



Oriel College

Alternative Prospectus

1326

Year Oriel was
founded

350

Undergraduate
Students

150

Postgraduates

32

Undergraduate Subjects

20

College Societies

18

JCR Committee Positions

4

Quads



1



Welcome!

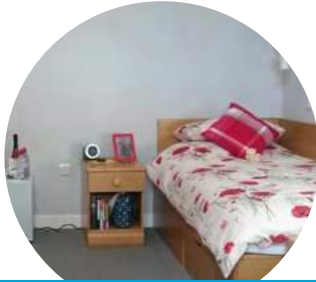
Welcome to our alternative propsectus, we've written this to give you a students view of Oriel. Throughout this propsectus you'll find links to official college resources and our JCR website but if you have any questions please get in touch!



Contents

3.....	Accomodation
4.....	Facilities
5.....	Food + Drink
6.....	Charity + Volunteering
7-8.....	Sport
9-10.....	Social Life
11-12.....	Arts
13.....	Welfare
13.....	International Students
14.....	Freshers' Week
15-18.....	Equalities
19-22.....	Student Profiles
23.....	Myth Buster
24.....	Jargon

Accommodation



B Grade Main site Room

Oriel guarantees accommodation for the entirety of our degrees, but that's not to say that you must live in college forever - you can of course live out.

All rooms are graded A*-D, which translates to the size, ensuite status, and

how far you are from a kitchen. First-year rooms vary in size but are typically close to kitchens and social spaces, and the majority of people will share a bathroom with no more than one other Fresher.



A* Grade Main site Room

For accommodation in second year, you're given the opportunity to choose your flatmates for Oriel's 'sets' and flats available in the student ballot.



A/B Grade Offsite Room

Follow these links for Oriel's pricing and room details, as well as the college's FAQs.

3



Mason

Facilities

Oriel JCR has a great variety of facilities which can be borrowed or used freely by its members. Alongside the facilities common amongst most colleges:

Library (open 24/7), Junior Common Room, Bar, Music Room, Chapel, Multi-Faith Room, Squash Court, Sports Ground and the Boat House.

The JCR has many other facilities such as:

Table Tennis table

Keyboard: Mostly used for Oriel Fridays and music society recitals; it can also be borrowed for events such as plays.

Pool table: Found in the bar this is a very popular item.

Darts Board

Ironing board and Iron

Kettle: Kept in the JCR kitchen. In exam season the JCR will sometimes provide free tea/coffee/hot chocolate.

Airbeds: Great to borrow if you have a friend coming to visit you.

Camera: Frequently used by the Entz team at bops, sports matches, special formals, and other JCR events. You can also borrow it for society events or a sports match

TV: Found in the JCR. Great for film nights and watching sport. We have a Now TV subscription.

Paddling Pool: Kept at the college sports ground. Used at the college garden party.

And Many More!



Alexander

Food + Drink



Some people prefer to eat most or all of their meals in Hall, while others like to use the kitchens available to cook for themselves. Most people do a bit of both. Usefully Oriel's Hall operates on a 'pay as you go' system. Hall serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner (divided into 'Informal Hall' and 'Formal Hall') almost every day of the week. Sunday

Brunch is an excellent way to catch up with friends, read the papers, and restore yourself with tea and coffee. Breakfast is around £3, and lunch around £4, depending on what you have. Formal Hall, a fancy three course meal served by Oriel's lovely Hall staff, is a treat for £6. Hall caters for all dietary requirements.



If you want to venture out, Jericho Coffee Traders on the High Street is the Oriel go-to for a caffeine fix. The Covered Market has delicious lunch offerings: Sasi's Thai and Alpha Bar are our personal favourites. The question of the best kebab vac is one of the most divisive topics of our time: just ask people whether they prefer Hassan's or Ahmed's.

5



Lara + Lara

Charity and Volunteering

The opportunities for volunteering can be a way to express creativity, an opportunity for leadership, or a way of exploring career paths.

Oriel is keen to promote charitable work. Coordinated by the Charity Rep, proceeds from JCR events are donated to a local,



national and international charity. Charity events include termly Charity Formals or Charity Auctions - bid for high street vouchers and funny favours from the other students. The charity rep also organises a successful scheme of selling Oriel 'stash', last year raising £1500.

The college and JCR also promote opportunities across Oxford. Become a Student Ambassador, for example: this involves guided tours of college, helping on state-school Study Days, and the promoting university wide schemes such as Schools Plus and Target Schools. The position of Environment Rep was created in 2017, pushing for better recycling and reduced energy use around college.

