

St. Anne's MCR Freshers' Guide 2011

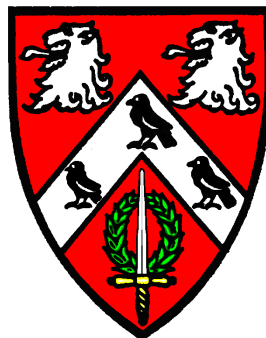


Table of Contents

- 1) Things to do when you first arrive**
- 2) The Middle Common Room**
- 3) Checklist for the first term**
- 4) International Students**
- 5) Accommodation**
- 6) Food**
- 7) College Facilities & IT**
- 8) Academic**
- 9) Sports**
- 10) Arts and Music**
- 11) Charities**
- 12) Social Events**
- 13) Guide to Oxford**
- 14) Transport**
- 15) Welfare**
- 16) Useful contacts in College**
- 17) Glossary**

Welcome note from the MCR President, Johnny Drain

Dear all,

Many of you will be facing the prospect of starting a new degree at a new university, perhaps even in a new country, with a mix of excitement and nervousness. This is perfectly natural. I hope that, within your first few weeks here, most of this nervousness will be converted to excitement but until you arrive the MCR has compiled a Graduate Freshers' Guide which is intended to answer some of the many questions I am sure that you have and which will hopefully give you a taste of what life in Oxford and at St. Anne's will be like.

Please read this Freshers' Guide carefully along with the Graduate Notes prepared by the College. Two of the most important things to do when you arrive are to get your university card ('Bod card') and to set up your email account (most information and event invitations will be sent to you by email). Also be sure to check your pigeonhole ('pidge') located in Eleanor Plumer House (EPH). This requires your key fob to get into but there is normally a steady flow of people entering and exiting, especially during Freshers' Week. Finally, talk to your fellow students! Not only will they be a great source of knowledge as to what is going on and when, but they will also doubtless be sharing in the same new, sometimes curious and confusing, Oxford experiences as you!

Please get involved in as many of the MCR events as possible during Freshers' Week. We hope that we have a schedule which can provide something for everyone and which will serve as a platform for you to meet your fellow students as well as existing MCR members and to ease you into living and studying as a graduate student in Oxford.

The graduate community at St. Anne's prides itself on being unstuffy and personable, open-minded and diverse, fun but academic. I hope that you will soon grow to feel at home here in St Anne's and that you have a fantastic first year. The time you spend here will almost certainly be memorable.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of the committee members if you have any questions which are not fully answered by the literature contained within.

Best wishes,

Johnny Drain (MCR President 2010-11)

1) Things to do when you first arrive

1. Collect your **key** and **electronic fob** (that gives you access to various buildings in college) from the Porters' Lodge on Woodstock rd. (tel. 01865 274800) if you are staying in on-site accommodation or from the Wardens' Office at Robert Saunders House, South Parade, Summertown, if you are staying there.

2. It is a good idea to check your **pigeonhole** in the **MCR Common Room** in Eleanor Plumer House on the main College site (the Porters can direct you). There may be more information waiting for you!

3. Get to know your neighbours in your accommodation!

4. Have a look at the **MCR Freshers' Week timetable** and list of events in your welcome pack. Although not compulsory, we really recommend attending as many of the events as you can to get to know and meet new people. Please note that the College-organised events (International Students Welcome, Graduate Induction, Graduate Formal Dinner) are compulsory.

5. Collect your **university card** from Sheila Smith, the Deputy College Secretary, in the Academic Office in Hartland House weekdays between 14.00 and 15.00. This gives you access to University libraries and departments. It also acts as a student ID card and allows you to purchase food in the dining hall. It's an essential of student life!

6. It's a good idea to contact your **supervisor** and/or your **department** in the first week. Your course will usually send you details about department orientation days.

7. To get going in Oxford, **internet** access is essential. See IT section in this guide for details on how to set up your account and access the university network.

8. Make sure to regularly check the **MCR website**, <http://www.st-annes-mcr.org.uk/>, for updates on what is going on in college and the MCR.

2) The Middle Common Room

Graduate freshers admitted to St. Anne's will automatically be considered members of the Middle Common Room (MCR). The MCR refers to both the graduate student organization and also the physical building – Eleanor Plumer House (EPH) that graduates have at their disposal.













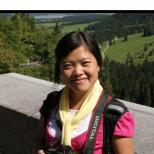

On the main college site, the recently refurbished EPH is the hub of postgraduate activity at St. Anne's. It contains student accommodation, Common Room facilities, a work room (with desktop computers and spaces for laptop internet connection), your pigeon hole (where you can pick up your college post), bathroom and shower facilities. The Common Room has a TV, stereo, DVD, video, Nintendo Wii, and PS2 and newspapers and magazines are regularly delivered. It is a great place to relax, meet friends and find out more about what's going on in college. The work room is a quiet office space for graduates to work. It has computers, wifi access, printing and scanning facilities, desk space and seating, so perfect for checking emails or putting the finishing touches to your thesis. We also have a kitchen, with free tea and coffee.

Meet the Committee

The smooth running of the MCR is overseen by a Committee who are elected annually, in the latter part of the Michaelmas Term (6th week), in accordance with the MCR constitution. Following this election most of the committee positions will be held by new Freshers i.e. **YOU!** All new Freshers are encouraged to get involved in MCR life as much as possible. Over the past few years we have built up an incredibly welcoming, dynamic and diverse atmosphere in the MCR and we will need your help to continue this. Elected officers tend to hold their positions for one year (except for Masters students who hold their positions until the end of their course), and as representatives of the graduate body are responsible for allocating the MCR budget, organizing social, cultural and intellectual events for graduates, maintaining MCR facilities and liaising with College Officers, in particular the Tutor for Graduates, and the Fellows, undergraduates, other colleges, committees and organisations both within and outside

the University.

The committee meets regularly throughout term time. The officers of the current MCR committee are shown below, along with their contact details. Feel free to contact any of us if you have any queries or problems.

