Freshers Guide 2026-27

Introduction

A very warm welcome to Oxford, congratulations! University can feel overwhelming, but we're here to make your experience as fabulous as possible.

The Oxford University LGBTQ+ Society is a massive community of wonderful people, and we can't wait to have you join us! As a Society most of our effort goes into running a huge number of events every term so that you always have something fun to go to.

If that sounds good to you, sign up to our mailing list and follow our Instagram. Despite the love we put into the Instagram posts, our mailing list is our primary way to communicate directly with all you lovely people. Mostly this is for the weekly newsletter (written by yours truly) that's sometimes funny and always packed with events. We collate all the different queer events we can find each week and put them into a handy table, along with a few paragraphs of whatever I feel like yapping about, to go out every Sunday evening (or in the early hours of Monday) so you know what's happening that week. This includes events from all the other awesome organisers of queer events throughout the uni and the city.

If you don't know where to start, we'll be running a Rainbow Families scheme where you can signup to be matched with Rainbow Parents from higher years who can help you settle in and pass on their advice, similarly to College Parents.

Rainbow Families page

My biggest advice would be to spend as much time as possible this term trying everything you can and putting yourself out there - although not to say that you can't keep doing this throughout your degree! I made my closest friends in second year, and I'll be trying several new societies this term too.

If you want to go the extra mile, consider joining our Committee! We have several roles to fill and will give you all the necessary support + info, no experience needed. We're very friendly, promise!

Hope to see you at our events!

All the love,

Valerie (she/her)

OULGBTQ+ President

@oulgbtq

Mailing list signup

Society Events

As a Society we run a broad range of events, both regular and one-offs.

Tuesgays is our weekly drinking social that happens every Tuesday, 8-11pm. We rotate between different college bars (and the Jolly Farmers), with great music and a different theme to dress up to each week.

This is our most popular event and it's always great fun - everyone is welcome, whether you come with friends or solo, and even if you don't drink.

We have **identity-specific events** every single week. Currently, we run weekly Aro/Ace Teas, Trans & Nonbinary Teas, and Grad Mixers, as well as frequent Sapphic Saturdays.

These events are usually relaxed and provide a space to connect with people who share your identity, often with fun activities such as crafts, picnics, or films.

And this term we have several **awesome one-off events** lined up, including collabs with It Happens Here, Vegan Society Oxford, and Oxford Feminist Society!

What's What?

In the University

Us: central uni-wide LGBTQ+ events and resources

College Reps: most colleges have at least one LGBTQ+ rep on their JCR and MCR who should ensure that your college is as inclusive and supportive as possible, and hopefully run college-based events as well.

Other Societies: will have their own particular focus (e.g. many run excellent zines)

Student Union (SU): student representation, especially in various official uni committees

Physical Spaces

The Jolly Farmers: Oxford's oldest LGBTQ+ pub, located on Paradise Street near the Westgate shopping centre. It's full of character and has a super relaxed vibe. With a gorgeous beer garden, cosy interior rooms, and plenty of weekly events, it's a great inclusive place to spend time in!

Plush: Oxford's main LGBTQ+ club, located underground just off of Cornmarket Street. During term time, Plush runs a student club night called Skittles every Tuesday.

Glam: A newer LGBTQ+ club, located just the other side of Magdalen Bridge.

The Nest: an independent music space for young women, trans and non-binary people, located on Little Clarendon St.

More Events

Local Organisers

Oxford has a huge number and variety of queer events happening all the time. Thorough but non-exhaustive lists can be found here:

https://www.oulgbtq.org/socials-and-events.html
(covers more of the Uni societies and networks)

Our list

OTR list

https://oxfordtransrights.org/trans-in-oxford/
(covers more of the non-Uni events)

The Jolly Farmers pub, T(ART) Productions, and YWMP all run so many events you should definitely check out their websites (linked on our page above – left hand QR)

For your calendar

Queerfest: a (ticketed) party run by Wadham College every Michaelmas with food, drinks, music, and plenty of queer entertainment. Tickets are first released to Wadham College, but keep an eye out for the general release!

Oxford Pride: Oxford's annual Pride festival on the first weekend in June, featuring parade, stalls, stages and more.

DIY Pride: a fabulous community-organised and community-focused alternative Pride event, held in June/July.

Welfare

Resources

You can see our website for various resources on welfare and identities. If you have any questions or need support, depending on your need you can contact any one of:

- your college LGBTQ+ rep;
- a specific identity rep from our committee;
- our Welfare Officer oulgbtqwelfare@gmail.com.

Campaigning

Queer welfare is our core society mission, and campaigning is an important part of that. We'll continue to push for more inclusive policies throughout the university, and the expansion of LGBTQ+ welfare provisions across colleges.

