

## COLLEGE ADVISORS

Everyone reading for a postgraduate degree is assigned a Fellow of the College as his/her 'College Advisor'. The aim is to provide an academic and social link with a senior member of the College, and someone with whom you can discuss matters that you may not wish to raise with your supervisor. The description of College advisors offered by the University states:

### College Advisee: guidance

Every graduate student at Oxford has a College Advisor. This is often a senior academic member of the College such as a Fellow, but in many cases a wide range of staff act as Advisors such as other teaching staff, Junior Research Fellows, Senior Staff Fellows or research members of the Common Room.

Your College Advisor can:

- provide pastoral support, for example on health, personal or coping issues, and/or direct you to appropriate persons for assistance;
- monitor your progress, by discussing your University supervision reports and by being available for consultation, either in person or by email;
- discuss with you any problems or difficulties you may be experiencing in your Department or Faculty, and/or with your supervisor;
- consult the Tutor for Graduates/Senior Tutor if there are concerns about your academic progress and if you appear to be experiencing difficulties with your academic work;
- offer guidance on sources of support available within the College and University.

In addition, your College Advisor may be able to offer you advice on academic-related matters such as: applications for research funding, conferences and seminar attendance, publication and career plans.

Your College Advisor is *not* expected to perform the role of your Department or Faculty Supervisor(s), and is not responsible for directing your academic work or for giving detailed academic guidance. Your College Advisor will not necessarily, therefore, be from your department or subject area.

You will first meet your College Advisor during your first term, and you are encouraged to contact your College Advisor as and when you need advice or help. (You should also feel free to consult other College officers as necessary: see below.)

Your College Advisor may be changed during periods of sabbatical or other academic leave. Should there be reasons for you to seek a change of Advisor, you should contact your Tutor for Graduates/Senior Tutor.

### Further information

This guidance focuses specifically on the role of your College Advisor. Your College Advisor will be able to direct you to relevant sources of advice and support, which you should feel free to consult as necessary. These might include (but are not limited to):

- College Chaplain
- MCR President, MCR Welfare Officers, Student Peer Supporters
- College GP
- Junior Dean

- College Tutor for Graduates/Senior Tutor or Academic Administrator
- College Bursary

The Tutor for Graduates, Dr Isabel Ruiz, is responsible for the graduate affairs of the College in general, and is always ready to help with any problems that College Advisors may be unable to. Students are encouraged to be pro-active in contacting their College Advisors and in reporting any problems they are experiencing to the Tutor for Graduates.