

Student Guide - Summer 2019

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW

at

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

OXFORD

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Thanks to Professor Emeritus Bill Bridge and all of the former Oxford program students who contributed to this Guide.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**BEFORE LEAVING DALLAS –** Please provide Ms. Oswald with the name and phone number of a person in the United States whom we can contact in case of emergency. Provide the following information to your emergency contact person:

Michele Oswald

Assistant to the Director

SMU Dedman School of Law

Storey Hall, Room 213

P.O. Box 750116

3315 Daniel Ave.

Dallas, TX 75205

Phone: (214) 768-2832

E-mail: [amoswald@smu.edu](mailto:amoswald@smu.edu)

**All inquiries concerning the program should be addressed to:**

SMU Law Programme in Oxford

University College

Oxford OX1 4BH

ENGLAND

**Be sure to tell your correspondents to put “Law” in your address. There is another, larger, SMU program at the college.**

Porter’s Lodge outside the UK: 011-44-1865-276-602

Porter’s Lodge within the UK: 01865-276-602

**Calling to UK**: 011– 44–1865 + the number

Only emergency messages can be left at this number but the Lodge will forward telephone calls to your room number.

**Oxford is six hours ahead of Dallas time.**

**University College’s Address and Telephone Information**

**II. PLANNING YOUR TRIP**

**AIR TRAVEL**

**Book your flight to England as early as possible**. The fares **increase** the closer it gets to departure and flights sell out, making it difficult to find an affordable flight when you have time restrictions. Check out various search engines for the best deals. Direct flights from Dallas on American Airlines and British Airways now fly into Heathrow. There are also direct flights from Austin to Heathrow.

**DOCUMENTATION**

A valid passport is required for entry into the United Kingdom. **If you already have a passport, be sure that it is valid, and will remain valid, for the length of your stay abroad and for three months after your return date.** The United Kingdom has recently revised its visa rules for foreign students. SMU has concluded that these rules do not require you to obtain a visa.

**Before you leave the United States, you will be given an official letter indicating that you are enrolled in the SMU program**. **Keep this letter with you whenever you travel.** You should have this letter available when you first go through UK immigration. You should also take the letter with you if you travel outside the UK during the program. You will be required to show this letter at immigration every time you re-enter the UK. UK immigration authorities can be very persnickety, especially in this period of security alerts and concerns about immigrants.

You should bring at least one photocopy of the photo/information page of your passport and a list of your driver’s license number, the numbers of any credit or ATM card, and the details of any other identification card that you will have with you when outside the United States. Be sure to include the telephone numbers you must use to report lost or stolen cards. Leave a copy of this information with your emergency contact person.

A valid driver’s license issued in the United States entitles visitors to drive in the United Kingdom. If you plan to rent a car elsewhere in Europe, you should consult the rental car company ahead of time as to what documentation you will need. An International Driver’s License will not normally be required.

**INSURANCE**

Before you leave for Oxford, you should enroll in the SMU Study Abroad insurance program (ACE American Insurance) through the Risk Management website at <https://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/RiskManagement/Travel/InternationalTravel/GraduateStudent/Nonrestricted>. The premium for this insurance is included in the program fee. When you receive your confirmation e-mail from the insurance provider, print your insurance card and carry it with you. You may go to any doctor you choose, just be sure to save your receipts and request a claim form from ACE upon return. The claim form will be mailed to you within 15 days. Also, it would be a good idea to review your own or your family’s insurance policy to see if it covers medical expenses in case of sickness or an accident abroad.

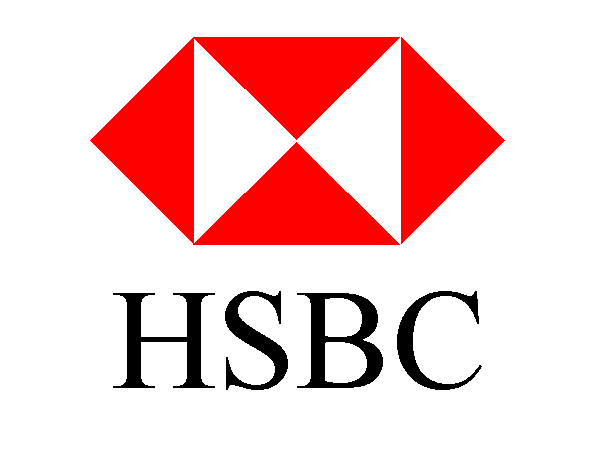
**PRESCRIPTIONS**

Be sure to bring with you any prescriptions for any special medications you might need refilled. If you wear glasses, you should consider bringing an extra pair and a copy of your prescription. Contact lens solutions are readily available.

**MONEY**

You should bring with you one or more credit cards and an ATM card. **Before you travel you should check with your bank as to whether you will be able to use your cards outside the United States and, if so, what the fees are.** You should consider getting a microchip credit card with no foreign transaction fees.

Almost all stores and restaurants accept credit cards. VISA and MasterCard are the most generally accepted cards in England, while American Express is less accepted. You can use your ATM card in most ATM machines outside the United States.  **Using a debit card is by far the most convenient way to get cash, and you usually are given a favorable exchange rate.** Most ATMs maintained by English banks do not charge a fee for withdrawals (but your home bank might do so). Traveler’s checks are rarely used anymore. The following banks have ATMs near University College:



When you travel to the U.K. you should bring some pounds sterling with you or buy some at the airport either on leaving the U.S. or arriving in the U.K. **The bus trip from the airport to Oxford requires payment in cash.** U.S. dollars can be readily exchanged at many banks and exchange bureaux so you might consider bringing enough to cover initial expenses and short-term emergencies. You may want to join with several other participants to exchange a larger amount that can be divided among you. Don’t get more than 100 pounds in advance.

Bank of America offers to exchange currency on their website. It can be picked up at a banking location or mailed to your address directly. You can create your order through clinking on this [link](https://www.bankofamerica.com/foreign-exchange/currency-converter.go).

**Be very careful to guard against having your wallet or purse stolen. Do not keep all your money in one place. Never leave your purse or wallet unattended at any time. If a purse is carried, one that falls across your body and zips close will be beneficial.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

You may want to bring a few printed photos of yourself in case you need to use them to obtain identification cards, such as an international student card or travel discount card. Photos can be obtained in Oxford as well.

**TELEPHONES**

General Information

Calls to and within the UK can require use of country codes and zeros in ways that are different from the domestic US calls to which you are accustomed.

Country City

Code Code

**Calling to UK**: 011 – 44 – 1865 + the number

**Calling within UK**: 01865 + the number

British rates for overseas calls are generally much higher than those charged in the United States for international calls. When calling from a public telephone, phone cards are the best deal for calls to the U.S. They may be purchased at the Lodge. (The porters sell 50 units for 5 pounds each) or from most news agents.

You can also call through to an American operator and be billed at U.S. rates:

* AT&T- 0800-89-0011
* MCI- 0800-89-0222
* Sprint- 0800-89-0877

Cell Phone: You should make sure your phone will work in the UK and check the rates for making and receiving calls. Many students have suggested bringing your cell phone “unlocked” and buying a SIM Card to make local calls in England (SIM cards provide a local number in the country where it will work outside of England, but the minutes will be used up much faster). Prior students suggest to avoid Nomi Sim cards. Wi-Fi is available in many public locations in England.

Alternatively, you might consider renting or purchasing a cell phone (called a “mobile” in the U.K.) for use in England and Europe. Some services allow you to purchase minutes as you need them. Make sure you purchase minutes compatible with your SIM card! Orange, Vodafone, and O2 are places where you can purchase or rent a phone and the shops are located on Cornmarket Street.

