Accommodation and Catering Information

Successful offer-holders will be contacted again towards the end of August with more comprehensive information about accommodation and catering. The following is designed to give you a brief overview of what to expect. There is also further information available at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/current-members/accommodation-undergraduates - in particular, please pay attention to the Licence to Occupy which details the terms that you'll be agreeing to if you accept college accommodation.
Balliol is signed up to the UUK Accommodation Code of Practice. The Code outlines best practice and provides benchmarks for the management and quality of student housing. A full version of the UUK Code of Practice is available here.

Accommodation at Balliol



Undergraduates are guaranteed accommodation for the duration of their course, with rooms being assigned by ballot from Year 2 onwards for all those who prefer not to live out.

Each Fresher undergraduate is allocated a single study-bedroom (usually with shared bathroom facilities) on the main site for the first year. In later years there is usually more choice - including sets of rooms with en-suite facilities in our newest buildings. All bedrooms contain basic furniture such as a bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers, bedside table and set of shelves.

Accommodation at Balliol is arranged by our Domestic Manager, Keeley Mortimer. Keeley can be contacted at domestic.manager@balliol.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 277712.

Accommodation FAQs

When will I be assigned a room?
Rooms at Balliol are divided into price brackets. Towards the end of August, you will be emailed with a link to the Balliol 'Freshers Guide'. This includes an accommodation preference form which asks you to indicate which price bracket you would prefer, and whether you have any specific requirements. The deadline for submission of the accommodation preference form is likely to be **1st September**. Taking this information into account as far as possible, the Domestic Manager will assign you a room and notify you via email in mid-September with further details.

What is the cost of accommodation in college?
Termly rents typically range from approximately £1400 to £3250 per term. You will be able to find a full list of individual room rents at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/current-members/accommodation-undergraduates.

Do I get a say in how expensive my room is?
Yes. You can't pick a specific room, but you will be asked to complete an online preference form where you can indicate a preferred price bracket. The Domestic Manager will do their best to take this into account.

What facilities are available for students with disabilities?
The College has a number of accessible rooms available and is keen to support any student with disabilities. Please get in touch with us to discuss your requirements as early as possible, so that we can allocate you appropriate accommodation.

Do I get to pick my room?
No. But if you have any specific requirements, particularly regarding access issues, the Domestic Manager will take these into account.

When do I have to pay my rent?
You will be charged on a termly basis for your accommodation. The cost of your rent is added to your College bill (known as Battels), and you pay in advance by the Friday of First Week of every term.

Will I have to move out at the end of each term?
You will normally be expected to move out at the end of each term. With 8-week terms, this has the advantage of making rental costs cheaper than they might otherwise be. If you have sound academic reasons for staying up for extra days into the vacation, you will usually be able to apply for this and we will endeavour to accommodate you, usually in another bedroom (NB you will need to pay for each additional night).

Do rooms have landline telephones and wifi?
There are no telephones in the room but wifi is available through the College network.

What happens in second year?
Some students choose to 'live out' in second year, seeing it as part of the student experience to live in a shared house. A great deal of housing around the city centre (in areas such as Cowley and Jericho) is rented out to students. But if you should prefer to stay in College, accommodation will usually be available by ballot. Balliol's Master's Field Project, has increased the number of rooms available for students and allows undergraduates to live in College accommodation for all their time in Oxford should they wish to.

How many people will I have to share a bathroom with?
Usually between 4 and 10, although there is quite a lot of variation.

Are there kitchen / self-catering facilities?

The main site at Broad Street is a catered site where residents are encouraged to eat in Hall, however there are also small kitchenettes on the three Freshers' Staircases, XV, XX and XXII, in addition to a larger kitchen on Staircase 21. There are self-catering kitchens at Jowett Walk and Master's Field.

Does the rent include everything (e.g. electric)?

No. In addition to room rent there are a number of small charges:

- Electricity is metered and will be added to your Battels each term.
- JCR Laundry Levy – a one-off payment each term enables you to use the laundry facilities with no further charges. An estimate of the termly charge for electricity and laundry is £65.
- Catering Subsidy Charge – currently £41.00 per term. This contributes to the overheads of running the central kitchens.

Catering Information



The Hall on the main site serves a buffet-style breakfast Monday to Friday, and a buffet-style lunch and dinner seven days a week during term time. Hall meals are subsidised by the College and provide healthy and varied menus.

Each sitting has a range of options, with vegan and vegetarian dishes guaranteed to be part of the menu at each sitting. The weekly menus are available to view online and any of the 14 allergens (celery, cereals containing gluten (such as wheat, rye, barley, and oats), crustaceans (such as prawns, crabs and lobsters), eggs, fish, lupin, milk, molluscs (such as mussels and oysters), mustard, peanuts, sesame, soybeans, sulphur dioxide and sulphites) in each dish are listed, making it easy for students to plan ahead. Those students with dietary restrictions and allergies can also speak with our Head Chef regarding menus.

There are two ways to pre-pay for Hall meals (i.e. buffet-style lunch or dinner; there are separate booking arrangements for special occasions and breakfast does not include pre-payment options). Both have the advantage of convenience over paying by cash at the till and the first method is considerably cheaper.

The two pre-payment methods are:

1. A termly prepayment meal-deal for dinners or lunches, which is considerably cheaper than buying at the till each day.

2. The option of putting money on your University Card for all meals purchased in Hall.

For further information about food at Balliol, including the costs for the meal-deal pre-payment plan for the most recent term, please see www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/current-members/catering-services-at-balliol.