

# STUDENT HANDBOOK



2018/19



THE  
PROCTORS'  
OFFICE



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

The Oxford Students website provides access to information, services and resources to help you get the most out of your University experiences

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This is your University Student Handbook. It gives you formal notification and explanation of the University's codes, regulations, policies and procedures, and signposts relevant contact details and web links where you can find out more. It is essential, and your responsibility, to read it.

This handbook sits alongside the departmental and college handbooks relevant to your course and college, with which you should also familiarise yourself. This handbook applies to the 2018/19 academic year and will be revised annually. You will be notified of any material changes to the content.

As Proctors and Assessor we are senior officers of the University but we are not professional administrators: we are

academics elected for a year by our colleges. We oversee student matters and ensure that the University's statutes and policies are followed, with particular interest in examinations, conduct and welfare, and other aspects of the student experience. If you have any concerns or suggestions for improvement, they can be channelled through the Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU) officers and through Junior Common Room (JCR) and Middle Common Room (MCR) presidents, with whom we have regular meetings. The Proctors' Office may also be contacted for assistance and advice and you can find further information on the Proctors' Office website – [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk).

We hope that your time as a student at the University is successful and enjoyable.



Prof Mark Edwards  
(Christ Church)  
Senior Proctor



Prof Cecile Fabre  
(All Souls College)  
Junior Proctor



Dr Bill Allan  
(University College)  
Assessor

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Our successors for March 2019 to March 2020 will be:



Prof Martin Maiden  
(Hertford College)  
Senior Proctor



Prof Sophie Marnette  
(Balliol College)  
Junior Proctor



Prof William Whyte  
(St. John's College)  
Assessor

## 2 ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

As the oldest university in the English-speaking world, the University of Oxford can lay claim to nine centuries of continuous existence. It is an independent and self-governing institution, consisting of the University, including divisions, departments and faculties, and the colleges.

The 36 colleges, though independent and self-governing, are a core element of the University, to which they are related in a federal system. There are also six permanent private halls, which were founded by Christian denominations, and two societies.

The colleges (including the halls and societies):

- select and admit undergraduate students, and select graduate students after they are admitted by the University
- are responsible for students' tutorial teaching and welfare
- provide accommodation, meals, common rooms, libraries, sports and social facilities, and pastoral care for their students.

The University:

- determines the content of courses within which college teaching takes place
- organises lectures and seminars and other forms of teaching/instruction
- provides a wide range of resources for teaching and learning, including libraries, laboratories, museums and computing facilities
- admits and supervises graduate students
- examines theses, and sets and marks examinations
- awards degrees.

### 2.1 Student membership

As a student of the University, you will usually be part of an individual college, which has admitted you as a member, and the University, in which you are matriculated. Membership is usually for life but if your college membership is formally terminated (eg by expulsion), you automatically also lose your University membership and vice versa.

Some students do not matriculate but nevertheless study at the University, eg students reading for certain certificates or diplomas and certain Department for Continuing Education courses, and visiting students not registered for a particular course or qualification. In this handbook, we describe students who do not matriculate as "non-matriculated students" throughout. Although not formally University members, non-matriculated students are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as matriculated students.

All students therefore need to be familiar with the rules, regulations and requirements that apply to their course of study.

As a resident of the City of Oxford, you are also part of, and have responsibilities towards, the wider local community.

## 2.2 Student unions (matriculated students only)

As well as becoming a member of your own college's student union (often known as the Junior Common Room (JCR) and Middle Common Room (MCR)), a matriculated student of the University automatically becomes a member of the Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU). Other students may have associate membership of Oxford SU.

Oxford SU is an independent charity that promotes the academic, social and welfare interests of its members throughout the University.

You have the right to opt out of membership of your college student union and of Oxford SU. Information about the right to opt out of Oxford SU membership, and arrangements to supply student union services to student members who have exercised that right, is available from the Oxford Students website.

The University of Oxford's code of practice explaining how the requirements of the Education Act 1994 relating to student unions are being carried out, is published alongside the University's formal statutes, policies and regulations.

Note: the Oxford Union Society (known as 'the Union') is not a student union; it is an independent private members' club with no student representative function.

- [www.oxfordsu.org/](http://www.oxfordsu.org/)
- [www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice/ousu](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice/ousu)
- [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/lso/statutes](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/lso/statutes)

## 2.3 Student Information

Student Information is a service for students of the University. The service can help with general administrative advice and support on all aspects of your student career, including queries about University registration and Student Self Service, as well as information for international students on matters like visas, immigration and studentships.

Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford  
Monday–Friday: 08:30–17:00

- [+44 \(0\)1865 286223](tel:+441865286223)
- [student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk)
- [www.ox.ac.uk/students](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students)

## 3 WELFARE

### 3.1 Welfare & support services

A range of services are available to support you during your studies at Oxford. You can get advice and details from your college, department, central University services, fellow students and Oxford SU. There are a number of specialist services available to students which are available year round:

#### Counselling Service


The Counselling Service provides free, confidential therapeutic support to students through workshops, groups and individual therapy.

 [counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk)

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling)

#### Disability Advisory Service (DAS)

The DAS work with students and staff across the collegiate University to advise on and put in place any necessary support and adjustments to remove or reduce barriers to learning. The team also advise on any examination adjustments which might be needed.

 [disability@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:disability@admin.ox.ac.uk)

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability)


#### Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service

The service offers confidential and independent advice to all students. The team of specialist advisors are available to help students decide on next steps and provide ongoing support and signposting to other services.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/sexual-violence](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/sexual-violence)

#### Oxford SU Student Advice Service

The Student Advice Service is a free, confidential and independent advice, information and advocacy service. The team of friendly and experienced advisors is there to help you find answers to the questions, and solutions to the problems, you may face as a student.

 [www.oxfordsu.org/wellbeing/student-advice/](http://www.oxfordsu.org/wellbeing/student-advice/)

### 3.2 Health

Colleges provide health care via college doctors and sometimes nurses, and also have arrangements to help with a whole range of welfare issues. Students also have access to wider local medical, dental, optician and sexual health services provided through the National Health Service (NHS).

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/health](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/health)

### **Suspending study on health or personal grounds**

There are procedures for seeking to suspend your studies for medical or personal reasons. You should contact your department (graduate students) or college (undergraduate students).

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance)

### **3.3 Equality and diversity**

The University is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected. The University's overarching equality policy applies to all University members.

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop)

### **3.4 Financial hardship**

If you face unforeseen financial difficulties you must ensure that you are in receipt of any government and other external support available to you before applying for hardship funding.

Most colleges have limited hardship funds. Consult your college for assistance, especially if your difficulties could involve non-payment of fees which could lead to suspension of studies if not appropriately managed. Application forms for the University Hardship Fund can be obtained from your college hardship officer.

The Access to Learning Fund is based on

national guidelines and aims to assist UK undergraduate and graduate students experiencing financial difficulty. Application forms can be obtained from Student Fees and Funding.

