

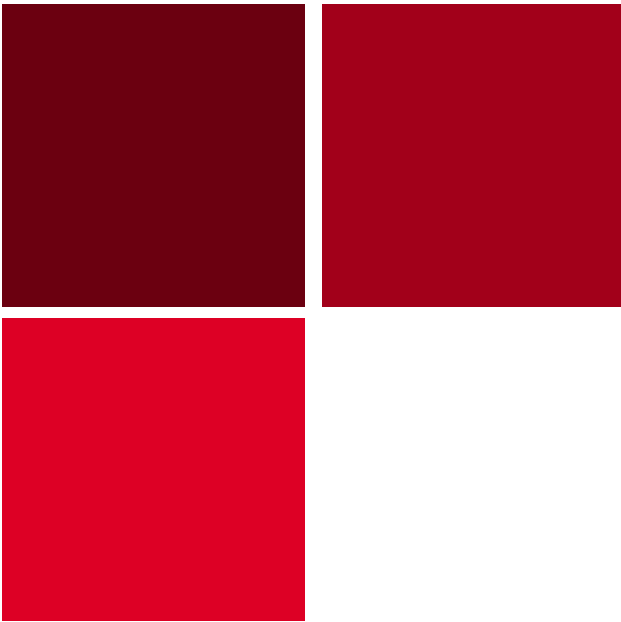
Harris Manchester College



Fresher's Package

Michaelmas 2025





Welcome to HMC

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About this booklet

This booklet is designed to give you key information about coming up to Harris Manchester College. It has been put together by your Junior Common Room as a guide to HMC and how you can get involved, plus what you can expect from life at college.

Do not forget all of the paper work you must send the Admissions Office before your arrival; they will have been in contact with you regarding this. However, should you have any questions about this please directly contact her via email admissions@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Be sure to check out the college website for current student information:

<http://www.hmc.ox.ac.uk/current-students/>

The HMC JCR committee page is regularly updated with info about events in college, plus has a Freshers' section just for you:

<http://www.hmcjcr.co.uk/>

The University provides useful information and tips for new students here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new>



On behalf of the Junior Common Room (JCR), I am delighted to welcome you to Harris Manchester College. Whether you're joining us (more or less) directly from school, returning to the academic life after a brief interlude, or embarking on this new chapter after a long and fulfilling career, you will find that HMC is a welcoming place like no other in Oxford.

Harris Manchester is unique, not just because we focus on mature students, but because of the incredible diversity of experiences and perspectives that each student brings to the community. This diversity enriches every aspect of college life, from the dining hall to the classroom, creating an environment where meaningful and thought-provoking conversations are the norm rather than the exception.

The JCR is at the heart of student life here, and we're excited for you to get involved. As a key organ of college social life and student advocacy, the JCR facilitates everything from college clubs and societies to mediating between students and the administration. My own experience at Harris Manchester has been profoundly shaped by my involvement in the JCR, and I encourage you to dive in and take advantage of all the opportunities it offers. Whether you're interested in leading initiatives, participating in events, or simply enjoying the social aspects of college life, the JCR has something to offer everyone.

With our excellent food, beautiful historic buildings, and tight-knit community, there's little more you could ask for on the college front. What stands out most, however, is the quality of the relationships you will form here.

Once again, welcome to Harris Manchester. As our beloved porter John never tires of saying, Harris Manchester is family for life. We're thrilled to have you with us, and I look forward to meeting each of you face-to-face in October.

Best,

Gabriel Kaufmann
JCR President 2025

Welcome freshers,

We want to congratulate each and every one of you for taking active steps to pursue your education and winning a place at HMC! This is a significant achievement and you deserve to be proud of it. Oxford may be a place of grandeur but let us say first and foremost that **you belong here**. Each one of you have been meticulously selected by the finest academics in your subject due to your significant dedication, ability, and potential.



