

Keble College



Alternative Prospectus



Welcome!

Thank you for having a look at our alternative prospectus!

Everything you see and read here has been supplied by Keble undergraduate

students. We know that one of the things that can seem daunting about the Oxford application process is choosing a college, so we hope that this prospectus will give you a bit more insight into what life at Keble is like directly from those who experience it. We realise this is a lot to take in but we hope that after reading this you will have a better idea of what it is like to be a student here at Keble, and how much fun studying at Oxford can be! If you are considering applying to Keble and want any more insight, please have a look at our socials and reach out if you need to - we'd love to give you any more insight that we can!

About Keble

Keble College was founded in 1870 with the aim of making Oxford more accessible and this is definitely something that is still a fundamental part of the culture at Keble today. Being the only red brick college in all of Oxford it is unique in appearance. It is also one of the larger undergraduate colleges both in terms of the number of students it takes each year and its size. This means there is always lots going on and something for everyone to get involved in. It also means that we're very lucky to have at least 2 fellows in each subject. The ability to live in college for 3 years also helps to build a really friendly college atmosphere between year groups.

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Transition to University

Making the transition to university can be scary and daunting for all students. For most people, it is the first time they will have lived away from home and marks the beginning of a new chapter of life. There is lots of support at Keble for those finding it difficult and this is definitely normal but do not let this put you off applying! We have a student Welfare Team made up of Welfare Officers and peer supporters, all of whom have been trained and are there to help and lend an ear. But also try and remember everyone is in the same boat which makes making friends much easier than you'd expect, and before you know it Oxford will feel like your second home.

Staying in touch with friends and family

Homesickness and being away from friends can be hard at first but definitely becomes easier as you become more settled. One of the great things about technology is that your friends and family are only a phone call or text message away, this makes staying in touch super easy. Keble also allows you to have friends and family over to visit during term time, and you are free to go home or visit friends as and when you like as long as it doesn't clash with any of your compulsory contact hours.



Fitting In

We know that a common worry when thinking about applying to University is whether or not it's a place you can see yourself fitting in. One of the amazing things about studying at Oxford is that as there is such a wide range of people from all over the World, there really is no typical Oxford student. This means no matter who you are you will find people with similar interests and backgrounds to you, but that you also get the unique opportunity to meet so many different people too. Keble itself a really big college with lots of undergrads and is such a welcoming place that no matter who you are or where you are from you will fit right into the Keble community.



Financial Support

People can often think that studying at Oxford is much more expensive than other Universities but this is definitely not the case so do not let this put you off! As we are only charged rent for the 9 weeks each term we are in Oxford, accommodation fees are generally lower. At Keble, we also do not have 'Hall Charge' like at some other colleges, all meals are pay as you go which makes budgeting a bit easier. There are also lots of different sources of funding and support available at both a college and University level.



"The financial support I've received both from Keble and the University has been amazing and meant that I haven't had to worry about finances at all during my first year." - *Busola*

"The Keble Blues Fund has helped me to achieve my goals within the sport of Modern Pentathlon. It ensures that people aren't disadvantaged when partaking in costly sports." - *Natasha*

"When I decided to pursue some research on the prospect of EU integration in Ukraine, the Keble Association granted me funds for flights, accommodation and more." - *Asa*



University Support

The University has its own system - Crankstart Scholarships and Oxford Bursaries - which you don't have to apply for, it is allocated to Home (UK) students based on the household income information you provide when you apply to your regional funding agency.

These annual bursaries are means-tested (in a range of £500-£5000). Crankstart scholars also get support for internships.

Through the University there's also targeted support for care leavers and estranged students.

The University Hardship Fund exists to help support and provide for students in unforeseen circumstances.

There is also funding available for students with Disabilities including the Disabled Students Allowance for UK students..

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support>

Keble Support

The Keble Association is a charity set up and run by former Keble students which accepts applications for study grants, travel grants, art grants and grants for internships or work experience.

The Blues Fund is a fund set up to support Keble students playing sport at a University level and helps to cover the costs of this.

The college also gives out means-tested bursaries funded by the Talbot Fund.

The Keble College Support Fund, accepts applications from all Keble students including non-Home students.

Keble JCR also has a Gender Expression fund to support its trans or gender non-conforming members.

