

Dear Fresher,

Congratulations on your place at Oxford. If you were wondering whether you made the right choice of college, let me reassure you by saying you've hit the jackpot by coming to Worcester. The graduate community at Worcester is known for being friendly, relaxed and sociable, and all round generally awesome, so I'm sure you'll feel right at home. Both the community and the MCR committee are really looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the college, and we hope you enjoy your time here as much as we all do. Whether it's the amazing food (known to be the best in Oxford), the (prize winning) grounds, the sports/rowing teams or the environment that sold Worcester to you, there's really something for everyone.

The Middle Common Room (MCR) is both the name given to the 220 graduate students in college, and a place. We have a sizeable dedicated building, acting as a centre for social activities, as well as providing a venue for you to work, socialise and relax. Our facilities are excellent: a bar, a common room (with table football, darts, a free pool table, a beefy sound system and plenty of comfy sofas), a separate lounge (with Sky HD and DVD player) and an IT room (with printer) for the exclusive use of graduates. There is also free coffee and tea available at all times. The MCR is run by the MCR Committee. The committee is here to aid your transition into Oxford, represent you on both a collegiate and university level, and generally endeavour to be nice people. A large part of our duties is to organise a large array of social events throughout the year. They provide an excellent means by which you can integrate yourself with the graduate community, and we particularly encourage you to go to as many as possible of the fresher's week events organised for you in order to get stuck in.

The MCR also offers associate membership to the spouses and partners of MCR members, which in return for a small facilities fee and deposit for the card, grants you access to college facilities, and all importantly, gives you standard rate for hall tickets. Just recently, we've also extended membership to a limited number of post doctoral researchers who would otherwise have no college affiliation. If you would like more information about this, please contact either myself or our Graduate Officer, Cath Fraser ([cath.fraser@worc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cath.fraser@worc.ox.ac.uk)).

Upon your arrival, they'll be the inevitable flurry of activity which provides an opportunity to experience the activities and societies that Oxford has to offer. As well as a myriad of university and departmental inductions, meetings and orientations which you will be asked to attend (as well as probably signing up for a ton of university societies, then weeks later feel guilty that you've done no more than be on their mailing list), there are also the aforementioned MCR social events for you to enjoy. We've tried to cater for both the reticent and loquacious amongst you and provide as wide a variety as possible, including a film night (which subsequently runs weekly), sports afternoon, bar nights, pub trips, a walk, the much adulated quiz night, and perhaps a few surprises. For the majority, we're sure you'll settle in quickly, but we appreciate that the whole experience can seem quite hectic and possibly daunting. Don't hesitate to contact the committee with any query that you may have, whether it be for confidential advice, information or even for a good cuppa tea and chin rub.

We have a new website being launched *September 8<sup>th</sup>* which can be found at <http://mcr.worc.ox.ac.uk>. This has a large resource of information for current students, and should be able to answer most of your questions. Also check out <https://www.worc.ox.ac.uk/College Only> (you will be able to access this once you have your university network account) which has college news, academic feedback forms and various forms and contact details.

The graduate handbook is also a good place to look if you need any information about college and the MCR (including a very useful glossary of Oxford terms, which almost forms a language of its own). Also look out for the indispensable mini guide which you'll find in your pigeon hole in the post room when you arrive, providing basic information on everything from regular MCR events and the usual questions to how to get welfare support. If however you have any other questions, whether on university or college matters, feel free to get in touch. If I don't know the answer, I'll find someone who does! Similarly if your course requires you to arrive early, pop me a line so you don't end up twiddling your thumbs till the fresher's weeks; they'll be plenty of people around who will love to get to know you.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, whatever part of the globe it's in, and I very much look forward to meeting you in September/October!

All the best,

Jamie Frost

MCR President

[jamie.frost@worc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jamie.frost@worc.ox.ac.uk)