



PREPARING FOR OXFORD

JULY



Student life at Oxford

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 [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, and browsing our [website](#).

[Read more](#)



Clubs and societies

There are over [400 clubs and societies](#) at Oxford. Whatever your interest, there will be a club or society for you, whether it is in music, sports, literature, politics, performing arts, media, faiths, cultural groups, volunteering or something else. Joining societies is a great way to make friends, build a support network, meet like-minded people and experience something new. Many societies set up stands during Freshers' Fair, so you'll have a chance to speak with some of them face-to-face.

[Read more](#)



Sport at Oxford

Are you a fan of football? Have you ever heard of octopush? Maybe trampolining is 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 recreational opportunities on offer and colleges have 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 more.

[Read 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. The rooms for postgraduate students are known as MCRs (Middle Common Rooms). As well as being a social space for students, MCRs 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 MCRs by visiting your college website.

[Read more](#)



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 get involved 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.

[Read more](#)



Oxford Glossary

Oxford is home to lots of unusual acronyms and terminology. For example, did you know 'GLAM' stands for gardens, libraries and museums? '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](#).

[Read more](#)



Get in the picture on life at Oxford

Gain an invaluable insiders' view on life and study at Oxford from graduates at a freshers' event near you. Several regional alumni groups organise freshers' events to welcome prospective students and share expert advice on their Oxford educational experience. The events also provide a great opportunity for you to forge new friendships with other new-starters from your area. To find an event near you, visit our [Alumni Office website](#).

[Read more](#)

International Students

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:

1. If you are arriving between 1 October and 8 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.
2. If you are arriving earlier than 1 October 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 1 October.

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

[Read more](#)



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Examination Schools, 75–81 High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG
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