

2026 AHRC International Conference Travel Guide

14–16 September 2026, The Queen's College, the University of
Oxford

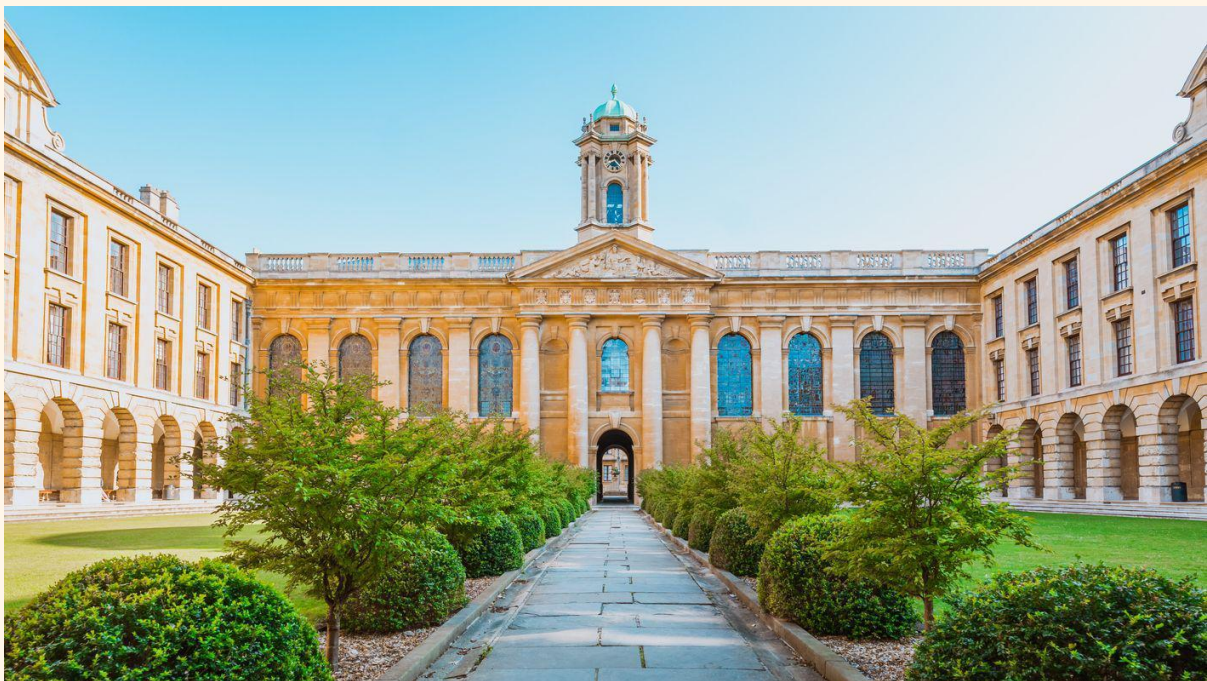


Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Location	3
Travel: Getting to Oxford	4
Accommodation	4
Map of Central Oxford Colleges	5
Getting Around Oxford	5
Emergency and Health	6
Weather / Clothing	7
Food	7
Parks and Gardens	8
Souvenirs and Books	8
Pubs	9

Welcome!

We look forward to welcoming you to the eleventh annual Arts and Humanities Research Council International Conference, taking place at 'The Queen's College, University of Oxford from Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th of September. This year's theme, Power and Possession, invites delegates to think of how rights and ownership shape arts and humanities research.

