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# Student News



## Week 8, Michaelmas term 2017

Student News is emailed to you fortnightly during term from Week 0 and contains key information, including deadlines, reminders and events from the central University. Further information is available from the [Oxford Students website](#).



## Student Barometer survey: only three days left to share your opinions

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The Student Barometer will close on Friday 1 December – if you have not taken part yet please don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard.

The survey is open to all full-time and part-time undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students (except final year undergraduates who are surveyed in the National Student Survey). You should have received a unique URL to complete the survey in an email sent from the Academic Registrar.

## Study information

### Mock exam and exam orientation dates 2018

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Dates for the Hilary term and Trinity term 2018 mock exam and exam orientation sessions are now available on the [Oxford Students website](#). These sessions are a great opportunity to familiarise yourself with exam regulations, venues and alternative arrangement adjustments (if these are applicable to you). You must join the [Mock Exam WebLearn site](#) in order to register for the sessions. Registration will open in the New Year and those registered to the site will receive a notification when sessions are available to book.

### Book your degree ceremony for 2018/19

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If you are a graduate taught student due to complete your course in the current academic year, you will receive an invitation to book your degree ceremony from Tuesday 28 November 2017 using Student Self Service. You can amend your choice of booking date until Wednesday 31 January 2018, after which time you will be able to amend only your contact details and accessibility requirements. If you are a research student or on a modular programme you will receive an invitation upon being granted leave to supplicate. You can amend your choice of date or your requirements up to 60 days before your chosen ceremony date. For more information, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

### Applications for graduate study: deadlines

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Applying for a graduate course starting in 2018/19? Check your deadline on the [Graduate Admissions website](#) as it will be Monday 8 or Friday 19 January 2018. You must submit your application by the relevant January deadline to be considered for scholarships. Visit the [Fees, Funding and Scholarship search tool](#) for a tailored list of scholarship opportunities and the Application Guide for how to apply. Still have questions? Contact the [Graduate Admissions Office](#) or call 01865 270059.

### Embargoes on digital thesis submissions

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There is a new flexible model for embargoes on digital thesis submission as detailed at [Oxford Lib Guides](#). When depositing the thesis, you may choose from three options, unless determined otherwise by the terms of agreement with your [funding body or sponsor](#) e.g. 1 year for RCUK funded students:

- Open access (no embargo/immediate file release)
- 1 year embargo period
- 3 year embargo period

At the point of deposit you are expected to discuss whether or not an embargo might be necessary (i.e. self-justification) with your supervisor. Should they agree, you should select the relevant embargo period when depositing. If you require a period longer than the maximum offered above you will need to apply for dispensation from consultation using form [GSO.3c](#).

## Plagiarism awareness course

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IT Services offers a free training session for students about awareness and avoidance of plagiarism. Topics include how tutors use Turnitin plagiarism awareness software, and how to access and use Turnitin reports. Bring along an electronic copy of an article or essay you have written to submit to Turnitin.

- 12:30-13:30, Thursday 30 November, IT Services, 13 Banbury Road

The session is free of charge but places are limited and booking is required. To book, visit the [IT Services course booking system](#).

## GSS supervisor reporting open

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The Graduate Supervision System (GSS) is used to review, monitor and comment on student academic progress and assess skills and training needs. Following the student reporting window, which has now closed for Michaelmas term, supervisor reporting is now open. You will be notified by email when your report is available to view and/or print from your GSS homepage. For more information, visit the [GSS website](#).

## Oxford life

### Sports opportunities

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Even if you didn't sign up at the Fresher's Fair, it's not too late to get involved with sports at Oxford. The Iffley Road Sports Centre opened a brand new fitness studio, cafe, changing rooms and reception at the beginning of this month and has a variety of classes on offer including body pump, cycling and BoxFit. To see the full timetable, visit the [group exercise programme](#). As well as classes, Oxford University Sport is home to more than 80 sports clubs, many of which are currently offer beginner sessions - visit the [Oxford University Sport website](#) for a complete list and to sign up.

Another opportunity to support your fellow sporting students is by attending the Varsity Rugby matches. They will take place at Twickenham Stadium on Thursday 7 December and to buy tickets you can visit the [OURFC website](#).

## Diverse portraits now on display

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Portraits celebrating Oxford's diverse staff and former students are now on show at the Weston Library. The Full Picture: Oxford in Portraits features more than 20 newly commissioned paintings, drawings and photographs highlighting the broad range of people represented around the University. It includes BBC journalist Reeta Chakrabarti, astrophysicist Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, human rights activist Kumi Naidoo, and film and television director Ken Loach.

