International Students
Information for the 2017 Christmas Vacation

The last full working day before Christmas will be Friday 22nd December and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2018

Please be aware that the opening hours of the University catering outlets will vary during this period.

Full details of closure across the University over the Christmas period can be found here
https://www.brookes.ac.uk/christmas/campuses/

UK VISAS AND IMMIGRATION (UKVI)

Students continuing on the same course, and planning on making an application to extend their visa during the Christmas closure must submit a CAS request by Tuesday 19th December. Any CAS requests submitted after this date will not be dealt with until we reopen. If you have applied through ISAT to extend your visa, you might not receive your documents before the vacation period. Please note that there will not be any deliveries received UKVI whilst the university is closed.

ISAT will contact you by email as soon as we receive your documents after the University reopens. The last ISAT drop-in session will be on Friday 23rd December 10am-12pm
See our website for more information: www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/
EVENTS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

SPENDING CHRISTMAS ON YOUR OWN IN OXFORD?
Britain virtually closes down for a couple of days at Christmas so you are welcome to come along to Clive’s Christmas Feast

"On Christmas Day I cook up a great big Christmas Feast in Clive Booth Student Village for those of us left “home alone” in Oxford on what is often a very quiet day in Britain with nothing open and little to do.

This is a full traditional Christmas Day lunch on 25th December, Christmas Day, in Clive Booth Student Village. There are some tickets left for this event, so if you would like to join this lunch, please Jock for more information.

jock.coats+christmas2017@brookes.ac.uk

SPEND CHRISTMAS DAY WITH ISH in London

Join International Student House (ISH) on Christmas Day for a traditional Christmas dinner.

Ticket prices vary: https://ish.org.uk/events/
https://www.facebook.com/events/1768859356477417/

You will be welcomed with Christmas drinks and delicious canapés on arrival at the bar, before joining us for a three course Christmas Lunch, followed by the Queens Speech and a Christmas film marathon while you rest your post-Christmas Dinner food-belly!

Students £15 | Alumni £25 | Guest £45
SUPPORT INFORMATION

SECURITY

Security will remain onsite during this time. If you require assistance during the Christmas period on any of the University sites please contact the security control room on 01865 483060 or find contact details online.

SAMARITANS

Christmas can be a lonely time, so if you are feeling down or you just need a chat the Samaritans telephone support service is open 24 hours a day over Christmas. Telephone: free telephone number, 116 123
Offer a safe place for you to talk any time you like, in your own way – about whatever’s getting to you. For further information see: https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help-you
Contact the Samaritans on 08457 909090 or 116 123

MEDICAL CENTRE

The Medical Centre on the 3rd floor of the Colonnade on Headington Campus is closed during vacation periods
https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/support-services/medical-centre/

During the vacation period you can use the St Bartholomew’s Medical Centre, Manzil Way, Cowley Road, OX4 1XB. Tel: 01865 242334
www.sbm.org.uk

If you have medical queries during evenings or weekends, please call NHS Direct on 111 (Free). You must only dial 999 in an emergency.

STUDENTAL

Studental on the 3rd floor of the Colonnade on Headington Campus is closed during vacation periods
www.studental.co.uk/

For dental queries when Studental is closed please call NHS Direct on 111 (Free). You must only dial 999 in an emergency.

SUPERMARKETS

Most supermarkets in Oxford will be shut on Christmas Day (25th Dec), Boxing Day (26th Dec) and New Year’s Day (1st Jan). Smaller local supermarkets may open during this time.

LIBRARY

The JHBB library is closed from Saturday 23rd December until 1st January inclusive
For more detailed information about *Headington, Harcourt Hill and Wheatley Libraries* times during the vacation check the opening times of as they vary: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/

**COMPUTER SERVICES**

The pooled computer rooms will be closed while the University is closed (23rd Dec – 1st January) but will be open as normal after this.

**SPORTS FACILITIES**

Brookes sport opening times
See: www.brookes.ac.uk/brookes-sport/

**TRANSPORT**

**Buses**
Services (including BROOKESbus) will run to a revised timetable over the Christmas and New Year period.

**BROOKESbus vacation timetable:**
https://brookesbus.oxfordbus.co.uk/timetables/

**Oxford Bus Company:**
www.oxfordbus.co.uk/christmas/

**Stagecoach Buses**
https://www.stagecoachbus.com/

**Airline coach:**
https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/

**Oxford Tube:**
https://www.oxfordtube.com/tubetimes.aspx

**Rail**
Most rail services will run a normal service until 23 December.
Please note that there are no train services running on Christmas Day and only certain services will run on Boxing Day (26 December).

National rail enquiries – Tel: 08457 484950
http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/service_disruptions/172038.aspx
Transport for London:
https://tfl.gov.uk/
FESTIVE INFORMATION

Christmas Eve (24th December)
Christmas Eve is not a public holiday in the UK, but many people will not work a full day because they need to travel to their families. Public transport services may finish earlier than usual.