Many students at Oriel are involved in local

student-run homeless charities providing homeless people with food, resources and information on where to seek help.

Students have received grants from college towards charity schemes and travel grants helping them to work or volunteer abroad.



Megan

Sport

At University level, pretty much every sport is offered: Netball and Football, Quidditch and underwater hockey. University sportspeople compete in an annual Varsity match against Cambridge and can earn a full or half blue.



Rowing

Oriel offers a wide variety of college sports. There's something for every level of experience and commitment. All

college sports teams compete against other colleges in leagues and Cuppers (a knock-out cup style competition). The only exception to this is rowing which has two sets of races - Torpids and Eights - per year.



Rugby

Popular sports at Oriel include football, rugby, netball and rowing – although we have squash, volleyball, badminton,

tennis, cycling, and others. We also consistently field the biggest Town and Gown 10k team! All the sports teams take people from any level (beginners included!) and also have socials making college sports one of the best ways to get to know members of college in different year groups.

7



Lacrosse



Netball



Town and Gown 10K



Pool



Rounders



Football



Cycling



Lara



Rowing

Social Life

IN COLLEGE



I think Oriel's social scene is brilliant! The biggest (and best) events that occur in college are 'bops'. These are held three times per term and are essentially fancy dress parties. Costumes usually comprise

cardboard and glitter. Playlists showcase cheesy disco classics. Find drinks deals at the bar, and sample the college drink, a 'Glennies'.



Other events include 'JCR Drinks' - a college-funded pre-drinks which get the whole college out to clubs together. Also



find Open Mic Nights (organised by the Bar Rep), Charity Auctions and Beer Pong. Most of these events occur in the bar, which is also a great space to meet some friends, have a pint and play some pool.

Entz also organises a Pancake-flipping race around First Quad and the Summer Garden Party, which this year included a 'slip n slide' and inflatable obstacle course.

9



OUT OF COLLEGE

Enjoy the cheesy, multi-coloured dancefloors of Park End (Atik) and Fever, or groovy Bridge and Emporium. Plush, Oxford's LGBT nightclub, is a brilliant night out. Look for Cellar and the Bullingdon if you're into indie and alternative music. Oxford also has a fab range of kebab vans to help the hangover.



Oxford's pubs are typically atmospheric and steeped in history. Personal favourites include The Bear (a stone's throw from Oriel), the Duke of Cambridge (does some amazing cocktails) and, of course, the two (Wether)spoons.

G & D's is an ice cream parlour close to Oriel and is open in the evening for a catch up with your friends. There's also disco ice skating, and comedy gigs at The Wheatsheaf. For a relaxed space in college look no further than the JCR: meet friends, play table tennis, watch TV or just have a good chat on the beanbags. Fun is always happening if you know where to look for it!



Chloe

Arts

Music

The Oriel College Music Society organises concerts and lunchtime recitals, as well as welcoming a Visiting Musician for a masterclass and concert, this year hosting the classical guitarist Craig Ogden.



The Music Room in third quad can be used for practice and small concerts. The Senior Library has a Steinway B grand piano

- Champagne concerts and chamber music groups are held here, with free admission for Oriel students.

One of the highlights of Music at Oriel is the Chapel Choir, which sings in chapel twice a week. This year the choir have also sung in concert at Temple Church, London, as well as in churches and cathedrals around Munich on choir tour.



Oriel Fridays, held in the college bar, is an Open Mic Night - a relaxed space for anyone to perform in front of a supportive audience. We even have a house band! Musically speaking, Oxford is a vibrant city with lots to offer and if you're keen to get involved in some of the university-wide ensembles run by the Music Society, see the OUMS website for more info: <http://oums.org/>

Writing

11

We have our own college newspaper and arts magazine, The Poor Print, published in print and online every two weeks. Its articles include

current affairs, comment pieces, poems, drawings, even serialised short stories. We review plays: those keen to write will either attend a dress rehearsal or get a complimentary ticket to one of the many shows in Oxford.



The college's Creative Writing Society has recently been revived, an enjoyable platform to think creatively about writing and discuss your work with others.

Drama

- The Oriel Lions are the college drama society and funding body, which work on and provide funding to student theatre projects.



- Drama Cuppers are a fantastic way to get involved in drama early on: Oriel freshers produce a short piece of theatre for an intercollegiate competition. The Oriel Garden Play takes place in Trinity: an opportunity to enjoy prancing about in sunny First Quad.

- The Oxford theatre scene is high quality: there are chances to try your hand at acting, writing, directing, set design, marketing and producing. We make sure to support any of our Oriel colleagues by attending their shows.



