

BALLIOL
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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



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Welcome

I meet all our new undergraduates, one by one, a few weeks after they arrive at Balliol, I always ask them what has surprised them most about their experience so far. The answer I get most often is, “Everyone is so normal”! They usually go on to say how supportive and friendly they have found the College community. Both are great answers.

Balliol has a well-earned reputation for academic success and engagement with the wider world and society. This achievement has rested on a pioneering approach to inclusion and diversity, first championed by my predecessors in the middle of the 19th century. Today we welcome students from all [countries and] backgrounds who have the talent and commitment to make the most of what Oxford has to offer. And then we work hard to help them make the most of their potential. I hope you will apply to be one of them.

Dame Helen Ghosh

DCB, MA MLitt Oxf
Master

Courses

- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Biology
- Biomedical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
- Classics
- Classics and Modern Languages
- Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Computer Science
- Computer Science and Philosophy
- Economics and Management
- Engineering Science
- English Language and Literature
- English and Modern Languages
- History (Ancient and Modern)
- History
- History and Economics
- History and English
- History and Modern Languages
- History and Politics
- Law (Jurisprudence) and Law with Law Studies in Europe
- Mathematics
- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Mathematics and Philosophy
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Medicine
- Modern Languages
- Modern Languages and Linguistics
- Philosophy and Modern Languages
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Physics
- Physics and Philosophy

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> Tutorials are the most rewarding part of studying in Oxford. The Tutors truly care about your work and will push you forward academically in a supportive environment.
>
> Rose 1st Year E&M student

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Teaching and Learning

Balliol students benefit from engaging with tutors, who are experts in their fields. Through the tutorial system, students are encouraged to think independently and develop confidence in their academic skills.

- Tutorials are weekly meetings with a tutor and usually one or two other students. Most tutorials take place within College.
- Students will attend lectures and may also have classes and practical work.
- The college has at least 2 Tutorial Fellows even in small subjects and an unusually large number in others such as Engineering. Physics and History.
- Students who achieve exceptional academic performance may be awarded prizes scholarships and subject prizes.



I love that it's 24/7. I have had a few nights studying later than I would have liked but it's so much better to be able to study in the library rather than my room.

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Using the Library

The library is run by a team of friendly librarians. It is open 24/7 for students to access resources and provides a variety of excellent study spaces.

- Copies of core textbooks for each course are available from the library. If you need a book, you can ask the librarians to purchase a copy for you.
- The librarians provide advice and training on finding resources, referencing and avoiding plagiarism.
- Balliol's library and archive are part of the wider network of university libraries, and there are almost 100 libraries in Oxford to support your studies.
- The library also provides squash and biscuits, board games, DVDs and origami, and hosts exhibitions, quizzes and readings.



> Chapel Choir is amazing! Balliol even supported us taking the choir on tour to Vienna.

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Social Life

Balliol students can and do enjoy an active social life. There are many regular student run activities such as BOPs (big organized parties) which take place in the Junior Common Room (JCR), film and tv nights, quizzes, club nights and welfare teas.

> Balliol's Lindsay bar is one of the last student run bars in Oxford and it's a great place to meet friends, enjoy cheap drinks and play pool.

> There is either a garden party or Summer Ball each year for students to celebrate the end of term.



I started MMA here (Mixed Martial Arts) and was instantly grabbed by the sport!

Leo 1st year History student

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Sport

All students are welcome to get involved in College sports regardless of ability. The college benefits from its own adjacent sports grounds and houses a small multi gym which Balliol students can join as members in addition to the university facilities.

Balliol students can access a range of sports, including football, netball, rugby and rowing, ultimate frisbee and yoga within the college.

Students can also access sports run by the wider university and make use of the university swimming pool and sports complex.

Students who wish to play sport competitively may get involved in inter college ports or represent the university.





No matter how niche, your interests will be met with enthusiasm and participation from the Balliol community.

President of Balliol Lettuce Club

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Clubs and Societies

College cultural life is rich and stimulating, and there is a varied programme of poetry readings, lectures, talks, debates and concerts. There are numerous subject-specific societies and lots of opportunities to get involved in Music and Drama.

> The college has a newly refurbished Music Room with piano, amps drums and its very own theatre, The Michael Pilch Studio.

> Subject societies include Bacchus (Chemistry), BEERS (Engineering), BUMS (Balliol Undergraduate Mathematics Society), BURPS, (Balliol Physics Society), Cerberus (PPE Society), Dervorguilla (History Society), Skoliasts (Classics Society) and the Younger Society (Law).

> College also offers the Drama Society, Balliol Literary Society, Balliol Musical Society, Sunday evening concerts, College Choir, and the A & B comedy debating Society.



> The ability to stay in college accommodation for your whole course is so convenient. Broad Street and Jowett Walk are so central you can walk everywhere.

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Accommodation

Balliol is able to offer undergraduates accommodation for every year of their course. Balliol's accommodation is found on the Broad Street main site, the Jowett Walk Complex and the Master's Field site and provides a range of options.

- All first-year students live in single study bedrooms on the main Broad Street site.
- There is a full kitchen and a further 6 kitchenettes in which students can prepare snacks.
- International students and students who are in care can access long leases.
- The College has several rooms which are specially adapted for disabled students. Students with disabilities or special needs should make College aware of these needs once their place is confirmed.





I've grown really fond of Hall dinners. It's a guaranteed chance to catch up and check in especially if you've spent a day in the library. Most of the people I know purchase the meal plan.

Avrah 1st year PPE student

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Food

Students eat in our dining Hall; a buffet style lunc. and dinner are available seven days a week during term time and breakfast is available Monday to Friday. There are also some special dining occasions such as formal Hall on Tuesdays and Society dinners.

The kitchen caters for students with halal, vegan and vegetarian diets producing high quality varied menus.

Food is heavily subsidized by the College and pre-payments plans, make eating in College even cheaper.

Students with special dietary requirements should make these known to the College, once their place is confirmed.



> Staff here go above and beyond to help students who need support.
>
> Ben 4th Year, Mathematics student

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Welfare and Wellbeing

Our friendly college **welfare team** consists of the Welfare Lead, the Student Support Officer, College Nurse, College Counsellor, Junior Deans, Peer Supporters and Harassment Advisors.

- The welfare team can provide support tailored to the needs of the individual.
- Students can access support for emotional, mental health, physical health and learning needs.
- A range of workshops, events and activities are offered weekly to support well-being. Follow us on Instagram_@Balliol_Welfare
- Students can also access specialist help from the **university welfare service**.



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Disability Support

Students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties or health issues have access to support in College and also the University's excellent Disability Advisory Service.

- Individual needs are assessed to decide on appropriate support.
- This might include specialist equipment, changes to assessment/exams or additional funding.
- Students should inform College of any of these needs once their place has been confirmed.



> The Balliol Floreat grant for sport paid for my entire rowing camp in the Lake District which is one of my greatest memories at Balliol.
>
> Mackenzie 2nd Year Biologist

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Financial Assistance

Many of our students benefit from the Oxford Bursary or Crankstart Scholarships.

Balliol can offer a range of financial assistance when students find themselves in unexpected financial difficulties as well as for some study related expenses.

Some welfare and financial assistance grants are available to meet short-term needs.

Students should contact the Student Finance and Support Administrator to discuss eligibility.

To plan your budget, look at the guidance on living costs.



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www.balliol.ox.ac.uk



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