



Somerville College Middle Common Room

Welcome to the Somerville College MCR 2024-25

Dear incoming students,

Congratulations on receiving an offer from the University of Oxford, and a warm welcome to Somerville College!

As a graduate student at Somerville College, you will be a member of the **Middle Common Room (MCR)** here. The MCR is both a room in the College (with very comfy chairs!), as well as the collective term for the graduate student body of the College. My name is David, and I am the current President of the amazing MCR Committee.

If you are eager to socialize with your fellow students, we put on a number of events for you – the Freshers' Social Week, Wine and Cheese nights, and BOPs. If you are passionate about research and academia, we host an MCR Academic Symposium to promote academic interactions. If you are interested in music, we organize open mic nights, karaoke nights and charity concerts. Even if you are interested in learning music, we organize piano lessons for you. In addition, we maintain active communications with many other Colleges at the University of Oxford through formal dinner, brunch, and bar exchanges, as well as with our sister college at the University of Cambridge, Girton College, through our annual grand exchange trips. More importantly, we make representations on your behalf to the College and the wider University on important issues about your life and study at the University of Oxford.

In a nutshell, the MCR Committee is here to make sure you have the most enriched time and amazing experience at the College and the University of Oxford!



The MCR is home to students from all corners of the world, studying everything from archaeology to musicology, medicine to mathematics – our diversity is our strength, and the College is renowned for its friendly and sociable MCR. The MCR Welfare Officers and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity Representatives constantly endeavour to foster a supportive, inclusive, and accessible environment through various initiatives, like reimbursement/subsidizing schemes, welfare massages, welfare animal visits, celebrations for myriad ethnic festivals (like Diwali, Lunar New Year, Eid), and EDI trainings.

In addition to having a supportive and friendly Principal, Baroness Jan Royall, numerous world-leading academics, and gorgeous buildings and gardens, the College has a dedicated development program led by Dr. Claire Cockcroft, the director of the College's Margaret Thatcher Scholarship Trust. Claire can be contacted for various reasons: whether you have never written an 'Oxford' style essay before, are worried about your skills in English, or are interested in finding out about career options, plenty of support is available even before you arrive here.

We look forward to meeting you at the MCR once you've arrived in Oxford – you'll receive emails about the *Friends at Somerville* project, connecting Freshers to continuing students at the College, as well as our upcoming Freshers' week, social, and welfare events in due course – but consider joining the MCR Facebook Page and the MCR WhatsApp Group, or follow our various social media pages to keep up with the MCR prior to getting here. Additionally, feel free to reach out to me or any of the MCR Committee Members with questions you might have. I look forward to seeing you all at some point soon, and sincerely hope you enjoy being part of the College and get the most rewarding experience at the University of Oxford.

Congratulations again on your offer and welcome to the Somerville MCR

With Best Wishes,

Somerville College MCR Committee

President: David (Zheyi) Cao

Vice-President: Francess Adlard

Secretary: Tim Rafferty

Treasurer: Juliette Caucheteux

Social Secretaries: Sana Zuberi, Halima Mughal, Tianyi Zhang


Welfare Officer: Ishani Mookherjee

House Chair: Bethan Grimes

Education Representative: Sarah Franks

Minority Ethnicity Representative: Mounir El Skafi

Environment Representative: Apoorva Kulkarni

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