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Student News

Preparing for Oxford



July 2017

Dear student,

As well as focusing on your studies during your time at Oxford, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved with sports, volunteering, clubs and societies. You'll find 85 registered sports clubs which you can compete in at any level, plus societies from drama to dance and many more. You can also volunteer for a number of social and environmental projects which is a valuable way to support the local area, get involved with your chosen cause or passion and add to your CV.

While at Oxford you will be part of a diverse community of individuals from a range of backgrounds. The University hosts campaigns on topics including race, gender, mental health and LGBTQ issues, and is a tolerant and inclusive environment. We are looking forward to welcoming you in October.

With best wishes,

Jon Roycroft
Director of Sport

Oxford life

Sport at Oxford

When it comes to sport, Oxford has a breadth and history to be proud of – from rowing and rugby to korfbal and octopush, the University offers pretty much every sport you've ever heard of, and a lot that you haven't, and at every level. In addition, colleges compete against each other in various sports throughout the year. Some

college leagues are quite informal offering a chance to stay fit and socialise with friends, while others are much more competitive, with some of the best teams nearing University standard. Over 80 sports are on offer at University level with more than 60 teams representing the University in leagues up and down the country. The main event for any university sports team is the Varsity match – an annual fixture against the Cambridge University equivalent club, where participants have the chance to earn themselves the famed 'Oxford Blue', the highest sporting recognition the University offers.

At whatever level you choose to play, the most important part of sport at Oxford is you. Each club is always looking for new members, and many hold pre-season training camps before the start of term, which are open to all abilities, freshers included. Alongside your college facilities there are gyms to join and courts to book at the University's Iffley Road Sports Complex. To find out more, or view a complete list of clubs, visit the [Oxford University Sport](#) website or read the [Sports Review](#).

Get involved with societies and causes at Oxford

With more than 150 officially recognised [clubs and societies](#) to choose from, there is something for everybody at Oxford. In addition to sports, you'll find appreciation clubs representing everything from tea to tango and Doctor Who to drama. For a full list, visit the [Oxford Students website](#). The annual [Freshers Fair 2017](#) will take place on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 October 2017 at the Examination Schools and is a great place to sign up and find out about different clubs and societies.

Diversity at Oxford

While the vast majority of University of Oxford students are members of a college community, you are situated in the heart of a diverse and multi-cultural city which is waiting to be explored. You will be joining a diverse community of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds. The University is a tolerant and inclusive environment, with students being the active leaders of influential equality-focussed campaigns on topics including race, gender, mental health and LGBTQ issues. Although many of the towers and spires on the Oxford skyline belong to Anglican chapels and churches, [other faith and belief groups](#) are well-represented at the University.

Supporting the community

A great way of getting to know Oxford is to contribute to the local community. With students making up 24% of the city's population, the positive impact you can make is enormous. Oxford Hub supports students in tackling social challenges, learning about issues and connecting with each other. There are a variety of practical volunteering and skilled placements to get involved in as well as events throughout the year. Whether you want to tutor a child in a local school, become a visiting trustee, befriend an elderly person or help at our food cooperative, there is something for

you. To receive details of social action events and projects, visit the [Oxford Hub website](#).

You can also find volunteering opportunities through the [Oxford University Student Union](#) and the [University of Oxford website](#). Volunteering acts as a valuable addition to your CV and can help broaden your horizons with a view to future employment. For more information, see the [Oxford Students website](#).

Vaccinations before you arrive

Oxford colleges are at the core of welfare provision; each college has a link to a group of National Health Service (NHS) General Practitioners (GP), often referred to as the 'college doctor'. You are strongly encouraged to register with the practice when you arrive in Oxford and will receive information from your college on how to do so. If you do not have a college you can find information about registering with a GP on the [Oxford Students website](#).

Due to an increase in cases of Meningitis type W, new first year students (aged under 25) at all UK universities are now recommended to have the Meningitis ACWY vaccine. This is different from the previous Meningitis C vaccine. Please make an appointment with your local doctor/general practice to have this vaccine before coming to Oxford. Some people will have had the ACWY vaccine before for travel purposes. If you have had the ACWY vaccine in the last five years you do not need another dose.

If you have not had both the normal doses of the mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) vaccine, it is strongly recommended that you are immunised before coming to Oxford, as there have been clusters of cases of mumps and measles at various universities. The MMR vaccine can be given at the same time as the ACWY vaccine if required. It is better to be immunised before arrival (because of the risk of transmission during events at the start of term) but it will be possible to have the vaccine later.

Get the inside scoop on life at Oxford

Every year many of our alumni groups hold freshers' events to welcome incoming students to the Oxonian network and pass on hard won wisdom about their time at the University. To find an event near you go to the [Alumni Office website](#) and contact the group for further information.

Coming to Oxford as a mature student

Life as a mature student can bring unique challenges. Oxford provides a wealth of support to help you extend your qualifications, improve your employment prospects or indulge in an interest for its own sake. From adjusting to university life and managing your time and work, to childcare provision or courses to develop your skills, you will find more information on the Mature students page of the [Oxford Students website](#).

Use your student number

When contacting staff for assistance at Oxford it will help if you quote your student number so the relevant team can easily find your academic and personal details to resolve your query. If you are a graduate student this should be quoted on your offer letter. If you are an undergraduate or visiting student you can ask your college.

International students

Pre-departure Skype events

Pre-departure events are taking place for offer holders at various locations around the world in July. Students with a correspondence address in the vicinity of these events have been sent an email invitation. Sessions will be held in China (Shanghai, Beijing), Hong Kong, Japan (Tokyo), and the USA (Washington and New York). The Skype briefings consist of a short presentation on visas, orientation, registration and other pre-departure advice. The dates and times are available on the [Oxford Students website](#) and priority will be given to those living near the venues as space is limited. If you have not received an email invitation, please contact student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Your student visa and obtaining your BRP

If you are applying for a Tier 4 student visa from outside the UK, you will receive a 30 day vignette/sticker in your passport allowing you to travel to the UK. On arrival, you will need to collect your longer visa for the duration of your course in the form of a biometric residence permit (BRP) either from the Examination Schools between Tuesday 26 and Friday 29 September or on Monday 2 October and Tuesday 3 October 2017, or from the Oxford St Aldates Post Office outside of this period.

You will need to use the code 2HE627 on the online visa application form to choose the Examination Schools collection option and you must also sign up on the [Eventbrite page](#) to let us know which day and time you want to collect the card. For more information on how to select the relevant option on your visa application form

and for a comprehensive guide on completing the online visa application form see the [Tier 4 student visa website](#).

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

Note: this email has been sent to conditional and unconditional University of Oxford offer holders. This email does not mean your place is confirmed.

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