

August 2025

Welcome to St Peter's College. We are writing to confirm your place to study Jurisprudence (Law) from October 2025 at St Peter's College. Below you will find some useful information about how to prepare for the start of your Law studies at Oxford.

### **Reading (before arrival in Oxford)**

In your first week in College, you will attend various meetings and inductions, as well as a class aimed at introducing you to the basics of studying law. The class will take place before lectures and tutorials begin. Details relating to its timing and the timing of the other induction meetings will be provided on your arrival at College. It is important that you read the following materials BEFORE you arrive in Oxford:

- **Law Freshers' Survival Kit**
- **Law Induction Course Pack**

These materials will be made available to you by St Peter's College.

We also advise you to read one of the following books as more general preparation for your studies: (these books should be available in most bookshops)

- Glanville Williams (ed. A. Smith), *Learning the Law* (Sweet & Maxwell, 17<sup>th</sup> edn., 2020) **or** Nicholas McBride, *Letters to a Law Student* (Pearson, 4th edn., 2017)

In addition, we would like you to read some materials that will introduce to the two subjects you will be studying during your first term at St Peter's:

### **Criminal Law**

- Grant Lamond, 'What is a Crime?' (2007) 27 Oxford Journal of Legal Studies 609

### **Constitutional Law**

Introduction to key institutions

- UK Parliament website: Parliament and the Government explainer - <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/relations-with-other-institutions/parliament-government/>
- UK Parliament website: How the UK Parliament Works (June 2022) - [https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/commons-information-office/leaflets/how\\_the\\_uk\\_parliament\\_works\\_june22.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/commons-information-office/leaflets/how_the_uk_parliament_works_june22.pdf)

### Introduction to the legislative process

- House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution, The Legislative Process: The Passage of Bills Through Parliament (July 2019), chapters 1 & 2 only - <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldconst/393/393.pdf>

### Brexit and the constitution

It is useful for students to have a general understanding of major Brexit-related developments. The House of Commons Library's Brexit timeline is a good place to start. Please read at least the summary and 'key events' boxes:

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7960/CBP-7960.pdf>

The Criminal law article listed above will be made available to you by St Peter's College.

### **Your first year at St Peter's College**

An academic year at Oxford is divided into three terms. Over your first two terms at St Peter's College, you will study three subjects in preparation for the Law Moderation Exams (or 'Mods'), which will take place at the end of the second term (i.e. in March 2026). In Michaelmas Term (the first term), you will have tutorials in Criminal Law and Roman Law. In Hilary Term (the second term), you will have the remaining tutorials in Roman Law and study Constitutional Law. In addition to these college-based tutorials, there will be lectures organised by the Law Faculty. They will take place in person in the Law Faculty building. You will be provided more information about the lectures when you arrive at St Peter's. Around that time, you will also be contacted by your Criminal Law and Roman Law tutors and sent your tutorial reading lists. Please be mindful of the fact that your first essay submission deadline may be in the first week of term, that is within a week or so of your arrival in Oxford. You should do the best you can in these assignments but remember that students usually get familiar with writing an essay only over the course of the first term.

We hope that you are excited to start your Law studies at St Peter's and look forward to welcoming you in person in October.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Dorota Leczykiewicz**

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**Professor Lavanya Rajamani** (on Sabbatical, 2025-2026)

Professor of International Environmental Law and Yamani Fellow in Public International Law at St Peter's College, University of Oxford