



Somerville College, Oxford

Admissions interview information (for applicants to standard courses)

We hope you enjoy your stay at Somerville for admissions interviews. This document explains what you need to do before you arrive, and what will happen while you are here.

1) Before you arrive

The interview invitation email, which you should have received, specifies the date and time that you should arrive at Somerville for interviews. If you are concerned about being able to reach Somerville on time on the day specified, you would be welcome to arrive the night before. However, it will unfortunately not be possible for you to arrive before Sunday 4 December 2016, nor will it be possible for you to arrive on Saturday 10 December 2016.

You are provided with free accommodation and meals at Somerville throughout the time you are required to be available for interviews.

Please immediately complete and return an Interview Arrival Form, which you can download from the College Web site at [http:// www.some.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions/](http://www.some.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions/)

On the form, let us know:

- a) estimated arrival and departure dates and times (your arrival date is usually the day you have been called to arrive or the night before)
- b) dietary requirements (due to allergies, medical conditions, religion, etc)
- c) other arrangements required, such as accommodation or interview-related arrangements (due to disability, health condition, religion, etc)

Once you are at Somerville, you should not leave Oxford until you have been told you are no longer required to stay (please see below).

Please note that all Somerville premises, both indoors and outdoors, are non-smoking.

2) Arrival at Somerville

The College's front gate, on Woodstock Road, will be locked at 11.00 pm each evening. If you are delayed, and arrive after this time, you can ring the bell next to the front gate, and/or call the Porters' Lodge (the reception in Woodstock Road) on + 44 (0)1865 270600, and someone will open the gate for you. Please also call the Porters' Lodge as soon as you know you will be delayed, to give them an estimated time of arrival.

Information on how to get to Somerville is available on the College's Web site at:

<http://www.som.ox.ac.uk/contact-us/>

Please note that no parking is available at Somerville. If you have mobility difficulties or other access requirements, please let us know.

3) While you're at Somerville

When you arrive, you should go to the Porters' Lodge. If you arrive before 8.00 pm, you will then be directed to the Mary Somerville Room (in the House building), the Admissions Hub, where you will be welcomed by a group of undergraduates who are there especially to look after applicants, and to help you feel at ease. When you arrive, you will be given the key for your room, and an electronic access card to open doors into buildings.

There is a map of Somerville on the back page of this document, to help you find the buildings you need to go to.

Undergraduate helpers

During your stay here, there will be approximately 20 current undergraduates here in the College who have stayed during their vacation to help make your time at Somerville enjoyable. They will help you find out when you have interviews and tests, and make sure you get to the interviews and tests on time. **Louise O'Rourke** (3rd year Maths) is the JCR Undergraduate Admissions Officer elected by her fellow students, and will be organising the team. They are a friendly and open bunch, so don't hesitate to see any of them if you have any questions, concerns or just want a chat.

The undergraduate helpers are based in the Mary Somerville Room, in the House building. On most days, they will be on duty from 08:00 to 20:00 hours. Should you need to call the helpers while they're on duty, the telephone number in the Mary Somerville Room is + 44 (0)1865 280496. Please don't call the helpers before you arrive at Somerville. The Mary Somerville Room is where interview timetables will be posted. You should check there frequently to find out the timing of your interview(s), and to see if there are any timing changes or additional interviews scheduled. Notices will be posted in the Mary Somerville Room to let you know when you are free to leave Oxford. You will need to go to the Mary Somerville Room in advance of each of your interviews. The helpers will tell you how far in advance to arrive. They will take you to interviews, so you don't need to worry about being late or getting lost.

Meals

Meals, free of charge, are available from the College's self-service Pantry, and eaten in the Dining Hall (across the corridor from the Pantry), at the times below.

For interviews in the week beginning Sunday 4 December 2016:

Breakfast 7.45 am – 9.00 am (Monday 5 to Saturday 10 Dec)

Lunch 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm (Monday 5 to Friday 9 Dec)

Dinner 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm (Sunday 4 to Friday 9 Dec)

Refreshments will be available in the Dining Hall from 10.00 am to 11.00 am, and from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm, Monday 5 to Friday 9 December.

