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ARRIVING IN OXFORD

From London Airports:

London Heathrow and Gatwick airports are linked to Oxford by The Airline coach service, which operates twenty-four hours a day. The trips take about 90m from Heathrow and 2h-2h30 from Gatwick. Buses depart every 30m (Heathrow) or every hour (Gatwick) for most of the day, and less frequently at night. Tickets can be bought on the bus or online. It is possible to buy a Period Return ticket which allows you to make your return journey within 3 months. Website: <https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/>.

London Stansted airport is linked to Oxford by the National Express 757 coach service, running every 2h. Website: www.nationalexpress.co.uk.

For more details on how to get to

Coaches from London:

The Oxford Tube and X90 run 24 hour services from London Victoria, taking about 1h40.

For all of the coaches and airport transfers, the nearest coach stop to Oriel is Queen's Lane on the High Street.

From Birmingham Airport:

Birmingham airport, only an hour from Oxford by train, is an (often) less stressful alternative to the London airports. The airport is linked to a train station with an hourly service to Oxford Station.

By train:

Direct trains from London run from Paddington to Oxford every 30 minutes. The train station is to the west of Oxford, about 20 minute-walk from Oriel. National Rail offer a 1/3 discount off rail travel for a year to 16- to 25-year-olds with a Young Persons Railcard, which costs £30. Applications are online or at the station (www.16-25railcard.co.uk) For timetable and to plan your trip see <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>.

To get to Oriel, walk or take the no. 5 bus (or 31 or 400 bus among others) from outside the train station and get off at Queens Lane on the High Street for Oriel. For Oxford bus timetables, see <https://city.oxfordbus.co.uk/timetables-fares/>

By car:

There is parking on the High Street after 6.30pm. Before this, you can access college via Merton Street off the east end of High Street. For advice on parking, contact the Porters Lodge on +441865 267555 for more detailed directions.

More information about getting to Oxford can be found on the University website:
www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/maps_and_directions/directions.html

When you arrive at Oriel, report to the Porters' Lodge, on the left just inside the main doors. Someone will be on hand to show you to your room and answer any questions.

Your mailing address at college will be:

[Your name]
Oriel College
Oxford
OX1 4EW

Your post is delivered to your college pigeon-hole in the Porters' Lodge and parcels are held at the lodge for you to collect.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Bedding:

Sheets, pillows, pillowcase, duvet, duvet cover, and a towel. Basically, college will provide you with a mattress protector, but that is it. Beds are single size (90x190 cm).

Subfusc:

The 'uniform' required for university exams throughout your degree, and which you will need for your matriculation, which will take place in the first couple of weeks of term. Subfusc is a dark suit with dark socks for men or a dark skirt with black tights or stockings or dark trousers with dark socks / hosiery for women, with a white shirt, along with special 'Oxford' accessories: a gown, mortarboard or soft cap, and white bow tie or black ribbon, all explained here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress>.

This isn't optional and you do get fined for not wearing it when you should be (don't worry, this will be very clear!) and if you want to eat at 'Formal Hall' in Oriel (the later, more formal, evening meal), you will need to wear a gown.

Subfusc is easily bought in Oxford, near Oriel, at Walters or Shepherd and Woodward.

Websites: www.walters-oxford.co.uk, www.shepherdandwoodward.co.uk

Can also be bought used on the Facebook group: Oxford gowns marketplace

Clothes:

Aside from the few occasions you have to wear *subfusc*, there is no 'uniform' for classes in Oxford, so most students choose to keep it casual.

However, you are advised to keep a couple of more 'dressy' items handy: for men, jacket and tie and/or suits and for women, a smart outfit. (These events are fairly common – and often attended by your tutors, so whilst it may be a different cultural experience, this is all part of the Oxford life, as it were).

For more formal dinners and events you may want to partake in, the dress code will be 'formal', or sometimes 'black tie'.

