



# HERTFORD

## ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS

EST.



1282



1282

Elias de Hertford establishes Hart Hall, a boarding house on our main site in Oxford

1549

Our oldest remaining original buildings are constructed - Old Hall and Old Library

1740

Hart Hall gains full college status and becomes the first Hertford College

1822

Magdalen Hall takes over the now bankrupt Hertford College

1874

Magdalen Hall transforms into Hertford College 2.0 and our spiral staircase and hall are built to celebrate

1907

Hertford admits Oxford's first African-American Rhodes Scholar, Alain Locke

1913

The 'Bridge of Sighs' (the one in this picture) is built, connecting the two halves of college

1974

Hertford is in the first group of five all-male colleges to admit female students

NOW

Hertford is one of the friendliest colleges, with a close-knit community of over 700 students from around the world



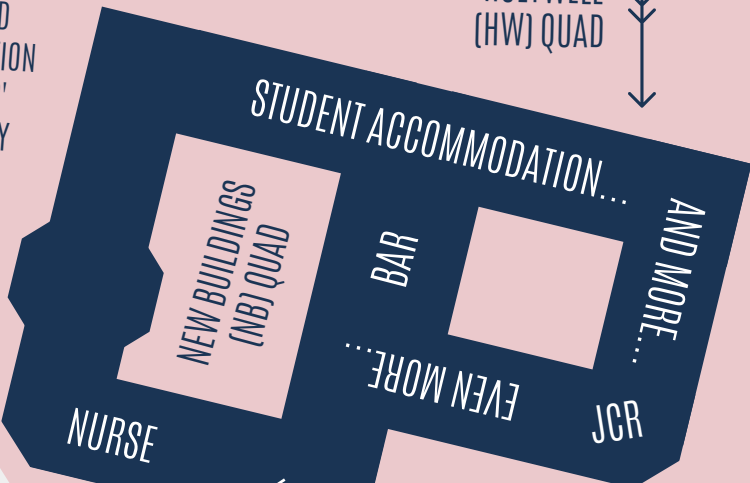


NORTH OXFORD  
ACCOMMODATION  
10-25 MINUTES'  
WALK THIS WAY

HOLYWELL  
(HW) QUAD



BODLEIAN LIBRARY  
JUST OVER HERE!



NEW COLLEGE LANE

BRIDGE

JUNIOR COMMON ROOM  
(THE PLACE TO CHILL)



START  
HERE



UP TO  
HALL

OFFICES

LODGE

OLD BUILDINGS  
(OB) QUAD

SEMINAR ROOM

CATTE STREET

LIBRARY

CHAPEL



EXAM SCHOOLS  
5 MINUTES' WALK  
THIS WAY



SOUTH OXFORD  
ACCOMMODATION  
15 MINUTES' WALK  
THIS WAY



# WELCOME

Welcome to our Alternative Prospectus!  
Produced for you by Hertford students, we hope these pages will encourage you to consider applying to Oxford and give you a flavour of what living and studying at "the friendly college with the bridge" is really like.

We hope you can see that Hertford has a home for you no matter what your background. We're still proud to have been in the first group of all-male colleges to admit women in the 1970s, and we've been encouraging applicants from under-represented backgrounds to become Hertfordians for over 50 years. Today, our diverse community prides itself on being progressive and inclusive.

Hertford really is a wonderful place to be, and we would love to have you here with us! From sport to music and economics to student politics, our college is a vibrant community of endless variety. There's far too much to say in just a few pages so do come and visit us if you can, either in person or online. We hope you enjoy reading our Alternative Prospectus as much as we enjoyed creating it!



**SIMPKIN** →  
OUR COLLEGE CAT



# ACCOMMODATION



It's really great that Hertford can provide housing for the full length of your degree. All the freshers get to live on the main college site in the centre of Oxford, with almost everything you could possibly need for Oxford life within a five minute walk.



MAIN  
COLLEGE  
ROOM

Just over the road is the main Bodleian Library with literally millions of books, and we're just a stone's throw away from beautiful buildings, uni departments, pubs, clubs, supermarkets, and loads of shops, both big and small.

