

HCR Freshers Guide

2022/2023



Brasenose College
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Introduction

Welcome to Brasenose College, affectionately known as BNC, and the friendliest college in Oxford! As you probably know by now, The University of Oxford is something of a misnomer; Oxford is a federation of colleges that are largely self-governing. Thus, for graduates, life is a peculiar mix of college-centred and course-centred (for those on taught courses run by university faculties) or department-centred activities. On the college front, Brasenose is well-known as a friendly, welcoming community. We hope that you are as excited about joining our community as we are to have you.



We understand that everyone has some worries about arriving at a new university, but always remember that there are many people in the same boat. You will also meet many established students who will be only too happy to help or offer advice. We all know what it is like to be a graduate fresher, and we intend to make your integration into life at BNC as hassle-free as possible. We have arranged a series of events to introduce you to the community and make this place feel like home.

This document is a guide to life at Brasenose, including everything from laundry locations to hall meals to helpful hints compiled by current students. Our e-mail addresses can be found in this guide, and more information is on the [HCR website](#). In addition, the Blue Book (College Information and Regulations) is [available on the BNC website](#). It is a good idea to have browsed through it before you arrive, as it contains a variety of regulations that will be important to have familiarised yourself with.

Fun little history lesson: Before the 1960s, there was little provision for graduate students in Oxford colleges, and although graduate degrees were offered, there were far fewer graduates than today. Brasenose was one of the first colleges to set aside facilities specifically for graduates. In most colleges the graduate body is called the Middle Common Room (MCR) or Graduate Common Room (GCR). Brasenose's Hulme Common Room (HCR) is named after a 17th century benefactor who left the College property in Manchester. Little did he know that Manchester would develop into one of England's largest cities with office and residential space at a premium, and his descendants are probably cursing his generosity to this day! The HCR used to occupy the Old Cloisters (below the library) and was moved to where it is now (between Staircases III and IV) in 2004, pictured above.

The HCR

THE HULME COMMON ROOM (HCR)

This is both the place where graduate students gather, and the phrase commonly used in reference to the BNC graduate student body. The definition of “graduate” is vague, though. If you are studying for a higher degree, a second B.A., are a mature student, a “junior year abroad” programme student from an American university, or an exchange student from an E.U. country, then you will be a member of the HCR.

The HCR itself is a place where you can come to relax, read newspapers and magazines, make tea and coffee, eat your lunch, and catch up with friends. We also hold many of our social events here, such as games nights, cocktail parties and our infamous ‘Second Desserts’! Check out the [HCR website](#), for a quick introduction and easy access to information!

THE HCR COMMITTEE

The HCR is a democratically run institution that receives termly grants from college to cover the cost of events. The HCR has its own Committee and [Constitution](#) which represents graduate interests within the college and university. They also act as a point of contact for general welfare issues and organises various social events. Elections are held every year at the end of Hilary Term (or when needed) and any full member, duly proposed and seconded, may stand for a position in the HCR Committee.

HCR President: Christian Norton

Hello there! My name is Christian, and I’m a 4th year DPhil student in the (now) Department of Biology, but (previously) the Department of Plant Sciences. My research is about how the bacteria and fungi that live in soil impact groups of plants growing in a shared location. I’m in charge of the general running of the HCR and I represent our interests at various college meetings. I’m from Prince Edward Island, Canada.



HCR Equalities & Diversity Officer: Aldair Petronilla

Hi, I am Aldair Petronilla (Aldi for short). I am the HCR's Equalities and Diversity Officer and the Graduate Liaison Officer for Brasenose College Boat Club. Most of the time, you can find me either in the gym, running around town or in a boat on the river. When I am not in activewear, I spend the rest of my time working towards my degree. I am a 3rd year DPhil student in the EPSRC Mathematics of Random Systems CDT. The HCR is a highly heterogeneous society. Our members come from countries all over the world and have diverse backgrounds. My role is to help make the HCR a safe and inclusive place for everyone.

