

Balliol for Beginners



Your student guide to student life

Balliol JCR



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Welcome

Hello - congratulations you've made it!! And a huge welcome to Balliol!

I'm Juliette the JCR Vice-President, and my main job is to make sure that Freshers' Week runs smoothly and provides you with everything you need to LOVE Balliol. Hopefully, by the end of this week you will feel very welcome, have settled yourselves in and have met lots of exciting new people.

This handbook is a basic guide to help you know what to expect, what to bring and who to look out for when you arrive. Try and hold on to it, there are lots of useful contacts and bits of information in here that you might want even after Freshers' Week.

In case you lose this/anything else in this pack you can find lots of info online at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk (for college information) or www.ballioljcr.org (for JCR information). These will continually be updated so it's worth regularly checking them.

If you have ANY questions about Freshers' Week, Balliol or Oxford in general, I can be contacted by email: juliette.kelly@balliol.ox.ac.uk or by phone on 07512877915.

Or if you'd prefer you can always contact your general parents, your subject parents, or the other members of the JCR committee by email. Some useful email addresses are:

Academic Affairs (and Careers) Officers

Rebecca.mitchell@balliol.ox.ac.uk;

Ethnic Minorities and Overseas Officers:

shreya.sinha@balliol.ox.ac.uk;

max.goplerud@balliol.ox.ac.uk

LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender)

Officers: amy.vickers@balliol.ox.ac.uk;

ramin.sabi@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Students with Disabilities Officers:

anna.comboni@balliol.ox.ac.uk;

abdulrahman.jama@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Women's Officers:

Francesca.aquilina@balliol.ox.ac.uk;

Rhiannon.evans-young@balliol.ox.ac.uk

If you want any general welfare or housing information then contact our Dr Whos :

Alice.hallewell@balliol.ox.ac.uk;

Alexander.curran@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Do contact us if you want to know more, we'll be happy to hear from you and can answers any questions or be someone you already know when you arrive etc. (and don't be shy about adding us on facebook!)

Enjoy the guide. Contact us if you need anything. See you in October.

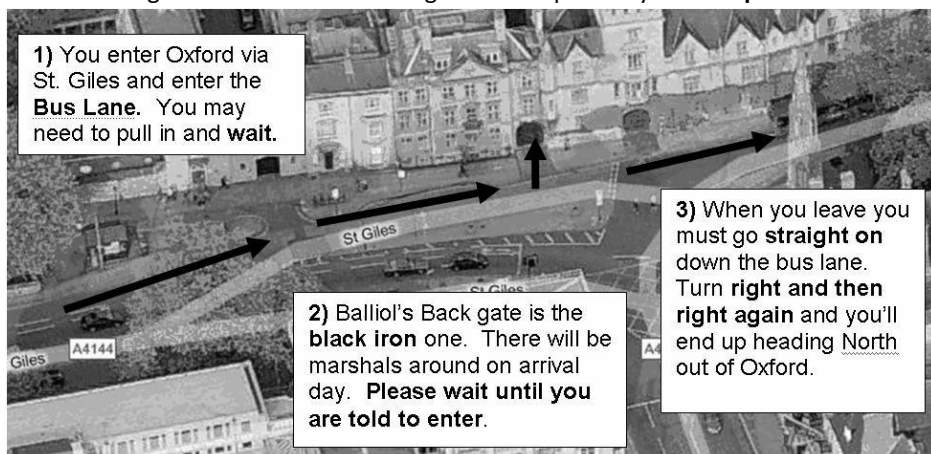
Juliette xxx

Arrival

Unless you have informed college otherwise we will be expecting you to get here on **Monday 3rd October between 10am and 4pm**, as there will be lots of useful stuff going on all day Tuesday and Wednesday. It will also give you a chance to settle in and start meeting people. If your parents really can't drop you off on the Monday, it may be possible for you to come up on Sunday but please call Balliol (01865 277777) to tell them you'll be coming early. **I must stress that it is much easier for you and the college if you come up on the Monday.**

The Arrival process

There are maps of how to get here on the next two pages. Aim for the back gate on **St. Giles**. The diagram below shows the circulation. You can enter the **bus lane** without being fined to access the college. You will probably have to **pull in and wait**.

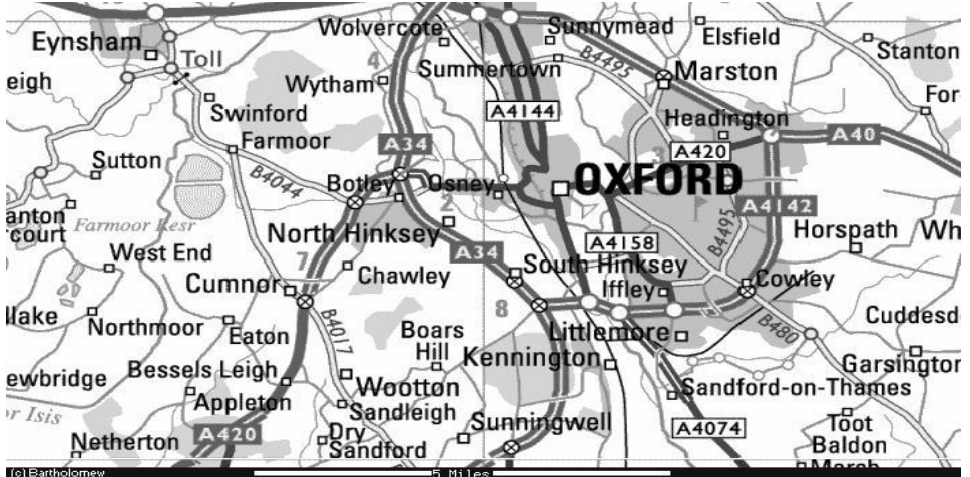


When you get into Balliol someone will tell you where to park. You will get **half an hour to unload your car**, this may not seem like long but there will be plenty of people to help.

Once the car is parked, come to the **Old Common Room (OCR)** which you will find in the passage between the front and back quads (if you come on Sunday go to the Porter's Lodge) and you can **sign out your key**, etc. Once you have unpacked and settled in, come to the JCR. Cups of **tea and coffee** will be available for you and your parents, and this will be your first chance to meet fellow Freshers and think of inventive new ways to ask "What's your name and what subject do you do?" There will also be little **tours round college** throughout the day.

Getting Here

Unfortunately traversing Oxford in a car is not easy, thanks to copious amounts of one-way systems. To get here by car, it is best to enter Oxford from the **North (down the A4144)**. Even if you are coming from the South, it is still quicker to go **round the ringroad or up the A34 and come in from the North**. Otherwise it will take you hours to drive through the city. On a map it may look like there are ways through the city, but these will all turn out to be bus-only routes or car-free cycle routes.



The upside of all these car restrictions is that Oxford is one of the nicest cities to be a cyclist in – almost every crossroad and traffic light has been designed with you in mind.

Once you find your way down the A4144, stick on it all the way to the city centre. It eventually becomes **St. Giles Street**. Go down St. Giles until the road **forks off to a bus lane** to the left (opposite the Randolph Hotel). Only a few yards down this bus lane is Balliol's back gate (see diagram on previous page). Unless you arrive very early there will probably be a queue. Pull in and **wait behind the last car**. Marshalls will instruct you from there. If you are not arriving on Monday 3rd then **ring the bell** and talk to the lodge.

Things to Bring to Oxford

Firstly, if you forget to bring anything, it's really not going to be the end of the world. There are shops, many shops, in Oxford. Boswell's across the street sell everything from kettles to extension leads to bedding. Sainsbury's and Tesco both have a store right outside Balliol, so it's a ridiculously short walk to the shops to get provisions.

That said, there is a list of things that you'll probably need at some point:

FOR SURVIVING IN A CLEAN FASHION

- Duvet, pillows, sheets
- Towels
- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush
- Other personal hygiene stuff
- Washing powder
- Washing up liquid

FOR CLOTHING YOURSELF

- Clothes
- Coat-hangers
- White shirt/blouse
- Smart black suit
- Black shoes
- Hilarious costumes



FOR YOUR ROOM

- Posters/wall-hangings*
- Cushions and other stuff to make your room nice...a potted plant perhaps?*
- Stuffed animals
- Extension leads/plug boards
- I-pod/MP3 and speakers

*There is a plant and poster sale in the Oxford Union during Fresher's Week so don't worry if you don't have enough room in the car!

