

IT in St John's College

Welcome to St John's. Below is some information on the main IT systems you'll find in both St John's College and the University as well as some help to get you online. It will also help to clarify who can help you with different types of IT problem in case you need assistance.

IT within St John's and Oxford University can be confusing at times as some systems are handled directly by the college and others are managed centrally by the University. For example St John's College manages the computers in the computer room and library as well as the wired network connections around College. Other services such as email are handled centrally by the University's IT Services department. Some services like the wireless are part run by College (who manage the access points around St John's) and part run centrally run by IT Services (who manage the OWL and Eduroam wireless systems for the University).

Email:

The University handles this centrally. All new students will automatically be registered for an Oxford University 'single sign on (SSO)' user account when they start in Oxford.

Once you have the activation code (which will have be sent to your previously registered email address) you can use any computer on the Internet to activate your Oxford 'Nexus' email account.

Please activate your email account as soon as you can and before you come to Oxford as this will help when accessing other systems (such as the WiFi).

The SSO user name will typically look like 'sjoh' followed by four numbers (e.g. sjoh9999).

Oxford email addresses are typically in the form of `firstname.lastname@unit.ox.ac.uk` where unit is the name of the college or department.

For St John's College accounts the unit is `sjc`. So an example of one of our addresses would be `john.smith@sjc.ox.ac.uk`

Much vital academic information is relayed to undergraduates by Email, so your `@sjc.ox.ac.uk` email account must be checked regularly. You can check your email via a web browser from any Internet connected computer using a webmail system called Nexus 'Outlook Web Access' (OWA).

<https://nexus.ox.ac.uk/>

If you have your own computer on the network you can use also check your email via programs such as Outlook, Thunderbird, Mac Mail and many other email clients. Mobile devices such as phones and tablets can also be easily configured to pick up the Nexus Oxford email directly.

For more details on Oxford email, and how to receive it, please see:

<http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/want/get-started/email>

The Single Sign On (SSO) username is also used to access a number of other Oxford systems and journals as well as our own network registration system.

You may also get a departmental email address. Usually this will also deliver to the same 'mailbox' as your college account. There are a few departments which also run their own independent email systems and their IT staff will give you information when you start your course on how to access them.

Networking your own computer:

Wireless networking

Wireless networking is now available across almost all of St John's College and most of its outside houses and annexes.

St John's College broadcasts the Oxford University OWL and eduroam wireless access systems.

OWL and eduroam are the standard for WiFi networking used by almost all the departments and Colleges within Oxford and once set up you will be able to use wireless not only around St John's but also at many other Oxford locations. Eduroam is also a multinational standard and Oxford users can also use eduroam at other participating organizations around the world to connect.

The preferred wireless network for student use on mobile devices around Oxford is eduroam. OWL is slightly faster but much better suited to laptops as you need to run some additional software (known as VPN software) and it may drop the connection if you temporarily move out of signal.

To connect wirelessly you must first register for an Oxford Remote Access account.

For details of how to connect to the eduroam or OWL wireless service and how to set up a remote access account please see:

<http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/want/get-started/internet>

Please note for security and operational reasons personal routers including wireless routers are not allowed on the College and University networks. Although it is possible to connect devices like most tablets and smart phones to the Oxford wireless systems I'm afraid that most domestic home wireless printers and wireless speakers (as well as similar devices intended for home use) will not work on the University's enterprise OWL and eduroam wireless systems.

Wired connections

As well as being able to connect wirelessly you can also connect from your College room or the St John's library using a wired Ethernet connection. This is typically a higher speed and more reliable connection than using wireless.

To use the wired connection you must first go through the online registration system.

When you first connect to the Internet with the wired connection and open up a web browser you will automatically be redirected to our 'Bradford Campus Manager' online registration system. To register you must have set up your SSO account (see above).

The registration system takes your details and then checks your computer meets the University requirements. Your computer must have a supported version of Windows or MacOS with all the latest security updates installed. It must also have antivirus software installed. A number of Apple Macs fail to get through registration as they have no antivirus installed. If your computer fails the checks you will be given the opportunity to install updates online and try the test again. Once your computer has passed through registration you will be on the Internet. We allow computers installed with Windows 7, Mac OS 10.10 or a current version of Linux to connect.

Please note that having a high-speed Internet connection in your room is a privileged position and brings with it responsibilities to other uses of the network. The Oxford network is a frequent target for 'hacking' attempts and, while the majority of computers are secure, a small number are compromised each year. In order to minimize risks to all College users, the College has implemented network access rules which have to be agreed to by anyone wanting to connect a computer to the College network from their room. The network access rules are primarily University rules but with a few College additions - most importantly an agreement to let College have control of your computer if it is part of a major breach of network security or rules. This only applies to access to the College network. Full details of the network access rules are provided by the registration system before a computer is connected to the network.

Libraries:

Database terminals are located in the main college library and the law library, where access a variety of online journals are many databases is available. There is wireless throughout the libraries and personal laptop computers may be used on the wired network in the ground floor section of the Library (west end) where there are also electric power points.

Printing:

Mono printing is currently free and as long as this facility is not abused we hope that it can remain so. The printing system is currently being updated and hopefully new users will be able to submit print jobs to the mono printers

remotely via the web and then go to the printers to collect them when convenient.

Induction Lecture:

An introductory lecture on computing in the College and the University is given to all freshers in 0th week (see your 0th week timetable). Attendance for undergraduates is compulsory.

Issues such as connecting to the college network, staying secure online and how to get IT help in Oxford are covered in the talk.

IT Support:

Students needing help or support regarding computing issues can contact the College IT Officers or the help desk service at IT Services. For departmental software and systems the IT Officer(s) your faculty may be able to provide assistance.

St John's has three full-time IT Officers, Matt Jennings, Neil McIntosh and Ashby Hope. They manage the day-to-day running of all aspects of IT within St John's including the running of the college network.

IT Services:

The central IT Services department runs a number of the University's computing facilities. They are located a short walk away at 13 Banbury Road.

One of the main services they run is the central Nexus email system.

They also provide an appointment based Help Desk service along with a 24 hour support telephone line and many pages of online support information for the various IT systems they manage.

IT Services also provide free Sophos antivirus software to those that need it. This can be very useful as it is a University requirement that all computers connected to the network run antivirus software. See: <http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/viruses/>

For members of the University they run a small online computing shop

<http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/want/shop/>

The shop provides academic discounts on certain software. Microsoft Office 365 is available free of charge to Oxford students as a download (via a third party supplier) linked to from the online shop or other versions of Microsoft Office are available too.

IT Services offers via the "IT Learning Programme (ITLP)" over 200 different IT courses that can help you with your studies, research and future careers. They include courses on using computer and the major applications (such as training courses in Word, Excel etc.). They also run courses on the

programming languages.

For details see: <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/do/training-and-facilities>

If you want to publish your own website you can do so on the central managed web server. Details on how to start building your own web site are available at this URL:

<http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/web/personalwebpages/personalguide#webpace>

IT Services (via a third party, Equinox) offers a very economically priced breakdown service for PC and Apple Mac personal computers, as well as their peripherals. Please see: <http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/breakdown/index>

Members of the college interested in Linux can take advantage of the IT Services run Linux cluster which can be accessed by anyone with an Oxford email account. Details are available at: <http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/services/linux/>

Additional Information:

For further IT information aimed at freshers in Oxford, including how to have your computer connected to the network and how Oxford University email works, please see: <http://welcometoit.ox.ac.uk/>

If you have any IT questions please feel free to contact the St John's team.

Good luck and kind regards,

Matt Jennings Senior IT Officer

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