



**BRASENOSE  
COLLEGE**  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# Undergraduate Prospectus





# Introducing Brasenose

Brasenose is a warm and welcoming academic community. We have a reputation as the friendliest college, and our kind, passionate and curious students thrive in our inclusive and close-knit environment.

The College has a long tradition of academic excellence. Brasenose is committed to providing the best possible support, both academic and pastoral, to ensure students can follow their interests and ambitions. We welcome students from all backgrounds who are enthusiastic about their studies and want to make the most of their time at Oxford.

Situated in the heart of the city, Brasenose is ideally placed for students eager to immerse themselves in university life – College is a short walk from departments and libraries, as well as shops, pubs, cafes and markets.

As well as the historic site on Radcliffe Square, Brasenose also owns Frewin Hall, an annexe a five-minute walk from the main college. This means the College can offer accommodation in a central location to all undergraduates.





# Student Profiles

## Olivia-Mae Studying History



**Hometown**  
Pontefract, West Yorkshire

**Qualifications before university  
(A Levels, IB or equivalent)**  
A Levels (English Literature, Religious Studies, History)

**When I'm not working...**  
I enjoy going for long walks around Oxford (of which there is a multitude!), hosting tea-drinking gatherings for my friends, and habitual Sunday practice with our band in the Frewin music room.

**What's the best part of studying at Brasenose?**  
For me, the best part of studying at Brasenose is the atmosphere here. It's a perfect blend of old and new, big and small, with a relaxed yet fast-paced environment. As a history student, Brasenose is a fantastic place to study, with its own dedicated history library which caters to all our reading-list needs. Nothing is too far away as Brasenose is wonderfully central; most libraries are less than a 15-minute walk, with plenty of nearby coffee shops and gardens to serve well-deserved study breaks.

**Favourite spot in College?**  
The best place has got to be the dining hall for me. I do my best to go to meals in Hall where I can because it's just such a lovely place.

Not only is it absolutely beautiful, but it's also the place where I do most of my socialising at mealtimes. It's where I'll meet my friends after a long day in the library, and we'll normally stay in there for a good hour just having conversations and catching up. There's usually a lovely atmospheric bubble in hall, and it really makes me feel like I'm living the 'Oxford experience'.

**What's your favourite aspect of your course?**  
There is such a wealth of choice within the History degree here at Oxford. Although there are constraints about which time periods and regions you need to cover, there is always room for finding an area that you're particularly keen on, even if the paper maybe isn't on your favourite bit of history. The weekly essay structure of the course means that from week to week the topics vary, and within that framework, it's very easy to focus on readings that you prefer – nobody will force you to read something you really don't like!

**Advice to someone thinking about applying?**  
I would say there is no harm in applying. The experience you gain through even the application process itself is so rewarding, and something that other universities and employers will value. And, if you think Oxbridge isn't for you because of the stereotypes, the cost, or how far south it is... don't let these things put you off! Much of what students worry about is completely myth, increasingly so these days. The decision to apply should be a personal and academic one.

**A quality you think is important for someone looking to study at Oxford?**  
You absolutely must adore your subject; I think academic passion is the key thing. For how intensive the short terms here are, and how involved students need to be with their degrees, having a true love of your subject will do wonders for the university experience. On top of this, being a hard-worker is definitely a bonus. I think those two things are a pretty good combination of Oxford qualities.



## Dhairya Studying Engineering



**Hometown**  
Leicester, East Midlands

**Qualifications before university  
(A Levels, IB or equivalent)**  
A Levels (Maths, Physics, Biology)

**When I'm not working...**  
I love spending time in the JCR (our student common room), playing pool and table tennis – it's a great way to unwind and have some fun. I also enjoy going to Ice Hockey training at midnight, which has been an awesome experience, especially since I had never ice skated before coming to Oxford! I'm always up for attending different events, whether they're academic or social. It's a great way to meet new people and stay engaged with the university community.

