

THE OXFORD STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME

CHESTER HOUSE | 21– 27 GEORGE STREET | OXFORD | OX1 2AY | UK
CRYSTAL PLAZA ONE | SUITE 503A | 2001 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY | ARLINGTON | VA 22202 | USA

HOUSING INFORMATION FORM (TERM)

Please complete this form and email it to adam.brown@osapabroad.com as soon as possible. Emailing this form will be taken as accepting the housing Terms and Conditions, which must be read carefully.

Name: _____

US Home College: _____

Term: _____

I have applied for: **Associate Member** / **Visiting Student** status (delete as appropriate)

Email address: _____

Date of birth: _____

Gender: **Male** / **Female** (delete as appropriate)

I would like **co-ed housing** / **single sex housing** / **don't mind co-ed or single sex** / **strongly prefer single sex** (delete as appropriate, all of our bedrooms are single sex).

I would like a **double** / **single** bedroom (delete as appropriate, single bedroom surcharge in regular housing is \$990/term).

I have received the **STRONGLY** recommended Meningitis C Vaccine: **Yes** / **No** (delete as appropriate) please refer to your acceptance letter.

Please list any specific roommate or housemate requests, including full names, terms and home colleges:

I would strongly prefer having a non-American housemate, please check here ___ if you do.

Are there any other dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian, kosher), physical or mental problems we should know about?

Please note that because of landlord regulations (and the preferences of most students) **smoking** is never allowed inside any of our housing units.

Each student is guaranteed a twin room within a 15-minute walk of the central area (see definition on next page) without surcharge if they choose. These are around a 15-minute walk further from the central area of Oxford than our three **very** central surcharge properties.

If you opt for a surcharge room, it must be paid **before** your arrival in Oxford.

Would you like to apply for central surcharge housing? **Yes** / **No** (delete as appropriate)

If yes, please rank the following choices 1-3 in order of preference if opting for a surcharge (1 being most preferable):

	Christ Church College Annex, surcharge: \$2,400/term for a single or \$1,200/term for a twin bedroom
	10 St. Michael's Street, surcharge: \$1,900/term for a single bedroom
	11a Little Clarendon Street, surcharge: \$1,200/term for a single or \$600/term for a twin bedroom

SURCHARGE HOUSING OPTIONS (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

Christ Church College Annex (surcharge property)

This is a beautiful 18th Century Georgian house (newly refurbished in the inside). It has rooms for 10 students including a British Christ Church student. There is one kitchen and two bathrooms with a very large back yard. It is very centrally located at 37 St Giles, near St John's College. Because this very central housing is very expensive we have to ask for a surcharge of **\$2,400** a term for a single room, or **\$1,200** for a twin room. This house was chosen as one of six finalists in a contest by The Times to find the best new student residence in the entire United Kingdom. Please note that students at other colleges are also eligible for residence in the Christ Church Annex which is located about 10 minutes on foot from the main college buildings, on St Aldates (please see the map).

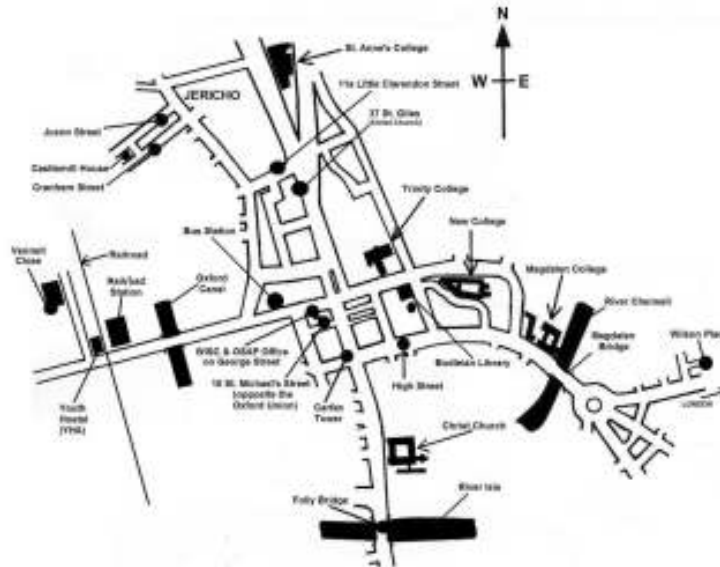
10 St. Michael's Street (surcharge property)

This is the perfect house, located opposite the Oxford Union Society (the centre of Oxford University, for students, both literally and figuratively). Originally built in the 16th century, this Tudor House, with traditional modern beams, has been thoroughly modernized. There are four rooms for students as well as one for a non-American student. The kitchen is fully equipped with extra amenities. The common room has a bricked-in fireplace. It is also equipped with a telephone and television. Owing to the central location of this house, it is more expensive than most Oxford housing. There is a supplementary charge of **\$1,900** per term for a single room. Because this house is very old, the rooms are smaller than average for Oxford.

11a Little Clarendon Street (surcharge property)

This is a lovely flat located on a popular street, with a number of restaurants and bars within yards of the front door. It has recently been extensively refurbished and has a large lounge and kitchen. It is approximately a five-minute walk from the very centre of Oxford. There is a supplementary charge for a single room of **\$1,200** per term for a single room, or **\$600** for a twin room.

Past students have said they save money in the long run by living in the very centre. They save on bus fares and they may dine more easily in their college and save on meals (college meals are only about \$7.00 for dinner).



St. Michael's Street (16 th Century Town House)	-	2 minute walk to Trinity College
37 St. Giles (Georgian Town House)	-	10 minute walk to Christ Church
Little Clarendon Street (Modernized Apartment)	-	12 minute walk to New College
Wilson Place (Modern Houses)	-	5 minute walk to Magdalen College
Jericho (19 th Century Terraced Houses)	-	18 minute walk to Bodleian Library
Vennet Close (Modern Apartments)	-	20 minute walk to Trinity College

All of our housing is located within a 15 minute walk of the central area of Oxford, defined as St. Anne's College on the North, Magdalen Bridge on the East, the Railroad Station on the West and Folly Bridge on the South. In most terms, almost all the housing will be within that central area, or within a five minute walk of it.

STUDENT HOUSING IN AN OLD CITY FOUNDED IN AD 800

OSAP student housing will be located in or near the central area of a very old British inner city and will be different from modern housing on or near a US campus. Oxford University was founded in about AD 1090. The oldest building in Oxford is St Michael's Church, built in AD 800.

Students will have a double room in a house or flat, which will be above average by British student standards. The housing will include at least one experienced non-American student or recent graduate, barring a last minute drop out.

We describe here our housing in a very conservative manner, pointing out many possible problems which probably won't happen in almost all of our houses, since we don't want students to be disappointed.

Our housing has been viewed recently by many visiting U.S. professors and study abroad advisors. All have agreed our housing is very good, very comfortable and above average by British student housing standards. It is certainly more expensive than most private housing used by British students in Oxford; it is much nearer the very center of Oxford.

OSAP housing will be located no further away than a ten minute walk from the central area of the University defined as St Anne's in the North, Magdalen College in the East, Folly Bridge (just below Christ Church) in the South and the Railway Station in the West.

Depending on the term, a good number of our houses and flats (apartments) will include a non-American Oxford University student. These experienced students who know Oxford fairly well (this is the point) will often be British but not always. Oxford University is perhaps the most cosmopolitan of all the great universities – one third of the students are from overseas.

Naturally we always want to be completely accurate and so we must point out that sometimes a non-American student has taken a lease with us but then has to withdraw at short notice for a variety of reasons. If this happens we will do our best to locate a student from one of the other universities or colleges in Oxford who will have experience of the city and usually some experience of Oxford University.

We do have several rooms available each term in a Christ Church Annex for which Associate Members of Christ Church are given preference. This remodeler 18th century Georgian house at 37 St Giles is an especially elegant building. Recently Christ Church and ourselves entered it in a contest sponsored by The Times Higher Education Supplement to find the best new student residence in the entire United Kingdom.

This superior house was chosen as one of the six finalists for the whole country. Since this house is more expensive we have to ask for a termly surcharge.

Each term we are also offered a very few rooms in Oxford colleges and other college annexes.

If an incoming student is especially interested in living with a non-American student or living in a college room, he or she should let us know on our housing choice form and we will do our best to accommodate any preference. For all the reasons listed above, no particular housing choice can be guaranteed, however.

To be absolutely clear, our students will have the opportunity to live with British (or to be precise, non-American) students but such housing may not be available to every student in every term; we will always do our best to fulfil any expressed preferences.

The house will probably be old, built between 1890 and 1930. Some houses are new – a decade old. We have one remodelled house built in the 16th century. It will have a bathroom, a full kitchen with the usual equipment and utensils; refrigerators in Britain are much smaller than they are in the US. Some houses may have a washer (some are coin operated) but some do not (public washer-dryers are available, with a small charge, nearby). The colleges we work with have laundries, although they will only be open during term time. Oxford is a damp city and some mold may be in the bathroom or basement. The mold can be removed, but it will grow back.

Students will have lived in this house for many years so the furniture and carpets (or linoleum) will be a bit frayed and worn.

We have an Annex to Christ Church college (37 St Giles in the center) built in the 18th century. It is a beautiful Georgian house with room for 10 students. It was remodelled on the inside in 2009. It was selected as one of six finalists in a Times contest to find the best new student residence in the UK.

The heating (or other utilities, fire alarms, etc) may break down sometimes but OSAP, working with the landlord, will repair it as soon as possible. In Oxford, pipes leak frequently and will be repaired as soon as possible. Hot water may sometimes go off for a few days. All OSAP houses are near other OSAP houses and in an emergency, students will allow their neighbours reasonable use of their bathroom, washing machine etc for a few days.

Rodents are sometimes a problem in student houses. Bedbugs, slugs or other insects will appear in a house once in a while. They are a plague in university houses all over Britain—some think they travel on incoming flights. We will do our best to remove them. We may have to move students to another house for a few days. As with other acts of nature (e.g. floods, fires, etc.) we cannot be responsible for such events. The same is true of rodents, as with all cities these can be a problem. If you experience problems

Each house will be thoroughly cleaned before the students arrive. The maintenance and cleaning in term time is up to the students. In some cases, the resident British student will have arrived so the kitchen and the bathroom may have a “lived in look” when OSAP students arrive. The house or flat will be furnished to normal Oxford British student standards (anything extra, such as printers, toasters, microwaves, etc. may be bought or rented by students).

Each term a very few students believe their house is “not clean” upon arrival. In fact it has been thoroughly cleaned by two cleaners and inspected by our staff. Often (as noted) it simply has a “lived in look” (food in kitchen, items in bathroom, etc.) because the British student arrived the day before (after the cleaning). Also in the nature of old inner city houses it is not possible to have a house spotlessly clean. If extraordinary cleaning is very important to you, you must realize you will not find it in old student houses in Oxford and you should reconsider your plans to come to Oxford. As we often say, an American student who is not ready to adjust to living in a different environment should not enrol in overseas study.

Bulbs and toilet paper will eventually run out and will be replaced by the students who will keep their house reasonably clean during the term. Sheets, blankets, pillowcases are provided and must be cleaned by the students. Students should bring their own towels because of their personal nature.

Each house will have a telephone installed when students arrive. Students will be responsible for paying for all calls (non-local calls are made by using calling cards at a reduced rate – obtained in Oxford – so students will only pay for their own calls). Each house will include a color TV with a VCR (which may break down; it will then be repaired). The average cost of local calls, email and phone installation and any damages [or unpaid college bills, etc.] will be deducted from the student’s deposit. Local calls and email charges vary but they are on average \$10-15 per week. Since many bills may come in later (college bills are sent to us the following term), it takes about two months for deposits to be returned.

All houses have Internet access, either by wi-fi, Ethernet cable access, or by a portable Internet ‘dongle’. Students will also be able to use computers, printers and faxes in the OSAP office. Some colleges also have computers available but some other colleges do not. The college computers are often in use by other students. Computers also break down sometimes and will be repaired as quickly as possible.

It is strongly recommended that you bring a laptop computer as there is broadband Internet in most houses and in the OSAP office). Please note you may need to purchase a wireless card in Oxford to access the wireless Internet. These cost around £30 from several electronics shops in the city center; please ask at our reception office for further information. You should bring your U.S. card if you have one however, as some U.S. cards work in England and some don’t. We hope that students will be keen to take advantage of the wireless connections, which we believe are a valuable addition to our housing.

In our experience in Oxford, the wireless broadband in houses often stops working for all kinds of reasons. Sometimes the router is harmed (dropped) by guests at parties, sometimes something goes wrong and some parts have to be repaired by an outside agency. Since we are not able (for contractual and other reasons) to make some kinds of repairs there may be a wait of several days or even longer before the right person can schedule the necessary appointment – this will also require that someone be available at your house to meet the repairman.

If such problems occur, students should bear in mind they are always welcome to use the student computers in our own office (when they are not in use) where there is also wireless Internet and in most colleges. There are also Internet Cafés in Oxford which charge a small fee.

The OSAP Housing Staff of 2 people will do their best to maintain the houses and make repairs as quickly as possible. (Some repairs must be done by landlords – this is out of our control). Some repairs require spare part or expertise from outside of Oxford. Some boilers are covered under warranty and are outside of our control to repair. OSAP calls or emails students frequently to ask them if they have any problems of any sort. A problem sheet is distributed on every one of our educational tours.

