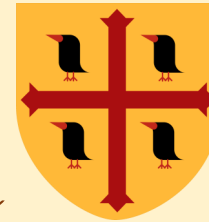


TEDDY HALL

alternative prospectus



written by students, for students

WELCOME TO TEDDY HALL

First things first, 'Teddy Hall' is our pet name for St Edmund Hall.

Somewhere down the line, somebody shortened Edmund to Ed, which then became Teddy, and now you'll never hear anyone call it by its proper name.

We like to think that the name suits the college. Its buildings are often described as 'cute' and a far cry from the towering walls you might find elsewhere in the city. The Front Quad (the grassy rectangle just beyond the entrance), with its colourful flowers and quaint architecture, is more reminiscent of a village green than your conventional image of an Oxford college – and despite its size, it's considered by many to be one of the prettiest in the university. As soon as you walk in you get the sense that this is a place where you'd be as happy to live as you would to work.

However, buildings don't make a college, and it's the community spirit that really sets Teddy Hall apart. From the moment you step in – whether that's on an open day, for an interview, or even at the start of your first term – you'll find current students on hand to offer friendly conversation and advice. It's a sense of camaraderie known as 'Hall Spirit' which stays with you long after you've left – as demonstrated by the many 'Aularians', or past students, who return every year to reminisce about the time they spent here.

Doing a degree at Oxford is a challenge no matter which college you go to, but being part of a friendly and inclusive community like this one can make things a whole lot easier – and hopefully over the next few pages you'll see what makes Teddy Hall so special!

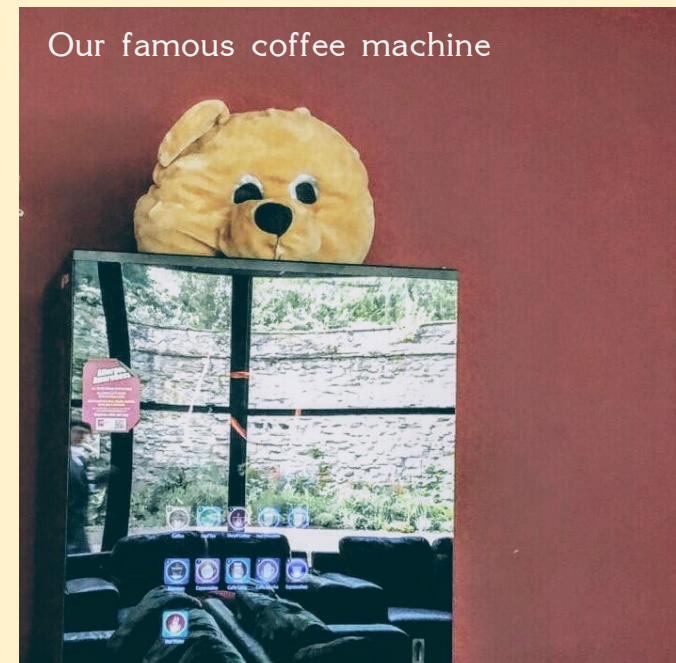


THE JCR

The JCR, or Junior Common Room, is the collective term for the undergraduate student body. We have a student committee which organises everything we do and communicates with the college, so we get our say on how it's run.

It's also a common space which has a TV, pool table, quiz machine, and a free coffee machine!

Teddy Hall has one of the most welcoming JCRs in Oxford; you get to know everyone as soon as you arrive because of our small site and fantastic community spirit. Right from first setting foot in the college during Freshers' Week there are loads of current students waiting to meet you and help you move in, and the JCR puts on loads of events throughout the year which everyone gets involved in. We even have pizzas at our committee meetings, which are held every two weeks and involve the whole college coming together to discuss upcoming things such as fundraisers, movie screenings, sports matches and concerts.



Michaelmas Term

(October - December)

Freshers' Week

Your first week as a student in Oxford. There are lots of social activities to help you get to know everyone, from quizzes to film nights, and nights out to sports matches. You also get the opportunity to sign up to clubs and societies both within Teddy Hall at the college Freshers' Fair and university-wide equivalents at the main Freshers' Fair.



