



**Worcester College
Oxford**



The Alternative Prospectus





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Welcome to Worcester

Hello everyone! It is my pleasure to welcome you to Worcester! My name is Sam and, as well as a 2nd-year Physics student, I am the current JCR President here at Worcester (2022/23). The 'JCR', stands for Junior Common Room. Not only is it a room in college for undergraduate students to play table tennis, watch films, or get involved with college events, but it is also the collective name for all the undergrads that call Worcester their home. My role within all of this is to oversee the committee: a group of

elected students who work to make life at Worcester the best it can possibly be! This includes organising events, art, fundraising, sports teams as well as striving to improve student welfare and providing equal opportunities for all. What is great about the JCR is that anyone can get involved!



Worcester has three libraries, shown from left to right is the lower library, upper library (Murdoch room), and the law library



Chapel (left) and hall (right)



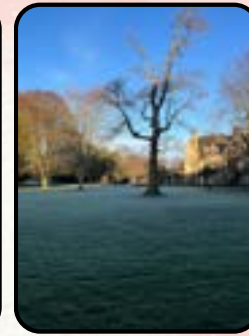
The JCR exec committee, from left to right is Aliyah (VP and treasurer, Sam (President), and Lucy (Secretary)



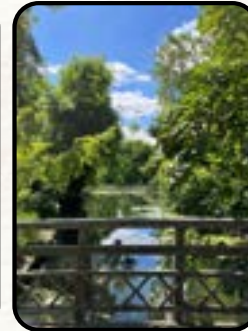
College grounds

At Worcester we're lucky to have a massive 26 acres of gardens and grounds. Along with our pride and joy - the college lake - we have a ton of green spaces that are perfect for de-stressing after a day in the library. Our extensive gardens also mean Worcester is home to a wide range of wildlife, from the all-important ducks to swans, foxes and even a few hedgehogs!

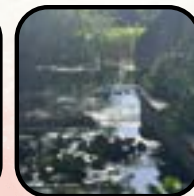
The team of gardeners here are really friendly and happy to run tours for students wanting to learn a bit more about gardening. The student run edible garden is also a great place to get involved.



Worcester in Hilary Term (Jan-Mar)



Worcester in Trinity Term (Apr-Jun)



Bonus birds!

Worcester in Michaelmas Term (Oct-Dec)



The JCR

The JCR is both a room in college to spend time with friends and a committee of student representatives



Lucy Owen, Secretary:

Hello! I'm Lucy and I study history and economics. I have also been JCR Secretary this year, which has been really brilliant! My

role includes writing a pun filled email every week to keep the JCR up to date with what's going on, minuting JCR committee and motions meetings, and supporting the President and VP with any big jobs. Being secretary has been one of the highlights of my time at Worcester alongside rowing with the Worcester boat club.



Aliyah Begum, Vice-President and Treasurer:

Hello! My name is Aliyah, I'm a second year English student, and I'm Worcester's current JCR Vice President and Treasurer. Being on the JCR committee is a brilliant way of getting involved in college life - my role involves looking after the JCR's finances, reimbursing JCR officers, updating the constitution, and various other bits and bobs.

My favourite part of the role has to be popping to Tesco to get the snacks for the alternating committee and motions meetings every Sunday! What I love about Worcester is its lovely, friendly atmosphere; the lake and the grounds are gorgeous, of course, but it's truly the people that make this college so wonderful.



Example sec email



JCR positions:

President - Sam

Vice-President and Treasurer - Aliyah

Secretary - Lucy

Entz Officer - Aria

Entz Treasurer - Lauren

Entz Secretary - Emma

Entz Ticketing Officer - Joshua

Academic Affairs/Careers Rep - Francesca

Access and Admissions Rep - Andrea

Arts Rep - Aleksandra

Charities Rep - Ellie (Elizabeth)

