



OXFORD UNIVERSITY
ISLAMIC SOCIETY

OUISOC

Freshers' Guide

2023

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Freshers' Guide

2023

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President's Foreword



In the name of God; the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy. May the peace, blessings and mercy of God be on you all!

Firstly, I am extremely delighted to extend a warm welcome to all of you who will be joining us in Oxford this year. It is a massive achievement to be coming to Oxford so a huge congratulations to you all for all of your hard work and efforts thus far in getting to this position — now, however, is when the true fun begins... (And I don't mean that in a sarcastic way either!) Joining Oxford can be as daunting as it is exciting, or even more so, for many people. What I hope for you to take from this though, is that there is actually far less to be worried and anxious about than you might think.

Of the most common concerns before beginning university is that of how conducive the lifestyle and environment will be to one's closeness to God, or the cultivation of their relationship with Him. An important thing to note, however, is that there isn't a single monolithic culture at university (even at Oxford with all of its quirky, cultish[?] traditions! [Just a joke!]). There is lots to do here: so many different people to meet, who come from all over the world with all sorts of wonderful vibrant ideas and worldviews, and many student societies with lots of different activities to engage in. Instead of seeing this as a negative — experiences you feel you need to shield yourself from — I highly encourage you to approach things with a positive mindset; immerse yourself in what the university has to offer (within bounds of course, and don't ever feel pressured to break them for anyone!) and explore as many things as you can see and do. This is what makes people's experiences at university so enriching and eye-opening, as they learn about how others think and see the world.

It is here though where the Oxford University Islamic Society (OUISoc) has played such an important role in my life and for many others.

In the hustle and bustle of university life, with so many competing bubbles and groups and societies, the OUISoc provides an environment through which to stay grounded and connected to God. Some have fears of not finding an environment that is sufficiently religious, while conversely, others are apprehensive of finding a religious environment in which they'll be subject to constant judgement. Both are valid concerns that I too had before joining the university — and now looking back, I can only thank God and show Him immense gratitude for the amazing experience I have had so far. I've found fantastic friends for life, some amazing company, and the support and comfort found here, stemming from genuine love for one another, has been second to none. The bond of brother and sisterhood is so strong yet simultaneously so welcoming, in spite of the diverse backgrounds we all come from and the upbringings we've had. I feel like this is best exemplified in the small moments, like planning to take a quick break between library study sessions to pray 'Asr in the Prayer Room, but then finding yourself chilling and talking to friends (or new people!) all the way until Maghrib or even 'Isha! Or when you bump into someone on your way to a lecture and you give them a quick smile, salaam and handshake or hug!

And so it is with that, I welcome you too to join this wonderful community, and God-willing you will also have an amazing experience here at Oxford and find for yourself a source of great support and company within the Islamic Society. We already have many events planned and lined up for you in the upcoming term — full of socials, charity events and lectures — to cultivate friendships and godliness, which we can't wait for you to join and take part in! And in the meantime, please feel free to peruse this guide for more tips, advice and useful information before you arrive.

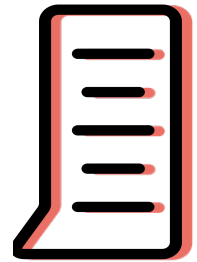
May Allah the Most High place goodness in all of your endeavours and journeys, and grant you all immense success. Ameen. And God-willing, I look forward to seeing and meeting you all very soon!

May God's peace and blessings be on you all,
Riazul Rahman
OUISoc President 2023/24



Vice Presidents

VPs Introduction



I'm Zainab, a 3rd year studying Medicine at St Anne's College. Congratulations on securing your offer to study at Oxford, and inshallah I hope your transition into university is smooth and that your university journey is fulfilling! Beginning university can be an exciting but also challenging time, and alhamdulillah I found support through the OUISoc's welcoming community and eventful Freshers' Fortnight, and I pray you are able to discover this too inshallah.

My role as Vice-President is to work alongside Riaz and Kamrul to support the smooth running of the Society and ensure that the OUISoc remains a warm and welcoming community inshallah. Feel free to reach out to me if you ever have any questions or concerns, or simply want to chat!

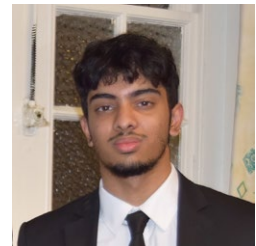
Zainab Bhamji
Sisters' Vice President



Assalamu'Alaykum Wa Rahmatullah, I'm Kamrul and I'm the Brothers' VP for this year, insha'Allah. I'm studying Engineering at New College. I work alongside Riaz and Zainab to ensure that the day-to-day running of the ISoc runs smoothly and to enable other members of the committee to carry out their duties to the highest standard by supporting them in any way I can.

Freshers' week played a massive part in giving me the best first impression of our ISoc and community; I pray that we foster the same environment for you all! If you ever have any concerns or ideas about how we can better serve the community, drop me a message or come chat to me. I'm always available, insha'Allah.

