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Student News



Week 8 - Hilary term 2015

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](#).



Undergraduate and Graduate Photography Competition 2015

Enter the Photography Competition 2015 for an opportunity to win £200 of Amazon vouchers, by Friday 20 March. The University's admissions teams have received some fantastic images in both the social and academic categories, but are looking forward to receiving yours. Full details can be found on the [Oxford Students website](#).

Use of your University Card

The University is aware that some students are loaning their University Card to friends or family members so that they can access the Bodleian Libraries. You are reminded that this contravenes Section 6 of the [Bodleian Libraries Rules of Conduct](#). If a student allows another person to use their Card, they have committed a serious breach of Library regulations and it may result in disciplinary procedures, at a proctorial level, being initiated.

Examination Schools closure in Hilary term vacation

The Examination Schools will be closed from 17:00 on Wednesday 1 April 2015 until 08:30 on Tuesday 7 April 2015. If you are intending to submit work during this period, please be aware that sending your assignment by post, courier or by deposit in the Examination Schools post box means that you will not obtain proof of submission.

Research degree examination submission

If you are submitting your research degree thesis before the end of Hilary term, it should be received at the Examination Schools submission desk by 17:00 on Friday 24 April 2015. Your examiners must have your thesis for at least four weeks before any planned viva. To update your contact details, or to receive information about your research degree examination, contact the [Research Degrees team](#).

Student funding scam

The University has been made aware of a number of fraudulent cases involving students who have tried to move their funding via money transfer services such as Western Union. Please be aware of potential scams and report anything suspicious to the relevant money transfer service.

New immigration health charge for access to NHS treatment

The immigration health charge is to be introduced for Tier 4 students coming to the UK for six months or more, as well as certain other visa applicants, including student dependants. The health charge, made as part of the visa application process, is expected to affect applications made on or after 6 April 2015 and will be £150 for each year or part year over six months of the visa being applied for, plus £75 for part of a year that is less than six months. The charge must be paid even if you have your own private medical insurance. Nationals of Australia and New Zealand are exempt from the charge. If you already have a visa or make a visa application before the implementation date you will be covered as normal for NHS treatment unless and until you need to make a further visa application. For more information, visit the [UKCISA website](#).

Weston Library public opening weekend

The newly refurbished Weston Library on Broad Street will be opening to the public on Saturday 21 March. To mark the occasion a series of lectures, tours, displays and live music performances will take place. You will also have the opportunity to visit the Weston's flagship exhibition, [Marks of Genius: Masterpieces from the Collections of the Bodleian Libraries](#), which explores how attitudes towards genius are manifested in a number of remarkable books and manuscripts.

Choice of gender title

The titles Mr, Miss, Ms, Mrs are social titles and have no legal status. If you do not wish to use the title assigned to your record, please contact your College Office to have your title amended from this list. You may also choose NULL (no title) or Mx (a gender-neutral title). You do not need to provide any documentary evidence to support your request. You may choose any of these options, regardless of your legal sex or preferred gender.

Reinstatement of graduate research students

The application process for reinstatement of graduate research students has changed. As a result, candidates applying for reinstatement will be asked to provide a work plan and timetable for their return, which should be reviewed and endorsed by their former supervisor. For more information, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

Time limit for the return of research degree examiners' reports

Following changes to the [University Policy on Research Degrees](#), examiners are now required to return the examiners' joint report within one month of the date of the candidates viva or receipt of the corrected thesis. This change is designed to prevent problems for candidates, particularly in cases where the student needs to receive leave to supplicate before being able to take up employment. For more information, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

Transfer and confirmation of status

Sections in the [Examination Regulations](#) covering transfer and confirmation of status have been updated to clarify the need for students to ensure that they complete the assessment for transfer/confirmation by the end of the relevant term, rather than just submitting the application by the deadline. These changes will be made with effect from Trinity term 2015. For more information, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

Supervisor and Director of Graduate Studies reporting open

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 Hilary term, supervisor reporting is now open. Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) reporting opens in Week 10. 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](#).

iSkills: Research Impact - citation analysis tools

Research postgraduate students, especially those in Sciences and Social Sciences, are invited to 'iSkills: Research Impact - citation analysis tools', taking place from 14:00-15:00 on Thursday 12 March 2015 at the Radcliffe Science Library. This course provides an introduction to citation tracking and bibliometrics, using a range of 'impact factor' tools to find top journals and conferences, count citations and measure the impact of publications and researchers. The course will also explain their strengths and weaknesses, and how to access them. To book your place, visit the [iSkills website](#).

OxTALENT competition 2015: Student IT Innovation

Have you... built a website, app, e-book or game? Used social media in an innovative way with other students? Or simply spotted a problem and used digital technology to solve it for others? The OxTALENT competition judges are looking for individuals and groups with entrepreneurial spirit who have used digital technology to make a difference to the student experience at Oxford. For further information and an entry form, visit the [OxTALENT website](#).

Apply for funding for the long vacation

The closing dates for each of the Oxford University Society Networks 2015 Bursary Awards are now approaching. The Awards, presented by regional alumni groups in the UK, can be used to support a range of opportunities, including: internships, long vacation projects and travel. Bursaries are currently available for students from: Cornwall (£100-£500), Dorset (£350), Hertfordshire (£300), East Kent (£750) and West Sussex (£300). For more information, visit the [Alumni website](#).

Social Enterprise Support Programme

Do you have a great idea for a project, or want to scale up your social enterprise? The [Social Enterprise Support Programme](#) provides grants, training and mentoring for students, staff and recent graduates of the University to help you set up or expand a social enterprise. Grants from £500 to £15,000 are available. The deadline for applications is 12:00 noon on Friday 13 March 2015. For more information email the [Oxford Hub](#).

Efficient cycling in Oxford

To find out how to stay safe when cycling, attend one of two 'Efficient cycling in Oxford' talks, taking place from 13:00-14:00 on Tuesday 17 March 2015 at the [Medical Sciences Teaching Centre](#) and 13:00-14:00 on Thursday 26 March 2015 at the [Richard Doll Building](#). Whether you're an experienced cycle commuter or have never ridden on two wheels, there's something for everyone. Booking is not required, just turn up on the day.

Have your say on hospital discharge

From February to April 2015 [Healthwatch Oxfordshire](#) is gathering people's experiences of being discharged from hospital to find out what's working well and how things could be improved. Your responses will help to form a report, which will be used to influence and inform future service development in hospitals and social care providers across Oxfordshire. Fill out the anonymous [Healthwatch survey](#). For information on the health and welfare support available at the University, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

Have you had the BCG vaccine?

The Jenner Institute is looking for volunteers to participate in a Phase I TB (Tuberculosis) vaccine trial. If you are aged 18 to 55 and in good health, get in touch to receive more information. Participants will be paid compensation for expenses and time put aside to take part. Tel: 01865 857406, [email](#) or visit the [Jenner Institute website](#). The study will require several short visits to an outpatient clinic over six to 12 months. A response to this advertisement will be recorded, but carries no obligation to take part. Your GP will be informed if you take part in any study.

Have your say on the University Club

To help the University Club to make improvements to the services and facilities it offers, you are invited to complete a [short survey](#) before Thursday 19 March 2015. To find out more, visit the [University Club website](#) or call 01865 271044.

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