FOR EATING AND DRINKING

- Kettle
- Mugs and glasses
- Coffee, tea, sugar, milk, biscuits (for your guests!)
- Cutlery and crockery
- Saucepan (don't worry if you don't have one, someone else will)



FOR WORK

- Stationary
- A4 Paper and Files
- Relevant A-level notes (they just might be useful)
- Computer/laptop if you have one

MISCELLANEOUS

- Camera
- Passport photos (for various ID cards and membership cards you get given)
- Documents (passport, driving license, NI Card, NHS registration card etc.)
- Bank details & cheque book (a/c number, sort code etc)

Balliol Freshers' Week Timetable 2011

Sunday (EARLY ARRIVALS ONLY)	2pm	JCR committee arrive and are briefed regarding the week ahead
	7:15pm	Meet in the JCR, committee take early arrivals for dinner
	9pm	Film/entertainment in the JCR
Monday	All day	Freshers may arrive any time after 10am If it is impossible to arrive in College on the Monday, please contact college giving your reason for needing to arrive on the Sunday after 2pm Freshers collect keys and welcome pack from the OCR Tours of Balliol and Oxford by JCR Committee Tea and biscuits in the JCR General 'parents' to find their 'children'
	6:30pm	Introduction to the Master and the Presidents
	7pm	First Night of the Lindsay Bar Entertainment in the JCR
Tuesday	9:30am	Introduction to the College Officers in Hall - Master, Dean & Chaplain, Librarian, Domestic Bursar, Senior Tutor, Academic Administrator etc
	10:45am	Introduction to Welfare Sub-committee in the JCR
	11.30am	Introduction to the JCR Committee & Peer Supporters
	12pm	Meeting with AcAf and subject parents, taken on a tour of relevant faculties and libraries
	Afternoon	Subject family tea parties
	Afternoon	Tours of Balliol Library at specified times
	7pm	Single Sex Socials – Graduates and Undergraduates
	8:30pm	Pub Quiz in the Bar
Wednesday	9am	Fire Safety Talk in Hall
	10.00am	Magic Roundabout Part 1 – half of Freshers visit the 'magic roundabout' including the Dean & Chaplain, College Nurse and the Senior Tutor. The other half go to the JCR for 'Oxford Orienteering' with the JCR welfare reps, Committee etc
	11.45am	Magic Roundabout Part 2 – groups swap over
	1.30pm	LGBT Lunch
	2.15pm	Medical Registrations in Hall
	4pm	Football Session – Male and Female Graduates and Undergraduates
	6:30pm	Informal Meeting with Tutors
	7:30pm	JCR Freshers Dinner in Hall (Jacket and tie/ smart for women)
	10pm	Bar Sports Tournament

Thursday	tbc	OUSU Freshers Fair
	10am	Academic subject meetings with tutors
	Afternoon	Individual meetings with tutors
	Afternoon	Garden Tours
	12pm	Introductory Christian Union Lunch
	7pm	Boat Club Drinks – Graduates and Undergraduates
	8pm	Karaoke in Bar
Friday	All day	Bodleian Library Tours
	12pm	Balliol Freshers' Fair
	1pm	Overseas Lunch – Graduates and Undergraduates
	3pm	Mixed Touch Rugby Session (all abilities) – Male and Female Graduates and Undergraduates
	afternoon	Gym Inductions – 30 mins each: compulsory for potential gym users
	4pm	SWD & AcAf Session
	5pm	Choir Rehearsal in the Chapel
	7pm	Dinner with General Parents
	9pm	Entertainment in the JCR
Saturday	12.30pm	Pub Walk
	2:30pm	Balliol vs. Trinity Sporting Matches
	6:30pm	Bop costume making in the JCR
	9pm	Freshers Bop – Under the Sea
Sunday	11am	Post-bop brunch - Peer Supporters
	5-45pm	Chapel Service
	6.30pm	An introduction to the GM procedure and terminology
	7:30pm	General Meeting (GM) in the JCR

The timetable is subject to change, so please check the Freshers' Board in the JCR for daily updates.

Introduction to the JCR

Balliol JCR will play an important part in your undergraduate life. It will provide you with a “world-class” restaurant (Pantry), great Entertainment (Entz), a **bar** for you to drink, play pool and dance to the jukebox in, and a **laundry** to wash your sweaty clothes afterwards. There’s an office and committee to provide services such as assistance with accommodation and represent you to College on issues like rents and academic affairs – in fact anything that the student body is concerned with.

Balliol JCR is one of the most active JCR’s in the university. It has by far the largest annual turnover, and is the only JCR to run its own bar and pantry. So you are likely to spend a lot of time there (JCR stands for junior common room, and is used to refer to both the institution that represents undergraduate members, and the room where they hang out). We **encourage** people to spend a lot of time in the JCR, at other colleges where the JCR’s are less active, the JCR and bar tend to be deserted, meaning less opportunities to meet people and less opportunities to have a great time.

The day to day running of the JCR is dealt with by the **Committee**, who are elected on the 6th Saturday of Michaelmas Term and serve for a year. That’s only 7 weeks after you arrive, but quite a few freshers run for posts and get elected each year. If you’re interested in helping run the JCR, don’t feel intimidated – just get involved. If you have any questions about the JCR or want something changed then don’t hesitate to speak to somebody on the committee who can give you advice on how best to go about it.

General Meetings (GM’s), are held about three times a term and all Balliol undergraduates are allowed to attend and speak at them. This is the decision-making body for the JCR and is a forum which allows everybody’s views and opinions to be taken into account. The meetings are often the focus of lively and impassioned debate – our decisions have real effects on the college, the university, and sometimes even the world (usually at the Charities GM at the end of every term). Other times we sort out practical stuff like whether to buy a new television. There will be a GM at **the end of freshers’ week** (and we will run a quick guide beforehand to show the procedure) so you can get a taste of what it’s like.

Your JCR Committee

The committee members are responsible for the running of the JCR and its services. We will be the ones running around in identifiable t-shirts. Come talk to any of us ☺



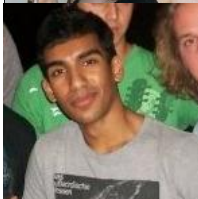
President – Stephen Dempsey (jcr.president@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

I am responsible for representing the JCR's views and interests. If you want anything changed or want to know more about the way the JCR, College or the University operates then please get in touch. If you have any problems academically or personally I am always willing to help; email or call me any time.



Vice President – Juliette Kelly (jcr.vice.president@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

My main job is organising Freshers' week. During the rest of the year I help Steve out and attend some of the college committees. This makes me a good person to harass if you have any problems or want something brought up. So I've got a fair bit of spare time to spend making sure you are all happy - email/call me whenever.



Treasurer – Ash Thomas (jcr.treasurer@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

I manage the JCR accounts, and keep people up to date with our financial situation. I am also responsible for staffing issues.



Secretary – David Bagg (jcr.secretary@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

I manage the administrative side of JCR – everything from keeping the office running to taking minutes of GMs and Committee Meetings. I also make sure the constitution and standing orders are up-to-date and working. I'm a great person to talk to if you want to get the JCR to do something it doesn't already do, or want to find out what the JCR already does. I'm also a good person for general enquiries – I attend almost every meeting!



Lord Lindsay – Simon Wood (jcr.bar.manager@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

I manage the Lindsay Bar, the only student run bar in Oxford. If you would like more information on any aspect of the bar including hosting events in it please feel free to contact me.



Drs. WHO – Alex Curran & Alice Hallowell (jcr.welfare@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

We are the JCR Welfare and Housing Officers. We can provide you with information about living out and living in, and can set you up with everything from condoms to financial aid to counselling. Feel free to contact us at any time.



Admissions and Access Officers –William Smith & Sally Murray

jcr.admissions@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We're responsible for looking after interviewees during their interview



process, helping people in our college participate in various access schemes and organising the alternative prospectus.

Entz Officers – Rhiannon Garth-Jones & Stephanie Melvin

jcr.entz@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We run all the entertainment in the JCR from Bops to film nights out on the town.