Formal: for men this means suit and normal tie; for women anything from a reasonably smart blouse and skirt/trousers to a dress.

Black tie: for men this is a dinner jacket and bow tie; for women any smart outfit.

Cooking equipment:

Whilst the college kitchens normally serve 3 cooked meals a day service, you may also want to cook for yourself, and there are kitchens in most staircases. However, those wishing to cook for themselves should buy the relevant equipment. Kitchen equipment can be bought relatively cheap in Sainsburys or Tesco's, though some may need to be bought in John Lewis which has more high-end equipment.

Students are also permitted to have a kettle, toaster and fridge in their room. While these are not provided, they can be purchased easily in Oxford (see the 'Shopping' section). A charge is applied to battels for students who have fridges. No further cooking appliances are allowed in the rooms.

TRANSPORT AROUND OXFORD

Bicycles:

Bicycles are many students' preferred way of getting around Oxford, as the roads are largely suited to cyclists and it is a cost-efficient way of getting around the city. Most places you need to get to are maximum 15 minutes' cycle ride away. Second hand bikes are for sale via OUSU (Oxford University Student Union), and many shops have student deals at the beginning of the year, but make sure to ask around fellow students for the best retailers. Bicycle theft is quite common, so you can register your bike with the police at <https://www.bikeregister.com/>. Make sure to always use a good lock to secure your bike to an immovable object and lock it inside Oriel overnight. Bike racks can be found in the Island Site, Third Quad and Oriel Square. Bikes should not be stored in staircases, doorways or left in First or Second Quad.

There is also the option of using 'dockless' instant-hire bikes found around the city. These may be used with the respective app from their brand. However, these are geared towards touristic use in the city centre and, thus, usually don't constitute a long-term transportation solution.

UK and Oxford laws for bicycles are quite strict. You must use lights at dark or risk a £30 fine. Reflectors, a helmet, a bell, and highly visible clothing are recommended. Be aware that certain roads in Oxford are bike-free zones (eg. Cornmarket during the day).

Taxis:

Most Taxis are pre-booked, but there are a few 'hackney (black London) cabs' which can be flagged down, and there are taxi stands at Gloucester Green and the Bus Station. Website: www.dailyinfo.co.uk/guide/taxi.html

Buses / Coaches:

There is excellent local bus service to all the typical destinations. For info on stops, times, and rates: www.oxfordbus.co.uk.

The main hub for bus service outside of Oxford is Gloucester Green with stops close to College on High Street and near JMH on St Clement's.

Furthermore, for longer trips some of the major buses/journeys are:

to London (Victoria):

(1hr40, £14 student return, every 15m)

Oxford Tube: www.oxfordtube.com

X90 Oxford: www.oxfordbus.co.uk

to Gatwick:

(2hr30, £30 single, £45 return, every 1h)

<https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/airline-fares>

to Heathrow:

(1hr20, £23 single, £30 return, every 30m)

<https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/airline-fares>

GETTING SET UP IN ENGLAND

Phone:

Many international students find it useful to purchase an UK SIM card to make calls and texts to other UK numbers cheaper. There are several phone shops in Oxford which sell 'unlocked' phones, making it easy to switch between UK and foreign SIMs or use a Dual-SIM phone. There are SIM-only plans which allow you to use a UK SIM in your phone, if it is unlocked. Some providers also offer contracts with international minutes included. Some phone shops in Oxford are Carphone Warehouse, Virgin, Vodafone, EE, Orange, O2, T-Mobile and 3. These can be found, for instance, in the Clarendon Centre, in Westgate, and on Cornmarket Street.

Bank Account:

Many international students choose to set up a UK bank account, to make cash withdrawals and card transactions. Big High Street banks such as Natwest, Santander, Lloyds, Halifax, Barclays, HSBC, RBS offer student current accounts with debit cards etc. Keep in mind some international accounts have fees, and some allow only the use of that banks' cash machines.

