

**DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**OXFORD SUMMER PROGRAM**

**GUIDE FOR STUDENTS**

**SUMMER 2010**

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## INTRODUCTION

### ADDRESSES and TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All inquiries concerning the program should be addressed to:

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E-mail: [amoswald@smu.edu](mailto:amoswald@smu.edu)

The address at the College is:

SMU Law Programme in Oxford  
University College  
Oxford OX1 4BH  
ENGLAND

The telephone number of the University College Porter's Lodge is 011-44-1865-276-602, and within the UK, it is 01865-276-602. Only emergency messages can be left at this number but the Lodge will forward telephone calls to your room number.

Before you leave Dallas, you should give Ms. Oswald the name of a person in the United States whom we can contact in case of emergency. You should give this 'contact person' these addresses and Ms. Oswald's telephone number and e-mail address.

## I. PLANNING YOUR TRIP

### Air Travel

**Book your flight to England as early as possible.** The fares **increase** the closer it gets to departure and flights sell out, making it difficult to find an affordable flight when you have time restrictions. Check out various search engines for the best deals. Flying into Heathrow or Gatwick will work equally well although direct flights from Dallas on American Airlines and British Airways now fly into Heathrow.

### Documentation

A valid passport is required for entry into the United Kingdom. **If you already have a passport, be sure that it is valid, and will remain valid, for the length of your stay abroad and for three months after your return date.** The United Kingdom has recently revised its visa rules for foreign students. SMU has concluded that these rules do not require you to obtain a visa.

**Before you leave the United States, you will be given an “official” letter indicating that you are enrolled in the SMU program. Keep this letter with you whenever you travel.** You should have this letter available when you first go through UK immigration. You should also take the letter with you if you travel outside the UK during the program. UK immigration authorities can be very persnickety, especially in this period of security alerts and concerns about immigrants.

You should bring with you to Oxford a photocopy of the photo/information page of your passport and a list of your driver’s license number, the numbers of any credit or ATM card, and the details of any other identification card that you will have with you when outside the United States. Be sure to include the telephone numbers you must use to report lost or stolen cards.

Leave with your contact person a copy of all the same information.

A valid driver’s license issued in the United States entitles visitors to drive in the United Kingdom. If you plan to rent a car elsewhere in Europe, you should consult the rental car company ahead of time as to what documentation you will need. An International Driver’s License will not normally be required.

### Insurance

Before you leave for Oxford, you will be enrolled in the SMU Travel Abroad insurance program. The premium for this insurance is included in the program fee. When you receive a confirmation e-mail from the insurance provider, HTH, you should print your

insurance card. Be sure to take it with you. Also, it would be a good idea to review your own or your family's insurance policy to see if it covers medical expenses in case of sickness or an accident abroad.

### **Medical Prescriptions**

Be sure to bring with you any prescriptions for any special medications you might need refilled. If you wear glasses, you should consider bringing an extra pair and a copy of your prescription. Contact lens solutions are readily available.

### **Money**

You should bring with you one or more credit cards and an ATM card. **Before you travel you should check with your bank as to whether you will be able to use your cards outside the United States and, if so, what the fees are.**

Almost all stores and restaurants accept credit cards. VISA and MasterCard are the most generally accepted cards in England, while American Express is less accepted. You can use your ATM card in most ATM machines outside the United States. Using the card is by far the most convenient way to get cash, and you usually are given a favorable exchange rate. There are numerous ATMs scattered throughout Oxford. Most ATMs maintained by English banks do not charge a fee for withdrawals. Traveler's checks are rarely used anymore.

When you travel to the U.K. you should bring some pounds sterling with you or buy some at the airport either on leaving the U.S. or arriving in the U.K. **The bus trip from the airport to Oxford requires payment in cash.** U.S. dollars can be readily exchanged at many banks and exchange bureaux so you might consider bringing enough to cover initial expenses and short-term emergencies. (JP Morgan/Chase has an international exchange counter in the Downtown Dallas branch and will validate parking. There is also an American Express office that provides exchange services at 8317 Preston Center Plaza, (214) 363-0214.) You may want to join with several other participants to exchange a larger amount that can be divided among you.

Be very careful to guard against having your wallet or purse stolen. Do not keep all money in one place. Never leave your purse or wallet unattended even for a moment.

### **Photographs**

You have been asked to provide the law school with one passport-size photograph to be used to obtain your Bodleian library card. You may want to bring several with you in case you need to use them to obtain identification cards, such as an international student card or travel discount card.

## Telephones

Each student room comes equipped with a telephone. You can purchase telephone cards from the Porter's Lodge to make outside calls directly. (Only telephone cards purchased from the Lodge work on the university telephone system so do not buy telephone cards from elsewhere unless you plan to use a public telephone.) People will be able to call you directly without going through the lodge. You will be told how to make and receive calls when you check in to your room.

Oxford is six hours ahead of Dallas time. The country code for the United Kingdom is 44. The city code for Oxford is 1865.

Telephone numbers within the U.K. are listed with an initial "0". When calling within the UK, you must dial this zero. However, when calling from the U.S. or Europe, you do not dial the zero in front of the city code. Thus, when calling from the U.S. to London dial 011-44-207 + the number.

British rates for overseas calls are generally much higher than those charged in the United States for international calls. When calling from a public telephone, phone cards are the best deal for calls to the U.S. They may be purchased at the Lodge. (The porters sell 50 units for ^5 each) or from most news agents.

You can also call through to an American operator and be billed at U.S. rates: AT&T- 0800-89-0011; MCI- 0800-89-0222; Sprint- 0800-89-0877.

If you bring your laptop, you should consider using Skype or other computer-based Internet telephone services. You can, for example, download from the internet the free Skype program. When you have access to the internet you can then communicate for free with other persons who use Skype on their computers or 'dial' a regular telephone number in the US for a nominal charge (e.g., 2.1 cents per minute for calls to landlines from the UK to the US; calls to cell phones are 25 cents per minute). If your computer does not have a built-in microphone and speakers, you may also have to invest in an inexpensive set of headphones.

If you bring a cell phone, you should make sure your phone will work in the UK. You should also check with your service provider about the rates not only for making calls but also for receiving them. Alternatively, if you surf the web, you will find companies that will rent you a cell phone for the summer. The rates are not cheap but they are designed for travel abroad.

You may want to consider having your cell phone "unlocked" and buying a SIM card to make local calls in England. This may be done at several stores in Oxford—including one directly across from University College. (SIM cards provide a local number in the

country where they are purchased. If you purchase a SIM card in England, it will work outside of England, but the minutes will be used much faster.) Alternatively, you might consider renting or purchasing a cell phone (called a “mobile” in the U.K.) for use in England and Europe. Some services allow you to purchase minutes as you need them. Make sure you purchase minutes compatible with your SIM card!

### **Computers**

University College provides the program with computers and printers in the program’s Common Room. Most participants, however, bring their laptops and use the high-speed internet connection available in each student room. You must balance the convenience of having it with the extra weight and the risk that it will be stolen or damaged. Note that you will not be able to use the computer to take your examinations.

If you do bring your computer, you should make sure that the internal adapter will work on a current of 240 volts. On most notebook computers and portable printers, the adapter will take on either 120 or 240 volts; you should double check with the manufacturers.

Printers are inexpensive. You may wish to pool together with several colleagues to buy a printer in Oxford.

### **Mail**

Mail takes about a week from the United States. Mail addressed to you at University College will be placed in a box marked SMU Law in the room opposite the Porter’s Lodge near the entrance to University College. Be sure to check the box frequently for mail.

The main Post Office in Oxford is at 102-104 St. Aldates.

