Welcome MCR Freshers

PENMBROKE COLLEGE MCR

FRESHER INFORMATION GUIDE 2017
What is the MCR?

MCR STANDS FOR MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

MCR IS A TERM TO COLLECTIVELY DESCRIBE ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS (MASTERS AND PHD) AT A COLLEGE

THE MCR DIFFERS FROM THE JCR (JUNIOR COMMON ROOM) TO WHICH THE UNDERGRADUATES BELONG, AND THE SCR (SENIOR COMMON ROOM) TO WHICH THE COLLEGE FELLOWS BELONG

THE PEMBROKE MCR IS ALSO A PHYSICAL ROOM (TWO IN FACT)

IT IS A PLACE TO MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD PURSUING RESEARCH IN ALL SORTS OF AREAS

FIRST STOP. JOIN THE PEMBROKE MCR EXTERNAL & INTERNAL FACEBOOK GROUPS
www.facebook.com/pembrokemcr
www.facebook.com/groups/pembrokecollegemcroxford

OR CHECK OUT THE MCR WEBSITE
www.pembrokemcr.com
Master’s Welcome

Welcome to Pembroke! I am absolutely delighted that you are joining us for the new academic year. You are joining a College which is proud of its reputation as a friendly and supportive community with very high academic standards, a committed Fellowship engaged in world-leading scholarship and research, and a body of active and supportive alumni.

Our graduates are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and come from countries across the world. You will discover many opportunities for social and cultural activities, for sport, for volunteering, and much more. The MCR community is thriving and I am sure that you will enjoy being part of an intellectually vibrant College and develop friendships and networks that will be long-lasting.

I very much look forward to meeting each one of you in the early weeks of Term.

Lynne Brindley
Master
Hello and welcome to Pembroke, and more specifically to the Pembroke Middle Common Room! I am Daniela, and I am the MCR President. I am sure many of you are questioning “what is a MCR exactly?” – I remember thinking the same when I arrived in Oxford three years ago. I have since come to describe the MCR as my “home away from home”. It is the place I hang out during the week when I am not in the lab, the MCR bar (secretly hidden under the hatch in the MCR) is the place I grab a drink on a Friday night, and the wonderful people I have met through the MCR’s many events have become my Oxford family (and my housemates coincidentally!). It is my hope that you will find this same sense of welcoming and community in the Pembroke MCR as I do.

The MCR committee and I are there to keep the MCR running smoothly and most importantly to make your introduction to Oxford and Pembroke as easy (and fun!) as possible. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you in Freshers’ Week and further on in the term.

Daniela Massiceti
MCR President
As College only has limited capacity not all of our grads are able to get places in the college rooms on main site, in the Geoffrey Arthur Building (the GAB), or in the college's other properties. If you are unable to secure a college-owned room, then you will have to look elsewhere. This is not a reason to despair, and you are not alone! One possible alternative is the University's own graduate accommodation – details are available at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation. This is also often over-subscribed, so you should look into this as soon as possible.

Another option is private renting. Oxford has a thriving letting market (thousands of students “live out” every year) and there are lots of properties available at varying levels of quality and price both through estate agents (www.rightmove.com provides a search engine that covers all the main agents) or through private arrangements (the local website www.dailyinfo.co.uk contains adverts).
Private housing may sound quite expensive but sharing with other students will help to reduce costs (and can be cheaper than college accommodation!). A house for 4 should cost around £1500-£2000 per month, while a flat for one will likely cost £700+. Splitting utilities like heating, electricity and broadband will also save you a bit of money (usually around £150 for a house) though if you live with others who are not students then you will be liable to pay council tax (around £100-150 per house per month). You may not have anyone to live with yet but there are lots of grads who will be in similar situations (shortage of accommodation is an issue at most colleges) so check with students on your course, make contact with other grads through the OxGradHousing Facebook group, or use the Pembroke MCR internal Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/pembrokecollegemcroxford).
Regarding private housing locations in Oxford, rooms get cheaper the further away they are from the city centre to the east, west and south. The most popular student areas are Cowley Road and Iffley Road (in a multicultural area in East Oxford), St. Clement’s (East Oxford) and Jericho (North West central Oxford). North Oxford is expensive and a little sleepy but gets a bit cheaper closer to Summertown. Botley Road (west of the train station) is also a little further afield but there are a couple of Pembroke houses out this way so you won’t be alone.

