

Wadham Freshers' Guide 2026!



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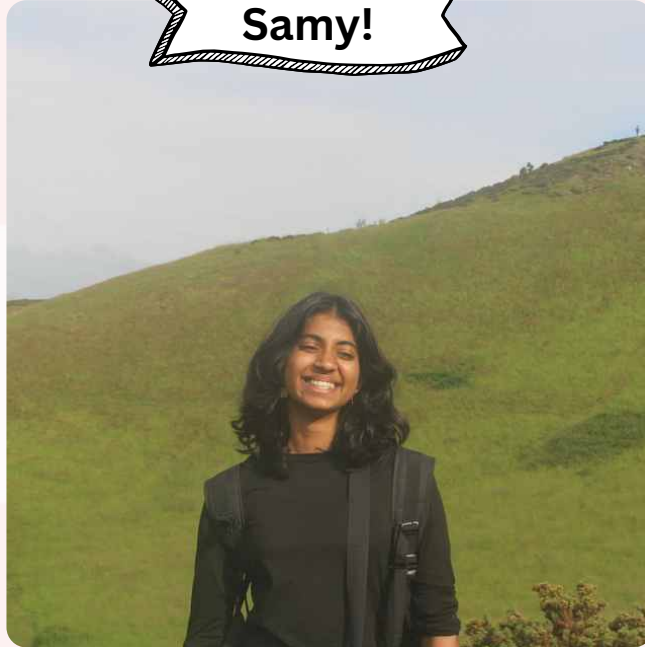
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Freshers' President Welcome!

Wadh is up everybody! I'm **Samy** (she/her), a 2nd year lawyer and your Freshers' President!



Samy!



First of all, huge congratulations on getting into Oxford, and its undisputed best college, Wadham! It's easy to think you made it here by chance, but you're ultimately here because our tutors decided that you belong and can thrive here. The freps (freshers' reps) and I have been working to plan all things fresh, and make the transition into Oxford life a little bit easier. Do follow our freshers account - wadhamfreshers2026 for Q&As and some helpful advice.

This freshers' guide is a bit of a relic. It's been curated by us freps this year, the year before and many years before that. You might say it holds the wisdom of many generations of wadham students! That being said, don't feel the need to memorise or even read all of this at once. Treat this guide as a little cheat sheet to life at wadham - take what you need from it and don't hesitate to get in contact with me or any of the other freps if you have any further questions or just want to chat about uni :)

Your Fresher's week will have a lot of events held by the SU, college and your faculties. It involves some very useful talks and exciting activities, so my personal recommendation would be to put yourself out there and try as many new things as you can. That being said, do take your own time to breathe, eat and sleep - Oxford will wait for you! I'm super excited to meet all of you this October, and hopefully, by the end of the term, you'll love Wadham just as much as I do.

INSTA: samyyy.k_

EMAIL: freshers.president@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Freshers' Committee!



Anne!

Hi everyone ❤️

I'm **Anne**, one of your amazing Freps, I'm from Germany and I study Classics here at Wadham. Please feel free to come ask me anything at all at any point or simply have a little chat when you feel up to it. I hope I'll be able to help you feel at home at Wadham, the best college, obviously! As a frep, I help run the Instagram and helped to film and edit a tour of Wadham for you guys! Aside from being a Frep, I adore floor time, movie nights, Amy Winehouse, walks and Wild Berry Lillets, but I'm also slowly adapting to British culture and I've grown quite fond of Collins, the vegetarian college Shepherd's Pie and Jude Bellingham. Can't wait to meet you all in October!!

Hi everyone, I'm **Nikhil** (on the right) and I study E&M. I'll be your sports officer and one of your freshers reps. Just a bit about me, I'm from London and play American football for the university, a bit of college cricket, and I used to row in school. As a freshers rep, I've worked with Samy to organise the events of freshers' week which we hope you enjoy! I'll be around for all of freshers week to help you guys adjust to college life. I've genuinely had the best time at Wadham so far, and I'm excited to meet you guys in October!

Nikhil!



Aria!



Hey freshers! I'm **Aria**, another one of your amazing freps! I'm from Hong Kong and study PPE at Wadham. As a frep, I was in charge of making this guide that you're reading now (hope you're having the most riveting time of your life xx) and will be around during Freshers' Week to answer any questions you might have. I love to have a chat so please don't feel shy if you need a friendly face at Wadham, esp if you're an intl student, as I know how hard it can be to move to a new country! A bit about me, I love to play football, go on walks, explore new cafes, listen to music, go to the movies, and I'm always down to sidequest and try new things! Super excited to see you guys in October!!

Freshers' Committee!

Hey everyone I'm **Dillon**!! I'm a second year studying Spanish and Modern Greek and I'm one of your freps. I'm helping to run the social media pages (which is very out of my depth as I have no creative talent). You'll probably find me in the Schwarzman building during classes, or at blacksheep ordering an iced chai latte, and I'm always up for a yap. Freshers' week can be a tough time but I hope that you enjoy what we've put together and you can always come to us for support :)



Dillon!



Tina!

Hi everyone! I'm **Tina** (she/her) a 2nd year physicist and I'm originally from Barcelona. As a frep, I am in charge of matching you guys with your college parents alongside Ben! In my 1st year I've loved doing all different kinds of sports and would encourage you to get involved - especially college football, netball, and squash!!! I'm really looking forward to meeting all of you, being a friendly face you can chat to, and making sure you make the best of freshers' week.

Hi everyone! I'm **Ben**, I am a second year studying biochemistry and I am from Leeds. Alongside Tina, I was the frep responsible for assigning college families. I'm an avid musician so will advocate for you all to get involved in college music but also university wide as there are so many abilities and genres of groups. My advice for freshers week is to get to know people on your course, not just your college, as despite many of my closest friends being at Wadham, it is really useful to have a network amongst colleges. Best of luck with the transition!

Ben!



Freshers' guide 101!

(if you don't read anything else at least read this x)

Things to do before freshers' week begins!

Quick note – we number the weeks here from 0 to 8 – full term starts in 1st week, but freshers' week will be 0th week (and confusingly weeks start on a Sunday)

- Make an Instagram account if you don't already have one and get familiar with navigating it, it's probably the main form of communication other than email at Oxford, and lots of societies have pages you can follow
- Follow the **@wadhamSU** and **@wadhamfreshers2026** on Instagram!
- Get in touch with your college parents! They can't contact you first, so you've got to get in touch – they're all looking forward to getting to know you and can answer any subject or college specific questions you might have!
- Get a Tesco clubcard/Nectar card for Sainsbury's if you don't already have or otherwise, it'll just make any food shop cheaper
- Check out how to log onto the wifi (eduroam). It's a pain and instructions can be found at the end of this guide so make an account before you get here. You can contact IT at Wadham if you need any help with connecting to WiFi or anything else (it-support@wadham.ox.ac.uk)
- If you have a disability or medical condition which could impact your studies (or think you might have one) and have not received an email from our college disability coordinator Mike Froggatt (michael.froggatt@wadham.ox.ac.uk) get in touch with him as soon as possible
- Signing up to the DAS (Disability Advisory Service), the university's service for supporting disabled students, can be a lot of work (Ivy did it midterm and it was not a good idea), so do it asap so you can have the support you need for every aspect of uni as fast as possible.
- Check out the other pieces of information you got from Wadham – submit a photo for your bodcard, fill out some forms etc. It's easier for everyone if you do it now
- Pack! (See pg. 8 for help!)

Freshers' guide 101!

(if you don't read anything else at least read this x)

Upon Arrival:

- Parking – if you arrive by car, spaces can be limited – you can get a free 30 minute permit from the lodge of college which will allow you to park on Parks Road (right outside college). If you then need to park elsewhere, I can recommend Westgate shopping centre's underground carpark – it's not the cheapest but its easy and about a 10 minute walk from college
- Go to lodge and get your room key. The porters will tell you the number and then the freshers' committee will be around in the entrance to help you to where you need to go and with any questions you have
- Unpack! All those suitcases, cardboard boxes, and laundry bags you brought with you? Work out how you want your room to look or just chuck them somewhere and pray. You can prop your door open to say hi to your neighbours in your staircase if you feel like seeing people
- Follow the freshers' week timetable! There should be a welcome from the Freshers' committee (us!!) and other things happening on Sunday, so check it out

After Arrival:

- Sort out wifi – having registered is now useful. Eduroam is available in pretty much every university space – colleges, libraries, faculty buildings so getting on the system is really useful. You can also bring an ethernet cable if you want, but college doesn't provide them.
- Make sure you look at the Freshers' Timetable and figure out where you are needed. You will have to attend some talks shortly after you arrive so figure out when and where they are!
- Find your way around Wadham! Check out college and find the hall, library, refec, laundry, and the Holywell gate but also see what else is in the city. You don't have to stray too far during freshers' week but work out where you are and what you need.
- Go for a food shop! Grab washing up supplies, you'll probably need them if you have a kitchen, any food you want to cook yourself, and snacks and basics
- Complete a gym induction if you want access the college gym. It's free, the inductions are normally run at the beginning of term although you can ask for one at any point, although the equipment is fairly basic.
- Get a bike if you think you need one (if you plan to row or know you want the freedom of cycling) – if you get one or already have yours make sure to register it at lodge and you can store in under the AC. In Oxford you must have lights and a helmet, and you'll also need a lock
- Go to things that look fun! Meet some new people and relax in your room if everything feels too much. You can always talk to any of the freshers' committee if it's stressful or scary, and we can chat and/or point you in the right direction.

Packing List

Cooking	• Pans suitable for an induction hob • Cutlery • Tea towels • Mugs • Kettle for room • Crockery • Utensils
Clothes	• Hangers • Pyjamas • “Sub fusc” – for matriculation and exams (see the Oxford website, can buy when you get here) • Shoes (formal and casual) • A waterproof coat or a coat and raincoat (it can get cold and rainy in Oxford) • Formal wear (dresses/suits etc) • Normal clothes/layers • Sportswear
Domestic/Toiletries	• Duvet and pillows • Bedsheets • Blanket • Towels • Laundry bag • Toiletries
Work	• Laptop • Chargers • Headphones • iPad • Pens and pencils • Notebooks and paper • Other stationary if needed
Misc.	• ID + Passport • Diffusers – candles aren’t allowed • Bluetooth speaker • Things to make you feel at home – posters, photos, books etc

A Tour of Wadham

The Freps have filmed and put together a tour of Wadham, which is linked below! It explains a lot of the information I've written below for those who prefer a more visual guide or if you have not gotten the chance to see Wadham in person! I do recommend reading the information below as well because this guide goes into a lot more detail than the video, but the video is a great starting place for getting familiar with Wadham! Special shoutout to our fellow Frep Anne for editing this!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YLQpl2U6LI>

Accommodation

You will have been sent an accommodation survey in an email from college, via the Wadham Freshers' page. Please fill it in, and you'll be able to express a preference for the type of room you want across college. We will then assign you to a room that as closely matches your preferences as possible. If you have access needs, you can put them on the form and we will forward it onto the relevant team in college, unless you've already been in contact, in which case tick that box as well! We thought it might be nice to have an explanation of the different room types available in case you haven't seen any of them! All rooms come with a single bed, desk, mini fridge, sink, mirror, chair and storage regardless of location. Here are the different types of accommodation you may be assigned to in first year:

Bowra

The more modern area of college, made up of staircases – which is essentially what we call flats. There will be a kitchen per staircase, and a shared bathroom between 2 to 4 people. All the Bowra rooms are singles, and some Bowra staircases are more social, and have shared balconies on the top that people can host parties or chill out on, which you can also express a preference for/against on the form.



Front quad

The older section of college. There is no kitchen access (other than the general JCR kitchen), and there are both single and shared rooms. Shared rooms have a larger living room with everything in, a shared en suite, and then two little bedrooms off the main room (with doors you can lock) that just have beds in. You can put on the form whether you would like a shared room, if you wouldn't mind, or if you'd rather not. (Note: 25% of the available rooms this year are shared rooms, so please only say no if it's a big deal for you. Even then, we can't guarantee you won't get one, but we'll try our best.)



