



Magdalen College Oxford Prospectus





Is Magdalen right for you?

Magdalen is committed to the pursuit of academic excellence in the sciences, social sciences and the humanities. We offer excellent teaching in beautiful surroundings, accommodation in a College room for the duration of your course, broad opportunities for arts and sports, and a lively, inclusive, student community.

The most important quality shared by Magdalen students is high academic potential – i.e. an intelligent, enthusiastic and independent-minded interest in their chosen subject and a commitment to work at it. If you identify with this quality, you will enjoy and benefit from studying at Magdalen.

In all other respects our students are very diverse. We select undergraduates only on the basis of their academic merit and aptitude, and we are absolutely committed to equality of opportunity.

This Prospectus will give you a brief introduction to undergraduate life at Magdalen. If you visit our web site, you'll find a wealth of information about what we can offer you: <http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk>.



Accommodation

Magdalen houses all its undergraduate students for their entire course – unless they wish to live out – whether that course lasts for three or four years. Magdalen’s accommodation is within a few minutes’ walk of College during your first year, and either inside or just outside the College for the rest of your course. Many of Magdalen’s rooms are situated in buildings of great beauty and architectural importance, and have stunning views. There is an identical charge whatever the size of your room. Every College room has free internet access, a telephone, and a mini-fridge. College accommodation is cheaper and much more convenient than privately rented accommodation.

Many of Magdalen’s undergraduate rooms are located in the following buildings.

The Waynflete

The Waynflete Building, named after the founder of the College, is a short walk away from College, just over Magdalen Bridge. Most of the first-years live in the Waynflete, and students enjoy this opportunity to get to know each other at the start of their university career. Built in the early 1960s, the Waynflete has its own character and the community culture that it induces is loved by its inhabitants.

New Building

Begun in 1733 and completed in 1824, New Building is considered by many to be one of Oxford’s most beautiful buildings, with fantastic views of Cloisters, Addison’s Walk, and the Deer Park. It is occupied by students (in their second and subsequent years) and by Fellows. Accommodation includes some two-room sets and large, spacious living areas.



Grove

The Grove Buildings, built between 1994 and 1999, offer excellent accommodation. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms and access to particularly good kitchen facilities. The Grove quadrangle also houses the Auditorium and the Denning Law Library, and many of the rooms overlook the Deer Park.

Cloisters

Cloisters, forming part of the original fifteenth-century College buildings, lies right at the heart of College. The student accommodation here – installed in the 1990s – is in the attic space, creating atmospheric and spacious rooms with excellent views. These rooms are some of the most popular in College.



Chrishan Raja (2nd year, Law)

“Having College accommodation available throughout your degree course is great.

The convenience (no hassle with unhelpful landlords!) combined with excellent facilities

makes living in College a real bonus. In my first year, I lived in the Waynflete with most of the other freshers.

Second- and third-years live throughout College, either within the walls or very nearby. I found deciding between the grandeur of New Building and the views of the Deer Park from Grove far from easy. In the end I opted for the Schoolhouse this year and Grove for next. I love my room!”



Finance

Magdalen aims to ensure that if you are offered a place at the College, you should not be prevented from taking it up or completing your studies for lack of funds. To this end, it offers a wide range of financial support. Potential applicants from outside the European Union should consult the page on the Undergraduate Admissions section of the Magdalen web site dedicated to overseas students.

What costs will I incur?

Firstly, there is a University tuition fee. But substantial help is available for UK and EU students to meet this cost. Secondly, all Oxford colleges also charge a tuition fee. But if you are a UK or EU student, the government pays this sum (provided that you meet certain residence requirements). Details on how to check your eligibility for government support for each of these expenses are available online (see the 'Internet resources' reference section at the end of this Prospectus). Lastly, there are living expenses. These can be broken down into various categories, as follows, and on our web site you will find up-to-date figures for the average costs in each category.

Accommodation

The charge for College accommodation includes heating, electricity, weekly cleaning, and internet connection, and represents outstanding value for money.

