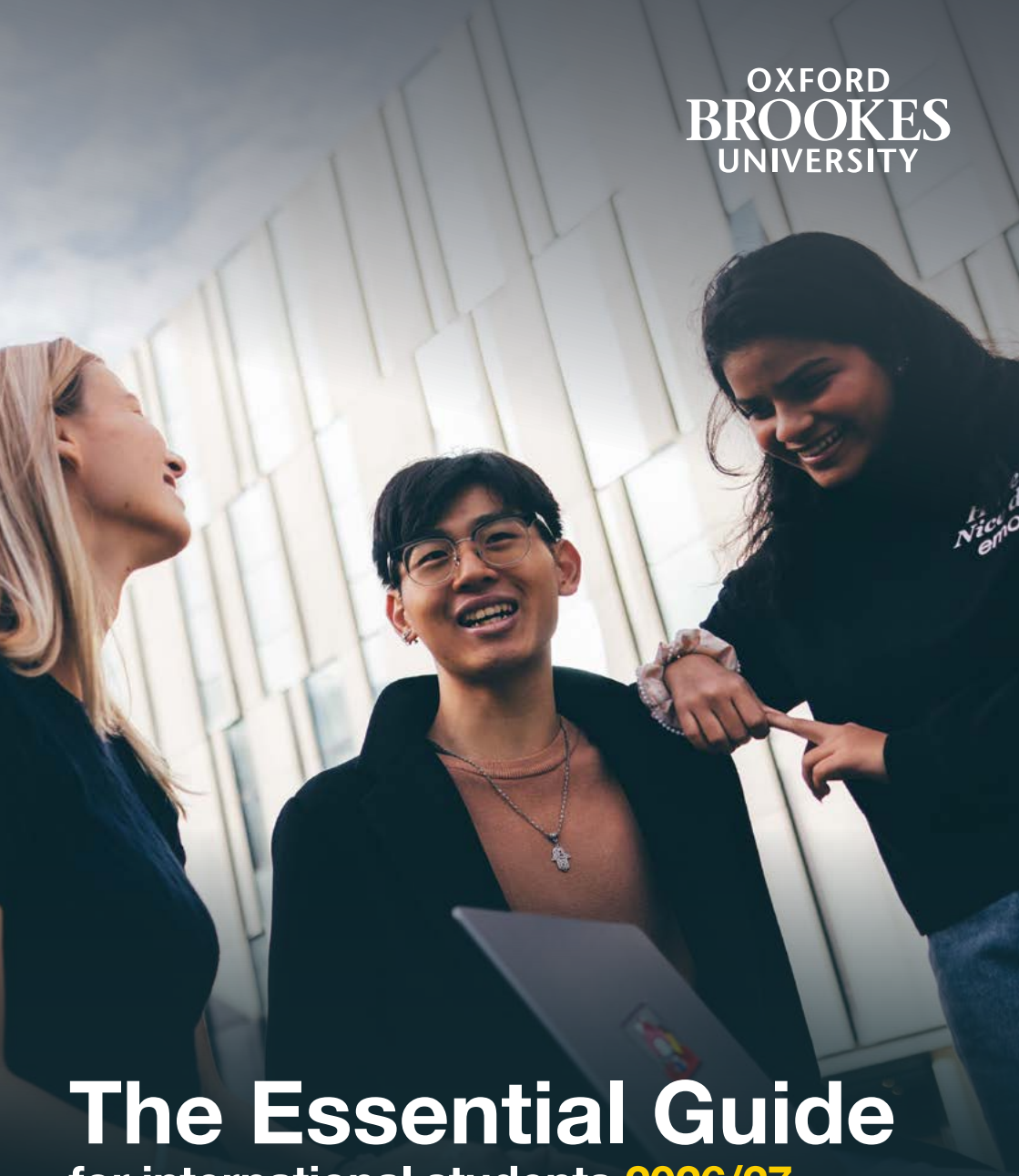

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

The Essential Guide

for international students 2026/27

Includes:

• New students' checklist • Social events • Support while you are here
• Life in the UK • Opening a bank account • Healthcare

Welcome to Oxford Brookes University

The **International Student Advice Team (ISAT)** warmly welcomes you to Oxford Brookes and we hope you have a fantastic time while you are here. This guide will give you lots of useful information about starting out at Oxford Brookes and in the UK. Throughout your time at Oxford Brookes, you are always welcome to contact us or check our website for information.