Furthermore, when setting up a bank account as an international student, you will need to demonstrate proof of your UK address. If you are living at college, an enrolment certificate should suffice for this, which can be obtained via eVision. However, if the bank requires more than this, please email accommodation@oriel.ox.ac.uk.

Facilities Provided by College:

Internet:

All rooms in College have free Ethernet and WiFi access. Ethernet cables can be bought for a couple of pounds from the lodge. Access to WiFi will be via eduroam.

Printing:

The college has printers for student use. Wireless printing is in place, meaning you can print from anywhere in College using your university single sign-on. Use <https://print.oriel.ox.ac.uk> to send your documents to the printer.

Laundry:

The College laundry room is located just outside of the MCR. The College uses the [Circuit laundry system](#). You will need to buy a laundry card there (£2 for the card plus additional credit for using the washing machines and tumble dryers) or the phone app. The system is pretty easy and self-explanatory, and anyone on campus can lend you a hand the first time. The card can be topped up on the internet.

Nurse:

The College Nurse is available five days a week and is based at Christ Church College (but very close to their Oriel Square entrance). The Nurse is students' first port of call for medical problems or queries and can also refer you to the GP's practice or another person. For more information see: <https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/life-at-oriel/living-at-oriel/health-and-welfare/>

ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN OXFORD / ORIEL

National Societies:

There are many societies in Oxford promoting the different nationalities and cultures in the student body, which are a great way to meet new people, to promote your culture or to find out about another country's traditions. These societies will all be present at the OUSU (Oxford University Student Union) Freshers' Fair. Most nationalities have a society and some larger regions have one too.

Religious Societies and Chaplaincies:

For many of you, religious expression can be a part of your identity and something you've become accustomed to practising at home. There are many religious societies and chaplaincies available for you, which will hopefully let you feel at home. These are available on the university website:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/chaplaincy>.

Furthermore, Oriel College has a chapel, which has Choral Evensong on a Sunday evening, and (Anglican) Holy Communion on Wednesdays, as well as a dedicated chaplain (chaplain@oriel.ox.ac.uk), Rev'd Dr Robert Wainwright. The College Chapel also has a multi-faith prayer room and is a welcoming space for spiritual reflection and prayer for those of any faith.

Student Welfare:

Within Oriel, there are [several people you can contact for Welfare support](#). Below are some key people and their contact information. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of them if you need!

Name	Email	Phone
Welfare Deans	welfare@oriel.ox.ac.uk	n/a
Porter's Lodge	porters.lodge@oriel.ox.ac.uk	(0)1865 276555
MCR Welfare Representative – <i>Jonathan Clarke</i>	mcr.welfare@oriel.ox.ac.uk	n/a
College Nurse	nurse@oriel.ox.ac.uk	n/a
NHS Direct	n/a	111
Emergency Services	n/a	999
Jericho Health Centre	n/a	01865 429993
Contraception and Sexual Health	n/a	01865 456666
John Radcliffe Hospital	n/a	0300 304 7777
Nightline – a listening, support and information service. Call them if you feel uneasy on your walk home and they'll stay on the phone with you!	n/a	01865 270 270
University Counselling Service	counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk	01865 270300
Oxford Rape Crisis Centre	admin@osarcc.org.uk	0800 783 6294
FRANK (drugs helpline)	https://www.talktofrank.com/contact	0300 123 6600
CRUSE (bereavement support hotline)	n/a	0808 808 1677

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion:

Racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia have no place here at Oriel College. If you experience discrimination, please do not hesitate to contact the MCR President, Ethan Taylor, at mcr.president@oriel.ox.ac.uk, or the Welfare Officer, Jonathan Clarke, at mcr.welfare@oriel.ox.ac.uk.

