Freshers and Returning Student FAQs

Will all student accommodation be available to students, and when will I find out if I have a room?

We aim to offer as much student accommodation as possible, in line with government health advice. The Accommodation Manager will contact you with your room allocation and arrangements for the phased return of students. Returning students, Graduate Freshers and those students needing to quarantine from 19th September, UG Freshers from 2nd October.

It is worth noting that returning students are able to return to Oxford from the 19th September which is much earlier than usual. We recognise the importance of making rooms available at college for those requiring quarantine and for those wishing to settle in early to the new ways of working and living in Oxford.

The numbers returning will be phased gradually with returning dates bookable via MS bookings (link to be circulated separately)

You will be charged for your room during quarantine at the nightly rate.

Do I need to arrive in Oxford early to quarantine, and will I be provided with accommodation?

You will need to arrive in Oxford in time to complete any necessary period of 14-day quarantine before your course starts. If your accommodation for the term will be in College you will be provided with accommodation to quarantine.

If you will be renting privately you should plan to arrive in your rented accommodation 14 days before the start of your course. If this is not possible (e.g. because the property is not available to rent for your quarantine period), we will aim to provide you with accommodation for the quarantine period. The relevant rates for your room will usually apply for any extra nights.

Financial Hardship

Students suffering financial hardship are encouraged to review the following pages from the University [https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/uh](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship/uh)

The University is developing a new hardship fund for students whose finances have been impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak over a longer time period, and this will be launched for the 2020/2021 academic year.

The College Hardship Office can be contacted at [financial.support@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:financial.support@bnc.ox.ac.uk)
I live outside the UK. Will I have to quarantine when arriving in the UK? And do I need to arrive before the start of term?

The UK Government currently requires travellers from specific countries to quarantine for 14 days. Please keep up to date with FCO advice [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus)

How will my teaching work?

The College is consulting Tutors about teaching arrangements and should be able to provide you more information shortly.

I am due to sit University exams or Collections in Michaelmas Term – is there anything I need to know?

If you are due to sit exams in Michaelmas Term then you should already be aware of the details. All published timetables are available from [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables)

Most exams will be conducted online. Some may be sat in person.

All Michaelmas term Collections will be conducted online, following a similar format to Trinity Term Collections. In-person collections can be organised on request for students preparing for in-person exams later in Michaelmas.

If you have any queries about exams or collections please email the College Office college.office@bnc.ox.ac.uk

When will I know if different college services are open?

College is working through the details of how best to reopen services in a safe way for students and staff. We will ensure that services are opened in accordance with public health advice, and will share more information as soon as possible. Some services, such as lunch and some welfare support, will be available from 19th September, when students start to return, but this will be limited at first as we test our new ways of working.

What should I do if I am feeling anxious about returning to College?

It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis. There are some great resources out there to help support your mental health, whether you are in Oxford or away, and especially when self-isolating. Student Minds has a list of advice and tips on their website and further links. The Counselling Service website has a range of supportive resources and information about managing mental health conditions. You can still access Student Welfare and Support Services, although their physical building is closed, all services are offering online telephone appointments.
If you have an existing mental health condition, then we know this may be a particularly challenging time. You can find public health advice for supporting your mental health on the PHE website. A 24/7 NHS mental health helpline has also recently been launched to take pressure off 111 for mental health advice in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. In addition, students can now also access free online support 24/7 through Big White Wall. Big White Wall is a free service giving you access to a global welfare community. To join, simply visit the official website and Register under "I'm from a university or college" with your Oxford e-mail address.

**If my course is extended beyond week 8 will I be provided with accommodation?**

Where students live in College accommodation, and their courses are extended, accommodation will be made available as needed. Further details – including information about rent arrangements - will follow as soon as possible.

**Can you tell me more about the health and safety arrangements in College?**


We are setting up our teaching spaces and facilities in a way that reduces the spread of COVID-19, supports social distancing in line with current government requirements, and bringing in ways of working, physical measures and protective equipment needed as appropriate. This includes in our teaching spaces and communal areas. As we welcome you back you will be given information about what you need to do to minimise risks to health and invited to a Q&A session (via MSTeams prior to your arrival).

**Will I be required to wear a face covering?**

We expect that all students and staff will wear face coverings when in teaching environments and in shared indoor space, including corridors and staircases. They will not be required in your “household” which is your own staircase or group of rooms. A more detailed approach to face coverings is now being developed, and guidance will be shared as soon as possible.

**I consider myself to be vulnerable (for example, I have an underlying health condition). What support will be available to me?**

The University and College will be implementing a range of measures to ensure that students can be safely taught in person, where government guidance allows. We will ensure that all learning can be conducted remotely if necessary - at least for the first term – for the health and safety of individual students. This includes students in high risk categories who are not able to return to College/University.

**Will Brasenose College adopt a ‘social bubbles’ approach?**
Yes. A “household” approach will be implemented across our accommodation with a maximum of 8 people per household, based on Staircases. In some larger staircases shared bathrooms and kitchens will be designated to different households.

**What are the “household” arrangements?**

College accommodation has been arranged so that everyone will live in a small group that we are calling a “household”. A household will be a group of people living in close proximity, for example on the same staircase. You will be notified of who is in your household. You will not have to socially distance from people in your household, but if one of you has to self-isolate, that will apply to all in the “household”.

**What will the College do if there is an increase in cases of coronavirus in the next academic year?**

We hope that all students and staff will follow the measures put in place and this will limit the spread of the virus. If any new restrictions are necessary, we will target these as tightly as possible.

**If it is not practical for me to return home during the Christmas vacation, will I be able to remain in my College accommodation?**

We understand that many of our international students will want to book flights to and from Oxford. College will ensure that international students are accommodated during the Christmas vacation if necessary. Further information will follow during Michaelmas Term 2020.

If you do stay in College during the Christmas break you will be charged at the normal room rent.

**Will there be any hardship funding available in the next academic year?**

The University is developing a new hardship fund for students whose finances have been impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak over a longer time period, and this will be launched for the 2020/21 academic year. For a discussion about financial support from College please contact financial.support@bnc.ox.ac.uk.

**Will student events, clubs, social activities be allowed?**

From Michaelmas term, they will be allowed if they can take place in line with government safety guidelines. This is likely to be predominantly online in the first instance.

**Will the Bar be open?**

Yes. The bar will be opening on a click and collect basis through the order ahead Upay app (further information to follow). A one-way system will be in operation. Access via Staircase XI, exit via Staircase XII

**Will the JCR and HCR be open?**
Yes. However, the room capacity has significantly reduced due to social distancing protocols.

**Will the Library be open?**

Yes. The Libraries will be open 24/7 with a significantly reduced number of reading spaces available. Some library services will remain or convert to online processes.

**Can the marquee be booked? and what will it be used for?**

As it stands the marquee will be used as a social space only and is not a bookable space.

**Will access to College still be 24/7?**

Yes.

**How will meals be provided?**

Meals will be provided on a book ahead Upay app for takeaway and very limited bookable spaces in Hall. No formal Halls will take place initially, but this will be reviewed once the catering team and students become familiar with the new processes. Further information to follow.

Meals will be provided to self-isolating students through the same system but delivered to the isolating “household”.

Gerties will not open in Michaelmas term 2020.

**Will I quarantine in my bedroom, or will I quarantine and then move to a different room once quarantine is finished?**

College will make every effort to ensure that you quarantine in your bedroom and so no room moves are required.

**Do I need to amend my accommodation booking with college once I have booked a slot via the booking system?**

No, your booking will be amended to the date you have selected on the booking system.

**Am I entitled to NHS care and treatment on my international visa, when I enter UK?**
You would have been issued with an NHS number when you paid the surcharge as part of your visa requirements.

If Jericho Health Centre (college doctors) register you, this could mean you are liable to pay for medical treatment in secondary care. Please be advised to go back to the Visa and Immigration Office and check the status of your visa and entitlement to NHS treatment.

If you have a valid visa, you will have an NHS number. However, your visa may exclude you from NHS treatment.

**How do I register at the college doctors surgery and receive NHS treatments, referrals and medical assessments?**

You can register for the college doctors online at [https://www.campusdoctor.co.uk/](https://www.campusdoctor.co.uk/)

**If I have already recovered from coronavirus, do I still have to isolate if in contact with a positive case/a member of my household tests positive/I develop symptoms? Am I not immune by the end of the original isolation?**

The government guidance is that you do still have to isolate the same way everyone else does, even if you have already tested positive for, and subsequently recovered from, the virus. This is because it is not yet clear that everyone develops immunity to the virus after the first infection.

If someone develops COVID-19 symptoms and had a positive test more than 14 days ago, they should isolate, along with their household, and get a test.

If someone had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 14 days, they would not need to have another test. But they would still need to self-isolate for another 14 days after their symptoms start.