President Johnny Drain president[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		Vice President Jo Perkins vp[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	
Secretary (Acting) Jo Perkins secretary[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		Treasurer Himanshu Kaul treasurer[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	
Social Secretary Rebecca McKavanagh social[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		Social Secretary Dan Alati social[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	
Sports Secretary Benjamin Franz sports[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		Womens' Officer Laura Hughes women[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	
Academic Affairs Officer Olga Kciuk academic[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		RSH Representative Himanshu Kaul rsh[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	
IT Niluka Satharasinge computer[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		OUSU Representative Vacant ousu[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	
Welfare and Equality Amy Smith welfare[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		International Students Rep. Min Wu international[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	
Environment Officer Vacant environment[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk		Charities Officer Laura Hughes charities[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk	

3) Checklist for the first term

Whether you intend to arrive with a carload full of belongings or with a bulging backpack, we thought we'd put together a useful checklist of essentials to bring for your first term at Oxford:

- Extension leads/chargers/adapters (EU adapters are sold at the lodge for £5)
- Alarm clock
- Towels
- Stationery and drawing pins
- Computer /laptop
- Winter clothes/smart wear/black tie/fancy dress items
- Medical details and next of kin/emergency contact details
- Passport pictures
- Cheque book and bank details

All college rooms come with a duvet, duvet-cover, pillow, pillow-cover and two sheets that are washed each week by your room scout, although you may like to bring your own bedding to feel more at home **and perhaps a spare blanket if you're not used to a cold climate.**

Many people eat in the college dining hall (see Food) during term time but a basic kitchen kit might be useful to have too:

- Plate/bowl/glass/mug
- Cutlery/sharp knife/wooden spoon
- Saucepan/frying pan
- Bottle opener/corkscrew/can opener/tea towels

If you are an international student you can purchase kitchen items from many of the shops in town (Boswells is a good bet) and Summertown. Also second-hand kitchen items can be purchased relatively cheaply from charity shops (of which there are several in Summertown and the city centre).

4) International Students

First time visitors

- **Academic documentation:** e.g. acceptance letter or a letter from college administration (Christine Foard) if you are arriving after the start of term (10th October).
- **Medical documentation:** check the required medical checks/vaccinations that are required to enter the UK from your home country.
- **Copies of documents:** e.g. passport and visa. It's a good idea to also scan copies of relevant documents to keep a record in your email account.

Transport from the airport

If you are an overseas student, the chances are that you will fly into either Heathrow or Gatwick airports. In either case, it is expensive to take a taxi to Oxford directly from the airport. The best thing to do is catch a coach/bus. The Oxford Bus Company run regular services from both airports which cost around £25. For further details, see www.oxfordbus.co.uk.

You should take the bus/coach all the way to the coach station at Gloucester Green in Oxford city-centre. There is a taxi rank at the top of the square adjacent to the coach station. It should cost ~£6 to get you to main St. Anne's college site and ~£8 to get you to the graduate accommodation at Robert Saunders House (RSH) in Summertown. For getting around on your first few days, you may want to buy a "day pass" for the bus (See Transport Section for more details)

Tipping

The usual rate is 10% for good service in a restaurant. You might also tip a taxi driver or a hairdresser. In bars or pubs, a tip is not usually expected.

Bank accounts

Most international students set up a British bank account. To do this you will need the

following documentation:

- Passport
- A letter from college proving that you are a full time student and giving proof of address
- Ask the Academic Office for a “bank letter” during your first week

Arriving Early or Late

If for some reason you are arriving early or late to college and need accommodation, **check with college first** to see if they have any available rooms in either RSH or EPH. Otherwise, there are several backpacking hostels and Bed and Breakfasts. The Youth Hostels are located on Botley Road and Park End Street. Check www.dailyinfo.co.uk and www.gumtree.co.uk for short and long-term stays.

Help with English

The Language Centre on Woodstock Road offers English Language courses, www.lang.ox.ac.uk. Often times your department will help pay for these classes. For editing, proofreading and help with theses, email the International Students Officer for guidance and contact information.

Adjusting to the Climate

The British climate is very varied – occasional heat waves in the summer and snow in the winter! In the winter, it does get very cold, so you may want to pack warm layers and a decent (rain-proof!) coat.

The MCR International Students Officer will be happy to answer any questions you may have and give advice. You can contact them by email at [international\[at\]st-annes-mcr.org.uk](mailto:international[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk).

5) Accommodation

St. Anne's houses the majority of first year graduate students in its postgraduate accommodation block in Summertown - Robert Saunders House (RSH). There are 90 rooms at RSH and another 13 in the recently refurbished Eleanor Plumer house (EPH).

All college accommodation is cleaned by Scouts. They clean communal areas daily and will clean and vacuum your room once a week and wash your bed linen. If you find any faults or problems with your room you can report them to college and they will be dealt with by the maintenance team. For requests in RSH email Philip.kemp@st-annes.ox.ac.uk. In EPH, For external maintenance requests email estates@st-annes.ox.ac.uk and for maintenance in your room email accommodation@st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

College has laundry rooms both on its main site and at RSH. The machines are operated by a laundry card that you may get from the lodge with a £10 deposit (in cash). A wash or drying cycle costs £1.20 per load. To put credit on the card you will need to go to the top-up machine in the JCR post room on the main college site.

St. Anne's has no accommodation for couples, but it is often not a problem since the University has a large amount of accommodation for couples. If you are seeking accommodation for a couple, you should contact the University accommodation office or visit their website <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation/>.

Robert Saunders House

RSH in Summertown is only a **15 minute cycle/ 30 minute walk** from the city centre. Summertown has three small supermarkets (Tesco, Marks and Spencer, Co-Op), delicatessens, bakeries, sandwich shops, one pub (The Dew Drop), a dozen restaurants and takeaways. RSH itself is divided into 15 flats, each with their own bathroom, toilet and kitchen with oven, microwave and a fridge-freezer. Each student gets a bedroom, which comes complete with its own sink, wardrobe, desk, bookshelves, drawers, chair, bed, side-cabinet, heater and Ethernet connection. Eighteen months ago the RSH

common room was refurbished (new TV, sofas, carpet) and a computer room (with one desktop PC, scanner, printer and internet access points for several laptops) was added.

Wardens

Three student wardens look after RSH in the evenings and at weekends (Himanshu Kaul, Elisabeth Forster, Zak Taylor). If the fire alarm goes off or you have a medical emergency, or just need advice, the duty warden is there to help you out. Please ring the wardens' office bell near the gate if you need help.

Eleanor Plumer House

The 13 rooms in EPH are on the first and second floors, above the common areas on the ground floor of the building. Every room comes with wireless internet and occupants share a large communal kitchen and bathrooms. The contents of the bedrooms are similar to those in RSH. Emergencies are dealt with by the Lodge Porters (Tel. 01865 274800).