You might also consider downloading WhatsApp from the app store. WhatsApp Messenger is a FREE messaging app available for iPhone and other smartphones. WhatsApp uses internet connection or Wi-Fi to let you message and call your family and friends. It is much quicker than iMessage when sending and receiving messages, calls, photos, or videos. WhatsApp also makes it easy to communicate in large groups.

Laptop/Tablet: If you bring your laptop or tablet, you should consider using Skype or other computer-based Internet telephone services (i.e. Google, Facetime, etc.). For example, you can download the free Skype program. When you have online access, you can communicate for free with other persons who use Skype on their computers or ‘dial’ a regular telephone number in the US for a nominal charge. For $10 a month you can call cellphones and landlines from your Skype account. Facetime is free with your phone plan and works even better.

**COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS**

You should bring your own laptop. You may want it to type your tutorial essays, and many of the reading assignments for the tutorials will be available online.

If you do bring your computer, you should make sure that the internal adapter will work on a current of 240 volts. On most notebook computers and portable printers, the adapter will take on either 120 or 240 volts; you should double check with the manufacturers. Also, you will need to bring a plug adapter so that your US power cord will be able to be plugged in to a UK power outlet (see below).

Printers are inexpensive. You may wish to pool together with several colleagues to buy a printer in Oxford. University College does not provide a printer that students can access. Instead, students email the head of their program a day in advanced for anything they wish to have printed. The printing cost is then added to a bill that students pay at the end of the trip. If you need something printed, it is more convenient to use a printing shop located in Oxford called Ryman Stationary. You can bring some paper or purchase paper in Oxford.

**MAIL**

While in England, you might want to engage in the lost art of handwritten letters/postcards; it’s fun to get mail. Mail takes about a week from the United States, so don’t wait until the last day to send your mail. Mail addressed to you, in care of the SMU Law Program, at University College will be placed in a box marked SMU Law in the room opposite the Porter’s Lodge near the entrance to University College. Be sure to check the box frequently for mail.

You may purchase postage from the Porter’s Lodge to mail postcards back to the United States but quantity is limited to first come, first served. After that moment, you can purchase postage at the post office. The main Post Office in Oxford is at 102-104 St. Aldates. If you walk up High Street towards Cornmarket Street, you will take a left on St. Aldates and the post office will be on the right of the street.

**III. PACKING**

**LUGGAGE**

The first thing to keep in mind is **to pack as lightly as possible**. There will be two occasions (arriving and leaving) when you will have to carry your luggage some distance. Check with the airlines to determine luggage size and weight restrictions. Rolling luggage or a set of luggage wheels is a wise investment. Keep in mind, too, that most travelers bring back more than they take, so be sure to leave some room for expansion or bring an extra bag if possible for souvenirs. If you plan to travel on weekends, you might want to include a smaller bag for those brief trips.

**CLOTHING**

We used to say that “summer temperatures in England usually do not rise above 75° F and it can rain frequently.” While some summers have been relatively hot, and this summer may prove to be the same, some summers have been cold and rainy. Suffice it to say, the weather is very unpredictable, and you should be prepared for both. Remember that you can buy almost anything in England that you could buy in the United States so you should balance the weight of your bags with packing things you really will wear.

A key point to bear in mind is that there is no interior heating or cooling in Oxford. When it is 50° outside, it can be 50° inside. Equally, when it is warm outside, it will be warm inside. You will need to dress accordingly.

For the most part, clothing can be casual and comfortable. Jeans and slacks are quite acceptable for most daytime activities. The High Table meals at University College and the visit to the Courts will require business attire. (That means there will be approximately six occasions on which you will need to wear business dress.). It is imperative to bring appropriately professional clothes for these occasions. Ladies, beware of high heels in Oxford. Many areas where you will walk are cobblestone, so consider bring dressy, comfortable flats or chunky heels or espadrilles.

**Packing Suggestions.**

* Bring easy-care garments. While many students have been able to find a cheap dry cleaner for their suits, the turnaround times can be longer than you would expect.
* Bring clothes that can mix and match. That way you can wear anything in your suitcase with anything else. Below are some possible ways to minimize space used in your bags.
* Bring separates. A couple of skirts and blouses give you four outfits. Add two sweaters and a couple of simple accessories, and you have 16 outfits. The same goes for the men.
* Bring clothes that can serve multiple purposes. Avoid clothes that can only be worn on one occasion. For instance, bring shirts that can be worn casually or with a tie.
* Dress in layers. Bring light clothes for day wear. Add a sweater to that for mornings and evenings. If it is really cold, plan to put a coat on top of that.

For example:

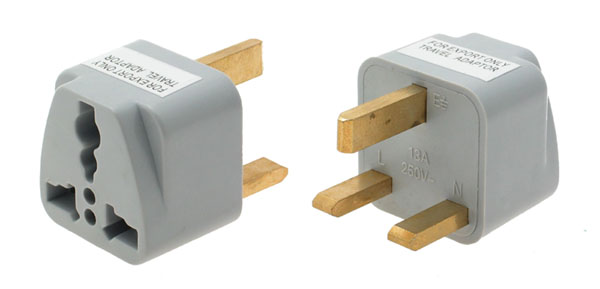
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| WOMEN | MEN |
| Bring several skirts, shirts or blouses, and a few nice slacks or suits and create different combinations for your high table. Consider dresses can be dressed up or down depending on the occasion. | Nice suit with several different shirts that can be used as day and dinner attire. Include a few ties for dinner attire. |
| Choose shirts that can be worn for the day or dinner attire. | Five or six shirts, slacks, and jeans that can be used to create different combinations |

A good pair of comfortable walking shoes is absolutely essential on cobblestones. You will probably do more walking in England than you have ever done before and in all kinds of circumstances—in the rain, across meadows, alongside streams, through art galleries and museums. Think more about your shoes than any other item of clothing. Bring a pair of solid shoes or boots for wet weather. **Make sure you pack a pair of nice dress shoes that are VERY comfortable to wear for London trip as there will be A LOT of walking.**

If you like to shop, be sure to leave room in your suitcases or use and extra bag for purchases! All of the stores in Oxford will have summer sales happening while you are there. Many prior students have taken advantage of the shopping opportunities and purchased high table attire in England. There are some nice clothing shops near the college as well as place you can buy University College gear as well. Walk along the shops and go in and usually on the second floor or in the back of the store you will find individual college attire.

**ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES**

Electric current in Britain is rated at 240 volts while the US standard is 110 volts. The wall plugs are also their three-pronged. If you bring an electric appliance or a computer, you should purchase plug adapters in the US to make sure you have them readily available. For electronic devices, you might want to consider a multi-outlet device with slots for USB drives. You should buy things like hairdryers, curling irons, and alarm clocks in England. Ladies, you may fry or melt your hair if you try to use an American hair straightener with an English adaptor; US hairdryers can short out and set off fire alarms. Affordable hair tools are sold at Boots.



**OTHER ITEMS TO BRING**

You can buy almost anything in London and many things in Oxford. Students from previous years recommend packing only one set of travel-sized toiletries and purchasing large toiletries (sunscreen, shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, etc.) in Oxford. Please see the attached Packing Checklist of general items to bring with you.

The checklist provides for an extra towel, washcloth, and hand towel that is easily identifiable, because that will prevent you from losing or commingling with the towels at the college.

Feel free to bring workout gear to wear. Protein powder can be purchased at Boots in Oxford. There is a wonderful jogging path around Christ Church Meadow.

