**LMH Alternative Prospectus**

**Accessible Transcript Version**

**Pages 1-2**

**Page Heading: Welcome**

Welcome to LMH’s Alternative Prospectus, put together by current students to give you a sense of what studying and living at LMH is like.

We’ve included bits of information that we think we would have wanted to know before going through the application process: from academics to socials and lots of stuff in between!

We hope to break down any perceptions of the ‘Oxford stereotype’ – believe us when we say the only thing everybody has in common here is a love of their subject!

So if you like what you see, and want to find out more about out more about us then visit our website or follow us on social media. Or, better yet, come and visit us on an [Open Day](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/working-schools/open-days)…

We hope to see you soon!

THE LMH STUDENT BODY

**Pages 4-5**

**Page Heading: LMH in Numbers**

* Founded in **1878** (though the first 9 students weren’t

admitted until 1879)

* **1st** College to admit women in Oxford
* **1st** College with a Foundation Year for under-represented

groups

* **2 Pugs** (they’re the Principal’s – and you can follow them

on [insta@lmhdogs](mailto:insta@lmhdogs))

* **3 years’** guaranteed undergraduate accommodation

on-site

* **10+ acres** of beautiful gardens
* **70,000+** **books** in the library
* **1 punny Mascot**, Nigella Pawson
* **12 Visiting** **Fellows** including Benedict Cumberbatch,

Emma Watson and Malorie Blackman

* **1** **legendary Principal** (Alan Rusbridger – former

editor-in-chief of The Guardian)

* **Loads** of cool **alumni**, including Benazir Bhutto

(1st Female Pakistani Prime Minister) and Actor

Sam West

**Pages 5-6****Page Heading:** [**Accommodation**](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/student-life/facilities/accommodation)

Rooms are assigned randomly to new students, whilst older year groups have the opportunity to choose their rooms based on a “balloting” system, (to decide the order the rooms get picked). In their first year, undergrads will most likely be grouped with other freshers - a great way to get to know your year!

We have 9 study bedrooms specially adapted for students with disabilities, and if you study music, you get the option of choosing a Piano Room, one big enough to fit

(you’ve guessed it) a piano.

A big portion of the rooms at LMH have ensuite bathrooms (including a small number of first year rooms); and shared bathroom facilities are always available – no horror stories about 20 people sharing one shower!

As LMH is one of the younger Oxford colleges, we get a really good deal: our accommodation is characterful and often really beautiful, most rooms with views over the quads or gardens; but they’ve also been designed with more modern home comforts in mind. The plus is that everyone pays the same price!

We’re also very lucky to have at least one kitchen on every corridor at LMH (with cupboards, refrigerated storage space and cooking facilities). The dining hall is on hand most meal times with lots of great food, but if you’d rather cook your own food, the option is always there.

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**Page Heading: Finance**

Oxford is actually a cheaper uni to study at because of

all of the [help](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/student-life/support/finance) available – we offer one of the most

generous non-repayable bursaries in the entire country

(up to £4500 a year depending on household income).

If you’re eligible for the bursary, you can also apply to LMH’s Hardship fund to cover any academic expenses or special projects you might want to pursue.

Check out the [University website](http://www.ox.ac.uk/) for more information on finance and bursaries.

**Foundation Year**

We’re pretty proud of this one. In 2016, LMH launched a [Foundation Year Programme](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/foundation-year) – the first of its kind in Oxbridge! The Programme takes academically able students from under-represented socio-economic backgrounds, mitigating entrance requirements, and enables them to fulfil their potential, giving them the teaching and support they need to progress to a full degree either at Oxford or another university.

It’s a fully funded year of tuition at LMH, with free accommodation and a generous stipend for living expenses. Even after 140 years of being established, we are still aiming

to break down barriers and make an Oxford education as accessible as possible – if this ain’t a milestone, we don’t

know what is.

**Pages 8-9**

**Page Heading: LMH’s Best Bits**

**24/7 library**

Formerly an all-girls college, we have a larger than normal stock of books in the college library, as women initially were not allowed to read in the Bodleian or Union Libraries.

While this rule no longer applies, the LMH librarian constantly updates the stock of books and happily obliges book requests by students. We even have a feminist #[sharedshelf](https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/179584-our-shared-shelf) with books donated by Visiting Fellow Emma Watson, ft. The Color Purple, The Vagina Monologues and much more…

The library stays open 24/7, so whether an early riser or late night worker, you’ll always be able to find a desk and use the facilities.

As LMH is (slightly) further out of town than other colleges and university libraries, the LMH library is the perfect place to roll straight out of bed and start studying – pyjamas and blankets are perfectly respectable attire.

**Bar**

Cheap drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic – a glass of coke is 23p! Happy hour daily. Home of a pool table, quiz machine and Sky Sports, it is a popular place to be, especially after formal halls – or during big news events like elections!

The home of fortnightly JCR meetings, everyone gets a free drink of their choosing, and pizza (*#yassss*).

**The Grounds**

LMH’s grounds are the envy of many other colleges occupying smaller sites. For many students, the gardens are a favourite part of College.

We’re even right on the River Cherwell and have our own punt house. Trying to steer a boat with a really long stick sounds like a strange way to spend an afternoon, but it’s actually loads of fun and a real Oxford tradition.

**Sports**

LMH is proud to be an active sporting community full of talented teams and individuals. The standard of college sport varies but is all-encompassing; beginners are always welcome and we encourage you to get involved as much as possible!

From athletics to Zumba, via football, lacrosse, hockey, rugby, netball, tennis, cricket, pool, darts (the list goes on…) there’s either an LMH society for it, or an individual who competes for the University – or both!

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**JCR**

Recently refurbished, the JCR is a brilliant place to socialise. Open at any time, we have comfy chairs and sofas, a kitchen, ping pong and a TV, PS4 and Xbox One.

**Food**

3 meals a day Mon-Fri, as well as Saturday brunch and Sunday dinner, we cook affordable, good food, at your convenience (seriously, the ability to rock up to hall in your pj’s should NEVER be underappreciated.)

Eat in hall with friends, or grab a box and eat outside or in your room, the choice is yours.

Want to order takeout? Dominos delivers any time, any day to LMH. Want to cook yourself? No problem! One of the great advantages of LMH is its amount of kitchens, and the size of them. Around 8 people per kitchen, the option to cook is always there!

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**Porters**

With a brand new porter’s lodge that took two years to build, the entrance of College is as inviting as the people.

The porters themselves (rumours have it ours are the coolest around) are friendly faces that are there 24/7 if needed – they take all of your deliveries from ebay/amazon/your mum, provide you with first aid, give you a spare key when (not if) you lose yours and are willing to deal with any other obstacles the universe puts in front of you.

The Support Staff are pretty legendary here and always go that extra mile for students – LMH just wouldn’t happen without them!

**Theatre**

We’re very lucky to have our own theatre - the Simpkins Lee, which is used for film screenings, talks and discussions, meetings of College societies, instrumental and orchestra recitals, and whatever else people fancy putting on, as well as several student drama productions every term.

**Chapel**

[The Chapel](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/about-lmh/chapel) holds regular services and holds many music and cultural events, inclusive of any religion and none. The Chapel has steady stream of visitors, and addresses have been given by church leaders, academics, politicians and charity workers. Music-wise, the choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing, and practices twice per week, with a free weekly formal hall to its members. We also have a Prayer Room, open to all faiths, for use as a private location for personal reflection. All backgrounds are catered for – for example, this year, we hosted our first [Grand Iftaar](https://www.instagram.com/p/BU-U_-eDx8S/?hl=en&taken-by=lmhoxford) (Breaking the fast in Ramadan) with plenty of good food including samosas on offer!

**Pages 12-13**

**Page Heading: Location**

“Isn’t LMH the one that’s really far away…?”