Accommodation

Access Centre

The AC is where you live if you have access needs, although not usually if you just need an en suite – there are some en suite rooms around college not in the AC. The AC was built most recently, and all the rooms have their own en suites and there's a shared AC kitchen as well. Make sure you communicate your accessibility needs with college as soon as possible!



Kitchens

There are three types of kitchen situations depending on your accom: Bowra, Front Quad, or Access Centre:

Bowra-Staircase Kitchens:

- Small, shared around 6-12 people (Also, some Bowra staircases do NOT have a kitchen)
- No oven
- Usually 2 hobs
- Toaster, kettle, shared space for storing crockery and cutlery

JCR Kitchen

- If you don't have a staircase kitchen you are welcome to use the JCR kitchen
- Large fridges
- 2 ovens
- Large sink
- Several hobs
- Some shared ingredients, crockery, cutlery, and other cooking equipment but generally bring your own!

AC Kitchen

- Can only access if you live in the AC (needs special Bod card access!)
- Ovens
- Hobs
- Lots of storage space for crockery etc
- Wheelchair friendly

Utilities

Laundry

We have a large laundry room under the AC and all students can use it. The washing machines cost £3.40, which can be paid with by card or contactless. Each cycle takes around 40 minutes. The dryers are free, and each cycle takes around 50 minutes. There's a drying room opposite for delicates that can't be tumble dried, with an iron and ironing board for you to use. There's no detergent or softener provided, so bring your own.

Sometimes the laundry room gets full, so maybe work out a time to do your laundry that's more niche (Usually weekends and late afternoon/evening time can be busy. Early morning/late at night/during lunch time is usually quite empty esp if you don't have contact hours then) Also, don't throw other people's finished loads on the floor! You can put them in an empty machine if you need another machine or there are sometimes baskets for this purpose.

Cleaning

We refer to the cleaning staff at college as Scouts and though they do clean shared spaces such as shared bathrooms (not en suites!) and kitchens clean, it is your responsibility to keep your own room clean. Each staircase will have a Hoover hidden away somewhere. Even though you are not expected to clean shared areas, please do be respectful to those you have to share with and the Scouts. Housekeeping usually provides some limited cleaning supplies if you have an en suite. Room inspections by housekeeping are once or twice a term but you're sent an email about a week in advance, so you can frantically Hoover the floors and clean the sinks! Housekeeping's pet peeve seems to be limescale, so be sure to clean your sinks or en suites before they come!

Payment

Battels

Battels is an Oxford term for the fees you pay every term. These include rent, food, and sometimes other extra fees. You'll receive an invoice and emails reminding you to pay, which you can do online or by bank transfer. This may be slightly different for international payments, but all details are included at the bottom of the statement. This happens at the beginning of each term and battels are expected to be paid Friday of 1st week. If there are ever any queries about entries on your Battels Statement or you are unable to make a payment before the end of 1st week, just email feesandbattels@wadham.ox.ac.uk. Student finance (if you're using it) normally comes in before battels, but if you're waiting on a university payment for a bursary then it may take longer to come through, and if you're afraid you won't be able to pay it just email – they're very lovely! Just a warning, the first Battels statement can be quite scary to open!

Moving in and out

One annoying thing about living in college is that you have to move all your belongings out of your room during the vacation. If you do not want to do this or if you plan on staying in Oxford for the vacs, you can opt for a 9-month contract instead of a 6-month contract. If you have a kitchen, you can leave some things in there. Also, if you are a Crankstart Scholar, you are entitled to 1 storage box, and if you are an international student, you are entitled to 6 boxes. You can also look at alternative outside storage if you would like (KitKeeper does 20% discount for Wadham students, and Oxford Student Storage Company is another great option).

You can also apply for vacation residence to stay longer or come back to college earlier as it suits you, which does cost, although if this is to attend exams, they subsidise the amount you have to pay.

Food

At Wadham you never have to decide between being fully catered or selfcatered. College provides breakfast, lunch, and dinner from Monday to Friday, but only brunch on the weekends. Breakfast, lunch, and brunch are on a pay-as-you-go system and can be eaten in the Refectory by just tapping your Bod Card. However, dinner works on a different system and is served in two sittings: an earlier sitting in the Refectory (a kind of canteen/cafeteria) and a later sitting in Hall (very historic and atmospheric). Every night, there will be a main and either a starter or dessert. If you decide to eat in Hall, you arrive at the beginning of the sitting, and your courses are served to you separately. Hall can sometimes take quite a while to finish, so if you're tight on time, eating in "Refec" might be your best bet and you can pop in at any time during opening times. (my friends and I would go to Hall every now and then for a nice proper sit-down meal, but would go to Refec usually as we are always in a rush!)

Timings usually look something like this:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am to 9:00 am - Breakfast served in the Refectory

12:25 pm to 1:15 pm - Lunch served in the Refectory

6:15 pm to 6:45 pm - Dinner served in the Refectory

7:00 pm onwards - Dinner served in Hall

Saturdays and Sundays

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Brunched served in the Refectory



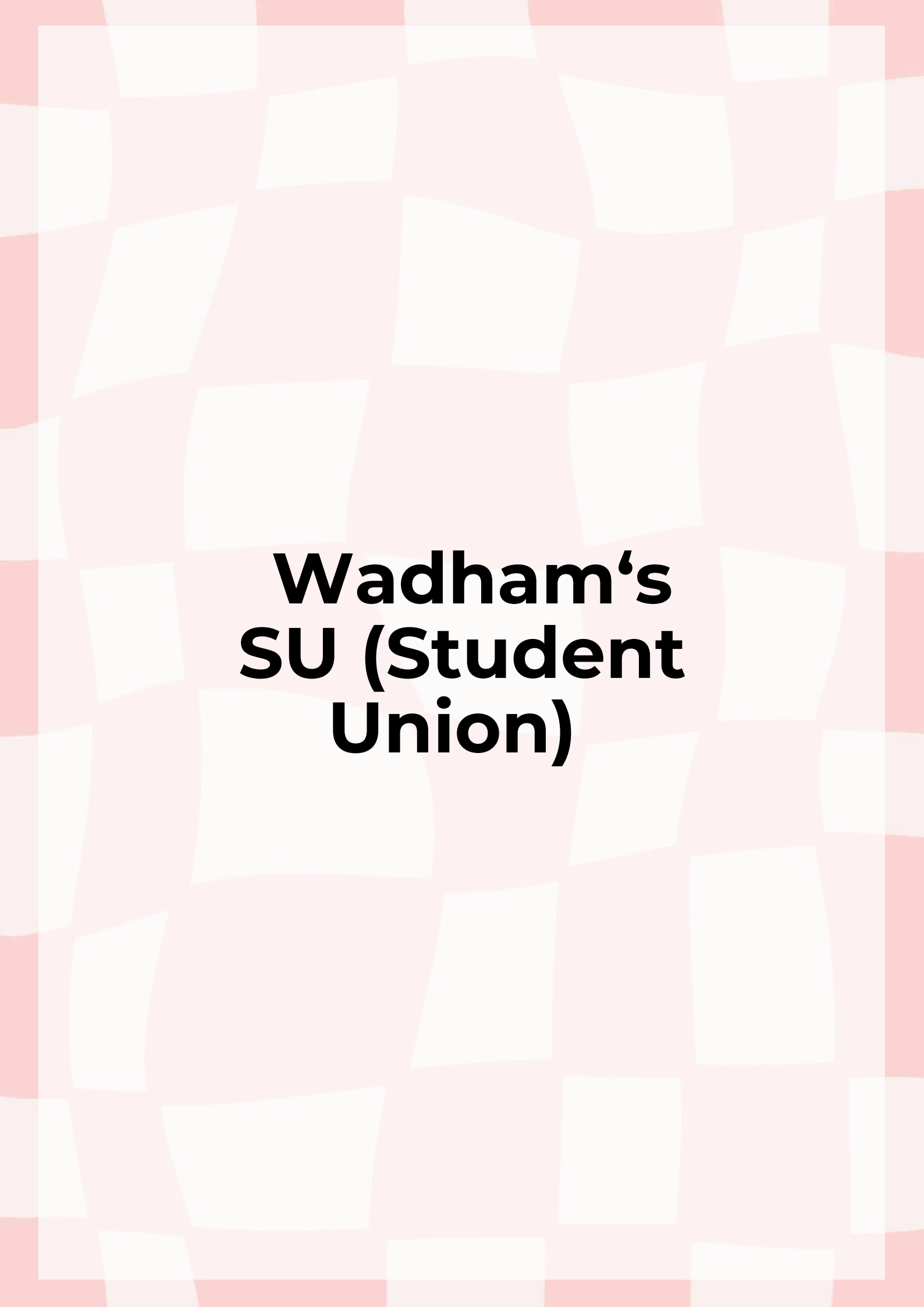
Food

Everyone who lives on the main college site is automatically booked in to dinner and this is included in battels at the beginning of term alongside rent. You can book out of dinner using the Wadham Online Meal Booking System (MBS) and the cost of any dinners that have been booked out of will be taken off the next term's battels, so you get your money back eventually. You input dietary requirements on the MBS - all meals have a meat, vegetarian, and vegan option and you can make other dietary specifications on MBS (halal, dairy free, gluten free, not liking cheese etc). If you want to book out of a meal, you have to book out before 10am the day before. If you forget to book out before 10am then you'll have to pay for the meal.

Wadham doesn't hold proper formal dinners but we have an alternative called Dress-Up Dinners, where you're encouraged to dress up (no gown needed) and attend dinner in Hall. You're able to buy wine on the door and make an evening of it! There is a limited number of spaces for these dinners and must be booked through the Meal Booking System. Wadham does also have some other fancier dinners like SU guest dinners and subject dinners (these happen in Hilary term with everyone that does your subject at Wadham and all your tutors!), but they're often more expensive.

Overall, keep in mind that catering and food at Oxford is quite different from at other universities. While it is helpful to bring some cooking equipment with you, student kitchen facilities at Wadham are quite limited and while it's possible to cook for yourself, lots of people find it easier to have everything catered.





Wadham's SU (Student Union)

Wadham SU

According to our constitution, the Wadham Student Union "shall exist in order to promote the interests of, provide services for, and represent its members." The Union automatically includes all students at Wadham, and together, we benefit from SU facilities, events, and funding. This is all organised by a committee of ordinary students who nominate themselves and are voted in by the student body. If you're looking to find out more about the roles of each SU representative—perhaps to see if there's one for you!—there is more information @wadhamsu on Instagram.

The resources of the SU can really improve student life at Wadham; and central to their use is the student body's VOTE! At the regular SU meetings (which are also a great opportunity to socialise, get free pizza, and catch up on work), motions are proposed and voted on, mandating action on anything from rent deals (!!!), to clothes swaps and the arts. Email the chair with ideas to start setting up motions!

Below are the events organised and held by SU officers!

- Queerfest
- BOPs
- Disabled students' caucus
- POCRE caucus
- Class caucus
- LGBTQ+ caucus
- Freshers' Week
- Arts Week
- E&E Week
- Disabilities Week
- Charity Bake Sales
- SU Meetings

Remember you can introduce more by proposing a motion—or, very soon, by taking up a role in the SU through one of the elections! Please get involved in the SU as little or as much as you would like—if there is a particular area that interests you, then prioritise that. We are really excited to welcome you!

SU President + VP

SU President - Isaac
su.president@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Welcome to Wadham! I'm Isaac (he/him), the President of Wadham Student Union this year. I'm a 2nd year History student, and when I'm not trying to convince people economic history is interesting, I spend my time trying to convince people cricket is fun (shoutout to Wadham Cricket Club). In the Student Union, I liaise between the College staff and the Student Union via many committees and between the Student Union and student representatives in other Colleges via yet more committees. If you have any questions about Wadham or you would like to get involved in the Student Union do feel free to email me.