Kamrul Ahsan
Brothers' Vice President



This community has played a huge part in my tarbiyyah and enabled me to have a home away from home, so Inshaa'Allah I hope to help maintain that environment for the years to come, particularly for the freshers.

Meet the rest of the committee!





OXFORD UNIVERSITY
ISLAMIC SOCIETY
 Committee 2023/24

Everyone on committee is always eager to talk to you and help you with any questions or concerns you may have, so
 ————— please don't hesitate to contact us. —————



Kamrul Ahsan
Male Vice President



Riazul Rahman
President



Zainab Bhamji
Female Vice President



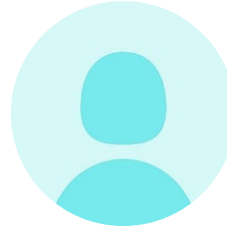
Haleema Khan
Secretary



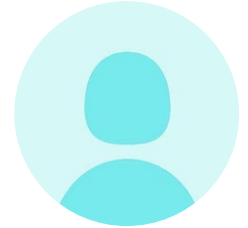
Abdullah Abid
Treasurer



Aman Sultan
Operations Officer



Graduate Chair



Aaliyah Natha
Returning Officer



Nafisa Sharder
Sisters' W.O.S.



Saimur Rahman
Brothers' W.O.S.



Nabeeha Toufiq
Graduate W.O.S.



Mohamed Heikl
RE Officer



Axel Marinho
Islamic Awareness Officer



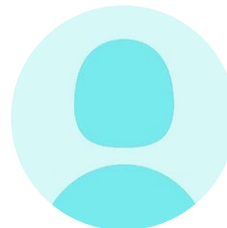
Yasmin Rahman
Politics Officer



Sara Malik
Student Affairs Officer



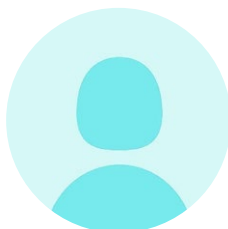
Fahim Miah
Access Director



Ahmad Awais
Alumni Officer



Salma Kafafy
Community Officer



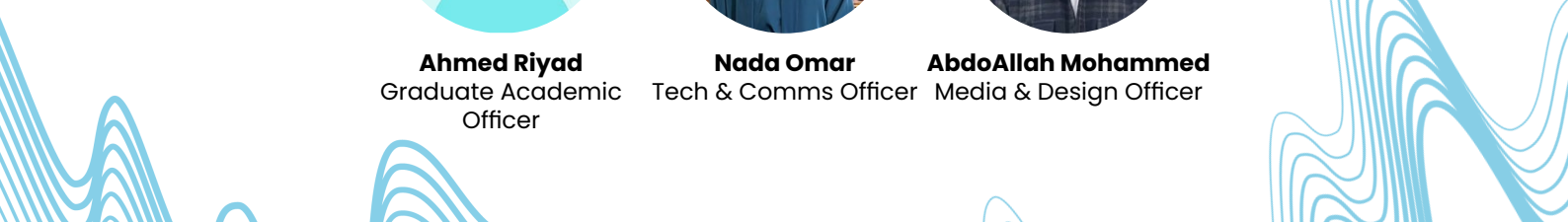
Ahmed Riyad
Graduate Academic Officer



Nada Omar
Tech & Comms Officer



AbdoAllah Mohammed
Media & Design Officer



Socials

SISTERS

Assalamualaikum, my name is Nafisa and I'm this year's sisters' WOS. I will be there as your first point of contact in the ISoc if you ever need a friend to be there with you. I am also organising events for you; here is an idea of what events you can expect in the coming term!

We will have regular welfare teas that consist of competitive board games/catching up in the PR and sisters' sports as a means to get away from the rigorous academic life.



Sisters' Masquerade Ball

As for social events, the ISoc has a range! This is the best opportunity to create long-lasting memories and friendships. We have some chill events like Desserts' Nights and Sisters' Arts & Crafts to simply relax and chat and some more active events like Board Games' Night or Sisters' Escape Room which always ends in a laugh.



Sisters' Arts & Crafts

The most anticipated event of the term is Mocktails which happens at the end of term; it's the perfect opportunity for the girls to dress up and enjoy some good food whilst playing games and ending the term on a high note. I'm so excited to meet you all and I hope I see you at the sisters' events! See ya!



Sisters' Games Night

Sisters'
Tea Party,
Uni Parks



OUISoc

BROTHERS

Assalamualaikum, I'm Saim, your brother's WOS for this year inshaAllah. OUISoc has lots planned for you all. Freshers Fortnight will include a plethora of events, such as paintballing, games night, wrestling and punting.



Brothers' Games Night

Throughout the year, we'll have ongoing events such as a walk to Port Meadows every term, welfare tea every Friday after Jummah, Friday Football and more.