Academic Affairs & Careers Officers – Becca Mitchell and Lizzie Durham

jcr.academic.affairs@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We are responsible for the academic welfare of members of the JCR. We are the people to contact if you are having trouble with your work or your tutors. We are also the people to contact about Careers events around Oxford.



Affiliations Officers –Sean Whitton & Caillean Gallagher

jcr.affiliations.officer@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We represent Balliol JCR to the central student union OUSU, and give feedback to the JCR on the issues being raised at those meetings. We also act as a link between the JCR and MCR, a put on events to encourage graduate and undergraduate mingling.



Charities and RAG Officer – Susie Deedigan & Liv Baddeley

jcr.charities@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We raise money for various charities through events, competitions and musicals. We also know about what goes on in Oxford charity-wise, so if you have ideas of something you want to organise, or want to get involved in some way but don't know where to look, get in touch!



Foody Brothers –Ben Marshall & Brook Hewitt

mr.foody@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We run the JCR Pantry and generally cater for the JCR's culinary well-being.



Mr & Mrs. D&M – Ant Butler & Hannah Robertson

jcr.design@balliol.ox.ac.uk

This role is all about fixing and making stuff. We are responsible for the upkeep of the JCR facilities, which ranges from buying a new TV remote every two weeks when the old one gets lost again, to purchasing a lion costume from China. We are also supposed to make a cage for bops.



LGBT Officers – Ramin & Amy Vickers

jcr.lgbt.rep@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We represent Balliol's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities to make sure they always have a voice. We also run events with the wider Oxford LGBT community, and get involved in campaigning. Feel free to contact us with any questions you might have about coming out, being out and going out!



Ethnic Minorities and Overseas Officers – Max Gopleroud & Shreya Singha

jcr.ethnic.minorities@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We're here to represent ethnic minority students and respond to any complaints of harassment or discrimination experience by students. We're also here to represent overseas students, and take care of the storage of luggage for overseas students over vacations. We also put on events and set you up with some of the societies for international students that exist in Oxford. Feel free to contact us with any questions.



Women's Officers – Rhiannon Evans-Young & Francesca Aquilina

jcr.women@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We're here to ensure the women of Balliol are effectively represented for in all aspects of college and university life, providing a welfare, social, academic and access service. We can provide you with tampons, pregnancy tests, refunds on the morning-after pill, and much more. We also support wider campaigns and charities pertaining to women's wellbeing in and out of college. You can contact us with any enquiry, at any time.



Students with Disabilities Officers – Abdulrahman Jama & Anna Comboni

jcr.disabilities.officer@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We're responsible for ensuring that students with disabilities are given every opportunity to participate in College life. We provide an official link between the JCR members and the College. We are the people to contact with queries about special arrangements for exams, tutorials, accommodation, or anything else you may need. We can also put you in contact with medical and non-medical services that assist people with physical or mental health problems.



Environment and Ethical Investment Officers – Alex Hacillo & Stephen Boyd

jcr.environment.officer@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We work to make sure that Balliol is an environmentally sustainable college, and that we do not invest our money unethically. We also represent Balliol on the OUSU Environment & Ethics Committee and empty ALL the recycling bins.



Johns de Balliol – Claire Parry & Connie Lound-McGowen

john.de@balliol.ox.ac.uk

We like to think of ourselves as the moral conscience of the JCR – if there was ever to be an angry mob raised from the JCR there is no doubt we would be at its head.



Website and Computer Officer – Alex Walker

jcr.webmaster@balliol.ox.ac.uk

I am responsible for the maintenance and development of the JCR website and mail-lists. I am the person to contact if you pour a kettle full of boiling water on your laptop during Freshers' Week.

College Officers

All College Officers are there to help you with any problems and difficulties. Here is a list of some of them.

The Master, Drummond Bone: The head of College and in overall charge of the administration. He is the last port of call for any problems to do with college itself. This is his first year at Balliol and so we are all excited to meet him at the start of term. You will also meet him in Master's Handshaking (see glossary).

The Vice-Master (Academic), Dermot O'Hare helps the Master in the day to day running of the college.

The Vice-Master (Development), Seamus Perry helps the Master on the developmental side i.e. ties with alumni, future building plans etc.

The Dean, Douglas Dupree is responsible for discipline and welfare in College and will be the first recourse in case of a serious problem. He is the man who is best suited to help if you get into a pickle outside college (e.g. legal problems). You will all meet him in Freshers' week. You can drop in and see him or make an appointment via his secretary (catherine.willbery@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

The Junior Dean, Aime Lopez-Aguilar is a graduate student and lives on the main college site. She assists the Dean and is similarly available to help with any problems.

The Senior Tutor and Academic Registrar, Nicola Trott looks after your academic issues and problems. If you want to change your course, or have a complaint or any questions about academic issues, feel free to email her (nicola.trott@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

The Chaplain/Financial Aid Officer, Douglas Dupree Doug lives in staircase 21 and you can go and see him to talk about anything, from course worries to financial worries or just for a chat. You can drop in and see him or make an appointment via his secretary (catherine.willbery@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

The Domestic Bursar, Jo Roadknight is your contact for in-college problems about rooms, Battels (see glossary), rents, etc. She is happy to see students during normal office hours if she is available, but if possible, please make an appointment through her secretary: bursars.secretary@balliol.ox.ac.uk, telephone number 01865 (2)77742.

Academic Administrator, Glynis Price is located in the Masters lodgings. She is the person to see if you lose/break your bod card or if you need help with administrative matters. She works in the College offices from 9.30am until around 5pm. (academic.administrator@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

The Bursary is located on staircase 7. You go here to pay your Battels, pick up your grant cheques, and other stuff. Not the same as the Bursars.

Douglas Dupree - The Chaplain



My primary role in Balliol is a pastoral one. The College has a tradition of hiring chaplain who care for the personal welfare of the whole community. I try to be friendly to everyone in order to gain trust in the event that an individual might have a need or a problem they would feel comfortable to share with me in confidence.

As part of my training for the ministry I have taken several professional courses in counselling. I have over 25 years experience in pastoral work and counselling. To keep my hand in the local community, in addition to my full-time job in Balliol, I was for 10 years chaplain to HM Prison, Oxford before it closed in 1996 so there isn't much I haven't heard or seen. Over the years I have grown to know and respect the wider medical and help network in Oxford and London and have good working relations with that network. On any given day in term I might see mix of people – including first years or members of the college staff or fellows. I try to be of assistance to everyone in College. I am also the Financial Aid Officer for the college.

I live in Staircase 21 and can be reached easily by email or telephone (2)77716 or by my secretary Catherine Willbery in my College Office – or just knock on my door.

Douglas Dupree – The Dean

The Dean's main concern is the well-being of the College community. Mostly this entails supporting those in some sort of difficulty; sometimes it entails imposing penalties on individuals. Externally, if you ever find yourself 'in trouble' – for example on a police matter, or regarding legal difficulties over your rental of a property – he is the officer to contact. Internally, dealing with inconsiderate neighbours, mediation between those who have fallen out, and discussion of emotional, academic, and social problems, all fall under the Dean's welfare provision. If someone is unhappy at Balliol, for any reason, he or she can approach the Dean in a confidential capacity, and he will do whatever he can to help.

Appointments to see the Dean can be made through his secretary, Mrs Catherine Willbery by email catherine.willbery@balliol.ox.ac.uk or by phone during office hours 01862 (2)77733. Outside office hours, he can be contacted in an emergency via the Lodge, (2)77777. He is available to help with urgent personal problems in confidence at any time.

Nicola Trott - Senior Tutor and Academic Registrar



The Senior Tutor is not herself a tutor, but oversees tuition in the College. She is also in overall charge of academic administration. Funding bodies, e.g. LEAs, sometimes require the College to submit forms on behalf of individual students, and University procedures often require a signature from the College (for example when a graduate moves from one status to another): the Senior Tutor is usually the person who signs such forms. She will need to be consulted if you are contemplating a change of subject,

or are obliged to take a leave of absence from college on medical grounds. She is also charged with mediating between individual students and University bodies (such as the Proctor's office) during examination periods.