Oxford’s city centre is so compact, that anything slightly outside of it is considered a long way away. Just north of the University Parks, LMH is still a very manageable distance away from the heart of the city – on foot, or of course by bike (we’re talking 4 mins). For those making daily trips to the Science Area, Engineering, Law and English Faculties, we are actually closer than many more central colleges.

Being that bit further out of town certainly has its perks, too. Our [location](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/about-lmh/where-find-us) means we have a lot more space than the average Oxford college, allowing us to have our own sports ground on site; acres of beautiful gardens; and even our own punt house.

All this extra space is what guarantees undergrads 3 years of accommodation – so whilst students from more central colleges have to “live out” at some point during their course, often ending up further out of town, the majority of our student body don’t need to worry about that at all *#winning.*

**Pages 14-15**

**Academic Life**

**Sciences, Arts & Social Sciences**

**Sciences**

A lot more contact time – you’ll probably have 9am lectures and labs all day on a couple of days a week. This has loads of benefits, including that you’re normally done by 5pm, and don’t have to face the much talked about essay crisis!

LMH is also a stone’s throw away from the Science Park and Engineering buildings, making your 9am stroll across the Uni Parks that little bit more bearable. You will usually be set problem sheets throughout the week which need to be brought to the next tutorial, where solutions will be discussed, especially where you have a problem or don’t understand something.

The tutorial will not be limited to the work that you have handed in, but will look at the wider topic and get you to think about things in different manner.

**Arts**

Looking at an Arts timetable, you may assume that these people have a lot of free time – but fear not, scientists! Counter to common belief, Arts students have a lot of work to get on with! The majority of Arts learning is done independently, with a tutor setting the week’s essay(s) and a reading list.

You are then expected to select books and chapters from the reading list and gather enough info to write a sophisticated essay (well, attempt …)

There’s really a lot of room to pursue the things that you are interested in here, and that’s pretty cool.

**Social Sciences**

Again, like the Humanities – a lot more less ‘scheduled’ time in comparison to Sciences. Your week will be divided between lectures, tutorials and classes, and private study. Of course, what you’re doing will vary, depending on subject – be it preparing problem sets for PPE, or then undertaking independent research for Psychology *#s’all good*.

**Tutors and Tutorials**

Tutorials are, without a doubt, the best thing about learning in Oxford. To have a potentially world-leading academic teach you and one or two other people and discuss your work is absolutely amazing – and there really is a strict no question is silly policy!

It’s pretty unique to use, though the dark side \*ahem, Cambridge, ahem\* do offer these also.

The interview process at Oxford very much replicates a tutorial, and the idea is that it is an informal discussion where there often isn’t a clear answer immediately, but it’s rather about unpicking a question and thinking about it in multiple ways, so do keep this in mind …

The [tutors](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/our-academics) themselves are experts in their fields, highly passionate, and surprisingly approachable (no three-headed dogs here!) They really do go out of their way for you, and

that kind of investment is pretty special!

Oxford is one of the few universities where undergraduates have access to world leaders in their discipline – so make the most of it and pick their brains!

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**Page Heading: Societies**

One of the best things about LMH is the fact that we have such a diverse group of students with a wide array of interests! The range of societies we have to offer shows this, with everything from Badminton to knitting, and from History to Jazz.

Here’s a just a taste of what you can find at LMH:

* **Badminton Club**

Open to anyone and everyone, no matter their ability. Sessions take place on the weekend, and best of all, it’s free!

* **OWL** (the Orchestra of Wadham and LMH)

Founded and led by students, and also

non-auditioning.

* **Jazz Band**

Put on the famous LMH Jazz Nights once a term, where wine and jazz flow freely…

* **Emma Watson’s Feminist Book Club**

As one of our Visiting Fellows, Emma Watson donated a pile of books on feminism for her international book club known as ‘[Our Shared Shelf](https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/179584-our-shared-shelf)’. At our relaxed meetings at LMH we chat about the issues touched upon in these books and how they interact with our own lives, all over a cup of tea.