All the rooms at Hertford cost the same price, but they're also all a little bit different. Whether you live in a 17th-century house, a Victorian villa or our purpose-built student halls, you'll always have a comfortable room with Wi-Fi and weekly cleaning.



After first year, students enter a random 'ballot' (sometimes with a group of friends) to decide on the order in which people get to choose their rooms, which means that the process is as fair as it can be.



The range of properties owned by college means that there are lots of different accommodation options to suit your lifestyle after first year. Down by the River Thames in South Oxford, about a 15-minute walk from college, are purpose-built halls with en-suites and shiny new shared kitchens. There's also another dining hall down here where chef Nigel and his team whip up some of the best food in Oxford.

In the opposite direction, college owns several big Victorian houses in North Oxford, all between 10 and 25 minutes' walk away from the main site. These houses have been split up into individual rooms with shared bathrooms and kitchens, so they make a great base for a group of mates. North Oxford means cute shops and pubs, the University Parks for sport and walks, and most of the science departments (making these houses even more convenient for scientists than the main college site in town!).

For your final year you'll get first pick in the ballot system, meaning that you can nab a great room in the location you like best. The Food & Housing Officer, elected by fellow students, works with college to organise the room ballot and is on hand to deal with any issues. Wherever you live in Hertford, you're sure to have a community of other students on your doorstep.



NORTH OXFORD SHARED HOUSE



# EATING AT HERTFORD

← **ACCORDING TO ALEX**  
HISTORY STUDENT



Hertford's main-site dining hall offers three meals a day during the week and brunch at the weekend. If you're living in our South Oxford accommodation, there's a second dining room at Warnock House which also hosts amazing pop-ups called Gulliver's, featuring everything from burgers and jerk chicken to Greek wraps and bao buns (Jonathan Swift, who wrote the novel 'Gulliver's Travels', was a student at Hertford back in the day).

Our Head Chef Frankie, and Nigel in South Oxford, cook fantastic food and can cater to loads of dietary requirements. There's always a veggie or vegan option, as well as a meat one, at both lunch and dinner. You can have a big hot meal at lunch if you like, or just a sandwich or baked potato if you're not as hungry or trying to minimise costs.

For the full "Oxford" experience, Hertford hosts two formal dining nights a week, one midweek and one on Sunday. This is where the amazing food comes out (check out the plates at the top of the page), and for three courses it's normally less than £10.

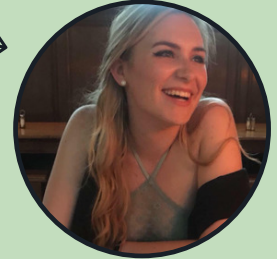
You can bring up to three guests to formals which means that they're a great place to celebrate special occasions. As well the normal formals twice a week, there are loads of special events throughout the year. Hall pushes the boat out for our termly guest nights, Halfway Hall (for second-years halfway through their degrees), Christmas and loads of other 'feasts', whether it's Diwali or Thanksgiving.

All the food you eat in college is paid for termly - you scan your student card each time you eat in Hall, Warnock or Gulliver's so there's no upfront payment, and you only ever pay for the meals you eat. There's no compulsory catering charge so you can eat when and where you want. There are a few basic kitchens on the main site for self-catering and more in North and South Oxford but eating together is a great experience. For more food pics, take a look at [@hertford.college.kitchen](https://www.instagram.com/hertford.college.kitchen) on Instagram!



# FINANCE

BY ZOË   
ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT  
STUDENT



The financial burdens of university can seem quite daunting, but both Hertford and the University are committed to ensuring that studying in Oxford is financially accessible to all. Two big things that help ease these pressures are Hertford's affordable food in hall and the subsidised rent for accommodation. The best thing about having college accommodation throughout your degree is that you don't have to negotiate the private rental market and you only pay for the time you live there in term (about 6 months of the year), as opposed to an expensive year-long lease.