Matriculation

The ceremony in which you officially become a student of the University. You wear the University academic dress, known as 'sub fusc', and go as a college year group to attend the ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre. Everyone migrates back to college for brunch, this is then followed by a Matriculation BOP ('big organised party') in the evening.

Oxmas

The Oxford equivalent of Christmas, held on the last weekend of term. We have to celebrate early because we're not in Oxford for most of December! There are several festive events, such as the JCR formal, Christmas BOPs and Carol-singing in the front quad around the Christmas tree with mince pies and mulled wine. It's a lovely way to end the term by getting into the festive spirit before saying goodbye to friends for six weeks.



A Year at Teddy Hall

Hilary Term

(January - March)

Teddy's Got Talent

The annual talent show (no talent necessary). This is hosted and judged by students, postgraduates and academic staff and is organised by the Arts & Culture Representatives within the student body.

Freshers' Parents Dinner

A chance for first years to bring their parents along to a formal meal in college. (There's also one for parents of all other years in the Winter.)

Teddy Hall Ceilidh

Every Hilary term we host the Oxford University Ceilidh band who run a ceilidh for us. This is a great opportunity to learn some folk dances and meet new people!



Trinity Term

(April - June)

Teddy Hall Ball

The biennial College Ball sees college transformed into another time and place for the evening. Copious food, drink and entertainment is included in the ticket price! Recent themes include 'Camelot', 'Chroma', and 'Road to Rio'.



Parents' Garden Party

An outdoor gathering held for students and their families in Teddy Hall's beautiful graveyard. A lovely experience and a chance for parents to meet tutors and other families!

Cuppers

Summer term means summer sports competitions! Cuppers is the intercollegiate sports tournament at Oxford. Even if you don't play a sport, Teddy Hall students always turn out to support the college in droves, and the JCR provides refreshments at matches!

Prelims

Prelims are end of year exams for first years. When they finish, all your friends come out to celebrate with you!



Graduation

Final-year students return to the Sheldonian Theatre to attend their graduation ceremony, then usually come back to enjoy a lunch in college.



Verity

**First year
Medicine**

What does a normal day look like for you?

I usually start my day off with breakfast either in my flat or in Wolfson Hall in college. Then I head back to my room to do some lectures—which are live and interactive. Normally I'll get two done before lunch, and then in the afternoon I'll do more lectures, or crack on with research or tutorial work. The first year medicine workload can initially seem overwhelming but it really is engaging and helps us get the most out of our degree. After this, I'll eat dinner in college, and tend to have the evening off -there's never a dull evening in college because there's always so much on.

What do you do to relax?

I really enjoy rowing, and I am in the Teddy Hall choir. I find this really relaxing and enjoyable to meet new people and sing together. Aside from this, I spend time with my friends either in or out of college—it's such a close-knit community meaning there is always someone around.

Why did you apply to Teddy Hall?

I applied to Teddy Hall due to the quality of the outreach here. I loved reading the Alternative Prospectus, interacting with students on the @sehaccess account and reading about life here. It really made me fall in love with the Hall, and assured me that applying here wasn't just applying for somewhere to live, but applying to be part of such a supportive and unique community. Everyone is welcome and treated as equal. It's an unbeatable college!



Alex

**First year
Economics & Management**

What does a normal day look like for you?

One thing that I love about Oxford, is how varied my days are., but every day I eat breakfast in the dining hall at 9:30 to give my day some structure. I will then head up to my room and spend the day chatting and working, depending on my workload that day. Oxford has so many brilliant libraries to take advantage of if you want to get out of your room, too. In the evenings we have dinner in hall, and we go out most nights after this to socialise.

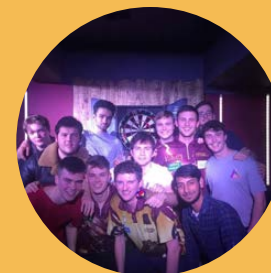
What do you do to relax?

I try to exercise a few times a week, whether that be going to the gym, going for a run, or doing sport which has been slightly limited this year due to COVID. Other than that, punting is great fun, as is going to the pub with friends in the evening.



What do you think sets Teddy Hall apart from other colleges?

Teddy is so dense that it really is a family compared to other colleges. There are lots of people at the college (it's not small in population, just as a site), so there's always someone around to chat to. We also have a great, healthy and welcoming sport culture at Teddy, where the taking part and having fun is of paramount importance.





Anna

First year
French and German

What does a normal day look like for you?

On a normal weekday, I start off with breakfast in the dining hall—arguably the best part of the day—and then I either have a class or begin working on my assignments for the week. Usually, I have about two classes per day, one French and one German, but on the odd day that I have no contact hours, I work on my essays and translations or watch a few lectures. Since most of our teaching has been online this year, I try to get out for a walk at least once a day. In the evening, I have dinner in college after which I have plenty of time for socialising!

What do you do to relax?

My favourite thing to do to relax is to head out into Oxford with some friends. If the weather isn't great, heading to the JCR (for chocomilk!). I find that after being online for several hours as it's been this year, being around my friends is the best way to give myself a break.



Why makes Teddy Hall special?

This is often said, but it is really true—the community is a big part of what makes Teddy Hall so special. The college is home to some of the friendliest and most welcoming students, staff, and tutors. It truly feels like home.



Zoe

First year
Geography

What does a normal day look like for you?

Most weekdays I eat breakfast with my household in Hall, and then watch my pre-recorded lectures in the morning. Due to COVID, all of my practical classes are online too, so I do those in my room. If I want a change of scene, I might do some coursework or tutorial work in the college library or in the 'social space' near the kitchen in my accommodation. I also go for a walk every day to clear my head. Then I'll eat dinner in Hall which is my favourite, since I can catch up with friends and make plans for the evening.

What do you do to relax?

I often go for walks around some of the parks in Oxford and get involved in lots of societies such as African Caribbean Society (ACS), Climate Society, and the Teddy Hall Rowing Club. Rowing is a really social sport and a great way to let off steam.



What do you think sets Teddy Hall apart from other colleges?

I think the people are what makes Teddy Hall so special. Starting my first year at Oxford during a pandemic was quite intimidating to say the least, but Teddy has such a welcoming community, so I very quickly felt at home.

GET TO KNOW TEDDY HALL

Accommodation

First Year

First year undergraduates are guaranteed on-site accommodation with breakfast and dinner included, something which can be rare at other colleges! All the rooms have plenty of storage space and a sink area, and every floor has kitchenettes, toilets and showers. One of the best things about living on-site in first year is that everyone is so close together, so you very rapidly get to know your whole year!



Living Out

Second Year

Everyone 'lives out' in their second year, renting privately or renting houses from college. Most people opt to live in Cowley, which is only a 15min walk or a 5min cycle from Teddy! Living out is a fantastic experience as you get the opportunity to have a lot more independence, to cook for yourself and to host house parties. This experience isn't something you get in many colleges.



Norham Gardens Annexe

Third Year

Students tend to return to college accommodation or live in one of the college annexes which are just 5 minutes away from college.

Fourth Year

If your course has four years, it's possible to live in Norham Gardens, an annexe which is right next to University Parks. Students may also choose to live out again.



First Year College Room



Third Year College Room



Third Year Annexe

Teddy Hall is a unique community...

Stash

Although stash is used by every college to refer to their college branded apparel, we like to think **Teddy Hall has the best of the bunch!** Because we're so proud to be members of the Hall community and we love it so much, we wear our stash with pride. We have everything from bucket hats, scarves and fleeces to our iconic college puffer jacket (the **original** college puffer!).



Ming

Ming is the Teddy Hall word for dinner! **Teddy is known for having some of the best food in Oxford**, and all first years get all their breakfasts and dinners catered and included in their termly bills. The nickname originated a long, long time ago from the fact our food was terrible. But we have since replaced our chef, and the current Head Chef used to work in a Michelin-starred restaurant!

The Graveyard

Although it may sound a bit spooky, the Teddy Hall Graveyard is one of our favourite parts of college! It's a **great place to chill in the summer**, and you can also study outside there too.