Vice President - Joseph
su.vicepresident@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Hey! I'm Joseph, and I'll be the SU Vice President this year. I'm a second-year historian focusing on more modern studies. This photo was an ambush carried out by my friend Gabrielle in Staircase 9 (completely objectively the best staircase, by the way. Ignore the Staircase 13 propaganda). My quick advice to freshers is to try loads of different libraries around the uni early, or you'll end up missing out for a while. I only found my natural fit at the end of first year, so try a bunch earlier than I did.

My role as VP basically entails doing whatever the rest of the Executive (President, Treasurer and Chair), as well as taking the minutes for SU meetings and generally organising officers and ensuring everyone in the SU knows what's going on. I'm also in charge of ordering 'stash', college merch bought by you guys. This includes the college puffers which you'll see hundreds of students across the city wearing constantly (myself included). I'll also be sending out fortnightly round-ups of opportunities, events and general Wadham news. Please reach out if you have any concerns that might remotely relate to my job!

SU Chair + Treasurer

Hi! I'm Ilya, a second year History student and I will be your SU Chair for 26/27. As Chair, I uphold and interpret the SU Constitution which essentially means organizing elections and charring meetings. The SU represents every student in College which means you can always come to us with any problems. Excited to meet you all in October, remember to come along to meetings and get involved! :)



SU Treasurer - Matilda
su.treasurer@wadham.ox.ac.uk

SU Chair - Ilya
su.chair@wadham.ox.ac.uk

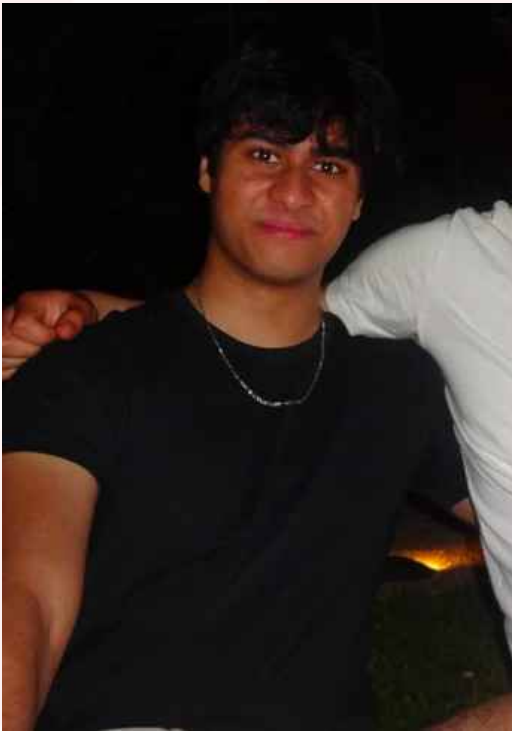


Hi I'm Matilda, a second year PPE student at Wadham and I will be SU Treasurer 2025-26. This means I handle the funds of the Student Union, and help support other officers financially where they need it. I also am involved in negotiations with the college about rent, food prices, and many other things, as well as having a key role in the many reimbursements provided to students (see DSO, Women*, and Welfare officer bios for more info!).

Welfare

Welfare Officer: Yogansh

Hey everyone!



My name's **Yogansh** (He/Him) and I'm one of your 4 welfairies. I'm a second year doing law (in the trenches) from Singapore. Like everyone else, welfare is really important to me. Being welfare officer over the last year has been great (especially working with my lovely welfairies <3). I usually handle any welfare taxi reimbursements as well as air mattress requests, so if you need either of those don't be shy to just shoot an email at us! Personally, the best part of welfare at wadham is the brunches that we run the morning after a bop, so make sure you come down to the AC café for a free meal. Oxford's a really fun place, and first year is a great time in your life to go out and do as many things as you can. If you want any advice/tips about life in wadham, oxford, or just uni in general go ahead and dm the wadham welfare instagram 🔥 (@wadhamswelfare). See y'all soon and hope you like Wadham as much as I do.

Email: su.welfare@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Hey what's up hello freshers 🔥🔥 I'm **Sophie** (she/her) one of your Welfare Reps aka Welfairies 💖 I study the coolest subject aka Experimental Psychology and am in second year #unc. Interests include MMA, film, and getting lit af. Looking forwards to treating you guys to free food (we do welfare drop ins and brunches often!) and air mattresses 🍷

I'm in charge of emails - feel free to reach out to welfare (su.welfare@wadham.ox.ac.uk) any time!!!! My recommendation for first year is to give yourself a fun year-long challenge to complete eg visit as many libraries as possible (and don't scroll reels in your room everyday you'll prob regret). I'm also hella sociable so am always down to chat 😊😊😊 See you sooooooon

Welfare Officer: Sophie



Welfare

Welfare Officer: Anna

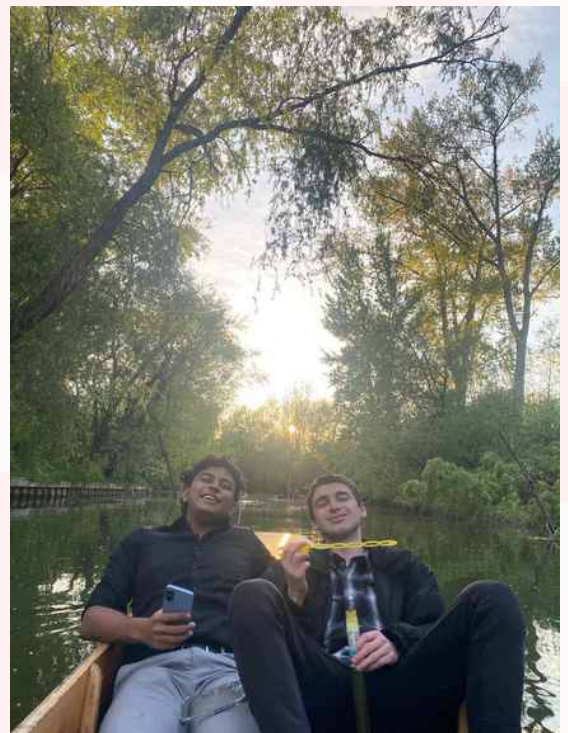


Hi! I'm **Anna** (she/her) and I'm one of your welfare reps!! I'm a second year studying English and I'm from north London. I've had the loveliest time being welfare rep and I'm so excited to continue it into this year – welfare events (which have included everything from bringing alpacas into college to weaving to weekly zumba) are the BEST way to have a little break and see loads of people from all over college. I hope to be a friendly face around college who's always down for a yap!

If anything is troubling you, please don't hesitate to drop us an email or come and find me, part of our role is to be here for a chat or signpost you to the best welfare/mental health support. I run weekly drop in sessions with lots of snacks, as well as brunches the morning after every bop, so you'll probably spot me walking back from Tesco every week loaded down with bags of food!

Hi again everyone! It's **Ben** again (one on the right
Aside from being one of your freps, I am also a welfare officer in the Wadham SU. As a welfairy 🧚, I have been involved in 'running' (setting up the pun for later) welfare brunches and drop ins. However, what I am most proud of is the wadham welfare run club 🏃 which is a casual run club where we run at the pace of the slowest person and is mainly for getting out into the park and having some fresh air 🌳. If this is something that interests you, please join

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/BuqWBXPYdyNAGdLYFOuoHs> where I will organise times and dates depending on the flexibility of members. Anna and Sophie have covered most of what welfare do in their descriptions but sadly didn't mention the glorious cotton candy machine we bought last term 🔥



Welfare Officer: Ben

Welfare Contacts

There's a lot of people at Wadham who are involved in welfare. Don't worry, you'll meet most of them in freshers week and be able to put names to faces then. Peer supporters: These are Wadham students who've received training and can meet with students who need someone to talk to for any issues. Get in contact with them at: peer.support@wadh.am.ox.ac.uk. We also have the amazing Junior deans, post-graduate students who play a role in both student discipline and welfare. They have professional training and can help students who are having difficulties, particularly out of hours and at the weekend. Wadham also has several professionally trained staff who can support students as well. These are:

Sarah O'Brien. Sarah is Wadham's amazing student welfare lead and works closely with the SU Welfare reps and the peer supporters. She is available throughout the year to meet with students. sarah.obrien@wadham.ox.ac.uk.

Tamina Oliver. Wadham's welfare advisor who offers private meetings with students who need someone to talk with. You can arrange a meeting with Tamina by emailing her at welfare.advisor@wadham.ox.ac.uk.

Jane Baun. As well as being the chaplain, Jane is trained in listening and counseling and provides a safe and non-judgmental space for Wadham community members. You don't need at all to be religious or Christian to talk with her! Jane also looks after the college 'cat', Maggie May, who you'll all get to meet in freshers, and hosts Odd-Friday teas 4x a term as a regular welfare event. Email her at chaplain@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Wadham's Harassment Advisors can be contacted for advice on any experiences of harassment you have had:

Sarah O'Brien, sarah.obrien@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Jane Baun, chaplain@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Tamina Oliver, Welfare Advisor, welfare.advisor@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Tom Sinclair, Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy, thomas.sinclair@wadham.ox.ac.uk

The Tutor for Equality & Diversity is **Ekaterina Hertog, ekaterina.hertog@wadham.ox.ac.uk**

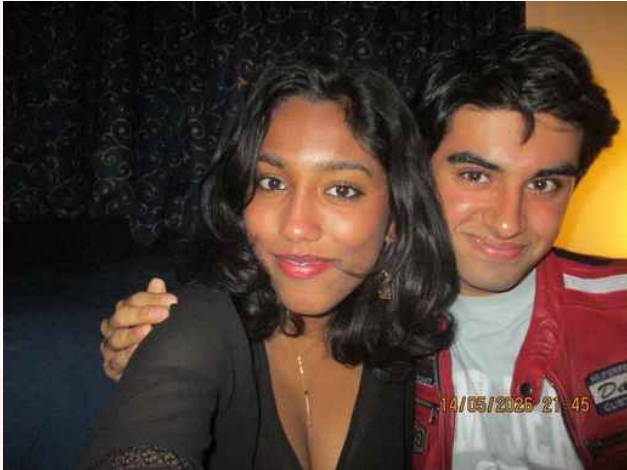
The Tutor for Race is **Dominic Brookshaw, dominic.brookshaw@ames.ox.ac.uk**

The Tutor for Women is **Tehila Sasson, tehila.sasson@wadham.ox.ac.uk**

Further details about all of the support that is available to you can be found on the Wadham website: www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/current-students/student-welfare.

PoCRE Officers

PoCRE Officers- Dillon Shukla and Shamrutha Shree Ganesh



Hey There, I'm **Dillon**! I am one of your pocre reps this year along with Shamrutha. I'm a second year studying Spanish and Modern Greek. Our job is to make sure that Wadham embraces and promotes diversity. We run various events, such as a POC meet up during freshers' week, and, in collaboration with the Entz officers, the POC bop, which is like a big disco showcasing music from across the world. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please reach out to us, we are always happy to chat :)

Hi, we're **Shamrutha** and Dillon and we're your POCre Officers! Sham is a second year medic from London and Dillon is also a second year doing Spanish and Modern Greek and he's from lovely Leicester. We're here to create a community where everyone regardless of their background feels comfortable. You'll meet us first at the POC pot painting social during fresher's week which is a lot of fun! We're always here to talk if you have any suggestions or concerns :)



Email: su.peopleofcolour@wadham.ox.ac.uk



Disability & Access

Disabled Students Officer: Nicole
su.disabilities@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Hi!! My name is **Nicole** (she/her) and I will be your Disabled Students' Officer (DSO) for the coming year. When you arrive, I will be in my third and final year of my course (Human Sciences - the best course) so I would like to think I have some expertise on Oxford life. I am also an international student from Malaysia so feel free to reach out with any questions and concerns (international or otherwise). A little bit more about me so you don't feel like an abstract concept of a person is emailing you: I LOVE college welfare zumba - I need it to survive, I love soaking up the sun whenever it peaks out in the UK by lying on a patch of grass (usually back quad), and I I hate papaya



The DSO is in charge of reimbursements relating to disability and health conditions. At Oxford, disability includes a wide range of conditions including neurodivergence and chronic pain (my specialty!). So reimbursements can look like reimbursing knee braces, earplugs for sensory overstimulation and transport to hospital appointments. Do not fret, you will get a long email from me at the start of Michaelmas detailing all the things we offer reimbursements for (I am sure you'll love yet another email during your first week). I will also hold regular caucuses for anyone to come chat with me. You can ask for support, give me feedback on how I am running things, and suggestions for what you would like to see! I would also really like to hold a big disabled students' event at some point this year because we do not have a disabled students' formal so keep an eye out for emails about that.