Students should read this housing description (and the housing section in the OSAP Student Handbook) carefully and they should understand that they will be living in a foreign country with different customs and different kinds of houses and flats. Students may not arrange their own housing unless they have a special reason and this is agreed to in advance of their arrival in the UK. Naturally, students are always subject to the rules of their college and of the program (see OSAP Student Handbook).

For our more expensive houses, we have to ask for a surcharge over the normal rent included in the fees. The main reason for the more expensive rents is location, as anyone familiar with house prices can tell. In Oxford most people own their own homes (some live in public housing), therefore only about 10% of the houses are open for renting. There is a huge demand for student housing in Oxford which drives up the cost.

A student could save about £200 a month just by living 10 minutes away from the very center. (This, naturally, is where most of our houses are).

One house (10 St. Michael's St.) was built in the 16th century and was remodelled in 1994 and again in 2004. Despite its more expensive, very central location and its Tudor charm, it is still subject to all the vagaries of old, inner city housing – leaking pipes and maintenance failures.

Particular housing can only be guaranteed for one term. Sometimes it is necessary for a student to move to a different house as the terms (or summer sessions) change, sometimes for reasons of gender (some students prefer single sex houses). Sometimes a house is damaged in some way (insects, a small fire, flooding, etc) and we may have to move students to another house on short notice. We will always do our best to inform other students that new housemates will be arriving to take up empty rooms, but there may be times when we cannot reach all the students in time; students will understand that the occasional coming and going of housemates is a necessary part of student communal living. On rare occasions we reserve the right to hold a communal event in a particular house (an outdoor barbecue, etc.).

Sometimes, for reasons (persistent conflicts with housemates, etc.) we may have to move students during a term.

As we note in our Student Handbook, etc. it is very important to be considerate of your neighbours. Noise should be kept to a minimum at all times, especially after 10 p.m. In the past we have had to remove students from our housing due to persistent complaints from neighbours. The landlords will insist on this. Such students will have to find their own accommodation at their own expense.

Inviting large numbers of people (whom you barely know) to a large party is a bad idea. Frequently, such people will simply take advantage of you and steal wallets, computers etc. This has happened to several students recently.

All the students in a house have the responsibility to keep noise down even if they don't participate in the party. If a drunken student were about to drive, you would do your best to restrain him or her.

Safety is important. Doors should be locked at all times. Valuables should be hidden (under the bed etc.). Burglars usually strike quickly so even modest precautions are helpful.

Departures: Students must leave at the end of their study period. You will be notified by email before the end of term. If you need to stay in Oxford outside of your period of study, you will be responsible for arranging your own housing privately. If we do have an empty room, we will of course offer it to such a student, at cost.

You will be sent departure information before the end of term, which you must follow carefully, as your housing deposit and transcripts may be held if these are not adhered to.

Guest restrictions: Our housing leases limit the number of students in each unit due to fire and other regulations. Overnight guests are therefore not permitted, unless prior authorisation has been given by the OSAP Office Manager. If special permission is given in the rare case where more than one more person may legally be accommodated, the guest will be charged at the British student rate (currently £15 per night) and may not stay longer than three days. Unauthorised guests will be charged at the current commercial guesthouse rate (currently £35 per night). Some of our housing is single sex so guests of the opposite sex will not be accommodated in such houses. A student who is expecting a visitor should consult with our housing staff who will work out the best and cheapest way for the guest to be accommodated in Oxford. Sometimes we have a vacant room available and this option is the best for all concerned.

Summer session students who enroll after the end of June should remember there are only a few British students in residence after June 20 (mainly graduates) and so there are minimal extra-curricular activities in the colleges. We will do our best to have some non-American students or recent graduates in our houses.

Study abroad offers many opportunities, but it is also true that problems of all sorts will sometimes arise and that OSAP will always do its best to solve any problems as soon as possible.

I have read and understood this housing information. I have also read and understood the OSAP Student Handbook, especially the sections dealing with housing and living in Oxford. (Please make a copy of this form for your records.) This form is current and supersedes any earlier literature.

I also understand that I am responsible for all debts that might be incurred while I am a OSAP student (including debt to an Oxford college or library). In the unlikely event that some form of legal action may be required to collect a debt, I will be responsible for all necessary costs including legal and collection agency fees, interest at 2% a month, staff time and other expenses. I understand my transcripts will be withheld until all debts are paid.

In the unlikely event of a dispute over any charges, the decision of the President of OSAP will be final.

Signed (please type)

Date