Inside Our College

Liddon Quad

Liddon Quad is Keble's main quad and is the first place you see when you walk into college from the main entrance on Parks Rd. It is home to the original Butterfield buildings, Keble Hall - the longest in Oxford, Keble Chapel and the college Library which is open 24/7.



Hayward Quad

Hayward Quad is home to the JCR or Junior Common Room. Keble Gym and the Bar. As college is our home, the JCR is essentially like our living room with a TV Room, a Games room and a kitchen area. Keble Gym has range of cardio vascular machines and free weights. The Bar has a pool table, and a darts board and is home to Cafe Keble and the Pizza Bar.



Pusey Quad

Pusey Quad similar to Liddon is home to the original Butterfield buildings. It's home to several first and second year rooms, tutors' offices and Keble clock tower.



Newman Quad

At Keble we are really lucky to have our own theatre on site - The O'Reilly.. Newman Quad is also home to the Douglas Price Room - Keble's collaborative working space - and the Arco basement which is used for tutorials, meetings and outreach workshops.



De Breyne Quad

De Breyne is the smallest of Keble's quads. It is made up of first year rooms and tutors offices. No one really knows how it's pronounced so you will hear most Keble students refer to it as just DB!

Accommodation

Keble rooms all belong to different bands based on their characteristics: Ensuite (E), Shared bathroom (S), Regular-sized (R), Large-sized (L), Quad-facing (Q) and Street-facing (S) with the cheapest band being SRS and the most expensive being ELQ. Before your 1st year you are able to rank your preferences and are then allocated a room by college. If you have particular accommodation needs these can be considered.

In your 2nd year, you get to choose where and who you live with in college. This is done by a random "room ballot": with those at the top getting first pick of the rooms. As per a college-wide gentleman's agreement, they can reserve their own room as well as up to 5 other rooms for their friends on the same corridor.

N.B. - the bathrooms in H/DB are shared by 2 students at a time and always the same sex.



Hayward & DB



Where the majority of 1st years live.

A mixture of SRQ and SLQ rooms.

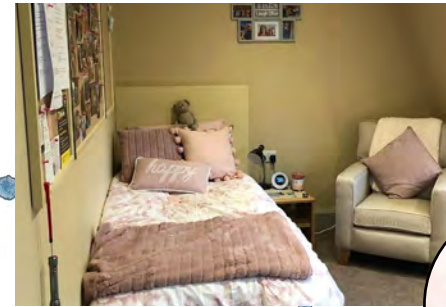
All come with a fridge, sink, lockable storage area, wardrobe, a desk for working and a long sofa across the window.

The large rooms have 2 sinks and more space to prepare and store food.

ARCO



In 3rd year, the ballot order is reversed from second year (eg. if you were last on the ballot in second year, you would get first pick in third year). Unlike the ballot for second year rooms, this one does not have a Gentleman's agreement.



Liddon & Pusey

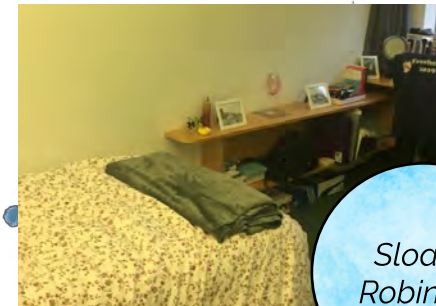


Some 1st years live here but mostly 2nd year rooms.

People generally share corridors with their friends.

A mixture of S/E, Q/S, L/R but vast majority of rooms are ensuite.

All come with a fridge, lockable storage area, wardrobe, a desk for



Sloane Robinson



The majority of 3rd years live in ARCO with access to ensuite bedrooms and shared kitchens.

You can choose to have either a 3 term or 9 month contract.

Third years can also sometimes live in Pusey and Sloane Robinson and can choose to live out.

4th years coming back from a year abroad can choose to live in or live out.

Some 1st years live here and third years can live here too.

A mixture of ERQ and ERS rooms but a few L rooms too.

All come with a fridge, desk for working and a wardrobe.

These rooms don't have lockable storage for leaving things behind between terms.



Food in Hall

You can eat in Hall at Keble every day of the week. There are always vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options in Hall, we even have Meatfree Mondays. If you have any other allergy/dietary requirements you can tell the kitchen and they will accommodate you.



Meals are served three times a day on weekdays, and twice a day on weekends with weekend Brunch being one of the more popular meals. For Breakfast you have a choice of traditional hot breakfast items; cold breakfast food such as cereals, fruits and yogurts; hot pastries or waffles; and a selection of hot and cold drinks.



For lunch, there is always a choice of sandwiches, soup, jacket potatoes with a vegetarian and meat side option, a pasta dish and a main vegetarian or meat meal option.

For dinner, there are Formal Halls and Informal Halls. Informal Halls are very similar to the options at lunch with hot meat or vegetarian options on offer, and dessert is also served.



All items are individually priced. Keble is cashless but doesn't have a Hall charge like some other colleges, everything is pay as you go. The cost of your food is charged to your Bod card (university card) and then at the end of each term you pay it off of your battels (termly bill.)

Cooking in rooms

There is a fridge in almost every room in Keble, and you are allowed to bring a kettle and a microwave. Most people generally do a mixture of eating in Hall and cooking in their rooms.



Food in Keble Cafe Keble

Cafe Keble is open daily in the week and serves paninis, baguettes, yogurts, salads, pasta boxes, chocolates, muffins as well as hot drinks, soft drinks and juices too. Cafe Keble is cashless and payment works the same way as it does in Hall.

Pizza Bar

In the evening's Cafe Keble turns into a pizza bar where you can get pizzas with whatever toppings you choose made for you. Paying for this works in the same way as paying for food in Hall.

Food out of Keble

Keble is a short walk away from many cafes, fast food restaurants, and other spots to eat. It is a five minute walk away from Cornmarket Street, which is home to a McDonald's, a Greggs, a Pret a Wasabi and other fast food restaurants. George Street is also around a five-minute walk away from Keble and is home to lots of sit down chain restaurants like Pizza Express, Byron, Franco Manca and Wetherspoons.

There is also the Covered Market in town and Jericho in North Oxford which have lots of independent places to eat, as well as the shopping centre Westgate which are all within walking distance.

A local college favourite includes the food hut Najar's - just a short walk away from Keble on St Giles which serves Lebanese food and has vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options.



Keble Social Life

Clubs and Societies

One of the great things about Keble being such a big college is that we have lots of college societies and sports teams for people to get involved with. This is a great way to make friends within college and get to know people in different year groups and is lots of fun. Some of the different clubs and societies are:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Men's Football | Drama |
| Women's Football | Keble Choir |
| Men's Rugby | Keble Music Society |
| Women's Rugby | Keble Jazz Band |
| Women's Netball | Keble A Capella |
| Badminton | Christian Union |
| Ultimate Frisbee | Keble at Large |
| Keble Boat Club | The Harris Society (Law) |
| Men's Rowing | Coxing |
| Women's Rowing | Dancesport |



Welfare Tea

The Welfare Officers host weekly Welfare Teas in the JCR which are open to everyone and are a nice way to break up your day and socialise with friends. The Welfare team also put on lots of other events throughout the term such as Wine and Cheese nights, Pints and Pizza evenings, Movie nights, Welfare walks and every 5th week of each term they put on several events daily for Welfare Week.



Keble Ball

Keble is unique in that it has a Ball every single year. Keble students can get involved and help with planning by joining the Ball Committee and the Keble community gets together for essentially a massive outdoor party (a bit like a mini festival!) Balls are lots of fun but they aren't compulsory and are definitely not essential.



BOPs

BOPs (or Big Organised Parties) are a fancy dress parties that happen several times a term with a unique theme. Expect ridiculous costumes, free drinks, and funny group pictures! There is no pressure to dress up and people can commit as much or as little as they want to, regardless it is always lots of fun.



Black Ties

Black Ties are similar to Formals in that they're 3 course meals, but unlike Formals you get to dress up for them. Usually each year there is a Subject Black Tie, but sports teams and societies can host them too. There is also Halfway Hall which is for 2nd Year students and marks them reaching the Halfway point of their degree. Black Ties are much less frequent and are just for special occasions but are lots of fun when they do happen.



Keble Arts Festival

Keble Arts Festival is the yearly arts week that occurs during Hilary term. Every year a group of students organise the festival and "the fig.", which is the magazine contributed to and edited by the students of Keble. In the past there have been events like life drawing, introduction to Tarot, and an art themed BOP.



