

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
UNIVERSITY-STUDENT RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT
VISITING STUDENTS¹



YOU SHOULD READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY. It contains important information about your contract with the University, including: rules that apply to your conduct, behaviour, and use of University services, circumstances when your studies at the University may be suspended or terminated, and how changes might have to be made to teaching or services in certain circumstances.

Relationship with the University

1. As a student at Oxford University you will be a member of one of the University's colleges, societies or permanent private halls. For convenience this document refers to permanent private halls, societies and colleges as "colleges".
2. Your main relationship will be with your college, but you will also have a separate relationship with the University in relation to your use of University facilities and services.
3. The status of Visiting Students is governed by the examination regulations for Visiting Students, available on the [Visiting Students page](#) of the Examination Regulations section of the University website and you will not be a matriculated student (i.e. a formal member of the University).
4. The purpose of this Agreement is to explain the key aspects of your relationship with the University. These are set out in:
 - a. The documents provided with this agreement, which include:
 - i. this agreement;
 - ii. the Student Handbook²;
 - iii. the core information about your course of study provided by your college;and
 - b. The University's Statutes and Regulations, and rules, procedures and policies made under them (see paragraphs 8 to 12 below).
5. You agree to abide by the terms of this agreement by taking up your place at the University.

¹ For exchange students who do not pay fees to their college (whether directly or through an intermediary) or Matriculated Non-Award Students, please refer to the Exchange Student Agreement or the Matriculated Non-Award Agreement

² Subject to two points: (1) Visiting Students are not automatically entitled to be members of the Oxford University Student Union ('Oxford SU'), although you will be able to apply to the Oxford SU to become an associate member, and such applications are dealt with on a case-by-case basis at Oxford SU's discretion; and (2) while Visiting Students are able to join University sports teams, they are not able to earn an "Oxford Blue".

University and College

6. Your continuing relationship with the University is linked to your continuing relationship with your college.
7. If your offer of a place at your college, or your college membership is terminated (e.g. for submitting false information or omitting material information in your application, failing to meet a condition of admission or for breach of college rules and regulations) your relationship with the University will also end. If you are suspended by your college, or subject to other disciplinary or procedural measures, the University may impose similar steps.

University Statutes, Regulations and Policies

8. You agree to comply with the University's Statutes and Regulations as amended from time to time and with the rules, procedures and policies which are made under them. Links to these on the University website are available at the [Governance and Planning 'Legislation' pages](#) and the [Examination Regulations search page](#). They include:
 - a. the University's Code of Discipline under [Statute XI](#), which sets out behaviour which is considered unacceptable by students and which may result in disciplinary action;
 - b. other regulations concerning your studies, residence, conduct and behaviour: examples are the ownership and exploitation of intellectual property, harassment, the use of IT and library facilities, health and safety issues and legislative requirements such as data protection;
 - c. any Health and Safety Instructions ('HSI') setting out standards of behaviour required of you during any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. 'HSI' includes any University code, policy or guidance issued in such circumstances. If an HSI is in force you must comply with it as a condition of in-person access to teaching and facilities, and may be disciplined for non-compliance; and
 - d. the duty to behave in accordance with the University's [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech](#).
9. The key provisions that you need to be aware of are summarised in your Student Handbook and in this agreement.
10. You agree that the University may take disciplinary action against you for breach of its Statutes and Regulations and the rules, procedures and policies, including the Code of Discipline and any HSI. Such action would take place under the appropriate procedure and could result in sanctions including suspension or expulsion.
11. Where you have accepted an offer of a place from your college but have not yet commenced your studies at Oxford the appropriate procedure will be determined by the Department(s) for the subject(s) you are studying, taking into account principles of fairness and proportionality. Such a University procedure would usually only apply if the conduct complained of is not subject to any college process. The procedure will usually be based on the relevant student procedure (e.g. a disciplinary procedure or the Fitness to Study procedure) and may determine whether this agreement should be terminated or whether measures should be required when you commence studies at Oxford.

12. You are only permitted to access or use University land, premises, facilities or services for the academic, welfare, leisure or sporting purposes for which such premises, facilities or services have been provided, or for meetings and events for other purposes where the University's [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech](#) has been complied with. Misuse of, unauthorised access to or use of, or occupation of University land, premises, facilities or services, and/or activities which prevent or substantially limit or impede authorised access or use by University students or staff, or which attempt to do so, are not permitted and may result in disciplinary action under [Statute XI](#).

Your Responsibilities

13. It is your responsibility:

- a. to act as a responsible member of the University's community, whether in person or virtually, including treating other members of the community and the public with courtesy, dignity and respect, and to behave in a manner consistent with the University's [Equality Policy](#).
- b. to progress your own academic studies, which will include submitting work when required to do so, meeting deadlines and attending tutorials, classes and lectures.
- c. to comply with any measures or instructions given by the University or your college to reduce risk of transmission of any illness or infection and behave in accordance with any HSI (e.g. wearing a face-mask, using hand sanitiser or following distancing procedures, if required). You must also immediately declare to your college if you have any serious and easily transmissible infectious illness.
- d. to seek help or raise concerns if you are having difficulty in any area of your academic or pastoral life. A wide range of support is available from your college, central University services and fellow students. Further details of who to contact are set out in section 2 of the Student Handbook and will be provided in your College Handbook.
- e. to follow good academic practice, including following the University's policies and guidance on conduct during examinations, plagiarism, academic integrity in research, use of AI tools, and conflicts of interest. More information is available in the Student Handbook including at sections 6, 10.4 and 10.6.
- f. to obtain an appropriate visa or immigration permission if necessary, and an ATAS (Advanced Technology Approval Scheme) certificate if required for your course, and to abide by any visa/immigration conditions including maximum permitted working hours and the types of work allowed and provide a copy of your visa/confirmation of immigration status and passport identification page when requested by your department or college. If your visa/immigration permission expires during your course and you no longer have valid leave to remain in the UK, or have breached the terms of your student visa, the University may be required to inform UK Visas and Immigration. Failure to comply with these obligations may result in legal consequences for you under UK immigration law, which may affect your ability to complete your studies at Oxford. Disciplinary action may also be taken if false or intentionally misleading statements or documents are provided to the University regarding visas or immigration status. Support and information are available from Student Immigration and from the [visa and immigration pages of the University website](#).