Christmas Day (25th December)
This is a public holiday in the UK. Most shops, restaurants and places of entertainment are closed.

Boxing Day (26th December)
This is also a public holiday. Many shops start their post-Christmas sales on this day (people sometimes queue up outside department stores early in the hope of getting a good bargain). Most transport services will be running, but they often have a reduced service and may start later in the day than normal. There will be some sporting events taking place, such as football and horse racing.

What do people do on Christmas Day?
Lots of families celebrate Christmas with their own customs and traditions and many Christians start the day by going to church. Typically people exchange gifts, enjoy a festive drink, open crackers (filled with small toys, a paper hat, and a written joke), and eat a big Christmas dinner with some or all of the following: roasted turkey (or goose), roast potatoes, root vegetables such as carrots and parsnips, Brussels sprouts (love them or hate them!), bread sauce, and 'pigs in blankets' (sausages wrapped in bacon). After this a short sleep on the sofa is often required to help digest all the food, and the evening is spent playing a board game or watching Christmas shows on the television. Many families also watch the Queen deliver her annual Christmas Day speech.
**FESTIVE FOODS TO TRY**

**Mince pies**
Small sweet pies filled with fruit such as currants and raisins, fruit peel and spices. The filling is called mincemeat (not to be confused with minced meat...).
Great with: sherry. Just ask Father Christmas (Santa Claus). Traditionally, on Christmas Eve families leave mince pies and a glass of sherry for Father Christmas who visits people's homes overnight to deliver gifts and presents.

**Christmas cake**
A rich fruit cake coated with marzipan and icing.
Great with: believe it or not, cheese. In Yorkshire, fruit cake is often eaten with cheese.

**Christmas pudding**
A rich fruit pudding cooked by boiling.
Great with: fire and brandy butter. Traditionally, Christmas puddings are splashed with alcohol such as brandy, set on fire, and served with brandy butter.

**Stilton cheese**
A strong cheese with blue veins - only made in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire but available everywhere.
Great with: port. Stilton is often enjoyed with a glass of port at Christmas.

**Trifle**
A cold dessert made with layers of sponge cake, custard, jelly and cream.
Great with: a soft drink. The sponge cake is often soaked in lots of sherry making it quite alcoholic!
WHAT’S ON- CHRISTMAS IN OXFORD

As many places are closed it may be an idea to make plans with friends. Below are some suggestions of what is happening in Oxford and London.

**Oxford Playhouse**
For tickets contact Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Tel: 01865 305305
Performance times and to buy tickets online: [www.oxfordplayhouse.com/](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/)

**Oxford New Theatre**
George Street, city centre. Tel: 08448 713020
Performance times and to buy tickets online: [www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-theatre-oxford/](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-theatre-oxford/)

**Pegasus Theatre**
Magdalen Road. Tel: 01865 812150
Performance times and to buy tickets online: [www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/](http://www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/)

**The North Wall**
South Parade. Tel: 01865 319450
Performance times and to buy tickets online: [www.thenorthwall.com/](http://www.thenorthwall.com/)

**Experience Oxfordshire**
Lots of information about what is on in Oxfordshire [http://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/](http://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/)

**Phoenix Picturehouse, Jericho**
[https://www.picturehouses.com/cinema/Phoenix_Picturehouse](https://www.picturehouses.com/cinema/Phoenix_Picturehouse)
Ultimate Picture Palace, Cowley:
http://www.uppcinema.com/

Curzon Cinema, Westgate
https://www.curzoncinemas.com/oxford/info

Blenheim Palace
https://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/

Oxford Castle Unlocked
https://www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk/

Christmas Concerts and other events
Taking place all over Oxfordshire during the festive season
http://www.musicatoxford.com/

Ice Skating – Oxford Fusion Ice Rink
Come and enjoy a great day on the ice. Activities include general skating, disco, family skating, skate training sessions and ice-hockey.
http://www.fusionlifestyle.com/centres/oxford-ice-rink

Volunteering Opportunities
There are plenty of volunteering opportunities for students over the holidays. Careers have more information, please see the links below:
www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/students-and-graduates/volunteering/
www.facebook.com/brookesvolunteers

OTHER FESTIVE EVENTS AND IDEAS IN OXFORD

http://www.livinginoxford.com/
www.hostuk.org.uk
www.meetup.com/
http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/christmas

WHAT’S ON GUIDE – LONDON

The International Student House (ISH)
229 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5PN
ISH Events (throughout the vacation period):
ish.org.uk/events/

London Winter Wonderland
http://hydeparkwinterwonderland.com/

OTHER FESTIVE EVENTS AND IDEAS IN LONDON

http://www.timeout.com/london/christmas
http://www.londontown.com/London/christmas
www.viewlondon.co.uk/christmas.aspx
www.meetup.com/find/ (Search 'London')