As for a quick guide to life at HMC and Oxford, we have compiled this booklet for you. It covers most of the basics and hopefully answers most of your questions, or things you may not have thought of yet. For tips beyond the general information in here, such as handling your specific course load or insight about your tutors, we urge you to ask your college parents. Your college parents have undergone the wild ride you will soon be embarking on and have many stories, experiences, and insights to share with you.

The biggest advice that we cannot stress enough to people is to get involved. Oxford is a truly magical place, and while it's nestled within the idyllic backdrop of dreaming spires, the true magic of Oxford lies in its people. The friendliness, intellectual curiosity, and genuine passion that bubbles at Harris Manchester and Oxford more broadly is what infuses life to its vast quads and imposing sandstone walls. Academics, Staff, Students (very soon you!), all play a vital role in keeping this flourishing. The spirit of Oxford is not an archive of old glories, but of a flame that must be kept burning every waking moment.

Harris Manchester has the unfair advantage of being cosy and close-knit, such that by the end of the year, you'd have likely met everyone, each with their unique set of experiences, perspectives, and skills. It's as simple as striking up a conversation during breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Another great way to meet people and try new things is to join clubs, sports, and societies. Oxford has clubs that range from start-up incubation to competitive debating, and sports that cater to all levels of skill. Whether it's to explore an intellectual interest, sharpen career skills, meet people, challenge yourself, or simply have a good time, Oxford has it. So this year, of course, study hard, and engage deeply with all of Oxford's vast academic offerings, but also trust your gut and say "yes" a little more often; take all that this delightful place has to offer with an open mind, and we guarantee that you will be exhilarated in the moment, and enriched in posterity.

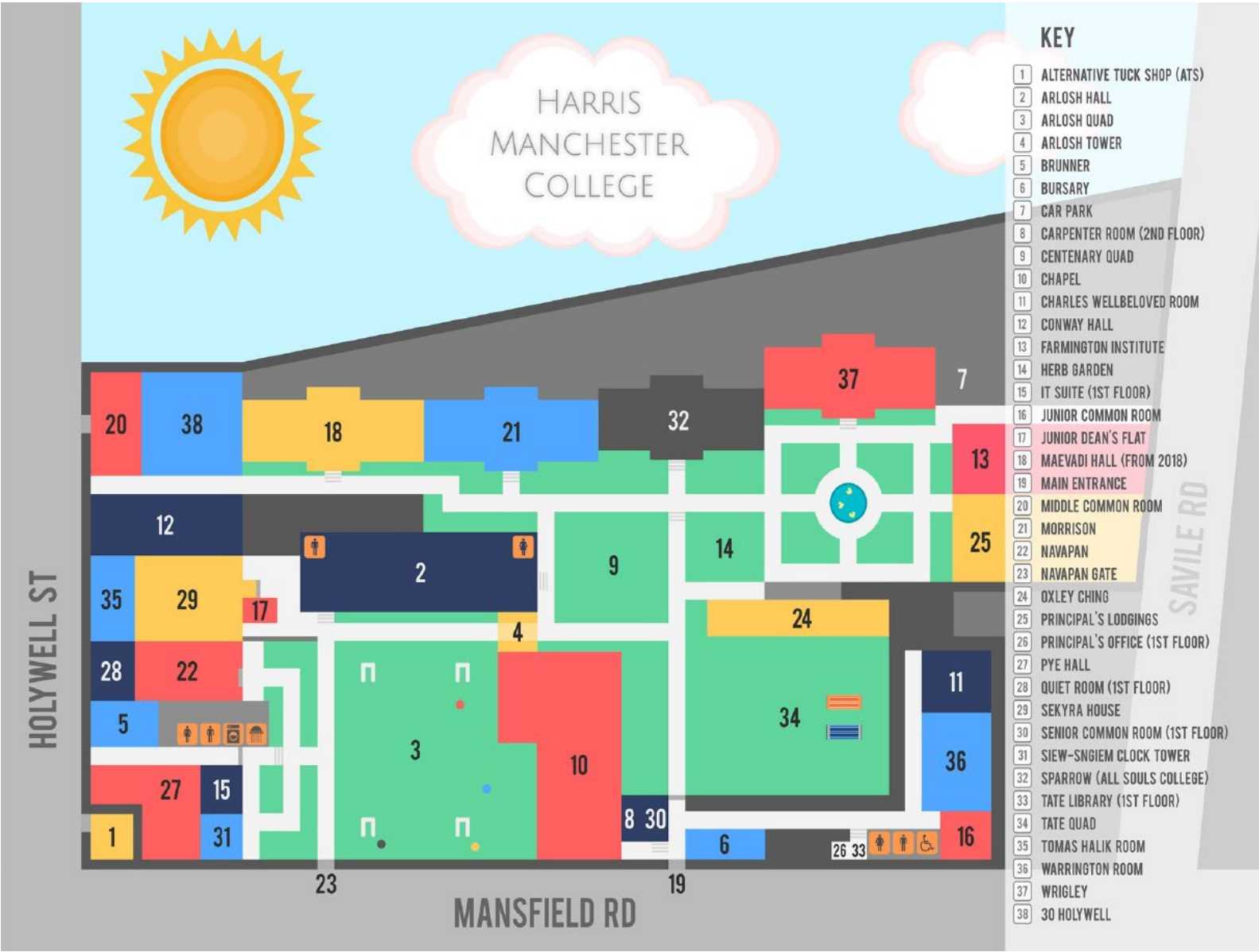
With that, we all look forward to meeting you soon and as your Fresher's officers, we urge you to grasp with both hands all of the events planned for you in 0th week!

