

TRINITY COLLEGE

A photograph of the ornate blue metal gate of Trinity College, with a stone building featuring a large window and statues in the background. The gate is partially open, revealing a cobblestone path and greenery.

*with love from
your Freshers'
Committee xox*

FRESHERS GUIDE '27

1. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	<i>Table of contents</i>	- 1 -
2.	<i>Welcome from the guide editors</i>	- 2 -
3.	<i>Welcome from the jcr president</i>	- 3 -
4.	<i>Life in college</i>	- 5 -
5.	<i>Oxford libraries</i>	- 9 -
6.	<i>Life outside college</i>	- 10 -
7.	<i>Oxford weirdness</i>	- 16 -
8.	<i>Nightlife</i>	- 18 -
9.	<i>Fresher's week</i>	- 20 -
10.	<i>Homesickness</i>	- 22 -
11.	<i>International student faqs</i>	- 23 -
12.	<i>Transitioning from school to uni</i>	- 25 -
13.	<i>The fun stuff - sports</i>	- 26 -
14.	<i>The fun stuff - societies</i>	- 31 -
15.	<i>An incomplete complete guide to oxford subjects</i>	- 34 -
16.	<i>Oxford jargon</i>	- 36 -

2. WELCOME FROM THE GUIDE EDITORS

Hear ye! Hear ye! Welcome to Trinity College, Oxford! Fear not, young fresher - you've chosen the best college (we're definitely not biased), and we, the Freshers' Committee, are delighted to welcome you this October. This guide is here to accompany the official college information with some friendly advice from those of us who've been in your shoes. It ended up being a tinsy winsy bit longer than we planned, so feel free to dip in and out as you please.

Alas... that's enough of the medieval English.

A huge congratulations are in order! You've done incredibly well to earn your offer, and you're very nearly here. As we wrap up our first year, we can only thank the students, staff, tutors, professors, and everyone at Oxford for making it such a special one. Hopefully, this guide will give you a bit of an insider's perspective on life at Trinity College and help you make the most of your own first year.

As amazing as this guide is (again, not biased), it's by no means prescriptive or complete. The best thing about Oxford - and university in general - is that you get to shape your own experience. Whether you're into sports, art, music, competitive chess, wine, bread, fencing, climbing, or just about anything else under the sun, Oxford has a society for it and people who'll share your interests. In other (Billy Joel-esque) words: *Oxford waits for you*. Now get reading and see what it has in store...

Your Guide Editors, Ros Gumbo, Esmé Willitts-King and Sahil Grover

3. WELCOME FROM THE JCR PRESIDENT

Hi, I'm Esmé, and I'm the incoming JCR President starting my presidency just as you arrive for your first year here! I'm also one of the Freshers' Kings—our particular title for the people in charge of Freshers' Week—so you're likely to see me running around during your first week making sure everything is running smoothly.

So I'm the JCR president, but I can imagine the first question you need to ask is what even is the 'JCR'? The JCR, or Junior Common Room, is both a physical common room and the student body within college that represents your interests. Both the JCR as a space and a representative body belong entirely to you as undergraduates, while the Middle Common Room (MCR) represents postgraduates and the Senior Common Room (SCR) is for the fellows.

I'm your JCR President this year—charming photos attached ☺. This means that I chair JCR meetings, appoint certain officers, attend many dinners and, most importantly, represent your interests while acting as a link between students, college staff and the wider Oxford University Students' Union.

TLDR: Email me at esme.willitts-king@trinity.ox.ac.uk with a clear description of your problem, and I will always do my best to sort out whatever might be troubling you!

Right now, I'm sure you're receiving hundreds of emails and forms to fill out. There is a lot of admin to complete because it is, understandably, an important time in your lives. Focus on the big (probably in bold) deadlines, prioritise the urgent and tackle everything else progressively as you feel able to. All the college staff emailing you are lovely and incredibly happy to help with any questions or concerns, no matter how trivial they might feel.

I'm going to leave you with some advice based on my reflections on fresher-ing.



Me! Notably below proposing to my beloved college wife



1. You only get to arrive at university for the first time once, and with great power comes great responsibility. Get out there! Try things, ditch things, talk to people, and get your work done somewhere in the middle of it all. Be the Silly Fresher™ while you still can.
2. That said, understand everything will happen in due time. No need to put pressure on yourself to find your best friends, join every society or sort out your academics all at once. Especially during freshers week!!!
3. Every so often stop and smell the roses, particularly in a busy term. Oxford is amazing and magical, mostly because it is made up of lots of amazing and magical people. It is worthwhile to pause occasionally just to appreciate it.

It'll feel like ages until October and the start to your time at Trinity. But once it does start, it'll all happen incredibly quickly. So, look forwards to it, enjoy it when it comes, and in the meantime reach out with any questions :)

4. LIFE IN COLLEGE

Food and dining

Trinity has a reputation for some of the best hall food amongst all of the Oxford colleges. The college catering team offer meals suitable for all dietary requirements and occasionally put on themed nights to celebrate different National holidays, such as Lunar New Year and Diwali.

College offers food every day of the week. From Monday through to Friday, breakfast is provided from 8-9am, and lunch from 12:30-1:30pm, both of which are on a self-service basis in which you pay per item of food you choose. On weekends, brunch is available from 10:30am-12:30pm. However, the dinner schedule varies across the week. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, there is a self-service dinner available from 5:45-6:45pm. Formal Hall takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays (with a 7:05pm start on Monday and Wednesday, and 7:15pm on Sunday). This is a three-course meal served to you by the waiters that must be booked in advance and costs just a little more than £5. Monday formals are Steak and Brie nights, starting with a piece of deep-fried brie followed up by steak for the main, finishing with a delicious dessert. For these formals, gowns must be worn on top of normal clothes, and you must bring your bod card (university card) to the dinner with you to register. Friday is the coveted Guest Night, with a luxurious four-course meal that costs just over £20. Gowns must be worn on top of black-tie attire for students.

However, you can also cook as well. There are a few student kitchens available that are dotted across college (one opposite staircase 3 in Prison Quad, one just round the corner from the JCR, and two kitchens for those living in the Levine Building). Please note that the kitchens do not have fridges nor freezers, and instead you normally store food in the mini fridges in your rooms.

For snacks and beverages to keep you going throughout the day, you can pop into the Levine Café (which also functions as a social study space). Likewise, the Beer Cellar is open in the evenings where you can order hard or soft drinks to take to dinner, play darts or table football, or go along to the JCR bops or other social events held there. For those who drink alcohol, be sure to try out our rubicon-mango-based College Drink – The Unholy Trinity!

Self Service Meals (Just turn up!)

Breakfast – Monday to Friday

8:00am – 9:00am

Brunch – Saturday and Sunday	10:30am – 12:30pm
Lunch – Monday to Friday	12:30pm – 1:30pm
Dinner – Tues, Thurs, Sat	5:45pm – 6:45pm
Sunday Carvery	5:00pm – 6:00pm

Formal Halls (Book ahead!)

Sunday 'Chapel' Formal Hall	7:15pm
Monday (Steak and Brie) and Wednesday	7:05pm
Friday Guest Night (Expensive but good)	7:05pm

Beer Cellar

Monday	5:30-10:30pm
Wednesday	5:30-10:30pm
Thursday	5:30-10:30pm
Friday	5:00-11:00pm

College Staff

It takes a lot of staff to keep college running smoothly – from the porters to the kitchen staff to our fantastic gardeners, many of them will become familiar faces during your time at Trinity.

The porters are an integral part of college life. You can find them in the porters' lodge at all (yes, all!) hours of the day. They monitor who comes in and out of college and can usually help you with any issue or help you find someone who can. In general, if something is going wrong and you need help, the porters are a good place to start. Trinity is particularly lucky as we have the friendliest set of porters of any college (this may not be statistically proven, but we are sure it is true).

One member of college staff you will quickly become familiar with is your scout. They're responsible for cleaning your room and emptying your bin on weekdays. Rest assured they'll always knock before entering! Their schedule means they'll usually come round in the mornings but also don't worry if they come in when you're asleep or when your desk is a mess. You can also leave your bin outside your door if you don't want to be disturbed.