As well as the bursaries that are available from the central University, Hertford students can benefit from generous college support funds. These include the Hertford Bursary, automatically awarded to students from lower-income families, and the Student Support Fund which provides emergency assistance if you're facing unexpected financial hardship.

As well as this, we can also apply to loads of college travel and research funds, designed to support students undertaking academic projects - maybe you want to go abroad in the summer to do some research for your dissertation or take part in some fieldwork. These funds mean that Hertford students have amazing opportunities to participate in specific projects or activities that they might otherwise be unable to do because of financial constraints.

There are several employment opportunities within college that are designed to allow students to earn some extra income without affecting their studies. These include working behind the college bar or in the library during term time, as well as working on Open Days or our English Language Summer Schools during the vacations.

CHECK THE  
LATEST FIGURES AT  
[WWW.HERTFORD.OX.AC.UK/FINANCE](http://WWW.HERTFORD.OX.AC.UK/FINANCE)





WE HAVE AN ON-SITE GYM!



# SPORT

We have a great big sporting community at Hertford, so it's a really great way to meet new friends and have fun. All our college sports are incredibly inclusive - players of any ability, gender or background can be involved in whatever they like. Whether you play regularly to a high standard, fancy picking up a new hobby, or just need someone to motivate you to put your trainers on, Hertford is the place to be!

Our on-site gym is a great facility for all Hertford students to use. It's equipped with treadmills, bikes, fly machines, rowing machines and a comprehensive free weights section with squat and bench racks. Having the gym on the main site makes it easy to fit exercise around the hectic schedule many students have (and did we mention it's completely free?). It's a friendly and relaxed space and a great bonus that not many colleges are lucky enough to have.

There's also a thriving social scene to get involved with, while supporters and cheerleaders are always welcome on the sidelines. We have teams for badminton, basketball, cricket, darts, football, hockey, lacrosse, netball, rounders, rowing, rugby, squash, tennis and ultimate frisbee, to name a few!

# MUSIC MAKES HERTFORD GO ROUND!



Hertford is one of the most musical colleges in Oxford - we have the largest college music society in the University, an utterly fantastic non-auditioning Chapel Choir, and regular lunchtime recitals, all of which means that there's a lot to get involved in outside of a music degree!

The Hertford College Music Society (HCMS) creates lots of musical opportunities for everyone: all of our ensembles are conducted by students and the HCMS committee is led by students too. If you'd like to try running your own ensemble or just want to take part, then Hertford offers a fun and welcoming space to do just that.



As well as this, there are plenty of social events and dinners throughout the year, which are always a lot of fun and a great chance to meet new people from different years and different subjects. In Freshers' Week, we throw a jazz and cocktails night in the hall and it's a lovely evening where you get to dress up, drink a few cocktails and listen to great music.



Our Chapel Choir rehearse twice a week and perform every Sunday (then enjoy a free dinner in hall!). The Wind Band, Jazz Band and Orchestra perform throughout the year and every term perform in a public celebration concert at the beautiful University Church, just around the corner in Radcliffe Square.



# MORE SOCIETIES



## POLITICS & ECONOMICS SOCIETY

We discuss and debate everything political, economic and most stuff in between. We also host a number of exciting events every year, from A-list political speakers like Ed Balls (check out the picture on the left!) and Mervyn King, to round-table discussions and dynamic debates with alumni at the top of their fields.



## HERTFORD FOR THE HOMELESS

We're a student-run action group which pools the college's resources to provide short term aid to the homeless community in Oxford as well as supporting larger organisations focused on rehabilitation with funding and volunteers. In sub-zero temperatures we have distributed refillable hot water bottles and warm clothes, as well as hosting a Ceilidh in college to raise money for local initiatives and rehabilitation centres.



## ALL-INNOVATE IDEA COMPETITION

We were one of the founding colleges of the All-Innovate competition, where you pitch your entrepreneurial idea to a panel of judges. There are huge cash prizes up for grabs as well as a mentoring boot-camp and the chance to perfect your pitching and presentation skills.