For interviews in the week beginning Sunday 11 December 2016:

Breakfast 7.30 am – 9.00 am (Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 Dec); 7.45am – 9.00 am (Thursday 15 and Friday 16)

Lunch 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm (Sunday 11 to Thursday 15 Dec)

Dinner 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm (Sunday 11 to Thursday 15 Dec)

Refreshments will be available in the Dining Hall from 10.00 am to 11.00 am, and from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm, Monday 12 to Thursday 15 December.

Lunch and dinner are both usually hot meals, with dessert available. Some soft and hot drinks are also available, in addition to drinking water. Confectionary is available from vending machines around the College. Our Catering department can accommodate a wide range of dietary requirements.

Accommodation

Each applicant has his or her own single study-bedroom (free of charge), in an accommodation block on the College site. Bedding and a towel are provided. Bathroom facilities are shared between a number of bedrooms. Accommodation will be mixed (men and women may be in the same building but men are allocated bedrooms in a particular block or floor, with women allocated to other blocks/floors).

There are no rooms available with en-suite bathroom or toilet facilities, unless previously requested due to reasons of disability.

Some administrative offices and tutors' teaching rooms are located in the same buildings as sleeping accommodation.

Fire alarm and fire regulations

The fire alarm is a loud siren. We hope that there will be no fire alarms during your stay at Somerville. A fire regulations notice is posted in every bedroom; please make sure you are familiar with these instructions.

Telephones and Internet

If you expect any telephone messages, the number for callers to ring is + 44 (0)1865 270600. Internet access is provided for free by The Cloud. End-user help is available from The Cloud via <http://www.thecloud.net/free-wifi/join-the-cloud/>

Prayer room

A room suitable for prayer will be available to members of all faiths and none.

Entertainment

The student helpers will arrange social events for the evenings, which will provide you with the ability to relax a little bit before or after your interviews. The events will be advertised in the Mary Somerville Room and information will also be available from the helpers. There is a Junior Common Room in the Park Building where you may go to relax, read or watch television. The helpers will give directions.

You are encouraged to bring study materials with you for the duration of your stay. We understand that you have to take time away from school to attend for interview so would encourage you to bring any school work with you to complete whilst you are here. The Library is available for you to use from Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Welfare

We recognize that admissions interviews are stressful and that the whole experience of coming away from home or school can be unnerving. The helpers will be on hand from 08:00 to 20:00 hours on most days, and for shorter periods at weekends, to help put you at ease and answer any questions you may have. We want you to feel comfortable while at Somerville, so we hope you will draw on these resources if and when you need to. The Academic Registrar is available to discuss any welfare issues and in an emergency, the Porters may be reached at + 44 (0)1865 270600. A Junior Dean will be on duty in the evenings and at weekends, and can be contacted via the Porters' Lodge.

Security

Oxford is no more dangerous than other large towns, but as a general precaution, you are advised not to go out of College alone late at night. While you are with us in Oxford, we have a 'duty of care' to take reasonable steps for your safety. In light of the responsibility we have, we restrict access to College and try and encourage you to keep as close to home as possible. The College's front gate, on Woodstock Road, is locked at 11.00 pm each evening. If you are delayed, and arrive after this time, you can ring the bell next to the front gate, and/or call the Porters' Lodge (the reception in Woodstock Road) on + 44 (0)1865 270600, and someone will open the gate for you. You are expected to stay in College for the minimum interview period for your subject, but if for any reason it is necessary for you to leave before this time, please let the porter know that you are leaving early when you hand in your room key, so that we do not become anxious about your whereabouts and can account for you in an emergency.

You will have received from the Porters' Lodge an electronic access card which will grant you access to the required buildings in College. It is important not to hold the door open to others when entering the building unless you know that they too have cards. It may seem rude, but tailgaters are a problem which can result in strangers gaining access and opportunities to steal. Your belongings are left entirely at your own risk anywhere in College and at any time. Please remember to lock your door and windows every time you leave your room.

Interviews

For most courses, you will have at least two interviews while you are in Oxford. For some courses, all applicants are interviewed at two different colleges.

For all subjects, except Engineering Science, you are asked to stay in Oxford for at least one night.

Your interviews will be with tutors in the subject(s) that you wish to study. Interviews will usually be held in tutors' offices, which are all around the College, and may be on any floor of a building.

No special preparation is required for interviews. They are primarily aimed at discerning whether you are likely to find the course suitable for your talents and interests, although