The JCR at Keble

The JCR stands for the Junior Common Room and refers to both the physical space and the population of undergraduates at a college. Every college has its own JCR Committee which is essentially the equivalent of a school council. The JCR Committee helps with the running of college life and is structured slightly differently at each college. Anyone can run for a role on a committee and the rest of the JCR has a say on who gets elected, as well as what the committee does. Everyone can attend the weekly JCR meetings and vote on the motions put forward by members of the JCR.

These are the roles that make up our JCR Committee:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Freshers' President |
| Vice President | Stash Officer |
| Treasurer | SU Rep |
| Secretary | Speaker |
| Male Welfare Officer | IT Rep |
| Female Welfare Officer | |
| Access & Academic Affairs Officer | |
| Equal Opportunities Officer | |
| Careers & Alumni Relations Officer | |
| Environment & Ethics Officer | |
| Arts & Publications Officer | |
| Entz Team | |
| Charities Officers | |
| Drama Officer | |



While all JCR Committee positions have a role to play in college life, we thought we would tell you a bit more about our Equal Opportunities Team who work closely with the Equal Opportunities Officer as well as the rest of the committee to ensure that Keble is a truly inclusive and supportive community for all. There are several representatives (or "reps") to speak on behalf of various groups within college. There is at least one for every category that is elected each year, and their job is to essentially listen to the concerns of students, as well as to host social events within college for the groups they represent. The reps are:

LGBTQ+ Rep

Disabilities Rep

Ethnic Minorities Rep

International Rep

Social Backgrounds Rep -
(equivalent to the Class Rep at some other colleges)

Women*s Rep





Maryam

"Don't be afraid to spread your wings into a territory that may seem unfamiliar to you, whether it is in terms of race, culture, religion or any other factor. Oxford isn't as scary or unattainable of a place as it's made out to be and you shouldn't let that or anything else stop you from applying and thinking you could study here."



Yannis

"I joined Keble as someone who was openly gay, but it was only during the last two and a half years spent with my queer Keble friends that have really taught me what it means to be queer - our history, our community."



Alice

"I feel supported by the university as well as all my new friends here and I truly feel at home at Keble. Just because you can't see yourself somewhere today doesn't mean that you won't be there someday, and my advice is to push yourself to be where you want and, no matter your background, never think something is out of reach - even Oxford."

Keble Student Profiles

Shekinah

"It was refreshing to see just how easy it was to become a part of the wider uni life, outside the 'safe space' that was ACS. Playing women's rugby for the university gave me the opportunity to branch out into these different spaces and meet some genuinely incredible people. Above all, Keble itself has been a great base, and being a part of this community makes it all the more easy to contribute to the amazing access and outreach work."



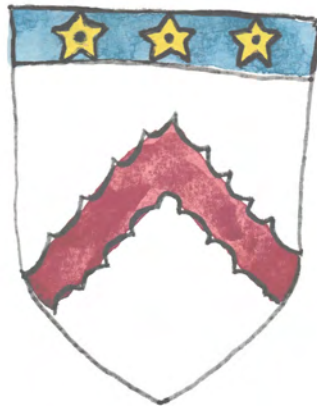
Adam

"Going to University felt like a selfish thing to do, even if that did become an easier pill to swallow when I got an offer from Oxford. Now that I'm here it's a real challenge to know there are ways I could help them if I was still at home, making the feeling of homesickness a lot harder to deal with. However, I am confident that if I needed to go home, my college would support me completely. I've had funding and financial help throughout my time here which has meant that I'm not a burden on my parents at all, making it almost as easy as it could have been."



If you want to read these profiles in full as well as others, follow @kebleatlarge on Instagram!

Thank you again for having a look at our Alternative Prospectus! We really hope you now feel like you know much more about what Keble and Oxford is like. We have attached some links to other resources we think might be helpful below.



Useful Links and Resources

<https://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/>

<http://jcr.keble.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/applying/>

<https://www.instagram.com/kebleatlarge/?hl=en>

<https://www.instagram.com/keblecollegejcr/?hl=en>

<https://www.oxfordsu.org/activities/clubs-and-societies/>

<https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/campaigns/>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access>

<https://thebrilliantclub.org>