

Glossary of Terms

BATTELS

The charges made to a member of a college (student or Fellow) for accommodation, meals, etc. Invoiced termly by the Finance Office.

'BOD'

Short for 'Bodleian' i.e. the Bodleian library (the largest of the University's many libraries, named after Sir Thomas Bodley).

BURSAR

The chief financial officer of a college.

CLASS

Abbreviated form of Classification, the level of award of a degree (e.g. 2:1 or Upper Second).

COLLECTIONS

Compulsory College exams set by tutors at the start of each term on material covered in the previous term. Also the name for meetings between individual students and the Principal to discuss academic progress.

DEAN

A Fellow responsible for supervising the conduct and discipline of the Junior Members of the College.

DGS

Director of Graduate Studies, based in the department or faculty.

DIRECTOR OF STUDY

Senior academic with responsibility for a particular course or academic area.

DOMESTIC BURSAR

The college officer with overall responsibility for domestic aspects of college life, such as accommodation and catering.

DON

A professor, a lecturer or a Fellow.

DPHIL

A research degree (Doctorate of Philosophy, a PhD).

EXHIBITION

An academic award offered by St Hugh's to undergraduates who perform well in their preliminary examinations.

FELLOWS

The senior members of College who, together with the Principal, constitute the governing body of St Hugh's.

FHS

Final Honour School (c.f. Finals).

FINALS

Final examinations at the end of an undergraduate course.

FPE

First Public Examinations (c.f. 'Prelims', 'Mods').

FRESHER

A first-year student.

GOVERNING BODY

A panel consisting of the Principal and Fellows of the College, who make decisions about the way College is run. There are also several other important committees which advise on distinct aspects of College life and functioning.

GRADUATE

Someone who already holds a university degree. Strictly speaking, someone taking a course of study after graduation is a postgraduate, but in Oxford the two terms are used interchangeably.

'GREATS'

Classics Final Honour School examinations.

HIGH TABLE

The table in a college dining hall, often on a dais, at which the Principal and Fellows dine. Guests may sometimes be invited to High Table.

HILARY TERM

The second of the academic year's three terms, running from January to mid-March.

JCR

Junior Common Room, of which all undergraduate students are members; also a physical space in RTB (near the Library).

LEAVE TO SUPPLICATE

Permission to request for your completed degree to be conferred at a graduation ceremony.

LONG VAC

Long vacation - the name widely used for the period between the end of the Trinity Term and the beginning of the Michaelmas Term each year.

MATRICULATION

Matriculation is a ceremony at which membership of the University is conferred on students who are enrolled at the University of Oxford and following a degree-level course.

MCR

Middle Common Room, of which all postgraduate students are members; also a physical space in 85 Banbury Road.

MGA

The Mary Gray Allen building.

MICHAELMAS TERM

The first term of the academic year which begins in October and ends in December.

'MODS'

(c.f. FPE) The abbreviated form of 'Moderations'. Honour Moderations are first year university (or in the case of Classics, second year) exams for some undergraduate courses. Results are classified as Firsts, Seconds etc.; they do not count towards your final degree mark but students must pass in order to continue to the Final Honour School. Students who excel in these exams may be elected to a College scholarship.

MTB

The Maplethorpe building.

NOUGHTH WEEK (0TH WEEK)

The week before term begins.

OXAM

The University's database of past examination papers (<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/collections-and-resources/past-exam-papers>).

OXFORD SU

Oxford University Student Union (formerly OUSU).

PERMANENT PRIVATE HALL (PPH)

A hall with a religious foundation which has been licensed by the University to matriculate students for degrees. The day-to-day experience of students at a PPH is very similar to a college.

PGCE

The Post-Graduate Certificate in Education, which leads to a formal teaching qualification.

PGR STUDENT

A research graduate (DPhil, MPhil etc.)

PGT STUDENT

A taught graduate (MSc, MSt etc.)

PIGEON POST

Nickname for the University Messenger Service, the free internal mail system which operates between Colleges and University buildings.

PPE

Undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

PPL

Undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Psychology and Linguistics.

'PRELIMS'

(c.f. FPE) The abbreviated form of 'Preliminary' examinations. These are first year undergraduate university examinations. They do not count towards your final degree mark, but students must pass in order to continue to the Final Honour School. Students who excel in these exams may be elected to a College scholarship.

PRINCIPAL

The person who oversees the College and its functioning. The Principal is currently Lady Elish Angiolini.

PROCTORS' OFFICE

The Junior and Senior Proctors are elected to help ensure that the statutes, regulations, customs, and privileges of the University are observed. They have responsibilities under the statutes and regulations for aspects of student discipline, for ensuring the proper conduct of examinations and for dealing with complaints. They also carry out ceremonial duties e.g. at degree ceremonies.

RTB

The Rachel Trickett building.

RUSTICATION

(c.f. Suspension) The withdrawal of the right of access to the University and College, and all academic services, for a fixed period of time or until specified conditions are met. It usually occurs as a result of a major disciplinary offence.

SCR

Senior Common Room, of which Fellows and other senior staff are members. It is also a physical space for the use of Fellows and senior staff during the day or for special events hosted by SCR members.

SOLO

Oxford's online library catalogue.

SUSPENSION

Students can ask to suspend i.e. put their studies on hold, for a fixed period of time on medical or personal grounds which prevent them from being able to work effectively on their course.

TRINITY TERM

The third and final term of the academic year which takes places in the summer.

UNDERGRADUATE

Someone studying for their first degree.

'VAC'

Abbreviation of 'vacation' - the periods of the year between university terms.

VARSIITY

Refers to the University, especially in the context of sport.

VICE-CHANCELLOR (VC)

The senior officer of the University whose role is to provide strategic direction and leadership to the collegiate University, and to position and represent the University internationally, nationally and regionally.

VIVA

The abbreviated form of 'Viva Voce', an oral examination.