BOP

Teddy Hall BOPs are some of the best in Oxford. BOP stands for 'Big Organised Party'; most colleges host them a few times a term and they're always themed. Everyone dresses up and makes a big effort with their costumes. Teddy BOPs are unique because our dining hall is repurposed into the **biggest dancefloor in Oxford!**



Kelly

The Kelly building is one of our first year accommodation blocks and is often referred to just as 'Kelly'. It's one of the tallest buildings in the university with no lift! But despite its many stairs, **the views from a Kelly room are the kind tourists would pay a lot for**, and it has amazing social areas on every floor, something which you don't often get in college accommodation at Oxford.



...and as a result we have our own lingo!

TEDDY HALL WELFARE

Welfare Officers

As welfare officers we take care of the JCR, providing support for students in the shape of fun events throughout term like JCR Teas and picnics in the graveyard. We work alongside college staff and the team of peer supporters, who have received 30 hours of training with the university. We work to ensure that all JCR and college-level decisions are made with the welfare of everyone in mind. We also help to provide workshops on mental health, relaxing activities to keep everybody in high spirits (like yoga and puppy visits!) and drop-in sessions throughout term for anybody who needs to talk about any problem—big or small! We also recently welcomed our new college tortoise, Monty, to help us with our welfare activities!



Katie



Greg



Disabilities Officer

I'm Ben, the JCR Disabilities Officer. I'm here to look after the interests of disabled students at the Hall, and help to improve accessibility in college. Teddy Hall is very accommodating of disabled students and I can provide advice and information on any disability-related issues that you may encounter during your time at Oxford. This also applies if you don't have a formal diagnosis, are struggling to get one, or if you are supporting someone who has a disability. I want to make sure that everyone at Teddy Hall is aware of all the amazing resources out there to support you!



Ben

International and Visiting Students Officer

At Teddy, we have a very diverse environment that welcomes new international and visiting students from a variety of backgrounds every year. To keep up this tradition, bridge cultural gaps and make life that little bit easier for students who did not grow up in the UK, we have an International and Visiting Student's officer, who can respond to any concerns or questions you might have, and help you to get settled by running events and sharing useful information in a Facebook group. The college and I do everything we can to make it as pleasant an experience as possible.

I try to make heard any wishes and thoughts from this community, raise cultural awareness, and help Visiting Students become more integrated into our community. After all, Oxford, and especially Teddy Hall, are about fostering a community where we can learn from and with each other.

- Elena



BAME Officer

One of my biggest fears before coming to Oxford was that I wouldn't meet anyone who looked like me or had similar experiences to me. This couldn't have been further from the truth when I came to Teddy Hall. Every year, our BAME community is growing in numbers and lots of students make friends across year groups. While we aren't the biggest college BAME group, our presence and community is unparalleled. We come together for socials, to celebrate with events for special occasions such as Eid, and our Equality and Diversity Week. One of our most important roles is to act as a support system for one another. If you identify as BAME or any other minority, know that there is a community here at Teddy that is more than excited to meet you!

Will I be the only one?

Absolutely not! Every year Teddy Hall is becoming increasingly diverse and we have students from so many different backgrounds. Like any university, you might find the transition overwhelming at first, but you will definitely find your feet. We have a 'BAME Buddy' scheme where freshers are partnered with second years before starting uni, and they will be your first port of call for any questions! Beyond Teddy Hall, you will also find so many university wide societies that exist to make Oxford a more welcome space for people from a minority background.

How can I get involved?

Before you even arrive at Teddy Hall, you can join the BAME Facebook page where we keep you updated on all socials, events and opportunities open to BAME students in Teddy Hall. You'll also have access to a BAME Welcome Guide which will give you all the information you might need, and you might bump into lots of us in college—everyone is always up for a chat.

Is there someone to speak to if I have any concerns?

As your BAME officer, I'm here to support you with any issues that you may have. There are also welfare officers, peer supporters and academic tutors who are more than happy to help you! Here at Teddy, we pride ourselves on our friendly nature, and we are always striving to make the Hall an inclusive place to all. If you have any concerns prior to arriving about room allocation or dietary needs, don't hesitate to contact the College.



