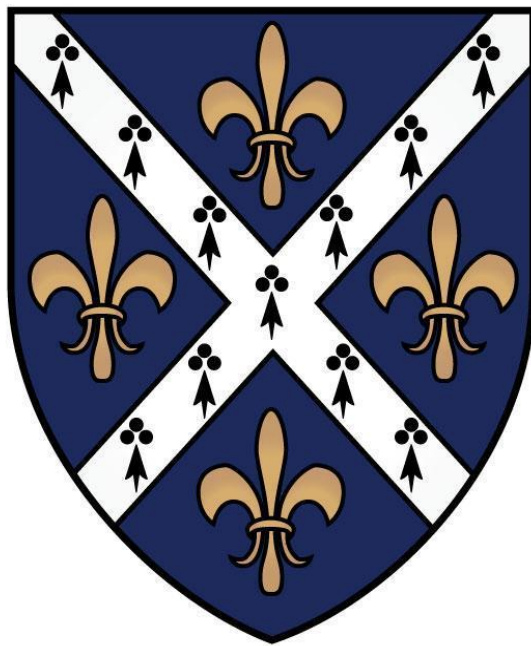


# St Hugh's College MCR



## Freshers' Guide 2019



# Welcome!

**Dear new graduate Hughsies,**

On behalf of the all the members of the St Hugh's College Middle Common Room, welcome to St Hugh's College! Our names are Serte and Reza and we are your Freshers' Reps for the year. We've planned a lot of events to help everyone settle smoothly into Oxford and make sure everyone has a place to meet other Hughsies before term starts.

Whether you picked St Hugh's when you applied or just ended up here by happy coincidence, we hope to make your introduction to College, Oxford, and for many of you the UK, stress-free and hugely enjoyable!

In this guide, you should find everything you need to know about life in college from how the dinning hall works to tackling Oxford's eccentricities. If you can't find an answer to your question here you can always post it on the MCR Facebook page, where we'll be happy to help, or consult the College Handbook.

We wish you all the best for your studies in Oxford. Regardless of how long your programme is, we hope that you will all have a fantastic time at St Hugh's and enjoy the exciting things both the college and Oxford have to offer.

**Reza Rohani and Serte Donderwinkel**

**MCR Freshers' Reps 2019**



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# Getting Started

## Freshers' Week

For most students, your first week at Oxford is rather unhelpfully called *noughth week*. At most other universities this is simply Freshers' Week, and it includes excessive amounts of getting-to-know-yous and filling-in-forms in equal measure.

## Your Department

For graduate students, the most important commitments in *noughth week* will be set by your department. If you haven't already, make sure you know where you need to be and when. If in doubt, contact your departmental director of graduate studies or course advisor for more info.

## College

The first thing that you receive upon arrival at St Hugh's is a College welcome package. Most importantly, this should contain your **Bod Card** (more on this later).

College also has a number of events you need to attend this week, notably registration. College is responsible for organising the matriculation ceremony on Saturday of the first week (19th October). You must attend this if you were not a student at Oxford previously, as you cannot graduate if you have not matriculated. The ceremony itself is explained in more detail in the Oxford Idiosyncrasies section.

## MCR

The MCR exists to provide the antidote to all the work you've let yourself in for. We have a variety of Freshers' Week events designed to introduce you to College, to Oxford and most importantly to each other! Even if there appears to be nothing planned, there will almost certainly be people in the MCR up for an impromptu cinema trip, game of croquet, or just a cup of tea. The MCR building is located at 87 Banbury Road. (See the last page of this guide for a map). The best way to keep track of what's going on with the MCR is to join the MCR Facebook group "St Hugh's College MCR 2019-2020" for the coming academic year. The group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/743408802779446/>.

## International Students

The International Office runs a series of orientation events **before and during** Freshers' Week. In addition, it is **EXTREMELY** important that you register with the health service. As a student, you are entitled to the benefits of the National Health Service (NHS), not least access to **FREE** healthcare. You must register **within 6 months of arrival** in the UK to benefit from this, regardless of the length of your course. The best thing is to take care of registration during the registration session facilitated by college during Freshers' Week. As the state provides

such a comprehensive service, private healthcare is expensive, largely unnecessary, and many providers charge a premium for needs beyond the basic cover. It is therefore highly recommended to register through the College with the Summertown Health Centre, or at a more local one if you're not living in College. More details on health care are provided in the Welfare section of this guide.



# About St Hugh's

## History

St Hugh's was established in 1886 as a college for "women of lesser means", and first began accepting men in 1986. The college was founded by Elizabeth Wordsworth, the great-niece of the famous poet, William Wordsworth. She named the college after Hugh of Avalon, who was canonized in 1220. Her purpose in founding the college was to give women the opportunity to receive an Oxford education. St Hugh's is now one of the larger colleges at Oxford University, with around 400 graduates and 420 undergraduates, and a good mix of both men and women. Notable graduates of St Hugh's include Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the former British Secretary of State Barbara Castle, and the esteemed former Prime Minister Theresa May.

## The Dickson Poon China Centre

Those of you who have heard or read about Prince William's visit to our college might know what the whole fuss is about. The grand opening of the University's new China Centre, the Dickson Poon Building, was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring His Royal Highness, Dickson Poon (the main donor) and the College Principal. Apart from being famous and photographed by hundreds of paparazzi, the building combines various academic functions. Located in the middle of St Hugh's grounds, it also contains MCR accommodation so some of you may happen to live or visit your friends there.

