



Freshers' FAQ 2026

Here, we list the most burning questions that freshers usually have before arriving in Oxford. If you are curious about anything else, don't hesitate to reach out to the Freshers' President, Mel (freshers.president@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk), or your college buddies!

Where do I get my 'Bod Card' (university card)?

They can be picked up from the **academic office** at Keble main site, which should be open from 8am–6pm on normal working days. The academic office is located at the Parks Road site, close to the entrance (27 on the map in the handbook). But simply walk into the main entrance and ask the porters; they will guide you! You can also complete the university registration process at the academic office while collecting your bod card. **Bring your passport and eVisa/sharecode (if relevant).**

What is 'Sub Fusc' and where can I buy a gown?

Sub fusc is your academic dress. It is made up of a gown, ribbon, and mortarboard, on top of formal attire. You wear this at matriculation, graduation, and exams. You can find a full in-depth description here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress>

Some nearby shops that sell sub fusc are [Shepherd and Woodward](#), [Walters, Oxford](#), and [Ede and Ravenscroft](#). There are also Facebook Groups where you can buy second-hand gowns, e.g. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/449271432331845/>. If you're using the Facebook group, make sure you get the right gown (this will be a postgraduate gown in most cases). If you are lucky, you may be able to find some items in a charity shop.

What is the dress code for formal dinners?

At formal dinners (Tuesdays, and alternating Fridays and Sundays) you need to wear your gown over your clothes. You must dress smartly under your gown.

Graduate Freshers Dinner (Wednesday 7th October): Smart casual with academic gown (no mortarboard or ribbon). If you are unable to get a gown by this date, it might be worth asking in the whole MCR WhatsApp group as I expect people from upper years would let you borrow one for the night. **There will be sign-ups for this, so keep an eye on the freshers' chat and your inbox!**

Do I need to book in for meals in the Keble Dining Hall? How much do they cost?

Meals are booked here: <https://meals.keble.ox.ac.uk/select/index.html>

During term time, booking is required for formal dinners, but not for breakfasts, brunches, lunches, and informal dinners. Bookings will close at 10:30am on that day. Bookings for Saturday and Sunday will close at 11.30am on Friday.

How much do meals cost?

The meal prices for this year have not yet been finalised and are likely to be increasing on last years. Last year, breakfast was priced per item, lunch and dinner were £5 to £7, and formal was around £12. When you book online it should tell you the cost.

Can I bring guests to meals?

You're usually allowed 2 guests for formals (though you can write to hall if you want to bring more) and it will be slightly more expensive for the guest. Since the marquee has a significantly reduced capacity, this may change. For formals you must book your guests online when you book your dinner. You can bring guests for regular meals too (non-formal), but you can only pay with your Bod card. Prices are the same.

For more information on food at college, check out the [handbook](#)!

What are some good (cheap) food places around Oxford?

College provides hands down the cheapest (big) meals you can get, but here are a couple of cheap and/or reasonably priced restaurants:

- Najar's place: large wrap with hummus, falafel and other toppings
- Branca: has pizza slices for lunch and a salad bar that is much cheaper than their menu
- Zaatar bake: manakeesh
- Pho: on top of west gate does big bowls of Vietnamese pho
- Dosa Park: decently priced south Asian food
- Alpha Bar: street food in the covered market

Where can I buy a bike?

A quick Google will give you the names of some second-hand bike stores around Oxford. These are worth checking out, but it is unlikely that they will have heaps of bikes available during the Freshers period. Facebook Marketplace, GumTree, the Oxford Students Swap Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/162035891582177>) are likely to be your best bet! Be careful of buying stolen bikes.

Please beware of bike theft (extremely common in Oxford); make sure you have a very good lock, avoid leaving your bike in town overnight, and don't buy anything that looks too shiny and expensive. You can purchase bike lights and a D-lock from the [university store](#).

I'm interested in getting involved in a certain sport, who should I contact?

University-level sports: You can find out about university level sports at the University Freshers Fair (see the freshers schedule) or by reaching out to the University sports teams via their Facebook/Instagram/Website. University sports tend to start a little earlier so it might be worth getting in touch sooner rather than later.

College-level sports: You can find out about college level sports via the Keble Freshers Fair and taster events (see the freshers schedule). Most college sports will start in Week 0 or 1, but that doesn't mean you can't join later. Most sports (e.g. rowing) will post in the MCR Facebook/WhatsApp Groups to advertise taster sessions. If you have any particular questions, you can contact Max at sports@mcr.keble.ox.ac.uk.

How do I get fob access to HBAC (as a non-resident)?

Once you have a bod card, you will be able to use it to pick up a fob from the HBAC porters lodge to access HBAC. If a porter is unaware of this, get them to look for an email on the 20/09/2022 from college office which says:

'ALL MCR members (whether residents of HBAC or not) need to have a fob for access. They are ALL entitled to use all the facilities of HBAC so the Porters should give all MCR non-residents a fob please. (I'm coping in Zdenka and the Lodge porters so they are aware).'

There are certain times of day when security takes over from the porters. Security won't be able to issue fobs, so to ensure you get a porter, I would recommend going during day (10am–6pm).

How do I connect to the Wi-Fi at HBAC?

The default Wi-Fi network you should use is 'Eduroam'. The instructions for setting it up can be found at <https://help.it.ox.ac.uk/how-to-connect-to-eduroam>. You can use 'The Cloud' network while you are working to set up Eduroam.

If you are living in HBAC, you can also use the HBAC Wi-Fi, which is necessary for an ethernet connection. You can ask someone in the WhatsApp group for the password.

Will I receive an invoice for fees and battels?

Yes, the invoices for your course fees and first rent payment in HBAC are usually sent out in late September. Your battels account will also be where you pay for meals in hall, which is done at the end of each term. More information on battels and payment may be found at: <https://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/current-students/fees-and-battels-payment-methods/>

An overview over the current status of your battels can be found at:

<https://meals.keble.ox.ac.uk/oxbooking/Fees.aspx>