I made an open application as I really couldn't decide. I love the college I was assigned to. Nicole, 1st year





Choosing a college

You will have read through the previous pages on each of the Oxford colleges that admit undergraduates but still may be unsure as to which one to choose. Here are some questions we are often asked about choosing a college. We hope you find the answers helpful.

Does it matter which college I go to?

Not really. Colleges have a lot more in common than they have differences, and whichever college you go to, you will be studying for the same degree at the end of your course.

Do I have to choose a college?

No, although you can express a preference by entering a particular college's code when you apply (see 'UCAS campus codes' at ox.ac.uk/ugcolls). You might do this if you'd prefer a particular size, age or location of college. To check which colleges offer your course, see pp 126–127.

What if I don't want to choose?

No problem. You can make an 'open' application by choosing campus code '9' on your UCAS application. This means we will randomly assign your application to a college or hall that offers your course. This does not affect your chances of getting a place. In 2013, 18.5% of applicants chose to make an open application. Even if you specify a college, other colleges may also interview you, and may offer you a place.

I managed to look at several different colleges on an open day and although they all seemed very similar, one of them particularly stuck out in my mind, so I decided to apply there. I had two interviews at my college and two interviews in another and I got offered a place at the college I put on my UCAS application.

Jamie, 2nd year

What's the best college for ...?

Colleges don't specialise, and most colleges offer most courses. They all have the same high academic standards. Extra-curricular opportunities don't vary as much as you'd think, either – facilities may vary between colleges, but whatever you're interested in, you can probably do it at University level (see pp 168–171).

Which college is easiest to get into?

It is a myth that some colleges are easier to get into than others. Application numbers change from year to year, and the difference is filled up with people who have made an open application. Sometimes, if a college is very oversubscribed for a particular course, it might pass you to another college for interview instead. Many applicants will be interviewed by several colleges. (For more on this, see <code>ox.ac.uk/interviews.</code>) Tutors are looking for the strongest applicants, regardless of whether or not you applied to their college.

I was accepted to the college I applied to. When choosing a college, I just had a few criteria in mind. Camille, 2nd year

I didn't know much about the different colleges going into it, but love where I am - all's well that ends well!

James, 4th year



I found choosing a college really hard! I chose one to apply to but was interviewed at two colleges, and ended up being offered a place at the other one.

Imagen, 4th year

More on colleges...

The best way to find out what a college is like is to come and look round one (see pp 182–185). To get a student perspective, read the *Alternative Prospectus* at **www.ousu.org**



Where will I live?

First-year accommodation

Undergraduate students must live in Oxford, but there is no need to look for accommodation before you arrive. All colleges provide rooms for first-year students, and will make all of the arrangements for you. Your college may send you details of your room after places are confirmed in August, or they may simply give you the keys when you arrive. Most college rooms are single study-bedrooms, and you may have your own bathroom. Some colleges have 'sets' where two students share a study-living room, but you have your own bedroom. All rooms are furnished and have internet access. Your room may be on the main site or nearby.

'Living in' and 'living out'

Colleges are very safe places, with a Porters' Lodge at the entrance. The porters deal with visitors and oversee security. They get to know you and look after your personal safety.

All colleges will offer you a room for your first year and another year; in many colleges, you can 'live in' for your whole course. If you do have to 'live out' of college, or you prefer to, you can share a house with friends or rent a room in a family home. The University Accommodation Office will be able to help you with your search.

Living out can be a little more expensive than living in college, but it means you can stay on during the holidays. Students in college rooms usually have to move out at the end of each term.

All college rooms are either in the city centre or very close to it. Most private accommodation is also within a 15-minute walk or short cycle ride of the centre. In Oxford, there is no need to spend money on bus fares, as you would in larger cities.

Throughout your course, wherever you live, you can use your college's library, computer room, sports facilities, laundry, bar, common room and dining hall – most serve three meals every day. If you wish to cook, you may need to bring some kitchenware; your college will tell you what is provided.

Out of term

During the holidays, your college may be able to provide storage, particularly for international students. You may be able to stay on in college, or stay with friends who are living out. Some people use this time to work and prepare for next term; others just enjoy being in Oxford.

I'm now in my second year and live in college-owned accommodation in the city centre—it's really close to the science area, and 30 seconds from the college.

Jamie, 2nd year





In the first year it's nice to have the support of living in college: it's very easy to meet people, but then when we lived out we all lived on the same streets anyway. It's liberating, you feel like you grow up a bit, having to do the washing up and pay the bills. You also get to see a whole other side of Oxford.



I lived in college for my first and third years, and out in another part of the city in my second and now fourth years. You gain different things from each experience. It's a really nice balance. Living out in the second year is really good fun and quite a steep learning curve! It's all part of growing up a little and learning to live with other people. Being back in college in the third year was really nice though. It's a lot easier: having 20 yards to go to the hall where you get fed and 30 yards to go to the library. You really feel that family support when you're in college, especially during exams since everyone's there to Support you.

Imogen, 4th year

It's natural to feel unsure about living in such close proximity with people that are yet to become your friends but the strong sense of community that college life promotes means that your college soon becomes 'home'.

Kate, 3rd year





Exploring OXFORD

There are around 40,000 students at Oxford's two universities (Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University). They make up a big part of the city's 150,000 population. The city is youthful and cosmopolitan, with plenty to see and do.





Jericho

Just north-west of the centre, the part of town known as Jericho is famous for its cocktail bars and high-end restaurants, although Pepper's burgers are also legendary. There are also picturesque walks across Port Meadow and an arthouse cinema.























City Centre Shopping

You will find all the usual high street stores, as well as smaller independent retailers. The famous Covered Market has everything from quirky fashion boutiques to pie shops.

Theatre

The Oxford Playhouse is one of Britain's leading theatres, with regular high-profile productions. The New Theatre stages a variety of touring shows, including West End musicals and famous comedians. Some colleges have their own theatres.



at Oxford University ox.ac.uk/visitors/whats_on

around the city

www.dailyinfo.co.uk/events.php







Special events

Summer events include Cowley Road Carnival, the Jericho Street Fair and Oxford Pride. Summer Eights, the colleges' rowing competition, takes place every June and attracts large numbers of students supporting their college from the river bank. Whether you are sporty or not, you can enjoy the buzz and party atmosphere at the event, which lasts several days. Historic events include May Morning, where crowds gather at sunrise on 1 May to hear choristers sing an invocation to summer from the top of Magdalen College tower. Over the years this has turned into a real celebration with balls, parties and long opening hours.



