

# MCR Freshers' Guide

Magdalen College 2025/2026



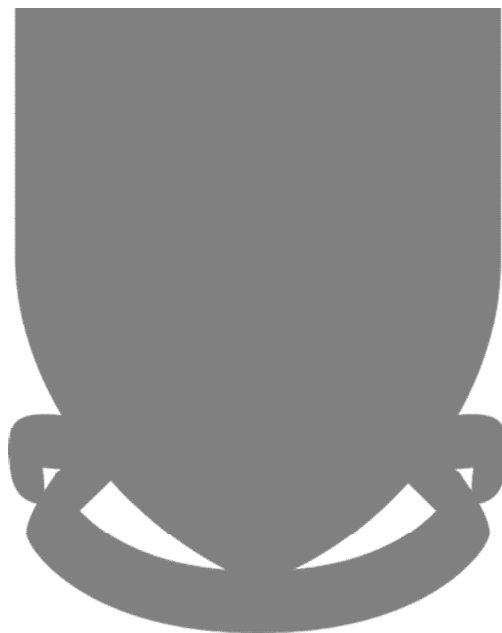
## Table of Contents

The MCR Graduate Freshers' Guide.....	3
Preparing for your arrival in Oxford .....	4
Arriving in Oxford.....	6
When should I arrive? .....	7
How do I get to Oxford? .....	7
What to do on arrival?.....	8
Settling into Oxford .....	9
Key things to do in your first few weeks.....	10
Magdalen MCR Committee.....	12
Executive Committee.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Non-executive Committee .....	14
The who's who of Magdalen.....	19
College Welfare and Student Wellbeing Team.....	20
In and around Magdalen College.....	22
Map of Magdalen College.....	25
Graduate student life.....	26
College life.....	27
Libraries.....	29
Sports .....	29
Classes.....	30
Oxford Union.....	30
Finances .....	30
In and around Oxford .....	32
Shopping .....	33
Parks.....	34
Going out.....	35
Contacting People .....	36
Glossary of Oxford Terms .....	38

# The MCR Graduate Freshers' Guide

On behalf of the Magdalen Middle Common Room ('MCR') community, welcome to Magdalen College! This guide was prepared by the MCR Committee to answer questions you may have about College life as a new graduate ('Fresher'). We encourage you to read this guide before you arrive. If you have further questions, please contact either the **MCR President, Dan Mollenkamp** ([mcr.president@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mcr.president@magd.ox.ac.uk)), or the **Freshers' Officer, Boris Baros** ([boris.baros@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:boris.baros@magd.ox.ac.uk)).

For further updates about Freshers' Week 2025, [join the 'Magdalen College MCR Freshers 2025-26' WhatsApp group chat at this link](#). Once you have your Oxford email address, you will also be able to access the MCR's SharePoint, a link to which can be found on our website at [www.magdmcr.co.uk](http://www.magdmcr.co.uk). We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Oxford shortly!





*Radcliffe Camera*

## Preparing for your arrival in Oxford

Preparing for Oxford can be both exciting and stressful. Moving cities, starting a new course, and potentially even moving countries can often feel daunting. It can be difficult to know where to start when planning what to bring. Here are a few things to consider as you prepare to move to Oxford.

## Important documents

In addition to your passport, you should bring some spare passport photos, copies of bank statements, letters relating to scholarship awards, and the letter(s) of confirmation of a place on your course from the University and Magdalen – these will be needed on your arrival. We also recommend having copied your passports and various other identification documents in case of loss or theft.

## Health

Have any routine medical and dental check-ups before arriving. Bring with you a list of the chemical names of any prescription drugs you currently take, as the proprietary names may be different here. Also be prepared to give your medical history to the college physician at the Northgate Health Centre practice, should the need arise. Do not bring foreign prescription scripts, as pharmacists will not accept them. However, you should bring prescriptions for spectacles or contact lenses, and consider bringing spares. If you can take out a prescription for several months or a year, consider doing so if you are unsure if your medication will be available here (consult your home physician).

## Weather

The weather in the UK is extremely temperamental, so make sure you pack clothes for a wide range of different weather types! In winter, there may be ice and snow, and the average temperature is between 5-10°C. In summer, the weather does improve and throughout June-September the average temperature is between 17-23°C. However, throughout the whole year, the one thing that persists is the rain, so we strongly recommend a good waterproof coat!

## Household Items

We recommend waiting until you are in Oxford to buy the majority of your household items. This is especially relevant for communal items, such as kitchen appliances, because you might be able to share with your housemates. Also, for students coming from overseas, beware that British electrical appliances are 230 volts and 50 Hz. This means that it is probably best to purchase small-scale electronics once you are in Oxford, such as kettles, hair dryers, and toasters. However, it is worth buying transformers and adaptors in your home country.

## Formal dress

For occasions like matriculation, examinations, and graduation - when 'sub fusc' is worn - you can choose between (a) a dark (black or very dark blue) suit, white shirt, and white bow tie or (b) dark trousers or skirt, dark tights/stockings, and a white blouse with a black ribbon. Oxford's formal occasions can require black tie (i.e. a tuxedo or dinner jacket, or a formal evening dress). Most people begin with a black suit, and only worry about a tux if it becomes necessary. College includes a pre-order form for a sub fusc package. If you return this form to College by the deadline specified, detailing your height and head size and desired purchase, we'll have your sub fusc ready to be collected from the MCR on **Monday 6 October** in time to wear your gowns to the formal dinner that evening. The cost will be batelled to you.



*New Building, Magdalen*

## Arriving in Oxford

Arriving in Oxford, settling into Magdalen, and starting your course will hopefully be a highlight of October 2025! However, as with any big move, your arrival in Oxford requires planning and so it is important to know when you need to arrive in Oxford, how to get to Oxford and what you should do when you arrive.

## When should I arrive?

At the very latest, you should arrive in Oxford by the evening of **Sunday 5 October 2025**, the first day of 0<sup>th</sup> Week. During this week the University, College, and MCR will run induction sessions and activities for Freshers. Some courses require your attendance earlier; check with your faculty for details.

## How do I get to Oxford?

### From Heathrow

'**The Airline**' Bus, run by the Oxford Bus Company, runs from Heathrow (Central Bus station bay 15, and Terminal 5, bay 10) to Oxford every 20-30 minutes. **The journey takes 90 minutes** and the nearest stop to Magdalen is High Street, Queens Lane. **The fare is £25 one-way or £35 return.**

See <https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/heathrow/>.

### From Gatwick

'**The Airline**' Bus, run by the Oxford Bus Company, also runs a service from Gatwick to Oxford every hour (from South Terminal Lower forecourt stands 1 & 2 and North Terminal Lower Forecourt Rd stands 4 & 5). **The journey time is 2.5 hours** and the nearest stop to Magdalen is High Street, Queens Lane. **The fare is £30 one-way or £45 return.**

See <https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/gatwick/>.

### From Stansted

**National Express coaches** run every few hours from Stansted to Oxford. **It takes roughly four to five hours** and the fare is about **£28**.

It is best to book tickets in advance at [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com).

Alternatively, there is a **Stansted-London express train** service to London Liverpool Street Station. From there you'll need to **get across London to London Paddington** where you can catch a train to Oxford. The easiest option is to take the **Hammersmith and City** underground line towards Hammersmith. From London Paddington you can then get a **direct train to Oxford train station**. It is best to book your tickets in advance at: <https://www.thetrainline.com/>.

### From London

**The Oxford Tube** goes between London and Oxford regularly and the **journey time is around 2 hours**. The nearest stop to Magdalen is the Queen's Lane Bus stop and the **Tube fare is £12 or £11** (if you have proof of your student status). For more information see <https://www.thetrainline.com/>.

There is also a direct **train between London Paddington and Oxford**, which runs frequently and **takes around 1 hour**. For more information see <https://www.thetrainline.com/>. Advance tickets fares can run as low as £5.40 for a single trip.

## Taxi

Taxi companies operating in Oxford can transport you from any bus stop or the train station to Magdalen. Phone numbers of companies include **01865 778866 (Royal Cars)** and **01865 240000 (001 Taxis)**. These companies also have good quality apps for mobile booking. If you need a taxi leaving from College you can also speak to the Porters who can arrange one for you.

## Rideshare/Uber/Lyft

Uber has only just arrived in Oxford and may not be the most reliable due to a small number of cars at present. Its prices are also currently not competitive with the taxi companies listed above.

## What to do on arrival?

### Collect your keys at the Porters' Lodge

Make your way to the Porters' Lodge (on High Street) to collect your keys. You should receive both (1) a room key/fob and (2) a Late Gate Key. The latter is essential because it opens certain gates on the grounds, like the gate to Addison's Walk, leading to Holywell Ford (where the squash courts and gym are located), which is closed every evening. If you are a law student, you are also entitled to a Law Library Key. You can also borrow a trolley from the Lodge to transport your luggage to your room.

### Check your accommodation

Make sure that everything is in good condition after its previous occupant. The College will repair or replace anything that needs attention. There may be crockery, utensils and appliances left in the kitchen (or your new neighbours may be intending to share theirs), so take a look around and have a chat with your housemates before you buy anything new.

