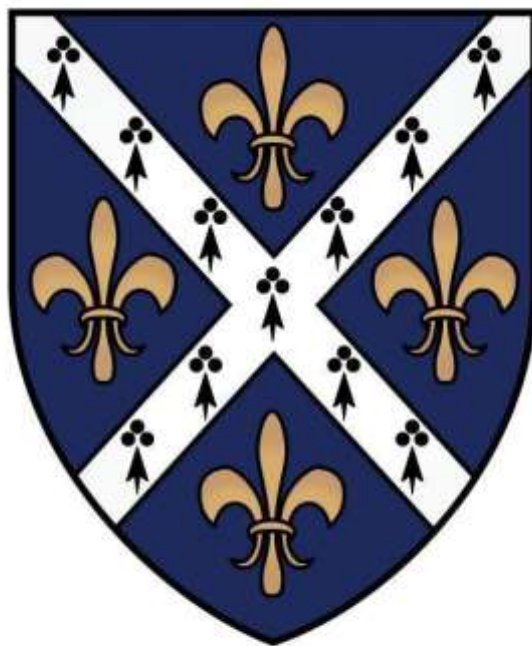


St Hugh's College MCR



Freshers' Guide

2022-23



Welcome!

Dear new Graduate Hughsies,

On behalf of all the members of the St Hugh's College Middle Common Room, welcome to St Hugh's College! 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. We hope to make your introduction to College, Oxford, and for many of you the UK, stress-free and hug(hs)ely enjoyable!

Whether you picked St Hugh's knowing it's the best college in Oxford, or just ended up here by happy coincidence, you are in for a treat. Hughsies are known to be one of the most friendly and sociable. Whether you are a full time, part time, or mature student, come to freshers' week to meet your new best friends for life and get acquainted with the many Oxford traditions!

In this guide, you should find everything you need to know about life in college from how the dining hall works to tackling Oxford's eccentricities. If you can't find an answer to your question here you can always post on the MCR Facebook page, where we'll be happy to help. Throughout Freshers week and beyond, you are also very welcome to message me directly about anything that could help improve your experience here at Oxford.

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.

Yours Sincerely,
Edie Guo (she/her)
DPhil in Women's and Reproductive Health
St Hugh's MCR President



Getting Started

Freshers' Week

The MCR Committee is working hard to plan events for Freshers' Week. COVID-19 restrictions have been generally lifted across the UK, and Freshers' events should be largely back to 'normal' (ie. pre-COVID conditions). Keep in mind, though, that the University and College are still monitoring transmission rates, and may implement cautionary restrictions if things change. Regardless, restrictions or not, the MCR Committee *will* ensure you have a fun and exciting start to your Oxford experience. Freshers' Week will include events such as drinks parties, formal gatherings in the MCR garden, pub crawls, scavenger hunts, walking tours of Oxford and the surrounding countryside and so on. If necessary, there will also be a series of virtual events to ensure a smooth transition to Oxford life, especially for those who may be joining us remotely.

Your Freshers Representatives this year are Florence Smith and Sandra Mon. Look to them for all things Freshers' Week, from the schedule (incl. pre-drinks) to dress code!

Your Department

For graduate students, the most important commitments in *noughth week* (the first week of term, starting 3rd October) will be set by their departments. If you have questions related to your course, contact your departmental director of graduate studies or course advisor.

MCR

At St Hugh's, as with other colleges across Oxford, the Middle Common Room (MCR) represents the graduate student community. The Hugh's MCR exists to provide an (occasionally healthy) antidote to all the work you've let yourself in for. We're a friendly bunch of fellow graduate students from all walks of life, and our MCR facilities reflect our love for socializing. The MCR house is located at 87 Banbury Road and serves as a common space for all graduate students to relax and meet each other. We also have a large garden (with a BBQ grill!) that can be used for outdoor events. The best way to keep track of what's going on is to join the MCR Freshers Facebook page "St Hugh's MCR 2022/23" at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sthughsmcr2022>, or the MCR WhatsApp group "St Hugh's MCR 2022/23" at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BirBp1mbvVZ7l8CXMtVlsD>.



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 500 graduates and 440 undergraduates, and a good mix of both men and women. Notable graduates of St Hugh's include Human Rights Lawyer Amal Clooney and the former British Secretary of State Barbara Castle.