Abingdon Road (south of the river) is also close to the college annexe (the GAB) where a number of grads are situated. Always bear in mind the distance to college, your department and any libraries you will be using. Nowhere takes more than 5-10 minutes by bike, but on foot walking from farther out may eat into either your working week or your free time.
Whatever you choose to do, it is advisable to start planning now. The market may be large but it is also competitive. That said, don’t sign a contract on something you don’t like – more properties come on the market all the time. When you have found a place, you should be prepared: commercial agents require financial guarantees, references from previous landlords and proof of identity/bank accounts. If you are not from Oxford or the UK and you are unable to start looking earlier, you may want to consider coming to Oxford 1-2 weeks before term starts and staying in one of the college’s guest rooms, an AirBnB or a hostel so that you can house-hunt in person.

Meet the Accommodation Manager

Welcome to Pembroke! My name is Jane Osborne and I am the Pembroke College accommodation manager. I deal with all college accommodation and am responsible for 25 scouts (cleaners). My office is 13.1 on the main site. Do pop in if you have any queries relating to your accommodation or email me on jane.osborne@pmb.ox.ac.uk.

Jane Osborne
Accommodation Manager
The welfare of students is very important to Pembroke and the MCR. Whatever background you come from, we want to make sure that you feel at home and make sure that we provide you with the right support when you need it. For this, the MCR has three Welfare Reps.

Welfare Reps

What is a Welfare Rep?
A Welfare Rep is a fellow Pembroke MCR student in charge of delivering the appropriate level of welfare to the MCR. This includes hosting a Cakes & Tea event every Tuesday evening (throughout the year, not just term time), being a welfare port-of-call, and where necessary, providing advice, counsel and support to MCR members. The Welfare Reps also organise weekly term-time yoga sessions held at the Geoffrey Arthur Building (GAB). The Welfare Reps also sit on the college’s Welfare and Equality committee ensuring that the MCR's welfare needs are being met and represented at the college level.

Joshua Harvey
joshua.harvey@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Beth Smith Rosser
elizabeth.smithrosser@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Zana Chaka
zana.chaka@pmb.ox.ac.uk
In addition to the Welfare Reps, the MCR has four Peer Supporters to provide an additional level of welfare support.

**What is a Peer Supporter?**

A Peer Supporter is a fellow Pembroke MCR student who is there to listen to whatever it is that you want to discuss: good things and bad things, academic or personal, however big or small your issue is. Importantly, they are trained by the University Counselling Service and treat all matters strictly confidential. The Peer Supporters are a valuable addition to the Welfare Team and can act as a bridge between the student body and college by flagging up general problems within the college which might otherwise not have been noted.
Outside the MCR, the welfare structure in College is very well implemented and there are many points of contact available to you.

**College Nurse & College Doctor**

[www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/college-nurse](http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/college-nurse)
[www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/college-doctor](http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/college-doctor)

The College Nurse and the College Doctor should be contacted for all health-related matters, but are also trained to provide support related to welfare issues and mental health.

**Welfare Advisors**

[www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/welfare-advisors](http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/welfare-advisors)

The Welfare Advisors are two Pembroke academics who have been appointed by the Governing Body of College to help students if they encounter a problem which they feel it would be inappropriate to discuss with a tutor or academic supervisor. They are available to advise and help in any such case, on an entirely confidential basis – such a problem might be of either an academic or a personal nature.
Junior Deans

www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/current-students/decanal-team

The Junior Deans at Pembroke, working as part of the Decanal Team, are responsible for looking after the safety and welfare of students. They live on-site: one in the main college – James Charlesworth (james.charlesworth@pmb.ox.ac.uk) and the other in the GAB – Julie Dequaire (julie.dequaire@pmb.ox.ac.uk). They hold both disciplinary and pastoral roles, sitting on the Domestic Management Committee and the Welfare Committee. They can be contacted via email or by phone (please ask the Porters for their contact numbers). After the Porters, the Junior Deans are the best point of contact in an emergency as they are specially trained and live in College.

Chaplain

www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/chaplain
University Welfare Services

**Oxford University Counseling Service**

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling)

The Counselling Service is there to help you gain understanding and insight into any difficulties you may be experiencing, to develop emotional resilience and put into effect real change, enabling you to fulfil your academic and personal potential. The service offers free and confidential support, but it is not an emergency service. They provide individual counselling, group counselling, supportive resources and workshops on a variety of topics such as Can't Work, Enhancing Revision Skills, Mindfulness, Overcoming Panic, Perfectionism, Relaxation and Sleep Difficulties/Insomnia.

**Oxford Student Nightline**

[users.ox.ac.uk/~nightln](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~nightln)

Nightline is a completely independent listening, support and information service run for and by students of Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities.

