What is the MCR?

Welcome to the Trinity MCR! We are a close-knit, thriving community right in the centre of Oxford – small enough so that you’ll always see a familiar face around college, but always hosting parties, guest nights, and cultural events. We pride ourselves in welcoming graduate students from all sorts of different backgrounds, from all over the world.

The term ‘MCR’ will become your most widely used piece of Oxford jargon – it refers both to the physical home of graduate students at Trinity, and the community itself. We’re lucky to have our Middle Common Room located right in the centre of town, on the main college site on Broad Street (on staircase 2), meaning that it’s super easy to pop there for lunch or that much-needed mid-afternoon cup of tea from the different libraries and labs across Oxford. With views across to the Sheldonian, our common room is a lovely place to escape from work for a bit. And free tea and coffee is always available! Below is the MCR kitchen, which is used not only to host shared meals across the year, but also can be used by all Trinity grads day-to-day. It also has lockers for those grad students living off-site.

As a Trinity graduate, you’ll automatically become a member of the MCR community. As one of the smaller MCRs in Oxford, we pride ourselves on being a warm community full of students that know, and look out for each other, really well. Social membership is also available – so if you are coming to Oxford with a significant other, they will be able to get access to MCR facilities and events. Just get in touch with the MCR committee when you arrive.
The MCR hosts loads of events in term time, from weekly catch-ups to fundraising events and parties.

- The Welfare Officer hosts a **weekly pizza and film night** (with, trust us, the best pizza in town) which doubles up as a chance to check in and have a breather. Lots of MCR members across the different years go, so it’s a great chance to get to know everyone better.

- New to Trinity last year, every week our Equalities Officer hosts an **Equality Forum**. Each week sees us discuss a different topic – from trans rights to racial discrimination, from feminism to mental health, from LGTBQI+ issues to disability – in a bid to raise awareness, provide our students with a platform for expression, and just have a welcome chat in the safe space of the MCR.

- The Welfare Officer also hosts a **weekly yoga class** in college (for free!) to help people unwind in the chaotic term times.

- **Exchange dinners** are a really fun way of meeting new people from the different colleges around Oxford. Three or four times a term, Trinity grad students get the chance to have dinner and drinks at another college’s MCR, and then in turn host this college for the home leg. These dinners are dead popular – remember to sign up quick when they get released!

- ‘Bops’ are the weird Oxford jargon for a **college party** – often involving some embarrassing fancy dress, some embarrassing dancing, and plenty of free wine (and soft drinks if you prefer). Trinity has them twice a term, and we can also go to the ones hosted by the other colleges.

- The **MCR Gala dinner** in Trinity term is the biggest, fanciest event in the MCR year – a black tie dinner with a charity auction. Always a lovely night for the whole MCR to come together, last year we raised £2,000 for a homelessness charity in Oxford!
We’re lucky that Trinity is **one of the colleges usually able to provide accommodation for all of its first year graduates** – this makes moving much less stressful, especially if you’re new to Oxford and don’t want to tackle private renting for your first year. Trinity houses some graduates on its main site on Broad Street (especially lots of international students), but also in college houses in North and East Oxford. On Woodstock Road, Trinity owns a converted nunnery – big and rambling with a huge common room, around 50 students live here in rooms of varying sizes. There are only two kitchens, so if you are not planning on lots of cooking, then this is a good option for you. There’s also a study room and a workout space, and a laundry room. Just around the corner on Rawlinson Road is a group of houses and flats where most postgraduates live. The two big, old houses each have kitchens shared between 7 and 12 people respectively, with 18 Rawlinson Road having a common room too, while the more modern flats have kitchens and sometimes living rooms shared between 2-3 people. Trinity is expanding its facilities on the main site, which means we currently have some additional properties for first year grads, on Woodstock Road, and on Stanley Road, in Cowley. It is best to contact
our very friendly Accommodation Manager Mandy Giles for more detailed information about the rooms, and even to arrange a visit to come and have a look around once you have been allocated yours – you can find her email in the list of useful contacts. The college’s tenancy agreements last three academic terms rather than 12 months, but if you’d rather stay in Oxford over summer, Mandy will arrange an extension to the tenancy. Compared to many of the other colleges, Trinity’s rents are pretty decent, ranging from £450 to £700 a month. Do contact Mandy if you would prefer, or will only be able to afford, one of the cheaper rooms – she tries hard to accommodate requests like this. Utilities (gas and electricity) are paid separately on top of rent.

Living in college accommodation for the first year is a really good way of easily meeting other graduate students. If you’d rather privately rent, however, then most students live in East Oxford (between St. Clements, Cowley Road, and Iffley Road) or in Jericho. East Oxford is the cheapest part of town, and with all of its pubs, clubs, and restaurants, the most fun too. But Jericho, full of independent shops, off the tourist trails, and close to Port Meadow, is really lovely too. Don’t leave it too late to start looking – student accommodation is quite sparse in Oxford, so get on Rightmove as soon as your offer has come through.
Trinity takes the physical and emotional welfare of our graduate community really seriously; the college is committed to supporting its grad students in what can be a challenging few years. The MCR Welfare Officer is your first port-of-call for all things regarding welfare, and is available to chat to any time of day or night. They will not only be able to offer non-judgemental and confidential advice, but also will be able to point you in the direction of further resources or channels for you to access more support. These include:

**Junior Deans**
- Living in every cluster of graduate accommodation, the Junior Deans are 2nd and 3rd year graduate students on hand at all times to support the MCR community.

**MCR President**
- The MCR President is the face of the MCR – they oversee its daily running and represent the MCR’s voice at committee meetings across college. And they also have a welfare duty to the MCR students – they are especially good at pointing those who are struggling towards the resources that they can access in college, or in the University more broadly.

**Welfare Dean**
- The College Chaplain Emma Percy is also our Welfare Dean here in Trinity. Renowned for her kindness, Emma works alongside the Junior Deans and the MCR Welfare Officer. She can not only offer confidential support and advice, but can also help you to liaise with the college and the University if you need some more substantial support, or need to step away from your studies for a bit. Her email is: emma.percy@trinity.ox.ac.uk.
College Nurse

• Alison Nicholls runs the college surgery in a series of drop-in appointments throughout the week – it’s best to check with the Welfare Officer when you arrive what this term’s hours are. Her office is on the ground floor of staircase one, and she can also be emailed at trinitynurse@nhs.net. She deals with any physical health problems, of course, but is always available for any form of mental health support too. She can also help you to get a doctor’s appointment at short notice, as she liaises with the College doctors working at the Summertown Health Centre, up on Banbury Road in North Oxford. You must register with the GP when you arrive: all information can be found at wwwsummertownhealthcentre.co.uk.

Counselling Service

• The Oxford counselling service offers individual and group counselling sessions, workshops, and self-help resources. Again, all information can be found at: www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling or at 3 Worcester Street, Oxford, OX1 2BX. The University is committed to helping students to maintain their mental health – please reach out to them if you need to.

Nightline

• Nightline is a listening and support service provided by students from 8pm to 8am during term time. Their number is: 01865 270270.
Extra Practical hints

Accommodation Manager: mandy.giles@trinity.ox.ac.uk
- For all questions and queries about accommodation.

Academic Administrator: academic.administrator@trinity.ox.ac.uk

As postgraduate students, our faculty or department takes care of most of our admissions process. When your offer comes through, the University will send you a contract to sign and return, which kicks off the process of being able to get your University Card. If you’re in any doubt about your academic or language conditions, then contact the admissions team in your department. The academic administrator in college, Ashley Maguire, is then on hand to oversee your specific admission to Trinity. She is also a useful first port-of-call if you have any administrative queries about your course.

Fees and Battels Administrator: fees@trinity.ox.ac.uk

College is responsible for collecting your fees – for both the University and the college. If your postgraduate degree is funded, your funding body will most likely be paying your course fees for you. But there are some things that you will owe College for, such as rent, utilities, and money for your University Card (Bod Card), which will allow you to pay for meals in the college dining hall, and drinks in the Beer Cellar. These fees are known as ‘battels’, in yet another piece of weird Oxford language. To pay these online, go to: www2.trinity.ox.ac.uk, or you can pay in person in the Bursary. If you have any questions about any of these money matters, then contact the Fees and Battels Administrator.

Estates Bursar: christopher.ferguson@trinity.ox.ac.uk

You might not encounter our Estates Bursar, Christopher Ferguson, throughout your time at Trinity, but he is the person to go to if you are experiencing any unexpected financial hardship. He will be able to help you work through your difficulties by talking you through the funding options that Trinity of the University offers.
**Senior Tutor:** senior.tutor@trinity.ox.ac.uk

Prof. Valerie Worth is Trinity’s Senior Tutor, which includes being Tutor for Graduates – so she oversees all of the graduate students in college and their progress during their degrees. You will meet up with her at the beginning and end of year – she is full of great Oxford advice, but also on hand if you have a more serious problem, such as not getting on well with your supervisor. She chairs the College grants committee and oversees scholarships awarded to graduates. Funding ranges from books and travel grants to a variety of subject-specific scholarships. For more information about postgraduate grants, see www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/support-and-welfare/postgraduate-financial-support; and for more on bursaries and prizes, see www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/cultural-travel-and-prizes

**The MCR Committee**

- President: Eilidh Macfarlane MCR-president@trinity.ox.ac.uk
- Vice-President and Welfare Officer: Neale Marlow MCR-welfare@trinity.ox.ac.uk
- Secretary: Juliana Lee MCR-secretary@trinity.ox.ac.uk
- Social Secs: Bethany White & Rowan Curtis MCR-social@trinity.ox.ac.uk
- Treasurer: Neil Lewis MCR-treasurer@trinity.ox.ac.uk
- Equality Officer: Jean Balchin jean.balchin@trinity.ox.ac.uk
- Access Officer: Rachel Hindmarsh rachel.hindmarsh@trinity.ox.ac.uk