### International Students – eVisas

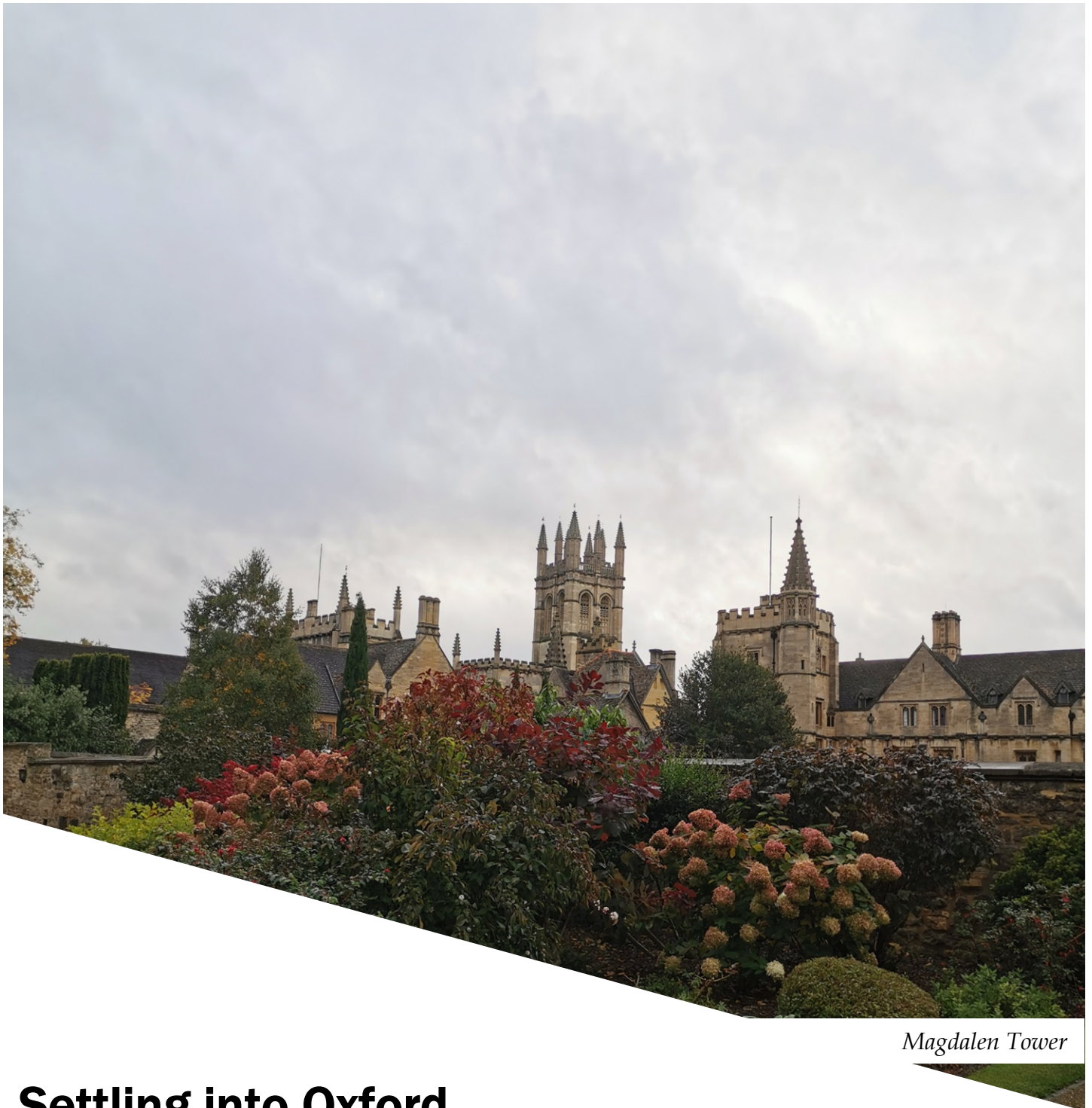
From 1 January 2025 it is essential that your UKVI account and eVisa status has been set up, and your current passport linked to your account. [Check your eVisa is correct](#) before you travel.

The College will need to receive a scan of your passport and the share code for your eVisa before you can complete the enrolment process and collect your Bod Card (your university ID).

### Complete enrolment and collect your Bod Card (your University Card)

Your Bodleian Library Card, or 'Bod Card', is your photographic ID card issued by the University of Oxford and allows you to access facilities around Magdalen (including the Library, the MCR, the JCR, and the Post Room) and the University. The Bod card can also act as a debit card for paying for food in Hall and for buying drinks at the bar.

You will need an appointment with the **Student Support Administrators (email: [studentsupport@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@magd.ox.ac.uk)), Ground Floor of the Grammar Hall** (a building opposite the Porters' Lodge) to complete your enrolment with them and collect your Bod card. International students must have provided a scan of their passport and eVisa share code before they can receive their Bod card and all students must have verified their details online on their Student Self Service Account before completing enrolment in College (see: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/registration>).



*Magdalen Tower*

## Settling into Oxford

## Key things to do in your first few weeks

Once you have settled into your room, unpacked and explored Magdalen's grounds, there are a few things you need to do over the first fortnight to help you settle into Oxford and prepare for your time here!

### Activate your University and College computer accounts

You will need your Bod Card to do this. All new students have an email account set up for them automatically. New accounts can be activated on <https://webauth.ox.ac.uk/activate>. Once you have activated your account, it can be accessed at <https://owa.nexus.ox.ac.uk> or you can set up a local client on your own computer. For general information about the email service, see [Getting onto email | IT Services \(ox.ac.uk\)](#).

You may also be set up with a separate IT account for your department, which you will need to access the department's network. If this is applicable to you, someone from your department will be in touch with details on how to set up this account.

### Get insurance and computer security

Organise insurance for the belongings in your room as the College insurance does not cover these. You should prioritise expensive items, especially personal computers. The colleges are targets for thieves, and every year laptops are stolen from rooms or libraries. One popular insurer offering special rates for students living in College is Endsleigh: <https://www.endsleigh.co.uk>. To secure your laptop, we also highly recommend purchasing a laptop lock. Laptop locks can be bought from stationers e.g. Rymans on Queen Street.

### Open a Bank Account

Opening an account in the UK can be time-consuming. In some countries, you may be able to open a UK bank account in advance of your arrival (e.g. with HSBC/Thomas Cook).

To open a UK bank account, you will need a recognised form of ID – this will usually be your passport, but if you are not from the EU you may need a share code for your eVisa – and a copy of your enrolment certificate, which you can download from your student self-service account. This can be certified by Liz Howdill, Academic Administrator, on the top floor of the Grammar Hall if needed. You may be required to provide additional documentation, so it is best to check what the bank requires beforehand.

The most popular banks among new international students are the online banks [Monzo](#), [Revolut](#) and [Starling](#). It is very easy to open a bank account using their apps and they do not charge an exchange fee when travelling abroad. As an added bonus, most of those operators offer a virtual debit card that you can link to your phone while waiting for the physical card to arrive.

Opening a bank account with one of the more traditional banks such as [Lloyds](#), [NatWest](#), [Royal Bank of Scotland](#), [Barclays](#), and [HSBC](#) takes time, so you should plan on using your home account to withdraw cash for at least your first week. It is a good idea to bring enough cash with you to last the first fortnight as your home bank will probably charge you for overseas withdrawals. You should notify your bank and any credit or debit card companies that you are moving to Oxford to avoid the risk of having your account frozen.

## Mobile Phone

Phone companies in Oxford sell pre-paid or contract phones and SIM cards. You will find most of the mobile phone shops on Cornmarket Street or in the Westgate Centre. Some phone companies sell re-conditioned handsets at a discount, and big supermarkets sell cheap basic phones. You can also get a good deal using an online-only network such as [GiffGaff](#). We would strongly recommend checking [GiffGaff](#) out because it offers multiple SIM-only deals for very competitive prices, meaning that you could simply swap the SIM in your existing phone. However, to do this your phone must be unlocked, so make sure you contact your current phone provider to check if this is possible. Moreover, depending on your home country, [GiffGaff](#) might ship your new SIM to you at no extra cost. For international calls, companies such as [Lebara](#) offer cheap rates. You can also make very cheap phone calls over the internet e.g. Facetime, Zoom.

## Internet connection

All college rooms are equipped with WiFi and you can log in to Eduroam by following the instructions on <https://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/student-computing/>. Eduroam is the international roaming service that provides internet access for higher education institutions, so it is likely that you will automatically connect to the network when you arrive, if you have previously set up Eduroam. However, even if you do automatically connect to the network, we would recommend setting up Eduroam again with your Oxford credentials to ensure optimal connectivity. College rooms have Ethernet ports for internet access and it is recommended that you use the Ethernet connection for internet access as the WiFi connection can be temperamental. To use the port in your room you need to have already logged on to Eduroam and will need to download the Oxford VPN. You will also need an Ethernet cable. For the VPN see: <https://help.it.ox.ac.uk/network/vpn/index>.

## Freshers' Week

Freshers' week is in the week before Michaelmas Term starts, known as 0<sup>th</sup> week. During this week, College, the University, and your Department plan lots of events to help you settle into Oxford and find out about all the great ways you can get involved. The MCR also plans a lot of social events, which are a great way to meet your MCR community and get to know College. Come along to as many events as you can!

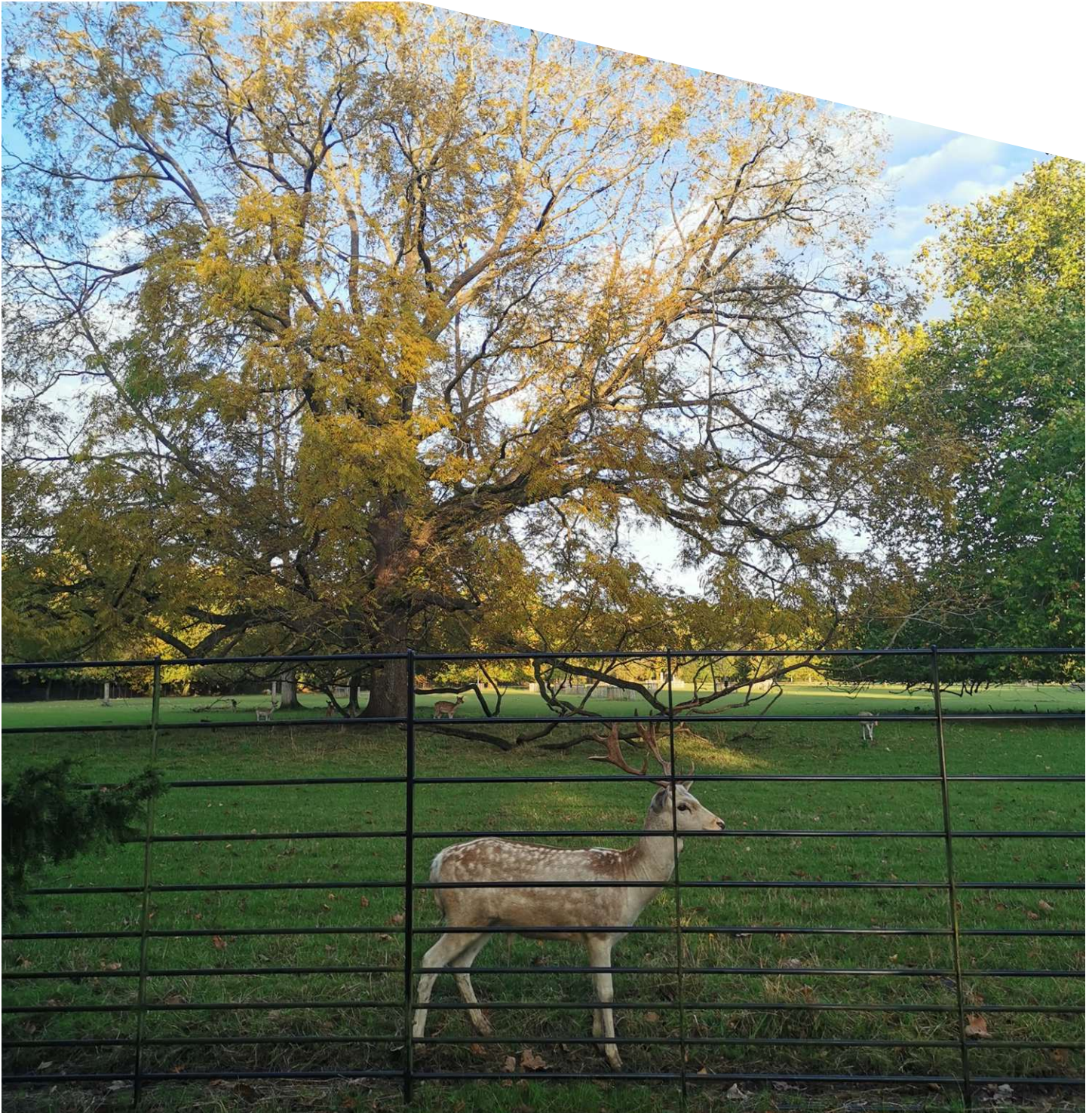
One of the main events during Freshers' Week is the Oxford Student Union's Freshers' Fair – you will be impressed by the diversity of active clubs and societies in Oxford. This event is held throughout Freshers' Week, and when you arrive, we'll let you know your scheduled time for the fair. The Fair presents new students with brief introductions to all the clubs, societies and teams available at the University-wide level. The best policy is to sign up for everything you find appealing, then remove yourself from mailing lists later. The Magdalen JCR also runs a Magdalen Freshers' Fair in 0<sup>th</sup> Week for the internal College sports teams and societies.