## II. PACKING<sup>1</sup>

### Luggage

The first thing to keep in mind is **to pack as lightly as possible**. There will be two occasions (arriving and leaving) when you will have to carry your luggage. Check with the airlines to determine luggage size and weight restrictions. Rolling luggage or a set of luggage wheels is a wise investment. Keep in mind, too, that most travelers bring back more than they take, so be sure to leave some room for expansion.

### Clothing

We used to say that “summer temperatures in England usually do not rise above 75° F and it can rain frequently.” The last couple of summers, however, have been relatively hot and all we should now say is that the weather is very unpredictable. Remember that you can buy almost anything in England that you could buy in the United States so you should balance the weight of your bags with packing things you really like to wear.

A key point to bear in mind is that there is no interior heating or cooling in Oxford. When it is 50° outside, it can be 50° inside. Equally, when it is warm outside, it will be warm inside. You will need to dress accordingly.

For the most part, clothing can be casual and comfortable. Jeans and slacks are quite acceptable for most daytime activities. The High Table meals at University College, visit to the Court, and evening activities of one kind or another require business attire. It is imperative to bring dressier clothes for these occasions.

The following notes are taken, without amendment, from previous versions of this Guide.

### Selecting a Wardrobe

Bring only easy-care garments. Leave the cotton shirts and blouses at home.

Bring clothes that blend together. That way you can wear anything in your suitcase with anything else.

Dress in layers. Bring light clothes for day wear. Add a sweater to that for mornings and evenings. If it is really cold, plan to put a coat on top of that.

Bring separates. A couple of skirts and blouses give you four outfits. Add two sweaters and a couple of simple accessories, and you have 16 outfits. The same goes for the men.

Bring clothes that can serve multiple purposes. Avoid clothes that can only be worn on

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<sup>1</sup> This Section of the Guide has been taken from the 2005 Guide, which in turn was taken from such sources as the Guide for undergraduate SMU students. Use the advice with discretion.

one occasion. For instance, bring shirts that can be worn casually or with a tie.

A good pair of comfortable walking shoes is absolutely essential. You will probably do more walking in England than you have ever done before and in all kinds of circumstances—in the rain, across meadows, alongside streams, through art galleries and museums. Think more about your shoes than any other item of clothing. Bring a pair of solid shoes or boots for wet weather.

Buy some clothes in Oxford. Most students spend about \$50 buying an Oxford sweatshirt or an Oxford rugby shirt. Be sure to leave room in your suitcases for purchases!

### **Women and Men**

- Warm coat or jacket.
- A lightweight raincoat is probably an essential. Many bring a proper raincoat for warmth in place of a jacket.
- One light and one heavier sweater. Most mornings are cool enough to need a sweater. You might want to be sure that at least one sweater or the jacket can be worn with one of your outfits for dressy outdoor receptions should the weather turn chilly.
- One pair of dress shoes is usually sufficient, but you may like to have a change of shoes. A pair of slippers that can be worn in all weather to and from the bathroom.
- Walking shorts are excellent for day wear if the weather becomes warm.

### **Women**

- Several skirts.
- Five or six shirts or blouses that can be worn during the day and for dinner in hall.
- A few dresses or a dressy slacks outfit. A suit will be appropriate for formal occasions.
- Jeans or slacks for day wear.

### **Men**

- Several pairs of pants. Jeans or khakis are okay for day wear, but you may also want a pair of good slacks.
- Five or six shirts.
- A suit and one or more ties for dinner, receptions and High Table.
- A jacket, such as a blue blazer.

### **Electrical Appliances**

Electric current in Britain is rated at 240 volts while the US standard is 110 volts. The wall plugs are also three-pronged. If you bring an electric appliance or a computer, you

should purchase plug adapters in the US to make sure you have them readily available. You should buy things like hairdryers and alarm clocks in England. Prior participants have left a certain number of hairdryers and these will be made available when you arrive.

### **Other Things to Bring**

You can buy almost anything in London and many things in Oxford. As a general rule, though, you will find that the same item will cost more in the UK than in the US. The following is a checklist of general items which you might consider bringing with you:

- A pair of sunglasses.
- A collapsible umbrella.
- A travel alarm clock.
- A bathrobe.
- A pair of flip-flops for the shower.
- A laundry bag.
- An extra towel. While towels are provided, their regular changing can be chancy, and the towel can be smallish, from anyone=s perspective, or thin, again, from anyone=s perspective. Bring a towel of a color, not a white one which may be too easily confused with the white towels owned by the College, to avoid commingling (and loss) of your towel.
- Earplugs or headphones. The windows, and walls, are thin, and you will probably keep yours open most of the time anyway to have fresh air in your room. There are not infrequent tour groups walking by the dorm, students yelling to their friends on the third story, etc., and earplugs or headphones can be a blessing when you=re trying to sleep or study.
- Athletic shoes and workout gear. There is a wonderful jogging path around Christ Church Meadow, and there are several gyms that you can use for a fee.
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses (or lots of soft lenses).
- A portable radio or Walkman. The BBC offers an interesting contrast to U.S. radio programs!
- A camera and plenty of film/memory cards. Film/memory cards are more expensive in England but processing is cheaper than in the US. If you have a new camera, be sure to test it before you leave home.
- A supply of your favorite toiletries.
- A supply of aspirin, antacid, your usual allergy medication and cold medicine. It is nice to have the well-known remedies handy if you are not feeling well.

### III. ARRIVING IN OXFORD

You should plan to arrive at University College by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 6.<sup>2</sup> The following information covers getting from the airport to Oxford directly or through London. You will be able to print out routes, timetables, fares and maps for virtually all the routes suggested below by using your favorite search engine on the internet before leaving the United States.

Wherever you arrive in England, you will find Information or Tourist offices that can provide information. Sign posting is relatively straight forward and helpful although terminology may be confusing at first. Don't worry, though. Most persons selling tickets will understand you if you use an Americanism. And remember that you can always ask for directions: the natives speak English and are relatively friendly.

#### FROM THE AIRPORT TO OXFORD

If you are coming to England directly from the United States, you will probably arrive by air at either Heathrow or Gatwick airports. The best way to travel to Oxford from the airports is by coach (public bus). Take the Airline X70 (from Heathrow) or the Airline X80 (from Gatwick). See <http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/> and follow the link to "the *airline*" on the right hand side of the page.

##### - From Heathrow (American Airlines)

**Arrival; immigration; customs.** If you fly American Airlines (or other U.S. carrier), you will arrive at Terminal 3. When you get off the plane you will walk miles until you get to Immigration, where your passport will be checked. You will then go downstairs one floor where you will pick up your bags and go through Customs into the Arrival Hall.

**Central Bus Station.** When you emerge into the Arrival Hall follow the signs to the Central Bus Station. This requires you to go down one level and walk miles along tunnels until opposite the Underground station you will see some elevators ('lifts') to take you up to the hall of the Central Bus Station at ground level. Do not buy your ticket at the counters in the hall because you will buy the ticket from the bus driver.

**The Oxford bus.** The buses leave from outside the hall of the Central Bus Station. Airline X70 leaves from bay ('stand') 14A. Buses leave every 30 minutes. The bus will stop at Terminal 5 before going on to Oxford. The trip to Oxford takes approximately 1 hour 40 minutes.

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<sup>2</sup> Your room in University College will not be available until Tuesday, July 6. If you do arrive in Oxford before Tuesday, you will have to make your own arrangements. Former students suggest you go to the tourist office on Broad Street, where the office will find you a place within your price range. You could probably get a better hotel at an equivalent price if you meet a fellow student in Oxford and share a room.

