



St Peter's
Open To
Creativity

Undergraduate Prospectus







Welcome

A word from The Master, Mark Damazer

St Peter's is an intimate place fizzing with energy and creativity. We believe in academic excellence – and the College exists to provide the teaching, the facilities and the atmosphere to help everyone fulfil their potential.

We both know and celebrate the fact that our students have different talents, characters and backgrounds. They come here united by a desire to study in one of the world's great universities and at a college that generates real warmth and solidarity – and offers them many opportunities to express their talents in many different fields.



I hope this prospectus provides you with a flavour of what we offer and what makes this such a special place.

Mark Damazer CBE

Academic Life

St Peter's enables you to get the best out of your time at Oxford.



'I feel that I can come to my tutor with any academic problem, and he will always be supportive.'


The College provides a supportive social and academic environment. Each week you will be writing essays or answering problem sheets and discussing these in tutorials with your tutor and one or two other students. You'll also attend lectures and classes, but your academic work will be centred around College tutorials which are at the heart of the collegiate system. In addition to guiding your studies, the College tutors conduct cutting-edge research, and there are opportunities to learn about the latest developments in your subject, to attend College seminars and, in some subjects, vacation reading parties. These activities all enrich the academic life of the College.

St. Peter's admits students for most subjects taught within the University. Check the website for a full list of courses.

We have an excellent lending and reference library at the heart of our main site, with 24-hour access. It provides a comfortable study space and is widely used. The library buys extensively across the full range of undergraduate subjects and welcomes recommendations for new purchases. Our central location also provides easy access to the extensive network of University and department libraries.

“Three years at St Peter’s simply isn’t long enough to make full use of everything on offer!”





‘St. Peter’s is an open and friendly community, within a stone’s throw of clubs, restaurants, cinemas and even a theatre.’

David
Law student

From film to dance, St Peter's is alive with all kinds of activities.

'Life at St Peter's is never dull; the wide range of activities available ensures you're always busy and having fun.'



Our events range from Ancient Greek comedies staged by our own Cross Keys Drama Society, to Greek dance classes, an Annual Arts Week, a World Film Society and publications like *Misc.* which showcase the best of student photography, art and poetry. The College awards poetry and essay prizes, and has its own Arts Fund which supports student initiatives such as taking a performance of *Mephisto* to the International Student Drama Festival. Not only does St. Peter's offer a wide range of arts and humanities subjects, but our students have gone on to become journalists (Geordie Greig), actors (Orlando Seale), novelists (Joseph Fiennes), artists (Kurt Jackson), screenwriters (Simon Beaufoy) and film directors (Ken Loach).

Social Life

The Junior Common Room (JCR) is the hub of student life at the College.



‘The JCR is a place that I always drop into, because I know I’ll find a friendly face.’

‘Peter’s has a reputation for having one of the most friendly and welcoming JCR’s in Oxford. The JCR itself is a spacious, comfortable area to relax in, with vending machines, table football and table tennis, and a 55 inch HD screen – perfect for big sports nights. The JCR committee (elected by the student body) puts on a range of events including poetry nights, pub quizzes, BBQs, garden parties, film nights, hog roasts and an annual arts festival. There are regular themed College parties – known as ‘bops’ – featuring extraordinary attempts at fancy dress. These take place in the JCR and the College Bar, which is one of the few entirely student-run bars in Oxford, providing excellent value as a result.’ *JCR President*

Distinguished speakers are regularly invited to the College.



St. Peter's frequently welcomes distinguished speakers to give talks. They may be former students who are experts in their fields, or other prominent figures in public life.

Recent visitors include author Philip Pullman, journalists Afua Hirsch, Andrew Marr and Matthew Parris, radical lawyer Shami Chakrabati, philosopher Michael Sandel, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope (First Sea Lord), and comedian David Mitchell. There are seminars in different subject areas, offered by our tutors and by visiting academics as well as presentations by our own graduate students. We are the first college with a Writer in Residence whose duties include seminars on creative writing.



Students'
Views



**'It is a great
community.
I've had a
fantastic year.'**

—
Hannah
History of Art

St Peter's enjoys one of the most varied and exciting musical programmes of any Oxford college.

'It's more than just a choir; we're all friends.'



The Chapel serves as a wonderful concert venue, with seating for over 200. This allows St Peter's to put together an extensive calendar of musical events, from solo recitals to fully staged operas, in addition to our twice weekly service of Choral Evensong.

St Peter's College Music Society puts on regular performances of great works, such as J.S.Bach's *Matthäus Passion*, which is performed at St Peter's in alternate years. The Director of Music, Dr Roger Allen, is assisted by the Organ Scholars, and provides support and encouragement to students who wish to develop as performers. Students can apply for Instrumental Scholarships or Exhibitions when they arrive at St Peter's. Less formal musical activities also take place in College, including open mic nights and concerts by 'Marvellous Medicine', a student band.