**Note on gyms**: There is almost no time to work out during your time in Oxford. Students from prior summers strongly suggest NOT getting a gym membership. The time in Oxford is spent in class or working on your papers for tutorial. The best thing to do would be to run in Christ Church Meadow or do at home exercises. A gym membership is expensive and despite your best efforts, it is unlikely that you will be able to go to make the cost worth it.

**PACKING CHECKLIST**

DOCUMENTS

* Passport
* Driver’s License
* SMU Student ID Card
* SMU Program’s Official Letter
* Credit or Debit Cards (preferably microchip)
* Photocopy of Passport Identification
* List of the following numbers:
* Driver’s license
* Credit Card (set up contactless card or Apple Pay, as this is taken almost everywhere)
* Debit Card
* Other ID cards you carry
* Telephone numbers for lost or stolen cards
* Insurance Card
* ACE Insurance Information
* Cash to exchange

MEDICINE

* Prescription medications
* Any cold medication, if needed\*
* Pain medication just in case
* Any allergy medication, if needed
* Antacid\*

VISION

* Glasses, if needed
* Extra contact lenses

ITEMS TO PACK

* Umbrella\*
* Warm jacket or coat
* Lightweight raincoat
* Light sweater
* One pair of comfortable dress shoes
* Sufficient plug adapters
* Travel alarm clock or cellphone alarm
* Bathrobe
* Shower flip-flops/shoes
* Laundry bag
* Identifiable extra towel, wash cloth, hand towl
* Your favorite toiletries\*
* Headphones
* Earplugs
* Camera (if you want more than your phone)

**\*\*Please remember to minimize your packing as much as possible but still have enough formal and informal options to wear during your stay.**

\*These items are easy to purchase in England and inexpensive.

**IV. GETTING TO OXFORD**

You should plan to arrive at University College by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1. Note that the closest airport to Oxford for both initial arrival and weekend travel is London Heathrow. The following information covers getting from the airport to Oxford directly or through London. You will be able to print out routes, timetables, fares and maps for virtually all the routes suggested below before leaving the United States, and much can be stored on your cellphone. **BRING YOUR STUDENT ID CARD TO GET DISCOUNTS ON TICKETS FOR SOME COACHES.**

Wherever you arrive in England, you will find information or tourist offices that can provide information. Sign posting is relatively straightforward and helpful although terminology may be confusing at first. Don’t worry, though. Most persons selling tickets will understand you if you use an Americanism. And remember that you can always ask for directions: the natives speak English and are relatively friendly.

**FROM THE AIRPORT TO OXFORD**

If you are coming to England directly from the United States, you will probably arrive by air at either Heathrow or Gatwick airports. The best way to travel to Oxford from the airports is by coach (public bus). Take the Airline X70 (from Heathrow) or the Airline X80 (from Gatwick). See <http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/> and follow the link to “the *airline*” on the right hand side of the page. This link can be used for additional routes and places you may be interested in seeing while abroad.

**From Heathrow (American Airlines)**

1. **Arrival; immigration; customs.** If you fly American Airlines (or other U.S. carrier), you will arrive at Terminal 3. When you get off the plane you will walk miles until you get to Immigration, where your passport will be checked. You will then go downstairs one floor where you will pick up your bags and go through Customs into the Arrival Hall.
2. **Central Bus Station.** When you emerge into the Arrival Hall follow the signs to the Central Bus Station. This requires you to go down one level and walk miles along tunnels until opposite the Underground station you will see some elevators (‘lifts’) to take you up to the hall of the Central Bus Station at ground level. Do not buy your ticket at the counters in the hall because you will buy the ticket from the bus driver.
3. **The Oxford bus.** The buses leave from outside the hall of the Central Bus Station. Airline X70 leaves from bay (‘stand’) 14A. Buses leave every 30 minutes. The bus will stop at Terminal 5 before going on to Oxford. The trip to Oxford is approximately 1 hour 40 minutes. This is the most popular option, and the one you will most likely use for weekend travel. The bus stop is right across the street from University College, so it is very convenient.
4. **Buying your ticket.** Buy your ticket from the bus driver. Tell the driver that you want to get off at the High Street/Queen’s Lane stop. The driver will take cash or Apple Pay; he or she will NOT take U.S. dollars or credit cards. As of January 2019, the fare is as follows:

* Single (i.e., one-way) ticket from Heathrow is £23.
* Period Return - If you are coming back to the airport straight from Oxford then purchase a ‘Period Return’ ticket for £30; this allows you to return to the airport from Oxford anytime within three months. **Keep your ticket with your passport.**
* Group Return – If you are arriving and leaving with the same group of four or more, then you can get a period return for the group for £70 (i.e., £17.50 each). The disadvantage is you must travel as a group both ways.

The bus company now also has an app that you can use to purchase tickets. Get information about it on their website here: <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/app>.

1. **Arriving in Oxford.** The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen’s Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver’s announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.
2. **Arriving at University College.** When you get off at the High Street/Queen’s lane stop you then walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter’s Lodge is inside the door.

**From Heathrow (British Airways)**

1. **Arrival; immigration; customs.** If you fly British Airways you will arrive at Terminal 5. When you get off the plane you will walk miles until you get to Immigration, where your passport will be checked. You will then be directed to where you will pick up your bags and go through Customs. When you emerge from Customs you should take an elevator (‘lift’) to the bottom of the building where signs direct you to the buses.
2. **The Oxford bus.** The Oxford bus, Airline X70, leaves from bay (‘stand’) 11. The bus comes from the Central Bus Station at Heathrow and goes directly to Oxford from Terminal 5. Buses leave every 30 minutes. The trip to Oxford takes approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.
3. **Buying your ticket.** Buy your ticket from the bus driver. Tell the driver that you want to get off at the High Street/Queen’s Lane stop. The driver will take cash or Apple Pay; he or she will NOT take U.S. dollars or credit cards. As of January 2019, the fare is as follows:

* Single (i.e., one-way) ticket from Heathrow is £23.
* Period Return - If you are coming back to the airport straight from Oxford then purchase a ‘Period Return’ ticket for £30; this allows you to return to the airport from Oxford anytime within three months. **Keep your ticket with your passport.**
* Group Return – If you are arriving and leaving with the same group of four or more, then you can get a period return for the group for £70 (i.e., £17.50 each). The disadvantage is you must travel as a group both ways.

This bus company also has an app that you can use to purchase tickets. Get more information about it on their website, here: <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/app>.

1. **Arriving in Oxford.** The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen’s Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver’s announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.
2. **Arriving at University College.** When you get off at the High Street/Queen’s lane stop you should walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter’s Lodge is inside the door.

**From Gatwick**

1. **Arrival; immigration; customs.** If you fly into Gatwick you will arrive at the North Terminal. When you get off the plane you will walk miles until you get to Immigration, where your passport will be checked. You will then go down a level to where you will pick up your bags and go through Customs. When you emerge from Customs, you should follow the signs to the buses.
2. **The Oxford bus.** The Oxford bus, Airline X70, leaves from bay (‘stand’) 4 outside the arrival hall. Buses leave every hour at 20 minutes after the hour. The trip to Oxford takes between 2 and 2 ½ hours.
3. **Buying your ticket.** Buy your ticket from the bus driver. Tell the driver that you want to get off at the High Street/Queen’s Lane stop. The driver will take cash; he or she will NOT take U.S. dollars or credit cards. As of January 2019, the fare is as follows:

* Single (i.e., one-way) ticket from Gatwick is £28.
* Period Return - If you are coming back to Gatwick straight from Oxford then purchase a ‘Period Return’ ticket for £37; this allows you to return to the airport from Oxford anytime within three months. **Keep your ticket with your passport.**
* Group Return – If you are arriving and leaving with the same group of four or more, then you can get a period return for the group for £85 (i.e., £21.25 each). The disadvantage is you must travel as a group both ways.

