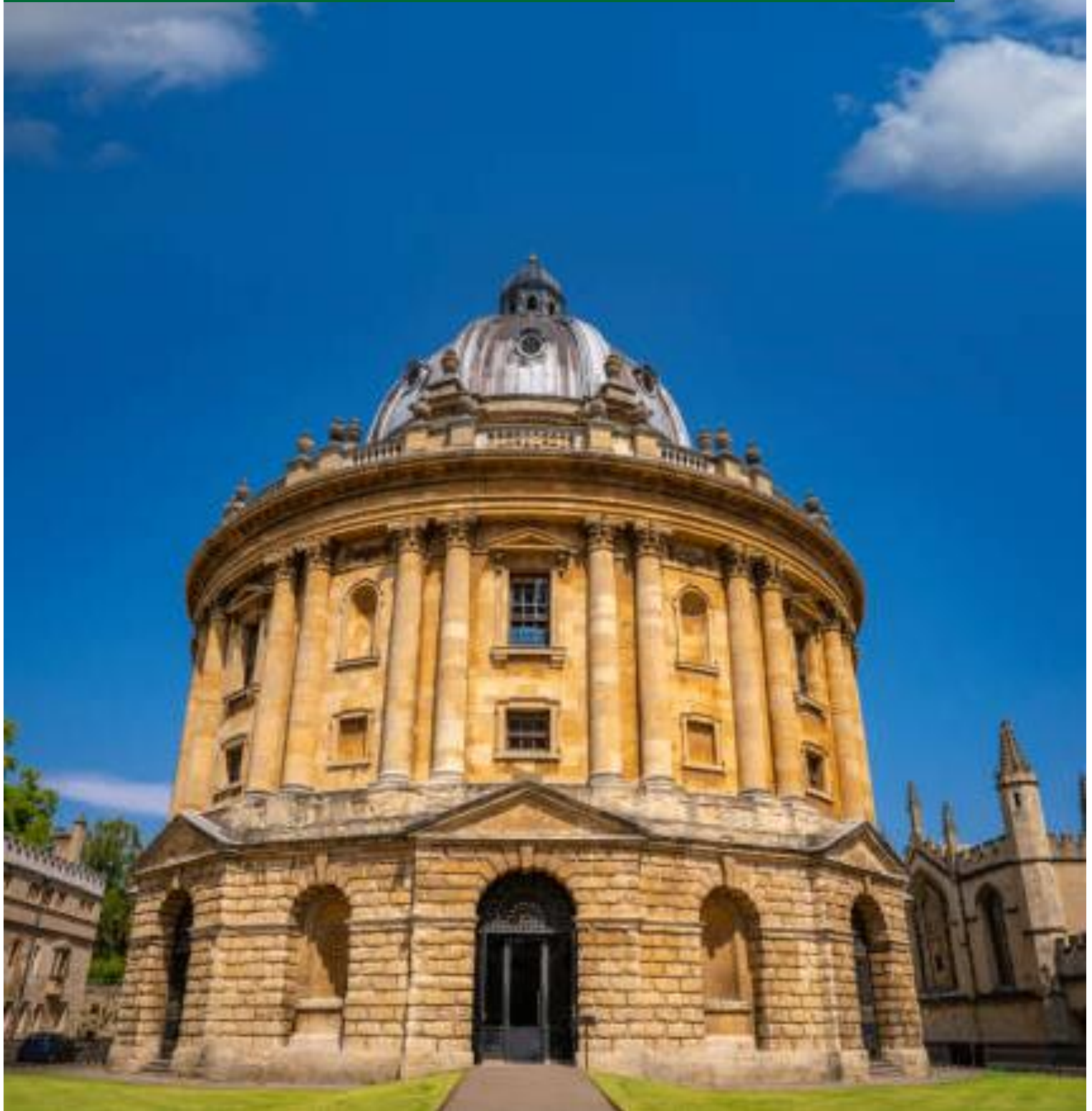


# Getting to Know Oxford



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## Online Library Services

### SOLO

Use SOLO to search for printed and electronic books, journals and other materials in Oxford Libraries. SOLO covers the Bodleian Libraries and most College and other Libraries associated with the University. To access SOLO visit [http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=SOLO&lang=en\\_US&sortby=rank](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=SOLO&lang=en_US&sortby=rank). For more information check out Oxford LibGuides (link above).