## Matriculation

Matriculation, which takes place on **Saturday, 18 October 2025**, is the compulsory Oxford ceremony at which you are admitted as members of the University. The College makes arrangements for a photographer to be in College on this date for small-group photographs and individual portraits. For matriculation, students are required to wear academic dress ('sub fusc'), as described in College's Information and Regulations booklet.

# Magdalen MCR Committee

*Magdalen Deer Park*



The MCR Committee is made up of 29 members. The role of the MCR Committee is to represent the opinions and interests of the wider MCR community and to organise a wide range of events, including bar nights, Sunday brunch, and a variety of welfare events. Here you can find more information about the current MCR Committee, as well as details of the positions that will be vacant from Michaelmas 2025. If you are interested in joining us, we will be running co-options during Michaelmas to fill any vacancies, so be sure to get in touch with one of the current committee members if you're interested!

## President – Dan Mollenkamp

Hello! I'm Dan, a DPhil candidate in Music and Linguistics.

As President, my job is to raise student issues with College and liaise between the MCR community and College administration. I advocate on matters from housing to sustainability, from internships to research grants, and will be the first point of contact on most College things – consider me your personal College switchboard: if I'm not able to help you, I'll know who is!

I also head the MCR Committee, an incredible group of our fellow students who plan all of the fantastic events we'll be able to attend this year. There are a few vacant positions on the committee (which are noted below), and if you have any questions about these or are interested in joining, please do let me know. When I'm not in the MCR (which I often am), you'll find me researching Welsh-language pop music, playing the chapel piano, lifting weights, or doing yoga. If you have any questions, comments, or problems, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at any time.



## Vice President – Maria Villamil

Hi everyone! My name is Maria and I am the current MCR Vice President. I am going into the final year of my DPhil in Experimental Psychology. I work on advanced retinal imaging methods for the early detection of neurodegenerative disease through non-invasive imaging.



My role on committee is to help Dan out as much as I can, that can range from representing the MCR in college meetings to making sure the punts stay afloat! Outside of the MCR, you will see me representing Magdalen College Boat Club rowing in the Women's First Boat.

Congratulations on your offer to study at Magdalen, it truly is a magical experience. I wish you all success and to enjoy your time in Oxford! Blink and you'll miss it!

### Secretary – Éloi Martin

Hello freshers ! I'm Éloi, a 2nd year Statistics DPhil, and I am the MCR's Secretary this year. As Secretary, you'll often see me in your mailbox, sharing exciting opportunities and reminding you to attend the General Meetings. I also take the minutes at meetings and handle all associate membership applications. I am also the person to contact if you are looking to get into Scottish dancing.



### Treasurer – Anna Lappin

Hi! I'm Anna, physics student and this year's MCR Treasurer. I manage the MCR's finances - the spreadsheets, bank account, and weekly payment runs that help keep things ticking over behind the scenes. I'm also responsible for negotiating the MCR's annual grant from College, allocating the budget, and ensuring our finances are compliant with our constitution. Outside of my studies, I am a long-suffering Fulham fan and enjoy my voluntary jobs looking after animals and fixing steam engines.

## Non-executive Committee

### Social Secretary – Jake Rule

Hi! I'm Jake. I'm one of the Social Secretaries for this year. When I'm not doing my DPhil in Astrophysics, I'll be helping to organise fun events in the MCR (and elsewhere!) like our BOPs and Wine and Cheese evenings!

### Social Secretary – [1x vacant]

There is an open position for social secretary. If you are interested in this position and would like to know more about it, please get in touch with Jake or Dan!



### Bar Manager – Michael Bax

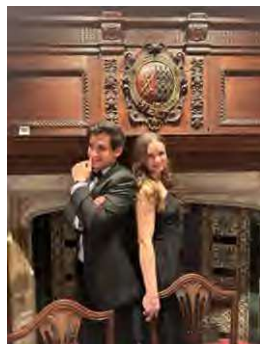
Hi! I'm Michael and I am doing a DPhil in History. I'm this year's MCR Bar Manager. As Bar Manager, I am responsible for running the bar. Outside of my studies, I enjoy travelling and playing sports.

### Bar Manager – [1x vacant]

We are looking for a second Bar Manager! The Bar Manager is responsible for running our weekly Friday party, Liquid Lounge. This involves placing and collecting the bar orders, making sure there are enough people to work behind the bar on the night, and managing the event itself.

### Catering Officer – Victoria Buckland

Hello! I'm a DPhil student in Magdalen working on coral bleaching resilience, and I'm also one of the MCR's Catering Officers. We have a lot of great dinners planned throughout the year, so do look out for our emails, and feel free to reach out with any dining-related questions!



### Catering Officer – Nicolas Charalambous

Hello everyone, my name is Nicolas and I am one of the Catering Officers of the MCR. Through my role, I organise formal dinner exchanges with other MCRs - a great opportunity to socialise outside of Magdalen and tick those colleges off your formal challenge list. I also organise Magdalen's Guest Nights, which I think are possibly the best food-centred events in Oxford. Outside of my catering duties, I am pursuing a DPhil in Chemistry.

### LGBTQ+ Officer – Ebba Mark

I'm Ebba, one of your two LGBTQ+ Officers. I am a third-year DPhil student in the School of Geography and the Environment. Together with the second LGBTQ+ Officer, I am responsible for organising community and social activities for the LGBTQ+ community in the Magdalen MCR. This usually takes the form of pre-drinks for the Oxford-wide Tuesgays event which happens every week in term time but also pizza nights and attendance at the annual Oxford Pride!



In addition to organising social activities, we aim to provide support and a listening ear to anyone in the Magdalen LGBTQ+ community that might need it. Please consider us to be confidential sources of support and your biggest cheerleaders as the year progresses. Look forward to meeting you in the new academic year!

### LGBTQ+ Officer – [1x vacant]

There is an open position. If you are interested in being the second LGBTQ+ Officer, please get in touch with Ebba or Dan!

### Arts and Research Officer – Vacant

The MCR Arts & Research Officer's main responsibilities include looking after the joint MCR-JCR art collection, curating exhibitions that display pieces from this collection, and organising the MCR-SCR Research Convivium. This position is vacant, so if you are interested, be sure to get in touch with Dan!



### **Welfare Officer – Jonas Yip**

Hi! I'm Jonas, and I study Graduate-Entry Medicine. I'm this year's MCR Welfare Officer. As Welfare Officer, I am responsible for creating a welcoming community, running events, and stocking up on welfare supplies. Outside of my studies, I enjoy playing the violin, bouldering, and cooking!

### **Welfare Officer – Mollie Roddan**

Hi everyone! My name is Mollie and I am a DPhil student in Experimental Psychology researching how to improve the accessibility of early years services. I am one of this year's MCR Welfare Officers, which means I'm here to help look after your wellbeing alongside the wider welfare team at college. We're here to offer some wholesome events, point you in the right direction for support available at college and in the university, and provide some practical help at college when we can. I'm excited to meet you all this term!



### **Sports Officer – Anthony Addison**

Hi, I am Anthony, I am doing a DPhil in Biomedical Engineering. I am this year's MCR Sports Officer and my role includes providing support to MCR sports clubs, organising MCR participation in sports events such as the Town and Gown (10km road race) and providing advice for anyone interested in participating in sport at the college, university level or in general. Outside of my studies I enjoy hiking, snowboarding, running and playing football.

### **Facilities and Environment Officer – Joseph Gillson**

Greetings, I am Joe, DPhil in Bees, and the Facilities and Environment Officer of the MCR. If there are problems with anything in the MCR, it is my job to resolve them. This could involve purchasing more books or board games for the MCR library, or fixing the beating heart of the MCR (the coffee machine) if it breaks. If there is anything that you think should be bought for the MCR - let me know! Also, along with the Sustainability Officer, I represent the MCR in College Environmental meetings, and with the Arts and Research Officer I coordinate the artwork in the MCR!





### IT Officer – Matthew Gray

Hey. My name is Matthew Gray and I'm a 4th year computer science DPhil student studying quantum cryptography and complexity theory. I'm this year's IT Officer which mostly means I'm in charge of the website, though I help with other tech related things. In my free time I enjoy board games, cooking, swimming, and reading.

### Fresher's Officer – Boris Baros

Welcome everyone! My name is Boris, second-year DPhil in Mathematics. As your Fresher's Officer I will be responsible for organising your welcome to the wonderful Magdalen MCR! Any questions, feel free to reach out – I'm looking forward to meeting you all.



### General Committee Member – Robin Gansäuer

Hi, I'm Robin. I'm a Visiting Research Fellow from Germany, currently writing my master's thesis at Saïd Business School. At Magdalen, I serve as a General Committee Member of the MCR. In my spare time, I enjoy exploring ideas at the intersection of technology and entrepreneurship, staying active through running and fitness, and discovering Oxford's best coffee spots. I look forward to meeting you all.

### General Committee Member – Shereece Linton-Ramsay

Hi! I'm Shereece and I'm a first year History DPhil. As a General Committee Member, I'm happy to help out wherever possible. I've been a student at Magdalen for five years, so if you have any questions about the college, feel free to reach out!