The Dickson Poon China Centre

Those of you who 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 and the ever popular Wordsworth Tearooms (burger Thursday is always a good day!). 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 from most of the 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), and academic masters in all disciplines studying for **MSts**, **MScs** or **MPhils**. At most other universities these are called **MA**s.

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



Who's Who

Principal: Lady Elish Angiolini

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. Lady Elish previously served as the first female Lord Advocate of Scotland and is chairing the Angiolini Inquiry, which looks into the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard.

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

Can be found... in her office in the 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 Vilain.

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

Contact: thea.crapper@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk; college.office@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

Senior Tutor: Professor Robert Vilain

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

Most likely to be ... singing the praises of the students' research

Can be found ... by contacting Thea Crapper

Dean: Dr Damian Jenkins

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 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 the main building, by the entrance.

Contact: accommodation.manager@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

Estates Manager: Richard Noonan

Door knobs, chairs, walls, windows: if anything breaks, Richard Noonan is the person 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: [Maintenance Request Form - St Hugh's College \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/maintenance-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 the main building.

IT people: The IT office is 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.

Most likely to be ... solving all your technical difficulties

Can be found ... in their office in the main building.

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. You can ring the Lodge to make an anonymous noise complaint if you're being disturbed. The Porters are very friendly and incredibly helpful!

Most likely to be ... emailing you when your Amazon Prime order arrives

Can be found ... in the Porters' Lodge (or "Plodge") by the front gate

Scouts: For those living in college, the scouts will normally clean your rooms once a week (although this is subject to COVID-19 restrictions). They will vacuum floors, empty bins and clean bathrooms. 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).

Most likely to be ... the unsung heroes of college!

Can be found ... in three places at once (rumours of their magical powers are as yet unverified!)

Gardeners: Do you know we are the first Oxford college with substantial grounds to be 100% organic? 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!

Most likely to be... making the gardens look absolutely beautiful

Can be found ... in any green space, but particularly near the greenhouse by 13 Canterbury Road.

Nurse & Wellbeing Coordinator: Sarah Dragonetti will help you if you get sick, or want a chat, and can also refer you to your GP. See the website for surgery hours. She is also in charge of arranging wellbeing events and can liaise with your department if you need extensions for medical reasons.

Most likely to be... emailing you about her Friday gardening events

Can be found... in her office on the first floor of the main building

Professor Biscuit & Admiral Flapjack: The college cats, who are very friendly and will always accept a treat! They are welcome to roam free, but you should always make sure they can get out of any buildings into which they may wander.

Most likely to be ... sunbathing on the lawn, or being photographed by graduates!

Can be found ... wherever there are treats or cuddles on offer



Health

Healthcare

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

Summertown Health Centre

You must register with a doctor in Oxford. The College-linked surgery is Summertown Health Centre: 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.

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.

College Surgery

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

Email: 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 Doctors, Dr Siobhan Becker and Dr Charlie Luo, from Summertown Health Centre.

Chemists / Pharmacies

There are several 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, 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 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. 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 order of services you should try, just go for whichever you feel most comfortable with. All welfare issues are handled with the utmost confidentiality and discretion.

Personal Welfare

College Nurse & Wellbeing Coordinator

The College Nurse & Wellbeing Coordinator (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) is based in college and part of the wider counselling service offered by the university. Elizabeth 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. 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 Welfare Officers: Nicola Carutenuto and Dilan (Kristen) Yang. 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 well trained in dealing with any issue from relationships to exam stress. Lists of peer supporters are displayed around the College buildings, and you can 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, 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 some departments also 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, attended by the welfare officers, decides how to allocate funds. Preference is given to academic needs.

Travel Grants

There is additional money available to fund academic travel such as conferences and field work. 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. You can also check out the college website for more information.



Facilities & Services

Food

Hall

From 0th to 9th 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 the prices low (£3-5). There are always vegetarian options and many dietary requirements can be accommodated (though you will have to let the kitchen staff know in advance). Look online for opening times: www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/current-students/food/

Services

Bod card

Your **Bod card** is about the most valuable thing you will own in Oxford. It is all the following:

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

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 college libraries.

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

Laundry

MCR laundry facilities are in the (i) **MCR, through the kitchen**, and (ii) **13 Canterbury Road on the ground floor**. Washing costs £2.30 and the dryers about £1.30; 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 ('pigeon hole', i.e. a mailbox) in the Lodge where post (mail) will be put by the porters. If an item is too large or has been signed for, you will receive an email notification of this delivery and your item will be listed/numbered under your name on a clipboard at the porter's desk. To collect your item, head over to the Lodge, (politely) flag down a porter, indicate your name and number as it appears on the clipboard, and show your **Bod card** to confirm your identity. 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.