I highly recommend getting signed up to the university wide disability support ASAP - I made the mistake of only signing up when I got here and that meant some of my adjustments only started in the second term. It also means you will be allocated an accessible room in the access centre if applicable. If you need help signing up or dealing with issues with the university wide service (DAS) then please do reach out. If you are unsure whether your condition 'counts' we can also have a chat about that 😊.

(Wadham does not currently have an access officer, so if you have any questions email **su.access@wadham.ox.ac.uk** or any of the freps to guide you in the right direction!)

Womens* Officers

Women*'s Officers – Mimi and Leyla – su.women@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Hiya - my name is **Leyla** and I'm a second-year historian! I'm really excited to be one of your Women*'s Officers this year, alongside the wonderful Mimi. My favourite things to do in Oxford include spending lots of time in the beautiful parks and gardens (especially Wadham garden), browsing the North Parade Market on Saturday mornings, and trying out Oxford's amazing societies - a personal favourite of mine being Meditation Society!



Mimi and I will be your point of call for any issues Wadham women might encounter. We are looking forward to hosting regular caucuses (opportunities to chat about life as a woman at Wadham), planning lots of fun socials, and organising the annual International Women's Day dinner! Please don't hesitate to speak to me about any issues you are experiencing as a woman at Wadham. I know how daunting starting Oxford can be but please know that I am always there for a chat. I am so excited to meet you in October!



Hi, I'm **Mimi**, and I'll be a friendly face around college as one of your women's officers! (Alongside the lovely Leyla). I'm interested in all kinds of things including art, music and sport. We'll be arranging things like informal drop-in sessions, coffee chats and higher-energy social events, whether that be in collaboration with different sporting societies or planning ahead of International Women's Day. Leyla and I hope to focus on intersectionality, and we aim to make sure that the student body feels heard. Looking forward to meeting you!

LGBTQ+ and Trans Officers

LGBTQ Officer - Siena (su.lgbtq@wadham.ox.ac.uk)

Hey! I'm **Siena** - I study History and English and I'm Wadham's LGBT officer. This basically means I'm involved with Wadham's queer community (which is perhaps larger than other colleges) and can be here for you for any related issues or advice. More excitingly, I also run the LGBT events, the biggest of which take place in Queer Week, which happens in Michaelmas and involves lots of fun and exciting events, especially Queerfest, which is a great night of music and performances hosted by Wadham!



You can contact me about any of these things at su.lgbtq@wadham.ox.ac.uk and make sure to keep an eye out for emails from me about all these events!

Trans Officer - Theo (su.lgbtq@wadham.ox.ac.uk)



Hi, my name is **Theo** (he/him), and I will be your SU trans officer this year. I'm someone to reach out to about anything trans related - whether you are trans yourself and would like to speak to someone who understands, or if you just have any questions! I will also be helping to organising queer events alongside the LGBTQ+ Officer. If you have any transition-related costs, I can give you money for that! We can reimburse transition-related costs, including items such as binders, travel to and from appointments, and the NHS part of cost of prescriptions (up to £9.90).

To get in touch for a reimbursement, either send email to su.trans@wadham.ox.ac.uk, or fill out the form at: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/3eSn3ECCEA>

The Oxford LGBTQ+ society host many events for trans students, and have created a very useful trans survival guide (<https://www.oulgbtq.org/uploads/1/1/0/3/110317091/trans-survivalguide.pdf>) alongside other resources on their website at <https://www.oulgbtq.org/>.

Domestic & Environment

Domestic Officer - Poppy
su.domestic@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Hi hello, I'm **Poppy**, and my role in the SU is Domestic Officer. I study History and Beginner's German, and outside of the library I love to go bouldering, running and wild swimming.

As Domestic Officer I organise the housing for the 2025-2026 cohort. Each year should have a domestic officer to ensure you live with your chosen group, so I would encourage one of you to apply for this role next year! On top of this, I also help if you have anything you might want to improve about the college food, you can contact me.



Environment & Ethics Officer - Matilda
su.environment@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Hi I'm **Matilda**, and I am the outgoing Environment and Ethics officer, but will remain in the role for your first term in the interim, and I am a second year PPE student. As E&E officer I helped set up Wadham's first ever swap shop (essentially a cheap/free charity shop in college), and handle sustainability in college events (like Wadhstock), as well as lots of other parts of college like food, travel, and green spaces. My role will be up for election soon so this is a great way to get involved in your first term (like I did!). See also [wadhamene](#) on insta!



Bar & Social

Bar and Social Officer - Fin & Max
su.bar@wadham.ox.ac.uk



Hi all! We are **Max** (pictured right) and **Fin** (pictured left), PPE-ist and lawyer respectively, both hailing from the proud city of Bristol. We are your Bar and Social Officers, which means it is our duty to organise various events in our humble bar and JCR - expect a Michaelmas pool tournament of epic proportions.

The bar is typically open from Thursday-Saturday where you can buy drinks and hang out with your friends. The JCR has a pool table & a ping-pong table which makes it a great chill hang out spot.

Hopefully the bar and JCR is where you will spend a fair chunk of your time mixing with your fellow wadhamites, and we are eager to improve that experience - if you have any ideas about what is served at the bar, how the space is arranged, or any events you might be interested in staging, please reach out!

You can reach us at **su.bar@wadham.ox.ac.uk**. See you guys soon!



Entz & Socials

Hi! We are **Macaulay** (he/him) and **Ivan** (he/him) and we are your Entz Reps!

Basically, we organise all the college parties (known as bops), which happen once a fortnight - everybody dresses up to a theme and dances the night away. Bops are great fun and We also organise two big music festivals, Queerfest and Wadstock. Queerfest is happening this year on the 21st of November - it's a huge event celebrating queer culture and music in the Wadham Gardens, with Oxford's coolest DJs and drag acts. People come from all across the university, so make sure to buy tickets when they come out!

Speaking of, for news about tickets and all the other college events, follow **@wadhamentz** on Instagram! We have lots of fun running this page and it is our main way of communicating with you guys.



Bops!

Bops are fortnightly themed parties held in the Access Centre (AC), usually running from 10PM–1AM. Each bop has a different theme, and we'll often let you vote on those through our Instagram polls. The first two bops are already sorted: - "Dress as your subject" (at the end of Freshers' Week) - "S and M" (subfusc and matriculation, obviously) You're welcome to invite guests from other colleges - just make sure they're on the guest list. If you're keen to DJ, we'll be sending out sign-up forms too. Bops are a big part of social life at Wadham and a great way to meet people - we're really looking forward to seeing you there!



Entz & Socials



Matriculation

This is one of the first massive events that you will experience in first year, and it takes place on the Saturday of week 1. You basically get chanted at in Latin for 5 minutes in a fancy building and then go punting. Oh, and you do all of this while wearing academic dress (sub fusc). We are also one of the only Oxford colleges to hold a bop on matriculation day: the infamous S&M bop, which obviously stands for subfusc and matriculation. xx

The next big event of the year is **Queerfest**. This always takes place on Saturday of the 6th week of Michaelmas term, and is the culminating event of Wadham Queerweek, organised by our fabulous LGBTQ+ and trans officers. This year it will take place on Saturday 21st of November in the college gardens. Wadham is one of the only colleges to hold major festivals every year and we all really remember Queerfest as one of the highlights of first year! We will be in touch with you all regarding tickets soon, and hope you are all excited for it!!



This is another very stereotypically 'Oxford-esque' event. Basically, **Mayday** consists of staying up all night on the 1st May and then walking to Magdalen Bridge at 6AM to see the Magdalen choir sing from the top of Magdalen tower. The concept seems very strange, but we promise you it is a fun event. Most of the clubs, pubs and bars stay open extra late on this day and the atmosphere within the city is pretty awesome.

The other larger event that we host annually in the college gardens is Wadstock. This is a 12 hour music festival in the College gardens from 12PM-00:00AM, which showcases all of the wonderfully talented student bands and artists in Oxford. This is a truly iconic event that puts Wadham on the map every year!



Intro to Sport



Hi everyone, I'm **Nikhil** (on the right) and I study E&M. I'll be your sports officer and one of your freshers reps. Just a bit about me, I'm from London and play American football for the university, a bit of college cricket, and I used to row in school. As sports officer, I handle the funding and administration of all college sports/societies at Wadham, so feel free to reach out if you have any questions about sports at Wadham or Oxford. I've genuinely had the best time at Wadham so far, and I'm excited to meet you guys in October!

University is the best place to develop an ongoing interest in sport or to start a new one. Having the freedom to try your hand at so many different things is very cool and college sports is a great way to do so. As well as being a good way to escape from academics it also allows you to socialise with people outside of your year group and college. If there is a sport that you would like to be part of the Wadham scene that wasn't mentioned above please let me know and we can try to set up a new club. The individual university sports clubs will also be holding a load of trials and taster sessions starting from the end of freshers week going into the first few weeks of term, so keep your eye out for them!

Facilities

- **Wadham Sports Ground** - situated in Summertown, it has a football pitch, cricket square and netball/tennis courts
- **Moser Theatre** - hosts free weekly Zumba! as well as other activities like badminton etc
- **Squash Court**
- **Gym** - nice and cosy, equipped with free weights, squat racks, benches, rowing machines and some other stuff.

Below you'll find a short guide to the most popular sports at Wadham: Netball, Rugby, Women's Weightlifting, Football, and Rowing! If you're interested in uni sports, make sure you make it to the Freshers' Fair in Freshers' Week in order to show your interest and learn more about sports at Oxford! You can visit <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/> to learn more as well!

Wadham Sports (pt. 1)

Netball

Wadham has a great mixed gender netball team! It is super chill, and everyone can join with no experience required! very popular among your freps (tina is captain! and anne & aria joined with no experience and are now your social secs!). It is genuinely very fun & you get to play cuppers which is a fun tournament with other colleges! Follow us @wadballerz on Instagram for updates!



Rugby

We have a joint Men's team with Pembroke College. Historically we have done well in Cuppers and the College League. Matches occur quite often throughout the first 2 terms, and in Trinity we move on to 7s cuppers. There is also a women's team, and you would be hard pressed to meet a more welcoming, badass group of women who roll around in the mud weekly.



Womens' Weightlifting

Well, more accurately powerlifting. We're one of the few colleges to have our own powerlifting club and this is an excellent introduction to strength sports. We've got our own coach who hosts sessions every week on how to lift safely. Trans* and NonBinary people are all welcome and most people who join haven't tried it before! You have to sign up each week but follow @wadhamweightlifting on Instagram for more info on this!



Wadham Sports (pt. 2)

Football

Wadham has two men's and one womens team (which is inclusive of trans etc!). In the men's first team the standard is quite high, with many players also playing university football while the second and third provide a casual and fun way for anyone to get involved. The men play with St. Hughs (their team name is Hughdam) and the 1st team even won Cuppers last year!