**What's the best part of studying at Brasenose?**  
The best part of studying at Brasenose is definitely the sense of community and the homely environment. It's the perfect size – not too big, not too small – so you always bump into people you know around College, which makes it feel really welcoming and connected. Plus, the central location is a huge perk. You're never more than a short walk away from everything, which makes life a lot easier and more convenient. Whether it's heading to the department or an emergency Tesco shop, everything feels so accessible.

**Favourite spot in College?**  
JCR for pool and table tennis with friends.

**What's your favourite aspect of your course?**  
One of my favourite aspects of the Engineering course is definitely the labs. They're incredibly engaging and provide hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment, which makes learning so much more exciting.

For example, in the electronics lab, we're working on a long-term project where we build a music box from scratch. It involves using microcontrollers, soldering, and integrating various electrical and computational concepts. This project not only allows us to get creative but also helps us develop practical skills that are crucial in the field. It's amazing to see how the theory we learn in lectures comes to life through these practical applications.

**Advice to someone thinking about applying?**  
If you're thinking about applying, go for it! Oxford offers a great mix of academic challenge and close-knit community (Brasenose in particular). There are endless opportunities to grow, both inside and outside the classroom, whether through sports, events, or exploring new interests. If you're passionate and ready to push yourself, you'll thrive here!

**A quality you think is important for someone looking to study at Oxford?**  
Time management is crucial. It helps you balance academics, extracurriculars, and social life efficiently. Tools like Google Calendar are incredibly helpful for staying organized – ensuring you never miss an event or deadline and allowing you to quickly find important information without digging through emails or your phone.



# Student Profiles

## Jiya Studying Biology



**Hometown**  
Lewisham, London

**Qualifications before university**  
(A Levels, IB or equivalent)  
A Levels (Biology, Chemistry and History)

**When I'm not working...**  
Nothing beats a run along the canal for some fresh air, potentially stopping to adore the ducklings and cygnets! I also love to paint and draw in my free time, sometimes for Brasenose's arts magazine, NoseDive, sometimes just for fun with friends or sometimes at an Art Society event.

**What's the best part of studying at Brasenose?**  
I know everyone at Brasenose says this, but honestly, how friendly everyone is. Whether I'm walking through College and stop for a chat, text someone for an impromptu meet up or see someone I know at a society event on the other side of town, it's such a wholesome and loving community. As an introvert from London, the friendliness took some getting used to, but I am so glad I have! Aside from the social aspect, Brasenose's location is amazing. Right on the doorstep of the Radcliffe Camera library (or is the Rad Cam on our doorstep?), it's the prime spot for gorgeous pics, quick library trips and late night sweet-treat runs.

### **Favourite spot in College?**

When it's cold outside, my favourite spot is the library. Aside from being beautiful inside, I love seeing my friends around – especially when I am cramming for an essay and need positive energy to bolster me through. That said, Brasenose is best in the sunshine. Prime spot in summer has got to be a bench on New Quad, perfectly positioned in the sun.

### **What's your favourite aspect of your course?**

My favourite thing about the Biology course is the lecturers and tutors. They are so passionate about their research. Not only do I get to talk to these crazy smart people, but I get to have fun talking to them! Whilst at times the course is challenging, tutorials remind me why I chose Biology and why I want to continue doing so in my career.

The Biology course has really cool fieldwork opportunities for aspiring ecologists. Since I read 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, I have been obsessed with orangutans. Last year I got to see one in the wild whilst on a fieldtrip to Borneo. Every time I think about it, I get giddy! Oh, and an extra bonus is that we sometimes have lectures in the Oxford Natural History Museum, which is real "pinch me" moment because it is beautiful. I love a quick wander around the exhibits between lectures.

### **Advice to someone thinking about applying?**

I would say go for it. You have nothing to lose and lots to gain. Even the interview is a unique experience – it doesn't have to be a stressful experience so just enjoy it.

### **A quality you think is important for someone looking to study at Oxford?**

I don't think there is an archetypical Oxford student. A lot of students think they need to be a certain way to fit and thrive here. Living and studying at Oxford has really shown me how different everyone is from their hobbies, styles of working, experience levels and general outlook on life.