Computing Rep - Natalie

Environment/Ethics Rep - Agata

Food/Bar Rep - Daniel

Housing Rep - Rose

Sports Rep - Eva

OSU Rep - Louis

Welfare Rep - Charlee

Welfare rep - Somesh

Woosta Source Editor - Izzy

Equalities Class Act Rep - Leah

Disabled Students Rep - Cameron

Ethnic and Religious Minorities Rep - Zoe

Gender Equality Rep - Millie

International Students Rep - Clarisse

LGBTQ+ Rep - Dom

Suspended Students Rep - Sam

Religious Minorities Rep - vacant

Trans Rep - Skye

Freshers rep - Susanna

Freshers Treasurer - Evie

Freshers Entz - Manami

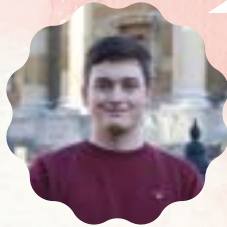
Freshers Artz - Madeleine

Freshers Welfare - Miriam



Student thoughts

"Worcester is far better than any other Oxford college due to a mixture of architectural beauty and friendly culture" - Jay, 1st year PPE student



"At Worcester we are lucky to have our own student allotment (edible garden) onsite! It's a great space for us to grow our own food and chat with other green-fingered folks!" - Mary, 4th year biology student



"Truly an amazing college and (objectively) the best. I love the grounds and everyone is incredibly nice" - Lyba, 1st year history student

"Worcester's hash browns make waking up before 8 am worth it" - Liv, 3rd year geography student



"Having three years of accommodation is one of the big benefits of Worcester" - Matthew, 2nd year earth science student



"Worcester is often known as the friendly college, and it really is true! We have a great community across year groups and everyone is so welcoming" - Maddy, 4th year maths student



"I know everyone says their college is the best, but Worcester really is the loveliest - the grounds, the people, the events, the location, what's not to love!" - Shivi, 1st year biology student



"While being the most beautiful college is something we all take pride in, the community, the centrality, and activities put on by the JCR also make Worcester feel so safe and welcoming" - Ainhua, 1st year theology and religion student



Student thoughts

"Despite what people might say, Worcester is not far out, and is a prime location" - *Adrienne, 2nd year music student*

"We aren't the richest college but we have great vibes, great people and best of all, geese" - *Nitheesh, 2nd year economics and management student*

"Worcester is great for history as the tutors offer so much support" - *Shaima, 3rd year history student*

"My favourite thing about Worcester is how easy it is to escape from the high intensity of the city in Worcester's beautiful grounds" - *Sam, 2nd year physics student*

"Walking around the lake is the best part of my day. Day and night you will find me at the lake" - *Millie, 2nd year fine art student*

"It's good having our own sports fields on site" - *Dom, 2nd year biochemistry student*

"There's lots of societies and clubs you can take part in which is really nice - you can continue with things you've enjoyed in the past and also try completely new things as well" - *David, 3rd year chemistry*

"Worcester is known as one of the best colleges, even to students from other colleges" - *C. Mendes, 1st year law with European law student*

"Worcester has such a lovely environment, the lake, the ducks, and the people!" - *Cat, 2nd year classics student*



"The green space and nature we have access to gives us a break from the busy city" - *Rosie, 1st year geography student*

"Worcester's amazing facilities mean that all kinds of events - from football tournaments to musical theatre shows - can be held here" - *Oliver, 3rd year music student*



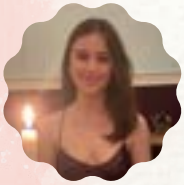
Student profiles

Hetta Johnson






Hey, my name's Hetta and I'm going into my third year studying English Language and Literature at Worcester. I study Course II, an option offered at the end of first year, which means I specialise in Old/Medieval English and Language. A typical week for me involves a mixture of lectures in the English department and tutorials across different colleges. Worcester is such a gorgeous college with beautiful study spots like the Naz Shah or the Lower Library and the grounds also make for scenic study breaks. Oxford offers so many extracurricular activities to get involved in and I've really enjoyed writing and editing for *The Oxford Blue*, a student magazine. There's also a lot of social things to do in college from welfare events like alpaca petting, to karaoke at the college bar.

Lucy Wood




Hi! I'm Lucy, and I've in third year studying History here at Worcester. The college has an amazing community feel to it, and a super friendly atmosphere. For me, a typical week will involve one or two tutorials, a class, and about three to five lectures – and a bit of reading in between these! But that's not to say that there isn't any time in the week around work at Oxford – there are so many opportunities of all different kinds for everyone to get involved in. When I arrived at Worcester, I decided to try out rowing, despite having never done it before and knowing barely anything about it. The college boat club was super welcoming, and in one term I went from having never rowed to competing in Summer Vills (a huge inter-college race) which was incredible!

