

Coming up to Oxford: a “To Do” list compiled by the MCR

As an Oxford Student, you will acquire a whole new vocabulary. A student doesn't arrive at Oxford, one *comes up* to Oxford. Here is a checklist of things to do to make your 'coming up' to Oxford run smoothly and ensure that you return the requested documents to College on time.

Before you leave home:

Non-EU students (except Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland): bring all documents for immigration including your acceptance letters from your faculty and College, proof of financial support, your college letter detailing your accommodation (sent to you in August) or proof of out of college housing, and an entry clearance (student visa) if required.

→ <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/io/>

→ <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/io/guide/before.shtml>

Register: Complete the first part of registration by logging onto the self-service site. Your password will be provided to you by College soon.

→ http://www.ox.ac.uk/current_students/registration_self_service/index.html

Submit your arrival date to Lincoln: Let the College know what date you plan to arrive and an approximate arrival time. For international students flying into Heathrow, estimate 3 to 4 hours between landing and arriving via bus at Gloucester Green. If arriving at Gatwick, estimate 4-5 hours.

→ http://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/maps_and_directions/

Money: It can take several weeks to set up a bank account, so make sure you bring enough pounds sterling to cover your living expenses for the first few weeks. Also be prepared to receive a BIG invoice from College (known as “battel”), which you will have to pay soon after the beginning of term. Please refer to the Bursar's letter for details about what you will be charged for your accommodation (depending on the grade of your room; you pay for the whole term), and for your College and University fees (depending on your course). On top of that, you will be charged £67 for the term's meal plan, and around £30 for other charges. If you are an international student, you may wish to begin the process of opening a bank account. See the attached banking sheet for local branches and ask your home bank if they have international partners.

→ http://www.ukcosa.org.uk/student/bank_account.php

Computing: Make sure your computer has current anti-virus software, or you will be unable to access the network upon arrival. In your room, you will be able to access the University Network by plugging your computer into the Ethernet socket. In the MCR, Library and other areas of the College and of the University, Wireless access is possible after you download the VPN software.

→ <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/network/vpn/>

Electricity: The UK runs on 220/240v 50Hz with three pronged sockets. This is fine for most international laptops and personal computers (with and adaptor), but it is not recommended that you bring hairdryers and other items that are usually incompatible with British electrical voltage. You may want to bring an adapter depending on your country of origin and what electronics you choose to bring with you.

Sub fusc: This is the formal academic dress required for matriculation, exams and special occasions. For women, this is dark (preferably black) skirt or trousers, dark stockings and shoes or boots, with a white blouse and a black ribbon tie. You may wear a black jacket, if so desired. For men, this means a dark (preferably black) suit, socks, shoes or boots, white shirt and collar, white bow tie. Gowns, mortarboards and ties may be bought on arrival for £ 40-60, but make sure to pack the basic attire.

Semi-formal attire, or “Jacket & tie”: For events such as MCR or society dinners and other special occasions, bring a semi-formal outfit. For men, this tends to be a suit, shirt and tie. For women, this means “smart” attire that would fit a semi-formal occasion, or a cocktail party.

Formal attire, or “Black tie”: In all likelihood you will attend some “black tie” events while at Oxford, such as a college ball or a special dinner. Men wear dinner jackets/tuxedos with a black bow tie; women dress more formally. This attire can be rented from several shops in town.

Bedding: College does NOT provide linens, although they can be easily obtained at shops in town (Primark and other stores at the Westgate Shopping Centre, Argos on New Inn Street, or Boswell’s in Cornmarket). If you plan to bring linen from home, be advised that sheet size corresponds to a standard single. College does NOT provide duvets, nor pillows.

On arrival day

Check in at the Porter’s Lodge to get your room keys (if you have a College accommodation), access card (known as “swipe card”), and arrival information and directions. The lodge is accessible 24 hours a day. If the entrance door is locked, please ring the bell located on the right hand-side of the door. If the porter is absent, just wait a few minutes: he won’t be long.

Soon after arrival, **see Carmella Elan-Gaston, the Graduate Officer, in Staircase 4 (Front Quad)** to finalise your register and collect your student ID card (known as “bodcard”) which you need to access libraries, the dining hall, etc.

See Mike White, the Computing Officer at the very top of Staircase 4 (Front Quad) to set up your Lincoln College login and for any computing help. You will need a Lincoln login to access all college computers except those in the library and the MCR.

Set up your Oxford email account. To do this, you will need to have sent your University contract back, which will enable your University card to be issued and an email account to be initiated by the Oxford University Computing Services. You will receive a letter with instructions and an activation code together with your University card (bodcard).

Join the Oxford Facebook Network (if you don’t have a Facebook account yet, we advise you to create one: a lot of events are advertised through FB), and subscribe to the Lincoln MCR and the Lincoln MCR social groups to start getting to know other students.

During your first week:

Check in at your department and note the **schedule of orientations events** they have prepared for you. Contact your departmental supervisor if you know who it is.

Read your Welcome Pack to find out who your **College Advisor** is, and schedule a meeting with him or her.

Buy the necessary part of the sub-fusc attire (see above), as you will need to wear it for the Matriculation Ceremony on October 17th. Check at Ede & Ravenscroft on the High Street, or Walter's on Turl Street.

Buy a laundry card from the Lodge (£ 5) and top it up on the machine in the College Lodge.

Get informed about degree ceremonies (graduation), especially if you are on a one year course.

Sign up for meals if you wish to eat in hall. The sign-in sheet is posted in the Lodge and you must enter your name by 10am on the same day to reserve a space. Signing up is only necessary before the beginning of 1st Week.

Come to as many social events as you can organised during Freshers' Week: they are fun and will give you the chance to get to meet a lot of students very fast!

Checklist of Forms and Information to be returned to College by September 1:

- University Student Contract
- College Student Contract
- Junior member Student Record Form
- College Deposit of £ 200
- Final funding source information
- 4 passport photos with name written on the back