Tutorials

Tutorials serve as the focal point of learning as an Oxford student. Academically speaking, they are often viewed as the selling point of Oxford and the 'other place' (where they use the rather silly term 'supervisions').

Depending on the week and your subject, you'll typically have between one and three tutorials per week. They tend to last one or two hours, usually with two or three students and one of your subject tutors, who will likely have set you some work beforehand. You will normally go through the work you've handed in, either presenting your essay or simply discussing the wider topic. A large portion of teaching in college takes place in the Levine Teaching Rooms or other staircases around college. Some tutorials may even take place in other colleges, or faculty buildings.

Many of your tutors will be world-leading authorities on a chosen subject, and you may encounter some of their work in reading lists for a given essay - this can be scary, but it can really help to fully embrace the experience. The opportunity to sit down with an expert on a subject, to ask questions, and to engage critically with their responses, is truly invaluable. There will be times when you don't know the answer to a question or when you haven't understood anything that's been said in the past 10 minutes but don't worry – this is a universal experience. Don't be afraid to ask questions and be honest with your tutor if you don't understand something! Even if you get it completely wrong, they will still appreciate that you are engaging with the tutorial.

JCR

Confusingly enough, the term "JCR" refers to both a physical space and the entire undergraduate student body within a college. The JCR looks after many of the non-academic aspects of college life – from welfare teas, to organising BOPs with other colleges, to allocating funding to various sports teams and societies.

Physically, the JCR is a communal area within the college (located at the bottom of Staircase 7) where students can relax, socialize, and engage in various activities. It's furnished with rather comfortable old squishy sofas, a couple of TVs, and even a fridge. More often than not, you'll find a group of us getting cozy to watch the football or a movie with Trinity's Film Society.

Beyond its physical presence, the JCR also refers to the undergraduate student body of the college, and more specifically, the student-elected representatives of this body. The JCR committee represents the interests and welfare of undergraduates in college

decision- making processes and organizes events ranging from formal dinners to casual social gatherings. They play a critical role in advocating for student needs, including academic support, accommodation issues, and mental health services.

Accommodation

First years are typically housed onsite in single rooms, with either ensuite or shared bathrooms. Most first year accommodation is on staircases around front quad (1, 5, 6), though a lucky few find themselves housed in the newer Levine building. Staircase 18 is a notoriously social freshers' hub!

Second years also live onsite, either in single room staircases (Largely in Levine) or in two-bedroom set staircases (1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17). Third and fourth years tend to live offsite, with the overwhelming majority using college accommodation in North Oxford. Rooms for second and third year are allocated through a random ballot.

Accommodation is usually available to students from Tuesday of 0th week until 10am on the Saturday of 8th week. International students and those with exams may apply for vacation residence, but this could be in a different room to during full term. It is important to note that you will need to completely clear out your room at the end of each term, as they are often rented out for conferences during the vac. Fear not– most rooms have lockable storage in which you can leave belongings during this time. However, for those who do not, you may store your possessions in suitcases or boxes in the international storage in the basement of Staircase 14 (email housekeeping@trinity.ox.ac.uk towards the end of term in order to arrange a slot to store your items).

Should you experience any problems with your accommodation, maintenance is contactable at maintenance@trinity.ox.ac.uk – they are brilliant at sorting out problems quickly!

Library

We are blessed to have a beautiful library that is open 24/7 exclusively for Trinity members. The wonderful librarians Emma and Sarah make it such a pleasant place to work and are on hand to help you with any book-related queries. There are three distinct sections: the older War Memorial part of the library, the Mezzanine and the basement. Altogether, there is a study space for everyone, whether you prefer the harsh, unforgiving lighting of the basement or the stunning aesthetic of the upper library. Early in your freshers journey you will be given a tour of the library, so no need to fear about struggling to make your way around!

5. OXFORD LIBRARIES

There are many libraries you can study in whilst at Oxford, so we've come up with a list of the most iconic, as well as some of our favourites.

The Bodleian Library:

The second largest library in the UK (after the British library), the Bod is iconic for good reason. It is one of the most popular workspaces for both students and tutors alike. The upper reading rooms have an incredible view of the dreaming spires, making them one of our favourite places to work in Oxford. The Duke Humfrey's Library within the Bod is also worth a look, which is open on weekdays from 9am – 5pm. However, you must store your bags, including water bottles, in lockers.

The Radcliffe Camera:

Known affectionately as the Radcam, this is undoubtedly one of the most iconic buildings in the whole of Oxford. It is home to the History faculty library and offers a good silent workspace with a beautiful interior. Be sure to arrive early in the day, however, as seats can fill up quickly. The basement houses the notorious Gladstone Link, or Glink, which lacks any natural light but purportedly makes up for it in sheer concentrating energy.

Taylor Institution Library:

The linguists have bragging rights over this beautiful library, especially the main reading room. It is open to all, however, and I would highly recommend checking it out. If you're looking to bang out an essay 5 hours before its due date, you're in good hands in the Taylorian.

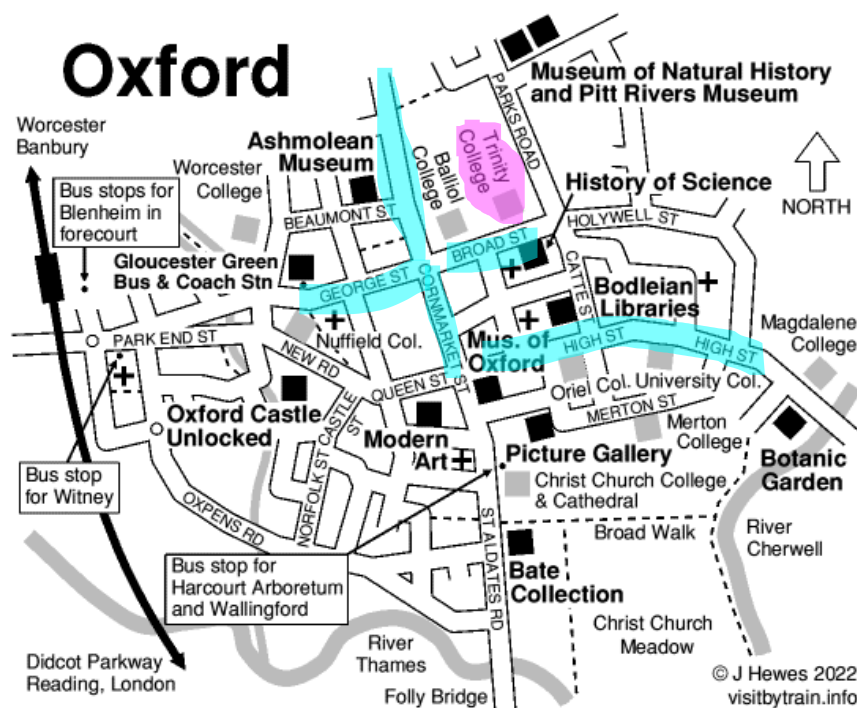
The Radcliffe Science Library:

This is a modern library, which is relatively relaxed too in terms of having conversations. You can also book study rooms which are super useful if you're working on a collaborative project.

The Schwarzman Centre (And Humanities Library):

The newly opened Schwarzman Centre for Humanities, while not officially a library, has an amazing open atrium with 3 floors of study space looking down. It also houses the Humanities Library and is an excellent site for those who prefer a bit of gentle noise, and a more café-style study space.

6. LIFE OUTSIDE COLLEGE



Food

Although the hall food is scrumptious, the timings can be restrictive if you have a busy schedule or other commitments to attend to in the evenings. Finding food under £5 becomes something of a hobby for most Oxford students. The map above shows Trinity in pink and the five streets where you'll find the most food highlighted in blue. Trinity is perfectly situated for this particular task, and there is a wealth of options available at a stone's throw away from the college:

Board Street eats

On Broad Street, just outside the Porter's lodge, you'll find delicious Italian calzones and pizzas at [Italianno's](#), as well as a collection of mediterranean sandwiches and wraps (think Moroccan chicken with cheese) at [Café Crème](#). Both excellent options for a quick lunch. In the evenings, after around 7pm, Broad Street is also visited by [Hassan's](#) – one of Oxford's many kebab vans. They are around well into the night, perfect for a late-night (either post-club or mid-study) bite.