What we do

ISAT offers information and advice to international students about immigration, employment, and general academic matters. We are here if you need to talk about any difficulty you might be facing. We also organise events and trips outside Oxford, to help you make the most of your time at Oxford Brookes. We are very active on Instagram – make sure you follow us at **@brookes_isatsocial**

Our contact details

www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat

isat@brookes.ac.uk

In person drop-ins: **www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/contact**

Online appointments: **www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/contact**

Online drop-in: **www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/contact**

@brookes_isatsocial

WhatsApp community: **www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/social/arrivals**

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New students' checklist

As a new student, there are some important things that you need to do. You can use the links for further details in the first instance, and contact Oxford Brookes staff if you need additional support. **www.brookes.ac.uk/study/new-students**

Checklist of things to do

- ☐ **Complete your enrolment**
- ☐ Set up your Brookes email and calendar – you need to complete your enrolment first
- ☐ Collect your student card – you will receive an email when your card is ready for collection
- ☐ Check with your Faculty if all your modules are registered
- ☐ Open a UK bank account
- ☐ Register with a GP surgery near you – this is a UK health centre where you can see a doctor
- ☐ Decide if you would like to get a **Totum card** for discounts and ID
- ☐ Check the ISAT Social Events and follow us on **WhatsApp** and **Instagram** to receive updates.

Attendance letter

Your Attendance Letter (also referred to as Certificate of Attendance), can be used as proof of your local address. You can request this document online once you have completed your enrolment. Instructions are on this **Student Advice Team webpage**.

Proof of address

Students in Oxford Brookes accommodation can also get a proof of address letter by emailing **accomm@brookes.ac.uk**

Social events

The International Student Advice Team (ISAT) organises social events and trips every semester to help you meet other students, discover the UK and make the most of your time here.

The full programme of social events and trips can be found at on the **ISAT website**.

We also post regular updates on our social media channels.

@brookes_isatsocial

WhatsApp community

Global Buddies

The Global Buddies programme brings together our current UK/ international students with newly arrived international students. Our current students can share their experience with you and provide tips about how to settle into life at Oxford Brookes. To register, go to **Global Buddies webpage**.

Life in the UK:
Support while you are here

Student Support and Wellbeing
The University offers a range of support services. If you are not sure who to contact, you can email **studentsupportservices@brookes.ac.uk** or look at the list of support services available on the University's website.

International Student Advice Team (ISAT)
We're a good place to start if you're not sure who to ask. You can come and see us at our face-to-face drop in, meet us online in our Zoom Room or email us.

International Student Compliance Team (ISCT)
This team processes your **Right to Study checks**. If you change your passport or your visa/immigration status, you must email them so they can keep your records up-to-date: **isct@brookes.ac.uk**

Student Advice Team
This team is your first point of contact for general queries. They can help with your academic programme, financial queries, student cards, transcripts, exceptional circumstances, Council Tax exemption.

Student Support Co-ordinators (SSCs)
Each faculty has a network of Student Support Co-ordinators (SSCs) to support you – they can help with any problem or issue you may face during your time at University. Any question about programme structure should be discussed with them.

Research Degrees Team
The Research Degrees Team works closely with the faculty Research Offices to provide a support service for all research students – from first enrolment to conferment of your degree.

Exchanges & Study Abroad Team
All Exchanges and Study Abroad students should contact this team for support.

Centre for Academic Development
You can contact the Centre of Academic Development to see a tutor if you need advice on study skills, maths or statistics. You can get support on a wide range of issues, including understanding the task, planning, researching, structuring essays and assignments. The Centre also offers online resources.

If English is not your first language, Oxford Brookes offers a range of **Academic English modules and courses**. You can take credit-bearing modules or short courses at any stage of your degree. One-to-one or online writing consultations are available.

Engagement and Attendance Coordinators
The University's Engagement and Attendance Co-ordinators are responsible for reaching out to students where there are concerns about their engagement or attendance. They will regularly monitor students' attendance throughout the academic year.

Student Finance and Financial Aid Team
We know you can sometimes have unexpected problems with money for a variety of reasons. It is very important to talk to someone as soon as possible, and to let the Student Finance Team know if this is going to affect your fee payments. Students may be able to apply for Financial Aid.

Careers Service
If you are looking for work or volunteering while you are here, our Careers service provides a list of opportunities. They can advise you what UK employers are looking for and how to write your CV.

Accommodation Team
If you are staying in a Brookes-managed accommodation and have any questions about living in halls, you need to liaise with our Accommodation team and use the Residences Information Portal.

Counselling
The Counselling Service offers you the opportunity to discuss anything important to you or troubling you, in confidence. This could be fear of failure, bereavement, homesickness, relationship problems or depression.

Multifaith Chaplaincy
The Multifaith Chaplaincy offers support, friendship and information to people of all faiths and none. It has a team of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh Chaplains who run discussion groups, worship, and more – these activities are open to everyone. The Chaplaincy keep details of churches, mosques, temples and other faith communities in Oxford. There are also dedicated prayer and quiet rooms on each campus.

Inclusive Support Team
If you have a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia or AD(H)D, information about reasonable adjustments and support is available on the Inclusive Support website.

Specific support needs
There is specific support available to care leavers, mature students, estranged students, student carers and LGBTQ+ students.

Getting settled

In this section, we are sharing resources and advice to help you settle in your new life in the UK.

We know it may feel a bit overwhelming to deal with administrative tasks and get your head round the way things are done here – it's probably quite different from your home country! As always, don't hesitate to contact ISAT if you need any support.

Getting around Oxford Brookes campuses

Oxford Brookes has several campuses and it will seem like a bit of a maze at first. If you want to get familiar with the campuses and facilities before going in-person, you can visit **Oxford Brookes virtually!**

You can join one of our campus tours during Induction week or book a campus tour later during the semester. **Find out more on our website.**

Printing

UniPrint is a service that enables students and staff to print securely from a desktop, laptop, mobile phone or tablet to any printer at Brookes. You can also scan or copy documents.

WiFi

Brookes WiFi is available on all our campuses. Please ask for the password at any reception/ help desk.

You can login to wifi in Brookes student halls via Wifinity.

Once you are a student, you can use Eduroam for simple, easy, secure connectivity from thousands of hotspots across more than 100 countries.

If you require IT assistance, you can call or visit the IT Service Desk on campus, or **go online to chat with them**.

Work in the UK

National Insurance Number

If you want to work during your time in the UK, you need to apply for a National Insurance Number (NIN). Information on how to get a NIN can be found on our **Work Options webpage**.

Work on a Student visa (Degree level)

You should be able to work up to a maximum of 20 hours a week during semester time. It is very important that you never work more than the maximum hours allowed, even for just one week. This would be a breach of your immigration conditions and a criminal offence.

Working during holidays

During University vacation periods you are free to work full time. If your employer asks for proof of the vacation period, you can refer them to the **official University semester dates**. Your employer can also refer to the UKVI guidance on right to work checks. Please note that vacation periods differ depending on which course you are studying, for example, if you are a masters student the holiday period does not apply when you are writing your dissertation. During this period you are only allowed to work up to 20 hours per week.

