

Glossary of Oxford terms

Terms of the academic year – Michaelmas Term, Hilary Term, Trinity term each with 8 weeks of teaching and a settling in week at the beginning of your stay. This orientation week is known as 'noughth week' with the subsequent ones known as 'first week', 'second week' and so on.

Collegiate University – The University of Oxford, comprising the academic divisions and departments; University Administration and Services (UAS); Gardens, Libraries & Museums (GLAM); and the 38 Oxford colleges and permanent private halls.

JCR - The 'Junior Common Room' is the hub of undergraduate social activity; also a physical location in a college for student recreation.

MCR – The 'Middle Common Room', a 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. You'll be members of both the JCR and MCR.

Porters' Lodge – The reception area in every college.

Pidge – Your mail box in the Lodge. You can also send free 'pigeon post' letters via the Lodge to members of other colleges.

Bursary – The financial office in the college.

Battels – Your termly college bill for domestic spending (e.g. food and accommodation).

Fellows - In colleges, the senior members of college who, together with the college head, constitute the governing body of the college. They usually also teach undergraduates.

Tutor - Someone who teaches students on an individual basis or in pairs. They may be a Fellow, Junior Research Fellow, or a graduate. They act as both a teacher and an academic guide.

Dean – The college fellow with oversight of student welfare and wellbeing provision.

Principal – The head of Hertford College. Other colleges use the same or different terms for the 'Head of House', including President, Master, Provost, Warden and Rector.

College Family – The Oxford "buddy" system. You are allocated college "parents" who are there to help and give advice during your time in Oxford. They will usually be Oxford undergraduates.

Fresher – A first-year student.

The Bod – The Bodleian Library. The largest of the University's many libraries, which together form The Bodleian Libraries and can be searched at <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. It is named after its founder Sir Thomas Bodley.

Bod Card – Short for 'Bodleian Card'. Your university identity card that you should carry with you at all times. It is required for access to University libraries and many department buildings, as well as to borrow library books and pay for food in Hall.

Formal/Formal Hall - A traditional meal held in college. Depending on the college, formal attire and/or gowns may be worn, and guests from outside the college may be invited. The head of the college, fellows and guests dine at High Table during Formals.