- Also get involved in drawing, painting, or arts and crafts - these are offered as activities during Oriel's Arts Week, which is organised by the JCR Arts Rep.

Emma, Alexander,
Lauren + Michael

Welfare

We have a sophisticated welfare system at Oriel. We have two “Welfare deans”, postgraduate students paid to help you with any problems you have, and a team of student peer supporters trained by the University Counselling Service that you can chat to.

The JCR has a male and female Welfare Officer, providing brunches, movie nights, free sexual health supplies and plenty of other events to keep you busy!



Ally and Simone



International Students



Arriving at Oxford as an International Student can seem daunting - but Oriel has a thriving international community. The JCR International Officer frequently organises special events throughout the year, such as international-themed dinners. There is

also a university-wide orientation programme for international students at the beginning of Freshers' Week, discussing common practicalities of UK life.

13



Michael

Freshers' Week



Freshers' Week is the week before the academic year begins. This is a time to get to know Oxford, Oriel and the people you'll share it with. Alongside different induction talks, the Entz team puts on a variety of activities, from club nights to friendship speed-dating. We run a treasure hunt to help you get your bearings in Oxford. You can also find sports and societies at the college and university Freshers' Fairs.



The welfare officers are ensure you feel comfortable and listen to any worries you might have, organising alcohol awareness and consent workshops, and hosting tea-and-toast sessions.

One of the highlights is meeting your college parents in 2nd year, who help you settle in. One of them will do the same subject as you. Towards the end of the week you'll have Freshers' Dinner in hall with your tutors and subject group, and a bop. By Sunday, you'll feel like a proud (but tired!) member of Oriel.



Katie

Equalities!

Oxford's history is daunting, and many of Oxford's traditions are bizarre. Our community comprises a diverse patchwork of students of different ethnicities, nationalities, political persuasions, and financial backgrounds. Oriel has a place for everyone to enjoy the fantastic experience of being an Oxford student. We celebrate this diversity with our annual Equalities Fest, organised by the JCR Equalities Officers.



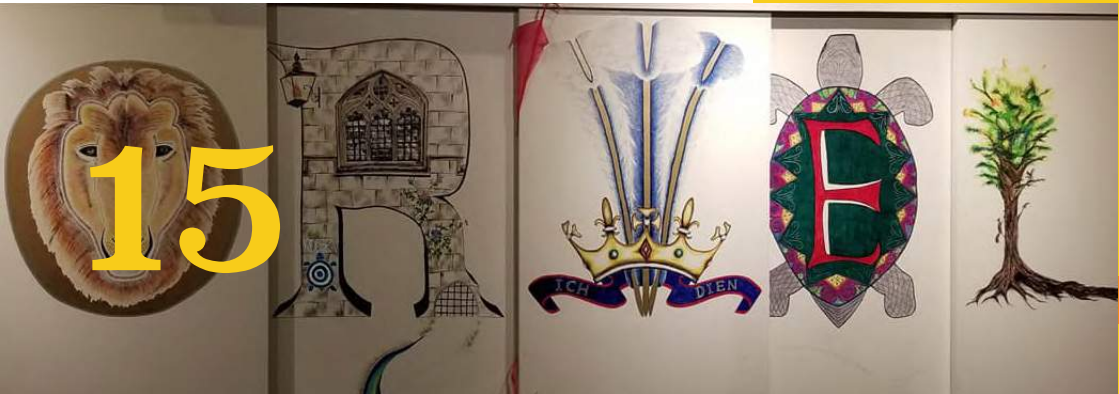
Patrick

BME

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students are members of non-white communities in the UK. Our JCR Ethnic Minorities Officer represents the views of all non-white students in the JCR, and communicates details of interesting events and talks. University-wide societies support and empower you as a non-white undergraduate, running events and conferences, such as Oxford ACS's Annual Access Conference. Life in Oriel as a BME student is about celebrating your culture and embracing the cultures of your friends.



Natasha



LGBTQ+

In my time here I've never seen any instances of homophobia and, more than that, there's a genuine drive to make LGBTQ+ students feel at home and accepted. At Oriel, we have an LGBTQ+ Rep on the JCR Committee – join in decorating rainbow flags, or join the private Facebook group that aims to create a fun Oriel LGBTQ+ community. We have links with the university LGBTQ+ Society, periodically hosting 'Tuesgay' Drinks in which Oxford students can visit one of the many host-college bars, and events like Queerfest in Michaelmas.