At St Peter's all who want to take part in sporting activities, at any level, are encouraged to participate.



‘Sport at St Peter’s is not just about events on the fields. It’s also a social community.’

We have a reputation for sporting prowess within the University: for many years we have had rowers in the University’s boats, and we also perform well at rugby and cricket. Such ability is not confined to the major sports – we have even been the table football champions! For those who prefer their sports with fewer early mornings and less rigorous training, there is a much-used pool table in the JCR and darts are played enthusiastically in the College Bar.

We share sports fields with Hertford and Exeter colleges and a boat house with University College, providing facilities for cricket, rugby, football, hockey, tennis, squash and rowing. The JCR pays for all students to use the gym at the University’s Iffley Road sports complex, famous for Roger Bannister’s 4-minute mile.

Accommodation & Food

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St.Peter's has high quality on site accommodation and excellent food.

'My room is great, it has a lovely view, loads of light and is really spacious.'



At St Peter's all first year undergraduates are housed on the main site in New Inn Hall Street, in the heart of Oxford. All rooms are single occupancy, with shared bathroom facilities. The College has three newer annexes in a peaceful area next to Oxford Castle, less than 5 minutes walk away. These annexes all have en-suite rooms, shared kitchens and common rooms. They are for undergraduates in their final year, Visiting Students and first year graduate students. Second year students generally live out of College. The dining hall, available to all students, provides breakfast, lunch and informal dinners, with brunch at the weekends, on a pay-as-you go basis. In addition, St Peter's has lively formal dinners on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with special menus for themed dinners such as Thanksgiving and

St Peter's has a comprehensive welfare network.

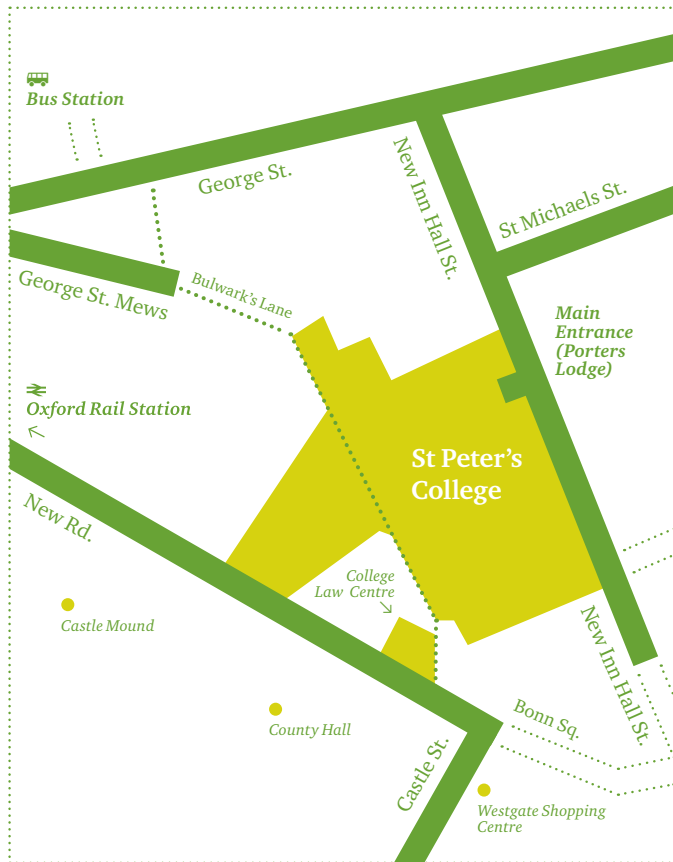
Welfare at St Peter's is designed to offer you support if you are experiencing difficulties or have personal problems – in your academic studies, finance, or relationships. Even before you arrive at St Peter's, you will be assigned a 'College Parent' (normally a student in a higher year of your course of study) who will contact you and provide lots of helpful advice both before and after you come to College. The JCR has an extensive network of peer supporters, and there is a college nurse and trained welfare officers (living on site) who are regularly available for consultation. The University counselling service provides specialist help if required. Our student finance officer can advise on money matters and we have a welfare and hardship fund which can provide some financial support if that becomes necessary.



'As an international student, I found Peter's incredibly welcoming: I had no trouble settling in.'



Our central location means that everything you need is within reach.



St Peter's is in the centre of Oxford, making both University and city facilities readily accessible. We are within cycling or walking distance of all University departments, libraries and museums. We have a quiet site, yet we are close to the city's theatres, cinemas, shops, bars and restaurants. The main bus station with airport links is a few minutes away and the railway station only a little further.

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Further information
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The information in this prospectus is correct at the time of going to press. Any updates or changes can be found on our website, below.
– June 2012

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