

# MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

Freshers'  
Guide



# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	2
Welcome! .....	2
Getting Settled In.....	3
Transportation .....	4
St Peter's College .....	5
The MCR community .....	7
Oxford glossary.....	9

## Welcome!

Dear Freshers, welcome to St Peter's College!

When accepted into St Peter's, you automatically become a member of the Middle Common Room, more commonly referred to as the MCR. This means two things, first as the name suggests, the MCR is a room in college. It can be used to hang out with friends, study, watch films, make coffee, or even bake a cake.

Secondly, the term MCR refers to the society of postgrad students at St Peter's. Along with your faculty, it is probably the most important group of people you will associate with at Oxford. Throughout the year there will be a range of events from parties (also known as BOPs) to board game nights! During Freshers' Week there will be a packed schedule of events to settle into Oxford life and make friends! Please try to attend as many as you can!

To ensure you don't miss a thing, Freshers' Week begins on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025! We can't wait to see you all there!

Tom Tyler & Manreet Jassal  
Freshers Representatives of St Peter's College MCR



# Getting Settled In

## Keys

On your arrival, the Porters will give you your accommodation keys if you are being housed in College accommodation. If you are in Graduate Accommodation, you should check your arrival information emails for more specific details.



## Bod Card

Your Bod Card is for operating external doors and gates, and for accessing areas restricted to College members only, such as the College library or the MCR. It will be available for collection from the College Office during registration.

## Accommodation: [accommodation@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@spc.ox.ac.uk)

Some incoming graduate students are assigned a room in College accommodation. These rooms are dotted around Oxford: there is Paradise Street, the Lau Building, St Thomas Street, Castle Mill and Walton Street. If you have been allocated a room, make sure to let the St Peter's accommodation office know when you intend to arrive; they will make sure that your College accommodation is ready and waiting.

If you have special needs requirements related to disability or have issues with your room, you should contact the college. The accommodation office is welcoming and helpful and will do its best to provide everything you need. Once you sign for the roomkey, the room becomes yours and yours only: it may not be sub-let.

The Dean and his officers enforce strict regulations on fire safety. This means no smoking, no lighting of candles/incense, and no open heat sources (e.g. hotplates), etc. A fire safety induction course is run in every annexe and attendance is mandatory.

College houses are serviced by cleaning staff (known in Oxford as 'scouts'). Scouts will clean kitchens and common areas but it is not their duty to do the washing up – that's your responsibility! They may also clean your room and bathroom regularly. This is often done in the morning so if you do not want to

be disturbed you can leave your bin outside your room to indicate this. The scouts will have a particular day assigned to clean your room so it's a good idea to find out which day that is so that you don't miss out on the regular cleaning.

If you don't have college accommodation, and are still looking, it's worth contacting the college accommodation office, in case any rooms become available. Also look to the University's Accommodation Office, as they have rooms for postgrads. You should also check out the Oxford Accommodation Facebook groups, as people regularly share rental opportunities there. If you are looking at private rentals, please be careful of scams – always try to get a tour in person first or ask a friend to look on your behalf.

## Transportation

### Bicycles

Aside from walking, most people get around Oxford by bike! Oxford is a very cycle-friendly city and you should be able to pick up a durable 2<sup>nd</sup>-hand bike for under £200 if you don't already have one. To keep your bike safe, make sure you lock it up with a D-lock, or if you are near to college, bicycles can be stored outside the Chavasse building bike lockup, accessed from New Inn Hall Street via your student card. Before doing this, you must register your bike with the Porters, and have access added to your BoD card.

### Buses

If you don't wish to buy a bike, or are not particularly confident on a bike, buses are also very convenient in Oxford. There are stops all around the city and services are frequent.

### Taxis

If you need to take a taxi, generally the cheapest option is Uber or Bolt. Other services in Oxford can be rather expensive.