Sofia Olendraru



Hi, I'm Sofia and I'm a third-year Chemistry student at Worcester! A typical week for me consists of ten to twelve morning lectures, one or two lab days, and one tutorial for which I have to do a problem sheet. But there's still lots of time outside of degree work, and there are so many great societies and sports to be involved with at Worcester and in Oxford! I'm part of Worcester's Ultimate Frisbee team, which is a sport I had never even heard of before coming to university, but it's such a fun and relaxed way to exercise, and as a bonus everyone in the team is so lovely! During my second year I was also Worcester's JCR Gender Equality, a role in which I successfully lobbied college to provide free period products. Pads and tampons are provided in several locations around college where students are free to take whatever they need, and menstrual cups are also available. I've since started a uni-wide campaign called *The Oxford Period*, to get free period products across all colleges and departments in Oxford and to generally fight period poverty!

Matthew Tingle



Hello! I'm Matthew, a second year Engineer at Worcester College. I dabble in a whole lot of maths and physics through the engineering course, which typically consists of 8 lectures, 2 corresponding tutorials, and a day of practical labs each week. Much of my own working hours are spent on the problem sheets for the tutorials, which is a great excuse to study alongside friends, or in exciting locations such as other college's libraries. Refueling is no challenge; Oxford has a banquet of foods if your kitchen or the Worcester dining hall isn't enough – the traditional Gloucester Green open market being a personal favourite. From college to club, nothing is far from anything in the city, and with Worcester so central you'd be unlucky to do a 15 minute walk. If walking's your thing, the in-college lake is a prime route, and is popular among the college ducks (and cats).

Subjects at Worcester

"Worcester is great for modern languages. The equal access to learning fund makes trips to continental Europe during the vacations realistic to achieve" - *Vihan, 4th year modern languages student*



"Worcester is one of the biggest colleges for maths and we have a super friendly community" - *Natalie, 2nd year maths student*



"E&M at Worcester is pretty small but your economics tutorials allow you to meet students from other courses. The course itself is fairly varied, and you get a good mix of essays and problem sheets" - *Evie, 2nd year economics & management*

"The physics tutors are really supportive and understanding of how demanding the course can be. There's also a lovely community of physicists at Worcester." - *Victoria 3rd year Physics student*



"The tutors are lovely. Worcester is also very close to the languages faculty where some of our lectures are held." - *Daisy, 2nd year French and German student*



"I hadn't studied Classics before university but the tutors here are so supportive, which made it a lot easier. I've found that the library has a great selection of books for both subjects." - *Miriam, 2nd year classics & English*



"Chemistry at Worcester has been an excellent experience so far, I felt settled in instantly through the help of welcoming tutors and students" - *Bradley, 1st year chemistry*



"Studying medicine at Worcester is great! The tutors are incredibly supportive and there is a strong sense of community with all the medics!" - *Atty, 3rd year medicine student*



Admissions



Hi! I'm Andrea and I'm currently the access and admissions rep on the JCR. My job is to basically make sure the admissions process is as clear and unscary as possible. To help with this, I've created a brief

guide here for all your admissions worries! Read on for info on tests, written work and interviews on the next page. The admissions process may seem daunting at first but the most important thing is to give it a go! Making that decision to apply to Oxford is often the hardest part

The admissions test

Some subjects require you to sit an admissions test as a part of the application process. You can check your subject page on the website to see if you need to register for one. Although they seem scary, admissions tests are designed to give you a bit of a challenge, and hopefully you'll find it interesting to think about your subject in new ways.



Written work

If you need to submit written work, it will usually be an essay or piece of writing completed as a part of your current studies. This is a great opportunity to choose a piece of work to impress the tutors!

Interviews:

Invites to interview typically get sent out mid-late November, ready for interviews to start in December. Interviews can seem quite scary but it's important to remember all the tutors are trying to do is see if you suit the tutorial style of teaching here at Oxford. The tutors aren't trying to trick you or make it stressful, they just want to get a feel for your potential. To help you out we've gathered a few statements from current students about their interview experience!



