

Christ Church

**JUNIOR COMMON ROOM
FRESHERS' GUIDE 2021**



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Letter from the JCR President

Dear Fresher,

Congratulations!! It's been a strange and unusual year, and you should be so proud of yourself for having made it into Oxford. Christ Church has one of the largest JCRs (the undergraduate student body) in Oxford, made up of students from a variety of backgrounds who share a strong sense of community. This place will feel like home before you know it, and I can't wait to welcome you!

My name is Anjali, and I'm a second year studying Law. I'm from California, which means even after a year in Oxford, you'll probably still catch me out in the rain without an umbrella. I am very excited to serve as your JCR president this academic year! My role includes a wide range of responsibilities, but my most important task is to represent you and the rest of the JCR to the College. I am part of the JCR committee, which is made up of representatives who deal with different aspects of college life, such as entertainment (entz), sports, welfare, and several different identity groups. The Welfare reps, Hanya and Gianni, work to ensure the wellbeing of all students. They're part of the Welfare team, headed by Clare Hayns, our wonderful college Chaplain and Welfare Coordinator. If you need welfare support, you can reach out to them, and they're able to offer help and direct you towards resources such as trained peer supporters and the University Counselling Team. Yan and Bartek, your freshers' reps, have put together a wonderful freshers' week for you. They'll be your first point of contact if you have questions about anything from laundry to club nights.

Events and updates relating to the JCR will be sent to your Oxford University email address, and we also share information more informally to the Christ Church JCR Facebook group, which we encourage you to join before you arrive. I also highly recommend reading the Freshers' Guide, which has all kinds of useful information ranging from what you'll need to pack to how to call the Porters' Lodge. Please also feel free to add me on Facebook and message me if you have any questions! Older years, especially those on the same course as you, will always be happy to help answer any questions you might have, so please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the JCR.

One piece of advice I'd offer is to get as much of your set reading done as you can before you arrive. I know it can be tough to keep to a schedule during the summer, but I promise it will really pay off to be ahead on reading once you're surrounded by everything Oxford has to offer. Our terms are particularly short, at only eight weeks, which means you'll be juggling work, sleep and socialising, and getting as much work (and rest) as you can over the summer will leave you with the most time to have fun once you arrive. There will be a society or club that matches any interest you might have, and joining societies is a wonderful way to meet people outside college. It's also important to remember, however, that even if you don't participate in something in Michaelmas, you'll still have two more terms to try everything out before the end of your first year.

I remember how nervous I felt in the weeks before I came to Oxford. There were so many unknowns, and I could never have imagined myself feeling at home in a place so unfamiliar. Now Christ Church feels like a second home, even though it's five thousand miles away from where I grew up. I know you'll feel the same way, and I look forward to watching this beautiful place become a home to you too.

Please reach out to me with absolutely any questions, concerns, or worries (via email or any social media). The JCR committee is here to help, too, and are always available to help you. All our contact details can be found in the freshers guide.

Have a great rest of your summer, and I can't wait to meet you in October!

Anjali Ramanathan

JCR President

jcr.president@chch.ox.ac.uk

anjali.ramanathan@chch.ox.ac.uk

Letter from the JCR Freshers' Reps

Hello and welcome to Christ Church!!

We are Yan and Bartek, your freshers' reps and we are here to help you transition into your life here at Christ Church (aka ChCh/the House) as well as organising your freshers' week! Firstly, a massive congratulations! Getting into Oxford is no easy feat especially with the disturbances of the pandemic so please do feel incredibly proud, you have worked hard to be here, and Christ Church is proud to have you!

A little introduction about ourselves:

Yan



Hi, my name is Yan and I am a second year Experimental Psychologist. I'm from Suffolk and I went to sixth form in Essex before coming to Oxford. My interests include neuroscience and advances in neurosurgery as well as the effect of socioeconomic status on childhood development. In my spare time I enjoy visiting new places in Oxford with my friends; Oxford is such an amazing city, so I encourage you to explore it as well as ChCh, your new home! I am also involved in college netball and I'm one of the Novice Captains for Christ Church Boat Club. Getting involved in college sports is a super fun way to meet new people and de-stress whether you are a beginner or have been playing for years!

Bartek



My name is Bartek and I am a second year studying Law with French Law. I originally come from a small town in southern Poland, but before coming to the UK, I spent two years studying in an international IB school in Tel Aviv. I am very much involved in a number of student societies, including the Law Society (strongly recommend joining for fantastic career events and legendary socials!), the Polish Society and the Oxford Strategy Group. So far, they have taken up most of my free time, so I haven't really had time for sports, but this term, I'm joining rowing, so expect to see me at introductory sessions for novices! Apart from that, I am strongly interested in global politics, European integration, and, increasingly, the start-up environment..

