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Student News



Week 6, Michaelmas term 2017



Student Barometer survey

University of Oxford students have the opportunity to give feedback about life at Oxford through the Student Barometer survey.

A link to the Student Barometer survey was sent to your University email address on Monday 13 November from the Academic Registrar, if you are eligible to participate. Please note that the 'from' field will display as 'University of Oxford oxford@euro.confirmit.com' as each student receives a unique URL link with some course data pre-populated. Your feedback will be used by colleges, departments, faculties and central University services to identify strengths and weaknesses and put in place changes to help improve your experience at Oxford.

Visit the Oxford Students website to see how the University responded to student feedback from previous surveys or email student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk with any queries.

Final year undergraduate students will be surveyed through the National Student Survey (early next year) rather than the Student Barometer.

Introducing Workplace Finder

Did you know that the University has over 150 places for you to study, from college and department libraries to common rooms and cafés?

Workplace Finder is a University of Oxford Innovation Challenge project which provides a simple but comprehensive directory of the University's workspaces. Using the site, you can browse a map and photographs of potential workplaces, consult opening hours and input search criteria to find somewhere which fits your needs. For example, you might need to find a quiet workplace where you can bring a hot drink and plug in a laptop, or perhaps you want somewhere which will be open from 9am, has a livelier atmosphere and plenty of light.

Integration with Single Sign-On allows the Finder to tailor the list according to which places you have access to. To use the Finder, visit the [IT Challenge website](#).

Digital entertainment and copyright advice

Whilst in residence, you may want to catch up on films, TV shows and music around your busy studies. Subscription services such as Netflix, Amazon and iTunes are welcome for use over the University network, however there are forms of software and digital entertainment services that are not permitted.

It is recommended that you disable any software, other than legitimate subscription services, used for downloading or sharing digital entertainment. In the UK most digital entertainment is protected under copyright and downloading or sharing these files is not allowed. When agencies run scans on University networks it can result in user accounts being suspended and even fines and disciplinary actions being taken against you.

To ensure this doesn't happen, stick to legitimate subscription services and [contact your local IT support for guidance](#) if you are unsure whether a particular piece of software is ok.

Events

Started in Oxford demo night

The #StartedinOxford Festival highlights and showcase the startups, spinouts and social enterprises we have in the Oxford area and promotes entrepreneurship in general. All students are welcome to attend the following free demo night:

- 6-8pm, Wednesday 15 November, Blackwell Hall at the Weston Library

For more information and to register, visit the [Enterprising Oxford website](#).

Self-branding workshop

What impression are you currently making? How do you want others to see you? The following self-branding workshop is an evening of practical, high energy, experiential learning where you get to tell your story in a fresh way and discover how you come across to other people:

- 5.30pm-8.30pm, Thursday 16 November, The Oxford Foundry, 3-5 Hythe Bridge Street

The session will be led by professional coach Tim Benton and is free to attend. Refreshments and pizza will be provided. It is the first in a series of Oxford Foundry workshops aimed at building confidence and enhancing employability and self-efficacy in students. To book your place, visit [Eventbrite](#).

Competitions

4th annual Oxford Uehiro Prize in Prize in Ethics

Enter the Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics by submitting an essay of up to 2,000 words on any topic relevant to practical ethics. Winners will receive £300 and runners up £100, and all four finalist essays will be considered for publication in the Journal of Practical Ethics. Visit the [Practical Ethics website](#) for more information. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 1 February.

Study abroad

Go International: stand out campaign

Universities UK International is launching a three-year campaign to increase the number of UK students studying, working and volunteering abroad as part of their studies. Currently, just 6.6% of UK students complete placements abroad, despite strong evidence that mobility can increase students' academic achievements and job prospects.

Here at Oxford, we help over 300 students each year to engage in study or work experience across 30 different countries. For more information about the opportunities available to you, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

Language

The Language Centre is offering two courses in Week 9 (Monday 4- Friday 8 December):

Modern Foreign Language Short Courses

Do you want to learn a new language or improve an existing language skill? Short Courses provide an introduction to Modern Foreign Languages so you can decide if it something you wish to pursue. The following courses last 14 hours and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis:

- Beginners Taster - Arabic
- Beginners - Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish
- Lower Intermediate - French

Intensive academic writing course for international students

This intensive week-long course covering key issues in academic writing is aimed at all international students who do not have English as their first language. The course will cover similar topics to the Michaelmas term time course Key Issues in Academic Writing. Each course is 15 hours in total and two groups will be running daily in Week 9 from 10am-1pm and from 2pm-5pm.

All Week 9 courses will be held at the Language centre, 12 Woodstock Road. To register for either course, visit the [Language Centre website](#) and for more information, email admin@lang.ox.ac.uk.

Welfare

Sexual violence: prevention and support

Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual act. The Oxford Students website contains advice and supportive resources for victims of sexual violence, including guidance on what to do immediately after an attack. To view this information, access psychological support offered by the University Counselling Service and contact trained Independent Sexual Violence Advisors in Oxford, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

There are also a number of specially trained people at the University you can talk to if you have experienced sexual violence recently or in the past. Email the Director of Student Welfare and Support Services team at director.swss@admin.ox.ac.uk for a confidential discussion.

Medical studies

Healthy non-smoking men aged 18-40 are needed for an MRI study to assess how a gene and a drug interact to affect mental performance and brain activity. For more information, visit the [Department of Psychiatry website](#).

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