Cheers to the wonderful year ahead,

Kai de Haan and Jacob Shrubsall

JCR Freshers' Officers 2025

Map of Harris Manchester College



2025 JCR Committee



President Gabriel Kaufmann

Hi, I'm Gabriel, and my role as president straddles the two tasks of representing student needs to college and the wider university and overseeing the day-to-day running of the JCR. To these ends, I do everything from chairing JCR meetings to making myself as available as I can to members of the college community. I can be regularly found at formal, the upper gallery of the library, and hanging around in the JCR, but if you can't get hold of me at any of those venues then just drop me a line, always happy to talk.



Secretary (VP) Hoo Hoi Tzer

Hello! As Secretary, my role is to be an enabler for the rest of the committee, making sure they can do what they do best without having to worry about administrative complexities. I hope to also be the bridge between the committee and you, which means a two-way connection. While I am in charge of sending out weekly blasts to update you of things happening around college, I would also like to hear from you about any ideas and concerns you might have on HMC. I am usually around College and would love to meet you so just drop me a text or an email anytime! Please do come support the JCR by showing up at our termly general meetings!



Treasurer Jacob Shrubsall

Hello, I'm Jacob. As Treasurer, my role is to ensure that the rest of the committee and societies in our college have the financial means to contribute positively to college life. Other responsibilities include drafting the termly budget, handling reimbursements, and keeping an eye on anything money-related the JCR does.



Social Secretaries Rachel Lowick & Alice O'Halloran

Hi, we are Rachel and Alice and we love to party. We're hoping to make this year at HMC an unforgettable one, with themed bops, guest nights and wholesome activities for all. We're open to any and all suggestions, as long as they involve some good old-fashioned organised fun. Catch you on the dancefloor!



Bar Managers Brandon Kwok & Lisa Lynne

Hey there! We're your college bar managers, and our job is to provide a fun and wide array of beverages to anyone looking to have a great time. Always open to new suggestions, whether cocktails, shelf or non-alcoholic options! We open on Monday and Wednesday evenings after formals, so come find us for a lil creative mixology 🍹

(Note: Brandon graduated in Trinity 2025)



IT Officer Vinamr Athavle

As IT Officer, my main role is to maintain the JCR's tech infrastructure, including this very website! I'm also called upon whenever the JCR requires assistance in setting up and maintaining any new tech-related projects, and when the option for remote participation is needed for any JCR meetings/hustings.

