



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



Student Life

Make the most out of your time at University by getting involved in the various clubs and societies at Oxford. In this newsletter we have included information about student groups and volunteering opportunities.

Stay up-to-date with the latest information for students by following our Oxford Students Facebook and Twitter pages, and browsing our website:

[Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

[Twitter](#)

Clubs and societies

At Oxford there are over 400 clubs and societies. You can view a list of the [officially recognised societies](#) on our website. They include the Harry Potter Society, Drama Society and Photographic Society. There is a very good chance that you'll find one perfect for you. Many societies will also set up stands during Freshers' Fair, so if you attend, you'll have an opportunity to speak with some of them face-to-face. Students can also apply to set up new societies, if they think a gap needs to be filled.



Sport at Oxford

Are you a fan of archery? Have you ever heard of octopush? Maybe trampolining is more your thing? Oxford has [83 University sports clubs](#), so most students are able to find something that interests them. If you're not keen on the idea of joining a club, there are also many recreational opportunities on offer and most colleges have their own sports teams and facilities. Alternatively, [Oxford University Sport](#) on Iffley Road offers a swimming pool, gym, racket courts, a sports hall with an interactive floor and much more.



Student membership groups

Every matriculated student automatically becomes a member of the Oxford University Students' Union, or Oxford SU (other students may be associate members). The SU is an independent charity that promotes the academic, social, and welfare interests of students. You can [read more on the Oxford SU website](#).

Matriculated students also become part of a 'Common Room'. Common Rooms are at the heart of the social life and welfare of students at colleges in Oxford. They are known as JCRs (Junior Common Rooms) for undergraduate students. As well as being a social space for students, JCRs act as college student unions. They are run by committees and organise social events, sports teams, choirs, plays, charity work, and campaigns. You can find out more about JCRs by visiting your college website.



Volunteering at Oxford

There are lots of opportunities to volunteer in Oxford; particularly at the [Oxford Hub](#). If you're looking for an opportunity to get involved in the local community, there are over 22 student-led projects to participate in. You can support young people with their learning in local schools, help run a local sustainable food growing project, or organise activity days for young carers in Oxford city. There are opportunities to suit all interests but if there isn't something that's right for you, you can get help to set a new project up. In addition to the Oxford Hub, [Oxford Students' Union \(Oxford SU\)](#) also has a number of initiatives to help you get involved in the local community.



Protect yourself with the MenACWY vaccine

If you plan on joining us in October and you're under 25, you may want to consider getting the Meningitis ACWY vaccine. [The MenACWY vaccine is recommended by the NHS](#) for all new students going to university for the first time. This includes overseas and mature students. Any new students who have not had a MenACWY vaccine, remain eligible up to their 25th birthday. The vaccine protects against four different strains of bacteria that cause meningitis and blood poisoning. Please make an appointment with your local doctor/general practice to have this vaccine before coming to Oxford. If you have had the vaccine in the last five years, you won't need another dose.

Oxford glossary

Oxford is home to lots of unusual acronyms and terminology. For example, did you know 'Pigeon Post' is the nickname given to the University's free internal mail system? 'Michaelmas term' is the name given to the first term of the academic year (which begins in October and ends in December), and 'Vac' is a commonly used abbreviation of vacation - the periods between terms. If you want to find out more Oxford words and acronyms, [read the official Oxford glossary](#).



International Student Information

Tier 4 student visa holders: collecting your BRP card

If you require a Tier 4 student visa, when you apply overseas you will be issued a 30 day travel visa to come to the UK and on arrival you will need to collect your biometric residence permit (BRP) card. This will be valid for the duration of your course plus some additional time. There are two options to collect your card depending on your arrival date:

- a. If you are arriving **between 25 September and 2 October** you can collect the card at the Examination Schools and will need to enter the code 2HE627 on your visa application form. You will also need to sign up on the [Eventbrite page](#) to let us know when you want to collect the card.
- b. If you are arriving **earlier than 25 September** do not choose the Examination Schools but the St Aldates Post Office instead. You will need your BRP to open a bank account and enrol at the college, and the first option will not allow you to collect it before 25 September.
- c. Students who are younger than 18 years of age when they come to Oxford should also choose *option a*, otherwise they need a letter of permission from their parents.

Further information is on the [student visas website](#).

This publication is sent using a mail client, which is approved for use at the University; in line with its data privacy and information security policies. For further information, see the [Oxford Students website](#).

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