The Senior Tutor will write to inform you of academic awards you have been granted, and – much less often! – of any academic discipline you may be facing. She administers a number of college trust funds for the award of academic project and travel grants, and you may make an application to her for help with certain expenses during your course of study (e.g. medical electives or equipment).

Normally your first port of call if you are experiencing problems relating to your course of study would be your Personal Tutor (or College Adviser in the case of graduates). However, there may be issues which you feel uncomfortable discussing with your Tutor, and the Senior Tutor is the person to see in such cases. Although we hope very much that you will not want to complain about the tuition that you receive at Balliol, it is of course your right to do so, should you feel that the teaching you are getting is inadequate. The Senior Tutor is the person you should contact in the first instance, in order to make any kind of academic complaint. She urges you to respond to the College's termly and anonymous online teaching questionnaires. And she will also want to hear if you can think of way in which College administration might be improved. All such matters will of course be treated in the strictest confidence.

You can contact the Senior Tutor directly at nicola.trott@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Alison Nicholls
College Sister

I'm Alison the College Sister. I'm qualified in general in general nursing. I see my role in College as being divided into three areas: the obvious one is the physical health – looking after students (or staff) which they are ill or have had an accident; the second is mental health, helping you cope when a relationship is causing problems, or the normal anxieties over studies/exams are taking over your life; and thirdly, the “signpost” part of the job, if you don't know who you need to talk to I can point you in the right direction, for example if you need a dentist or chiropractor. I am here to sort help with a very wide range of health matters and concerns. Repeat prescriptions, doctor's appointments (usually same day), and emergency contraception are also available. All consultations are confidential.

Come and see me in my room on staircase 22, room 1. I am available to see students between 9.30 and 11.15am each weekday except Wednesday when my hours are 1.30pm – 3.30pm. If you are unable to come to me, because you are too ill, leave a telephone message or a note at the Lodge and I'll come and see you in your college room or house. My telephone phone number is (2)77737, you can leave a message on my voice mailbox; or email alison.nicolls@balliol.ox.ac.uk

College Doctors, 19 Beaumont Street

The doctors surgery that Balliol is affiliated with is literally across the road and is less than a 3 minute walk. It's almost (but not quite) as convenient as popping to Tesco!

A doctor or nurse is available during opening times (8am - 6.00pm) but the telephone lines are open from 8am - 6.30pm



General Enquiries: 01865 240501



Out of hours / Emergencies: 01865 240501

(Out of hours you will be redirected to a doctors' answering service).

College Dentist, 3 George St.

Again they are just down the road.



Telephone: 01865 244304

JCR Facilities

The Norway Room (the JCR) Hand-built by Olaf V, King of Norway in the 1960s as a penance for a crime he did not commit, this is the main student common room. Everything happens here: JCR meetings debate weighty issues, romances blossom, breakfasts are eaten, crosswords filled in...it's our home.

The JCR Pantry One of the JCR's most popular services (and unique in Oxford), Pantry provides students with breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks every day of the week. Food ranges from quality Chilli and stir-fry nights to the traditionally student-friendly greasy options, ideal for curing a hangover or helping you through an essay crisis. Prices are quite cheap, and you can set up an unlimited tab on your bod card, which goes on to your Battels for the next term. Also, look out for Late Night Pantry on Tuesdays, and Formal Pantry twice a year: the most exclusive dining experience in the whole of Oxford, once attended by HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

The Lindsay Bar The only student run bar left in Oxford (so all the profits end up going back to you). The JCR elects an officer, Lord/Lady Lindsay, to run the bar, and an assistant, Jack/Vera Duckworth to help them. It is staffed totally by students, which means a friendly atmosphere and variable service. Beer is cheap, the jukebox is packed with some TUNES, and the table football, pool table, and games machine will eat your loan. Open every night until 11pm, with late openings on Fridays and Saturdays, and 75p shots on Crazy Tuesday.

The TV Room Though not the most cosy of lounges, it does contain a TV to watch 'Come Dine With Me', 'Desperate Housewives' etc, and arcade games to annoy people watching TV. There is also a DVD player available and a Playstation 3. There are lockers here for the use of second-year students living out.

The Internet Café In the corner of the JCR nearest the Pantry hatch. There are computers to check your emails and catch up on the latest facebook posts (since leaving your room which is a mere 20 metres away).

The Lindsay Room A gym. Although it has the same name as the bar, this room aims to get rid of an emerging beer belly, not encourage it. You have to be inducted during Freshers' Week, and once inducted, you can sign the key out from the Lodge at any time before 10.30pm.

The JCR Office This can be used to send faxes, photocopy notes and collect bar and pantry wages, this doubles as the JCR headquarters. You can find Denise (the JCR Accounts Clerk and loveliest person ever) in here 8am to 2pm.

Recycling There are recycling bins in the JCR for paper, empty bottles, cardboard and cans, one in every college room for paper, and one in the Post Room to throw all your junk mail into. There are also large recycling bins for EVERYTHING outside staircase 20.

Washing Machines The JCR provides washing machines, tumble driers and irons in the basement of staircase 21. You can book up to two washing slots per day on a piece of paper in the post room.

Punt An Oxford must. The JCR rents a punt for Trinity Term for people who have an inclination to drink Pimms and fall in rivers. There is possibly nothing nicer to do during the Summer. Sign up in the lodge.

Storage Rooms Two rooms at the bottom of staircase 12, primarily for overseas students to leave stuff over the holidays, but where you can put all your empty suitcases during term time. Label your things and don't put anything too fragile in there. Unlabelled things are left at your own risk – the leftovers are regularly auctioned off.

Newspapers A broad selection of high-quality and low-quality newspapers are put out daily in the JCR for to read and vandalise.

JCR Banner Battle standard at all occasions, our very own red flag is kept flying wherever the forces of darkness gather to sell us their avarice tainted lies.

Roary the Lion Our JCR mascot who can be found cheering us on at rugby matches, regattas, and dance-offs.

...plus loads of other things I can't think of right now!

Pantry

One of Balliol's more unique features is its Pantry, an institution the like of which cannot be seen in any other college in Oxford. It is our own little cafe, serving up hearty sustenance to the people of Balliol. Standing proudly in the JCR it acts as a focal point for the college: providing a meeting and moaning point for those doomed to 9am lectures; a refuelling stop for damp and exhausted rowers; and a suitably sympathetic recovery environment for those who truly did themselves proud the night before.

It is staffed by a charming set of ladies during the week and some student staff on weekends. Responsibility for its well being lies in the hands of the noble Foody Brothers. It offers unlimited tabs and occasionally puts on extravagant formal dinners.



The Lindsay Bar

The Lindsay Bar is located in the heart of Balliol College's main Broad Street site. A unique, historic throwback to a bygone age when all Oxford college bars were owned and operate by students, the Lindsay is run by annually elected members of Balliol JCR. We think this works. At a time when many college bars are unused, we are proud to be thriving.

Although you'd be quite right to expect cheap beer from us, we offer a lot more than that; we stock a shockingly well priced range of premium spirits too. Our Open Mic nights attract talent from throughout Balliol and beyond. On Tuesdays of Full term quite possibly the cheapest shot night in the country swings by: Crazy Tuesdays, when a shot + mixer costs 75p.



The Bar is run by Lord/Lady Lindsay with help from their able assistant Jack/Vera Duckworth. If you're interested in working on the Bar or want

to suggest something to be sold down there get in touch with them.

Computing Facilities

JCR Website:

The website is new and is set to be one of the best JCR websites in Oxford. It's a hive of information with the latest news (via the **termcard**). The agenda for JCR meeting are also posted on the website and you can view the JCR's much revered constitution.

Email

Everyone in Oxford has an email address in exactly the same format. It goes firstname.surname@collegenameorweirdandconfusingabbreviation.ox.ac.uk. If you know their name and college you can email them. This works for tutors, students, etc. Your address will look like this too, although your email won't be activated until the middle of Freshers' week. If you're not sure of their full name then www.ox.ac.uk/contact is a very useful Site. Email is **really important** – this is how tutors send most of their messages, the JCR informs you of up and coming events, and the various societies which seduced you at Freshers' Fair will get in touch. Most people in Oxford will check their email a few times a day.

Computers Everything technological is kept underground in Balliol, to prevent it contaminating the Oxford image. So if you wander into Staircase III (in the front quad), you'll find a room packed with computers at the bottom, as well as **scanners, CD-writers, and internet/email facilities**. It's all completely free and dead easy to use – if you have any problems we have JCR Computer Officers who usually have a wealth of knowledge on technical matters.

Ethernet Points There is one of these in **every bedroom** in college. You fill out a form and the point gets enlivened. Then go and buy yourself a **cable** if you have not already got one (about £5 at the University Computing Services Shop, 13 Banbury Road) and you can connect yourself 24/7 to email, the web, and each other.

College Facilities

Hall

Lunch and Dinner are provided in Hall seven days a week during term. Daily there is a selection of meat and vegetarian dishes, salads, cold and hot sweets, as well as chocolates and drinks. There are a number of ways to purchase the meal: in cash, by putting money on your Bod Card or alternatively the college operates a pre-payment deal which entitles you to an evening meal every night during term. Menus are displayed in the JCR, Buttery, outside Hall and even on the JCR website. There is no dress code, and no formal hall. (We do have informal, formal hall!! – basically dress up smart with table service but bring your own alcohol and no need for gowns)

The Buttery

Underneath Hall, serving wine, beers, spirits, and soft drinks. Open 9am to 2pm Monday to Saturday, and also from 6pm to 8pm on weekdays. Alcoholic drinks are not served until 11am each day. This room is a time capsule with old sporting photographs covering the walls, it is a pleasant place to meet friends for an early morning coffee, evening pint, or Pimms on a summer evening.

The Library

The Library is renowned for the number of books, and is the best place to take those lengthy reading lists. It is open 24/7 during term time and can be accessed simply by swiping your bodcard!

The Lodge

Where the porters are stored at the front entrance. They are a really lovely bunch of people who are in charge of your keys, and can furnish you with a spare should you (or your scout!) lock yourself out of your room. They chase away tourists. They believe that we spend half of our time in bed and the other half bothering them with silly questions. They are friendly and helpful, but expect you to be nice and polite too. A friendly wave each morning doesn't go amiss. You can ring the lodge from the internal phone if anything goes wrong, day or night.

The Chapel

The Chapel is unmistakable and accessible from the front quad. There are evening prayers on Monday at 6.15pm and Compline (a short evening prayer) on Thursday at 9.30pm and Sunday at 11am with the main service at 5.45pm. Anybody can go to

chapel, either for the services or at any other time, and it is open to people of all faiths and none.

Post Room

Accessible from the Lodge, this is where you receive your bank statements, bills, reading lists, and junk mail. It will come all neatly stacked in a pigeon hole which has your name above it. The sign up lists for the JCR washing machines are also in here.

Pigeon Post

This is the intercollegiate postal service. Up to five letters can be sent free of charge to any other college or department in Oxford per go, then it's 2p per letter. Give them to the porters.

Scouts

Not the boys in short trousers, but the college housekeepers. They will wake you up. They will empty your bin every morning and clean your room once a week. They will politely ignore bed partners. As long as you're nice, they'll be nice. Leave your bin outside your door if you don't want them to come in the morning.

Function Rooms

You can book a variety of room in College for private functions. See the Bursars' Secretary (Staircase V) for details. If you can get enough people together, then you can commandeer Hall or the OCR and order lots of expensive and tasty food from the Head Chef. Academic rooms (e.g. Lecture Room 23) can also be booked through the lodge.

Croquet Lawn

During Trinity Term you can sign out the keys to the croquet cupboard and play croquet on one of the lawns in the back quad. If you've never tried it before, give it a go next summer – it's a lot more fun than you think it will be.

Master's Field

Walk down Jowett Walk, go past the Jowett flats, and you will find a sports field, containing a football pitch, a cricket pitch and nets, some tennis courts and a basketball court. See the sports pages later in this book for more details.

Societies at Balliol

Life at Balliol is hectic, and just in case there wasn't enough going on, there are a load of subject and non-subject related societies to get involved in. Often all they manage, however, is an occasional piss-up. You can find a list of society contacts through the JCR website at ballioljcr.org.

SUBJECT SOCIETIES

BACCHUS 1. Get lots of chemist, biologists and biochemists; 2. Order lots of booze; 3. Place both ingredients in a room (at increasing temperature and pressure). Wait for a) tutors playing the piano and singing; b) descent to the Bar; and finally c) meltdown.

Balliol Medical Society open to all from medical (ish) degrees, have a number of events per year including slap-up meals and guest speakers.

Beers Balliol Engineers Society. Heated discussion on the finer points of bridge design reverberate through Hall at the annual dinner, although the odd chink of glass and bottle has also been recorded!

BUMS Balliol Undergraduate Maths Society. With their annual introductory drinks, meal-cum-speaker evening, and numerous bouts of alcoholic revelry, it could be argued that Balliol's mathematicians have only one thing on their minds.

BURPS is the social and hence rather small wing of Balliol physics, they organise events for physicists and physics & philosophers. These include the Sticky Buns party in Freshers' week, and the orgy of over-indulgence known as the annual dinner.

Cerberus is Balliol's PPE Society. Its three undergraduate heads, strive tirelessly to organise speaker meetings, hosting distinguished members of the intelligentsia; they wine and dine – and even learn some stuff – as much as the budget will allow. Membership is free and automatic to all Balliol undergraduates studying PPE.

Devorguilla is a society for Balliol's vast group of historians. Devorguilla has recently been revived and is rapidly becoming a decent subject society. There are speaker meetings and social events which provide opportunity for the great hordes of historians to congratulate themselves.

Younger Society comprises all Balliol students, past and present who have read Law or gone into the legal profession. It has the usual drinks parties and a wildly exciting annual dinner with important legal folk – not that there's networking or anything...

If your subject's not represented here, don't worry. You'll still have various drinks and dinners with your tutors. Try not to get TOO hammered in front of them!

OTHER SOCIETIES

Aikenshaw Society, also known as the Balliol Poetry Society, meets every two weeks or so for port, wine, chocolate, fruit, cheese, biscuits and poetry banter. It's free, everyone is welcome and extensive knowledge of literary criticism is definitely not required (though English students tend to enjoy the chance to show off).

Arnold & Brackenbury: Formed many years ago when the sporting of black ties and the drinking of copious amounts of port were considered prerequisites of a sound argument, the A&B Society dines and debates. Guest speakers and past members join forces with undergraduates to recount funny anecdotes and announce as yet unknown gossip. Membership is based on the quality of a post-debate floor speech.

Balliol Left Caucus: provides an informal forum for discussion. Despite Balliol's reputation as a socialist stronghold, Left Caucus sympathisers range from those excited by a mildly radical revolution to the theories of a continuous revolution.

Musical Society: Picture a darkened Hall with rows of gowned Fellows and a throng of students scattered casually between the glowering portraits. This is the scene for the fortnightly Balliol Concerts which feature a wide variety of often world-renowned musicians. Admission is free, but paying a small subscription entitles students to use the College Music Room.

Balliol Dramatic Society: No matter how much in/experience you have somewhere here there's a show for you in Oxford, and it's not just actors, but directors, producers, marketing team, lights, sound, the lot! Balliol has its own studio theatre 'The Pilch' which seats up to 50. Cuppers is a Drama Competition for 1st years with the emphasis on fun – a good way to get involved.

Christian Union: The CU is part of Oxford Inter-collegiate Christian Union and they meet together in college each week and sometimes organise talks and debates.

Scrawl: Scrawl is the Balliol New Writing magazine, located online at www.scrawlonline.org.uk, and home to fine writers and bohemians everywhere.

Sport at Balliol

The most popular sports are probably rugby, rowing and football, and there are men's and women's teams for both (usually!). There are also netball, hockey cricket, squash, tennis, badminton, croquet, bridge, table football, darts and pool teams. Intercollegiate competitions known as Cuppers are held for all of these.

Facilities Balliol is very lucky to have such central sports facilities – Jowett Walk is less than five minutes walk from college and has a football pitch, two squash courts, cricket nets and a cricket pitch. University Parks, where you can find rugby, lacrosse, and hockey pitches are just up the road, the University Sports Complex on Iffley Road is fifteen minutes walk or a five minute cycle ride. We also have a gym (conveniently situated next to the bar).

Rowing This is Oxford's most famous sport and anyone can have a go! This year the women's 1st VIII retained headship of Summer Eights (i.e. they won the BIG race) and Balliol men's 1st Vllls are respectably placed in both competitions. Most of our rowers start rowing at Balliol so you don't have to have any experience – just turn up. The lower boats can be less serious but are known for working hard and playing hard: we have the most sociable crews on the river so do get involved! Boat Club Drinks on Thursday at 7pm (this is open to all so go even if it is for the free stuff)!

Football There are two men's teams in football, and one women's team (shared with Regents Park). There is plenty of opportunity to get involved for both the talented and the less serious players. Football try-outs will take place on Wednesday of Freshers' Week at 4pm.

Rugby Balliol has always boasted a great reputation as one of the stronger men's first XV's in the university. There is also a mixed touch rugby team – no previous experience is necessary and all standards are welcome. There will be an introductory mixed touch session on Friday of Freshers' Week at 3pm.

Cricket Balliol's first XI are quite good at cricket, and there is no better way to waste an afternoon in the summer term. Along with cricket dinner, cricket drinks, cricket in general.

Netball This is primarily a women's sport, although token males are welcome if over 6ft. Tickets for Netball Dinner are like gold dust...if you're male.

Basketball Balliol have a very successful basketball team which regularly competes in coppers – the inter-college competition held in Trinity term. The team comprises of all standards from blues to novices with a mixture of JCR and MCR members.

Hockey Balliol has a mixed team which is fairly successful and definitely a good place to have a laugh. If you were brilliant at school, or even if you haven't played before, come and give it a go. Hockey's always a lot more fun when there are no officious games teachers around...

Table Tennis Balliol is lucky to have a good quality table tennis table and although there has not been a regular tradition in college it is definitely a sport worth getting involved in.

Squash This is an extremely popular sport at Balliol, which probably has something to do with our brilliant facilities at the Master's Sports Ground in Jowett Walk. Balliol has two squash courts here which are frequently used both for training by men's and women's teams, and by social players.

Croquet Balliol take croquet "seriously" because it has a serious croquet pitch, within seconds of the Buttery and beneath the shade of some rather ancient and very lovely tree. Pimms and lemonade and the thrill of an intense, fast-paced competition...all you need is the rain to stop.

Lacrosse A recent addition to the Balliol sporting repertoire, the mixed lacrosse team has become a well-oiled athletic machine. Commitment is unquestionable and, whilst many are unaware of the finer points of the game, fun is had by all.

Bar Sports These are very big at Balliol. Each night, Balliol's finest (female and male) congregate in the Lindsay bar for intensive training in sports that are rapidly becoming the most competitive in Oxford. Inter-college darts matches often spark off disputes that are only resolved on the pool table or table football pitch. League and Coppers events can be organised for all three sports, so there is plenty of chance for retribution.

Student Unions in Oxford

OUSU (Oxford University Student Union)

Most British universities have a single student union which takes care of welfare, organises events, and generally represents students. But Oxford has 39 separate colleges, each with its own student unions: the JCR's and MCR's. This makes life a little complicated. The common rooms generally play a role in most of the above areas, but there are some things that concern all the University's students, or which common rooms do not have the resources to deal with, and that is what OUSU exists for. Unfortunately OUSU lacks the large building with bars and meeting places which other universities have.

OUSU is administrated by a team of six sabbatical officers; the President and five Vice Presidents with specific portfolios. OUSU council meets every fortnight and is the Student Union's decision making body. Balliol JCR has three votes in council which are held by the JCR President and Affiliations Officers. Any student can attend and speak at council. There are also several committees which are set up to address specific areas. These are also open to all, and all you have to do to get involved is contact a committee co-chair and turn up to the meeting.

OUSU also organises welfare on a university level and operates a free legal advice scheme, and provides information booklets such as 'Living Out' and the 'Women's Handbook' to students. It operates the Student Advice Service, who can provide help and support if you get into academic, personal or legal trouble. OUSU is also the largest student publishing house in Europe producing the weekly newspaper 'The Oxford Student', the annual student handbook, and the Freshers' Guide. OUSU also runs the university Freshers' Fair.

The Oxford Union

Entirely separate to OUSU, this is just for those who pay to join, and is primarily about debating, socials and speaker events. It costs a lot to join, and it must be said that you have to concentrate to make sure you get your money's worth. This is not necessarily the fault of the Union, which usually lays on great speakers and interesting debates, and owns the Purple Turtle, a late bar/club really close to Balliol. It is probably worth waiting until you arrive, and having a look around before paying the money to join. They'll offer you a discount to join before you come up, but it is probably worth considering membership carefully.

Other Oxford Studenty Stuff

You don't need to just do your degree. The University provides **art tuition** at the Ruskin for those who are interested (and whose portfolio is good enough). **Language courses**, from beginner to very advanced are also available for those taking non-language degrees.

You can write for either of the two establishes **student papers**, the Cherwell and the Oxford Student, simply by turning up. Alternatively, develop more 21st century skills with the growing number of student web sites around, such as **the Alligator** – started by a Balliol student.

Plays and musicals are going on all the time, with plenty of opportunities to act, direct, write, work backstage, for the absolute beginner or pro looking for an agent. There is also a large number of **orchestras, bands, jazz groups and music classes**, several successful **a capella groups** to keep any musician happy. Check out Balliol's music room on staircase 23 – sign out the key from the lodge.

There are also hundreds of other societies for pretty much every interest under the sun – from the political societies, to the Chinese society, the Tolkien Society, the scuba-diving society, juggling, and knitting societies – and that's just scraping the surface.

OUSU Freshers' Fair

This is where all those clubs and societies and sports and magazines and everything of Oxford get crammed together into Exam Schools, and all the Freshers get crammed in with them, and market forces happen. No-one is allowed to take money off you on the day but all of them will take your email addresses and within a couple of days you'll receive a barrage of stuff.

Make sure you go to this. It has a huge amount to offer than other places don't, and you'll kick yourself if you miss out.

Out and About in Oxford

PUBS/BARS/CLUBS

Less well known than its facilities for scholars, and much more fun, are Oxford's facilities for drinkers; whilst it might not be quite as hectic as London (only an hour and a half on the bus which runs 24/7) there are still plenty of places to go out.

The first pubs that you should get to know are the **King's Arms ("K.A.")** and the **Turf**, just wander out of Balliol and turn left. On a sunny day make your way to the **Head of the River** and for a more old-manny experience try the **Lamb & Flag** or the **Eagle & Child** (where lots of famous people wrote famous books). Prices aren't generally too student-friendly, although the **Three Goats** is quite reasonably priced. In general, however, it's best to stick to Balliol's own **Lindsay Bar**.

Oxford has an increasing number of trendy bars, stuffed with the more affluent students or those who prefer spending their loans on decent cocktails rather than on paper and pens. Definitely worth a visit is the **Duke of Cambridge** on Little Clarendon Street which has a very popular Happy Hour. **Baby Love Bar** just off the High Street is also quite popular, particularly on Tuesday's gay night Pop Tarts. **Kazbar** on Cowley Road is also worth checking out, offering Moroccan tapas along with your drinks.

Clubbing in Oxford can be pretty hit and miss. Wednesdays at **Park End** usually attract a lot of Balliolites with cheap alcohol and three dancefloors. The **Cellar** puts on quite a wide variety of nights – Eclectic is often worth doing to, as is Sunday Roast if you are after something a bit different from the clubbing norm. If the clubbing norm is exactly what you are after, then try the **Bridge**, and **Camera**. The **O2 Academy** on Cowley Road is home to Fuzzy Ducks on Wednesdays (voted by FHM the easiest place to pull in Britain), and when it isn't hosting bleak cattle markets it also attracts a lot of bands and DJs, as does the **Regal**.

FOOD

There are lots of places in Oxford that sell food. Some sell nice food and some sell not so nice food. Below are some of the nice ones:

Lunch/Sandwich places: Obviously your first port of call should be the **JCR Pantry**. Then you could try **Café Crème** which is just outside the college, or **Ricardos** in the Covered Market. The **ATS** (Alternative Tuck Shop) is on the way to Jowett and also reallyyyyyy good!