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. You may change your email address to a preferred name if you have one. To do this, place a Service Request through IT Self-Service, under 'Email Address Name Change'.

Once your email's all set up, 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.

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. If the wifi is not working, please send in an IT request:

<https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/current-students/it-services/it-support-request/>.

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).



Getting Around

Cycling in Oxford

Public transport is quite expensive in Oxford, which is why most students choose to get around by bike. One must be careful though: in the UK, cycling is not quite as common as in other countries, and 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, which you can get cheaply 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 several bike shops in Oxford. Some recommended shops are Summertown Cycles (Summertown, 15 min walk north from St Hugh's), Walton Street Cycles (closest to college, 5 min walk in Jericho), Bike Zone in the City Centre, or Decathlon (a short distance out towards Botley). 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, and broken forks after a few months of use. Used bikes can be found on gumtree.co.uk, 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 several 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 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 (U-locks with cables are best) 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 or the university security). Placing a registration sticker on your bike sometimes helps in deterring theft.

University security sell secure bike locks at a discounted rate (and occasionally give them out for free) <https://travel.web.ox.ac.uk/bike/security>

Maintaining your Bike

There is a bike pump at the Lodge 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 in 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. 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. If you have any visitors, they can make use of the park & ride car parks around Oxford, and the bus from the Oxford Parkway park & ride stops just outside of St Hugh's.

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. Note that Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach are two distinct (and competing) bus operators servicing the Oxford areas – something to keep in mind if you are purchasing multi-ride bus passes. One universal option is the SmartZone pass which allows unlimited travel on any operator: <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/smartzone>. The SmartZone is pricey, though, and is only worth it if you have a regular lengthy commute (e.g. between college and Headington).

Buses are one of the best and cheapest ways of getting around in UK. If you've come by plane, the Airline bus provides frequent service between Oxford, London Heathrow, and Gatwick: <https://www.theairlineoxford.co.uk/oxford-to-heathrow-bus/>. For going to London check out the Oxford Tube (oxfordtube.com), a service to London Victoria that runs every 10 minutes or so, and throughout the night. For coaches to other destinations (and smaller airports such as Luton and Stansted), have a look at 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. Students in full-time education can get a 16-25 or a 26-30 railcard, which gives about 33% off on most fares (regardless of age). www.railcard.co.uk. [Mature students over 30 \(fret not\) can get a 16-25 railcard with proof of full-time study: https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/using-your-railcard/are-you-eligible/.](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 the 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 a much-needed relief from 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. 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 party room plays host to the larger events: specialty food nights, casino nights and end of term parties are held here. Also located in the MCR building, opposite the party room by the front door, is the 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 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 MCR committee organises many 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 will make sure that, whatever the covid situation, there will be events for you to enjoy.

The Friday Social (TFS)

The famous MCR Friday social takes place (you've guessed it) every Friday night in the MCR. With a free bar, great tunes and sometimes a theme, the social is a great opportunity to unwind, have fun and get to know your fellow MCR members.

Bops

Bops (supposedly standing for “big organised parties”) are big parties held by some colleges during term time. They typically have a theme and fancy dress (i.e. costumes) are encouraged, with plenty of booze flowing, making for a great night. While our own JCR do organise their own in the college bar (if you can stomach their attempts at DJing!), you can typically find bops at other colleges either on Facebook or through friends!

Formal Halls

Formal Hall is the fanciest weekly events in college, and typically involves a full-course sit-down meal with wine in the St Hugh’s dining hall, followed by post-dinner drinks in the College bar. We also try to arrange exchange formals with other colleges - a great way to experience other colleges and meet members of their MCRs. Tickets are usually sold the previous week, and often are in hot demand!

Additional FAQs on formals (dress code, protocol, etc.) can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/sthughsformals>

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 Edie Guo, who is assisted by the Vice President Robert Bork III. Other members of the committee include Freshers’ Reps Florence Smith and Sandra Mon, Welfare Officers Nicola Carutenuto and Dilan (Kristen) Yang, Academic Rep Hannan Xu, Equalities Rep Dora Duo, IT Rep Johannes Schweickard, Social Secretaries **Caroline Taylor** and Gwen Williams, Sports Rep Thijs de Buck, and Wining and Dining Officers **Deborah Miori** and Ricardo de Luca e Tuma, who are in charge of organising formal halls and exchange events. The Secretary is Siobhan Hall, responsible for the smooth running of committee meetings and making sure we all stick to tasks.