The womens team is combined up Merton, Mansfield, and Wadham players! It is open to anyone and has an amazing mix of people who have never played before and people who even play for the university, producing a very successful team that are now two-time cuppers finalists and last years' league winners! (Def not biased but two of your freps Tina and Aria play for Wertonfield and it is genuinely one of our highlights of uni so far xx)



Rowing

Rowing is quite big in the Wadham sports scene. We have 3 teams in both the Open (formerly known as Men's) and Women's side. There is no need to worry about having prior experience on the river, most of the members of the boat club were completely new to rowing on coming to Oxford and we have amazing coaches who can help to get you on your feet in no time. Commitment levels can vary quite a lot depending on if you just want the odd outing every week or if you want to become the next Steven Redgrave. For freshers there is a novice regatta at the end of the first term which gives a good taster for competition and allows you to get a feel for college rowing before fully committing, as well as taster sessions during freshers' week



Music

Wadham College Music Society (WCMS)

Hi everyone!!! Wadham College Music Society is Wadham's very own student-run music society. Since the college doesn't offer the music course, we're set up to encourage a music making environment throughout the community. Over the course of the year, we work hard to organise all sorts of college music events including recitals, concerts, and more informal performances



WCMS has highlight events each year. One of these is the Wadham Album Project which happens twice a year. One album is selected, learned by musicians over the course of a couple weeks, and then performed live in the Holywell Music Room. Last year we played ABBA's Gold, the La La Land soundtrack, Rumours by Fleetwood Mac, Frank by Amy Winehouse, The Beatles' Abbey Road, and Stevie Wonder's Songs in the Key of Life. It's always a great vibe and brings a lot of the Wadham community together. Additionally, we run a cabaret night each Hilary Term, which provides an opportunity for Wadham students to perform a wide range of genres of music in a supportive atmosphere.



Wadham is one of the few colleges with access to a large rehearsal space with communal instruments and is located on the lower ground floor of the Undergraduate Centre. It can be booked via the online booking system and is a great space to practice by yourself or with a band. WCMS also helps coordinate other musical opportunities, such as DJ workshops (with the next being in Michaelmas 2025, so stay tuned), Folk nights, and Open-Mic nights, offering Wadham Students opportunity to perform live music during events with a supportive atmosphere!

In fact, look out for their first event at the Schwartzman Centre where they will be playing their one-night only rendition of Raye's My First Century Blues on November 26th as well as their upcoming MT26 album project!

If you have any questions or want to keep up to date on events, feel free to check out their instagram: @wadhammusicoc

Drama

A word from Gwen, the President of Wadham's Drama Soc!

Hi, I'm Gwen (she/her) and I've just finished my term as President of Wadham College Drama Society! We're still looking for your future President but in the meantime, I'm happy to still be your guide to Wadham Drama, and the wider world of Oxford Drama. It's such a welcoming and fun space, and is certain to make your first year that much more enjoyable. I have made some amazing friends and been a part of some great productions so I can't wait to see some new faces getting involved! There are many ways to get involved with Drama at Oxford so here's a few gateways:

OU DS (Oxford University Drama Society)

OU DS may seem a little scary to immerse yourself in, especially when you've just arrived at Oxford. However, it is the main hub for all things Oxford Drama and is in fact a very lovely community. It mainly operates on a somewhat archaic Facebook page (I'm sorry, you might need to download Facebook). This is where most auditions and crew calls are posted, as well as being the home for show marketing and workshops. Some smaller student-run companies have started moving over to Instagram so keep an eye out there as well (OU DS do have an Instagram page!). You will need an invite to the OU DS 'portal,' as it is lovingly named, to access the page. If you're eager to get involved, feel free to find me on Facebook (Gwen Emmett) and ask me for an invite!

OU LES (Oxford University Light Entertainment Society, pronounced 'OWLS')

OU LES puts on pantomime style comedy plays each term, and they accept everyone who comes to audition! You can choose a role which suits your comfort level: any size role, whether you'd like to sing, or if you fancy experimenting with different voices! The auditions are quite informal - you'd read a couple of scene extracts with your fellow auditionees. As everyone gets into the show, it turns from a couple rehearsals a week to visiting different colleges and making lots of new friends. It's a super friendly and supportive environment, plus all profits from their shows go to charity!



Drama

Wadham Drama

And last, but by no means least, is our very own, beloved Wadham College Drama Society! You don't need any experience in acting, performing, or tech, to get involved, despite what you might think. We aim to welcome people from all backgrounds: whether you've never acted before, or if you're a multi-award winner, everyone is welcome.

As Freshers, there are two main opportunities within Wadham Drama for you to get involved with in your first term. The first is OUDS Cuppers, an intercollegiate competition for groups of first years across the university to come together and write, direct, tech, and perform their very own 20 minute play. It's a fabulous way to get a taste of Oxford's drama scene, and to meet fellow theatre lovers from your own college!

The second opportunity in the first term is our annual Pantomime - this year's show is still to be confirmed, but rest assured it will be as weird and wonderful as ever. I acted in the pantomime in my first year, as my first show in Oxford, and co-directed it in second year! It's a brilliant way to get involved with Drama, to try new things, and meet lots of wonderful people!

There will be other socials and events throughout the rest of the year, building to our annual Wadham Garden Play during Arts Week in the final term of the year. Our past two productions have been The Princess Bride and Robin Hood, so you get a sense of the fun, comedic nature that these shows usually provide. No matter what role you have in a production, on or off stage, you will enjoy yourself thoroughly. All you need is enthusiasm and hey, maybe you'll find yourself writing this next year!

Opportunities, show recommendations, and updates will be posted on our Instagram (@wadhamdrama), so make sure to follow us and keep your eyes open! We also have a WhatsApp group where we arrange trips to student shows, and discuss social events. Please get in touch with any questions about drama in general, how to get involved, or if you want to put on your own show. Wadham Drama can help fund Wadham student-led productions, so we'd love for you to get stuck in! So if you fancy a little chat about theatre, send us a message - or just come and chat to me, I'm likely to be found in the library with a hot chocolate

How to find us!

@wadhamdrama - Instagram and Facebook

wcdsfund@gmail.com - Email

Art

Hi! I'm Mathilde, a second year French student and I'm the arts officer for this year. I'm a big textiles lover and take any opportunity to do art related things regardless of how busy term gets, be assured you can definitely find time for arty things even if you're not doing an art degree.

My main role is allocating the arts budget to college art events/sessions (particularly to Wadham Arts Week in Trinity term) and supplies to keep wadham creative. I also have big plans for making the Fung Art room (top floor of the AC) a nicer space to create in, hopefully before you Freshers get here!



I will make sure to keep the Instagram ([@wadhamsuarts](#)) updated with fun arty events for you guys to check out - from events by Art soc, Textiles soc, the many many magazines Oxford has (for example the Isis and Cuntry living) and pottery soc... There's so many fun things to be involved in, whether that's as a committee member, trying something new or carrying on your passion for some kind of art.

Please come to me with any suggestions of events you'd like run (either by me or yourselves) or requests for supplies you'd love wadham to have! I can also liaise with wadham music and Drama for you, but they're also very easily contactable on Instagram ([@wadhammusic](#) soc//[@wadhamdrama](#)). Looking forward to meeting you all :)

Journalism & more art!

Student Journalism

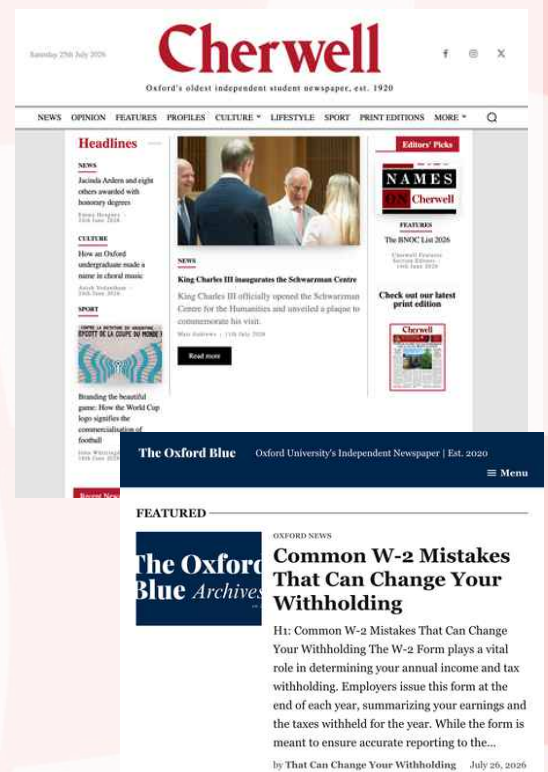
Beyond Arts at Wadham, there are many opportunities to get involved in art and writing in Oxford, through student journals, magazines, newspapers and zines which can publish your work in print! It's a great way to develop your writing and editing experience, and to socialise with people outside of your course and college. There are a range of publications to be involved in, including opportunities for events, business and marketing teams are available too if writing or editing isn't your thing.

The main student newspapers are The Cherwell, The Oxford Blue and The Oxford Student. Many students work for them, and they publish news content frequently – some have art and creative writing sections too. Most publications make it super easy to join, and you can even write on a one-off occasion without any commitment!

Journals and magazines are more distinctly creative publications and print less regularly than newspapers – usually once a term or year, where editions are centred around a specific creative theme. They publish essays, poetry, visual art, thought pieces, short stories, and more! The Isis (the world's longest running student publication?!), Industry Magazine, The Oxford Review of Books, The Onyx (for black students and creatives), the Turl Magazine, Lunchbox Magazine and more are all based at Oxford. They also run arts events throughout the term like life drawing, club nights and poetry readings too!

Art Societies

There are many arts societies in Oxford that you can join! The Edgar Wind Society (for art history lovers), Oxford Uni Art Club (for weekly arts sessions), Textile Society (for crochet and fibre arts sessions), Pottery Society, and more! Literature related societies include the Oscar Wilde Society and the Poetry Society too – for open mic nights and readings. Keep an eye out for them at the fresher's fair! The Arts, Drama and Music scene at Wadham is flourishing too – most arts events that I'll run will be onsite at Wadham, and other SU officers may run art or book club events in the term as well. There will be many opportunities to be creative and relax during your time here



A Word from Nightline!

Speaking of societies, **Nightline** is looking for more volunteers and would love to have the Wadham freshers (you guys!) join the team. Here's some information about what they do:

OXFORD NIGHTLINE

An independent listening, information, and support service run for and by students at Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities.

Call 01865 270270

IM oxfordnightline.org/talk/

OPEN 8PM-8AM EVERY NIGHT OF TERM



We are:

Confidential
Anonymous
Non-judgemental
Non-directional

**We provide a safe
space for you to
talk about
anything that's on
you mind.**

Sign up to volunteer! Training runs every term and requires no prior experience.

<https://oxfordnightline.org/volunteer/>

A Word from Nightline!

'Nightline is an independent listening, support, and information service run for students, by students. We aim to provide every student in Oxford with the opportunity to talk to someone in confidence - students can ring us on 01865 270270 or message us online at <https://oxfordnightline.org/talk/>, from 8pm to 8am every night of term. We don't pretend to have all the answers, or try to solve people's problems, but we care about whatever is on your mind and we will listen to whatever you want to talk about without judging or telling you what to do.

Every term we run a training course for people who wish to join our team of volunteers. This teaches the listening and support skills you will need to work for us. Training requires commitment, but is a rewarding and worthwhile experience. It consists of three one-day sessions, EITHER on the Saturdays of 24th Oct, 31st Oct, and 7th Nov OR the Sundays of 25th Oct, 1st Nov and 8th Nov.

If you would like to train to become a Nightline volunteer, please fill out a training form here: <https://oxfordnightline.org/volunteer/>.

If you would like more information about the training process, or have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us at training@oxfordnightline.org.