Living out

Quite a few first year students won't get College accommodation and so live-out in privately rented accommodation. (For DPhil. students it is also worth noting that college do not guarantee offering college accommodation to any 4th year DPhil. students.) The majority of students that live out choose the student-friendly areas in Summertown, Jericho and Cowley (see Guide to Oxford). Some useful websites for accommodation are:

- www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation/graduate/
- www.dailyinfo.co.uk/
- www.gumtree.co.uk
- <http://groupspaces.com/GTC-outside/>
- St. Cross College, Oxford - Accommodation Hunt 2010/2011
<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=103754619676238>
- OxGradHousing
<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=160632823948859>

6) Food

On a day-to-day basis the Dining Hall in college is a great option for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Meals are paid for by using your university card (Bod card: see Glossary). You can top-up the balance on your university card by paying the St. Anne's Accounts Department with either a cheque or cash, or online via the weblearn portal, <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/colleges/stannes/student>. Each person has an 'overdraft' facility on their university card which lets you be up to £100 in deficit (i.e. -£100). At the end of term any deficit will be charged automatically to your college bill (battels) thus reducing your balance back to zero. There are also numerous formal dinners put on by the college throughout the year (more details more below).

- Meal times in the dining hall (weeks 0-9) are:

Monday to Friday:

Breakfast: 8.00-9.30

Lunch: 12.15-13:45

Dinner: 18.15-19.30

Saturday and Sunday:

Brunch: 11.00-13.00

- There is a choice of three or four dishes each meal, including vegetarian options.
- Costs are usually between £2.50 and £3.50, depending on how much you eat!
- If you have any dietary requirements or allergies, please contact Catering at [catering\[at\]st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:catering[at]st-annes.ox.ac.uk).

Formal Dinners

Formal Dinners are a popular part of life in Oxford. These are dinners put on by the colleges for undergraduates, postgraduates and fellows. At St. Anne's the dress code is smart/formal but we don't generally wear academic gowns. There are various different types of formal dinner and a few special dinners which you will be invited to. These are listed below.

Types of Dinner

Formal Halls: Formal Halls take place on Thursdays of Weeks 4 and 8 and Fridays of Weeks 2 and 6 of each term. They are for undergraduates and postgraduates (fellows sit at 'high table'). Tickets are sold (charged to your university card) in the Hall and cost £8.00 (no wine) or £10.50 (with wine). Alternatively you may purchase tickets online, again from the weblearn portal, <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/colleges/stannes/student>. **Each St. Anne's member may purchase tickets for 3 guests per formal hall. These guests can be friends from other colleges or from home, supervisors, parents, or anyone else that you fancy bringing!**

Exchange Dinners: every term, the MCR organises exchange dinners (normally 3 per term) where we invite another MCR to a formal hall at St. Anne's and we visit their college for one of their formal dinners. We have sparkling wine in the MCR prior to going to dinner and after dinner we congregate back in the MCR for port. Places on these are typically limited to 15 per dinner. Details about signing up and paying will be sent out throughout the course of the term by the social secretaries. Demand for these exchange dinners is typically strong but everyone who wishes to should be able to go on at least one exchange if not more.

MCR Dinners: MCR Dinners are typically for 25 MCR students, and they cost £20, for which you get a top-notch 3-course meal plus drinks (sparkling wine prior to dinner, a different wine for each course including dessert wine, and coffee). Each term, there is

typically one MCR Guest Dinner to which you may bring a guest. These also cost £20 and take the same format as MCR Dinners. They are normally for 25 students plus their 25 guests.

Special Dinners

MCR End of Year Dinner: In the past two years we have started what hopefully will become a tradition of hosting an MCR End of Year Dinner. This takes the form of a Formal Hall (but one exclusively for MCR members and their guests), is held towards the end of Trinity term (when most people's exams are over) and is often the last time all of the year group is able to gather in one place.

Partners' Dinner is a dinner offered by College (at no cost to you), where students are invited to bring along a partner or friend to give them the opportunity to have a look around the College and enjoy the College atmosphere and to meet your colleagues. This is usually held in Michaelmas term.

Supervisors' Dinner is also paid for by College and allows each student the opportunity to invite his or her supervisor to College for dinner. This gives you the chance to get to know your supervisor in a more informal setting.

Founders' Dinner is a St. Anne's tradition. The event began with the visit of Chancellor Macmillan in the year the College became coeducational. It is an occasion to remind junior members that we were once a women's college and pioneers in the establishment of women's education in Oxford. It is the only one of its kind during the College year and therefore of special significance to St. Anne's.

STACS (St. Anne's Coffee Shop)

In 2008, College opened STACS (St Anne's Coffee Shop). STACs is open from 9.30am to 6.30pm, Monday-Friday during term time, and serves excellent coffees, muffins, sandwiches, paninis and the like in comfortable surroundings. It's a great place to relax or study with comfortable seating upstairs, BBC News 24 and wi-fi access.

7) College Facilities

Full details of college facilities can be found on the official college website (<http://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/other-facilities-in-college.html>).

Library

St. Anne's has one of the largest, best kept and best operated libraries of all the Oxford colleges. It is open **24-hours a day** with access via your key fob.

During Term (weeks 1-8) the Library is staffed:

Monday-Friday: 9am – 9 pm

Saturday: 1 –6 pm

Sunday: 2 – 7 pm

If you do not find a book you are looking for in the library you may request it be purchased by filling out a request form at the main desk. The library also provides a thesis binding service that is very good value for money. There is a photocopier and a DVD collection you may borrow from during staffed hours. Dr David Smith, the Head Librarian, and his assistant Sally Spiers are always happy to help with any enquiries. You can email them at library@st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

College Bar

The College Bar is conveniently located behind EPH and is popular with MCR members, especially after formal halls. The bar opens at 7pm and last orders are at 11pm. The bar provides cheap drinks, a pool table, table-football, quiz machine, dart board and juke box. It is also occasionally plays host to JCR-organised open-mic nights, comedy nights and jam sessions (music).

Information Technology

You will need to sort out your computer and electronic needs when you first arrive to Oxford. A comprehensive guide to IT at Oxford for new users is available at <http://welcometoit.ox.ac.uk>. Another useful website to look at is the Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS) website www.oucs.ox.ac.uk. If you still can't find the information you're looking for, or are stuck on any particular issue, please consult <http://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/about/internal-resources.html>. Contact the college IT office by email at it-support@st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

The Single Sign-On (SSO) system

Most of the university's online services are accessed using a Single Sign-On (SSO) user name and password. Your SSO user name will usually start with "sann" and end with a series of numbers, for example "sann1234". Your user name will serve as your primary means of logging into many university and college services.

If you don't receive your SSO user name before you arrive it should be in a letter placed in your college pigeonhole. Check for this letter once you arrive and enquire with college IT or the OUCS if you have not received it.