Simone

Disabilities

Starting University as a disabled student (anyone with a physical, sensory, long-term health or mental health condition, or a specific learning difficulty) can be intimidating. Other students may be unfamiliar with your condition, particularly if it is invisible. There are many avenues of support at Oriel – you are never alone in managing any worries you have, whether related specifically to your disability or otherwise. We have a dedicated student Officer to Disabilities and Mental Health, ensuring Oriel is accessible and encouraging.

Outside Oriel, see The Oxford Students' Disability Community, run by disabled students for disabled students. This provides support and organises social events and campaigns to promote disability awareness.



Emma

Equalities!

Access

Oriel College's Class and Access Officer holds a number of access events for working-class and state-comprehensive- educated students throughout the year. They represent the interests of working class Oriel students on meetings of the Oxford Student Union's 'Class Act' meetings, an SU campaign which aims to improve the experience of students at Oxford for students from working class, low income, first generation and state comprehensive school backgrounds, as well as care leavers and estranged students. Their explanation of academic life at Oxford can be found on their website.



Patrick

For prospective applicants Oriel College's Study Visits, where you spend a night in college and work in groups with subject tutors, offer a great opportunity for a glimpse at academic life. To sign up have a look on the Oriel website.

Faith

Oriel accommodates people of diverse beliefs and will adjust to suit any dietary requirements or specific needs associated with your faith. Oriel has a multi-faith room, and there are plenty of other places of worship within walking distance.

The Chaplain, Rob, is a member of the Welfare Team and is always there to talk or listen to any concerns you may have, regardless of your beliefs.

17



Lauren

THERE

IS

a

PLACE

FOR

you

HERE

18

Student Profiles

Lucy

Year: 3

Subject: Physics

Home town: Carlisle,

About me:

Oriel was one of a few colleges I visited on an open day. Everyone was so welcoming: the college was filled with smiling, friendly faces which is why I decided to apply here. Very few people from Carlisle consider applying to Oxford, but my love for Physics - which is still strong, if not stronger - pushed me to apply. Students come to Oxford from all sorts of backgrounds, and in a crowd of wonderful people, there's never the worry you might not fit in. Nearly every evening I'm at Iffley pool playing Water Polo. After a long day studying, there is nothing better than training with my teammates - an incredible group of women. The more time I can get in the water the better, which means I'll happily throw a ball around in the Thames with my team when it's a little warmer in the summer. In my second year I was captain of the Women's Water Polo Blues, a challenging position, but one which proved far more rewarding than I had first imagined. I feel so fortunate to have been part of the team who not only finished top of their league, but also beat Cambridge in the Varsity match.

In Oriel, and Oxford more generally, I'm constantly surrounded by fun, supportive and ambitious people. Working alongside brilliant women in STEM motivates me to continue to improve as a student, while, in Water Polo, improving

19

alongside my team similarly drives me to perform better as an athlete.



Michael

Year: 2

Subject: English and French

Home town: St Florian, Austria

About me:

I simply took a fancy to Oriel while having a look round Oxford during the holidays, and I have never regretted applying here: the historic buildings, the central location, and above all the tight-knit and diverse student community make for a wonderful university experience all round. Even living in the UK for the first time, I felt so welcome I never even got round to being homesick.

I spend most of my time – to be quite frank – on doing my degree, which involves a lot of reading in all the marvellous libraries around the city. But that doesn't keep me from also doing many other things: these days I am one of the editors of The Poor Print, Oriel's college newspaper, which means I help people publish anything from articles to poetry to drawings or music; it's always interesting to discover the hidden talents of your fellow students. On top of that, there is enough time left to get involved in college politics, volunteer at a local school, work as a student

ambassador, go to various society events, and just generally have the time of your life; and, after dark, what better way to end the day than by sharing a nice cup of tea with some friends?

Oxford can be stressful, but it's the people here – tutors who always have time for you, helpful fellow students, and a supportive college community – that make it so rewarding.



20

Tom

Year: 1

Subject: Biochemistry

Home town: Great Hampden, Buckinghamshire

About me:

I chose to apply to Oriel for rather basic reasons: it's in the middle of everything right on the High Street, and it looked like a really fun place to study! Studying here has realised all those advantages, but perhaps the greatest thing about Oriel is the amount of food you can get for £4 at Hall lunch, a great way to socialise with friends in college. The cliché "college is like your family" was thrown around way too much before I arrived but it's actually an understatement; college IS your family. You live with them, cook and eat with them, and just generally can't get away from them, but I have honestly adored that immersive and familial environment here. The bounty of social events on offer here mean there is never a dull moment in Oxford, and I certainly feel that I thrive in the "never-boring" environment.