**Buying your ticket.** Buy your ticket from the bus driver. Tell the driver that you want to get off at the High Street/Queen's Lane stop. The driver will take cash; he or she will not take U.S. dollars or credit cards. As of May 2010, the fare for a 'single' (i.e., one-way) ticket from Heathrow is £20. Consider buying a 'period return' at £25; this allows you to return to the airport from Oxford anytime within three months.<sup>3</sup>

**Arriving in Oxford.** The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen's Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver's announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.

When you get off at the High Street/Queen's lane stop you should walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter's Lodge is inside the door.

- **From Heathrow (British Airways)**

**Arrival; immigration; customs.** If you fly British Airways you will arrive at Terminal 5, a new terminal. When you get off the plane you will walk miles until you get to Immigration, where your passport will be checked. You will then be directed to where you will pick up your bags and go through Customs. When you emerge from Customs you should take an elevator ('lift') to the bottom of the building where signs direct you to where the buses leave.

**The Oxford bus.** The Oxford bus, Airline X70, leaves from bay ('stand') 11. The bus comes from the Central Bus Station at Heathrow and goes directly to Oxford from Terminal 5. Buses leave every 30 minutes on the hour and half-hour (and sometimes more frequently). The trip to Oxford takes approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

**Buying your ticket.** Buy your ticket from the bus driver. Tell the driver that you want to get off at the High Street/Queen's Lane stop. The driver will take cash; he or she will not take U.S. dollars or credit cards. As of May 2010, the fare for a 'single' (i.e., one-way) ticket from Heathrow is £20. Consider buying a 'period return' at £25; this allows you to return to the airport from Oxford anytime within three months.

**Arriving in Oxford.** The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen's Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver's announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in

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<sup>3</sup> If you are travelling in a group of at least four you may want to consider a "group return." This is a period return for £60 (i.e., £15 each). The disadvantage is that you must travel as a group both ways.

Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.

When you get off at the High Street/Queen's lane stop you should walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter's Lodge is inside the door.

#### - **From Gatwick**

**Arrival; immigration; customs.** If you fly into Gatwick you will arrive at the North Terminal. When you get off the plane you will walk miles until you get to Immigration, where your passport will be checked. You will then go down a level to where you will pick up your bags and go through Customs. When you emerge from Customs, you should follow the signs to the buses.

**The Oxford bus.** The Oxford bus, Airline X70, leaves from bay ('stand') 4 outside the arrival hall. Buses leave every hour at 20 minutes after the hour. The trip to Oxford takes between 2 and 2 ½ hours.

**Buying your ticket.** Buy your ticket from the bus driver. Tell the driver that you want to get off at the High Street/Queen's Lane stop. The driver will take cash; he or she will not take U.S. dollars or credit cards. As of May 2010, the fare for a 'single' (i.e., one-way) ticket from Gatwick is £25. Consider buying a 'period return' at £35; this allows you to return to the airport from Oxford anytime within three months.

**Arriving in Oxford.** The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen's Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver's announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.

When you get off at the High Street/Queen's lane stop you should walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter's Lodge is inside the door.

#### **FROM THE AIRPORT TO LONDON**

**From Heathrow** you may take the train, underground or bus to London. The fastest but most expensive way to travel is by the Heathrow Express.

The Heathrow Express takes you into Paddington Station, which is also the rail station where you will catch the train to Oxford. The train runs every 15 minutes and takes about 15 minutes. As of May 2010, the regular fare for a one-way ('single') ticket is £18.00. (American Airlines now sells tickets on the Heathrow Express at the gate at DFW. You can use a credit card to purchase the ticket in dollars.)

A less-expensive rail alternative is the Heathrow Connect train that makes several stops before arriving in Paddington Station, which is its last stop. It takes about 30-35 minutes.

The Underground runs from Terminals 1, 2 and 3 of Heathrow. It leaves frequently and takes approximately one hour to get to central London.

**From Gatwick** you may take the Gatwick Express from the South Terminal. Take the rail shuttle from the North Terminal to the South Terminal and follow the signs to the rail station. The Gatwick Express takes you to Victoria rail station. The train leaves every 15 minutes and takes 30-35 minutes to London.

## **FROM LONDON TO OXFORD**

If you are coming to Oxford from London, you have a choice between the train and bus service. The train is faster but is more expensive.

The train starts from Paddington rail station in London. Be sure to check whether the train goes directly or whether you must change stations on the way. You should also check to see if you are going on a fast train (approx. one hour) or a slow (approx. 1 hour 40 minutes). When you arrive at the train station in Oxford, you can walk or take a taxi to University College.

You will have a choice of bus services but all the services start from the area around Victoria rail station in London and make varying stops in London before proceeding directly to Oxford. Each service has buses leaving every 15 or 20 minutes during the day. The trip takes approximately 1 hour 40 minutes.

- The Oxford Express (note the spelling) X90 (Oxford Bus Company) leaves from bay ('stand') 10 at the Victoria Coach Station. This station is down Buckingham Palace Road from the rail station. The bus leaves every 15 minutes. The journey takes approximately 1½ to 2 hours. As of May 2010, the one-way fare is £13 and the 'period return' (good for three months) is £20. For further information, see <http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/> and follow the link to "oxfordexpress" on the right-hand side of the page.
- Oxford Tube (Stagecoach) leaves from several stops near Victoria rail station (e.g., Buckingham Palace Road and Elizabeth Street). The bus leaves every 15-20 minutes and slightly more frequently at peak times. The journey takes approximately 1½ to 2 hours. As of May 2010 the one-way fare is £13 and the 'period return' (good for three months) is £20. For further information, see <http://www.oxfordtube.com/>.

- National Express also runs coaches from Victoria coach station. The bus leaves every 20 minutes. The journey takes approximately 1 hour 50 minutes. As of May 2010 the one-way fare is £14. For further information, see <http://www.nationalexpress.com/coacheslanding.aspx/>.

You should get off at the High Street/Queen's Lane stop. (N.B. National Express stops only at Gloucester Green.) The driver will announce each stop in Oxford. The High Street/Queen's Lane stop is the stop after the St. Clements stop. Listen for the driver's announcement. If you miss the High Street stop you will be taken to the bus terminal in Gloucester Green where you can catch a taxi (or walk) back to University College.

When you get off at the High Street/Queen's lane stop, you should walk in the direction the bus is going for about 50 yards. Walk by Logic Lane, a first set of large wooden double-doors on your left, and stop at the second set of double-doors on your left. This is the front entrance to University College. The entrance to University College does not have the name of the college shown above or on the door; a brass plate with the name of the College is displayed at ground level just past the entrance. The Porter's Lodge is inside the door.

## IV. THE FIRST WEEK

You should plan to arrive at University College by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 6.<sup>4</sup> You will be given the keys to your room and some additional information when you check in.

The first week will be busy, so be prepared—especially because you will probably be jetlagged. The following events are tentatively scheduled for this first week. A definitive schedule will be distributed when you arrive.

### Tuesday

- 3:00-4:00 p.m. Optional walking tour of central Oxford.
- 5:30-6:00 p.m. Mandatory orientation meeting with tour of University College.
- 6:00 p.m. Buffet dinner, University College.

### Wednesday

- 10:00-noon Class
- 3:00-4:15 p.m. Bodleian Library admission ceremony
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Opening reception

### Thursday

- 10:00-noon Class
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tour of Bodleian Law Library
- 6:00 p.m. Welcoming dinner

### Friday

- 10:00-noon Class

### Weekend

We discourage long-distance travel on the first weekend. See Parts V & VIII for suggestions of possible local attractions in or around Oxford. You may also want to explore London.