We are also always looking for new volunteers to join our Publicity, Fundraising and Outreach team (PFO). PFO volunteers act as ambassadors for Nightline by talking to students and organising events in their colleges and departments to raise awareness about our service. It is not a large time commitment – you can do as much or as little as you have time for – and there are lots of opportunities to learn valuable skills and play a leading role in informing our publicity strategy. If you've got a flair for publicity or an interest in charity PR, please fill out a form here: <https://oxfordnightline.org/publicity/>. We'd love to hear from you!

Thank you so much!

A guide to Oxford (the city)!

Green spaces, Cafes, Libraries, Cheap/good eats, Pubs, & Clubs!

Green Spaces

University Parks

University Parks offers an escape from the city but is super close to Wadham - just a 5 minute walk down Parks Road (where the entrance of Wadham is!) It's a great place to walk, run, have a picnic, study outdoors, and it's super fun to watch (and play!) all the different sports hosted at University Parks: rugby, football, ultimate frisbee, and even quidditch....



Christ Church Meadows

Christ Church Meadows is another great green space in the heart of the city (just a 10 minute walk from Wadham).

Located just behind Christ Church, it offers a nice loop of around 2-3 km, and you can also walk alongside the river, which is super nice and relaxing! Same as with Uni Parks, it also closes at dusk, which can mean 4:00 pm in Hilary or 8:30 pm in Trinity!



Port Meadows

Port Meadows is a large meadow right by River Thames about a 30-40 minute walk from Wadham! While it is a bit far, a nice route to take is to walk by the canals through Jericho to reach Port Meadows and then loop back. Port Meadows is a great area to chill, see some ponies, have a picnic, and enjoy the sunset and view 😊



Some other recs I have are Hinksey Park (a bit far but a great place to swim during Trinity), Wadham gardens, the Botanic Gardens, and South Park for some great views of the sunset (also a bit far though!)

Cafes

There are so so many cafes to try in Oxford, and this guide would be way too long if I listed all the ones I have tried, but def come up to me (Aria, if you needed a reminder) for more recs if you want! I also def recommend just exploring some with a friend, I would love to go on study dates at cafes during Trinity when we had exams!

Blacksheep Coffee

The infamous Blacksheeps, home to the £2 student discount offered on Mondays! It is a great study spot with lots of seating on the top floor and a nice enclosed basement (EXTREMELY good for a lock in) down below. It does get super busy on Mondays so def be there early if you want a seat (I was there at 9 am on a Monday and it was almost full...)



Queen's Lane Coffee House

A personal favourite due to their super convenient location (like 8 minutes from Wadham and 1 min from Exam Schools, where I had lectures). A great place to lock in as they have a lot of seating room & really good drinks and food (special shoutout to their hot chocolate which IS the best in the city, and their veggie breakfast is so so good as well)

Gonna try squeeze as many here as possible so here we go: **Barefoot** in Jericho does £5 for 1 pastry and 1 hot drink before 11 AM (although can get busy esp on the weekends, so not the best place for studying) as well as 50% off their pastries from 4 to 5 pm (don't quote me on the timing but sometime in the evening!) For a cosy study spot or catch-up with friends, **Jericho Coffee Traders** (on the High Street and near the Castle) is beloved for its excellent coffee and chill vibe. **The Missing Bean** on Turl Street is a student staple, always buzzing and great for people-watching. **Gails** is of course deeply loved (can be expensive but dare i say worth it??) **Gulp Fiction** is super unique because it's a bookshop (with cheaper second hand books upstairs) and a coffee shop, located in the really cute Covered Market which generally also has a lot of great coffee shops. Lastly, **Chaska House** next to the Covered Market has great chai and mango lassi for anyone that loves Indian beverages!

Libraries

Your Bod Card, received in Freshers Week, not only acts as the key to your room but is also your Oxford Library card. This allows you to access and borrow books from the 30 departmental libraries as well as our own Wadham library. Here are some library crowd favourites!

WadhLib (Wadham Library)

Lovingly named WadhLib, in our own college library you can find most of the books you need for your first year. If they don't have a book you need they can order it for you, this means I have never bought a book for my course. The bean bags overlooking the gardens are a lovely place to relax while working and the library is open 24/7 so perfect for late night study sessions, or stress writing an essay at 4 am. (Although try not to speak too loudly in there esp during Trinity when everyone is deep in the trenches with exams)



The Old Bodleian Library & RadCam

The Bod is the big quadrangle around the corner from Wadham that has the Upper and Lower Reading Rooms as well as the Duke Humphreys library (super cool but high security, you can only bring certain items in). I personally love the Bod due to their huge desks. The RadCam is also super close to Wadham and connects to the Bod as well. It is highly effective as a place for locking in due to it being VERY silent in there and very aesthetically pleasing (always features in an Oxford Instagram dump)

The Schwarzman

Ah, the controversial Schwarzman Centre...loved by some, hated by others. I personally LOVE it because you can either study on the edges of the Schwarzman which are lined with wide desks or go into the Humanities Library, which is a more quiet space to study. A lot of the Modern Languages and English students have lectures here as well, so it does get super busy and it can be hard to find a seat. Pro tip: you can book their discussion rooms super easily which guarantees that you have a place to study!



Libraries + Solo

Here's a list of some other libraries I personally love! I also recommend just exploring on your own with friends, this was my favourite thing to do during Trinity and studying is so much more enjoyable when you're with a friend

- Vere Harmsworth - a 10 minute walk from Wadham with big windows and wide desks (not super big though so can get busy!)
- Social Science Library - also a 10 minute walk from college, it's not the most pretty but works very well for a lock in
- The Taylorian - also a 10 minute walk from college (if you can't tell already Wadham is EXTREMELY well-located and convenient), a very stereotypically "Oxford" library that is very grand and impressive-looking on the inside
- the Chinese Library or Japanese Library - both quite small and more of a walk from college (around 20-25 mins) but they don't get that crowded, and I personally work super well there

Also, if you like to study late at night (like after dinner) and don't want to stay in WadhLib, the **RSL (Radcliffe Science Library)**, **SSL (Social Science Library)**, and the **Law Library** are the only libraries that are open til 10:00 pm on weekdays. The RadCam and Old Bod also close at 9:00 pm on weekdays. My friends and I would rotate between these in Trinity term because we wanted a change of scenery from Wadhlib so I really recommend doing this if you like to study at night! Also, most libraries close earlier on the weekends so make sure you check the opening times before you go!



Radcliffe Science Library



Vere Harmsworth



Law Library

SOLO

This is not a library but the online system by which you can search the 13 million books in the Bodleian Libraries' collection. You can find and reserve books at other libraries and order them from offsite storage. It is a very helpful tool when you first get a reading list for an essay, so I def recommend spending some time at the start of term to get acquainted with using it.

Cheap/Good Eats 🍷

Alternative Tuck Shop (ATS)

Just down Holywell street (like 2 minutes from Wadham), the ATS has lovely and healthy sandwich or wrap options, hot or cold, all for under £5. I really recommend their aubergine panini it's SO good. Lots of good vegetarian options, and perfect to grab a quick lunch when you're going insane in Wadhib.



Najar's

A great place in town for a cheap lunch or dinner! Amazing range of options (especially for vegetarians and vegans) all for under a fiver, and it's great value because the portion size is quite generous! The Lebanese style wraps, which will fill you up for hours, are absolutely delicious. Find them opposite the Taylorian/near the entrance to St John's

Itsu/Wasabi

Half an hour before both of these places close they do half price sushi / gyoza (9:30 for itsu and 10 for wasabi), so make sure to make the most of this, especially on a weekend when you have to fend for yourself for dinner! I also recommend getting their loyalty apps, I have the Itsu loyalty app and I'm always getting some reward on there, like free gyoza, free snack, and even a whole free meal



Gloucester Green Market

There are loads of great food stalls here for a quick and fresh lunch, so make sure to check them out! They are only open from Wednesday to Saturday, so make the most of it during the week. They have all kinds of food from Chinese, Indian, Mexican, Italian, as well as snack and drink stalls as well. ,



Cheap/Good Eats 🍱

Dosa Parks

A personal favourite among my friends and I, Dosa Parks is right by the train station and does delicious Indian food. Their dosas are around 10 quid but they do student discount, and have other options as well! Especially good if you're vegetarian



Three Thousand Noodles

Recommended by our frep Ben, Three Thousand does delicious noodles that are super authentic. Their portions are also super generous so you can def get more than one meal out of it if you eat the leftovers! It's around a 10 minute walk from Wadham so also super convenient!

Covered Market

The Covered Market is right in the heart of the city and has all sorts of delicious lunch options. I personally love **A Taste of China** for their Hot and Dry noodles and **Sartorelli's** which does customisable pizza! **Hamblin Bread** also does delicious pastries if you're in the mood for a snack! They do close early on certain days as a heads up.



Hi tea & bakery + Rincha Thai

These two are recs from our frep Nikhil: Hi tea does really good boba tea as well as ice cream and other snacks as well. It is especially good on a hot summer day in Trinity. Rincha Thai is right on Broad Street and does really good Thai milk tea and other drinks as well. They also serve Thai food if you head there for lunch or dinner! Overall some super good options esp if you're not feeling a usual coffee or tea but want a drink.

Clubs & Nightlife



Before coming to Oxford, like every well-adjusted incoming student with good priorities, I was worried about the nightlife (or potential lack thereof). You'll be glad to hear, I'm sure, that Oxford has surprisingly good nightlife, especially once you work out where is good on what days, which this can hopefully give you a leg up on. There are several clubs and bars in Oxford (and everyone seems to favour different ones, so sample them all at least once if you can), which, ranging from closest to furthest from Wadham, include:

Plush

Plush is an LGBTQ+ nightclub, and the closest club to Wadham, and so features quite heavily in a typical night out. It can get quite hot and sweaty though, so the underground tunnel vibe might not be for everyone. A top tip is that if you can get to the stage, you can enjoy a selection of – in no way professional standard – stripper poles and some life-saving cold vents. Plush is at its best on student nights, especially Skittles, which is always well-attended post-Tuesdays, a weekly event run by LGTBQ+ Society that tours different college bars. This is also a great way to check off some boxes if you're trying to hit every college bar or find a more affordable bar to go to! Don't expect any artistry or originality from the DJ, at Plush, but trust that you'll be screaming the words. The staff and bouncers are lovely too, so it's a good choice if you're new to clubbing and want the security of somewhere nearby where you can feel safe.



Bridge

Bridge is the other club most frequented by students, featuring two floors, each with their own bar, and a large separate smoking area. I personally prefer Bridge as it's more spacious with diff music playing depending on the floor. Upstairs you'll generally find drum and bass, rap, etc., while downstairs plays typical White-Girl-Bangers. It can be a bit of a maze and easy to lose people in, so keep an eye on your short friends!

The student night is Bridge Thursday, which is well-attended and one of the more guaranteed good nights out. It's safe to say that Friday morning tutorials are a sight to behold.

Clubs & Nightlife



Bullingdon

Plush and Bridge are the big two for your standard student clubbing nights, but Bullingdon does hold frequent themed nights that make the trek out worth it. Especially if you're on the lookout for clubs that showcase better music and a bit of variety (you can only hear 'Mr Brightside' and Charlie XCX so many times before your ears start to bleed). Bully is home to Boogaloo (60s, 70s and 80s classics) if you're feeling more old school.



The O2

The O2 is a music-venue-turned-club, and as such is one massive room with a huge stage and two bars on opposite sides. Like Bully, it hosts a few themed nights, the biggest mention being Indie Fridays. These nights are popular and always sell out. The music is decided through sent in suggestions, so it can vary from decent to stereotypical. Again, these get super crowded, but if you're happy to carve out a space for yourself somewhere, this is a highly recommended night out.



The Varsity Club

TVC hosts some really good club nights, such as one on Halloween and one on May Day. It's more of a venue than a club, so it holds more one-off club nights rather than weekly frequent club nights. It has loads of floors with different music as well as a roof top, and I've always had a great time there!



