



University: Oxford University

Location: Oxford, England

Compiled by: M.C. and Mandy

1) **Transportation:**

I. Bus

[Oxford Bus System](#)- The bus system is a great way to get easily around town and to and from the city centre. We'd recommend getting a key card and buying the multiple journey option. The [OxfordTube](#) leaves from Oxford every 10 minutes headed to London. The [OxfordHeathrowGatwick](#) bus is also the best way to get to and from the airport-just make sure to buy a return ticket, as it will save you loads of money.

II. Bike

Biking is the quickest way to get around town without a car. You can get great deals for bikes on [gumtree](#) or [daily info](#).

III. Cab

Cabs can get pricey but we recommend: [001 Taxi](#). They have the best rates bottom line and send text updates on their arrivals.

IV. Train

Trains to and from London and other towns are also to catch from the [Oxford Train Station](#).

2) **Shopping:**

I. Groceries

- a. [Tesco](#), [Sainsburys](#), [Co-Operative](#), [Marks & Spencers](#), [Waitrose](#)
(all are great shops to get groceries and the best part is they deliver and you can order online! Save loads of time and effort.)
- b. [Gloucester Green](#)- organic market every other Thursday and Food markets every Wednesday.
- c. [Abel & Cole](#) / [Riverford Organics](#)- wonderful home delivery of organic fresh/seasonal produce, meats, dairy, etc.

II. Pharmacy

- a. [Boots](#)- similar to a large CVS-full pharmacy, wonderful baby section, make-up, hair care, photo kiosks, etc.
- b. [Superdrug](#) - similar to a large CVS-full pharmacy (but

smaller than Boots) baby section, make-up, hair care, photo kiosks, etc.

III. Home Goods

- a. [Boswells](#)- full range of home goods from appliances, nails, cleaning supplies, gifts, etc.
- b. [Argos](#)- closest thing to a Wal-mart or Target. Just about anything is found here, but be ready for the strange way of shopping the store in city centre. It is an experience.
- d. [Asda](#)- Literally owned by Wal-mart. Order online or drive there.
- e. [T.K.Maxx](#)- We couldn't have been more joyful when we found this treasure. ☺ It is in south Oxford-but worth it! Just like T.J. Maxx.
- e. [Debenhams](#) – full range of home goods, but pricey.
- f. [The Works](#)-great for crafty materials, art supplies, cheap books, kids toys.

IV. Children's Items

- a. [Boots](#)- great Parenting Club rewards program available-sign up when you arrive. Diapers, food, wipes, medicines, etc. Great deals!
- b. [GumTree](#)- great to search for deals on used prams, beds, travel cots (pack-n-plays), high chairs, toys, etc.
- c. Charity Shops-also great places to find the above used items.
- d. They are several shoe/clothing shops in city centre.
- e. [Boswells](#)- great selection of educational toys on 2nd floor.

3) Childcare:

I. Playgroups

- a. [St. Andrews Church](#)- Mondays "Monday Mum" bible study and nursery provided from 9:30am-11:30am. Tuesday and Wednesday Baby and Toddler Playgroups from 10:00am-12:00pm.
- b. [St. Aldates Church](#) - Monday Morning playgroup from 10:00am-11:30am in the Christopher Room.
- c. [The University Club-Newcomer's Group](#)- Friday morning playgroup from 10:00am-12:00pm.
- d. [The Rainbow House](#)- Wesley Memorial Church-open for playgroup, lunches for sale, etc.- Wed-Fri. from 10:30am-2:00pm.
- e. [St Ebbe's Church](#) - Sparklers (children under 4) meet Wednesday mornings from 10:00am-12:00pm during term time. There is a waiting list.

II. Day Care

- a. [Turbo Teds](#)

- b. [St Thomas Day Nursery](#)
- c. [Oxford University](#) – possibly up to a 2 year waiting list, however!

III. Schools

- a. [Primary, Secondary](#)

4) **Housing Options:**

- I. *University/College Housing*-This can be looked into on the University's website or through your colleges. These accommodations fill up quickly and there is usually a waiting list.
- II. *Private Market*-
 - a. [Rightmove](#)- A great site for navigating the housing market in Oxford, especially if looking from overseas. The openings get snatched up quickly here so if you find something you like, we'd suggest inquiring immediately. There are a number of letting agents on their website that advertise.