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship)

### **3.5 Safety and security**

Oxford is generally a safe place to study and socialise in; nevertheless, it is sensible to take precautions to minimise any risks by staying safe and protecting yourself and your personal possessions.

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/community](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/community)

#### **Police and University Security Services**

All incidents of crime should be reported to Thames Valley Police.

**t** 101 (non-emergency)  
**t** 999 (emergency police, fire service or ambulance)

The University Security Services 24-hour Control Room should be informed if the incident occurred on University premises.

**t** +44 (0)1865 272944  
**t** +44 (0)1865 289999 (emergency)  
**w** [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/ouss](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/ouss)



### 3.6 Staff-student relationships

Members of University staff are advised not to enter into a relationship with a student for whom they have any responsibility, as it may lead the staff member to compromise the integrity of their professional relationship.

If such a relationship develops, the member of staff concerned is meant to disclose it to the department. If you are not sure that this has been done, you are encouraged to independently advise your Head of Department or Chair of the Faculty Board in confidence.

### 3.7 Harassment

The University does not tolerate any form of harassment and expects all members of the University community to treat each other with respect, courtesy and consideration.

The University takes action under its policy and procedures to protect its staff and students from harassment.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/harassment](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/harassment)

# 4 FITNESS TO STUDY

The University has a common framework across departments, faculties and colleges to support students and take action where questions arise as to whether a student is fit to study or to return to study after a period of leave on medical or personal grounds. Cases will normally be dealt with under local (college, faculty or department) procedures, but there is also a University-level Fitness to Study Panel, to which serious and difficult fitness to study cases can be referred if all other normal procedures at local level have been exhausted or are inappropriate.

'Fitness to Study' means an undergraduate or graduate student's fitness:

- to commence a distinct course of academic study, or
- to continue with their current course of academic study, or
- to return to their current or another course of academic study

and their ability to meet:

- the reasonable academic requirements of the course or programme, and
- the reasonable social and behavioural requirements of a student member (whether resident in college or elsewhere) without his or her physical, mental, emotional or psychological health or state having an unacceptably deleterious impact upon the health, safety and/or welfare of the student and/or other students and/or University or college staff (not withstanding adjustments required by law).

A student may be referred to the Fitness to Study Panel by a college, a department

or faculty, the Proctors, the Student Disciplinary Panel or the Student Appeal Panel. The Panel has power to consider medical and any other appropriate evidence, to take expert advice (the student may be asked to attend a consultation with a medical or other expert), and to consider submissions made by or on behalf of the student concerned.

At the end of the process, the Panel will make determinations or recommendations (depending on the referring body) as to the student's fitness to study. The Panel can also make decisions and recommendations about matters such as the student's continued access to University and college facilities and premises, with or without conditions, or withdrawal from their course or programme of study.

If concerns about a student's fitness to study have arisen and have led to a referral in the context of disciplinary proceedings, those proceedings will be suspended while the fitness to study issues are determined. In cases where a student's condition or conduct gives rise to a need for immediate action, the Proctors are empowered to suspend that student from the University (for periods of up to 21 days at a time) pending consideration by the Fitness to Study Panel.

These procedures are set out in detail in Statute XIII, Part B and Council Regulations 1 of 2012.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/787-121.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/787-121.shtml)

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/76-0812.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/76-0812.shtml)

# 5 RESIDENCE

**Part-time and non-matriculated students are exempt from residence requirements.**

For most degrees and other qualifications students are required to reside in or around Oxford for a proportion of each term to meet requirements set out in regulations.

## 5.1 Number of terms of residence

You must be resident for at least six weeks in each term of your course (the number of terms being dependent on the degree, the subject and the candidate's status). The Proctors may excuse you from part of the statutory residence requirements because of illness or other reasonable cause. Applications must be made through your college office.

Research students may be granted dispensation from the requirements to keep residence if it is necessary for them to carry out academic work elsewhere. To seek permission, contact your department.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs)

## 5.2 Place of residence

Full-time matriculated students must reside within a specified distance of the University (defined by reference to Carfax Tower). The distances apply only during the period for which student members have to maintain statutory residence in order to meet degree or diploma requirements:

- Undergraduate students must reside within six miles of Carfax, or within 25 miles of Carfax provided that you either:
  - (i) hold the status of Senior Student
  - (ii) already have an undergraduate degree from Oxford
  - (iii) reside with your parent/guardian
- Graduate students must reside within 25 miles of Carfax unless given special permission to work away from Oxford for a period (see 5.1).

You may apply to your college for dispensation from the residence limits. The college will apply to the Proctors' Office on your behalf with a statement of support. A statement of support is also required from your department. Dispensation is granted only in exceptional circumstances. You should obtain dispensation before making any commitments. If you live outside the residence limits without permission you will not fulfil the statutory requirements and may not be allowed to enter for examinations.


 [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/forms](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/forms)

## 5.3 Accommodation

Colleges provide accommodation for undergraduate students during their first year of study and for at least one other year of their course. You can choose to move out of college and live in student accommodation for some of your time studying at Oxford.

Many colleges provide accommodation to graduate students. The Graduate Accommodation Office can help if college accommodation is unavailable or not of the type needed. Private accommodation can be found using the Student Pad search and Oxford SU Living-Out Guide.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation)

 [www.oxfordstudentpad.co.uk/accommodation](http://www.oxfordstudentpad.co.uk/accommodation)

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/accommodation](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/accommodation)

## 6 ACADEMIC DRESS

Matriculated students are required to wear academic dress for matriculation, degree ceremonies and examinations.

You should consult your college as to the appropriate gown to wear, though for music recitals, oral examinations, presentations and any other form of *viva voce* examination, undergraduates must always wear their commoners' gowns. You should also wear a mortar board (or soft cap) and *sub fusc*:

- One of:
  - (i) a dark suit with dark socks
  - (ii) a dark skirt with black stockings
  - (iii) dark trousers with dark socks or dark hosiery
- A dark coat (optional)
- Black shoes
- Plain white collared shirt or blouse

- A white bow tie, black bow tie, black full-length tie, or black ribbon.

Ministers of religion may wear a gown over their clerical dress, and members of the armed forces may wear a gown over their service dress; service caps are removed when indoors. If you wear a head dress/scarf for religious reasons, a black scarf should be worn.

In addition, students traditionally wear carnations for examinations: a white carnation for first examination, a red carnation for last examination and a pink carnation for all examinations in between.

You will need to provide your own *sub fusc* and academic dress. There are specialist clothing shops in Oxford.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress)

# 7 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The University in its statutes claims ownership of certain forms of intellectual property that students create in the course of, or incidentally to, their studies but generally does not claim ownership of copyright created by students.

There are arrangements in the University's regulations for protecting and exploiting intellectual property, and sharing the commercial exploitation revenues with the student originators.