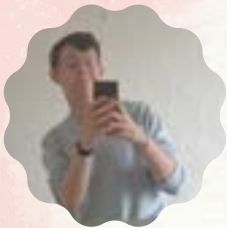
Timeline:

- **29th Sept** - test registration
- **16th Oct** - UCAS deadline
- **18th-20th Oct** - admissions test (if needed)
- **10th Nov** - written work (if needed)
- **Dec** - shortlisting and Interviews
- **Jan** - offers



Interviews

To help get a better sense of the interview process we've compiled a few interview experiences from current Worcester students:



I definitely built up the interview in my head before I joined, and while yes it is a bit scary, I realised that it was really just a conversation with someone interested in the same things as me! - *Daniel, 2nd year Geography student*

I made sure to take the tutors through my thought process, even if I wasn't 100% sure about my answers; I think it helped them see where I was coming from. I also just tried to enjoy it as a conversation about something I was really interested in! - *Ag, 2nd year biology student*



It was fun! I spent a few weeks stressing about it but once I got into the swing of things the tutors were really encouraging. The questions were challenging but stimulating and I came out of it feeling very positive. - *Matthew, 2nd year Earth Science*



They were certainly both stressful and fun. Fun, because I was discussing what I was passionate about with academics but stressful given what's on the line. I'd suggest to enjoy yourself as much as you can since no matter what you'll benefit from it academically! - *Hamzah 2nd year Computer science & Philosophy*



I was definitely very nervous before the interview but as soon as I joined the tutors were really friendly, they assured me they were just there to see how I think. I was stretched with concepts I hadn't seen before but this was just a way to explore how you adapt to new scenarios- *Susanna 2nd year Chemistry Student*



I was really nervous, but they were super reassuring. There were some hard questions, but I just explained what I was thinking (and actually disagreed with my interviewer) and tried to relax and enjoy! - *Gioia, 2nd year History student*



The interview is different for everyone, what's important is that you just relax and be yourself. Enjoy the opportunity to discuss a subject you love with world leading experts!

What tutors want

We interviewed two of our Worcester tutors to find out what they look for during the admissions process and what advice they have for applicants:



Conrad Leyser

Subject: History

Hobbies: food, films

Favourite thing to teach: St Augustine, always. Reading him makes people think. People either haven't heard of him, or assume he was a misogynist Church Father. But his story is so much more interesting than this, and it's so old. He died in 430: hearing from him is like getting a pulse of light from a distant planet.

Top advice for interviews: Don't try to give us the answers you think we want to hear: give us your answers, including 'I don't know'.

What do you look for in applicants?: We're trying to assess potential. This is difficult to do: who can see round a corner? One of the things we can do in interviews is to get people past the point of telling us what they know, to the point where they don't know. It turns out there are lots of different ways to say 'I don't know'. For us, it's a good sign when someone says 'I don't know' and sounds interested in what happens next, how they might find out, what other questions there might be. That suggests they would enjoy studying history here.

What is the best part about studying your subject at Worcester?: It's intense, in a good way



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Richard Earl

Subject: Mathematics

Hobbies: music, film

Favourite thing to teach: I've taught a wide range of mathematics so don't really have a favourite. I really enjoy a course which, even if it's quite abstract in nature, goes on to have important applications. Applied mathematics and probability can be fun to teach as the applications are obvious from the get-go. It's over 30 years since I was an undergraduate, but it's nice that I frequently still discover neat results and theory within the degree that were previously unknown to me.

Top advice for interviews: Interviews aim to take your current thinking and knowledge in new directions. So make sure you know the basics, but be willing to answer questions on unfamiliar concepts which the interviewers introduce.

Everyone in the interview will get stuck at some point, or not explain something as well as they might wish, so don't worry about that. Engage with the interviewers, ask questions, expect hints. All the other applicants will also struggle somewhat, so don't be too critical of yourself. Whilst somewhat stressful, it's clear in many interviews that students are quite enjoying the problems being discussed.

What do you look for in applicants?: It's about potential on the course. We like to see students explaining their thinking, taking on board new ideas and techniques, and adapting those as the interview progresses. Mathematical knowledge we can teach over the course of a degree; rather we like to see how students tackle new problems, take hints, and apply them. We are ultimately looking for people who will make good independent learners in Oxford.