If you're ever in need of IT-related help, or if you have any suggestions for the website, please do not hesitate to come and find me! I've usually got my hands full with Engineering, but I'll always take time out to lend a hand.



Freshers' Officers Kai de Haan & Jacob Shrubsall

Hi, we're Kai and Jacob, the Freshers' Officers at HMC. Our role is to help freshers settle into their lives at Oxford and HMC by planning and running Freshers' Week. We are also responsible for the termly stash. You can always approach us with any questions or concerns you may have throughout your Oxford experience.



Food & Beverage Officer Anna Donaghy

Hello, I'm Anna your Food and Beverage officer! It's my job to keep your tea and coffee breaks in the JCR as refreshing as possible and provide treats for when the library day just isn't going to plan. Do contact me if you have questions about food or beverages within College and let me know your favourite biscuits!



Welfare Officers Kai de Haan & Aeron Ambrose

Hi, we're Kai and Ambrose, the Welfare Officers at HMC. Our focus is on holding regular events for the college community and generally providing free hot chocolate and coffee. We are also available to talk through any issues you may have and explore what resources the college has available should it be appropriate.



Charities Officer Nadia Sokolova

Hi, I'm Nadia! As Charities Officer, I am responsible for organising fundraising events to support local and international charities. I wish to create memorable events that suit every taste, ranging from charity karaoke (Charioke) to a relaxing painting session ☺ :) If you have an idea for an event or a charity you would like us to support - let me know!



Women*s Officers Ashley Kim & Kate Turner

Hi! We are Ashley and Kate, the JCR Women*s officers. We are here to support women and non-binary members of college and we usually run weekly events during term time (often including a movie night). Please feel free to email us if you have any questions or suggestions!



Newsletter Officer & Class Liberation Officer Emmet Moore

Hi, I'm Emmet and I'm both Class Officer and Newsletter Officer for the JCR. As Class Officer, I'm here to provide information and advocacy for students from working-class, low-income and first-gen backgrounds, making sure college resources are accessible and that student concerns are heard. As Newsletter Officer, I'll be putting together the end-of-term newsletter, so if you have any highlights, projects or moments you think might be worth a mention please drop me an email!



Environment Officer Harriet Norris

Hi, I'm Harriet, a third year English student at HMC and the JCR Environment Officer. I am here to represent student views on sustainability in college, and can raise any questions to the relevant members of staff if needed. I am hoping to organise several nature walks and other environment-related events, as well as holding a HMC student writing competition on the subject of the environment. Please feel free to email with any ideas or questions!

(Note: Harriet graduated in Trinity 2025)

Getting involved at HMC

Life at HMC changes from year to year based on the students' interests. Here is what we currently have on offer, if there is something else you want we are open to suggestions!



Wine Society

We meet three times a term to enjoy and appreciate internationally acclaimed wines from around the world. We commence Wednesday evenings before college 'Guest Night' formals.



Yoga

Yoga runs weekly on Mondays, before dinner. It's appropriate for all skill levels and mats are provided!



College Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Come and join us to learn and prepare new songs and old. Our choir usually does a few performances a term around college (Christmas dinner, mid-term service, intercollegiate services). Everyone welcome, join us in the chapel.



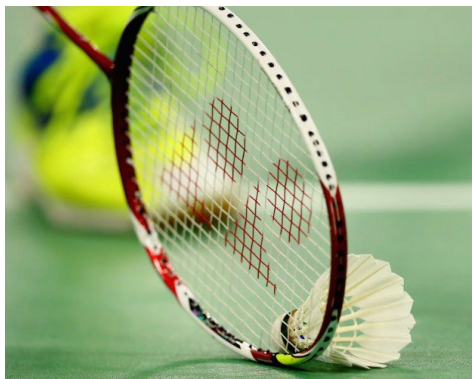
Tennis

We have a large body of students interested in playing Tennis, they usually play in the university-wide sports ground at Iffley Road, with a possibility of joining cuppers.