### General Committee Member – Bernardo Lustrini

I'm Bernardo, the MCR Pizza Officer. I lend a hand with events when needed and try to pick up the slack when and as required! The most important thing I do (and ever have done) is order and collect the pizzas for the MCR committee meetings, so make sure to turn up for those! I'm doing a DPhil in machine learning, so if you ever want to talk about that, or pizza, then come find me!

### General Committee Member – Tibo Rushbrooke

Hello and welcome to Magdalen, by far the best of all the colleges with deer parks. I'm Tibo, I'm doing a PhD in Philosophy, and I'm a General Committee Member of the MCR. As a general member, my job is to lend a helping hand when needed, and, three Mondays per term, rise to the ultimate challenge of bringing pizza to the MCR meetings. When not doing philosophy or carrying pizza (or both), I like tennis, running, and chess.



### Gender Equality Officer – Vacant

The MCR's Gender Equality Officer works with the other members of the Welfare and Equality subcommittee to ensure that the MCR is an open, welcoming place for all. They also organise events including the MCR International Women's Day programme. As this position is currently vacant, if you are interested in becoming the MCR's Gender Equality Officer, be sure to get in touch with Dan!

### Racial Equality Officer – Vacant

The MCR's Racial Equality Officer works with the other members of the Welfare and Equality subcommittee to ensure that the MCR is an open, welcoming place for all. They also organise events like the termly Cultural Food Festival, which is always a huge hit. The position is currently vacant, so if you are interested in becoming the MCR's Racial Equality Officer, be sure to get in touch with Dan!

### Disabled Students Officer – Vacant

The Disabled Students officer works with College to ensure we create an environment where accessibility is an active part of our lives. Within the MCR, the Disabled Students Officer works to enhance our events as well as holding the committee and the College accountable to keep increasing accessibility for future generations of students. If you would like more information on becoming the MCR's Disabled Students Officer, please let Dan know!

### Brunch Officer – Vacant

The Brunch Officer is responsible for organising weekly brunches for the MCR. Our weekly brunches are a popular event, offering some great food and importantly an opportunity to come together at the end of each week! If you would like to learn more about becoming Brunch Officer, get in contact with Dan.

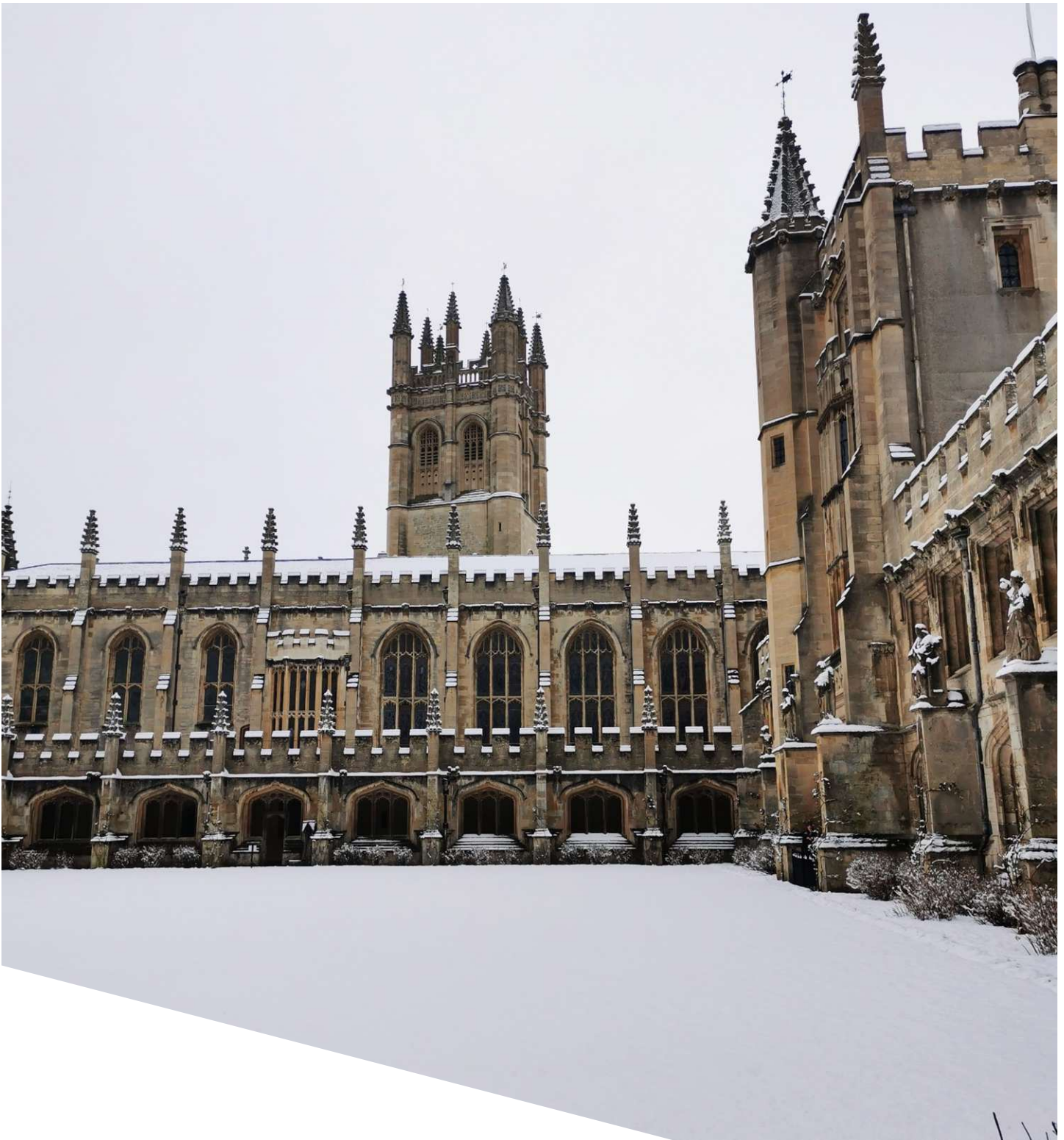
### Sustainability Officer – Emma Manco

Hello freshers, and welcome to our beautiful college! I'm Emma, and I'm doing a DPhil in Modern History. This year, I'm serving as the MCR Sustainability Officer. In this role, I represent the MCR at the College Sustainability Forum meetings and help promote sustainability-focused initiatives within the MCR community. Outside of my studies, I enjoy playing anything that involves a ball and racket and failing (enthusiastically) at baking.



### Charity Officer - Vacant

The role of the Charity Officer includes running the annual election to choose the MCR's annual charities, as well as coordinating events with the purpose of raising money for them. They also assist other committee members in liaising with local charities to help with events and build the MCR's relationship with the Oxford community. Since the position vacant, you are very welcome to get in touch with Dan for more information on becoming the MCR's Charity Officer!



*Cloisters, Magdalen*

## The who's who of Magdalen

## The President – Dinah Rose

Dinah Rose read Modern History at Magdalen, then took the post-graduate diploma in law, and qualified as a barrister. After practising at the Bar for 30 years, as a member of Blackstone Chambers, specialising in human rights, public law and competition law, she returned to Magdalen as President in September 2020.

## Senior Dean – Christopher Garland

The role of the Senior Dean is to maintain oversight of the whole decanal system, which means liaising with both the Dean for Welfare and Dean for Discipline. It is the Senior Dean's role to aid communication between the Deans and all matters they deal with are treated in confidence.

## Dean for Discipline – Michael Neidig

The Dean for Discipline is in charge of dealing with all non-academic disciplinary offences in a confidential manner. Hopefully, you won't need to interact much with the Dean for Discipline during your time at Magdalen!

## The Home Bursar – Albert Ray

The Home Bursar oversees College operations. If you have questions about accommodation, the lease, furniture, or other room/housing related matters however, please contact the Accommodation Office at ([accommodation@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@magd.ox.ac.uk)).

## Porters

The Porters are among the most important people in your life at College. They are your first point of contact for most questions and have extensive knowledge of the College and its processes. You can phone the Porter's lodge ('plodge') to be put through to any member of staff or College department, and if you remember to give them your phone number, they can phone important messages to you, such as the delivery of large parcels. The porters are, in essence, your first port of call!

## Scouts

'Scout' is the Oxford term for the College cleaning staff. They come to clean the kitchen and bathroom in your building daily during the week and will clean your room and change your sheets once a week. Generally, if you would like your rubbish bin to be emptied you can leave it outside your door. Scouts, like Porters, can be very helpful and know a lot about the College. It is traditional to give your Scout a small gift at Christmas. The Scouts for graduate accommodation are as follows:

Janette – Rose Lane and Professor's House

Noelia – Cowley Place

Irene – Longwall House

Jill – Daubeny

Angela - Holywell Ford House and Quads I & II

Fernanda – Holywell Ford Quads III-VI

Gelanie – 11A St. Clements and 9 & 11 York Place

## Maintenance

If anything in your room needs fixing you need to contact maintenance. You can put a request in here [www.magd.ox.ac.uk/maintenance-request/](http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/maintenance-request/).

## College Welfare and Student Wellbeing Team

## Dean for Welfare – Lauren Phillips

The Dean for Welfare has responsibility for welfare provision in the College. She is available to listen to the concerns of junior members and direct them to the most appropriate source of support. She works directly with the Student Support Administrators to ensure that all student welfare concerns are dealt with appropriately and confidentially. Students can meet with the Dean for Welfare to discuss any welfare related concern by attending her weekly office hours. To contact the Dean for Welfare email: [dean.welfare@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dean.welfare@magd.ox.ac.uk).

## Student Support Administrators - Katie Taylor-O'Connor and Holly Finn

The Student Support Administrators ([studentsupport@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@magd.ox.ac.uk)) support the Deans and the Welfare team with their work. They are available weekdays and can help with a whole range of matters including:

- General welfare concerns
- Student Support Fund applications
- Hardship applications, through the Junior Members Fund, which can provide rapid emergency help
- Making appointments with the Deans
- Organising room bookings during term-time
- Degree ceremonies
- Bodleian card queries
- Personal tutors for first year undergraduates

If you are unsure who to approach, the SSAs should be your first port of call. They can help you with any confidential matter.

## The Dean of Divinity (Chaplain) – Andrew Bowyer

Andrew is available as appropriate to all students irrespective of their beliefs. He can be called on for advice or help without appointment in his room in Cloisters IV:2. He can also be emailed at [andrew.bowyer@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.bowyer@magd.ox.ac.uk).

## College Counsellor

The College employs a professionally qualified counsellor who is part of the [University Counselling Service](#). The counsellor is available on Tuesdays and can be contacted via email, [counsellor@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:counsellor@magd.ox.ac.uk), to discuss one-to-one counselling or the services and workshops that the University Counselling Service provide.

## Tutors for Equality and Diversity – Jennifer Castle and Andrew Bowyer

Jennie and Andrew are the Tutors for Equality and Diversity and any student is very welcome to meet with them. They can be contacted via email at: [jennifer.castle@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.castle@magd.ox.ac.uk) and [andrew.bowyer@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.bowyer@magd.ox.ac.uk).

## College Mentor for Students – Alexandra (Alix) Hibble

The College Mentor works part time. If you would like to discuss anything to do with your wellbeing, anxiety, study skills, budgeting and any other concerns, email her at: [alexandra.hibble@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alexandra.hibble@magd.ox.ac.uk) for an appointment or visit her in St Swithun's Quad, staircase VII room 2. Tel: 01865 286689. Details are available on the welfare pages of the College website: <https://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/considering-magdalen/student-life/welfare-and-wellbeing/>.



*Magdalen College Grounds*

# In and around Magdalen College

Magdalen is a beautiful college, with plenty of green space to enjoy! Its main attraction is the Deer Park, which is home to Magdalen's very own herd of deer. A walk around the Water Meadow, along Addison's Walk, can provide a calm and picturesque break from studying and offers beautiful views of the College from afar. Along with its wonderful grounds, Magdalen is also full of beautiful buildings, which are steeped in history, meaning you are constantly able to discover new stories about Magdalen. However, whilst you will be living and studying alongside the beautiful grounds and historic buildings of Magdalen, it is also useful to know the places that will form a key part of your Magdalen experience.

## Middle Common Room

The MCR is your common room. It is located in Cloisters, Staircase 8. You can access the MCR with your Bod Card 24 hours a day. There are an assortment of newspapers, magazines, games, and a TV. The most popular feature is likely the coffee machine. We also maintain an outstanding snack selection. On Friday nights, a low-cost bar and social is run by the Bar Managers ('Liquid Lounge').

Use of the MCR is conditional on the following rules:

- You are responsible for washing your own mug after use. The scout does not clean up after the MCR, so we are responsible for our own tidiness and for cleaning the dishes that we use.
- The tea, coffee, and milk are provided for communal use in the MCR *only* and should not be removed.
- Similarly, items that are enjoyed by multiple members such as boardgames, books and newspapers should not be removed. If you wish to use a board game in your rooms, permission should be sought from the MCR committee before borrowing it.
- You are required to show awareness and respect towards other users regarding noise, guests, tidiness, and cleaning.

## Junior Common Room

The JCR is also located in Cloisters, Staircase 9. You are welcome to use that Common Room as well, though be aware it can be busier than the MCR and does not provide the same quality of facilities. What the JCR does feature, however, is a games room with a pool table, table tennis, darts, air hockey, and table football. They also have a TV and gaming facilities. Similar to the MCR, please do not remove any items from the shared common spaces.

## Hall

During term, Hall is generally open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Out of term, Hall is often open for all three meals, but this varies on a day-to-day basis. Menus will be sent around at the start of each week with information on opening hours. The list of meals that Hall will be providing is available on Upay. Upay is the online system used by the College for Hall and OKB, and is the only way to book Formal Hall tickets. You can visit the website ([Upay](#)) to view your balance for Hall, top-up your balance, view the menu for the week and book Formal Hall.

Term-time Hall hours are:

Breakfast	Monday to Friday	8:00-9:30am
Brunch	Saturday only	9:30-11:00am
Lunch	Monday to Friday	12:00noon-1:30pm;
Dinner	7 days a week	6:00-6:50pm

All of these times are subject to change. Details are posted at the hall entrance. You can pay for Buttery meals (i.e. not Formal Hall) with debit/credit or with your Bod Card using your Upay balance.

## Old Kitchen Bar (OKB)

An alternative to Hall at Lunchtime, the OKB provides salads, sandwiches and cakes. In the summer, you can sit outside on the terrace which looks out onto the river. In the evening the bar opens for reasonably priced drinks.

## Chapel

Magdalen has one of the most beautiful chapels in Oxford. During term time, several different services are held every day. Every evening the world-famous choir performs a 30-minute evensong by candlelight in addition to Anglican Eucharist on Sundays. On Sundays it is followed by a wine reception, which is used by many students as a transition to Sunday Formal Hall. See

<https://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/chapel-and-choir/chapel-services/chapel-services/> for more details.

Our wonderful chaplain (the 'Dean of Divinity'), the Rev Dr Andrew Bowyer officiates most Chapel services and runs some additional student programming outside of formal services. There is also a multi-faith prayer room, located in St Swithuns Quad, staircase 6, room 2.

## Post Room

The post room is where your mail, messages or notes will be delivered into a mail slot ('pigeon hole' or 'pidge') with your name on it. When you walk from the Lodge into St John's Quad, turn right and travel about 30 metres into the Chaplain's Quad. The entrance to the Post Room will be on your right. You will need to tap your Bod Card or use your late gate key to enter. An opt-out junk mail system has been instituted to reduce waste; students who do not want to receive unsolicited flyers about society events can highlight their names in the post room.

## Pigeon Post

The University runs an internal mail service called the Pigeon Post whereby mail is hand-delivered between the Colleges and Departments once or twice a day. The charge for this service is incorporated into your Batells, so there is no additional cost. To send mail by Pigeon Post write the name and College or Department of the recipient on the front and give it to the Porters.

## College Cellar

Louis, the college butler, has many wines available for purchase. Email him at [butler@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:butler@magd.ox.ac.uk) to enquire after a current wine list.

## Car Parking

Car parking in Oxford is not easy! Magdalen has some car parking spots which are allocated to graduates at the start of term. If you are not allocated a parking spot and you have a car, life can be pretty difficult. One option, if you are in a house outside of College walls, is to apply for a resident's pass to park on the street. Generally, Oxford is more of a pedestrian and biking city, so consider whether or not you may need your vehicle.





*Longwall Library, Magdalen*

## **Graduate student life**

## College life

### Communal living

Living together with other people can be challenging. When people are placed in a communal living situation at random, the opportunity for conflicting views on issues increases and problems can arise. However, some of your best friends and most memorable experiences may come from the people with whom you are randomly allocated to live. Here are some tips from five students who lived together for three years:

- Communication between people is vital. Most of the time people are not aiming to displease their housemates and often are unaware that their actions are offensive. Don't be scared to explain logically why a certain habit is annoying you, and to hear why the other person has it.
- Show open-mindedness towards the ways and habits of others. Don't think that if somebody is doing something differently it's wrong – if you take the time to understand it, you may find the good in it as well.
- Stick to deals, but be flexible: getting annoyed about the washing-up that was left out once and making a big fuss about it creates a hostile environment. If you wash somebody else's dishes one night, they'll probably return the favour somewhere down the line.
- Include everybody in your activities, even if they constantly refuse to participate. The most lasting friendships come from a team atmosphere.
- Get started early: don't wait two terms before organising your first house dinner. It just makes the whole affair more awkward. Also, stick to the task: initially every interaction is likely to be awkward, but with time your friendships will grow through common experiences.
- Eat together. Meals are the best time to discuss things. First it starts with food, and pretty quickly moves on to every other topic.

### Formal Hall

In addition to canteen food, there is a separate, smart, catered dinner on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday during term at 7:15 pm. You can sign up for Formal Hall online via Upay. Sunday Formal Hall is followed by a port reception in the Old Kitchen Bar (OKB).

For Formal Hall a gown must be worn over your clothes. People tend to dress smart for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday formals with the gown over the top. However, for Sunday formals people typically dress in Black Tie under the gown.

### Exchange Dinners

One of the great things about Oxford is that there are lots of different colleges to visit and lots of different Formal Halls to try! To help MCR members get to visit other colleges, the MCR organises exchange dinners with other MCRs in Oxford and these are a great opportunity to meet people from other colleges and try their food at a Formal Hall. The invite is also returned, meaning Magdalen also welcomes members of other colleges to Formal Hall. Information about these will be circulated by the Catering Officers before term begins.

### Guest Dinners

Guest dinner is held once or twice each term in the Terry Newport Room and is an opportunity for you to invite your friends to an exclusive black-tie meal in Magdalen. The menus are carefully crafted to tantalise the taste buds, and feature pre-dinner champagne, multiple courses with matched wines

and second dessert with port and dessert wine! Guest dinners are always extremely popular in the MCR, the catering officers will send information about these before term begins.

## **Brunch**

MCR Brunch is a weekly Sunday affair and is a great opportunity to catch up with your fellow MCR members. Come along to enjoy a variety of pastries, bread, spreads, fruit and veggies, at a very reasonable cost. A very relaxing way to start your Sunday!

## **Liquid Lounge**

Liquid Lounge is another weekly highlight and is a great way to celebrate the weekend! During Liquid Lounge, the MCR bar is open, with different specialty cocktails each week. Come along and enjoy drinks at a very reasonable price after a hard week of work (nb: non-alcoholic drinks are free!). Guests from one or two other colleges are invited as well so you can get to know members of other colleges around Oxford. Come along for a chat, a drink, dance the night away, and maybe even work a shift. Sometimes, Liquid Lounge will be themed, so you can dress up and enjoy themed drinks in the bar!

## **Croquet**

Croquet can be played in Trinity Term and over summer on the lawns of the New Building. It is a great Oxford tradition. We are free to use the JCR croquet set which is located in staircase IV of the New Building (a small room under the stairs on the ground floor). You will have to get the keys for this room from the Lodge. The alternative is to get the MCR croquet set which comes in a handy wooden box at the MCR. It is usually in a better condition than the JCR set and you don't have to hand in your room keys to get to it.

## **Punting**

If you want to get out on the river but find rowing too fast paced, then punting is for you. The college has a large collection of punts which are put in the water after May Day and are available throughout the summer. You can book the Punts through the online system, more information regarding which will be sent via email. There's no charge upfront but there is an opt-out charge on your batells for punt use.

## **Magdalen Film Society**

The Magdalen College Film Society shows a wide range of critically acclaimed films on the big screen in Magdalen's state-of-the-art Auditorium every week during term. Check your pigeon holes in 0th Week for term cards and subscription forms, or find them on Facebook.

## **May Morning**

The morning of 1st May is a celebration of the coming of Spring and is one of the great traditions of Oxford. On May Morning, Magdalen College Choir sings from the top of the Great Tower at 6am, to welcome the rising sun. Thousands of people fill the streets to listen to the choir, bringing together Oxford's communities to enjoy dancing, singing, and revelry. As members of Magdalen College we are privileged to enjoy the great views offered by the Cloisters lawn (one of the only times you will be allowed on the Cloisters lawn so be sure to take advantage!).