Nightlife

Many student club nights are held in the city. Down on Park End Street, R'n'B, hip-hop, and classic 'cheese' dominate the playlists. Just off Cornmarket Street, the Purple Turtle offers late-night opening, and next door the Cellar offers a different theme each night, from dancehall and dubstep through comedy nights and live bands to electronica and metal.

...and if all that's not enough, the bus to London takes 90 minutes and runs 24 hours a day.







East Oxford

The area around the Cowley Road is vibrant and diverse. Its restaurants cater to all tastes -Jamaican, Thai, Polish, Kurdish, Italian, Lebanese and more. It is also home to lots of pubs and live music venues, including the O2 Academy which attracts many high-profile acts.







MORE ON

Music - p 170 Drama - p 171 Museums - p 174



with more than 600 groups to choose from, your time at oxford is full of opportunities



Clubs and societies

There are so many – not just music and sports, but literature, politics, performing arts, media, faiths, cultural groups, volunteering and more – that it may be a challenge to decide which to join. Whatever your level of expertise, you can become involved in any club or society that interests you. 'Freshers' Fair' at the start of your first term can help you find out what is available – and if a society or team does not exist, it's easy to set one up.

Media

Budding journalists and broadcasters have a wealth of opportunities at Oxford, whether they want a distraction from work or the first step in a career. Oxide is a student-run radio station combining a diverse playlist with talk shows and interviews. *The Cherwell* and *Oxford Student* newspapers publish everything from restaurant reviews and crosswords to investigative journalism and sports reports. *Isis Magazine* is Britain's oldest student publication, and Oxford has dozens of others, in print and on the web.

- > www.oxfordstudent.com
- > www.oxideradio.co.uk
- > www.cherwell.org
- > www.isismagazine.org.uk

Volunteering

Oxford offers a wealth of opportunities for volunteering, many of which can be found through the Oxford Hub.

- > www.oxfordhub.org
- > ousu.org/get-involved/raise-and-give
- > ee.ousu.org

The Oxford Union Society*

Established in 1823, the world's most famous debating society aims to promote debate and discussion not just in the University, but across the globe. The Union is also a social centre and there are frequent lectures by all kinds of figures, from Ronald Reagan, the Dalai Lama and Tanni Grey-Thompson to Johnny Depp, Stephen Hawking and Shakira.

> www.oxford-union.org

*Not to be confused with the students' union (OUSU)



OUSU

OXFORD UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

Run by students, for students, Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) exists to enhance the student experience at Oxford. A team of sabbatical and part-time officers, elected annually by the whole student body, work hard to ensure that Oxford's 22,000 student voices are heard within the University and the local community – international or home student, undergraduate or postgraduate, OUSU represents all Oxford students.

OUSU deals with University-wide issues like bursary negotiations and student support, representation on national debates surrounding higher education and its funding, liaising with the local community and much, much more. It also supports 12 student-led campaigns. These include RAG (Raise and Give, the charity arm of OUSU), CRAE (Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality), Target Schools (see p 184) and the LGBTQ Campaign (see p 181).

OUSU also provides services, including a free, confidential Student Advice Service, a student newspaper the *Oxford Student*, a student radio station Oxide and annual Teaching Awards. OUSU also works to widen access to Oxford, running the annual student shadowing scheme in Michaelmas and Hilary terms (winter and spring terms) with Target Schools and also publishing the *Alternative Prospectus*.





Sport

It isn't all rowing and rugby at Oxford. You can play for fun, try a new sport or just get fit. But, if you want to represent the University, you have the chance to join a rich tradition and some very competitive teams.



You have the use of some of the best sporting facilities of any university, on three main sites: the Iffley Road sports complex, the University Parks sports grounds and the Marston Road sports ground. Iffley Road is where many clubs train and compete; it boasts a fitness gym, an all-weather running track, an Olympic-standard hockey pitch, a 25-metre swimming pool, rowing tank, cricket school, sports hall and dojo, along with provision for Association football, lawn tennis and rugby. The cricketers play on the picturesque University Parks - the only place in Britain where spectators can watch firstclass cricket for free.

Most of the colleges have facilities of their own, from squash courts and fitness suites to boathouses, cricket pitches and lively clubhouses.

The University's Sports Federation helps to run more than 80 clubs – including traditional sports, new and esoteric activities, and everything in between – for anyone from the interested beginner to the international athlete. Whether you want to play in a serious team or a college kickabout, or you just enjoy running, swimming, or cycling, you will find what you are looking for here.

The University's top athletes gain the status of 'Blue' – an accolade that stems from the first boat race in 1829, when Cambridge tied light blue ribbons to their boat and Oxford adopted Christ Church's dark blue.















Music







From classical to jazz, through indie, rock, folk and electronic, all the styles of music you could dream of (and then some) are represented at Oxford. Whether you want to sing, perform, DJ or just listen, you will find what you are looking for here.

Oxford's live music scene is buzzing. The city's big venues (O2 Academy, New Theatre) regularly draw national and international acts. Many smaller venues host local unsigned acts, as well as regular jam sessions and 'open mic' nights, particularly in jazz and folk. RockSoc, the rock music society, spawns many student bands and organises group trips to gigs.

If you fancy DJing you could always start out at college parties, or try the student club nights that run open decks.

Singers can choose from traditional college choirs, Glee-style a cappella groups, and non-auditioned vocal ensembles. Musical theatre and opera are also popular, with frequent productions throughout the Oxford drama scene.

Those looking to practise their instruments or form a band will find the numerous college music rooms invaluable. These rooms are often equipped with a piano, amps and a PA system. Many colleges have their own drum kits.



Classical music lovers are well served at Oxford. Many colleges have their own choirs, orchestras and bands, providing a wealth of performance opportunities. Lunchtime and evening concerts abound, often taking place in spectacular settings such as the Sheldonian Theatre or the Holywell Music Room. The Oxford University Music Society (OUMS) runs four orchestras, a wind orchestra, a big band, a brass band, a string ensemble and the University chorus, as well as maintaining a performers' register enabling musicians to get in touch with one another and collaborate.

