



SOMERVILLE COLLEGE OXFORD

College Handbook for Undergraduate Students

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Michaelmas Term 2025

Version 1.0

This booklet contains important information about the College.
It is also available on the College website:

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/policies/>
<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/current-students/information-for-students/>

See also the University's Student Gateway at www.ox.ac.uk/students

CONTENTS

PART A: SOMERVILLE COLLEGE.....	4
A1. History, Values and Objectives of the College.....	4
A2. College Rules.....	4
A3. Members of Governing Body	6
PART B: UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS.....	10
PART C: ACADEMIC MATTERS.....	11
C1. Being in ‘good academic standing’	11
C2. Academic Progress.....	11
C3. Academic Feedback	12
C4. Academic Awards.....	13
C5. Other Awards	13
C6. Course changes	14
C7. Extra-curricular activities	14
C8. Academic Progress Monitoring and Support.....	14
PART D: DECANAL MATTERS.....	21
D1: Code of Discipline	21
D2. Decanal Disciplinary Procedures	21
PART E: FINANCIAL MATTERS	29
E1. Advice and help.....	29
E2. Accommodation charges	29
E3. Catering charges.....	29
PART F: WELFARE MATTERS	31
PART G: FITNESS TO STUDY	33
PART H: DISABILITY SERVICES	34
PART I: RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS	35
I1. University regulations	35
I2. College Residence requirements for undergraduates.....	35
I3. Annual re-registration.....	36
I4. Brief absences	36
I5. Temporary suspension.....	36
I6. Vacation Residence Regulations	38
PART J: APPEALS.....	42
J1. College appeal process	42
J2. Conference of Colleges Appeal Tribunal (CCAT).....	42

J3. Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education	42
PART K: COMPLAINTS	43
K1. Sources of advice	43
K2. Resolving complaints informally	43
K3. Formal complaints	43

PART A: SOMERVILLE COLLEGE

A1. History, Values and Objectives of the College

Somerville College, named for the mathematician and astronomer Mary Somerville (1780-1872), was founded as Somerville Hall in 1879 to open up opportunities for higher education in Oxford to women, who until 1920 were excluded from membership of the University. Men have been admitted since 1994. Somerville provides opportunities to pursue learning at the highest level to all those capable of making good use of them. We pursue academic excellence by encouraging intellectual curiosity, critical engagement, and the development of the analytical skills of individual students, and we support teaching and learning through the provision of excellent resources. The insistence of the founding committee that Somerville be non-denominational and non-discriminatory on the basis of religion was ground-breaking. It has inspired an on-going ethos of openness, inclusiveness and a willingness to be unconventional and consider change. In particular, in the 21st century, Somerville is a community that upholds values of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Somervillian traits also include a concern about access to learning and research for all, irrespective of background, an atmosphere of acceptance and a positive view of diversity. We hope you will be motivated and inspired by these aims and will make good use of the opportunities presented to you in your pursuit of academic excellence at Somerville.

A2. College Rules

As at other universities, a person accepting admission to the College thereby accepts an obligation to obey the College Rules and those of the University and to pay such fees, dues and charges as the College or University may lawfully determine. The undertaking to obey these rules forms part of the Somerville College Student Contract, which all students are required to sign before entering.

- a) Those who have accepted a College place but have to withdraw for any reason should give at least three months' notice. Failing this, they will be expected to pay the fees and charges for the ensuing term. The same applies to any Junior Member withdrawing after beginning their course. In the case of absence through illness for long periods, a partial remission of accommodation charges may be made.
- b) Any Junior Member who, in the course of their academic career, is planning or experiences any material change in their personal circumstances must discuss it with their Personal Tutor and with the Principal, Treasurer, or Senior Tutor.
- c) Academic work must have the first claim on the time and effort of all Junior Members; students are expected to work to the best of their ability, to attend all academic appointments, and to produce all required written work punctually.
- d) In order to maintain appropriate peace and quiet in the College community, Junior Members must accept such restrictions as the Dean, after consultation with members of the College, may from time to time impose.
- e) If a Junior Member fails to meet the standard of application and behaviour expected, the College's procedures for academic and decanal discipline may be invoked. These, together with appropriate complaints and appeal procedures, shall be kept under

review by the Governing Body and promulgated by means of the College Handbook, web-site and other appropriate media.

- f) The Governing Body reserves the right to require withdrawal by any Junior Member whose membership, whether for want of industry or any other stated reason, is considered by the Governing Body to be no longer desirable.
- g) Any undergraduate standing for a JCR Executive post must consult their tutor in advance of the election. No undergraduate on probation for their place may seek election to the JCR Executive or to a similar office in a student organization. Undergraduates on report may not seek election to the JCR Executive without their tutor's permission.
- h) Undergraduates in their first year are expected to live in College during Full Term. Any exception to this must have the approval of the undergraduate's Tutor and of the Principal.
- i) An undergraduate or graduate room in College is for single occupancy by the Junior Member to whom it is allocated. Hence Junior Members must strictly observe the limits on the number of occasions when they may entertain a guest overnight, given in the Deans' Regulations.
- j) All Junior Members have an obligation to keep themselves informed by checking their pigeonholes and their College e-mail daily during term time (occasionally during the vacations where practically possible), and checking for notices in the Porters' Lodge, in the Front Hall, and on the College web-site www.some.ox.ac.uk.
- k) It is the responsibility of all students, undergraduate and graduate, to make sure that they can be easily contacted at any time. When not in Oxford, therefore, Junior Members have an obligation to inform the College authorities in advance if they cannot be contacted within three or four weeks over the Vacation.

All undergraduates are automatically members of the Junior Common Room (JCR) and are encouraged to play a full part in its activities and governance. Graduate students are members of the Middle Common Room (MCR). All 4th year undergraduates may submit an application to become a member of the MCR.

Policies and regulations published by Somerville College and the University form the basic ground rules for living and learning in the collegiate University community. A non-exhaustive list is given below and is available at the Policies webpage:

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/policies/>.

Equality policies and related documents can be found on the Equality and Diversity webpage:

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/current-students/equality-and-diversity/>.

Policies and Guidance

- [Somerville College Confidentiality Policy](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Risk Management Policy](#)
- [Bribery and Fraud Policy](#)

Codes of Practice

- [Harassment](#)
- [Freedom of Speech](#)

Rules and regulations

- [College Rules](#)
- [Deans' Regulations and Decanal Disciplinary Procedure](#)
- [Use of Library](#)
- [Use of computers and IT facilities](#)

Decisions about the College and its future are taken by the Governing Body, whose members are individually and severally responsible for the 'direction and management of the affairs of the College'. The Governing Body (GB) consists of the Principal and Fellows, and is the ultimate authority within the College. A list of members is given below, and is also available [here](#). The JCR President and Treasurer, and the MCR President, attend for the un-reserved business of GB meetings. Governing Body also has a number of sub-committees, which are described in the by-laws, most of which have student representatives.

A3. Members of Governing Body¹

Principal: **Royle, Catherine**, MA Oxf, MScEcon Wales

Vice-Principal: **Thompson, Benjamin J**, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, FRHS, *Associate Professor of Medieval History, Liz Cooke Fellow in History and Tutor in History*

Senior Tutor: **Rayner, Stephen**, MA Oxf, PhD Durham, FRAS, MInstP.

Fellows (In order of seniority):

Suerbaum, Almut, Staatsexamen Dr Phil Münster, MA Oxf, *Professor of German and Tutor in German*

Stafford, Fiona, BA DLitt Leic, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, FBA, FRSE, *Professor of English Language and Literature, Tutor in English Literature*

McNay, Lois, BA MA Sus, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, *Professor of the Theory of Politics, Shirley Williams Fellow in Politics and Tutor in Politics*

Thompson, Benjamin J, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, FRHS, *Associate Professor of Medieval History and Tutor in History*

Spence, Charles, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, *Professor of Experimental Psychology and Tutor in Experimental Psychology*

Roberts, Stephen, MA DPhil Oxf, FEng, FIET, FRSS, MIOP, RAEng-Man *Professor of Machine Learning*

West, Philip, MA MPhil PhD Camb, MA Oxf, *Associate Professor of English, Times Fellow and Tutor in English*

Dickson, Julie, LLB Glas, MA DPhil Oxf, *Professor of Legal Philosophy and Tutor in Law*

Sutherland, Annie, MA Camb, MPhil DPhil Oxf, *Professor of Medieval Literature, Rosemary*

¹ JCR and MCR representatives attend for unreserved business.

Woolf Fellow and Tutor in English

Anthony, Daniel, BSc PhD Lond, MA Oxf, *Professor of Experimental Neuropathology and Tutor in Medicine*

Hayward, Michael, MA DPhil Oxf, *Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, Fellow and Tutor in Chemistry*

Dignas, Beate, Staatsexamen Münster, MA DPhil Oxf, *Associate Professor of Ancient History, Barbara Craig Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History*

Nowakowska, Natalia, BA MSt DPhil Oxf, *Professor of Early Modern History and Tutor in History*

Burton, Jonathan, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, *Professor of Organic Chemistry, Sue and Kevin Scollan Fellow and Tutor in Chemistry*

Simon, Steven, BSc Brown, MA Oxf, PhD Harvard, *Professor of Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics*

Pitcher, Luke, MA MSt DPhil Oxf, PGCert Durh, *Associate Professor of Classics and Tutor in Classics*

Kemp, Simon, BA Oxf, MPhil PhD Camb, *Associate Professor in French and Tutor in French*

Hare, Christopher, BCL Oxf, MA Camb, LL.M Harvard, Dipl D'Etudes Jurid Poitiers, *Associate Professor of Law, Tutor in Law*

Rayner, Stephen, MA Oxf, PhD Durh, FRAS, MInstP, *Senior Tutor, Tutor for Graduates and Tutor for Admissions*

Parker, Andrew, BA Liv, MA Oxf, *Treasurer*

Potts, Charlotte, BA Victoria, New Zealand, MA UCL, DPhil Oxf, FSA, Sybille Haynes *Associate Professor of Etruscan and Italic Archaeology and Art, Katherine and Leonard Woolley Fellow in Classical Archaeology and Tutor in Classical Archaeology*

Nielsen, Karen Margrethe, MA PhD Cornell, Cand magisterii Cand philologiae Trondheim, *Associate Professor of Philosophy and Tutor in Philosophy and Dean*

Ciubotaru, Dan, BSc MA Babeş-Bolyai, PhD Cornell, *Professor of Mathematics, Diana Brown Fellow and Tutor in Pure Mathematics*