Graduate Route visa

The Graduate route visa is a post-study work visa available for international students who wish to remain in the UK after their studies. On this visa, you can work in most roles or look for work.

You need to meet the eligibility requirements to apply for this visa. This is not a guaranteed visa option after studying.

Find more information about this visa on our website.

Failing some of your course and the Graduate Route visa

If you do not pass a module, this could impact your eligibility for the Graduate Route visa. **Find out more on our website**.

Student visa

Accessing your eVisa

To view your eVisa you will need to **create a UKVI account**.

Creating a UKVI account will enable you to view the details of your eVisa online, for example, your type of permission, your visa expiry date and your conditions of stay in the UK. Personal information such as contact details can be updated in your UKVI account.

Your eVisa will be linked to your passport in your UKVI account. You must keep your passport or ID card details up-to-date and tell the UKVI about any changes so that at the UK border your immigration status can be easily identified. You will still need to carry your current passport with you.

If you have a new passport and you're still waiting for confirmation that your UKVI account has been updated, you should also carry your old document with you.

Checking your eVisa

When you receive your eVisa, please check the following things:

- Your name, nationality and date of birth are correct.
- The end date of your visa is correct. If your course is over 12 months long, your visa should end 4 months after your course finishes. If your course is between 6 and 12 months, you should have 2 months after your course finishes.

Keep copies of your documents

Keep copies of your passport, bank cards and important documents in case you lose them.

We do **NOT** recommend carrying your passport around with you at all times.

Instructions for downloading your Attendance Letter or proof of address (for students living in halls) can be found on page 4 of this guide.

Opening a UK bank account

The basics

- You must have a UK address before you can open a bank account
- You must have an Attendance Letter with your local address on (see page 4 for instructions)
- It generally takes 2-3 weeks or longer to open a bank account, depending on your bank.

How does it work?

Most banks prefer international students to make their application for an account online and not face-to-face at the bank branch. Some banks will allow you to upload scanned documents (mobile phone photos are often permitted.) However, you may be asked to visit the bank for a face-to-face interview following your online application. The documents that you will need for your application are listed in the tables on the following pages.

IMPORTANT NOTE

It can take some time to open a bank account, so make sure you have enough money for your first couple of weeks in the UK.

Consider whether you would like to get a pre-paid currency card/multi-currency account with a digital banking company such as **Revolut**, or **Wise**, formerly known as TransferWise, which enables you to access money abroad without expensive fees – a good option while you wait for your UK account to be set up.

Things to remember

- Always tell your bank if you change your address. If you don't, your bank statements may get lost or returned to the bank, and they may then close your account.
- UK banks do not usually allow overdraft loans to international students, and so some banks will send you text warnings if your money is running out.
- Talk to the Student Money Advice team for advice on managing your money
- Most businesses accept contactless payments. Cash is not accepted everywhere, so we advise you to carry a debit card in case you need to make any payment.

See the next two pages for information about the branches in Oxford city centre, and the type of accounts you can open.

Banks in Oxford

In this table you will find information about a few bank accounts which are available to international students – please note this is not an exhaustive list and information might have changed since we wrote this guide. Make sure you do some research before you select and apply for a bank account.

Bank	Account	Documents required to open the account	Further information
NatWest 43 Cornmarket Street (Oxford City centre)	**"Select" bank account** • Contactless debit card • No monthly fee • Fees for international transfers	• Valid passport • Valid visa or proof of pre-settled/settled status (if applicable) • Proof of address • Oxford Brookes Attendance Certificate	NatWest Select bank account
BARCLAYS 13-15 Cornmarket St (Oxford city centre)	**Basic Bank Account** • Contactless debit card • No monthly fee • Rewards	• Valid passport • Valid visa or proof of pre-settled/settled status (if applicable) • Oxford Brookes Attendance Certificate with local address	Barclays Basic bank account
HSBC 65 Cornmarket Street (Oxford City centre)	**Bank account for international students** • Contactless debit card • No monthly fee • Fees if you use the card abroad • Discounts and offers	• Valid passport • Valid visa or proof of pre-settled/settled status (if applicable) • Oxford Brookes Attendance Letter with local address	HSBC bank account for international students

Which bank to choose?

All the banks are located in the city centre of Oxford. There are other banks in the city centre of Oxford. Try to choose a bank that you can easily visit, in case they invite you to a face-to-face appointment to open your account.

Talk to the banks and choose the best one for you. If you receive regular payments from abroad, it may be best to choose an account that doesn't charge for international transfers. Make sure you are aware of any other bank charges.

Bank	Account	Documents required to open the account	Further information
Santander Santander House, Carfax (Oxford city centre)	**Everyday Current Account** • No monthly fee	• Valid passport • Valid visa or proof of pre-settled/settled status (if applicable) • Oxford Brookes Attendance Certificate with local address	**Santander Everyday current account**
	Basic Bank Account • Non-contactless debit card • No monthly fee	• Valid passport • Valid visa or proof of pre-settled/settled status (if applicable) • Oxford Brookes Attendance Certificate with local address	This account is not as flexible as others: • Restrictions on some types of transactions • No contactless card • You need to top up your debit card **Santander Basic bank account**

Information up-to-date at the time of writing.

Find out more

- International students – **Opening a UK bank account**

If your bank is requiring any additional documents to prove your student status or your address, please contact Student Central: **studentcentral@brookes.ac.uk**

If you have any difficulties in opening an account or getting statements for your visa, contact ISAT (see page 2).

Shopping

Groceries (food): Where to go

Most people buy ingredients for cooking at home from a supermarket.

- **Cheaper supermarkets:** Aldi, Asda, Iceland, Lidl.
- **Mid-range supermarkets:** Tesco, Co-op, Sainsbury's
- **More expensive supermarkets:** Marks & Spencer's, Ocado, Waitrose.

Headington is the closest shopping area to Headington University Campus. There are also many shops and restaurants on Cowley Road, selling food from around the world. These shops may sell food from your home country or you may be able to buy things which are not available in the larger supermarkets. You can find more information on the **Daily Info Oxford Food Shopping page**.

Dietary requirements

In the larger supermarkets, you will usually find a range of "free from" food such as nut-free, gluten-free, vegan and dairy-free products. Halal and kosher food can often be found in big supermarkets, but you may have more choice in smaller specialised local shops.

Online shopping and deliveries

It is helpful to know how you can get food and other necessities delivered to your door. Go to our **shopping webpage** for useful tips, as well as provider suggestions.

Get discounts

You can sign up to get a loyalty card at most supermarkets, which will get you discounts on your shopping. Many companies offer student discounts, but you may need a Totum card (see page 4).

Mobile phones

Most international students use a "pay-as-you-go" or a "SIM-only" deal. In this case, mobile phone companies will usually give SIM cards for free, but you'll need to buy credit. Popular companies include: 3, EE, GiffGaff, ID mobile, O2, Vodaphone and VOXI. **You can check prices online**. You can also pick up a free SIM card at the ISMP.

Average price of staple products

Milk (regular, 1 litre)	£1.40
Loaf of bread (fresh, white, 500g)	£1.21
Eggs (a dozen)	£3.94
Chicken Fillets (1kg)	£6.75
Rice (white, 1kg)	£2.12
Potatoes (1kg)	£1.23
Onion (1kg)	£1.48
Lettuce (1 head)	£0.76
Tomatoes (1kg)	£4.17
Apples (1kg)	£3.05
Oranges (1kg)	£2.38
Bananas (1kg)	£1.17

Information up-to-date at the time of writing.

Household goods

Before moving to the UK, make sure you ask what will be included in your accommodation, especially: toilet roll, bedding (duvet, pillows, bed linen), cutlery and cooking utensils, laundry and washing up liquid. For instance, most of these items are usually not included in Brookes halls of residence.