### OxLIP+

Individual e-journals and databases may be accessed via both SOLO and OxLIP+. However, OxLIP+ offers some additional functionality including the ability to browse lists of databases by subject. Access OxLIP+ at <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php>.

### New to Oxford?

Library Assistant for Oxford Freshers provides guidance for undergraduates on which libraries to use, understanding your reading list, how to find and borrow books and journals, key passwords and how to use our print, copy and scan services. It also provides information for readers with disabilities. Access Library Assistant at <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/assistant>.

### Oxford LibGuides

Oxford LibGuides is the home of Oxford's subject and research guides. Here you will find an A-Z of subjects with overviews of key tools and resources for each discipline. You will also find guidance on topics such as information discovery, reference management and measuring impact as well as our workshops timetable. Access Oxford LibGuides at <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/oxford>

## **Bodleian i-Skills**

Bodleian Libraries run a range of workshops in information discovery and scholarly communications. Workshops cover search skills, reference management tools such as RefWorks and Mendeley, current awareness, measuring impact, open access publishing, research data management and more. For full details check the timetable at <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops>.

*This section is kindly reviewed by Laura Jackson and Anna Cowling  
(updated by Celia)*

## Study spaces in Oxford

*"In Oxford there is plenty of choice for places to work - from beautiful old libraries like the RadCam, to more modern, open spaces like the SSL (Social Sciences Library). There are also many cafes which are fantastic spaces to work in, if you need a change of scenery."*

## Library information

If you're lucky you might be able to find a "map of Libraries in Oxford" booklet at the University Freshers' Fair - fortunately for you guys we have reproduced that material on here so it's easy for you to access whenever, especially if you couldn't find or have lost said booklet. Of course all the material here belongs to the Bodleian Libraries and their contact details can be found at the bottom.

## Library information and opening hours

For Library opening hours, contact details and further information please see <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/subjects-and-libraries/libraries>. Guidance on Library provision and materials by subject can be found on Oxford LibGuides at <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/oxford>

## Libraries

It's important to note that as a student at Oxford you can go to any of these libraries, as long as you have your Bod Card! Just because you're a sciences student doesn't mean you're totally banned from the humanities libraries (although some humanities students might like you to think you are..) and vice versa. Note that you can't go to the libraries of any other college (but why would you when you've got JESUS) . General opening times for Bodleian libraries are 9am-10pm on weekdays, 10am-4pm on Saturdays and 12pm-6pm on Sundays but check <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/subjects-and-libraries/opening-hours> for specific times for different libraries. Bear

in mind the early weekend closing time if you're wanting to get any books out and the magic words \*online access\* aren't an option. Also worth noting that in most of these libraries, you're only allowed a bottle of water and a hot drink IF it's in a Keep Cup, so no snacks :( - on the plus side they all have plenty of plug points and (generally) good WiFi.

### **Rad Cam**

Pros - One of the most famous/iconic libraries in England/the UK/Europe/the world. THE tourist attraction of Oxford. You are literally working inside the snapchat filter. You might find a secret admirer writes an Oxlove about you, if you frequent here often enough ;) ... or the perfect spot to find subject matter for a couple of Oxloves of your own...

Cons - can get very busy, but if you go up to the Upper Camera you are bound to find a desk - if you want a desk in the Lower Camera, you need to go early. If you are on the balcony of the Upper Camera, be prepared for little/no WiFi.

### **Bod**

Pros - lots of DPhil students and wrinkly academics so incentive not to be on Facebook. Easy system for accessing books from the closed stack - just request on SOLO, receive the email notifying you of said book's arrival and then find it on the shelves there. Lots of desks in the Upper and Lower Reading Rooms so you're pretty much guaranteed a seat, especially if you walk through the first room. Duke Humfrey's is the Harry Potter library so a very cool environment to work in.

Cons - reading rooms can get hot in the summer (although you can just open a window), but quite a nice & cosy feel in the winter. There are always tourists in the central courtyard, and this can be (a bit) noisy. Gets busy during exam season (but this is the same everywhere). If you work in Duke Humfrey's you have to put your stuff in a locker, which can be annoying. In the Upper Reading Room, one end has good WiFi and the other has terrible WiFi (the end with desks U220 etc is bad, U20 is good)

### **Gladstone Link**

Pros = Popular choice for English students or another option if you just want somewhere new. The movable shelves are quite fun (just check there's no one inside before you move them!). Underground so temperamental WiFi is incentive not to go on Facebook. Can't be distracted by the beautiful surroundings because it's a modern build. No daylight means in winter you don't notice how quickly it gets dark.

Cons = The ceilings are quite low so not recommended for the taller student. Coupled with the low-level lighting this can make you feel a bit sleepy. Temperamental WiFi in the Lower Gladstone Link which might put you off. Some think it can be quite a depressing environment, especially because there's no daylight (but perfect if you're part goblin). The central heating broke a couple times last year, and gets very cold if this happens in winter.

### **Weston**

Pros = Cafe here as well so more food opportunities. Less well-known amongst students and very quiet so a good option to have up your sleeve.

Cons = The cafe is not cheap. Requirement that you put all your stuff in lockers before you go in and ban on taking in pens mean extra faff particularly if you forget something.

### **Taylor Institution**

Languages and linguistics library

Pros = beautiful library. Only a 5 minute walk from Jesus. Lots of hidden nooks and crannies. This is also the 'flirting' library, so also another good place to go if you want an OxLove written about you/want to find someone to write one about.

Cons = it's quite difficult to get a desk in the Main Reading Room, unless you're there super early or go later in the afternoon. It's a bit of a maze.

### **SSL**

Social scientists this is the library for you!

Pros = it has a cafe! The food is similar to what is served in hall at Jesus, and a similar price although you pay with cash. It's light, spacious and modern and has loads of different work spaces, including standing desks.

Cons = quite far from college (about 10-15min walk). Cafe is closed at the weekends.

### **Rad Sci**

The place to go for physical/actual/boring science (delete as appropriate) - you will still find social science books here so ideal for subjects that are a bit confused where they stand \*cough\* geography \*cough\*

Pros = Lots of space to work with 8 different levels so hopefully you'll find somewhere you like and can spread out when you get there. Vending machines including sandwiches and coffee. Water coolers too so you can keep hydrated. Some more open areas for group work with tables you can draw on and dedicated group spaces tucked away too.

Cons = the basement (level 2) is notorious for its lack of light, heat and its general atmosphere of despair. Some say this incentivises you to get the work done, others say you can't work if you feel like your hand will fall off so personal choice really.

### **SSL - The Social Science Library**

This is the home of many PPEists. It's about a 10/15 minute walk from Jesus, and is next to St Catz and the Law Faculty and English Faculty libraries (you can use those too!). Plugs on every table (unlike the Law Faculty library) and also a cafe which (as far as I know is pretty cheap). There is lots of space to work, especially the individual cloisters - small rooms but they have their own door and lock so it's a perfect place to be productive. It's also where PPEists and HisPolists will take their Q-Step classes (the lab is located at the back of the library). They also hold lectures here (politics ones, mainly)

Pros = It's nice to be a step away from the centre - it makes you feel



like you've left bed to go somewhere to be purposefully productive - I found this useful during Prelims!

Cons = It's a bit further away. Also, in the cloisters, if you're using a MacBook charger, the big block won't fit so you'll need to use the extender wire! (first world problems...)

We haven't listed every library here - there's other great ones like the English Faculty Library, Law Library and the Oxford Union Society Library - but there's too many to review! They are all great, so make sure to check out the ones listed above, your faculty library and, of course, the college library!

## **Cafés/Restaurants**

Here are our top picks of the best cafes to do your work in!

### **Waterstones Cafe**

A stone's throw from college, situated on the corner of Cornmarket and Broad Street, Waterstones has a lovely cafe on the second floor. Being in a bookshop, there is a relaxed but fairly academic feel to it (some lecturers have been known to get their post-lecture coffees here...). It gets very busy at peak times (11-1 very busy, then at about 3-4 busy again) so get there early if you want a good table! Ideal for ploughing through your reading list with a cup of tea in hand. Bear in mind there aren't lots of plug points, so don't go when it's busy and you're on 20%.