We understand that this transition can be difficult, particularly with the difficulties that we faced and are still facing during the pandemic. But fear not, Christ Church is a wonderful place that you will get to call home for the duration of your degree. You will be surrounded by wonderful friends and knowledgeable tutors that will support you along the way. Christ Church has fantastic welfare support that you can reach out to at any time such as the welfare reps, peer supporters, the Wardens and Clare: the welfare coordinator and chaplain. We are amongst many others who can help you settle in and talk to you about any concerns you have – please do reach out and have a chat (or some tea) with us! In addition, there are lots of welfare events to get involved in to de-stress and take a study break such as Brain Strain Tea (free tea and amazing homemade cakes!) and college sports.

As your freshers' reps, we have worked together to offer you a fantastic freshers' week! Before freshers' week a timetable will be sent to you, please check out and sign up to the events for some good fun! We have planned music performances, sports, orienteering (a great way to explore Oxford) and of course nights out! Although we do not have much experience, we have been told that Oxford's nightlife is very chilled: jeans and trainers are more than fine to go out in if you do not want to dress up. Christ Church is fantastic at organising cheap tickets in advance that will go on your battels bills, so you can buy your tickets from the college. Clubbing will be great whether you drink or not, if you do drink please do so sensibly and with the safety of you, your peers and the college in mind. However, drinking is entirely a personal choice and there is no pressure to drink at all during freshers' week or at any time during your time here. We have also planned many other events if clubbing is not your scene, including ice skating and movie nights and maybe even mini golf, which are equally as fun!

We hope that you have a really enjoyable week, but please don't push yourselves too much! Although you can get club tickets for most nights during freshers' week, having a movie night and relaxing is also great during the week. You will dive straight into 1st week work and most of you will be set work to do during freshers' week as well. Please also take the time to get to know Christ Church and Oxford and do your best to stay well! Freshers' flu is not fun for anyone and we would hate for you to spend the next eight weeks battling with it! We know that your first week can be incredibly overwhelming, but do not worry – things do settle down and you will get into the swing of things here. But if you are struggling, do not struggle in silence, please reach out to us!

If you have any questions or concerns related to university life, academics or just want to have a chat, feel free to reach out. Also follow our Instagram @chchfreshers which is where we will be posting about coming to Oxford and freshers' week. Lastly, again a huge congratulations, we can't wait to meet you in October!

MuChCh love,
Yan and Bartek x

Role of the JCR

The JCR (Junior Common Room) is the body responsible for representing the views of all the undergraduates in Christ Church. Every college has a JCR and a GCR (Graduate Common Room for postgraduates) and every student is automatically a member of one of these. Most common rooms are also members of Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU – see below). Our JCR is run by a committee elected at different points throughout the year at Hustings. There are general meetings of all its members at least three times a term. The JCR is there to serve the undergraduate members of the college, so if there is an issue or action that you would like to be raised, then the best way to do it is to submit a motion. A motion needs to have a Proposer and Seconder and must be submitted by email to the Secretary in good time a few days before the meeting. The motions will then be introduced and debated by the JCR.

These are the roles available on the JCR committee – there will be posters available around college with the current team and you will meet many of them in Freshers' Week. You can also find out more information about the current reps on the [JCR website](#). Reps and Executive Officers are appointed by democratic vote in hustings.

Executive Officers

- **The President**
Anjali Ramanathan: jcr.president@chch.ox.ac.uk
- **The Vice President**
Yun Kei Chow: yunkei.chow@chch.ox.ac.uk
- **The Junior Treasurer**
Lily O'Brien: lily.obrien@chch.ox.ac.uk
- **The Secretary**
Eliza Dean: eliza.dean@chch.ox.ac.uk

Elected Representatives

- The First Year (Freshers') Reps
- Female Welfare Rep
- Male Welfare Rep
- Ethnic and Religious Minorities Officers
- OUSU (Oxford SU) Rep
- Cake, Accommodation, Kitchens and Electricity Rep (CAKE) Rep
- Environment and Sustainability Rep
- Arts Rep
- Bar Rep
- Careers Rep
- Entertainment (Entz) Reps
- Food Rep
- Special Diets Rep
- RAG (Raising and Giving) Reps
- Sports Rep

Appointed Officers

- LGBTQ+ Reps
- Returning Officer
- Access Officers
- IT Officer
- International Officer
- Peer Support Coordinator
- Disabled Students Officer
- Gender Equality Officer
- Inreach Officer
- Liddell Rep

Attached Representatives

- Space-Time Rep
- Sound Engineer
- Library Rep
- Tortoise Rep

Subject Representatives

Subject reps are students who can offer informal advice on work or subject-related concerns. You will meet them during Freshers' Week, and you will receive a letter from them before you arrive in Oxford.

College Families

At Christ Church we operate a 'Family System' where incoming students are assigned two second-year students to look out for them, help them settle in and lend their support with work. At least one of your parents will be reading your subject or something similar, so they will be able to provide lots of advice for the first essay or work sheet! You should receive a letter shortly from both your parents giving you a preliminary welcome to Christ Church.