1. **Arriving in Oxford.** The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen’s Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver’s announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.
2. When you get off at the High Street/Queen’s lane stop you should walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter’s Lodge is inside the door.

**FROM THE AIRPORT TO LONDON**

**From Heathrow**:

**OPTION 1:**

You may take the train, underground or bus to London. The fastest but most expensive way to travel is by the Heathrow Express. This [link](https://www.heathrowexpress.com/tickets-deals/prices-fares) provides the necessary information you need to book your ticket if you would like to do it online (it’s cheaper to do this in advance than to buy tickets at the airport).

The Heathrow Express takes you into Paddington Station, which is also the rail station where you will catch the train to Oxford. The train runs every 15 minutes and takes about 15 minutes. As of January 2019, the regular fare for a one-way (‘single’) ticket purchased in advance is £25 for peak times, £22 off peak. The Heathrow Express has an app that you can use to buy tickets. Learn more here: <https://www.heathrowexpress.com/tickets-deals/smartphone-mobile>.

**OPTION 2:**

The Underground runs from Terminals 1, 2 and 3 of Heathrow. It leaves frequently and takes approximately one hour to get to central London. You can access this [link](http://www.heathrowairport.com/transport-and-directions/underground) to plan your trip or purchase tickets in advance.

**From Gatwick:**

You may take the Gatwick Express from the South Terminal. Take the rail shuttle from the North Terminal to the South Terminal and follow the signs to the rail station. The Gatwick Express takes you to Victoria rail station. The train leaves every 15 minutes and takes 30-35 minutes to London. The “regular train” takes 15 minutes more and is much cheaper. The Gatwick Express is provided [here](http://www.gatwickexpress.com) for assistance with that route.

**FROM LONDON TO OXFORD**

1. If you are coming to Oxford from London, you have a choice between the train and bus service. The train is faster but is more expensive.

**OPTION 1 – THE TRAIN:**

The train starts from Paddington rail station in London. Be sure to check whether the train goes directly or whether you must change stations on the way. You should also check to see if you are going on a fast train (approx. one hour) or a slow (approx. 1 hour 40 minutes). [In short: you want a direct route on a fast train.] When you arrive at the train station in Oxford, you can walk or take a taxi to University College.

**OPTION 2 – THE BUS:**

You will have a choice of bus services but all the services start from the area around Victoria rail station in London and make varying stops in London before proceeding directly to Oxford. Each service has buses leaving every 15 or 20 minutes during the day. The trip takes approximately 1 hour 40 minutes.

* The Oxford Espress (note the spelling) X90 (Oxford Bus Company) leaves from bay (‘stand’) 10 at the Victoria Coach Station. This station is down Buckingham Palace Road from the rail station. The bus leaves every 15 minutes. The journey takes approximately 1½ to 2 hours. As of January 2019, the fares are as follows:
  + One-way fare is £8.
  + Period return (good for three months) is £14.
  + For further information, see <http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/> and follow the link to “X90” on the right-hand side of the page.

You can also use their app to buy tickets.

* Oxford Tube (Stagecoach) leaves from several stops near Victoria rail station (e.g., Buckingham Palace Road and Elizabeth Street). The bus leaves every 15-20 minutes and slightly more frequently at peak times. The journey takes approximately 1½ to 2 hours. As of January 2019, the fares are as follows:
  + One-way fare is £8 (student fare).
  + Period return (good for three months) is £13.
  + For further information, see <http://www.oxfordtube.com/>.

1. You should get off at the High Street/Queen’s Lane stop. The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen’s Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver’s announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.
2. When you get off at the High Street/Queen’s lane stop, you should walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter’s Lodge is inside the door.

**V. THE FIRST WEEK**

You should plan to arrive at University College by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1st to check in. You will be given the keys to your room and some additional information.

Your room will not be available until July 1st therefore, if you arrive early please make accommodations. If you arrive before the program begins, London would be a great place to see before heading to Oxford. If you prefer to go to Oxford, this [link](http://www.tourinaday.com/oxford/oxford-tourist-info.html) is for the tourist office to help with accommodations. It is highly recommended that you team up with another student so you both can get a better rate and hotel for less cost.

The first week will be busy, so be prepared—especially because you will probably be jetlagged. The following events are tentatively scheduled for this first week. A definitive schedule will be distributed when you arrive. **Your first tutorial session will also meet this week; you will be notified of your meeting time for your particular tutorial**.

Monday

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Mandatory walking tour of central Oxford

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Mandatory orientation meeting and tour of University College

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Tuesday

10:00 - Noon Class

6:00 p.m. Opening Reception (business dress)

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Wednesday

10:00 - Noon Class

Thursday

10:00 - Noon Class

Friday

10:00 – Noon Class (this will be the only Friday class of the summer)

Weekend

We discourage long-distance travel on the first weekend. You may also want to explore London and the Oxford area. If you want to go slightly further afield, many students go to either London or Stonehenge the first weekend.

**VI.** **MAP OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

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**VII.** **GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS[[1]](#footnote-1)[1]**

These are some notes to inform you of certain facts and to enable you to more fully understand how the College works.

**Security.** It is of great importance that you observe several points in this area because the large number of visitors in Oxford attracts a large number of less desirable characters.  The chances of petty theft can be great.  These are greatly increased by carelessness in locking doors to rooms, leaving personal belongings in common rooms and by simply not reporting unusual circumstances.

The following **DO’s and DON’Ts** will help prevent petty but distressing incidents.

1. Lock your door ALWAYS even if you are only going out briefly.
2. Leave valuables behind in the Programme Office or in the Domestic Bursary when you go out.
3. Do not let people into the College if you do not recognize them.  Legitimate visitors will know how to gain entry. If you invite friends to come see you at the College, you should arrange to meet them at the porters’ lodge.
4. Please be observant and report any suspicious incident.  Even if it turns out to be quite innocent subsequently, this can be very helpful.
5. If you are out late at night, please observe sensible precautions.
6. If you lose your room key, you will be charged £25.00.  However, please do not let this be a reason for leaving your door unlocked if a loss occurs.  A replacement key can be less costly than a burglary.

**Fire Safety.** There is an extensive automatic detection system and other precautions include fire doors and extinguishers.  In the UK, it is a criminal offence to tamper with any of these precautions.

Please read the fire notices in your room and familiarize yourself with the means of escape.

**College Personnel.** Members of the College's staff are always ready to give any assistance and when unable to help, will always be able to refer you to someone who will.

Fellows of the College have offices throughout the site and some have rooms here in which they reside.  Please remember that this is their home, especially at night, when noise seems to be more penetrating.

**Gardens.** The lawns are not for walking, sitting, lying or picnicking and such.  Use of the lawns is not permitted.  The Goodhart lawn and the South part of the Fellow's garden can be used for sitting outside and for sunbathing, both of which are occasionally possible.

**Facilities.** Most areas of the college receive mobile phone signals; however, there are some areas with limited access. Wi-Fi is available in bedrooms and can be picked up in certain areas of the college.

Laundry facilities are found at the bottom of Staircase 11 where there are coin operated machines. The stairs are steep and narrow so exercise caution.

There is a squash court in Goodhart.