## Graduate Students

St Hugh's accepts graduate students for most of the different programmes offered by the University. Many of the new students you meet will be here for one-year masters courses. These range from **MBAs** (the future millionaires' club), **PGCEs** (trainee teachers who don't give up their summer holidays easily) as well as academic masters in all disciplines such as **MSts**, **MPhils** (which last two years) and many others. At most other university these are simply **MA**s and **MSc**s.

Existing students will most likely be in **DPhil** programmes, known more commonly as **PhDs** by other institutions. These poor souls enjoy the academic life so much they have signed up for another 3-4 years of being a student.



# Who's Who

## **Principal:** Dame Elish Angiolini QC

The Principal is the head of college, ultimately responsible for all that takes place within its walls. While direct contact with the Principal is limited, you may be invited to her house or garden at some point this year. Dame Elish previously served as the first female Lord Advocate of Scotland.

**Most likely to be...** saying grace at Formal Hall.

**Can be found...** in her office in main building.

## **Academic Registrar:** Thea Crapper

The Academic Registrar is your first point of contact for all academic matters in college. She is also the disability contact and the person to email if there are problems with exams or submissions. She can put you in touch with the Senior Tutor, Professor Westbrook.

**Most likely to be...** working very hard for students to make sure all is going well with their degree.

**Can be found...** in the College Office in the main building: [college.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:college.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)

**Contact:** [thea.crapper@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:thea.crapper@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)

## **Senior Tutor:** Professor Roy Westbrook

Appointments with Professor Westbrook should be made by contacting Thea Crapper, the Academic Registrar.

## **Dean:** Professor Rafael Perera

The Dean is responsible for discipline in College. He heads the decanal team of an assistant and four junior deans, who are all graduate students and whose job is to prevent fun in inappropriate places.

**Most likely to be...** laying down the law to any misbehaving students.

**Can be found...** if you're up to no good, you don't find him, he finds you...

## **Accommodation Manager:** Magdalena Robinson

Magdalena is your first contact for any and all accommodation issues within College. Always best to find her in her office rather than email.

**Most likely to be...** juggling all the room bookings in College.

**Can be found...** in her office in main building, by the entrance.

**Contact:** [accommodation.manager@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation.manager@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)

## **Estates Manager:** Colin Bailey

Door knobs, chairs, walls, windows: if anything breaks, Colin Bailey is the man in charge of getting it fixed. Fill in the online form and it rarely takes more than 24 hours to get sorted.

**Most likely to be...** holding College together.

**Contact:** fill in the online maintenance form: (<http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/currentstudents/facilities/request-form/>)

## **Domestic Bursar:** Rahele Mirnateghi

Rahele is responsible for catering and household matters at St Hugh's, from the sandwiches at lunchtime to the high table menu at Formal Hall.

**Most likely to be...** deciding what you're going to be eating in the hall.

**Can be found...** in her office in main building.

**IT people:** The IT office is located in the Main Building, by the corridor to the other college offices. They are primarily there to help with any problems that can't be solved on your own. Go and visit them, or contact [it-services@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:it-services@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk).

**Porters:** The Porters are responsible for the security of college. They are the key holders to all rooms, and the first port of call, should you be living in college, to pick up and deposit your room keys (when you move out). They also sort the post, delivered to your pigeonhole in the lodge. You've got a pigeonhole whether you live in college or not. They're very friendly and incredibly helpful!

**Scouts:** For those living in college, the scouts will normally clean your rooms once a week. They will vacuum floors, empty bins and clean bathrooms. They will not make your bed (sorry!). It's always better to be on good terms with your scout; if you want to make any special arrangements about room cleaning (fortnightly instead of weekly or whatever) they are very approachable. Communal facilities are cleaned daily (Mon-Fri).

**Gardeners:** The gardeners are almost always to be found busying themselves in the flower beds or riding around on their little quad bikes. You may well not have much to do with them, but if you are a keen gardener I'm sure they would be more than happy to have a chat!

**Nurse:** Although most students will never see the nurse during their stay at St Hugh's (and we hope you are one of them), she will help you if you get sick, and also refer you to your GP. See the website for surgery hours.





# Health

## Healthcare

As previously mentioned it is **VERY** important to register with a doctors' surgery when you first arrive; **ideally, do it in Freshers' Week!** If you aren't registered with a surgery and become ill later in the year, it becomes very complicated very quickly.

## College Surgery

College has its own surgery on the first floor of the Mary Gray Allen (MGA) building, staffed by a dedicated college nurse: Sarah Dragonetti.

Email: [nurse@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nurse@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)

The nurse's hours are online. The nurse is joined on Mondays 8:30-10:00am during term time by the College Doctor, Dr Penny Moore, from Summertown Health Centre.

## Summertown Health Centre

You must register with a doctor in Oxford, enabling you to sign up for appointments outside of these hours. The local surgery is Summertown Health Centre: [www.summertownhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.summertownhealthcentre.co.uk) (01865 515552), located at the traffic lights on the corner of Banbury Road and Marston Ferry Road. If you're living outside of college, there might be a better option closer to where you live: check out [www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories](http://www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories).