There are non-Western opportunities, too; for example, the Oxford Gamelan Society meets weekly to play on an heirloom gamelan, Kyai Madu Laras, from the Bate Collection (see p 174).



Choral and organ awards



If you're interested in a more formal role in the musical life of the University, you can become a college 'music scholar'. The most common music scholar positions are for singers and organists. Whatever subject you're planning to apply for, you can audition for a choral or organ award in September. (The exact requirements vary by college, so it is worth looking closely at www.music.ox.ac.uk/apply/undergraduate/organ-and-choral-awards.)

Choral awards

The duties and benefits of a choral award vary greatly from college to college, but will always include singing in the college chapel choir. A significant number of today's leading singers – Toby Spence, Susan Gritton, Emma Kirkby and Robin Blaze, to name but a few – started out as choral scholars at Oxford.

Organ awards

Organ scholars have a crucial role in Oxford music. In some colleges they are effectively the directors of chapel music; in others they act as assistants to a professional director of music. The experience is without parallel for those wishing to engage in music-making at a high level; learning how to accompany and direct choirs, and acquiring organisational skills. The chapel music environment in Oxford is extremely lively, and offers scope not only for outstanding work in chapel contexts but also for external activities, such as tours and recordings.

If you're interested in either of these opportunities, there is an open day on 26 April 2014. This includes talks, workshops, and the opportunity to join one of the college choirs for Evensong.



Drama

Oxford is full of theatre spaces – everything from the Burton Taylor Studio, which hosts student shows every week, to the nationally renowned Oxford Playhouse which hosts two large–scale student productions a term, to theatre spaces inside colleges throughout the University. More adventurous producers might aim for an outdoor 'garden show' in the summer term, or consider putting on a play in a nightclub or chapel.

Drama societies and funding bodies exist at University and college level. On stage, backstage or in the audience, you can take part in a great variety of traditional, contemporary and experimental productions.



Oxford University Dramatic Society

OUDS represents a huge body of students interested in making theatre. Each year they mount an international tour of a Shakespeare production directed, performed and produced by students, in association with Thelma Holt. The production often tours Japan. OUDS also hosts a national tour every summer, culminating in a run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

www.ouds.org

Tabs Are For Flying

TAFF is the society for those who work on the technical side of theatre and theatre design, including stage and production management, lighting, sound, props, and costume and set design. TAFF provides support, advice and training for students who are interested in technical theatre, as well as running workshops throughout the year.

www.tabsareforflying.co.uk

Oxford Imps

The Oxford Imps form the hub of improvised comedy in Oxford, performing *Whose Line Is It Anyway*-style shows every Monday night, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for a month each summer. They are a training and performance company, offering a boot camp and workshops for a new generation of comedians and actors.

www.oxfordimps.com

Oxford Revue

The Oxford Revue was the brainchild of Michael Palin, who was the first to combine the idea of 'sketch comedy' with 'a paying audience' in the early 1950s. Since then the Oxford Revue has never looked back, spawning some of Britain's best loved writers and comedians, from Alan Bennett and Rowan Atkinson, to Armando Iannucci and Sally Phillips, to Stewart Lee and Katy Brand.

www.oxfordrevue.com

Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor

Each year a major theatrical figure is appointed to give a series of lectures and workshops at St Catherine's College. The current Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre is Stephen Fry. Previous professors include Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Miller, Kevin Spacey and Meera Syal.

University Drama Officer

There is a full-time University Drama Officer who helps students to plan, programme and publicise their productions. The Drama Officer also organises workshops and talks, which are free and open to all, and can advise those planning a career in theatre or film on graduation. You can contact the Drama Officer about any aspect of drama at Oxford at drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk.







oxford university has more than 100 libraries





Libraries

Read your key texts...

Whether you're writing an essay or preparing for an experiment, you'll be given a reading list to start from. You can find the books you will need in your college or department, or both.

College libraries are open to everyone in your college. They stock the core materials for your course, and have generous lending arrangements. They are often open 24 hours a day, providing quiet, convenient places to study. The college librarian can help you to find what you need, and in many cases will order books in specially.

Subject libraries are open to everyone on your course. Staff in these libraries will include specialists in your subject area. They often run classes to help you make the most of what they can offer.

...or research your topic in-depth...

When you find something really interesting, Oxford makes it easy to go beyond your reading list and find out more. Most courses offer a chance to write a dissertation or carry out a research project.

Subject librarians are your guides to Oxford's world-class research collections. They can advise on the latest publications in your field, or on the best databases to search.

The Bodleian Libraries form the UK's second largest library service with combined collections of over 11,000,000 items on 117 miles of shelves. The Bodleian Library is a legal deposit library, meaning it can claim a copy of any book or journal published in the UK or Ireland. All Oxford students are entitled to use 'The Bod' for their research.

The Radcliffe Science Library has a fantastic supply of books to help with studying. College libraries are really well stocked too, so I have never needed to buy my own medical textbooks.

Alex

...without even leaving your room

Oxford has an extensive online collection, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes databases, books, reference works and the best online journal collection in the UK. These are available to members of the University from anywhere with an internet connection.

Find out more about what we have to offer:

- www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk for information on all libraries and services at Oxford University
- SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online) solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk lists our books and journals, in print and online.
- OxLIP+ oxlip-plus.bodleian.ox.ac.uk lists our databases, electronic reference works and e-journals.
- LibGuides **libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk** research assistance, subject guides and how the Oxford library system works.

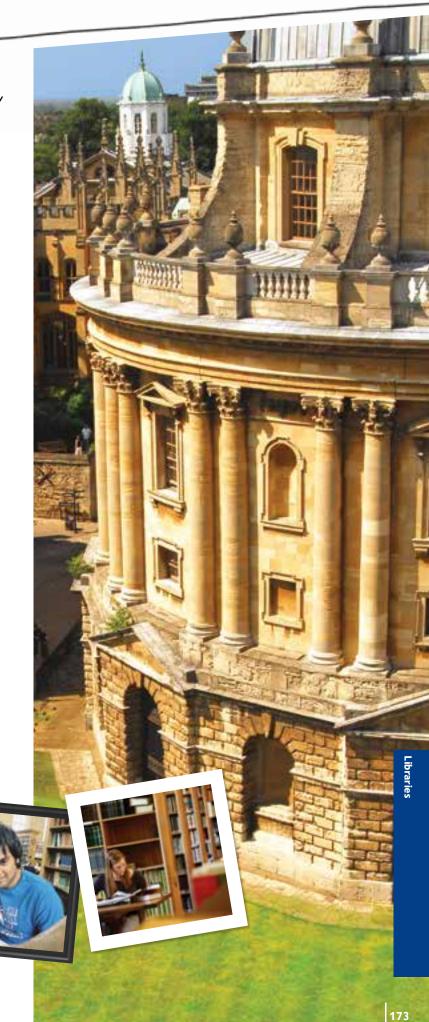
(Although, you might want to leave your room)

Oxford has a mix of old and new libraries, which offer a fantastic range of places to study. Choose from Duke Humfrey's (built in 1488, and used as the Hogwarts library in some of the Harry Potter films), the elegant circular Radcliffe Camera, the bright modern Social Science Library, and many more.

