



orientation

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Finding Your Way to Oxford: A Guide for New International Students

We are looking forward to seeing you soon and hope you will settle in comfortably before the start of term.

Included in this guide are details on bus services to Oxford operating from Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports, and details about Eurostar trains to help you in your planning of the UK stretch of your journey.

Pre-Arrival and Covid-19 advice



Do not travel if you have [coronavirus symptoms](#).



You will need to complete a [Government form](#) (Public Health Passenger Locator Form) up to 48 hours before arrival in the UK. Please download the completed form to your phone or print it, as you may be required to show it at Border Control. (Read about the [new UK border rules](#))



There are “[red, amber, and green](#) list countries” which, along with whether you are fully vaccinated, impact the rules you must follow to enter England. Please check this information carefully, and book your [COVID-19 tests](#) in good time. Travellers from red list countries need to book and [stay in a quarantine hotel](#).



Contact your College to find out where you can collect your keys, to discuss arrival times, and quarantine (if needed) before finalising your travel plans.



As of July 2021, it is [no longer required by law](#) to wear [face coverings](#) while using public transport or indoors, however individual businesses can still require customers to wear face coverings. It is compulsory to wear a mask while travelling through [Gatwick Airport](#), [Heathrow Airport](#), and [Stanstead Airport](#). Many airline companies are continuing to make face coverings mandatory, so you should check with your carrier before flying. Transport hubs (such as rail and tram stations, and bus and coach stations) currently also require this, and may also take your temperature using a contactless thermometer prior to boarding. Certain shops will also have these requirements, too. Please therefore make sure you bring face coverings with you on your journey.



Consider purchasing bus and train tickets online in advance of your journey, so that you are guaranteed a seat for your preferred time of onward travel.



You may wish to avail yourself of one of a number of Airport ATMs and currency exchange services when arriving in the UK, since not all international bank cards are supported for contactless payments on public transit, and taxis in Oxford may not accept card payments.



Heathrow Airport

Airport buses are running on a [COVID-19 timetable](#), and depart every 30-60 minutes. *

Buses have charging points for your phone/laptop (remember your UK plug adapter), toilets, and free WiFi internet access.

You can pay in cash (£, €, US \$) or by contactless payments (up to £45) onboard, but not all international credit/debit cards are supported. You can also pay by credit or debit card in the bus station.

Arriving at Terminal 1, 2 or 3: follow the signs in the arrival hall to the **Central Bus Station**, then take the lift up to the bus station and you will arrive in the ticket hall.

Arriving at Terminal 4: follow the signs in the arrival hall to 'the trains' and take the free Heathrow Connect train service to 'Heathrow Central'; a three-minute train journey. Follow the signs to the **Central Bus Station**, take the lift up to the bus station and you will arrive in the ticket hall.

Arriving at Terminal 5: the bus service to Oxford also departs from Terminal 5 next to the arrival area (stop 10), so you do not need to go to the Central Bus Station.

Heathrow currently has temporary airline terminal moves in place. You can [check which terminal your flight lands in](#); and consult their [journey planner](#) for services operating when you land.



~ 1 hr 40 min



~ £23

Gatwick Airport

A similar bus service (also running on a [COVID-19 timetable](#)), operates from Gatwick to Oxford (see the website below), departing every 1.5–2 hours.*

All flights to and from Gatwick are temporarily operating from the North Terminal, where the bus leaves from Lower Forecourt stands 4 and 5.

Students planning for train connections will need to

take the [free airport shuttle](#) to the South Terminal.

Gatwick has prepared departure and arrival [Covid-19 Travel Information](#) for passengers, and you can view their [infographic](#) which contains guidance under the current social distancing measures.



~ 2 hr 40 min



~ £28

For times and further information for Heathrow or Gatwick see: <http://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk>

Stansted Airport

A number of airlines arrive at Stansted from European destinations, but it is a longer journey to reach Oxford from Stansted than it is from Heathrow or Gatwick. There are 8 buses a day that run from Stanstead to Oxford between 01:00-22:00.*

The bus/coach station is a 2-minute walk from the airport terminal, located opposite the main terminal entrance. You will need to take the [National Express](#) bus to central London (Victoria Coach Station and change to the [Oxford Tube](#) bus.

If travelling by train, you can also take the [Stansted Express](#) train to London Liverpool Street station and then change on the Underground to reach London Paddington and then take the train to Oxford.

Prices and journey times vary and you should check travel times before you book your flight to ensure that connecting travel to Oxford is available at the time you land in the UK.



~ 3 hr 50 min



~ £18



Eurostar/Train

From the [Eurostar](#) terminus at London St Pancras station you can either*:

Take the [Underground](#) to London Paddington station (20 minutes with Circle or

Hammersmith & City line) and then the [train](#) to Oxford (1 hour).

Or, Take the [Underground](#) from London St Pancras station to Victoria (12 minutes with Victoria line) and then the [Oxford Tube](#) bus (1 hour 30 minutes).



~ 1 hr 30 min



~ £18



Arriving in Oxford

Arrange in advance where you need to go to collect your keys for your accommodation, and check the map below for where you need to get off in Oxford if arriving by bus.



If you are arriving late in the evening you should let your College know in advance, but if you've been delayed unexpectedly, there is usually a night porter who you can contact by ringing the bell at the College entrance.

Buses will stop at St Clements, the High Street (outside Exam Schools), St Aldates, with the last stop at Gloucester Green Bus Station in the city centre. If you live in a central college, it is often closer to depart

the bus at Queens Lane on High Street.

Taxis to your College

At Gloucester Green Bus Station you will find taxis waiting in the large square behind the bus station. These can take you to your accommodation.

The average fare will be about £5 to £10 for Oxford Colleges in the city centre or just over £10 if your College is further away from the city centre. If you have a lot of luggage the last stop (Gloucester Green) might be more convenient for you, and it's easier to get a taxi there.

If you are arriving by train, there are taxis outside the train station which can take you to your college, prices will vary from £10 to £40 depending on where your College is located.



~ £5-£10

~ £10-£40

Useful websites

Bus Service (Heathrow or Gatwick)
<http://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/>

Oxford Tube (bus service from central London)
www.oxfordtube.com

National Express bus (Stansted, other destinations)
www.nationalexpress.com

National Rail timetables
www.nationalrail.co.uk

London Underground
www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/tube/

Heathrow terminal maps
www.heathrow.com/at-the-airport/airport-maps