo building, but equally generally calmer and with larger rooms on average and much better kitchens
- Being near Iffley Sports 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 allows you 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.



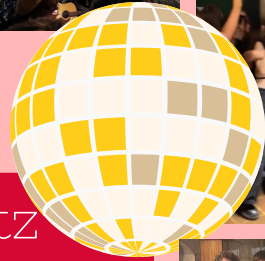
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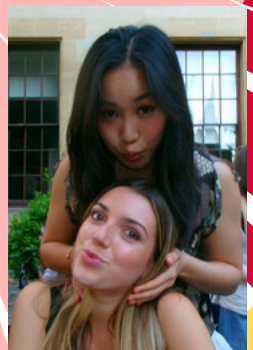
End of Term Events!

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)

Club Nights



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Sports and Societies:

1341 SOCIETY
Megan - 1341 Society 23/24 Marketing Director



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, the Christmas and Spring Luncheon or the Summer Garden Party. These occasions are the perfect opportunity to show family and friends the Queen's experience while supporting a great society by attending.



WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Éilís and Rachael - Women's Society Founders

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 a woman hood to debates on all things relating to approaching must stress from the outset that we are not a Feminist group, although there is one in Oxford if you are interested. We believe women* should 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.

Eglesfield Music Society

Tristan - EMS 2026/27 President

EMS is the oldest college music society in Oxford, hosting a diverse programme of events throughout the year. Open to all college members, the society aims to celebrate and support every kind of music-making.

Among the regular highlights are the termly concerts, which welcome performers of all abilities in a supportive and sociable environment, and the weekly solo recital series. The EMS also runs a variety of ensembles, including an informal orchestra, an a cappella group, and a jazz ensemble, all of which aim to perform regularly throughout the year.

One of the society's most popular traditions is '5th Week Blues', an open mic night held in the college Beer Cellar each term. Whether performing or simply enjoying the music, it is a lively and well-attended event that brings the college community together, and features everything from jazz to recent pop classics.

The highlight of the EMS calendar is the annual Summer Musical, staged in the beautiful setting of the college gardens. Bringing together performers and technicians from across Oxford, the production showcases high-calibre musical theatre, with recent performances including Fiddler on the Roof (2025) and Guys and Dolls (2026). Whatever your musical interests or experience, EMS provides a welcoming environment to perform, collaborate, and make music throughout your time at Queen's.



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Sports and Societies:



Women's 2022-23 Team:



Post-match winning celebrations:



Men's 2021-22 Team:



FOOTBALL (QCAFC)

Ciaran - Men's 26/27 Treasurer and First Year Maths student

Men's football at Queen's has really started to take off in the last few years, 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 Hffley. 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 are 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 Third 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! :)



ROWING (QCBC)

James - QCBC 26/27 Men's Captain and First Year PPE 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 every Queen's College student, regardless of whether you are a seasoned rower or a complete novice! Every year, we take on novice rowers and coxes, and we teach you how to row/cox properly, with the end goal of getting you race-ready. Novices race towards the end of Michaelmas, and then the big collegiate races are Torpids in Hilary and Summer Vills in Trinity. There is a range of boats put out that cater to differing commitment levels, so whether you want to row casually or commit to training several times a week, there is a boat for everyone! We also have fun socials within the club and with other college boat clubs, so come along and give rowing at Queen's a try!



Our QCBC Women's 1st VIII Torpids Blade Winning Boat



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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, performing on tour across the world, performing evensongs three nights a week in college and various other events held throughout the year. With all that time together, choristers form very close relationships with their peers! Fortunately, Queen's boasts one of the world's 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. QCCO 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, but 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... QCCO also hosts fabulous concerts throughout the year.



Jemima,
Undergraduate

Queen's choir is one of the best mixed-voice choirs in Oxford (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 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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