# Day in the Life

## Ellen Studying History and Politics



**Hometown**  
Downpatrick, Northern Ireland

Hi! I'm a first year History and Politics student at Brasenose. My favourite thing about life here has to be the College community – everyone is so sociable and friendly, and I feel like I could talk to anyone. In my free time, I like to get involved in just about anything – choir, rowing, access, drama and general socialising!



### **A typical day in my life...**

It was an early start for me as I had a Politics tutorial at 9am – I have a habit of sleeping through anything before 11am so my fabulous tutorial partner Megan came to check I'm up. We headed round to St Peter's College to discuss our essays and the topic this week: state strength. It was a very interesting and varied discussion – I really enjoy Politics tutorials.

After, I headed straight to the Radcliffe Camera (the History Faculty library) to do some reading for two hours. It's a very pretty library and always feels a bit surreal to be studying in it! I then met Marianna, a fellow History fresher, for a quick coffee before having lunch in hall. I spent an hour in Brasenose library and then had a singing lesson. I am a choral scholar in Brasenose choir, and I have found the (free!) singing lessons very useful as I hadn't sung the specific choral style of singing before coming to Oxford. My technique and range have improved so much since I came to Brasenose, and being part of the choir is so much fun and a great way to make new friends from across College!

After my lesson, I returned to Brasenose library for an hour or so before going to a MEGA welfare tea in the JCR. We have welfare teas twice a week, where we can request snacks and treats (for free!) and come together to chill and eat. I am a regular attendee. Then, I got ready for rowing training (which balances it all out) and did an 'erg' session with my boat.

After rowing, I ran back up to College to get ready for a formal dinner with some friends from Christ Church (another college). I showered and got ready in 30 minutes total (very impressive) and then picked up my friends from the Brasenose Lodge. The food was amazing as usual. Afterwards, they came 'dtb' (down the bar) and we had a few drinks together. A busy, but lovely day!





# Study

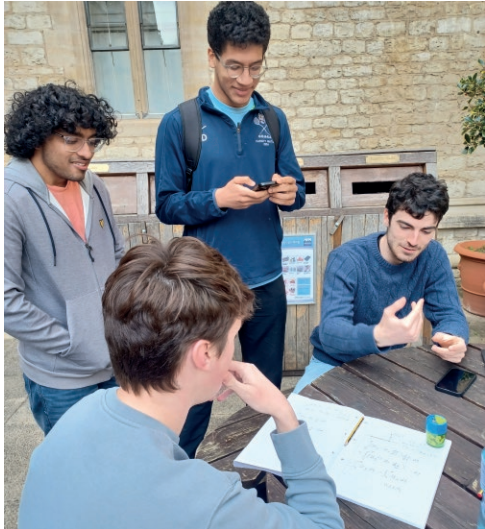
The foundation of Oxford's teaching is the tutorial system. Students typically prepare essays or problem sheets in advance; these are then discussed with college-based tutors either individually or in small groups. Tutorials tend to take place once or twice a week and usually last around an hour. They are supplemented by University lectures, seminars and laboratory work.

Tutorials are thought provoking, challenging and exciting. This style of teaching allows students to form ideas, exchange thoughts and follow their own interests. Meeting tutors regularly allows students to build up a close rapport with them. They can keep an eye on progress and offer any additional support if needed.



## Prof. Faraz Mardakheh Tutorial Fellow in Biochemistry

Brasenose has a friendly, welcoming and warm atmosphere; everyone is so keen to help and support each other. The reputation of Oxford's friendliest college is definitely one that holds true! As a tutor, it is truly rewarding to teach such a passionate and talented group of young people. The opportunity to explore a subject in-depth with just two or three students at a time not only allows for meaningful discussions and close engagements but also helps to build the students' confidence. It creates a space where they feel comfortable questioning ideas, thinking critically, and really delving into the subjects. And to my surprise, at times I have ended up learning some new things!



## Charlotte Studying Geography

I love that Geography is so varied... one week I'll be writing an essay about differential experiences at borders, the next I'll be giving a presentation on natural resource management in the face of climate change or the role of orbital forcing in driving glacial cycles.