Sitting in the Bodleian Library at the same desk

that might once have been occupied by John Locke and Robert Hooke, I feel part of the University's rich history.







Museums and collections

Oxford has collections of international importance – databanks for research, teaching and study – full of wonderful treasures that anyone can enjoy. Here we highlight the five major museums and the Botanic Garden, but there are other collections in departments and colleges. All welcome volunteers to work with the public or the collection.

Ashmolean Museum

The Ashmolean is the world's oldest public museum and one of the greatest museums of art and archaeology outside London. The collections range from artefacts of the world's great ancient civilisations; to Renaissance Europe; right up to contemporary art from around the world. Following a historic redevelopment project in 2009, the Museum opened 39 new galleries and a range of state-of-the-art facilities which provide hands-on access to teaching collections. A new special exhibition centre hosts a major international exhibitions programme which will be of interest to all students, and of particular use to students in Ancient and Modern History, Fine Art, History of Art, Archaeology, Classics and Anthropology.

www.ashmolean.org

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

The spectacular neo-Gothic architecture of a Grade I listed building houses the University's zoological, entomological and geological specimens. Among its famous features are a dodo, the first dinosaur to be scientifically identified, and the swifts in the tower. The Archaeology, Biology and Earth Sciences courses make use of its staff expertise and collections.

www.oum.ox.ac.uk

Museum of the History of Science

The world's oldest purpose-built museum building houses an unrivalled collection of scientific instruments from antiquity to the 20th century. Astrolabes, sundials, quadrants, mathematical and optical instruments and apparatus associated with chemistry, natural philosophy and medicine are displayed, alongside temporary exhibitions. The collections are used in teaching History of Science and History of Art.

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk

Pitt Rivers Museum

The Pitt Rivers is a museum of ethnography and world archaeology, celebrated for its period feel and the density of its displays. Courses that use the museum's resources include Human Sciences, Archaeology and Anthropology, Geography, Classics, History of Art and Fine Art. It was founded in 1884 when General Pitt-Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his collection to the University of Oxford. In addition to a collection which now numbers over half a million objects, the collection includes extensive photographic and sound archives.

www.prm.ox.ac.uk

Bate Collection

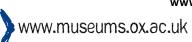
The Bate Collection is one of the most magnificent collections of musical instruments in the world. The Bate has more than 2,000 instruments from the Renaissance, through the baroque, classical and romantic periods up to modern times. More than a thousand instruments are on display, by all the most important makers and from pre-eminent collectors. Music and History of Art undergraduates make use of the collection.

www.bate.ox.ac.uk

Botanic Garden

This acts as a reference collection of 4,500 types of plant: it is the most compact yet diverse collection of plants in the world, and the oldest such garden in Britain. Plants grown here support teaching and research, in the University and elsewhere, and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The 130-acre Harcourt Arboretum is also part of the Botanic Garden and is the site of a new wildflower meadow restoration project. The garden contributes to the Biological Sciences and Medicine courses.

www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk









the university wi-fi network covers most of central oxford, including parks and pubs

IT Services



Mobile Oxford

Whether you need maps, library books, the next bus, or even collection times at the nearest postbox, Mobile Oxford is here to help. m.ox.ac.uk



IT learning programme

You can choose from more than 200 different free or low-cost courses each term. From fundamental skills in the common Office applications through to web design, programming and multi-media, you can find it all at courses.it.ox.ac.uk.

Podcasts and iTunes U

Public lectures, teaching material, interviews with leading academics – all available to download for free.



podcasts.ox.ac.uk itunes.ox.ac.uk

Getting started

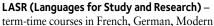
This webpage will tell you all about what to bring and how to get started with IT at Oxford, as well as how to get help if you need it: welcometoit.ox.ac.uk.



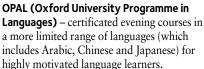
Language Centre

you can learn a new language or keep up an old one, whatever degree you're studying



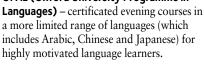


Greek, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Welsh, at most levels from beginner to advanced. These are primarily (but not exclusively) for those who need foreign languages for their study or research.



Special courses are currently organised for undergraduates studying Chemistry (French, German and Spanish), Engineering Science (French and German), Law (Dutch), Mathematics (French, German and Spanish), Materials Science (any of the LASR and OPAL courses), Modern History (French and German), History of Art (Italian), and Physics (French, German and Spanish).

Charges apply for some courses, but these are often covered (at least in part) by your department.



English language support is offered to international students - see p 178 for further details.

The Language Library has text, audio, video and computer-based material in about 150 languages, satellite reception in 13, and subscriptions to many







Support and well-being

student support and welfare are important priorities for the university, so there is always someone you can turn to

College support

One of the benefits of being part of a college community (see p 124) is that there is always help available if you run into any problems. This varies from college to college, but normally includes your subject tutor, student 'peer supporters', people in designated welfare roles, a National Health Service doctor and a college nurse.

University support

Student Counselling Service

The counselling service is staffed by fully trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists who are available to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. Its aim is to help you develop a greater ability to take decisions for yourself that effect real change. As well as individual and group sessions there are also workshops and self-help materials available. ox.ac.uk/students/shw

Harassment

The University is committed to maintaining a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all members of the University community are respected. The University has a network of Harassment Advisors in colleges and departments and runs a dedicated harassment line.

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/har

Childcare

Extensive childcare provision for student parents is available at reduced rates. University Childcare Services manage multisite nursery provision within Oxford, and four colleges operate independent nurseries. www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare



I am one of six trained peer supporters in my college. Our photos and phone numbers are up around college for people to get in touch if they want to.