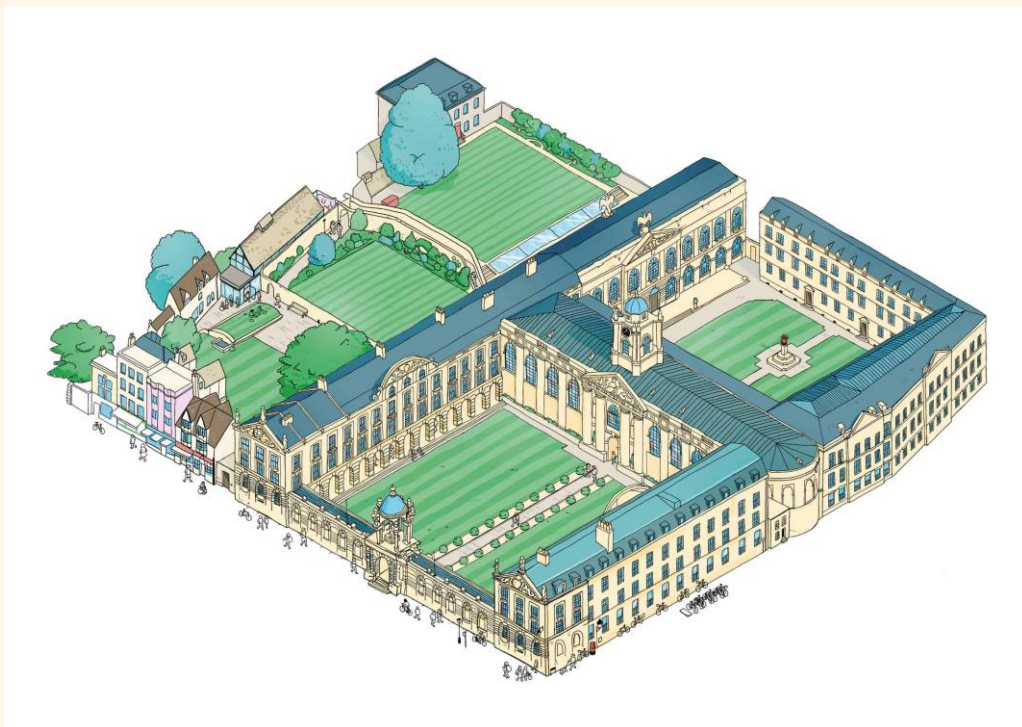
This guide is meant to help you prepare for your visit to Oxford, and includes important details regarding travel advice and accommodation, as well as what to do in case of emergency. We therefore ask that you read this guide in full before arrival, and keep it on hand for the duration of the conference.

Location

The University of Oxford, founded in 1096, is the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Oxford has been the home to 28 British Prime Ministers, at least 30 international leaders, 55 Nobel Prize winners, and 120 Olympic medal winners.

The University is made up of 43 constituent colleges. Oxford's colleges are small, multidisciplinary communities. Though they have much in common, each college has its own character and history. Each college has their own students, academic and administrative staff, and most offer their students meals, libraries, accommodation, sports, and events. The college system one of the distinctive features of student life at Oxford.

The Queen's College was founded in the 14th century for the purpose of supporting students from the North West of England with limited or no means. The College was established by chaplain Robert de Eglesfield, who named it after Queen Philippa of Hainault. The College boasts a central location on High Street, right by some of Oxford's greatest landmarks.



Travel: Getting to Oxford

Airline coaches run up to every 20 minutes to Oxford from both Gatwick and Heathrow Airports. In Oxford, this service has a stop just outside Queen's College. If you miss it, the final stop (Gloucester Green) is only a 10-minute walk from Queen's.

If travelling from London, trains to Oxford run regularly from both Paddington (duration ~55m) and Marylebone (duration ~1h25m) stations. Off-peak tickets after 9:30am on weekdays, and all day on weekends.

Alternatively, the Oxford Tube bus service runs 24/7 from Victoria Station, via Marble Arch and Shepherd's Bush. Prices start from £15 for a single and £22.50 for a return, and it usually takes 1h30-2h, depending on traffic.

