WADHAM
ALTERNATIVE
PROSPECTUS
MADE BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS
WHAT MAKES WADHAM SO SPECIAL?

Wadham was one of the first originally male-only colleges to admit women, the first college to fly the LGBTQIA+ flag, and has always been known for its progressive and open attitude.

POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND EQUALITY
Wadham provides a great environment for anyone wanting to get involved in activism – more Wadham students went to the 2011 protests against tuition fees than any other college, and our College Banner was the only one at the Unite for Education march in 2016! Annual events like Queerweek, mental health week, and the Race Symposium, are just a few examples of Wadham’s support of minority and marginalised groups.

ACADEMICALLY STRONG
Despite, and perhaps because of, this relaxed atmosphere, we consistently perform well in the Norrington Table (which ranks Oxford colleges by exam results). Our tutors are supportive, and us students tend to stick up for each other. If you’ve got a long night in the library lined up, there will always be someone nearby to pass the coffee.

FRIENDLY AND LAID-BACK ATMOSPHERE
There’s a real mix of people at Wadham and everyone gets on well with each other, which creates a real sense of community.

FUN AND DYNAMIC STUDENT BODY
There’s always something going on at Wadham. Movie nights, brunches, theatre productions and bops – you won’t know what to do first! Wadham students are known for getting involved in activities all over the university – you’ll soon find yourself involved in lots of new things.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION
Wadham is right in the centre of town, only 5 minutes away from most departments, and more importantly, Tesco. We’re also really close to several good pubs, the Bodleian library, and the green expanse of University parks.

GREAT FACILITIES
1. Our own theatre
2. Beautiful modern library (open 24/7)
3. Gym
4. Squash courts
5. Lovely gardens
THE SU

MEETINGS
Meetings of the SU happen every fortnight and begin with a pizza and other snacks! Students submit motions on things they want the SU to do, whether it’s supporting a political campaign, promoting ethical activities or buying a new coffee machine. Members of the SU committee regularly meet with representatives from the college’s management to make sure that the voice of the SU is heard so all students can have their say about what matters to them.

EVENTS
The two main events organised by the SU are Queerfest and Wadstock. We run a college arts week every summer term when you can indulge your creative side with activities like chalking the front quad, life drawing classes and tie-dye workshops. Also on offer are welfare brunches, yoga, Zumba and LGBTQIA+ brunches just to name a few! The SU is a great way to engage with the wider community, for example, by volunteer tutoring and helping with access and schools programmes.

THE COMMITTEE
There are loads of roles on the SU committee such as Welfare, LGBTQIA+, People of Colour, Sports and Entz (responsible for bops), so there are plenty of chances to get involved, with elections for new members running throughout the year. The size of the committee means no stone is left unturned when it comes to keeping us entertained, informed, represented and supported.

Wadham’s SU is unique – we’re the only college with a combined JCR (Junior Common Room, i.e. undergrads) and MCR (Middle Common Room, i.e. postgrads).

STUDENT PROFILE: ELLA

NAME: Ella Sackville Adjei
COURSE: Classics
YEAR: 3rd

Favourite thing about being a fresher
It’s a cliche but my favourite thing about Freshers was just meeting all the new people and the excitement of being in a new environment - so many opportunities to do so many different fun things with different fun people!

Best piece of advice for 1st year
One thing I found difficult was that I got set my first essay during Freshers week which was quite stressful. The advice I would give is something which I think is relevant for your whole time at Oxford - not every piece of work you do will be perfect, and sometimes it won’t even be good. That’s fine! But you just have to try your best to produce something - I think I probably would have enjoyed Freshers week more if I had realised nobody was expecting my first Oxford essay to change the world.

There have also been some great projects set up by wadham students in Oxford and beyond. Empower Her Voice is a project that works to facilitate the empowerment of women. It was launched by two Wadham students, and operates under two strands.

EHV Talks: They have creating a platform for women by inviting female students to give short talks on any topic of their choice to an audience. They run events in Oxford, and are now developing globally.