Kalim, Sara, MA Oxf, *Director of Development*

Tyler, Damian, MSci PhD Nott, *Professor of Physiological Metabolism*

Southerden, Francesca, BA MSt DPhil Oxf, *Professor of Italian and Tutor in Italian*

Mycock, Louise, BA Durh, MA PhD Manc, *Associate Professor of Linguistics and Tutor in Linguistics*

Lambiotte, Renaud, MPhys PhD Brussels, *Associate Professor of Networks and Nonlinear Systems and Tutor in Mathematics*

Seiradake, Elena, PhD Heidelberg, *Professor of Molecular Biology and Tutor in Biochemistry*

Zaman, Faridah, BA, MPhil, PhD Camb, *Associate Professor of History and Tutor in History*

Sebastian, Samantha, BMus, PhD Sydney, *Associate Professor of Music and Tutor in Music*

Jackson, Michelle, BSc PhD QMUL, *Associate Professor of Zoology and Tutor in Biology*

Klemm, Robin, PhD Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics and TU - Dresden, *Associate Professor in Medicine and Tutor in Medicine*

Owens, Patricia, BSc Bristol, MPhil Cambridge, DPhil Aberystwyth, *Professor of International Relations and Tutor in International Relations*

Solanke, Iyiola, Academic Bencher, Honourable Society of the Inner Temple (BA Lond, MSc DPhil LSE), Jacques Delors *Professor of European Law*

Vogiatzaki, Konstantina, Master's NTUA, PhD Imp, MA Oxf *Associate Professor in Engineering and Tutor in Engineering*

Flashman, Emily BSc Soton, DPhil Oxf, *Associate Professor in Molecular Plant Sciences and Tutor in Biology*

Koumaditis, Markos BA Ionian, MA Royal Holloway, PhD KCL, FCIPD *Human Resources Director*

Butler, Sarah BA Leeds, MA UCL, MCLIP *Librarian and Head of Information Services*

Phillips, Colin BA Oxf, PhD MIT *Professor of Linguistics*

Komacek, Thaddeus BS BA Chicago, MS PhD Arizona, *Associate Professor of Physics and Tutor in Physics*

Ignatieva, Anastasia BA Dub, MSc Edin, PhD Warwick, *Associate Professor of Statistics and Tutor in Statistics*

Dorsey, Dale BA Drake, MA Tufts, PhD University of California, San Diego, *Associate Professor in Philosophy and Tutor in Philosophy*

Arduini, Francesca BA MPhil Oxf, *College-only Fellow in Economics and Tutor in Economics*

A4. College Committees²

Education Committee is composed of the Principal (in the Chair), the Vice-Principal, Senior Tutor, Treasurer, Librarian, the Dean, Academic Registrar, Student Welfare Lead, and all Tutorial Fellows. The Academic Registrar acts as Secretary to the Committee, and the Academic Office Administrator takes the minutes. At least one Tutor from each Honour School, nominated by the Tutors in that School, attends each meeting. The Agenda is divided into two parts: Part A and Part B, the latter containing Reserved Business. The MCR and JCR Academic Affairs representatives and the Access Officer attend for Part A. Each Honour School may also nominate one Lecturer to serve on the Committee. The Committee normally meets at least twice a term to consider such educational questions as may from time to time arise and in particular:

- a) Policies relating to teaching and learning;
- b) The progress, industry and conduct of undergraduates and graduates;
- c) The awarding of Scholarships, Exhibitions and Prizes from the appropriate funds, and carrying out an annual review of award holders;
- d) Examination results;
- e) The awarding of course and travel grants from the appropriate funds;
- f) Policy and guidance on matters of behavioural discipline
- g) The initiation of the College's academic progress monitoring and support procedures in cases of students who fail to meet the standard required

Finance Committee is composed of the Principal (in the Chair), the Vice-Principal, four Fellows who normally serve for at least two years, the Senior Tutor, Domestic Bursar, and Treasurer who acts as Secretary to the Committee. The Governing Body may co-opt not more than three specially qualified persons, whether members of the College or not. The Agenda is divided into two parts: Part A and Part B, the latter containing Reserved Business. The JCR President and Treasurer, and the MCR President and Treasurer, may attend for Part A. The Committee normally meets at least twice in each term to consider such financial questions as may from

² The full list is published in the College by-laws, available at [Policies webpage](#).

time to time arise, and in particular:

- a) To scrutinize the annual and management accounts, and financial reports presented by the Treasurer;
- b) At such times as may be agreed upon, to approve a forward estimate of revenue and expenditure for each financial year;
- c) To review twice each year the state of the college's investments and properties;
- d) To authorize exceptional expenditure from revenue and to make recommendations to Governing Body in respect of capital expenditure;
- e) To keep under review the terms and conditions of administrative and domestic appointments;
- f) To consider other financial issues, as appropriate.

Finance Sub-Committee is composed of the Principal, Vice-Principal and Treasurer. The sub-committee shall be convened when required to discuss important issues, and issues of sensitivity.

Standing Committee is composed of the Principal (in the Chair), Vice-Principal, Treasurer, Senior Tutor, Secretary to Governing Body, together with four Tutorial Fellows. Those other members of the Governing Body who wish to attend should advise the Senior Tutor beforehand of their intention to do so. Heads of Departments not already represented on the Committee (e.g., Bursary, Library) may be invited to attend for discussions of issues of particular interest. The Standing Committee is not, for the most part, a decision-making body but may be asked by Governing Body to take on a delegated authority for operational decisions when the constraints of the timetable of Governing Body meetings require this, e.g., when a decision must be finalized following further enquiry or consultation prior to the next meeting of Governing Body, or during the Long Vacation.

The Committee normally meets two or three times a term

- a) To agree the agenda for meetings of Governing Body;
- b) To develop academic and other strategies for the College, and to monitor decision-making, and developments that bear on these strategies;
- c) To consider academic appointments and bids for association with University posts;
- d) To consider requests for buy-outs and leave, with particular attention to their impact on teaching resources;
- e) To receive the reports of ad hoc working groups;
- f) To discuss items which by reason of their complexity and difficulty are beyond the remit of other committees, or which need further attention beyond that given to them in a specialized committee, e.g., Buildings Committee, Finance Committee;
- g) To give close consideration to policy issues within the wider University, and external bodies, in preparation for consultation with Governing Body.

PART B: UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

University Regulations are additional to the Rules and By-laws of individual colleges; student members are therefore expected to observe two sets of (complementary) disciplinary regulations. Those studying for degrees which are regarded as professional qualifications may also be expected to observe codes of conduct that have been drawn up by the University in consultation with the external bodies concerned; details will be provided by the relevant departments. Note also that University and College Disciplinary codes do not supplant the law of the land, and local government by-laws, all of which students must observe (like everybody else).

See: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations> for guidance on all University regulations, codes of conduct and policies.

General student conduct and the powers of the University Proctors are described at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/conduct>, and the University's complaints and appeals procedures are outlined at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints?wssl=1>

The University Student Handbook may be consulted on the University's web-site at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/student-handbook?wssl=1> It contains essential information for Students, covering the following issues:

1. Introduction
2. About the University
3. Welfare
4. Fitness to Study
5. Residence
6. Academic Dress
7. Examinations & Course Requirements
8. Intellectual Property
9. Conduct
10. Disciplinary Procedures & Rights
11. Complaints Procedures

PART C: ACADEMIC MATTERS

C1. Being in 'good academic standing'

While Somerville encourages students to take a full part in the College community and the wider University community, your continued membership of the College is conditional on being in 'good academic standing'. Academic work must have the first claim on the time and effort of all Junior Members. You will be deemed to be in 'good academic standing' if you meet all the requirements below:

- i. Attend all tutorials, classes and other required academic commitments except where permission on adequate grounds is obtained, preferably in advance, from the tutor(s) concerned;
- ii. Produce assignments (essays, problem sheets, reports of laboratory work, translations, etc) and sit Collections with the regularity required by your tutor(s), except where permission on adequate grounds is obtained, preferably in advance, from the tutor(s) concerned;
- iii. Pass the First Public Examination (or other examinations laid down by the University as a necessary part of the course);
- iv. Produce work to the best of your ability, taking into account each student's particular level of ability;
- v. Keep the residence requirements laid down by the College and the University (see section I below);
- vi. Familiarise yourself and comply with the regulations for your course of study as set out in the University's *Examination Regulations* (see <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/>). See also the Proctor's guidance at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/student-handbook?wssl=1>

In addition to maintaining good academic standing, you are expected to meet the College's and University's standards and requirements of behaviour, which are explained in Parts B, C and D of this document.

C2. Academic Progress

Academic progress is monitored in a number of ways. Education Committee, a sub-committee of the Governing Body of the College, meets twice a term to discuss educational issues and in particular the progress, industry and conduct of undergraduates and graduates. The Committee awards Scholarships, Exhibitions and Prizes for good work, and deals with matters of academic progress monitoring and support.

At the beginning of each new term, and occasionally at other times, tutors set College examinations for undergraduates known as '**collections**', the purpose of which is to help with the assessment of the progress that undergraduates are making with their studies and to provide you with practice for University exams. They are less formal than University examinations, but good performance and evidence of excellent progress may be rewarded with prizes and a serious view is taken of failure to attend or of inadequate performance.

Furthermore, all undergraduates are expected to attend a brief annual meeting with the Principal, Catherine Royle, during the academic year. Discussion may include the consideration of termly reports and a review of academic progress, as well as general well-being. Meetings will be arranged in year groups and notices of dates will be sent out by the Academic Office. These meetings are compulsory, and every effort will be made to fit the timings with students' individual academic commitments. The Principal is also available, by appointment (through her Executive Assistant (01865 270630, principals.office@some.ox.ac.uk), to offer advice or career guidance or to discuss references.

C3. Academic Feedback

a) Performance feedback

The College provides feedback on your academic performance in a number of ways. Regular feedback, both oral and written, is provided through tutorials and interactions with your tutors, for example at your weekly tutorials and in end of term reports. The personal tutor of each undergraduate sees the contents of each report and is prepared to discuss academic progress at any time. Your reports will be discussed with you at the end of each term; tutors will post notices about report meetings and unless special leave has been granted, no student may leave College at the end of each term until they have attended one of these. Log in to the Teaching Management System (TMS) via [Student Self Service](#) using your WebAuth account and you will be able to access those that have been released by your personal tutor. Note that some tutors may prefer to release reports only after you have attended a report meeting in person.

b) How students can provide feedback on teaching

The College values comments on the teaching you have received. All undergraduates will be given the opportunity to submit anonymous written feedback at the end of Hilary Term. Constructive feedback is extremely valuable to the College, whether positive or negative. All responses are anonymous. If you have specific concerns about your teaching that you feel unable to discuss with your tutor or through the feedback surveys, you should arrange to do so in confidence with the Senior Tutor.

c) Support available to students experiencing academic difficulties

We understand that there will be times when you may go through periods of difficulty with your work and this will be viewed sympathetically by tutors, provided that you do your best to keep up a satisfactory level of work at all times.

