

## Undergraduate admissions video 2023 - transcript

*[When several people are shown together their names are listed from left to right.]*

*[We see some external areas of College: the gardens, lawn and the Broad Street entrance. Will Fitzgerald speaks in voice-over with these images]*

>>WILL FITZGERALD, FIRST-YEAR ENGLISH STUDENT: My first impressions, I just thought it was such a nice welcoming, calm environment.

*[Mina Yucelen and Will are sitting in the Balliol JCR, with a banner that says 'Balliol JCR Women' and a painted Balliol crest hanging in the background]*

>>WILL: It's big but it's not huge and it's not tiny either, so it's really lovely.

*[Students are shown walking through the main college entrance, there is another view of the Hall from across the lawn, and then we see Penny Yiallouri smiling as she stands in front of the lawn in the Front Quod. We begin to hear her voice in voice-over before it fades to Penny and David sitting in the Master's Lodgings on a luxurious red sofa, speaking to the camera]*

>>PENNY YIALLOURI, SECOND-YEAR HISTORY STUDENT: When I first moved in, one of the first couple of days I just look outside my window, and I could see all the gardens and the trees and I was just saying,

*[As Penny mentions the gardens and trees, more views of Balliol's gardens and trees are displayed. We then see Penny walking through College as 'This is home now' appears as animated text next to her.]*

>>PENNY: Oh my God, this is home now, and it really felt like home.

*[We see David and Penny on the sofa again. For the final words spoken above, David is nodding in agreement.]*

*[We see Yuvraj Bhagotra smiling as he stands outside in the sunshine in the Garden Quad]*

>>YUVRAJ BHAGOTRA (YUV), THIRD-YEAR MATHEMATICS STUDENT: (in voice-over) I think before I came to uni, I was like slightly worried because you hear loads about Oxford,

*[The camera shot changes and we see Yuv sitting on the same sofa that Penny and David were on previously, with Lilia and Izzie, who both nod in agreement as Yuv finishes speaking.]*

>>YUV: So, you just think that everyone's going to be like really, really hard working and intense and like posh and upper class.

>>LILIA KANU, SECOND-YEAR HISTORY AND ENGLISH STUDENT: Coming to Balliol

all of those sort of preconceptions disappeared

*[As Lilia speaks, we see her and Izzie standing outside, smiling, with trees in the background. As she says 'Everyone was sort of like me' the words are displayed in animated text.]*

>>LILIA: because everyone was sort of like me, in a way.

*[The camera returns to the sofa with Lilia, Izzie and Yuv]*

>>LILIA: It was just sort of like, 'Oh everyone's normal!' Everyone's friendly, everyone really is interested in what they're doing but at the same time has other interests that they want to pursue.

*[We see Jaden Ruddock standing in the Garden Quad with the Balliol Old Common Room (below) and Library (above) in the background. As he starts speaking, the shot changes and we see him sitting in the same location as he speaks.]*

>>JADEN RUDDOCK, FIRST-YEAR MATHEMATICS STUDENT: I didn't actually choose Balliol - I got pooled in. However, I'm absolutely thrilled that I did get into Balliol in the end. We have an amazing group, we have amazing tutors, and overall it's just a really nice environment.

*[We see a female student working on a bench outside in the College grounds]*

*[David Danin begins speaking in voice-over as we see him sitting at a piano in the Master's Drawing Room, with beautiful gold wallpaper and antique furniture in the background. This then changes to show David and Penny sitting together on the same sofa as before as he continues speaking to camera]*

>>DAVID DANIN, FOURTH-YEAR PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY STUDENT: The great thing about the college system is that you get both a formal and an informal support network.

*[We briefly see Mina and Will again, in the same location as earlier. As Will speaks in voice-over we see six Balliol Junior Deans, three sitting on a bench outside with three behind them. The Balliol Hall is in the background. Animated text says 'Junior Deans are older students who are able to provide help and advice']*

>>WILL: There's really support in every area that you can think of, from finance to welfare. They can help pay for certain things like prescriptions.

>>MINA YUCELEN, FIRST-YEAR HISTORY AND ENGLISH STUDENT: Free feminine hygiene products - that's been so helpful.

*[Will nods in agreement]*

*[Whilst Izzie Alexandrou speaks in voice-over, we see various sites across the College's Broad Street site, including the main Tower on Broad Street, with the LGBTQ+ flag flying in the morning breeze, and two of the grotesques on the College buildings. We then see Yuv, Lilia and Izzie again, on the same sofa as before]*

>>ISABELLA ALEXANDROU (IZZIE), SECOND-YEAR LAW STUDENT: As a Fresher you'll be living on the main site, which is lovely - in the really old historic rooms.

*[We see Mina and Will again]*

>>MINA: You really don't feel alone here - you're surrounded by friends all the time.

*{As Mina finishes talking in voice-over we see Will, now sitting outside, wearing a jacket with a Balliol crest on it, smiling and laughing with a friend. The words 'You're surrounded by friends all the time' flash up in animated text.}*

*[We see David and Penny again, in the same place as earlier, and as David says 'incredibly central' the words are shown in animated text on the screen]*

>>DAVID: Incredibly central, a minute away from the Hall, two minutes away from the Library.

*[We see Jaden again, sitting outside as before]*

>>JADEN: Well, if I want to do anything it's right by my doorstep.

*[We see a Balliol student enter a staircase]*

>>LILIA: (in voice-over) You are put in staircases based on your sort of room allocation preferences. Luckily I made my best friend who was my neighbour in first year, so that staircase system really worked out for us.

*[We're shown a staircase plaque, with 'Staircase 20' ( the number in Roman numerals) and a list of names and room numbers to show who is in each room on the staircase. This then changes to show a student studying in her room, working at her desk with photographs of family and friends covering a pin-board and wardrobe doors. As Lilia speaks in voice-over, the words 'Guaranteed accommodation throughout your course' are shown in animated text on screen.*

>> LILIA: You have accommodation for all the years of your course here, but you do get the option when you finish first year to live off site or live on site, which is much nicer because the community is still there.

*[We see the Fellows' Garden, the exterior of the Old Common Room (below) and Library (above) as Mina speaks in voice-over, before the shot changes back to show Mina and Will sitting in the JCR as before]*

>>MINA: It's so fun being in the first week and like exploring and finding the nice spots. The different seasons as well - it has like a different like allure to it, and it's really like incredible to take in that, you know, we get to study in like a really beautiful place.

*[As Mina talks about the seasons we're shown a snowman in the Garden Quod with the Balliol Hall in the snowy background]*

*[The music changes to become more up-beat and we're shown various shots of the College Library before we see a Balliol Tutor in his room, working with a student, with the words 'Studying at Balliol' presented on the left of the screen. Will begins speaking in voice-over as we see more of the room, with comfortable arm chairs, an antique chest of drawers and countless books on five shelves of a wall-to-wall bookcase.]*

>>WILL: The tutors don't expect the world of you from week one, week two, week three. They know that you're just getting used to the environment of university, so that's really nice.

*[We see Mina and Will in the JCR again. Mina is nodding in agreement with Will as she starts speaking. As Mina speaks, the words 'It really does remind you where you're here and why you love the subject' are animated on the screen.]*

>>MINA: Some of my tutors have been some of my favourite academics, and getting to talk with them and asking the questions that like come up when you read their works and their texts - yeah, it's really amazing. It really does remind you why you're here and why you love the subject.

*[We're shown the interior of Balliol's Hall, with wooden benches and tables, portraits on the walls and enormous stained-glass windows. The words 'Food at Balliol' are shown in animated text on the left of the screen.]*

*[As Izzie speaks in voice-over we see students being served breakfast in Hall, eating together, and shots of sausages, pastries, mushrooms, etc. Towards the end, we're shown Yuv, Lilia and Izzie on their sofa. All three are laughing as Izzie describes people's reactions to Hall.]*

>>IZZIE: I think what really makes you remember how amazing it is when you have people to visit and they see the Hall and they're like 'You eat here for breakfast, lunch and dinner? For breakfast, lunch and dinner every day?' and I'm like 'Yeah'.

*[We see more students eating in Hall, as Mina speaks in voice-over, before we see her in the JCR again laughing as she says:]*

>>MINA: I'm a huge fan of Hall breakfast - it really makes my day.

*[We cut back to Yuv, Lilia and Izzie]*

>>LILIA: We have Balliol Fried Chicken, which I think is really funny. Is it called BFC on the like ...? *[asking Yuv and Izzie]*

>>YUV: I think it is.

>>IZZIE: I think ... I think that's just what people have coined it,

*[Collective laughter]*

*[We cut back to David and Penny again]*

>>PENNY: For me the best thing is the availability of vegetarian options.

>>DAVID: They do a really good vegan trifle.

*[We're shown a shelf of old-looking books, and the words 'Early bird or night owl? Our Library is open 24/7' are animated on the left of the screen. We're then shown a brief image of a cream teddy bear, wearing a blue jumper which says 'Balliol College Bear'. This is followed by a shot of some students working in the Library, and a view of some newspapers and magazines laid out on a table]*

>>YUV: (in voice-over) Having the Library available at all times is just amazing.

*[We cut back to Yuv, Lilia and Izzie]*

>> LILIA: If you're looking for something that may not necessarily be found in other libraries you can just ask the Librarians

*[We see Naomi, with the words 'one of our lovely librarians' animated on screen, as she's working in the New Library]*

>>LILIA: (in voice-over) 'Can we order this in?' and it's usually a very quick turnaround. That has been really helpful for me in a History and English degree - I do so much reading!

*[We see the words 'And when you're not working' animated on the left and a team photograph of the joint Balliol-Brasenose women's football team - seven female students in their team shirts of Yellow with vertical Black stripes. Three more photographs show a women's football game, a game of Ultimate Frisbee on our Master's Field sportsground and a Christmas social event, with six students in Christmas-themed fancy dress sharing a bottle of wine]*

*[We cut back to Mina and Will]*

>>WILL: There are so many societies - honestly there are societies for like, everything.

*[We meet Amerleen Hundle for the first time, sitting in the same place as Will and Mina were, in the JCR with the 'Balliol Women' banner and College crest in the background]*

>>AMERLEEN HUNDLE, FIRST-YEAR ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT STUDENT: I've joined in the JCR, I do the Balliol comedy debate.

*[We cut back to Yuv, Lilia and Izzie]*

>>YUV: So last year I was President of the BAME Society at Balliol.

*[We meet Ed Grayson for the first time. Ed is standing in front of a white door, which is flanked by white bookshelves full of various books and folders. He is wearing a fleece with the Balliol crest and his initials, E.G., on it]*

>>EDWARD GRAYSON (ED), THIRD-YEAR HISTORY STUDENT: If you're into drama you can do the charity musical.

*[We cut back to David and Penny]*

>>DAVID: That was the first time when I was wearing fishnets.

>>PENNY: Yeah, he was brilliant.

*[We cut back to Yuv, Lilia and Izzie]*

>>YUV: There's a Balliol maths society called BUMS - Balliol Undergraduate Maths Society. *[The words 'Balliol Undergraduate Maths Society' are shown animated on screen.]* We call it BUMS on Ice.

*[Collective laughter]*

*[We cut back to Jaden]*

>>JADEN: Ice skating, lots of falling - hence, BUMS on Ice.

*[We see Ed playing pool in the Balliol College bar (the Lindsay Bar), and then Ed, Amerleen and Callum (to whom we will be introduced to shortly) sharing a table and drinking the 'Balliol Blue'. The wall of the bar is adorned with colourful murals about the College's history and alumni. The one visible shows a cartoon of the author Christopher Hitchens, who was a student at Balliol.]*

>>LILIA: (in voice-over) The Balliol Blue is the College drink, which you can find in the Lindsay Bar, which is completely student-run.

*[As each ingredient is named by a different student, we see it appear on the screen next to the others]*

VARIOUS>> (in voice-over) Blue curaçao, lemonade, vodka, peach schnapps, no umbrellas.

*[Laughter]*

*[Standing in front of the bar, Callum, Amerleen and Ed raise a glass of the Balliol Blue to the camera]*

>>CALLUM, AMERLEEN, ED>> Cheers!

*[The music changes, becoming upbeat and faster. We see lots of students relaxing on the lawns of Garden Quod, Will and Mina hugging in the sunshine, and two other students playing table-tennis in the JCR as Lilia says the following in voice-over]*

>>LILIA: (in voice-over) If I could summarise Balliol in one phrase it would be a home away from home. [*'Home away from home' is shown in animated text on the screen.*]

*[We cut back to Yuv, Lilia and Izzie]*

>>YUV: I would say it's like when it's a really cold morning and you wrap your hands around a really hot cup of tea - that's what I think Balliol feels like.

*[Laughter and sounds of agreement]*

*[We see Penny entering the College Lodge, greeting one of the porters, and a bunch of flowers being placed in a pigeon-hole in the Lodge.]*

*[We cut back to David and Penny]*

>>PENNY: There is no such thing as a typical Balliol student or person.

*[We see David playing the piano, and then Ed smiling in his room, Callum and Amerleen in the JCR as David says the following]*

>>DAVID: (in voice-over) It's not just people studying different subjects but also people with different interests, different backgrounds, different nationalities, different sexualities - it's all

represented at Balliol.

*[We see Lilia, Izzie and Yuv standing together in the sunshine outside the Master's Lodgings]*

>>LILIA: (in voice-over) When I came in here I was a shy, sort of quiet kind of person. Now I'm Vice President of the JCR committee.

*[Laughter]*

*[We see students playing table-tennis again, and the words 'warm' and 'welcoming' animated on the screen as Will speaks]*

>>WILL: (in voice-over) It's warm, it's welcoming,

*[We cut back to Mina and Will in the JCR, the words 'unpretentious' and 'fun' are animated as Will says them.]*

>>WILL: unpretentious, fun.

*[We see a student say each of the words below individually, in various places around college]*

VARIOUS>> Inclusive. Lively. Vibrant. Supportive.

*[We see Callum Webb, standing in the JCR]*

>>CALLUM WEBB, SECOND-YEAR PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS STUDENT: Balliol is somewhere that you can be yourself and learn to be part of a community.

*[We see Ed and another student relaxing in the sunshine in Garden Quod, then a photo looking upwards at a circle of 11 Balliol cricket players (including Ed) gathered around the camera, all looking down and smiling]*

>>ED: I've met some amazing people, had some amazing experiences, and I feel like it's set me up for life.

*[As Ed says 'I feel like it's set me up for life' we see him in his room again, with the words animated on screen next to him]*

*[We see two more students walking along Broad Street, just outside Balliol, and then entering the College Lodge, being welcomed by a smiling Porter]*

*[We cut back to Mina and Will in the JCR]*

>>MINA: I would definitely urge anyone who's thinking of it to apply.

>>WILL: I couldn't imagine myself anywhere else.

>>MINA: Yeah, exactly.

*[We see the Balliol College logo, the words 'Start your Balliol story here' and the following links:*

- [www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions)

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