### **Mortons (on New Hall Inn Street)**

Mortons have a few outlets throughout the city, but the one on New Inn Hall Street (go up St Michael's Street and turn left) has a large upstairs with plenty of tables, perfect for getting some work done in a more relaxed setting. In the winter they have a fire going downstairs - fab if you're feeling a bit chilly and want to read a book or plan an essay with some hot chocolate.

## **Pret**

Pret can get quite busy, but is so close to Jesus it would be silly to miss it off this list. There is a lot of seating (upstairs too) and is a great place to nip in and out of between lectures and tutes.

## **LEON**

Again, very local to Jesus and the upstairs section particularly makes a good working space with lots of seats, plug access and reliable WiFi. Combine with a cheeky breakfast for an extra boost in the morning.

## **Café Nero**

Not normally heard around Jesus as a work zone, it actually has the best air conditioning in Oxford in Summer. Yeah, thank us later. Hot chocolate here is quite bitter and the coffee pretty strong. There's also a Cafe Nero in Blackwells - it gets busy from lunchtime onwards but is quite a nice and relaxed place to work.

## **In College**

In college there are a number of places you can study...

### **Your room**

Studying in your room... some people love it, some people hate it. If you are in a double set, there is a definite split between where you sleep and where you study, but for the rest of you the lines may blur with your desk being next to your bed.

Pros = nobody else to distract you, loo/food/fridge in close proximity. No worries about lugging folders anywhere. You pick the temperature. Probably the only place where it is socially acceptable to study lying on the floor.

Cons = potentially noisy depending on the location of your room, temptation to nap/aimlessly scroll through Instagram/snapchat. Hard to ignore anyone knocking on your door or chat in the corridor outside.

## **JCR**

The JCR is another option if you're wanting a more relaxed space.

Pros = nearby food access from the Hatch including the legendary COOKIES, very comfortable, good for group work.

Cons = maybe too comfortable, again noise from Cornmarket and anyone playing pool

## **The Conservatory**

Pros = popular for revision in Trinity due to its light and airy feel.

Seeing people go past reminds you that other people exist.

Cons = can get really hot if it's sunny. Not much space on each table.

## **Room hire in College**

You don't have to be a tutor to hire out a room! On the Jesus College Intranet page, go to online services and there's a link for meeting room requests where you can then book out one of the Seminar Rooms or the Harold Wilson Room. The Seminar Rooms have whiteboards and a big screen which you can plug a laptop into making it ideal for group work and a natural habitat for fresher physicists and mathematicians in the run up to exams.

## **Jesus College library**

24-hour access. You can request the librarians to order in a specific book by going to the Jesus Intranet. You'll find the link on the Online Services page and you'll be notified when the book arrives. This reduces the need to buy any books :) - there's a book grant form which you submit at the end of Trinity so keep the receipts of any books you do buy. Also, bit more info on the dedicated WELFARE section in the LM; you'll find books covering a range of topics and issues, academic and non-academic which you can take out anonymously and for however long you want :).

+ We now have pillows in the library for those who find the library seats uncomfortable, and can confirm that these are lifesavers

- **LM**

Jesus Library is split into different sections. The lighting in LM is quite bright (if you like this mood of lighting then that's good), you can normally find a desk on the balcony if you're in before 10. Pros = it's in Jesus. If you are a balcony lover, I guess this is your library. Cons = can get busy, especially downstairs, during Trinity. Temptation to communicate across the balcony with your friends.

- **UM**

The UM has lots of different workspaces, including round tables which are up the stairs at the back. The light is softer than downstairs and it has much higher ceilings. It also has adjustable height tables if you like those! Pros = it's in Jesus, high ceilings, many books. Cons = you can hear the buskers on Cornmarket all day. Probably best to just get used to it. Does get warm in the summer but there are fans available and the librarians are very responsive to any concerns

- **Periodicals**

The most 'relaxed' space in Jesus Library, you are allowed to eat & drink (non-alcoholic beverages only) in here. Pros = you can talk to your friends; you can eat/drink. Cons = you can hear everyone talking outside in Third Quad (maybe that's a pro??); you probably won't get much work done in here....