5) **Summary of Areas of Town:**

- I. *South Oxford*- (Iffley/Cowley Road)
- II. *North Oxford (Great for families)*
 - a. Jericho
 - b. Summertown
 - c. Wolvercote
- I. *West Oxford* (Headington)
- II. *Central Oxford* (city centre)

6) **Services: (haircuts, dry cleaners, gym)**

- I. [Main \(public\) Oxford Library](#)
- II. [Dry Cleaners](#)
- III. *Gyms* – Most colleges will have a gym, but if you can't access it, try any of these:
 - a. [LA Fitness](#)
 - b. [Esporta Health Club](#)
 - c. [Bourton Mill](#)
 - d. [The University Club](#)
- IV. *Hair Salons* – as you can imagine, there are loads of hair salons in Oxford. Here are a few of the ones we've tried:
 - a. [Matthew Clulee Hairdressing](#)
 - b. Richard's Group Hair Design (no website – but they do offer £5-£10 cuts from student stylists on certain days of the week)
 - c. [Toni & Guy](#)
 - d. [Popham](#)
 - e. [Mahogany](#),

7) **Restaurants/coffee shops**

- I. [Oxford Restaurant Guide](#)

- II. [Coffee Shops](#)
- III. [Pubs](#)

8) **Tourism/Entertainment**

- I. [Newcomers Club at the University](#)
- II. *Movies* – [Odeon Theatre](#), [Love Film](#)
- III. *Theatre*
 - a. [Oxford Playhouse](#)
 - b. [Creation Theatre](#)
 - c. [Old Fire Station](#)
 - d. [New Theatre](#)
 - e. [Pegasus Theatre](#)
- IV. *Music*
 - a. [Music at Oxford](#)
 - b. [Sheldonian Theatre](#)
- V. *Art classes*
 - a. [University Club](#)
 - b. [Jam Factory](#)
 - c. [Kieran Stiles Art Studio](#)

9) **Oxford City Council**

10) **Churches/Synagogues/Mosques**

11) **Utilities**

- I. Phones – [BT](#), [Virgin](#), [Talk Talk](#), [T Mobile](#), [Vodafone](#), [Orange](#), [O2](#), [Carphone Warehouse](#). Please check with each one of these for rates / plans. All have fairly compatible international calling rates.
- II. Utilities – If you're living in college housing, then your college will direct you on setting up utilities; if you're living privately, the landlord or letting agency will direct you on setting up utilities, more than likely the following: [Thames Water](#), [Scottish & Southern](#), [BT Gas & Electric](#). Word of caution for those living privately: Shop around, and get a rate locked in, as they're always raising prices. There are several companies that are sort of the 'middle men,' charging higher prices than dealing directly with the gas/electric companies; avoid using them, if possible.

12) **Health-Drs., etc**

- I. *Doctors* –
You'll need to register with a Dr's office upon arrival into the UK. Most of the time, this is done through your college. If not, go [here](#) for the NHS website.
- II. *Dentists* –
The NHS website also provides dentists for the Oxford area. However, it may take several calls to various offices to find out if they're

accepting new patients. You can also go to a private dentist, although it will be more expensive.

III. Chiropractor –

[Beaumont Street Chiropractic Clinic](#) specializes in acupuncture, massage therapy.

13) **What to expect: weather, people, culture, etc.**

I. Weather –

Expect rain. Lots of it. The weather in England tends to be mild, but layers are a must. So are wellies and a raincoat. Winters are usually mild, with temps hovering in the low 40s / high 30s. ☺ Summer weather is amazing, never (well, almost never) exceeding 80 degrees.

II. People/Culture -

A great read on life with the English –
Watching the English by Kate Fox.

14) **Banking**

I. The following banks all have some form of graduate/student accounts available. All have locations near or in the city centre.

- a. [Lloyds TSB](#)
- b. [Alliance and Leicester](#)
- c. [Barclays](#)
- d. [Britannia](#)
- e. [Halifax](#)
- f. [HSBC](#)
- g. [Nationwide](#)
- h. [Natwest](#)
- i. [Royal Bank of Scotland](#)