



FIRST DAY CHECK-LIST



2025-26

By the Merton MCR

Congratulations and a **huge welcome** to Merton! We are looking forward to meeting all of you soon. To help you arrive smoothly, please review this checklist:

BEFORE ARRIVING

Admin matters:

- Send your University student contract, so your University (Bod) card can be made.
- Complete your [Student Self-Service registration](#).
- Set up your [Oxford Nexus email account](#) (this is the main way we'll contact you)
- [Set up eduroam](#), so you have internet once you arrive.
- Join the [Merton MCR 2025-26 WhatsApp group](#), where we will advertise events and you can ask questions.

To pack:

- Daily clothes
- Formal attire** (suit and tie or equivalent)
 - You will need a [subfusc](#) (official academic dress). You can buy the special items (gown, mortarboard, ribbon/tie) in Oxford, but it's best to bring the rest.
- Bedding and towels**, they are not provided by college (can be borrowed for up to 4 weeks if coming from abroad)
- Bring or buy your **kitchen equipment** (college stoves use **induction** hobs, so ensure pots/pans are compatible). Microwaves, kettles and toasters are provided.

Other useful things to have:

- Mains adapter (if travelling from abroad)
- Extension leads (the plug sockets in college rooms are generally in unhelpful places)
- Kettle (you're allowed one in your room! Can also be bought)
- Letters of acceptance from the University/Faculty/College
- Prescriptions, driving licence, passport-sized photos
- Medical documents (if you are moving to the UK)

If you'll be opening a new UK bank account here, you might need:

- Enrolment certificate (obtainable on [Student self-service](#)).
- Proof of stipend/funds
- Some cash to cover the time between arriving and having your bank account set up

Ask MCR Committee members for advice regarding the bank account, some banks will open an account in a day.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- Go to **Holywell Lodge** (7 Holywell St, OX1 3SA) to introduce yourself to the porters and collect your keys
 - If living in couples accommodation, go to Merton College (Merton St, OX1 4JD) for your key
- Join a college **orientation tour** during freshers' week to get familiar with the site
 - Tours start from Holywell Quad, led by an MCR committee member
 - The tour includes both Holywell and the main college site
 - Ends at the Academic Office to complete registration and collect your Bod card (on working days)
 - Registration is required at the Academic Office**, even if not living in the college
 - International students: please bring your passport and visa for registration

Shopping options:

- **Kitchen equipment:** Robert Dyas, Tesco, John Lewis, Dunelm
- **Bedding:** Tesco, John Lewis, Dunelm, IKEA (delivery, it is far away)
- **Food:** Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Sainsburys (all in central Oxford)
- Amazon (or other online shops) deliveries available to college

SETTLING IN

- Check the **Freshers' Guide** for info on Oxford life (meals, laundry, etc.).
- Review your **Freshers' Week Timetable** for event details.
- Please attend college and **MCR events** that are planned to help you settle in. The MCR committee is always available to help!

Check all useful resources:

- 2025 Merton MCR Freshers' Guide
- College website: <https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk>
- College intranet: <https://intranet.merton.ox.ac.uk>
- MCR website: <https://mertonmcr.co.uk>
- University guidance: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new>

For any questions, please email me mcr.president@merton.ox.ac.uk!

We all look forward to meeting you! You may be nervous now, but your time in Oxford will be the best years of your life.

Marcell Szakály

MCR President 2025-2026

Freshers guide content inspired by Taisiia Sazonova and James Hua