St. Giles (for food around £5!)

[Tesco](#) and [Sainsbury's](#) are both located a few minutes away, on St. Giles Street. If in need of a meal deal (for the international students, this is a meal combo sold by supermarkets where you can get a meal, snack and drink for around £3.60-£5.50), the Tesco is open until midnight, except for Sundays.

Further up St. Giles Street, you'll find [Hussein's](#) (yet another kebab van), and a Trinity favourite, [Najar's](#), a falafel sandwich shop that can do you any permutation of meat, cheese, falafel, hummus and salad in a toasted wrap for £4.50. Get there before 9pm though, they shut early.

Cornmarket Street

Cornmarket street is a student favourite – once again a few minutes away from college, it contains [Shake Shack](#), [McDonald's](#), [KFC](#), [Itsu](#), [Wasabi](#), (not one but) two [Prets](#), [Greggs](#), and probably a few more chains. The food at [Wasabi](#) and [Itsu](#) goes half-price after 8:30pm (Itsu) and 9:00pm or 9:30pm (Wasabi), as the shops clear their stock for the day. Unidays or Student Beans will get you various discounts at these locations as well, making Cornmarket Street a very lucrative and filling adventure.

High street

[Ahmed's](#) kebab van on High Street (about 5-10 minutes by foot) deserves a special mention for their cheesy chips. If not, there are many kebab vans lining the high street to feed you when you're out on the town at night.

For a cheeky sweet treat (upwards of £5, up to £15-£20 per person):

Although cheap food is the frugal decision, celebrating a special occasion is always made sweeter with hot, cooked food served in a restaurant.

George Street

This is where you'll find the highest density of restaurants that still serve up delicious meals at student-friendly prices, often with discounts provided by Unidays or Student Beans. [Franco Manca](#) for sourdough pizzas, and a collection of assorted Asian restaurants as well: [Angrid's Thai](#), [Thaikun](#), [Rosa's Thai](#), [Yori Korean BBQ](#) and more. For a cheerful burger, check out [GBK](#), and for excellent pizzas, the [White Rabbit](#) is a must-visit. You'll also find the likes of [Subway](#) and a couple of pubs, the [Four Candles](#) (one of two Spoons in Oxford), [Wig and Pen](#) (Greene King pub), and [The Grapes](#) (an independent pub but the crowd often runs older!).

High street

If your parent's visit and ask where they should treat you to a nice meal, you should scream High Street back at them. This is where Oxford's finest gastronomical experiences can be sought after – [Gusto's Italian](#), [The Ivy](#), [The Quod](#) are a few places along High Street that will give you delicious food for a little extra.

Honourable mentions

Jericho – this is an area about 15 minutes walk, north of Trinity. There's the [Jericho Tavern](#), which boasts launching the likes of Radiohead and hosts frequent gigs by local bands, and more 'bougie' cafés, restaurants and wine bars. Definitely go for a treat or special occasion.

Cowley Road – about 20 minutes' walk from Trinity and officially away from the Oxford City Centre, this street has an abundance of foods from across the globe – too many for this humble guide editor to categorise and name, if even try. [Peloton Espresso](#) and [Dosa Darlings](#) are a favourite, along with [Antep Kitchen](#) which has a brilliant deal on their lunch menu.

[G&D's ice cream and desserts](#) – a crowd-pleaser and open until 11pm most days, if you're craving some fresh, warm desserts or ice cream, there's one below High Street (St Aldate's) and just up St Giles.

Hopefully this guide will get you started and fed for at least the first few weeks but do go exploring! The charm of Oxford is discovering what you think is a hidden gem and realising that everyone already knows about it.

Coffee

For those who need their caffeine hit during the day, [The Missing Bean](#), [Jericho Coffee Traders](#) and [Black Sheep](#) do excellent roasts and drinks. Get onto Unidays for £2 drinks from Black Sheep on a Monday! Oxford also has a multitude of [Prets](#), [Gails](#) and [Caffé Nero's](#) to get you through the day on a caffeine high. Personally, I think a larger proportion of students here tend to study in libraries and not cafés, but if you're so inclined, there are a number of nice cafés in Jericho, and along the east end of High Street ([High Street Café](#), [Taylor's](#), [Queen's Lane](#) and more). [Knoops](#) on Turl Street is also a favourite for a hot chocolate (Top tip: download the app and verify your student status to get £2 chocolate drinks every weekday)

Markets & Shopping

There are two main markets in Oxford - the [Covered Market](#) and [Gloucester Green](#). Both give very different vibes, so here's the breakdown.

Covered Market - A collection of artisan shops (think books, stationary, leather accessories, hats, jewellery) alongside cheerful food shops serving world cuisine. [Ben's Cookie's](#) is a must-try, and [Rosanna's](#) is a close substitute for [Najar's](#) if you're in the area and craving falafel. As the name suggests, it is indoors, and can be a useful respite from the rain. The Covered Market is broadly located in between Broad Street and High Street, making it incredibly accessible.

Gloucester Green - More flea-market style, open from 11-4ish Wednesdays-Saturdays, here you'll find food stalls selling world cuisine (street food style) and a range of stalls selling all manner of trinkets, jewellery, clothes, plants, art, bread, fresh fish, fruits, vegetables and the like. Wednesday is the day for fresh fruit from the farmer's markets, and Friday/Saturday is when the vintage clothes stalls come out. Looking for some bling? The [Ping's](#) handmade jewellery stall is a must go, especially for her 2 for £5 deal. The rings are cheap and the food is good – if you go you'll likely see me there as well.

For traditional brands and everyday shopping, head to [Westgate Shopping Mall](#). It is unlikely you won't be able to find something here, there's everything from [Sainsbury's](#) for groceries, [TKMaxx](#) for odds and ends, [Urban Outfitters](#) for clothes, shoe stores, skincare stores, and too many more to name. Basically, whatever you need, Westgate will likely have a store for it. It's also about 10 minutes from Trinity by foot - a win!

Charity Shops

For those looking for a bargain or who like thrifting, there's an [Oxfam](#) (the original Oxfam!) opposite the college on Broad Street. [BHF](#) near Westgate has a good selection, as does the [Mercy in Action](#) up St Giles and Age UK just above Cowley Street (the latter two are a slight trek away, however). Jericho is a great charity shopping hotspot, particularly on a sunny day coupled with a coffee, as the editor can recommend.

Nature

This guide editor is personally not above disappearing from college for a few hours on a self-labelled 'Mental Health walk'. If you're looking to touch grass after engaging too heavily with dead trees (i.e. books), [Uni Parks](#), north of Parks Road, is excellent and accessible, perfect for a run (2km loops), although gates do close early during the winter. South of high street, you have [Christ Church Meadows](#), which does close around evenings as well but is beautiful for a walk or a run. [Port Meadow](#), a bit of a

trek up north, affords you the ability to frolic with horses and ponies. Further south, on the south bank of the River Isis (Oxford's name for the Thames), you can go all the way down for a very scenic riverside promenade. The [Oxford Botanical Gardens](#), opposite Magdalen College, is free to enter with your university card and is a must-see.

If wild-water swimming takes your fancy, it has become fairly popular in Oxford; [Hinksey](#) and [Port Meadow](#) are both places to check out.

Pubs

The most frequent destination for Oxford nightlifers will of course be the two Spoons: [The Four Candles](#) on George Street (more popular, sometimes to an insane degree) and [The Swan and Castle](#) by Westgate (bigger).

Our favourites are [The Bear, Lamb & Flag](#), and [Turf Tavern](#) – all of which are classic Oxford pubs and very popular, though they can be pricey! The [King's Arms](#) and [White Horse](#) are great in the Summer and conveniently located on Broad Street, though they too can be expensive. Towards Cowley is the [Cape of Good Hope](#), which has great wings and a good beer garden for sports spectating, and the [Half Moon](#), which is a bit small but stays open until 2am. Some pubs worth trying are the [City Arms](#) (student deals) and [The Mad Hatter](#) (go on Tuesday evenings for Jazz Soc) in Cowley, and in Jericho are [Freud](#) (renovated church, expensive cocktails) and [Jericho Tavern](#). [OXO bar](#) does cheap cocktails and is located fairly close to Trinity College as well. Our recommendation: wait until the inevitable pub crawl and decide which one you like best after you've successfully inaugurated (as in, drunk in) each pub.