- Jeevika

Gender and Sexual Diversity Officers

Teddy Hall has a large and diverse cohort of self-identified LGBTQ+ students which is growing larger every year. As Gender and Sexual Diversity Officers, we work with college to organise social events and provide welfare support for LGBTQ+ students at Teddy Hall. As a college, we are committed to welcoming people of all identities, and have recently flown the pride flag for LGBTQ+ History Month. We have established our very own gender expression fund for students, among other support networks, and run a termly "QUOTH" social event.

We can't wait to meet you at the Hall!

- *Lue (they/them)*
and *Hazel (she/her)*



College Families

Once your place at Oxford is confirmed after Level results day you will receive an email from the JCR secretary (this year it's me!) letting you know who your college parents are. Your college parents will be Teddy Hall second years and a useful point of contact throughout your time here. One of your parents does the same subject as you which means they can provide great informal academic help and you can ask them questions you wouldn't ask your tutors! Adjusting to Oxford can sometimes be difficult so if you need a hand with notes, problem sheets or essay structures they may be able to give you a few helpful hints. You and your siblings will be invited to a dinner during freshers' week where you will meet your families as well as others. In order to continue this college family tradition, most people will get 'married' during their first year so that they and their spouse can 'have children' in the next academic year.

- *Nailah*



Sustainability

Teddy Hall aims to be the greenest and most environmentally sustainable college in Oxford. We're also working to improve biodiversity on college properties. Our Environment and Ethics Representative, Aili, is currently lobbying college to give the same attention on biodiversity to reducing emissions by sourcing paper and food more sustainably. Aili helps to open dialogue between college and students about environmental and ethical issues.

Aili



Arts and Culture Officers

Hi, we're Katie and James and our role is to promote the arts in college, which includes student drama, creative writing, journalism, music, and much more. We celebrate Teddy students' successes on our [@seh.arts](https://www.instagram.com/seh.arts) Instagram page organise lots of fun events over the year from film screenings to writing workshops. We can help advise on how to find funding for productions and how to get involved across the university, so that all of the artists at Teddy are celebrated for their talent!

- *Katie and James*

EVEN MORE WELFARE!

Every Friday afternoon we get a huge order of snacks delivered to college. Everyone can come into the JCR and help themselves to as much food as they want! This is a great way to take a break and spend some time relaxing with friends, as well as an excellent source of motivation to finish some work when you know endless amounts of pitta, hummus and biscuits are waiting for you. We're one of the colleges with the biggest budget for these welfare teas, so there's always plenty to go around!

Each term the 'Women* of the Hall' (WOTH) have a big themed gathering where we play games, and all get to know each other! It's really good fun, and past themes have included 'Where's WOTHly' (pictured), 'WimbleWOTH' and 'WOTHsps'. This happens alongside a lot of other events that the Women*s Officers organise every term such as self defence classes and talks.

But it doesn't just end at WOTH! The 'Men* of the Hall' (MOTH) have frequent social events, talks and gatherings, and in 2021, the Hall had its first ever QUOTH, which was a new termly gathering for the Hall's LGBTQ+ community, by our GSD officers, Lue and Hazel.

*asterisk is used to denote minority gender identities

In Trinity term, every member of the JCR has access to a punt completely free of charge! It's so much fun to be able to float down the river in the sunshine. Punting is also a great way to celebrate finishing exams, or to take a short revision break and get outside.

JCR Tea



WOTH



Punting



FINANCE

As well as their fantastic and extensive bursary and grant schemes, the university also provides a hardship fund, which will award you money at any point that your financial burden becomes too great. I first received hardship funds on my year abroad from the Modern Languages Faculty which help to relieve living and travel costs whilst abroad as well as financial support from the Teddy Hall hardship fund this year. Hardship funding is always there as a safety net should something change about your financial situation. When I had to go on my year abroad I couldn't keep my job at home., which meant I was financially strained. However, Teddy Hall were able to provide hardship that saw me through the past two terms. It's really good to know how much financial support is available in different forms across the university and in college!



Gabriella

Receiving the Crankstart Scholarship

As a Crankstart Scholar, I'm entitled to a yearly non-repayable bursary, regular support with a specialist Careers Adviser, and access to exclusive internships, for which there is also a bursary if internships are poorly paid. Before arriving at Oxford, I was worried about how I would finance my degree and manage my money due to my socio-economic background, but the Scholarship has genuinely been a saving grace. I no longer feel the strain of these financial burdens and it has made my experience integrating into college life and my degree much smoother and far less stressful.