The main statute governing intellectual property is Statute XVI, Part B, which you should refer to for full details. In summary, this states:

- that the University claims ownership of student-created intellectual property that is created with the aid of University computer hardware, software or other facilities or commissioned by the University or comprises inventions, designs, databases, software, firmware and courseware and related know-how and information
- that the University will not assert any claim to the ownership of copyright in artistic works including (where not commissioned by the University) books, articles, plays, scores, lyrics and lectures, student theses and answers to tests and examinations (except insofar as any intellectual property is claimed as above), and computer-related works (except where claimed as above)

The related regulations for the administration of the policy explain the approved arrangements for revenue-sharing.

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/790-121.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/790-121.shtml)

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/182-052.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/182-052.shtml)

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/rso/ip](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/rso/ip)

# 8 EXAMINATIONS & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Proctors' responsibilities include ensuring that the University's statutes and regulations are upheld, by overseeing the conduct of University (as distinct from college) examinations, including:

- appointment of examiners
- establishing procedures for the staging of examinations
- approving alternative arrangements
- resolving queries, complaints and academic appeals.

The Examination Regulations cover a wide variety of important topics related to how you will be assessed. The following section highlights some key points, but it is not a substitute for the Examination Regulations to which you should refer.

Additionally, the University's policy and guidance documents contain sections setting out your responsibilities in relation to your course. Some of the processes described below have a role for your college (which will be performed by your department if you do not have a college).

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs)

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/policiesandguidance](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/policiesandguidance)

## 8.1 Entering your examinations – taught courses

### Course content

Whether you are a taught course or a research student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with the general regulations and the specific regulations for your course, as set out in the relevant Examination Regulations. These provide a summary of the requirements of your course. Further information on your course is provided in your course handbook and in examination conventions available from your department. Regulations may be different depending on the year you started your course, and may be revised during your course of study. Explanations of the University's approach to the limited situations in which course changes may be made are available for undergraduate and graduate study.

[www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges)

[www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges)

### Entering for examinations

It is your responsibility to ensure that your examination entry details are correct using Student Self Service. You should inform your college or department if there are any errors.

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry)

## Examination fees

Fees may be payable for late entry to examinations, late change of options etc. If you need to re-sit examinations, including re-submission of written work for assessment, you may need to pay a re-examination fee.

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry)

## Late alteration of options

If you want to change your chosen examination options, a request has to be made in writing through your college office. It cannot be assumed that permission will be given; requests involving re-scheduling examinations will generally not be granted. Where permission is given, an extra fee will be charged.

## Examination timetables

Your individual timetable is available on Student Self Service (except for examinations run locally by departments, which will publish the relevant timetables). The examination timetable for every subject is published online.

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables)

## Taking water, snacks and medications into examination rooms

Information on permitted items is available. Some items require Proctors' permission and some can be authorised by your college. You need to bring a note from your college with you to each examination, (or by your department if you are a non-matriculated student).

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance)

## Calculators

The regulations for some subjects allow candidates to use certain types of calculators in examinations. Details should be confirmed by the Chair of Examiners in each case. It is your responsibility to bring the correct calculator unless explicitly told that they will be provided.

## Alternative examination arrangements and major adjustments

It is crucial that support needs and examination arrangements are dealt with as early as possible in your University career. If you have a specific learning difficulty (SpLD) (such as dyslexia or dyspraxia) or suspect that you may have one, please consult the Disability Advisory Service (see section 3), or your college office, your department for non-matriculated students or, for research students, your Director of Graduate Studies, as soon as possible to discuss your needs.

All requests for alternative examination arrangements – whether for disability-related reasons (eg use of a word-processor) or faith-based reasons (eg adjusting an examination schedule) – must be submitted via your college to the Proctors by Friday of Week 4 of:

- Michaelmas term, except for Trinity term and Long Vacation examinations
- Hilary term for Trinity term and Long Vacation examinations.


Disability-related requests must be accompanied by the confirmation



of the diagnostic assessment and recommendations for alternative arrangements for examinations.

Alternative arrangements must be made before the deadlines given above. Applications made after these deadlines can only be considered, where unforeseen circumstances arise that justify a late application. Alternative arrangements may enable candidates to take written papers at different times, in separate venues, with extra time or with alternative facilities. In each case, applications need to be forwarded through your college office. Where appropriate, once approval has been given for alternative arrangements it will be valid for all University examinations taken during your course of study.

If you have applied for alternative examination arrangements and are dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to appeal to the Chair of the Education Committee. Your appeal must be submitted in writing within 14 days of receipt of the original decision. Information about the procedures can be obtained from your college office.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/arrangements](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/arrangements)

If you have a SpLD or other disability, you can apply, in exceptional cases, to Council's Education Committee for your courses to be structured differently (eg taken over a longer period) and for the mode or timing of assessments to be modified. This is described as a major adjustment to your examinations/assessments and will require dispensation from the Examination

Regulations. Such needs must be discussed with your college office (or department for non-matriculated students) once your place at Oxford has been confirmed.

If you have applied for major adjustment to examinations and assessments and are dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to submit an appeal to the Director of Education Policy Support. Your appeal must be submitted within 14 days of the date of the Education Committee's decision. Information about the procedures can be obtained from your college office.

Comprehensive guidance, including the diagnostic requirements, is available on the Disability Advisory Service website:

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability/needs](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability/needs)

Sports, other non-academic activities and academic commitments at other institutions will not normally be accepted as valid reasons for approving changes to your examination arrangements in Oxford.

### **Appeals procedure for alternative examination arrangements**

If you have applied for alternative examination arrangements and are dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to appeal to the Chair of the Education Committee. Such an appeal, which can also be made by the college on your behalf, must be submitted in writing within 14 days of receipt of the decision. Information about the procedures can be obtained from your college office. These appeal procedures also apply to decisions of the Proctors on extension requests, late submissions and making changes to

work after it has been submitted, and on forwarding information to the examiners about mitigating circumstances.

## 8.2 Issues with sitting your examinations

### Notifying examiners of mitigating circumstances


If, whilst preparing for or during your examinations (or preparing other assessed work), you have a problem that you think will have seriously affected your performance, you can submit a notice to the examiners to make them aware of your mitigating circumstances. Notices should only be submitted when you have suffered a significant problem. There should be independent evidence, such as a medical certificate, to support your notice.

Examples of the kinds of problems you might mention are acute illness just before or during the examinations that severely affected your performance, or unforeseen circumstances such as bereavement or a traffic accident. Students with more long-standing conditions that place them at a particular disadvantage are encouraged to alleviate the disadvantage by exploring other available procedures, such as applying for alternative examination arrangements or major adjustments to examinations and assessments (see 8.1 above). However, such candidates are nevertheless able to exercise their right to notify examiners of mitigating circumstances whether or not they also receive alternative examination arrangements or major adjustments to examinations and assessments.

You should apply through your college office (or, if a non-matriculated student, your department), which will provide you with the relevant forms and submit them on your behalf to the Examinations and Assessment team who will pass them to the relevant Chair of Examiners. It is your responsibility to ensure that the forms are submitted to your college office.