**Health and Welfare.**

1. The College has a Health & Safety policy (required by law) which is available in the Domestic Bursary.
2. Many College staff members are trained First Aiders and can help in emergencies.
3. The College has a code of practice on sexual harassment which is available.
4. The College is made up of cobbled walkways, and the staircases to the bedrooms sometimes have steep wooden stairs. Suitable footwear is advisable at all times.

**Smokefree Law.** The new Smokefree Law came into force on lst July 2007 and applies to all enclosed public places and workplaces. It also includes accommodation rooms and the Bar.

The Local Council is responsible for enforcing the new law, and we expect that they are rigorous in their approach to enforcement.

There will be penalties for breaking the law both for anyone who smokes in a smokefree place and for anyone who manages or occupies the smokefree premises.

**Addendum**

**Implicit College Rules.** Additional rules at University College that may not be intuitively obvious are:

* Do not to walk on the grass in the Main and Radcliffe Quads
* Do not to run in those quads
* Do not to wear hats in Hall
* Do not sunbathe (clothed vel non) on the roof
* Do not possess candles (lighted or not) in your room
* Do not tamper with fire extinguishers.  The buildings are a mixture of very old and quite new, but they are close together, and fire would be exceedingly dangerous to life and property.  Please exercise every caution in dealing with fire.

**Recycling.** The college takes its environmental responsibility seriously and now has an excellent recycling system in place.  Each bedroom has a waste bin and a recycling bin. Please ensure that you use the correct bin at all times and do not contaminate the recycling bin with food or rubbish waste. Full details will be available in your rooms upon arrival.

**VIII.** **LIVING IN OXFORD**

**BACKGROUND**

Oxford was a town, then also a collection of colleges, then also a university, then a shire. TOWN-GOWN: Some who live in Oxford have little good to say about those who study there, and the ignorant who study there have little good to say about those who live there.

THE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE DISTINCTION (not University College where we stay): The University was invented by the colleges to administer examinations, build libraries and laboratories, grant degrees, and have subject-matter faculties. The college is where junior members (undergraduate students) and senior members (teachers) live, eat, and study, although most senior members no longer live in college, and most colleges have middlers (graduate students) too. For example, an Oxford University sweatshirt is purchased only by those who know no better or have no affiliation with a college (which you will, University College). The colleges are the sources of school spirit. Oxford is a place where the college is, and is a much weaker common bond than University College, St. John’s, Oriel, or Brasenose College.

The origins of Oxford’s colleges are perhaps less auspicious than the present day status of these hallowed institutions might suggest. Although the first lectures began in the twelfth century and the earliest college dates from 1249 (University College), it was not until 1410 that medieval students were brought within an organized community, distinctly segregated from the town. The statute of 1410 was not laid down expressly to provide an atmosphere of peace and solitude worthy of a monastic search for knowledge; it was made necessary by a riotous and bloody battle begun by a drunken brawl at Carfax. The chancellor decided that if the students were to have higher aims than to sleep all day and lurk about the taverns and brothels with an intent on robbing and homicide, (to quote a contemporary observer), the practice of students boarding with townsfolk or in inns would have to end. From 1410 onwards, students of Oxford were forced into colleges and halls.

Thus violence, drunkenness, and languor have long been a part of Oxford and provide the very reason for the University as it is known today. Of the original medieval halls, only St. Edmund’s is left; the rest formed the foundation for most of the present day colleges. However, many relics of the past can still be found; all that is needed is a sharp eye and a little prior research.

Oxford is one of the oldest cities in the world with a unique history and plenty to visit; one should make time to see all Oxford has to offer before venturing out into the broader world.

**FUN IN OXFORD**

**Generally.** Go to the tourist office and/or theatre and pick up lots of information on all kinds of happenings in Oxford—plays, concerts, operas, art exhibits, etc. Every night, there are tons of things going on from College performances of Shakespeare to poetry readings. Keep your eyes and ears open and you’ll be aware of more events than you could possibly attend. Check this [website](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/events.php?colname=Theatre) for current plays/productions.

**Oxford University Sights.** You’ll probably see most of these just wandering around or attending official occasions, but make sure you see the Sheldonian Theatre, Radcliffe Camera, and Bodleian Library. Many of the individual colleges’ gardens and courtyards are beautiful, so be sure to at least poke your head in to a few.

**Merton Field and Christ Church Meadow.** It’s just a field, but another nice place to study outside or go for your daily jog. Plus, Christ Church Meadow was a filming location for the Harry Potter series. This is a fun place to go walk/jog or just sit with a picnic and drink some wine. Some summers the entire class goes there after finals to hangout and drink a beer before jumping in the Thames River.

**Punting.** No, it doesn’t require a ball—it is one. Punting is poling a long, thin boat down the River Cherwell and its tributaries. A bit pricey, but worth every pound you spend. It takes a while to get the swing (actually the push) of moving the boat where you want it to go, but it’s a blast. Make sure to pack some wine, beer, and snacks. (Figure what you think you should bring and double it. Really.) Punting at the [Magdalen Bridge Boathouse](http://www.oxfordpunting.co.uk) is a wonderful experience. Another punting location is [Cherwell Boathouse](http://cherwellboathouse.co.uk).

**Other Colleges.** Many are open to the public; others host concerts, plays, or other special events, and some will allow you to walk through if you ask and smile. Christ Church Cathedral is incredibly beautiful, whether you visit it during a scheduled service or just walk through to appreciate the architecture. The Magdalen College Deer Park is a lovely and serene place, though you may or may not see actual deer.

This [website](http://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/visiting_the_university/visiting_the_colleges/) will tell you if and when the individual colleges are open for visitors. Some colleges charge a nominal fee but are worth it.

**Tourism.** Oxford will be full with tourists during your stay, and you will quickly share in the locals’ frustration with the traveling hordes. Most are in the city for day trips, so the bad times are between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. but don’t let this discourage you from wandering the town. Instead of avoiding all tourist attractions, however, you might consider seeing some of them in your first few days in town to get a feel for the city. Recommended highly are the [open-air bus tours](http://www.citysightseeingoxford.com) that depict the history of Oxford.

**OXFORD SIGHTSEEING CHECKLIST**

Make sure you have seen these sights before your trip is over:

* **Radcliffe Camera** - is in the Bodleian Library but does not permit public access.
* **Oxford Castle** - Built in 1071 and was used as a prison until 1996.
* **Turf Tavern** - is an atmospheric seventeenth century pub with a fine range of beers and entertaining clientele. Enjoy a pint and a history lesson. Here is a [link](https://www.tripsavvy.com/the-turf-tavern-oxford-pub-1661763) for its location.
* **Head of the River** – this pub and restaurant is beautiful and worth the stop. Follow the [link](http://www.headoftheriveroxford.co.uk) for more information.
* [**Covered Market**](http://oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk/)**—**is a covered shopping area filled with cafés and boutiques. This is a great place to get souvenirs for those back home and great eats for your room when you want a snack. Find directions from University College to the Covered Market [here](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/Covered+Market,+The+Market,+Oxford+OX1+3DZ,+United+Kingdom/@51.7523604,-1.2549626,17z/data=!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6b99e56cd91:0x7d8573f1ddab977f!2m2!1d-1.256492!2d51.752618).
* **Carfax Tower** – Click [here](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/Carfax+Tower,+Queen+St,+Oxford+OX1+1ET,+United+Kingdom/@51.7523147,-1.2593485,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6af8b662dc7:0xb64b5712f5dc1ad2!2m2!1d-1.258097!2d51.751985?hl=en) to get directions to the tower.
* **Ashmolean** - is the university’s principal museum and the oldest purpose-built museum in Britain. The Ashmolean has a wide variety of exhibits from Egyptian mummies to Chinese art. See what is going on at the Ashmolean [here](http://www.ashmolean.org).
* **Botanical Garden** – make your way to this location following this [link](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/University+of+Oxford+Botanic+Garden,+Rose+Ln,+Oxford+OX1+4DU,+United+Kingdom/@51.7516795,-1.2520613,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6b29e292543:0x561e52e8d4b04f75!2m2!1d-1.247733!2d51.750621?hl=en). Great place to study at outdoors.
* **Punting on the River Thames** - We have already told you this but this is a must. Here is the [link](http://www.oxfordpunting.co.uk) again.
* **Christ Church Meadow** – follow this [link](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/Christ+Church,+St+Aldate's,+Oxford+OX1+1DP,+United+Kingdom/@51.7512698,-1.2590981,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6b023ce50cf:0x4e7d5b2a18299b40!2m2!1d-1.255719!2d51.749802) to get direction to the location.
* **Eagle & Child** – Get a local experience here. This is where the readings and discussions occurred while drafting *The Lord of the Rings*. Check out this pub following this [link](http://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk/theeagleandchildoxford/findus/). The location is walking distance from University College.
* **University Church of St. Mary the Virgin**, right across the street from University College. We recommend you pay the small amount to go up the church tower for the best views of Oxford but beware because it is a narrow walking area at the top.

**ENTERTAINMENT IN OXFORD**

Enjoy yourself but exercise discretion. There is some tension between students and townspeople. Note that taverns and bars do *not* have a problem kicking out noisy American students, so it is important to be respectful of the atmosphere and not be those “loud disruptive Americans.” This is not a major problem, but is occasionally worth thinking about. Do not walk home late at night alone because there can be hostile street sleepers. (Even if this is not a problem during your summer, you should always be aware of your surroundings).

You don’t leave tips in England the same way you would in the States, and certainly not at pubs or other casual restaurants. You can leave a tip at a nice restaurant, but it’s entirely at your own discretion. Check the bill first to see whether service has been included. Suggested tip is 10%. Tipping in taxis is also advisable.

**You Are Not In America.** A common English stereotype of Americans (as U.S. citizens are imprecisely known) is that we are loud, brusque (if not rude) and insistently consumerist (as in I paid good money for \_\_\_, and I want what I paid for). You will find, however, that well modulated volume, ample-but-not-fulsome courtesy, and indirection can be (perhaps surprisingly) effective. To put it more clearly, be patient, kind, and enjoy the environment and people around you. Never go to a pub or a restaurant and be in a hurry, it is not how the town operates.

England and the United States are divided, so the quip goes, by a common language. US television programs, however, have made it less likely that the English will misunderstand you. There are, however, several practices that you should keep in mind:

* Pedestrian Crossings: UK drivers drive on the “wrong” side of the road. Therefore, exercise extreme care in crossing the street. ALWAYS check both to your right and left. It is against the law in the U.K. (as it is in Dallas) to cross streets except at public crossings, which can be recognized by the white crossing stripes. Dozens of travelers to the U.K. are hurt each year by failing to observe caution in crossing streets (one year an inebriated law student walked in front of a city bus); don’t become one of them.
* Dates: When writing the day and the month you will find that the British consistently and logically put the day before the month. So July 4 appears as “4 July” or “04/07/19”.
* Numbering of Floors: The first floor is called the “ground floor” so that the second floor becomes the first floor and so on.
* Hand Gestures: Be careful with gestures. To flash a backwards peace sign is the equivalent of flourishing a middle finger.

In addition, the following are words that the English use linked with their US counterparts:

Bus = coach

Train = rail

Movie = film, cinema

Light beer = lager

Pear cider = cider

Apple cider = cider

Friend = mate

Travel mug = flask

Elevator = lift

First floor = Second floor

**Events.** [Timeout](http://www.timeout.com), [Oxford’s City Counsel](http://www.oxford.gov.uk) (local events for the area), [Visit Oxford](http://www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com/see-and-do/), and [Daily Information of Oxford](https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/introduction) are websites you can visit to find local events and festivals in town, which are great!

**Movies.** While your personal Netflix account may not work in the UK, many prior students have subscribed for a free month to watch on their computers during their stay. Alternatively, you can purchase instant movies from [Amazon Instant Video](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Instant-Video/b/ref=atv_sun_sfp_unr_na_vsf?node=3010085031). There are several movie theaters in Oxford that have air conditioning if the weather is hot and you want to escape the heat.

**Music and Plays.** The following are music or theatre events that you should look at to visit and experience in the area.

* [The North Wall Arts Center](http://thenorthwall.com) provides theatre and music events.
* [Tickets Oxford](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/) offers variety and type of entertainment you want to watch. Make sure to attend the outdoor theatre because it is beautiful. It is a must.
* [Oxford Theatre Guild](http://oxfordtheatreguild.com) provides plays involving non-professional actors.
* [Oxford Coffee Concerts](http://www.coffeeconcerts.co.uk) provides a retreat to classic music. This event occurs every Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the Holywell Music Room. The fee to attend is £11 for adults and £10 for full-time students.
* The [Oxford Playhouse](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com) provides various opportunities for you to attend plays.
* [Oxford Castle](http://www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk) provides a great experience watching a play outside the walls of a prison. A great experience!
* Choir singing Evensong at Christ Church at 6 p.m. every Monday, except the fourth Monday. Information provided by clicking [here](http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/college/students-and-staff/chaplain/worship).

**Entertainment:** You can visit [Kill for a Seat](http://www.killforaseat.com) to search comedy event occurring within Oxford and other locations in the UK.

**Pubs.** You can purchase “The Definitive Oxford Pub Crawl” poster. The following are pubs in the area and you can review the list by following this [link](http://www.beerintheevening.com/pubs/results.shtml/el/Oxford%3BOxfordshire/):

* Uni Bar (the college’s own pub) (the cheapest prices and a friendly barman)
* King’s Arms
* The Eagle and Child
* Turf Tavern
* The Bear
* The Turl
* The Purple Turtle
* Temple Bar
* Cape of Good Hope
* The White Horse
* O’Neills
* Thirst

**Restaurants.** Please remember tipping is normally 10% if service is very good but tipping is not necessary all the time. Additionally, **ask for tap water because you might be charged for bottled water if you do not specify**. If you want to get some food ideas or deals you can visit [Student Beans](http://www.studentbeans.com). Below are the restaurants that students recommend that you visit because they are all AMAZING.