Where to connect to the network and how to gain access

- EPH and RSH Workrooms
- Undergraduate Computer Room On-Site
- Your Own Room via an Ethernet Connection
- Wireless in EPH Common Rooms, STACS and College Library
- Out of College via OWL Wireless Network

Email

You will be assigned an email of the form "firstname.lastname@st-annes.ox.ac.uk". College and the MCR will use this to communicate with you, so please check it regularly. You may also receive a departmental email address. Messages sent to this address will usually go to the same account as your college one. You can read and manage your email online using Nexus (<https://nexus.ox.ac.uk>).

MCR Mailing List

St. Anne's MCR (like most other college MCRs) operates a mailing list for its members (using university email address) the function of which is; to keep MCR members informed of academic and social events taking place in College, in other colleges or elsewhere; to communicate important information and notices relevant to MCR students; and occasionally to solicit the views of MCR members on how best to improve the MCR. Being part of this mailing list helps MCR members get the most out of the MCR. We keep email traffic on this mailing list to a minimum but inboxes are busy places and we understand if individuals may not wish to be a part of it. **By default the university email addresses of all new St. Anne's students will be added to the mailing list. To opt out of the mailing list (i.e. to have your email address removed) you will need to email the MCR President ([president\[at\]st-annes-mcr.org.uk](mailto:president[at]st-annes-mcr.org.uk)) requesting that your email address be removed (you are of course entitled to be re-added at a later date).** The MCR President is the only person who has access to the list and to the email addresses on it.

8) Academic

Matriculation

Matriculation is the ceremony in which new students are formally entered into the register (in Latin [*matricula*](#)) of the university, at which point they become members of the university. The ceremony is obligatory, if you haven't matriculated you cannot graduate! (You don't actually have to do anything in the ceremony; you simply turn up, file in, listen to someone say something in Latin and then file out.) There is one ceremony every term (held in the Sheldonian theatre in the city centre) but if you start in Michaelmas 2011 you will most certainly go to the one on Saturday 16th October 2011.

You are required to wear full subfusc with graduate gown and cap (more details in the Formal Wear section) to attend the ceremony and hence you must ensure that you have purchased/hired the relevant items in time for the ceremony. Please note that some of the shops which sell subfusc (Shepherd and Woodward, Flaggs, Ede and Ravenscroft) do sell out of popular sizes as the ceremony approaches so it is better to sort this out sooner rather than later. The dress code for Matriculation is rigorously enforced!

You will meet up in college beforehand and then return to college after the ceremony at which point a group photo of the matriculating year group (undergraduates and postgraduates) will be taken and students can choose to have official individual photographs taken.

Academic Support

We want you to enjoy your time here at Oxford and do well on your course. We aim to provide or direct you to the relevant support you might need while studying here. You may contact the MCR Committee for help or the Tutor for Graduates, Dr. Anne

Mullen anne.mullen@st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

During your time in St Anne's you will be appointed a **College Advisor**. This is a Senior member of College who is an academic point of contact for you, for general advice and support. He or she is not a substitute or duplicate supervisor. They should take you to lunch once in a while and discuss your work or difficulties you might be experiencing. And you may contact them, whenever you feel like you need support. In case, you cannot get hold of your graduate advisor you can contact The Tutor for Graduates.

Collections with the Principal

Every year the Principal of the College, Tim Gardam, invites graduate students to meet with him and the Tutor for Graduates. It's a great opportunity to talk about your research, or just give feedback to the College about how your work is going.

Careers Service

Careers Service is just across the road from St Anne's (25 Banbury Road), and is definitely worth a visit. It offers FREE services and advice! For more information visit their website <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/>.

Subject Family Events

There are usually two Subject Family Events per term. These evenings give you the opportunity to find out the research interests and activities of the Fellows and other graduate students. After three short talks, the evening ends with drinks and a buffet dinner in hall. For more details or to find out about giving a talk, please contact the Academic Affairs Officer academic@st-annes-mcr.org.uk.

St Anne's Discussion Groups

The MCR runs a series of discussion groups for all members of College, but primarily for graduate students. On Thursday's we have the Arts & Humanities group and on Friday we have the Science group. The original idea behind them was to get graduate students away from the lab / computer / library to think and talk about wider issues

other than their own research. We invite academics, artists, authors, scientists, lawyers who are all experts in their field. Previous speakers include, Lord John Krebs, Lord Robert Winston, Sir Richard Gardener, and Philip Campbell (Editor in Chief of Nature). These events are informal and relaxed and take place on either a Thursday or Friday lunch-time. The numbers of attendees is limited to ~25 students. This is not a seminar series, where an audience sits and listens, it is a discussion group. Guests can engage the audience in their topic however they choose, as long as it is interactive – most have given a short slide and/or or video presentation, and all have answered (and often asked us) numerous questions and generated a lively discussion. In addition, College provides a free lunch for attendees.

STAAR

STAAR, the **St Anne's Academic Review**, is an exciting new e-journal, run by the MCR. STAAR aims to promote research interests and achievements of graduates across the whole St. Anne's academic community. We hope that you'll enjoy reading the collection of articles and impressions of the academic life of the College, and that you might like to participate in STAAR's future development, whether by writing articles, reports on conferences or longer pieces of work, editing the content, helping to gather material, or promoting the journal. There will be an opportunity to join the editorial board as soon as you start at St. Anne's. If you are keen to get involved, and we hope that you are, please get in touch with the last year's chief editor, Himanshu Kaul.

For more information, see the STAAR webpage:

www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/study/graduate/staar-st-annes-academic-review.html

9) Sports

Sports teams at Oxford work on two levels. Many main sports (like football, rowing, rugby, etc.) are played at both college and university level. Playing for a college team means playing with other people from St Anne's (undergraduates and graduates), often against people in other colleges. There are college leagues for many sports, as well as annual cup competitions (which tend to be referred to as "coppers"). For many sports, the college teams are "less competitive" than university teams. There are also college teams for some "bar games" such as pool/billiards, darts and table football.

Anyone from any college can also take part in the university sport teams, perhaps competing against other universities. The standard of play is of course higher than the college teams - but some of the more unusual sports can only be played at university level, so don't let that put you off giving it a go! Often university teams also contain more graduate students. The university sports teams and contacts can be found at www.sport.ox.ac.uk/club-contacts/index.html.

For those who want to play football with other graduates, we have an arrangement with St. John's meaning that St. Anne's play in their MCR team. Games are on Saturday mornings, and if you'd like to know more, email Benjamin Franz, the MCR Sports Officer at sports@st-annes-mcr.org.uk.