The tutorial system works best when there is a high level of trust between tutor and student, so you are advised to keep closely in touch with your personal tutors, particularly if you are experiencing some difficulties, be they academic, medical or personal, which may affect your ability to maintain good academic standing.

If you prefer to speak to someone other than your tutors about such matters, and if academic performance is involved, you are strongly encouraged to speak in confidence to the Senior Tutor, who will be able to advise you of the best course of action. If academic difficulties have their roots in welfare issues, other processes may be more appropriate than the academic progress monitoring and support procedures described in this document but it is not in your interests for problems with academic progress to be overlooked. If you are experiencing welfare issues then it is strongly recommended that you speak to the Student Welfare Lead.

d) Requests for additional tutorials and collections

The College gives all students the opportunity to undertake tutorials and collections. All undergraduates should make the most of these opportunities when they are offered. Organising tutorials and collections requires significant effort from tutors and staff. Requests for additional tutorials or collections, outside of the substantial standard provision, are not granted lightly. The college will consider requests sympathetically where they relate to personal welfare circumstances, such as ill-health or bereavement. Decisions are made about what, in your tutor's judgement, is in your best academic interests. Requests made on the grounds of personal preference or due to extra-curricular activities will not be granted. Where a scheduled collection is missed, the college may require evidence of the reason for the missed collection.

C4. Academic Awards

Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded to undergraduates to recognise First Class performance and potential.

Tutors may recommend a student to be awarded either a Scholarship to recognise First Class performance or an Exhibition to recognise First Class potential. Nominations are approved by Education Committee. Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded for one academic year and are not automatically renewed. Awards made in subsequent meetings of Education Committee are backdated to the start of the academic year. Scholars are awarded £500 and Exhibitioners are awarded £200.

Prizes may also be awarded to undergraduates on the results of Long Vacation essays and/or other work prescribed by tutors in each School and on tutors' reports. The following exam prizes may be awarded in any subject:

- **Mary Somerville Prizes** are awarded to those who achieve a First or Distinction in their final degree. The value of a prize is currently £100.
- **College Prizes** are awarded to those who achieve a First or Distinction in pre-final examinations. The value of a prize is currently £60.
- **Principal's Prizes** are awarded to those who achieve a First or Distinction in third or fourth year examinations and are ranked highly. The value of a prize is currently £250.

C5. Other Awards

Undergraduates can apply for other College awards including:

- Travel and Special Project Grants
- Catherine Hughes Grants
- Alice Horsman Grants for Finalists
- Grants for Course Materials
- Grants for Medical Equipment (BMBCH students)
- Sports and Wellbeing Awards
- Language Awards
- Margaret Irene Seymour Music Awards

Full details are available on the [College website](#) or from the [Scholarships and Funding Officer](#).

C6. Course changes

If you have doubts about your choice of course you should speak to your Personal Tutor, or, if you prefer, the Senior Tutor. You cannot jeopardise your place on your current course by discussing the possibility of transferring to another course but you should be aware that there is no right to transfer courses. Transfers are rare but not unknown. Remember that you were admitted to the College because you showed aptitude to study a particular subject, and students are admitted in more or less the numbers for which tutorial teaching can be provided, so there may not be places available on a different course. Anyone being considered for another course will be interviewed again, and in addition to teaching capacity issues there may be academic reasons why a change may not be permissible.

C7. Extra-curricular activities

Academic work must have the first claim on the time and effort of all junior members. If you are contemplating election to JCR posts, or other demanding extra-curricular activities (such as holding office in other student organizations, producing plays, editing newspapers or magazines, Blues sports, organizing Balls, or any other commitment likely to make a serious encroachment on the time that you can devote to academic work), you are strongly advised to discuss your plans with your tutors first. More specifically, any undergraduate wishing to stand for JCR President, JCR Vice-President, JCR Treasurer, JCR Admissions Officer, JCR Welfare Officer, or JCR Academic Affairs Representative must first receive the permission of their tutor³. Involvement in extra-curricular activities will not be regarded as a valid reason for any failings of academic effort or achievement.

C8. Academic Progress Monitoring and Support

The Academic Progress Monitoring and Support process outlined below is intended to be followed in cases where a student is not fulfilling their academic obligations or otherwise failing to make the academic progress expected of them including being in “good academic standing” as defined above. The purpose of all procedures of academic progress monitoring and support

³ For Somerville’s rules, see A2 College Rules section, point g

is to identify as early as possible when a student is not progressing satisfactorily, to help the student to do so and to conclude their course successfully. It is important to be clear that it is in every student's best interest to be fully aware of their academic position and to be given every help and encouragement to achieve their academic potential. The academic progress monitoring and support system is not designed solely to help students whose progress is unsatisfactory due to insufficient effort on their part. It should serve to support students that are not progressing academically as they need to, whatever the cause for the deficit.

Matters of academic progress monitoring and support will be kept separate from disciplinary action for forms of non-academic misbehaviour, which will not be referred to in any document or discussion dealing with unsatisfactory academic progress. The steps of the academic progress monitoring and support procedures are explained below and are designed to be transparent and to give every opportunity for students to explain any special circumstances that should be taken into account in reviewing their situation. All tutors wish to ensure that their students make the best use of their time at Somerville and obtain a qualification that was worth the time invested in it by the student; so long as students do this and work to the best of their ability, they will not be subject to the formal stages of the academic progress monitoring and support process.

Academic Dishonesty

The use of dishonest means in any examination or in fulfilling any academic obligation is a serious disciplinary offence. If a student is alleged or is suspected to have committed such an offence, the procedures set out under D1 Deans' Regulations shall apply.

Informal Monitoring

If in the opinion of any of their tutors a student is not, or is at risk of not being, in good academic standing as described in section C1 (for example, if they perform poorly in exams/Collections or tutorials, or if attendance at tutorials is poor), their Personal or Organising Tutor will normally in the first instance remind them informally of these obligations and will normally give an informal warning to the student. The tutor should normally discuss the matter with subject colleagues and/or the Senior Tutor prior to giving the informal warning.

This will normally take place at an individual, face to face meeting at which the Personal or Organising Tutor will clarify that an informal warning is being given to the student, specify the breaches of academic obligations which have prompted it, give the student an opportunity to comment, and set out the actions needed to improve performance, preferably, but not necessarily, with the agreement of the student. As a matter of good practice in tuition, this should not normally be the first time that the tutor has discussed their concerns with the student. It is anticipated that shortcomings in any student's work are normally discussed outside the scope even of this informal stage in the first instance. The Personal or Organising Tutor will make a note of the date and contents of the informal warning and it will usually be considered spent within one year after it has been issued, provided there has been no further breach of academic obligations, unless the Personal or Organising Tutor specifies otherwise.

There is no obligation for an informal warning to be given, and, in a serious case, the College

may move directly to Step 1 of the academic progress monitoring and support process. The informal warning will be reported to Education Committee. A wide range of remedial actions are available to help a student in this situation. The most common of these is requiring the student to meet regularly with the Senior Tutor to monitor and support their academic progress. The student may also be referred to academic skills support available through the Margaret Thatcher Scholarships Trust Development Programme or to other sources of skills support. Depending on the situation, the tutor may make engagement with skills support advisory or mandatory.

Step 1 – Report

If, following the issue of an informal warning (or where there is a serious breach of conditions of good academic standing whether or not an informal warning has been issued), a student is not meeting the conditions of good academic standing described in section C1 (for example, if they perform poorly in exams/Collections or tutorials, or if attendance is poor), their Personal or Organising Tutor will report their concerns to Education Committee, a college committee that meets at least twice a term that is normally chaired by the Principal. The committee members will discuss the student's case and decide whether the student should be put 'on report' and any conditions that should be attached to this status.

The student will have the opportunity to put their case to the Education Committee in writing and to draw attention to any mitigating circumstances that may apply. Mitigating circumstances are significantly disruptive and/or unexpected events which are beyond the student's control (such as illness or bereavement) but which might affect academic performance when submitting work or sitting examinations. Circumstances or events that would not normally merit consideration include consequences of paid employment and sporting, social or other leisure commitments. The College may require independent confirmation of mitigating circumstances, for example a medical certificate from the College Doctor in cases of illness or equivalent proof in other circumstances.

It is not in the student's interests to be unaware of their academic position or to fail to address such aspects of their academic situation as are within their power to change, regardless of the circumstances that give rise to any difficulties. Where mitigating circumstances are known, Education Committee may still decide to place a student on report where changes that are within the student's capability are needed to make whatever academic progress the student is able to achieve.

Being on report is a formal warning about academic progress and is intended both to demonstrate the College's concerns that the student may not be working as well as they could or have other difficulties which they should be addressing, and to help the student improve their academic performance. The student will be sent a letter clearly explaining what improvements or changes are expected, either in terms of rules to be observed or of levels of performance and/or targets to be achieved. The letter will also warn the student that failure to make the requisite improvements or changes may result in the next step of the Academic Progress Monitoring and Support Procedure (Probation) and that a breach of the terms of probation could, after reference to an Academic Review Hearing, lead to severe penalties including expulsion from the College. This letter will be kept on the student's file. They will be

given a timeframe to make these changes/improvements and a meeting will be arranged for them with the Principal in order to discuss their general situation.

Following receipt of the letter, a student should immediately arrange to discuss the case with their Personal or Organising Tutor to make sure they are clear about the circumstances. If there are mitigating circumstances that have not been revealed at this point, the student should tell their tutor or the Senior Tutor without delay. If any come to light, they will be placed on record and the requirements of their status may be modified. Tutors will be able to offer the student advice, and may refer them to the College Doctor or the Counselling Service or other sources of support for further help.

The student's progress will be closely monitored and reported to each meeting of Education Committee. If the standard of their work improves sufficiently and they meet the conditions they have been set within the relevant timescale, they will be taken off report and a letter confirming this will be sent to them and placed on their file. If they show some improvement but not all conditions have been met, their tutors may request that they remain on report, either with the same or different conditions. If they do not meet the conditions set within the specified timeframe, it is likely that they would be moved to step two of the Academic Progress Monitoring and Support process.