Summertown Health Centre is also the nearest travel clinic if you need injections or a prescription for medication necessary for exotic travel. Just book an appointment in plenty of time before you travel.

## Chemists / Pharmacies

There are a number of chemists around town, including two in Summertown and a big Boots on Cornmarket Street. The closest is the Woodstock Road Chemist, at 59 Woodstock Road (slightly south of the college).

The MCR stocks condoms and lube in a tin in the main room. For pregnancy tests, attack alarms and other health and welfare products, please drop an email or speak to one of our student welfare officers.

## Dentists

For regular appointments, college recommends undergraduates use their home dentist. While that may well also apply to UK students on one-year masters courses, international students and those on a longer-term degree should consider signing on with a local dentist.

As with other healthcare, it's well worth getting sorted with a dentist soon after you arrive, rather than waiting until an emergency.

There are a few NHS dentists around: Studental: [www.studental.co.uk](http://www.studental.co.uk), 01865 484608, based on the Oxford Brookes campus in Headington, is your best bet for emergency treatment.

## **First Aid**

### **Porters' Lodge: 01865 274 900**

The porters are all trained in first aid and must be contacted in the event of any and all emergencies. If necessary they will call an ambulance to the nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department, normally the John Radcliffe (JR) hospital about 10 minutes away.

## **NHS 111**

This telephone service is a useful first contact point if you're not sure where else to go, or if the college facilities are closed. Calls (dial 111) are free and you will be put through to a nurse who will ask you what's wrong and advise on the next course of action.

## **First Aid Kits**

There is a first aid kit in the bottom drawer in the MCR kitchen below the sink. If you use anything or notice something is missing, please get in touch with one of the welfare reps: Kat Friege or Brandon Chye. If you are interested, we may be running basic first aid training courses at some point during the year.



# Welfare & Support

As a member of College, there is a wealth of services and resources available to you, covering any potential health, emotional or academic issue. There is no particular order of services you should try, just go for whichever you feel most comfortable with. Needless to say, all welfare issues are handled with the utmost confidentiality and discretion.

## Personal Welfare

### College Nurse

The College Nurse ([nurse@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nurse@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)) is Sarah Dragonetti; her surgery is on the first floor of MGA. In addition to health advice, Sarah is happy to see students to discuss personal and welfare issues.

### College Counsellor

The college counsellor ([counsellor@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:counsellor@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)) is based in college and part of the wider counselling service offered by the university. She is available for both one-off appointments and longer-term regular sessions.

### The Chaplaincy

The college chaplain is the Reverend Dr Shaun Henson: [shaun.henson@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:shaun.henson@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk). He is available for advice on all issues and is by no means restricted to a particular religious denomination.

### MCR Welfare Officers

The MCR Committee has two student Welfare Officers: Katharina Friege ([katharina.friege@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katharina.friege@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)) and Barney Poznansky ([barnabas.poznansky@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:barnabas.poznansky@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)). Their job is to provide information and support to any members of the MCR who require it. If they can't personally help you, they can certainly advise on the best place to find the necessary assistance.

### Peer Support

Peer Support is an initiative run by the Counselling Service whereby students are trained in counselling skills and confidential listening. Peer supporters are people who are well trained in dealing with any issue from relationships to exam stress. Lists of peer supporters are displayed around the College buildings, or ask one of our welfare reps to point you in the right direction.

## **Nightline: 01865 270270**

Nightline is a telephone advice service run by Oxford SU during term time (0th –9th weeks), from 8pm until 8am. Staffed by specially trained students, Nightline is where to turn in the middle of the night if you feel in need.

If you wish to discuss a matter with someone unconnected to St Hugh's, can register for the central University counselling service: [counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk), 01865 270300.

## **Academic support**

Academic matters are best dealt with by contacting the Academic Registrar, Thea Crapper, in the first instance; Thea can also put you in touch with the Senior Tutor.

## **College Advisors**

In addition to your supervisor (if you are on a research degree), all graduates are assigned an academic advisor, a fellow of the College (member of the teaching staff) who is in your field of study but not directly related to your course. You may have little to do with them during your time in Oxford, but they are there to support you in the event of academic problems. It is well worth arranging a meeting early on in your course; it is far easier for them to help if they know who you are!

They are also a good source of information about funding and some may offer teaching opportunities should they arise. Depending on your relationship, they can also provide references, should you eventually decide to get a job.

## **Your Department**

In your department, the director of graduate studies or course convenor will be helpful and you may have student representatives. For those on a DPhil programme, your supervisor or research group members may also help.

## **Financial Matters**

Oxford is a disproportionately expensive city in which to study. Living costs vary with your lifestyle, but a bare minimum of £900 a month all-in should be about allowed for, or £100 a week excluding rent.

## **Student Support**

General financial advice is available from the bursar's office. Should your financial situation change suddenly, you can apply for college hardship funds. Claims are made by filling in a form on the website. In 5th Week each term the Student Support Committee, upon which the welfare officer sits, decides how to allocate funds. Preference is given to academic needs.

## **Travel Grants**

There is additional money available to fund academic travel to things like conferences and field work. Note that St Hugh's is one of the poorer Oxford colleges, so funds are limited, but there is normally some assistance available. Again, applications are reviewed once per term

at the Student Support Committee meeting. The bursar's office sends out an email with the application form in the beginning of term, so watch out for this.



## Facilities & Services

### Food

General information about food can be found by searching for 'St Hugh's MCR food'.

### Hall

From noughth to ninth weeks, the dining hall provides three meals a day during the week and brunch at weekends. The quality is generally good, the selection varied, and it's normally excellent value. There are always vegetarian options and other dietary requirements are always catered for (though you will have to let the kitchen staff know in advance).

### Opening Times

#### Mon-Fri:

Breakfast 8:00-10:00 am

Lunch 12:30-1:30 pm

Snack Menu (made to order) 2:00-4:00 pm

Dinner 6:00-7:15pm

#### Sat & Sun:

Brunch 10:30am-1:30pm

### Wordsworth Tea Room (Dickson Poon Building)

The Elizabeth Wordsworth Tea Room in the Dickson Poon Building provides hot and cold drinks and snacks on weekdays, including a delicious lunchtime Asian fusion menu. Hot food is served from 12.15pm to 1.45pm. Payment can be made by cash or University Card. **Opening times: Mon - Fri: 9.30am-4.30pm**

### Paying for food

Meals are paid for by a cashless system using your **Bod card**. You need to top up your card before you are able to buy anything; you will not be able to pay with cash in the hall. This can be done online at [www.upay.co.uk](http://www.upay.co.uk). You will need the Client ID number which will be communicated to you by college in your welcome pack. Alternatively, you can put money on your card at the finance office in college.

### Formal Hall

Formal hall is held weekly during term time, usually on Tuesday. This is a three-course meal of very good quality, and you are required to dress up. For most Formals the dress code is

‘lounge suit’ (what you’d wear to an interview), though some of the special Formals are ‘black tie’ (black bow tie or evening dress). Highlights of the special formals include St Hugh’s Night in Michaelmas, Burns’ Night in Hilary, and Summer Formal, the last of Trinity and the academic year. Normally just dress up as smart as you can and you’re highly unlikely to get turned away! Note that gowns are not worn, though if you are invited to a Formal at another college, you may need your gown. The MCR provides pre-drinks and wine on the table during the meal.

Tickets to formal hall are sold at a heavily subsidised price on a first-come first-served basis, but are unfortunately limited. Tickets can be booked via the MCR’s own online system ([www.bookwhen.com/mcr](http://www.bookwhen.com/mcr)) and go online a few days before the event (you will be notified via email before this happens). All bookings must be confirmed by paying the ticket price using PayPal (just follow the bookwhen links). If you ever experience problems with the system, just contact our Wining and Dining Officer, Amartya Sanyal ([amartya.sanyal@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:amartya.sanyal@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)).

For more information on Formal Halls, please check out the Formals FAQ section of our website <http://mcr.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/graduate-life/food>.

## Services

### Bod card

Your **Bod card** is about the most valuable thing you will own in Oxford, it is all of the following:

- Library card for most of Oxford’s libraries
- Student ID for free access to all Oxford sights/Colleges/shop discounts
- Swipe card for access to College and your department
- Debit card for paying for meals (in College)

Don’t lose it! The University charges £15 for reissues of lost **Bod cards**, so it’s important to keep it safe. If you don’t succeed, a new one can be ordered [through the University’s online store](#).

### Library

When St Hugh’s was founded as a women’s college, women were not allowed in the Bodleian library. The college library was thus constructed to compensate for this, and it is now one of the largest and best-stocked of all the Oxford colleges. The library is open 24/7, so there are no limits to how much you can study.

In some courses you will get a list of books ‘your college library should have’. If you find that you are in need of one of these books, and the library does not stock it, they can be ordered (in most cases) through your college advisor writing a note to the librarian, or by using the online book suggestion form [www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/currentstudents/library/book-suggestion-form](http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/currentstudents/library/book-suggestion-form)

### Laundry

MCR laundry facilities are located in the MCR, through the kitchen, and in 13 Canterbury Road on the ground floor. Washing costs £2 and the dryers about £1; payment is contactless (not your bod card). Please be considerate while using the laundry facility. There are also laundry rooms in Maplethorpe Building, mainly for undergraduate use.

## Post

Letters and parcels, etc. can be sent to the college address: **[First name Surname], St Hugh's College, St Margaret's Road, Oxford, OX2 6LE** – do not use your room number. Each student has a pidge in the lodge where post will be put by the porters. If an item is too large or has been signed for, a sticker will be placed on your pidge. Hand the sticker to a porter and show your **Bod card** to collect the item. Please collect items promptly, as there is very limited storage space in the lodge.

## Computing Matters

### Getting on to the network

To get access to the Oxford University and College network, you will need to register with your username (shug1234 number) and the barcode number on your bod card. Just plug in a LAN cable, load up an internet browser and follow the instructions

### Email

Your college email address will be `firstname.lastname@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk`. This account can be accessed via the Nexus webmail server: `nexus.ox.ac.uk/owa`, for which you will need your single sign-on username and password. Don't forget to sign up to the MCR mailing list: send a blank email from your college email address to [hughs-mcr-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hughs-mcr-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk).

### Wireless

To use the wireless network you need to have signed up for a Remote Access Account, which you can do at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/registration>. You will also need to download the VPN client software from the 'downloads' section of the link mentioned above. You can use Eduroam throughout College. For Apple iOS devices (including iPhones and iPads), you must use the configuration tool at [cat.eduroam.org](http://cat.eduroam.org).

### Printing

In the MCR we have a computer room with a printer, as well as working space and a cosy couch to relax on. Every student gets a printing credit of £25 on arrival, and you are billed for anything over this.

The MCR provides environmentally friendly paper for printing, but depending on how responsible we all are in using this service, you may have to provide your own paper when MCR stocks run out. The printer doubles as a scanner too. To log into the computers use your username (shug1234). To maintain this facility, all we ask for is that it remains tidy and clean!



# Getting Around

## Cycling in Oxford

Public transport, though good, is quite expensive in Oxford, which is why most students choose to get around by bike. They have to be careful though: in the UK, cycling is not quite as common as in other countries, and you'll find that drivers don't take as much care as you might expect. Hence it makes sense (and you happen to be required by law) to have bike lights when cycling in the dark, and you can get them quite cheap from the numerous bike shops in town. You should also consider buying a helmet.

## Buying a Bike

Finding the right bike can be a tiresome business, especially at the beginning of the academic year when used bikes are high in demand. There are a number of bike shops in Oxford. Some recommended shops are Summertown Cycles (Summertown, 15min walk north from St Hugh's), Walton Street Cycles (closest to college, 5min walk in Jericho) and Bike Zone in the city centre. The first two sometimes sell used bikes too, though at comparably high prices. For a decent basic new bike you should expect to pay at least £200. Bikes that come for much less than that (like from a shop called Cycle King) won't last you very long. People have reported rusted chains and frames, dysfunctional brakes, broken forks, and worse, after a few months of use.

Used bikes can be found on [gumtree.co.uk](http://gumtree.co.uk), [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk), and by googling for used/reconditioned/recycled bikes in Oxfordshire. Ebay may also be an option (search only within Oxford). There are a number of services selling used bikes done up to a decent working condition and delivering it to your house. They generally do a good job and have decent prices, ranging from £50 - 70 for older no-name bikes to £80-120 for working condition classic branded town and road bikes. Nicer ones will get more expensive.

## Keeping your Bike

Hanging on to your bike is not so easy either as bike theft is a big problem in Oxford. People steal bikes everywhere (in town, from college grounds, at the train station), even really crappy ones. Make sure you get a nice and sturdy lock and you always lock your bike to something like a fence or lamppost, in a lit area, and with CCTV protection if available. Some people choose to tape over the make name if it's a well-known brand. You can also register your bike with the police (via the Porters' lodge), and placing a registration sticker on your bike sometimes helps in deterring theft.

## Maintaining your Bike

There is a bike pump for students' use at the Lodge (you may need to fiddle around with the headpiece to make it fit to your valve) and the Porters keep some WD40 for jammed locks.



## Other Means of Transportation

Not everyone is a fan of cycling, and owning a bike is by no means necessary to survive Oxford. So if you don't want to jump on the saddle, here's some basic information about other ways of getting around.

### Cars

If you're thinking about bringing a car to Oxford or buying one here, think again. First of all, fuel is expensive in the UK, so driving around in your own car is a pricey undertaking. But more importantly, parking in Oxford is almost impossible. Almost all streets in Oxford (including around St Hugh's) are zoned, meaning that you cannot park there for more than a few hours at a time without a resident parking permit. The tricky thing is that you can't get a resident permit if you live in college (the city just won't give you one). Parking on college grounds is only possible with the express permission of the Dean, and he is unlikely to grant one willy-nilly. So do think twice before bringing your car and ending up having to leave it in the next village.

### Buses

Buses in Oxford are frequent but expensive. If you're living in college, any Line 2 or 6 or S3 or S2, or S5 bus will take you to the centre and back to college. Line 14 runs from college to the train station, except for Sundays.

Buses are one of the best and cheapest ways of getting around in the country. If you've come by plane, you've probably already taken one of the many airport buses. For going to London check out the Oxford Tube ([oxfordtube.com](http://oxfordtube.com)), a service to London Victoria that runs every 10 minutes or so, and throughout the night. For buses to other destinations, have a look at [nationalexpress.co.uk](http://nationalexpress.co.uk). All non-local buses leave from Gloucester Green bus station.

### Trains

Trains in the UK, what can you say? You probably all know the story – after privatization everything went downhill. Nevertheless, they can be useful alternatives if you book in advance (otherwise they are just outrageously expensive). Schedules can be consulted and tickets can be booked at [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk). Students in full-time education can get a 16-25 railcard, which gives about 33% off on most fares (regardless of age). [www.railcard.co.uk](http://www.railcard.co.uk)

### Taxis

Sometimes walking/cycling/taking the bus is just too burdensome. So when you do want to get a cab, keep this in mind: there are two different taxi systems operating in the UK. First, you have the famous spacious taxis that everybody knows from the movies (the 'Hackney Carriages'). You'll find these taxis waiting at the train station and designated spots around town. It's also possible to just wave at them on the street and if they are free they can pick you up right there. A ride from the train station to college will cost you around £10.

Secondly, you have the 'minicabs' or 'private hire cars'. They are much cheaper than the Hackney Carriages, but you have to order them in advance. Plenty of minicab companies operate in Oxford and they can usually pick you up from anywhere in about 10 minutes. Two such companies are Royal Cars (01865 777333) and A1 Taxis (01865 248000), however others can be found by googling 'minicab Oxford' or 'private hire Oxford'. A trip from the train station should be £5-6.



# The MCR

The MCR (Middle Common Room) is two things: the graduate student body of college, and the physical building at 87 Banbury Road which we use as a common room. Together with the JCR (the Junior Common Room – the undergrads) and the SCR (the Senior Common Room – the fellows) we make up the academic community of St Hugh's. The role of the MCR is to provide an antidote to all the hard work you will end up doing during your time at Oxford, as well as to represent your interests to college.

## Facilities

Although not as old as some colleges' MCRs, we are certainly very well equipped. In the lounge we have Sky TV (with sports and movies), a whole stack of games consoles and a range of games, books and wonderfully comfy chairs. The TV cupboard is opened with your fob. The TV can be booked using the form by its door, as long as there isn't an MCR event taking place while your programme is on. Movie nights and other chilled-out events take place here, and it is generally a good place for a chat and a cup of tea. The lounge area has been refurbished this summer by MCR volunteers, so please take care of it! Attached is the kitchen with free tea and coffee and where the welfare brunches every Sunday take place.

The party room plays host to the larger events: specialty food nights, casino nights and end of term parties are held here. It too boasts a more than adequate music system, and has also had a new coat of paint this summer.

Also located in the MCR building, opposite the party room by the front door, is the aforementioned computer room. Adjacent to the kitchen is one of the two MCR laundry rooms, which also contains a dishwasher.

It's important to remember that if you use the MCR facilities, it's your responsibility to tidy up after yourself. If you leave a half-empty beer can on the table or a dirty mug by the sink, it will stay there - the scouts will not wash up for you. We rely on everybody respecting the shared facilities in order for them to keep operating - please treat them as you would your own home. Or even better, as you would treat somebody else's home. Somebody else's home who you were trying to really impress with how responsible an adult you are. Thanks!

## Events

Throughout the year the committee organises a number of events for the MCR. Most of these are subsidised to some degree and are a great chance to enjoy Oxford with your fellow graduates. We provide a wide range of events, from theatre and concert trips, to end of term parties. If you have an idea for an event do get in touch with the social secretaries Florence Smith [florence.smith@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:florence.smith@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk) and Emily Priest [emily.priest@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emily.priest@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)

[hughs.ox.ac.uk](https://hughs.ox.ac.uk) who will be more than happy to help organise it! Events are advertised through the mailing list so be sure to sign up. To subscribe, just send a blank email to [hughs-mcr-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hughs-mcr-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk). If you're on Facebook, you should also join the Facebook group (search for "St Hugh's College MCR 2019-2020" and it should pop up, or follow the link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/743408802779446/>). A few of our regular events are listed below.

## **Brunch**

The welfare reps lay on a free brunch every Sunday morning from 11 am during 0<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> week to give you a chance to detox before the hectic week ahead. You will have to see the spread to believe it, easily one of the college highlights!

Although your welfare officers kindly rise early in order to prepare the brunch for you, they need your help in cleaning up the kitchen and communal areas afterwards. Please remember to put your dishes in the dishwasher (in the laundry room behind the kitchen) and help with other things, if needed. In general, you are welcome to use the MCR kitchen, crockery and cutlery, but please make sure that you do not remove any of the items from the MCR kitchen and always clean them after you use them.

## **Pizza Nights**

Every Sunday we put on a movie from about 8:30pm in the MCR, accompanied by free pizza!

## **Formal Hall pre-drinks**

An hour before formal hall, we serve pre-drinks in the MCR to get you in the mood. Come along from 6:30pm on formal nights; even if you're not going to the dinner it's great to mingle anyway. After formal we tend to head to the bar.

## **Exchange dinners**

There are 38 colleges in Oxford. If one of your aims while you're here is to visit them all, exchange dinners are a great way to go. We hook up with a couple of other colleges per term for a formal dinner, once at Hugh's and again at their place. The meal and drinks are heavily subsidised and places (normally limited to around 15) get snapped up pretty quickly.

At some point in the year, we have the pleasure of inviting our sister college from Cambridge, Clare College, for an exchange dinner. We had a great trip over to "the other place" last Trinity term, so to get invited back we hope to make them feel very welcome.

## **Bops**

Bops (the Oxford word for "fancy dress party") are really fun/childish/sleazy (delete as appropriate) nights held in the College bar, usually every other week. They always have a theme and the JCR love to get dressed/boozed up. They're always very cheap nights and a good laugh with your friends, if you're willing to put up with the JCR attempts at DJing (there's a wide range of abilities, mostly...interesting...).

Once a term or so, the MCR puts on its own bop with our own DJs, which is normally better attended and much more fun. If you want to get involved, get in touch with the social secretary.

## **Committee**

The committee is responsible for running the MCR. We organise events, provide welfare assistance and generally try and ensure the MCR is a nice place to be. The committee is headed up by the President, Alex Brandts, who is assisted by the Vice President, Josh Thomas. Also members of the committee are Welfare Officers Katharina Friege and Barney Poznansky, Social Secretaries Florence Smith and Emily Priest, and Wining and Dining Officer Amartya Sanyal, who is in charge of organising formal halls and exchange events. The Secretary is Avani Lal, responsible for the smooth running of committee meetings and making sure we all stick to tasks. We also have Environment and Charities Rep Sile Johnson, Sports Rep Matthew Reid, and Academic Rep Saed Khawaldeh. The two Freshers' Reps, primarily responsible for organising Freshers' week, are Serte Donderwinkel and Reza Rohani.

Elections for committee positions are usually held in 5th Week, Michaelmas term. The term of office is one calendar year, though even if you are only here for a one-year course, you can still stand for election and get two academic terms (Hilary and Trinity) to fulfil your role. In 5th Week of Trinity we re-elect for all positions that are vacated by outgoing students. More information on what each role entails can be found in the MCR constitution: <http://mcr.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/about-st-hughs-mcr/constitution>, or just ask the person currently holding the position.

Committee meetings are held weekly during term time, with committee members being required to attend. We also hold two general meetings per term, when all MCR members may attend and general business is discussed.



# Extracurricular

## Sport

### College clubs

There are many sports clubs at St Hugh's: football, netball, badminton, hockey, and darts to name but a few. The level of competition varies, but it does tend to be at a lower standard than University sport. Most sports have an intercollegiate competition called cuppers, where you compete against other colleges. The clubs are mainly run by the JCR, although there is an MCR football team. For more information check out the JCR website: <http://jcr.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk> and visit the stalls at the College Freshers' Fair during noughth week.

For some of the cuppers events it is also possible to create a team with your MCR friends, without representing a particular club.

### MCR Football

St Hugh's MCR Football Club (SHMCRFC) was formed in 2012 to create a team exclusively for MCR members and to better accommodate their playing needs. Matches are on Saturday mornings, so as not to interfere with people's weekday schedules. SHMCRFC does not have official training sessions, but does frequently have 'kick-about' sessions on a 6v6 AstroTurf pitch. The club became fully independent for 2013-14 and won 6 out of 8 league matches, finishing second in the league and securing promotion. Join the Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/463383020417105> for more details, or send an email to our sports rep Matthew Reid at [matthew.reid@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.reid@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk).

### Rowing

Rowing is huge in Oxford and St Hugh's is no exception. We have a number of boats that compete in the three main regattas: novice eights compete in Christ Church Regatta towards the end of Michaelmas term, Torpids take place in Hilary, and the season culminates in Summer Eights during Trinity. If you prefer to watch other people exerting themselves, Summer Eights is a great chance to take in the rowing with Pimm's and strawberries provided by the catering staff in summer. The St Hugh's boathouse is the first building you reach on Boathouse Island, just beyond Christ Church Meadow.

### University Sport

The University caters for almost all sports to some degree. Competing for the university in a varsity match against Cambridge can earn you a Blue, a coveted accolade. Check out the University's Freshers' Fair during noughth week to see what interests you. The MCR has a small budget to cover costs (equipment etc) for athletes achieving Blues standard. Get in touch with the Sports rep for more information.

## **Gym**

The College gym is located in the basement of the Rachel Trickett Building, near the bar. It can be reached by walking past the JCR parallel to St Margaret's Road and going down the second staircase to the basement. It is kitted out with a few ergs (rowing machines), cycling machines, treadmills, and weight machines. There is a separate room for the rowers. To get access to the gym you will need to pay the nominal membership fee of £33 per term or £65 per year, and arrange an induction. These normally happen at the start of term.

Guide to joining the gym: [www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/GYM-How-to-Join-the-Gym-MT17.pdf](http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/GYM-How-to-Join-the-Gym-MT17.pdf)

Gym membership form:

[www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/GYM-Membership-Form-2017-18.pdf](http://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/GYM-Membership-Form-2017-18.pdf)

## **MCR sports equipment**

The MCR has a croquet set for use on the lawn just outside and there will be people willing to teach you how to play if you haven't before. It's best enjoyed with Pimm's and faux-pretentious accents, though it's by no means a posh game (honest!).

We also have volleyball, football, frisbee, badminton and other sports equipment. The MCR shares a couple of table tennis bats with the JCR for use in the bar; just ask the bar staff. If there is something broken or that you think is missing from our stock, bring it up with the sports rep.

Our members also have access to squash courts at Wolfson College. Slots need to be booked in our Lodge. We also have access to tennis courts shared with Keble College on Woodstock Road. Ask the Lodge for the keys.

## **Punting**

Punting normally takes place during Trinity term when the weather turns nice. Like croquet, it's best enjoyed with Pimm's. The MCR subsidises punting trips involving MCR members during Trinity Term (look out for the announcement email). To get reimbursed you will need to leave your bank details and the receipt with the vice president.

You can punt from either of the two boathouses. Closest to College is the Cherwell boathouse on Bardwell Road, about 5-10 minutes walk away. Prices are £16-£17 per hour, weekdays/weekends. Magdalen Bridge boathouse is more expensive at £20 and tends to be far busier with tourists.

## **Societies**

Like sports clubs, there are a number of societies catering for all your needs, from national societies, subject groups, common interest clubs and many more. Again, those not offered by College will almost certainly be available at University level, so check out the freshers' fairs. And if you still can't find what you're looking for, if you can find enough like-minded people you can set it up yourself!

Full lists of sports clubs and societies in the University can be found at [www.oxfordsu.org/communities/clubs-and-socs/](http://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/clubs-and-socs/)

## **Music**

St Hugh's boasts a vibrant and talented music society that features a number of groups which vary from year to year. We've had a fabulous string quartet and orchestra, an all-female choir, cool capella and barbershop groups. Together with the classic Chapel Choir, they entertain the College community and perform in a number of concerts throughout the academic year. The weekly services in the College Chapel are supported by the Chapel Choir. The Chapel Choir is a very good and non-auditioning mixed choir. It welcomes and encourages members of all singing abilities and religions and rehearses twice a week. If you enjoy singing and music and are interested in joining the Choir, or any of the other music groups, look out for their stands at the St Hugh's Freshers' Fair!





# Oxford Idiosyncrasies

## Matriculation

All new fulltime students to the university are **required** to attend a matriculation service on Saturday of first week (19<sup>th</sup> October). This takes place in the historic Sheldonian Theatre and is entirely in Latin. New students meet at college beforehand before being led down to the ceremony by the Dean of Degrees.

## Subfusc

Compulsory attire for matriculation, it consists of a gown, cap and black ribbon or white bow-tie (just google it if you want to know what it's supposed to look like). This can be purchased from Ede and Ravenscroft on the High Street or at Walter's on Turl Street. Gowns are also required for formal hall at some other colleges, although St Hugh's code does not demand gowns. If you sit exams in your course, you'll be wearing subfusc whilst writing them.



# Glossary

<b>Battels</b>	(pl) Bills from College
<b>Boatie</b>	<i>see</i> <b>Rower</b>
<b>Bod</b>	(abbr.) Bodleian library
<b>Bod card</b>	(n) Library card/ID/access card/payment card for meals. Without it life gets rather difficult.
<b>Bop</b>	(n) Party in the College bar, normally fancy dress.
<b>Coming up</b>	(vb) Arriving in oxford
<b>Cuppers</b>	(n) Intercollegiate sports tournaments
<b>Dean</b>	(n) He who must not be named, responsible for discipline.
<b>Don</b>	(n) A <b>fellow</b> of an Oxford college
<b>Fellow</b> <i>see also</i> <b>SCR</b>	(n) A member of the College teaching staff: tutors, lecturers
<b>Formal</b>	1. (n) Formal Hall 2. (adj) Dress code for formal Hall
<b>Fresher</b>	(n) First year student
<b>Going down</b>	(vb) Leaving Oxford
<b>Hack</b>	(n) Wannabe future prime minister/dictator. Often found hanging around the Oxford Union/OxfordSU/committee meetings.
<b>Hall</b>	(n) Dining hall; food provided therein
<b>Hilary</b> <i>see also</i> <b>Michaelmas;</b> <b>Trinity</b>	(n) Spring term: January to March. Notorious for cold, wet weather.
<b>JCR</b>	(acr) Junior Common Room 1. (n) Undergraduate student body 2. (n) Room above the bar with Sky TV
<b>Matriculation</b>	(n) Registration ceremony which takes place in the Sheldonian Theatre

<b>MCR</b>	(acr) Middle Common Room 1. (n) Graduate student body 2. (n) Common room used by graduates in 87 Banbury Road.
<b>Michaelmas</b> <i>see also Hilary; Trinity</i>	(n) Autumn term: October to December. First term of the academic year.
<b>Norrington Table</b>	(n) Academic “league table” of Oxford colleges, which tracks the number of undergraduate 1st-class degrees awarded. A highly variable and highly spurious way of comparing the colleges!
<b>OUSU</b>	(acr) Oxford University Student Union – now called ‘Oxford SU’
<b>Oxford Union</b>	1. (n) University debating society, famed for their mass-debaters. 2. (n) Building where debates and speeches are held.
<b>Principal</b>	(n) Head of the College, currently Dame Elish Angiolini
<b>Proctor</b>	(n) Senior members of the University responsible for its rules and discipline. There are officially two - a Junior Proctor and a Senior Proctor. Hopefully you’ll never encounter them...
<b>Punt</b>	1. (n) A long, flat water vessel propelled by a long pole. 2. (vb) About the most inefficient means of propulsion through water. Great fun.
<b>Rower</b> <i>also Boatie</i>	(n) Those with a propensity to Lycra, early mornings and physical pain.
<b>Rusticate</b>	(vb) to be suspended from the University on disciplinary grounds – literally ‘made rustic; sent to the country’. <i>See also: Sent Down</i>
<b>SCR</b> <i>see also Fellows</i>	(acr) Senior Common Room 1. (n) <b>Fellows</b> of the College 2. (n) Common room located in Main Building next to the <b>Principal’s</b> office.
<b>Sent down</b>	(vb) to be expelled from the University.
<b>Subfusc</b>	(n) Fancy dress worn when sitting exams. Deemed a stupid tradition by some students. <i>see also Trashing</i>
<b>Trashing</b> <i>see also Subfusc</i>	(vb) Defacing subfusc after final exams, usually involving food. Deemed a stupid and anti-social tradition by some proctors, and heavily fined.
<b>Trinity</b>	(n) Summer term: May to June. So-called for the three ‘P’s: Pimm’s, <b>punting</b> and PDSD (pre-deadline stress disorder).
<b>Tute</b>	(abbr) Tutorial (n) Small class or one to one teaching
<b>Vice Chancellor</b>	(n) Head of the University of Oxford, currently Louise Richardson

# Map of College

