

BALLIOL
FOR
BEGINNERS



A GUIDE BY **BALLIOL JCR 2017**

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WELCOME!

Hello, and well done on getting to Balliol! You're now a **Balliolite**, a member of our wonderful **Junior Common Room (JCR)**, which has a fair claim to being the most welcoming and active in all of Oxford.

My name is Freddy. I'm a history student, and I'm the **JCR Vice-President**. This means that I help the President, Hubert, to run the JCR, but also means that I'm responsible for organising your **Freshers' Week**. In that capacity, I work with our dedicated JCR Committee and with college, and together we're going to ensure that you have all you need to jump straight into your time at Balliol. Balliol is a really friendly and welcoming environment, which makes it that much easier to integrate into the college community and enjoy your time here to the full. Hopefully by the end of Freshers' you'll have a much better sense of Oxford life, have settled in and have met lots of new people, and there'll be **plenty of us around** to help facilitate that and to **address any questions or concerns** you might have.

The function of this handbook is to offer a **basic introduction to all things Balliol**, as well as the broader city within which our college is situated. It covers stuff like **how to get here**, what to expect when you do get here, **what to bring**, and useful staff and committee members to get in touch with if you have specific questions. It doesn't cover everything, though – there's **loads more information about the JCR** at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/freshers, as well as a **JCR blog** (<http://ballioljcr.wordpress.com>) and a **JCR Instagram** (@BalliolJCR), which are run by our Access and Admissions Officers.

If you've got **any** questions about Freshers' Week, Balliol, or Oxford, you can contact me by email (frederick.potts@balliol.ox.ac.uk) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/freddy.potts.1). Alternatively, you can always contact your **general parents**, your **subject parents**, or the other members of the JCR committee by email. (General parents and subject mentors are just second- and third-year students I'll be emailing you about soon.) Some useful email addresses for specific questions and issues can be found below.

I'm really looking forward to meeting you soon!

Freddy

Drs WHO (Wellbeing and Health Officers):

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Amrita.khandpur@balliol.ox.ac.uk

LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning) Officers:

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Academic Affairs and Careers Officers:

Finn.conway@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Luke.chester@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Ethnic Minorities Officers:

Simran.uppal@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Suwanja.srikantha@balliol.ox.ac.uk

International Students Officer:

Alexander.gruen@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Women's Officers:

Laura.mcmillen@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Monique.keane@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Student Disabilities Officers:

Marianne.cain@balliol.ox.ac.uk

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ARRIVAL

Monday 2nd October is the date you need to remember - unless you've let college know otherwise, we'll expect you to arrive between **10am and 4pm**. If it's really not possible for you to come on Monday, it is possible to arrive on **Sunday 1st October after 2pm**. If you need to do this, **please call Balliol (01865 277777)** to let us know you'll be coming early. I have to stress that it is much easier for both you and the college if you get here on the Monday.