Glossary

Oxford is, as you'll soon find out, a weird bubble when it comes to the use of words. Some are shared with Cambridge, but others are unique – so here's a quick guide to some of the more useful phrases you might come across.

Battels—the fees (rent and food) you have to pay at the beginning of each term

Bod, also Old Bod—the Old Bodleian library, across the road from Wadham

Bod card—your student card, which you use to pay for food at college, to swipe your way in and out of college and into other university buildings (including the Bodleian libraries). It costs £20 to replace so try not to lose it

Bodleian libraries—the network of libraries any student with a bod card can use

Bops—college parties (fortnightly at Wadham), which have a fancy dress theme

Clunch—pay-as-you-go college lunch served every weekday in the Refectory

Collections—mock exams you'll sit at the start of most terms

Cuppers—intercollegiate competitions, such as in drama or sports

DWB—(pronounced 'dwib') the Dorothy Wadham Building, where most second year Wadhamites live

Glink—abbreviation of Gladstone Link – one of the Bodleian libraries

Hall—the big fancy dining hall in college; also the latter sitting of dinner (eg. 'are you going to refec or hall tonight?')

Michaelmas/Hilary/Trinity—the 1st/2nd/3rd terms of the academic year, respectively

Oxford SU—the Oxford University Student Union; @oxfordstudents on Instagram

Oxford Union—a debating society which you have to pay to join. They host famous speakers for members and have a private library. Wadham SU officially boycotts the Union because of recent controversies, but Wadham students nevertheless are Union members (and there is a membership discount for those on bursaries etc)

Glossary

Pidge—‘pigeon holes’ for post, located in the lodge

Plodge—shortening of porters’ lodge – less used at Wadham than other colleges, we tend to just call it Lodge

Porters—people who man the lodge 24/7. Sort of like receptionists, but a point of call if you’re in trouble (or have locked yourself out of your room)

Prelims/mods—exams, sat at different times depending on your course

Radcam—the Radcliffe Camera, the big round library that’s on all the postcards

Refec—the refectory, where breakfast, lunch, brunch, and the first sitting of dinner is served

SOLO—Oxford’s online library catalogue (snappily named ‘Search Oxford Libraries Online’)

Sub fusc—the outfit you wear for matriculation and your exams (and for formal dinners at other colleges)

Trashing—the act of surprising one’s friend after their final exam by, for example, covering them with shaving foam, flour, paint, prosecco... (officially prohibited on university grounds)

Tute—tutorial, a class with your tutor

Vac, also long vac—holidays in between terms

Wadhlib—the Wadham college library, open 24/7

Connecting to Eduroam

Eduroam is the wifi network in college and all around the university, here's a step by-step guide to setting it up. Please do this before you arrive in Oxford and once you have your SSO (your wadh_ _ _ ID). You can also look at the following link which provides very clear instructions. <https://help.it.ox.ac.uk/how-to-connect-to-eduroam>

Part 1: Setting up a remote Access Account password

Set up your “remote access” password. This, frustratingly, is a different thing to your SSO (single sign on) that you use to log on to any other Oxford online system.

1. Go to register.it.ox.ac.uk
2. Sign in with your “normal” university SSO
3. Find the “Self-registration” button on the left and click it
4. Click on “Set up a Remote Access (Eduroam WiFi/VPN) account password”
5. Enter a new password, keeping in mind all the password selection rules specified on the right (it has to be different from your SSO password, for example)
6. Click submit
7. It might take about 10 minutes before your new remote access password works, so maybe go grab a cup of tea before you proceed with the next steps to connect to eduroam on your devices.

Here is what the website should look like:

The screenshot shows the 'IT Services Self-Registration Home Page' of the University of Oxford. The page has a dark blue header with the 'iT services' logo on the left and the 'UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD' logo on the right. Below the header, the page title is 'Self-Registration Home Page'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with links: 'v3.36 09-Jul-2025 © University of Oxford', 'Search Registration IT Services', 'Self-Registration User info', 'Software Nexus options ITSS index'. The main content area has a yellow background and contains the following sections:

- You already have all the accounts you can register for.**
- The following account options are available:**
 - [Change an SSO \(Webauth\) password](#) (The password for your Oxford SSO account [redacted] expires on 30-Aug-2025) (About Webauth passwords)
 - [Change a Remote Access \(eduroam WiFi\) account password](#) **← Click here to establish your password** (The password for your Remote Access account [redacted] expires on 01-Nov-2025)
 - [Check your eduroam access logs and test your eduroam password](#)
 - [Set, update or view Nexus mailbox settings](#)
 - [View or change your multi-factor authentication methods](#)
- Other facilities available:**
 - [View the data about you held in the Registration database](#)
 - [Register for and download site-licensed software \(Sophos, VPN, SPSS, NVivo, etc\)](#)
 - [Modify a non-Oxford-University email address](#)
 - [Manage an associated ORCID identifier](#) (About ORCID at Oxford)
 - [Manage web space](#)
 - [Manage linux shell account](#)
 - [Site-licence software terms and conditions](#)
 - [Use the Self Service Catalogue to request access to systems, phone services, changes to accounts and more.](#)

Connecting to Eduroam

Part 2: Connecting to eduroam on your device

A. Apple devices (except MacBooks – see “3. Laptops” for these)

1. Go to your Wi-Fi settings, ensure Wi-Fi is turned on, click on eduroam and enter your remote access account username and password.
2. If asked to trust the radius.oucs.ox.ac.uk certificate, select “Accept” or “Trust”.
3. You should then be connected to eduroam.

B. Android phones:

1. Go to your Wi-Fi settings and click on eduroam, then enter the following settings:
2. EAP method: PEAP
3. Two stage authentication: MSCHAPV 2
4. CA certificate: use system certificates
5. Domain: ox.ac.uk
6. Identity: wadh1234@OX.AC.UK (with your real username 4-digit number)
7. Anonymous identity: leave blank
8. Password: your remote access password 9. Click connect

C. Laptops:

1. Go to <https://cat.eduroam.org>
2. Click on the download eduroam button and then select “University of Oxford”
3. Download the package
4. Install it (i.e. click or double click on it once downloaded)
5. Follow the instructions in the install manager
6. Connect to eduroam using your username (wadh1234@OX.AC.UK) and your remote access password

If you have any problems connecting to eduroam, you can contact the tech officer (su.technical@wadham.ox.ac.uk) or go to the IT Department (Holywell court). Alternatively you can find further guidance online on:

<https://help.it.ox.ac.uk/network/wireless/services/eduroam/manuals/etup/index>

University & Student Resources

POxford University Student Union

(Oxford SU) runs the Student Advice Service (SAS). The Oxford SU Student Advice Service is a confidential listening, information and advocacy service. The service aims to provide a space for students to talk over their worries in confidence and to offer information on a range of issues which students might encounter during their time at Oxford. You can email advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk or you can come to one of their drop-in sessions which in addition to more information you can find here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/advice-wellbeing/contact-advice/>

The University Counselling Service can be reached at counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk or 01865 270300, and offer 1-1 appointments or group sessions. The service also offers supportive resources, such as podcasts and pamphlets. Find out more at www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can be reached on disability@admin.ox.ac.uk or 01865 289850. Around a third of students registered with the DAS have a mental health condition, one third have specific learning difficulties, and the final third have physical impairments / mobility issues. The DAS can help you with anything from lecture accessibility to special considerations for exams –get in touch sooner rather than later!

Oxford SU's campaigns work to support and campaign for students. Join their mailing lists to get updates on events and key lobbying priorities: www.oxfordsu.org/campaigns/

Nightline (trained volunteer-led listening service) operates from 8pm to 8am every night in term time: contact them online <http://oxfordnightline.org/> The Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service provides a safe space for you to be heard, with advisors offering free support and advice to any current student who has been impacted by sexual harassment or violence - www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice

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University & Student Resources

Some Useful Contacts outside Oxford:

NHS 111 out-of-hours advice, medical or mental health support: 111

Alcoholics Anonymous: 01865 242373

Cruse Bereavement Centre helpline: 0808 808 1677

BEAT Eating Disorders helpline: 080 801 0677

Frank (drugs and drink helpline): 0300 1236600

Switchboard LGBT+ helpline: 0800 0119 100

British Pregnancy Advisory Service: 03457 30 40 30

Samaritans: 116 123

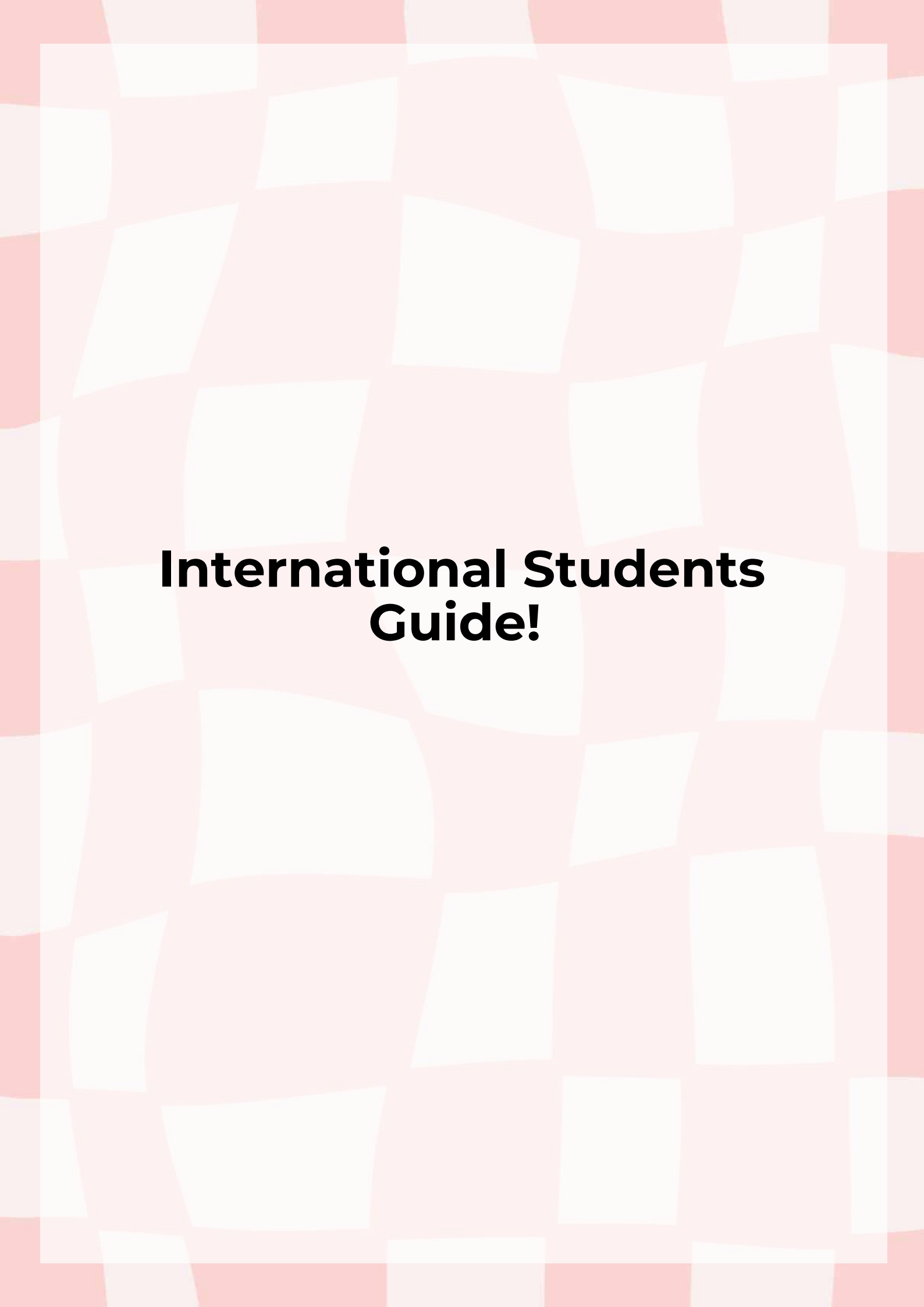
National Sexual Health Service helpline: 03001237123

Terrence Higgins Trust helpline: 0808 802 1221

Meningitis helpline: 0808 80 10 388

Diabetes UK helpline: 0345 123 2399

Release (legal advice on drug related issues): 0207 324 2989



International Students Guide!