You must make sure that your notice is submitted as soon as possible either before or after sitting the affected papers, and in any event by noon the day before the final meeting at which the examiners will decide the results. Notices received after this point will not normally be considered but, if there are exceptional circumstances, the Proctors will decide whether to send the notice to the examiners. They will only do so if the notice is received within three months of the results being published, and if:

- you were prevented from making an earlier application due to your condition, or
- your condition was only diagnosed after the results were known, or
- a serious procedural error delayed the application.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance)

If you disagree with the Proctors' decision, you can appeal to the Chair of Education Committee (see section 8.3 below). You, or anyone acting on your behalf, must follow the process set out and not communicate directly with the examiners.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints)

The examiners will decide at their final examination board meeting how to take the information into account when determining the examination results. It is important to be aware that most notices do not result in any changes to award outcomes and that the examiners have limited options when considering a notice. After results are released, you will be provided with a short statement on the outcome.


The outcome of the consideration of your notice of mitigating circumstances will normally be available with your results on Student Self Service.

### **Withdrawal from and suspension of the examination process**

You cannot withdraw from examinations after the last paper has been completed.

In some circumstances it may be appropriate to suspend the examination process, either before attempting any papers or (subject to your college's permission) before the written part of the examination is complete, and apply to restart the examination process at a later date. In certain circumstances you will be required to repeat papers.

Such suspensions of the examination process must be notified through your college office (for undergraduates) or through your department (for graduate taught students and non-matriculated students).

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/entry)

Candidates entering examinations later than the examinations that they were originally due to enter are entitled, within certain time limits, for papers to be set in accordance with the original syllabus (for example, the time limits are within six terms of the examination they were originally due to enter for Final Honour Schools examinations and within three terms for the First Public Examination). Candidates should ensure that their college office is aware that they wish to take up this entitlement; otherwise, papers will be set according to the current syllabus.

All courses have a time limit within which you must have completed your examinations. You will need permission from Education Committee if you need to take your examinations after the maximum permitted period of time. For Final Honour Schools this is normally two further years; for graduate students the maximum time varies: seek advice from your college or department.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs)

### **Non-completion of an examination**

If you do not complete the written papers for a Final Honour School (eg by not turning up), you will be deemed to have failed the whole examination. If you do not complete the written papers for the First Public Examination or for a graduate taught programme (eg by not turning up), you will be deemed to have failed the individual paper. A re-sit will be capped at a pass, and you will not be eligible for a distinction. If the Proctors are satisfied that there was an urgent cause such as illness for the

non-completion, the examiners may be asked to consider if it is possible to make an assessment on the basis of the work completed or, exceptionally, to examine the part missed on another occasion. In the case of illness, a medical certificate must be submitted to the Proctors' Office through your college office (or department, for non-matriculated students).

### Jury service

You cannot claim exemption from Jury service. However, if you are summoned to serve during term-time, and particularly when sitting examinations, you should apply to the Jury Central Summoning Bureau for deferral or excusal, as set out in the summons. You should also seek the advice of your college office.

### Vivas

Many taught courses provide for candidates to be examined viva voce (ie orally), either as a standing requirement or one that may be applied at the examiners' discretion. Where vivas are a mandatory part of the assessment, non-attendance without permission will result in you being failed in the examination as a whole. The dates when you may be called for a viva are normally announced by the examiners at the same time as the final examination timetable. All candidates who may be called for a viva must ensure that they are available in Oxford on those dates. In the case of research students, the viva is usually mandatory: the date will be arranged with you by the examiners and will be published within the University.


### Dispensation from the regulations

Education Committee can dispense individual examination candidates from the provisions of the regulations (eg to take examinations in different formats, to defer taking written papers, or to have additional re-sit opportunities). Applications are made via your college office (or your department for non-matriculated students).

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations)

## 8.3 Submitting work for assessment

Essays, dissertations, theses and other submissions that are assessed as part of public examinations have deadlines by which the work must be submitted. Make sure you know when and where you should submit your work. Deadlines are published either in the Examination Regulations or in your course handbook. Most often, the place of submission is the Examination Schools, but sometimes work is handed in to departments or submitted online.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs)

### Late submissions

Give yourself enough time to submit your work by the deadline.

The Proctors will not accept as reasons for lateness problems such as: delays in postage, reliance on third parties to deliver your work, printing problems, or, for submission of work electronically, problems such as failure of your private email, computer (including virus infection), or servers, or lost or stolen files.

Ensure that you keep adequate backups and store them separately and securely.

If you do submit your work late, you will receive an email notification of the consequences and instructions on what to do next. You will also be charged a late submission fee and may receive an academic penalty. Academic penalties vary from course to course but are normally on a sliding scale and are published by the department. Applications to waive any academic penalty must be made to the Proctors' Office as soon as possible by your college (or department if you do not belong to a college) explaining your lateness. In some circumstances (such as illness or other emergencies) the Proctors may waive the late submission fee.

For the consequences of work not being accepted, see the missing submissions section below.

### **Extensions**

You may become aware before a deadline that you will need to submit your work late, because of illness or another urgent cause. If you do, you should ask your college (or, if a non-matriculated student, your department) to apply to the Proctors for the late submission to be excused in advance.

You will need to provide evidence, such as a letter from your doctor, and an extended deadline will be set if your application is granted. Extension requests should be for relatively short periods of time. If you think you will be unable to work for a very long time, you should speak to your college about making other arrangements to delay your studies.

### **Missing submissions**

If you fail to submit work by the deadline, the Examinations and Assessments team or your department will write to remind you that a deadline has passed, the consequences of not submitting, and what you need to do next. When a candidate fails to submit work, it is very serious: for Final Honour Schools, you will fail not only that paper, but the whole Final Honour School or Part; for First Public Examinations and for graduate taught programmes, you will fail that paper, any re-sit will be capped at a pass, and you will not be eligible for a distinction. If you discover that you have missed a deadline, you should do one of the following:

- if you have a good reason for both missing the deadline and for needing more time to complete the work before submitting it, then you should apply for an extension as described above immediately
- otherwise, you should submit the work straight away, and ask your college (or, if a non-matriculated student, your department) to write to the Proctors with your reasons for late submission. If the work is submitted late, without prior permission, and more than 14 days after the missing work notification was sent, the work will not be released for marking without permission from the Proctors.

### **Making changes after submission**

It is not possible to make changes to work after it has been submitted without the Proctors' permission, which they will only give in very exceptional circumstances.

Failure to proofread and ensure the work is ready to submit would not be considered as an adequate reason for permission to be granted to be allowed to withdraw and resubmit work. When submitting work online candidates are advised to make sure they submit the correct file/version of the work.

### **Appeals against Proctors' decision**

You can appeal against the Proctors' decisions on extension requests, late submissions, making changes to work after it has been submitted, and on forwarding information to the examiners about mitigating circumstances, via your college, to the Chair of Education Committee. Any appeal must be submitted in writing within 14 days of receipt of the Proctors' decision.

