Exeter College Alternative Prospectus

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We would like to extend our thanks to all the JCR reps and students who contributed to this Alternative Prospectus.

# Letter from JCR President

Welcome to Exeter College, Oxford: the friendliest college in Oxford!

My name is Emily, a second-year BA History student and JCR (Junior Common Room) President this year. The Junior Common Room is both the physical common room located alongside the front quad and the undergraduate representative body within College. We support undergraduates at Exeter to cultivate a safe and inclusive community for everyone.

Selecting an Oxford college to apply to is a difficult choice. I hope that this prospectus can help you to get to know Exeter and guide your decision-making process. Applying to Exeter is without a doubt one of the best choices I have made.

Whether the central location, the academic excellence, or the picturesque Fellows’ Garden has attracted you to Exeter, the community is what will make you want to stay. Walter the college cat, who is named after the College’s founder Walter de Stapledon, is just one of many members of our community. The JCR, and the college community, are here to support you from Freshers’ Week to Graduation (and beyond)!

Please also check out our social media pages ([@exeterjcr](https://www.instagram.com/exeterjcr/) and [@exetercollegeox](https://www.instagram.com/exetercollegeox/) on Instagram) and visit us for an Open Day or Offer Holders’ Day in the future. We are looking forward to meeting you.

I hope you find a home in Oxford at Exeter College as myself and so many before me have.

Floreat Exon! (That’s our motto. It means let Exeter flourish!)

Emily Rosindell

# Academic Life

Exeter students are laid-back but hard-working and the college’s vast range of impressive academic services help to facilitate that. The college’s broad set of expert tutors are friendly, encouraging and provide insightful feedback to all students. Exeter fosters a collaborative environment through many shared workspaces across both the Turl Street site and Cohen Quad. Moreover, academic staff will host events, such as subject family dinners, throughout the year, to bring together students of similar disciplines. A further great convenience is Turl Street’s extremely central location, which allows for short travel distances to many of the University’s department buildings, libraries and lecture halls. Our own college library is a comfortable workspace that benefits from 24-hour opening times, over 80,000 accessible books, as well as frequent visits from Walter, the college cat.

# Hall and Food

At Exeter, food is pretty good! At both the Dakota Café in Cohen Quad and on the main site at Turl St, Monday to Friday, students can find a breakfast bar. On these days, Dakota Café and the main site both offer a varied lunch service, including paninis at both sites, and the baguette bar on the main site. Dinner is served every day at the main site. Over the weekend, students from across the college come to Hall on Turl Street for an affordable brunch. On Wednesdays and Sundays (and other special occasions), students can attend formal, a 3-course dinner held in Hall. Currently, there is always a vegetarian option, while all chicken served is prepared to be halal. Students, if they give notice, are also able to request catering to any specific dietary need. And if you don’t feel like eating in hall, both Cohen Quad and Turl Street have kitchens that we can use!

# The Undercroft Bar

The Undercroft Bar is placed next to the hall, right in the centre of college. During the day it functions as a baguette bar, providing a cheap, lighter option for lunch. During the evening it opens as a bar, as in its name! Usually you’ll be served by the lovely bar manager Oscar, or one of your fellow students, so there’s always a familiar face there to greet you. The bar hosts things like the weekly rugby and football drinks but is also a chill place to play some pool with friends, or even just have a chat over a drink. During bops the bar serves ‘bop juice’, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, a colourful drink specially made for bop nights. Drinks are all around £3, so it is one of the cheapest places in Oxford, all while being close to home, and with the people you’ll come to know best!

# Location in Oxford and local amenities

The main site of Exeter College is right in the centre of Oxford on Turl Street, overlooking the Radcliffe Camera to the south and the Weston Library to the north, which are two of the important libraries in the University’s Bodleian Libraries group.

Nearby there is also the Covered Market (which is a historic market with independent stalls and shops), Gloucester Green (a market place with regular food and crafts markets), and the Westgate (a huge, modern shopping centre with many high street brands, restaurants, a cinema and Junkyard golf).

