

A Brief Guide to Accommodation at St John's



Students at St John's are lucky enough to enjoy some of the best accommodation in Oxford.

Undergraduates live in a variety of areas of college –catering for differing tastes in terms of room size, cost and the availability of facilities. Unusually in Oxford, undergraduates are guaranteed accommodation on or near the college's main site for their whole course. This means that you live very close to the centre of town and all of the facilities that college has to offer. With everyone living around college, there is also a strong sense of community and friendship between year groups which would otherwise be geographically divided.

In first year rooms are randomly allocated. After that a ballot system operates: the quality of the room you've had in previous years dictates your position on the ballot and the order you choose in future years.

All St John's students have access to the on-site facilities: porters lodge and post room, dining hall, library, chapel, two gyms, erg room, music practice rooms, squash court, dark room, laundry facilities, computer rooms, bike sheds, tv room, common room, games room, bar, café, buttery, DVD library, art collection, boat house and sports fields.

Front Quad & Canterbury Quad

These are some of the nicest and oldest rooms in college and are mostly occupied by second or third years. Some are very large with some eccentric old features such as wood panelling and fireplaces. On the top floors are some smaller rooms tucked away in the attics which are often very cosy and "Oxford-y". The downside to this quad is the provision of facilities – there is no access to a kitchen in either Canterbury or Front, and you may well find yourself going upstairs/downstairs to find a toilet or a shower, although the majority of rooms will have a sink. Many people find this a small price to pay for living in one of the most beautiful parts of college.



Front quad room

North Quad

North Quad contains a wide variety of rooms. The Beehive, built in the 60s, was inspired by the structure of honeycomb (hence the name) and has hexagonal rooms given over entirely to first years. The rooms are large, each has a sink and good access to bathrooms and kitchens.



Fisheye view of a Beehive room

The other rooms are older and more variable – ranging from smaller bedrooms to two-room sets with a separate study and bedroom. North Quad offers a good compromise between the novelty of an old room and the availability of facilities; there is a kitchen in almost every staircase as well as plenty of bathrooms and showers.

Thomas White Quad

Affectionately known as "Tommy White" or simply "TW", the architecture of this 70s building is somewhat controversial. Love it or hate it, the facilities are great with an average of around 5 students on each floor sharing a kitchen, shower and toilet (the showers are known for being particularly good). The rooms are regularly sized and generally comfortable, many with sinks and seating areas. The ground floor of this quad is made up of JCR social spaces: the games, TV and DVD rooms, the JCR and the bar. This social location and the fact that TW houses most of the freshers, means everyone quickly gets to make friends.



Standard 1st year room in TW

Museum Road

At some other colleges, students in later years live out of college in college owned houses. Fortunately the houses that St John's own are in the street immediately behind Tommy White Quad. As such, students get the best of both worlds: the experience of living in a house with their friends, but still close to the centre of the town and the college facilities. Traditionally, the houses are taken up by groups of friends in the second year, but anyone can ballot for them. The houses are nice Victorian buildings with between 5 and 8 rooms of varying size and shape. Each house has good shower and toilet facilities and a house kitchen that's often used as a social area.



Exterior and interior of a Museum Road house

Garden Quad

Garden Quad was built in the 90s and is a comfortable place to live. There is a mix of graduate and undergraduate rooms here, making it a favourite place for older students. The rooms are all nice and again, have easy access to showers and bathrooms. Highlights include the few 'tower-rooms' which are at the top of each staircase. These are very large with double-height ceilings: the back half of the room divided into two levels with the upper containing a bed space, accessed by a small staircase. Not only does this make the rooms really quirky, but they also have great views over the gardens and get tons of natural light.



A nice Garden Quad room

Kendrew Quad

Opened in 2010, this is the newest part of college and the one of the newest quads in Oxford. As such, the facilities are top notch and the rooms highly sought after – many undergraduates save up their points on the room ballot in order to grab these rooms in their final year. Breaking from the Oxford tradition of rooms being arranged in staircases, each floor is organised along corridors. Bedrooms are en-suite and all rooms have access to very good kitchens. Another advantage to Kendrew is the proximity of the new (and well equipped) gym as well as the events room where the JCR hosts its fortnightly 'Bops' or college parties. The Kendrew Cafe is another great space where students can chat or work with a cup of tea or coffee and serves light refreshments throughout the day. Kendrew is particularly popular with the law students as this Quad houses the law library.



A popular Kendrew Quad room

Summary

Quad	Student years normally resident	Students per bathroom	Students per kitchen	Notes
Front/Canterbury	2 nd /3 rd /4 th	Varies, 3-8	NA	Old and beautiful
North	All years	Varies, 3-8	Varies, 3-8	Lots of variety
Tommy White	1 st + some later	4-5	4-5	Very social quad
Museum Road	2 nd + some other	5-8	5-8	Shared houses
Garden	3 rd /4 th	2-3	4-6	Quieter quad
Kendrew	3 rd /4 th	1 (en-suite)	10-12	All mod cons!

We can accommodate students with a range of additional needs, such as families or those with disabilities. If you have special accommodation requirements, please talk to us.