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Student News

Preparing for Oxford



July 2015

Congratulations on receiving an offer from the University of Oxford, whether unconditional or conditional at this stage. This newsletter provides information to help you to prepare for arriving and studying at Oxford.



Get involved in clubs and societies at Oxford

With more than 150 officially recognised [clubs and societies](#) to choose from there is something for everybody at Oxford.

When it comes to sport, Oxford has a breadth and history to be proud of – from rowing and rugby to korfbal and octopush, the University offers pretty much every sport you've ever heard of, and a lot that you haven't, and at every level. Some leagues are quite informal offering a chance to stay fit and socialise with friends, while others are much more competitive, with some of the best teams nearing University standard. The main event for any University sports team is the Varsity match – an annual fixture against the Cambridge University equivalent club, where participants in selected sports have a chance to earn themselves the famed 'Oxford Blue', the highest sporting recognition the University offers. Whatever level you choose to play at, the most important part of sport at Oxford is you. Each club is always looking for new members, and many hold preseason training camps before the start of term, which are open to people of all abilities. To find out more, visit [Oxford University Sport](#).

Vaccinations before you arrive

Oxford colleges are at the core of welfare provision, each college has a link to a group of National Health Service (NHS) General Practitioners (GP), often referred to as the 'college doctor'. You are strongly encouraged to register with the practice and will receive information from your college on how to do so.

Due to an increase in cases of Meningitis type W, new first year students (aged under 25) at all UK universities are now recommended to have the Meningitis ACWY vaccine. This is different from the previous Meningitis C vaccine. Please make an appointment with your local doctor/general practice to have this vaccine before coming to Oxford. The ACWY vaccine has not been part of the routine immunisation schedule before, although some people will have had it for travel purposes. If you have had the ACWY vaccine in the last five years, you do not need another dose.

If you have not had both the normal doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, it is strongly recommended that you are immunised before coming to Oxford, as there have been clusters of cases of mumps and measles at various universities. The MMR vaccine can be given at the same time as the ACWY vaccine if required. It is better to be immunised before arrival (because of the risk of transmission during events at the start of term) but it will be possible to have the vaccine later, once you have registered with a [college doctor or another Oxford General Practitioner if you prefer](#).

Contents insurance

All colleges provide rooms for first year undergraduates. Check with your college if you need to arrange contents insurance before your arrival at your accommodation. Some colleges have insurance policies that cover their students' belongings. [Endsleigh](#) is the official insurance service of the National Union of Students and offer a student policy protecting you against theft, loss and accidental damage on items including laptops and mobile phones. An international student policy is also offered by Endsleigh for those coming from overseas.

Changes to how Tier 4 student visas are issued and collection of BRP cards

If you are applying for a Tier 4 student visa from outside the UK, you will receive a 30 day vignette/sticker in your passport allowing you to travel to the UK. On arrival, you will need to collect your longer visa for the duration of your course in the form of a biometric residence permit (BRP) either from the Examination Schools between 09:00-17:00 from Tuesday 29 September - Tuesday 6 October 2015 (excluding Sunday 4 October) or from the Oxford St Aldates Post Office outside of this period. You will need to use the code 2HE627 on the online visa application form to choose the Examination Schools collection option. You will also need to let us know which

morning or afternoon you intend to collect the card. For more information on how to select the relevant option, please read the [Oxford guide to completing your visa application](#).

Your community

A great way of getting to know Oxford is to contribute to the local community. With students making up 24% of the city's population the positive impact you can make is enormous. While the vast majority of Oxford University students are members of a college community, you are situated in the heart of a diverse and multi-cultural city which is waiting to be explored. Volunteering through the [Oxford University Student Union](#), [Oxford Hub](#) or a wide range of [community projects](#) is a great way to make a positive contribution to your local area and to get involved in your chosen cause or passion. Volunteering opportunities also act as a valuable addition to your CV and help broaden your horizons with a view to future employment. For more information, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

The Oxford Careers Network

The Oxford Careers Network is a fantastic way to learn about how to get ahead in your chosen career from University of Oxford alumni who have already achieved success in a wide range of employment sectors. You can use the network to find inspiration on what you could do with your degree subject, gap year activities, and options for further study. Find out more from the [Careers Service website](#).

Note: This email has been sent to conditional and unconditional University of Oxford offer holders. This email does not mean that your place is confirmed.

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