Save in exceptional circumstances, a student may not remain on report for longer than the equivalent of one full term, before either being taken off report successfully or moving to Step 2 of the Academic Progress Monitoring and Support process, Probation.

There is no obligation for a student to have been on report prior to being placed on probation. In a sufficiently serious case (as outlined below), the College may move directly to Step 2 of the Academic Progress Monitoring and Support process.

Step 2 – Probation

If a student on report does not meet the conditions set for them, Education Committee is likely to decide to issue a formal warning by placing a student 'on probation' for their place: that is, the question of whether they should remain on course now comes into consideration. A student who has been given a verbal warning by their tutors without yet having been placed on report by Education Committee may also be placed directly on probation by the Committee, if circumstances warrant: for example, if the student's default is sufficiently serious, or if considerations of timing make it desirable to reach a final decision about a student's future.

The student will have the opportunity to put their case to the Education Committee in writing and to draw attention to any mitigating circumstances that may apply. Mitigating circumstances are significantly disruptive and/or unexpected events which are beyond the student's control (such as illness or bereavement) but which might affect academic performance when submitting work or sitting examinations. Circumstances or events that would not normally merit consideration as mitigating circumstances include consequences of paid employment and sporting commitments. The College may require independent confirmation of mitigating circumstances, for example a medical certificate from the College Doctor in cases of illness or equivalent proof in other circumstances.

To be placed on probation signals that there are serious problems with a student's performance, but it should be noted that there are examples of students who spend a period on probation, and yet improve their performance and successfully complete their degrees. The conditions of probation will be conveyed to the student in a letter. The student will be told clearly what is expected of them in the future, and given a timetable for achieving these expectations.

The letter will also explain that if the conditions of probation are not met, then it is likely that Education Committee would recommend referring the student to an Academic Progress Hearing (APH), the third and final step in the College's Academic Progress Monitoring and Support process (see below). If the conditions set in the probation letter are met, Education Committee may decide either to take the student off probation and require no further report on their progress, or to place the student on 'report' status (see step 1 above). If they show some improvement but not all conditions have been met, their tutors may request that they remain on probation, either with the same or different conditions. Where the conditions of probation include achieving a set mark in collections this will be double blind-marked by external assessors, and in cases where they disagree, the more favourable mark will be used. A meeting will be arranged for the student with the Principal in order to discuss their general situation and to make sure that the student understands the situation and has the opportunity to make all material circumstances known.

If a student has been on probation for at least four weeks before the start of their First Public Examination and a condition of the probation (notified to the student in writing at least four weeks before the start of the first exam) is that some or all of these exams are passed at the first attempt, and that condition is not met, the student's course of study will be terminated. This is also explained in the [University's Policy and Guidance on Undergraduate Learning and Teaching](#), point 7.50.

Step 3 - Referral to an Academic Progress Hearing

If a student on probation does not meet the conditions set for them, Education Committee is likely to agree that an Academic Progress Hearing should be convened. Given that the student will only reach this stage if they have failed to meet conditions set to retain their place, if nothing emerges from the hearing that sets the matter in a different light, the outcome will be that a student is sent down but, in the light of evidence presented at the hearing, the panel may make a different set of recommendations. The recommendations of the Panel may include banning, temporary suspension or expulsion from the College. The Panel may attach such conditions as it sees fit to any such recommendation.

The Academic Progress Panel may regulate its proceedings as it sees fit including (without limitation) setting time limits on the evidence to be called and the representations to be made by the student, their Personal or Organising Tutor, or the Senior Tutor consistent with providing a fair opportunity for each of them to present relevant evidence whilst ensuring that the matter is heard and determined expeditiously. The panel is chaired by the Vice-Principal, unless they are unavailable, or have a close connection with the student that is likely to, or

likely to be perceived to, impair in any way their ability to reach a judgement unaffected by matters extraneous to the case (such as if they are the student's Personal Tutor). In this case the next most senior Fellow available and without a close connection to the student will act as Chair. The panel also consists of two Fellows, neither of whom should be the student's tutor, nor have any close connection with the student. The student's Personal Tutor and the Senior Tutor will also be in attendance. The student may choose to be accompanied to the hearing by one or two supporters (if two, one must be a JCR officer).

- a. The Senior Tutor shall send to the Chair of the Academic Progress Hearing a written statement constituting summary of the position and possible outcomes.
- b. The Senior Tutor's written statement and these regulations shall be copied to the undergraduate.
- c. The Chair of the Academic Progress Panel shall convene an Academic Progress Hearing, giving the undergraduate at least five days' notice (not including Saturday and Sunday) unless the undergraduate agrees to shorter notice being given. The undergraduate shall be told in writing the time of the meeting and that they may submit written material up to 48 hours before the Academic Progress Panel meets.
- d. Without prejudice to the APH's right to regulate its own proceedings, the following procedure shall normally be adopted. The undergraduate and the Personal Tutor shall attend the meeting and may be interviewed by the panel provided that if the undergraduate fails or refuses to attend the panel may proceed in their absence. The undergraduate may be accompanied by a current member of the University or an Oxford SU sabbatical officer as an advisor. In addition to the others present, the APH should be attended by a note-taker who is not party to the proceedings. The note-taker will produce a record of the APH as soon as is practical after the event and the Chair and the undergraduate will be consulted to reach an agreed record of the APH.
- e. The Personal Tutor shall explain the undergraduate's breach of the conditions of probation. The undergraduate shall be given an opportunity to respond, or to say anything that they consider relevant.
- f. The Panel shall then decide whether the undergraduate has breached the terms of probation and, if they have, inform them of this fact and of the Senior Tutor's recommendation as to action and invite the undergraduate to make a plea in mitigation. The Panel shall then consider the appropriate action. The action may include: banning, suspension or expulsion from the College. The Panel may attach such conditions as it sees fit to any action. The undergraduate shall be told in writing of the Panel's decision and its reasons. They shall also be advised of their right of appeal to the Conference of Colleges Appeals Tribunal.
- g. The Chairman of the Panel shall at once report the Panel's decision to the Dean, and to the Senior Tutor who shall report it to the Education Committee, and shall inform the Proctors if appropriate and any College staff affected by the decision. The full communication to the undergraduate shall not normally be circulated, but shall be held in the Principal's office. In the event of any appeal, it shall be available to members of the Conference of Colleges Appeals Tribunal.
- h. The words "banning", "rustication" and "expulsion" shall bear the meanings given to them in Part A of Statute XI of the University's Statutes and Regulations (substituting "the College" for "the University" in such definitions).

- i. **Banning** means that for a specific period of time the undergraduate ceases to be provided with tuition by the College or to have the use of College facilities. The undergraduate remains a member of the University of Oxford and may still enter their name for its examinations as an individual, and may appear in the Class List, provided that statutable residence has been kept.
- j. **Rustication** means that the undergraduate's right of access to the facilities of the College and/or the University are withdrawn, usually for a specified period or until certain conditions have been fulfilled. The undergraduate remains a member of the University but ceases to be formally in residence and so cannot complete the required number of statutable terms. The Vice-Chancellor and Proctors have the power to excuse from part of statutable residence any member of the University who has been prevented by illness or other reasonable cause from keeping such residence, every application for such dispensation being made through the College. 'Reasonable cause' will be considered to include having been rusticated.
- k. **Expulsion** means that an undergraduate is deprived of membership both of the College and of the University and therefore loses the right to enter for University examination or take its degrees.
- l. If the undergraduate is alleged to have committed any disciplinary offences as well as breaches of probationary conditions, the Senior Tutor may propose, in the interests of dealing fairly and expeditiously with the matters concerning the undergraduate, that the matters should be referred solely to the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee in such a case shall include at least three tutors. The Disciplinary Committee shall, with regard to the alleged breaches of probationary conditions, comply with the procedures set out in this Rule and be treated as the Academic Progress Panel for the purposes of this Rule.

For information on the appeals process please see section J: Appeals.

PART D: DECANAL MATTERS

The College Statutes state that the Principal is responsible for the discipline of students, 'provided that no student's name shall be removed from the books of the College except by the decision of the Governing Body in a Stated Meeting and that such decision shall be final'. In practice, the Dean normally exercises the Principal's jurisdiction over the discipline of students. The Dean's Office's responsibilities include overseeing the general wellbeing of all Junior Members, providing guidance and support, helping to regulate behaviour, and ensuring that the needs and interests of all members of the College are respected. However, the Dean may suspend rights of access to all or any specified College premises and facilities as necessary (even in a non-disciplinary situation) to protect the College or any of its members, or as an interim measure pending further investigation or disciplinary proceedings. A Junior Member convicted of a criminal offence capable of attracting a sentence of imprisonment may be rusticated, sent down, or expelled by the Governing Body, after due opportunity to make written representations.

The Dean's Office can be contacted via email at **deans.office@some.ox.ac.uk**. During term time, the Student Welfare Advisors are also available via mobile on 07850 784964 7pm - 7am on weekdays, and at all times on the weekend. The Porter's Lodge can be contacted using 01865 270600 at any time (except during the Christmas shutdown period).

All members of College are expected to show consideration for one another. The Dean will impose penalties for disruptions in College, particularly excessive noise, damage to property, and other forms of bad behaviour, and will work with all members of College to foster a community in which everyone is treated with courtesy and respect. Violations of the rules set out below may be monitored by the Porters or by Housekeeping staff, and, if necessary, referred to the Dean. Note that these rules are not exhaustive, and may be added to, interpreted, and adapted as the Dean sees fit.

D1: Code of Discipline

1. All students sign an undertaking to abide by the College Rules and Regulations on entering Somerville. Please note that By-Law 19 (j) requires all Junior Members to keep themselves informed by checking their pigeonholes and their College email daily, checking for notices in the Porters' Lodge, on College noticeboards, and on the College website <http://www.some.ox.ac.uk/>
2. The Code of Discipline is reviewed annually by consultation between the Dean and other members of the College, and is approved by Standing Committee. Substantive changes will be reported to Governing Body.
3. The Dean may impose penalties which are proportionate to the circumstances of the breach of discipline and the subject.

