Newsletter 2: Planning your arrival

This newsletter provides some information to help you plan your arrival in Oxford.

Unless your course starts in mid-September (MBA & MPP), you should arrive in time for Welcome Week (Monday 2 – Friday 6 October) because both St Antony’s and your department will expect you to attend a number of induction events and meetings during that week. You might wish to arrive earlier if you are attending Orientation events (detailed below) or a pre-sessional language course. You will receive details of the particular inductions that you are required to attend at St Antony’s in due course and the GCR Team, led by the President, Claire Dowling, is busy finalising the timetable of student-run events that will help you settle in and discover many of the activities and opportunities that the College has to offer. At some point over the summer, you will also receive details of your departmental inductions, which may well include social as well as academic events.

It might initially seem as though it is impossible to fit all of your commitments into the week and you should certainly expect to be very busy. There is an agreed timetable behind the scenes, however, which allocates reserved time to both colleges and departments to ensure that new students can always attend compulsory elements of induction timetables. It is therefore extremely important that you do not schedule departmental (or social) events during periods that are allocated to ‘college’ unless you have been advised that you will not be required at St Antony’s during those times. As a rough guide at this stage, you should expect to be required at St Antony’s on the evening of Monday 2 October and throughout Wednesday 4 October.

Finding your way to and around Oxford

The University provides a useful guide for International Students, which details the options available for travelling to Oxford from the UK’s major airports and from the Eurostar terminus at London St Pancras. Oxford is approximately 60 miles from London and enjoys excellent road and rail links. Please be advised that the city has very restricted parking, however, and you are advised not to bring a car to Oxford unless you have parking arrangements in place. St Antony’s College is unable to offer any parking to students or their visitors.

The University provides detailed maps and guides for planning ahead and getting around, including a map of University buildings, a map of Colleges and Halls, and a searchable map of the city with some practical details such as ATMs and some of the most popular pubs, bars, and restaurants. There is also a very useful app, Mobile Oxford, which includes a wealth of information about ‘places’.

Directions to St Antony’s are provided on the College website.
Visas

If you are required to have a visa, you should already be aware that your department will assist you with the application and not St Antony’s. Once you arrive in Oxford, however, it is the College’s responsibility to scan and record details of your documents and you will need to bring your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) and passport to the College Office as a condition of enrolment. Alongside your department, the University’s Student Immigration team should be your first port of call for advice regarding visas. Their contact details, and a link to their excellent guide to completing the Tier 4 application form, are available here.

Your CAS number and the application process

Once your offer is marked as unconditional by both your department and by St Antony’s (ie. when you have passed both academic and financial conditions), students with a visa requirement will be able to apply for a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) number. Your department will draft an application on your behalf and email it to you for checking. Once submitted and approved, you will receive a CAS statement with your CAS number, which you can subsequently use to complete your visa application. Please do not contact St Antony’s with questions regarding either CAS numbers of visa applications because we will not be in a position to assist you.

Collecting your BRP

You will initially be issued with an insert for your passport to allow travel to the UK, but this will only cover you for 30 days and you should collect your BRP card as soon as possible following arrival in Oxford. You will not be able to enrol and collect your University Card without your BRP, nor will you be able to open a bank account.

The default collection point for your BRP should be St Aldate’s Post Office, but most students can (and choose to) arrange to collect the BRP from the University’s Examination Schools instead – the exceptions are students whose courses commence during September (MBA & MPP) and who will need to enrol before then. If you would like to collect your BRP from Exam Schools, rather than the Post Office, please be advised that you can only do so between 26 September and 03 October. You will need to select ‘Alternative location’ on your online visa application form and enter the following code: 2HE627. You will subsequently need to select a collection time-slot from the Eventbrite registration page. Further details are available here.

University Orientation events

You will receive information about a number of induction and registration events from St Antony’s, and from your department, later in the summer. In addition to these, you might also wish to attend one of the University’s Orientation events, which are intended to help European and International students settle in at Oxford.

There are two day-long events available and attendance is organised according to academic division as follows:
Thursday 28 September 2017 (Graduate students in Social Sciences*)

Friday 29 September 2017 (Graduate students in all other divisions)

*MBA students should not sign up to attend because a separate induction programme will be provided by the Said Business School.

The Registration page for the events is available [here](https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/newly-admitted-students/new-students-newsletters); the Registration code is: **OP2017**. (Please be advised that the deadline for registration is Monday 11 September 2017.)

**What shall I do now?**

If you know that you will need a visa but have not yet begun the process of requesting a CAS number, please check the status of your application with your department.

If your application for either a CAS number or visa is in process and you have any questions, please contact either your department or the University’s [Student Immigration team](https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/newly-admitted-students/new-students-newsletters). **Please do not contact St Antony’s because we are unable to advise you.**

If you would like to attend one of the University’s Orientation events, please [register](https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/newly-admitted-students/new-students-newsletters) as soon as possible.

The College’s Welcome Week timetable will be posted on the website as soon as it is available.