

# Brasenose Faith Provision for Students & Staff

Brasenose strives to be a welcoming, generous, and hospitable place for those of different faiths, beliefs, and worldviews. This guide gives an idea of what Brasenose currently offers its students and staff. We have an annual Interfaith talk each Michaelmas around the time of National Interfaith Week which falls mid-November each year. We encourage people of all faiths and no faith to fully participate in the life of the college in all that it has to offer.

# Candle-lighting

**Students of all faiths and no faiths are able to light individual candles at any time in the candle bowl in the antechapel** – white votive candles are provided. The Medieval Kitchen is also available to students by prior arrangement with the Domestic Bursar for one off events involving candle lighting e.g. group Hindu celebration of Aarthi or Jewish celebration of Hanukkah where a menorah is lit. Please contact: domestic.bursar@bnc.ox.ac.uk with plenty of notice**. It is not permitted to light candles in your student accommodation or at your workstation** - battery operated tealights for use in student accommodation / work stations are available from the chaplain, if desired.

# Food

We always serve Halal meat through the servery along with vegan and vegetarian choices and formals where possible but have halal choice available on the sign on sheet along with 13 other dietary requests. We currently do not provide additional kosher food on a regular basis.

**Formal hall**

There are Diversity Formals throughout each term, themed around major religious and cultural celebrations. Your JCR and HCR Diversity Reps can let you know more about these.

Students can suggest a themed meal for a particular festival or faith via JCR/HCR domestic/food reps and your diversity reps.

**Ramadan** – a room is booked off in Brasenose Main College and made available for students every evening of Ramadan. Students order ahead on the app, we chill down the meal and a microwave is provided for reheating with a probe and “how to use” sheet provided. There is also a University-wide Muslim prayer room in the Robert Hooke Building, which students can choose to use to share Iftars with others.

If there are any other requests in relation to food, please contact the kitchen team: kitchen@bnc.ox.ac.uk

# Adjustments to academic work or work owing to religion or belief

Staff: Please speak to your Line Manager and to HR.

Students: please speak to the College Office or the Chaplain. Please note that requests to adjust the scheduling of exams on religious grounds need to be made early in Michaelmas Term while requests for extenuating circumstances should be supported by medical or other evidence.

In summary - two types of adjustment are possible: adjustments for the act of observance and adjustments for the effects of observance. Where possible, the College and University will make adjustments to accommodate the act of observance. These may be either anticipatory adjustments (avoiding scheduling on certain dates) or adjustments in response to requests. It is not possible, however, to alter the format of assessment to accommodate the act of observance (for example, by providing extra time). It is, however, possible to apply for adjustments due to the effects of observance if, for example, fasting has an effect on performance and is, therefore, an extenuating circumstance.The College Office is happy to discuss any of these issues with you and see what form of support is most appropriate to your context.

# Prayer & Meditation

The Chapel is a space for all members of college, their families, and friends. It is a sacred space set aside for contemplation, prayer, and worship. A place to find peace or simply be and enjoy the quiet and beauty of the space. It is available for individuals of all faiths and none to find peace, meditate, and pray.

The Chapel is consecrated (set apart) for Christian worship *corporate* worship. This can only be Christian and there are daily acts of Christian worship in chapel and a termly Catholic Mass.

Many spaces are available to students for corporate prayer of their faith or belief across the college. Any lecture room or music practice room or teaching room is bookable via the online booking system and is available as prayer space including.

Please book via the intranet: <https://unioxfordnexus.sharepoint.com/sites/BRAS-DecanalEventBookings/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Many students also like to pray in their own rooms – battery operated tealights can be used in student accommodation. No naked flames are allowed in your rooms.

On occasion, groups of Muslim students have used the Medieval Kitchen, Amersi Room or Platnauer Room for corporate worship from time to time owing to their spacious and light ambiance as well as helpful proximity to washing facilities. There is a University Muslim Prayer Room opposite Keble College.

**Specific Festivals**

# Calendar of Festivals

The University Equality and Diversity Unit publishes a calendar of equality and diversity dates each year as a guide. This includes significant religious festivals. It can be found here:<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/equality-dates>

**Student Faith Reps in Brasenose**

These roles usually rotate annually and depend on whether students wish to be a point of contact for their faith, religion or belief. If seeking to be linked into a faith/belief student rep please either email the chaplain: chaplain@bnc.ox.ac.uk or your Equality and Diversity Rep. The Bible Clerk is also a point of contact for signposting of students.

JCR - jcr-diversity@bnc.ox.ac.uk

HCR - hcr-diversity@bnc.ox.ac.uk

# Other queries

If you have queries or questions not covered by the headings above please do get in touch with Brasenose Chaplain or the Equality and Diversity Reps / leads or if you are a member of staff – HR.

If you would like to contact the Equality and Diversity Unit in the University regarding University wide queries or issues - contact details can be found here: [https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk](https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/)

**University Chaplains of All Faiths & Beliefs**

A contacts list of college chaplains as well as chaplains of all faith and denominations across the University can be found here – the Brasenose Chaplain is also well versed in provision of chaplains across the university as they meet with the chaplains of all faiths and beliefs each term in the Student Ministry Forum across Oxford so please do speak to the Brasenose Chaplain. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/chaplaincy>

**University-wide Faith & Belief Societies**

Information on faith societies, groups or religious centres in Oxford: <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/faith-societies>

*Written by BNC Chaplain in liaison with Domestic Bursar, HR, College Office, Head Chef and Accommodation Manager. Revised annually. MT2024.*