What's the best part about studying your subject at Worcester?: The college - with 7-9 students taking maths, 1-2 maths & stats, 1-2 maths & philosophy, 2-4 maths & computer science - has one of the larger cohorts. These numbers mean we can offer more tutorials (in slightly larger groups) in the first year, so that students are meeting tutors almost every day. This helps students transition from school and college to a more independent pattern of study at university. Community, rather than competitiveness, is encouraged and there are regular maths socials. Discussing maths with your peer group - and other years - is one of the best ways to progress and make friends.



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The money matters!

Money can be a huge worry for many of us when starting university. It's usually the first time we've had to independently budget for costs such as utilities, food, and accommodation. These pressures increase for those of us from low-income backgrounds who may not know how to pay for all of this! As it's not advised to work during term, this may initially seem stressful and off-putting. Although Oxford can initially seem expensive, financial support is available from multiple sources to enable everyone to enjoy their experience here.

University bursaries

Across Worcester & Oxford lots of financial support is available. The main university bursaries are Crankstart & Oxford bursary based on household income.

Crankstart scholarships involve a commitment to 25 hours volunteering a year, such as mentoring with Zero Gravity or helping out with 'Oxford Hub'. With this comes access to exclusive internship & careers advice, including internships with law firms & Oxford departments.



Worcester's financial support

Within college, the equal access to learning fund can help towards the cost of academic supplies (awarded on a means-tested basis!).

Travel grants:

Travel grants are a help towards vacation travel - 2nd Year Arthur Bown-Mazzoni used to 'bikepack' all the way to Italy. While creating Youtube videos, Arthur travelled across Europe all the way to Bologna! Arthur's trip enabled him to develop language skills and see the scenery of Europe - on a bike the whole way.



Financial information is subject to change, for the most up-to-date information, check out College finance information:

<https://www.worc.ox.ac.uk/applying/undergraduates/student-life/finance>

Oxford finance:

<https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/home>



Accommodation

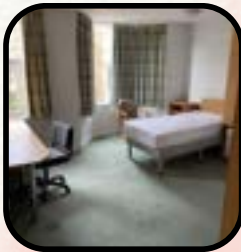
Accommodation is offered for three years at Worcester. Rooms are graded 1-6, with 6 the most expensive due to having access to en-suites and kitchens. Here are some of our first year rooms:

Gloucester house is grade 6, with en-suites and kitchens. Some of these rooms were refurbished this year



Wolfson is grade 6, with en-suites and kitchens. Around 20 freshers live here.

Staircase 24 is grade 6, with en-suites and kitchens



Linbury is grade 5, with en-suites and no kitchens. Some of these rooms have double beds!

Pump quad has rooms graded 1-4, with some having en-suites and others sharing bathrooms. You can also live in the Cottages and Main Terrace with rooms graded 1-3.



Main Terrace has rooms grade 1-3, with shared bathrooms and no kitchens. Rooms were refurbished two years ago. The shared bathrooms in these rooms are also only shared between three students

Most accommodation at Worcester is split by year, so you'll be able to meet lots of other people in your year when you move in. Almost half first year rooms also have access to a kitchen, but don't worry if you don't have a kitchen, eating in hall is a great way to make friends and enjoy some amazing food!



Equalities

Gender equalities

Hi, I'm Millie. My role is to represent women and gender minorities within college and voice their thoughts and concerns to the JCR Committee and the college. My main goal is to draw attention to issues within college and university, but I also want to make Worcester a safe and fun environment for cis and trans women, non binary people, and other gender minorities.

Class Act

Hi! I'm Leah. Class Act Rep incorporates representing state school, first-gen, low-income, estranged & care-leaver students. Through hosting events with the other equalities reps and my own such as a termly pizza night, it enables a strong class act community here! There's also connections with the uni-wide society (Class Act SU).

International rep:

Hi I'm Clarisse and I am responsible for arranging vac storage and negotiating grants for other international students – which has been an incredibly fulfilling role,



BAME Rep:

Hi, I'm Zoë, and I'm the Ethnic and Religious minorities rep. My role is to make sure that ethnic and religious minority groups are represented in college and to ensure that you feel welcome and comfortable here. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to message me! I'll try my best to run consistent and fun events through term but if you have any ideas let me know!

LGBTQ rep:

Hi, I'm Dom (he/him). My role involves representing the LGBTQ community in college. I put on events like drinks on Tuesdays and movie nights to develop a safe space for the community.