All of the geographers are so friendly and it's a very social course – Brasenose is definitely the place to be for geography (I may be slightly biased)! We have a society called G-Unit which is made up of all of the Brasenose geographers – we have drinks events, dinners and a picnic during the summer.



## Eeshaan Studying Law

I enjoy studying Law because of the variety of different modules. One week, you might be looking at the modern requirements for theft in English law as part of your Criminal Law module, while simultaneously reading about 2000 year old law dealing with theft as part of your Roman Law module. Many of the modules focus on the relationship between different areas of law, and you often begin to spot similarities. The varied yet cohesive nature of the course makes it far more interesting and enjoyable.



## Shannon Studying Economics and Management

My favourite part of Economics and Management is the diversity in subjects, for example, one term I chose to study Macroeconomics and Marketing. Each week, I had some mathematical and modelling problems, as you would expect in Economics, but also readings for Marketing, which are always very contemporary and relevant. Before coming to Oxford, I thought I would prefer the more Maths side of things, but now I really enjoy the Management essays because of the creative freedom.



Subjects offered at Brasenose	Average intake per year
Biochemistry	4
Biology	6
Chemistry	6
Classics (and joint degrees)	6
Computer Science (inc. with Maths)	4
Economics and Management	6
Engineering	6
English	7
Fine Art	3
Geography	6
History (and joint degrees)	10
Law (inc. with Law Studies in Europe)	10
Maths (inc. with Philosophy)	6
Medicine	6
Modern Languages (and joint degrees)	7
Physics (inc. with Philosophy)	6
PPE	9
Psychology (EP/PPL)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>

For more details on our courses, see our website [www.bnc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk)

# Accommodation



Brasenose is not just a place to study, but a home where students live, eat and socialise.

The College offers affordable undergraduate accommodation in the centre of the city for all years of study. First year students are housed together on the main College site, while second years normally live in Frewin Hall, a five-minute walk away. Third- and fourth-year students choose between returning to the main site or remaining at the Frewin Annexe.

All bedrooms are single occupancy, and each room has a bed, desk and storage. Some are en-suite, whereas others share a bathroom with a small number of neighbours. Rooms and bathrooms are cleaned regularly by College staff. The College provides specially equipped and adapted rooms for students with disabilities and additional requirements.

Student rooms are categorised into different price bands, based on size and bathroom provision; the largest rooms have a bedroom, a study/living room, and en-suite. A room ballot is held for the second, third and fourth years to ensure that the rooms are allocated fairly. Our student rooms are constantly being improved and modernised, and our dedicated workshop team are on hand for maintenance.



# Food and Drink

Coming together in the Dining Hall and College bar is a crucial part of the Brasenose experience, for students to meet up with friends, relax and take a break from their studies.

Brasenose has a well-deserved reputation for excellent food. Breakfast, lunch and dinner (and brunch at the weekend) are provided daily. Meals are informal and optional; students order via an app to eat in the Hall or to take away. Each meal has a variety of options and combinations for students to choose from and food is locally sourced where possible. Vegetarian and vegan meals, and gluten free options, are always available. Meat dishes are usually halal, and specific dietary requirements can be catered for.

Charges are kept low, for instance, a full English breakfast costs just under £2.50 (with free tea and coffee), a hot lunch or dinner costs around £5, whilst optional formal dinners (held three times a week in addition to self-service sittings) are delicious restaurant standard three-course meals for around £10. The College prides itself on the quality of its meal service, and on being able to pass on substantial cost savings to students.

Microwaves, kettles, toasters and fridges are available across the main site. The Frewin Annexe has shared kitchens for students who wish to cook their own meals.

Brasenose organises special annual formal dinners for celebrations such as Burns Night, Chinese New Year, Christmas, Thanksgiving and more. The College community also comes together for a Sports dinner, a Diversity and Equality formal, an International Women's Day formal, a LGBTQ+ formal and others. Garden parties are hosted outside on the quads in the summer months – when it never rains!



