Whether you are a school student thinking of applying to study here or a visitor to Oxford – welcome to Wadham!

Wadham College, founded in 1610, is now home to some 430 undergraduate and 200 graduate students. Wadham is one of the 38 colleges which form the University of Oxford. Here we celebrate academic excellence, diversity and independence within a progressive and liberal environment.

Wadham is proud to have been one of the first men’s colleges in Oxford to admit women, and is now well known for attracting the brightest students from the greatest variety of backgrounds to study here. As well as teaching most academic subjects, we’re a lively community with a busy programme of events for students, staff, alumni and guests – do check out our website www.wadham.ox.ac.uk to see what’s happening here this week.

Among our many notable alumni are Robert Blake, Christopher Wren, C. Day-Lewis, Michael Foot, Melvyn Bragg, Monica Ali and Rosamund Pike. The current Warden (Head of College) is former Director of Public Prosecutions, Ken Macdonald QC.

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Find out more about Wadham at
www.wadham.ox.ac.uk
A short walk around Wadham

Front Quad
Entering by the Lodge, the statues facing you from the far side of Front Quad are the College founders, Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham. Above them is King James who granted Dorothy the Royal Charter to establish the College, not long after her husband’s death in 1609. Nicholas Wadham, a member of an ancient Somerset family, had died childless and left his fortune to endow a college at Oxford. It was his 75 year old widow Dorothy who translated his intentions into reality. The original College community was small and all male with an average student intake of about 30 a year housed in the Front Quad, the door to which was locked at 9pm each evening. Gothic in style, Front Quad comprises the Lodge, Warden’s Lodgings, Hall, Chapel, Senior Common Room, function rooms and student accommodation – the oldest parts of Wadham College. These buildings were designed by master mason, William Arnold. Notable is the clock face, sited to the left of the statues, designed by Wadham alumnus Sir Christopher Wren.

It was Nicholas Wadham’s 75 year old widow Dorothy who translated his intentions into reality.

Turn left as you enter College and follow the path towards the clock. The archway on your left leads into the Fellows’ Garden where you are welcome to stroll.

The Wadham Gardens
Originally a series of orchards and market-gardens carved out from the property of the Augustinian priory, Wadham’s gardens have been significantly modified over the last four hundred years. Gardens were first created under Warden Wilkins (1648–59) as a series of formal rectangles laid out around a mound surmounted by a figure of Atlas. These gardens were notable for their series of formal rectangles laid out around a mound surmounted by a figure of Atlas. These gardens were notable for their collection of mechanical devices (including a talking statue and a rainbow-maker), a number of obelisks and a Doric temple. Wadham was then a focus of scientific interest within Europe and the regular meeting place for the nucleus of experimenters who, after 1660, became the Royal Society. Under Warden Willis (1783–1806), the terrain was radically remodelled and landscaped (by Shapley) and became notable for a distinguished collection of trees. Part of the gardens was sold for the building of Rhodes House in the 1920s and the gardens were further reshaped following the Second World War.

As you return through the archway towards Front Quad, enter the Chapel via a door to your left.

Chapel
In the Ante-chapel, the elegant young man reclining on his monument is Sir John Portman, baronet, an undergraduate who died aged 19 in 1624. The monument in the form of a pile of books commemorates Thomas Harris a Fellow who died in 1614, aged 20. The organ dates from 1877 and is one of the few instruments by Henry Willis, the doyen of Victorian English organ builders, to survive without substantial modification of its tonal design. Wadham Chapel boasts an original pulpit. Its Chapel screen, like that in the dining Hall, was carved by John Bolton who was paid £82 for both. The stone altarpiece was inserted in the east end of the Chapel in 1832. The magnificent east window was made by Dutchman, Bernard van Linge, for £113 in 1621. It was Nicholas Wadham’s 75 year old widow Dorothy who translated his intentions into reality. The original College community was small and all male with an average student intake of about 30 a year housed in the Front Quad, the door to which was locked at 9pm each evening. Gothic in style, Front Quad comprises the Lodge, Warden’s Lodgings, Hall, Chapel, Senior Common Room, function rooms and student accommodation – the oldest parts of Wadham College. These buildings were designed by master mason, William Arnold. Notable is the clock face, sited to the left of the statues, designed by Wadham alumnus Sir Christopher Wren.

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The Hall
The Hall, one of the largest in Oxford, is notable for its great hammer-beam roof and for the Jacobean woodwork of the entrance screen. The portraits include those of the founders and of distinguished College members. The Hall is used for College dinners, reunion dinners, school visits, conference functions and B&B breakfasts during University holidays.

Exit the Chapel and enter the dining Hall located under the Wadham statues in Front Quad. Please note that entrance to the dining Hall is restricted when the room is in use.

Back Quad
Buildings of varying ages and origins surround the informal Back Quad including the large Donald Locke Staircase (staircase 9), built as College rooms in 1693. Other buildings are adapted for College purposes from other uses; they include a former warehouse which the Oxford University Press used for storing Bibles (staircases 10 and 11), the upper floors of the King’s Arms pub and several domestic buildings. Opened in October 2012, the McCall MacBain Graduate Centre was designed by Lee/Fitzgerald Architects. It is located on the site of the former Blackwell’s music shop. The Centre has its own terraced garden with access to adjoining student rooms and provides a dedicated work and social space for Wadham’s graduate students. Under construction (until 2020) are two buildings designed by AL_A architects. The William Doo Undergraduate Centre comprises JCR, café, study and social spaces and the Dr Lee Shau Kee Building houses the College’s extensive access and outreach programme, as well as providing student accommodation, a music room and lecture space. Steps beside the Undergraduate Centre lead to a glass and concrete building with lead roof, designed by Gillespie, Kidd and Coia. Opened in 1978 it includes a large library and student rooms. Situated to the rear of the College site, the Bowra Building, designed by MacCormac, Jamieson & Pritchard, opened in 1992. It includes student rooms, a cafeteria, bar, seminar rooms, squash court and the Moser Theatre. Wadham’s Holywell Music Room is said to be the oldest, purpose-built music room in Europe, and hence England’s first concert hall.

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Please take extra care when walking around the College as, due to the age of some of the buildings, stairs and walkways may be uneven and slippery during wet and icy conditions.