If you will be staying in an Oxford Brookes University hall of residence, you will be able to buy bedroom and kitchen kits directly via the Accommodation Portal shopping cart. These can be purchased in advance and will be in your rooms for when you arrive. You can also buy these products locally. In Oxford city centre, shops such as Primark, H&M, TK Maxx and John Lewis stock household goods.

Cosmetics and toiletries

Most supermarkets have a Health & Beauty aisle. If you want more choice, go to a specialised store such as Boots, Superdrug and Savers.

Charity shops

There are some charity shops in Oxford which sell second-hand clothes, shoes, furniture and lots of things you might want for a new house. These have been donated by people who no longer use them. You can also find second-hand items on **Gumtree** and **DailyInfo.**

Medicine and prescriptions

In the UK, you can buy some types of medicines for minor health conditions at a supermarket or pharmacy without a prescription. You can even order online (Boots, Superdrug, supermarkets). For other types of medicine, you first need to register with a GP (see page 16), who will send a prescription to a pharmacy.

Healthcare

Medical

Most students have access to the National Health Service (NHS). This includes seeing General Practitioner doctors (GPs) for non-emergency appointments, or the hospital for emergencies. To access this, you will need to register with a GP surgery. Oxford Brookes has a medical centre on campus, to which you can register online before you arrive.

More information about student health at Oxford Brookes University.

If you are being treated for a long-term medical condition, register as soon as possible and make an appointment to see your new doctor. Take your home doctor's name and address, copies of your previous medical records and a list of any of your medicines when you go to the appointment.

More information about accessing health care in the UK.

Mental health

If you feel low or need support with your mental health, you can contact the Brookes Counselling team (see page 7). You can also find lots of helpful tips and resources on **Student Minds and Student Space**. If you need immediate help, here's a list of **useful contacts** on our website.

Dental

Dental work is subsidised by the NHS but there is a charge each time you use the service. Damira Dental Studios is our dental clinic in the Colonnade Building, Headington Campus. **To book an appointment, visit their website**.

Useful contacts

111
non-emergency health advice

999
life-threatening condition, ambulance

116 123
Samaritans (Mental health charity with a 24/7 helpline)

Register with a GP as soon as possible after your arrival in the UK

Living in Oxford: Travel and safety

Travel around Oxford

The **Oxford Brookes travel pages** provide a lot of information about travelling locally and student travel offers.

Getting the bus

All Oxford Brookes students can use their Brookes Student Card for discounted travel on local Oxford Bus Company bus services. You can show your Student Card to the bus driver to get a Brookes CityZone Single for £1.80 (valid for a single journey within the CityZone area). You can also purchase a subsidised annual CityZone pass online. **More information can be found on our website.**

E-scooter

Information on how to use e-scooters in Oxford.

Travel outside Oxford

Train station

You can book your train tickets online/via the **Trainline app**.

Oxford Tube (coach service between Oxford and London)

You can book your tickets online/via the **Oxford Tube app**

Staying safe

Personal safety

Oxford is a very safe place to live and study but, like any other city, there are risks. Below are just a few pointers which, if followed, will go a long way to aid your safety:

- Trust your instincts, they will usually be right – if you feel nervous or frightened move away from the threat and seek safety with others or a safer location.
- Know where you are going; plan your journeys. How are you getting there? More importantly, how are you getting back? Not all public transport in Oxford runs 24/7.
- Don't carry or display large amounts of cash. Keep valuables out of sight (e.g. phone, laptop).
- Do not go into parks at night when it's dark. Whenever possible, do not go out alone. Stay in well-lit areas.
- Do not leave your drink unattended in bars/clubs. Generally speaking, stay safe while clubbing.
- Do not accept lifts in vehicles from people you don't know.
- Always keep a list of emergency contact numbers in your mobile phone.
- If threatened with violence for property, do not fight for it – hand it over. Property can be replaced; you can't.
- Use a personal safety app, such as **Hollie Guard**

Beware of scams

Students are being targeted by fraudsters. Students are contacted on their mobile phone by people claiming to represent the HMRC, UKVI, their bank or other reputable agencies and are told they owe funds immediately or that there is an issue with their immigration status.