### Trains and travelling to London

To book trains, use the *Trainline* mobile app or website. A train is the cheapest way to get to London if travelling at off-peak times. If you need to travel to London during peak hours, or very late at night, then The Oxford Tube ([oxfordtube.com](https://www.oxfordtube.com)) is the way to go. If you plan on taking the train more than 2 or 3 times within a year, it is worth buying a railcard from trainline ([thetrainline.com](https://www.thetrainline.com)).

# St Peter's College

## College Map

A college map may be found at the end of this guide. The MCR is no longer at point (11) but now located south (to the left) of the Chavasse Building (18). Hopefully by the start of term, the MCR should be accessible through college, next to Chavasse, but if not, access is through Bonn Square (opposite Westgate). Access is through a large black gate, with the keypad code changing monthly – ask the porters for the latest code. The MCR is then located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with BoD card access.



**College Office:** [martin.brown@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:martin.brown@spc.ox.ac.uk), [catherine.whalley@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.whalley@spc.ox.ac.uk)

The team in the College Office can provide a first port of call if you're not sure about something. The key contacts for graduate students can be found at the bottom of Besse Staircase. If you get ill and need an extension to a deadline for submitted work, then you can get help here. Key contacts are also listed at the end of this guide.

**College Advisors:** [tutorforgraduates@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tutorforgraduates@spc.ox.ac.uk)

You will be assigned a college advisor at St Peter's. While your supervisor, tutors or lecturers are primarily concerned with your academic work, your advisor is here for *you*. If you have any concerns about your progress, or are looking for some general advice, you should speak with your advisor.

## College Welfare: [eleanor.tingle@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:eleanor.tingle@spc.ox.ac.uk)

If you are struggling, St Peter's has a wonderful welfare team. Eleanor Tingle is the Dean for Welfare, and is supported by a team of Welfare Officers, the College Chaplain and a College Nurse. Any of these people are regularly available for a chat or a cup of tea.

## Porters: [porters.lodge@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:porters.lodge@spc.ox.ac.uk)

The Porters are very helpful and will often be your first 'port of call' when you have a query. Through the Porters you can book guest accommodation, get keys for the music room and mail letters and internal university post. If you live in college accommodation and have any maintenance problems in your room (problems with the shower, pipes backing up, cracks in the walls, etc.) or find a problem in the MCR, please report the issue to the Porters' Lodge or email [maintenance@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:maintenance@spc.ox.ac.uk) so that it can be fixed as soon as possible.

## Room bookings

As a member of the MCR, you have the right to book rooms within the college. There are study rooms, function rooms, and a music rehearsal space. If you wish to use any of these, talk with the Porters.

## College sports

St Peter's has a wide variety of sports on offer, ranging from Ultimate Frisbee to Rugby, in which we play against teams from other colleges. Details of the sports available and how to get involved will be given during Freshers' Week. There are also university teams which can be much more competitive.

## IT

There are computer facilities available in College, located in the St Peter's aly. This are particularly useful for printing and copying. For computer issues, either hardware or software, you will find the Oxford University IT Services (link here <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk>) a convenient first port of call. It offers products and services at reasonable rates and has several computing labs that you are entitled to use.

## Internet access

When you are around any university building, there is a university-wide WiFi network called 'eduroam' which you can access using your university IT details. St Peter's also has its own Wifi network called "SPC-Members", and you will need your *college account* details to log in.



## The Middle Common Room

The MCR is a room in college and people go there to read, make a cup of tea or coffee, chat with friends, take a well-earned break from work, or wait for the dining hall to open for dinner. The MCR is a shared space, and it must be kept clean and ordered. This is particularly applicable to the kitchen and the fridge, where all food must be labelled with your name. Food that is out of date is liable to be thrown in the bin. Moreover, if the MCR is repeatedly found in a messy state, it will be locked up by College, which would be pretty rubbish. If you use plates/bowls/glasses or anything, **clean them up after!!!**