**Student Minds**

[www.studentminds.org.uk](http://www.studentminds.org.uk)

UK's leading Student Mental Health Charity, founded in Oxford by Oxford students. It runs many support projects on topics such as eating disorders, mild depression and supporting friends with mental health problems.
Peer Supporter Training with Oxford University Counselling Service

The MCR has place for two MCR students to attend a training program offered by the University Counselling Service to become certified Peer Supporters. Traditionally, after the training, you would join the MCR’s Welfare Team, either as a Peer Supporter or a Welfare Rep.

This certified training program is an extensive 30-hour course run during Michaelmas Term. It is a chance to develop active-listening skills and self-knowledge as well as learn about the university’s support system. These skills will be useful in your role as a Peer Supporter but also in later life. The program consists of eight 3-hour sessions (generally on a Monday afternoon during term time) and one whole-day session on a Saturday. There are also follow-up sessions every fortnight for two terms post-training. It is imperative that you are able to attend every session for the maximum benefit of the training.

The two places for the coming term have already been filled, but places may open up in future terms. If you are interested, please contact MCR Peer Supporter: dyedra.just@pmb.ox.ac.uk.
MCR Event Highlights

Whether it’s the lab or library, never fear because the MCR hosts a number of social and academic events to bring everyone together in a relaxed social atmosphere. Here are some of the MCR’s highlight events.

**Cakes & Tea Tuesdays**

Tuesdays (year round), MCR Wood Room, 8:30pm

If you’re not from England, it won’t take long for you to realize that tea is kind of a big deal here. So like any good British organization, we meet every Tuesday in the MCR for a delectable selection of sweets accompanied by soothing tea and riveting conversation. If you’re a keen baker and would like to share your skills with the MCR, feel free – you’ll be reimbursed for your ingredients with cold hard cash (and your labour with undying affection).

**Second Desserts**

Sundays after Formal Hall (during term time only), MCR Wood Room, 8.30pm

Like Cakes & Tea, but with the added benefit of port served in our posh MCR port glasses and plenty of fancy cheeses to continue stimulating your palate even after you’re full from dinner. Even if you don’t go to Formal Hall you’re still welcome to join us for Second Dessert!
MCR Event Highlights

**Bar Nights (and BOPs)**

Fridays (year round), MCR Bar, 8:30pm

You'll quickly become familiar with the weekly email calling “hatch up” at the MCR's bar, the famous *Rose and Thistle*. We have a broad selection of wines, spirits, and beers, and the ever-changing cocktail of the week to keep things interesting...and cheap (only £1!). Our other drinks are also much cheaper than what you'll find anywhere outside College. Some Fridays, Bar Night gets called a BOP instead, which is the Oxford word for “party”. BOPs are themed, giving you the chance to sip cheap drinks in ridiculous outfits and maybe even sing some karaoke!

**Exchange Dinners**

Home Leg (at Pembroke) & Away Leg (at another college), three times each term

We love Pembroke, but apparently there are a couple of other colleges at Oxford with interesting people too (who knew!?). Three times a term we host exchange dinners with different colleges, where we wine and dine them and they then do the same for us. Think Formal Hall and Second Dessert with more wine, more food, and new faces.
**MCR Banquet**

Friday of 6th Week (every term)

This is the MCR’s signature termly event and an opportunity for the MCR to be wined and dined in the College Hall. Beginning with a champagne reception, there is then a delicious three-course meal served in Hall, followed by (rounds of) port and a unique Oxford-style toasting with which we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of MCR members over the course of the term. After the dining frivolities, we head to a *mystery* Oxford location for some late-night boogying. This is an opportunity for you to don your fanciest black-tie and prance around Oxford feeling like you’re in a Harry Potter movie.

**MCR Symposiums**

Termly MCR presentations evening

Along with spontaneous ‘chats about research’ amongst MCR members, there are also more formal opportunities for MCR members to discuss their work in College: our termly MCR Symposium (Michaelmas and Hilary Term) provides an opportunity for MCR students to present their research in a welcoming setting to a college-wide student audience. The Joint SCR/MCR Symposium (Trinity Term) allows MCR students to do the same, but alongside members of the SCR (Senior Common Room).
MCR Event Highlights

Games Nights
Evenings in term-time, MCR Wood Room

The MCR has a group of avid board-gamers and quiz-goers, so from Werewolves to Civilisation to Pub Quizzes, we have got you covered! Watch out for the term-card which goes out at the beginning of each term for more details on the ‘games night’ events on the MCR’s calendar.

Tolkien Fantasy Lecture Series

Calling all lovers of fantasy and science fiction! Each year Pembroke students put together a lecture from a fantasy or sci-fi writer, to celebrate the genres and promote their academic study in the university. The lecture series is named in honour of J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote The Hobbit and the majority of The Lord of the Rings whilst he was professor of Anglo-Saxon at Pembroke, 1925-45.