How to get involved

College sports – The college sports fair is on during Freshers' Week in the hall. This is your chance to see what sports teams St Anne's has, and meet the relevant captains.

For more information on what sports teams St. Anne's offers and information for contacting team captains see http://www.st-annes-mcr.org.uk/sports_college.php

University sports – To find out more about the University teams visit their website, www.sport.ox.ac.uk or go along to the **University Freshers' Fair** in Oth week, where there will be stalls for each of the University teams.

Gyms, fitness centres and tennis courts

- **St. Anne's Gym (FREE!):**

St. Anne's has a small fitness room with exercise bikes and a small weights room. Inductions during Freshers' Week.

- **Iffley Sports Center:** Facilities on offer, details of the prices and a map to the centre may be found at www.sport.ox.ac.uk

- **University Club** on Mansfield Road *exclusively for postgraduate students.*

To use the facilities you will need to register online at

<https://www.club.ox.ac.uk/home/membership/?option=form>. However they also hold 5-a-side football meet-ups there which tend to be organised by mailing lists which are widespread throughout the university (e.g. departmental, collegiate). Furthermore they have a bar, which serves food and shows a lot of live sporting events, which you can just walk in and use.

- **Ferry Sports Centre:** www.oxford.gov.uk.leisure/ferry-sports-centre.cfm

Tennis Courts

St Anne's members have free access to the outdoor tennis courts at St John's college sports ground on Woodstock Road. Take your Bod card along with you. The MCR has tennis racquets and balls available for use, kept in the Wardens flat at RSH and the lodge in the main-site.

10) Arts and Music

Music Bursaries

There is a St. Anne's music bursary scheme open to all undergraduates and postgraduates (music and non-music students alike) which is intended to help pay for instrumental or singing lessons. Details can be found here (<http://www.st-annes.ox.ac.uk/why-choose-us/undergraduate-admissions/financial-matters/bursaries-scholarships-internships-and-grants/music-bursaries.html>)

SASJO is the **joint college orchestra** of St Anne's and St John's. Their repertoire is a mixture of fun and serious pieces. The orchestra rehearses once a week and there is usually a trip to the bar afterwards. Please contact Tristan Rogers, St. John's College for more details (manager@sasjo.org.uk). There is also a **college choir** run jointly with St. John's College.

The Recital Series

During term time, college puts on musical recitals for members to hear some of the finest musical talent from across Oxford. College members are invited to take part in music recitals.

Music rooms

St Anne's has 4 practice rooms in the basement of 50 Woodstock Rd. Three of the rooms are open and have upright pianos and the other room known as the 'Annie Barnes' Room is locked and available to those enrolled in a music degree or those in receipt of a music bursary. The Annie Barnes Room has a lovely Yamaha grand piano and a drum kit.

St. Anne's Arts Week

St Anne's also holds an Arts Week in Trinity term. This year it was launched with 'BonnANNEza', a Saturday mini-festival with live music, face-painting, a bouncy castle, sumo suits and more besides, followed by a week of assorted events including

performances of Oscar Wilde's 'The Nihilists', a creative writing workshop, life drawing sessions, poetry reading and film screenings.

11) Charities

Each year the MCR committee votes for a charities officer and two charities that the MCR will support for the duration of that year. These charities are supported by the charity levies, which are an optional extra fee of only a few pounds taken at the beginning of the year. The charity officer has a free reign to organize lots of events to support these charities, or others.

“This year I was lucky enough to have this position and managed to get lots of people on board for events such as Race for Life - when we raised £1,438- a charity BBQ and a charity ceilidh. Each term there is a charity formal which often has a theme. This year the charities we have chosen to support are: KEEN, a local Oxford charity that helps disabled children, and BEFSA, a South African Charity that focuses on educational reform. The charity events are great fun to be part of, either on an organisational level or a participatory level and they have raised thousands of pounds this year alone for some great causes.”

Morag Rennie, MCR Charities Officer 2009-2010

12) Social Events

The MCR's social secretaries organise a range of events for St Anne's graduate students each term. Common events and activities include:

- **Pub Crawls**, typically starting with the college bar before proceeding to the city centre via a selection of Oxford's pubs.
- **Film Nights** in EPH and RSH common rooms.
- **Theatre Trips** down town or at another college.
- **Food and Drink Tastings**: in the past 2 years we have had a mango lassi and pakora tasting tea party, a sake tasting, two whisky tastings and a Spanish food evening (a leg of Iberian ham, several types of chorizo, and lots of sangria).
- **Day Trips** to locations outside of Oxford. In the 2009-10 academic year we organised an overnight exchange dinner with our sister college in Cambridge (Murray Edwards College formerly New Hall) and a day trip to Thorpe Park.
- **MCR Parties**, usually two per term (one at the beginning and one at the end of term), held in either the MCR common room, or the common room at RSH.
- **Punting and Picnics** in the summer term.
- **Exchange Dinners** (see Food section).
- **Wine Tasting**: These have become one of the most-loved termly events. They are compered splendidly by members of the SCR (who research the wines which we taste, normally 8 wines per wine tasting, generally with some theme connecting them e.g. 'New World versus Old World') after which there is a free buffet.

The schedule of MCR events for each term ('termcard') will be available on the MCR website, <http://www.st-annes-mcr.org.uk/> (see right hand tool bar), and on whiteboards hung in EPH and RSH. Hopefully we will also have a googlecalendar which can be subscribed to. Details of events are also posted on the MCR Facebook profile page, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001607214587&ref=ts>, and the MCR group page, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001607214587&ref=ts#!/group.php?gid=5062433175> (you should be able to make friends with the MCR profile without being a part of the University of Oxford network). During term time social

secretaries will email you the details of events in advance of them happening.

Bops

Bops are themed parties with cheap drinks that are put on by colleges. St. Anne's doesn't have Bops on college grounds but last term we did organise a joint beachwear-themed Bop held in the hall of our good friends St. Cross. Bops usually occur at weekends and involve some form of fancy dress. The social secretaries will email you during the week about forthcoming Bops, there is usually a group of MCR members that go along to them each week, and they're a lot of fun!

Freshers' week

Fresher's week is during week 0 of your first term, Sunday 2nd October to Saturday 8th October. The MCR social secretaries have planned a great social calendar for the week involving tea and cake afternoons (every afternoon of Freshers' week!), a pub crawl, a film and pizza evening, a meal in a local restaurant, a quiz evening and an MCR party. You will receive your Freshers' week timetable when you arrive at St. Anne's. Although the events are not compulsory we advise that you attend as many of them as possible so that you get to meet new people. It is also perhaps worth mentioning here that, specifically in St. Anne's but also in Oxford in general, meeting people and making friends is an inevitability rather than a possibility, so don't worry if you arrive late or miss a couple of the first Freshers' week events!