There is a ton of stuff to get involved with in and around college and that is for me the best part of university living at Oriel – it's super easy and fun to play sports for college without the commitment levels of uni sport (except for rowing, which requires just as much commitment – you've been warned.) I've enjoyed playing netball, lacrosse, athletics, and squash throughout the term and even made a guest appearance on the football pitch,

and hopefully next term we'll bring some silverware back from the intercollege rugby tournament.

21



Esther

Year: 2

Subject: Philosophy, Politics & Economics

Home town: Shirley, London

About me:

The transition from South London to Oxford was a culture shock to say the least. Everything about it was different to the schools I went to and environments I'd been in. My school didn't have much of a history of sending people to Oxford so that venture into the 'unknown' made applying even more nerve-racking.

In all honesty I've been pleasantly surprised by how much I love it here, from the city to the students, everyday I have encounters that make me feel more and more at home. During my time here, I've got really involved in extra-curriculars. I am currently President of Oxford African & Caribbean society which has proven to be hard work but extremely enjoyable. Arguably our most important division is Access & Outreach which sees us work with students from all across the UK to help them harness their cultural capital and close the information gap that exists when it comes to higher education.

I am also on the Student Advisory Board for the Oxford Foundry, the entrepreneurial hub for students at the university of Oxford. With this has come some absolutely amazing opportunities to meet, interview and even dine with some very prominent figures in the business world, all whilst exposing me to a range of sectors that my degree alone might not have.-



22

Myths

+ Traditions

Matriculation: a ceremony in your First Term in the Sheldonian Theatre. You wear Sub Fusc, the chancellor speaks in Latin, and you become part of the university. And then celebrate for the rest of the day!

May Day: May Day is big deal here at Oxford - stay up until sunrise, or get up early to hear Magdalen choir sing from the top of Magdalen Tower.

Torpids/Summer VIIIs: These are two rowing competitions in the 7th week of Hilary and 5th week of Trinity. Summer VIIIs is a popular social event for the whole university: eat cake, drink Pimms and enjoy the sunshine.

Tutors/Tutorials: It's very common to be apprehensive about meeting your tutor and having your first tutorial - but honestly try your best not to worry. The vast majority of tutors are very lovely and intelligent people, who realise that most of us have no idea what we're doing, and just want you to succeed. They will try and push you, but also will take into consideration when you're not doing so well and try their best to help you, so please don't believe the myth that tutors are terrifying old geniuses! They're all human, and they've been through it too!

Jargon

- **Battels** - College bill at the beginning of each term –rent for that term and previous term's food bill/other charges.
- **Bod Card** - super important! This gets you into all the libraries and serves as your general ID card to get you into other colleges, faculties, etc.
- **Cuppers** - University-wide inter-collegiate competitions in sport, drama, dance, comedy, quizzes and more.
- **Entz** - Oxford speak for entertainment – usually comes in the form of bops, but also bands, drink events, and other socials.
- **Glennies** - our college drink. Delicious but potentially deadly.
- **JCR** - Junior Common Room. It is a place, located on the bottom floor of the Doll's House in 3rd Quad. It is also an organisation - all undergraduates are automatically members of the JCR.
- **MCR** - Middle Common Room. Like the JCR, but for postgrads. Located above Oriel Square in the Island Site.
- **Michaelmas, Hilary, and Trinity** - the names given to the three academic terms (in that order)
- **OCCC** (1) Oriel College Chapel Choir. An auditioned choir led by the Director of Music and choral scholars which performs twice weekly in chapel. Check out their Instagram, 'therealoccc'. (2) - Oriel College Cricket Club. (3) - Oriel College Croquet Club. (4) - Oriel College Cycling Club.
- **Porters** - The people who sit ITL and are responsible for everything from sorting you out if you lose your key or bod card, to dealing with post and parcels. You can come to them if you have a problem.
- **Provost** - The official college boss. Will give you a talk at the start of Freshers' week. Lives in the Provost's Lodgings in Second Quad.
- **SCR** - Senior Common Room. Like the JCR and MCR, but for fellows. Located under the Senior Library in Second Quad.
- **Stash** - clothing which shows you are part of Oriel, or a particular committee, club or sports team. People get very excited about stash.
- **Sub Fusc** - The clothing you wear for matriculation and your exams, and a few other formal ceremonies.
- **Tuck** - Oriel has its own tuck (snacks, sweets, drinks) shop! Found in the JCR annexe.



Designed by: Lara Bonney
Edited by: Patrick Hegarty-Morrish