* **LMHTTGAS** - LMH Table Tennis Gardening Appreciation Society.
* **LMH Christian Union**

Meet weekly for breakfast and prayer to support each other, and host talks and dinner every other week where anyone is welcome.

* **LMH Choir**

Non-auditioning. Sing in the College’s Chapel service every Sunday.

* **LawSoc**

Open to anyone, whether you study Law or not.

* **Beaufort Society**

College Literary Society

* **Daisy Circle**

For all things politics, plus an annual dinner with our PPE tutors.

* Also:

**Yoga, Pool, Zumba and Pilates, Boat Club,**

**Mixed Touch Rugby, LMH Chamber Choir,**

**Feminist Society, History Society, German Society,**

**Film Society …**

Along with these societies, you’ll always find people at LMH who share your interests. There are plenty of University-wide societies to get involved in too: we have students at LMH involved in drama, writing, directing, and acting in student productions, countless orchestras and dance societies to join, as well as more niche societies such as the Marxist Society or the Tea Appreciation Society.

Whatever you’re interested in, you’ll find it at Oxford!

**Pages 18-19**

**Page Heading: Social & Events**

Every year at LMH we elect two members of the JCR to be our Social Secretaries - they help us achieve our ‘work hard; play hard’ ethos by organising most of our social events throughout the year.

Highlights include the annual Garden Party in summer,

Jazz Night every term, the Fireworks Party in November and [World at LMH](https://www.instagram.com/p/BQvLDhWjFXh/?hl=en&taken-by=lmhoxford) in February! World at LMH is a celebration of all of our cultural backgrounds which truly make LMH the wonderful college it is. The night involves a myriad of food, music, and dance from around the world, and usually ends with a ceilidh!

The night is probably seconded only by our [Fireworks Party](https://www.instagram.com/p/BMe4--og_Tw/?hl=en&taken-by=lmhoxford), which has students coming from all over the University, with roast marshmallows, hot chocolate, £1000s worth of fireworks, and fun for all.

**Ball**

Every college in Oxford hosts their own ball, and all are decadent once-in-a-lifetime black-tie events. LMH hosts a ball once every three years, and it’s one of the less expensive balls in Oxford, which means that you get the best of both worlds. You’re guaranteed to have to the opportunity to attend at least one LMH Ball during your degree, but it’s also known to be the best value for money, since so much time and effort is dedicated to it by our Ball Committee, which you could also have the chance to be part of!

**College Bar**

LMH’s bar is run by and for its students, with cheap drinks (including our very own LMH speciality punch, the “Purple Lady”), pool, a TV (often appropriated by sports fans!), and a relaxing atmosphere for those seeking a bit of a break from the pace of Oxford life. The bar of course plays an important role in the College’s social life, playing host to a number of different social events throughout the year ranging from Bops to opportunities to knit, but it’s also a prime place for students to enjoy relaxing with their friends, either enjoying the end of the week or procrastinating that essay they’re working on…

**BOPs**

The Ultimate Fancy Dress Party – held three times a term for all of the JCR! The bar opens at 8pm, DJ spinning out some tunes and college gets its very own pardyyy. Prizes go to the best costume (which are usually made up of whatever you can scrape together last minute with your friends! Punny costumes usually go far…)

**OXMAS**  
Around these parts, the 25th November is better known as OXMAS (yup, another piece of jargon for you). As we miss out on the big day, Oxford gets the best early-xmas ever!

You can get involved in LMH Oxmas by attending either the Chapel Carol Service our candlelit Carols in the Quad event, attending the Xmas Gaudy (a spectacular formal hall as a special treat for Third Years) or cooking Xmas Dindins with your neighbours and being involved in the Decorate Your Corridor-Off!

**College-Organised**

Alan is pretty legendary (did we mention this already?) and has a lot of contacts – so quite often will arrange for interesting people to come in and put on lectures or *In Conversations* for us. Recent such events have featured Ed Miliband, Steve Coogan , Imogen Cooper, Owen Jones to name a few…

***Pages 20-21***

**Page Heading: Welfare**

Coming to Oxford can be daunting for anyone, especially with intense workloads and the novelty of living in a new city.