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<sup>4</sup> Your room in University College will not be available until Tuesday, July 6. If you do arrive in Oxford before Tuesday, you will have to make your own arrangements. Former students suggest you go to the tourist office on Broad Street, where the office will find you a place within your price range. You could probably get a better hotel at an equivalent price if you meet a fellow student in Oxford and share a room.

## V. LIVING IN OXFORD<sup>5</sup>

AOxford@ was a town, then also a collection of colleges, then also a university, then a shire. TOWN-GOWN: Some who live in Oxford have little good to say about those who study there, and the ignorant who study there have little good to say about those who live there. THE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE DISTINCTION (not AUniversity College@ where we stay): The University was invented by the colleges to administer examinations, build libraries and laboratories, grant degrees, and have subject-matter faculties. The college is where junior members (undergraduate students) and senior members (teachers) live, eat, and study, although most senior members no longer live in college, and most colleges have middlers (graduate students) too. So, for example, an AOxford University@ sweatshirt (or, God forbid, T-shirt) is purchased only by those who know no better. The colleges are the sources of Aschool spirit;@ Oxford is a place where the college is, and is a much weaker common bond than Univ, St. John=s, Oriel, or BNC.

The origins of Oxford=s colleges are perhaps less auspicious than the present day status of these hallowed institutions might suggest. Although the first lectures began in the twelfth century and the earliest college dates from 1249 (University), it was not until 1410 that medieval students were brought within an organized community, distinctly segregated from the town. The statute of 1410 was not laid down expressly to provide an atmosphere of peace and solitude worthy of a monastic search for knowledge; it was made necessary by a riotous and bloody battle begun by a drunken brawl in Carfax. The chancellor decided that if the students were to have higher aims than to sleep all day and lurk about the taverns and brothels intent on robbing and homicide, (to quote a contemporary observer), the practice of students boarding with townsfolk or in inns would have to end. From 1410 onwards, students of Oxford were forced into colleges and halls.

Thus violence, drunkenness, and languor have long been a part of Oxford and provide the very reason for the University as it is known today. Of the original medieval halls, only St. Edmund=s is left; the rest formed the foundation for most of the present day colleges. However, many relics of the past can still be found; all that is needed is a sharp eye and a little prior research.<sup>6</sup>

Oxford is one of the oldest cities in the world with a unique history and plenty to visit; one should make time to see all Oxford has to offer before venturing out into the broader world.

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<sup>5</sup> Much of this Section of the Guide has been taken from the 2005 Guide or reproduced with attribution. No warranties are given as to the accuracy of the information!

<sup>6</sup> The last two paragraphs were taken from the 2005 Guide where the text is reproduced without any attribution. The compilers of the 2006 Guide assume it was written by prior directors of the SMU program.

## **Fun Stuff to Do in Oxford—A student=s take**

Generally. Go to the Tourist Office and/or Apollo Theatre and pick up lots of information on all kinds of happenings in Oxford—plays, concerts, operas, art exhibits, etc. Every night, there are tons of things going on from Welsh Opera performances, to College performances of Shakespeare, to poetry readings. Keep your eyes and ears open and you=ll be aware of more events than you could possibly attend. Check this website for current plays/productions. <http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/events.php?colname=Theatre>

Oxford University Sights. You=ll probably see most of these just wandering around or attending official occasions, but make sure you see the Sheldonian Theatre, Radcliffe Camera, and Bodleian Library. Many of the individual colleges' gardens and courtyards are beautiful, so be sure to at least poke your head in to a few.

Merton Field and Christ Church Meadow. It=s just a field, but another nice place to study outside, probably quieter than the dorms, and free. I don=t think you=re supposed to be on it but no one ever asked me to leave.

Punting. No, it doesn=t require a ball—it is one. It=s poling a long, thin boat down the River Thames and its tributaries. A bit pricey, but worth every shilling. It takes a while to get the swing (actually the push) of moving the boat where you want it to go, but it=s a blast. Wine and snacks are highly recommended. (Figure the outside number of bottles you=ll consume and double it. Really.)

Other Colleges. Many are open to the public; others host concerts, plays, or other special events, and some will allow you to walk through if you ask and smile. Christ Church Cathedral is incredibly beautiful, whether you visit it during a scheduled service or just walk through to appreciate the architecture. The Magdalen College Deer Park is a lovely and serene place, though you may or may not see actual deer.

The following website will tell you if and when the individual colleges are open for visitors. Information is also provided on which colleges charge a nominal fee. [http://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors\\_friends/visiting\\_the\\_university/visiting\\_the\\_colleges/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/visiting_the_university/visiting_the_colleges/)

Tourist Traps. Oxford will be teeming, teeming, with tourists during your stay, and you will quickly share locals= frustration with the traveling hordes. Most are in the city for day trips, so the bad times are between 10:00 and 16:00. Instead of avoiding all tourist attractions, however, you might consider seeing some of them in your first few days in town to get a feel for the city. Recommended highly are the open-air bus tours and the Oxford Story, on Broad Street, an audio-visual ride through animated exhibits (think Disney Land) that depicts the history of Oxford.

### **HAVE I SEEN OXFORD CHECKLIST?**

Make sure you have seen these sights before your trip is over:

- o **Radcliffe Camera**—is in the Bodleian Library and does not permit public access, however, you will have the opportunity to enter with your Bodleian Library card.
- o **Turf Tavern**—is an atmospheric seventeenth century pub with a fine range of beers and entertaining clientele. Enjoy a pint and a history lesson.
- o **Head of the River (Pub/Restaurant)**
- o **Covered Market**—is a covered shopping area filled with cafés and boutiques.
- o **Ashmolean**—is the university's principal museum and has a wide variety of exhibits from Egyptian mummies to Chinese art.
- o **Blenheim Palace**—is in Woodstock, which is eight miles north of Oxford. Queen Anne gave this palace to John Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough and ancestor of Winston Churchill.
- o **Botanical Gardens**
- o **Punting on the River Thames**
- o **Christ Church Meadows**
- o **Eagle & Child** (pub)

### **Entertaining yourself (and others) in Oxford**

Enjoy yourself but exercise discretion. There is some tension between students—any students—and townspeople. This is not a major problem, but is occasionally worth thinking about. Do not walk home late at night alone.

You don't leave tips in England the same way you would in the States, and certainly not at pubs or other casual restaurants. You can leave a tip at a nice restaurant, but it's entirely at your own discretion. Check the bill first to see whether service has been included. Suggested tip is 10%. Tipping in taxis is also advisable.

### **Remember that you're not in America**

A common English stereotype of "Americans" (as U.S. citizens are imprecisely known) is that we are loud, brusque (if not rude) and insistently consumerist (as in "I paid good money for \_\_\_, and I want what I paid for"). You will find, however, that well modulated volume, ample-but-not-fulsome courtesy, and indirection can be (perhaps surprisingly) effective.

England and the United States are divided, so the quip goes, by a common language. US television programs, however, have made it less likely that the English will misunderstand you. There are, however, several practices that you should keep in mind:

- UK drivers drive on the "wrong" side of the road. Therefore, exercise extreme care in crossing the street. ALWAYS check both to your right and left. It is

against the law in the U.K. (as it is in Dallas) to cross streets except at public crossings, which can be recognized by the white crossing stripes. Dozens of travelers to the U.K. are hurt each year by failing to observe caution in crossing streets; don't become one of them.

- When writing the day and the month you will find that the British consistently put the day before the month. So July 4 appears as "4 July" or "04/07/07".
- The first floor is called the "ground floor" so that the second floor becomes the first floor.
- Be careful with gestures. To flash a backwards peace sign is the equivalent of flourishing a middle finger.