Officials will NEVER contact you and ask you to confirm personal information or pay over the phone. If this happens to you, HANG UP immediately, DO NOT share any personal information and **check our webpage about scams**.

Brookes Security contacts

Oxford Brookes Security team provides a 24/7 security service. They can be reached on **01865 603060** and at **security@brookes.ac.uk**. **Follow them on Instagram**. For further information, **visit the security webpage**.

Emergency contacts

999 Police / Fire / Ambulance

101 Police (non-emergency)

Adapting to life in the UK

Moving to a new country can be challenging – settling in can take some time and be tiring, as you will be learning new things all the time. Here are some ideas to help you make the UK your second home.

Making friends

- **Global Buddies:** join the programme to make friends from around the world
- **ISAT social events.** ISAT organises a variety of events to help students socialise
- **Brookes Union societies and events:** meet students with similar interests by joining (or creating!) a student-run society, or attend a social event organised by Brookes Union especially during Fresher's Fair.
- **Brookes Sport clubs:** join a sports club to meet people who are passionate about the same sport as you! More information in the "Staying Active" section.
- **Chaplaincy events:** the Multifaith Chaplaincy organises events for students of all faiths and none
- **International Student Club (ISC):** a great place to meet new people from all over the world, to practise your English, to learn about British culture and customs.
- **Meetup:** find groups and activities in Oxford based on your interests. This can be a great way to meet British people.

Develop your academic and English skills

We know from experience that how to study effectively is not obvious and with that in mind, the Centre for Academic Development (see page 6) offers classes, one-to-one online tutorials and online resources to help you get to where you want to be. Indeed, whether you are a foundation student who is new to university life or a PhD student wondering how to get through your viva, you will find something here that is useful.

Employment

If you want to get a job during your studies, our **Careers service** can help you find opportunities (see page 7). It is important that you check if there are any restrictions applicable to you on working in the UK. See **work options** and **visa responsibilities**.

Staying active

Brookes Sport has a whole range of activities, sports and opportunities for everyone. Facilities include gyms, a climbing wall, a swimming pool, a boathouse, courts and pitches, as well as a bar and cafe.

Looking after the environment

Oxford Brookes is dedicated to all things sustainable. Here are some tips to help save energy (most of which will help save money too):

- Think about walking or cycling
- Carry a reusable coffee cup. Most coffee shops will offer you a discount.
- Bring your own water bottle. There are water refill points across the Brookes catering outlets.
- Eat sustainably, eg. buy locally produced food.
- Don't forget to recycle.
- Donate the items you no longer need to charity. There are British Heart Foundation donation points across our campuses and halls of residence.

Get involved!

Join our **Environmental Network** or our Hedgehog-Friendly team.

To learn more about **sustainability at Oxford Brookes**.

Culture

Your name while you are in the UK

If your language is written in a different way from English, you may be confused about how to write your name, so follow these tips:

- Always write your name in the same way (spelling and order) as it is printed in your passport.
- When you do your online enrolment, check that your name is in full in the way you want it to appear on your certificate/diploma, and make it clear which name you want us to use as your surname (family name).
- If your country does not use first name and surname, decide in advance which part of your name you will use as your surname and always use it in the same way.
- Don't be afraid to tell people how to pronounce your name and/or correct them!

Discover the UK with ISAT

Throughout the semester, ISAT organises workshops, trips and activities to help you learn about the UK and the British culture. **Check out our event page for more information**.