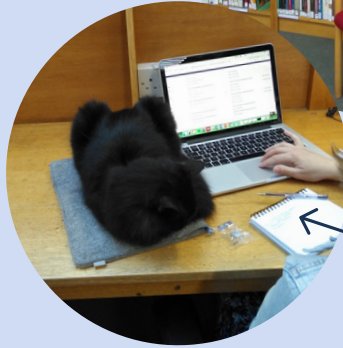
## ←← SIMPKIN MAGAZINE

Simpkin is Hertford's termly comedy magazine, written by students and covering the more memorable events and mishaps of the term in a satirical way. It's normally published in the last week of term and always features our college cat as the cover star!

# LIBRARY & RESOURCES

Our college library is a pretty central part of Hertford life - open 24/7, you'll always find someone there, whether they're preparing an essay, brushing up their study skills, doing some revision, or just looking for the cat! Every Oxford college has a library for its students, with most of your core texts available to borrow, and Hertford is no different. There's over 50,000 books in our modern lending collection (with another 5,000 rare and historic books) and our wonderful Librarian, Alice, is always willing to buy new books if they're on your reading list. Whilst any student can access the University's central Bodleian Library (just over the road from Hertford) and faculty libraries, it's great to have the college library as a base. Our's is friendly, relaxed, and super handy if you live on the main site.

The extensive and ever-expanding collections of the college library and the Bodleian mean that you're unlikely to have to spend loads of money on textbooks (which are surprisingly expensive)! The fact that our library is open 24/7 and has self-service borrowing with no limits makes it amazingly convenient - you can borrow and return books whenever you like and work there for as long as you need... just as long as you can make Simpkin move off your laptop! (If all else fails, head downstairs to the library computer room for emergency PCs and printers).



← SIMPKIN  
STRIKES AGAIN



OPEN  
24/7



# A DAY IN THE LIFE

09:00

Wake up and have a final read/edit of my essay that's due in two hours! I could really have finished it last night but I went for a run instead, and hung out with some pals.

10:45

Realise that it's nearly my deadline but I just have one more paragraph, so I drink more coffee and tyyppeee...



**MIRANDA**  
ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT STUDENT



11:00

Having now finished my essay, I need to do some research on a charity I'm doing some consulting work for. I also start reading for my next quantitative economics problem set.

13:00

Have lunch in hall - I love a good jacket potato and they're super cheap but the curries can tempt me too! I bump into almost the entire college and chat to people about my weekend plans.

14:00

The all important coffee date with some friends.  
Flat white is love. Flat white is life!

15:00

Sit under the sun in the quad while reading some documents about the charity. Feel productive and benevolent, but also overwhelmed at the fact that my recommendations have an impact on the work they do.

17:00

Realise I should probably do some actual degree work too, and switch to reading my quantitative economics lectures before grabbing a burrito for dinner (they are just so delicious)!

20:00

Do some more reading after dinner then pop 'down the bar' (DTB) with some friends to buy some relatively cheap drinks and have a good chat.

23:00

Head back to Warnock House (accommodation in South Oxford) and go straight to bed, ready for a productive day tomorrow!

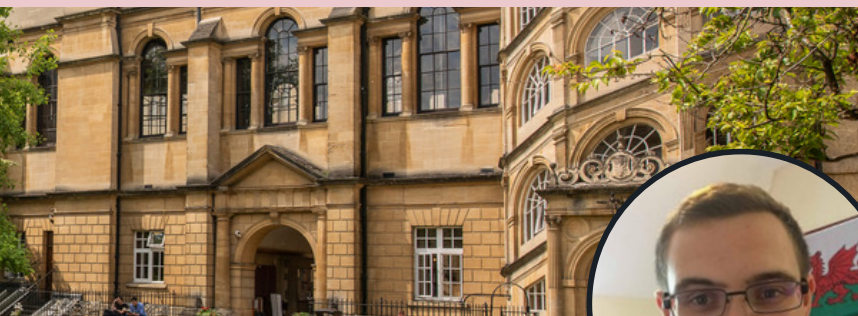
# A DAY IN THE LIFE

Alarm goes off - snooze as appropriate! Have breakfast and make some coffee. Vow to wake up earlier tomorrow morning in order to drink the coffee rather than inhale it.