## **VI. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS<sup>7</sup>**

We hope that your stay at University College (or Univ. as it is known by its members) will be a happy and productive one.

These are some notes to inform you of certain facts and to enable you to more fully understand how the College works.

### **Security**

It is of great importance that you observe several points in this area because the large number of visitors in Oxford attracts a large number of less desirable characters. The chances of petty theft can be great. These are greatly increased by carelessness in locking doors to rooms, leaving personal belongings in common rooms and by simply not reporting unusual circumstances.

The following **DO's and DON'Ts** will help prevent petty but distressing incidents.

- a) Lock your door ALWAYS even if you are only going out briefly.
- b) Leave valuables behind in the Programme Office or in the Domestic Bursary when you go out.
- c) Do not let people into the College if you do not recognise them. Legitimate visitors will know how to gain entry.
- d) If you invite friends to come to see you at the College, you should arrange to meet them at the Lodge or at your Programme Office. This will prevent visitors from possible embarrassment in being challenged if they are found on the staircases.
- e) Please be observant and report any suspicious incident. Even if it turns out to be quite innocent subsequently, this can be very helpful.
- f) If you are out late at night, please observe sensible precautions.
- g) If you lose your room key, you will be charged £25.00. However, please do not let this be a reason for leaving your door unlocked if a loss occurs. A replacement key can be less costly than a burglary.

### **Fire Safety**

The College occupies ancient buildings which are extremely vulnerable to fire. There is

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<sup>7</sup> These Guidance Notes are prepared and distributed by University College. At the end, we have added the College's statement about implementation of the Smokefree Law that came into effect in 2007.

an extensive automatic detection system and other precautions include fire doors and extinguishers. In the UK, it is a criminal offence to tamper with any of these precautions.

Please read the fire notices in your room and familiarise yourself with the means of escape.

### **College Personnel**

Members of the College's staff are always ready to give any assistance and when unable to help, will always be able to refer you to someone who will.

Fellows of the College have offices throughout the site and some have sets here in which they reside. Please remember that this is their home, especially at night, when noise seems to be more penetrating.

### **Gardens**

It is an ancient tradition that the lawns in the quads are simply for decoration. They are not for walking, sitting, lying or picnicking and such.

Use of the lawns is not permitted. The Goodhart lawn and the South part of the Fellow's garden can be used for sitting outside and for sunbathing, both of which are occasionally possible.

### **Facilities**

There are three public telephones in College (phone cards can be purchased at the Lodge).

Laundry facilities are found at the bottom of Staircase 11 where there are coin operated machines.

There is a squash court in Goodhart.

### **Health and Welfare**

- 1) The College has a Health & Safety policy (required by law) which is available in the Domestic Bursary.
- 2) Many College staff members are trained First Aiders and can help in emergencies.
- 3) The College Doctors, Dr. N. McLennan and Dr. Ann McPherson are available in a medical emergency. Their telephone number is 1865 240 501. Hours are 8-6, M-F.
- 4) The College has a code of practice on sexual harrassment which is available.

## **Smokefree Law**

The new Smokefree Law comes into force on 1st July 2007 and will apply to all enclosed public places and workplaces. It will also include accommodation rooms and the Bar.

The Local Council will be responsible for enforcing the new law, and we expect them to be rigorous in their approach to enforcement.

There will be penalties for breaking the law both for anyone who smokes in a smokefree place and for anyone who manages or occupies the smokefree premises.

## **Addendum**

### **Implicit College Rules**

The only rules at University College that may not be intuitively obvious are not to walk on the grass in the Main and Radcliffe Quads, not to run in those quads, not to wear hats in Hall, not to sunbathe (clothed vel non) on the roof, not to possess candles (lighted or not) in your room, and not to tamper with fire extinguishers. The buildings are a mixture of very old and quite new, but they are close together, and fire would be exceedingly dangerous to life and property. Please exercise every caution in dealing with fire.

## VII. SERVICES<sup>8</sup>

### **American Express**

4 Queen St. Open seven days a week, varying hours. It charges no commission for cashing American Express travelers= checks, but does not offer the most favorable exchange rate. You can also change travelers= checks and cash at most banks.

### **Banks**

Barclays-High Street, Cornmarket	9:30-4:30 M-F, 9:30-12:00 Sat
Lloyds-High Street, Broad Street	9:30-4:30 M-F, 10:30-3:00 Sat
HSBC on Broad Street.	9:30-4:30 M-F
National Westminster, High Street	9:30-4:30 M-F
Royal Bank of Scotland, St. Giles	9:30-4:30 M-F
TSB-Market Street	

ATMs may be found throughout the city.

### **Bed and Breakfast**

There are several hotels and a Bed and Breakfast@ housing arrangements in Oxford. If you plan to have guests arrive during the program, they should plan to stay in a hotel; no overnight guests are allowed to stay with you in your room at University College.

### **Bicycles**

There are several shops in Oxford which hire out bikes and sell second-hand ones.

### **Books and Bookstores**

You will be able to find books in Oxford. You will have a library card for the Bodleian Library. While you will spend most of your time in the Bodleian Law Library, you should take the opportunity to take a tour of the main library buildings.

There are, of course, many bookstores—although old timers will bemoan the loss of many of the excellent second-hand bookstores. Among the bookstores are:

- Blackwell's on Broad Street where you will probably go to buy the books assigned by your tutors. The law books are in the Norrington Room in the basement, although you will find a small selection of used law books on the top

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<sup>8</sup> The list of services in this section is taken from the 2005 Guide. You should also consult Part IX of this Guide, which sets out notes from the students in the 2008 program. We make no warranties as to the accuracy of the information.

- floor.
- Waterstone's on the corner of Broad and Cornmarket Streets where you will find new trade books.

### **Bus Station**

Gloucester Green. Two main bus lines run from Oxford: Oxford Tube (yes, it's called tube, which confused me to no end for the first week, but it's a bus company) and Oxford CityLink. Tube is red, CityLink green. Both lines run regular buses to London (varying frequency, from 20 minutes mid-day to 60 minutes middle of the night, but running 24 hours a day), and both make pick-up stops directly across the street from University College, though during busy times the buses can be full by the time they get to that stop. This inexpensive way to travel is available twenty-four hours a day. Don't forget to show your student I.D.—you do get a discount.

### **Grocery Store**

Sainsbury's is next to Borders on Magdalen Street. It is a grocery store in the center of Oxford. This is the best place to find general snack (or more substantial) food, and also has a good selection of alcohol (from Guinness to Jack Daniels). There is also a larger Sainsbury's in the mall just beyond Marks and Spencer on Queen Street. This Sainsbury's is only open in the day time and not on Sunday.

### **Health Clubs**

Peak Fitness

6/7 High Street (251261)

Expensive, but with all facilities, including weights= room, cycling, and running machines, Jacuzzi, etc. Guaranteed to make you sweat!

