

## What to Bring?

Packing for the first time can be a gargantuan task. It can seem like there's too many suitcases, and the packing list is too long! So, here's our tips to make packing as smooth, seamless and stress-free as possible.

The first step to productive packing is to side-line everything and dedicate time to getting it done - put on your music, and systematically go through your room at home. Then you've saved plenty of time, instead of trying to write a packing list and staring blankly into your suitcase. Also, you will always feel as though you've brought too much stuff - don't worry about this, it will all fit in your room!



## Clothes

We hope clothes are at the top of your list anyway (a certain Night Porter tells us that nudity is not condoned by Jesus College, Oxford, even when solicited by being 8-balled at pool – see the framed rules in the JCR pool room for more details), but here are some things you might forget:

- **Wet weather clothes** – Oxford can get cold and damp, so it's a good idea to bring a warm waterproof coat and some good shoes to get around in the rain.
- **Black tie stuff** – Oxford is known for its dressy events, and we are no exception at Jesus. For girls, bring along maybe 2-3 cocktail dresses and a pair of more formal shoes, and you'll be set for the Christmas Dinner Dance at the end of term, as well as any other events you find yourself at. NB if you'll be wearing a bowtie to matriculation, it apparently has to be a white one (though if you wear a black one I'm sure nobody will complain).
- **Sub fusc** – speaking of matriculation, you need to wear 'academic dress', or 'sub fusc', for it. Matriculation is a brief formal initiation ceremony that happens at the end of 2nd week or so, and you have to buy annoyingly specific clothing for it. Check the university website, or the student handbook, for details. You can get hold of sub fusc from many different shops in Oxford, so don't worry if you haven't bought it in advance. You can buy sub-fusc second hand as well.
- **Fancy dress** – you really don't need anything spectacular, and definitely nothing expensive, but if you have anything small and versatile that can work as a costume, bring it along and you'll definitely get the chance to use it at a bop – but remember, there's nothing you can't achieve with some foil, cardboard and paint.
- **Sports kit** – again, this isn't compulsory and doesn't need to be expensive, but if you're looking to get involved with any sports, or you want to go for runs/swims/reverse skydiving out of jet planes, then don't forget to bring some gear (parachutes are advisable for some activities). If you're planning on joining a specific College or University team, there's a stash on offer for most of them that you can buy after joining.

## Documents

Here are the basic documents you can consider bringing:

- **Your passport** – you'll need this for ID registration on the first day of Freshers' Week, so it's an absolute must. After that, if you want to work in the bar, you need it to complete a 'Right to Work' in college. It's worth keeping hold of rather than sending it home with your parents.
- **Bank details** – these are useful in preventing milk shortages due to lack of funds, and may be required for any number of other reasons. If you bring your latest bank statement, it should say all the details you might need somewhere on the page. (N.B- if you're an International student and you need to open a bank account, you'll have to get an enrolment certificate stamped by college first)
- **Any insurance details for laptops/phones etc** – if you have any.
- **GP details** – if you're sticking with your one at home instead of switching to the practice on Banbury Road. Having the name of your doctor and the address of the clinic can be useful in emergencies.

## Work stuff

Of course, in the midst of all the fancy dress and annoying admin, joining the Jesus College family also means you're becoming a student – but try not to panic at the idea of actual work, and enjoy the stationery shopping instead! We have WHSmith and Ryman's round the corner, but some things are best bought in advance. Here are some suggestions:

- **Laptop (and charger)** – you deserve a going-away present, right? If you don't have one, don't worry – there's a 24-hour computer room in staircase 15's basement.
- **All the books** – if you're a humanities student, this is probably the most significant part of your work packing. It's good to bring the key texts on your reading list, but you can always find any books you need in a library somewhere, whether in college, at your subject's faculty, or in the Bodleian.
- **Larger notebook** – good for having lecture notes in one place.
- **Some nice pens** – treat yourself
- **Lined paper**
- **A diary** – there'll be a lot going on, so academic diaries are very useful for keeping track of where you're meant to be, and when. Rymans do a good weekly A5 one.
- **Pencils** – do scientists actually use these? Bring them just in case I guess.
- **A calculator** (read: that fancy Casio one everyone got for GCSE Maths) – if you do science things. Also, any other mathsy stuff that I don't know about – protractors, compasses, rulers – who knows what STEM students need, ask your faculty/an actual STEM student.

## Your Room

Rooms vary a lot in general size, bed size, number of surfaces, and the number of stairs you have to climb before you actually get there. Still, what is provided in each room, and therefore what you need to bring, is the more or less same for all of them.

Each room has a bed with a mattress, a mattress protector and a pillow, as well as 10 coat hangers and maybe an extra blanket (not provided in all rooms).

College has this bedding package you can buy when you complete an accommodation form before arriving, and it includes a duvet, a sheet, a duvet cover and a pillowcase. However, if you don't order this, you need to bring your own duvet as well as all the bedding. Here's details of that, as well as anything else you might want to bring to make your room your own:

- **A duvet** – if you didn't buy the package. Some beds are small doubles (e.g. the beds in st18 and Ship Street) and some are singles, but single sheets/duvets can work for both.
- **Bedsheets, duvet covers and pillowcases** – again, if you didn't buy the package. Two of each of these should be about right, but you can cope with one if you use the tumble dryers in the laundry room to dry them in time for when you sleep.
- **Extra blankets or pillows or cushions** – optional (every room already has one pillow, and an extra blanket is provided in some rooms).
- **Alarm clock** – your most powerful weapon to take on early morning lectures. (or just use your phone)
- **Towels** – bringing two is advisable. Hand towels and bathmats for bathrooms aren't provided so bring them along if you want, but you can do without them if you're trying to save space packing.
- **Extension cords** – useful for when you want to charge your phone and your laptop at the same time (reckless, I know).
- **Adaptors**- if you're a student from Overseas then this will 100% be useful
- **Kettle**- an absolute need.
- **Some crockery** – definitely bring a mug or fifteen, and a bowl could be useful too.
- **Cutlery** – also a good idea, especially teaspoons for hot drinks and a maybe a fork and knife.

## What you DON'T necessarily need to bring

- A desk lamp - already issued
- A pillow - already issued
- A mini fridge - each room has a fridge
- A printer - printing costs in college are very reasonable and printers are very bulky
- A bike (but if you do bring one, make sure you have a helmet) - you really don't need one in first year, especially given that you can always ask a 2nd/3rd year to borrow theirs! Finally, if you're getting one just for Oxford, you really don't need to spend more than 100 quid - trust.

- Cooking stuff - **things like rice cookers and toastie makers are not allowed in rooms**, and you don't have access to kitchens in first year; there is a microwave in the JCR however, which works wonders.
- An iron - these aren't allowed in students' rooms because of safety hazards, but there are two irons in the laundry room

To make packing even more stress-free, [here's a downloadable spreadsheet](#) on what we think you guys should bring! This is just a suggestion, so just use this as a basis for packing.