We released an Open Letter over the summer on Resisting the EHRC Code of Practice in Oxford. Signatures are still open, and it would be great to hit 1000 signatories!

Trans rights should not be up for debate!

Open Letter

There used to be a dedicated queer campaign as part of the SU, which has now been replaced by their President for Welfare, Equity & Inclusion, and their LGBTQ+ (Part Time) Officer (which is currently me, Val).

Trans

Discord

You can contact the trans reps at outrans01@gmail.com or outrans02@gmail.com for access to Oxford's trans group on Discord.

Resources

The resources section on our website has lots about transitioning, including updating your details with the University.

Gender Expression Funds

Many JCRs and MCRs have a Gender Expression Fund that can help you with some of the cost of gender affirming items/clothing, or transport to medical appointments - this varies by college so do check.

If your college does not have a GEF we can support you in establishing one, and you can also use the central one offered by the Student Union:

https://www.oxfordsu.org/advice/get-help/accessing-support/gender-expression/

Trans Day of Remembrance

Trans Day of Remembrance occurs on the 20th of November each year and is marked by a service in a local church and a vigil in the RadCam square to honour the memory of Trans lives lost that year.

Committee Spotlight

Valerie (she/her), President

As your benevolent dictator of sorts I set out the vision for the Society during my reign. For some reason my vision seems to have included me doing lots of admin.

I'm a third year Physicist at Hugh's, although I spend a lot of my time out and about in the centre of Oxford doing student theatre and activism. Only one of those hobbies has gotten me into national newspapers thus far :)

Ali

Hi everyone I'm Ali and I am going into third year studying medicine at Queens. My top tip for any fresher coming to Oxford is to try and get to know as many people as you can, the more you know, the more likely you'll find your people. Medicine is not for the weak but in my spare time I make time for sports and shopping with friends. I am the current treasurer which involves managing the budget of the society whilst also being in charge of reimbursements and the society bank account.

Committee Spotlight

Jess (she/her) finalist historian at Corpus

As Women's Officer my main job is to run Sapphic Saturdays - these are social events, usually craft-focused, for the university's sapphic community. We've done a hair bows and necktie bedazzling event, patch making, Victorian bouquet making, and a Q&A with a cult lesbian SF/F author in collaboration with the Speculative Fiction society. Stay tuned for more events this term! There is a sapphic speed dating fundraiser with FemSoc in the works...

I'm available to contact at ouwomoff@gmail.com for any welfare concerns or just if you'd like someone to talk to.

Jem (she/they)

As Ace/Aro Rep, I run weekly meet-ups on Mondays. It's fun and friendly; what mattered most when I first came was the sense that you belonged in the group purely because you were queer.

I'm also responsible for the website and other IT, so blame me if the gremlins give you trouble. Beyond the society, I'm vegan, and I used to run the Trading Card Games society.

ToDo List for Incoming Freshers

We'll be stalls 16-17 in the East room if that means anything to you

- Find us at Freshers Fair
- Attend a Tuesgays
- Sign up to the mailing list
- Consider joining committee
- Sign our Open Letter

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL*
*unless the EHRC says they just really wanna know

OPEN LETTER:
Resisting the EHRC's Code of Practice in Oxford

RESIST RESIST RESIST

Mailing List Signup

OULGBTQ+ SOCIETY TERMCARD MT26

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
0		TUESGAYS @ JF	FRESHERS FAIR GRAD MIXER	FRESHERS FAIR	TRANS & NB TEA X ACE/ARO TEA COLLAB		
1	ACE/ARO TEA	TUESGAYS @ SOMERVILLE	GRAD MIXER		TRANS & NONBINARY TEA		
2	ACE/ARO TEA	TUESGAYS @ HILDA'S	GRAD MIXER	IHH FRESHERS CONSENT COLLAB (TBC)	TRANS & NONBINARY TEA	SAPPHIC SATURDAYS	VEGAN SOC COLLAB
3	ACE/ARO TEA	TUESGAYS @ BALLIOL	GRAD MIXER		TRANS & NONBINARY TEA		
4	ACE/ARO TEA	TUESGAYS @ LMH	GRAD MIXER	QUEER TAKE ME OUT	TRANS & NONBINARY TEA	SAPPHIC SATURDAYS	
5	ACE/ARO TEA	TUESGAYS @ TRINITY	GRAD MIXER		TRANS & NONBINARY TEA		
6	ACE/ARO TEA	TUESGAYS @ LINACRE	GRAD MIXER		TRANS & NONBINARY TEA	SAPPHIC SATURDAYS	
7	ACE/ARO TEA FEMSOC COLLAB	TUESGAYS @ ANNE'S	GRAD MIXER		TRANS & NONBINARY TEA		
8	ACE/ARO TEA	TUESGAYS TBC	GRAD MIXER		TRANS & NONBINARY TEA		