Trans rep:

Hi, I'm Skye (he/him). My role is to represent the trans, non binary, and gender non-conforming students here at Worcester! My role is to provide resources, support, and to push for positive change within college (e.g. by continuing to push for the gender expression fund) as well as the university in general. Being trans myself, I understand first-hand that just existing can be hard sometimes, so supporting others in the same situation as me is my top priority.



Welfare

Worcester has lots of support in place if you need it. We have peer supporters trained by the university to provide confidential support through weekly drop in sessions as well as two elected welfare reps on the JCR. These reps are also trained in peer support and they run events throughout term to support everyone. We also have the student welfare officer (Georgina Heywood), the college chaplain (Marcus Green), and the college nurse (Jo Bawd) available to any students who need their support.

College families

When you confirm your offer, you become a part of a college family. You will have one or more college parents from the year above (often at least one doing your subject). These students are here to support you and answer any questions or worries you may have about university life or Worcester specifically. You'll meet them in freshers week, but they're around to support you all term



Events

T@3/Cake@8 - once a week the welfare reps will buy a load of drinks and snacks that will then be available in the JCR. It's an opportunity to catch up with friends from different years, meet new people, and eat free cake.

Deliver a donut - you fill in a form online saying what type of donut you'd prefer and then in the evening peer supporters and welfare reps will deliver you a free donut!

Welfare walks - run by either peer supporters or the head gardener Simon.



Dog petting



Alpaca petting

Cake@8 preparations



Our welfare reps, Somesh (left) and Charlee (right)

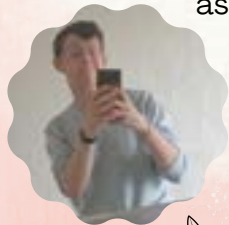


Food and drink

Hall:

Worcester has an extremely good and well-deserved reputation for the quality of its food and its reasonable price. Unlike some colleges, no money is charged up front for meals – you simply pay as you go, topping up your Bod card online so that you're only charged for what you actually eat.

While most of Worcester's accommodation includes kitchens, hall is still a popular option for many students who want a delicious meal without going to the effort to make it themselves, as well as providing a social space.



Daniel, our food and bar rep

Formal hall:

A sit-down, three-course meal served to you, ran three times a week. You would normally wear smart dress, as well as your gown over the top. Cheaper than any three-course meal you could buy from a restaurant at £13.08 per formal, and probably more delicious!



Spaghetti bolognese



Shepherds pie



Themed Greek night



Christmas formal

Bar:

The bar is a popular hang-out spot where you'll find drinks are even cheaper than in Spoons! It's located in Pump Quad, and is run by our legendary barman Colin.

The bar is regularly full of students, whether that's just to have a sit down and relax, play a game of pool, or enjoy a pint or a Lion's heart (Worcester's own college drink). The bar also hosts a termly 'Cocktails and Karaoke' night, as well as a quiz every Sunday evening.



Students enjoying cocktails and karaoke



Entertainment

Worcester has a large range of events on throughout the year. Each term we have pink drinks in our Nazrin Shah centre, one cheap entry ticket and unlimited cocktails are yours from 8pm-11pm.

Each term there are a number of BOPS (parties) with fun themes like top of the pops vs supermarket shops

Trinity term garden party, with canapés, live music, and plenty of entertainment like bouncy castles

Approximately every three years we also have a commemoration ball, this is a white tie event that usually runs all night, with a variety of food, entertainment, and live music available throughout the evening.



Half way through the degree we celebrate 'midway'. This is a day for costume photos, formal hall, and celebration with friends



Worc in the park is a whole market of arts and crafts run by and for Worcester students



College societies

Worcester has plenty of societies and events that you can get involved with. We asked a few of the societies to tell us a bit about what they do:

Becca, Porridge society - A very chilled society for anyone who either likes porridge, or just wants an excuse to have a chat with friendly people on a Sunday morning to decompress from the week. No pressure to make fancy porridge recipes (our co-presidents only started eating porridge last year) but if you want to share your beautiful creations, this is the place! We have a facebook group and semi-regular meets.