Serious Breaches of Discipline

4. No Student shall:

- (a) commit any criminal offence proscribed by statute or the common law;
- (b) intentionally or recklessly disrupt or attempt to disrupt teaching or study or research or the administrative, sporting, social or other activities of the College in a manner contrary to the College's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech (available on the College website), or disrupt or attempt to disrupt the lawful exercise of the freedom of speech by members, students, and employees of the College or by visiting speakers, or obstruct or attempt to obstruct any employee or agent of the College in the performance of their duties;
- (c) intentionally or recklessly occupy or use or attempt to occupy or use any property or facilities of the College except as may be authorised by the College authorities concerned;
- (d) intentionally or recklessly forge or falsify expressly or impliedly any University or College certificate or document or knowingly make false statements concerning standing or results obtained in any examination;
- (e) intentionally or recklessly engage in any activity likely to cause physical injury or serious mental harm to others or to impair their safety;
- (f) intentionally or recklessly engage in violent, indecent, disorderly or threatening or offensive behaviour, or unlawful language;
- (g) intentionally or recklessly engage in harassment, including sexual harassment, as defined in the College's Policy and Procedure on Harassment, or sexual misconduct, namely any behaviour of a sexual nature which takes place without consent where the person alleged to have carried out the misconduct has no reasonable belief in consent;
- (h) intentionally or recklessly decline or refuse to obey any reasonable lawful instruction of an officer or employee of the College;
- (i) intentionally or recklessly decline to disclose their name and other relevant details to an officer or an employee or agent of the College, University or of any college in circumstances where it is reasonable to require that that information be given;
- (j) knowingly, intentionally or recklessly use, offer or sell or give to any person drugs or other substances, the possession or use of which is illegal;
- (k) use dishonest means in any examination, or in fulfilling any academic obligation; and/or

- (l) engage in any other conduct which a reasonable person would consider likely to bring the College into disrepute among reputable people if the conduct in question were disclosed to such people.

Noise

- 5. Noise, however generated, which is a nuisance to others, may be a matter for complaint and disciplinary action. Please be especially considerate at night and in or near student accommodation where people may be trying to work or sleep. Anyone who is upset by undue noise is under no obligation to confront the noisemaker in person if they prefer not to. They may contact the Porters' Lodge in the first instance, and, where appropriate, the Student Welfare Advisors.
- 6. Audio and video equipment must not be played in undergraduate rooms, except through headphones, between 11.00pm (midnight on Fridays and Saturdays) and 8.00am. They may be played quietly from 8.00am to 11.00pm, but neighbours' need to work must be respected. Audio and video equipment may be used in common rooms quietly at any time, although anyone disturbed by the noise may ask that they are switched off.
- 7. Musical instruments may not be played in your room except through headphones, or with the Dean's permission.
- 8. The gym door must be closed when the gym is in use. Noise in the gym must not be heard beyond the room itself. Please wear headphones if you wish to listen to music in the gym; the use of speakers is not allowed.
- 9. Mobile telephones must be switched off or on silent mode, with vibrate mode turned off in the Library, during meetings with the Principal, in tutorials, classes, seminars or lectures, in College committees, in Chapel, during Collections, and on any other occasion when they may disrupt the academic life, administrative work, or communal social life of the College.

College Buildings and Grounds

- 10. **Smoking (including electric cigarettes) is not permitted** within College rooms or anywhere within the College curtilage and incurs an automatic fine of £50.
- 11. Please respect College property at all times. Those who cause damage will be charged to have it put right. Charges are also imposed for cleaning up unreasonable mess, including litter on the quad and vomit. Where individual perpetrators cannot be identified, collective charges may be imposed on the residents of corridors of buildings, or the MCR/JCR.
- 12. Ball games may not be played in College, except that croquet and boules may be played on the Penrose lawn, and Frisbee (static, not ultimate) may be played on the main lawn from 1 pm to 9 pm. Riding (bicycles, etc.) and skating (skateboards, rollerblades, scooters etc.) are forbidden throughout the College. Battery powered/electric personal transporters and scooters are not allowed in College.
- 13. Students may not fly drones in the College.
- 14. Please avoid dropping litter; use the bins provided. The common rooms can be charged when excessive rubbish is left on the quad.
- 15. The College gardeners work hard to keep the quads and lawns attractive. Please do not walk on the grass in wet weather, and always avoid stepping on verges and flowerbeds, including the corners of borders or lawns. In warm weather, you may walk and sit on the

lawns, except in Darbishire Quad and the Fellows' Garden, but you must ensure that this does not cause any disturbance, in particular near the Library. In Trinity Term, Chapel Lawn is reserved for the use of those taking examinations, who do not wish to talk.

16. Undergraduates may not keep animals of any kind in their rooms, or any common areas.
17. Flags may not be hung out of student bedroom windows.

Guests, Gatherings and Events

18. Guests using College facilities must be accompanied by a member of the College. College members are responsible for the behaviour of their guests and may be fined for breaches of this Code of Discipline (smoking, noise, etc.) and damage to College property incurred by their visitors.
19. Non-Somervillians are not permitted to use the College gym facilities or the College Library (except by advance appointment with the Librarian).
20. College Formal Dinners (including Guest Nights, Special Guest Nights, Michaelmas Dinner, Foundation Dinner and Subject Dinners) are opportunities for the whole College to dine together. It is important that these occasions are enjoyable and orderly for all attendees. You must therefore maintain a high standard of respectful and responsible behaviour at all times. In particular, once you have taken your seat, you should only get up when high table enter or leave; at the end of the meal; or, if necessary, to use the toilets. If you do need to get up during the meal for legitimate reasons, you should attend to your requirements and return directly to your seat, without pausing at other tables. Once the Dinner has finished, you should leave the Hall promptly and be considerate to others whilst leaving. Impolite behaviour towards catering and waiting staff will not be tolerated.
21. Gatherings in student rooms must be limited to no more than eight persons.
22. Residents may have no more than one visitor in their room between 10:45pm (11:45pm on Fridays and Saturdays) and 8:00am. In accordance with regulation 18 above, guests using College facilities must be accompanied by a member of the College. To enable us to comply with fire regulations, residents will need to follow the College's current procedure, which is that overnight guests must be signed in at the Lodge on each occasion.
23. All meetings and parties must end by 10.45pm (11.45pm on Fridays and Saturdays).
24. Overnight guests may not stay more than two nights consecutively, and may not stay for more than two nights during a seven-day period. Note: this applies even when a guest is visiting more than one member of the College; that is, they may not spend two nights with one and then two nights with another. There are no official College guest rooms, but unoccupied rooms may be available at a charge (contact the Bursary for details).
25. The Decanal Team must be informed in advance of any gatherings of more than twenty people. This does not include Somerville or University Committee meetings where rooms can be booked with the bursary via the two links below:

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/current-students/quick-links/room-booking-student-societies/>

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/current-students/quick-links/book-park-05-for-a-student-society-lecture/>

For large events, please use the link below. You must follow the regulations contained on that webpage. In particular, please note that external groups, including University societies, should not use this link but contact events@some.ox.ac.uk instead to apply.

<https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/current-students/quick-links/request-a-room-to-host-a-large-student-event/>

Please note charges may be applicable for room hire and events unless rooms are being booked for a College society.

26. Payment for room bookings (where applicable) will be arranged through the Bursary on approval of the application. Please note that if payment is not received in advance of the event, the College reserves the right to cancel the booking. Where necessary the Bursary will refer the application to the Decanal Team for approval before confirmation of the booking is made.
27. Somerville members may only book rooms for events that are primarily for members of Somerville College. Somerville members may apply to the Bursary to book a room for a University society as long as there is a Somervillian on the committee; in either case the person making the booking must be present at the event and is responsible for seeing that regulations are observed, the meeting ends in good time, the room is left in good order, the room is locked and the key is returned to the Lodge.
28. Outside bodies wishing to book rooms should contact the Events Department, and bookings should not be made through Somervillian contacts.
29. Permission to use Vaughan Junior Common Room: must be obtained from the JCR President. (Meetings of the JCR, its committees or its formally constituted societies and groups, are booked only through the JCR, but the Dean is informed of all meetings.)
30. The MCR can be booked through the MCR President.
31. If not in use for lectures, meetings, or other academic activities, Flora Anderson Hall may be available between the hours of 9.00am and 11.00pm for quiet activities only.
32. Chapel bookings can be made via the website and in liaison with the Chapel Director. On some occasions, the permission of the Principal may also be required.
33. No informal barbeques may be held in College at any time.
34. Bops and Parties with music and/or dancing may only be held in public rooms in College and where applicable licenses from the local council may be sourced (not in undergraduate rooms) with the permission of the Deans. Meetings must be of University or College societies or groups only; no public meetings may be held in College.
35. At all meetings, the College's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech must be adhered to. This Code is available on the College website.
36. Subject to the College's obligation to support and uphold the right to free speech and the right of individuals to equal treatment under the law, the College complies with its legal obligation to have due regard for the risk of people being drawn into terrorism when considering events and meetings taking place in College.
37. Fines and charges may be imposed by the Dean for any damage to property in or near the rooms booked.
38. No event involving alcohol may take place without the prior permission of the Catering and Conference Manager, who is the Designated Premises Supervisor and handles all requests

to hold events in College. Please note that 21 days' notice is required for events requiring the approval of local authorities.

- 39. Alcohol may not be consumed in the Quad.
- 40. JCR amplifying equipment will be issued for undergraduate use only with the signed permission of the Dean, and may be used for no more than two events in any one term beyond the JCR's official events.
- 41. There are both legal and practical restrictions on serving food. Anyone wishing to do so must consult the Catering & Conference Manager in advance.

Safety and Emergencies

- 42. All roofs, balconies, and parapets of College buildings are out of bounds: going on to them is a major safety hazard.
- 43. Climbing on trees on College grounds is also forbidden: such climbing is a major safety hazard.
- 44. The pond is out of bounds. The pond must not be interfered with and due care must be taken around the pond.
- 45. In an emergency of any kind, the Porters' Lodge should be contacted in the first instance, by telephone (01865 (2)70600) or in person.
- 46. If you suspect the presence of intruders, you should immediately report this to the Lodge, who will contact the police. Other matters that you need to report to the police should also be reported to the Dean (e.g., cases of theft).
- 47. You should make yourself familiar with the fire regulations posted on your staircase and in your room. You will be required to attend a fire safety lecture in College at the beginning of your first year. You must vacate your room when the fire alarm sounds, including for fire drills which are held at least twice a year, unless you have been notified in advance that you do not need to evacuate. You must not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so by a porter or student welfare adviser.
- 48. Fire safety equipment must not be tampered with; violations will be reported to the Dean.
- 49. You should ensure that you follow the College's electrical equipment regulations, a copy of which will have been sent to you with your tenancy agreement. The UK uses a type G 3 pin plug; no other plug type should be inserted into the electrical socket faceplate. Plug adaptors should be to BS 8546 standards only. Adaptors found not to comply will be removed. For any questions regarding electrical appliance use, please contact maintenance.desk@some.ox.ac.uk.
- 50. Personal electric heaters must not be brought into College. A limited number of approved heaters may be made available in periods of severe cold.
- 51. Candles and similar items (i.e., joss sticks/incense) may not be lit in rooms or common areas.
- 52. Do not leave items on windowsills; they create a hazard to anyone passing or working beneath.
- 53. Accidents on College premises should be reported to the Porters' Lodge, to reduce the likelihood of recurrence. The Porters will notify the first-aider on duty, if required. The College gardeners endeavour to keep paths clear of snow, ice and leaves. Please inform the Porters' Lodge of any areas that may have been missed and arrangements will be made to clear them.

