

## Pre-Arrival guide ahead of your arrival

We created this guide to help you prepare for your stay in the UK



### Typical temperatures in the UK

The British climate is varied and unpredictable. It can be raining one minute and then blue skies the next. Temperatures rarely go above 32°C in the summer and can go as low as -5°C in the winter.

The warmest months are June to August and the coldest months are November to February.

### Central heating

All college houses have central heating, but you might not be used to the temperatures. We advise you to pack clothes that you can layer such as T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters.

### Your responsibilities

You will be responsible for washing your own clothes (and personal towels for swimming), using washing machines and dryers in your residential house.

### Bed linen and towels

You do not need to bring residential bed linen or towels. We provide these for each student.

If you prefer to personalise your (shared) room, you may bring your own bed linen or towels or buy these in Oxford. However, you are responsible for washing these along with your clothes.

### Personal security

St Clare's provides each residential student with a small safe for storing valuable items like passport, BRP card, money and travellers cheques.

We strongly recommend that you do not carry large sums of money around with you as this can result in theft.

### Learning equipment

All college buildings provide wi-fi access.

All students are encouraged to bring a laptop computer with them. The choice of laptop is at parent(s)/legal guardian(s) discretion.

We can support both Windows and Apple laptops, but we would recommend a Windows 10/Mac OS 10.12 or later, because it offers the best compatibility for our systems and software.

Upon arrival, we give students free access to Microsoft Office 365 on their laptops/devices.

We cannot support Linux products at all. Samsung Galaxy tablets, iPads, iPad Pros and other such tablets are not recommended as suitable work devices, even with attachable keyboards.

### Electrical appliances

British voltage is 240 volts and appliances have a 3-pin plug. You may need to buy a universal adapter for any appliances you want to bring with you. If you bring an electronic device with you, please make sure you bring headphones.

## What to bring

### Personal items

- **Toiletry items**
- **Mobile phone + charger**  
*Students must bring a mobile phone with a UK mobile or SIM card when they first arrive\*.*
- **Laptop (which supports Microsoft Office) + charger**  
*We also recommend you bring an external hard drive for local back-up, plus installation discs supplied with the laptop.*
- **Plug socket adaptors for the UK.**
- **Bank card for ATMs, etc.**
- **Any medication you normally take.**
- **Passport and any visa / medical / insurance documentation – in your hand luggage.**
- **Letter of consent to travel – in your hand luggage.**
- **Face masks** - currently there are no requirements to wear a face mask within the school environment.
- **Anti-bacterial gel.**

*\*There is a selection of mobile phone shops in Oxford city centre.*

### Clothing and towels

- Students and staff dress casually during the day for lessons.
- There are occasions where you may want to dress more formally, so we suggest bringing 1 or 2 special outfits for special occasions like birthdays or formal occasions.
  - For example, on our Model United Nations Day students wear business attire.
  - You may wish to bring your national costume for our international evenings.
- Bring clothes and shoes suitable for a range of sports and outdoor activities (like Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions), plus layers for the unpredictable British weather!
- You may wish to bring a towel for swimming or other sports.

### Stationery

- Pen, paper, pencil, eraser, ruler, etc. You will be able to buy additional stationery in Oxford as and when necessary.
- If you have a dictionary, you may wish to bring this too.
- If you have a scientific calculator, please bring it with you. Alternatively, you can buy one through the **Library Book Shop** when you arrive.
- Textbooks will be required. Department Teachers/Librarian will be able to advise on this.

This is not an exhaustive list, but we hope it provides a guide to help you plan your stay in the UK.

*This guide was updated in September 2022*