As college LGBTQ rep*, I organise things like 'LGBTQ Teas' and dinners out with nearby colleges. Oxford is an incredibly welcoming and supportive environment, and my job is to make it even more so.

Daniel, 2nd year *see p 181

By students, for students

Peer Support Programme

Some 350 students are members of Peer Support Panels in colleges and departments and are trained and supervised by the Student Counselling Service to listen and respond to your concerns.

www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer

Oxford Nightline

Nightline is a confidential listening, information and support service run by students, for students. It is open overnight, 8pm–8am, every night in term-time. A male and a female volunteer are always available. users.ox.ac.uk/~nightln

Student Advice Service

The Student Advice Service is a free, safe and confidential support service available to all Oxford University student. We are independent from the colleges and the University, and we are here to give information and support to students that are facing difficult situations.

www.ousu.org advice@ousu.org



I was convinced somebody had made a mistake letting me into Oxford. I got to the point where I started to think I should leave before they told me to. My counsellor helped me to understand why I felt a fraud and we worked on how I could change the way I thought about myself. I got a first in Finals! Zara, graduated 2012



International students

We encourage applications from academically strong students from around the world, and welcome the diversity international students contribute to the University.

A good place to be

Over a third of our students (including 17% of undergraduates) are international citizens, and come from 138 countries. There are numerous student societies representing most countries in the world. In a survey of international students at 60 UK universities, Oxford was ranked very highly:

	Satisfaction
Expert lecturers	96%
Online library	93%
Research	90%
Course content	90%
Good place to be in	96%

Source: International Student Barometer, IGI Services Ltd (2012)

Academic qualifications

You do not have to take British A-levels to apply to Oxford, as we accept school-leaving qualifications from many countries. You can see the full list at **ox.ac.uk/intquals**.

There is great competition for places at Oxford which means that, even if you have excellent qualifications, you may not be offered a place. If the qualifications from your country are not sufficient, you may need to undertake further study.

English language

All teaching at Oxford University is carried out in English (apart from some language-specific courses) and you must have sufficient fluency in written and spoken English. If you are not a native speaker you may be asked to take an English test such as IELTS or TOEFL.

For details of acceptable qualifications and grades required please see ox.ac.uk/enlang.

Our first international student was Emo of Friesland in 1190.

Fees and funding

Details on fees and funding available to you as an international student can be found on p 120 and at **ox.ac.uk/funding**.

Coming to Oxford

Our Student Information team offers:

- Meet-and-greet service at Heathrow Airport
- International Student Orientation Programme
- Immigration and visa advice

ox.ac.uk/students/international_students

If you are offered a place to study at Oxford and you are not an EEA or Swiss national, you must apply for a visa in your home country/country of residence before you enter the UK. For current information please visit these websites:

ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visasimmigration/studying/adult-students www.ukcisa.org.uk

Visiting students

If you are a student from overseas and wish to spend up to one year in Oxford on a course related to your degree in your own country, you can apply to an Oxford college for a place as a Visiting Student. For details see ox.ac.uk/visiting.

DOWNLOAD

International Students guide at ox.ac.uk/int



MORE ON

Language Centre – p 176

who offer support in academic writing, seminars and formal presentations

International recruitment - p 187



ox.ac.uk/students/international_students



Mature students



Oxford is looking for the best and brightest candidates, irrespective of their age or background. Just like everyone else who applies, mature students need to demonstrate academic ability and commitment to study.

Making an application

The application procedure for mature students is exactly the same as for other students – see p 118.

Which college?

As a mature student, you can apply to any college. One college, Harris Manchester, and three of the Permanent Private Halls, Blackfriars, St Stephen's House and Wycliffe Hall, take only mature students. A college environment specifically catering for mature students can provide excellent peer support in which to enjoy the varied and fast-paced life of Oxford.

Accommodation

All undergraduate degrees at Oxford involve intense study and high levels of commitment. Undergraduate students are therefore required to be resident in the city during term time: either in college accommodation, in other accommodation within 6 miles of the city centre, or within 25 miles, if it is your family home.

Childcare

The University offers a variety of childcare services, including nursery places and holiday place schemes – see p 177.

Qualifications and study skills

Tutors at Oxford will take your work experience and life skills into account when you apply, but it's essential that you have also undertaken formal academic qualifications within the three years before you apply. We need to be sure that you will be able to cope with the demands of academic study at Oxford and that you have the study skills that are so essential to following an undergraduate degree course.

Many different academic qualifications would be acceptable. For further information on the qualifications you would need to make a competitive application, please refer to ox.ac.uk/enreqs.

Department for Continuing Education

The Department for Continuing Education offers a variety of part-time courses for mature students, including Foundation Certificates in English and History. If you do well enough you could progress to a degree at Oxford by applying to join the second year of an English or History degree course. The Department also offers a range of part-time Undergraduate Certificates, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in a number of other subjects. Some of these may be studied online, and all earn nationally recognised credits.

www.conted.ox.ac.uk

Oxford University
Student Union (OUSU)
has a mature students'
campaign which puts on
social events several
times a term and offers
the chance to meet other
mature students from
across the University.

Second undergraduate degrees

Studying for a second undergraduate degree is a common route for students who decide to change direction in their education or to pursue a new area of study. The application procedure and entrance requirements are exactly the same as for candidates for their first degree, except that graduate applicants will be expected to have a good academic record from their first degree (usually at least a 2:1 classification). Candidates may apply for 'Senior Status', which gives direct entry to the second year of the course. Please be aware that studying for a second undergraduate degree will have certain funding implications. For further details, please see

ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/information/elq.

For further information about applying for a second undergraduate degree please refer to **ox.ac.uk/sud**.

Before I returned to the world of academia I had several careers: accountant, police officer and interior designer! My first degree was in Business Studies at the age of 18. Since then I had hungered to study English Literature and at 38 found myself in the position to go for it. I was scared, having not studied for 17 years.

All the staff here are so supportive both academically and personally so what seems terrifying at first is soon made familiar and homely. My only regret is that I didn't come sooner!

Laura, English Language and Literature, Foundation Certificate and BA



at ox.ac.uk/mature

ox.ac.uk/mature

over 1,700 students are registered with oxford's disability service



Disabled students

The University welcomes applications from disabled students, and makes reasonable adjustments to facilitate access to courses.