JCR Facilities

The JCR is also the rooms in Tom Quad where students can go to relax, watch TV or enjoy our college cafe, and where we hold our twice termly Bops. It is open from 6am-3am and houses the following facilities:

- Café, serving hot drinks and paninis (to be reviewed depending on status of Covid-19)
 - Drinks and vending machines
 - Pool table
 - Table Football and Table Tennis
 - TV, Video and DVD Player
 - Newspapers and magazines
 - Workstations with internet access
-

College Authorities

Christ Church can at first seem to be governed by a collection of strangely-titled people! Although you will quickly get to know who's who in the College, below is a brief introduction to all those hardworking people who make sure that Christ Church continues to be a fantastic place to live and work. There will be several meetings in Freshers' Week where you will get to meet the various authorities. In the meantime, here is a quick run through of the senior figures in the House.

The Governing Body

A body made up of all Students (that is Fellows, not undergraduates) and Canons of Christ Church. These are your tutors and they have ultimate authority in Christ Church. The Governing Body is chaired by the Dean, and delegates much of its business to committees. It meets in full three times each term to review and to approve (or not as the case may be) recommendations from the committees.

The Censors (Senior Censor: Professor Dirk Aarts; Junior Censor: Professor Kevin McGerty)

The Senior Censor and the Junior Censor have wide-reaching responsibilities in College, particularly in academic and disciplinary terms. A new Junior Censor is appointed every two years from amongst the College's Governing Body, and they then serve a further two years as Senior Censor. The Junior Censor has particular responsibility for discipline in college, authorises room parties and other such events, and has the power to levy fines in cases of rule-breaking. The Senior Censor oversees academic matters such as requests to change subject, entry for examinations, room allocation, the academic budget, and much else. The Censors' Offices are located on the staircase in the far South East of Tom Quad on Staircase 8. Both Censors are College Tutors with lots of experience with students and the academic problems they may face. They are available to discuss any such problems, and the Junior Censor has 'drop-in sessions'.

The Academic Registrar (Ms Helen ETTY)

The Academic Registrar heads the Academic Office team and deals with a number of academic and non-academic matters. [The Academic Office](#) should be the first point of contact for students with any academic or general queries.

The Treasurer (Mr James Lawrie)

This is not a person you are likely to come across very often, but nevertheless he is an important college officer. He is the smart man with the dog (named Rufus), collapsible bicycle and tuneful whistle. As you would expect, he is in charge of the House's finances.

The Steward (Ms Pauline Linières-Hartley)

The Steward is in charge of domestic affairs within College. She employs all domestic staff (including all the Porters and Scouts) and has ultimate responsibility over accommodation and Hall. She also coordinates Christ Church's bustling tourist trade and oversees vacation conferences.

The Manciple (Ms Jacqueline Billington)

The Manciple works in the Steward's office, and is in charge of preparing or answering queries about battels (see Finance section).

The Head Porter (Mr Juan Nogal Velez) and Porters (porters@chch.ox.ac.uk)

The Head Porter leads the staff at the Lodge (to be found to the north of Tom Tower). The Lodge staff are a knowledgeable bunch who man a 24-hour information centre. They deal with inter-collegiate post, spare room keys, external post and a multitude of other miscellaneous items. They are ready to help in most situations, and should be treated with the courtesy and respect that they thoroughly deserve.

The Custodians

The Custodians can be identified by their bowler hats and strategic positioning along the main thoroughfares of College. Their role is to keep the tourists flowing and out of the places they shouldn't be in! They can seem a little intimidating when ticking off nosy tourists but are absolutely charming to College members and are always good for a friendly chat.

The Clerk of Works (Mr Steve Brown)

Christ Church's remarkable handyman and his department are always on hand to fix things. The office is located on the south side of the lane running between Christ Church and the buildings by the Meadow. If you have any problems with your accommodation, please contact the Lodge who can then contact the Clerk of Works on your behalf.

The Chapter

Christ Church, as you may already know, is a joint foundation comprising the Diocesan Headquarters of the Church of England in Oxfordshire and a College of the University of Oxford. Therefore, one of the smallest English Cathedrals also functions as one of the largest college chapels. You won't necessarily come across the Cathedral's Chapter very much, but it's good to know who they are: the Archdeacon, Sub-Dean, Precentor and four resident canons (all holding impressive University Chairs such as the Regius Professorship of Divinity) live within College (mainly in the large houses on Tom Quad) and are very much a part of College life.

College Welfare

The welfare of students is taken seriously at Christ Church and there are many different people who are available for advice and support. There is health and welfare information on our [webpages for freshers](#) and also on our dedicated page for [welfare support in Christ Church](#). Please note that some of this information will be updated in the coming weeks, so please do check back for the latest information.