HCR Welfare Officer: Robyn Haggis

Hello! I'm Robyn, a second year DPhil student in Geography and one of your HCR welfare reps! Having done my master's and now DPhil at Brasenose I know the stresses that graduates and those new to Oxford can face. Along with Dana, I am here to support you in your welfare needs, whether you need someone to chat to, help coping with various struggles, figuring out life in Oxford, or finding the right professional welfare services. You will see me around college often and I am always available over email so please do reach out :) !

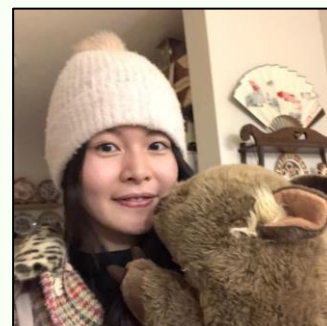


HCR Welfare Officer: Dana Vuckovic

My name is Dana and I'm a second-year DPhil student in French. As a DPhil fresher, I felt a little uneasy and nervous to join such a large college, however, it is thanks to the Welfare team that I found it much easier to feel like a part of the Brasenose family. With the help of the Wellness teas and yoga sessions, I instantly felt a sense of peace and belonging. As one of Brasenose's Welfare Officers and Peer Supporters, I'm here to ensure that students feel safe, tranquil and relaxed. I look forward to meeting all of you!

HCR Environment Rep: Linqing Zhu

I'm Linqing Zhu, a DPhil student in Oriental Studies, and the environment officer of the HCR. I am here to support our community to maintain in a healthy and eco-friendly life. I will lead walks to nearby parks and meadows, follows up with our college's Net Zero commitment, and will regularly update you with environment-related events happening in college and in town. If you know any events around us, or if you have any ideas or suggestions for the college to be greener, please let me know!



HCR Arts Officer: Piotr Silwa

Hi! I am Piotrek Sliwa and I am the HCR Arts Officer this year! I am looking forward to organizing book clubs, cinema trips, museum escapades, origami or calligraphy workshops and anything that has some artistic flavor ;) If you have any ideas, feel free to reach out, we can work something out. When I don't do Arts things, I work on statistical approaches to molecular health data integration, I play squash, go punting or visit other colleges for formals. Looking forward to meeting you!

HCR Steward: Matthew Buckland

Hi, I'm Matt. I am the HCR Steward and a 3rd year Maths DPhil student. Brasenose has been my home for several years; I completed my undergraduate degree here before starting my current course. Despite this, this is my first year on a committee at Brasenose and I've loved the role so far. Outside of university life, my interests include watching football (I'm a big West Ham fan!), playing squash, and learning French.



HCR Women's Rep: Despina Vasilaki

Hi, my name is Despina and I'm your HCR Women's Representative. This year I am returning to Brasenose to study an MPhil in Family Law, having previously completed the BCL. As Women's Representative, I liaise with the JCR Women's Officer and the college advisor to women students, distribute information on the subject of women's welfare, and will be available to talk confidentially with students and sign-post to appropriate welfare services

HCR Social Secretary: Rachel Keane

My name is Rachel and I'm a third year DPhil student at the Department of Civil Engineering. I carry out experimental work in the area of offshore wind. I play Gaelic football in my spare time (always recruiting if anybody wants to try out!). This year I'm the Social Secretary for Brasenose HCR where I organise the Exchange dinners with other colleges, and try my best to put on fun social events for the HCR. There are two open positions to join me, please consider! Can't wait to meet and have a great year with you all :D



Vacant Positions

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| VP Secretary / VP Treasurer | Social Secretary x 2 |
| Domestic Officer | BAME Rep |
| LGBTQ+ Rep | Library Rep |
| Sports Rep | Charities Rep |
| IT Rep | Wine & Cheese Rep |

In addition to the above HCR Committee roles, *Junior Deans* are graduate members who have been appointed by the College as prefect or resident advisor and support the Dean in disciplinary and student welfare matters. For example, they must ensure that the Bar is cleared after closing time and close any illegal parties (all gatherings of ten or more junior members must be approved by the Dean). **Please remember that the Junior Deans are graduate students like the rest of us and deserve the same respect as any of us. Little sympathy will be given if you are abusive toward them or ignore their requests in any way**

HCR MEETINGS

HCR General Meetings take place at least twice a term and are always well-advertised via email and social media notification beforehand. As a member of the HCR, you are entitled to attend as many meetings as you like and voting for motions is performed online so you will always have your say on the motions you care about. These meetings are the easiest way of making sure you have your say in college matters.