## **8.4 Receiving your results**

### **Examination results**

Once examiners have released the results, you are automatically notified by email and can then access your assessment results, and the result for the year if applicable, in Student Self Service. Marks' breakdowns may later be forwarded to colleges.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/results](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/results)

### **Failing examinations**

If you fail a University examination, it is important to obtain advice from your subject tutor or supervisor as soon as possible (for example, to find out whether your college, if you have one, is willing to allow you to come back into residence). The detailed provisions for any resit arrangements for each

qualification are explained in the appropriate Examination Regulations.

In general, the regulations permit undergraduate students failing the First Public Examination at the first attempt to re-enter some form of the examination on one further occasion, normally within a year.

The regulations permit students failing the Second Public Examination ('Finals') to re-enter but, unless they do so within the maximum number of terms specified for the subject concerned, they will not normally be eligible to obtain Honours, unless they obtain special permission from Education Committee.

If you have been classified in the Second Public Examination, you may not re-take your Finals in order to try to improve your results.

Graduate students on taught courses are normally allowed to make a second attempt at a failed examination, in accordance with the regulations for the particular qualification. You may not re-take an assessment to improve your results.


 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs)

## 8.5 Research students

Research students are responsible for finding out the deadlines for the submission of work throughout their study, including those for transfer and confirmation of status, as well as the final examination. You should consult your supervisors and college advisors to ensure that the necessary administrative processes are complete well in advance of these deadlines. The forms needed for academic progression (including suspension of studies and withdrawal) are available online.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/graduate/progression](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/graduate/progression)

An overview of the final submission and examination process is also available online:

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/research](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/research)

Research students are notified in writing of the outcome of the examination of their theses, after the examiners' report has been considered by or on behalf of the responsible academic body. Students who are unsuccessful when their theses are examined will be advised individually via the Divisional Graduate Studies Office about any conditions under which they may revise and resubmit their work.

### Extenuating circumstances and viva adjustments

If you have a disability that may affect your thesis, this needs to be considered at the time that you are writing your thesis. There are a number of measures that can be put in place to support you whilst writing your

thesis and these can be discussed with the Disability Advisory Service and your department / college disability advisors. These measures could include extensions of time for milestones, assistive technology, use of a proof reader etc.

If you wish to make the examiners aware of any illness, disability, or personal circumstance which may affect your performance in the viva, you can make an application for Adjustments to Assessment Arrangements using form GSO.19, outlining the requested adjustments and reasons. Adjustments can be requested at any point from offer of a place to submission, at the point of applying for Transfer of Status, at the point of applying for Confirmation of Status or at the point of applying for final viva/appointment of examiners. Please contact your GSA or departmental graduate administrator if you require more information.

## 8.6 Academic appeals

If you have any concerns about your assessment process or outcome, discuss these first informally with your subject or college tutor, Senior Tutor, course director, director of studies, supervisor, or college or departmental administrator as appropriate. They will be able to explain the assessment process that was undertaken and may be able to address your concerns.

Queries must not be raised directly with the examiners.

If you still have concerns you can make a formal appeal to the Proctors. An academic appeal is an appeal against the decision of

an academic body (eg boards of examiners, transfer and confirmation decisions etc).

There is no right of appeal over matters of academic judgement. Academic judgment is exercised when a decision is made about a matter where only the opinion of an academic expert is sufficient.

The only grounds for appeal are if you believe a procedure has not been followed properly, or that an error has been made, or there was bias in the decision-making process. The Proctors will consider appeals under the University Academic Appeals Procedure.

W [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints)

W [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/complaintsandacademicappeals](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/complaintsandacademicappeals)

W [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/253-114.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/253-114.shtml)

## 8.7 Plagiarism


You must read the Proctors' Disciplinary Regulations for University Examinations, which make clear that:

- you must indicate to the examiners when you have drawn on the work of others, using quotation marks and references in accordance with the conventions of your subject area
- other people's original ideas and methods should be clearly distinguished from your own
- the use of other people's words, illustrations, diagrams etc. should be clearly indicated regardless of whether they are copied exactly, paraphrased or adapted
- material you have previously submitted for examination, at this University or elsewhere, or published, cannot be re-used – including by drawing on it without referencing it, which constitutes 'autoplagerism' – unless specifically permitted in the special Subject Regulations.

W [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/288-072.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/288-072.shtml)



Failure to acknowledge your sources by clear citation and referencing constitutes plagiarism. The University's description of plagiarism should be read carefully. That description includes a link to the University's online course about understanding what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it. You are strongly advised to complete the course.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism)

The University reserves the right to use software applications to screen submitted work for matches either to published sources or to other submitted work.


In some examinations all candidates are asked to submit electronic copies of essays, dissertations etc for screening. Any matches might indicate plagiarism or collusion.

Although you are encouraged to use electronic resources in academic work, remember that the plagiarism regulations apply to online material and other digital material just as much as they do to printed material.

Guidance about the use of source materials and the preparation of written work is given in departments' literature and is explained by tutors and supervisors. If you are unclear about how to take notes, use web-sourced material or acceptable practice when writing your work, please ask for advice.

If examiners believe that submitted material may be plagiarised they will refer the matter to the Proctors. The Proctors will suspend a student's examination while they fully investigate such cases (this can include interviewing the student).

If they consider that a breach of the disciplinary regulations has occurred, the Proctors can refer the matter to the Academic Conduct Panel or to the Student Disciplinary Panel (see section 10). Where plagiarism is proven, it will be dealt with severely: in the most extreme cases, this can result in the student's career at Oxford being ended by expulsion from the University.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism)

# 9 CONDUCT

## 9.1 The University's conduct regulations

University conduct regulations are additional to individual colleges' rules and by-laws: students who have a college must therefore observe two separate sets of disciplinary regulations. Students studying for awards that are also professional qualifications may also be expected to observe codes of conduct drawn up by the University in consultation with the external bodies concerned; your department will provide details where appropriate. The University regulations covering student conduct come from three main sources:

- University statutes, particularly Statute XI on University discipline
- regulations, issued by:
  - (i) Council
  - (ii) the Proctors, as the University's disciplinary officers, including emergency regulations for student conduct, published in the University Gazette, notified to you by your college or department and remaining in force for a set period
  - (iii) the Rules Committee (six Congregation members and six student members who meet annually to review and issue conduct regulations)
  - (iv) the Curators of the University Libraries; and
  - (v) the IT Committee
- rules on access and use, made and published by people or bodies responsible for managing University land and

buildings, or operating University services and facilities.

You should consult the statutes and regulations, including the Examination Regulations and subsequent formal amendments published in the Gazette, for comprehensive detail.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/12-011.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/12-011.shtml)

 [www.ox.ac.uk/gazette](http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette)

Students who intentionally or recklessly breach regulations, or incite or conspire with others to do so, are liable to disciplinary action. Section 10 of this handbook describes the Proctors' powers and procedures for enforcement, and students' rights under those procedures.

## 9.2 General conduct

Statute XI on University discipline contains a Code of Discipline applying to all University members and students who are not formally University members. It sets out the actions and forms of behaviour that are unacceptable in the University context (ie on University or college premises and/or in the course of University activity in any location, whether academic, sporting, social, cultural or other).

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/352-051.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/352-051.shtml)

### Library and IT facilities

No student shall intentionally or recklessly commit a breach of any of the regulations relating to the use of the libraries or the

information and communications technology facilities of the University. Infringement of copyright through the University IT network, including using peer-to-peer software and file-sharing to download and distribute copyrighted material, can result in a fine or exclusion from the network. IT security is taken very seriously. Advice about keeping your devices and your University IT account secure is available online.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/it/secure](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/it/secure)

### **Data Protection**

Anyone holding or intending to keep personal data of any kind (whether on a computer or in paper records) on behalf of a club, society or publication, or for any other purpose, is individually responsible for complying with the provisions of the relevant data protection legislation. Registration with the Proctors does not provide any sort of blanket cover under the University. This legislation imposes strict conditions on the collection, storage and use of personal data (eg about club members, sponsors) and confers rights of access on the people who are the subjects of such data. Data controllers are required to notify their activities: there is a self-assessment guide to notification on the Information Commissioner's website.


 [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

### **Social Media**

Social media can bring enormous benefits and opportunities to an academic community including by enabling global


communication and promoting lively academic debate. The University encourages students to use social media responsibly and to be aware of the sometimes unexpected and long-term consequences of irresponsible use.

Posting offensive comments or other content on social media may be a breach of the Code of Discipline and could result in disciplinary action by the Proctors. Students taking courses which result in professional qualifications should use social media in accordance with the standards of behaviour set by the relevant national professional body.

 [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/  
studentconduct/socialmediaguidance](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/studentconduct/socialmediaguidance)

### **Organising events**

If you organise an event on University or Oxford SU premises, or anywhere if it is University funded, affiliated or branded, you must do so in the context of the University's responsibility to safeguard freedom of speech within the law and therefore in accordance with the relevant code of practice. In particular, you have a responsibility to decide whether to notify the Proctors of the event in certain circumstances. Details, including when and how to make a notification, are available on the Proctors' Office website:

 [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/  
meetingsandevents](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/meetingsandevents)

If you are considering organising an event such as a march or procession, you will

need to consider whether it passes through University premises and, if it does, the University's code of practice will apply. Additionally, if it crosses public land or thoroughfares, the Public Order Act 1986, Section 11, requires the organiser to give at least six days' notice in advance of the date of the event to the police. In practice, it is advisable to give the police as much notice as possible: at least four weeks' minimum, in the interests of avoiding clashes between your event and another event in Oxford on the same day.

 [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

### **Essay-writing services**

In accordance with the Code of Discipline, no University member is allowed to contribute to essay-writing services (whether directly with the recipient or through commercial companies) in circumstances where the work provided could be submitted by someone else in any examination worldwide. Students buying or otherwise obtaining material to pass off as their own in University examinations would be in breach of the Proctors' Disciplinary Regulations for University Examinations and can expect to be the subject of disciplinary procedures.

### **Criminal investigations and offences**

Under Statute XI, if a student is the subject of criminal proceedings concerning an alleged offence of such seriousness that an immediate term of imprisonment may be imposed if he or she is convicted, or if he or she has been convicted of a serious offence (whether or not a prison sentence was in fact imposed), the student is required to

inform the Proctors in writing. The Proctors will then consider whether any consequential action needs to be taken within the University.

## **9.3 Non-sports clubs and publications**

The University welcomes clubs, societies and student publications' contributions to student life. With more than 200 officially recognised clubs and societies to choose from, there is something for everybody at Oxford.

Clubs that open their membership to students of more than one college can register with the Proctors. Registration assists the smooth running and continuity of clubs, gives access to University email, webpage facilities, and insurance, enables clubs to use the minibus hire and driver assessment scheme, entitles application for University grants and permission to use 'Oxford University' in their names ('Oxford' in the case of publications), and generally helps to protect the clubs' best interests as well as the University's reputation.

If you help to edit publications intended mainly for other students, or write for such publications, you need to be aware that your activities are covered by the University's disciplinary regulations and by further regulations as referenced in 9.4 below.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/clubs](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/clubs)

 [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/studentconduct](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/studentconduct)

## 9.4 Regulations of the Rules Committee

Rules Committee regulations concern the activities and conduct of student members. The regulations set out rules covering: clubs, societies and publications; defacement of property and unauthorised advertisements; behaviour after examinations; overseas activities; rowing on the river.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/05-1017.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/05-1017.shtml)

## 9.5 Local rules

Those responsible for managing University land and buildings, or operating University services and facilities, are empowered to draw up and publish local rules governing access and use. You are advised to familiarise yourself with any published rules, for example as displayed on noticeboards in or at the entrance to buildings or property or on the service's website.

Action threatening or causing damage to property or inconvenience to other users may lead to exclusion. An allegation of misuse of University property contrary to local rules may be referred to the Proctors for investigation as a possible disciplinary offence under Statute XI.

# 10 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES & RIGHTS


## 10.1 Proctors' powers

Students at Oxford may be subject to two sets of disciplinary regulations: the University's conduct regulations (which apply to all students), and, for students who have a college, to the college rules and by-laws provided in your college handbook or equivalent document.

The Proctors' role under statutes IX and XI includes ensuring that University statutes, regulations, customs and privileges are observed. Doing so includes taking steps to:

- enforce, and prevent any breach of, Statute XI
- deal with any complaint that a University member has committed a breach of Statute XI
- identify the person responsible for any such breach.

The Proctors' investigations are carried out under procedures defined in regulations. Less serious matters may be decided on, with the student's agreement, at a Proctors' Disciplinary Hearing (PDH) or, if plagiarism is alleged, by the Academic Conduct Panel (ACP). More serious matters will be decided on by the University's Student Disciplinary Panel (SDP).

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/conduct](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/conduct)

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/#disc](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/#disc)

## 10.2 Investigation

An alleged breach of the Code of Discipline may, if it is appropriate to do so, be investigated by the Proctors.

Where the Proctors investigate, they will decide whether there is a case for the student or students concerned to answer. For alleged breaches involving clubs or publications, the Proctors may hold all or some of the relevant officers responsible.

The Proctors have the power to summon any University member to appear before them to assist with their enquiries. The process of investigation and evidence-gathering may involve interviewing those thought to be involved and possible witnesses. A student under investigation has the right to be informed what breach he or she is suspected of having committed and to be accompanied by a member of Congregation during any interview. He or she has the right not to answer any question (however, such silence will be reported in any subsequent disciplinary hearing).

If, after investigating, the Proctors decide that there is no case to answer, the student(s) will be informed in writing and the matter will be closed. If, however, the Proctors consider that a breach has occurred and that the student(s) responsible have been identified, and that it is fair, just and reasonable to do so, the Proctors will then send each student notice of a disciplinary hearing.

The body responsible for adjudicating disciplinary cases differs according to the nature and seriousness of the alleged breach.

The student always has the following rights:

- to know when, where and in relation to what Statute or regulation he or she is accused of committing a breach
- to know the evidence against him or her
- to be accompanied or represented at hearings or in interviews
- to call witnesses in defence
- to ask for an adjournment
- to appeal or seek leave to appeal against the outcome of proceedings.

### **10.3 Proctors' Disciplinary Hearing (PDH)**

Unless an alleged breach involves harassment, serious injury to a person, serious damage to property, or a significant element of dishonesty or plagiarism, the Proctors can offer the student concerned the option of having the matter dealt with at a PDH, which limits the possible outcomes to a fine (or fine plus compensation) of up to £300 or a written warning about future conduct. It is normally a much shorter process, and resolved much more quickly, than referral to the Student Disciplinary Panel (SDP).

- The student will be formally notified what regulations are thought to have been breached, and will be sent a notice to attend a PDH (at which the student may be accompanied or represented by a Congregation member)
- At the hearing, the Proctors present the evidence and the student has the right to make a defence against the allegations

or may admit the breach(es) and present evidence to explain the behaviour

- Either the Proctors or the student may call witnesses to attend
- Pro-Proctors may preside to ensure that those hearing the case are different from those investigating and presenting it.

If a fine or compensation order is not paid, the amount will automatically be increased according to a scale set out in the Regulations for Fines and Compensation Imposed Under Statute XI. Continued non-payment will result in the case being referred to the SDP. There is a right to appeal to the SDP against the Proctors' decision and/or penalty.

### **10.4 Academic Conduct Panel (ACP)**

#### **Role**

The ACP handles certain cases of alleged plagiarism, ie where, if the allegation is upheld, the outcome will not be failure of the entire degree/award, or expulsion. All other cases are handled by the SDP.

#### **Composition**

In addition to the current Proctors, the members of the ACP are Council appointees from among members of Congregation. A meeting of the Panel will be convened by one of the Proctors (who, if necessary, may be represented by a Pro-Proctor) and involve two other ACP members, one of whom will have subject expertise relevant to the student's course of study but will not be a current examiner for the course.

## Procedure

If the Proctors consider a case referred to them by examiners to be suitable for determination by the ACP, they will give the student concerned the choice of having the case put to the ACP or the SDP. The ACP will normally consider a case within one month of referral.

If the student chooses to have the case considered by the ACP having admitted to the breach, the student will be given the option of having the penalty agreed by the ACP by correspondence with no meeting taking place.

Where a meeting takes place, the student will receive beforehand a copy of all evidence collected by the Proctors and also will have the opportunity to submit evidence.

The student can attend the meeting and may be accompanied by another person, who should usually be another student or a member of University, college or Oxford SU staff. If the student is not available, the meeting will proceed unless the ACP decides that the student's attendance is required.

If the ACP upholds the alleged breach, it may take the following actions:

- direct that the student receive support and training relating to good academic practice
- reduce a mark awarded to a piece of work
- award no mark to a piece of work, and direct that it be resubmitted and that the mark for the resubmitted work be capped
- award no mark to a piece of work, and direct that it be resubmitted with no cap on the mark for the resubmitted work.

If the ACP believes that failure would be appropriate, or that the case is too serious to be considered by the ACP, it will refer the case to the SDP.

Students may appeal against an ACP decision or penalty within 14 days of receiving the written decision. The appeal will be considered by two ACP members (not including the current Proctors) who have no previous connection to the case. They will consider the written appeal, the ACP's decision and the documents that were available to the ACP. They will not normally meet with the student.

## 10.5 Student Disciplinary Panel (SDP)

### Role

The SDP handles:

- cases of a more serious nature, referred to it by the Proctors or by the ACP
- appeals against PDH decisions
- certain other business (eg applications and appeals in connection with students' suspension from access to University premises and facilities).

### Composition

The chair and vice-chairs of the SDP are appointed by the University's High Steward from among Congregation members who are legally qualified. Other SDP members, also Congregation members, are appointed by Council. The SDP holds hearings in term-time



or vacation as necessary. At each hearing, the chair or one of the vice-chairs will sit, together with two other SDP members (selected to ensure their independence of the colleges and academic departments of the students appearing before them).

### **Procedure**

The Proctors must normally bring a case within six months of first interviewing the student concerned. A student referred to the SDP is sent a formal notice of the breaches of regulations alleged and of the hearing to deal with the case. Before the hearing, the student receives a copy of all the evidence collected by the Proctors and has the opportunity also to submit evidence. The student may choose any person to accompany or represent them during the hearing. Witnesses may be called.

If the SDP finds that the student has committed the breaches of regulations alleged, it may issue a written warning about future conduct or take one or more of the following actions:

- impose a fine of an amount it thinks fit
  - order the student to pay compensation to any person or body suffering injury, damage or loss as a result of his or her conduct
  - ban the student from specified University premises or facilities for a fixed period of time or on whatever terms it thinks fit
  - rusticate the student for such period as it thinks fit
  - expel the student from membership of the University
- recommend to Council that the student be deprived of the degree to which the disciplinary proceedings relate.

In relation to breaches of examination regulations, the SDP may in addition to the penalties above, or alternatively, instruct the examiners to take one or more of the following actions:

- if practicable, exclude from assessment any part of the work submitted that the examiners are satisfied is not the student member's own work;
- reduce a mark awarded to any piece of work
- award no mark to, or disregard, any piece of work
- substitute an alternative mark for any piece of work
- reduce by one or more classes any degree classification
- permit the student to re-sit an examination or re-submit a piece of work on such conditions as it thinks fit
- award a pass degree instead of an honours degree
- fail the student in the examination or part of the examination concerned.

## 10.6 Student Appeal Panel (SAP)

A student who wishes to contest the finding or penalty imposed by the SDP has the right to ask for permission to appeal to the SAP.

This body consists of three people with legal experience appointed from outside the University by the High Steward. SAP members take it in turns to consider applications for permission to appeal, and subsequently to conduct appeal hearings if necessary. The SAP may be assisted in individual cases by no more than two 'assessors' (members of Congregation appointed by the High Steward, who have knowledge and experience of the practice and procedures of this University relevant to the issues raised in the appeal).

The SAP's presiding member decides whether to grant the student's request for permission to appeal. In reaching a decision, the SAP will consider the information submitted, including the evidence on which the SDP based its decisions and any new evidence that the SAP agrees to consider. A reasoned decision will be given.

If permission to appeal is not granted, that is the end of the internal University process.

If permission to appeal is granted, a SAP hearing will be arranged. At the end of this process, the SAP will decide whether to set aside or confirm the decisions of the SDP (or it may decide to substitute a different penalty of the kind that the SDP itself could have imposed).

## 10.7 Definitions

Statute XI sets out the definitions of terms used in the Code of Discipline and in the associated rules and regulations. You should take careful note of the meaning of those terms in the University, as in some cases they differ from other uses of the same or similar terms, for example in criminal law.

## 10.8 Criminal proceedings

If a student member is alleged to have committed an act that constitutes a breach of section 2 or 3 of the Code of Discipline and for which the student will be or is likely to be prosecuted in a court of law, the Proctors shall not proceed unless they are satisfied either:

- that any criminal proceedings in respect of the alleged act have been completed, whether by conviction or acquittal or discontinuance of the proceedings, or
- that the student is unlikely to be prosecuted in a court of law in respect of the alleged act.

There are additional considerations where the conduct complained of would constitute a serious criminal offence if prosecuted in the criminal courts, because of the seriousness of the allegations.

 [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/studentconduct](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/studentconduct)

If a student member acquires a criminal conviction for an act of such seriousness that an immediate term of imprisonment may be or has been imposed on conviction,

the Proctors may refer the student to the SDP (which has powers to expel the student from University membership or impose a lesser penalty or other conditions on the student).

As an interim step, the Proctors may suspend the student while criminal proceedings are taking place or ban the student from access to specified University land, buildings, facilities or services. There is a right of appeal against such interim action.

# 11 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

## 11.1 College matters

If you have a complaint about a college matter you should take it up with the relevant college officers. Help and advice is available from your college Dean, tutor, Senior Tutor, academic administrator, JCR, MCR or Oxford SU representative. Your college will have a complaints procedure, which is usually found in your college handbook.

The Proctors have no jurisdiction over college complaints and appeals, including the quality of teaching provided in college, collections (internal college examinations), or the behaviour of a member of college staff. If you are unsure whether the issue is a college or a University matter, you can consult the Proctors' Office caseworkers informally.

[www.proctors.ox.ac.uk](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk)

## 11.2 University matters

The Proctors will consider complaints raised by students under the University Student Complaints Procedure in relation to the following:

- University administrative and support services (including departmental facilities and central facilities such as libraries, counselling etc)
- University academic services and support (departmental teaching, supervision etc).

The process allows you to pursue a complaint as an individual or as a group of students.

The University Student Complaints Procedure does not cover academic appeals


(which have a separate procedure, see Chapter 8) or matters which are covered by other existing procedures (such as admissions, behaviour of members of staff, behaviour of other students, academic integrity, bribery and fraud).

Before you make a formal complaint you should try and resolve the matter locally with the person or body responsible, for example:

- **Bodleian Libraries** – contact the local librarian or email:  
[e bodleys.librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bodleys.librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)
- **Central University services** – write to the head of the respective section:  
[w www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uasections](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uasections)
- **Department facilities** – contact the departmental administrator (contact details generally found on the department's website and/or its handbook)
- **Teaching and supervision** – if you feel able to do so, raise any concern with the member of staff directly. If not, take it up with your Director of Undergraduate Studies or your Director of Graduate Studies as appropriate. If it involves one of these individuals, you can speak to your head of department or faculty. Advice and support are available from Oxford SU or from your student common room. You can also contact the Proctors' Office and speak to a caseworker (in confidence and without committing yourself to any action) if you are considering making a formal complaint.

We hope that the initial raising of a complaint will be successful in resolving the problem. If, however, you feel that it hasn't been, or

that there's a serious problem that needs to be looked into, then you can make a formal complaint to the Proctors.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints)

### 11.3 Staff or student conduct

A complaint about the behaviour of a member of staff or of another student may be raised with the Director of Student Welfare and Support Services in accordance with the University policy and procedure on harassment.

Complaints about other breaches of the Code of Discipline should be reported directly to the Proctors.

 [www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/harassment](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/harassment)

 [www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/studentconduct](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/studentconduct)

### 11.4 Public interest disclosure (whistle-blowing)

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1999 provides employees with legal protection against being dismissed or penalised as a result of disclosing certain serious concerns ('whistle-blowing'); such concerns might include criminal activity, danger to health and safety, or professional malpractice.

The University's code of practice and procedure under the Act also provides protection for student members wishing to report serious concerns.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/cops/pid](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/cops/pid)

### 11.5 Research integrity

All University members are expected to observe the highest standards in the conduct of research. The procedures for reporting suspected research misconduct are detailed in the Code of Practice and Procedure for Academic Integrity in Research.

Prior to making any formal allegation, sources of advice and support include other researchers and colleagues, supervisors, mentors, Senior Tutors, Proctors, Directors of Graduate Studies, heads of department, faculty or division, Research Ethics Committees, Research Services, or Oxford Students Union (Oxford SU).

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/cops/researchintegrity](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/cops/researchintegrity)

### 11.6 Conflicts of Interest

All University members are required to recognise and disclose activities that might give rise to – or be perceived to give rise to – conflicts of interest, and to ensure they are properly managed or avoided. Such conflicts could arise from personal financial interests, duties to other organisations, or personal relationships.

Research students should be particularly aware of the risk of conflicts arising when engaging in external activity such as international projects and collaborations with the commercial world, research and development, intellectual property licensing and involvement in 'spinout' companies.

 [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity/conflict/policy](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity/conflict/policy)

## 11.7 Complaints about Oxford SU

Oxford SU operates a full complaints procedure.

[www.oxfordsu.org/your-union/governing-documents](http://www.oxfordsu.org/your-union/governing-documents)

## 11.8 Student protection plan

Student protection plans set out what students can expect to happen in the event that a risk to continuation of studies should arise (such as a course, campus or institution closure). The purpose of a plan is to ensure that students can continue and complete their studies, or can be compensated if this is not possible. All higher education providers who apply to register with the UK Office for Students (OfS) must produce a plan as a condition of registration.

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/otherdocuments](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/otherdocuments)

## 11.9 Office of the Independent Adjudicator

The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) is an independent body whose role is to review student complaints. The OIA can review complaints about:

- Academic appeals
- Factors affecting performance
- Teaching, supervision and facilities
- Student accommodation
- Welfare
- Bullying, harassment or discrimination
- Placements

- Maladministration, procedural irregularities, and unfair practices
- Disciplinary matters, including plagiarism
- Fitness to practise.

But cannot look at complaints about:

- Admissions
- Academic judgement
- Matters where there are current legal proceedings.

In order to access the OIA process, you must be a current or former registered student of the University and must have first exhausted all the available internal procedures.

To confirm that your case has been dealt with internally, you need to obtain a Completion of Procedures letter from the office that informed you of the outcome of your case. This should be provided to you shortly after the internal procedures are completed if your complaint or appeal is not upheld. If your complaint is upheld but you still wish to complain to the OIA (eg about the remedy offered) you can request a Completion of Procedures letter from the relevant office. You have a maximum of 12 months from the date of that letter to apply to the OIA.

Where the OIA finds in favour of a student, it may recommend that the University should do something (eg look again at a complaint or pay compensation) or refrain from doing something.

[www.oiahe.org.uk](http://www.oiahe.org.uk)



# WWW.OX.AC.UK/STUDENTS

## **Student Information**

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

t: +44 (0)1865 286223

e: [student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk)

## **Proctors' Office**

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD

t: +44 (0)1865 270276

e: [proctors.office@proctors.ox.ac.uk](mailto:proctors.office@proctors.ox.ac.uk)

[www.proctors.ox.ac.uk](http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk)



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