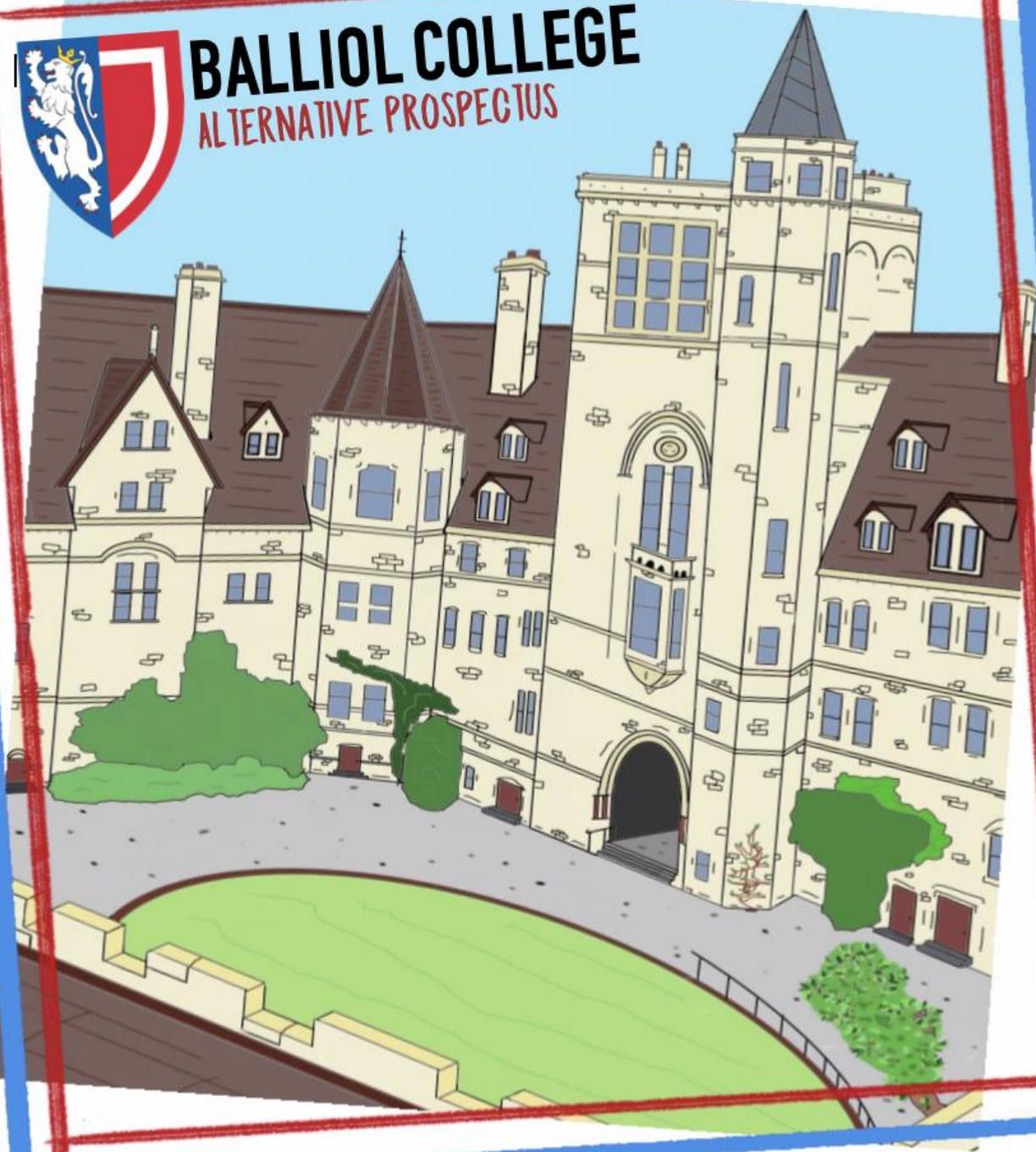




BALLIOL COLLEGE

ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS



WRITTEN BY THE BALLIOL JCR
EDITED BY JAI THAKRAR-CURTIS
ARTWORK AND DESIGN BY JOSH WILLETTS

WELCOME!

Welcome to Balliol's Alternative Prospectus! We, the students of Balliol, have put this booklet together to give you a realistic insight into what studying and living here in Oxford is actually like! It's been entirely written by current students who have been honest and open about their time here, in doing so hoping to disprove the many myths that exist about Oxford college life.

"A FORWARD-THINKING WELCOMING AND OPEN COLLEGE"

What is truly great about Balliol is that it is full of people from all different backgrounds and walks of life, making it a great place to

live and study. Balliol is the oldest academic institution in the English-speaking world to have been partly founded by a woman, Dervorguilla of Galloway, who completed the process of establishing the college after the death of her husband, John de Balliol, in 1268. Balliol was also the first college to elect a female Tutor in 1973, and female students have been fully admitted since 1979, with the majority of offers going to female students in 2019. We like to think that our history has and continues to mark us out as a forward-thinking, welcoming and open college.

We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we have enjoyed creating it and that it gives you a true and honest representation of the experiences, lives and interests of the students here at Balliol. Hopefully it will help you make an informed decision on whether to apply to here, because, and I can't stress this enough, everyone can achieve a place here and take advantage of studying at this university!

JAI THAKRAR—CURTIS
ACCESS AND ADMISSIONS OFFICER

'WHY I LOVE BALLIOL' – NAA, FROM LUTON

I love Balliol because there is a super close-knit community which spans all year groups. Things like the freedom to take meals from hall out for picnics at dinner times helps you make lots of friends, including the masters or PHD students! They have reasonably good social skills for academics so it's always interesting to hear about the ground-breaking research they're working on.

It's also fantastic how I've met people from an extensive range of backgrounds, some differing greatly from my own. Being introduced to people's various perspectives on topics shaped by their upbringing results in a lovely exchange of culture!

Balliol's laid-back and accepting atmosphere promotes lots of self-expression. It's nice to know that attempts to escape our degrees for a bit will also be supported, as we can ask for generous funding for academic projects, sport, travel and other hobbies, some of which can help you really make a difference!

Balliol is a lovely place with so many trees and a friendly squirrel population, and each corner of the college is uniquely beautiful and admired by all. Speaking from experience, other students will come to Balliol to take the scenic snaps necessary to revive a weary Instagram feed saturated with photos of the rest of Oxford!



OUR COLLEGE

THE JUNIOR COMMON ROOM (JCR) - HELENA, FROM PORTSMOUTH

DESPITE SOME STEREOTYPES, OXFORD STUDENTS CAN AND DO ENJOY A VIBRANT SOCIAL LIFE AND BALLIOL ESPECIALLY IS A GREAT INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY FOR SOCIAL EVENTS! YOUR ENTZ (ENTERTAINMENT) OFFICERS WILL ORGANISE COLLEGE EVENTS FROM **KARAOKE NIGHTS**, **QUIZ NIGHTS** AND **MOVIE SCREENINGS**. THEY WILL ALSO GET YOU WRISTBANDS AND TICKETS FOR DISCOUNTED **NIGHTS OUT ON THE TOWN**. THE JCR ITSELF HAS A COMMUNAL **TV ROOM** BUT BIG SCREENINGS (E.G. GAME OF THRONES, EUROVISION) ARE HELD ON THE PROJECTOR! **'BOPS'** (BIG ORGANISED PARTIES) ARE A HUGE PART OF THE OXFORD EXPERIENCE - THESE ARE REGULAR THEMED DISCOS HELD IN THE JCR. EVERYONE DRESSES UP, THE JCR IS DECORATED, STUDENTS WANTING TO CHOOSE THE TUNES SIGN UP FOR 'BOPSEIS', AND YOU CAN BUY CHEAP, SUGARY 'BOP TAILS' TO DRINK! THERE REALLY IS A CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED IN ANYTHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, WHETHER THAT BE A FORNIGHTLY 'BOP', OR 'DRUNK POETRY'. AS ENTZ OFFICER FOR 2018, I HAD A GREAT TIME ORGANISING AND RUNNING EVENTS FOR THE JCR AND WOULD DEFINITELY ENCOURAGE ANYONE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN DOING SO!



THE BAR - FRED, FROM KEN

Where's the place to relax after a long day of work, with a nice drink in the sunshine? Not the bar - that's reserved for much more nefarious tomfoolery!



The Lindsay Bar is an institution, founded by the eighth Earl of Lindsay in 1731, after what was formerly his college room became the meeting and drinking spot for students seeking to overturn the college's stringent regulations against pistol duelling on the grass. Just like the majority of our snacks, such practices are long outdated, and now the bar is the place to play a game of pool or table-football, grab a drink, and hold society events.

Not only that, but all students, apart from those who are utterly incompetent or simply disliked by the manager (my good-self), have an opportunity to work behind the bar, pulling pints and testing out such classics as 'What can I do you for?' and 'Are you looking to get barred, mate?'.

The Lindsay Bar is one of the only bars left in Oxford that is run top-to-bottom, inside-out by the

student body. It is famed across the university for its dingy, pub-like vibe, its Crazy Tuesdays, its questionable smell, and of course the Balliol Blue (our own college drink). Of course, it goes without saying that the bar is open to all, whether you drink or not!



Unbranded Beer

OUTSIDE - RISHEM, FROM SOUTH LONDON

Balliol has a well-deserved reputation for being one of the most beautiful colleges; whether covered in snow in the winter or gleaming in the sunlight of summer, there is a magic about this college that I can't quite put my finger on. In summer, you can always guarantee that you will find a group of students sat together on the grass, just chilling out and eating their lunch.

Every year, Balliol elects a student committee to put on an event, and we alternate between a Garden Party and a Ball. As President of the 2019 Ball, it was an absolute pleasure to be able to transform Balliol into a mini-festival for our guests to enjoy, highlighted by our Glastonbury-esque main stage, alongside a variety of activities, like mini golf and laser tag. One of the wonderful things about Balliol that we could highlight during the ball was its parts that are hidden away; the small Master's Garden is a space that is not often used by students, but we converted it into a space where people could

choose their own music to play on the speakers and have a more relaxed vibe.

This, in my opinion, encapsulates Balliol as a whole; everyone gets on with their own things independently and amongst a group of friends, but we pull together incredibly well as a whole. It is difficult to distinguish one year group from another because of the huge sense of community present in college, and this has allowed me to meet a huge amount of people and build friendships that I might not have been able to do in the same way at a different university, or even a different college.



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



Balliol offers a variety of clubs and societies which cater for students' needs. Be it those related to your identity, your subject or your hobbies, there truly is something for everyone here!

YOUR IDENTITY

Many of these societies are run by student JCR officers, with the LGBTQ+ reps, for instance, creating posters of famous LGBTQ+ historical figures that go up around the JCR, or organising film nights and the annual LGBTQ+ bop in college. This is not to mention the work of the Ethnic Minority, CAFG (Class Affiliations and First Gen), International Student's, Women's and Disabilities officers!

BALLIOL'S BME SOCIETY — ANDI. FROM SOUTH LONDON



BME society is a new and unique college society founded to provide a support network for Balliol's ethnic minority community. We have a highly active Facebook group for members to share any articles, plays or exhibitions related to race, alongside advertising our termly socials. These bring students from all year groups and sometimes different colleges together over music and cultural food, helping expand BME networks across the university. It also helps people get involved in wider university societies (like the African and Caribbean Society, Islamic Society or Sikh Society). BME society is just one way in which Balliol creates a welcoming and homely environment for students from all backgrounds.

YOUR SUBJECT

There are plenty of chances to socialise with those in your subject group outside of tutorials, lectures or classes. The list below shows just some of the subjects with societies: these organise dinners, speaker events and socials outside or in the bar!

Just a few of our subject societies: **Cerberus (PPE)**, **Dervorguilla (History)**, **BUMS (Balliol Undergraduate Maths Society)**, **Bacchus (Chemistry)**, **The Medical Society**, **Skoliasts (Classics)**, **BEERs (Balliol Engineers)**.



YOUR INTERESTS AND HOBBIES

Balliol, being in the centre of Oxford, often gets booked for speaker or panel discussion events by student societies such as the Amnesty International society. Within Balliol, we have a number of societies such as A&B, a comedy debating society allowing people to try (and fail) at stand-up comedy. There are also a number of other smaller events, such as Pimm's and painting, film screenings, yoga and mindfulness. More details of 'Things to do!' can be found on the next page.



MUSIC — RHYS, FROM SWANSEA

Although Balliol doesn't offer music as a subject, the college is none the quieter for it. Balliol Music Society boasts being the oldest of its kind and ensures that there are opportunities for musicians to practice and perform, alongside attending the concerts of world-renowned musicians from all over the world for absolutely free. Members of the society also get access to our very own music room, equipped with

pianos, amps, drums — the music room is therefore a great way to unwind! Balliol students have joined bands involving students across the university, ranging from indie and rock to soul, jazz and funk bands. Playing in some of these bands has been a great way of meeting new people from other colleges as well as Balliol and getting access to the incredible wider music scene across Oxford.

"FOR MUSIC LOVERS ... BALLIOL IS A THRIVING HUB"

I even had the chance to get my band from home to perform at Balliol Ball, which was an unforgettable experience. For music lovers and musicians alike, Balliol is a thriving hub with a shared and active love of music.

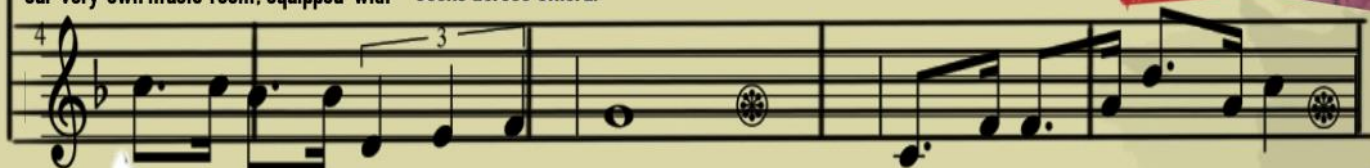


Photo by Laura Wilshire

DRAMA — JOSH, FROM ESSEX

Balliol proudly boasts one of the strongest performing arts scenes in Oxford, partly thanks to it having one of the only student-run theatres in Oxford, the Michael Pilch Studio — a highly adaptable and intimate venue. The Pilch is run by the Drama Subcommittee, which is responsible for scheduling productions and working with drama societies across the university. If production and directorial roles interest you, the Subcommittee holds bid sessions every term in which you and a team can secure a slot to put on your own production the following term, while performers can find audition slots advertised on the Drama Society site or

on the JCR page. Unique to Balliol is the yearly charity musical written, produced and starred in by Balliol undergraduates, which I have been involved with in my first year as director of *Peter Pan* and then as the set designer and lead in last year's *Caesar*. Unlike some of the more serious productions in the city, this musical tradition is shamelessly silly, chronically rushed, and of questionable artistic quality — but that's what makes it great! In recent years the musical has raised several thousand pounds for the college's chosen charities, and anyone is welcome to take part.

SPORT - JACK & FRANCESCA, FROM MANCHESTER & SURREY

Sport is a big part of Balliol life; there are a huge range of sporting opportunities to get involved in from ultimate frisbee and rock climbing to rugby, netball and football. The great thing is that if the sport you're looking for doesn't have a Balliol team you can easily start one up! We have access to a tennis/ netball court, squash courts and football pitches all onsite at Jowett walk (a 5-minute walk from college), a rugby field, free membership at the university swimming pool, and access to the Oxford Brookes climbing wall. Recently a women's sport society has been started that runs a different sport each week of term ranging from yoga and Zumba to rock climbing and ice skating that students can take part in for free to encourage female participation in sport for social rather than competitive benefits.

The sports reps are the ones to chat to if you want to know more about getting involved in sport at a college or university level or starting up a new college sport. With the University's Iffley Sports Centre a short 10-minute bike ride away the access to university sports facilities from Balliol is super convenient.

JUST SOME OF THE SPORTS WE OFFER ARE:

Pool
Croquet
Cricket
Tennis
Squash
Football
Netball
Hockey



Climbing
Rugby
Basketball
Mixed Lacrosse
Golf
Mixed touch rugby
Women's sports
Rowing



WELFARE

MENTAL HEALTH – DOM. FROM CHESIERFIELD

Besides the wide variety of formal and informal welfare support provided by the college and university, the students within the college can contact their Peer Support team. Peer Supporters are students who are trained by university councillors to provide voluntary support to other students: from informal conversations about issues such as academic stress or problems in personal relationships to helping students navigate difficult situations which they might not feel comfortable reaching out to the university about.

The Peer Support team also contribute to the inclusive atmosphere at Balliol by hosting regular film nights, teas, and 'text-a-teacup' weeks in which we take hot drinks and snacks to students' rooms, so people get to know us without needing formal support. As well as being a fantastic way to meet new people, taking part in the Peer Support program is an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable way to give back to the college community. College also provide support in the form of Bruce Kinsey, the Wellbeing and Welfare Officer, and Dr Kam Dhillon, the College Counsellor, as well

as personal tutors and academic staff, who can all be contacted directly or through a Peer Supporter.

Additionally, we have two systems of welfare 'parenting': Subject and General parents. Subject parents are two-three students who study the same subject in second year 'adopt' the incoming freshers and help them settle in, answering their questions and helping them make friends. General parents are second years of mixed subject who provide the same function to a group of freshers who study different subjects.



ELLEN. FROM CHESHIRE

I was one of Balliol JCR's two Drs. WHO, who are responsible for signposting to all the different sorts of welfare at Balliol and organising JCR welfare 'teas' (free food!) and 'welfare week' (a week of activities like arts & crafts and gingerbread decorating). Having suffered with mental health issues myself I've probably used more of Balliol's welfare provisions than most and found them vital, so it was important to me to be able to give something back and get involved myself. You quickly learn there are people here struggling with all sorts of things and none of them are a barrier to an Oxford degree. I left the role more confident, organised, and with the ability to bake a really enormous quantity of gingerbread men and only burn some of them.



PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL HEALTH

On the physical side of things, we've got our own College Nurse holding drop-in clinics most days of the week. In the JCR, the Drs. WHO provide free sexual health supplies including condoms, lube, and dental dams, and can refund NHS prescriptions for you. Our Women's Officers hold tampon avalanches, meaning we get a whole bunch of free tampons, pads, and (even more exciting) lots and lots of snacks. Women's Officers can also refund other important things like the morning-after pill and menstrual cups, while our LGBTQ+ Officers can use the gender expression fund to reimburse stuff like binders.

THE JCR COMMITTEE

The JCR elects a committee in Michaelmas every year, which represents the students and carries out a number of tasks such as organizing the housing ballot, maintaining the Laundry room, and keeping the bar/pantry going. There are over thirty committee positions in total, meaning plenty of jobs to get involved with! Every second Sunday in term time, we hold a general meeting or GM in the JCR where we decide how we should operate and how we should spend our money. Any JCR member can attend and bring motions, requesting funding for their ideas and projects. We have several funds set aside for specific purposes, such as a Political Campaigning fund that has been used to fund attendance at various protests and political events. Examples of things that JCR officers have brought about are the Charity Officers' special auction, at which people bid for prizes such as the right to rename the Laundry room or the pasta dish in pantry after themselves. Also, the JCR's Environment and Ethics officers have brought more sustainable, vegetarian/vegan food options to Balliol. The JCR helps make Balliol special, is the way that the different areas of college interact and work together to produce a sense of community. The JCR is just one part of this web, but it's an important one because it overlaps with so many others.



ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

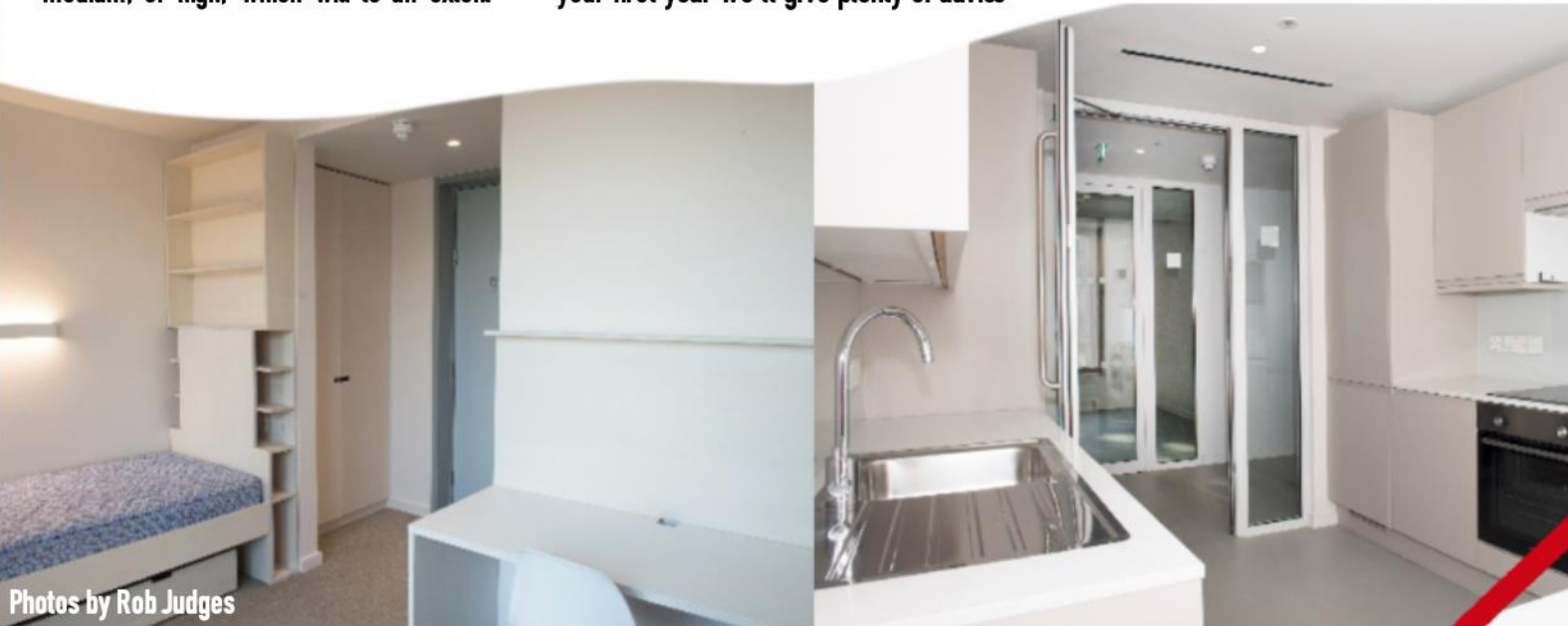
Balliol can offer accommodation for all 3 years if you want, both within and beyond that! In first year, you'll live in one of our rooms in college, which is great as you're so close to a kitchen or kitchenette, the JCR, hall and pantry, and the library, and being in the centre of Oxford it is easy to get to wherever you want to get to. Across the road is a Tesco (for your meal deal needs!), you've got a few libraries a 3-min walk away, and plenty of restaurants with student deals and also entertainment venues to keep you occupied! Other food options include the Hall (which does lunch and dinner) and the student-run pantry in the JCR, which does a stupidly cheap three meals a day! When you get in, you'll pick a price band for your room of either low, medium, or high, which will to an extent

determine what room you get – however, even the low band rooms are really nice, and within each band it will be randomised so you'll be fine whatever you get. If you have certain requirements for your room like ensuite or ground floor, we'll be able to accommodate it. All rooms come fully furnished, and with all the necessary utilities, including fast Wi-Fi!

You can come back to college for subsequent years, but there's other choices after your first year too! If you want to, you can live out, meaning privately renting in student areas like Cowley (c. 10 min cycle away) with a group of friends, which is very different to the centre, with lots of shops and restaurants you won't find next to college. In your first year we'll give plenty of advice

and support for anyone looking to live out, so it's a very feasible option, and a different experience to living in. Otherwise you can choose to be in Jowett Walk: college owned accommodation just a 4-minute walk away and next to our playing fields, where you can live in flats of 5-8 people around a shared kitchen, most of which have an ensuite. These have different length leases depending on if you want to stay over the holidays, so plenty of choice! Just next door is the newly completed Master's Field Project, which is pictured below!

Whatever you choose, we're always here to help and support you to choose where you're going to live and meet any requirements you might have!



Photos by Rob Judges

FINANCE

Finance can be a huge worry for university students, but don't worry! Balliol has you covered with a variety of ways to sustain your cash flow. Take it from us — most of us have benefited from one or other of these things at some point! Oxford has its *own* robust programme of non-repayable financial support, shown on this table. The Crankstart (formerly Moritz-Heyman) scholarship provides both a bursary alongside events, skills programmes, and career/internship opportunities, while the Oxford Bursary just provides a non-repayable grant. You're automatically assessed for both of these through UCAS. The university also has a Hardship Fund for if you have an immediate change of circumstances, alongside funds for care leavers or estranged students. More info here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding>

YOUR ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME	YOUR NON-REPAYABLE BURSARY (PER YEAR)	OXFORD SCHEME
£5,000 OR LESS	£5,000	CRANKSTART SCHOLARSHIP (FORMERLY MORITZ-HEYMAN SCHOLARSHIP) INCLUDES ACCESS TO FUNDED INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
£5,001-£27,500	£4,200	
£27,501-£30,000	£2,000	OXFORD BURSARY
£30,001-£35,000	£1,500	
£35,001-£37,500	£1,000	
£37,501-£40,000	£800	
£40,001-£42,875	£500	

One in four Oxford students actually receive non-repayable support from the university — and often more from their college. This is where Balliol comes in! There are so many ways to get help with money at Balliol, and most people you speak to have taken advantage of the support available at some point. Balliol understands that their students' personal circumstances can change, so if you find yourself in that position, you can go to our Chaplain and Welfare Lead, Bruce, who can issue you with either a loan or a grant to suit your needs. None of these are based on your parents'/guardians' incomes, so people can go to Bruce for help with everything from rent difficulties to a train ticket home after a stressful week. More information about specific funds can be found here:

<https://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/current-members/financial-support>



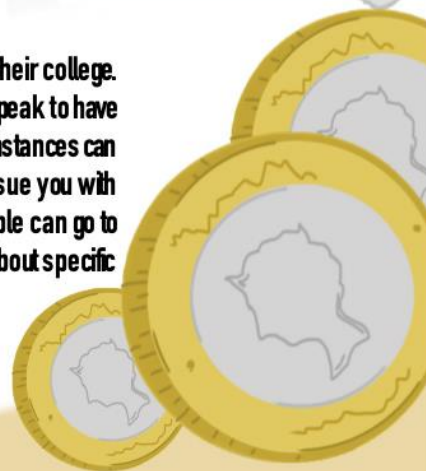
JAI, FROM DEVON

Balliol has been extremely supportive of me financially, providing me with a discounted ticket to the Ball, alongside offering to cover my travel expenses for some teaching work experience and a visit home to see my family due to personal reasons. I also needed

a grant in second year to support the extra costs of privately renting, which thankfully meant I didn't have to live off pesto pasta 24/7! I have never felt that my financial situation has held me back from making the most of my time here. In fact, the extra financial support I've received has

"I DIDN'T HAVE TO LIVE OFF PESTO PASTA 24/7!"

allowed me to pursue numerous opportunities, meaning I could keep hold of the money I had saved while working back in Devon and use it to travel to Nepal and teach English in the summer after my first year!



TUTORS

MARK BAKER

It's been a real pleasure getting to know all the history students here at Balliol. I love the unpredictability of a tutorial – I really get to listen to students' views, and I never quite know which way the conversation will go. The historians arrive here with all kinds of background and life experience, so one of the great things is that they bring very different perspectives and passions to the study of history.

We have a supportive community of historians here at Balliol. Our personal tutor system means that every student has a tutor they can go to with all kinds of concerns – both academic and personal (though of course we encourage students to get to know all the history tutors). We also work alongside students as they use the other help available in college, like the welfare system and support with academic writing.

It's normal for students to struggle a bit with the transition from school to university, but one of the most rewarding parts of the job is seeing students grow in confidence over the course of their time here. I've seen students who arrived here feeling like they can't write an essay turn into superb historians, finding their own voice to interpret the past.



Photo by Stuart Babb

VICKY NEALE

For me, the best thing about Balliol is the students I work with. (Also, the gardens are beautiful!). They're a diverse group, and it's always interesting as a tutor to get to know students individually, and to work with them as they explore different mathematical topics and find their own interests. We are quite informal, and I hope that the students feel that the Maths tutors are approachable and available to offer whatever support they need. As a tutor, where appropriate I can work with colleagues in the college's welfare team

to make sure students get suitable support, and I also often meet students individually to discuss plans for jobs or future study, as well as to discuss the mathematical content of the course.

It's a privilege for me to get to know a group of students, to see them develop and blossom as mathematicians, and to see the different directions in which they choose to take their careers after their undergraduate degree!



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Michael, from Sunderland

9AM - After several snoozes on my alarm and depending on my current flex, I'll do anything from roll out the yoga mat and have a bowl of porridge to just grabbing a coffee and rushing out of the door. I'm forever grateful that I live in a **SUPER CENTRAL COLLEGE** in a small city as I can always get to lectures within 10 minutes.



10AM - Lectures, lectures, lectures - I have two or three lectures timetabled and if I'm feeling fresh, I might even stay for all three. I'll probably still fall asleep at some point though!



1PM - Having sleepwalked through most mornings, this is the point where I finally start to feel alive - I take a look at the hall menu. It looks good, but hall is a 1-minute

walk away and the kitchenette is a 20 second walk away and I could really tackle my third tinned spaghetti on toast of the week - hall has been there a couple hundred years and isn't going anywhere any time soon, I can eat there another time.

3PM - I go to the library to do some reading or essay writing. Since Balliol is so central, we have our pick of the best libraries in Oxford; if you're feeling lazy Balliol's library is open 24/7; if you fancy a 70s office vibe there's the law library; there's the Radcliffe camera if you need a good Instagram story.

2PM - A couple of times a week I'll have a tutorial or a class. A really weird experience at first but I got used to it quickly, like a lot of things here. Regularly I'll come out of a tutorial very surprised at being able to hold a **CONVERSATION WITH A WORLD CLASS ACADEMIC** about a subject they're an expert in.

6PM - Maybe break for dinner, maybe not. This really depends on whether there's an essay deadline I need to meet first.

7PM - I'm finally finished! I'll probably head straight to a **TALK BY A NOBEL PRIZE WINNER** or any number of random events that would have seemed crazy to me a year ago.

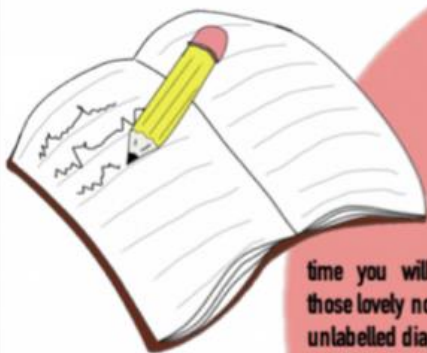
9PM - And it's straight from that into some sort of social situation; it's hanging out in a friend's room, or it's Balliol bar, or it's some sort of society or formal drinks event.

3AM - Stay out until I find myself sober and/or falling asleep in the club. It's probably time for a pensive walk back to college where I, half-asleep, rediscover how pretty the city that you now live in is at this time of the morning.

11PM - **OUT, OUT, OUT** - OK, I don't go out every night so this isn't strictly a day in the life thing, but you sometimes find time to go to a club.



Safia, from Doncaster



9AM — Lectures start, strap in because it's likely to be a wildly inconsistent ride. Some lecturers are great, others make you question the 7/8-minute walk and hour of sleep you lost on the way there. The best thing to do is try and listen regardless — even though it's tempting, don't look at social media. Come exam

time you will really appreciate those lovely notes you added to the unlabelled diagrams in the lecture handout.

1PM — Lunch time!! either head back to college and grab a **PANIN** FROM PANTRY or eat the food you brought from home because you're a fiscally-responsible, health-conscious adult.

2PM — At this time you may have more lectures, or you'll head to a practical class. You and your lab partner will probably talk rubbish for an hour then realise you haven't actually written anything down, then will spend the next hour bashing out notes for your lab book. If you're in dissection room, try not to have a heavy lunch beforehand.

8.20AM — Actually get out of bed and get ready for lectures: depending on the night before, remove yesterday's makeup and shower (plus breakfast if you're in the mood for some #selfcare).

7.50AM — Technically wake up since your alarm should go off — hit snooze.



5PM — Done! Almost — now time for the tutorial you definitely didn't prep for the night before! Hopefully your tutors will give you good essay feedback, with the main challenge at this point being to make sure your brain doesn't melt.

6PM — Tea/dinnertime depending on whether you're from above/below Birmingham. If pantry or hall aren't doing it for you, grab a mate and order Deliveroo to your college. Around 7pm, you should start feeling guilty about starting your next essay (but don't actually start until you've fully analysed last night's Love Island episode with your friends).

8PM — If you're feeling sensible, this may be the time to get a head start on your next

essay. If you're feeling reckless, this is probably the time you start your all-nighter since you went out the night before (and went to lectures hungover). Live fast die young.

10.30PM — Assuming you're a sensible student you decide to call your essay or problem sheet a day, and **HEAD DOWN TO THE BAR**. Get ready to watch your mates (arts students) drink without worrying about 9ams, especially if its happy hour.



12AM — At this point, you're ready to hit the sack/go out/continue soldiering on with your essay if its due the next day. Whichever one you decide (please pick sleep), you've probably earned a kebab from Hassan's, a local kebab van. Treat yourself, you deserve it! Also, love yourself and **DON'T GET GARLIC MAYO WITH YOUR CHIPS**.



HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT BALLIOL AND OXFORD?

Balliol is committed to engaging with students of all ages, so here are some ways you can get involved and learn more about Balliol or Oxford! College and current Balliol students also get involved in university-wide projects, which will also be included with links. More specific opportunities exist too, such as the Lesser-Spotted Sciences Day and 'Further Maths — What Next?' conferences (for students aged 15–18 interested in STEM subjects offered at degree level that aren't seen on the school curriculum), or the Afro-Caribbean Society Conference.

ALL AGES

(University) EXPLORE: Go beyond what you learn at school and engage with 'Big Questions' which relate to your subjects, similar to those you would explore at university. Useful at any stage! <https://explore.org/>

(University and Balliol) Open Days and College School Tours: Current Balliol students love working on these across the university in the form of Faculty (subject) open days and within the college itself. <https://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions/schools-and-outreach/open-days>

AGES 12–16

(Balliol) Key Stage Free Learning Days (Years 7–9): Available to students from any UK state schools, and run in Oxford in conjunction with other Colleges, these days include academic workshops and museum visits. <https://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions/schools-and-outreach/outreach-talks-and-events>

(University) Oxford Pathways (Years 10–11): We support the Oxford Pathways programme by hosting academic workshops and tours. <https://www.pathways.ox.ac.uk/>

(Balliol) Subject Taster Days (Year 12): The day typically involves academic sessions, and advice on the admissions process and interviews. They have been run for Chemistry, English, History, and Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) so far. <https://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/admissions/schools-and-outreach/outreach-talks-and-events>

AGES 16+

Target Oxbridge: A free, week-long residential for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students. <https://targetoxbridge.co.uk/>

UNIQ: A free, week-long summer school for students from areas of social, economic and educational disadvantage. UNIQ also runs a Digital programme. <http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk/>

Target Schools: Shadowing days, where sixth-form students will be given the opportunity to spend a day with a current undergraduate at Oxford University. <https://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/targetschools/>



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

