St Peter’s is an intimate place fizzing with energy and creativity. We believe in academic excellence, and the college exists to provide the teaching, the facilities and the atmosphere to help everyone fulfil their potential.

We know and celebrate the fact that our students have different talents, characters and backgrounds. They come here united by a desire to study at one of the world’s great universities and at a college that generates warmth and solidarity. The college offers its members opportunities to express their talents in many different fields.

I hope this prospectus provides you with a flavour of what makes this such a special place.

Mark Damazer CBE, Master of St Peter’s College

“St Peter’s is a community known for its friendliness. People from all backgrounds will feel they fit in and feel they belong.”

Amy, Engineering Science
**ATMOSPHERE**

As a student at St Peter’s College you will feel at home in a warm and supportive environment. As one of just over 100 new students every year you will be entering into a community that breathes fun and friendliness.

The diversity found in our student body is one of the things that makes this such a great place to study.

Our admissions policy is simple: we admit the best students based solely on their academic merit and their potential to excel on their course.

“Fun & engaging, St Peter’s has broadened my mind in everything from access and diversity, to politics, enriching my actual degree subject.”

*Emily, Earth Sciences*
Here are a few of the highlights of the non-academic year at St Peter’s.

**FIRST TERM – ‘MICHAELMAS’**

Freshers’ Fair

**SECOND TERM – ‘HILARY’**

Chinese New Year Celebrations

Choir Mid-Term Concert

‘Halfway’ Hall

**THIRD TERM – ‘TRINITY’**

Arts Week

Rugby Cuppers

“St Peter’s is friendly and accepting, with committed tutors who care about their students’ academic achievements and welfare. There is a an excellent pastoral system, it is in a great location, filled with great college extra-curricular activities, slightly more relaxed atmosphere - a good work-life balance.”

Poppy, German

“My time at Peter’s has been fun, challenging and rewarding. All experiences which have been enjoyed with an inclusive college community.”

Rohit, Economics & Management
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

At St Peter’s all first year undergraduates live in the heart of the college, in single rooms with shared bathroom facilities.

Second year students usually live out of college, often in shared houses with other St Peter’s students. Students ‘living out’ learn many useful skills, including how to divide a gas bill, and how not to cook.

Final year undergraduates live either on the main site in New Inn Hall Street or in one of three residential annexes, all of which are less than a 5 minute walk from the main campus. These annexes all have en-suite rooms, shared kitchens and common rooms.

The college’s dining hall, available to all students, provides excellent food, heavily subsidised, at breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is brunch at the weekends. In addition, St Peter’s has a lively series of formal dinners on Tuesday and Thursday evenings often themed around national holidays.

“We have a great bar, delicious food, amazing accommodation, a central location, sporting and academic success, and the perfect mix between work and fun. Everyone (students and staff) is exceptionally friendly and welcoming.”

Alice, Philosophy, Politics & Economics
ACADEMIC LIFE

We want you to get the very best out of your time at Oxford. We want to help you excel and so the college always encourages your academic progress and achievement. From college seminars to overseas vacation reading parties, the college offers a variety of opportunities to learn in different ways.

College tutorials provide a focus for your academic work. Each week you will have the opportunity to write essays or answer problem sheets for discussion in tutorials with your tutor and one or two other students. In addition to guiding your studies, the college tutors conduct their own leading-edge research giving you the opportunity to be in contact with developments in your subject.

St. Peter’s admits students for most courses offered at Oxford. Check the website for details.

“IT’S A CLOSE-KNIT COLLEGE WITH A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND APPROACHABLE STAFF AND STUDENTS. AN ACADEMIC ATMOSPHERE IS CREATED HERE WITHOUT FEELING EXCESSIVE PRESSURE FROM THE TUTORS. THERE IS ALSO A GREAT SENSE OF COMMUNITY.”

Una, History

Our 24/7 lending and reference library provides a comfortable and widely-used study space.

Your membership of the college also gives you access to the world-famous resources at the Bodleian Library, where a copy of every book printed in the UK is held.

42 courses available at St Peter’s

53,830

Books in the library
St Peter’s College sits at the heart of the city, providing easy access to university-wide facilities, cinemas, theatres, cafés, restaurants, markets, shops, bars and nightclubs.

The college is very close to Oxford railway station and to the central bus station. You will live and work within walking distance of the outstandingly beautiful Port Meadow, or easily be able to enjoy river walks along the Thames Path.

Recently-completed building work has improved accessibility for all people who live in or visit the college.

“There are endless opportunities afforded by the college’s great location.”

Louis, History

St Peter’s Facts

In the 1960s/70s, we came close to building an egg-shaped underground theatre, designed by Buckminster Fuller, which would have been named in honour of Samuel Beckett.
COMMUNITY AND WELL-BEING

Each year we run an ‘Offer Holders’ Open Day’ for you and your family to get a better sense of life at the college, and to introduce you to key people who will form part of your life as a student.

Even before you arrive at St Peter’s, you will be assigned a ‘College Parent’, normally a student in a higher year of your course of study, who will contact you and provide helpful advice both before and after the start of your first term.

We provide a comprehensive welfare network, designed to offer you support if you are experiencing difficulties.

The college has Welfare Officers who live on site and who are regularly available. Current students also approach the college for further support with their academic studies, or seeking advice in relation to finance and money, personal problems, or relationships.