54. Each JCR and MCR member may obtain a free personal security alarm from the JCR Welfare Officer or MCR Welfare Officer. In addition, some alarms are available for borrowing from the Lodge.
55. Your Access card allows you to pass through all doors in College to which you have right of entry. Please ensure that doors and gates have shut after you have passed through them. You must not let anyone else through a gate or door after you if they do not have the relevant Access Card: to do so poses a significant security risk.
56. Access Cards are issued by the Porters' Lodge. You must never lend your Access Card to anyone, not even to a Somervillian. Loss or theft of your room key or Access Card must be reported to the Lodge. Room keys should be left at the Lodge during vacations and collected when you return. If your key is taken home during vacation then a fine may be levied to cover the cost of a replacement. Rooms are often used during vacation for commercial purposes. Under no circumstances should keys be duplicated.
57. Whenever you leave your room, even for a short period of time, always lock it. Be careful to close (and where applicable, lock) windows, especially on the ground floor. Be sensible about your possessions; never leave a purse, wallet, handbag, laptop or phone unattended in the Library, outside Hall, or in other public areas.
58. Please note that the College has a number of CCTV cameras located to cover entrances and outside areas only. The cameras are operated in accordance with strict guidelines.

Vehicles

59. Bicycles should be left in bicycle racks; note that the racks under the Bursary are reserved for SCR and members of staff only. Bicycles may not be ridden in College, and must not be left in the traffic entrance, under the Lodge archway, in rooms, common areas or within College buildings. Offending bicycles are liable to be removed without warning.
60. You are required to register your bicycle at the Lodge. From time to time the College will conduct a bicycle cull and unregistered bicycles will be removed.
61. Motorcycles and cars may not be brought into college on any occasion. There is no car parking space available for undergraduates or graduates within the College or surrounding external accommodation locations.
62. The City Authorities permit luggage to be loaded and unloaded at the gates; a notice obtainable from the Lodge should be displayed in vehicles while loading or unloading.

Publicity and Campaigning and Social Media

63. Posters may be displayed in College as long as they comply with the law (but only on designated noticeboards).
64. The pigeonholes may only be used for announcements of events, not for distribution of campaigning material. The exception is at local or national elections, when each candidate or political party may 'pidge' one leaflet to each student; this must be carried out by a Somervillian, and at a time convenient to the Lodge.
65. Political canvassers are not permitted to operate in College; they must not knock on doors or approach College members on the premises.
66. Hustings meetings will be organized for the airing of views. For details, and guidelines on posting and 'pidging', please contact your common room President.

67. Posters should only be put on designated notice boards, not on doors, walls or buildings. You should not remove or cover any College information on general notice boards, especially health and safety information.
68. You must not invite or allow any commercial activity (such as filming, selling goods or insurance, or commercial performers) to take place in College without the Dean's approval. If you are troubled by such activity, report it to the Lodge.
69. Students are advised to use social media responsibly and should be aware that it is possible for their digital footprint seriously to compromise their reputation. Online bullying and harassment will be taken extremely seriously.

College Library

70. The Library Rules are given on the College Library website. Breach of the Library Rules constitutes a breach of this Disciplinary Code.

Information Technology

71. Computing resources must be used in accordance with the regulations set out at here: <https://it.some.ox.ac.uk/rules/>. Violations of these rules will be monitored by the IT Systems Manager in the first instance, and, if necessary, referred to the Dean.

D2. Decanal Disciplinary Procedures

These procedures are now set out in the Non-Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedure. This can be found on the College website.

PART E: FINANCIAL MATTERS

E1. Advice and help

A comprehensive Guide to Student Finance is issued to all students early in Michaelmas Term and is also available at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding?wssl=1>. One of the responsibilities of the College Accountant, Damian Clements, is to give advice to students on financial matters, particularly in cases of financial difficulty. If you have money worries, potentially serious or not, or if you just feel that you could benefit from some advice about how to handle your financial affairs, please arrange to see him. Damian may be contacted by email (college.accountant@some.ox.ac.uk) or by visiting the Treasury. Anything that you say and any information that you provide will be treated in confidence.

E2. Accommodation charges

Student accommodation charges are discussed by the Treasurer in Hilary Term with representatives of the JCR and MCR. The final charges for the following year are then reviewed by Finance Committee and agreed by Governing Body every Trinity Term. Undergraduates will be communicated with during the summer vacation with guidance on the **fees and accommodation charges** to which they will be subject. Fees and charges, known as battels, are billed prior to the start of each term, which together with any unpaid balances brought forward from the previous term **must be paid by Friday of 1st week**. A second battels statement (bill) is circulated before the end of 3rd week, incorporating miscellaneous charges (including vacation residence). **This must be paid by Friday of 4th week**. If for any reason you are unable to pay by this date, you must contact the College Accountant *before* the due date. More often than not special arrangements for delayed payments can be made, where justified by circumstance. *However, failure to contact the Treasury to make such arrangements will be taken as implying unwillingness, rather than inability, to pay. The College reserves the right to charge interest on unpaid battels balances.*

If action of this sort is taken against any student for non-payment of battels, and they believe that this has been done unfairly, the College's procedure for Complaints and Appeals may be invoked; further information is available under section 'Complaints, Appeals and Discipline' at <https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/policies/>.

A room deposit of £336 will be charged at the beginning of your stay and will be returned to you in the August following completion of your course (subject to the room being left in a satisfactory condition).

E3. Catering charges

The catering credit for students living in College is £100 per term. The way this works is that a £100 charge is added to your first battels statement each term and is matched by an equal credit on your food card. You will be able to spend it on food and drink in Hall (including guest nights) as well as in The Terrace Bar.

This is essentially a minimum spend on catering, and makes a significant contribution to maintaining the College's catering facilities for everyone. (Similar schemes in other colleges ask for contributions of between £120 and £200 per term.)

If you are not living in College accommodation, this does not apply to you.

If you decide not to add any further amounts to your food card each term, this sum of £100 is equivalent to eating one meal in Hall approximately every 3 to 4 days, leaving you to choose where you eat for the rest of your meals (in Hall, out of College or self-catering).

For regular use of the Catering service, it is recommended that at least £200 is paid into your College food account at the commencement of each term. This and subsequent top-ups of your food account will be possible via an online payment facility or at the Treasury.

Please note that your College food account may not be active for the first few days after you arrive at Somerville, in which case a debit card can be used in the Pantry.

Food cards must be in credit to be used to buy food in either the pantry or the Terrace.

Any unspent credit remaining in your food account at the end of a term will be carried forward to the next term. **However, you will not be able to reclaim any unspent balance when you leave College at the end of your course.**

Exemptions from the catering credit will only be considered on medical or religious grounds. To be considered for an exemption, you should write to or e-mail Andrew Parker, Treasurer (treasurer@some.ox.ac.uk), with details of why you think you should be exempt, by Monday of 1st week in Michaelmas Term. All requests for exemptions will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will be considered by a small panel of senior staff, taking into account individual circumstances, the existing provision of menu choice and the capacity of the kitchen to meet many dietary requirements by arrangement.

PART F: WELFARE MATTERS

Somerville has invested considerable effort in creating an ethos of support for its students, and has devised its welfare structures with this in mind. Below you will find a long list of College officers who can assist you if and when you require support. The College's efforts are motivated by a desire that all our students should be happy and healthy for their own sake but also a strong belief that healthy and happy students perform better in their academic work, as members of the community, and in their extra-curricular pursuits.

Those College Officers with welfare responsibilities must sometimes exchange information about students in order to exercise their legal duty carefully, but in doing so they have specific codes of practice to ensure that they comply with legislation on data protection and confidentiality. More information about confidentiality can be found in the Somerville College Confidentiality Policy available [here](#).

Although your Personal Tutor may be your first port of call, if for any reason you prefer not to approach your tutor, (for example, because you don't want to involve your academic tutors in any personal, practical or financial difficulties that you are experiencing), the Student Welfare Lead, Joanne Ockwell, or the Senior Tutor, Dr Stephen Rayner, are available to give advice on any personal or practical problem, or to suggest other people to whom you might talk (welfare.lead@some.ox.ac.uk or senior.tutor@some.ox.ac.uk). All such approaches will be confidential, unless you give consent for the matter to be discussed with others or disclosure is required to protect your safety or the safety of others. It should be stressed that your tutors and other members of the welfare team are not professional counsellors, and are not substitutes for the professional help available through the University Counselling Service.⁴

The Student Welfare Advisors are available overnight and at weekends in term time, to assist students with crisis issues. One of the Student Welfare Advisors is on duty every evening, night and weekend during term (0th – 9th Week in Hilary and Trinity Terms, 0th – 10th Week in Michaelmas Term). They can be contacted by mobile on 07850 784964 or by email at student.welfare.advisor@some.ox.ac.uk. If you need urgent crisis support, we advise that you use the phone as emails are not monitored 24/7. If you need advice during the day however, you should normally contact your Tutor, the Student Welfare Lead, or the Senior Tutor. For emergencies, or complaints about others' behaviour or noise, contact the Porter on duty in the Lodge in the first instance (70600).

All students should register with a doctor in Oxford as permanent patients for the duration of their course. The College Doctors, Dr Paul Ch'en and Dr Alice Young are members of a partnership with which the College has a special arrangement for the care of its students and other members. They may be seen by appointment at the Jericho Health Centre, New Radcliffe House, Walton Street, close to the College, 01865 429993.

The College Nurse is available to see students about medical issues on weekdays during term time. Her office is Darbshire 16 – please see the notice on her door for her availability or

⁴ <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling/>

contact her by email at pml.somervillenurse@nhs.net.