The JCR Female Welfare Rep is Hanya El-Geresy – hanya.el-geresy@chch.ox.ac.uk

The JCR Male Welfare Rep is Gianni Tam McMillan – gianni.tam-mcmillan@chch.ox.ac.uk

College Facilities

Christ Church is fortunate as one of the larger colleges to have a fair amount of space which has been used to provide some really good facilities for students:

College Libraries

Christ Church has two libraries; the College Library and the Law Library. The Law Library is only accessible to students studying Law, and has 24-hour access. The main College Library has the advantage (or disadvantage depending on how easily distracted you are) of being a very impressive 18th-century structure. It is well-stocked for most subjects, but requests can be made to tutors if there are any texts noticeably lacking. Undergraduates can borrow up to 20 books at a time for a period of two weeks, and there is also a vacation borrowing scheme in place.

Both sides of the Library have large tables to work on, power sockets and Ethernet ports (although you can set up your laptop to use the wireless network by registering it at the Computing Office). Generally speaking, the left hand side of the library caters for arts subjects, the right hand side for sciences.

The College Library is open during Full Term from 09:00-01:00. The library closes for part of the vacation, and vacation opening hours are posted on the college website and at the enquiries desk.

The college operates an online cataloguing system, SOLO, used across all of Oxford's libraries, which allows you to search online to see if a book you are looking for is available or on loan.

The Upper Library can be visited on application to the library staff at most times during the week – it's a really impressive space, holding many first-edition copies of some of the most famous and influential books published.

You will have a library induction in your first week to show you the library and how to use the relative systems within it, so you needn't worry if it seems a little daunting.

The Cathedral

The Cathedral (which also doubles as the College chapel) is opposite Tom Gate and it is well worth taking a look around whatever your religious preference. It is the original chapel of the priory on which the College was founded and has some impressive and beautiful architectural features. College services take place regularly in the Cathedral. Details of Cathedral services and events can be found in the [Cathedral](#) section on the Christ Church website, and in the Chaplaincy Term Card, distributed to students at the beginning of each term.

The Meadow

Just outside Meadow Gate lies Christ Church Meadow, which is used to graze some friendly-looking cows for some of the year. The path around the Meadow is a lovely walk in the summer, and you can also walk down to the river and the Boat Houses. It makes a nice distance for those looking for a small jog in the morning, whilst when the weather improves in Trinity it fast becomes a picnic hubbub.

The Music Room

The Music room can be found on the ground floor of Tom Staircase 4 and is available for practice to any student in College. It contains a grand piano (strictly for classical music only) and a harpsichord – you can apply to the Tutor of Music to add your name to the list of people allowed to sign the key out from the Porters' Lodge. There is a book in the Lodge for booking a time slot.

The Art Room

The College Art Room is in Blue Boar and is open for absolutely everyone to use. It has easels, boards, lots of materials and space: the Christ Church Art Tutor supervises the room and organises activities such as workshops and exhibitions during term.

The Picture Gallery

You can find the Christ Church Picture Gallery in Canterbury Quad, and it contains an impressive collection of Old Masters and is well worth a visit (especially since it's free for Christ Church members). The collection was formed through gifts and bequests from Old Members of the House. The paintings are mainly 14th-18th-century Italian, and the drawings cover a wide range with most major artists represented, from Leonardo to Rubens. Due to space constraints, only a selection of these can be displayed at any one time, but they are rotated regularly and anyone who wishes to look at drawings not on display can contact the Curator of the Picture Gallery.

Sports Facilities

We are very fortunate at Christ Church to have fantastic sports facilities that our students can use. Please visit our [Sports page](#) for more information.

The Boat House

Despite owning all of 'Boat House Island' (the area just beyond the Meadow which runs alongside the Isis), the college decided to put our Boat House at the far end, as far away from college as possible, and set at a jaunty angle! Christ Church Boat Club also includes the graduate Kellogg College and has enjoyed quite a successful past few years, including M1 coming Head of the River (the title awarded to the boats at the very top of Division 1 in both the men's and women's competitions at the end of racing) in 2017. The Boat House stores all of the College's boats (named historically pertinent things like 'Cardinal Wolsey') and upstairs has a weight training room and the erg machines.

Even if you feel that getting up horrendously early to row for College is not your thing, the Boat House doubles as a bit of a social arena during the main races (Torpids in Hilary, Summer Eights in Trinity), with College members coming to cheer on the Christ Church boats.

College Punts

This quintessential summer pastime is available for Christ Church students during Trinity. We have three punts available to book – there is a small annual charge of £5 added to battels for the maintenance of these and a small charge for using them (but it's far less than the commercial boats). You can book them online using the Sports booking system. Confirmation from them can take a couple of days so make sure to create an account in advance.

The Undercroft

Affectionately known as ‘The Undie’ for short, the College bar can be found in Schools Quad just below the Lee Building. It’s quite small (which means it pretty much always has a buzzing atmosphere...) but the drinks are very reasonably priced and it boasts a juke box, sofas and televisions.