Peter

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



It's easy to get involved in drama right from the start of your first term, as the Oxford University Dramatic Society hosts a Drama Cuppers Competition exclusively for first years. Each college can put forward as many half-hour play entries as they want! It's a great opportunity to meet people who you may have not already come into contact with in college, and try out a variety of roles in theatre in an environment which gives you a lot of support.

Teddy Hall itself has a fantastic drama scene – we have our own drama society, which puts on productions regularly, such as our recent production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as well as writing and performing our own plays for the Teddy Hall Medieval Mystery Cycle, which is held in the graveyard every summer. All the productions are open to participants of any level, no matter whether you have had any theatre experience before.



Sports

Teddy Hall is home to a thriving sports scene. We have something for everyone, including netball, hockey, rugby and even have teams for ultimate frisbee, rounders and chess! Most sports offer the opportunity to compete in an annual intercollegiate competition called Cuppers, in which we often do pretty well in. Our boat club is very strong, with the ability to participate at many levels. We have four men's boats and our women's side now has three boats. Having so many boats of different levels can be rare at other colleges!

Sport is a great way to make friends and is also a good way to relax. Ability isn't an issue as our sports clubs accommodate everyone from student athletes to complete novices. If we don't offer a sport you're interested in, there is funding available to establish it. A huge aspect of the Hall's success lies in our community and our willingness to get involved both as players and as part of the large crowds we bring to matches. Hordes of Teddy Hall spectators can often be seen flocking to sporting fixtures in support of the Hall. This shows Teddy Hall's community spirit at its best and is something that many of our students are very proud to be a part of.



Music

Although not offered as a degree, Teddy Hall has a lively and inclusive musical community. Regular lunchtime concerts are hosted by a range of performers from our Music Society. We sometimes hold evening chamber music concerts too. Students who play a musical instrument can also audition for an Instrumental Award. Teddy also has a well stocked music room with a variety of instruments, which is open for all students to use. There are also often open mic and acoustic nights in the college bar and Wolfson Hall!



Singers are welcome to join the Chapel Choir, which is non-auditioning and supported by Choral Scholars, as well as being able to audition for a Choral Exhibition, an award which includes three free singing lessons a term. The choir practise on weekends and perform at services and other special occasions; members get a free formal meal each Sunday and go on various tours both in the UK and abroad during the vacations. Find out more on their Instagram, [@sehchapelchoir](https://www.instagram.com/sehchapelchoir).



Creative Writing

Teddy Hall is known for having a very strong creative writing scene. We have our own creative writing society, something which is unusual and not often found at other colleges. We meet on Wednesday evenings in the bar to share our writing and discuss it! You don't have to be a writer to attend, listeners are welcome too, and the society has a very relaxed atmosphere. As well as this, our alumnus Stewart Lee sometimes runs writing workshops for Hall students, and the college offers many poetry prizes, including one exclusively for science students who excel at writing!



Student Ambassadors

Teddy Hall has a huge team of friendly student ambassadors, who run tours on open days, help out on school visits and run the Teddy Hall access Instagram, [@sehaccess](https://www.instagram.com/sehaccess). We also host drinks and lunches where we can all spend time together!

Masterclass Fund

There is no need to be concerned that you might not be able to continue a particular extra-curricular activity because of financial constraints once at university. Teddy Hall students who have already attained a high level of achievement are eligible to apply for the College Masterclass Fund. This offers students up to £1000 in order to pursue further training to develop and hone their skills. These activities may include, but are not exclusive to the areas of writing, drama, sport or art.

Prospectus updated for 2021 by:
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Original design by:
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JCR Access Officers 2020



WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!

We hope this prospectus has answered some of your questions about Teddy Hall! If it hasn't, check out some of these resources:

- Official College Prospectus: seh.ac/prospectus
- JCR website: jcr.seh.ox.ac.uk
- Get more student-made content or ask our ambassadors questions at [@sehaccess](https://www.instagram.com/sehaccess) on Instagram
- Visit on an Open Day: seh.ac/opendays