



Current Brasenose Faith Provision for Students & Staff: 2022-2023

We hope you will find Brasenose a welcoming, tolerant and hospitable space for those of all faiths, beliefs and none. This guide was written to give an idea of what Brasenose currently offers its students and staff. There is an annual all faiths meal in Michaelmas for students of all faiths and beliefs to meet each other and be linked in with their faith / denomination if desired. This is organised by the Chaplain and supported by E&D lead.

Candle-lighting

Students of all faiths and no faiths are able to light individual candles at any time in the candle bowl in the Antechapel – white votive candles are provided. The Medieval Kitchen and Dining Room are also available to students by prior arrangement with the Domestic Bursar for one off events involving candle lighting e.g. group Hindu celebration of Aarthi or Jewish celebration of Hanukkah where a menorah is lit. Contact: domestic.bursar@bnc.ox.ac.uk It is not permitted to light candles in your student accommodation or at your work station - electric/ battery operated tealights for use in student accommodation / work stations are available from the chaplain if desired.

Food

We only serve Halal meat through the servery along with vegan and vegetarian choices and formals where possible but have halal choice available on the sign on sheet along with 13 other dietary requests. We currently do not provide additional kosher food on a regular basis.

Formal hall - weeks 2 ,4, 6, 8 we have a themed formal night, at our menu meeting (every Tuesday we have a meeting with the JCR and HCR food reps) we decide on a country and then do a menu around that country. The choices so far have been Indian, Mexican, Thai, Italian. We also are doing / have provided for: Chinese New Year, Burns night, LGBT night and a plant based evening. The Steward then provides cocktails and beers from that country also non-alcoholic cocktails and the students run a quiz.

Students can suggest a themed meal for a particular festival/faith via JCR/HCR domestic/food reps.

Ramadan – a room is booked off in Brasenose Main College and made available for students every evening of Ramadan. Students order ahead on the app, we chill down the meal and a microwave is provided for reheating with a probe and “how to use” sheet provided. There is also a University-wide Muslim prayer room in the Robert Hooke Building, which students can choose to use to share Iftars with others.

If there are any other requests in relation to food please contact: Head Chef:
lorraine.watkins@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Student Accommodation

There are two ways in which you can be pre-allocated a room. The Accommodation Manager (accommodation@bnc.ox.ac.uk) can do it if you provide medical evidence (a doctor’s note is fine) or the welfare team can make a recommendation. If you feel the latter is the best option then you just need to contact the Dean and Chaplain (via dean@bnc.ox.ac.uk & chaplain@bnc.ox.ac.uk) and explain the situation to them who will liaise with the Accommodation Manager; if you are requesting a room on religious grounds then please email the Chaplain. On occasion, en-suite rooms have been pre-allocated to practising Muslim students who are female to enable them to perform Wudu before prayers more easily without needing to use a shared bathroom at odd night hours and to save veiling and unveiling. Rooms are allocated on a case by case basis. There is heavy demand for rooms so please limit your expectation of what might be possible.

Adjustments to academic work or work owing to religion of belief

Staff: Please speak to your Line Manager and HR

Students: please speak to the Chaplain and the College Office. Please note that requests to adjust the scheduling of exams on religious grounds need to be made early in Michaelmas Term while requests for extenuating circumstances should be supported by medical or other evidence.

In summary - two types of adjustment are possible: adjustments for the act of observance and adjustments for the effects of observance. Where possible, the College and University will make adjustments to accommodate the act of observance. These may be either anticipatory adjustments (avoiding scheduling on certain dates) or adjustments in response to requests. It is not possible, however, to alter the format of

assessment to accommodate the act of observance (for example, by providing extra time). It is, however, possible to apply for adjustments due to the effects of observance if, for example, fasting has an effect on performance and is, therefore, an extenuating circumstance. The College Office is happy to discuss any of these issues with you and see what form of support is most appropriate to your context.