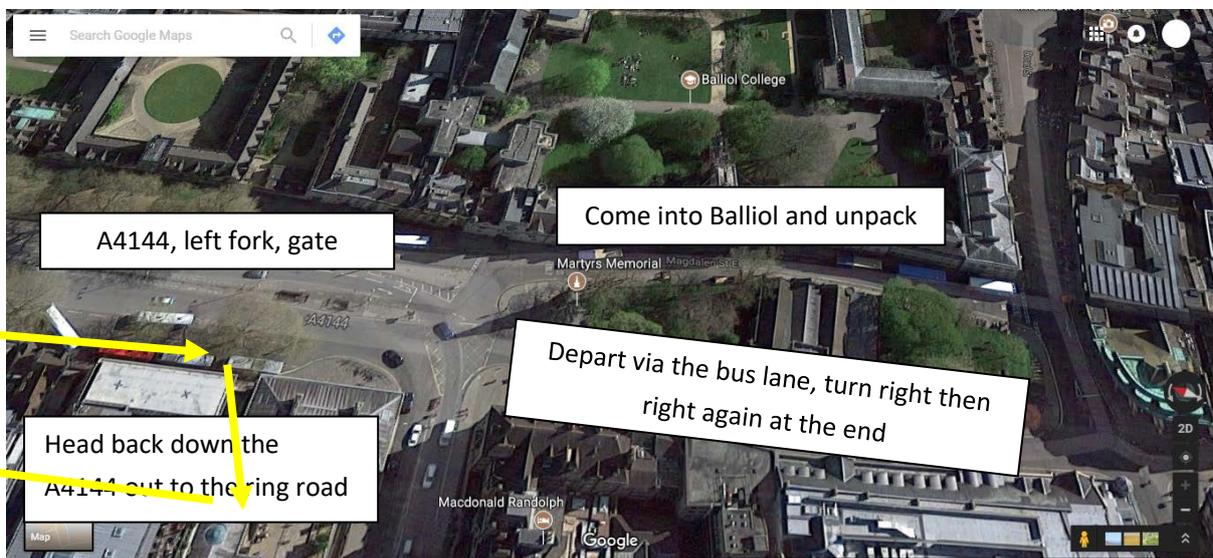
Getting into Oxford can be a pain, because there's a lot of one-way roads in the city centre. If you're coming by car, your best bet is to enter Oxford **from the north** via the **A4144**. This holds true even if you aren't coming from the north, in which case it will still be quicker for you to take the ring road around to the A4144 than trying to slog through the city centre, much of which is one-way only, bus routes or cycle-paths closed to traffic.

Once you're in Oxford, you're aiming for **the gate on St Giles**, highlighted below. There's a chance that your satnav might try to take you to the main Broad Street entrance instead, so make sure to double-check it.



Once you're onto the **A4144**, follow it right the way into the city centre. It becomes **St Giles Street** once you're close to Balliol. Just before the gate, and just opposite the Randolph Hotel, the road forks in two. The **left fork** is a bus lane, but you're allowed to use it to get into the gate.

Our back gate is **just a few yards down the bus lane**. Unless you turn up very early, there's probably going to be a queue at the gate; just pull in at the back of the queue and marshals



will take you from there. If you aren't arriving on Monday 2nd, there's a bell on the gate which you should ring in order to talk to the porters.

Once you're inside, someone will tell you where to park; you've then got **30 minutes** to unpack, which might not sound like much but is more than enough time, especially as there'll be JCR volunteers on hand to help you. Once you're parked, head to the **Old Common Room (OCR)** to pick up your stuff – it's in the **top-left corner of back quad, at the end of a covered passageway**. It'll be signposted, don't worry! (If you're coming on the Sunday instead, just go straight to the Porter's Lodge, which is at the very front of college.) Once you're in the OCR, you can **sign out your door key** and the electronic fob which lets you onto your staircase – make sure to remember your staircase and room number – and then you can unpack.

After that, the afternoon is yours; you can go for lunch with family, just get down to unpacking, or socialise in the JCR with other newly-arrived freshers if you're feeling gregarious. We'll also be offering regular tours of the college so that you're well-oriented in your surroundings from the get-go. Even if you focus on something else first, by **late afternoon** you should aim to **visit the JCR** (which will also be signposted). There'll be **tea and coffee**, as well as various committee members, general parents and other freshers, so it's a great chance to ask any questions you have on your mind and settle in.

International students may well need to arrive before Monday; if that's the case, contact College, who'll try to meet your needs as best they can. If you're flying into the UK, it's probably worth getting in touch with Alex, our International Students Officer (alexander.gruen@balliol.ox.ac.uk), so as to work out the best way of getting to Balliol.

THINGS TO BRING

Here's a list of things you're likely to need or want during your first term. (If you forget to bring some stuff with you, it's not a disaster; there's a Tesco, a Sainsbury's and a department store called Boswell's within 1 minute's walk of Balliol's front gate, and Cornmarket Street (also very close to college) has more shops on it too.)