Elections for committee positions are usually held in 5th Week, Michaelmas term. The term of office is one calendar year, though 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 hold a by-election for all positions that are vacated by outgoing students.

We hold two general meetings per term, when all MCR members are encouraged to attend to discuss general MCR business.



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 coppers, where you compete against other colleges. The clubs are mainly run by the JCR, with the exceptions of the boat club and the MCR football team, but are open to all students. Please see below for some more information about those last two. For more information about the JCR-run sports teams, check out the JCR website: <https://jcr.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/clubs-societies/> and visit the stalls at the College Freshers' Fair during noughth week.

For some of the University coppers 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 during term time, 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 MCR football team plays in the first MCR division, where it generally competes for the top spots. Join the Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/463383020417105>) for more details, or you can send a message to the team captain, Dennis Milesevic.

Rowing

Rowing is huge in Oxford and St Hugh's is no exception. St Hugh's Boat Club is a large and welcoming boat club, with people of all rowing experience levels. In Michaelmas term, SHBC organises a special novice campaign, where people without any rowing experience can learn how to row. At the end of Michaelmas term, there is a special novice-only regatta, where novices can use their newly acquired rowing abilities to compete against novices from all other boat clubs. People with previous rowing experience can join our senior crews straight away, and compete in races every other Sunday.

In Hilary and Trinity term, we always have several boats that compete in bumps racing (the traditional Oxford rowing races held annually since 1815, where you try to 'bump' the boat in front of you!): Torpids takes 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 in summer. The St Hugh's

boathouse is the first building you reach on Boathouse Island, just beyond Christ Church Meadow. For more information about the boatclub and the novice campaign, you can message the SHBC MCR Rep (matthijs.debuck@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk). SHBC taster sessions will be held on the 4th, 6th, and 16th of October - more information will follow!

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 college has a small fund to cover costs (equipment etc) for athletes achieving Blues standard. Check out the "Blues Funding" tab on <https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/current-students/finance/financial-grants/> for more information.

Gym

The College gym is 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 membership fee of £33 per term or £65 per year, and arrange an induction (check out <https://www.st-hughs.ox.ac.uk/current-students/facilities/> for more information). These normally happen at the start of term. There are also various private gyms elsewhere and the Iffley Road Sports Centre run by the University.

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, which can be found in the corner of the study room. 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 at specific timeslots (check with the sports rep for more information). We also have access to tennis & football courts shared with Keble College on Woodstock Road. Ask the Lodge for the keys, and contact Ade Roche (adrian.roche@kewble.ox.ac.uk) to book the grounds.

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 Sports Rep.

You can punt from either of the two boathouses. Closest to College is the Cherwell boathouse on Bardwell Road, about a 5-10-minute walk away. Prices are £20/hour, weekdays/weekends.

Magdalen Bridge boathouse is more expensive at £25-30/hour 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/

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 acapella 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!



Helpful Tips for Moving to Oxford

Introduction

Below are some practical tips that international students or UK home students may find useful about living in the UK. There are some bank account tips, phone plans and money saving ideas. Kiana Collins is the international rep on committee so if you have any questions about anything international related please contact her at kiana.collins@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

Bank accounts

Monzo is a great and really easy bank account to use if you have the right to reside in the UK. <https://monzo.com/blog/2019/08/28/how-to-open-a-monzo-account>

It is an easy way to transfer money to friends and also if you have pounds in your account you can spend them in any other country and avoid all exchange fees. There is an app for monzo and it makes everything easier to have it on your phone

Transferwise (now called **wise**) is another app which you can get on your phone and it is an easy way to transfer money in other currencies to pounds or the other way around. It has low exchange fees and the money gets sent right away. <https://wise.com/>

Phone Plans

It is very worth getting a UK phone number when you're in Oxford. If you want to call Summertown health centre they prefer it if you have a UK phone number. But if it is impossible for you to get one then there are other ways of contacting the GP. Please send Sarah Dragonetti an email and she will help you with a special phone for international students

The easiest phone plan to get is GiffGaff. It is very cheap, they send you free sim cards (which is very handy when you lose your sim card! especially if you have a sim card from your home country and a UK one) <https://www.giffgaff.com/>

They have lots of different "goodybags" that you pay for each month. There is also no contract and you can stop your monthly goodybag whenever you want with no extra fees. So if you go home for the summer you won't have to continue paying for your phone plan in the UK. A popular plan is 10 pounds a month for unlimited calls/texts and 15GB of data. GiffGaff also still works in EU countries but there is a limit that they say on their website.