13) Formal wear

During your time at Oxford you will no doubt be invited to events with a dress code. Below we have listed the most common types:

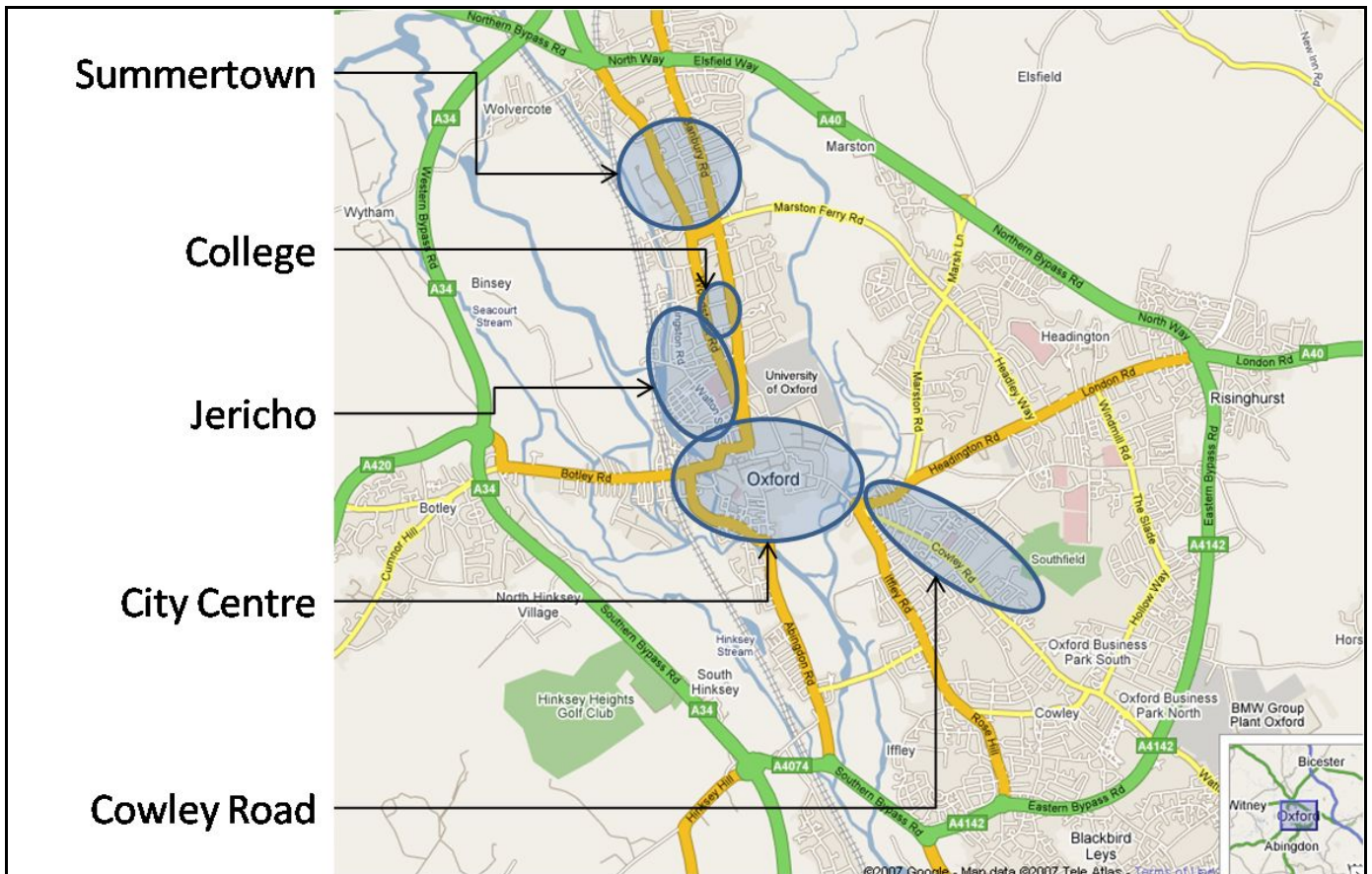
Subfusc – Formal academic dress of the university, required for University exams, matriculation and graduation. Subfusc for men is dark suit, dark socks, white shirt, white collar and white bow tie; for women it is a white blouse, black tie/ribbon, dark skirt or trousers, dark tights or socks, dark shoes, and if desired a dark coat. Dress for each sex should be such as might be appropriate for formal occasions. The mortar board is worn in the street and carried when indoors. You will also be required to wear an academic gown that can be purchased along with a mortarboard, white bow tie or black ribbon from numerous shops in town such as Shepard and Woodward on Turl Street or Flaggs on Broad Street.

Black tie – For men this is a tuxedo with a black-bow tie. Although tuxedos are expensive it is a wise investment to purchase one if you intend to go to dinners, and balls whilst at Oxford. For women, this is usually a cocktail dress or smart skirt and top.

White tie – This dress code is usually restricted to the big summer balls at Oxford. For men, tuxedo and white tie, some men wear a top hat and tails but this is more out of preference than a necessity. For women, a full length ball gown.

14) Guide to Oxford

This section is a brief guide to Oxford, what to do, how to get about and information on pubs and bars, music venues, clubs, restaurants, cinemas, museums, galleries etc. But the best way to find out about what's on offer is to have a wander around and take a look for yourself. Oxford is divided into 4 main areas, Cowley Road, City Centre, Jericho and Summertown: they are marked on the below map.



What follows is a brief summary of interesting things to do in each of these areas.

City Centre

The City Centre is the busiest part of town and so there's a lot going on! Good pubs include the Lamb and Flag, Eagle and Child (this is where Lewis Carroll, author of Alice in Wonderland and J.R. Tolkien, author of Lord of the Rings used to drink), The Royal Oak (close to college so an MCR favorite), The Kings Arms, The Turf (Bill Clinton used to drink here when he was a Rhodes Scholar), Chequers, The Red Lion, Far from the Madding Crowd, The Three Goats Head, and the Wheatsheaf. There are also a few clubs

in town – Kukuii, Park End (Lava/Ignite), the Bridge, Poo Naa Naa's, the Purple Turtle (a.k.a. the "PT"), The Cellar, Escape No. 9. There are two Odeon cinemas in town (www.odeon.com) and plenty of playhouses including the Old Fire station, Oxford Playhouse, and the New Theatre. In the city centre there are restaurants as far as you can see, Gee's, Pizza Express, Chutneys, the White Horse, The Blue Boar Inn, Noodle Bar, Bangkok House and Chaing Mai Kitchen are some of the better ones. There are plenty of museums to visit in Oxford: Ashmolean, Natural History, Pitt Rivers, History of Science. For something a bit quieter and a bit nicer (fewer tourists) head out of town to Jericho and Cowley.