Finding things to do in Oxford

Oxford is a historic and vibrant city. It has museums, theatres, cinemas, clubs and live music venues as well as lovely parks to explore and relax in. There are many places to eat and drink, with food from around the world. **We publish some of these on our website**.

The **DailyInfo website** is a great source of information too.

Some free time between classes?

Don't hesitate to discover Oxford on your own! Have a walk in a park, visit a museum/college or enjoy a sweet treat and a coffee/tea.

Find some ideas on **trip101.com**.

British etiquette: a guide for international students

Punctuality
Being late is seen as bad manners in the UK. Aim to arrive five minutes early for classes so there is time to sit down before they begin. If you are going to be late for an appointment, let the person you are meeting know. You can be a little late if you are going to someone's house for a party or dinner.

Politeness
You will often hear the words "excuse me", "please", "thank you" and "sorry" – it's good to use them yourself.

Personal space
People like a lot of space around them so don't stand too close to them.

Privacy
Try not to ask personal questions, for example, about age, their salary, religious beliefs or politics until you know them very well.

Queuing
We queue (stand in line) for everything here; for buses, to pay in shops, for toilets and sometimes even to enter class. People will be annoyed at you if you do not wait in the queue. If someone is there before you, let them go first. If you forget to queue, just apologise.

Humour
The British sense of humour can be ironic and confusing. Don't worry. As you get to know the people better, you will start understanding the jokes. If you are not sure, just ask.

Going out
Some people, clubs and societies meet in pubs (public houses). All pubs serve non-alcoholic drinks so you don't need to drink alcohol. It is legal to drink alcohol if you are 18 years old. Alternatively, people meet in the many cafés in Oxford.

Tipping
We only usually tip when receiving table service for example in cafes, pubs, or restaurants. Tipping is normally around 10%. Restaurants may include a service charge – this will be added to your bill (the amount is a percentage of the total bill, ranging from 10-15%). It is not obligatory to leave an additional tip if a service charge is added to the bill, unless you want to show extra appreciation.

Physical contact
Most people shake hands when they are first introduced but as you get to know them better they might greet you with a hug.

Studying at university

In the UK, students often **work independently** which may be different to what you might have been used to in your own country. Your Oxford Brookes tutors will expect you to develop a critical approach to your studies, analysing what you read, and offering your own arguments based on a wide range of evidence.

Plagiarism, which means presenting someone else's work as your own, is strictly forbidden and can lead to failing your course. When using information from books and other sources, write it in your own words or put it in quotation marks and reference the original book or article. Ask your tutor or Academic Adviser if you do not know how to reference your work.

To do well, you will need to compare different books and articles that you have read, commenting on whether their arguments make sense and making judgements about the quality of their evidence.

Most courses include lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical work, independent study and assessments. A **lecture** is a large class, sometimes with over 100 students that lasts around one hour. The lecturer will give a general overview of a topic and you will need to take notes. If there is something you don't understand, make a note and ask your tutor about it later.

A **seminar** is a class of up to 15 students. The tutor will give you the topic in advance and you may need to read about it or prepare a short presentation to discuss in the seminar. The aim of the seminar is to analyse the topic through debate. Your tutors will encourage you, so don't be afraid to speak out and challenge others and offer your own ideas.

Your **tutor or Academic Adviser** will have a regular office hour where you can go to ask them questions one-to-one. This is an opportunity to discuss how your work is going and any problems you are having with the topic or with studying in general.

Additional resources

Join the free online **Study UK: Prepare to Study and Live in the UK** course, to familiarise yourself with the British culture and higher education system.

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

International Student Advice Team (ISAT)

www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat

isat@brookes.ac.uk

In person drop-ins:
www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/contact

Online appointments:
www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/contact

Online drop-in:
www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/contact

@brookes_isatsocial

WhatsApp community:
www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/social/arrivals

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The information in this guide is correct at the time of publication.
Please refer to the web links provided throughout this guide for the most up-to-date information.