Pool

As we have our own pool table, we normally put an HMC team in for the College Cuppers (Cupper is an Oxford term for intercollegiate sports cup). We also try to organise a pool tournament within college – probably in Hilary term.



Badminton

Usually played in the mornings at the Iffley Road Sports Grounds, we have an expanding group of students passionate about playing badminton. They play against each other and take part in cuppers.



Croquet

Mainly played in Trinity term (when the weather is good enough), croquet is great fun and, combined with Pimm's, it's a great way to spend an afternoon! In Trinity, we will have a College-Internal tournament (The McMullin Cup) as well as being able to participate in the college-wide Cuppers. The ambitious croqueteer may already start practicing!



Gym facilities

HMC doesn't have its own gym, but is one of the colleges that automatically gives you access to the Iffley Sports Ground Gym (the uni-wide sports grounds down Iffley Road). You can also go to the University Club (Postgrads), Buzz, or Pure (both in Westgate).



Bartending

HMC is home to one of the few student-run college bars. With that you have the chance to bartend in exchange for credit that can be used at our bar. That's like free drinks! For more information contact our bar manager.



Rowing

The Oxford Sport! Wadham has 3 women's and 3 men's boats! Quite a few Harris Mancunians row with Wadham. First term there is a lot of focus on new rowers (novices) and term ends with the Christ Church Regatta – a intercollegiate regatta for novice boats only. It's great fun so give it a try – even if you've never rowed before. The Wadham College Boat Club (WCBC) is great and they do a lot of social stuff too!





Life at HMC

Dates of Term 2025-2026

Michaelmas Term: October 12, 2025 – December 6, 2025

Hilary Term: January 18, 2026 – March 14, 2026

Trinity Term: April 26, 2026 – June 20, 2026

Food

Harris Manchester is home to some of the best college food across the university, with reasonable prices. College serves 3 meals every day from Monday to Friday, breakfast on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. If you live in college you are signed into every meal and can sign out to get a reimbursement for up to 16 meals a term. If you are living out you can sign into meals in advance (by 2pm the previous day). Mondays and Wednesdays we have formal dinners (Three-courses, Gown on) and 2-3 times a term we have guest nights.

Mealtimes

Breakfast (Monday-Friday)
0745 – 0845

Breakfast (Saturday)
0845 - 0945

Lunch (Monday-Friday)
1230 - 1330

Dinner (Tues, Thurs, Fri)
1800 - 1900

Dinner (Mon & Wed)
1845 - 1945

Brunch (Sunday)
1000 – 1100

Guest Nights
1915

Please note that our catering staff do provide vegetarian and vegan options, just be sure to register for them on the online sign in form.

Also, if you have any other dietary requirements such as allergies etc. please do get in contact with the kitchen staff and they will do their best to cater to your needs.

Kitchens

Although students living in do not have the option of self-catering there are kitchen facilities which are great for weekend meals. The 3 common space kitchens throughout college are located in Graham Pye, Sykera, and the MCR. Please note that crockery and cooking utensils are not provided. Also, if you do make use of these facilities to be sure to clean up after as they are common spaces.

Scouts (Cleaners)

HMC is fortunate to have a wonderful staff that keep our college looking beautiful and clean. They clean all communal areas Monday-Friday plus student rooms and bathrooms. If scouts cannot gain access to your room for 3 continuous days they will enter to ensure all is well.

Laundry

There is a fully-equipped, self-serve laundry facility in Graham Pye hall. There are three washers and dryers. You would need to pay with your card each time you launder clothes.