Jericho

There is a fantastic cinema, the Oxford Picture house – Phoenix, some great pubs including Jude the Obscure, The Book Binders, The Gardeners Arms, The Jericho Tavern. The best cocktails in the Oxford are found either at The Duke of Cambridge or Raouls: it's tough to choose between the two of them. Cheaper but less good cocktails are available at Angels and Freuds. Food wise there's Pierre Victoire, Mamma Mia, Cafe Rouge, the Gardeners Arms, Bombay, The Big Bang and Petit Blanc. Little Clarendon St. is great for places to eat and even has a late-night ice-cream parlor, G&D's, that makes its own ice-cream. Well worth a visit!

Cowley Road

Cheaper and more alternative than the city centre with masses of good bars and restaurants. Great pubs include The Star (on Rectory road – take a map) and Hi-Lo (a Jamaican style bar that serves Red Stripe and Rum and Ting until as late as you're willing to buy), The Hobgoblin and the Bullingdon. There are lots of good places to eat in Cowley including Aziz, Nando's, Red Star, Mario's pizzeria and La Cuccina. Just take a walk and have a look – there is something for everyone. There's also a Carling Academy (previously known as the Oxford Zodiac) that attracts big-name (and not so big-name) bands to headline there. Cowley is one of the areas that, especially if you live in Summertown, you may not be naturally inclined to visit. However it really does have something to offer which the other areas of Oxford don't and it is worth making an

effort to check it out.

Summertown

Summertown has a wide range of places to eat out - Cibo, Portabello, Xian, Spice Lounge and Joe's. The Dew Drop is the only Pub but Joes and Cibo won't turn you away if you just want a drink. There are plenty of shops and supermarkets in Summertown – it's pretty self-sufficient (see the section on RSH in Accommodation for more details).

15) Transport

Trains

Getting to and from Oxford is pretty easy; trains go south to London and Reading and the West Country and north to Birmingham, from where you can get pretty much anywhere in Europe. The train station is located towards the end of Hythe Bridge Street as you go east out of the city centre.

Buses

Buses from Oxford are excellent; National Express coaches (www.nationalexpress.com) go to most towns and cities, plus there's direct buses to Heathrow and Gatwick airports (www.oxfordbus.co.uk/airline1.html). Best of all there are two 24hr bus services to the centre of London, which is great for a night out (www.oxfordtube.com or www.oxfordbus.co.uk/espress1.shtml). On both services you can buy a booklet of 12 single journeys (valid in either direction, valid for 12 months) for a reduced price, which can save you quite a bit of money if you plan to travel between London on a semi-frequent basis. Buses in Oxford are fairly frequent and run quite late but are a little expensive. (www.oxfordbus.co.uk and www.stagecoachbus.com/). Most buses that run between College and RSH go along Banbury Road. The bus stop is found near the back gate of college, to get to RSH ask for a ticket to the "Summertown shops". One-way costs approximately £1.40. You can also purchase a daily, weekly, monthly or annual pass from the websites. It is worth noting that if you plan to travel to or from the city centre or even college as a group then it may be cheaper to just get a taxi.

The Safety Bus

<http://www.ousu.org/welfare/o/>

The Safety Bus scheme is a volunteer run welfare service for staff and students at both Oxford Brookes and Oxford University. Their main priority is to take vulnerable students home – but they will also transport any other students when they have the time to do so. Basically, that means if you're alone and/or in a bad way you will be picked up first, followed by whoever else has called.

To use the service simply ring 07714 445050 between 9 p.m.–3 a.m. Monday to Saturdays and 9 p.m.–1 a.m. on Sundays. The bus will pick you up and deliver you to any destination within the Oxford ring road all for only £1 donation per trip. The scheme is available to all students of Oxford and Oxford Brookes. Priority will always be given to vulnerable people and individuals as the emphasis for the scheme is on safety. Please be aware that the bus depends on volunteers and so is not able to run on nights when volunteers are not available to help out.

Cycling

A bike is an **incredibly useful mode of transport around town and is highly recommended** – it's how the majority of students get to lectures on time! If you don't have your own you can purchase a new or used one from the numerous bike shops in Oxford for relatively little money. Alternatively dailyinfo can be a good source of second-hand bikes and the union also occasionally run bike sales. For anyone who has not cycled much before it is worth pointing out that not only is Oxford incredibly well set-up for cyclists (there are cycle lanes on almost all of the larger roads and drivers are generally very aware and considerate of cyclists) but also that some university departments run free cycle safety courses. **Cycling in Oxford will keep you healthy and save you lots and lots of money!!!** (Walking of course will do the same). ***However safety is paramount. A sturdy lock (theft of nicer, more expensive bikes is sadly rife), lights and helmet are cycling essentials.*** These can be purchased from the bike shops listed below:

- Beeline Bicycles, 59-65, Cowley Road, Tel: 01865 236159
- Cycle King, 128-130, Cowley Rd, Tel: 01865 236041 (Many students that buy bikes from Cycle King have found that they have a tendency to break, rust and generally fall apart rather quickly. They are cheap but do not necessarily represent good value.)
- Cyclo Analysts, 150, Cowley Road, Tel: 01865 604723
- Oxford Cycle Workshop, 39, Magdalen Rd, Tel: 01865 204799
- Summertown Cycles , 202, Banbury Road, Tel: 01865 316885
- Walton Street Cycles , 78, Walton St, Tel: 01865 311610
- There is also a newly launched service www.unibikeshed.com which offers to match bike buyers with bike sellers (this website was set up by an Oxford student)

All of the bike shops listed above stock a wide range of helmets or alternatively the Lodge sells cycle helmets that cost £10 each. It is also a good idea to register your bike in the event it is damaged or stolen. Cycle registration packs are available from the Lodge free of charge; these contain a registration form that you complete and the Lodge then sends on to the University security office, plus a hologrammed sticker to put on your bike. Bike parking areas are provided on the main college site and up in RSH. If you lose your bike lock key and need the lock removed then college will charge you £10 for the privilege.