Interested in joining the lecture committee? Get in touch by e-mailing us here: pembrokefantasylecture@gmail.com. We’re eager to have new students join the team and help organise future lectures. It's great for your CV, and you get to hang out with some of the big names in the genres. To find out more about the lecture series, please visit https://tolkienlecture.org
These are the people who keep the MCR running: putting biscuits in the biscuit jar (crucial) and organising the MCR’s busy social calendar. We cannot wait to welcome you into the Pembroke community.

**President**

Name: Daniela Massiceti  
E-mail: mcr.president@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
Years at Pembroke: 3

Nationality: South African  
Degree: DPhil in Computer Vision/Robotics

Previous Universities: University of Cape Town

Favourite Moment so Far: Oh so many! Cakes & Tea every Tuesday night where we go from debating the world’s issues to sharing our latest DPhil struggles. Also, the Banquet in Trinity Term (called the Collingwood Banquet) – it’s glorious weather, light until 9pm and just such a celebratory occasion as the year comes to a close!

Number One Tip for Freshers: Make the most of your time in this wonderfully stimulating place called Oxford. One year (or three in my case) flies by, so amidst the craziness of your coursework and deadlines, set aside time to explore Oxford, get to know the MCR’s interesting people and perhaps even venture further afield – the Cotswolds is lovely!
Vice President & Treasurer

Name: Reginald G. Raffe II    E-mail: mcr.secretary@pmb.ox.ac.uk    Years at Pembroke: 73.5
Nationality: Australian    Degree: MPhil in Islamic Studies & History
Previous Universities: Monash University
Favourite Moment so Far: When Vuk sang “Super Freak” at Karaoke Night
Number One Tip for Freshers: Figure out a daily study regime and stick to it.

Secretary

Name: Olivia Durand    E-mail: mcr.treasurer@pmb.ox.ac.uk    Years at Pembroke: 1
Nationality: French    Degree: DPhil in Global & Imperial History
Previous Universities: Paris IV Sorbonne
Favourite Moment so Far: BRUNCHES. I mean, there are lot of other cool things, but brunches bring together those elusive memories of bar night/banquet, great and/or exhausted conversation, and above everything else a bounty of smoked salmon.
Number One Tip for Freshers: Go to brunch! But more seriously, be involved with your MCR, because it keeps giving back! Your year at Oxford would not be the same without really understanding what amazing and unique friends you can make at Pembroke (much more than at your Faculty, since obviously you have things in common with people who read the same degree!)
Social Secretary

Name: Tsvetomira Dumbalska
Nationality: Bulgarian
Previous Universities: Brown University
Favourite Moment so Far: “Guardians of the GABaxy” destroying the competition in the Pembroke pub quiz <3
Number One Tip for Freshers: Come to MCR events!!!

Social Secretary

Name: Hubiba Mir
Nationality: Indian
Previous Universities: University of Delhi
Favourite Moment so Far: I enjoy nature and like to take a moment or two off once in a while from the busy schedule here at Oxford. I have enjoyed many such moments sitting in the Chapel Quad or staring out my room window in the Rokos Quad enjoying the beauty that Pembroke is.
Number One Tip for Freshers: Take up the offer of the college tour if one comes your way! Also become an active member of the MCR community by attending the fun events we organise for you.
**Social Secretary**

**Name:** Lindsey Cohick  
**E-mail:** lindsey.cohick@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
**Years at Pembroke:** 1  
**Nationality:** American  
**Degree:** MPhil in International Relations  
**Previous Universities:** Rutgers University, Ritsumeikan University  
**Favourite Moment so Far:** Conquering the River Cam on our glorious punts in the Other Place, i.e. the Cambridge exchange  
**Number One Tip for Freshers:** Study hard, but make sure to take time to de-stress!

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**Academic Rep**

**Name:** Carlotta Cosulich  
**E-mail:** carlotta.cosulich@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
**Years at Pembroke:** 1  
**Nationality:** Italian  
**Degree:** DPhil in Molecular Medicine  
**Previous Universities:** University of Genoa  
**Favourite Moment so Far:** I enjoy my time in the lab among experiments and fun colleagues. But my favourites moments so far are the following: practising yoga (I really love that state of mindfulness/happiness that you reach at the end of each practice) and drinking/chatting in a garden pub with lots of friends!  
**Number One Tip for Freshers:** Be curious, work hard and play hard!
Welfare Rep

Name: Joshua Harvey  E-mail: joshua.harvey@pmb.ox.ac.uk  Years at Pembroke: 2
Nationality: British  Degree: DPhil in Sensory Perception in the Medieval Period
Previous Universities: University of Oxford (Trinity College)
Favourite Moment so Far: Making the most vividly coloured pancakes ever made to celebrate Mardi Gras and LGBT history month.
Number One Tip for Freshers: Don’t be a stranger! As well as the many bar nights, brunches, and other events, the MCR is a pretty nice place just to pop into every now and then. Feel welcome to come and do some work(!), make a coffee, and raid the eternally-stocked biscuit tin.