EHV Education Projects: They also work with schools and centres across the world to help provide additional opportunities for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. They are currently fundraising for scholarships for girls attending school in
**BOPS**

Ever wished you could escape back to the days of school discos and fancy dress parties? Well dry your tears and prepare to be liberated by...WADHAM BOPS. Bops are, essentially, fancy dress discos held in the Wadham JCR, DJ-ed by the ENTZ officers. With the alleged motto ‘work hard, play harder’, we have the most bops of any college once every two weeks! Prepare to become experts in making all manner of bizarre costume creations from anything you can find in Poundland. Traced back to college’s days campaigning against apartheid every bop ends with ‘Free Nelson Mandela’ and the chance to sing while sitting on top of some unfortunate soul’s shoulders or being ‘mandela’d’, as we call it.

**QUEERFEST**

Perhaps Wadham’s most famous annual event, Queerfest certainly shows us at our best. Rounding off 1st term’s Queer Week with a bang, Queerfest is an opportunity for us to rejoice in LGBTQIA+ culture and celebrate in typical Wadham style. Hundreds of students clothed in the finest and probably most outrageous and colourful outfits flock to the college gardens to experience a night of revelry, involving fabulous entertainment and top quality food and drink. No dance move is too shameful and no outfit too OTT. Past entertainment has included an ABBA tribute band and some of Wadham’s homegrown musical geniuses.

**WADSTOCK**

Wadstock is Wadham’s very own music festival, a bizarre hybrid of Glastonbury and a five-year-old’s birthday party which takes over the Wadham Gardens for a marathon twelve hours on the first Saturday of the summer term. Queerfest’s far more chilled Summer counterpart, it represents an excuse to get your flower crown on, your face painted and your clothes bedecked in tie-dye. It takes a while to warm up, but relatively soon optimal levels of sunshine and Pimm’s are reached, and the dancing begins, lasting well into the night.
**Turf Tavern**
Hidden down a small alleyway, the Turf is the perfect place for a quiet pint. What’s more, there is a long list of famous people who’ve been drunk there: Bill Clinton, Inspector Morse, Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and C S Lewis just to name a few.

**KA**
Wadham’s local and a hotspot for students from all over Oxford. Watch out for annual Hugh Grant sightings!

**Cellar**
Cellar is the club for all those looking for somewhere to show off their wavy garms, their love for subverting the mainstream or even looking to put on their own aLteRNaTiVe club night (!!!). If you come from anywhere that has more than three clubs, or manages to fulfil your desire for grime, indie, electro or 80s classics, Oxford clubbing could at first come across as a constraining environment, with mediocrity and uniformity rife. But if you can ignore the humidity, sweat and woeful lack of space, spending your post-deadline nights in Cellar is sure to soon become your default option during term-time.

**Plush**
Oxford’s resident gay club. With cheaper drinks than most places, a friendly smoking area, the only (and best) place in Oxford to show off your pole-dancing skills, shirtless guys selling Jägerbombs on a tray, and a mix of current chart tunes, cheesy pop, and classic gay anthems, there’s a reason it’s considered one of the better clubs in Oxford. Plush’s main nights are Skittles on Tuesday (cheap but a bit quieter) and then Skintier Fridays and Bent Saturdays, where it gets messy in the best possible way. Plush has also been recently hosting Haute Mess, a drag night where all forms of gender-bending and expression are welcomed and encouraged — so be ready to bust out your glitter, heels and best Youtube tutorial.

**Bridge**
The Bridge, or ‘brigo’ as some like to call it, is the highlight of any Oxford student’s week. Expect a half mile queue, boys in suits and perhaps the best club smoking area you will ever have the pleasure of visiting in your lifetime. Prepare for a night of solid cheese on the bottom floor and if you dare venture upstairs, you’ll find a congregation of all those weren’t edgy enough to get into Cellar.
Music

While the specific groups change with the coming and going of students, there are some long-term favourites always looking for fresh talent including:

**DOT’S FUNK ODYSSEY**
A 14-piece funk/soul band that plays everyone’s favourite songs. Founded by a Wadhamite and with a strong tradition of Wadham members, DFO is a big name across the university, playing at many college balls and events each term and headlining our very own Wadstock.

**GARFUNKEL** is one of Oxford’s finest feel-good funk bands. They do original covers for the Oxford ball circuit and events, but the highlights of their year is undoubtedly Queer-fest and Wadstock. James Brown or Beyoncé – whether old or new – if it’s upbeat and funky as hell, they play it.