## Libraries

The library system at Oxford is complex, so it is important to attend library orientation programmes, details of which will be given during Freshers' Week.

### The Bodleian Library (“the Bod”)

The Bod is Oxford's main library and, as a copyright library, has virtually every book published in England. Be forewarned about a few ways in which the Bod may be different from your undergraduate university's libraries:

1. The hours. The Bodleian – and many faculty libraries – don't offer 24-hour access. Opening hours vary according to whether it's term-time or vacation, and are not the same across all parts of the library: details on <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>.
2. You can't take it with you. Unfortunately, because the Bodleian a copyright library, you are not able to check books out of the Bod. In other words, unless you can find your books at one of the other libraries in Oxford (or at a bookshop), be prepared to camp out in the Bod.
3. Photocopying. ‘Ah,’ you might say, ‘I won't have to sit in the Bod all day. I'll just photocopy my chapters and then mosey back to my room’. Sadly, the Bod is strict on copyright law, and tends to restrict photocopying. Think of all the money you'll save.

### The Magdalen Longwall Library

Found in Longwall Quad. Entrance is with your Bod Card, and the librarians are very friendly. You'll have a tour in freshers' week. It has plenty of books and an impressive DVD collection. The librarians are usually happy to order any book for the college, if it isn't easily available.

### The Law Library

Magdalen's law library is in the Grove Building, adjacent to Longwall Street. Magdalen Law students are issued with a Law Library key and can access the it 24 hours a day (handy for those doing the BCL). Like the Bod, this is a non-lending library. There is, however, a photocopier for which you need your own paper.

## Sports

### Rowing

Probably Oxford's most iconic sport. Torpids and Summer VIII's, the two major tournaments in March and May in which the colleges compete against each other, draw in hundreds of boats and thousands of spectators. Complete novices are just as welcome as experienced rowers—the club will train you up to racing standard and there is an opportunity to compete in novice races. Magdalen has its own rowing gym facilities and boat house along the Isis.

### Gym

Every member of Magdalen College is given a free membership of the University Sports Complex on Iffley Road. You will have to register your Bod Card at the gym to gain access to their facilities. You will also have to book time slots for gym sessions in advance. The complex has a pool, basic gym equipment, and a number of classes (although these carry extra charges). The College's own, refurbished, gym has recently been moved to Holywell and details are still tba regarding how access will be managed. Other gyms in Oxford include Buzz Gym, Burton Mill, PureGym, the Brookes Uni gym, FeelFit, Gallery bouldering gym, and a number of boxing gyms (e.g. OMAA).

## Sports

You'll find lots of information about College and University sports during 0th Week. See [www.sport.ox.ac.uk](http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk) for details about University sports teams, many of which are very open to accepting new members with zero experience. Furthermore, the College has its own teams for football, rugby, netball, rowing and tennis amongst others. These teams tend to be more casual than university-wide teams and compete against other Colleges. Magdalen has some of the best sports facilities of any College, including a nearby sportsground for football, rugby, cricket, hockey, and tennis and squash courts in Holywell Ford.

## Classes

### Language Classes

The University runs a number of free or heavily subsidised language classes out of the Language Centre ([www.lang.ox.ac.uk](http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk)). Enrolment takes place in person at the Centre, 12 Woodstock Road, generally during First Week. Be sure to sign up to the Centre's mailing list to get a head start on registration – some classes are quite popular and fill up quickly! The enrolment dates and times vary for different languages and can be found on the Centre's web page.

### Computer Classes

The University Computing Service offers a range of courses including advanced use of Microsoft Word for long documents, Adobe Photoshop, programming, and the like. Details are at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/itlp>.

### Oxford Union

The Union is Oxford's famous members-only debating society (one of the oldest societies in the English-speaking world) which hosts an array of well-known speakers, sportspersons, politicians and celebrities. It also offers members facilities including a library, restaurant and a bar. However, the Union has a life membership fee of £299. It also has two full-size billiards tables, and a lending library in which members are free to work.

## Finances

### Magdalen Student Support Fund

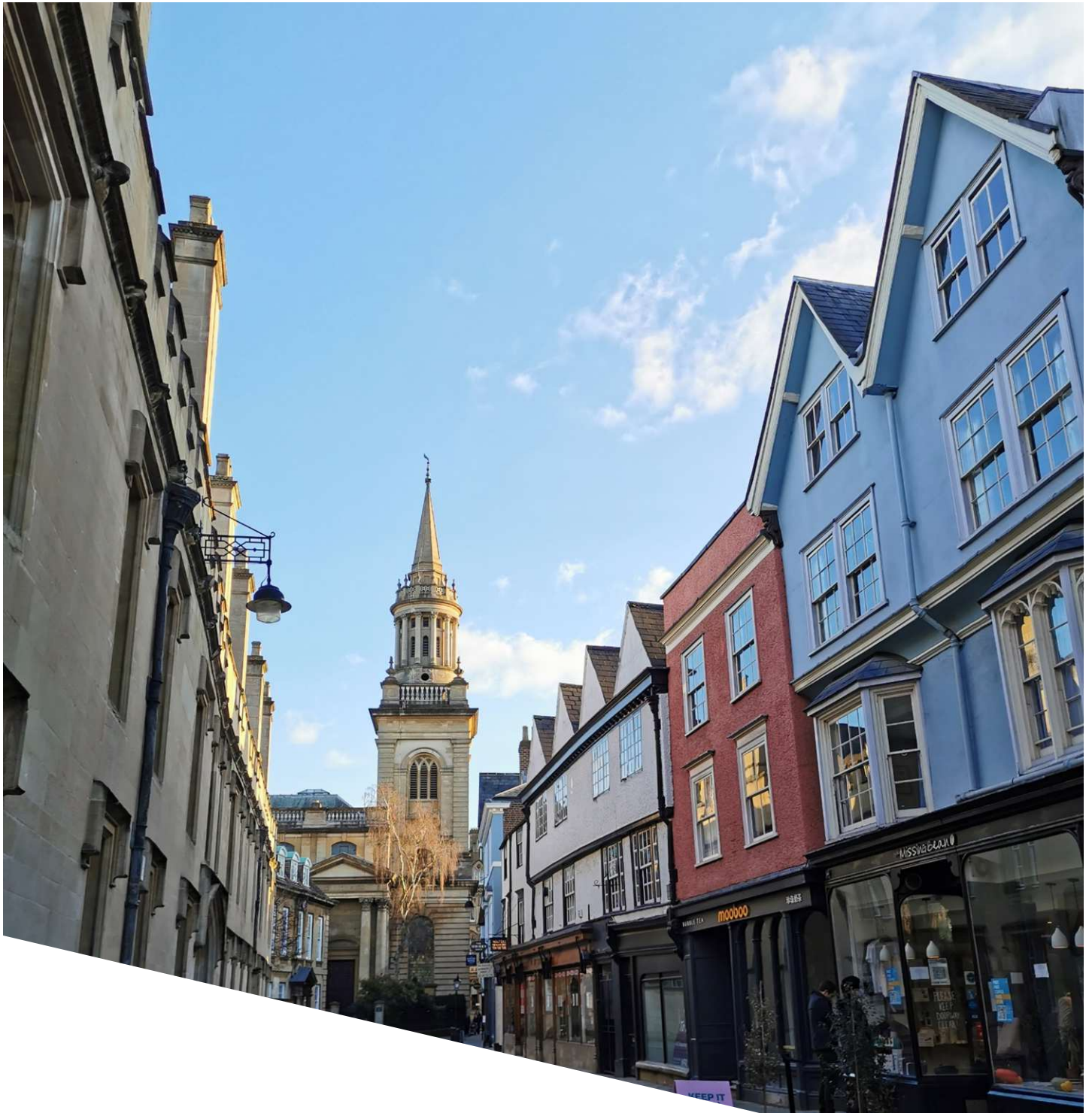
The Student Support Fund (SSF) was set up to ensure that no student had to abandon their studies due to unforeseen financial hardship. Students can apply to the SSF at the start of each term. All applications are then followed by an interview with the Deans or the Tutor for Graduates to assess the student's financial situation. The size of the award made by the SSF varies in size and depends on the particular needs of the student. In the past awards have been in the range £200- £2,000, but might even span a stipend of multiple months as a 'writing up grant'.

### Magdalen Travel and/or Research grants

Travel and/or research grants can be awarded to help cover costs for travel and research that is directly linked to your course. The amount of the award depends on how relevant the travel and/or research is to your course. MSt and MPhil students are able to apply for a maximum of £1,250 over the course of their time at Magdalen. DPhil students are able to apply for a maximum of £2,500. The application form is available on the Internal Pages of the College website. Strict application deadlines apply.

## **Magdalen Book Grant**

The book grant enables students to receive a grant to purchase new or second-hand books, which have been approved as being relevant to their course of study. The grant allows students to be reimbursed 75% of the total cost, up to a maximum of £100. The application form is available on the Internal Pages of the College website. Strict application deadlines apply.



*Turl Street, Oxford*

## **In and around Oxford**

Oxford is a great city to live in; it is very compact and flat, making it a convenient city to explore. The heart of the city centre is about a 10-minute walk from Magdalen and there you can find all the shops you will ever need, either on Cornmarket Street or in the Westgate Centre. Outside of the city centre, areas such as Cowley (10-minute walk from Magdalen) and Jericho (20-minute walk from Magdalen) offer a diverse range of shops, pubs, and cafes. Oxford is full of little side streets and hidden passages, so navigating the city might feel confusing at first, but very quickly you will grow to know it like the back of your hand! Here is a list of suggestions about the top shops, parks, pubs and cinemas to get you started, but once you're here you will be able to discover plenty of new places of your own.

## Shopping

### Groceries

The closest large supermarket is probably Tesco on Cowley Street. There are also smaller Sainsbury's Locals and a Tesco Express on St Aldate's. Some grads order communally with their flatmates from Tesco, while some organise organic box schemes through Only Organic, Abel and Cole, or Riverland. However, please note that the preferred delivery location is at Longwall rather than the plodge as parking along High Street can be dangerous and will hold up traffic. Also, delivery boxes should not be left in College.

### International

Tahmid on Cowley Road has a wide range of East Asian foods and there are also a number of excellent smaller shops on Cowley Road which stock fresh fruit and vegetables, and international ingredients from Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

### Covered Market

Entrances off Cornmarket, High Street, and Market Street. This houses several sandwich shops, unique stores, fresh meat and fish, bakeries, fruit vendors, delicatessens and florists. A great place to bring visitors or lunch guests or just to go for a stroll.