Save the student is a helpful website which also has other student sim card deals. <https://www.savethestudent.org/bills-utilities/mobilephones/sim-only-deals.html>

Helpful **travelling** around the UK apps

Trainline is the best app to get train tickets on. You can then just scan your phone at the barriers instead of printing out tickets. You are also able to download your railcard onto the app so it is always there if the train manager decides to check. Make sure you get a railcard

(you can buy it through the trainline app - a digital railcard) you will make the money back if you go to London more than once. There are 16-25 year old rail cards but also 26-30 but you can also apply for a 16-25 one if you are a full time student <https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/using-your-railcard/are-you-eligible/>

It is 30 pounds for a year and you get 33% off every train ticket. You can also attach it to your oyster card in London and you get money off all your tube/subway ride fares when you use your oyster card if you're not travelling in peak hours.

You can also use the trainline app to buy train tickets in other countries which saves a lot of time when travelling!

Citymapper is the best app to use when travelling in London. It tells you which tube lines to get and exactly which exit you should take out of the station to get you closest to your destination. It also has very up to date information about any delays. You can also use it in other cities in the UK and around the world.

Student discounts

In Oxford it is best to always ask if the shop/restaurant has a student discount. Lots of times places do have them but they are not advertised. A classic example of this is Opera Cafe in Jericho.

Unidays and Studentbeans are both apps which have so many student discounts on them. It is worth having an account on both of these and checking the discounts regularly.

Leon has a student discount between 10-15% depending on the month. its normally 10% but sometimes goes up to 15%.

Opera Cafe has 10% student discount

Bubble Tea Oxford has 10% student discount

Amazon Prime 4.49 pounds for students

Westgate mall/shopping centre has discounts at the following stores: Superdry., Dr. Martens, New Look, & Other Stories, Superdrug, Calvin Klein, Accessorize, Moss Bros., JD Sports, Trespass, Office, Oliver Bonas, Urban Outfitters, Vans, MAC Cosmetics, Bobbi Brown.

Body Shop has 15% student discount

Shoryu Ramen has 10% student discount

Boost has 15% student discount

Itsu has 15% student discount

Pizza Pilgrims a beer (or wine) for £10

Other Discounts

End of everyday discounts - At Itsu and Wasabi if you go to the store in town half an hour before it closes they will give you whatever food is left for 50% off!

Tesco Club Card apply for this online and you get money off lots of items at tesco. This is worth getting.