### **Second Quad (during Trinity)**

If you can find a patch of grass which hasn't been taken over by the croquet set, second quad is a lovely place to work, as long as you don't mind being interrupted fairly regularly by people stopping to chat, and the risk of the occasional croquet ball being fired towards you. The benches are also nice to sit on and read in the sunshine. Pros = beautiful if sunny, you can look at the wisteria, you feel like a proper Oxford student. Cons = the WiFi connection isn't that great, probably will end up talking to lots of people and procrastinating.

## **Pubs**

### **The Bear**

Oldest pub in Oxford. Small bar and around £4/5 a pint, but the setting makes up for it.

### **The Eagle and Child**

This is where Tolkien and C.S. Lewis had their weekly writing meetings. Very atmospheric and on St Giles.

### **The Four Candles (Spoons)**

£3/pint

The cheapest pints in Oxford located on George Street. Almost feels like it's not a chain pub. Located on George Street.

### **The Head of the River**

### **The Kings Arms**

Open until midnight, which is an hour longer than most Oxford pubs. However, it is objectively (they did a survey) most expensive pub in the UK. Nice if you can get tutors/parents to pay for it.

### **Lamb and Flag**

Right next to St John's, not hugely populated by students.

### **O'Neills**

Irish pub on George Street. Quite expensive but a good place to catch the football.

### **The Royal Blenheim**

The favourite pub of the Welshies (especially the ones in Jesus) and a brilliant place to watch the Six Nations or World Cup. I don't actually know the cost of a pint because I'm always too engrossed in the rugby, but I think it's around £4 for a pint of cider.

### **St Aldates Tavern**

Another good place for football (both soccer and American football) and folk music if you're into that sort of thing. Located, surprise surprise, on St Aldates. Note: students playing for the Oxford Lancers get a discount.

### **The Swan and Castle (Spoons)**

The second Spoons in Oxford. Feels a bit more like a chain pub than the Four Candles, but still nice

### **The Chequers**

More mainstream feeling pub off the High Street. Expensive but nice and well decorated. Very good selection of alcohols and a courtyard beer garden.

### **The White Rabbit**

### **Three Goats Head**

£4.50/pint

Small Samuel Smith pub on St Michael's Street. Quite expensive, but nice and very close to college.

### **Turf Tavern**

£4.80/pint

Old, famous, and pretty good - especially when the weather is nice, and you can sit outside. Bill Clinton 'did not inhale' in this pub. Good food too.

### **Wig and Pen**

Another pub on George Street. Sort of turns into a disco late at night. Not the most popular venue for students.

### **The Pint Shop**

On George Street. The closest thing that Oxford has to a craft beer pub.

## **Royal Oak**

Located just above St Giles just opposite the old Radcliffe Infirmary.  
Expensive but nice.

## Clubs

### Park End (Atik)

This is the biggest club in the centre of Oxford, with 3 floors: Cheese, R&B and House. This club is sure to suit well those classic clubbers who don't want/need any edge in their party night. The best night to hit up Park End is Wednesday, as it's a staple of the student clubbing scene, and there's always plenty of sports teams there. Mondays are Broke Mondays - very popular with Brookes students, but not a massive Jesus night out. Broke Mondays are Atik's special nights where there's reduced entry and most drinks are a pound.

### Plush

Oxford's only gay club. Situated in the basement of the Union, Plush is known for its great vibe. Tues-gay Skittles and Bent Saturdays are always big - drinks are decently priced and there's always good music. Even though Thursdays are free for Union members after the debates, most students opt for Bridge, so it can be pretty empty - the new location in the Union means that unless it's Tuesday or Saturday, it can seem a bit lacklustre. Close to college (literally a one minute walk), so you can go pretty late if you want to.

### Bridge

The best smoking area in Oxford - even for non-smokers. Also two floors and decent music. Thursday Nights are huge at Bridge

### Bully/O2

Bit further from central Oxford but they have niche DJ nights that seem to be quite popular.