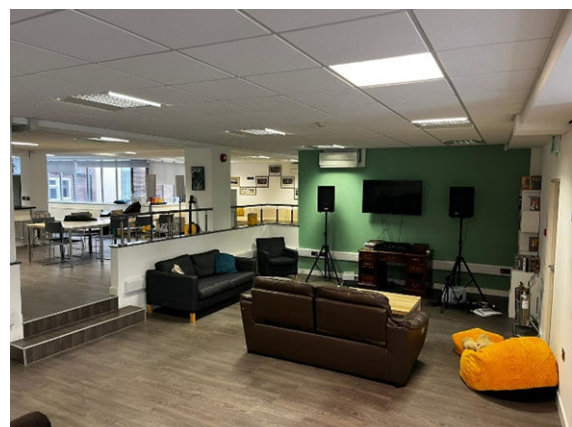


As you enter the MCR you will notice several lockers. These are free for you to use with a padlock on a first-come-first-serve basis. There is a map of the MCR at the end of this guide.

## The MCR community

The MCR Committee oversees running the MCR. The MCR Committee currently consists of: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Social Secretaries, and Freshers' Representatives. We also elect several more members in the first term, including an access and outreach rep, charities rep, sports rep, facilities rep, male and female welfare reps, sustainability rep, BAME rep and an LGBTQ+ rep. If you think you would be interested in running for any of these positions, get in touch with the President for more information.

There are regular meetings of the MCR every term (General Meetings) where you can bring things up in a formal environment. General Meetings are run in-person, with lots of free pizza!



## College parents

It may sound a little odd, but every fresher is assigned a College parent. College parents are postgrads whose job it is to help you settle in. They should contact you before you arrive in Oxford and will be one of the first people you meet here! Please reach out if you've not heard from them!

## Freshers' week

Freshers' Week normally kicks off MCR Events at St Peter's the week before the academic term starts (Week 0). If you arrive in Oxford before Week 0, there will be some events in weeks -1 and -2 run by the MCR committee! The aim of Freshers' Week is to introduce you to St Peter's, Oxford, and your fellow College members. A detailed schedule of events will be available close to the time.

## Social activities

St Peter's MCR prides itself on being a fun and social common room. The social calendar of previous years has been composed of the events below, and your social secretaries will be working double time to make sure that you will have a robust social experience during your time at Oxford!

### Formal Halls

Formal Halls are an excellent excuse to have a good meal with friends from around Oxford. Water is provided, but otherwise you bring your own drinks. Formals run on Tuesday and Thursday during term, and you book for Formal Hall on the UPay app. You may bring guests who are not members of the university. The dress code is formal, and college members are required to wear academic gowns, but guests are exempt from this.

### Guest Night

The next step up from Formal Halls, Guest Night is a termly black-tie dinner in college. It starts off with a champagne reception, followed by a formal black-tie dinner and always ends up as a big party in the MCR. Don't miss out on Guest Nights, it is the one chance during term for the MCR to take over the hall!



## BOPs

The MCR organises a number of BOPS (college parties) each term. BOPs are a great opportunity to mingle and have fun with the rest of the MCR!

## St Peter's Bar

The Bar at St. Peter's is famously the best college bar with the notorious Cross Key's speciality drink. It's a place to hang out and have a drink in a cosy college setting.

## The MCR Committee

**President:** Noah Rowe

[presidentmcr@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:presidentmcr@spc.ox.ac.uk)

**Vice-president and MCR Welfare Lead:** EJ Lord

[ej.lord@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ej.lord@spc.ox.ac.uk)

**Treasurer:** Tihana Stefanic

[mcrtreasurer@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mcrtreasurer@spc.ox.ac.uk)