Accommodation

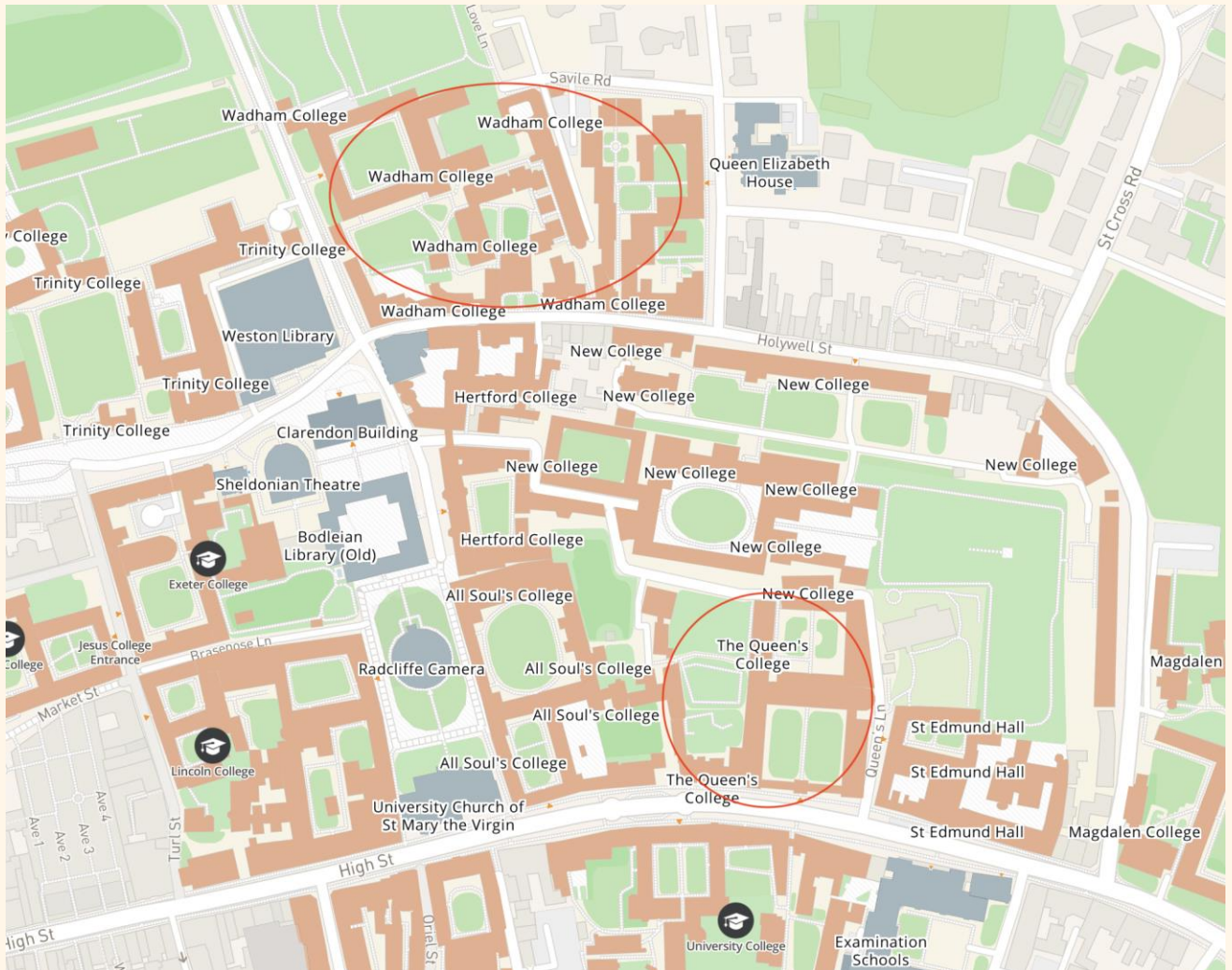
We're able to provide accommodation to our international guests, as well as to students at the Open University and at the University of Cambridge.

All non-Oxford attendees are booked into single ensuite rooms; most of these are at The Queen's College, and a few are very nearby at Wadham College. You can collect the keys to your room at the Porter's Lodge of the College on arrival. Walking from Wadham College to Queen's takes 5 minutes. From Wadham cross the roundabout outside the Weston Library and head to the Bridge of Sighs, then take Queen's Lane past the back of Queen's and New College and alongside St Edmund's Hall. When you reach High Street turn right to get to the main entrance to Queen's.

We are unfortunately unable to provide accommodation for University of Oxford students, and ask that they arrange their own accommodation for the duration of the conference. Oxford students are welcome to join us for breakfast at The Queen's College.

Map of Central Oxford Colleges

Wadham and Queen's are highlighted



Getting around Oxford

Oxford city centre is highly walkable, especially from Queen and Wadham. There are also the following options:

- Uber
- Black cabs at the top of Cornmarket Street, opposite Santander Bank
- 101 taxis, telephone: 01865 240000

There is also a bus stop outside Queen's that can take you to Cowley, Headington, and other parts of the city. Bus tickets are usually £2 per person.

Emergency and Health

In emergencies, dial **999** for police, fire service and ambulance service. The pan-European emergency number **112** can also be used in the UK.

In case of emergency, travel and health insurance is recommended. EU citizens should bring EHIC cards.

The Police

In emergencies, dial **999** or **112**.

If you are not in an emergency but need police assistance, dial **101**. This service can be used if you need police assistance or if you need to report a crime that is not urgent.

If you are travelling via rail and need police assistance, you can also reach the **British Transport Police** by texting **61016**, or by calling **0800 40 50 40**.

Fire Services

Dial **999** or **112**.

Ambulance Services

In emergencies, dial **999** or **112**.

Non-Emergency Medical Services

Pharmacists can give advice on most common minor illnesses, such as a headache or a sore throat. They can also advise you about medicines. The pharmacy closest to Queen's is **Boots** (8-10 Cornmarket St, Oxford OX1 3HL), phone number: 01865 247461. It is open 8am-8pm everyday except Sunday (11am-5pm).

When in doubt, dial **111** for non-emergency medical advice and assistance.

A&E/Minor Injuries Unit

If you need medical attention but do not require an ambulance, there is a 24/7 Accident & Emergency (A&E) department at [Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital](#) (JR) which is Oxford's General Hospital. Several buses from the city centre run by the JR ([timetable](#)), or you can call an Uber or taxi. Abingdon Minor Injuries Unit is also a 20-minute drive away.

Other Non-Medical Emergencies

Oxford University [Security Services](#). Contact 01865 289 999. Open 24/7.

Mental Health Emergencies

[Samaritans](#) is a mental health charity which provides a free helpline available 24/7 every day of the year. Call 116 123 to speak to a volunteer and get advice.

Weather

Weather in the UK can be unpredictable, especially in autumn. Temperatures may range from around +10°C, to above +20°C. It is also likely to rain at some point. We recommend layered clothing, as well as bringing waterproof shoes, a rain jacket and an umbrella.

Clothing

There are lots of clothes shops in Westgate Shopping Centre: UNIQLO, H&M, Zara and many other shops. There is also the M&S on Queen Street (also has pricier food options).

Food

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided throughout the conference, with the exception that dinner on Wednesday 16th is for international delegates only.

In terms of supermarkets in Oxford for food shopping the cheapest option is [Tesco](#) on Magdalen Street OX1 3AE. Sainsbury's is next-door too. There is another smaller [Sainsbury's](#) on St. Aldate's.

Café/Restaurant

- [The Covered Market](#) – a variety of independent cafés and coffee shops close to college.
- Nearby independent coffee shops: [Missing Bean](#) – on Turl Street; [Jericho Coffee Traders](#) – on the High Street; Gulp Fiction (book and coffee shop) and Columbia Coffee Roasters are also in the Covered Market.
- Italiano – on [Broad Street](#) and [High Street](#), sells cheap focaccia sandwiches and calzone.
- G&Ds – one on St Aldates, and another on Little Clarendon Street, sells sandwiches and ice-cream.
- Taylors – coffee and sandwiches, can be found in the Covered Market, on High Street, and St Giles.



Parks and Gardens

Oxford city centre has a variety of green spaces. These include:

- University Parks
- Christ Church Meadows
- Botanic Gardens (student ticket), open 10am-6pm
- Port Meadow (15-20 minute walk from the town centre, beyond Jericho)
- South Parks (a short bus ride away)



Souvenirs and Books

There are a range of souvenir shops on Broad Street, Cornmarket and the Covered Market; it is probably best to shop around to find the best prices.

[Blackwell's](#) – Oxford's largest and most historic bookshop – includes the expansive 'Norrington room' selling books for nearly every subject, Oxford specific books and slightly more 'legit' souvenir options.

Bodleian Weston Library Shop – next door to the [Weston Library](#).

Other bookshops include The Last Bookshop in Jericho, the Oxfam on St Giles, Gulp Fiction in the Covered Market, Waterstones on Queen Street, or St Philip's Books on St Aldates.



Pubs

Oxford has a wide range of pubs, including:

- [The Lamb and Flag](#) (especially for Tolkien enthusiasts!) on St. Giles'.
- [The King's Arms](#) on Holywell Street.
- [Turf Tavern](#) on Bath Place, accessible via Holywell Street and New College Lane (mind the low ceilings!).



We look forward to seeing you at the conference!



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