Valentina, Law society - We facilitate experiences and opportunities for current law students and aspiring lawyers. The highlights of the Law Society include our annual law dinner, where we bring together Worcester lawyers, past and present, to enjoy a drinks reception and evening meal alongside an esteemed guest speaker. We also take pride in our insight events, having the opportunity to work with prestigious law firms such as Freshfields, Slaughter and May, and Skadden.



Natalie, Jewish Society - Oxford JSOC is a uni wide society, and a relaxed space for Jewish (and non-Jewish) students to feel at home, meet new people, celebrate festivals and engage with the Jewish community. We run friday night dinners every week at OJC, a minute away from Worcester

Hannah and Ayomi, Christian Union - We are a community of students who work providing opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel. We run regular Bible studies and Worship Nights in the college chapel as well as outreach events. We're also associated with the Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union so we do events with them too! All are more than welcome to join, regardless of faith background.

Laura, Worchestra - We are a very chill, group run by Worcester students that meets once a week to work towards a termly concert. It's a great way to keep playing an instrument without the commitment of the big uni orchestras. Our past achievements include medleys from Pirates of the Caribbean, Lord of the Rings, and Up. Most recently our rehearsals of the Mii theme tune music have delighted many students doing laundry nearby!



College societies

Islamic society - tied in with the central uni ISOC to help advertise events and socials that support the community in Worcester and uni-wide

Woosta source - Hi, I'm Izzy and I'm the current editor of Worcester student-run magazine, The Woosta Source. I publish termly editions which showcase the JCR's array of talent. Everyone looks forward to our 5th week 'Worc Love' feature where students can submit compliments for each other to promote general welfare. The Woosta Source is most known for the famous Peeking Duck, an anonymous student who reveals college gossip through puns

Nina, History society - We run lots of different events to help create a bigger history community in college. It's a great way to meet people from different years and subjects who share an interest in history. Events range from organised talks by masters students to more informal advice sessions between different year groups. Free wine and snacks are also provided!



Worcester College Music Society (WCMS) - the main hub of musical activities within college. Hosts many events and groups for performers and keen audiences! The society presents a free recital series every term, running on Tuesday evening from 8:30, often accompanied by wine and snacks. WCMS includes the college's non-auditioned ensembles which rehearse weekly: Worcester, the Worcester Voices and the Mallards (jazz orchestra).

Wild swimming society - relaxed community of students who organise visits to local lakes for some fun swimming. Great way to meet new people and get out of college to get some exercise. Open to any levels of swimming ability. Often organise brunches or lunch after swimming.



Edible garden - a shared space for students to plant fruit and vegetables less than a minute from the front of college. Open to all Worcester students who enjoy a bit of gardening! Great as a sustainable way to get involved in college life



College sports

Hi I'm Eva and I'm the current Sports Rep. Worcester is known for being one of the most inclusive and talented sporting communities at Oxford, after all, our sports pitches are on-site and include a full-sized

football/rugby pitch, a five-a-side football pitch, tennis and netball courts, and a cricket pitch in the summer term. Worcester has a big football community as well as rowing, rugby, ultimate frisbee, basketball, rounders, netball, dance sport, lacrosse, badminton and hockey teams. All of these teams run weekly sessions, which are open to all skill levels and commitment, as well as regular matches and socials.

We also run an annual varsity sports day in Hilary term with St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where one college hosts the other for a day of matches and socials.

Our sports teams and individual athletes are celebrated at an annual sports dinner.



Worcester boat club showing off their duck pride at Oriel Regatta



The women's football team (one of four football teams at Worcester)



One of the biggest sports at Worcester is ultimate frisbee. Here are some of our players at the semi-finals of coppers (inter-college tournament) where it ended up



being Worcester vs. Worcester

Worcester haunts



Fireworks - These happen once a year for bonfire night in South Park (which is a 20-25 minute walk from Worcester). They are a great chance to enjoy fireworks, fairground rides and music with friends. There's usually also a good Worcester turnout across years so it's a great opportunity to socialise



Hinksey lake - While slightly further out, the lake at Hinksey is the best place to go and relax in the summer term. With multiple ponds and lakes full of geese and ducks it's certainly a favourite of Worcester students



Port Meadow - the place to go for a walk, a run, a cycle, or even a swim. With sprawling green fields, roaming cows and horses and the Thames running through. Port Meadow offers a lovely chance to feel like you're deep in the countryside even though it's only a 15-20 minute walk away from college



Gloucester Green market - Open three days a week, this is one of the best places to grab a tasty lunch. The food stalls cover a very wide range of international foods so, whatever your pallet, you're bound to find something you like. Also, there are stalls selling antiques and nice second-hand clothes that you can get for a good price. It just so happens that it's right outside Worcester!