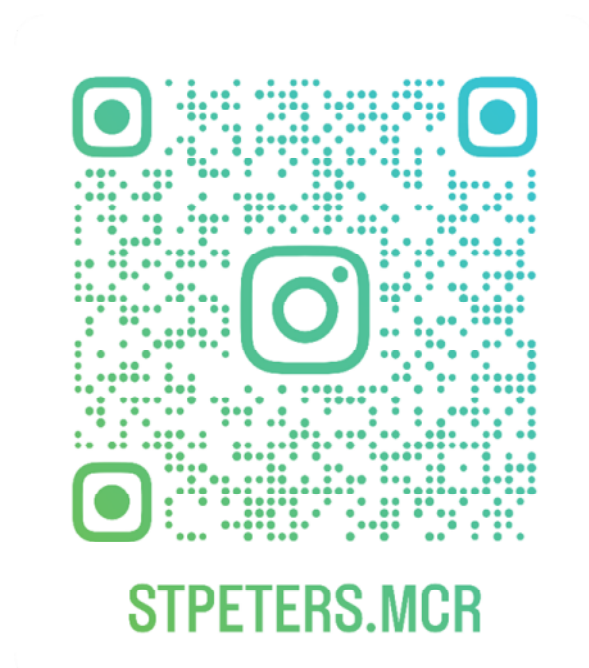
**Social Secretaries:** Arun Ramanathan, George Raftis & Larry McIlvenna

[socialsecsmcr@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:socialsecsmcr@spc.ox.ac.uk)

**Freshers' Representatives:** Tom Tyler & Manreet Jassal

[tom.tyler@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tom.tyler@spc.ox.ac.uk),

[manreet.jassal@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:manreet.jassal@spc.ox.ac.uk)



# Oxford glossary

**Battels:** The charges made to a member of a college (student or Fellow) for accommodation, meals, etc.

**Bod Card:** Also known as 'University Card'. This is your student ID, and it also acts as your access card to College and University Libraries.

**Cross Keys:** St Peter's College symbol and best College drink in Oxford.

**Fellows:** In colleges, the senior members of college who, together with the college head, constitute the governing body of the college.

**High Table:** The table in a college dining hall, often on a dais, at which the Head of House and Fellows dine. Guests may sometimes be invited to High Table.

**Michaelmas Term (MT):** The first term of the academic year which begins in October and ends in December (c.f. Hilary, Trinity).

**Hilary Term (HT):** The second of the academic year's three terms, running from January to mid-March (c.f. Michaelmas, Trinity).

**Trinity Term (TT):** Summer term (c.f. Hilary, Michaelmas).

**JCR (Junior Common Room):** In addition to being the formal undergraduate student organization of a college, the Junior Common Room is the hub of undergraduate social activity.

**MCR (Middle Common Room):** The self-governing body and social centre for graduate students in a college. Fourth year students are also granted MCR membership. The MCR is also a room located in the college. Also known as the GCR at other colleges.

**Matriculation:** Matriculation confers membership of the University on those students who are enrolled at the University of Oxford and following a degree-level course.

**Oxmas:** Christmas at Oxford. This starts exactly one month before Christmas Day, on the 25th of November so we can celebrate holidays of all faiths together.

**Pidge:** Nickname for the location in the Porter's Lodge where you pick up mail. Short for pigeonhole.

**Plib:** Short for St Peter's College Library

**Plodge:** Short for Porter's Lodge

**Plobby:** Short for Peter's Lobby, the first room you enter in the library that contains the printer and a couple desktop PCs.

**Plungeon:** The underground portion of St Peter's Library (Plib), short for Peter's Dungeon.

**Sub fusc:** Academic dress worn to Matriculation, examinations and graduation



**ST PETER'S  
COLLEGE**  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

- 1 Westfield House
- 2 Barron House  
*Incorporating Evnoma Chambers*
- 3 Damazer House
- 4a Canal House - Tutor Rooms
- 4b Canal House - Master's Lodgings
- 5 Matthews Building
- 6 Besse Staircase
- 7 Latner Building
- 8 Linton House

- 9 College Chapel
- 10 Hubert Perrodo Building
- 11 The Pastry School
- 12 New Building
- 13 Staircase I
- 14 Staircase II
- 15 Staircase III
- 16 Staircase IV - Emily Morris Building
- 17 Hannington Hall
- 18 Chavasse Building

- Lift
- Baby-Changing Station
- Men's Toilets
- Women's Toilets
- Gender-Neutral Toilet
- Accessible Toilet
- Fellows' Car Park
- Bicycle Storage
- Fire Assembly Point

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