07:30

Arrive at the Chemistry Department. I generally have two or three morning lectures a day, then have two days of labs per week which are very enjoyable and social – lab groups are a mix of students from different colleges, so are a great way to meet other students on your course. At Oxford we're super lucky to have some fantastic equipment which is exclusively for day-to-day undergraduate use.

09:00



JOE  
CHEMISTRY STUDENT

Grab some lunch on the way back to college then head to the library to start work on my tutorial problem sheet.

12:30

Tutorial in college. These are really conversational, which means they're a great way to clarify anything you don't understand from lectures and reading.

14:00

Head home to make a start on writing up this week's lab reports, which I'll do in my room rather than the library.

16:00

Cook dinner in the kitchen down the corridor. Sometimes I'll go to formal hall in college with the Welsh Society.

19:00

If it's a busy week I'll do some more work, but other times I'll meet friends for coffee or a pint in the pub.

20:30

If I'm working I'll usually stop by now and I might go for a run. Then it's a comedy on Netflix or some interesting Chemistry reading before bed (just for fun, not for work!)

22:00

Time for bed now and back to the Chemistry Department in the morning!

23:45

# JCR

'JUNIOR COMMON ROOM'



# DTB

'DOWN THE BAR'

Our JCR is two things: a place to relax in Holywell Quad (complete with kitchen, pool table, sofas, vending machines and games consoles) and a collective term for all undergraduate students at Hertford.

The physical room provides a chilled-out alternative to the library and, as it's right at the heart of the freshers' accommodation, is a great place to meet people and hang out with friends. There are a whole range of fun events held in the JCR throughout the year, from regular Wellbeing Teas to special Hart Fest arts events (read more about both of these things in the pages that follow!).

As a student body, the JCR meets regularly to canvass and then represent student interests on pretty much every aspect of college life, from sport and food to housing and laundry. The JCR is also part of Oxford SU, the University's Students' Union, which engages more directly with departments and the central University administration on everything from exams and academic affairs to outreach, equality and representation.

No one really knows why we call our college bar DTB, but it's in the basement of New Buildings Quad so if you want to visit you literally have to go "down the bar".

It's a characterful underground cavern, boasting five distinct rooms to suit any occasion - a particular highlight is the room decorated with "permanently borrowed" street signs from around Oxford.

We have a darts board (and a champion darts team to go with it), a football table and a games machine, so the bar is a great hub for socialising. Whether you're there for a quiet drink with pals or a big night out, there's always a great atmosphere.

Drinks DTB are a lot cheaper than the local pubs and bars (though there's lots of those nearby too). The special thing about our bar is the wide range of events that happen there, getting the whole college involved whether or not they're there to drink. We've got charity 'pub' quizzes, open mic nights for music and comedy, and parties a plenty, so head on DTB.





# ENTZ

{ THAT'S SHORT FOR ENTERTAINMENT }

From Open Mic Nights to quizzes and fancy dress, our 'entz' reps work tirelessly to organise a huge range of events (both alcoholic and not).

Their main job is to organise our college bops. "What's a bop?" - we like to think it stands for 'Big Organised Party', which is exactly what it is! We hire out a club in Oxford just for Hertford (even the DJs are our students) and give out prizes for the best fancy dress - some of our recent themes have been 'where you live', 'what you want to be when you're older', Disney and 'Greece vs Grease'!

We might have lots of work to do, but Oxford students definitely enjoy a good night out, whether that's a party or a board game session. There's never any pressure to go out if you don't want to, and you'll always find someone in college who shares your interests.



**BOP**  
= BIG ORGANISED PARTY?



## HART FEST

Hertford's very own student arts festival takes place every year during the summer term. This three-day event is packed with cool activities, performances and artsy workshops. Recently we've had open-air cinema, a comedy night, college play, DJ workshop, jazz on the quad and even a Jackson Pollock-inspired painting session! There are always new events at Hart Fest so it really is a highlight of the year.





# EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

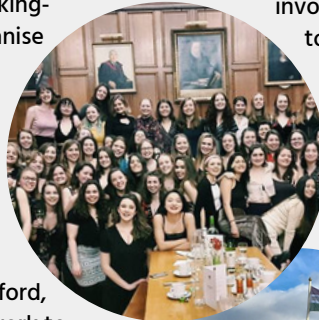


**FENELLA  
& EDDIE**  
ENGLISH / HISTORY  
AND SPANISH STUDENTS

Hertford is committed to celebrating all of its students' diverse backgrounds and identities. As one of the first colleges to become co-educational in the 1970s, and the first college to admit a black Rhodes Scholar, we pride ourselves on continuing the fight for more representative student body. Whatever your background, you will feel represented, accepted, and proud here. Every year we elect a new committee of student reps, headed by the Equal Opportunities President. These reps (for students who identify as BME, working-class, disabled, LGBT+ or women\*) organise events for everyone, help you with any worries you might have, and make sure to always be friendly faces in college.

The Equal Opportunities Committee work together to run college Equalities Week halfway through the spring term. This is a celebration of diversity at Hertford, but also a way to look at how we can work to be a more inclusive environment for everyone. Hertford is also lucky to have a Tutor for Equality & Diversity who's there to make sure college is supportive and inclusive.

Back in the 1960s, Hertford pioneered access to Oxford for students from state schools and colleges. This work continues today, ensuring that Hertford is a welcoming and accessible place for those from under-represented backgrounds. Our Student Ambassadors play a huge role, speaking to school groups and giving college tours, and helping with Open Days and interviews. It's a great way to get involved with the college, get to know other years, and feel like you're doing some good.



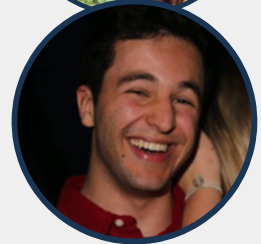
Hertford has quite a small main site, making it easy to get to know lots of people. It's virtually impossible to spend time in college and not bump into a friendly face - we're famous for our fun, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Here, students' wellbeing is important to everyone. College has a great wellbeing system to help with any issues you may have at university, whatever they're about.

The wellbeing team maintains a high profile in college, so students know that if problems arise, or if they're just feeling a little blue, there are people around who are very happy to chat. We've got a professional Welfare & Wellbeing Coordinator, trained Peer Supporters, an on-site Nurse, the Chaplain, four Junior Deans (grad students on call 24/7) and student Welfare Officers, elected by their fellow students.

The Welfare Officers raid the supermarket to buy snacks for Wellbeing Teas, where everyone can come and eat food, drink tea and have a catch-up in the JCR! They also give out free welfare supplies and occasionally organise speaker events. Ultimately, the most important part of the role, as peer supporters, is to be there to listen and help with any social, academic, financial or health problems you may have (oh, and obviously to make a world class cup of tea).

## KEZ & AHMED

HUMAN SCIENCES / MEDICINE STUDENTS



## REVD MIA SMITH

CHAPLAIN

As Chaplain, I'm part of our big, wonderful wellbeing team, which offers 24/7 support to the Hertford community. We want nothing to get in the way of you being and doing your best during your time with us, so I'm available for confidential chats (often with cake on the side!) about life, relationships, work, stress, faith, or anything else.

I am also an Anglican priest and, with an enthusiastic student team, I lead services in the Chapel. The choir sing traditional Choral Evensong every Sunday in term, and lots more too!

We never lock the Chapel, so it's a great place to come and sit quietly, read a book, pray, or practise music with a wonderful acoustic. Our events and services are open and welcoming to people of all faiths and none. Working together, we make sure that the needs of students of different faiths are met — from food and festivals, to finding places of worship and religious consultations; the University's Hindu and Jewish chaplains have recently spoken in Chapel.

# KEEP IN TOUCH

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[@HERTFORDCOLLEGE](https://twitter.com/HERTFORDCOLLEGE)