Culture

The cultural scene at Oxford offers a variety of entertainment for all kinds of interests. For music concerts and classical programs, the Sheldonian hosts the [Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra](#) and various student orchestras all through the year. Gigs and concerts often happen around the city at bars and pubs (Jericho Tavern, Isis Farmhouse, Town Hall), and musicals/ballets/dramas will be at the [New Theatre](#) on George Street. For the thespians, the [Oxford Playhouse](#) always has something thought-provoking on.

On Cowley road, there are a few indie cinemas showing vintage films, and the [Curzon](#) in Westgate is excellent for regular cinema-goers. Right by Trinity is the [Oxford Cinema and Cafe](#) which does the classic major blockbusters for £5.99 a ticket. The [Phoenix Picturehouse](#) in Jericho does both new releases and usually well-curated artsy films for the film buffs, and there is a student deal where weekday tickets are £5 (and the seats are very comfortable!).

[The Oxford Union](#), if you choose to become a member, hosts guest speakers and debates; in the past two terms we've had the likes of Philip Pullman, Jordan Peterson, Humza Yousaf and more visit Oxford and speak.

For museums, [Pitt Rivers](#) hosts an incredible collection of natural history artefacts, the Ashmolean boasts a fearsome antique and classical art collection, the [Weston Library](#) always has a literature-related exhibition on, and [The History of Science Museum](#) has cool sciencey artefacts. All are free to enter and peruse.

If all else fails, hope and pray that [Netflix](#) hasn't realised that you are in fact not living in your parent's house anymore and are no longer entitled to watch (this happened three weeks into term for me).

SOME VISUAL MENTIONS!

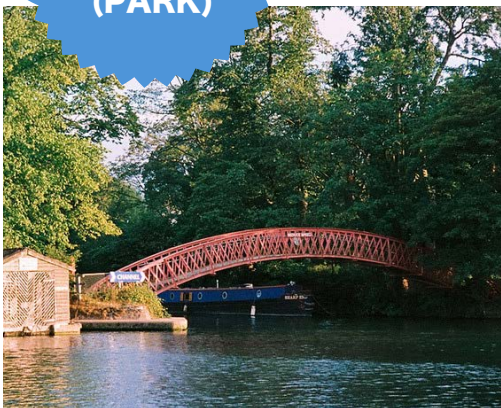
THE
KINGS
ARMS
(PUB)



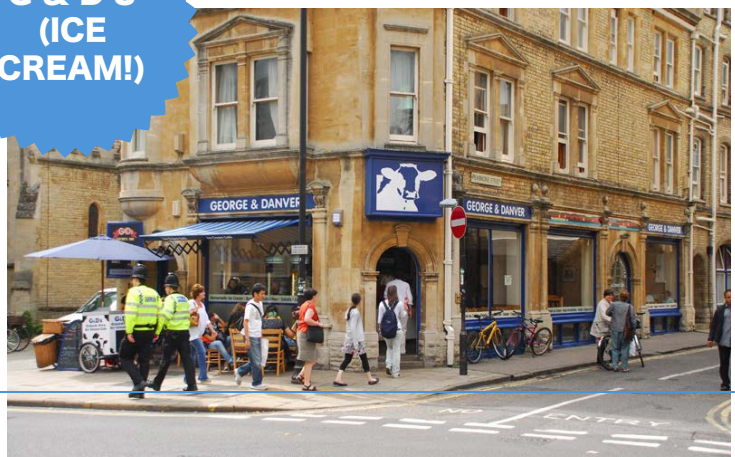
PITT
RIVERS
MUSEUM



PORT
MEADOWS
(PARK)



G & D'S
(ICE
CREAM!)



7. OXFORD WEIRDNESS

The Family System

As an incoming student, you will usually be assigned two or three college parents (second year students) and a number of college siblings (fellow first years!). College families tend to be loosely organised around similar subjects. Your parents are there to support you. This goes from settling in, to navigating Oxford traditions to maybe even some academic assistance if you ask nicely (a third of the essays I submitted this year were 'inspired' by my college father). They will also buy you your carnations before Prelims, but more on that later.

College families may seem a bizarre concept, but they are great for building inter-year friendships (ask your college parents to introduce you to your college grandparents as well!). Family trees can grow hilariously messy and convoluted; during your time here you'll be sure to meet throuples, people married to their cousins, and family blood feuds. Over the course of the year, you too will marry someone(s) and come next year will have college children of your own!

The Union

You will hear a lot about the Oxford Union and its termly elections during your time here, even if much of it is against your will (you'll find out about this later). As a student at Oxford University, you are eligible to join the union with an approximate membership fee of around £300, or a reduced-price access membership of just under £200 which is available to those eligible for the full UK Government maintenance loan.

Membership is for life and allows you to attend talks and debates hosted by the Union, grants you access to the union grounds including the Union Library (as well as the ability to invite guests), and enables you to vote in union elections. The Union is well-known for hosting prestigious speakers (Prof Stephen Hawking, David Cameron, Sir Elton John and Dame Judi Dench to name a few). Check out the Union website to see more!

Gowns and Sub Fusc

Sub fusc is the Latin term for the formal attire Oxford students wear for things like matriculation, formal exams, and graduation. It's a classic Oxford tradition and will probably be a source of entertainment for your friends back home. In 2015, Oxford

students voted 75%-24% in favour of continuing to wear sub fusc to exams in a student union referendum that had over 40% turnout.

Requirements for sub fusc are gender-neutral and consist of:

- Dark suit/ trousers with dark socks; or a dark skirt with black tights/ stockings
- A white collared shirt or a white blouse
- A white bow tie, a black bow tie, a black full-length tie, or a black ribbon
- Black shoes
- Your choice of a mortar board or soft cap
- A gown

Your gown may also be worn over your normal clothes on other occasions, most notably for formal hall. The gown you will most likely be wearing in first year is called a Commoners gown, which has incomplete sleeves. Students who have performed well in their Prelims may wear a Scholars gown, which is longer and has short open sleeves. It is Oxford tradition that students wear a carnation (a type of flower) pinned to their gown or to the lapel of their suit jacket when sitting exams (again, not collections): a white carnation for their first exam, a pink carnation for their middle exams, and a red carnation for their last exam. Carnations are seen as a good luck charm and many people will wear one, but it is by no means essential! Your college parents will buy them for you before exams.

Oxford traditions

There are two big traditions you'll be exposed to in first year; [Matriculation](#) (your formal induction into university membership) and [May Day](#) (harkening in Spring with an all-nighter for the brave and a performance from the Magdalen Chapel Choir at dawn). The joy of these is discovering them as you experience them, but there is no one right way to 'do' these traditions. It can feel intimidating to join an institution that has all these ancient rituals, but ultimately it's your experience and if you have fun with the people you enjoy spending time with, that's all you need.



SOME SUB FUSC!

RIGHT + LEFT =
COMMONERS
GOWN

MIDDLE =
SCHOLARS GOWN

8. NIGHTLIFE

For those interested in nightlife and clubbing, Oxford's students follow a fairly regular schedule throughout the week, with Wednesday and Thursday being the biggest student nights.

Monday = the go-to pub night

Generally a quieter night, although if you are desperate to go out, not to worry! Pre with the Brookes lot in the Swan and Castle before joining them in Bridge.

Tuesday = Tuesdays at Plush

Plush night: it's going to be sweaty so don't bother to layer up! Plush is purportedly the gay club (although this is debatable in terms of attendees). It is also the closest club to Trinity. This editor would estimate a brisk 3-minute walk from college, motivated by the biting February weather. Book on fixr or pay upon entry! There is usually an OULGBTQ+ society event in a college bar beforehand for pres.

Wednesday = Bridge Night

Wednesday brings Parkend at Bridge, which can be booked on fixr or paid on the door. There will be pres somewhere, whether its sports, societies, or just turning up to the four candles at 11 and looking out for a familiar face!

Thursday = Uh oh, Bridge again!

Two nights at bridge in quick succession! Joy of Joys! Thursday Night Bridge (abbreviated to TNB) is a big night out across Oxford. The dance floor will be packed, but head to the excellent and large smoking area if you just want a chat or need a break. If you've had enough of Bridge, the Bullingdon on Cowley road are doing more themed club nights on Thursdays (Pink Pony Rave, 50s/60s/70s nights and more), look out for these on Instagram!

Friday = Had a bad tute? Well have no fear, as Cowley night is here!

Friday is generally a quieter night, however there are definitely still events on. Indie Fridays at O2 academy is a favourite for those tired of the same 5 songs but make sure to book early because tickets go fast! The O2 academy is spacious, and the music is excellent for those who love British Indie pop/rock (and not just Arctic Monkeys!)

However, O2 is a bit more of a trek from Trinity. Be prepared to brave the streets for at least 25 minutes on foot. You can bring your coats, but you'll face coat check in O2. Bridge/Plush comes less recommended on a Friday as it's no longer a student night and the crowd can vary.

Saturday + Sunday = Fixr will fix you up

The weekend is generally quieter but check FIXR (an events app) because there is always something going on! Saturdays also normally have college bops, which are a great way to visit lots of colleges.



BRIDGE



PLUSH



THE O2



SOME CLUB MENTIONS!

9. FRESHER'S WEEK

Freshers' week is infamous for being a time of celebration, when you can party and let loose before the work of university begins. However, if that doesn't sound like your cup of tea, don't worry at all – there are many different ways to have an enjoyable and memorable week without clubbing or drinking. Freshers' week is definitely one of the busiest (and can seem like one of the scariest) weeks of term, but don't be intimidated! Here are our top tips to have a fantastic Freshers' week and start your term off right.

1. **Talk to everyone:** We know it's awkward introducing yourself over and over again, but everyone else will be feeling the same way so it is definitely worth starting the conversation wherever possible. Even if it is just asking what people study and where they are from, once you've spoken to someone once in Freshers' week that pretty much makes them your friend. It's never going to be quite so easy later so make the most of it!

If you find it scary meeting new people, it can be reassuring to realise that when you look back on your memories of Freshers' week, you'll see your friends. Also, don't worry if you forget someone's name, and try not to take offence if someone forgets yours. Everyone is taking on board so much about other people, about their own degree, about Oxford, and about university life, so it is very easy to get overwhelmed with all the new information! The minor awkwardness of asking someone to remind you of their name will soon be washed away.

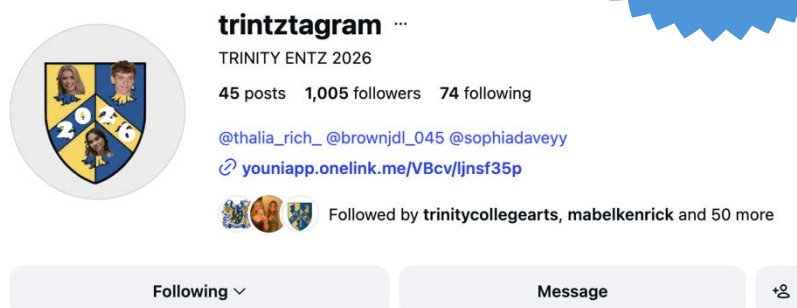
2. **Make the most of the free stuff:** At many of the Freshers' events, there will be free goodies from pens to sunglasses to ice cream! It can seem like a lot at the time, but trust us, once you get into the Uni student mindset of saving every possible penny, you'll appreciate all the random stationery and tote bags.

3. **Embrace the buddy system:** If you are going out, ask one of your new friends if you can stick together and watch out for each other. We know it feels a bit kindergarten, but it's also a great way to quickly create a bond with someone. Plus, it's so much easier to enjoy yourself when you have someone you know around looking out for you. Of course, if you do happen to get separated from your friends, don't worry at all: there will be Freshers' reps at all the club events in case you need a hand.

4. **Go at your own pace:** Freshers' week can be amazing fun, but it can also be busy and overwhelming. Don't be afraid to take time to yourself when you need it, and please remember to look after your health – drink water, eat a vegetable, etc., etc.

Let yourself slow down if you need to! Freshers' is great, but it is also only the first week out of many – there's no point having the best 0th week ever if it means you're so worn out that you can barely survive the rest of term. This brings us on to a nasty beast...

5. **Be ready for Freshers' flu:** Freshers' flu is real, and it sucks. Your first few weeks of lectures will be barely audible over the cacophony of coughing – this is inevitable. You will probably at some point find yourself bedbound, feeling like death and suddenly missing your home medicine cabinet. While there is really no way beyond luck to avoid it, you can reduce its impact by being prepared with Lemsip, paracetamol, Strepsils, and an abundance of tissues. Take the time, preferably before you come up to uni, to put together a little first aid kit with everything you will need when you get struck down by Freshers' flu. Trust us, you do not want to be trekking to Boots when you feel like every germ in Oxford has taken up residence in your sinuses.



**SOME
ACCOUNTS
TO FOLLOW!**

10.HOMESICKNESS

For many people, coming to university is the first time being away from home. This is a huge adjustment, and it can feel very daunting to suddenly be far away from your family and friends. If you are feeling homesick, the important thing to remember is that you are not alone! Here are some tips for dealing with homesickness.

1. **Talk about it:** You may find that by telling your friends how you are feeling, many of them will reply by saying they feel the same way. Even if people don't talk about it, homesickness is a completely normal part of adjusting to life at university. Be honest with your friends and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it - reach out to your college parents for support or to the college welfare team. Everyone at Trinity is super friendly and there is always help available if you need it. A problem shared is a problem halved!
2. **Decorate your room and make it feel more like home:** Having a cosy space to go back to at the end of a day in the library where you feel happy and relaxed can really make a difference to helping you settle in. Bring some printed out pictures of your friends, your family, your cat (free prints are your friend) ... anything that will make you comfortable. The act of transforming a bare room into your home for the next 8 weeks becomes a really satisfying ritual at the start of each term.
3. **Keep busy!:** Doing fun things with friends can be a lovely distraction from thinking about home. Make the most of all the activities in Freshers week, think about joining a society to help meet like-minded people or take a look at our Oxford bucket list and other stuff to do around Oxford for some ideas for exploring the city.
4. **Don't spend all of your time on the phone home:** Though it may help for a while, it might make you miss home more in the long run. Keep in touch with the people you are missing, of course, but don't forget to also embrace your new social circle at Oxford. Similarly, avoid going home too much or too early in term. While this idea may seem daunting at first, trust us, once you get in the swing of term is most likely you won't want to miss a second of being away from the chaos that is Oxford!
5. **If you can, get your family to come visit you instead of going home:** Getting to show them around Oxford can help you to appreciate the city and can also reduce the stress of losing time for work on the journey home. Of course, this isn't possible for everyone, but if your family is based close to Oxford, it is something to consider.

11. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FAQs

For those coming from outside the UK, there can often be a few more challenges that you face when moving to Oxford – not only are you in a whole new learning environment – you’re in a whole new country! Believe me, you’re not the only one and there are loads of people who’ve gone through what you have, who you can lean on for advice. Here are some basic tips to get you started:

Visa and Immigration

The home office can be confusing, but as of 2024, all visas are online, so you will no longer receive a physical card to prove your status. The Home Office webpage will have all the necessary information required to apply for your visa, which you will likely need to reference. The colleges’ own staff will contact you with important information regarding your CAS number – so keep an eye out for your emails and check through whatever forms they send across. If in doubt, send an email to college – they can help you (admissions@trinity.ox.ac.uk).

Phone, bank and bills

For a UK SIM and data, most students will use [EE](#), [Three](#) or [Vodafone](#). Personally, I use [Lebara](#), which piggybacks off Vodafone, and have had no complaints. Remember you’ll be within reach of [Eduroam](#) Wi-Fi in most parts of the city, and service is patchy in most areas of the public anyway, so I would recommend starting with a 1-month data plan before committing to a year-long contract with data you won’t end up needing.

Bank accounts are tricky for international students; without a UK address it is difficult for us to open bank accounts with most regional banks, like Barclays, Nationwide, Lloyds’, Santander’s, etc. They often want proof of UK address, which is obviously not feasible for us. If you are from Asia and have HSBC in your home country, it is quite ideal to open a linked account with [HSBC](#) in the UK; you can very easily transfer money from home. For those from elsewhere, online banks like [Monzo](#) and [Revolut](#) tend to be most convenient and popular. Most international students have Revolut, or Monzo, or both. Personally, I set up HSBC (being from Singapore this was ideal) and then got Revolut to use for daily spending.

Shopping and Essentials

As an international student, there is a cap on what you can fit onto a plane. Fear not, Oxford is full of shops from which you can buy clothes, kitchen utilities, crockery, bedding and more.

For cheap clothes, laundry baskets, drying racks, towels, bathmats and everything in between, [Primark](#) is very helpful.

For kitchen appliances, [Tesco](#) or [Sainsbury](#) will sort you out with basic frying pans and utensils, [ProCook](#) will be useful for more specific requirements. Keep in mind that your pans have to be induction compatible!

My hack for crockery was charity shops – [BHF](#) near Westgate or [Oxfam](#) will sell bowls, plates and utensils for very cheap. Bedding – you’ve got the full spectrum from [Tesco](#), [Primark](#), [M&S](#), [John Lewis](#) (listed in order of increasing price and quality!) to get your bedding. Beware of bed sizes – most rooms have single beds but if you’re in Levine, you’ve got to buy bedding for a small double.

If everything still seems overwhelming, contact your parents, they can help you! All else fails, contact the wonderful International Students Rep at vivian.xue@trinity.ox.ac.uk and she will try to answer any questions you have. Don’t worry – it will all fall into place and before you know it Oxford will become your second home.

12. TRANSITIONING FROM SCHOOL TO UNI

The biggest change you'll notice (and probably expect) moving from school to university is that your learning will become much more independent. Your number of contact hours (the learning time you spend in contact with teaching staff – lectures, tutorials, classes, labs, etc.) will vary depending on your degree but will likely be less than you had at school. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean you can spend the rest of the time asleep! You will be expected to supplement your contact hours with private study, including things like reading, writing essays, solving problem sheets, preparing for labs, and consolidating content. Your department may provide guidance on what this balance ought to look like; you should expect your contact hours and private study to add up to around 35-40 hours per week and in this regard, you should think of your degree as a full-time job.

You are now fully responsible for managing your time, submitting your work, and showing up for your commitments. While this may be daunting, it can be helpful to think of this increased individual responsibility for your own studies as empowering: you have more control than ever before to organise your life in a way that works for you! This means that you can balance dedicating yourself to the pursuit of a subject you are passionate about with all of your hobbies and interests.

Another big difference between school and uni is the social aspect. You will obviously have much more control over your social life, nights out, etc. but you also won't necessarily see all your friends every day. Whereas at school you see friends in class all the time, at uni you'll be friends with people doing different degrees who you'll only ever see in a non-work setting (unless it's in the library!). This makes it all the more important to create space for downtime to spend with your friends.



13. THE FUN STUFF – SPORTS

Imogen's Introduction

Hi, I'm Imogen and I am the current JCR Sports Rep. I've tried to give an overview of what sports is like at Oxford, but if you have any questions – or even want to launch your own sport society – feel free to reach out. My email is trin4174@ox.ac.uk and phone number +44 7716407895.

You can get involved with sport on both a college and university level. Playing uni-wide sport is more structured and competitive, and a great opportunity to make friends in other colleges! You honestly become so bonded with your team and playing Varsity against Cambridge plus end of season celebrations are easily my favourite parts of my year at Oxford. Sometimes freshers are concerned that the time commitment will be too much to manage on top of their degree. I will say that workload can be daunting (so no pressure!), but as someone who plays a seasonal sport, netball, I have almost no trainings to attend in Trinity term but genuinely do not find myself doing my degree any better – I am just way more likely to spend the whole day sitting down. And when I had exams last term, doing a bit of sport kept me sane.

The massive perk of college sport is that it requires very little commitment and almost always accessible to complete beginners. Since coming to uni, I have tried out rowing, climbing, football, badminton and (a chill version of) ice hockey. I only play one of those now... but it was fun to give them a go. Colleges compete against each other in leagues (weekly matches over a term) and competitions called 'Cuppers'. Often this is a single day/weekend tournament but may also be a knockout tournament played over the term.

I'd really recommend joining any WhatsApp groups that take your interest – these will be circulated via the JCR newsletter and probably also on your year group WhatsApp chat a bit closer to term. Below is a run-down of sports you can get involved in!

Rugby

Message from Sam: I must confess when the chance to wax lyrical about rugby to an audience came my way, I got rather overexcited. First, and most importantly, rugby culture at the uni is always fantastic; whether that's going down to watch the blues games, playing in one of the greyhounds or whippets (or even blues!), playing for the

college or just being a social member of the club. Both Tom Lascelles and I are uni players so if you want a chat about that, no worries – we will probably be doing our best to get you to play anyway! Rugby is fantastic fun, and we are keen to get everyone we possibly can playing, so even if you've never played before, please give it a go! The only thing to remember when it comes to navigating rugby, and indeed life at uni, is that if you are unsure, talk to someone about it – OURFC and TCRFC are incredibly friendly, even if you might be talking to a six foot five 130kg behemoth! Follow the Instagram @trinitycollegerfc, and if you're interested in playing contact Sam Monro-Davies +44 7368 585658

Football

Message from Thomas: It has been a tricky past year for TCFC. With the 1s finishing bottom of the 1s 3rd division 3 and the 2s getting relegated from the 2s 1st division, it's been tough. But when you hit rock-bottom, the only way is up – and you could be part of TCFC's revival. No past football experience is required to play for this great club and any experience is a welcome bonus. We have plenty of matches in the leagues and cuppers so there are tonnes of opportunities for you to play. There are occasions we find ourselves scrambling for players to field a full 11 a-side team so if football interests you please get involved, you won't regret it! If you have any questions please contact me – Thomas Kimbell, this year's captain – at +44 7568609665 on WhatsApp, or next year's captain – Charlie Aspinall – at +44 7544830033. And as ever, make sure to follow the TCFC Instagram @trinitycollegefc. Hope to see you out there on the pitch! I would also add that football is probably the largest college sport (running 2 teams!) and has active socials, although Angrid's Thai hates to see them coming...

Football (women's)

We have a team joint with LMH and St Hughs. They are very active playing largely weekly matches, some tournaments and having plenty of socials... although Trin rep could be stronger these days. They are very welcoming to beginners and am looking into getting a spare pair of boots/shin pads, but you can easily turn up to a training without it. LMH currently runs the team, but ask Florence Robinson (+447387839909) for more info or message their Instagram account (@summertownfc) if you would like to be added to the WhatsApp chat.

Netball

Writing this fresh off our Women's Cupper's WIN, I'm feeling good about encouraging you to play for our women's team (a yearly domination at our inter-collegiate tournament) or our mixed team during the more relaxed weekly leagues in Michaelmas and Hilary. With new kit this season, we hit the court looking pretty sharp, but no need to be intimidated: our club is open to anyone no matter your netball-playing experience. If you're tall (ideal) or just think you could probably

catch a ball, feel free to come along! College netball also has a decent social contingent... and you don't always have to play many (any) matches to qualify. Get the wristbands for tiki bar (a more exclusive room in the club Bridge) or join in on a few crew dates – netball is also known to run some girls only set parties. If you want to get involved with any of that, follow @trinitycollegenetball on Instagram or message the incoming captain Demi Akinya: +44 7575333979 on WhatsApp

Tennis

We are lucky to have some of the best grass tennis courts in Oxford at our New Marston sports grounds (10 min cycle away), open in the warmer weather and manned by our fab groundsmen. Drop them a call, or book online via the intranet, and they will be sure to get them ready for you. The hard courts leave something to be desired but are equally fun for a hit; if you're a more serious tennis player there are also some newer hard courts at Hinksey. Tennis gets very popular in the summer term and we do participate in cuppers, but the captain is currently a long-suffering finalist – if you want to be part of the revival (whether in a beginner or more competitive capacity), do join the [WhatsApp chat here](#):