**6 WHILE 7** is Wadham’s very own informal, female voice choir. Set up as non-auditioning to be a casual, fun place for gals to sing their hearts out, they do anything from Disney, to Earth Wind and Fire and Aretha Franklin. As well as informal concerts in Wadham chapel, they have spot on the acoustic stage at Wadstock and meet weekly to sing whatever they choose.

**CHAPEL CHOIR**
Renowned across the university, the choir sings at Sunday evening services and special events such as Christmas dinner, and even goes on international tours.

**THE ORCHESTRA OF WADHAM AND LMH (OWL)** is a friendly, non-auditioning orchestra. Their aim is to play challenging pieces in a chilled environment. Recent pieces they have played include Shostakovich’s symphony no. 5, Gershwin’s An American in Paris, and Beethoven’s 1st and 5th symphonies. Come along for fun music and

Wadham is a great place to be if you’ve got a creative side. There are endless opportunities to get involved with music, drama and the arts at any level, as everything is set up and run by the students.

**DRAMA**

There is loads of involvement in theatre here: budding thespians can jump in straight in with drama cuppers in the 1st term, an intercollege competition specifically for Freshers. Many go on to get involved with numerous productions, be it in acting, producing, or set and costume design.

We are lucky enough to have our own Moser theatre which means that Wadham students are first in line when it comes to finding a space to put on a show or hold rehearsals. The Wadham Drama Society, is a committee of six people ensuring that regular dramatic productions occur within Wadham, by providing loans to productions involving Wadham students.

Drama enthusiasts at Wadham have some big shoes to fill – alumni include Felicity Jones, Patrick Marber, and Rosamund Pike!
ROWING (OR THE MOST SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY TO WEAR LYCRA)

Rowing is a big sport at Wadham, but most people are completely new to it! ‘Torpids’ and ‘Summer Eights’ are the two annual ‘bump’ races in Oxford where the aim is to crash boats instead of racing side by side. This usually leads to some spectacular crashes in the novice decisions which are great to watch! In 1st term there is also the Christchurch Rowing regatta which is just for novices.

WOMEN’S WEIGHTLIFTING

Wadham is the only undergraduate college with a women’s weightlifting club – their members identify as women or have a gender identity including woman. They’re a diverse group of backgrounds and abilities, anyone can lift! Unfortunately it isn’t something that’s often aimed at women. They want to change that, by encouraging people who’ve sometimes never been comfortable in a gym to lift in a safe environment, for free, both for fun and to compete. And it seems plenty are interested! It has one of the most inclusive, positive and lively atmospheres of any Wadham club!

FACILITIES

Wadham has its own indoor squash and badminton courts and a well-equipped gym with rowing machines. The university’s rugby, football and cricket pitches are only a stone’s throw away, as are the swimming pools and gyms.

SPORTS

College sport caters to all abilities, giving you the chance to get stuck in with a new sport in a casual, non-competitive way. Or, for the more dedicated, uni-wide competitions offer a more serious option.

CREW DATES

Crew dates are a big part of college sporting life and involve Wadham teams going out for dinner with other college teams.

CUPPERS

Cuppers are intercollege sports tournaments, and happen in every sport for men and women football, rugby, cricket, lacrosse, hockey, swimming – you name it! Win a cuppers competition and you might be honoured by college with a special meal...
MEET THE TUTORS

TUTOR PROFILE: KATYA

KATYA SHAMONIA - ENGINEERING
‘Our tutorials are always a very rewarding experience for me. What I particularly value in our Engineering students is their creativity and original thinking, their desire to turn physical principles into useful devices, their ability to question the authority of existing solutions and not being afraid to come up with better ones.’

TUTOR PROFILE: EMMA

EMMA COHEN- HUMAN SCIENCES
‘Students in Human Sciences take classes and tutorials across a really wide range of subjects. This is definitely challenging, but I love how the students increasingly come to see interesting and useful connections across different disciplines. We make time for this at a weekly discussion session at which all year-groups meet together and someone brings cake. These easy-going and open-minded discussions always teach me something new and often feed into my own research – they are like a breath of fresh air in my week.’

STUDENT PROFILE: ZAINAB

NAME: Zainab Majid
COURSE: Physics
YEAR: 2nd

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BEING A FRESHER?
I loved having the opportunity to meet so many new people from a variety of backgrounds. It’s wonderful to be part of a college with such a fun and friendly character.

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AT WADHAM?
Wadham was such a welcoming place from the start of my first year. It has a very warm and inclusive atmosphere and, as a consequence, I found it really easy to settle in, despite having just moved to Oxford from Abu Dhabi.

TUTOR PROFILE: OLIVIA

OLIVIA VAZQUEZ-MEDINA - SPANISH
‘An Oxford degree is not easy, but seeing my students embrace the challenge and flourish is incredibly rewarding. I really value the human, personal scale of the tutorial system and the friendly atmosphere of the College. As a Wadham alumna, being part of the College as a Fellow and tutor is particularly special.’
**MONDAY**
8am - no rush to wake up, though college breakfast is a good way to start the week!
11am economics lecture
12.30pm college lunch
Chill on bar quad, head to my room or the library to do reading
7pm - dinner

**TUESDAY**
6.30am rowing down at the Isis, practicing for college rowing competition
11am economics lecture, quick lunch
2pm - finance lecture in business then tutorial at 4
7pm - college dinner, night out

**WEDNESDAY**
6.30am college breakfast
11am lecture
12.30pm college lunch
1.30pm work in the library
4pm 'staircase tea' – a good break from work
6pm gym
7pm make myself dinner then go to an Oxford Women in Business drinks and canapés event

**THURSDAY**
6.30am rowing
10am management lecture in the business school via Tesco
11am netball match at Lady Margaret Hall college
2.30pm back in college to some food and see my friends.

**FRIDAY**
7.30am gym then breakfast
10am – economics tutorial in college, with work then chill
6pm rowing
7pm Noodle Nation on the way home to get dinner to take back to college.

**SATURDAY**
9am rowing at the Isis
11am brunch
12pm go shopping to pick up bop essentials
9pm Bop!

**SUNDAY**
Lazy morning,
12pm laundry
1pm do some of next week’s work
6pm gym
8pm dinner with rowing friends
EXPENSES

Tuition Fees
Most students will get a tuition fee loan, which you don’t have to pay back until after you finish your degree and are earning over £21,000 a year.

Accommodation
Wadham’s accommodation is among the cheapest in Oxford!

Where does the money come from?
Government maintenance loans and Oxford bursaries, fee-reductions and scholarships; financial assistance is also available from college if you find yourself in a tight spot.

Travel
Wadham students spend little or nothing on travel – almost everything you’ll need to get to is within walking or cycling distance.

Food
This depends on what you eat and how much you want to spend. You can eat all your meals in college which is pretty inexpensive – a sizeable lunch is £2-3! Or you can cook in Wadham’s student kitchens, and choose how much you want to spend.

Fun
There are lots of ways to have fun for little money in Oxford: student organised talks, charity fundraisers, film screenings and bops.

The Chaplain
Wendy Wale, our college chaplain, is a friendly face around college who is always free for a chat, whatever your beliefs are. She also does regular afternoon teas with lots of baked goods, and has an adorable dog Jonah, who is always available for a cuddle!

Wadham’s Welfairy
Know a friend who’s feeling a little down? Drop a quick email to the welfare reps and the welfairy will be there quicker than you know it with sweet treats for your friend to cheer them up!

Peer Supporters
A confidential listening service just here to make your uni experience as happy and easy as possible. They are trained, and ready-and-waiting whenever you need them!

Welfare

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Brunches, Brunches, Brunches
Feeling a little hungover or just fancy a break post-bop? Head straight over to the JCR for the welfare brunch – think bagels and cream cheese, think mini-donuts and orange juice, think vegan (and non vegan) cookies. So much tasty goodness, and it’s all free! The women’s and LGBTQIA+ officers also host similar brunches.
Wadham has SU welfare officers; 4 students who are elected each year to help support the Wadham community for example by organising brunches and Disney film nights, and Emma-Ben the colleges welfare advisor who studied at Wadham themself and has direct experience with many issues that students may struggle with.