Cheapish meals out: Oxford has most of the standard chain restaurants, with lots of pizza places like **ASK**, **Pizza Express**, and **Zizzi's**. Which one to go to will usually be dictated by www.studentbeans.com which usually has a selection of buy one get one free vouchers. Other good places are **Noodle Nation**, **Nando's**, **Giraffe**, and **GBK**.

Next level up: Nice food that's quite expensive (main courses around the £10 mark) but worth it if you can afford it. In town, head to **Quod** for an old-school establishment atmosphere (if you like that kind of thing), or **Jamie's Italian** for celebrity chef stuff. In Jericho, **Pierre Victoire** does good French food, especially good if you take advantage of the cheap lunchtime or group party prices, and **Branca** on Walton Street is equally lovely. Out in Cowley there are oodles of little places the best of which is probably **Door 74**.

Up once again: Ideal if someone else is paying. At the top end of the scale you have **Gee's** and its big brother, the slightly stuffier **Old Parsonage**. The food is amazing. By the Folly Bridge **Aquavitae** is the perfect setting for a balmy evening, complete with lush cocktails and classic Italian dishes, and if high tea takes your fancy then the **Grand Café** is a must. To escape from the city, go for a walk in Port Meadow to the **Trout** for riverside dining, or the **Perch** for quirky surroundings and wonderful desserts.

Other fun places: After a heavy night out, or a depressing night in, **Hassan's** is the kebab van outside college, and just happens to be one of the best in Oxford. For a slightly more upmarket van-dining experience, the **Organic Burger Van** near the Ashmolean is worth a try. The title for best bring-your-own-booze curry house is fiercely contested by **Jamal's** and **Bombay**. More upmarket are the Bangladeshi restaurant **Aziz** on Cowley Road, and **Cafe Zouk** in town. For sushi, try **Edamame** on a Thursday night, for thai **At Thai** is always a good shout and for a thoroughly Jamaican atmosphere **Hi-Lo** serves food and drink well into the night.

FILM & PLAYS

Oxford is well-endowed with cinemas – from the two **Odeon** cinemas offering the latest blockbusters, and the **Ultimate Picture Palace** off Cowley Road, which has excellent cult films and great themed weekends at good prices.

Oxford is home to many a thesp and many a theatre. There are usually three or four to choose from every week, mainly student productions, so you can really go crazy for culture. At the **Playhouse**, you can't usually go too wrong. The **Burton Taylor** has most of the more experimental drama and Balliol itself has the smaller **Pilch** theatre, which is great for little production companies finding their feet.

Finance

Outgoings

Each term you will receive your bill from college, which is called Battels. You will need to pay it by Friday of 2nd Week. You do so by going to the Bursary, staircase 7. The charges include your rent, JCR levies and tickets for various things rolled over from the previous term.

Incomings

Long gone are those happy days when we received grants. Student loans are the means of survival now. You can apply for these through your LEA. Douglas Dupree, the college Chaplain can help you find out about the procedure and also apply for them.

Financial Aid

Both the College and the University have lots of money to help those in financial need. No one should have to leave college due to financial difficulty. You will receive a Money Matters booklet which tells you what funds and grants are available and how to apply for them. Please read it! Remember, if you don't ask then you don't get. Both Douglas Dupree and the Drs. WHO are happy to be approached. In an emergency, there is a crisis fund which Doug administrates. There is no need for you to starve, and there is no need for you to have a miserable time on the poverty line. So even if you don't qualify for any of the bursaries that are available, if you are struggling to make ends meet make an appointment with Doug and go and discuss your situation, as he may be able to help out with a grant or a loan. It must be stressed that if you having financial difficulties Doug would rather hear about it than not hear about it, don't be shy! You'd be surprised at the number of people who have at some point received financial aid.



Peer Support

What is Peer Support?

Peer supporters are trained by the University counselling service to listen and support other students. We are not here to solve your problems, but to help you work through whatever is on your mind, however big or small. We can also point you towards other sources of help. We offer a confidential, informal service and are happy to help with anything that is on your mind. We can listen and talk, and we won't moralise, criticise or judge you in any way.

Contacting a peer supporter:

The current JCR peer supporters are:

Talia Bolnick taliambolnick@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Siobhan Betts siobhan.betts@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Paul Gerstmayr paul.gerstmayr@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Abu Abioye abubakar.abioye@balliol.ox.ac.uk

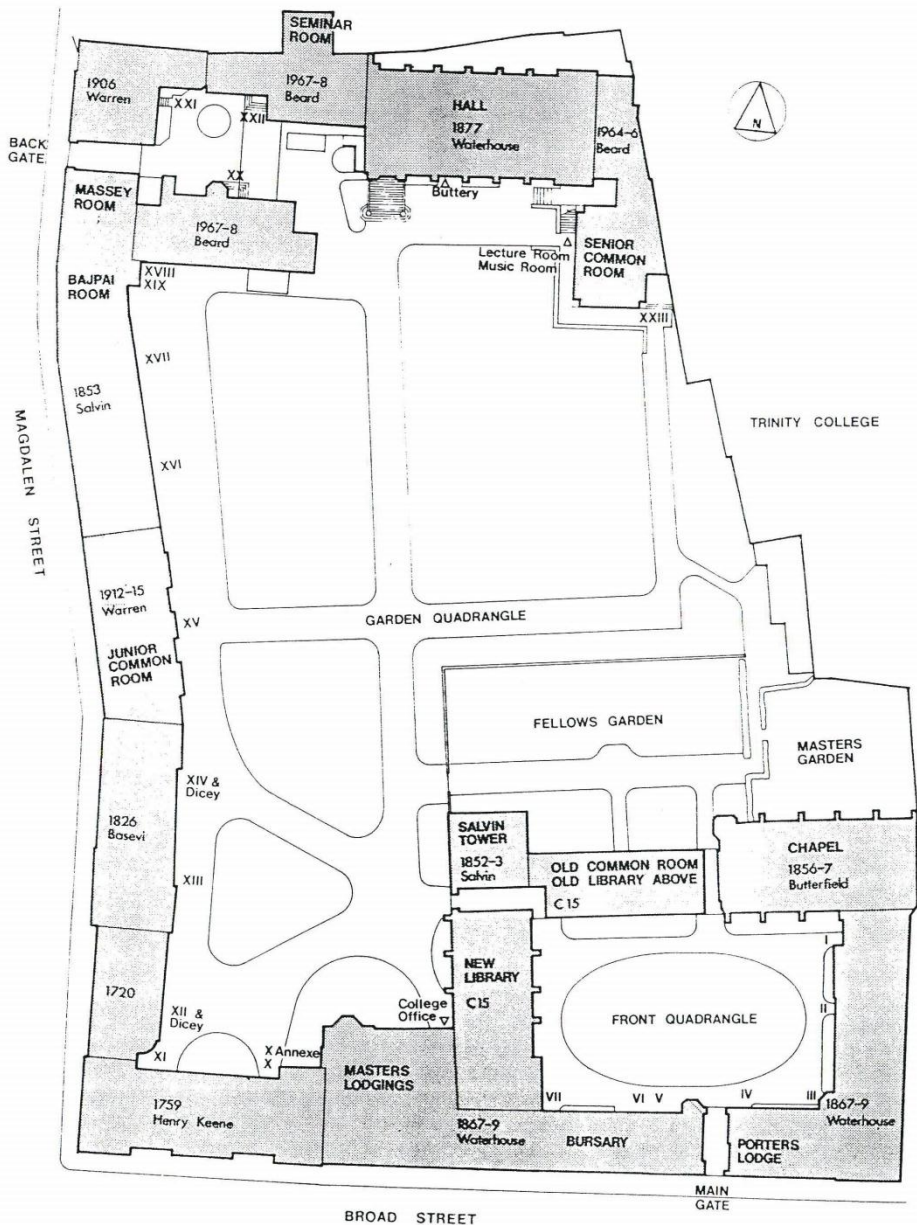
Tewfiq Al-Sharaiyra tewfiq.al-sharaiyra@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Cailean Gallagher cailean.gallagher@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Feel free to contact any of us before you arrive. During term time you are welcome to email anyone on the peer support team who will try to get back to you within 24 hours to arrange a time and place to meet up. We are always happy to be contacted whatever you want to talk about, big or small. We aren't here to tell you what to do, or to judge you, but we are always available if you want to talk to someone in confidence, or get some information on the other support services available.