In the evening, students can head down to our lively bar. A variety of reasonably priced alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are available - pints cost around £3 - £4. The bar has a TV, table football, dartboard and plenty of seating, and holds many social events, such as karaoke, quiz nights, game nights, charity auctions, BOPs (fancy dress parties) and much more.





# College Life

Students are welcome to take part in a wide variety of recreational activities, many of which are run by the JCR (the undergraduate student body). These include film nights, cocktails, garden parties, pub quizzes, a summer sports day, guest speakers and the College ball.

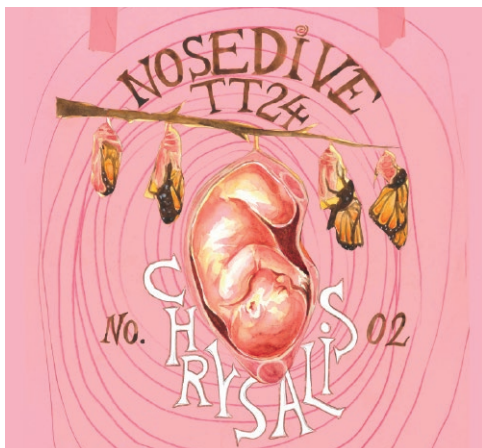
The student common room (also called the JCR) is a hub within College: it has two comfy lounges featuring a widescreen TV, PlayStation, Wii, table tennis table, free pool table and board games. The Brasenose JCR also organises a week-long summer arts festival, featuring for instance theatre, jazz and acapella performances and craft sessions. Recently, the student-produced Brasenose arts magazine NoseDive has been relaunched and has proven to be a fantastic creative outlet.



In addition to the numerous College clubs and societies, there is an enormous array of student activities organised at University level for sports, music, politics, performing arts, different faiths and cultures, and much more.

There is a large and enthusiastic College choir which sings regularly. All students are welcome in the Chapel, whatever their religious beliefs. Chapel activities are entirely optional and voluntary.

There are three music practice spaces available to students: individual practice rooms on main site and Frewin, and the antechapel, which can be booked for individual practice and larger ensembles.



## Sports

There are many opportunities to get involved in sport at Brasenose, whatever your ability or commitment level. The College has a strong tradition of sporting success, performing well in intercollegiate competitions, known as 'cuppers', and on the river rowing. The JCR has football, rugby, cricket, hockey, tennis, mixed netball, badminton and pool teams for all genders, as well as an active boat club with rowing for all abilities. The less energetic can punt or play croquet on the New Quad lawn!

Brasenose has a large sports ground off Abingdon Road, with football, cricket and rugby pitches, and tennis courts. The College's boat club, one of the oldest in the world, is housed nearby. The College also offers free membership to the University gym. There is though absolutely no pressure to get involved in sport, and it forms no part of the admissions process.



## Ahmed (JCR Sports Rep)

Getting involved in sport at Brasenose is a fantastic way to meet new people, have some fun and look after your wellbeing. With a wide range of sports on offer, there's something for everyone, regardless of experience or ability.





# Facilities

## Library

Central to the College, the beautiful and much-loved Greenland Library and the Stallybrass Law Library, plus several stack areas around College, constitute the Brasenose Library.

Students have 24-hour access to books and there is currently no restriction on the number of loans. Full access to all electronic library resources is available throughout College, including student bedrooms.

Desks in each of the discreet areas of the library have lights, power and USB sockets, and there are two large height adjustable desks on the ground floor. Printers, photocopiers and scanners are available and there are book rests, footrests, kneeling chairs and blankets for additional comfort. Guarding the upper part of the library is a full size, and much-loved skeleton called George.

The College funds the purchase of new books suggested by students for the libraries, and these are normally ordered and delivered within a couple of days. Students are always welcome to discuss any particular needs with library staff.

## Hannah

(from County Durham)

My favourite spot in College is probably the College library; it's a great place to get work done especially if I've left it to the last minute! I find it really helpful to be around other people when I'm studying to help keep me motivated and focused.



## IT

Every Brasenose bedroom has a wired network socket giving secure high-speed (1,000Mb/s) access to the Internet, and wireless networks are available throughout. There are several computer rooms and printers available for students to use.