Any member can submit a motion for discussion, examples of previous motions and templates are available on the website or on request from the HCR Secretary. Importantly, now that we are back in person we can begin having in-person HCR General Meetings which means *free pizza* for attendees!

Graduate Accommodation

LOCATIONS

Brasenose graduate students who live in college accommodation typically live in one of two locations: the St Cross Annexe or Hollybush Row.

A word of warning: NEVER give St. Cross or Hollybush Row as your mailing address. The correct address is: (Your name), Brasenose College, Radcliffe Square, Oxford, OX1 4AJ (UK).

For your information, and for navigational and food delivery purposes ONLY, the respective accommodation addresses are:



Asdasd

**St. Cross Annexe, St. Cross Road,
Oxford, OX1 3TU**



**Hollybush Row, Oxford, OX1 1JR
(next-door to the Jam Factory)**

DOMESTIC FACILITIES

LAUNDRY:

St. Cross: Washers and dryers are available in an adjacent out-building and are shared between the two colleges. There are laundry facilities in the main college near the High Street entrance for students who live out of college and need a place to do their laundry.

Hollybush Row: Washers and dryers are available on the top floor.



KITCHENS: Amenities include a four-element cooker and oven, a refrigerator (and in a few kitchens, a freezer), a microwave, and cupboards assigned to individual rooms and equipped with locks. At St. Cross, some cooking utensils may have been left by previous residents, but don't depend on it!



PRINTERS: The HCR currently has three printers: one at St. Cross, one at Hollybush, and one in the HCR. These can be accessed through the printing portal, print.bnc.ox.ac.uk, and incur a standard charge which is added to your batels payment at the end of term. More information can be found on the Brasenose College IT website.

BICYCLES: Brasenose is very central, so most places are accessible by foot. There are bike racks at the St. Cross and Hollybush Row Annexes and around the college. Good locks (such as D locks) are essential, and you should always lock your bike to something solid, especially in town. The general rule is "cheap bike... expensive lock!" Lights are required by law after dusk and helmets

are highly recommended.

BLUE BOOK ADVICE

1. Rooms are allocated on the condition that rent is paid each term. Beware: Batels are sent out at the beginning of each term and must be paid promptly.
2. Remember to lock your room every time you leave it.
3. The College gate will be locked at 9.00 pm (term time). If you are going out, don't forget your fob - there is no other way to get into or out of College.
4. Any gathering of more than 10 people in a College room requires permission from the Dean. Failure to obtain this can result in substantial fines.
5. Excessive noise constitutes a disciplinary offence - consult the Blue Book for allowable "music hours."
6. Take care of your room and allow scouts access to clean it. Blue/white tack will be removed, and you will be fined, so don't use it.

People who live out of college should have their addresses and phone numbers kept with the lodge. If you want to get hold of them leave a note in their pigeon-hole. If living out, please remember to make a note of your contact information on the sheets provided in the lodge

College Life

MEALS and UPAY

Breakfast is available in halls **8:00 to 9:00 am Monday – Friday** and is replaced with **Brunch 11:00am to 12:15pm on Saturday-Sunday**. These meals are cafeteria style, and while cooked breakfasts are slightly more expensive the brunch on the weekends is excellent value! **Lunch** is available **12:30 to 1:15pm on Monday-Friday**, and is cafeteria style of usually 3 main meals, and desserts.

Dinners at Brasenose come in two forms: **Informal Halls** which are held every evening and **Formal Halls** which are a 3-course meal attended in gowns held at **7:15 on Tuesdays and Fridays, and 7:30 on Sundays**. Formal Halls must be pre-booked by 1:00pm the day of the meal (but often sell-out much before then, check out the [Brasenose College Formal Hall Ticket Exchange](#) for a chance to get traded tickets!)