Welfare & Women’s Rep

Name: Zana Chaka  E-mail: zana.chaka@pmb.ox.ac.uk  Years at Pembroke: 1
Nationality: Welsh/Kosovan  Degree: DPhil in Medieval and Modern Languages
Previous Universities: University of Manchester
Favourite Moment so Far:
Number One Tip for Freshers: Take all of the free pizza, cakes and tote bags you can get your hands on. Tote bags are great.
MCR Committee

Environmental Rep

Name: Augustus Porter  
E-mail: augustus.porter@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
Years at Pembroke: 1

Nationality: American/British  
Degree: DPhil in Astrophysics

Previous Universities: University of Manchester

Favourite Moment so Far: Diving into the Thames at Summer VIIIs dressed only in my pink-spangled leggings.

Number One Tip for Freshers: Don’t take the phrase “It’s battle-led, so basically it’s free!” too literally. Also go to Bar Night!

General Rep

Name: Sean ‘Louis’ Nicholson  
E-mail: seannicholson@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
Years at Pembroke: 2

Nationality: British  
Degree: DPhil in Diesel Engine Modelling

Previous Universities: University of Nottingham

Favourite Moment so Far: All the banquets – just a great time with everyone you like and a great way to relax in the middle of the term!

Number One Tip for Freshers: Come along to all the events and bar nights you can – they’re a great way to meet people and £1.50 gin and tonics can’t be missed!
MCR Committee

**MCR Cool Aunt**

Name: Heather Wilson  
E-mail: heather.wilson@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
Years at Pembroke: 3

Nationality: British/Chinese  
Degree: DPhil in Engineering Science

Previous Universities: University of St Andrews

Favourite Moment so Far: Our termly banquets! Post bop brunch – the perfect hangover cure!

Number One Tip for Freshers: Make sure your sub-fusc strictly follows the regulation, because the proctors can be very mean and turn you away at matriculation!

**Web Tsar**

Name: Joseph ‘Jojo’ Rahamim  
E-mail: joseph.rahamim@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
Years at Pembroke: 2

Nationality: British  
Degree: DPhil in Condensed Matter Physics

Previous Universities: Tufts University

Favourite Moment so Far: The discovery of Reverse-Jenga

Number One Tip for Freshers: Tea and Cakes, every Tuesday, enough said.
Bar Manager & Sports Rep

Name: Malte Kaller  
E-mail: malte.kaller@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
Years at Pembroke: 4

Nationality: German  
Degree: DPhil in Neuroscience

Previous Universities: University of Aberdeen, Karolinska Institutet

Favourite Moment so Far: The Magic Bs! – Banquets, Balls, and Brunches.  
Number One Tip for Freshers: The Magic Ps! – Punting, Plush, and Pembroke Smurfs!

Bar Manager

Name: Simon Calver  
E-mail: simon.calver@pmb.ox.ac.uk  
Years at Pembroke: 2

Nationality: British  
Degree: DPhil in System Biology

Previous Universities: University of East Anglia

Favourite Moment so Far: The acquisition of a coffee machine for the MCR  
Number One Tip for Freshers: Meet lots of new people, go to lots of MCR events, explore the wonderful city of Oxford. Like, you know, have a nice time!
Welcome to Pembroke and to (probably) the best MCR in Oxford! I am Mike, and I am responsible for all domestic issues across the college: from accommodation to IT to food to maintenance to security, my teams manage every operational area of the College including the booking of events and room space. We are all here to help and I am available to answer any questions you may have at any stage. My office is in Staircase 1 - so call by if you need any help.

Mike Naworynsky
Home Bursar
Welcome to Pembroke! I am Clive and I am the College Dean. In Oxford, this means that I am responsible for student discipline, making sure that the college regulations are applied fairly and in a manner that helps to strengthen the college community. I work closely with the Junior Deans, Porters and Home Bursar, and together with the MCR and JCR committees we try to foster a community in which everyone feels welcome. In addition, I am one of the two Engineering fellows. I teach mechanical and structural engineering, and perform research on the behaviour of materials and structures under dynamic loading.

Clive Siviour
College Dean
Meet the Junior Deans

Welcome to Pembroke! We, the Junior Deans, are here to act as intermediaries between yourselves and college. We are trained by the University Counselling Service, and we can provide confidential welfare support, or put you in touch with other support services. We are also here for emergencies and for enforcing college rules. So if anything goes wrong, please let us know. One of us lives on the main site (James, a Graduate Medic from the UK), and the other lives in the GAB (Julie, a DPhil student in Mobile Robotics from France).