Food

Inexpensive meals are available in College – breakfast, lunch, and dinner in Hall, and lunch in the Old Kitchen Bar. There are also kitchen facilities throughout College accommodation. Most students eat in Hall or the Bar once or twice a day, and cook the other meal or meals for themselves.

Books

The quality of Oxford's libraries – estimated to hold over 11 million books and other printed items – means that most books needed by students are readily available. Magdalen's own library is well-stocked (often with more than one copy of the books that are most



in demand), and will almost always buy a book that you need for your studies on request. This limits the amount of money you will need to spend on books.

Other living expenses

You will need to budget for recreational costs such as University societies, sports, the theatre, pubs, clubs, etc., and for travel to and from home. Oxford is a relatively small city where most of the University is closely concentrated in a central area. You can walk or cycle to most places, including the Iffley Road sports facilities. This means that you need incur almost no travel expenses within Oxford.

Overall costs and sources of financial support

Studying at Oxford in general and Magdalen in particular is much more affordable than you may have been led to believe, as you will see if you look at the estimates for the above expenses on our web site.

Most students nowadays expect to graduate with a sizeable debt, much of which can be covered by the means-tested student loan. Medical students, with longer courses, can anticipate higher levels of debt. You should remember, though, that you will have a similar level of debt wherever you study (unless you live at home) and that the job prospects for Oxford graduates are outstandingly good.

The University provides financial assistance to UK undergraduates whose family income is below a certain level through its Oxford Opportunity Bursaries, and Magdalen is able to provide additional support through the generosity of many old members who have contributed to the Magdalen Student Support Fund, which is growing every year. Additional government support is available to certain qualifying groups. The College also offers many Scholarships, Exhibitions and Prizes (awarded for academic excellence), Travel Grants (supporting travel abroad directly connected with a course of study), and Research Grants. More details of all of these resources can be found online: see the 'Internet resources' reference section at the end of this Prospectus.

Facilities

Here are just some of the facilities available to Magdalen students: see our web site for more about what's here.

Sport Magdalen's sports ground is right next to the College. It has pitches for soccer, rugby, cricket and hockey, and six grass and three hard tennis courts (on which you can also play netball and basketball). Three squash courts are located within the College grounds. The College boathouse is on the main river. A large fleet of punts is available during the summer: these are moored on the River Cherwell, which flows through the College grounds. All members of Magdalen may use the gym and swimming facilities at the University sports centre without charge.

Magdalen's students enjoy their sport and much of it is played to a very high standard. Nevertheless, the College's sports facilities are used by people of all abilities.

Libraries Magdalen has five libraries. The New Library, which is on 24-hour swipe-card access, is used mainly by undergraduates. It holds about 60,000 books, probably the largest collection of DVDs in the University, and about 170 current periodicals. You can borrow DVDs overnight and a reasonable number of books for up to a term. You can also suggest book purchases and it is not unknown for requested books to become available within hours.

The College also has four specialist libraries on restricted access: the Old Library, a collection of about 20,000 rare books and manuscripts; the McFarlane medieval history library; the Daubeny collection of 19th-century science books; and the Denning Law Library, which offers a good range of text-books as well as the standard English law reports and the journals that are used most heavily by undergraduates.

The Austin Gill Room This facility is used mainly by modern linguists and consists of two work-areas. The larger work-area is equipped with DVD and VCR players linked to a large plasma screen. The College's New Library holds many foreign-language DVDs which modern linguists are encouraged to view. The smaller work-area has three work-stations. These can be used either to



tune into several hundred European TV channels or to access a huge range of learning resources via the University Language Centre's web site. Magdalen's French and German lectors frequently use the Austin Gill room for language classes.

IT There are three well-equipped computer rooms in College, two for use by both undergraduates and graduates, and one exclusively for graduates. These are open 24 hours a day and house PCs with fast internet access, scanners and printers. A small charge is made whenever you use a printer, but otherwise the use of these rooms is free. The College employs two full-time IT staff to provide advice and assistance. For the latest developments in IT at Magdalen, please refer to the web site.