### Westgate

A large shopping centre in the city. It houses a range of clothing, food and specialty outlets, as well as a John Lewis department store for home and electrical goods.

### Books

Oxford has two main bookstores. Blackwell's (Broad Street and the Westgate) has an extensive range of academic and non-academic texts. There is a second-hand shop on the top floor of the main store. Blackwell's is a treasure—make sure you visit the Norrington Room below the main shop, which boasts three miles of shelving and is officially the world's largest single room dedicated to selling books. Waterstones (on the corner of Broad Street and Cornmarket) is a large UK chain with good new releases and a limited range of academic books. There are a number of charity shops around Oxford which specialise in cheap second-hand books, most notably the Oxfams on Turl Street and St Giles. Oxford also has a range of smaller bookshops for you to discover all manner of reading delights. The Albion Beatnik on Walton Street is particularly good; the only independent bookshop in the city, it frequently hosts jazz and poetry nights and runs weekly reading and writing clubs.

## Stationery

WH Smith (Cornmarket) and Ryman (Queen Street) have a good selection of supplies. Ryman's offers a 10% discount with your Bod Card.

## Post Offices

The General Oxford Post Office is on St. Aldate's opposite Christ Church. There is also a Post Office at 17 Woodstock Road (St Giles Post Office).

## Dry cleaning

The best place to find dry cleaners is along Cowley Road. However, others are to be found on St Clements (Wash & Sew), Woodstock Road, and also in Headington.

## Haircuts

For men, there are two barbers that tend to be most popular on High Street (near Queen's College) and on Turl Street (inside Walters). Cheaper hair-cutting options are to be found on the Cowley Road. For women, some options include Mahogany (Little Clarendon Street and Turl Street), Popham Hairdressing (North Parade and Little Clarendon Street), Kelly's Hair (St. Clement's) and Toni & Guy's (George Street).

## Bicycle

Bicycles are the most popular form of student transport. Warning: if you do buy a bike, buy a good lock to go along with it – bike theft is rampant. In fact, some would suggest buying a used, moderately-beat-up bike rather than a brand-new bike in an attempt to ward off the discriminating thief. A good place to start is on Gumtree and Facebook for second-hand bikes. It's a very good idea to bring a helmet and good lights or plan on buying them when you arrive. Cyclists are required by law to have both a front white light and a rear red light when cycling after dark. The MCR's Health and Safety fund will reimburse up to £6.50 for bike lights and £20 for a bike helmet, so there is no excuse for poor bike safety! It is also useful to have a bell to signal around corners. Often the College has a bike sale at the start of Michaelmas, where you can buy bikes for a very discounted rate – though it is not guaranteed that they are fit to ride! But keep your eyes open for that email.

Bike shops are in the following locations:

- Reg Taylor Cycles: 285 Iffley Road
- Walton St Cycles: 78 Walton Street
- Broken Spoke Bike Co-op: St Thomas School, Osney Ln (not for profit, see: <http://bsbcoop.org/>)
- CycloAnalyst: 150 Cowley Road
- Bee-Line Bicycles: 205 Cowley Road
- Bike Zone: 28-32 St Michael's Street (good for repairs, and has a nice café upstairs – Handle Bar)
- The Oxford Bicycle Company: 251A Cowley Road
- OxBikes: Rental and Sale Marketplace, <https://www.oxbikes.co.uk/>

## Parks

Oxford is lucky to have many wonderful parks very close to the city centre! Three favourites include Christ Church Meadows, University Parks and Port Meadow. Both Christ Church Meadows and University Parks are great spots to have lunch and go for a calm evening stroll. Port Meadow is slightly

further out but it is great if you want to go on a longer walk, as you can walk all the way along the river to Wolvercote. Another park that is definitely worth a visit is South Park, which is located east of the city centre, towards Headington, and offers great views of Oxford. The best time to visit is during the evening to watch the sun set over the city of dreaming spires!

Oxford also has a very big wild swimming community, so you will often see people swimming in the river in Port Meadow. Another great spot for wild swimming is Hinksey Park, which is just south of Oxford centre. Also in Hinksey Park is an outdoor heated swimming pool, which is open during the summer months.

## Going out

### Pubs

Oxford has lots of pubs throughout the city centre, Cowley, and Jericho so you will never run out of new places to try. Some of the classic, more traditional pubs, in the centre are: the Bear Inn, the Kings Arms, Turf Tavern and the White Horse. Cowley also offers lots of really great pubs, including the Cape of Good Hope, and Oranges and Lemons. In Jericho, some of the best pubs are: the Gardeners' Arms (completely vegetarian and vegan), the Victoria and then a bit further afield is the Perch in Port Meadow.

As you can see there are lots of places to try and lots of candidates for the best pub in Oxford – this list has barely scratched the surface! Pubs are a unique part of British culture and so it can be fun to explore all the many pubs that Oxford has to offer and find out which is your favourite.

### Cafes

Oxford is very lucky to have lots of wonderful independent coffee shops dotted around the city centre, so you will never be too far from your next caffeine boost! Some favourites are: Missing Bean (Turl Street), Jericho Coffee Traders (High Street), Barefoot Café (North Parade) and the Handlebar Café (St. Michaels Street). Grab a coffee and then go for a walk around one of Oxford's parks!

### Clubs

Although the number of clubs in Oxford has fallen over the years, some still go strong. Try Hanks (Queen Street) and Plush (LGBTQ-friendly, just off Cornmarket Street). Across Magdalen Bridge you will find Glamorous at the roundabout, and down Cowley Road there is the Bullingdon which hosts a lot of 'Resident Advisor' type DJ's, as well as the O2 Academy for bands.

### Theatres

The main theatres in Oxford are the Playhouse and the New Theatre. The Keble O'Reilly theatre and the Burton Taylor Studio are good for student productions. Oxford is renowned for its amateur theatre scene and hosts many student-directed and student-run productions as well.

### Cinema

For the latest blockbusters, there is the Curzon in the Westgate and the Odeon on George Street. For independent cinema, try the Ultimate Picture Palace in Cowley or the Phoenix in Jericho.

# Contacting People

*Magdalen Deer Park*



As a rule, email is the best and most efficient way to contact most people in the College. Addresses will usually follow the form: **firstname.lastname@magd.ox.ac.uk**. (This works for students as well as professors and staff, too.)

The college website has a lot of contact information should you need to contact anyone in particular before arriving at college. After you have come up, you should consult the booklet of rules and regulations (which will be in your pidge on arrival) for a comprehensive list of people whom you should contact in different circumstances.

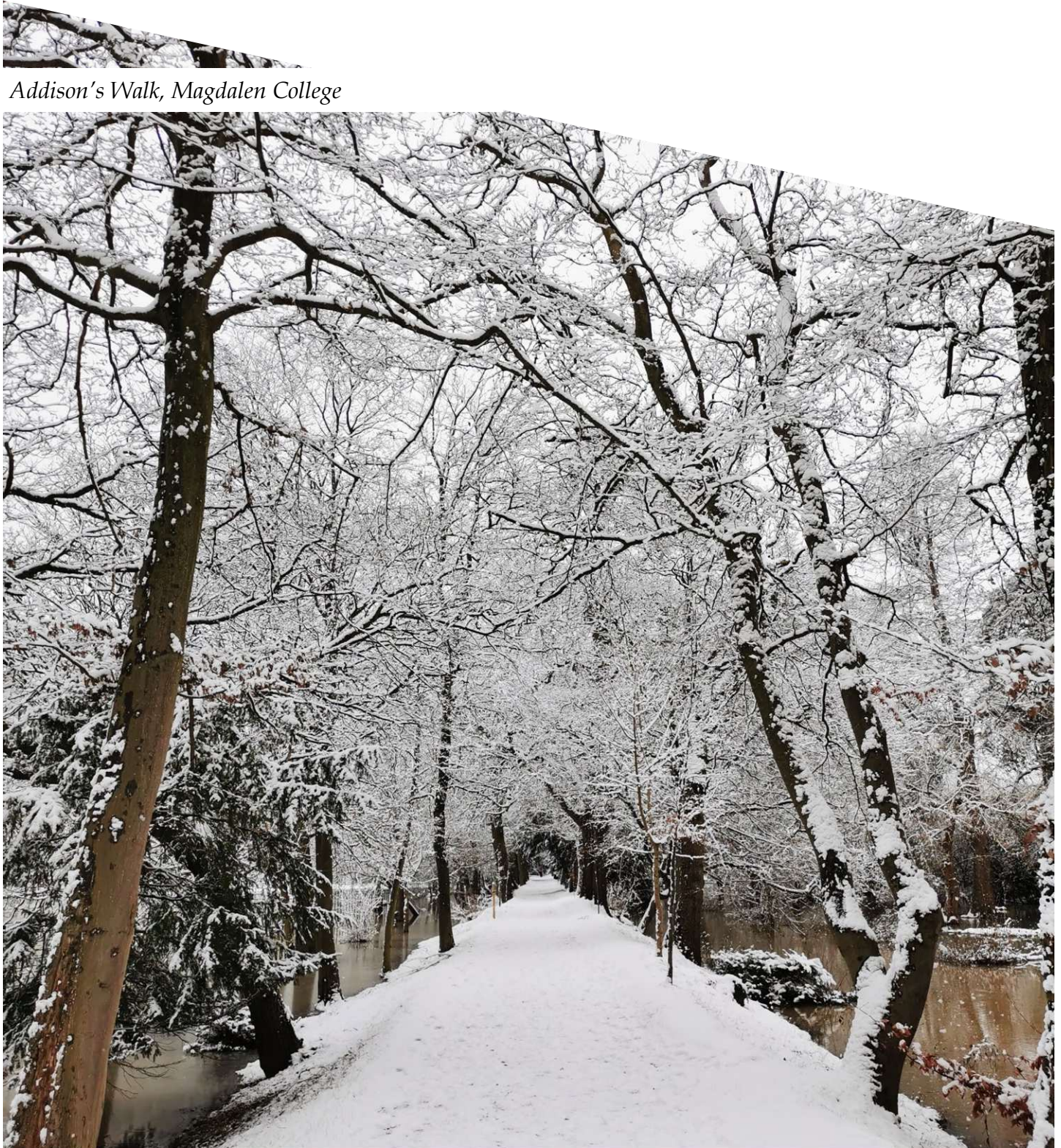
## Phone numbers

Porters' Lodge	+ 76000 or + 76001
President, Dinah Rose KC	+ 76100
PA to the President, Limara Bertram	+ 76101
Tutor for Graduates, Mark Pobjoy	+ 76000
Academic Administrator, Liz Howdill	+ 76113
Senior Dean of Arts, Christopher Garland	+ 76021
Dean for Welfare, Lauren Phillips	+ 76021
Student Support Administrators	+ 76021
Home Bursar, Albert Ray	+ 76050
Conference Manager, Sarah Church	+ 76051
Accommodation Manager, Callum Hunt	+ 76000
PA to the Home Bursar, Renée Perritt	+ 76052
Steward, Linda Norton	+ 76006
Maintenance Administrator	+ 76039
Dean of Divinity, Revd Dr Andrew Bowyer	+ 76027

Note: All these telephone numbers are internal. If you are calling from within the city of Oxford (but outside the University network) add + 2. If you are within the UK add + 01865 2. If you are calling from outside the UK add + 44 1865 2.