All meals must be booked via [UPay](#), and you must have credit on your account to book meals. A guide for students using UPay can be found [here](#)!

FACILITIES

Brasenose College provides a wide array of academic and recreational facilities which support and enrich student life, the full details of which are most easily found on the college website. Some areas of high importance are: the college libraries, computing office, sports and music facilities, and the active college chapel.

THE PORTERS LODGE: Open 24 hours a day, this is a very busy part of College and run by the porters, whose job is to help keep the College running smoothly. The porters can be very helpful if you have any enquiries, but they can also act as disciplinarians should the need arise (so it is wise to stay on their good side).

Here is where you will find your pigeon-hole, a mailbox which you will share with one other person. Mail (internal and external) is delivered daily, so check your pigeon-hole regularly, especially in the first few weeks.

NOTICE BOARDS: There are many notice boards around college for events, sports, meal menus, and other important information. You will find these mainly at the bottom of staircases, as well as in the lodge and HCR. Electronic screens are also used in the lodge to provide news and other information. There are also the Academic Notice Board (messages from tutors, exam information, etc.), the Decanal Notice Board (matters relating to discipline), the Bursarial Notice Board, and blackboards with urgent messages on them. If you

want to put up a poster in the lodge or gatehouse, ask the porters first (it is advisable to be armed with drawing pins).

Administration, Welfare and Support

HEALTH

Information about university COVID policies can be [here](#).

COLLEGE DOCTORS, NURSE, AND DENTIST: The college doctors are Dr Leaver & Partners. They are found at:

Jericho Health Centre, Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6NW (Tel: 01865 311234).

You will register with them during the Welfare morning of 0th Week. Appointments to see them can be made by telephone, visiting the Jericho Health Centre, or through the College Nurse, Kinneret Milgrom. The College Nurse Clinics are being delivered remotely, every weekday during Term Time. Therefore, you will need to book an appointment to speak to Kinneret during her surgery hours over MS Teams by using [this link](#). She is the first person to approach if you are ill. You can reach her at college.nurse@bnc.ox.ac.uk.

Dentistry is available on the NHS but there is a scale of charges, and many people choose a private dentist. A popular NHS dental service used by students in Oxford is Studental.

For the most up to date health information, check out the [College's health information page](#).

FINANCES

THE FINANCE BURSARY is contacted for:

- **Paying Batels** and addressing any queries about them.
- Help with **student funding/support issues**. Keep in mind that while you are expected to pay your Batels on time. If there are problems, get in touch with the finance bursary sooner rather than later.
- Enquiring about Student Support Funding or Grants available through the College or University.

THE DOMESTIC BURSAR can be contacted for:

- Sorting out any **problems with your College accommodation**.
- Asking about vacation residence.
- Requesting a **room for a guest** (email accommodation@bnc.ox.ac.uk).

THE COLLEGE OFFICE should be contacted for:

- Enquiring anything about **examination entries**.
- Obtaining **proof of residence** and enrolment at Brasenose.
- **Booking graduation**.
- Asking any **general questions about college**.

SUPPORT IN AND OUT OF COLLEGE

No problem should be suffered in silence. If you feel that you cannot approach a friend, supervisor, or tutor, never hesitate to go and see one of the following for support:

YOUR COLLEGE ADVISOR: This is the College fellow allocated to you (not your supervisor or subject tutor) who will treat your problem confidentially and refer you to someone else, if need be, or just provide a listening ear. It is important to note that these advisors are not just for 'serious' problems. They can help you with any queries (personal or work) and are always ready to have a chat. You could also try one of the tutors on the panel of undergraduate advisors (a list of their names is on the Principal's Notice Board in the lodge).

THE TUTOR FOR GRADUATES: The current Tutor for Graduates is Professor Eamonn Gaffney. He is available for graduates to consult over academic, financial, or other problems.

THE ADVISOR TO WOMEN STUDENTS The current advisor to women students is Dr. Anne Edwards. She provides advice and support on any problem for women College members. She can be contacted in her room, or by making an appointment via her pigeonhole.

THE COLLEGE CHAPLAIN REVEREND: Our current chaplain is Rev Julia Baldwin. Although the Chaplain is a Church of England minister, her responsibility is for the pastoral care of all the members of the College. Don't be put off if you are not a Christian, as she is well placed to help 21 with general issues although she will obviously give religious advice to anyone who wants it.

HCR OFFICERS: The HCR committee members (pictures and bios above) will also be able to help you with most of the problems small or large which you may encounter during your time. They can often be found around College or in the HCR, or can be contacted via email or their pigeonholes. Even if they cannot help you themselves they can certainly point you in the right direction or get the information that you need. They are all very approachable and willing to help in any way possible, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

PEER SUPPORTERS: Peer Supporters are trained by the university's counselling service and offer confidential support to anyone, about any issue. Peer supporters are in both the JCR and HCR, available for a chat at your convenience. Contact details can be found on the [HCR website](#) and on the HCR noticeboards.

THE UNIVERSITY COUNSELLING SERVICE: This is staffed by professional counsellors; appointments can be made by phone (270300) or personally at 11 Wellington Square. Open: Monday to Friday (9.30 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION (OUSU): The SU Student Advice Team offers free, independent, confidential support service to students – contact them at advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk or come along to their drop-in sessions. They can be found at the OUSU offices, 2 Worcester Street or phone 270777 during office hours.

NIGHTLINE: This is a listening service run by students for students. It is located in Wellington Square, and is open 8.00 pm to 8.00 am every night, 0th Week to 9th Week - call 01865 270270 or contact them online <http://oxfordnightline.org/>

THE ISIS CENTRE: An NHS counselling service, located in Little Clarendon Street. It can be reached by phone on 56648. Open: 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (Tuesday to Friday). 10.30-5pm on Monday.

THE SAMARITANS: This is a national body of well-trained listeners. 123 Iffley Road, phone 722122 (reverse charges accepted). Open: 8.00 to 10.00 pm.

OSLAS: This is the Oxford Students' Legal Service, which offers free legal advice to students on any subject. Contact OSLAS under lsoweb@admin.ox.ac.uk.

OXFORD WOMEN'S LINE: This gives support for the survivors of sexual assault. Open Monday and Tuesday, 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Wednesday, 2.00 to 10.00 pm and Thursday and Friday, 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

OXFORD SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RAPE CRISIS CENTRE: The Oxford Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre is a charitable organization, which provides listening services and support groups for survivors of sexual violence who self-identify as women. <https://www.oxfordrapecrisis.net/> For helpline support 0800 783 6294 or 01865 726 295 or email support@osarcc.org.uk For appointments, referrals, and enquiries 01865 725 311 admin@osarcc.org.uk

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY: Brasenose is committed to continue supporting racial and ethnic minorities that enrich our community. There are multiple ways in which we support university-wide initiatives, such as fundraising for scholarships for students of colour, reviewing Equality and Diversity training with students to ensure it is fit for purpose, supporting “Rare Recruitment” with its Target Oxbridge initiative in the form of funding and outreach support, Assisting the Oxford African and Caribbean Society in its Year 12 shadowing day, and sponsoring the Onyx magazine – a platform for black writers and artists.

WOMEN: University-wide Women’s Events/Campaigns are usually advertised on College notice boards and on the Notice Board in the HCR. Anyone wanting to get involved in the OUSU Women’s Committee Meetings should contact the OUSU women’s rep.

It is important to note that the College has a code of practice for dealing with cases of sexual harassment and takes such issues very seriously. Naturally, we hope that the procedure never has to be used, but if anything does go wrong, it can be dealt with properly. Any concerns can be brought up with the Women’s Affairs Officer or the Chaplain. Dr Edwards is also the Disabilities Officer and Harassment Officer for the College.

LGBTQ+: Oxford University Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Society, LBGTsoc, is probably the largest in the country, with a wide range of events ranging from tea parties to speaker meetings to chocolate fondue parties! Events are generally well attended, and contacts can be found in the Oxford Handbook. Every fresher will be sent a mailing by the LBGTsoc in the first few weeks. New environments can be lonely and intimidating but it need not be that way. The open-mindedness of BNC and Oxford in general, makes it a very good place to simply be you. Coming out is an important step and the first steps are often the most difficult. The HCR has a Welfare Officer and an LGBTQ+ Rep you can talk to, but if you would prefer an out of college contact, there is a full list in the Oxford Handbook (which you will receive when you arrive).

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

COLLEGE FUNDS

Oxford is an expensive place to live. After London it is the most expensive city in England, probably due to the hordes of tourists who invade the place throughout the year and push prices up. If you need financial assistance for your living or work situation, there are a variety of funds and grants that you can access through the College or the wider University.

ACCESS FUND: This is a University-wide fund; eligibility forms will be obtainable from the College Office in Michaelmas Term. Students must take out a loan before they can be eligible for Access Funds.

GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS: The College awards research grants to Graduate students for research-related expenses such as attendance at relevant conferences, research trips, and the purchase of books or equipment to support their research. A graduate on a one-year course has an allowance of up to £150, a graduate on a two-year course may apply for up to £300, and a DPhil student has an allowance of up to £650 during the course of their degree. 2nd BM students can apply for up to £200 in their first year and up to £150 in their 2nd year, toward the costs of medical equipment and books, and may apply for up to £450 toward the cost of their clinical elective.

COLLEGE GRANTS/STUDENT HARDSHIP FUND: The College Accountant is the College's Hardship Officer and can be contacted for advice in cases of unexpected financial difficulty.

ANNUAL FUND/TRAVEL GRANTS: These grants are awarded by the college to students who demonstrate a shortfall in funding for significant academic projects, most often for research projects. Regarding the annual fund, you will receive information from the Senior Tutor and applications are usually to be submitted at the beginning of each term.

SPORTS FUNDS: The Amalgamated Sports Fund and HCR Sports Fund cover some expenses incurred by students representing the college in sport competitions, such as competition entries, transport, kit, etc. During the year you will be informed by the HCR about the application procedures and the expenses you can claim back.

BRAZEN ARTS FUND: An art-orientated equivalent of the Sports Fund above - £5,000 available to support arts activities within college, or to help fund individual artistic activities outside college. Past grants have been made to support common room productions, cover speaker fees, and to help students with expenses incurred in taking a show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival or performing in the OUDS tour of Japan. The fund is overseen by both the JCR and HCR Arts Reps, from whom more information is available about applying.

OXFORD GLOSSARY

There are a lot of phrases that are intimately related to College and University life in Oxford that don't occur regularly (if at all!) outside of its influence. To keep this document a reasonable size, we've hosted a glossary of the key phrases and acronyms that you encounter most of the HCR website, [here](#). If there are any phrases that you encounter that aren't covered here, please reach out to let us. Here's a few of the most often used ones:

BNC The most common way to refer to Brasenose.

HCR The Hulme Common Room, Brasenose's Graduate Common room. Most colleges call their graduate common room the Middle Common Room (MCR) or Graduate Common Room (GCR), so don't get confused. The words "HCR," "SCR" and "JCR" can all be used to refer both to the people who belong to these common rooms and the rooms themselves.

ITL In the Lodge.

JCR The Junior Common Room, which is composed of both undergraduates and graduates. You will automatically be a member of the JCR. It is primarily run by and for undergraduates, however. The current JCR President is İrem Kaki.

SCR. The Senior Common Room. All the tutors and dons are members.

Tute. Short for "tutorial" - an hour-long class with your tutor.

Batels. An invoice or your termly bill, including college and university fees, rent for college accommodation, and any other additional charges. Batels are issued at the beginning of each term. If you have any problems paying, it is wise to tell the Bursary, who are quite good about deferring payment. It is best to speak with the college accountant, if you have any problems with Batels and payments. Overdue payment of Batels without informing the Bursary is a finable offense.

Bod Card. The colloquial name for your university card. Technically, the card that gives you borrowing (and, in many cases, entry) privileges at the Bodleian Library and many departmental or college libraries around Oxford. It is also informally considered your main "student ID" from Oxford, because no other body issues such an identification. It carries a digitised photograph, in colour, which you provide on a form that is sent to the college before your arrival. Make sure not to staple over your head, or it will stay in the picture!

Bop. Oxford-speak for a disco, "rave" or raucous party. Bops have fancy dress themes such as 'World Domination,' 'Welcome to the Jungle' or 'Alice in Wonderland,' and people often go bold and loud with their themes costumes. Bops are known for cheap drinks, cheesy music, and questionable dancing. It's safe to say that there's a bop for every occasion, and every occasion seems to demand a bop!

Blurbs. A series of informal evening talks hosted by the HCR, in which a member of the HCR and SCR each present their research pitched to a general audience, so it is better to go to the topics which you know less about. Well worth going to, especially since there is an amazing High Table meal afterwards.

Dean and Junior Deans. They deal with discipline and general supervision of College social events. The Junior Deans are usually two graduates who make sure that College rules are enforced, especially after the Bar shuts at night.

Entz. Short for entertainment, i.e. bops, raves, quiz nights etc.

Exchange dinners. The HCR organises three exchange dinners per term. Sign up for a fun night at formal in another college and chance to get to know new people!

Fob. This electronic key allows you access into college (after hours), the HCR, the college library, and St. Cross Annexe (if you live there).

Formal hall. Formal 3 course dinners provided by colleges. Brasenose has formals on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. These must be booked in advance, on Upay. Wear your gown over regular clothes to Brasenose formals. Non-college members shouldn't wear gowns. Wine is not provided but if you want to bring your own, it must be bought in the college bar.

Matriculation. This is the procedure by which you formally become a member of the University. The Vice-Chancellor welcomes you to the University, says a few words in Latin, and that's that. You must wear Sub-Fusc for this.

Pidge. Your college post box, situated in the Porter's Lodge. You will share this with another person. Graduate pidges are on the left hand side at the back of the lodge. Check the little square boxes with the correct initial if you are expecting a parcel, then you will need to sign for it.

Punts. Flat-bottomed boats propelled using a long pole. They seat five and the JCR hires three or four on a permanent basis during Trinity Term. HCR members can opt in to the scheme to use the punts whenever they want. The HCR also hires one punt for the summer vacation and members can sign up to the scheme (usually it costs £10-20 for the summer). Punting is one of the highlights of summer in Oxford.

Scouts. These are College staff who clean your room and empty your bin. If you do not want to be disturbed in the morning, leave your bin outside your door.

Second Desserts. This is commonly used misnomer in BNC used to describe the desserts provided by the HCR after formal hall (correctly, they are simply "desserts"). These occur after exchange dinners, graduate dinners, guest dinners and Blurbs. They include copious amounts of port, chocolates, nuts, and a fine selection of cheeses.

Sub-Fusc. This is a traditional form of dress, worn for Matriculation, University exams, graduation and if you ever have to make a formal visit to the Proctors. Subfusc for men is a dark suit, white shirt, white bow tie and black shoes and socks. For women, you need a dark skirt or trousers, white blouse, black tie, and black shoes and stockings. Finally, everyone wears their gown and carries their mortarboard, but women have the option of wearing cloth caps. Details of the type of gown can be found in the Blue Book. Note that it is sometimes possible to buy a second-hand gown, so do ask when you go to buy one (there are a few shops that sell them - you should be receiving information on them).

Upay. This is an electronic system whereby you can top up your bod card meal balance, and book college formal dinners. Sign up online when you get to Oxford and sign up for formals in advance, spaces go quickly!

OXFORD TERMS

MICHAELMAS: The first term, October to December.

HILARY: The second term, January to March.

TRINITY: The third term, April to June.

Every term is eight weeks long, with the weeks numbered so that you will see something announced as being (e.g.) on Tuesday of 3rd Week. The weeks start on Sunday and end on Saturday. The week before 1st Week is known as 0th Week, and the week after 8th Week is 9th Week (simple really).