Prayer/Meditation Space

The Chapel is available for individual private prayer, meditation and space to be or read for all members of Brasenose. It is a space consecrated (set apart) for Christian worship so *corporate* worship can only be Christian in that space - there are daily Church of England services in chapel and a termly Roman Catholic mass. Many spaces are available to students for corporate prayer of their faith or belief across the college. Any lecture room or music practice room or teaching room bookable via the online booking system is available as prayer space including the Platnauer Room use the link here:

<http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/decanalbookings> Many students also like to pray in their own rooms – electric/ battery operated tealights for use in student accommodation are available from the Chaplain if desired. In the past groups of Muslim students have used the Medieval Kitchen, Amersi Room or Platnauer Room for corporate worship from time to time owing to their spacious and light ambiance as well as helpful proximity to washing facilities. Please request bookings for college rooms via the online system: <http://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/decanalbookings> ask Domestic Reps/IT reps if unsure how to use the booking system.

Specific Festivals

Calendar of Festivals

The University Equality and Diversity Unit publishes a calendar of equality and diversity dates each year as a guide. This includes significant religious festivals. It can be found here: <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/equality-dates>

Diwali

The University Hindu Study Centre organises an annual celebration which is University wide. See the HUMSoc facebook page and Hindu Study Centre details at the end of this document. Brasenose Diwali dinners have been organised by members of the JCR and HCR in previous years – please organise these via the food reps. Diwali formals should always be vegetarian and non-alcoholic and include lamps or light as Diwali means “row of lights” and is the festival of light.

Hanukkah

When Hanukkah falls in term there is usually a celebration with menorah lighting, often in the lodgings, organised by the College to which members of Brasenose are invited.

Email: principals.secretaries@bnc.ox.ac.uk and chaplain@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Holi

Holi celebrations have occurred in the past on the Brasenose sportsground, where coloured dyes can be thrown to celebrate this Hindu festival of spring, love, and new life. Any student wishing to organise a celebration should contact the Domestic Bursar: domestic.bursar@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Ramadan – see food section

University Chaplains of All Faiths, Beliefs and Denominations

A contacts list of college chaplains as well as chaplains of all faith and denominations across the University can be found here – the Brasenose Chaplain is also well versed in provision of chaplains across the university as they meet with the chaplains of all faiths and beliefs each term in the Student Ministry Forum across Oxford so please do speak to the Brasenose Chaplain. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/chaplaincy>

University faith and belief societies

Information on faith societies, groups or religious centres in Oxford:

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/faith-societies>

Student Faith Reps in Brasenose

These roles usually rotate annually and depend on whether students wish to be a point of contact for their faith, religion or belief. If seeking to be linked into a faith/belief student rep please either email the chaplain: chaplain@bnc.ox.ac.uk or your Equality and Diversity Rep. The Bible Clerk is also a point of contact for signposting of students.

JCR - jcr-diversity@bnc.ox.ac.uk

HCR - hcr-diversity@bnc.ox.ac.uk

Some Key Places of Worship for Students across Oxford

Richmond Rd Synagogue: <https://www.ojc-online.org/>

Robert Hooke Muslim Prayer Room: <https://ouisoc.org/prayer-spaces>

There is no Hindu Temple in Oxford but the Hindu Study Centre offers provision for festivals and celebrations in Oxford: <https://ochsonline.org/>

Sikh Gurdwara, Headington: <https://oxford.cylex-uk.co.uk/company/gurdwara-sri-guru-nanak-dev-ji-oxford-26642217.html>

Greek Orthodox: <https://holytrinityoxford.org.uk/>

Russian Orthodox: <https://www.stnicholas-oxford.org/>

Oxford Buddhists: <https://oxfordbuddhavihara.org.uk/>

Roman Catholic Chaplaincy: <https://www.catholic-chaplaincy.org.uk/>

Brasenose Chapel and Chaplain (Church of England): <https://www.bnc.ox.ac.uk/current-students/college-life/chapel>

Other queries

If you have queries or questions not covered by the headings above please do get in touch with Brasenose Chaplain or the Equality and Diversity Reps / leads or if you are a member of staff – HR.

If you would like to contact the Equality and Diversity Unit in the University regarding University wide queries or issues - contact details can be found here:

<https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk>

Written by BNC Chaplain in liaison with Domestic Bursar, HR, College Office, Head Chef and Accommodation Manager - May 2022