The Auditorium The College Auditorium in Grove Buildings seats up to 160 people and has superb 'studio' acoustics. Equipped with a Steinway grand piano, it is an excellent venue for recitals and chamber concerts. Its stage is ideal for readings and the performance of small-scale drama. It also has facilities for the projection of 16mm and 35mm films, multi-format videos and DVDs, and is regularly booked by the College's film society.

Music With a tradition of choral singing dating back to 1480, music of all kinds plays a major role in College life. The College Choir, established by the founder, is world famous and sings in Chapel daily. Magdalen also has a lively music society, a non-auditioned mixed choir, an orchestra, a jazz ensemble and a number of other established and informal groups. The College has two practice rooms, and concerts and recitals take place in the Auditorium and the Ante-Chapel, where there is a second Steinway grand piano. If you are thinking of studying Music at Magdalen, wish to compete for an organ or choral scholarship, or would simply like to know more about the College's musical life and facilities, you should write to the Tutor for Admissions.

The Sibelius Room is a fully-equipped music type-setting and CD-editing suite. It has two computer terminals, modern software, a midi keyboard, a sound box with high-quality speakers, a digital audio tape player and an A3 laser printer.

Frequently asked questions on Admissions

How do I apply? For detailed information please refer to the University's Undergraduate Prospectus and the University of Oxford web site: there are links to these from the Magdalen web site. Teachers will find a useful section on the University web site about Oxford's work with schools and colleges.

What qualifications do I need? We are happy to consider UK applicants who offer such qualifications as the International Baccalaureate, Scottish Highers, Advanced Highers and Access Courses. If you have not yet completed your full A-level course, our offer will usually be conditional on your obtaining AAA in three A2s (check our web site for the latest on standard conditions). If you are a post-A-level candidate who has already achieved at least AAA, our offer, if we make one, will be unconditional. But please note that we do not accept General Studies as one of the three A-level subjects.

We welcome applications from EU and overseas candidates who may not be studying for A-levels. The University has produced a table, available online, which shows which qualifications are equivalent to AAA in three A2s. We use this table when considering applications from EU and overseas candidates.

If you have any questions about applying to Magdalen, please do not hesitate to contact or leave a message with our Admissions Secretary on (01865) 276063 or, preferably, e-mail admissions@magd.ox.ac.uk.

What should I do if I have a disability? Magdalen welcomes applications from people with disabilities. We recommend that you contact us before you submit your application, and either come to an Open Day or arrange an individual visit by contacting our Tutor for Admissions. We also recommend that you tell us as much as you can about your disability when you apply so that we can provide you with the appropriate advance information and discuss your needs when you come for interview. For the same reasons, we advise you to arrange a pre-application visit to the relevant University department. The more the College and University know in advance, the better they can support you once you arrive.

Please note that we have only a limited amount of accommodation that is suitable for wheelchair users. You may check its availability by contacting the Tutor for Admissions.

My school/family says that I'm not 'Oxford material' – what should I do? Don't be put off. Get in touch with our undergraduate admissions representative (via admissions@magdjcr.co.uk), or, better still, come and see us on an Open Day. We regularly accept candidates who have been assured that Oxford and/or Magdalen is not for them. If you do apply, you will get full and fair consideration.

Does Magdalen favour applicants from certain kinds of school? No. We believe in Access and use our resources vigorously to encourage applications from all quarters. We select students only on the basis of their academic merit and aptitude for their chosen subject, irrespective of educational or social background.

If I apply, will I be interviewed? Whether we short-list you for interview depends on your GCSE grades, your A-level predictions, the results of an aptitude test (where applicable), the quality of written work that you have submitted (where applicable), your school's report on your progress, and your personal statement. Although you should be predicted to achieve or have already achieved grades AAA at A-level (or equivalent), such a prediction will not guarantee you an interview. If your school does not make such a prediction or if you do not possess such grades, it is very unlikely that you will be interviewed unless special considerations apply.

What will the interviews be like? The interview is only one part of our selection process, but it is important because it is the time when you meet us and we meet you. Because of the nature of Oxford's tutorial system, the interview is a good way of seeing whether you would benefit from it. So we may conduct part of the interview in a tutorial style to see how well you can respond to probing questions. The interview also enables us to gauge your enthusiasm for your chosen subject, to assess your ability to think clearly about it, and to make sure that you understand what your intended course involves.