Worcester haunts

Knoops - a hot chocolate cafe on Turn street (less than ten minutes away and on the way to the main libraries). They also sell milkshakes and have a range of flavours with vegan options too



Botanical gardens - opposite Magdalen college on High Street. They are the oldest gardens in Britain, and well worth a (free) visit. Whether you're a plant nerd or just looking for a study break, it's a great spot! They have a range of plants, including a yew planted during the English civil war and several beautiful greenhouses.



Christ Church Meadow - about 25 minutes away from college. Great for a nice walk or run by the river. If you join the rowing club you'll be seeing the meadow a lot! Also a good spot to go and see some cute cows! The meadow also has a monument to the sword in the stone myth about King Arthur.

White Rabbit - If it wasn't for the college bar, the White Rabbit would be in for a shout as being Worcester's local pub. Located just over the road by Gloucester Green its the perfect place to hang out with friends. Serving pizzas, pittas, pints and more, it's a guarantee for a good time. Other nice pubs to go to near college are Jude the Obscure, The Jericho Tavern the Four Candles, Worcester's nearest Spoons



Oxford dictionary

All of the terminology at Oxford can get a bit confusing, so we've compiled a list of the most common words to help you out!

Battels - charges made to each student in college for rent and other services such as printing. Paid at the start of each term

Blue - highest sporting achievement at Oxford, awarded to members of university sports who have competed at Varsity (fixtures against Cambridge)

BNOC - big name on campus, meaning they are renowned either within college or across the university, perhaps featuring on Oxfess or Oxlove a few times (see below).

Bod card - your Bodleian Library card, used for ID, entering university buildings, and buying food from college

BOP - big organised party usually ran by the college enter (entertainment) team They are often themed, such as 'Worcester in Wonderland' as we had last year, and are either held in one of the clubs of Oxford, or in the college bar or hall. They are a great place to meet others in Worcester across the years and are of course open to drinkers and non-drinkers.

Collection - often college-based mock exams used to track progress at the start of term (they don't count towards final grades)

College parents - one or more Worcester second years assigned to you to support you through your time here. Usually at least one does your subject.

Formal hall - an especially posh dinner held around 3 times a week or for special occasions. tickets are £13.08 for Worcester students and £17.00 for guests

Gowns/Subfusc - You may have seen these strange outfits before, known as 'subfusc' (white shirt, black trousers/skirt, black bow tie/ ribbon), which we wear for Matriculation and exams. The gowns on top of 'subfusc' are also worn for some formals and a scholars' gown is worn by some for high achievement in exams and certain scholarships.

Hilary term - the middle term, Jan-Mar

Matriculation - This is when you officially become a member of the university. We dress up in subfusc and go to the Sheldonian Theatre for a ceremony (some of which is in Latin) welcoming us. After the fancier, official parts of the day, many celebrate by going out for a nice meal, punting, and having a few celebratory drinks.

Michaelmas Term - the first term, Oct-Dec

Oxfess/Oxlove - Facebook pages where people anonymously submit confessions or 'loves' for other students, often using the initials on their college puffers to identify them. Lots of the tea across the university is published on here and scrolling through it is a great tool for procrastination.

Pidges - also known as 'pidgeonhole', this is where your mail is delivered in college

Prelims - end of first year examinations. They don't count towards your final grade but need to be passed to progress to second year (you can re-sit them)

Scouts - Scouts come round to clean rooms, kitchens, and bathrooms, as well as at the end of terms

Trinity term - the third term, Apr-June





Credits:

Prospectus edited by: Andrea Neville and Leah Carvel

Photo of Trinity garden party: Matt Coleclough

With thanks to Rebecca Hamilton, Molly Sikora, Tyler Weston, Lucy Heywood, Hannah Fogg and Tabs Preston
Thanks to all of the students and staff who contributed to this prospectus, with quotes, photos, and suggestions

This is a production of Worcester College JCR, not Worcester College. The information contained within is accurate as of 2023, but may be subject to change