That’s why at LMH we have heaps of support available for anyone, so there’s always someone to turn to.

Our Female Welfare Rep and Male Welfare Rep (elected by us) host welfare teas once a week in the JCR, giving you the opportunity to grab some free food as well as talk to them about any worries you might have. They also host Post-Bop brunches, helping you recover from that awful hangover you mysteriously obtained the night before, and to let you interact with some humans on a quiet Sunday morning.

Our wonderful welfare reps also have the joyous job of making sure everyone has access to free contraception, sanitary products, and pregnancy tests, all of which can be sent to you anonymously.

We also have trained Peer Supporters in college, who are available to talk whenever you need to.

They also host late-night support teas once a week so whether you need the chance to grab one of them for support, or just need some company you have the opportunity. Twice a year we also have wellness week, which in the past has featured zorb football (a whole lot of fun), speakers, smoothie making, so many cute dogs and even alpacas!

On the more practical side of things, we have a nurse in college every morning, doctors twice a week, as well as a free anonymous safe sex materials request system.

LMH is a place where you can always seek support, where people look out for each other, and which pretty soon, feels a lot like home – so don’t let worries about stress / being overworked put you off coming here :)

**The College Parent Deal**  
So here’s the deal: you’ll be assigned 2nd years as ‘parents’

- at least one will do your subject. They will have been in your shoes just 3 terms ago, and will be there to give you advice on everything (plus lots of chocolate and #collegeparentlove). It’s always nice to have a familiar face even on the day you arrive, and an especially proud moment when you become college parents yourself…

**Equality**

As the first college in Oxford to admit women, and the first to also become co-ed, equality is at the heart of LMH’s principles. There’s always someone to talk to if you need support with a minority specific problem or think of a way the College could do more. We have a whole Equalities Committee with different representatives for different intersections, from Disabilities, to BME, to Social Backgrounds, to LGBTQ, to name just a few!

Each rep normally hosts some form of drinks or a ‘hang-out’ for the students in their respective community, giving the opportunity for people to meet others who share their experiences.

**Pages 22-23**

**Our Top Tips**

**Tips we wish we were given before applying**

**Opinions**

Don’t listen to the people who tell you Oxford’s probably not for you. ALWAYS ALWAYS go for it – if you have the grades, and the enthusiasm – you belong here!

**Pick a subject you love**

Don’t let anybody pressurise you into studying something which you won’t enjoy for 3-4 years. Yeh, vocational aspirations are important, but they’re not enough to sustain you. Plus, loving your subject is what will make you stand out at the application process!

**Extra-curricular activities**

Oxford doesn’t care about your extra-curricular activities unless its relevant to your subject – I wish I hadn’t worried so much about having to volunteer abroad or having to do some really impressive courses, when the reading I had done in my spare time or the YouTube lectures and podcasts I’d listened to and was so enthused by was all that they were interested in!

**Show, don’t tell**

Don’t just list books you have read or things you have done, tell the tutors how they set you thinking. I kept an activities log, and wrote down things I had done (name of book, author etc.) and jotted down some critical analysis for each thing listed (for example, my thoughts on the portrayal of the ‘savage’ in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde) When it came to writing a personal statement, I already had a base to work from *#pre-emptive.*

**Support**

I wish I was told that Oxford offered support!

The Outreach Officer runs all sorts of things, from interview workshops to personal statement workshops and generally is great for application advice – all services are completely free and you should definitely make use of them.

**What next?**

* Follow us on Social Media. Search LMH Oxford on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/lmhoxford), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/lmhoxford), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lmhoxford/) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/lmhwca).
* Check out our [Snapchat Takeover](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/student-life/adayinthelife) videos.
* Check out this link:
* Visit us on an [Open Day](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/working-schools/open-days)!

**Any questions?**

**Ask** our Student Ambassadors or Outreach Officer (strict *no question is silly* policy): [outreach@lmh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@lmh.ox.ac.uk)