There are a number of qualified first-aiders in college. In an emergency, contact the Lodge (70600). See also <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare>.

The College Counsellor is available to see Somerville students in college. Please contact her at College.Counsellor@some.ox.ac.uk for an appointment.

The Principal, Catherine Royle, is the Head of the College and chairs Governing Body and most other College committees, including Education Committee. An appointment may be made to see the Principal at any time to seek help or advice by contacting her Executive Assistant (principals.office@some.ox.ac.uk).

A number of students have been trained by the University Counselling Service to offer peer support. All conversations with them are confidential unless disclosure is required to protect your safety or the safety of others. The names of the current peer supporters can be found on the JCR Facebook page and on posters placed on noticeboards around college. The University's website on Student Health and Welfare (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare>) provides access to a wide range of health and welfare activities including advice about physical and mental health services, hardship, abuse and bereavement.

The College's Harassment Policy and Procedure can be found on the college website: <https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/College-Harassment-Policy-and-Procedure-Trinity-2022.pdf>.

See also <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare>.

PART G: FITNESS TO STUDY

If your academic work is interrupted at any time by health problems, it is vital that your Personal Tutor or College Adviser be informed.

On rare occasions there may be a situation where the College believes a student is not fit enough to continue their studies. In such cases the College may feel it is necessary for the student to suspend their studies for a period of time in order to recover.

Somerville College adopts the definition of 'Fitness to Study' as noted in the Proctors' Memorandum <http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/handbook/handbook/>. In rare cases where a student disputes the College's determination that they are not fit for study they may make their case to the College's 'Fitness to Study' panel, consisting of The Principal, Vice-Principal and a Fellow who is not one of the student's Subject Tutors. The Vice-Principal will be replaced by the previous Vice-Principal if they are one of the student's Subject Tutors. The student will be offered the opportunity to make their case in person. The panel will consider the evidence and reach a decision within a week of the case being referred to the panel. If the panel's decision is that the student should suspend and the student still disagrees, the case will be referred to the University's 'Fitness to Study' panel.

During the interim period, whilst the panel considers the evidence, the student would remain registered and actively studying unless continuing to study is likely to be significantly harmful to their health or unless there is potential risk to staff or other students if the student continues. The Principal would make such a determination. If it is necessary to suspend the student pending the outcome of the panel the interim suspension should not be seen as pre-judging the panel's decision.

PART H: DISABILITY SERVICES

The University's Disability Advisory Service has much useful information on how to obtain extra support for those with a disability or chronic health conditions, including students with dyslexia, dyspraxia, AD(H)D, and other Specific Learning Difficulties/Differences, as well as students on the Autistic Spectrum, and those with mental health difficulties. Any student with specific requirements who has not already done so is urged to complete a DAS Registration form available at www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability (under the Resources section).

Within Somerville, the Disability Co-Ordinator is the Student Welfare Lead, Jo Ockwell. Jo liaises with students and the Disability Advisory Service in order to put in place necessary reasonable adjustments. Jo can be contacted at welfare.lead@some.ox.ac.uk. If any student wishes to appeal against the decision of the Student Welfare Lead regarding college based reasonable adjustment requests, they may put their appeal, in writing, to the Treasurer.

PART I: RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

I1. University regulations

The University expects undergraduates to be resident in Oxford during Full Term in order to pursue their course. Minimum residence requirements are set out in the University's *Examination Regulations*. These Regulations require undergraduates to keep residence for 42 days each term. Entry for Final Honour School examinations requires certification of nine terms residence (or twelve in the case of four-year courses) except where dispensation is granted by the Proctors.

Further information about these requirements is explained in full in the University's Student Handbook at <http://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/handbook/handbook/>.

I2. College Residence requirements for undergraduates

The **College's** requirements are:

- a. Undergraduates in their first year are all required to live in College (this includes College houses). Exceptions are: (a) on medical grounds; (b) members of religious orders; (c) students living with partners/students with families. The Principal's permission must be sought in all such cases.
- b. As of October 2019, the college has enough accommodation for all undergraduates to live in College. After their first year, any student may choose to live out of College, although they must still satisfy the University's residence requirements unless special permission is granted by the Proctors.
- c. Although the College now provides enough accommodation for most undergraduates to live in College throughout their course, living in College accommodation is a privilege not a right. Those who persistently ignore the Decanal regulations, especially those relating to smoking and damage to property, may not be permitted to live in during subsequent years.
- d. If you are living out of College then it is an essential College requirement that you inform the Bursary of your address and telephone number (through the Lodge) by Monday of 0th week in Michaelmas Term at the latest.
- e. All returning undergraduates (not 'freshers'), whether living in College or out, are required to register their return by signing in at the Porters' Lodge **before 4pm on the Wednesday of 0th Week of Michaelmas Term, and before 4pm on the Tuesday of 0th Week of Hilary and Trinity Terms**. This requirement also applies to those who have been in Oxford throughout the vacation.
- f. Undergraduates not in residence during vacation may have access to the college library via the Lodge. Students should be aware that if major library maintenance projects are planned then these will happen during vacation. This may mean noise disturbance or certain sections or facilities being unavailable during this time.

I3. Annual re-registration

The University requires all students to register online before the start of each academic year of their course. For courses which started in Michaelmas Term, registration must be complete by the start of that term, with the same pattern applying for courses which started in Hilary and Trinity terms.

Each student has a personal online registration page, which can be accessed through the online Student Self Service facility, using the Oxford Single Sign-On username and password provided to you before the start of your course. The registration log-in page can be found by visiting <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/registration>. Registration opens on **1 September** and closes at **4 pm on Friday of 1st Week (18th October 2024)**; those who fail to register by the deadline given risk losing their access to University email and library services. Registering releases loans provided by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and associated organisations, and may also be required for the release of scholarships and awards from other bodies. Overseas Students will receive individual communications about their visa requirements.

I4. Brief absences

In order to be able to meet these and internal College requirements, all undergraduates living in College who intend to be away from Oxford overnight **must** sign the Leave Book in the Lodge; failure to do so may be regarded as a breach of the College's Fire Safety Regulations. Undergraduates forced for any reason, including illness, to depart without having signed the Leave Book should ensure that the Lodge is notified of their absence as soon as possible. Absence from Oxford should not conflict with your academic commitments, which include Collections. Your Personal Tutor (not just your current academic tutor) should be consulted in advance of any planned absences of more than a day or two, or if your academic work will be in any way affected.

I5. Temporary suspension

The following are the conventions that apply when an undergraduate is obliged to suspend (i.e., intermit) their studies:

- a. Somerville aims to provide the most appropriate support for all of its students and most students are able to maintain their studies on a standard schedule even through periods of ill health or other difficulty. Sometimes, though, this is not possible and it is necessary to consider suspending study (intermitting) to allow a student the time to address a problem that is preventing them from making academic progress. Suspension of study is only considered in circumstances where it is infeasible, for reasons of ill health or otherwise, for an undergraduate student to continue with their studies on the standard schedule for their degree programme. As such, it is to be considered as a remedy of last resort after alternatives, such as study support measures or adjustments to tutorial arrangements, have been fully considered and explored
- b. Suspension is not an option available to students without the College's permission. Students may withdraw from their studies at any point but they must have the College's

permission for that withdrawal to be temporary and for them to return to study. Where timing permits a request for suspension will be considered by Education Committee. If this is not possible the student's tutors and the Senior Tutor will make the decision on behalf of Education Committee and that decision will be reported to the following Education Committee meeting.

- c. Those who suspended their studies will retain access to University teaching resources. This includes access to college email and access to resources such as Canvas and the University library. Suspended students may also make use of the Counselling Service, Disability Advisory Service and the Careers Service. Further information on access to University facilities whilst on suspension is available here:
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/undergraduate/status?wssl=1>
- d. Access to college facilities will be cancelled for the duration of the suspension, via the student's University Card.
- e. Students who have suspended their studies are very welcome to return to Somerville as the guest of another member, to see friends or see tutors. Such visits must be agreed by prior arrangement with the Senior Tutor or Student Welfare Lead.
- f. Suspended students are not permitted to attend formal College Events such as First Year Dinner or Leaver's Dinner, although they may attend Guest Nights and other social events in college as the guest of another member.
- g. All suspended students who enter the college site as the guest of another member must be signed in as a guest at the Lodge if they stay overnight. Failure to be signed in may result in disciplinary procedures against the suspended student and other students if they break Decanal regulations by, for example, loaning Bod cards to allow access.
- h. If a suspended student breaks college rules whilst on suspension, the Deans' Office may invoke disciplinary procedures against a suspended student upon their return to study.
- i. Suspended students may not normally return to college accommodation more than two weeks prior to the beginning of the term in which they will be enrolled.
- j. In many cases it is appropriate for the suspended student to take a break from the College environment, in their best interests. The college reserves the right to withhold access to the college for a suspended student if the college finds that it is in the best interest of the student themselves, or other members of the college community.
- k. The period of any suspension is likely to be for an academic year in most cases. Students will not normally be permitted to repeat a term of full-time study that they have previously completed unless a compelling case can be made for a completed term having been irretrievably (i.e., to such an extent that it is impossible to cover the lost ground through self-study during the period of suspension) compromised by circumstances beyond the student's control.
- l. Students contemplating suspension should be made aware of the University's regulations on being over-standing for honours. The default position is that a student is not able to receive an honours degree if they complete their degree more than two years later than the standard duration of their programme.
- m. If at all possible, students should not suspend for more than two years since exam syllabuses change and it is possible that an extended period of suspension could mean that the student would have to be taught and examined separately from their peers.

15.1 Suspension on the grounds of Ill Health

- a) Each student who suspends on health grounds should obtain a certificate from a Doctor advising that this is necessary.
- b) Any active academic support and monitoring and/or disciplinary procedures should be suspended during a period of absence through ill-health, although this should not preclude their resumption if, having been judged fit to return to full-time study, there is a failure to meet the required standard of application and progress.
- c) The Academic Office will remind tutors of students expected to return from suspension at the beginning of the term before the anticipated return. Tutors should at this point establish contact with the student to agree the form in which they should provide evidence of their academic fitness to return to their programme of study
- d) The student should obtain a medical certificate indicating that they are fully fit to return to full-time study, and setting out, if appropriate, any special adjustments that may need to be made, in sufficient time before the anticipated return date to allow the student's tutors and the Senior Tutor to evaluate the evidence and decide whether a return to study is appropriate and what special arrangements, if any, should be made for the student's return. Where timing permits the recommendation should be considered by Education Committee. However, if this is not possible, the student's tutors and the Senior Tutor will make the decision on behalf of the Committee and that decision will be reported to the following Education Committee meeting.
- e) Whilst it is not routine to require students returning from suspension to demonstrate that they are academically ready to resume study, the College does reserve the right to impose an academic assessment of a student's readiness, especially if they have been away from study for longer than a year.