Toiletries and bedding:

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

Clothing and related stuff:

- Clothes
- Coat-hangers
- White shirt/blouse
- Smart dark suit
- Black shoes
- Hilarious costumes, any fancy-dress kit you might happen to own
- Sports kit

Things to personalise your room:

- Posters/wall-hangings (although per college rules these should only really be attached to your noticeboard, not the walls themselves)
- Cushions and other stuff to make your room nice...a potted plant perhaps?
- Some books
- Photos from home
- Extension leads/plug boards
- Speakers

Things to eat and drink with:

- Mugs and glasses (it gets sad drinking everything from a mug)
- Coffee, tea, sugar, milk, biscuits (for your guests!)
- Cutlery and crockery

Things to do work with:

- Stationery
- A4 Paper

- Files/folders
- Relevant A-level notes (they just might be useful!)
- Laptop (if you have one)

Assorted bits and bobs:

- Passport (really important!)
- Camera (if you have one)
- Passport photos (for various ID cards and membership cards you get given)
- Documents (passport, driving licence, NI Card, NHS registration card etc.)
- Bank details (a/c number, sort code etc)

Things you can expect from your room:

- Single bed
- Wardrobe
- Chest of drawers
- Desk
- Desk chair
- A notice board (maybe)

Things you're not allowed to use per college rules, so shouldn't bring:

- A frying pan
- A toaster
- A wok

THE JCR

“JCR” stands for “Junior Common Room”. This refers both to the collective undergraduate population of the college (and the institutions which represent them) and a **physical space** in which members of that collective, which is to say you, can all hang out. Balliol’s JCR is **unusually active** by undergraduate standards, in terms of both its annual financial turnover and its degree of popular participation. It offers a **student-staffed and student-managed canteen**, “Pantry”, and a **student-staffed and student-managed bar**, the Lindsay Bar. Together these, combined with the regular entertainment offered by our “Entz” (short for, uh, **Entertainment**) Officers, mean that the JCR will likely play a major role in your undergraduate life. Whereas at many other colleges the JCR as a physical space tends to be somewhat deserted, Balliol’s JCR bustles.

The JCR is run on a day-to-day basis by **Committee (see below)**, students elected on the 6th Saturday of Michaelmas (First) Term who serve in their roles for a year. In addition to Committee, **General Meetings (GMs)** are held at least 4 times per term in the JCR. GMs are open to all Balliol undergraduates, and any Balliol undergrad can speak at them. GMs are often the sight of lively, impassioned but respectful debate because they are consequential – GMs are a decision-making body, and the resolutions passed can have an impact on college life, issues within the wider university, and even (through stuff like the Charities GM at the end of every term) on the world outside the uni. There will be an introductory GM at the end of Freshers’ week, with a quick talk beforehand to explain how GMs work in more detail.

THE COMMITTEE

A list of all the Committee officers and their roles; feel free to get in touch with them if you have any questions you feel are specific to their office. Additionally, some positions are explained in greater detail below.

President Hubert Au

(Hubert.au@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Vice-President Freddy Potts

(frederick.potts@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Treasurer Zachary Leather

(Zachary.leather@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Secretary Hannah Williams

(Hannah.williams@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Lord Lindsay Cameron Watson

(John.watson@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Foodies Alex Toal, Leah Mitchell

(alexander.toal@balliol.ox.ac.uk,

leah.mitchell@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Dr WHOs Ele Saltmarsh, Amrita Khandpur

(ele.saltmarsh@balliol.ox.ac.uk,

Amrita.khandpur@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Women’s Laura McMillen, Monique Keane

(laura.mcmillen@balliol.ox.ac.uk,

Monique.keane@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Entz Ste Rose, Ellen Cropley

(steven.rose@balliol.ox.ac.uk,

ellen.cropley@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

LGBTQ+ Cole Horton, Beth Cadwalladr

(cole.horton@balliol.ox.ac.uk,
Bethan.cadwalladr@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Access Calum Holt, Izzy Howden
 (calum.holt@balliol.ox.ac.uk,
isobel.howden@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