Oxford University Sports Centre

Iffley Road

### **Miscellaneous**

University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High Street (pay the small amount to go up the church tower for the best views of Oxford)

Botanical Gardens, High Street (award winning gardens and a beautiful, quiet place to study)

### **Museums**

Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street

Free admission, donations expected. 10:00-4:00 Tues-Sat, 2-4 Sun

Christ Church Picture Gallery, St. Aldates  
Fee may be charged at certain hours. 10:30-1:00 & 2:00-5:30 daily  
Pitt Rivers Museum, Parks Road  
Free admission 1:30-4:00 Mon-Sat  
Museum of Oxford, St. Aldates  
Free admission  
Museum of Modern Art, Pembroke Street  
No permanent exhibit 10:00-6:00 Tues-Sat, 2:00-6:00 Sun  
Museum of Science, Broad Street  
Free admission 10:30-1:00 & 2:30-4:00 M-F

### **Office Supplies**

Ryman's High Street  
Honey's, High Street

### **Pharmacies**

Boots-Cornmarket  
Boswells-Cornmarket  
SuperDrug-Ship Street

### **Post Offices**

St. Aldate=s 9:30-5:30 M-F, 9:30-1:00 Sat  
1 Woodstock Road  
12 St. Michael=s Street

### **Swimming Pools**

Ferry Pool, Marston Ferry Road  
Temple Baths, Temple Cowley, Cowley  
Abingdon Road. Open air pool.  
Oxford University Sports Centre-Iffley Road

### **Tourist Office**

Broad Street. A great place to pick up armloads of pamphlets that tell what is going on in and around Oxford—concerts, plays, tours, everything. The staff will also help you find a place to stay or assist you in figuring out the best way to get from point A to point B.

### **Train Station ('Rail Station')**

Park End St., west of Carfax. The more fun, more expensive, and more dependably faster way to travel. Recommended that you make reservations for trips anywhere

but London (and even that=s not a bad idea.)

## VIII. WEEKEND TRAVEL<sup>9</sup>

Although we will have classes on the first Friday of our six weeks, we will not have Friday classes for the following four Fridays. This means that you are free to travel from noon on Thursday to Sunday evening. We discourage long-distance travel on the first weekend.

If you plan to travel during the six weeks, you should take into account the following:

- English schools begin their summer vacation in the third week of July and families traditionally immediately pack up and head off on holidays. Transportation the first weekend of the school holidays may already have been booked!
- In any event, everyone in Europe (or so it seems) takes his or her holiday for the month of August.

Several travel guides are available in the program's Common Room, so check if you are interested in visiting a particular place. If you plan, you can photocopy relevant pages from guidebooks, sparing yourself the considerable weight of carrying one or more heavy books. Recent program members recommend the travel guides by LET=S GO, which contain lots of information on sights, good maps, and comprehensive listings of hotels and restaurants ranging from cheap to moderately expensive. Also very nice are the EYEWITNESS TRAVEL GUIDES, which are the slick, heavy and photo-dense guides. They contain hardly any practical information, but the voluminous pictures can be a great help in deciding whether to visit Blenheim Palace or Warwick Castle when you finally discover you only have one weekend left in England and have not seen anything but the insides of pubs and nightclubs and realize you need to take pictures of something besides drunk, or drinking, students (and professors) to show your parents. Both LET=S GO and EYEWITNESS also publish guides that deal specifically with London if you=re going to be spending a lot of time there.

**Have a good time, and don=t lose your passport.**

### **Things to do near Oxford**

Stratford-upon-Avon. The Royal Shakespeare Company is located here, the home of smalltown-boy-made-big Willy Shakespeare. The performances are expensive but excellent. It is best to buy tickets in advance. You can buy tickets in Oxford—check the RSC brochure for information on buying tickets, prices, etc. In theory, there is a special late train back from Stratford after performances, so you can arrive, eat dinner, see a

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<sup>9</sup> With the exception of the first five paragraphs, this section of the Guide is taken from the 2005 Guide with only a few stylistic changes. Much of the information comes from former participants in the SMU program. No warranty is made as to the continuing accuracy of the information.

show and be back in your own little dorm room in one afternoon/evening. You should, however, check the train schedule before you go.

Blenheim. Blenheim Palace is the birthplace of Winston Churchill, who was born during a party at the palace. (I don't think they let the guests watch). The tour is nice, lots of antiques and information on Churchill's life, which was interesting, especially to those who like exhibits that presuppose you don't know anything at all about the subject of the exhibit. The grounds are huge and lovely—it would be a beautiful place to study. Students have rented bicycles to ride to Blenheim during the afternoon.

Warwick Castle. Warwick Castle is a 14<sup>th</sup> century castle now owned by Madame Tussaud's which has set up scenes of wax figures to illustrate the castle's history. Touring the castle is not for the faint of foot; you must climb hundreds of stairs to get around, another time when comfortable shoes are not a luxury but a necessity. The town itself is charming, full of quaint shops to duck into as you walk from the train station to the castle. Warwick is about an hour from Oxford by train.

## London

VisitLondon.com (<http://www.visitlondon.com/>) is the ideal website for planning a trip to London. The website provides information about theater, museums, nightlife, seasonal events, and more. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU CHECK IT OUT!

London is, of course, one of the premiere cultural centers in the world, rivaled only by New York and perhaps Paris. You could spend the entire five weeks in London and not even dent what there is to see there. We could tell you all the places in London we loved, but you'd probably hate them, so just figure out your own thing. If you're into art, go see art; if you're into shopping, go to Harrod's; if you're into geological freaks of nature, go see the crown jewels. You get the picture. A few hints, however:

**Fun and free things to do in London:** The National Gallery (an incredible museum and a great place to spend a day), the innumerable parks, window shopping at Harrod's, window shopping at Portobello Road market, lots of churches and cathedrals don't charge admission (including Westminster Abbey).

Don't forget that some (not many, but some) places have dress codes.

Buy a copy of Time Out and peruse the thing carefully. If you're interested in Japanese performance art, there's probably something similar happening this weekend!

If you go see a show (which you should), spend the extra money for good seats. It's really worth it, and it's not like you have much opportunity in Dallas to see great performances (close up or far away), so splurge. Also, try out new plays that are being recommended in Time Out or by Bridge. You can see Cats and Starlight Express

anytime, anywhere. Many of us saw performances that are just now showing up on Broadway (and others that will probably never make it).

### **Other Places in Britain**

Great Britain has many places that are well worth a weekend's visit. Besides the obvious choice of London, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Wales, Brighton, and Bath, all provide a great amount of entertainment for a weekend usually for a much cheaper price than anywhere on the continent. Consider looking at <http://www.britrail.com> and <http://www.voyagessncf.com> for train reservations.

Among the events to watch for are the British Open, Wimbledon, and the Cartier International Polo Match at The Guards Polo Club.

### **Continental Europe**

As for continental Europe, here is some advice to heed:

Most of your travel arrangements can be made through student travel agencies and should be made after you have arrived in order to take advantage of the cheapest prices. STA Travel on George Street is very good, as is the American Express Travel Office. They provide good deals especially on air travel, but an International Student Identity Card is usually required. We suggest simply purchasing it at STA Travel since it is considerably cheaper than purchasing it in the States. Europe has many good safe discount airlines, such as Ryanair and Easy Jet; checking their websites can lead to good travel deals as well. Priceline.co.uk is an option; also try Travelocity.co.uk, the trainline.com, RyanAir.com, and <http://www.aerlingus.com>.

**Lodging:** Hostels are relatively easy to book and are obviously the cheapest way to go. Consider looking at HostelWorld.com or StudentUniverse.com. If you want to stay in a hotel, try Hotels.com

**Money:** Thanks to the European Union, most of the time students will only have to keep track of two exchange rates, the pound and the Euro. Please note: The US dollar has lost considerable value in the past year. Whenever possible, make your travel arrangements in Euros; this can be done more often on various travel websites.

**Places of Interest:** Over the last couple of summers, students have traveled to Sweden, Prague, Munich, Switzerland, Paris, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, and many other places on their weekend trips. If nothing else, Oxford Program weekends will teach you how much can be done in two days. Just be prepared not to get much sleep. Here is a bit of advice on places you might think about visiting during these weekend excursions.

**Spain and Italy:** Spain and Italy are wonderful places to visit, but they could be too much for one weekend. Our suggestion is to leave Spain and Italy for a trip after or

before the Oxford Program, if you can. If this is impossible and you must get to Spain or Italy, we suggest picking one city (Madrid or Barcelona in Spain and either Rome, Florence or Venice in Italy) and exploring that as much as possible in two days.

**Paris:** Paris is one of the easiest weekend trips to make with many different ways to get there. The Eurostar is probably the easiest of these and is recommended. One should note that although Paris is relatively inexpensive to get to, it can become very expensive very quickly.

**Amsterdam:** Amsterdam is a very popular destination and fortunately also a very cheap one. Besides cheap flights, the more adventurous traveler might think about taking the 12 hour bus ride from London to Amsterdam. While not for everyone, the round trip price tag cannot be beat, and the bus will put you back in Oxford just in time for an 8:45 class on Monday morning. Truly the experience of a lifetime.

**Munich:** Another widely popular destination, Munich is yet another trip that can be made at a reasonable price. A bike tour is essential to any visit to Munich. Also, one should take the opportunity to visit the Dachau concentration camp, a very sobering experience.

**Dublin:** Dublin also has been popular over the years, mostly again for its cheap prices and great Irish hospitality. Researching a good hotel can be worth the effort since many of Dublin=s nicer hotels have great deals in late July.

**Prague:** While Prague is one of the most expensive weekend trips, due to the high air travel costs, all that have gone have given the Czech city rave reviews. For those looking for one of the most beautiful cities in the world that is a little off the beaten path, Prague might be the place for you.

**Copenhagen:** It is well worth the visit to go to Tivoli, the tremendously fun amusement park that the town is centered upon, and to see the droves of beautiful people walking around. Bring nice clothes to go out in at night, and don=t forget about Hamlet=s castle which is only 50 minutes by train. Denmark does not use the Euro.

**Interlaken:** This city provides remarkable views of the Alps and is easy to get around in. If time permits, consider taking the train to Murren for fantastic views of the Jungfrau.

## **TOP TEN TIPS FOR TRAVELERS**

Make sure you have a signed, valid passport and visas, if required. Also, before you go, fill in the emergency information page of your passport!

Read the Consular Information Sheets (and Public Announcements or Travel Warnings, if applicable) for the countries you plan to visit.

Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs of the countries to which you are traveling. Remember, the U.S. Constitution does not follow you! While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws.

Make 2 copies of your passport identification page. This will facilitate replacement if your passport is lost or stolen. Leave one copy at home with friends or relatives. Carry the other with you in a separate place from your passport.

Leave a copy of your itinerary with family or friends at home so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency.

Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas. Do not accept packages from strangers.

If you plan to stay abroad for more than two weeks, upon arrival you should notify by phone or register in person with the U.S. embassy in the country you are visiting. This will facilitate communication in case someone contacts the embassy looking for you.

To avoid being a target of crime, try not to wear conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of money or unnecessary credit cards.

In order to avoid violating local laws, deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money or purchase art or antiques.

If you get into trouble, contact the nearest U.S. embassy.

## IX. NOTES FROM THE CLASS OF 2008<sup>10</sup>

### Calendar of Events

[www.timeout.com](http://www.timeout.com)  
<http://www.oxfordmusicsnob.com/>  
[www.visitoxford.com](http://www.visitoxford.com)  
[www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)  
<http://www.visitoxford.org/see.asp>  
<http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/guide/index.html>  
<http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/events.php?colname=Theatre>

### Calling the US

Skype – free downloadable program that allows you to talk online

- 2 cents per minute to call landlines in the UK or US
- More expensive to call cell phones

Ichat

[www.pingo.com](http://www.pingo.com) – as low as 2 cents a minute

### Cell Phones

Try Orange, Vodafone, or O2 on Cornmarket Street.

Avoid the Nomi Sim card as it is difficult to find places to top up.

### Entertainment

#### Comedy

Kill for a Seat

#### Movies

Blockbuster – east on High Street near the rotary, £3 per rental

Netflix – doesn't work in the UK

LOVEFiLM ([www.lovefilm.com](http://www.lovefilm.com)) – must have UK billing address,  
downloads start at £2

#### Music

<http://www.thenorthwall.com/> (The North Wall Arts Center)

Temple Bar

[www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)

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<sup>10</sup> No warranty is made as to the continuing accuracy of these notes.

## **Plays**

[www.oxfordtheatreguild.com](http://www.oxfordtheatreguild.com)

[www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)

[www.headington.org/theatre](http://www.headington.org/theatre)

<http://www.coffeeconcerts.com/> (Sundays at 11:15 in the Holywell Music Room, £9)

<http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/>

## **Punting**

<http://www.cherwellboathouse.co.uk>

£12 (£14 on weekends) per boat, seats 6. Canoes also available.

Walk north on Banbury Road. Turn right on Bardwell Road.

Watch for the sign to the boathouse. If you prefer to take the bus, you can catch the bus 7B/7A to St. Margaret's Road. Go east on Bardwell Road and watch for the sign.

Another option is right by Magdalen Bridge (north side) when walking east on High Street.

## **Favorite Picks**

Evensong at Christchurch

## **Groceries**

Marks and Spencer – west on High Street, a five-minute walk

Sainsbury's – west on High Street, north on Cornmarket, next to Debenham's

Headington (20 minute walk from Oxford) – selections are better and a little less expensive (Sainsbury's, Somerfield [delivers free for orders over £25, small fee otherwise], Supermarket).

## **Gyms**

Bourton Mill Health & Leisure

6-7 High Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 4AB, UK, 1865 251 261,

<http://www.bourtonmill.net>

(next to Rymans on High Street, easy to miss)

£45 for 2 months, £7 for drop-in/day pass

Yoga, spin classes, etc.

LA Fitness

Littlegate House, 16/17 St. Ebbes St., Oxford OX1 1 PT, 870 224 5506

## **Laundry**

**Washers/Dryers** – located in University College, northeast corner of quad (porter's lodge side). Take a left and follow the tiny staircase on the right downstairs (watch your head!). Turn left and walk around the corner to a door with a code box on it. You'll have to enter the code to access the laundry facilities. Two irons are available. Buy detergent and fabric softener at Boots (near the back on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

### **Dry Cleaning**

Elite (pay in advance), 1865 204 116, £12 for a suit  
Johnson Cleaners, 1865 552 560, £12 for a suit

## **Libraries**

Bodleian Law Library

M-F: 9-7 PM, S: 10-4 PM, Closed Sunday

Computer, printers/copiers available, wireless available (£1 for copy/print card)

(Lexis – select that database to pull up UK cases)

Helpful websites:

British & Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII) – <http://www.bailii.org/>

UK Cases 1220-1865 – <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/oxlip/engreps.html>

Justis – <http://www.justis.com>

Oxford Standard Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) –

<http://denning.law.ox.ac.uk/published/oscola.shtml>

Legal Abbreviations – <http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/>

Legislation: Public General Acts – [www.statutelaw.gov.uk](http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk),

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Statutory Instruments: rules, regulations, commencement orders –

[www.statutelaw.gov.uk](http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk), [www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/stat.htm)

Carter, “A Guide to the UK Legal System Nov. 2005” –

<http://www.llrx.com/features/uk2.htm> (slow to download)

## **Mail**

Main Post Office, 102-104 St Aldates OX1 1ZY ([map of this place](#))

Hours: 0900-1730 Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday

Airmail rate (455 grams is 1 lb)

## **Medical**

Doctors do not want to prescribe anything unless you have done everything over

the counter that you can. Go to Boots Pharmacy and talk to a pharmacist. They have medications behind the counter. (fexofenadine hydrochloride = allegra)

#### University College Doctors

Call ahead for appointments, 1865 240 501. M-F, 8-6 PM.