Lawns and Gardens

According to the college Blue Book (the book of rules which you will receive electronically) you may not go on the grass in Tom Quad unless you have dined in Formal Hall during Trinity and are still wearing your gown! In Trinity, you are also allowed to sit on the grass in Peck, but no ball games are allowed on any of the lawns in Tom, Peck or Blue Boar.

During Trinity and the first four weeks of Michaelmas, the Masters’ Garden is open during the day for members of the college to relax free from the burden of tourists. It’s a really lovely space and perfect for whiling away the sunny days. You can also play croquet there.

College Societies

There are a number of different student societies at Christ Church, which cater for all sorts of interests. Please visit our [College Societies page](#) for more information.

If you are interested in choral singing, please [read this letter from the Choir Director and Choir Manager](#).

What to Bring

We’ve compiled a list of the absolute essentials and commonly used objects that will be good to bring with you – panic not! Your room will already contain a sink, fridge, pin board and desk lamp, as well as all the usual pieces of furniture.

Essentials

- Duvet and covers
- Pillows and cases
- Sheets
- A set of towels

Very useful (you can bring these items with you, or they can be purchased in Oxford)

- Mugs and glasses
- Plates and cutlery
- Washing up liquid, sponges and a tea towel
- Kettle
- Tea, coffee, snacks
- Bottle opener/corkscrew
- Laundry basket
- Washing powder
- Laptop
- Extension lead/multi-socket
- Alarm clock – crucial for getting up after late nights
- A mobile phone – pretty essential for Oxford life

Work and Play

- Stationery – pens, pencils, highlighters, paper, hole punch, staplers, calculator. Drawing pins are useful as the only place you can put up posters is on your pin board!
 - Files/notebooks.
 - Stuff to decorate your room – photos, pictures, posters, cushions, throws, you want it to be homely!
 - Textbooks/set texts.
-

Computers and Internet

Although the requirements for word processing and internet use vary from course to course, it is strongly recommended that you bring your own computer to make your life as easy as possible. Please look at the [IT information on the website](#).

Email

You are given an individual email account from the Oxford University Computing Services. For students at Christ Church, the email address will usually be in this format:

firstname.lastname@chch.ox.ac.uk

The email service that Oxford uses is Microsoft Exchange, and the web address is <https://nexus.ox.ac.uk>. Your username will be the prefix 'chri' followed by an individual four-digit number you will receive when you come up.

There is more information available here: <https://help.it.ox.ac.uk/oxford-username-and-sso>

You will need to sign your University card form and return it NOW so that your email account can start before you arrive – it's vitally important that you do this as soon as possible, as Oxford tends to run off email and you don't want to miss any important information!

You will automatically be added to the JCR mailing list for Christ Church, and the University-wide one for your faculty – it's also a really useful point of contact for your friends, and any clubs or societies that you might want to belong to.

Printing

The Computer Room is equipped with computers and several printers and is located at the bottom of Peck Staircase 9. The door is operated by your fob, which will gain you access across college to rooms too.

In order to activate your account on the college computers and use the printers, you will need to log on to the following web page using your Oxford SSO credentials (the same credentials as your email account) and set the password for your local Christ Church network account. Printing in the Computer Room costs 5p per sheet in black and white and 20p per sheet in colour and use is charged to your battles. If you intend on regularly using the printers, a memory stick to transfer documents will be very useful.

Bringing your own printer can be very useful, but it can be expensive to run and you may find yourself besieged by requests to print off friends' essays! Also, wireless printers may cause interference with the wireless network provided within college.

Bicycles

Oxford is a very bike-friendly city and some of you may wish to bring one up with you. This is especially advisable if you plan on playing a lot of sport (both Christ Church and the University Sports grounds are a 5-minute cycle compared to a 15-minute walk) or if your subject faculty or library are a fair distance from college.

Don't worry if you don't have a bike or don't feel comfortable cycling on roads – nothing in Oxford is very far away! The most important thing to remember is to be safety-conscious; the roads in the city were not designed for modern traffic. **Always** wear a helmet, and bring a good quality, strong bike lock to deter all the would-be thieves from pinching your only mode of transport (D-locks are always the safest).

There are two secure bike sheds in College, one at Tom Gate and one at Canterbury Gate, which are only accessible with a fob. There is CCTV in all bike sheds across college. Before you can store your bike in these, you must register it at the Porters' Lodge. This is part of a scheme run by Thames Valley Police – for a one-off payment of £2 the Porters will register your bike and give you a sticker to put on the frame so if it's stolen, it can be traced back to you if found.

Laundry

There are two laundry rooms in college – in Blue Boar Quad and the basement of Meadows Staircase 4 and Peck 8. Washes cost £2.70 per load and drying costs £1.30.

The easiest way to use the machines is to download the **circuit** app and put money onto a top-up account using your debit card. If this is proving temperamental (which it has been known to do) you can get a laundry card from the JCR (near the vending machines around the corner) and it works as a pay-as-you-go system where you top up online (follow the instructions on the back of the card).

