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# Student News



## Week 8 - Michaelmas term 2016

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](#).

## Make your voice heard – help improve the student experience

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You are strongly encouraged to respond to the University-wide Student Barometer survey by midnight, Friday 2 December 2016, to provide feedback about your University experience; what works well and what could be improved. Your feedback will be used to identify strengths and weaknesses and put in place changes to help improve the student experience at Oxford. Visit the [Oxford Students website](#) to see how the University responded to student feedback from the 2015 Barometer or email [Student Information](#) with any queries.

Please note all students except final year undergraduate students are eligible to respond. You can find your unique link to complete the survey in an email sent to you from the Academic Registrar, the 'from' field will display as 'University of Oxford <[oxford@euro.confirmit.com](mailto:oxford@euro.confirmit.com)>'.  

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## **Christmas closure dates and submission deadlines**

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The Examination Schools submission desk will close for the Christmas period at 17:00 on Wednesday 21 December 2016 and will reopen at 08:30 on Tuesday 3 January 2017. If you are intending to submit work during this period by post, or deposit in the Examination Schools post box, you will not obtain proof of submission.

## **Changes to GSS reporting**

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The [Graduate Supervision System \(GSS\)](#) is used to review, monitor and comment on student academic progress and assess skills and training needs. Following unexpected downtime of the GSS system, the student reporting window will remain open for an additional week until Sunday 4 December 2016. Supervisor reporting will not open until Monday 5 December 2016, and will remain open until Friday 23 December 2016 (Medical Sciences Division only) or Friday 20 January 2016 (all other divisions). Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) reporting will open, as usual, on Monday 12 December 2016. You will be notified by email when your report is available to view and/or print from your GSS homepage. You will be able to view your self-assessment report, the supervision report submitted by your supervisor and any DGS comments that may have been submitted.

## **Scholarships available to study in Europe**

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A number of scholarships are open for applications to undertake a period of study or research in Europe. The [Scatcherd European Scholarships](#) and the [Charterhouse European Bursaries](#) offer awards of up to £6,500 for periods ranging from three months to one year. Applications close on Friday 3 February 2017. For the full range of study abroad opportunities, visit the [Oxford Students website](#).

## **Ambitious Futures: graduate programme for university leadership**

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If you are in your final year of study, you have the opportunity to apply for the Ambitious Futures graduate scheme, a programme designed to train the university leaders of tomorrow. University administration can lead to a successful and rewarding career. To find out more and to apply before Wednesday 21 December 2016, visit the [Ambitious Futures website](#).

## **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) review survey**

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WebLearn has been Oxford's online learning and teaching tool for some years but does it still meet your needs? Help to shape the future of WebLearn by sharing your views in the [VLE Review survey](#). Free ice creams will be awarded to the college with

the highest student response rate. So, when you've taken the survey, pass it on to your friends!

## Help build a more sustainable Oxford with the Student Switch Off

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The annual Student Switch Off competition is underway, with colleges competing in a series of energy-saving themed challenges. The winning college gets a trophy and £250 towards an end-of-year event; there are also individual prizes. There are a range of environmentally-themed challenges, including coming up with suggestions for environmentally-themed songs; the best entries will win an NUS (National Union of Students) extra card that gives money off everything from groceries to music subscriptions. To find out more about the various challenges and to get involved, visit the [Student Switch Off Facebook page](#).

## Calling all budding bloggers, interviewers and writers!

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Is one of your goals to write for a well-respected publication once you have left Oxford? The Digital Communications team is looking for tomorrow's top writers to produce content for the Medium channel and the ox.ac.uk website – the most visited university website in the UK.

The team is looking for your stories on:

- Student life: what is it really like to be a student at Oxford? Is it what you expected and if not how is it different? What was the catalyst that made you apply? What would you tell the younger pupils at your old school about Oxford?
- Research in conversation: unlock some of the fascinating research taking place in the University's laboratories, libraries and departments by adding to our [popular interview series](#). This is your chance to finally speak to that academic whose work you've been following.

You are also invited to pitch your own ideas for website content. If you are interested please send your best (short) piece of writing and a few lines about yourself to the [Digital Communications team](#) by Wednesday 7 December 2016. Please use the subject line 'Student writing'. Successful applicants will be contacted in the new year.

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## TEDxOxford: 'X Changes Everything'

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TEDxOxford is an independently organised TED conference put on by University of Oxford students. The theme for 2017 is 'X Changes Everything' and 12 speakers will share their thoughts on pivotal moments that have led to fundamental progress in the world – whether a ground-breaking scientific discovery, a cultural revolution or new branch of philosophical thought.

- 10:00–17:00, Sunday 5 February 2017, New Theatre, George Street

A limited number of early bird tickets are available before the general ticket release on Thursday 1 December 2016. For more information and to purchase tickets visit the [TedXOxford website](#).

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