<http://www.19beaumontstgp.nhs.uk>

£30 upfront (cash or check)

HTH Worldwide Insurance – SMU’s free insurance to students while studying abroad (<http://www.hthstudents.com>) Be sure to print your membership card and carry it with you before traveling. Save receipts and mail to HTH after returning to the US. Claim forms downloadable online. You may go to any doctor you choose, just save your receipts. Doctors listed on HTH’s website and available in Oxford: John Sichel, 28 Beaumont St., Oxford – 1865 311 811, £60 upfront (cash or check); Robert Armstrong, 13 Elms Drive, Marston, 1865 767 150.

### **Money**

No Fee ATMS - HSBC (<http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/>) does not charge a fee for cash (your bank will probably charge a fee, ask them)

USAA Credit Cards charge a 1% per transaction fee for international charges (most credit cards charge 5% per transaction)

### **Pub/Restaurants**

#### **Pubs**

Purchase the poster “The Definitive Oxford Pub Crawl” and map out your route.

<http://www.beerinevening.com> (reviews of pubs)

King’s Arms

([http://www.beerinevening.com/pubs/s/21/2185/Kings\\_Arms/Oxford](http://www.beerinevening.com/pubs/s/21/2185/Kings_Arms/Oxford))

The Bird and Baby/Eagle and Child

Turf Tavern (<http://www.theturftavern.co.uk/>)

The Bear (Dean Attanasio’s former haunt)

The Turl

The Purple Turtle (karaoke, resembles an underground cave)

Temple Bar (karaoke)

Cape of Good Hope

The White Horse (Oxford and Headington) (<http://whitehorseoxford.co.uk/>)

O’Neills

The Trout (a good walk)

## **Restaurants**

Tipping is normally 10% if service is very good. Ask for tap water, or you might be charged for bottled water. Still water is non-carbonated water.

Ahmed's Falafel Truck (Cheap and good, variety of choices)  
Gourmet Burger (recommended)  
Bangkok City (recommended)  
Chaing Mai's Kitchen (recommended)  
Nando's (recommended)  
<http://www.studentbeans.com/>

## **Shopping/Markets**

Flea Market (mostly food), Gloucester Green, Wednesday, 9-5  
Farmer's Market, Gloucester Green, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 9-3  
Antiques and Collector's Fair, Gloucester Green, Thursday, 9-5  
Farmer's Market, Headington, 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 8 AM (top of Kennett Road)  
Music Fair, Oxford Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 9-6 (St. Aldates, opposite Carfax Tower)

### **Other Fairs:**

<http://www.oxford-covered-market.co.uk/index.html>  
<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/events.cfm>  
<http://www.farmersmarkets.net/>

## **Transportation**

### **Bikes**

Ask the porters. They might be able to get bikes from Bruce, the Bike Guy. Bruce, an actor, is also a good source for information on plays.

<http://www.backontrax.co.uk> These bikes start at £25, £10 for a lock, and guarantee to buy them back for 20% of price paid.

Gloucester Green on Wednesdays – so the rumor goes. Not verified though.

Bikezone (off Turl) – locks are £6 (four keys)

## **Buses**

From London:

[www.oxfordtube.com](http://www.oxfordtube.com)

£20 for period return (£15 with student ID);  
£16 for next day return

[www.oxfordbus.co.uk](http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk)

£20 for open return (£15 with student ID);  
£16 for next day return

[www.megabus.com/uk](http://www.megabus.com/uk)

£6 each way, advance booking

## **Rail/Coach**

### **Discounts**

Purchase a student railcard (£24) for discounts on trains to London, etc. It will save you about 1/3 on most routes. With proof of student status, those over 25 years of age can also get a discount card. (Photo required. Bring an extra passport photo from home or have one made at the rail station for £4.) There are additional offers that are worth looking at, as well (i.e., mail movie offer).

Another option – 4 for 2 offers (<http://www.daysoutguide.co.uk/group-save.aspx>)

ISIC cards – available from STA Travel. Discounts limited. (Does not apply on the Oxford to London trains.)

### **Booking**

Decent rates are usually available on flexible tickets purchased at the station. However, for longer trips/busy routes, book ahead to ensure the best price and seat reservations (i.e. Eurostar). Booking in person at the station is often preferable since the agent can help you with the route.

General train info/website info on various countries – <http://www.seat61.com>

Rail tickets in Europe – <http://www.raileurope.com/us/index.htm>

Paris-London Eurostar – <http://www.eurostar.com>

UK – <http://www.traveline.org.uk>

Belgium – <http://www.b-rail.be/main/E/>

Germany – <http://www.bahn.de>

## **Travel Times (hours by train):**

Bath (1)

Cambridge (3) [1 hour from London]

Keswick (Lake District) (5.5)

Highfield Hotel – <http://www.highfieldkeswick.co.uk>

- Including full breakfast and dinner
- Comfortable beds, central location
- Booked in advance was £65 per person

Edinburgh (6)

Cardiff (2)

### **Luggage Storage**

£6.50 per bag for 24 hours at major rail stations or airports in the London area.

### **Tours**

[www.citysightseeingoxford.com](http://www.citysightseeingoxford.com)

[www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk)

<http://www.hooky.co.uk/> - Hook Norton Brewery

### **US/UK equivalents**

Target/Sears = Argos ([www.argos.co.uk](http://www.argos.co.uk))

Like a big warehouse. Order online or by catalog in store. Argos is near the back of the mall. Walk through the door next to Currys.

CVS/Walgreens = Boots ([www.boots.com](http://www.boots.com))

Nyguil = Night Nurse

Do not combine pills that both have Paracetamol (overloads the liver).

Best Buy = Currys ([www.currys.co.uk](http://www.currys.co.uk))

Much more expensive!

Tom Thumb/Kroger = Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer, Supermarket

Office Max = Rymans

Bus	=	coach
Train	=	rail
Movie	=	film, cinema
Light beer	=	lager
Pear cider	=	cider
Apple cider	=	cider
Friend	=	mate
Travel mug	=	flask
Elevator	=	lift

## TOURISM BEYOND OXFORD

### BATH (<http://www.cityofbath.co.uk/>)

(1 hour by train, changing trains in Didcot Parkway) A group of three can travel for £8pp on an open day return.

Bath Magazine (at Starbucks) has coupons in it

RomanBaths (<http://www.romanbaths.co.uk/>)

Thermae Spa (<http://www.thermaebathspa.com/>) (coupon in magazine)

Bizarre Bath Tours £5 per student 8 PM, (<http://www.bizarrebath.co.uk/>)

Free walking tour (2 hours), starting at the Abbey at 10:30 a.m.

### STONEHENGE (<http://www.stonehenge.co.uk/>)

Stonehenge is out of town. It can best be reached from Bath or Oxford on a chartered bus.

(Bath) [www.scarpertours.com](http://www.scarpertours.com)

Reservations can be made the same day (even Saturday). £14, driver buys tickets and enters as group, skipping the line. 10 AM and 2 PM daily

(Oxford) [www.dazbus.co.uk](http://www.dazbus.co.uk)

£23 + £5.20 entry fee (student cost)

### CAMBRIDGE (<http://cambridgeguide.com/>)

(3 hours because you must travel through London)

### LONDON (<http://www.daysoutguide.co.uk/offers.aspx>)

#### Tickets

[www.ticketline.co.uk](http://www.ticketline.co.uk)

[www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com)

[www.gigantic.com](http://www.gigantic.com)

[www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

### CARDIFF (<http://www.visitcardiff.com/>)

(2 hours by train. Take London train to Didcot Parkway, change for the Cardiff fast train (every hour until 9:30 p.m.). Same day return with railpass (£35), without pass (£50).