International Students' Alex Gruen
 (alexander.gruen@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Ethnic Minorities' Simran Uppal, Suwanja Srikantha
 (Simran.uppal@balliol.ox.ac.uk,
suwanja.srikantha@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Housing Julia Davis
 (Julia.davis@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Academic Affairs Finn Conway, Luke Chester
 (finn.conway@balliol.ox.ac.uk,
luke.chester@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Computing Antonia Siu
 (Antonia.siu@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Sports Katy Husband, Ali Nicklin
 (kathryn.husband@balliol.ox.ac.uk,
Alastair.nicklin@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

SDOs Marianne Cain, Juliet Flamank
 (Marianne.cain@balliol.ox.ac.uk,
Juliet.flamank@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Charities Leon Kidd, Rishem Khattar
 (leon.kidd@balliol.ox.ac.uk,
rishem.khattar@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Class and First Generation Isis Kearney
 (isis.kearney@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Environment and Ethics Felix Heilmann
 (felix.heilmann@balliol.ox.ac.uk)

Pantry

Pantry is Balliol's student-run café/kitchen, a one-of-a-kind institution in Oxford. The only place in college to provide three meals a day, we try specifically to make our meals as cheap as possible and are run in the interests of students. In the morning we have a full range of cooked and uncooked food on offer, for lunch we have a broad range of paninis, toasties and wraps along with sweet and savoury snacks, and for dinner we put on a healthy, hot meal, and every night provide at least a vegetarian option, if not a vegan one too.

You can also work in Pantry! Simply message either of the two foodies, Leah Mitchell or Alex Toal, and arrange a training shift, either working at the till (£6.50/h) or making the food (£7.05/h), along with a free meal during the shift. It's a really good way to save on living costs, save up some money and make friends with everyone from college as they come to buy food from Pantry!



The Lindsay Bar

The Lindsay Bar is located in the heart of Balliol. A throwback to a bygone age when all Oxford college bars were owned and operated by students, the Balliol bar is run by members of the JCR – a Lord or Lady Lindsay, who this year is Cameron Watson, and their assistant Duckworths, Sam Luker Brown and Bessie Sorsby - who are



elected annually. At a time when many college bars are unused, we are proud to be thriving. Balliol Bar offers more than just cheap pints and a great atmosphere. We stock a shockingly well-priced range of premium spirits and plenty of non-alcoholic alternatives. We regularly host parties in the bar, and every Tuesday we host quite possibly the cheapest shot night in the country: Crazy Tuesdays, where a shot costs 85p. Our jukebox, table football and pool room offer plenty of entertainment for more quiet evenings. See you all in Freshers' Week!

Dr WHOs

Hello all! We (Ele Saltmarsh and Amrita Khandpur) are the Welfare and Health Officers, which means that we oversee welfare provision at Balliol. When we arrived, there were so many committee members introducing themselves and people popping up to try and be helpful that I instantly forgot all about who could help me with what. Do not worry if you are similarly overwhelmed; there will be posters with photos of us plastered everywhere, and you always have this handy guide to come back to!

We'll just give you a quick overview of how the welfare subcommittee works. Like all committee members, we are elected by the JCR (that's you!) at the end of the first term, and hold our positions for one year. This means that at the end of Michaelmas we all step down, and you guys can have a go at running if you want. There are 8 different offices: Welfare and Health- WHOs, LGBTQ, Women's, International Students- ISOs, Ethnic Minorities- EM, Class Affiliations and First Generation- CAFGO, Student's Disabilities- SDOs, and Academic Affairs- AcAf. We represent a diverse range of backgrounds, identities, and opinions that hopefully are representative of the JCR, so that if you have any problems you'll usually find someone who you feel comfortable talking to about it. If you're not sure who to approach, Amrita and I are around to signpost you to further resources. All of welfare sub can discreetly give you condoms, dental dams and lube, SDOs and WHOs can reimburse prescriptions, Women's and WHOs can reimburse the morning after pill, and look out for the tampon avalanche held at the start and end of term by Women's!

Other than that, committee generally keeps day to day stuff ticking over and tries to hold fun/informative/relaxing events every so often- one of the things that makes Balliol JCR the most sociable and cohesive. If you have any ideas for events, things you want to run, or you'd like us to do, let us know!

Women's Officers

We're Laura and Monique and we're the women's officers, meaning we represent all those who identify wholly or partially as women at Balliol. We're on the JCR committee, and welfare subcommittee. This means sometimes you'll find us running welfare teas. We supply the JCR with sanitary items; we hold a big tampon avalanche event, usually at the beginning and end of term with



lots of chocolate and treats for people to stock up, and we keep the toilets in Jowett and staircases 3 & 16 topped up. We also supply pregnancy tests, and along with the rest of welfare sub we can reimburse you for prescriptions, and only the women's officers can reimburse the morning after pill or sanitary cups. We also run various events throughout the term, starting out with women's drinks and the consent workshops in fresher's week. Past events have included a bar social, bracelet making, and Pimms on the lawn. We are usually about college, if anyone wants a chat at any point, feel free to approach us about any topic. We send out a weekly email with all this info as well as upcoming events around Oxford, so don't worry if you've missed anything here!

LGBTQ+ Reps

Welcome to Balliol! You've picked a wonderful place to spend the next few years, not least because of the accepting and diverse community of people that also call Oxford home. We're Beth and Cole, and as your LGBTQ+ reps, we're here to help you take full advantage of all the opportunities that exist for LGBTQ+ people in college and throughout the uni. First and foremost, our role is a welfare one; chase us down on Facebook or in person for resources, concerns, or even if you just want to chat. We also organise a number of events throughout the term, including club nights, films, welfare teas, and just about anything else that involves free food. We'll be in touch again soon, but please do reach out if you have any questions at all!



SDOs

We are Marianne and Juliet and we are Balliol's Student Disabilities Officers (SDOs).

That means that we are here to help individuals get the support they need to tackle any obstacle which may be making their time at Balliol difficult. There are institutions both within Balliol and the wider university to provide this support. We want to



make a Balliol education accessible and enjoyable regardless of the obstacles you may face. Whether this means helping to signpost you to the relevant people, providing support or just being a friendly face during the process, we will do our best to help.

We're also part of the Welfare subcommittee in college which means that we get to organise some fun events occasionally and run teas in the JCR to provide people a space to chat and relax whilst enjoying some snacks!

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

OTHER FACILITIES

Committee, GMs and degrees aside, there are other aspects of the JCR too. Probably the most notable of these is the **TV Room**, located immediately next-door to the JCR proper. The TV Room is very much a “does what it says on the tin” affair; **there is a TV, there is a Sky box** for that TV so that people can communally watch TV such as Game of Thrones, Love Island, football matches etc., and **there is a games console** (whose precise make I’ve forgotten, although it’s pretty new). There are also **lockers for use by JCR members**, and **sports equipment storage** too.

We also have a **JCR Gym**, located right next to the Lindsay Bar and itself called **The Lindsay Room**. As well as being somewhere where **sports teams frequently train, individuals** are also free to keep fit using the gym. You have to **do an induction** first, and membership costs **£10 per term**, but once you’re inducted you can sign out the key at any point before **10:30pm**. The gym offers rowing machines, free weights and bikes, among other things.

We also have other communal facilities, most notably **washing machines and tumble dryers** (and irons too), which live in the **basement of staircase 21**. You can prebook a washing machine slot on the JCR website (www.ballioljcr.org/laundry), and are allowed up to **two slots per day**. In addition to this, there are also **storage rooms** at the **basement of Staircase 12**, which are **primarily for international students** to leave stuff in the holidays but where you can also leave empty suitcases during term-time (with the permission of the **International Students’ Officer, who oversees the room**). As with the gym, the key needs to be **signed out from the Lodge**.