As graduate students, we are also members of the MCR, so you will probably see us at different events throughout the year. Please feel free to come to us with any problems you might have, especially if they are related to the college itself.

Julie Dequaire & James Charlesworth

Junior Deans
Meet the Academic Director

Welcome to Pembroke! My name is Nancy and I am the Academic Director. This means that I have oversight of all academic matters in the college, and you’ll see my signature on your forms for transfer of status and other administrative matters! I work closely with the MCR reps for welfare and for academic matters and particularly enjoy initiatives that bring all of the different members of the Pembroke community together. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, starting with the graduate Freshers’ dinner.

Nancy Braithwaite

Academic Director
I am Alison. Hopefully my name is one you will already recognise as I have been in touch with you regarding your offer to study at Pembroke College! As well as dealing with graduate admissions, I also act as your first point of contact for all matters relating to your academic life including special arrangements for exams, welfare issues and financial support in the form of grants and scholarships. I am also responsible for organising your degree ceremony when you complete your course. I work in the Academic Office which is located at the bottom of Staircase 5 in Old Quad. Please do not hesitate to pop in or contact me if you have any questions.

Alison Franklin
Graduate Academic Administrator
Meet the MCR Academic Rep

As the MCR Academic Rep, I’d like to welcome you to Pembroke. I’m looking forward to meeting you in the coming Michaelmas term! The graduate community at Pembroke is very wide, with students pursuing degrees across all of the Oxford faculties. This variety creates a very different academic atmosphere, which is one of the great things about Oxford’s college system. In the MCR, you’ll have the opportunity to discuss your work with students both in and outside of your own field. So whether you’re picking up an interesting perspective on a topic you never even knew existed, or finding a kindred spirit equally interested in your particular corner of the academy, you’ll find a great, vital, and spicy academic environment at Pembroke.

Good luck with your preparations in moving to Oxford! Please feel free to e-mail me (carlotta.cosulich@pmb.ox.ac.uk) if you have any academic questions that you think I might be able to help with.

Carlotta Cosulich
MCR Academic Rep
Hello everyone, and welcome to Pembroke! My role as the MCR Environmental Rep is fairly simple; periodically I will bug members to sort the recycling and I will alert members of leftover food available in the MCR (because who doesn’t love free food?).

What I am most excited about with my new role, however, is the inaugural unveiling of the Pembroke MCR Allotment. Open to all members, the allotment is a place where you may grow all the fruit and vegetables that your heart desires, or where you can partake in backbreaking manual labour for the collective advancement of the MCR. The allotment is just a stone’s throw away from a selection of quasi-countryside pubs minutes away from the centre of Oxford, including one with a veggie-only menu - super eco! Currently, we have planted carrots, parsnips, a hazelnut tree (just need to work out how to keep the squirrels away), and pumpkins (Halloween carving, anyone?), but there is plenty of space for more crop. I greatly value everyone’s contributions, no matter how great or small, so if you feel like joining in please do get in touch (Bar Night on Fridays is usually the place to find me!).

Augustus Porter

Environmental Rep
Key Dates

**Freshers’ Week:** Sunday, 1 October 2017 to Saturday, 7 October 2017

**Term Dates:** “Term time” lasts for 3 lots of 8 weeks every year

**Michaelmas Term:**  Sunday, 8 October – Saturday, 2 December
**Hilary Term:**  Sunday, 14 January – Saturday, 10 March
**Trinity Term:**  Sunday, 22 April – Saturday, 16 June

Term time is when most MCR and College events are held (Formal Halls, Second Desserts, Exchange Dinners, chapel services). The undergraduates are generally only around during term time, however most post-graduates continue working outside of term time. MBA and PGCE students may have other dates (see [here](#)).
## Freshers’ Week

We will be e-mailing you about Freshers’ Week nearer to the time (so check your e-mails as soon as you have access to them). For now, here is the proposed Freshers’ Week social calendar. These events are not compulsory, but they are a great opportunity to meet fellow MCR Freshers and to get a feel of what the Pembroke MCR community is all about. These events will run alongside your departmental and College inductions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 1 October</td>
<td>Pub Crawl</td>
<td>8.30pm</td>
<td>Led by committee members, we will show you the best hangouts for a pint in Oxford, which you will undoubtedly get to know very well during your time here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plodge (Porters’ Lodge)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2 October</td>
<td>Pizza Party</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Pizza will be available for all Freshers (JCR included!) in the College Hall. Afterwards, cava (bubbles from Spain) will be served in the MCR. Come along and meet your fellow MCR Freshers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cava Party</td>
<td>9pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Freshers’ Week