The facilities can get very busy, so it's often useful to try and plan your visit at a time when you think no one else will be about (i.e. not Sundays), and to not leave washing until you are literally on your last set of clean clothes!

Scouts

Every staircase has a Scout – an Oxford term for the people who clean your rooms and maintain the staircases and their facilities. Your bins (one normal, and one recycling) will be emptied every morning, and your carpet hoovered and sink cleaned once a week. If you don't want your Scout to come in to your room, then just leave your bins outside your door for them to collect.

Your scout will probably end up seeing you more than your tutors, and will get to know you (and all your bad habits!) very well, so make sure you introduce yourself when you first see them. They have seen it all before, and very likely worse! It's important to always remember to treat them with consideration and respect as it's a tough job tidying up after hordes of students. They are very friendly and more than willing to have a chat or help you if there's a problem in your room.

Food

The cheapest and easiest way to get three square meals a day at Christ Church is from Hall (yes, the one from Harry Potter...). Dinner in Hall at Christ Church is the cheapest of all the Oxford colleges at just over £2.00 for three courses each night on the college season ticket scheme. Food in hall is of a high standard, and soon you will all have your favourite dishes. The menu changes each week, and the Food Rep will always try to take on board your suggestions.

Facilities for cooking in college rooms are quite minimal which, although it can be a little frustrating at times, has the advantage that meal times are always social occasions and a good chance to catch up with friends. In your room, you are only permitted a kettle. Anyone found to be breaking these rules will have the offending appliance confiscated (plus the risk that you will be the hated person who keeps setting off the fire alarm) so it's not really worth it.

Hall

Dietary Requirements

Hall is able to cater for all vegetarian and vegan students (and most other diets) at every meal. Students with dietary requirements should go to the Steward's Office with a passport-sized photo and your Bod Card, explain your dietary needs, and you will be issued with a corresponding card which you present to the servers at the meal.

Payment

All meals in Hall, except dinner, are operated on a card pay-as-you-go system – you choose the food you want and then pay at the till. Prices are very good and a cooked lunch or a full English breakfast will usually only cost around £2.

You will automatically be registered for a 'season ticket' for dinner in Hall, which means you will be automatically charged whether or not you actually eat in Hall. For the most part, this is the most economical way to pay, as the majority of people only dine out of Hall on special occasions.

You will be billed for your food (roughly £125, for weeks 1-8) on your termly battels. If you decide that you don't eat enough in Hall for the season ticket to be worthwhile, then you can opt out of the scheme for the next term and use pay-as-you-go instead.

The Buttery is located just off the Ante-Hall (the area in front of Hall) and is open before and after dinner for students to buy drinks from. Bottles of wine from the college cellars can be battled, although there is a limit of £60 per term, and all other drinks are paid for by cash.

Finance

Battels

These are your termly College bills and include charges for rent, heating and electricity and food, as well as several JCR levies, which are very small and contribute towards the upkeep of college activities and facilities.

Students who live in College are normally charged for their accommodation in Michaelmas Term from the Sunday night of 0th Week to Friday night of 8th Week (a total of 62 nights). Accommodation for remaining terms for all undergraduates are charged from Thursday of 0th Week to Friday of 8th week (a total of 58 nights). Full details can be found on the [Steward's Office Information for Undergraduates \(fees and charges\) page](#).

You must always remember to sign out and hand in your keys at the end of term; otherwise you may find yourself charged for nights when you're not in residence, and fined for the mistake.

Rooms are metered either individually or in staircases for heating and electricity; charges vary depending on the time of year and your own efficiency, but is usually somewhere between £20-£80 per term.

Battels are paid by direct debit, which you will arrange in advance with a form sent to you by College – your bank account will be charged with the full outstanding battels balance on the Friday of 2nd Week, i.e. ten working days after bills are emailed out. If you have a query with your battels, you must notify the Steward's Office before Friday of 2nd Week. In such cases the uncontested balance only will be debited pending resolution of the query.

Student Possessions Insurance

All graduates and undergraduates who are living in are covered by a Student Possessions Insurance Policy which is administered through Endsleigh Insurance Services. The annual premium of £6.78 will be charged to your first battels bill each Michaelmas term. This insurance is fairly comprehensive, but can be updated if required. However, it's worth checking what level of cover you get from your family's Home Insurance before shelling out any more money. The most important thing is to obey what it says on the piece of paper from Endsleigh, and don't lose it!

Banks

There is useful information about banks in the Financial Guide for Undergraduates, which can be found on the [website](#).

Grants and Financial Assistance Funds

There is a range of support and assistance in place to help you manage your finances during your studies at Christ Church. For more information, please visit the [Financial Assistance and Support pages](#) on the website.

Libraries

Apart from the Christ Church library, the main library in Oxford is the Bodleian; it is huge, extending down below the streets of the city and has one of the best collections of books, periodicals, articles and journals in the world. There will be a library induction at the Bodleian for each subject during Freshers' Week, and this is probably the most important one to attend, as it can be difficult to find your subject's section, let alone the books you need, without it!