**MEET THE PARENTS**

Who are they? 2nd years assigned to you – at least one will do your subject. Just a year before they experienced everything you’ll go through – they know exactly what it feels like to be a Wadham fresher. They can give you tips and advice on everything from the academic side of things to the best club to go to on a Thursday night.

**MERIFIELD**

Wadham also owns accommodation in Summertown. This is available to a few 2nd years and people doing degrees longer than 3 years. It’s a 10 minute cycle ride from college and everyone gets to share a clean, modern flat complete with kitchens.

**LIVING IN**

Accommodation in college is provided for everyone for 2 years of their degree, usually 1st and 3rd year. With a flat price and a selection of single, shared, modern and old rooms, everyone gets a pretty good deal. Not to mention the convenience of being in the centre of town means you can wake up just 10 minutes before that 9am lecture! In all the modern staircases there are kitchens, and you’ll share a bath/shower room with up to 4 other people. There are also two communal kitchens.

**LIVING OUT**

Cowley, home to Oxford’s most diverse road, the O2 academy, fine dining establishments (Chicken Cottage + Nandos) and the East Oxford Community Centre, is where Wadhamites live in their 2nd year. It’s a hive of local activism and indie events, and the flexibility and independence is a huge plus for many.
1. We may not wear gowns to hall, but during our annual Christmas dinner everyone sings along with the choir to ‘The 12 Days of Christmas’, with every cry of ‘5 golden rings’ seeing students and tutors alike jumping onto their seats and raising their hands in the air. Not great for the digestion, but it gets the Christmas spirit well and truly underway.

2. Thanks to our Sarah Lawrence Exchange programme, every year a group of Wadhamites get to visit New York for 3 weeks, with all expenses paid.

3. Wadham was founded by a woman, Dorothy Wadham, who fought hard against the wishes of her late husband’s family and oversaw the project from the start.

4. We do work hard at Wadham, but we never forget the importance of fresh air and friends. Every Easter there is a reading week where a group of students spend time working, chilling and cooking together in a magnificent country house in Cornwall.

5. Wadham has the most symmetrical quad in Oxford, the lawn of which you’re supposedly not allowed to walk on unless you happen to be the child of two Wadhamites.
FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BEING A FRESHER?
I was the only person from my school to come to Oxford, so I got to meet loads of new people and experience a completely different way of life! That said, the Oxford myth is just that and I personally found it an accessible and friendly place right from the off. Fresher's Week had all sorts of events that suited everyone's interests. My favourite events were the BBQ in the gardens which had a really relaxed atmosphere and was a nice way to meet new people, and the club night to Lola's after the Fresher's dinner!

EXPERIENCE OF ACCOMODATION?
You're assigned a room according to a survey on your interests etc. I was put into one of the newer buildings in college along with 8 other freshers, who were all really friendly. My room had a great view of Oxford, it was always warm and light, and there was even a balcony which we used for BBQs during the summer! Overall I loved living in college in first year - equally I had a great time living in a house with 5 friends out in Cowley during my 2nd year!

NAME: Ben Huggon
COURSE: Medicine
YEAR: 3rd

FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BEING A FRESHER?
As cheesy as it sounds, my favourite thing about being a fresher was experiencing things for the first time, knowing that they’ll be integral to my uni life for the next few years. Everything’s so new and exciting: the first time wearing Sub Fusc (what we wear for matriculation, exams and graduation), the first Wadham bop, and the first Hassan’s after a big night out... This carries on throughout the year - I experienced my first union debate and first ever croquet match (I lost) in 3rd term. Doing things for the first time mean no expectations = such a good time!

NAME: Siriol Elena Dafis
COURSE: Turkish
YEAR: 2nd

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH YOU’D BEEN TOLD?
I wish I’d been told that it’s normal to feel quite overwhelmed at the beginning of the year. The 1st term workload hit me with a force and freaked me out a bit, and I felt I was sacrificing a lot of my free time to stay on top of it all. What I didn’t realise is that most people felt like this too and it gets so much easier. You get to know your optimum working times (I found out that I work best early in the morning) and you learn to manage your time and complete your work efficiently; by 3rd term, you’re on a roll!
MADE BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS