Graduate life at Oxford

We’re looking forward to welcoming new graduate students in October. There are only a few weeks to go now, so if you plan on joining us, get online and use the #GoingtoOxford hashtag.

This newsletter outlines some of the important things you should do before arriving.

Follow us online

Stay up to date with everything happening at Oxford by following the official University channels. If you want a sneak peak of other students who may be joining you during Freshers’ Week, search the #GoingtoOxford hashtag on Twitter or Facebook. The New Students page of the Oxford Students website also holds lots of useful information for freshers.
Attend a freshers' party in your hometown

Gain an invaluable insiders’ view on life and study at Oxford from graduates at a freshers’ event taking place near you. Several regional alumni groups organise freshers’ events to welcome prospective students and impart expert advice on their Oxford educational experience. The events are also a great opportunity for you to forge new friendships with other new-starters from your area.

The legal bit…your Oxford contract

Being an Oxford student means you’ll be in a contract with the University. It’s important that you are aware of the rules and regulations and the conduct that’s expected of you. Your offer letter outlines any conditions you need to satisfy, any actions you need to take and associated deadlines, as well as a link to the University contract web page which contains the University Terms and Conditions, the University Student Handbook and your Course Information Sheet.

Support for mature students

Going to university as a mature student can be both exhilarating and challenging. If you’re a little worried, there is plenty of support on offer to help you extend your qualifications, improve your employment prospects or indulge in an interest for its own sake.
What's next?...your University card, IT set-up and Registration

If you have not done so already, make sure you send back your University card form after you have met all conditions and as soon as you can. After we have received the form, we will create your University card (student ID) and your Single Sign-On (SSO) account, used to access a range of IT services at Oxford including your email account, the student self-service portal and virtual learning environments. SSO works by providing one user name and one password to access a range of services. For more information, visit the Oxford Students website or the Welcome to IT website for essential IT information.

The next step in September will be to complete online registration; we will email you a reminder in the second week of September. When you arrive in Oxford, you will also need to go to your college (or department if you do not have a college) to complete the second step of registration and collect your University card. Make sure you do both registration steps on time to avoid any delays with student loans being released and so you can access your exam results throughout the year. After both steps are complete you can print the enrolment certificate as evidence of your student status.
International Student Information

Orientation programme

To help international students settle into Oxford life, the University offers a free Orientation Programme. As well as providing practical details for living and studying in the UK and Oxford, the Programme provides a fantastic opportunity to meet students from more than 80 countries before starting your studies.

The Orientation Programme will be held on Thursday 27 September for Social Science division students and Friday 28 September for graduate students in all other divisions. The deadline to register is Monday 10 September – but please be aware that available places may run out before this date if demand is strong enough. For more information, visit the Oxford Students website.

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