How can I prepare for interviews? The University publishes information about interviews at Oxford on its web site (in the section 'How to apply'). This contains much helpful advice and information about interviews at Oxford. But if, having read this, you are still unsure about how to prepare yourself for the interview in your particular subject, write to Magdalen's Tutor for Admissions, who may forward your enquiry to the relevant subject tutor(s).

Certain subjects will require you to take a written test of your aptitude for the subject(s) that you wish to study, either when you come for interview or beforehand (see the College web site for details). Specimen test papers can be obtained from the University of Oxford web site (in the section 'How to apply').

If I apply to Magdalen but don't get in, what are my chances of being accepted by another college? Every year at Magdalen there are more excellent candidates than places. We always seek to ensure that the systems for guaranteeing consideration by other colleges work optimally, and the overall success rate of Magdalen applicants is above the University average.

If I apply now, can I take a gap year before starting my studies at Magdalen? Some subjects are happy to consider deferred entry for strong applicants provided that the gap year is used relevantly and/or constructively. Other subjects do not permit deferred entry. More details are given on our web site under individual subject headings.



Ben Williams (3rd year, Physics)

"Before coming to Oxford for my interviews



I had little idea of what to expect. What I found was a friendly team of students who were welcoming and made sure that I was

in the right places at the right times. When I got to my first interview, the tutors started by asking me about things that I had mentioned in my personal statement. The interview turned out to be a conversation about interesting topics in my chosen subject, and not an interrogation at all. Once I had got over my initial nerves, it was really quite enjoyable!

When people ask me about admissions now, I offer a few pieces of advice. Firstly, put things in your personal statement that you are happy to talk about and that interest you. If you mention books that you have read, refresh your memory of them before your interviews. Secondly, the interviewers are trying to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your interest in and aptitude for your chosen subject. They are not interested in leaving you a nervous wreck. So, thirdly, try to relax and enjoy the experience. Most people are surprised that, whatever the outcome of their interviews, they have a really enjoyable few days in Oxford."



Can I visit the College?

Potential applicants and their families are very welcome to look around Magdalen on any day between 1pm and 6pm, or dusk (whichever is the earlier). Simply tell the porter on duty that you are a prospective applicant and you will be admitted free of charge. But do try to come to one of our Open Days (details of which can be found on our web site). Open Days enable you to talk to our tutors in your chosen subject and to students who are already here. They also enable you to get a feel for the College. Open Days are designed to help you decide where you want to study, and play no part whatsoever in our selection procedure.



Internet resources

Magdalen web site: <http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk>

Magdalen College Alternative Prospectus:
<http://www.magdjcr.co.uk>

University of Oxford Admissions web site:
<http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk>