The **Disability Advisory Service** (DAS) provides confidential information, advice and assistance with coordinating practical study support arrangements. With more than 1,700 students registered with the Service in the 2013–14 academic year, the DAS fulfils a crucial role for prospective and current disabled students. This includes students with disabilities including dyslexia, dyspraxia (and other specific learning difficulties), students on the Autistic Spectrum or with long-term mental health difficulties or health conditions.

Find out about disabled students' experiences at Oxford at ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/profiles and ox.ac.uk/swd.

For access to your course materials, the University can supply audio recordings, Braille texts or formats compatible with screen-readers, magnification and scanning software. Further information on support provided by the Accessible Resources Unit can be found at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/services/disability/aracu.

The Disability Advisory Service arranges support workers for disabled students, including note-takers, mentors and library assistants. Special examination arrangements may be available for students with a range of disabilities including specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. With appropriate supporting evidence, arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks, word-processing and rescheduling of examinations can be considered.

The **Assessment Centre** provides study needs assessments for any student who is applying for the Disabled Students' Allowance. Find out more by visiting **ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/assessment**.

The unimaginable has happened — I have been awarded a degree with distinction and a prize for best dissertation. I was able to do an amazing amount of work and edit my dissertation very fast with the assistive technology you recommended and put in place. For once I was able to do a vast amount of work without it impacting on my health.

Sabena, graduated 2012

The Oxford University Student Union **Disabled Students Campaign** aims to enhance the student experience and raise awareness among all students. **www.ousu.org**

As Disabilities Officer for the Student Union I was involved in making Disability Awareness Week into a permanent annual event involving speeches at the Oxford Union, a comedy event with disabled comedians, and much much more. I also help numerous people with disabilities get the help that they deserve.

Andrew, 3rd year

Details of the **Disability Equality Scheme** can be found at **ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das**.



Supporting your move to Oxford ox.ac.uk/swd

Candidates are advised to consider the requirements of their chosen course before applying, and identify any elements that might present particular difficulties. The Disability Advisory Service recommends that candidates visit their college and department of choice, to explore facilities and discuss specific needs, and is happy to help with visits by individuals. It is essential to contact the department and Disability Advisory Service as early as possible in the application process so that any necessary arrangements can be made well in advance of the start of the course. ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/contacts



Equality for all

if you have high academic ability and potential, you're the kind of person we'd like to welcome to oxford

You will have the chance to make a unique contribution while enjoying the opportunity to study and socialise with talented people from a wide range of backgrounds, and with a huge variety of interests and passions. Admissions decisions are based solely on the individual merits of each candidate and the application of selection criteria appropriate to the course of study. Students and staff all contribute to making Oxford an inclusive environment where every member of the community feels respected and valued.

Female students

In addition to an annual student-run Gender
Equality Festival, there is a vibrant Women's
Campaign within Oxford University Student Union
(OUSU). The Campaign aims to create a space
where all students can meet to talk freely about their
experiences and work to enhance the experience of
the University's female population.

Black and Minority Ethnic students

CRAE (the OUSU campaign for Cultural and Racial Awareness and Equality) aims to champion the experience of BME students at Oxford. Campaigns include an access programme and a video project to capture and share BME student experiences. The University's Race Equality Network provides a forum for discussion on issues of race, ethnicity and identity.

LGBTQ students

Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer – or questioning whether they might be – will find lots going on in Oxford. The University LGBTQ Society runs a wide variety of social events, talks, and discussion groups, while OUSU's LGBTQ Campaign works on local, national, and international issues.

Mature students See p 179

International students See p 178

I am involved in organising weekly discussions and fun events to challenge gender inequality within the University and beyond. In the past year we have held poetry open mics, a comedy night, and a Feminist Forum.

Sophie, 2nd year

CRAE is a safe space within which people can freely talk about hard and often silenced issues. It aims to make Oxford University inclusive and welcoming for people of all racial and cultural backgrounds; and to raise awareness of and celebrate cultural and racial diversities.

Josh, 3rd year

During my time as Trans Rep, I convened a series of lectures on transgender experiences, and was part of a successful campaign to remove gender restrictions on the clothes we wear for official University events.

Gail, 3rd year







The University's **Equality and Diversity Unit** works with all parts of the University to develop and promote understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. Their main areas of work are age, disability, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief, sexual orientation and transgender issues. In 2012 they opened a central University Muslim Prayer Room. Please let the EDU know if you have any particular needs in relation to your religion or cultural background. **www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop**



I could talk to undergraduate students who had chosen the course that I would like to read and who helped me understand better what studying in Oxford is like.



Wednesday 2 July | Thursday 3 July



Oxford's open days are your best chance to find out what studying here is really like.

You'll be able to visit parts of the University that are not usually open to the public, like laboratories and libraries.

Most colleges and departments are happy for you to just drop in on an open day, but some events require booking. You'll get the most out of your day if you plan in advance.



the students
seemed really
excited and
happy to be
at Oxford

DOWNLOAD our guide to the open days

READ our travel and parking advice

REGISTER for email updates

WATCH our open day video

ox.ac.uk/opendays





a lot of subject-related events, such as the demonstration interview

OPEN DAYS 2014



Oxford was truly an 'Open' day

| Friday 19 September

Planning an open day visit

All open day events will be listed at **ox.ac.uk/opendays** at least one month in advance. Colleges and departments may also list their events and any booking details earlier on their own websites.

Department programmes are likely to include talks, demonstrations and tours as well as the opportunity to chat to tutors and current students.

All colleges are open for drop-in tours, often student-led, and admissions and tutor sessions, although please be aware that some of these may require advance booking. Details for this can be found on the webpage mentioned above. When making plans, first check which colleges offer your course (pp 126–127) in order to shortlist colleges to visit. Some colleges also provide accommodation for those travelling long distances.

Other parts of the University are open too – libraries, museums, theatres and sports centres. Luckily, Oxford is a compact city and all the day's events happen within a mile of the town centre.

inspiring talks

All quotations are taken from anonymous feedback on the 2013 open days.

On the day

Get directions to colleges and departments from our volunteers at the car parks and railway station, and in our gazebos around the city.

Drop in to the **open day information centre** for expert advice on the admissions process and find out about student services like funding, careers and disability support.