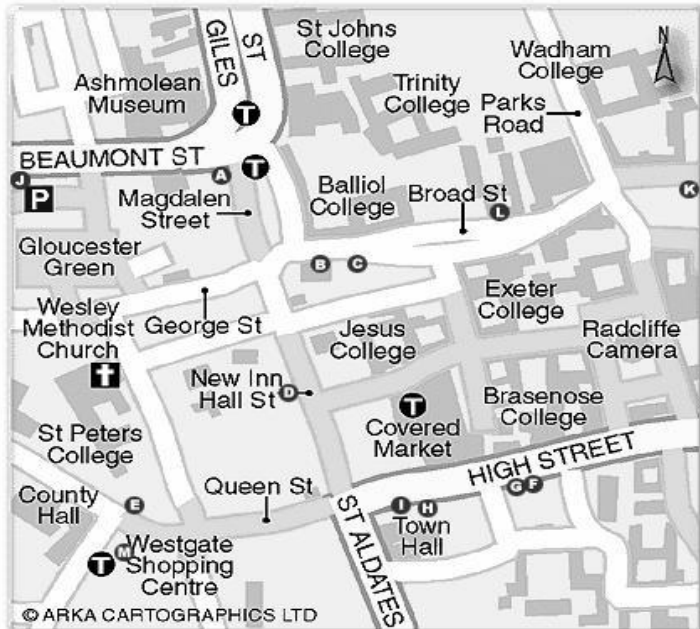


Map of Balliol



Map of Oxford

Sorry this map isn't great. It's copied off the internet, so the letters refer to stuff that's completely different, but I've some of them... In Freshers' Week, there'll be a big map up in the JCR with everything you'll need to know marked on it.



A The Randolph. Balliol's back gate is opposite that.

L Blackwells, a huge bookshop

K The Turf pub is well hidden near K.

H Approximately where India Garden can be found.

D This is Cornmarket Street which has lots of shops, as does Queen Street and the Westgate Shopping Centre.

The college doctors are at the 'B' of Beaumont Street.

The Bodleian Library is just above the Radcliffe Camera.

Gloucester Green has clothes shops and stuff. It has an open air market on Wednesdays. There are restaurants like **Noodle Nation** here. More importantly, the **bus station** – you can get a return fare to London for £11 from here, every 15 minutes.

Bikes and Phones

BIKES



Oxford may be famous for bikes but do you need one? Well...

Scientists will have all their lectures and labs in the university Science Area, which is about a 10 minute walk from Balliol, which would make it a 2 minute cycle. Which means 8 more minutes in bed each morning... It's harder to say about the artists – a lot will have lectures at Exam Schools – again about a 10 minute walk, but some lectures are at faculties etc.

Everyone can definitely get by without a bike. However, if you're a bit disorganised it might help. If you were planning to do lots of sport, you might well find yourself cycling round Oxford to various pitches and training session = again, a bike would be useful. If you live out in 2nd year, it is definitely worth having a bike.

If you have a bike, I'd advise you to bring it – if there's room in the car. If you don't have one, you can easily buy one in Oxford, new or 2nd hand. It might be a bit more expensive here in Oxford, because demand is high, but it saves you transporting it here.

If you do decide to keep a bike, there are racks in Broad Street, but far safer are the College bike racks, which are underground in the Front Quad. If you want to keep your bike there, you have to take it to the lodge where the porters will register it, and give you a tag and a security code thing for the princely sum of 60p.

PHONES

All college rooms now have phones in them so you can call anywhere on the university network for free. Worried parents can also call in, though at the moment the rate is quite high.

In terms of mobiles, if you're getting one specially for university then avoid O2 as Oxford has pretty bad reception, but saying that people manage so don't worry about it too much.



Glossary

Battels: College rent bill. Disputes used to be settled by means of a duel between the Bursar and the best JCR shot.

Blackwell's: A really big bookshop just down the road from Balliol.

Bod: Short for the Bodleian (library). The biggest library in Oxford and one of the only three copyright libraries in the country, meaning that it gets a copy of EVERY book published in Britain.

Bod Card: Your university card. Gets you into the Bod but also serves as your general ID card to get you into other colleges, faculties, nightclubs etc.

Bop: The JCR gets turned into a big party, with great cocktails (albeit in plastic glasses) and lots of intense music to boogie the night away to with all your friends.

Coming up/Going down: Not what it might at first seem but the act of arriving at/leaving Oxford.

Collections: Little tests set by your tutors and administered in Hall. They're supposed to check you worked over the holidays/remembered something from the term before. Depending on your tutor, these are normally fairly informal – though obviously the JCR would never condone sneaking your notes in!

Cuppers: University wide inter-collegiate competitions, for everything from cricket and footy to drama and tiddlywinks.

Entz: Oxford-speak for Entertainments. Usually in the form of Bops, but includes big-screen weekends, karaoke, bands, and lots more.

Freshers' Fair: This is a university wide event in freshers' week where people frantically try to get you to sign up for many a sport and society that you never knew existed. Put your name down for anything you think you might be interested

in, you can always take your name of mailing lists later.

Handshaking: Your tutors talk to you about your work at the end of term. Not as scary as it sounds. And you don't shake their hands, unless you really want to.

Matriculation: Sometime near the beginning of term you dress in Sub Fusc (penguin gear) and get barked at in Latin very early in the morning as part of your official enrolment as a member of the University.

Modes/Prelims: First year examinations where you are expected to dress up for the second time in sub fusc, but this time you have to do exams. You have to pass these to carry on (pass mark is 40-50%) but there is opportunity for re-sits if it all goes pear shaped.

Noughth Week: The week before term officially starts. You are expected to come back for meetings with tutors, etc. And to see all your friends again. But you don't have any tutorials.

Rad Cam: Part of the Bod, it's big and round and beautiful, and houses History and English books.

SCR: Senior Common Room. All the present fellows (senior members of teaching staff) of Balliol, and the room they sit about in.

Sub Fusc: Penguin gear you have to wear for exams and matriculation. Black suit, socks and shoes. White shirt. White bow-tie (men) or black ribbon (women). Plus cap and gown. You can pick one of these up when you arrive, or you can borrow some from the porter's lodge, if you let them know a few days in advance.

Tute: Short for tutorial, you and one or two others sit down for an hour with a tutor and talk about something more or less interesting.

Useful Telephone Numbers

There is a list of numbers in the OUSU Freshers' Handbook, and you can find a directory of all university numbers (colleges, departments, tutors, etc.) by the phone outside the post room. The following is a shortlist of the most useful ones for Balliol students:

COLLEGE NUMBERS

Porters' Lodge (any problems, day or night, contact)	01865 (2)77777
Dean	01865 (2)77727
Chaplain	01865 (2)77716
Nurse	01865 (2)77737
JCR Office	01865 (2)77744
JCR Fax	01865 240152

DOCTORS, ETC.

College Doctors, 19 Beaumont Street	01865 240501
College Dentist, 3 George Street	01865 244304
10 O'clock Chemist, 59 Woodstock Road	

WELFARE NUMBERS

Nightline (anonymous, confidential student listening service 8pm – 8am, 16 Wellington Square, takes calls and visits)	01865 270270
Samaritans	01865 722122
University Counselling Service	01865 (2)70300
Eating Disorders Association	0845 6341414
FRANK (Drugs Helpline)	0800 776600 Text: 82111
GUM clinic (STDs) Harrison Dept, Radcliffe Infirmary	01865 246036
Family Planning Clinic, Cowley Road	01865 456666
OxAIDS	0800 393999
Alcoholics Anonymous	01865 242373
Drinkline (9am-11pm Mon-Fri, 6pm-11pm Sat-Sun)	0800 917 8282

AND FINALLY

ABC Taxis	01865 770077
001 Taxis	01865 240000
Odeon Cinemas	0845 750 5007

Numbers featuring a (2) are university ones. Dial them for free from an internal phone by missing off the (2) and dialling the last five digits. From a mobile, etc. dial the area code 01865 and include the (2). Numbers without the (2) are non-university and cannot be dialled internally for free.

BOP:
UNDER THE SEA



Saturday 9th October

BE THERE OR ...