Tuesday
3 October

“Meet & Greet”
Cakes & Tea

MCR
8.30pm

One of our oldest and greatest traditions! There will be cakes, there will be tea – what more could you want for a friendly meet and greet? The MCR Welfare Team will also be present to answer any questions about welfare in College.
## Freshers’ Week

**Wednesday 4 October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Registration</td>
<td>Pichette Auditorium</td>
<td>8.30am-9.45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Talk</td>
<td>Pichette Auditorium</td>
<td>11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
<td>Harold Lee Room</td>
<td>12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghost Tour</td>
<td>Plodge</td>
<td>9pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register under the NHS with the College Doctors (who are located at 19 Beaumont Street) in case you run into any medical issues while in Oxford.

The MCR Committee (along with some College big shots) will welcome you, introduce themselves, and tell you a bit about life in Pembroke. Following this, a buffet lunch will be served (be sure to sign-up).

In the evening, we will be guided around the scariest of ghost haunts in Oxford (sign-up required).
### Freshers’ Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 5 October</th>
<th>Freshers’ Fair</th>
<th>Exam Schools 10am-11am</th>
<th>Grab your wristband from the MCR and head to Exam Schools to be pounced on by 100s of university societies (nab those freebies!)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tour of the Oxford Union</td>
<td>Podge 3pm-4pm</td>
<td>Join for a guided tour of the Oxford Union, the famous Oxford debating society which has hosted people from Dilma Rousseff to Ian McKellen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drinks Reception</td>
<td>Harold Lee Room 7pm</td>
<td>This will be the first of many formal dinners to come (sign-up required). Drinks will be served in the Harold Lee Room, followed by dinner in the Hall. Afterwards, we invite you back to the MCR for a traditional Second Dessert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Dinner</td>
<td>Hall 7.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second Dessert</td>
<td>MCR 9pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Freshers’ Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>Bar Night</td>
<td><strong>MCR Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.30pm</strong></td>
<td>The mysterious hatch in the MCR opens up and reveals <em>The Rose and Thistle</em>, the MCR Bar, complete with a wide range of beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and the most charming bartenders (Simon &amp; Malte) to shake up your drinks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Brunch</td>
<td><strong>MCR</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.30pm</strong></td>
<td>If you do anything this Saturday, make sure it includes coming to the MCR for a salmon and cream-cheese bagel (along with muffins, chocolate, coffee, orange juice and all other brunch items you can imagine). Free food and good company after Bar Night!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Pembroke History Tour</td>
<td><strong>MCR</strong></td>
<td><strong>2pm</strong></td>
<td>Our Social Secretaries will guide you around Pembroke and give you a brief tour and history of the College to work off that brunch.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you’re in Oxford early...

Do come along to a bar night, which happens every Friday at 8.30pm. We serve both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, and will be thrilled to meet you. If you don’t have access to the college yet, the Porters will be happy to let you in if you ring the bell and say who you are. Alternatively you can e-mail anyone on the committee and we’ll let you in (once Freshers’ Week starts, you will get full access to the college with a nifty card!)
Things to bring to Oxford

Some paper and pencils might be valuable companions throughout the year – but since there is more to Oxford life than studying, it might be good to bring some, more, or all of the following:

- **Matriculation attire.** For ladies, this is a white blouse, black trousers or a skirt, black tights and black shoes. For gentlemen, this is a white shirt, black trousers, black socks and black shoes. With your mortar board (hat), gown and a ribbon or bowtie (for ladies and gentlemen, respectively) these are the components of *sub-fusc* (formal university wear which you need for matriculation, graduation and exams). You can also buy these items when you get to Oxford ([www.shepherdandwoodward.co.uk](http://www.shepherdandwoodward.co.uk)). Purchasing a gown, mortar board and ribbon/bow-tie costs £30-35.
Things to bring to Oxford

• **Formal wear.** Oxford has many dinners, banquets and balls so bring dinner jackets and dresses. For ladies, formal wear is generally a cocktail dress (unless you attend a white-tie ball in which case a floor-length ball gown is tradition).

• **Bedding.** Some bedding is supplied in the GAB but it is very basic. If you forget bedding, or cannot bring it with you, it is possible to buy it in Oxford fairly cheaply.

• **Kitchen utensils.** The GAB does not provide plates, cutlery or kitchen utensils so bring your own if you want to avoid a trip to Argos.