Library

Our librarians are incredibly helpful and knowledgeable. The HMC Tate library is one of the most beautiful in Oxford, and open 24/7. Recently refurbished, the bookcases are located on the ground floor, while desks are distributed across the lower ground and the mezzanine floors. Harris Manchester has extensive library resources, with the highest book to student ratio of any college. The college can also buy books on request, and offers a generous book grant to all first-year

Sustainability and the environment

HMC is dedicated to reducing our environmental impact and we ask you to help us in our goals in reducing energy use and waste across the college. Each student room has a green bin for recycling and a waste basket. We ask that you recycle as much as you can and take your food waste to the nearest kitchen with food waste receptacle.

Welfare and Health

College Doctor

For all medical needs our college doctor is Beaumont Elms Practice. You should have already completed your medical registration with them, however if you haven't they are in college during the medical induction in Freshers' week.

Student Welfare

For academic, financial, personal, mental, and disabilities needs we have our JCR & MCR welfare officers, as well as the Junior Deans, Student Welfare Officer, and College Nurse.

The people of HM C

We are blessed to have wonderful, friendly, and highly competent staff that keep HMC running!

For more information on our Principal, academic and college staff please refer to the website:

<https://www.hmc.ox.ac.uk/people>



Formals and what to wear

Formals

During term time (i.e. Weeks 1 through 8), formal, three-course dinners are held every Monday and Wednesday. Most colleges at Oxford will hold weekly formals, which can be a great way to meet people and see the rest of the university.

Formals at HMC are a fun and relaxed affair, despite the formality (Latin prayers are said and we stand as the Principal enters and leaves the hall). Wednesday formals are the one night a week that most of the college comes together. Students living out often come in for Wednesday formals to catch up, and it is normal to invite out-of-college friends. The JCR usually fills up after dinner, where conversation and music carry on until late.

Attire is formal; business attire is suitable, and most choose to wear cocktail dresses or lounge suits. Gowns must be worn by students, so it is advisable to buy one before first week. Not that this is not “sub fusc”, the cap-and-gown ensemble that must be worn for matriculation and examinations (see below) – only the gown is required for formals.

Black tie

Can be useful – but not necessary – to have. Several non-compulsory “black-tie” events are held each term, such as Guest Nights (but a black suit, rather than a tuxedo with silk lapels, will suffice).





Sub Fusc

Oxford's academic dress, an outfit also known as "sub fusc", is required to be worn during key milestones of student life at Oxford – including matriculation, examinations, and degree ceremonies. It is undoubtedly an unusual ensemble, and one of the many distinctive things about studying at Oxford.



We recommend that you own a set of academic dress, as the university requires it for the above events and the gown is also to be worn for college formals (see above). Part 1(5) of Harris Manchester's College Handbook, located on the college website, defines academic dress as:

[A] dark suit/black skirt, dark socks/tights and black shoes, white shirt/blouse, white collar and white bowtie/black ribbon, and both cap (mortar board) and gown are worn.

If still unsure, the photos on this page are examples and feel free to ask your college parents or the JCR committee.



There are different gowns according to student status: undergraduates wear the **commoner's gown**; graduates wear the **advanced student's gown**; and certain scholarship awardees, visiting/exchange students, and all undergraduates who receive a First in their first public examinations (Prelims/Mods) wear the **Scholar's gown**. Those reading for an advanced degree (or a diploma or certificate) who have graduated from another university may wear their alma mater's gown.



The only pieces of academic dress that you may have trouble finding before you arrive at Oxford are the white bowtie/black ribbon, cap, and appropriate gown. These can be easily bought in Oxford during Fresher's Week from the following shops, which are – all within a 10-minute walk from college:

- The Varsity Shop, 113 High Street
- Shepherd & Woodward, 109-113 High Street
- Walters of Oxford, 10 Turl Street
- Ede & Ravenscroft, 119 High Street

The shopkeepers at these outlets should know the kind of gown you require if you tell them your student status. Typically made out of synthetic material, the gowns retail for around £35 for undergraduates, £40 for graduates, and £55 for scholars. There are also options to buy a full set (incl. Cap and Neckwear) anywhere from £40 to £65. The college bursary may have spare gowns, but these would be limited.