Cricket

The most active summer sport this year has been cricket, with frequent matches and often a friendly pub-step afterwards (if refreshments are not already being imbibed at the same time...). This is great fun, and the instagram @trinitycollegecc is active during the season, often with an array of memes to keep you entertained! Also, no need to worry about five-day test matches; college games are usually only T20. Captain: Sam Monro-Davies +44 7368 585658

Badminton

As one of the biggest and friendliest college sports, Avanthika and Sherry run weekly sessions at nearby courts (usually Ferry leisure centre), all year round. Courts are rented for 2 hours but drop in, for free, at any time you want. They have spare badminton rackets if you don't have your own. League and cuppers also entered. Instagram: @tc_badc

Climbing

Sahil runs weekly sessions to local climbing gyms, with subsidies for those who come to the group sessions. The climbing is mostly bouldering (no ropes needed) but you can also borrow a harness to climb longer walls – this sport can get expensive but the college structure aims to allow you to try it out much more cheaply. I will say one of the locations, Gallery, is a really nice social space with a great café too – easy to camp out in all afternoon! Contact Sahil Grover on +447881 083851. Instagram: @trinityclimbers

Croquet

With such great lawns, croquet is a staple of Trinity term. Initially viewed with some disdain, by the end of the summer everyone has been found at some point with a croquet mallet in hand. If you are really enthusiastic, you can take part in croquet cuppers – we've had a record number of pairs enter this year in the competitive bid to win college glory. Captain: Max Sutherland +447436 178106
Rowing: Oxford University is perhaps most famous for its rowing, and so definitely the place to come try it out! College rowing can become a significant commitment if you're interested in improving your fitness and making the first boat. This has quite a lot of prestige within college, with specific formals and the chance to be immortalised on a college wall (see the chalk on Garden Quad), as well as an amazing atmosphere in the inter-college competition called 'bumps'. That said, there are a range of abilities within the club, so don't worry if you haven't rowed before - most new TCBC members haven't and this also doesn't limit you from the first boat! Do get involved in Michaelmas to learn the technique in a low-stakes way, or if the weather doesn't appeal to you, reach out in Trinity term. Follow the Instagram @tcbcoxford, contact Rachel Rhodes the boat club president at rachel.rhodes@trinity.ox.ac.uk, or come down during fresher's week when there is a free BBQ and taster session down at the boathouse!

Ice Hockey

Or 'alts', is a non-contact version where you can turn up for only £5 at the skating rink, running 10pm-midnight on Wednesdays and Fridays. Trinity don't have an organised team, but have been known to enter their cuppers; mostly this is a casual sport I wanted to flag! I believe there are even student-priced ice-skating lessons – if this is something that appeals to you definitely go do some digging. Instagram @altsicehockeyoxford

More on Sports

There are many more sports which are relaxed and social – for example wild swimming – as well as plenty of other sports to play from friendly to more competitive levels. Many do free taster sessions at the start of the year.

Getting involved in uni sport: Most clubs will have a contact on their Instagram or website for their captain or president, and it's a great idea to reach out before you arrive in Oxford if you definitely know you want to play. Many sports run pre-season training, either for a week or a few days and this is a great way to get to know the city, meet like-minded people, and get a taste of Oxford life before everyone else arrives.

You will go into fresher's week feeling a bit more confident, as well as have a significant leg up in trials. Trials can be quite rushed and always seems to clash with fresher orientation events. I would always argue it is worth giving it a go, but

I admit am biased. If you really cannot attend, most sports will be understanding! I got EXTREMELY ill with freshers flu – watch out for whatever is on the poles in Plush – but ended up being allowed to trial the week after.

Matches take place on Wednesdays, and you could likely have a road trip to other universities: this has always been so much fun and technically tutors are not supposed to put contact hours on a Wed afternoon anyway. If they do, you can politely ask them to move it. After playing matches all the uni sports – and plenty of college ones – launch into their socials which often culminate in a Spoons-Oxo step (pubs/bars opposite each other) followed by Tiki bar inside Bridge. Wednesdays are not meant for the library x

Sports grant

Our college offers people the chance to claim up to £100 to reimburse sports expenses. Priority is given to those competing at university level, but from my experience of the meetings, a significant amount of individual sport is also funded. You also get money for getting a Blue (an award for being in the first team and eg. Winning varsity), but this is more like prize money – you may also be awarded money for doing well in academic exams. If funding is a barrier for university level sport, do speak to the clubs involved. At college level, the JCR is given a sports budget so that as many sports as possible can be available cheaply (if not for free). Rowing is also very heavily subsidised.

14. THE FUN STUFF – SOCIETIES

You will no doubt discover the many University-wide societies Oxford has to offer at the Freshers' Fair when you arrive, but we thought we'd include a few of the college societies here as well. There will be a College-level Freshers' fair (in addition to the University-wide one) where you can get well-acquainted with the societies at Trinity.

Trinity Players

For the theatre nerds among you, make sure to get involved with the Trinity Players! They recently put on an excellent performance of *The Great Gatsby* in the President's Garden, which was particularly enjoyable in the warm evenings of the summer term. Follow the Instagram at @trinityplayersox or contact Lucy Wheeler for more information (lucy.wheeler@trinity.ox.ac.uk).

Christian Union

Trinity's Christian Union is a part of Oxford Intercollegiate Christian Union (OICCU) and wants to give everyone the chance to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection. Whether you'd call yourself a Christian or not, you're more than welcome at one of their events, a space for discussion and asking questions, and the different social events throughout term such as ice cream and going to the pub! If you want to find out more, their Instagram is @trinityxwadhamcu and feel free to message them with any questions!

The Broadsheet Editorial Team

If you fancy yourself a budding journalist, why not get involved with Trinity College's very own satirical newspaper, the Broadsheet (which I rather stupidly only just realised is a play on Broad Street). An edition is released once each term. Give my critically acclaimed review of my blind date with a third year a read if you are ever bored. Contact Fynn Hyde for more: fynn.hyde@trinity.ox.ac.uk.

Law Soc

As you might expect from a society run by highly-strung lawyers, the Trinity College Law Society rivals even the University-wide equivalent. From dinners with law firms, to mock trials, to talks, this society seems to do it all. DM the Instagram for more details: @trinitylawsoc.

Gryphon Soc

For those interested in debating and public speaking, there's the Gryphon Soc, one of Trinity's oldest established societies. Open to everyone in college, regardless of skill or experience, this offers the chance for people to hone their skills and have some fun, with drinks and joke motions on offer. The society also invites in interesting guest speakers and hosts the annual Michael Beloff After-Dinner Speaking Competition with generous prizes available. See @trinitygryphonsoc on Instagram for examples of some past events.

Board Game Soc

The board game soc is a chill, social society where students get together, have a few drinks and some snacks, and have a good time. Also, board games are there sometimes. If you're interested follow @tcbgs.oxford on Instagram.

Poker Soc

One of the more recently founded societies, Poker Soc meets every couple of weeks for a friendly evening game. There are drinks, snacks, and a great atmosphere to enjoy! Contact Will for more info: will.munroe@trinity.ox.ac.uk

Film Soc

Is Letterboxd your favourite form of social media? Film soc puts on a film every week in the JCR, providing a mix of popular, niche, old and recent films to watch. Snacks are always provided, and we'd love any film suggestions! We advertise the film of the week on year group WhatsApp chats, or you can contact Esmé for more info at esme.willitts-king@trinity.ox.ac.uk

-

Trinity College Music Society

The Music Society put on a wide range of events. From recitals and performances of some of the college's most talented musicians, to the less melodious karaoke nights in the beer cellar, there is always a musical event to enjoy in college! One of the highlights of each term is the President's Concert, which is always well attended and much loved. Visit @tcms_oxford on Instagram for more.

Trinity College Choir

The Trinity College Choir is not auditioned so anyone, regardless of prior experience, can get involved. They perform evensong every Sunday and enjoy a formal dinner together afterwards. Find @tccc_oxford on Instagram for more information.

Trinity College Climbing

Same as above: Sahil runs weekly sessions to local climbing gyms, with subsidies for those who come to the group sessions. The climbing is mostly bouldering (no ropes needed) but you can also borrow a harness to climb longer walls – this sport can get expensive, but the college structure aims to allow you to try it out much more

cheaply. I will say one of the locations, Gallery, is a really nice social space with a great café too – easy to camp out in all afternoon! Contact Sahil Grover on +447881 083851. Instagram: @trinityclimbers

15. AN INCOMPLETE COMPLETE GUIDE TO OXFORD SUBJECTS

(Not to be taken seriously!)

Biochemistry	Most likely to carry out biological warfare using what they learn in labs.
Biomedicine	A smaller subject that falls somewhere between BioChem and medicine.
Chemistry	Chemistry is definitely an intense degree, yet the chemists tend to work hard and play hard.
Classics	Slightly culty, classicists seem to do a fair amount of chanting. They all want to live out their Secret History dreams.
CompSci	A smaller subject in Oxford, the rare non-asocial CSer will either give you the coolest conversation of your life or talk your ear off with absurd tech jargon.
E&M (economics and management)	People who do E&M do it because they want to make a tonne of money. There are probably E&Mers with other reasons; we haven't met any of them yet.
Engineering	The reclusive and mysterious engineers are pretty cool, if you do ever get to meet them.
English	You can always count on the English students to be good fun (just don't ask them about their degree!)
History	They definitely didn't only choose their degree because they like Horrible Histories. Historians spend most of their time battling immensely long reading lists- but somehow never seem to have that much work...
History and Politics	A rarer breed, but this editor would say that Histpol students are the PPE students with half the political aspirations and double the fun.
Ancient and Modern History	Are they classicists? Are they historians? Who knows, but they're lonely, that's for sure, with an intake of only one per year.

Law	Anyone who gets into a debate with a law student is braver than I am.
Material Science	Not just pseudo-engineering, the MatScis are some of the coolest people in college- which is necessary, since there are hundreds of them. A curious blend between some of the smartest people you will know and those who are (apparently) only here to get seriously stuck into a Parkend night.
Maths	The mathmos can usually be found slaving away over a problem sheet that looks more like ancient runes than maths to anyone who isn't a maths genius.
Medicine	Don't sit next to medics in the library unless you're very comfortable seeing textbook pages full of blood and guts. Similarly, if they start talking about their dissections and the smell of formaldehyde- RUN!
Modern languages	French, Spanish, or Portuguese, there is a lot of variation in the courses taken by modern languages students. They get to do a year abroad, which everyone is definitely jealous of.
Music	More likely to break it down to Shostakovich than to anything you would hear in a club, the musicians are great fun if you can find a time where they aren't off at a rehearsal.
PPE	Any one of the PPE students could be the next prime minister, so get your bribes and favours in now ahead of time. That is, when they decide to actually do some of their degree work.
Physics	If you ever want to know how something works, you can ask a physicist. Just be aware that they'll either launch into an hour-long discussion of a subject only tangentially related to your original question or hide the fact that they have no clue what the answer is by saying "that's engineering/maths/only covered in third year".
Theology	None of us are sure what the theologians actually do, but they definitely sound very smart when they talk about it.

16. OXFORD JARGON

Oxford can be quite overwhelming at times in terms of the quirky phrases that are tossed around, so we've compiled a list of the essentials to make your lives just that bit easier.

Balls	Elaborate black or white tie events hosted by colleges that usually take place every three years in Trinity term.
Battels	Termly charges made to you by the college - rent, electric, water!
Blue/half blue	A prestigious award for sporting achievement on a university level.
BNOC	Short for "Big name on campus". Refers to a student who is famous across the university, for both good and bad reasons. They can be the most social and outgoing people you ever meet, or the most problematic.
Bod	The Bodleian Library, the main library at the University of Oxford
Bod card	Student card that grants you access to university buildings and is used to pay for dining in hall. Try your best not to lose it!
Bop	Stands for "Big Organised Party". It is a college party, and sometimes different colleges collaborate with each other to host them. Super fun and always worth checking out.
Broadsheet	Trinity's own termly gossip magazine. Watch out – you might get your own feature in there!
Brookes	Oxford Brookes University. Not to be confused with the University of Oxford.
Circuit laundry	The bane of every student's existence. You will use the app to access the washing machines and dryers which can be found by Staircase 18 or in the Levine Basement.
Collection	An exam sat in college which has been set by your tutors. It takes place at the start of term, usually during 0th week. Seriously, do not stress about them, they are less formal than you'd expect. No subfusc required!
Coming up	Arriving in Oxford at the beginning of each term.

Crew date	A social event that is usually organised by two sports teams.
Cuppers	An intercollegiate sports competition.
Entz	An elected post within the JCR carrying the responsibility of organising entertainment events, such as Bops.
Fifth week blues	When it gets to the fifth week of term and the countless number of assignments and/or Park Ends begin to take their toll on you. Don't worry the Welfare Representatives are always on hand to help you, especially with their most loved Welfare teas where you can drown your sorrows in food.
Finals	The exams you sit at the end of your degree which determine your final degree mark.
Formal hall/ formals	A served three course meal in hall that takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday, except from Guest Night on Friday which has four courses. You can book formals on the MyOxford University app, just bring your bod card with you to the hall so you can register there. You are required to wear your gowns to attend.
The Glink	The Gladstone Link, the library that connects the Bodleian Old Library with the Radcliffe Camera. Enter at your own risk, or study here if you want to be motivated by the void of humanity that is the glink.
Getting sent down	Being expelled from the university for good by your college.
Going down	Departing Oxford at the end of term
Hilary	The second term of the year from January to March.
JCR	Short for Junior Common Room. Refers to two things, the physical room where undergraduate students gather and the undergraduate student body itself.
Matriculation	The ceremony that marks a student's official admission to the University, taking place on the Saturday of 1 st Week of Michaelmas term
Mods	Moderations, the exams sat at the end of Hilary Term of first year by lawyers and psychologists, and the exams sat at the end of Hilary Term of second year by classicists.
MCR	Refers to the "Middle Common Room", Trinity's postgraduate body.

Michaelmas	The first term of the academic year, lasting from October to December. Despite the short, dark days, there is still a lot of fun to be had.
The Other Place	Cambr*dge University
Pidge	Your pigeonhole located in the porters' lodge where your mail is delivered to. At Oxford, your postal address is Trinity College, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BH.
Porters	Members of staff who act like college receptionists/security and are on hand 24/7 in the plodge and are contactable in emergencies by 01865 279900.
Prelims	Preliminary examinations, the exams sat at the end of first year by those who don't have mods.
Punting	The weirdest form of transport in Oxford, where you essentially try not to stab the riverbed while trying not to run over any ducks. Highly recommended.
Radcam	The Radcliffe Camera, the most iconic landmark of the Oxford skyline and a popular library spot.
Rustication	Taking a year out of your degree due to personal or academic reasons
SOLO	"Search Oxford Libraries Online", Oxford's online library catalogue.
Sub fusc	Dark academic dress worn under a gown to formal events such as matriculation, end of year exams and graduation.
Scout	The people who clean your room and change your bin. They are generally all lovely – don't forget to ask your scout their name! Everyone inevitably has at least one intensely awkward experience when a scout comes in at exactly the wrong moment.
Stash	Oxford college or society branded merchandise; the puffer jacket is particularly popular.
Staircases	Accommodation is grouped together into staircases, usually of between 8-24 rooms. Rooms within staircases tend to be similar but between staircases they can vary significantly.

Summer Eights	The rowing races towards the end of Trinity. The closest thing Oxford has to the Superbowl.
Tescalator	The escalator in the Magdalen Street East (central Oxford) Tesco – a beloved cultural touchstone for all Oxford students. Occasionally breaks down.
Torpids	The rowing races towards the end of Hilary.
Tute	Tutorial. 'Nuff said.
Trinity Term	The third term, April to June. Still cold but not as dark. Exams are usually in this term but there's still time for punting, picnics, and lots of other nice things.
Vac	"Vacation" – the break between terms. Time to catch up on sleep, see friends and generally regain your sanity.
Varsity	Any (typically sports) competition against Cambridge University.
Welfare tea	Free snacks every Friday supplied by your lovely welfare reps! Typically, in the JCR.