1. Ahmed’s “BBQ Food Truck” (Mediterranean kabobs, variety of choices) – you will get to know Ahmed really well. CASH ONLY
2. Al Shami
3. Al Andalus
4. All Bar One (Everything here is good, cool environment and bar)
5. Angrid Thai
6. Arbat
7. Ben’s Cookies (Best cookies in town)
8. Brown's in the Covered Market
9. Café Nero (Coffee Shop)
10. Carfax Chipppy
11. Cherwell Boathouse
12. Chiang Mai (Get the Pad Thai)
13. Cote Brasserie (3 course French meal for a reasonable price)
14. Edamame
15. Everest (Nepali)
16. Fasta Pasta in the Covered Market
17. Fishers
18. Franco Manca (Come for Sour Dough Pizza)
19. Hajduczek
20. Head of the River (Good for sports watching)
21. Jam Factory
22. Jamie’s Italian (the famous Jamie Oliver's Oxford place)
23. King's Arms
24. Maison Blanc (the famous Raymond Blanc) for patisserie
25. Nando’s (Great for wraps)
26. Old Bank Hotel- (Upscale dinner, drinks, and tea)
27. Paddyfield’s (Chinese)
28. Taylor’s (Made to order sandwiches are delicious)
29. The Perch or the Trout
30. Patisserie Valerie (Good for Brunch, Avocado Toast recommended)
31. Pho (Come on a cold day)
32. Pierre Victoire
33. Rose Café (Good salads, sandwiches, and iced coffee)
34. The Souvlaki (Greek Gyros)
35. Sasi’s Thai (Cheap Thai Food)
36. Shezan
37. Victor’s (Upscale dinner, tapas style, get the Lobster Roll appetizer)
38. Wasabi (Bento Box style sushi)
39. Wicked Chocolate (Chocolate & Ice Cream shop, get cookies & cream)
40. Yeti
41. Yo! Sushi

**IX.** **SERVICES**

**Banks**. The following are banks in the area. ATMs may be found throughout the city.

Barclays-High Street, Cornmarket 9:30-4:30 M-F, 9:30-12:00 Sat

Lloyds-High Street, Broad Street 9:30-4:30 M-F, 10:30-3:00 Sat

HSBC on Broad Street.  9:30-4:30 M-F

National Westminster, High Street 9:30-4:30 M-F

Royal Bank of Scotland, St. Giles 9:30-4:30 M-F

**Libraries.** There are many libraries in the area but the University College Law Library is the main library students will use for their tutorial materials. We also recommend that you visit the library near the Dining Hall because they are helpful and can tell you how to navigate the materials in the law library. The following are helpful websites provided by prior students:

* [British and Irish Legal Information Institute](http://www.bailii.org)
* Legal abbreviations provided [here](http://legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk).
* Legislation information and statutory instruments (rules, regulations, commencement orders) provided [here](http://www.legislation.gov.uk).

**Laundry Facilities at University College.** This section provides the laundry information and dry cleaning options, if needed.

Washers and Dryers – The washers and dryers are located in the northeast corner of the quad. You can buy laundry detergent and fabric softener at [Boots](http://www.boots.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TopCategoriesDisplay?webrewrite=Y&langId=-1&storeId=10052&geoOpts=Y&catalogId=11051) (similar to a CVS or Walgreens) but often students leave laundry detergent in the washroom that you may be able to use. Directions to laundry facility: When you enter near the Porter Lodge go left and in the next quad and go to the left and walk to the farthest wall. Turn left down the hall and continue to the right through the doors and take the stairs downstairs and to the left and continue through the doors until you are in the laundry room. The laundry facility is building S11 on the University College map. The laundry room gets crowded between SMU Law and undergrad students plus other schools that may also be there. We recommend not waiting until you have no clothes left to wash because chances are you won’t be able to get a wash machine. Go at unusual times to secure a space.

Dry Cleaning – Attached to this [link](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/launderettes-and-dry-cleaners) is a list of dry cleaners. Previous groups have used Elite Dry Cleaners and Johnson Cleaners.

**Student Travel Agencies.** The following are student travel agencies in Oxford you can visit to plan your trip, such as STA Travel and American Express Travel Office. For these services you may need an International Student Identity Card, which we suggest purchasing it at STA Travel since it is considerably cheaper than purchasing it in the United States.

**Bed and Breakfast.** There are several hotels and Bed and Breakfast housing arrangements in Oxford. These may be a great place to stay if you arrive at the college before you can check into the dorms. Click [here](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g186361-c2-Oxford_Oxfordshire_England-Hotels.html) to review the different options.

**Bicycles.** There are several shops in Oxford, which hire out bikes and sell second-hand ones. Some students from the earlier Oxford trips bought their bikes for the time they were in Oxford and then sold them back before they left and highly recommend those interested to get a bike and discover the countryside. Students have highly recommended [Ox Bikes](http://www.oxbicycles.co.uk/).

**Books and Bookstores.** You will be able to find books in Oxford and have access to those in the library at University College.

There are, of course, many bookstores—although old timers will bemoan the loss of many of the excellent second-hand bookstores. Among the bookstores are:

* Blackwell’s on Broad Street and is one of the best bookstores in the world. This bookstore also offers events as well so stop in and check out what is happening that week.
* Waterstone’s on the corner of Broad and Cornmarket Streets where you will find new trade books. Follow this [link](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/Waterstones+Booksellers+Ltd,+William+Baker+House,+Broad+St,+Oxford+OX1+3AF,+United+Kingdom/@51.7534463,-1.2597257,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6a588fc12ed:0xe09d6ab6f9d80555!2m2!1d-1.258498!2d51.75397) for directions.

If your tutorial requires you to purchase books that are not used very often, you might share a few copies of the book rather than purchasing your own. However, you will also have to work out times to use the shared books.

**Groceries.** Below are places to find general snacks, food, and a good selection of alcohol (from Guinness to Jack Daniels). Check each store’s website for store hours before making the journey. The link is provided on the names of the grocery store.

[Sainsbury’s](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/sol/index.jsp?GLOBAL_DATA._searchType=0) – There are two locations in Oxford that are close to University College.

1. Click on this [link](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/7+Magdalen+St,+Oxford+OX1,+UK/@51.7532315,-1.2595048,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6a58d6b109f:0x9fd08a374273c530!2m2!1d-1.2590691!2d51.7544755?hl=en) for directions to the store on Magdalen Street that is approximately a 9 minute walk way from University College.
2. The other Sainsbury is approximately 8 minutes. Click this [link](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/134+Cowley+Rd,+Oxford+OX4,+UK/@51.7503283,-1.2533178,15z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c14ef9a8febf:0x6a0dc22ac65a3d8c!2m2!1d-1.2373715!2d51.7479192!3e2?hl=en) for directions.

[Tesco](http://www.tesco.com) – There is one location that seemed to be a little bigger with more selection than Sainbury’s. If you want more substantial food or looking for anything specific this store is recommended. This store is approximately 9 minutes away and you can click on this [link](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/Tesco+Metro,+Magdalen+St,+Oxford+OX1+3AD,+United+Kingdom/@51.7534463,-1.259857,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6a5ed85264b:0xaebe8333b313117b!2m2!1d-1.259114!2d51.754672!3e2) for directions. The store is right near the Sainsbury’s in the area.

[Marks and Spencer](http://www.marksandspencer.com/c/food-and-wine) offers food and wine along with various clothing, accessories, etc.

[Gloucester Green Market](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decLP/GloucesterGreenMarket.htm) (open air market three days a week)

**Museums.** The following is a list of some of the museums to see but by no means is this an exhaustive list.

[Ashmolean Museum](http://www.ashmolean.org), Beaumont Street

Free admission, donations expected. Check the link provided for times available.

[Pitt Rivers Museum](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk), Parks RoadAdmission is free to this museum. Check the link provided for times available.

[Museum of Oxford](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/museumofoxford), St. Aldates

Free admission and you can check the link provided for times available.

[Museum of Modern Art](http://www.modernartoxford.org.uk), Pembroke Street

Check the website for admission and times. This may be better with a group of students, which looks to offer free tours for a group if called in advance.

[Museum of Science](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk), Broad Street

Admission is free to this museum. Check the link provided for times available.

**Office Supplies.**

Ryman’s - Click [here](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/Barratts,+38+Queen+St,+Oxford+OX1+1ER,+United+Kingdom/@51.752216,-1.259707,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6a55d6e8d73:0x8bc27ea350b1d836!2m2!1d-1.258814!2d51.751789) for directions from University College. (like Office Max) – This is where you can also get things printed.