The Junior Common Room also has an extensive network of peer supporters who provide informal advice and help. Additionally, just around the corner from the college is the University Counselling Service which can provide specialist help if required.

“I learned during the Offer Holders’ Open Day that part of St Peter’s sense of community and ethos means that it wants students to be looked after as well as taught rigorously.”

Parent

FINANCE

St Peter’s was founded to provide a low-cost Oxford education at a time when this was hard to come by. We are committed to that mission, and believe that no student should be deterred from applying to Oxford because of their financial situation.

The college has a Welfare and Hardship fund which can provide some financial support if that becomes necessary.

While it is difficult to have a job when studying at Oxford, the college employs students to help during the Admissions period and at Open Days, to run the college bar, and provides other occasional opportunities to earn at the Living Wage Foundation rate while on course.

“St Peter’s is everything I ever hoped for.”

Rosie, Archaeology & Anthropology
“For many people, your college is where you make your first friends at Oxford and it’s often the case that the people you meet at Peter’s will become some of your closest friends through the course of your degree here.

Our Junior Common Room (JCR) is where much of our socialising in college is centred – from college-wide viewings of sports games, Bake Off or Blue Planet on the flatscreen TV to table football and table tennis, it’s a great space in which to unwind.

The JCR is also where we have our regular college parties, called bops. Often these are themed and fancy-dress is always encouraged! Past themes have included pyjamas, Disney, come-as-your-subject and many more.

Of course, none of this is compulsory and many students enjoy a quieter social life at Peter’s. The student welfare team is especially good at putting on more chilled events for those who want them and there are plenty of University-wide options should those suit you better.”

Georgina, History

“St Peter’s is a warm and welcoming place where people from all over the world, and all walks of life can live, and work together.”

Adam, Biological Sciences
THE ARTS

St Peter’s enjoys one of the most varied and exciting musical programmes of any Oxford college. The Chapel serves as a wonderful concert venue, with seating for over 200. This allows St Peter’s to put together a packed calendar of musical events, from solo recitals to fully staged musicals and operas, in addition to Choral Evensong twice a week.

The Director of Music, Jeremy Summerly, has overall responsibility for practical music within the college encouraging all forms of music-making, whether vocal or instrumental, classical, pop, folk, jazz, or world music. Informal Open Mic nights are regularly hosted by the Junior Common Room in the bar.

In recent years the St Peter’s College Music Society has put on regular performances of works such as Fauré’s Requiem, J.S.Bach’s St Matthew Passion, and Mendelssohn’s Elijah.

Information about Choral and Organ Scholarships can be found at www.spcchoir.com

“Your college becomes your home and your family during your time here. The community at St Peter’s in particular is fantastic and welcoming. You feel supported in pursuing your interests, whether they be drama, arts or a sport.”

Isabel, Geography
SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Some of the college's students play at the highest level for the University while many others participate in sport at college level. In some years we have had rowers in the University's boats, and we also perform well at cheerleading, rugby and cricket. Such ability is not confined to the major sports – we have been table football champions too.

For those who prefer fewer early mornings and less rigorous training, there is a much-used pool table in the JCR and darts are played enthusiastically in the College Bar.

We share sports fields with Hertford and Exeter Colleges and a boat house with University College, providing facilities for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, squash and rowing. The JCR pays for all students to use the gym at the University's Iffley Road sports complex, famous for Roger Bannister's 4-minute mile.

St Peter's Facts
We were formerly known as St Peter's Hall, and our nickname was (and still is) to some alumni 'Pot Hall', but no one has any idea why. As a result, one of our boats was once called Pot Noodle.

St Peter's Facts
Our biggest rival is St Edmund Hall, and the college song contains some choice lyrics highlighting this fact.

“St Peter’s is grounded, has a friendly atmosphere, fantastic facilities, lovely staff, and has felt like a home away from home. It can offer a really lively sports scene, a great bar, dynamic and social work spaces as well as having a fantastic location in the centre of Oxford.”

Abigail, Philosophy and Theology
CAREERS AND EVENTS

An education at St Peter’s, and an Oxford degree, will enable you to access a wide range of careers. Some students choose to do further study at postgraduate level, either here or elsewhere.

The college’s alumni include:
• Ken Loach (film director)
• Afua Hirsch (journalist)
• Orlando Searle (actor)
• Kurt Jackson (artist)
• Simon Beaufoy (screenwriter)
• Libby Lane (Bishop of Stockport)
• Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England)

Several times a term, St Peter’s welcomes distinguished speakers to give talks which are open to all members of the college, past and current. Speakers include former students and others who are experts in their field or prominent figures in public life. Recent speakers have included:
• Dame Mary Beard (classicist)
• Nick Robinson (journalist)
• David Mitchell (comedian)

Current students have opportunities to network with former students at subject dinners and other events.

CONTACT DETAILS

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@SPCOutreach
Oxford-StPeter’s

St Peter’s Facts
The college’s collection of artefacts includes a large block of masonry which was once part of the Palace of Westminster, a chair that Napoleon used to sit on and a book that contains a cheque written and signed by Lord Byron.
The information in this prospectus is correct at the time of going to press. Any updates or changes can be found on our website below.

St Peter’s College is a Registered Charity, No. 1143166

www.spc.ox.ac.uk