15.2 Temporary suspension on grounds other than ill health

- a. Where a student suspends on grounds other than ill health the College reserves the right to require students returning from a period of suspension to demonstrate their ability to study at an appropriate level, possibly through achieving a required standard in a collection or through submission of work.
- b. Any active [academic support and monitoring and/or](#) disciplinary procedures should be suspended during a period of absence. It is anticipated that the process will resume after a period of suspension of status at the same stage that had been reached just before suspension.
- c. In many cases of suspension for reasons other than ill health, there will be no conditions set for the student to return to enrolled status.

16. Vacation Residence Regulations

- 1. **Policy:** the College sets as part of its academic policy that vacation residence be encouraged, but on stipulated conditions, and within stipulated limits; and that, accordingly, it be treated under the following headings:
 - a. **For undergraduate students sitting University Examinations that occur outside Full Term** (*see paragraph 5 below*)

- b. **For academic work that forms part of a University Public Examination, and that need to be undertaken and/or submitted by a given date outside Full Term:** for example, an examination, a thesis, dissertation, or extended essay, or a laboratory-based project (*see paragraph 6 below*)
 - c. **For academic reading in connection with work set or approved by College tutors** (*see paragraph 7 below*)
 - d. **On compassionate or welfare grounds** (including special circumstances affecting overseas students)
2. **Compliance:** all Junior Members living in College and College houses, whether or not they intend to be in residence for any part of the Vacation, must comply with the Domestic Bursar's instructions relating to Vacation Residence, which are promulgated *via* the *College Handbook*, the College Web-site, and by e-mail. The Domestic Bursar needs to know, by a stated deadline, the exact number of Junior Members who wish to be in residence on given dates.
- a. Each application must bear the endorsement of the student's Personal Tutor
 - b. Incomplete applications will not be considered
Applications which miss the given deadline will not be considered
 - c. Undergraduates who do not observe these College Regulations will be reported to Finance Committee, and may be charged the full commercial rate for the room that they occupy without the Domestic Bursar's permission beyond the contracted period.
 - d. Those granted vacation residence may be required to change room. Junior Members must hand their old room key in to Housekeeping in exchange for the new one. If their previous room key is not handed in, they will be subject to a fine.
3. **Definition of "term" and "Vacation"**
- a. For the purposes of Vacation Residence, "term" shall be taken to mean the period from 8 am on the Wednesday before the beginning of Full Term to 10 am on the Saturday of Eighth Week.
 - b. "Vacation" shall be taken to mean any period outside these dates.
4. **Conditions under which a room is licensed to a Junior Member:**
- a. The Domestic Bursar will determine whether to grant Vacation Residence depending on the availability of accommodation. Any Vacation Residence approved will be in rooms allocated at the discretion of the Domestic Bursar, and may be in off-site houses
 - b. **In term:** the room must be vacated by 10 am on the Saturday of Eighth Week and shall not be re-occupied by that Junior Member between that time and 10 am on the Thursday of the week before the following Full Term (Week Nought), except by special arrangement with the Domestic Bursar, or in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 below.

- c. **In Vacation:** where permission is given for vacation residence, there is no presumption that this will be in the room licensed to the Junior Member for the preceding or following terms.
- d. **Students on extended contracts** are not required to apply for Vacation Residence at Christmas and Easter.
- e. The usual Vacation Residence charge will apply in all cases except Public Examinations (see 5 below). Charges are listed on the College website. Limited grants towards these costs may be met, by funds provided by the College from its own resources. See 8 below.

5. University Examinations

- a. When a Junior Member is required to sit a Public Examination outside Full Term, they are entitled to occupy a College room from one day prior to the first paper, to 10 am on the morning following the final one. This applies to all examinations announced in the timetables issued by Examination Schools, including oral examinations; that is, all so-called *sub fusc* examinations. The Domestic Bursar will be notified of individual students' timetables by the Academic Office. The residence will be free of charge for any period defined above, and permission will not be sought from Personal Tutors.
- b. Every effort will be made to ensure that the room allocated is that occupied by the Junior member concerned during Full Term, but no guarantee to this effect can be given
- c. A Junior Member summoned for a *viva voce* examination is entitled to occupy a College room free of charge from one day prior to the examination to 10 am on the morning following the exam.
- d. Every effort will be made to provide Junior Members taking Second Public Examinations with a college room for the period from noon on Monday of Week Nought and until 10 am on the Saturday of Ninth Week in the Vacation period immediately preceding the term in which he or she is due to sit these examinations. The normal vacation residence charge will apply.

6. Preparation of examined theses, dissertations, and the like, and preparation of work for college tutors through academic reading and or writing:

- a. Every effort will be made to provide Junior Members preparing assignments that form part of a University Examination with a college room for the period from noon on Monday of Week Nought and until 10 am on the Saturday of Ninth Week in the Vacation period immediately preceding the term in which he or she is due to submit the assignment. The normal vacation residence charge will apply.

7. Staying up for Academic purposes other than examinations:

- a. Undergraduates wishing to stay up for academic work set by Tutors must first discuss with their Personal Tutors the length of time for which he or she may reasonably apply.
- b. Personal Tutors must complete the relevant section of the Application Form, indicating the appropriate level of priority (Essential/ Highly Desirable/Desirable/ Unnecessary) for the number of days requested. Different priorities may be given to parts of the request: for example, a request for ten days' residence may be assessed so that seven days are considered "essential", and three days "highly desirable".
- c. Applications must reach the Domestic Bursar by the given deadline. Those that are late or incomplete (i.e., lacking the endorsement of the Personal Tutor) may not be considered.
- d. The normal vacation residence charge will apply.
- e. Separate arrangements exist for those undergraduates who stay up to help over the undergraduate admissions interview period, or to help with fund-raising or other college-related activities. Undergraduates helping with the Admissions exercise are permitted to have free vacation residence in 9th and part of 10th week of Michaelmas Term.

8. Financial assistance from the College:

- a. As indicated earlier, limited grants towards these costs may be met, by funds provided by the College from its own resources.
- b. Approved grants will be credited to students' battels. Please note that the entitlement to apply for a grant does not imply that the application will be successful since grants are paid from limited college resources.

Please bear in mind that this is ***not an entitlement but a discretionary grant*** provided by the College from limited funds. In order to help the maximum number of students, and especially those in financial hardship, it is not possible for College funds to meet all requests in full. Every effort is made to ensure that available funds are distributed fairly. The relevant application form is available from Treasury Staff, who can also give information about financial assistance generally. To be eligible for a grant, students must meet certain criteria, which will include:

- a. Being in receipt of an Oxford Bursary;
- b. Being in receipt of a current hardship grant;
- c. Being able to demonstrate that they will be in financial difficulties if they stay up for academic reasons;
- d. Having missed tutorials through certified illness.

PART J: APPEALS

J1. College appeal process

Students given a penalty in relation to non-academic matters may submit an appeal against the ruling, in writing, to the Senior Tutor in the first instance. The Senior Tutor will refer the appeal to a former Dean who will not have had any contact with the student concerned and will rule on the appeal. Those dissatisfied with the former Dean's ruling may make a further appeal to the Conference of Colleges' Appeal Tribunal:

<http://www.confcoll.ox.ac.uk/html/main/ccat.html> . It should be noted, though, that CCAT will not consider cases where the penalty imposed falls below their definition of a substantial penalty, which includes the penalties of expulsion, rustication or suspension, substantial fines (defined as fines above £1,000) and other penalties of similar severity. As such, students found guilty of a Minor Breach of Discipline (as defined in the Non-Academic Misconduct Discipline Code (available at [College Policies - Somerville College Oxford](#)) will not have recourse to CCAT but may appeal directly to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (see below).

The outcome of an Academic or Behaviour-Related Disciplinary Panel is a final decision of the Principal and Governing Body, and therefore a student wishing to appeal should approach the Conference of Colleges Appeal Tribunal.

J2. Conference of Colleges Appeal Tribunal (CCAT)

A student may appeal against a decision by the College to impose a substantial penalty by filing a written application to the Conference of Colleges Appeal Tribunal (CCAT) not more than five days after being notified of the decision. The application should include a copy of the decision being challenged, a brief statement of the facts and of the arguments on which the application is based, your request for a remedy, where applicable an application for a stay of the effects of the decision being challenged or for any other preliminary relief of an urgent nature, and your contact details. This will be acknowledged by the CCAT Secretariat

CCAT will then organise a Panel to review the case; no members of the Panel will have any direct connection with the College. The Panel will normally convene a hearing within 14 days from receipt of the application but this will depend on the circumstances of each case. The student and the College may be represented by a third party (including, at the Panel's discretion, by Counsel and/or a solicitor). The hearing will normally be in public and a decision will normally be made within seven days of the hearing of the appeal. Full procedures can be obtained from <http://is.gd/QgpAcJ>.

J3. Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education

Under the Higher Education Act 2004, certain complaints which the student concerned considers have not been properly dealt with by the College (and the CCAT where applicable) may be pursued with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education. Please see www.oiahe.org.uk for full details.

PART K: COMPLAINTS

K1. Sources of advice

The University website has a detailed page of guidance for students on complaints and appeals at: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints?wssl=1>. This contains details of how to contact the OUSU Student Advice Service, Harassment Line and Student Counselling Service, and links to the Proctor's 'Student Handbook' which is also referred to throughout this document.

K2. Resolving complaints informally

Where possible, the College seeks to help students resolve any complaints they may have informally. Students should normally take a complaint on academic matters to their Personal Tutor or the Senior Tutor, in confidence. Tutors should discuss cases where a student is not working to the best of their ability with the student concerned, in the first instance, and report serious or persistent issues to Education Committee for discussion (see section C7).

A complaint in relation to accommodation, catering or support staff should be taken in the first instance to their manager: Treasurer or Senior Tutor. Students may be accompanied in these instances by a fellow Somerville Junior Member of their choice.

A complaint relating to a fine imposed by the Dean should be treated as an appeal and follow the process outlined in J1 above.

K3. Formal complaints

If it is not possible to resolve a complaint informally, then a written complaint may be sent to the Principal. The Principal may delegate responsibility for responding to the complaint to another senior member of the College.