Honey’s of High Street

**Pharmacies.**

Boots – On Cornmarket Street – Click [here](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/8-10+Cornmarket+St,+Oxford+OX1+3HL,+UK/@51.7527871,-1.2594088,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6af85927591:0xf63fb24b3b6e88f8!2m2!1d-1.2577245!2d51.7525533) for directions from University College. This seems to be the store most students used for medicine, hygenie products, and miscellaneous needs.

Boswells – Also on Cornmarket Street – Click [here](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/1-4+Broad+St,+Oxford+OX1+3AG,+UK/@51.7534463,-1.2597257,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6a589f41645:0x986b3f853d0722!2m2!1d-1.258362!2d51.7541379?hl=en-US) for directions from University College.

SuperDrug – Click [here](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/11+Market+St,+Oxford+OX1+3EF,+UK/@51.7529189,-1.2591203,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6af7867871d:0xb46f9c26f838a871!2m2!1d-1.2576406!2d51.7532541) for directions from University College.

**Post Office.** If the Porter’s Lodge runs out of stamps for postcards, then you can go to this location and buy stamps for your postcards or shipments. The employees are very friendly and willing to help you. Click [here](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/University+College,+Oxford+OX1+4BH,+United+Kingdom/102-104+St+Aldate's,+Oxford+OX1+1BT,+UK/@51.7517494,-1.2590981,16z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6ae75e1910f:0xe200d6141ce01e30!2m2!1d-1.252098!2d51.752577!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6afe33dcf6d:0x1c7040ddfd9888a5!2m2!1d-1.2572903!2d51.7507613) for directions from University College

St. Aldate’s

9:30-5:30 M-Sat

102 - 104 St Aldates, OX1 1ZY

**Tourist Office.** The tourist office in Oxford is a great place to pick up armloads of pamphlets and find out what is going on in and around Oxford—concerts, plays, tours, etc. The staff will also help you find accommodations and the most efficient transportation from one point to another.

**Train Station (‘Rail Station’).** You can access the train station information through the website provided [here](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/OXF/details.aspx). The address is on Park End Street, which is west of Carfax Tower. This is the most fun, expensive, dependable, and faster way to travel. We recommended that you make reservations for trips anywhere but London (and even that’s not a bad idea.) Click this [link](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/51.7527352,-1.251749/Park+End+St,+Oxford+OX1+1HH,+UK/@51.7486003,-1.2666569,15z/data=!4m10!4m9!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x4876c6a308f9482b:0x25d04ee9365f1dbf!2m2!1d-1.2656456!2d51.7529191!3e3!5i3) for directions to the station from University College.

**Medical.** Doctors do not want to prescribe anything unless you have done everything over the counter that you can. You can go to Boots and talk to a pharmacist. They have medications behind the counter.

[University College Doctors](http://www.19beaumontstreet.com) - Call ahead for appointments, 1865 240 501. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is £30 upfront (cash or check).

[SMU Study Abroad Insurance](https://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/RiskManagement/Travel/InternationalTravel/GraduateStudent/Nonrestricted) (ACE American Ins.) – SMU’s free insurance to students while studying abroad. Be sure to register, print your membership card, and carry it with you before traveling. Save receipts and request a claim form from the company upon return. The claim form will be mailed to you within fifteen days. You may go to any doctor you choose but you need to save your receipts.

**Shops.** Argo’s is a shop similar to Target or Sear’s and you can access the store’s [website](http://www.argos.co.uk/static/Home.htm) for location and hours. Curry’s is a store similar to Best Buy and their website can be accessed by clicking [here](http://www.currys.co.uk/gbuk/index.html). Primark is the Forever 21 of England.

**X. “PASSING THE TORCH”**

1. “Stay curious and adventurous, your best memories will be unplanned.” *By Daniella A. Barrera*
2. “This trip will be your best law school memory, so don’t waste it! Take day trips, study hard, don’t complain, explore Oxford, make new friends, go to every High Table, and get to know your professors. Six weeks goes by faster than you think!” *By Brooke Yarborough*
3. “You have the chance of a lifetime to learn, explore Europe, and make lasting impressions on professors and fellow students.” *By David Kruger*
4. “Hands down one of the best experiences I’ve had thus far. Your time at Oxford is the time to say “yes” – meet the people, drink the beer, and travel the cities. You won’t regret it.” *By Jacqueline Tran*
5. “Get desk fans ASAP… as high powered as possible.” *By Samuel Fishman*
6. “Your most memorable experiences will be unplanned, unexpected, and improvised; resist your lawyerly compulsion to plan everything.” *By Doug Luippold*
7. “Beware Ryan Air, try the breakfast, shoot the breeze with the cab drivers, and don’t forget to explore Oxford; above all, enjoy every experience.” *By Matt Harris*
8. “Your six weeks living in Oxford will be an opportunity to make new friends, see new places, soak in the culture, travel to places you've never been, and study at a historically beautiful college! Just try not to get lost wandering around Paris by yourself, get mugged in Barcelona, or miss your train to London.” *By Ashley DeWeese*
9. “This is a once in a lifetime experience, treat it accordingly and enjoy it.” *By Megan Moore*
10. “Get a bike, see the country side, visit local pubs, and speak to locals as much as you can (preferably over a pint of bitter). Above all, remain humble, curious, and adventurous. You’ll find the English love a good, witty conversation over a pint.” *By Aaron Rolen*
11. “The last minute trips you make with your newly found friends will be priceless. Do not be scared to travel the unknown because it will prove you are more capable than you ever knew.” *By Aimee Velez*

**XI. A LAST BIT OF ADVICE**

**(yes, this is really student advice)**

It should come as no surprise that even though you will be spending the summer in one of the most beautiful and historic places on earth, it is incredibly important to keep in mind the purpose of the trip. You are going to take two rigorous law school courses. Unfortunately for some, past students may have given the impression that you will go, take classes, and not have to work very hard and return with two A’s added to your GPA. THIS IS NOT THE REALITY. Although you will absolutely have time to travel and see some of the sites, you will also have to study and work hard.

It is important to know a little bit more about your classes. Although the SMU professors change every year, be aware that the level of class preparation and participation is still relatively high. One class in Oxford is like a whole week of a 2-credit course in Dallas. You should be prepared every day to be called on because the classes are extremely small and in all likelihood you will be called on multiple times per day. It is a great opportunity to get to know your SMU professor inside and outside of the classroom.

As for the tutorial. Although the topics change every summer the level of rigor is likely the same. It is completely different than any other law school course you have taken. It is almost exclusively self-taught and the amount of material to get through in order to write a comprehensive paper each week is quite a bit. It is extremely likely that once you return to Oxford Sunday from weekend travels you will immediately begin reading and drafting your weekly tutorial paper up until the due date. It was generally not until after we had our weekly tutorial that we really felt “free” to explore. You will still be able to go out every night if you choose, but the effort needed to succeed in the tutorial is great. Despite the level of rigor and new teaching style that comes with the tutorial, I would HIGHLY recommend NOT skipping any high table meals. They are a wonderful meal with the entire class and your professors. It is one of the best times of the week where you get a wonderful meal and get to know one another on a personal level. I highly recommend sitting next to your professors if you have the chance, it has been a great experience to get to know both SMU and Oxford professors outside of the classroom.

This all seems like a lot of information, but it is truly one of the greatest experiences SMU has to offer. Consider yourself extremely lucky to be able to go!

1. [1]   These Guidance Notes are prepared and distributed by University College. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)