All of the above may also be contacted via e-mail (e.g [firstname.lastname@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@magd.ox.ac.uk)).

# Glossary of Oxford Terms



*Addison's Walk, Magdalen College*

When you first move to Oxford it can be confusing to know what people are talking about! There are lots of terms that are only used in Oxford and until you've asked what they mean it is often difficult to know what people are talking about. Here is a list of definitions for some of the words that you will hear a lot whilst you're here, but whose meanings are far from obvious! The definitions given here were taken from the full glossary provided by the University. For the full glossary, check out the [Oxford Glossary](#).

**Batells** - This is the bill issued by the College which is payable at the start of each term. It includes accommodation and other expenses incurred, such as membership fees of any sporting teams.

**Blue** - The Blue is the highest sporting achievement at Oxford and Cambridge, and is awarded only to members of certain sports clubs who have competed in the annual Varsity Match.

**Bursar** - The chief financial officer of a college.

**Chancellor** - The Chancellor is the ceremonial head of the University. This is an elected position and the current Chancellor is Baron Hague of Richmond.

**Cuppers** - Any inter-collegiate competition (music, sport, drama etc.) for a prize.

**DGS** - Director of Graduate Studies.

**Domestic Bursar** - The college officer (often a Fellow of the College) with overall responsibility for domestic aspects of college life, including accommodation, security, catering and housekeeping, external lettings and sometimes sports facilities and administrative non-academic staff. At Magdalen this role is known as the Home Bursar.

**Don** - A professor, a lecturer or a Fellow.

**DPhil** - Doctorate of Philosophy. The PhD is known as a DPhil in Oxford.

**Eights** - Inter-collegiate rowing races, held in Trinity Term, also styled VIIIIs.

**Emeritus** - A title held by retired professors and readers of the University who meet the conditions set out in University regulations. Colleges have their own rules for awarding the title.

**Fellows** - In colleges, the senior members of college who constitute the governing body of the college. Colleges may also have other categories of fellow, such as honorary or emeritus fellows, who are not members of the governing body. There are also research fellowships of various kinds in the University.

**First** - Highest class of degree.

**Fresher** - First year student.

**Formal Hall** - A traditional meal held in college. Depending on the college, formal attire and/or gowns may be worn, and guests from outside the college may be invited.

**Governing Body** - The body defined in the Statutes of each college that has responsibility for the governance of the college. Most governing bodies meet three times a term to conduct college business.

**High Table** - The table in a college dining hall, often on a dais, at which the Head of House and Fellows dine. Guests may sometimes be invited to High Table.

**Hilary Term** - The second of the academic year's three terms, running from January to mid-March.

**Isis** - The part of the river Thames that runs through Oxford.

**JCR (Junior Common Room)** - Used to describe a physical place and a group of people. As a place, the JCR is a room in Cloisters where students can relax and hold parties. As a group of people, the JCR refers to the body of undergraduate students.

**Junior Research Fellow** - A college academic post for those who are starting out on a research or academic career. It is usually a three-year fixed-term appointment at post-doctoral level or equivalent.

**Long Vac** - Long vacation - the name widely used for the period between the end of Trinity Term and the beginning of Michaelmas Term each year.

**Matriculation** - Ceremony at which membership of the University is conferred upon you.

**MCR (Middle Common Room)** - Used to describe a physical place and a group of people. As a place, the MCR is a room in Cloisters where graduate students can relax or work. As a group of people, the MCR refers to the body of graduate students.

**Michaelmas Term** - The first term of the academic year which begins in October and ends in December.

**Norrington Table** - A league table of colleges published annually, showing comparative performance of students in Finals.

**Noughth Week** - The week before the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of each Full Term.

**Permanent Private Hall** - A religious hall which has been licensed by the University to matriculate students for degrees. There are four Permanent Private Halls.

**Pigeon Post** - The University runs a Pigeon Post system (internal mail service) whereby mail is hand-delivered between the Colleges and Departments once or twice a day. The charge for this service

is incorporated into your Batells, so there is no additional cost. To send mail by Pigeon Post write the name and College or Department of the recipient on the front, and give it to the Porters.

**PRS** - Probationer Research Student. Students working towards a DPhil or an MLitt or MSc by research must apply in the first instance for admission as a Probationer Research Student.

**SCR (Senior Common Room)** - Used to describe a physical place and a group of people. As a place, the SCR is a room in Cloisters where SCR members can rest and recuperate from the stresses of tenured life...(!) As a group of people, the SCR refers to the Fellows, College Lecturers and those elected to Honorary Membership.

**Sheldonian Theatre** - The main ceremonial hall used by the University for events such as Encaenia, Matriculation, and degree ceremonies.

**SOLO** - Oxford's online library catalogue, which can be accessed using your Single Sign On.

**SSO** - This is your Oxford Single Sign-On, which is usually in the form abcd1234, where abcd is a code for your college or department. You need this for many things, including logging into your email and accessing the online library catalogue.

**Sub fusc and gowns** - Sub fusc is the formal attire worn on important University occasions (e.g. matriculation and exams). Academic dress has been gender-neutral since 2012, so all students can choose between two outfits.

At Magdalen, other than for Matriculation and Examinations, academic gowns are worn for Formal Hall on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays in term, and for formal visits to the President. It is also encouraged (but not compulsory) to wear gowns when attending Chapel services.

**Torpids** - Inter-collegiate rowing races, held in Hilary Term.

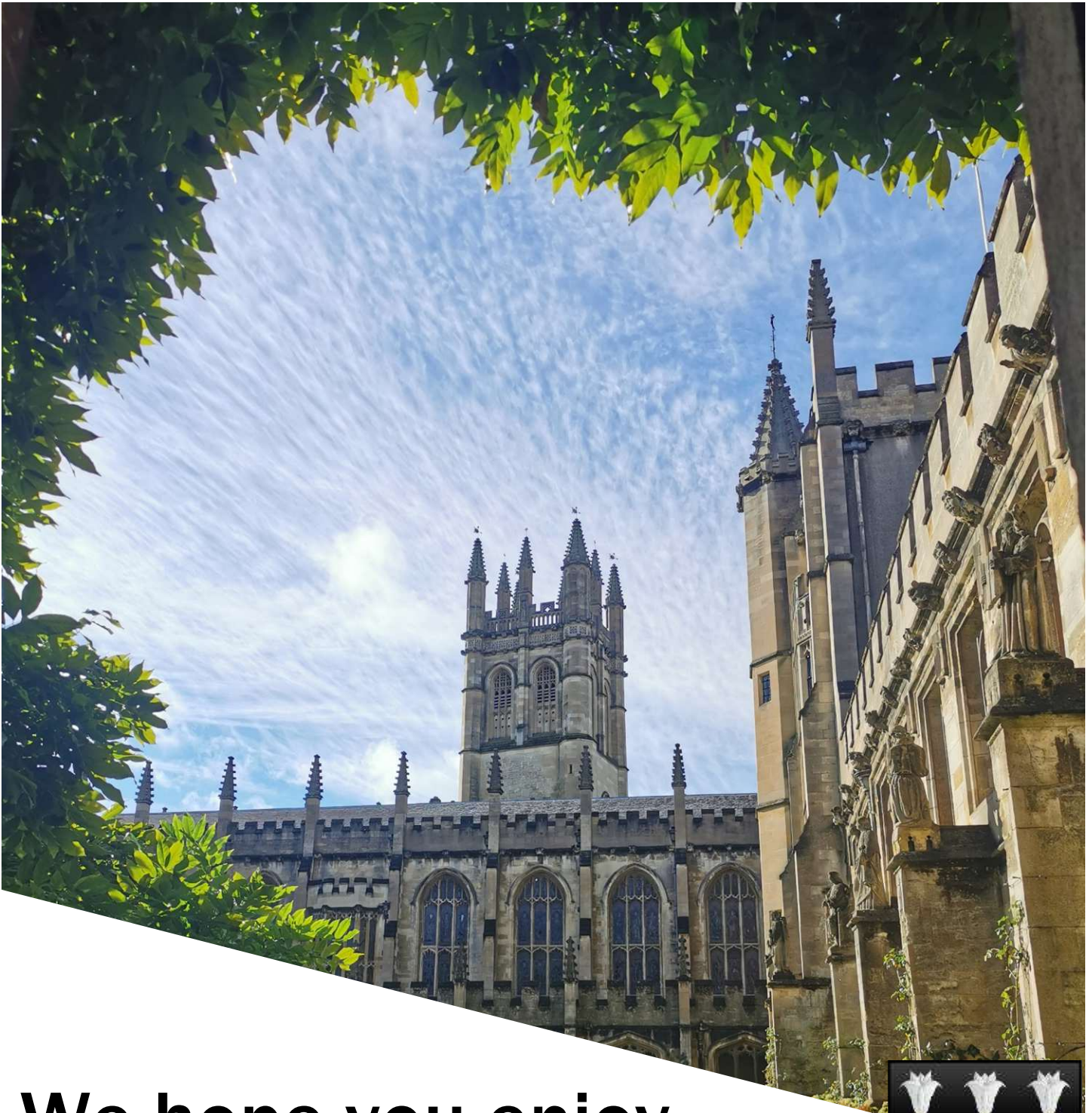
**Trinity Term** - Summer term.

**Tutor** - Someone who teaches students on an individual basis or in pairs. They may be a Fellow, JRF, or a graduate. They act as both a teacher and an academic guide.

**Varsity Match** - Sporting fixture between Oxford and Cambridge.

**Vice Chancellor** - The senior officer of the University. The role of the Vice-Chancellor is to provide strategic direction and leadership to the collegiate University, and to position and represent the University internationally, nationally and regionally.

**Viva** - Oral Exam.



**We hope you enjoy  
your time at Magdalen!**