## Food

- **Gloucester Green Market** is one of the best things to come to Oxford in the recent past. It's a big, only slightly hipster, food market in a square two minutes from college. The stalls change quite regularly so there is always some variety however the Chinese dumplings, Gyoza, various curries and Ethiopian stalls are all firm favourites. Prices tend to be from 5-7 pounds for a very decently sized lunch. The market is open on Wednesdays/Thursdays and on Saturdays.
- **Mission Burrito** - An indispensable asset for any fresher. Very large and authentic burritos. They also have a loyalty card scheme so every 9th burrito is free. Also 30% off for students on Wednesdays. Located on St Michael's Street just opposite the Union. 6-8 pounds
- **Itsu** - Chain sushi restaurant on Cornmarket. Half price after 8:30pm everyday
- **Wasabi** - Chain sushi on Cornmarket just next to boots.
- **Leon** - Wraps and things; with a 15% student discount with Bod Card!
- **Edamame** - Intimate little Japanese restaurant on Holywell street. Has oddly irregular opening hours. Closed Monday and Tuesday but open other days. 10 pounds+ but worth it you wanna treat yourself
- **GBK Chain Burger** restaurant on George Street. 10 pounds +
- **Byron** - Chain Burger restaurant on George Street. 10 pounds +
- **Angrid Thai** - Cheap and nice Thai on Gloucester Green just opposite the Odeon.
- **G&D's** - There are two of these Oxford ice cream shops. One on Little Clarendon Street and another on St Aldates. 3 quid or so for one scoop. They also do waffles, bagels and other stuff.

- **The Rickety Press** - Freshers of Jesus, don't fear, and venture out into Jericho - it's not actually that far, and it's where this lovely pub/restaurant is located. They do really great pizza (gluten free, too), burgers (veggie, too), and cocktails. Half price burgers on Tuesday, Happy (two) hour(s) 5-7pm.
- **Franco Manca** - Possibly the best pizza restaurant in Oxford. Only about 2 minutes away from Jesus, and you can order online to pick up. Pizza and a bottle of beer for only £7ish!

## Treat yourself food

*There are loads of nice places on the roof of Westgate- a really nice place to go when you have friends or family visiting. Top picks are:*

- **The Alchemist** - a really cool ~sciency~ cocktail bar that's always teeming with people. With drinks that change colours, and some that change flavours (??) you'll never *not* be surprised
- **Mowgli** - amazing Indian food from what I've heard. Quite reasonable as well.
- **Pizza Pilgrims** - quality pizza and what's better- they do half price student discount from Monday-Wednesday
- **The Breakfast Club** - so good for brunch, also so good if you want pancakes for dinner
- **Sticks 'n' Sushi** - for those who want high quality (and higher priced) Itsu/Wasabi
- **Victors** - based on New York food from the Hamptons - really quite pricy but \*amazing\* pasta

## Coffee/Tea

- **Vaults and Garden** – With its scenic location in Radcliffe Square, this café is a must if you feel like doing something intensely Oxford – they do breakfast, and lunch, but most importantly really great scones for £3, which give you life in stressful times
- **Brown's Café** – Located in the Covered Market, has been there for ages, traditional, great hangover food, Full English Breakfast.
- **George Street Social** – also does cocktails
- **Handlebar** – also does brunches, nice eggs benedict and vegan breakfast
- **The Missing Bean** – does sandwiches
- **Pret** – college's favourite go-to coffee on Cornmarket. Notorious for setting off their fire alarm in the dead of night causing third quad to evacuate their rooms. Buy a Jesus College KeepCup from the Lodge and Pret will give you 50p off any hot drink – which makes a filter coffee only 49p!
- **Starbucks** – on Cornmarket and do what they say on the tin. Go if you're feeling basic
- **Amt Coffee** – coffee cart at the junction of ship street and Cornmarket. The closest coffee to college.
- **Costa**
- **Cafe Nero** – at the top of high street as well as at Gloucester Green
- **Chattime bubble tea** on Gloucester Street. Around 4 quid.
- **Society Café** – right opposite the Oxford Union on St Michaels.
- **Jericho Café** – a bit of a walk (it's near Stevens, the second-year accommodation) but has such an expansive menu it took me at least 25 minutes to make up my mind

- **MooMoo Milkshakes** - cheap and 10% off if you're a Union member!
- **Knoops** - just opened on Turl Street: amazing hot chocolate