Introduction

As a fellow International student, I know how hard it can be to not only adjust to Oxford and university, which comes with challenges like living alone for the first time, but also adjust to living in a new country. Because of this, we thought it would be a good idea to dedicate a few pages to helping all of you familiarise yourself with Oxford before you arrive, from how to get to Oxford to figuring out data plans and storage. **Diya**, our **international students officer** has put together some great advice for you all, but if you ever have any questions, feel free to ask either Diya or any of the freps for support or guidance! Anne, Samy, and I (Aria) are all international (Anne is from Germany, Samy from India, and I'm from Hong Kong) so we can help answer any questions you have as well!

International Students Officer - Diya Pillai
su.international@wadham.ox.ac.uk

Hi! My name is **Diya** (she/her), and this is my second year as Wadham's International Students' Officer. :) I'm a second-year from sunny California currently studying Experimental Psychology! In my free time, when I'm not complaining about the UK weather, I'm probably binge-watching a new anime or rewatching a favorite while doodling in my sketchbook. Moving to the UK is a huge change for any international student, and I'm here to make the transition as smooth as possible. Later in this packet, you can find a guide of helpful tips for things I wish I knew before coming here—if there's any question you have that isn't answered by that information, or if you'd just like to reach out, feel free to contact me at the email above. :)



Before & Getting to Oxford

Before Oxford

Most of the preparatory work the Freshers' Guide discusses applies to international students as well! The primary extra thing that you'll want to keep an eye for is obtaining your visa. Wadham will send you information about receiving your visa as early as April, and I highly recommend getting started on the process as early as possible. I think Oxford describes this entire process better than I can summarize, but if you're stuck at any step and don't know who to contact for help, feel free to reach out, and I should be able to direct you towards the right source. Typically, visa enquiries should be directed towards **student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk**.

After getting your eVisa, you should be able to retrieve a share code—make sure you email this share code to tutorial@wadham.ox.ac.uk so that Wadham knows you have an eVisa!

Getting to Oxford

The closest major airport to Oxford is the London Heathrow (LHR) Airport. The first time you enter the UK with your student visa, make sure not to go through the eGates, even if your passport makes you eligible. For your first visit only, go through the All Passports lane to receive a manual stamp on your passport. After this first visit, you can use the eGates any time if your visa is eligible. However, some passports require you to go to the All Passports lane during each entry, so do pay attention to the signs.

There are a few ways to get to Oxford from Heathrow or Gatwick, but the most convenient is the direct bus from the airport to Oxford, known as The Airline. From whichever terminal you land at, make your way to the Central Bus Station. From here, it's easiest to go straight to the front desk or buy a ticket on the bus (no need to buy a ticket online!) A one way ticket is around 25 pounds, and a round trip ticket is around 35 pounds—the benefit of the round trip ticket is that you don't need to later book a return trip to the airport, and it's a flexible ticket, meaning you can show up at whatever time is convenient. Buses to Heathrow run up to every 20 minutes, so I highly recommend purchasing the flexible round trip ticket at the airport—just make sure you don't lose the printed QR code by the time you need to return!

Before & Getting to Oxford

The Airline makes a few different stops in Oxford, including Gloucester Green and Queen's Lane on High Street. Both of these are of relatively equal distance to Wadham, so departing at either stop will leave you with an approximately ten minute walk to Wadham. The path to Wadham is slightly easier from Queen's Lane, but overall, there isn't much of a difference. Gloucester Green is The Airline's final stop as well, so you don't have to be worried if you feel like you've missed a stop. Either of these stops are also where you'll want to head when you want to get back to the airport at the end of term.

As I mentioned, it's a pretty short walk to Wadham from either of the bus stops; however, it can be a bit tricky when you're with large suitcases—Oxford roads are not the kindest to wheels in general, so be a bit careful when you're pulling your suitcases over the cobblestone paths. For leaving Oxford, make sure you tell the bus driver what terminal you need to get to, so they can sort your luggage accordingly.



During Oxford

Currency and Bank Accounts

One thing you'll want to sort before arriving at Oxford is how you intend to pay for things—there are loads of different options, but you'll want to make sure you have an idea before you get here! Cash is one option, and there are plenty of places that will do currency exchanges (with some having special rates for students), so you shouldn't have to exchange at the airport itself.

Most commonly, international students will open a UK bank account and use that while they're in Oxford. Multiple UK banks will have the option to open an account, but the one I personally found the easiest was HSBC. With HSBC, you can also open an account before you actually arrive in the UK, and you can find more details [here](#).

Additionally, there's an HSBC branch about a ten minute walk away from Wadham (shown on the right), so if you ever have any trouble, it's a quick walk to discuss your account. Another option is Santander, with more information [here](#), which also has a branch very close by.



Another option is continuing to use an account from your home country. For example, I primarily use a First Tech card for my expenses, which is connected to my U.S. bank account. If you choose this option, make sure the card you're using doesn't have any international transaction fees, as those can really add up. The benefit of using a card from your home country without international transaction fees is that you don't have to transfer any money to a UK bank account, which can come with its own fees.

However, if you go with the latter option, I would still highly recommend opening a UK bank account. A lot of societies in Oxford have membership fees that you can only pay via bank transfer, and this is only possible with a UK bank account. Additionally, any payments you receive in Oxford will need to go into a UK bank account—for example, if you get paid for running tours for college, or if you get reimbursed for any specific products from the SU.

During Oxford

Data Plans

In every college and every university building, you should be able to connect to eduroam, the University wifi. However, you'll also likely spend a lot of time outside in the city, and it's really crucial to make sure you have a phone that gets a signal! There are lots of options to get data in Oxford as well, but the most convenient is getting an eSim. This is something you can typically set up before you arrive in the UK as well!

eSim options include EE, O2, and Three, which range from a monthly cost of 13 pounds to 27 pounds a month. Personally, I use Lebara as it has a much cheaper price of only 5 pounds a month. Typically, you can receive a discount if you sign up for a yearly plan, but I appreciate being able to cancel my data plan when I'm back home for vacations. Before you purchase an eSim, make sure your phone is unlocked—sometimes phones will be carrier-locked to a specific network and will reject eSims. Usually, this means your phone must be paid off. Aside from the obvious convenience of having data in the city, eSims are also helpful in that they provide a UK number, which is sometimes required to sign up for certain things.

Data in general in Oxford is a bit unreliable—regardless of the plan you sign up for, there are going to be areas where you don't have signal, but these data-less patches are typically small enough that it's not too large of a hindrance.

During Oxford

Storage

We're very lucky at Wadham to have storage over vacation periods as international students! You'll receive loads of emails about the specifics of this towards the end of your first term (including some from yours truly), so I won't get into the details here—but generally, each international student is able to store six boxes at college over each vacation period, including over the summer. I've attached two pictures of the boxes so you can gauge their size and depth—personally, they are large enough that I've never had to bring much home during vacations. The actual storage is free, but each box costs five pounds—however, you can reuse your boxes for pretty much the entire year, so I think of this more like a one time expense. Unfortunately, the storage area does not have space for anything outside of these boxes—so if you have suitcases you'd like to store in Oxford over the vacation period, you'll likely need to look for an outside storage provider. Some of my friends have used **Oxford Student Storage** or **KitKeeper**, so I recommend checking those out if needed! You might also be interested in these options at the end of first year when you aren't going back to living in college in second year.



During Oxford

Weather

As I mentioned before—I love complaining about the weather. Here, I'll try to do it in a slightly productive way. :)

Overall, the UK is pretty cold and almost constantly rainy. However, the exact characteristics of the weather do differ a lot depending on the term. I don't predict every year will follow the same trends, but these are what I observed last year: in Michaelmas (first term), the first four weeks are actually quite nice, with highs of low-60s (around 15°C). The latter half of Michaelmas had temperatures drop sharply, with highs of mid-40s (around 4°C). This, for me, was one of the hardest transitions to make—seeing it so nice in the first half made the second half significantly worse for me, so make sure to remember that you can expect the temperature to get worse.

Hilary (second term) consists primarily of February and March, so I went into it expecting the worst—which actually meant I was fairly prepared for the weather that followed. Temperatures in this term consistently linger in the low-40s, often dipping to the 30s (around 1°C). Rain is also a bit more of a constant phenomenon in this term than the other two.

Trinity (third term) is the final and most variable of all the terms with regards to weather. The average temperature in this term is very similar to the beginning of Michaelmas, which means it's actually pretty nice—but the UK is also prone to sudden, intense heat waves. Last year, we had a week where the high was consistently 90°F (around 32°C). This is always a temporary burst, but it can be quite a lot, especially when it's during exam season. Additionally, Oxford has very few buildings that have AC, so this can be a very uncomfortable period. While rain is less frequent in this term, when it does rain, it's often on the level of a thunderstorm—thus, the heat is humid rather than dry. Overall, though, the weather in this term is relatively nice.

During Oxford

Weather

The temperatures I've mentioned are all the recorded temperatures in the term—however, it typically ends up feeling much colder than it seems due to strong winds. The combination of constant rain and intense winds is often what makes the weather so hard to manage, and I strongly recommend investing in an especially robust umbrella—it'll get good use throughout your time at Oxford! Aside from an umbrella, I also really recommend buying the Wadham puffer jacket that you'll get a link to buy early in the term—I wore it religiously throughout Hilary, and it honestly did save me from even the coldest days.

But at the end of the day, the most difficult thing for me to adjust to was the lack of sun. There are obviously parts of the world that are colder than the UK, but I'm not sure if there's any where the sun is so infrequent as it is here. It might not seem like a huge deal, but at least personally, it really contributed to feeling down in colder temperatures like during the end of Michaelmas. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is absolutely something you can experience here, so make sure you're prepared for that possibility. Wadham SU has a few SAD lamps that anyone can borrow if needed, or you can fashion your own sun replacement—you can see what mine is on the right. :)



Miscellaneous

Finally, just some notes about living in Oxford—overall, the cost of living is fairly high, as Oxford is one of the most expensive cities in the UK. Still, there are ways to budget so that it's manageable. Below are some of the typical brands you can run into in the UK that have branches in Oxford:

Tesco: One of the primary grocery stores in the UK, super close to Wadham! There are actually two Tesco locations in Oxford. Tesco, along with Sainsbury (a different grocery chain), has a free loyalty program where you can get discounts on certain items and get points for every purchase. If you're willing to walk for a bit, Aldi is another grocery store on the outskirts of the city that's a bit cheaper on average. Sainsbury and Aldi mostly only have food items, but Tesco has a lot of miscellaneous items as well (For example, Tesco is a great place to buy an adapter for the outlets here!) M&S is another supermarket chain that's a bit pricier than the above mentioned.

Boots: Lots of medical and health items, also very close to Wadham! They have a loyalty card as well that you can link your student ID to, which gives you a 15% discount—this will be super helpful if you ever get hit by the dreaded Freshers' Flu! Additionally, while you probably won't get food that tastes exactly like home, there is a huge variety of cuisine available right in the city center—so there's never a lack of choice if you want to eat out for a night.

That's all I've got for you all for now. :) As I mentioned before, if there's anything this guide didn't address, please feel free to email me at **su.international@wadham.ox.ac.uk**!

I'm happy to answer any question, big or small. :) I can't wait to meet you all (please do drop by the International Students' Social in Freshers' Week! There will be free food!) and I hope you're all looking forward to a fantastic first year at Wadham!