The University provides all students with free access to Microsoft Office 365 products (e.g. Word, Excel, Outlook etc.) including up to 100 gigabytes of cloud-based storage on Microsoft OneDrive, plus many other useful tools like anti-virus and VPN. The College has a dedicated IT team, who are able to help students with problems they have with their devices or accessing University services.

## Porters' Lodge

The Porters' Lodge is a reception, mailroom and security area at the entrance of College, staffed by friendly and informed staff 24/7. Whether you have lost your room keys, you are retrieving an Amazon delivery or just fancy a quick chat – our porters are always there for you.

## Laundry

There are laundry facilities on the main College site and at the Frewin Annexe. Payments for washing machines and tumble dryers can be made with credit or debit cards, or via mobile.



# Welfare



Brasenose prides itself on its welfare provision. Recent welfare orientated events at Brasenose include drop-in sessions, welfare teas and doughnuts, dog petting and walking, board games, arts and crafts, mindfulness sessions, sexual health support, yoga, and many other optional activities. In the summer before arriving, incoming students join 'College families', where second year students ('College parents') informally mentor and look out for Freshers as they settle into life in Oxford.

Our friendly and approachable Welfare Team offer advice and support through any struggles students may face. They are easy to contact and offer free confidential appointments. The College Nurse holds a daily surgery during term time, and she can make referrals to more specialised support when necessary. There are termly events and activities and a buddy scheme which are designed to support neurodiverse students. Brasenose also has a Counsellor, and the Chaplain can help with any welfare needs, regardless of religious faith.



# Finance

Studying at Brasenose and Oxford is more affordable than you may think. Accommodation and food in College is very reasonably priced and little travel is needed within the city.

Tuition fees at Oxford are the same as at other leading universities, and we feel our tutorial system and world-renowned resources represent value for money.

Tuition fees do not need to be paid up front by UK students, as they are all eligible to apply for a tuition fee loan from the UK government to cover the full amount. Living expenses vary but can be as little as around £2,000 per term for all accommodation (including utilities), food and social life.

The University offers means-tested bursaries for UK students to help with living costs; the bursary scheme is one of the most generous in the country. All UK undergraduate students whose household income is less than around £50,000 will receive an annual bursary of at least £1,050. If your household income is below £32,500, you will be eligible for a maximum of £6,090 through the Crankstart Scholarship scheme.

In addition, the College also offers small grants for travel, sports, art, music, language-learning and general study support.

Please see [www.ox.ac.uk/funding](http://www.ox.ac.uk/funding) for up-to-date information for fees, living costs and bursaries, as well as scholarship programmes.





# Favourite Things

## Amber

*(from Oxted, Surrey)*

At Brasenose, we are all really committed to making Oxford more accessible and inclusive. Everyone is welcome here and you can make friends from all years and backgrounds.



## Aditya

*(from Maidenhead, Berkshire)*

Although the speed of teaching is fast at times, it's intuitive and helps me think about problems for myself instead of getting all the answers. The tutorial system is helpful to discuss cool ideas outside the syllabus that helps me to appreciate my subject way more.



## Bella

*(from Bolsover, Derbyshire)*

Little positive interactions with staff and other students throughout the day make Brasenose a great place to live. The Welfare Team in particular work hard to make sure everyone feels supported.



## Lucy

*(from Nunthorpe, North East)*

This is very cheesy, but the people! We are known as the friendliest college, and I am always stopping for chats on the quads. Another plus is its central location. I find I am very close to everything I might need; this includes shops and places to eat as well as libraries and lecture halls.



## Raghav

*(from Rajasthan, India)*

Having been here for a few terms now, I can say that it truly is the friendliest college at Oxford! By some crazy coincidence, there's always someone from Brasenose at every social event you can find. From clubs to super niche societies, we're everywhere!



**Brasenose College**

Oxford, OX1 4AJ

United Kingdom

Tel: 01865 277510

[admissions@bnc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bnc.ox.ac.uk)

[www.bnc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk)

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See our website for updates.

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