Don't worry! You are still welcome to visit any time. Individual colleges and departments run additional events throughout the year. Please see the back flap of this prospectus, or visit ox.ac.uk/ugvisit.









Events in Oxford

For individuals

Open days

The main Oxford open days are on 2 and 3 July and 19 September 2014 – see p 182. These are the best time to visit Oxford, because so many colleges and departments will be open. There are other, smaller events throughout the year, including:



18, 25 & 26 March	Materials Science
19, 20 & 21 March	Law
25 March	Theology (and joint courses)
26 April	Modern Languages (and
	joint courses)
9 May	Geography

3 & 10 May Mathematics (and joint courses) 10 May Computer Science (and joint

courses)

ox.ac.uk/opendays

Taster talks and tours

We offer talks and taster tours of some colleges and departments during some school and college holidays, mainly for students who are thinking about applying within the next year. The programme includes a talk covering the benefits of studying at Oxford, including our distinctive tutorial teaching methods and college system, as well as how to make a competitive application. You will also have the opportunity to take a tour of one or two colleges during your visit.

ox.ac.uk/ugvisit

For UK Year 12 students

Shadowing schemes

Target Schools is Oxford University Student Union's (OUSU) flagship access programme. The aim of the campaign is to debunk the various myths about studying at Oxford, and to increase representation from students whose schools don't have much history of coming to study here. Across two terms, current undergraduates are shadowed by Year 12 students. For more information and to find out if you're eligible for the scheme, email studentshadowing@ousu.org or visit targetschools.ousu.org.

UNIQ summer schools

In July and August each year, the UNIQ summer schools welcome students to the University of Oxford for a week-long exploration of academic study. UNIQ allows students to gain an accurate and informed picture of the University and encourages them to think of themselves as potential applicants. Participants follow an intensive academic programme run by current tutors at Oxford. UNIQ participants live in an Oxford college for one week and take part in a variety of social activities each evening. Applications are welcome from students currently in their first year of A-levels (or equivalent) at UK state schools/colleges. Preference is given to applicants who come from schools and areas with little or no history of successful application to Oxford. The UNIQ application deadline is in February. For more information, please visit www.uniq.ox.ac.uk.











Pathways

The Pathways Programme provides information, advice and guidance on higher education and Oxford for targeted UK nonselective state schools. It runs free events in Oxford (supported by the Sutton Trust) including Year 10 Taster Days, Year 11 Investigating Options days, Year 12 subjectspecific Study Days and a Year 13 Application Information Day. Schools can check eligibility by emailing pathways@admin.ox.ac.uk or visiting www.ox.ac.uk/pathways.

Widening participation

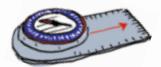
Oxford works with state school students aged 9-16 (Years 5-11) in Oxfordshire, Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire, to help them understand what they could gain from further or higher education, and what type of study might suit them best. From one-hour workshops to residential events, we offer an exciting range of opportunities to suit a variety of ages and target groups. Please do get in touch by emailing wp@admin.ox.ac.uk or visit us at ox.ac.uk/wp.

For teachers

We recognise the key role that teachers, careers advisors and counsellors play in students' decision-making processes. Oxford offers a variety of events to support you in your work, including study weeks and conferences, many of which are run by Oxford colleges. You can find the full list, and sign up for email updates, at ox.ac.uk/teachers.

Each February we offer a two-day residential conference for international guidance counsellors which provides an insight into all aspects of life at Oxford as well as our admissions process. To find out more please visit ox.ac.uk/igcc.





Events near you



For schools

School and college visits

The University of Oxford organises a range of events for potential applicants. Travelling throughout the UK and beyond, we meet with students, teachers, parents and carers. We welcome the chance to deliver presentations and workshops and talk with interested students about all aspects of applying to, and studying at, Oxford. Where possible, we are keen to encourage schools to coordinate with other local schools because this enables us to work with more students over the year and, we believe, enriches students' interaction. For more details and to arrange a visit, please get in touch (see below).

Higher education fairs and conventions

Oxford University attends higher education fairs and conventions across the UK. These are an opportunity to speak to an Oxford representative face-to-face, to find out more information about our undergraduate courses, as well as gain advice on the application process. For further details, please see ox.ac.uk/hefairs.



Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences

These events, which take place in March, are another way to find out more about the University without travelling far from home. They include detailed sessions on the admissions process, student life, interviews, student finance and the many different courses at Oxford and Cambridge. Admissions tutors, Admissions Office staff and current undergraduates are there to answer questions about applying to Oxford or Cambridge. For more information and to book, see www.studentconferences.org.uk.



uk schools and colleges

As part of the University of Oxford's ongoing commitment to engage with schools and colleges, we have developed a programme of regional links, so that each Local Authority in the UK is linked with a particular Oxford college. This scheme is designed to give each school and college a first point of contact within the University.

The links do not have any bearing on the admissions process and will not influence whether an Oxford college offers a candidate a place. For further information, to find your college link, or to arrange a visit please see **ox.ac.uk/linkcolls**.



International recruitment

More than 1 in 8 undergraduates at Oxford are from outside the UK, representing around 130 countries. We hold events for prospective applicants, their parents and careers counsellors in a number of countries around the world, with presentations tailored to different audiences, informing potential students about Oxford and our admissions processes. If we are unable to come to your school in person, we will be happy to deliver a Skype presentation to students.

For information on events in your country please email international recruitment@admin. ox.ac.uk or see **ox.ac.uk/intvisit**.

We also offer a residential conference for international guidance counsellors – see p 185. To find out more please visit **ox.ac.uk/igcc**.

For teachers

The Student Recruitment Team delivers a series of Regional Teachers' Conferences across the UK to equip teachers with the best possible advice for their students on applying to Oxford and to break down any misconceptions that might deter students from applying to the University. The programme covers all aspects of the admissions process from identifying candidates to writing references and preparing candidates for admissions tests and interviews. The conferences visit different regions across the UK on a biennial basis. For details please email teachers@admin.ox.ac.uk.

A number of colleges also hold conferences in Oxford. To be kept informed of all these events and to sign up to our teachers' e-newsletter please visit **ox.ac.uk/teachers**.



Admissions Information Centre

Our experienced and knowledgeable staff are here to help with any questions you might have about applying to study at Oxford, or what it's like to be a student here.

