



Tarka Abraham, Biochemistry 2021-2025, speaks about her experience getting the most from the Skill Hub

Over my 4 years at Somerville, I am proud that I made the most of the fantastic resource that is the Skills Hub. I built a network with guest speakers, learned how to learn more efficiently (and enjoy my studying more) and grew as a person outside of my academics.

I found that within my department tuition there wasn't much training on how to learn, or how to overcome our individual weaknesses. Luckily, I realised early on that 1 to 1s with Claire (leader of the Skills Hub) allowed me to sail past these road blocks. This began in first year when Claire connected me to the learning disability team for me to undergo a dyslexia assessment. At the same time, Claire organised additional support sessions for me to build my confidence structuring my academic writing. I found Claire extremely encouraging and supportive and looking back I recognise that this support was critical for me to end up producing high first-class standard work. Through the individual support Claire sent me personalised emails indicating courses she thought would help me develop skills and then she helped me polish my applications too. This guidance extended to writing applications for funding allowing me to experience some life-changing travel abroad.

In an effort to make the most of the support provided, I attended lots of Skills Hub sessions: from learning software for keeping work more efficiently organised- to gaining more confidence public speaking. My attitude was to soak up all the amazing support because that kind of thing isn't available once you leave Oxford. When I attended the events, I found them fun and a great way to connect with other lovely Somervillians who I may not have met otherwise.

In my 3rd year, I attended an internship event run by the Skills Hub, where I was able to talk directly with the CEO of a company ([SmartParc](#)) doing really exciting things in the food industry and subsequently get an internship with them (without having to do any long applications!). Subsequently, Claire encouraged me so

much that I had the confidence to co-organise a whole event held in Somerville with 80 attendees at the end of my 4th year such that I finished my 4 years at Somerville with loads of extra-curricular experience as well as feeling like I reached my academic potential- with a lot of credit owed to Claire and the Skills Hub. I'd be delighted to connect with any 1st or 2nd year students about how they can make the most out of their time at Somerville through the skills hub- just pop an email to tarkaabraham@gmail.com

You can watch a recording of the Future of Food event here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8jOTS61C8o>

On Monday 9th June 2025, the Somerville College Skills Hub welcomed students, academics and industry professionals for a feast of ideas and conversation about the future of food. The evening featured experts from pioneering companies including Multus Media, Hoxton Farms, FermTech and Ivy Farms, as well as from Somerville's own students and academics, as they explored what is needed to bring on the next food revolution.

FUTURE OF FOOD

Tuck into canapés while you hear from leading industry professionals about how your knowledge can lead to a career with meaningful impact

Flora Anderson Hall
Monday 9th June
 5.30-7pm talks, Q&A
 7-8pm networking buffet

Hear from Leaders of the Food Revolution

- Hoxton Farms
- Multus Media
- FermTech
- Ivy Farms

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SOMERVILLE SKILLS HUB