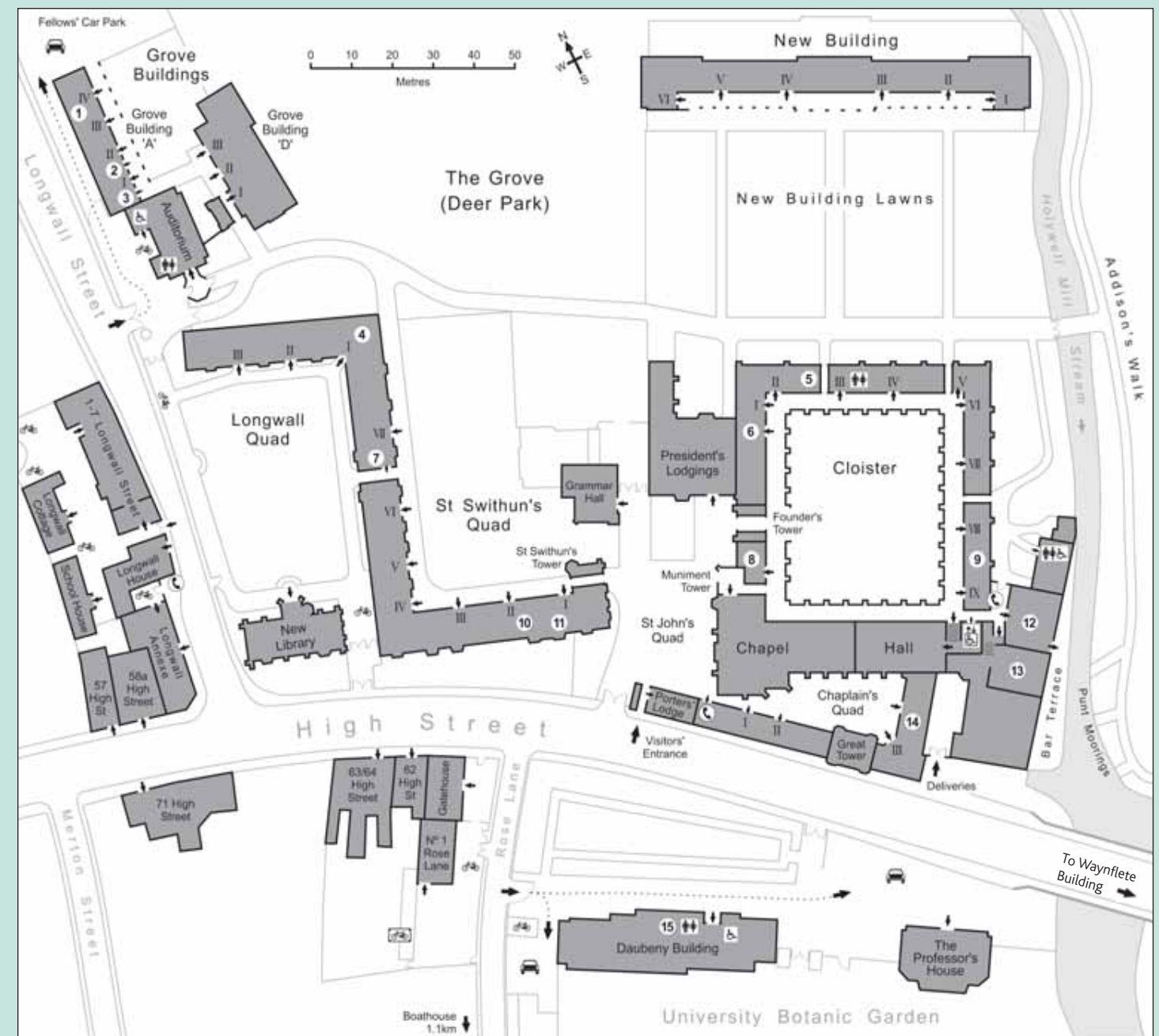
Includes links to a range of resources, including
The University Undergraduate Prospectus
The Oxford Finance Guide, with estimates of the cost of living as a student and opportunities for financial support

'DirectGov' University and Higher Education information:
<http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk>

Includes information on government support and means-tested benefits for undergraduate students

A copy of the text of this Prospectus is also available on tape, in large print and in Braille for partially sighted and blind students. Please contact the Admissions Secretary on 01865 276063.

Magdalen College main site



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Denning Law Library | 8 Old Practice Room | ☺ Toilets (♿ disabled) |
| 2 Grove Seminar Room | 9 MCR and JCR | 🚲 Secure Cycle Racks |
| 3 Auditorium Green Room | 10 Old Law Library | 🚲 Cycle Racks |
| 4 Bursary and Development Office | 11 Lecture Room 'A' | ☎ Telephone |
| 5 Summer Common Room (via III) | 12 Old Kitchen Bar | 🚗 Parking |
| 6 Song School | 13 Oscar Wilde Room (1st floor) | 🚪 Lift |
| 7 Archway Seminar Room | 14 New Room and Ante-Room | |
| | 15 Daubeny Laboratory | |



Magdalen College
Oxford OX1 4AU

Telephone: (01865) 276063

Fax: (01865) 287082

E-mail: admissions@magd.ox.ac.uk

Web site: <http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk>