



WELCOME

**OJCCU's INTERNATIONAL FRESHERS' GUIDE TO
GETTING STARTED IN OXFORD**

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DURING IWELCOME WEEK

Café 360

Every day 25th – 28th September
7:00pm - 9:30pm | Wesley Memorial Church

The Graduate Dinner

Friday 29th September
7:00pm - 10:00pm | St. Aldate's Church

"How to be an International Christian in Oxford" Dinner

Saturday 30th September
7.30pm - 9:30pm | Wesley Memorial Church

DURING TERM TIME

The Search

Every Monday
7:30pm - 9:00pm | Starbucks on Cornmarket

Café 360

Every Friday
7.30pm - 9:00pm | Formosan Bubble Tea Shop

OICCU Freshers' Banquet

6th and 7th October
7.30pm - 9:00pm | St Aldates' Church



Hello and welcome!

We are the Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (OICCU), and it is our pleasure to welcome you to Oxford. We would love to spend this week helping you settle into life in Oxford. This booklet was put together to help you get started at university here: it has information about banks, getting your hands on a bicycle, recommendations on our favourite places to eat and hang out, and lots of other information. We hope you find it useful!

We will also be running events all week, for which there is a timetable at the front of this booklet - please do come along, and bring a friend!

If you have any questions, please do message us by going to oiccu.org and clicking the 'Get in Touch' link, or messaging us on Facebook.

Lots of love,
The OICCU





COMMUNICATION

How do I keep in contact with people at home? How do I get a SIM Card?
Don't worry - the main options are:

INTERNET CALLS

Your college should have free, high speed wifi so you should have no trouble making calls over Skype, Facetime, or whatever you prefer. If you find that you can't access your college wifi, it's worth getting in touch with the college main office.

CALLING CARDS

You can grab international calling cards all over the place. You can buy them in Tesco or newsagents around the city.

MOBILE PHONES

Pay-as-you-go and contract deals are available from all service providers. If you know your usage is going to be high, it is worth getting a contract, which often comes with a free mobile phone. You may have to pay a deposit (about £100, fully refundable) if you were not living in the UK previously. If you like your current phone, go for a SIM-only plan which is often cheapest. The UK is on a Calling-Party-Pays system: all incoming calls are free.

Often, networks charge less for calls made on the same network. 'Three' and 'giff-gaff' are popular among international students for their cheap internet data plans.

COLLEGE PHONES

Some colleges have phones in the room. You can ask the porter if you can purchase international calling credit, which allows family to call you directly to your room.

BY POST

Go to the post offices on St. Aldate's and Cowley Rd to send packages - but be ready to queue! If it's a letter, you can get international stamps at book shops, drugstores, or vending machines in the post office (on your left as you come in). Two local first-class stamps can also

send an international letter or card. Colleges can also post letters for you.

FREE WIFI

Many of Oxford's Cafés and fast-food restaurant offer free WiFi. Once you've set up your personal wifi network) all university buildings and most of the streets is within range.

WHERE TO SHOP

How do I get groceries, home essentials, furniture or electronics?
Where can I get the best value for money?



Home Essentials

BOSWELLS

Well-stocked department store, if slightly expensive.
1-4 Broad St., 0930 - 1800 (Tue - Fri) / 1100 - 1700 (Sun & Mon)

ARGOS

Has a large catalogue and sells almost everything!
New Inn Hall St., 0830 - 1800 (Mon - Sat) / 1030 - 1700 (Sun)

ROBERT DYAS

Mostly kitchen equipment, as well as some useful extras.
Shoe Lane , Oxford, 0830 - 1800 (Mon - Sat) / 1100 - 1700 (Sun)

MARKS & SPENCER

Sells essentials, clothes, and plenty of food.
Queen St., 0800 - 1900 (Mon - Sat) / 1100 - 1700 (Sun)



Groceries

TESCO

Main shop on Magdalen St., as well as branches on Cowley Rd., St Aldates, and Banbury Rd.

0700 - 0000 (Mon - Sat) / 0700 - 2300 (Sun)

SAINSBURY'S

Westgate Centre, Magdalen St. and Magdalen Rd. 0700 - 0000

(Mon - Sat) / 1100 - 1700 (Sun)

MARKS & SPENCER

Queen St., 0800 - 1900 (Mon - Sat) / 1100 - 1700 (Sun)



International Foods

EAST ASIAN CUISINE

'Lung Wah Chong' - Hythe Bridge St., 'Oriental Mart' - St.

Clement's, 'Jing Jing' - Cowley Rd.

TESCO

Tesco on Magdalen St. has a diverse 'International Food' section

GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET

You can buy fresh produce at the open air market in the square



A Closer Look



WHAT?

Towels, bed linen, duvet, pillow, cushions, blankets

Laundry basket

Water filter / filter cartridges

Hangers, kettle, kitchenware, mugs

Medicine toiletries, skincare, perfume, toothpaste, soap

Sub fusc: academic gown / Motar-board for Matriculation and exams; some colleges require gowns at formal hall

Stationary: pens, folders, paper etc.

Computer appliances: printing, cables, earphones etc.

Posters

Books

WHERE?

Boswells, Argos, Marks & Spencer, or Primark

Argos

Argos or Robert Dyas

Boswells, Argos or Robert Dyas

Boots or Superdrug (Cornmarket St.)

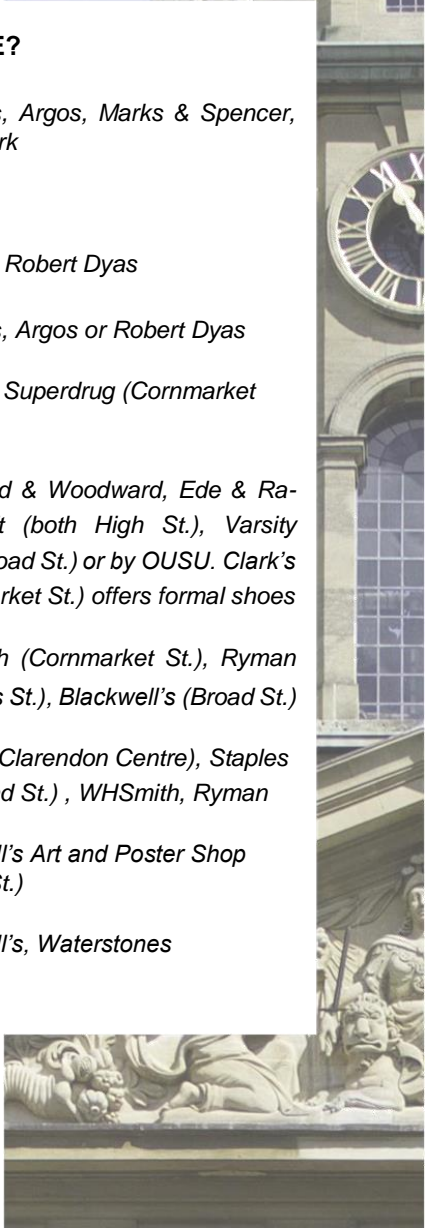
Shepherd & Woodward, Ede & Ravenscroft (both High St.), Varsity Shot (Broad St.) or by OUSU. Clark's (Cornmarket St.) offers formal shoes

WHSmith (Cornmarket St.), Ryman (Queen's St.), Blackwell's (Broad St.)

Curry's (Clarendon Centre), Staples (Park End St.), WHSmith, Ryman

Blackwell's Art and Poster Shop (Broad St.)

Blackwell's, Waterstones



MONEY MATTERS



HOW TO CHOOSE A BANK

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Some banks offer special international student accounts, so please ask!

In most banks, a student account requires you to have a permanent UK address for 3 years. Some banks (e.g. Lloyd's) tend to be more flexible. A downside of International Student accounts is that most disallow overdrafts (getting money in excess of what you have)

INTEREST RATES

You might want to shop around for interest rates. The highest ones are found in building societies, but these accounts are more inconvenient and less flexible. If your bank allows you to set up an online savings account, you can get high interest rates there too.

CONVENIENCE

The banks are very central, with cash machines nearby. Most offer an online banking service. If you have an account with any of the banks below you can with-

draw money from cash machines of any major bank.

CREDIT / DEBIT CARD

Check the credit limits. Some cards only let you spend a set amount at one time, which may not be enough for booking flights home. Your college may let you use your card details to pay your battels online.

CHEQUE BOOKS

Payment by cheque is fairly common in the UK. It's worth checking whether it will be issued, or if you can ask for one (you might be able to get one even if it isn't in the standard package). To avoid confusion, it's also worth asking them to show you how to fill one in if you have never used one before.

OTHER DEALS

There are perks with some accounts (e.g. a hostel card when you sign on with a student account at Lloyd's) that you may want to ask about.

SETTING UP YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

Setting up an account in Oxford (and in the UK in general) can be frustrating. As a non-UK resident student you are normally ineligible for a standard UK student account (although some international students have managed to get the bank to do this for them!). Banks normally require an appointment with them to open an account. Queues are longer at this time of year because of the number of students who will want to open bank accounts.

Although requirements differ according to the bank, it is likely the bank will want to see several documents:

- | Enrolment Certificate: college stamp is necessary |
- | Proof of financing: A statement from your bank at home |
- | Your passport and student visa |
- | A proof of your home address |

BARCLAYS	0845 755 5555
LLOYD'S TSB	0845 300 0000
NATWEST	0845 600 2803
HSBC	0845 740 4404
SANTANDER	0845 795 4321



OXFORD CYCLING



BUYING A BIKE

You can purchase bicycles and accessories at shops like **Walton Street Cycles** on Walton St., **Summertown Cycles** on Banbury Rd., **Bike Zone** on St. Michael's St., or **Cycloanalyst** and **Beeline Bicycles** on Cowley Rd. These come with solid guarantees and free servicing for a limited period.

Most shops will not sell bikes for less than £150, so if you are here for a year and want something cheap, you can buy used bikes from the **Oxford Union's Freshers' Week** sale on their weekly morning sale during term, and online at gumtree.com / ebay.co.uk / dailyinfo.co.uk. Go to **Oxford Cycle Workshop** for quick repairs or used bikes.

Always try a bike before buying it. Ask to ride it for at least 5 minutes, then check that brakes/ gears work smoothly, and that wheel and pedal axles spin well. If not, look at other options or use that in bargaining.

ACCESSORIES

You are legally required to have white front/ red rear lights after dark, and a red rear reflector. Many bikers opt for a helmet and reflective accessories like an arm or ankle band.

WHERE TO CYCLE

Always cycle on the bike path where designated. You have to obey all traffic signs and signals. You cannot cycle on a pavement or in certain areas like Cornmarket between 10:00am and 6:00pm and University Park, but you can dismount in these areas.

SAFEKEEPING

Bikes are often targets for theft so always lock your bike to something immovable when you are not riding it. A D-lock offers the best security. You may also want to (have to) register your bike with your college.

You can also register your bike with the police in case it gets lost and is then recovered. Some colleges do this automatically for you when you register your bike with them.

GETTING AROUND

If you're unsure about cycling, don't worry! Oxford is easy to get around on foot. There are also useful bus and taxi services.



BUSES FROM THE CITY CENTRE

Magdalen St.: 6, 14, 300 North towards Summertown High St.: 1, 4, 8, 9, 13, 400 East towards Cowley St Aldates: 31, 34, 35 South towards Abingdon

George St. / New Rd. / Park End St.: Buses towards Botley and West Oxford



TAXI COMPANIES

ABC - (0) 1865 775 577

CITY - (0) 1865 794 000

RADIO - (0) 1865 242 424

ROYAL - (0) 1865 777 333



If you plan to travel frequently around the UK, it's worth getting a Railcard at railcard.co.uk. This will give you 1/3 price for most train tickets.

GETTING INTO LONDON

The Oxford Tube and the X90 leaves for London every 20 minutes. Get them from Gloucester Green, St. Aldates, High St., and St. Clement's.

Prices for students:

£11/one-way

£14/day return

£15/anytime return

If you buy a ticket after 3pm on the Oxford Tube, you can get a next-day return (a 'nightrider' ticket) for only £11.

WHERE TO EAT

Oxford has a lot of amazing places to eat food, drink coffee, and grab a drink. Here are just some of our favourites!

CAFÉS

Society Coffee

The best coffee and pastries in Oxford. With a minimalist design and their friendly baristas, Society is an amazing place to chat to friends, enjoy a coffee, or even do some work.

Handlebar

Located above a bicycle shop and just down the road from Society, Handle-bar might be the best place to grab a flat white. It has a wonderfully pleasant atmosphere with their wooden décor. They also have amazing lunch menu. They have a deep dislike for laptops however!

George Street Social

This new café has exploded onto the scene. Although the coffee is not as good as Handlebar and Society, George Street Social offers the most comfortable seating with plug sockets at every table for those long essay writing sessions - not to mention the free wifi and an array of obscure board games.

A QUICK LUNCH

Taylor's

Perhaps the best handmade sandwiches you can buy in Oxford. Located on the High Street and also on St. Giles, you have to grab yourself a Taylor's baguette while in Oxford.

El Mexicana / Mission Burrito

In the mood for Mexican? These two burrito joints will definitely satisfy your hunger. Mission Burrito has two chains in Oxford, while El Mexicana has one.

Alternative Tuck Shop

Located on Holywell Street, this little, unassuming place will also get you the best paninis and baguettes money can buy in Oxford.

PUBS

The Turf Tavern

The oldest pub in Oxford. Although the drinks are quite pricey, this is still a bucket list Oxford thing to do. The food is also great.

The Royal Blenheim

Just a stone's throw away from Pembroke College and St. Ebbe's Church, this wonderfully simple pub is just a lovely place to relax for an affordable drink.

The Rickety Press

Located deep in Jericho, this pub is a must go for their incredible pizza deals and amazing atmosphere.

OUT FOR A MEAL

Combibos

The best breakfast place in Oxford. Located in Gloucester Green, this place is famous for their pancakes - go for the bacon one!

Edamame

This small family owned Japanese restaurant is Oxford's gem. In this tiny, living room sized restaurant you will have potentially the best Japanese food you will eat outside of Japan. Be prepared to queue, but you won't regret it.

The Perch

This should perhaps go in the 'Pubs' section, but their food is absolutely delicious. Located on the far side of Port Meadow, it is far north outside the city centre and therefore provides a scenic walk. Although on the pricey side, the location, feel, and mood of The Perch is simply magical.

HEALTH & EMERGENCY

The National Health Service (NHS) provides free healthcare - even if you are an international student.



You will have to fill in some forms and answer certain questions from nurses during Fresher's Week. Your college should give you more information about which doctor you should register with. For more information about the NHS, refer to www.admin.ox.ac.uk/shw/doctors.html

NHS dental care is available at Studental, located at the Oxford Brookes Uni-versity, but serving Oxford University students as well. For more details see www.studental.co.uk

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

The UK's calling code is '+44'.

Police:

in emergencies call 999
non-emergencies call 101

Healthcare:

NHS Direct call 111
John Radcliffe Hospital (Local) call (0) 1865 741 166
Urgent Dental Care call (0) 8453 458 995

Other:

OU Security, in emergencies call (0) 1865 289 999

you are cordially invited to the

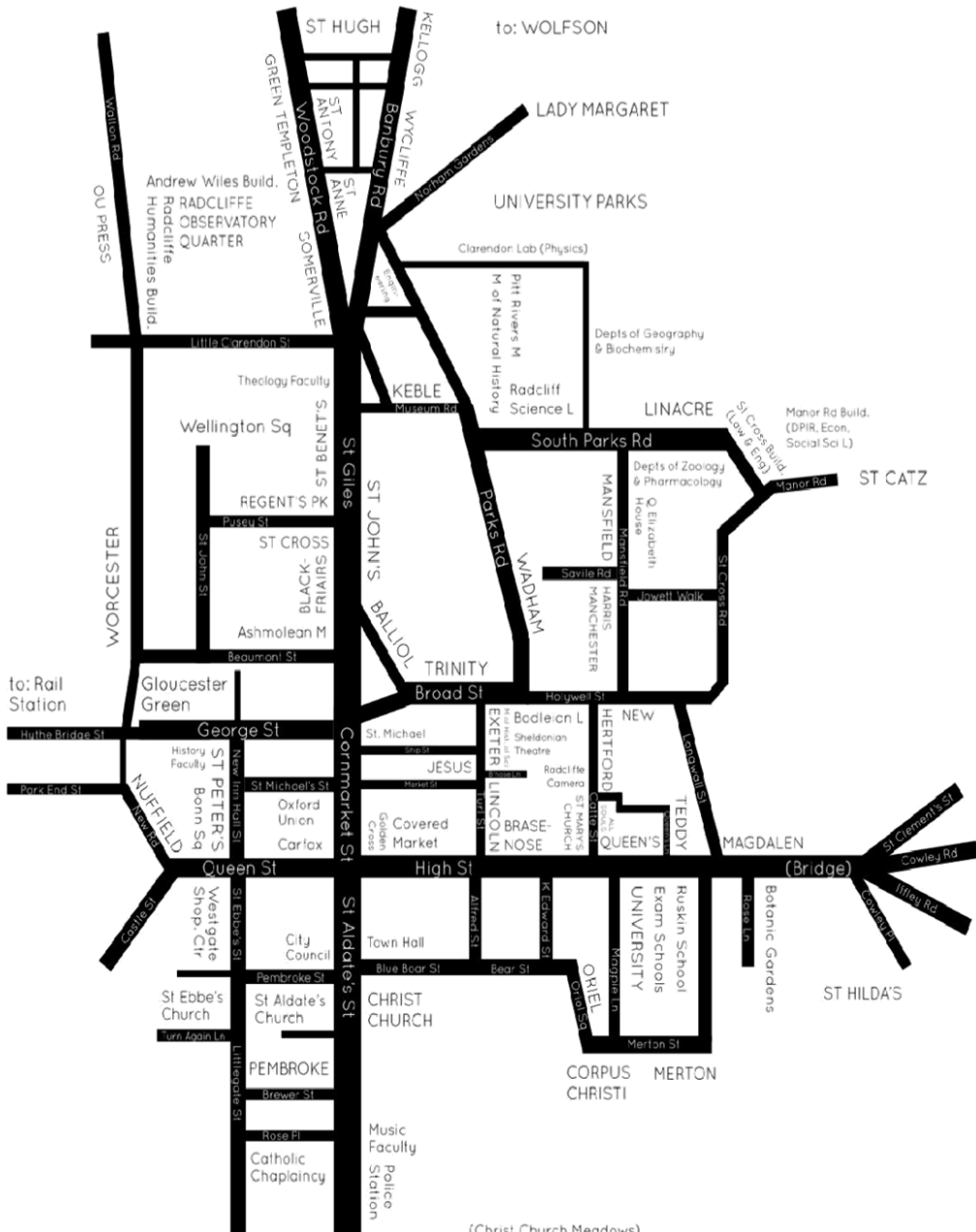
FRESHERS BANQUET

God and the pursuit of *more*

Dr. Tanya Walker looks at some ancient poetry in exploring questions worth asking at Oxford.

Free three-course meal
7:30-9pm

<u>6th October</u>		<u>7th October</u>
Christopher Room	OR	St. Aldates
St. Aldates Parish Centre		Main Church



(Christ Church Meadows)
RIVER THAMES

