

Key points from pre-Freshers Q&A with Christian (President), Aldair (Equalities and Diversities Officer), Rachel (Social Secretary), Matt (Steward) and Lin (Environmental). Questions and responses are paraphrased. Apologies if some questions were missed in this summary.

1. What makes Brasenose special as a college?
 - a. Both beautiful and well-located. Everyone is friendly, as our reputations says. Food costs are quite good compared to other colleges. Particularly good for students studying law. Our library is opens 24hrs.
2. Does where you live affect your access to college facilities?
 - a. Nope! We all have access to Hall, Library, and the HCR, among other things. We get gym access at the Iffley Road Sports Centre. Give that a Google for more information about where/what that is. We also have access to tennis courts, punting, and a sports field. There is also a Brasenose woods somewhere.
3. Should I set up my UPAY before I arrive?
 - a. Wouldn't worry too much about that. College IT will provide info about when to do that, not too much of a hassle.
4. Can we bring guests to formal and how do we pay for that?
 - a. Yes! You can bring guests to our standard Tuesday, Friday, Sunday formals, and you both pay and book for guests using your UPAY account. Tickets for formals are released a week in advance. There are some formals (e.g. grad dinner) that are just for Brasenose students, so you can't bring guests to those.
5. Do you recommend a bank?
 - a. I'm not sure we're able to do that! But, we do advise that you sort out your bank account as soon as you arrive. It's one of those things that gets quite busy when everyone arrives, so getting the appointment might take a while if you put it off too long. You can use your enrollment certificate from the Student Self Service as proof of address/proof of program. Students regularly set up accounts with Lloyds, Santander, HSBC, Barclays, etc.
6. Where can I learn more about the library at Brasenose?
 - a. There will be a library induction as part of Freshers, so we'll have info about that to you as soon as it's ready. There's probably also info on the Brasenose website. There are a ton of libraries in Oxford outside of the Brasenose one, too.
7. Can friends and family join Matriculation?
 - a. I believe the Matriculation ceremony is in the Sheldonian Theatre and just for students, but afterwards most people go to dinner or the pub or whatever, and then friends and family join. There are lots of photos on Matriculation Day, which will be a weekend in mid-October. College will say more about this to you soon. College manages Matriculation, so the HCR doesn't really have much to do with it in an organizational sense.
8. Should I pre-order sub fusc?
 - a. Sub fusc is the uni's dress for official events like Matriculation, exams, and Graduation. The guidelines are one the uni's main site if you Google it. There's never a shortage of sub fusc, so just sort it once you arrive in Oxford. I

remember buying a sub fusc pack from one of the official supplier shops in town, and that was super convenient.

9. Do you know anything about graduate stipends?
 - a. This would be a question for either your program administrator or the college.
10. Does the college offer support for things like purchasing laptops?
 - a. I'd say that most graduate students get their laptops via their departments. The college offers a range of student support funds, one of them being the graduate research allowance which could be used to support buying a laptop. College will email more info about that during term. Applications are usually due 3rd or 4th week of term, depending on which specific fund you are applying to. Some funds consider applications on a rolling basis. You can also find info about all of this here:
https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/downloads/college_office/List_of_BNC_funding_sources_January_2020.pdf

Other points/advice

1. We aren't liable to pay Council Tax as full-time students. We use our enrollment letters as proof, and we submit those to the Oxford city council to get our Council Tax exemptions. You get your enrollment letter from Student Self Service, which is the uni's online student self-service platform, as the name suggests, and you can submit it via the council's online system. This is all something that College will likely communicate to you when the time comes. Exemptions are usually due in March, if memory serves.
2. Don't let the doors at Brasenose get you down! The door to get into Brasenose can be both hard to find and hard to open. The main door is on the Radcliffe Camera (NOT the door on the High Street), which is the cobbled area with the famous domed-library. This is SteetView/address of the door:
<https://goo.gl/maps/8ePRtjezDQpqspcC6>
3. I know I struggled with shyness/nervousness during Freshers, but remember that everyone is new—just like you. So, say hello and make those new connections.
4. The HCR (and college!) is your space, so please let it be a place of comfort, peace, and sociability for you. There seems to be a shift since the pandemic where people feel that they need to have a specific reason to be in college/the HCR. This shift makes sense when you consider public health advice, contact tracing, etc. But, now we have the opportunity to use the space again as we have before—like a shared living room, a place to chill and chat and relax.
5. Please be aware and conscious of cybersecurity. There have been a few recent “spear-phishing” attacks trying to scam money using spoofs of HCR committee member emails. College IT will likely communicate more about this to you.