Arriving to Oxford and HMC

Undergraduates begin arriving in Oxford as of Sunday of 0th week, October 5th, 2025.

The college address is:

Harris Manchester College
Mansfield Road
Oxford OX1 3TD

College is located centrally in Oxford and about a 15-minute walk for the train station and 10 minutes from the bus station. If you plan to drive be aware there is limited street parking throughout Oxford and limit car access, so please plan ahead for street restrictions and construction happening within Oxford.

Travel within Oxford

Cars

Parking and car use in central Oxford is very limited. There are NO parking facilities at college for students. If you are commuting into college there are 5 Park and Ride locations surrounding Oxford, where you can park your car and then grab a bus into town. More information can be found on the Oxford City Council website.

Cycling

Cycling is the quickest way around! Feel free to bring your own bike or you can purchase one in Oxford. There are bike racks in college that you can use, just be sure to get a free bike tag from the bursary. We recommend you wear a helmet and hi-visibility clothing. Note it is law that you have bike lights should you be biking during non-daylight hours. Bike theft is common in Oxford so be sure to get a sturdy lock and always lock your bike up! You could also hop on rental Voi electric scooters around town, or use a bike share program.

Walking

This is the easiest way to get around central Oxford. It only takes 5 minutes to get to the heart of the city from college and most faculty libraries. There are also nice walking paths for leisure such as University Parks, Christ Church Meadows, and the Botanic Gardens all within 10 minutes of college.

Buses

The main bus companies in Oxford are the Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach. Fares start with singles outside of the city for £3, and you can generally get a return ticket within Oxfordshire for about £7. You can also book a monthly Bus pass.

Taxis

There are many companies, including Uber, in Oxford if you need a cab. The easiest is the 001 app to order a cab. Here are a few cab companies in town:

001 Taxis: tel: +44 (0)1865 240000

Royal Cars: tel: +44 (0)1865 777333

Trains

The Oxford train station is well connected to the train lines within the UK, including direct trains to London Paddington. The main train operators are Great Western and Cross Country Trains.

<https://www.gwr.com>

<https://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk>

Coaches

Coaches to and from London, Heathrow, and Gatwick pick up and drop off close to college (Gloucester Green Terminal or High Street). Details and pricing can be found on their websites:

<https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk>

<https://www.oxfordtube.com>

Top Attractions in Oxford

The Ashmolean Museum



The Oxford Botanic Gardens

University Parks



The Bodleian Libraries

Pitt Rivers Museum



The Sheldonian Theatre

Radcliffe Camera



Shops in Oxford



Bookshops

Blackwells, Broad Street

Waterstones, Queen Street

Pharmacy/Drug Store

Boots, Cornmarket Street

Superdrug, Westgate

Stationery

WH Smith, Cornmarket Street

Rymans, Queen Street

Banks

Lloyds, High Street

Barclays, Cornmarket Street

HSBC, Cornmarket Street

NatWest, Cornmarket Street

Santander, Queen Street

Nationwide, Queen Street

Household Items

Robert Dyas, Shoe Lane

John Lewis, Westgate

Grocery Stores

Tesco, Magdalen Street

Sainsbury's, Magdalen Street

Marks and Spencer, Queen Street

Shopping Mall

Westgate, Queen Street



Before you Arrive

Before coming up to Oxford, please make sure you complete all of the paper work that Admissions has asked for, including:

Return College Contract & University Card Form

☐

Complete online registration for Beaumont Elms Practice, College Doctors

☐

Open a bank account, if possible (but you will be able to do in 0th week)

☐

Complete international student's paperwork (if applicable)

☐

Read the College Handbook, found here

☐

www.hmc.ox.ac.uk/college-handbook

Also, be sure to check out the Oxford University website for more fresher's information including a suggested packing list:

www.ox.ac.uk/students