The free exhibition runs until Sunday 7 January, after which the portraits will be hung in the Examination Schools, High Street. Dr Rebecca Surender, Advocate and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Equality and Diversity, said: 'It is hugely important for students and staff to feel at home at Oxford, and to feel inspired by people they can relate to. This series of portraits will broaden the range of people represented around the University. All of those nominated and selected to take part have made enormous contributions to Oxford life and to society more widely.' For more information, visit the [Equality and Diversity website](#).

## Build a more sustainable Oxford with the Student Switch Off

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The annual Student Switch Off competition is underway, with colleges competing in a series of energy-saving themed challenges. The winning college gets a trophy and £250 towards an end-of-year event; there are also individual prizes. There are a range of environmentally-themed challenges, including coming up with suggestions for environmentally-themed songs; the best entries will win an NUS National Union of Students (NUS) extra card that gives money off everything from groceries to music subscriptions. To find out more about the various challenges and to get involved, visit the [Student Switch Off Facebook page](#).

## Seven amazing collections to discover for free

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Did you know that students receive free admission to the University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums? Explore Britain's oldest botanic garden, located just off the High Street, or go on a journey through religion at the Ashmolean Museum's Imagining the Divine exhibition. Just show your University Card to enjoy free admission to both. Visit the [Mindgrowing website](#) for more information or sign up for the termly newsletter by emailing [glam.communications@ox.ac.uk](mailto:glam.communications@ox.ac.uk).

## Help improve the University's websites

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Student volunteers are needed to help gather insights into how the University's various websites could be structured and organised. The research will take the form of an online 'card-sorting' activity, and will help to inform the future of University

websites (excluding college sites).

To participate, visit the [Optimalsort website](#) and follow the instructions before Friday 1 December. The exercise should take no longer than 10 to 15 minute.

## Opportunities

### Languages

#### Short courses at the Language Centre

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Want to brush up on your language skills? The Language Centre will run a series of short courses in Week 9, including beginner's Chinese, Italian, Japanese and Spanish, as well as an academic writing course for students who speak English as an additional language. The courses all take place from Monday 4 - Friday 8 December. See the [Language Centre website](#) or email [admin@lang.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admin@lang.ox.ac.uk) for further information.

### Scholarships

#### Apply now to become a Laidlaw Scholar

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The Laidlaw Scholars Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme gives you the opportunity to carry out research on a topic of your choice at any world-leading institution. Scholars get a stipend of up to £9,500 to conduct research and will gain leadership training that can lead to a professional qualification. To apply by Monday 8 January, visit the [Careers Service website](#).

#### Summer school in Hong Kong

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Looking for an opportunity to make a difference and expand your experience? Applications are now open for next year's Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Summer School, taking place at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 1-9 July 2018. Themed around 'designing and creating sustainable communities', the School will feature a programme of lectures by local and international speakers, skills development, social events, group work, networking opportunities, and field trips to key Hong Kong sites. Discounted registration rates and bursaries are available for students from member universities. For more information and to apply by Sunday 14 January 2018, visit the [ACU website](#).

### Volunteering

#### Volunteering with the elderly

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Volunteering is a great way to boost your CV, get to know the local community and make a difference. LinkAges offer flexible volunteering opportunities to engage with elderly people in Oxford and help with the issues that they face. You can help older people stay connected by teaching basic IT skills, volunteering in care homes or helping at our one-off events. For more information and to sign up, visit the [Oxford Hub website](#).

## Medical studies

### **Volunteers needed for study in mood instability**

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Volunteers aged 18-35 are required for a medication study investigating the role of calcium channels in mood instability. Time and travel is reimbursed. For more information, visit the [Department of Psychiatry website](#).

## Events

### **Alumni Christmas events**

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Many Oxford alumni groups are holding festive events which current students are invited to attend. These provide the opportunity to meet and socialise with other current students and alumni during the holidays, and get involved with festive activities including Christmas dinners and carol singing.

There will be events in London, various European locations and the US. To find and sign up for events near you, visit the [Alumni website](#).

### **TEDxOxford 'think again' conference 2018**

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TEDxOxford is an independently organised TED conference put on by University of Oxford students. The theme for 2018 is 'think again' where speakers will talk on diverse issues with a specific focus on mental health. The 2018 event will take place on Sunday 4 March 2018 at the New Theatre, George Street. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the [TedXOxford website](#).

Student News is produced by [Academic Administration Division Communications](#), Examination Schools, 75–81 High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG.