



Assistance available to Estranged or Independent Undergraduate Students

Every year there are a small number of undergraduates who, for financial or family reasons, do not have a home to which they are able to return during the vacations. The College has long offered support to students who find themselves in difficult situations; details of that support are now collected below.

If they think they might be eligible for this support, students should speak to the Wellbeing Coordinator, Academic Registrar, or Accountant in the first instance. Students need not have declared themselves estranged to their funding body before receiving College assistance, but some may find the official declaration useful.

Accommodation

An estranged student will not normally be required to empty their room of possessions during the vacations; this should be arranged with the Accommodation Manager. Students who wish it may be accommodated during every vacation, up to the night of 31st August in the vacation following their final examinations. Note that this provision may not be available in all buildings, and where possible should be discussed before room allocation.

As not all buildings are heated throughout the year, students in residence during closure periods may be asked to temporarily relocate to another part of the College.

Estranged students are entitled to store up to five labelled items in the luggage store through the year.

Financial assistance

Depending on a student's financial situation, the College will provide vacation accommodation at a reduced rate, or free of charge. Term-time rent runs from the night of Sunday of 0th Week to the night of Friday of 8th Week, and applies to all students.

The Finance Office is happy to help students in their dealings with student funding bodies; it is assumed that students will apply for the maximum loan and grants amounts available to them.

Additional support

Sources of funding are listed on the College's Financial Assistance page, they include the Access to Learning Fund (October – June), and the University Hardship Fund (open for applications at the beginning of each term); the University also has a fund for bursaries to estranged undergraduates (including PGCE and GEM students).

The College's Student Support Fund exists to help those experiencing hardship; applications can be made online by 4th Week each term. The Bursar is happy to discuss budgeting.

Students may apply to the College for funding for academic-related travel and language courses.

The Domestic Bursar may be able to offer casual work in College during vacations. The University's Careers Service offers advice on securing vacation employment in Oxford or further afield.

Welfare

The Nurse is in College 0th – 9th Week; the Counsellor is available for in-College appointments 1st – 8th Week; the Chaplain, and the Academic Registrar are available to students throughout the year. The College Doctors are based at Summertown Health Centre (01865 515552); the Lodge is open 24 hours all year (01865 274900).

Students who remain in Oxford during the vacations have found it helpful to spend time getting to know the city and making links with local groups: engaging with sports, activities, and volunteering are good ways to build a community unaffected by term time. The Daily Info website is a useful place to start.

The University's Counselling Service operates during the vacations, and appointments can be made through their website, which also contains a number of useful resources.