16) Welfare

College and MCR Support

Tutor for Graduates/Senior Tutor: Dr. Anne Mullen is the Tutor for Graduates for St. Anne's and co-ordinates academic welfare and support. She is keen to ensure that you know what help is available and where to get it. Feel free to contact her if you need information, guidance or support at anne.mullen@st-annes.ox.ac.uk. Her room is in the Academic Office, first floor of Hartland House.

The College Nurse is available Monday – Friday during term, that's Weeks 0th – 9th, see college notice boards for her hours. You may also contact her via the Porters' Lodge. She has a wealth of knowledge and professional experience to help you deal with any problem, big or small, welfare or medically related. She works alongside the College Doctors. Her room is on the ground floor of 27 Banbury Road. Ask at the Porters' Lodge for directions and code to get in. She also comes to Robert Saunders House in Summertown one morning a week. You will find her then in the Wardens', see notice boards for her email address.

Registering with the College Doctor

All graduate students must register with a doctor in Oxford as soon as they arrive. St. Anne's is affiliated with the Jericho Health Centre, which is located near the main college site. Ask the Lodge if you need directions. You will be able to sign up directly on Thursday of Freshers' week, but if you miss this meeting, you need to call 01865 311 234 to register, or register with the college nurse.

Welfare Officer is always around to help you with any questions you might have about welfare and equality related issues; she will be able to point you in the direction of the right person for you to talk to. You can email her at welfare@st-annes-mcr.org.uk.

Women's Officer: Position currently vacant but will be filled for the start of term. The

women's officer can be reached at women@st-annes-mcr.org.uk.

Peer Support and Counseling Services

If you require additional support, the University offers a plethora of counselling services that include, but are not limited to the following. Contact the MCR Welfare Officer or college nurse if you are unsure of what kind of assistance you may be looking for.

University Counseling Services- 01865 270 300

Nightline (student-run)- 01865 270 270

The Samaritans- 08457 90 90 90/01865 722 122

Other Welfare Contacts

Emergency Dentist- 01865 264980

Accident & Emergency Department of the John Radcliffe Hospital- 01865 220 208

Rape Crisis Center- 01865 726 295

Family Planning Clinic- 01865 456 666

GUM Clinic- 01865 231 231

Oxfordshire Police- 01865 266 000

For Any Emergency Dial 999

Further welfare information will be made available to you when you arrive to St. Anne's.

17) Useful contacts in College

Tutor for Graduates and Senior Tutor - *Anne Mullen* – responsible for academic, welfare and disciplinary matters

anne.mullen@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Domestic Bursar – *Martin Jackson* – responsible for the running of all facilities in college

martin.jackson@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Lodge - useful for general enquiries

lodge@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

College Secretary - *Mrs Christine Foard* - responsible for academic and administrative matters

christine.foard@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

IT Manager – *Mr Ian Burnell* – responsible for the college network system, you should contact him if you have a problem with the network

it-support@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Librarian – *David Smith*

library@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Treasurer – *Mr Chris Wigg* – in charge of all financial matters

treasury@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

Accommodation Officer – *Philip Kemp* – responsible for graduate accommodation

philip.kemp@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

18) Glossary

Here is a list of terms that people in Oxford tend to use, which might seem confusing initially – but you'll get the hang of it no worries.

Battels - Your termly bill from College, including fees for tuition, accommodation, MCR levies and any other charges you might incur. Battels are payable in the Accounts Office, located on the ground floor of Hartland House.

The Bod - The Bodleian library. The Bod is the main research library of the University of Oxford. It is also a copyright deposit library and its collections are used by scholars from around the world. The library's collection is spread between several different sites. Its central site is at the end of Broad Street.

Bod Card - Some people refer to your University Card as a Bod Card.

Dean - A College Fellow responsible for supervising the conduct and discipline of the Junior Members (i.e. undergraduate and graduate students) of the College.

D.Phil - A Doctor of Philosophy degree. The majority of universities call this a Ph.D. instead.

EPH - Eleanor Plumer House - houses the MCR and some graduate accommodation.

Fellow - The Fellows of a college are its trustees. They are the Governing Body of the college and manage and plan the college's activities. They may be academics or non-academic officers of the College.

Formal Hall - A formal meal held in the College Dining Hall four times a term. Tickets are sold in the Dining Hall. Formal Hall is open to both undergraduates and graduates. Dress is formal (suit and tie for men).

Fresher - Is a first year (graduate or undergraduate) student of the college.

JCR - The Junior Common Room, the body for St Anne's undergraduates.

Junior members - undergraduates and post-graduates are classified as "junior members".

Lodge - The large building on Woodstock Road where the porters work and where mail and visitors arrive.

Matriculation - Formal ceremony to admit you as a student of the University. Gown and sub-fusc is required.

Magdalen College – Spelt 'Magdalen' pronounced 'Maw-dlen.'

MOLT – Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre

OUSU - Oxford University Students' Union, or OUSU (pronounced 'Ow-zoo'), is Oxford's central student union. It represents the students of the University on University committees, and provides a number of services to students. MCR members are automatically members of OUSU. See www.ousu.org .

Oxford Union - The Oxford Union is a private members' club founded in 1823 as a debating society. Speakers have included Richard Nixon and the Dalai Lama. See www.oxford-union.org .

Pigeonhole or Pidge - Your pigeonhole is your mailbox in College. It is found in EPH. Pigeon-post is the University's internal mail delivery scheme. You can pigeon-post items at the lodge.

Porter - The porters work at the Porters' Lodge, direct visitors, sort mail, answer questions, and give out keys and codes for college rooms.

RDB – Ruth Deech Building

RSH – Robert Saunders House – graduate accommodation building in Summertown.

Scouts - The scouts in RSH and EPH clean the building every weekday from 6am till midday. They will also clean your room once a week and provide you with clean bed linen. They will not wash up for you, nor will they tidy your room.

SCR – The Senior Common room, the body for St. Anne's fellows and lecturers.

Subfusc - Formal academic dress of the university, required for University exams, matriculation and graduation. See International Students section for more details.

Supervisor - An academic assigned to you by the University or by your department who is responsible for planning with you your course of study and for keeping an eye on your overall progress, as well as for giving supervision on different aspects of the

course.

Termcard - A list of events that the MCR puts on during term.

Trashings - This occurs after students have sat examinations, their friend go to meet them as they leave their final exam and give them presents, balloons, garlands and fizzy wine.

Week *n* - The Oxford terms (Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity) are divided into eight weeks names *week 1* to *week 8* (*more commonly first week, eighth week etc*). The weeks preceding and succeeding the 8-week terms are 0th week and 9th week, respectively.

We look forward to meeting you all!