Moreover, Oriel College has its own [racial concerns form](#) that you can fill out if you do experience any racism at Oriel College

Middle Common Room (MCR):

The MCR, Middle Common Room, works with Oriel College Staff to ensure that Oriel graduate students get the most out of their time here. The MCR is both a representative body, a social club, and an avenue for welfare support. If you have a question or feedback on something that could be improved, feel free to contact one of the committee members (i.e the President at mcr.president@oriel.ox.ac.uk) or raise an issue in MCR meetings, which happen at least once a term.

SHOPPING

General Shopping Areas in Oxford:

Clarendon Centre:

Mainly clothes shops, and some phone stores. Website: www.clarendoncentre.co.uk.

Westgate:

Large shopping area/mall. Includes a big Sainsbury's. Website: www.westgateoxford.co.uk.

Covered Market:

Miscellaneous clothing, food, fresh groceries, etc. Most of these stores are not chains and smaller. There's also a great amount of cultural variety and often at student-friendly costs, so you might potentially find something from your cultural background or something similar. Particularly well located on the High Street, just by Oriel. Website: <http://oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk/>

A selection of world cuisine can be found in the delis and markets on Cowley Road.

Supermarkets:



Website: www.tesco.com (includes a store locator)

- **Magdalen Street** (north of Cornmarket, near Blackfriars)
open 0700-2400 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun
- **Cowley Road** (3 blocks east of JMH)
open 0600-2300 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun
- **St Aldate's**
open 0700-2300 Mon-Sun

Sainsbury's

Website: www.sainsburys.co.uk (includes a store locator)

- **Magdalen Street** (Next to the Tesco's on Magdalen street)
open 0700-2200 Mon-Sun
- **St Clement's roundabout**
open 0700-2300 Mon-Sun
- **Cowley Road** (1 block east of JMH)
open 0700-2300 Mon-Sun
- **Westgate** shopping centre
open 0700-2000 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun
- **St Aldate's** (Opposite the Town Hall)
open 07:00 – 21:00

M&S

Website: www.marksandspencer.com (includes a store locator)

- **Queen's Street**
open 0800-1900 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun
Slightly pricier. As well as having a food hall, M&S is a department store selling clothes, bedding, cookware and toiletries.

The above supermarkets also sell stock basic medicines.

Health and Pharmacy:



Website: www.boots.com (includes a store locator)

- **Cornmarket** (middle)
open 0800-2000 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun
- **Cowley Road** (2 blocks east of JMH)
open 0900-1700 Mon-Sat, 1000-1600 Sun

Superdrug

Website: www.superdrug.com (includes a store locator)

- **Westgate** (just before Primark)
open 0930-2000 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun
- **Cowley Road** (134 Cowley Road)
open 0900-1800 Mon-Sat, 1000-1600 Sun

Room:

Robert Dyas

Website: www.argos.co.uk (includes a store locator)

- **Clarendon Centre**
open 0900-1800 Mon-Sat, , 1100-17:00 Sun

PRIMARK

Website: <https://www.primark.com/en-us>

- **Westgate**
open 0800-1800 Mon-Sun

Books and Stationery:



Website: www.blackwell.co.uk (includes a store locator)

- Broad Street (Next to Trinity College)
open 0900-1900 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun



Website: www.waterstones.com (includes a store locator)

- Broad Street
open 0900-1900 Mon-Sat, 1100-1700 Sun



Website: www.whsmith.co.uk (includes a store locator)

- Cornmarket Street
open 0830-1830 Mon-Fri, 1100-1700 Sun



Website: www.ryman.co.uk (includes a store locator)

- Queen Street
open 0830-1830 Mon-Fri, 0900-1830 Sat, 1030-1700 Sun

Other:



Website: www.postoffice.co.uk (includes a store locator)

- St. Aldate's (near the Sainsbury's opposite Christchurch)
open 0900-1730 Mon-Sat - *except 0930-1730 on Tuesdays*

Clothes:

Some good stores to know for basics and general casual wear:

- Marks and Spencer (Queen's Street)
- Uniqlo (Westgate)
- H&M (Clarendon Centre & Westgate)
- Primark (Westgate)