Exeter’s Cohen Quad is in Jericho, which is an area known for its excellent pubs, cocktail bars, restaurants and delis, plus picturesque Port Meadow. It’s less than ten minutes’ walk from the main college site, and five minutes from both the train station and the bus station.

Other green spaces around Oxford include University Parks and Christ Church Meadow, both of which are easy walking distance. Exeter also has a Sports Ground located up South Parks Road and a College Boat Club by the river.

There are supermarkets within a few minutes of the main college site and Cohen Quad, and a wide choice of pubs and cafés nearby, including LGBTQ venues.

# Accommodation

There are many types of accommodation at Exeter. All first years live on the main college site where there are a variety of rooms graded by price based on size and facilities. This site also has our beautiful chapel, JCR (common room – there’s always someone to challenge at Mario Kart there), stunning hall (used for both formals and normal meals) and bar. The best views are in the Fellows’ Garden, which also houses our library. Older years live across a variety of locations from main site to college-owned Friendship houses (a great way to experience renting with friends without having to go through the hassle of finding places or using private landlords) to Exeter House and Cohen Quadrangle. Opened in 2017, Cohen Quad is Exeter’s most modern site and comprises three floors of en-suite bedrooms as well as many conference rooms and study spaces in addition to the Dakota Café. No matter your requirements, Exeter has something for everyone and accommodation is allotted each year by a ballot to ensure as fair a process as possible.

# Welfare

In college, you’re never far from a friendly face! The student welfare reps make it their mission to keep the collective spirit high, putting the ‘life’ back into work-life balance. They work with both the JCR and the college’s Welfare Team, who work together to fulfil all of college’s wellbeing needs, ready to help with any student’s concerns. The welfare officers try to be as visible as possible. Every Wednesday, they raid Tesco and return with a trove of snacks for the college, known as ‘Welfare tea’. This is hands-down the highlight of the week. They’ve also been known to host Wii tournaments and movie nights, run workshops, and arrange visits from all sorts of fluffy animals. On top of our wonderful JCR welfare reps, we have a brilliant Welfare chaplain who’s always available for a chat if you need one, irrespective of your religious beliefs.

“We think it’s really important to get everybody out of their rooms and being social, hanging out with friends and having fun for as long as possible.”

“It’s so great to see everyone having a good time and supporting each other as a community.”

Emily and Matt, JCR Welfare Reps

# Financial Assistance

Here at Exeter, there are a whole host of grants and scholarships that are available. These range from academic prizes awarded on the basis of exceptional performance to hardship grants for students who experience unexpected financial difficulties. The college believes that financial hardship shouldn’t prevent capable students from thriving in this academic environment and it provides Exonian bursaries to help overcome financial difficulty. This, along with the University-wide funding and grants, means that there are plenty of opportunities to receive the support that you need to excel here at Exeter.

# Sports and Societies

College is an amazingly inclusive environment, where everyone can pursue their interests no matter their ability. There is a variety of different sports, both unisex and mixed, with new teams being created every year. For example, this year an Exeter College Ultimate Frisbee Club has just been founded! Exeter boasts a strong boat club, with two teams winning ‘blades’ this year, and a thriving football club, with the first team recently being promoted. Annual cup competitions in most sports mean those who want to play at a higher level can show their prowess while league fixtures and friendlies occur most weeks for people who just want some fun. Away from sport, we have a dedicated MAD (Music, Arts, and Drama) representative who organises events like theatre productions and a termly live music night which features members of the college and is always a particular highlight! Additionally, we host the wonderful Turl Street Arts Festival every February, which is an amazing opportunity to appreciate some incredible pieces of art right at our doorstep.

# JCR

Our Junior Common Room serves a dual purpose. As well as being a comfortable place to relax in, it also hosts the main student body within college, providing a space for each undergraduate student to have their say on the issues within college that matter most to them through a dedicated group of democratically elected representatives. Having students who can help hold college accountable for their actions is great, as are the 20p hot drinks served by one of the vending machines at the back of the JCR, and the combination of the two makes the JCR a hub of college activity.