The Bod is a non-lending library (with some exceptions) which means you can only use the book within the confines of library walls – this has the advantage that you will never find that someone has checked out the crucial book that you need! The regulations on silence and no food and drink or mobile phones is more strictly observed in the Bod than at other libraries, and a guard may search your bag on entering or leaving each section.

Your library induction will provide full details of how to use Canvas (the University's online intranet) and the Online Libraries Catalogue SOLO; this is an invaluable tool for tracking down the books you need, and saves many wasted trips to libraries that don't have what you need available!

Due to the obvious problems of space, a lot of the Bodleian's material is not actually shelved in the libraries; if you find that a book you need is stored in the 'stacks' (extensive storage warehouses both in Oxford and around the country) then you will need to order it up. This is best done online through SOLO, as it means you can wait (usually a few hours) for your book to arrive from the comfort of your own room. Confusingly, in order to access the ordering up system, you have to use a username and password that the University will have assigned to you, the format of which is difficult to find out, but ridiculously easy once you know:

Username: your Bod card number (the one above the bar code)

Password: your date of birth in the format of the two numbers of the day, the first three letters of the month and the full year in numbers e.g. 19feb1991.

Another very useful feature of OLIS, the online library service, is that you can access a vast range of journals and periodicals (and some books) online as 'ejournals' through SOLO. The list that the University subscribes to is growing each year, so it's always worth checking to see if what you need is online.

Of course, each individual faculty will have its own libraries, which you will probably find yourself using on a regular basis. They all have their own regulations on usage and borrowing books, but the important thing to remember is that pretty much all the libraries will levy fines for late or lost books. Therefore, if you don't want your library trips to become very expensive, it's a good idea to keep an eye on those due dates!

Each student will automatically be a member of their subject's faculty library, however you can register to use other faculty libraries free of charge – just take your Bod Card with you to which ever library you need to use and the staff will be able to help you.

Photocopying is available at most libraries – to do this you use the self-service machines located near the photocopiers to buy a print and photocopy card which can then be topped up. Black and white printing or photocopying is charged at 7p per sheet of A4 and 10p per sheet of A3.

Travel

Please see the information on the [Coming into residence](#) page.

Contacts

We hope we've been able to provide lots of information in this guide about what to expect from life at Christ Church.

From our own experience, we can reassure you that although it can seem a little hectic and daunting at first, the College is full of friendly, interesting, active people across all years, and there are some fantastic opportunities available to get involved in at Oxford, both academic and extra-curricular. We are really looking forward to welcoming you all in October, but in the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of the people below.

Academic Office – academic.office@chch.ox.ac.uk

Accommodation queries – Jackie Folliard – Jacqueline.folliard@chch.ox.ac.uk

House Manager (for housekeeping queries) – Camilla Mirto – house.manager@chch.ox.ac.uk

Porters' Lodge – 01865 276150

Christ Church Website – www.chch.ox.ac.uk

Glossary

Oxford has its own obscure and at times, silly language. Hopefully this glossary will make sure that you don't spend the first week wandering around in total bemusement, and have you spouting Ox-speak like a pro...

Battels

The bill you receive from College consisting of rent, hall charges, heating and electricity bills, JCR levies and many other weird and wonderful expenses. Although it can feel like some fantastic free credit card (especially when battling wine from the Buttery), it's always best to err on the side of caution, unless you want to be hit with a staggeringly huge bill next term.

Blackwell's

Oxford's largest bookshop located in Broad Street opposite the Sheldonian Theatre – it looks tiny from the outside, but in fact it's huge, and can be relied upon to be pretty comprehensive.

Blue

Sporting accolade won when you play against Cambridge in the Varsity match for the University 1st team in any of the major sports. Some sports award Half Blues instead.

Bodleian

The University's principal library, called the 'Bod' for short. Operates as a copyright library which means it automatically receives a copy of every book published in the UK. Also, as it is a mainly a non-borrowing library, you can pretty much guarantee that what you need will be there.

Bod Card

Your own little "Passport to Paradise" – gets you into colleges, libraries and even clubs. Best to carry it with you at **all times**, either in a wallet or phone case. You can't even eat in Hall without it.

Bop

A massive college party held in the JCR, which is like a school disco but so much more fun.

Buttery

The bar located outside of the Hall (in the Ante-Hall), where you can buy bottles of wine and other drinks before and after meals.

Cherwell

A river running through Oxford; also one of the main student newspapers.

Collections

These come in two types:

- a) The test your tutor sets you to be taken when you arrive back at College, usually on the Thursday or Friday of 0th Week. You must wear your gowns.
- b) End-of-term Collections take place at the end of term for the majority of students. You are called in front of the Senior Censor, wearing your gown, where your tutors report to them on your term's work. There are also the more informal Tutor's Collections, which is exactly the same thing, minus the gown, and the Senior Censor.