Fees and Payment

14. Details of the fees and charges you will have to pay the college will be provided to you by your college or home institution either before or with your college offer letter.
15. As set out in the University's [Examination Regulations](#) relating to Visiting Students, your status as a Visiting Student will be terminated if you fail to pay your college fee within fourteen days from the beginning of Full Term (or, in the term of your admission, within fourteen days from the day on which your name was entered on the Register).

Living Expenses

16. You will normally live in Oxford while you are at the University and will need to pay for your living costs such as food, accommodation, and personal items unless this is being covered by your home institution.
17. You will have a contract with your college in relation to college accommodation, the cost of which may be included in your fees.
18. Information on the likely range of living costs will be provided with your college offer letter. Estimates of the likely range of living costs in Oxford are also provided on the University website at the link [Living Costs](#), which highlight how inflation may increase the cost of living. These webpages are updated annually, but periods of high UK inflation in recent years make it difficult to estimate future increases in the cost of living during your studies.

Changes to provision of facilities and services

19. Where a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency necessitating measures to reduce risk of infection or illness occurs the University may make reasonable changes to your use of University facilities and services to comply with government or local authority regulations or guidance, and/or its own health and safety advice and/or to ensure the health and safety of staff, students and third parties and/or to respond to consequential staffing or resource constraints. If it makes such changes the University will inform you and ensure its facilities and services are still provided by alternative means, if reasonably possible, though the manner of delivery may need to change. Examples of possible changes under this paragraph are explained in the [Changes to Courses policy](#).
20. Subject to paragraph 19, no refunds, discounts, damages or waivers of fees or other charges will be payable to you where changes or delays have resulted from, been caused by, or are in relation to a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency necessitating measures to reduce risk of infection or illness. The University will also not be liable for any consequential losses or expenses you may incur (e.g. travel or accommodation costs) as a result of any such pandemic, epidemic or health emergency measures.
21. Other changes to facilities, premises or services which do not concern course provision, and which provide an equivalent service, may need to be made from time to time for operational, legal/regulatory or other reasons. Wherever possible, and where this is proportionate to the type of change made, you will be notified of such changes in advance. If applicable, you will be notified of any consultation process within which you may make representations prior to the change taking effect.

Events beyond the University's control

22. The University will not be in breach of its obligations under its contract with you, nor liable to you for any loss caused to you under its contract with you, where the breach or loss results from events which are beyond the University's reasonable control. Examples of events which may fall into this category include: a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency necessitating measures to reduce risks of infection or illness; industrial action by University staff (where this is beyond the University's reasonable control); industrial action by non-University staff; acts of God; acts of terrorism; government order or law; action by any governmental authority; or failure or delay by third-party suppliers and subcontractors. In such circumstances the University will take reasonable steps to mitigate the impact on you and to restore services. This paragraph is not intended to restrict any legal rights where doing so would be unlawful (e.g. under consumer law).

Intellectual Property

23. The University's position regarding ownership of Intellectual Property in students' work is set out in [Statute XVI](#) and is summarised in section 7 of the Student Handbook.

Personal Data

24. The University will collect and use information about you in accordance with the principles set out in the University's [Student Privacy Policy](#) on the University website. This includes ensuring that your data will only be used in a way that is fair, lawful and secure. In addition, each college will have its own privacy notice.

Complaints Procedure

25. The University's complaints procedure is explained in section 10 of the Student Handbook. Student complaints about University matters should be made to the University department that is relevant to the circumstances of the complaint in the first instance, and may then be escalated to the Proctors' Office. There may be a subsequent right to complain to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education.

Termination

26. This agreement will end in the following circumstances:
- a. when your Visiting Student status terminates, including as provided for in the [Examination Regulations relating to Visiting Students](#), or if you withdraw and so cease to be a current Visiting Student;
 - b. if you cease to be a current Visiting Student as a result of any University procedure such as a disciplinary procedure or the [fitness to study](#) procedure;
 - c. if you cease to be a member of your college; or
 - d. if your college decides not to admit you because you have failed to meet a condition of your admission or because you have failed to provide true, genuine, accurate and complete information with your application.

27. The following terms of this agreement will survive termination for any reason:
- a. terms relating to intellectual property as described at paragraph 23 above;
 - b. terms relating to personal data as described at paragraph 24 above;
 - c. terms relating to University procedures to the extent that they relate to events that occurred prior to termination including the complaints procedure, the disciplinary procedure, the harassment procedure and/or the academic integrity in research procedure.

Jurisdiction

28. This agreement and any dispute arising from it (including non-contractual disputes) shall be governed by the laws of England and Wales and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.