

International Students Guide

Lincoln College

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Intro Message <3



First things first, a big welcome to Lincoln College! We're Manali and Becca, second years at Lincoln, and we are your International Students Representatives.

This is a guide to introduce you to the lively world of Oxford. We have firsthand experience being overwhelmed and clueless when we first moved to the UK last year, and we hope that we can make your transition much smoother.

Much love,
Becca and
Manali

Contact Info



As always, we are around to answer any questions you might have before your arrival and during term, and you can email us and we can direct you to any further help you might need.

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Arrival

Most of you will be flying in via Heathrow Airport. The Airline is a bus service that runs from Heathrow to Central Oxford multiple times a day and this is typically what most of us use. We recommend booking in advance.

Pro tip: If you have a lot of luggage, tell the bus driver to drop you off at Queens Lane (versus the central stop Gloucester Green). This makes your walk to college shorter.

For more information on how to get to Oxford from various airports/train stations can be found here:

ox.ac.uk/students/new/international.

ACCOMMODATION

When you first get to college, go inside and turn right and you are instantly in the Lodge, where our friendly Porters are.

Just introduce yourself as a new student and ask them for the key to your room, and they will give you instructions. On move-in day there will be plenty of freshers' helpers around college to give you directions!

As an international student, if you arrive in the UK before the official move-in day, you can write an email to the Accommodation Team at accommodation@lincoln.ox.ac.uk and ask if you can move into your room slightly earlier.

This isn't always possible due to internal events, but worth a try if you are in the UK early.



**you know
you are
at lincoln
when you
see the
gorgeous
ivy on the
walls**

**this is
what
your
home for
the next
three
years
looks like**

ESSENTIALS

BANKING

PHONES

HEALTHCARE

a) money and banking

Make sure you bring enough cash to cover at least a month of living expenses. Most places in Oxford have contactless payment, but smaller family businesses may still be cash only

You can easily set up a bank account with a direct online banking service like Revolut or Monzo. These use real-time exchange rates.

- Note that these don't have physical branches in Oxford.
- What this means:
- You cannot deposit cash or cheques
- You can make international payment transfers into your account
- You can order a physical debit card through the mail to use for contactless payments and cash points (ATMs) to withdraw cash.

We highly recommend doing this, as we both use Revolut for all our day-to-day transactions in Oxford.

a) money and banking

If you want to set up an international student account with a traditional bank, you need to do so online, and only after you officially register with the University in Fresher's Week. This is something you cannot do before you arrive, UNLESS you have an existing HSBC account at home, through which you can easily set up a UK one.

The crucial documents you will need for your application are:

- a valid passport and visa
- your Student Enrolment Certificate which can be downloaded only after you finish your university registration (which happens in Freshers' Week)
- proof of an accommodation agreement showing that you live at a valid a UK address

Very detailed information on this process can be found at

<https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/opening-a-bank-account> and

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/international>

easiest to
open



LLOYDS BANK



NatWest



HSBC



Santander



BARCLAYS

hardest
to open

b) phones

In an irritating sequence, you can't set up a SIM card contract until you have a UK bank account, so you need to do that first. You can buy temporary prepaid SIM cards, but they are not worth your money in the long-term.

You can set up your SIM card contract at different telco companies' physical branches or apply online. There are various options, but we have the insider info on each popular telco company on the next page

02

Not great. As of my experience in 2022, you need a bank account that's linked to a UK address that's NOT a college address, or else they won't process your application. Since we international students don't have a non-college address, this isn't possible L

EE

EE needs you to have a physical debit card that they can verify in person, so make sure you have one before you apply

Giffgaff

Manali uses Giffgaff. You don't need a bank account for this, and the signup process is quick. Their coverage is not the best, but their prices are.

Three

Becca uses Three. They have a student deal where they offer 50% off your first six months in a 24-month deal for unlimited mobile data, texts and phone calls.

c) healthcare

In the UK, healthcare is provided by the National Health Service, the NHS.

As international students, you can use the NHS if:

- you are an EU/EEA student with settled/pre-settled status, meaning you have evidence that you were a resident in the UK before 31st Dec 2020 OR
- you are a student on a course longer than 6 months who has paid the Immigration Health Surcharge, which is part of obtaining a student visa.

Our nearest health centre is KES@Northgate, which is only a minute's walk from college.

You should be registered with them by the time you join us in Oxford

The GPs there are friendly but do note that getting an in-person consultation for non-urgent ailments or follow-ups can take up to several weeks.

You have a much better chance of speaking to them over the phone, but they do accommodate emergencies on the same day when needed.

If they prescribe you medicine, ask them to send it to the Boots Pharmacy just across the road from KES@Northgate, and a minute away from college.

in the event of an emergency

The nearest Accident & Emergency department is at the John Radcliffe Hospital. To call an ambulance, dial 999 from a landline, or 112 from a mobile.

There is also a First Aid kit at the Lodge, and the Porters can help you in an emergency.

laundry

At Lincoln, we have laundry rooms in the main college and in Lincoln House/Staircase 15, which are the two freshers' accommodation sites. The washing machines and dryers are all operated by Circuit Laundry.

LINCOLN HOUSE / STAIRCASE 15

Ask the Porters at the Lodge for a laundry card and top it up online

MAIN COLLEGE

Get a laundry card OR download the Circuit Laundry app

Manali recommends the app because she keeps losing her laundry card :(

Rooms

your rooms definitely have

- A sheetless bed: some lucky individuals get a double bed but most of them are singles
- Desk and chair
- En-suite bathroom with sink, shower and toilet!
Yay
- Shelves
- Closet

You can choose to buy
a bedding package
from

[https://www.unikitout.com/
collections/bedroom](https://www.unikitout.com/collections/bedroom).

The College provides
toilet paper and bin
liners, and sanitary
products can be found
in the laundry rooms.

Things like soap, mugs,
hangers, hair dryers,
etcare not provided, so
please plan around this.

It is against your
accommodation
agreement to have any
cooking equipment like
rice cookers, mini waffle
makers etc., so please
save suitcase space
and don't bring those.
You are allowed a kettle
and a mini fridge.

Homeware

Want to decorate that empty room? The largest dedicated homeware stores in Oxford are Dunelm, Home Bargains and the Botley Retail Park which are not in the city centre, but a 30-minute walk or 15-minute drive away.

For less choice but more convenience, try the Home sections in Next, Primark or Marks and Spencer (M&S) in Westgate shopping centre, where they also sell bedding, décor, and kitchenware.

Sustainable options: Shops like Oxfam and British Heart Foundation often have unique second-hand things for sale, and you can find anything and everything super cheap at the discount retailer TK Maxx which gives the unsold stock of other brands a second life.

If you urgently need basic homeware like plates, cups, cutlery and clothes hangers, you can get them from the Tesco Express on Magdalen Street, which leads us to:

Supermarkets

TESCO EXPRESS

on Magdalen Street, with two floors!! and the small Sainsbury's right next to it (4-minute walk)

TESCO EXPRESS

on St Aldate's (7-minute walk)

SAINSBURY

on St Aldate's (3-minute walk)

M&S FOOD

which is inside M&S near Westgate (5-minute walk)

SAINSBURY

in Westgate, which is slightly bigger than the other Sainsburys (8-minute walk)

Speciality Stores

for when you
might be craving
specific snacks

GG ORIENTAL
SNACK
SNACK @
GLOUCESTER
GREEN

sells east
asian drinks,
snacks and
pot noodles

7 MIN WALK

SEOUL PLAZA
@ COWLEY
ROAD

more east
asian specialty
snacks.

cheaper than
tesco for your
instant noodle
needs.

15 MIN WALK

TAHMID
STORES
@COWLEY
ROAD

specialises in
south asian
goods and
snacks

15 MIN WALK

Food Recs

EDAMAME

Our go-to when we are hungry
Small, authentic Japanese restaurant with a changing menu and shared tables. There's a long queue during the weekends, but it's so worth it. Trust us.

FUSION HOUSE ON WOODSTOCK ROAD

great East Asian food with huge portions and reasonable prices, good for takeaways!

TURTLE BAY AT FRIAR'S ENTRY

amazing Caribbean food, vibrant atmosphere and good for groups

BANGKOK HOUSE

Great Thai restaurant with amazing lunch deals.

TSE NOODLES

Family-owned business with amazing homemade noodles and dumplings. Mr Tse is a noodle wizard. This place is case only!!!

GEORGINA'S CAFE

This is located in the Covered Market which is right next to college. Greek wraps, salads and pastries, good spot for a light yet satisfying lunch

GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET

The market is open Wednesday to Saturday from 9 am to 4/5pm and has great food stalls serving cuisines from all around the world. It's a great place to grab lunch with friends and chat with stall owners about their lives and their food.

British Slang & Culture

It can be a challenge to follow conversations between British students sometimes. We can't lie, the learning curve can be a little daunting.

Keep up with your new British friends with our handy dictionary of common things you might hear around college!

*There is a lot more, but there might be
ones you will hear the most often in
Fresher's Week.*

Mate= friend

*Lads = usually means boys but can also
mean a general "you guys"*

Getting pissed = getting drunk

Taking the piss = joking

Crack on= proceed quickly

Quid= another way to say pounds, as in £

Maccies= Mcdonalds

*Spoons= Wetherspoons, a popular cheap
chain of pubs*

Dodgy = Strange/suspicious

Oxford Slang that might be good to know

Battels = The termly charges made to you by college. Includes accommodation, JCR, etc.

Bod card = your student card

Bop = College party in the college bar (typically)

JCR = (1) Junior Common Room, the literal common room for undergraduates. On the left before stairs on staircase 5. (2) The undergraduate body of the college.

Oxfess = A facebook anonymous confessions page for Oxford students.

Noughth Week = The week before the first week of term. For you guys, this will be your fresher's week.

Sub-fusc = your uniform. You'll need to wear this to matriculation as well as to any examination you sit at Oxford. There will be a lot of freshers heading out to buy their sub-fusc's during fresher's week so we highly recommend tagging along with them.

Drinking Drinking Drinking

IN THE UK, IT IS COMMON FOR PEOPLE TO DRINK SOCIALLY AND OFTEN, AND THIS MIGHT BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'RE USED TO AT HOME. ALCOHOL IS RELATIVELY AFFORDABLE IN THE UK, AND AS A RESULT A LOT OF STUDENTS GATHER IN THEIR COLLEGE BAR OR IN SPOONS AND OTHER PUBS TO DRINK AT NIGHT.

WE WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRINK TO FIT IN.

NOT EVERY BRIT DRINKS, AND CERTAINLY NO ONE WILL MAKE YOU FEEL EXCLUDED FOR NOT DRINKING. THE ENTERTAINMENT (ENTZ) TEAM AT LINCOLN ALWAYS PROVIDES NON-ALCOHOLIC OPTIONS AT COLLEGE PARTIES, AND YOU CAN CHOOSE TO GET SOFT DRINKS AND MOCKTAILS AT BARS AND PUBS.

Drinking Drinking Drinking

Sarcasm Sarcasm Sarcasm

WE SPOKE TO FELLOW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WHO IDENTIFIED BRITISH SARCASM AS ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO PICK UP. WHEN IN DOUBT IF SOMEONE IS JOKING OR NOT, IT'S BEST TO JUST ASK.

Sarcasm Sarcasm Sarcasm

Confusing Names

HERE ARE JUST A FEW TRADITIONAL BRITISH DISHES THAT THE COLLEGE KITCHEN SOMETIMES PUTS ON THEIR MENU WHICH CAN BE MISLEADING IF YOU TAKE THEM LITERALLY:

BLACK PUDDING

- THIS IS NOT A DESSERT BUT A SAVOURY DISH. IT IS A KIND OF SAUSAGE MADE WITH COW OR PIG'S BLOOD.

YORKSHIRE PUDDING

- THIS IS ALSO NOT REALLY A DESSERT, BUT A COMMON SIDE DISH THAT LOOKS LIKE A PASTRY AND IS TYPICALLY SERVED WITH GRAVY.

TOAD IN THE HOLE

- THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE SAUSAGES AND THE YORKSHIRE PUDDING.

BUBBLE AND SQUEAK

- SOMETIMES SERVED AT BREAKFAST, BUBBLE AND SQUEAK IS A FRIED MIXTURE OF POTATO AND CABBAGE.

Confusing Names

MEETING PEOPLE

As of December 2022, 23% of undergraduates and 65% of graduates at Oxford are from outside the UK, so there's no shortage of people who, like you, will be far from home. Talking and hanging out with other international students who can understand your thoughts and feelings can be a lifeline in times of struggle and is also a great way to just make more friends! Luckily there's so many ways to meet other international students:

Societies

We have many university-wide student societies aimed at celebrating and sharing specific cultures. These are a great way to meet people from home and other countries outside the UK so you can form a wide support network of international students that goes beyond Lincoln.

Even if you're not interested in formally joining a society, almost all their social events are open to anyone to join in regardless of where you're from. They are casual and usually centre around an activity, so you have something to bond over. Some fun examples from the most recent term include:

- Ice skating session jointly held by German Society, French Society and Swiss Society
- “Pints, Punts and Picnics” held by the Malaysian and Singaporean Students’ Association
- “Baklava and Banter” held by the Arab Society

Social Media

The best way to keep up with societies' social events is to follow them on Instagram. Each society often has a social event planned for almost every week of term!

Some of these societies also have freshers' group chats on Whatsapp and even in-person induction events before the start of term, so check the register of student clubs, ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs/list to see the full list and search for them on Instagram if you're interested to find out more.

You can also follow the 2023 Oxford freshers' Instagram, @oxford.freshers.2023, by sending them proof of your offer. They have links to their Discord and many different group chats where you can talk to other new students before arriving.

Events

You might also consider attending more formal and structured events like balls and festivals. Some must-try events include European Night, held every term, which is a formal ball that sells out almost instantly. The societies also hold their own dinners and events, like the Hong Kong Society's popular Lunar New Year Party.

At Lincoln, our lovely Social Backgrounds Officer Ananya organises various cultural events within college and alongside other colleges as well! We've had an event celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi, as well as a cultural fashion show held with Brasenose, Exeter and Jesus College. This upcoming year we hope to collaborate with her to host many more events like this.

Together with Ananya, we will do our best to update everyone via email when we hear word of any upcoming cultural events.

This might have been a massive information dump and even if you don't want to read/ don't understand it, we promise that you will find your place here at Lincoln in no time.

When we first arrived, we were just as confused as you might be right now but know that you'll have people around you to make it all better. You already know two pretty cool people here if we do say so ourselves.

Both of us will be here before your fresher's week begins so drop us an email if you have any questions/need help moving in/want to grab a coffee to get to know each other. And of course, our inboxes will be open for the rest of the year as well.

We look forward to meeting all of you!

**See you very
soon,
Becca and
Manali <3**