'Come up', 'Go down'

These are expressions still widely used in Oxford to mean arriving at the beginning of term and leaving at the end of it. No matter how far north of Oxford you live, you will always 'come up' when term starts, and 'go down' when it ends.

Commoners

All Freshers (except choral and organ scholars) are commoners and wear a short gown. You can be promoted to a **Scholar** or **Exhibitioner**, usually after a good performance in your first exams (Moderations or Preliminaries). Perks include a longer gown and money deducted from your battels. Plus, the unusual experience of reading the Latin grace for formal Hall.

Crew Date

Exactly what it says on the tin; societies, teams and clubs (or 'crews') of one college or sports club, meet up with the 'crew' of another for dinner, drinks and general social hilarity.

Cuppers

Intercollegiate competitions, usually in sports, but also take place in things like dance and drama. Always fun for promoting college spirit and rekindling ancient college rivalries.

GCR

The Graduate Common Room – located just above the JCR in Tom Quad, but kitted out in much nicer furniture. It is known as the MCR in other colleges (M for Middle).

Gowns

You'll be required to wear one of these on several occasions, especially in the first few weeks and also during exams. Unless you're a choral or organ scholar, you'll wear a commoner's gown, which costs in the region of £20. You'll also require a mortarboard, which is never worn until you graduate, but is great for a substitute pencil case in exams.

Hilary

The second term of the year. Unvaryingly cold and wet.

The House

This is Christ Church's traditional colloquial name, derived from the Latin name Aedes Christi which means "House of Christ". Often used when cheering on our sports teams or just to be ironic!

The Isis

The name for the section of the Thames that runs through Oxford; also a termly student magazine.

JCR

The Junior Common Room, consisting of all the Undergraduates in college.

Junior Member

The term used to describe students at Christ Church.

Liddell (pronounced to rhyme with middle!)

Self-catering shared flats in the Iffley Road.

Matriculation

University matriculation is where you formally join the University in an early morning ceremony at the Sheldonian on the Saturday of 1st week. You have a photo with your whole year in subfusc and then a lazy afternoon spent having a picnic/in the pub in ridiculously formal attire.

Michaelmas

The first term of the year, and over before you know it.

Mods, Prelims

These are the first official exams you take. For psychologists, lawyers and theologians they are at the end of Hilary; for others they will be towards the end of Trinity of your first year (except classicists, who take them in Hilary of their second year). In some subjects they are called Honour Moderations, in others they are called Preliminary Examinations.

Oxford Time

In Oxford, everything runs 5 minutes behind (according to the city's exact location compared to the Greenwich Meridian). For example, 6pm Evensong in the Cathedral is actually at 6.05pm, and the same applies to lectures. Be warned – not many tutors accept 'Oxford Time' as an excuse for lateness to tutes.

OxStu

Short for The Oxford Student, the other student newspaper.

Peck

Short for Peckwater Quad, home of the coveted Peck Sets.

Pidge

Short for pigeonhole – where all your post arrives in the plodge. College and tutors will also use it to hand out notices and return work so you should check it at least once a day. Your name label is above your pidge, and you may have to share with another person – you just have to hope they pick up their mail regularly.

Plodge

Short for the Porters' Lodge, your first port of call in many circumstances.

RAG

The University's principal charity fundraising organisation, which stands for Raising and Giving. They run all sorts of great activities throughout the year, on a University and a college level through the RAG Reps.

SCR

The Senior Common Room - all of the Christ Church teaching staff are members.

Scout

The lovely people who empty your bins and clean your rooms. Always willing to have a friendly chat and a cup of tea – they really have seen it all before.

Sheldonian

A concert hall next to the Bodleian – used for official ceremonies including Matriculation and major concerts.

Students

For historical and pretty confusing reasons the Fellows are known as Students at Christ Church. We, on the other hand, are called Junior Members.

Sub Fusc

This is ceremonial dress, worn for matriculation, exams and graduation. See the University website <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress?wssl=1> for full details. Great for impressing tourists, some of whom are under the impression that we wear this every day! It is tradition during exams to wear coloured carnations (delivered to your pidge by your college parents); white for your first exam, red for the last, and pink for the ones in the middle.

Tabs

Students from Cambridge.

Tom

Can refer to the gate or the bell on top of it, 'Great Tom'. It rings 101 times at 9.05pm (once for each of the original college scholars) to mark the curfew in times gone by...

Trinity

The last term of the year; filled with punting, Pimm's and exams.

Trinity Exchange

Sporting competition with our sister, Trinity College, Cambridge.

Tute

Short for tutorial – attendance is compulsory.

Undercroft

The college bar, also known as the 'Undie'.

Weeks

Terms in Oxford are split into numbered weeks. 'Full Term' (which is when teaching takes place) runs from 1st-8th week, but there are also 0th week, 9th week and even -1st week! Weeks start on Sundays (confusingly) and Freshers' Week will start on the Sunday of 0th week.