Email, phone, or drop in to visit – we're normally available 9am–5pm, Monday–Friday. There's no need to make an appointment.



Admissions i

55 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX1 2HS +44 (0) 1865 288000 study@ox.ac.uk





Oxford interviews – your quide

Explains how Oxford interviews work (with example questions) and gives advice on how to prepare.

Supporting an applicant – a parents' and carers' guide

Everything you need to know if you are supporting someone who is thinking about applying to Oxford.

International students' guide

Oxford's application process is the same wherever you're from, but if you live outside the EU there are some extra things you need to know.

Mature students' quide

If you'll be 21 or older when you start your course, then you are a 'mature student'.

Supporting your move to Oxford

If you have a disability or a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia, Oxford wants to offer you extra support.

Pick these up in the Admissions Information Centre, at an Open Day, or download from **ox.ac.uk/moreinfo**.



Alternative Prospectus

OUSU (see p 169) produces the *Alternative Prospectus*, which is written entirely by students, for students. This aims to give an inside view of living and studying in Oxford, the colleges and the application process. **www.ousu.org**





Oxford online







🚺 iTunes U contains all our podcasts, as well as public lectures, teaching material, interviews with leading academics and more. You can watch and listen on your computer, or download files to your phone or mp3 player.

itunes.ox.ac.uk



You Tube Oxford has its own YouTube channel including lectures and films about the admissions process.

www.youtube.com/oxford



Join more than one million followers on our Facebook page and catch up with the latest news and information about the University at www.facebook.com/ the.university.of.oxford.



Follow Oxford University at www.twitter.com/uniofoxford.



Audio tours

Take a tour whenever you like - or just listen at home. Our downloadable mp3 tours with accompanying maps cover different courses you may be interested in, as well as information about colleges, libraries and other places of interest along the route, interviews with students and guidance on how to apply.

ox.ac.uk/audiotours

Wall of 100 Faces

100 short videos of Oxford students talking about some aspect of their time here. There is a mix of undergraduate and graduate students from the UK and overseas, studying many different subjects, involved in many different extra-curricular activities and from almost all colleges.

ox.ac.uk/100faces

ox.ac.uk/study

This website contains all the information from this prospectus and more, with video and audio content and all the latest updates.















01:06





Witt McCallium

Will Crouch









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Oxford online



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Small Print

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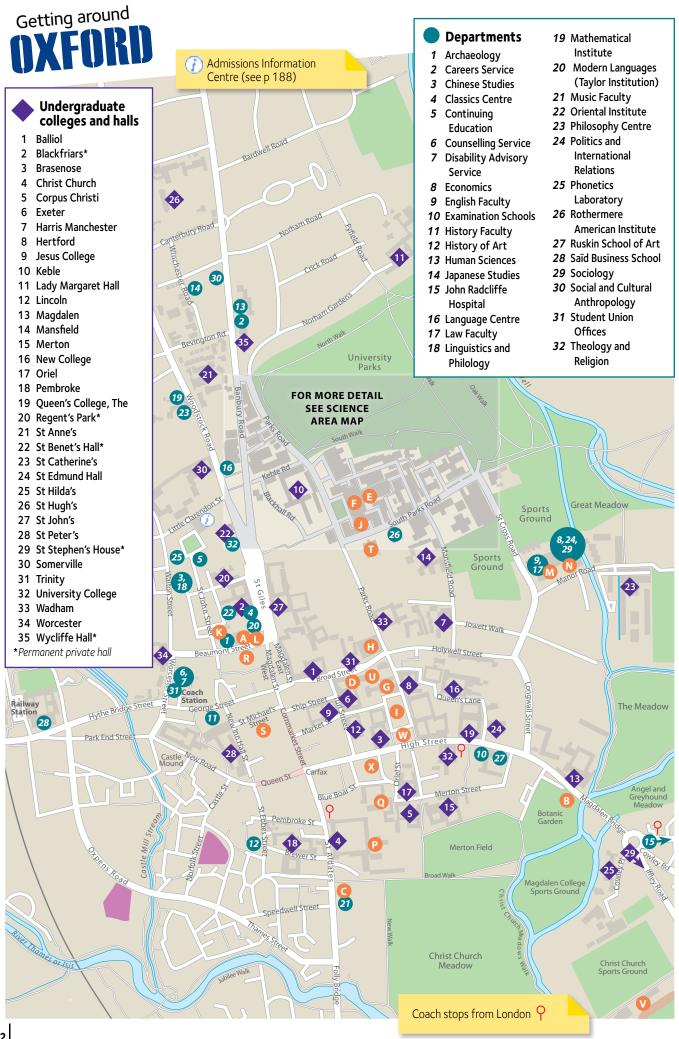
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Museums

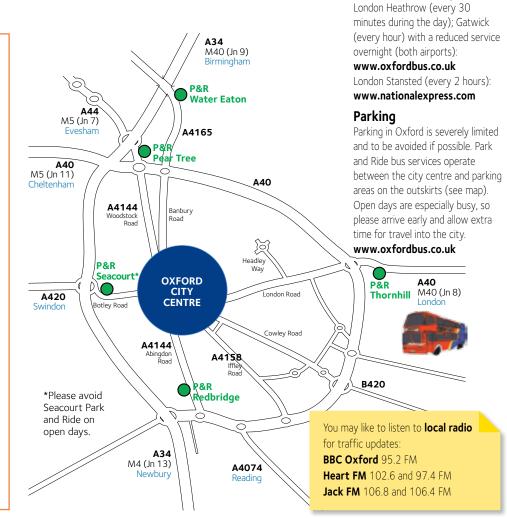
- A Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology
- **B** Botanic Garden
- C Bate Collection of Musical Instruments
- D Museum of the History of Science
- E Pitt Rivers Museum
- F Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Libraries

- G Bodleian Library
- H Weston Library (Bodleian)
- I Radcliffe Camera (Bodleian)
- J Radcliffe Science Library
- K Sackler Library (Classics)
- M Bodleian Law Library
- N Bodleian Social Science Library

Other places of interest

- P Christ Church Cathedral
- Q Christ Church Picture Gallery
- R Oxford Playhouse
- S Oxford Union
- T Rhodes House
- U Sheldonian Theatre
- V Sports Centre
- W University Church, St Mary's
- X University of Oxford Shop



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