• **Passport.** Even if you do not necessarily need it to fly to the UK, you might need it to open a bank account. It is also necessary to have if you do any paid work for the college (such as invigilating an exam), or want to do volunteer work.
Things to bring to Oxford

• **Bike.** If you have one, then bring it along. If you don’t have one, then there are many shops selling new and second-hand bikes. You won’t need one with many gears as most of Oxford is flat. A bike will massively cut down journey times as the university departments are spread across the city. If you are planning on cycling at night, bike lights are a legal necessity. Helmets are not legally required, but are recommended for safety reasons.

If you find that you forget anything, don’t worry. Oxford is well supplied with cheap shops, and there is always Amazon (which you can get delivered to the college for you to pick up).
MCR House Rules

We politely ask you to respect our house rules in order for everyone to fully enjoy their time in the MCR.

Please tidy up after yourself.

There is a dishwasher in the MCR, so we would appreciate if you load your dirty dishes and glasses before you head out of the MCR. There are also marked bins in every MCR room. Please throw your rubbish away (in the appropriate bin) before leaving.

At Bar Nights, you are responsible for non-Pembroke guests you bring into the college. To keep the Porters happy and to keep the MCR bar from being shut down, you need to physically let your guests in and out of the college gates.
Useful Links

Oxford University
Main website: [www.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ox.ac.uk)     OU Student Union: [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org)
OU Sports: [www.sport.ox.ac.uk](http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk)     OU Club (graduate club): [www.club.ox.ac.uk](http://www.club.ox.ac.uk)
Cherwell (student newspaper): [www.chewell.org](http://www.chewell.org)
Oxford Union (debates & speakers): [www.oxford-union.org](http://www.oxford-union.org)

Pembroke College
Pembroke College: [www.pmb.ox.ac.uk](http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk)
Pembroke MCR: [www.pembrokemcr.com](http://www.pembrokemcr.com)
Pembroke JCR (good information on societies open to both JCR and MCR): [www.pembrokecollegejcr.com](http://www.pembrokecollegejcr.com)
MCR Facebook Page (external): [www.facebook.com/pembrokemcr](http://www.facebook.com/pembrokemcr)
MCR Facebook Group (internal): [www.facebook.com/groups/pembrokecollegemcroxford](http://www.facebook.com/groups/pembrokecollegemcroxford)
Useful Links

Property & Second-Hand Goods
Daily Info (local newspaper): www.dailyinfo.co.uk
RightMove: www.rightmove.com
Facebook graduate housing group: OxGradHousing
Facebook second-hand group: Students of Oxford Swap Shop
Facebook second-hand bike group: Buy And Sell Cycling Stuff in Oxfordshire

Public Transportation
Train: www.nationalrail.co.uk
Coaches:
www.x90.oxfordbus.co.uk (Oxford-London)
www.airlinebooking.oxfordbus.co.uk (Heathrow/Gatwick-Oxford)
www.nationalexpress.co.uk (various cities-Oxford)
## Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balls</strong></td>
<td>Held in the summer at a number of colleges. White- or black-tie is the standard attire. These used to go on all night, with breakfast included. Sadly many now finish in the small hours because of complaints about the noise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Battels</strong></td>
<td>College bill. If you are still not sure what this is, you will probably be receiving one shortly!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black tie</strong></td>
<td>Formal evening attire with bow-ties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boat Race [The]</strong></td>
<td>Annual competition between two eights rowed by students from Oxford and Cambridge held on the River Thames in London from Putney to Mortlake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bod [The]</strong></td>
<td>Short for 'Bodleian Library', the main library at Oxford University.</td>
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<td>---------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bump</strong></td>
<td>The river at Oxford [and Cambridge] is not wide enough for several eights to row abreast so races are conducted by starting at equidistant points along the river and trying to 'bump' the eight in front. This involves simply catching up rather than [necessarily] literally bumping it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Info</strong></td>
<td>Daily [in term time] news sheet which appears on various college and University notice boards. Worth reading if you find one. It becomes 'Weekly Information' out of term time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fellow</strong></td>
<td>Member of the governing body of a college. Basically, all the college tutors.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formal Hall</strong></td>
<td>This is a formal three-course dinner served in the Hall every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday during term-time. They cost about £6 and sign-up (via the College intranet) is required. Attire is formal and academic gowns must be worn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresher</strong></td>
<td>A new student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freshers’ Fair</strong></td>
<td>Stalls for all the University Societies and Clubs held in the Exam Schools at the beginning of each academic year. Good for freebies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Matriculation</strong></td>
<td>Ceremony in the Sheldonian for admission to Oxford as a student. Usually a student's first go at wearing <em>sub-fusc</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mortar Board</strong></td>
<td>Not for brick-layers, but an academic cap with a hard flat square top and a tassel in the middle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Porter</strong></td>
<td>Guard at the front door of each college. Always helpful and always present!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scout</strong></td>
<td>Person who cleans college rooms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>