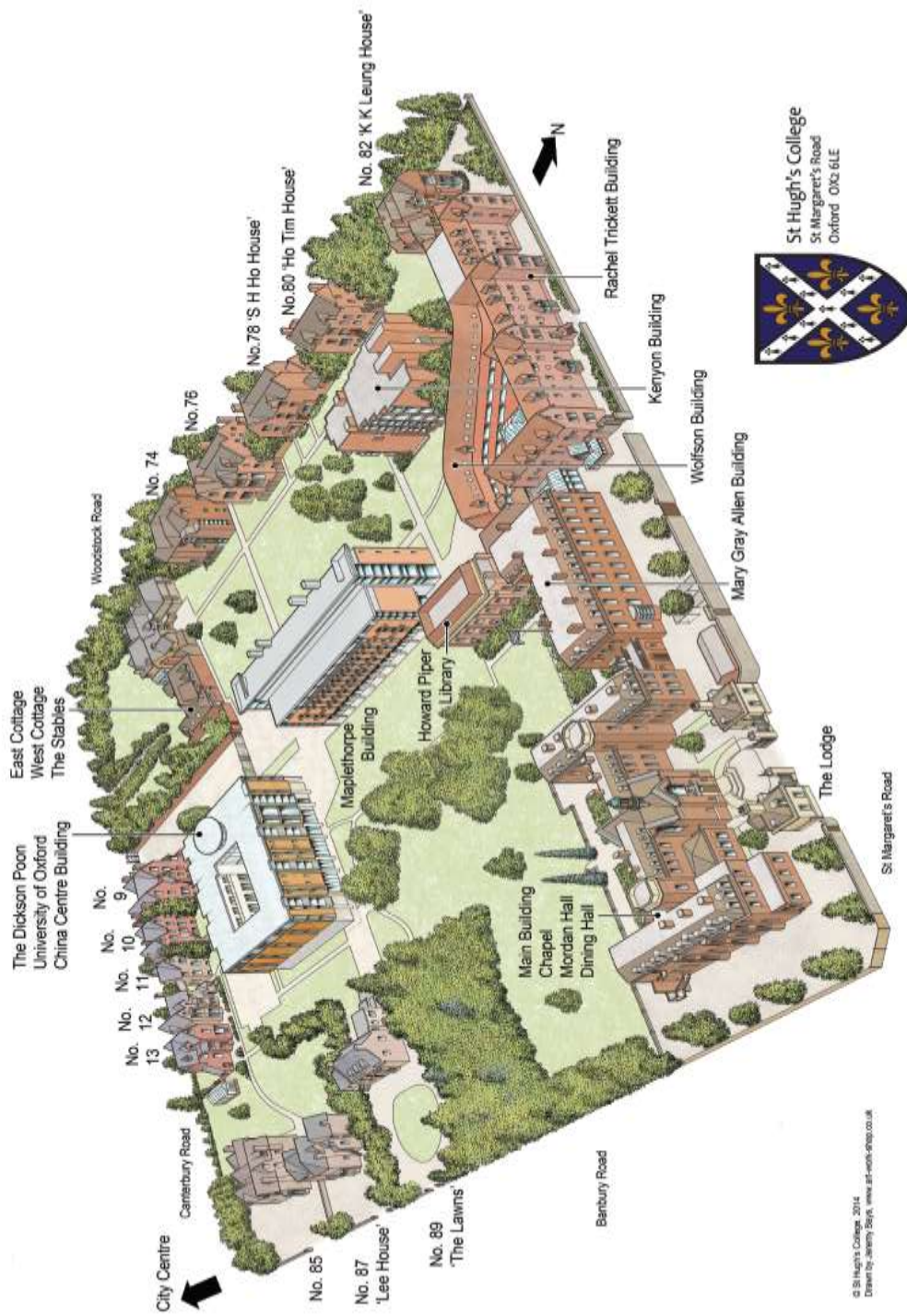
Glossary

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

MCR	(acr) Middle Common Room 1. (n) Graduate student body 2. (n) Common room used by graduates in 87 Banbury Road.
Michaelmas <i>see also Hilary;</i> Trinity	(n) Autumn term: October to December. First term of the academic year. Look out for 'Oxmas' (Oxford's Christmas, normally celebrated in November!)
Norrington Table	(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!
nth week	(n) The nth week of term. 0th ("noughth week") is the week before term starts, and weeks before it are "-1th" week, etc. Weeks also count up after the final (8th) week, to 9th, 10th, etc.
OUSU	(acr) Oxford University Student Union – now called 'Oxford SU'
Oxford Union	1. (n) University debating society, famed for their mass-debaters. 2. (n) Building where debates and speeches are held.
Principal	(n) Head of the College, currently Lady Elish Angiolini
Proctor	(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...
Punt	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.
Rower <i>also Boatie</i>	(n) Those with a propensity to Lycra, early mornings and physical pain.
Rusticate	(vb) to be suspended from the University on disciplinary grounds – literally 'made rustic; sent to the country'. <i>See also: Sent Down</i>
SCR <i>see also Fellows</i>	(acr) Senior Common Room 1. (n) Fellows of the College 2. (n) Common room located in Main Building next to the Principal's office.
Sent down	(vb) to be expelled from the University.
Subfusc	(n) Fancy dress worn when sitting exams. Deemed a stupid tradition by some students. <i>see also Trashing</i>
Trashing <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.
Trinity	(n) Summer term: May to June. So-called for the three 'P's: Pimm's, punting and PDS (pre-deadline stress disorder).

Tute	(abbr) Tutorial (n) Small class or one to one teaching
Vice Chancellor	(n) Head of the University of Oxford, currently Louise Richardson, but soon to be Professor Irene Tracey CBE FMedSci.

Map of College



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