Port Meadow Walk



Brothers' Paintballing

We've also got dinners planned to our favourite food spots and desserts nights to end things sweetly.



Brothers' Desserts Night

Our community is really what makes these events so enjoyable, so I hope to see you all at them inshaAllah.

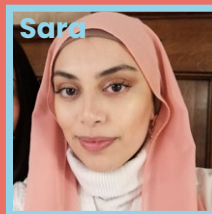


Welfare

There are many welfare provisions at Oxford, at various levels including the OUISoc, your college, the university and online services.

01 OUISoc

Saimur and Nafisa are our Welfare & Social Officers and Sara is our Student Affairs Officer. They are all more than willing to have a chat and lend a listening ear to anyone who needs it. Feel free to reach out to anyone else on the committee too!



Sheikh Ibrahim Amin, the Imam at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, is our designated Muslim Chaplain at Oxford University. (ibrahim.amin@oxcis.ox.ac.uk)

Nadiya Takolia is our contact for female chaplaincy who will also be providing support to students in the ISoc. (takolia_n@hotmail.co.uk)

They are open to all students who wish to discuss any issues with them confidentially and can be contacted via their emails.

Your college will have a dedicated welfare team; look out for details of welfare staff on your college's website or during Freshers' Week. Be sure to also look out for students at your college who are JCR welfare reps or peer supporters. You will also be allocated a personal tutor who you can speak to about welfare or academic concerns - and don't forget you'll be part of a college family too!

02 College

03 University

The Oxford University website have a page with information about various welfare provisions, including details of specialist services offered by the university. These include the confidential Counselling Service and the Disability Advisory Service.

www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare



Mt. Snowdon
Climb



Religious Education

The ISoc puts in a lot of effort to help facilitate the spiritual growth of our community in Oxford. To achieve this, there are a wide range of Religious Education events available, both formal and informal, that provide a great opportunity for each person to be involved in at least one thing that benefits them hugely.

We are very fortunate to have a Muslim Prayer Room in Oxford, situated inside the Robert Hooke Building; this is open and available for you to use 24/7. Congregational prayers including Jumu'ah (Friday prayers) are also hosted here. The Prayer Room is also a nice hub to meet new people and chill with friends.

There is an abundance of amazing scholars in Oxford which means there are plenty of opportunities to learn from them. One of our most popular series is Sheikh Riyad's weekly lessons, which will be a Tafseer class this year insha'Allah. Q-Club is another popular series where attendees analyse a surah from the Qur'an in English in different sessions throughout the year with Sh Saquab Ashraf in a very fun and engaging way.



Becoming a Companion of the Quran Talk

There are a few lectures available each term too that cover a wide variety of topics, including, but not limited to: Islamic history, stories of the Prophets, the virtues of the Qur'an and sometimes covering more complex topics such as Predestination/Free Will.

Finally, there are more relaxed, regular RE events such as meeting in the Prayer Room every week to recite the Qur'an together, or reflection circles where we may go through the tafsir (exegesis) of a surah and sometimes also share and discuss Islamic poetry.

As you can see, there are a lot of RE events on offer, at least one of which hopefully appeals to you! It is a great way for you to continue to work on your spiritual wellbeing and Islamic knowledge whilst also studying full-time!

Mohamed Heikl
Religious Education Officer



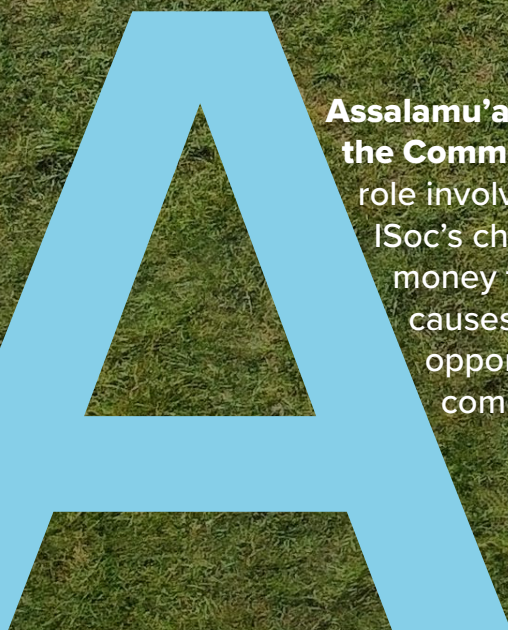
A group discussion in the OUISoc Prayer Room



Sisters' Poetry Reflection Night



Sisters' Arts and Crafts



Assalamu'alaykum! My name is Salma, the Community Officer for ISoc. My role involves coordinating all the ISoc's charity efforts - from raising money for a range of different causes to organising volunteering opportunities within the local community.

Community

Annual Events



Charity Fifa Tournament

Our events include charity bake sales, food bank donations, volunteering at a local farm and of course, our annual Charity Week in partnership with Islamic Relief, which includes a sponsored hike to Snowdon and a charity auction dinner! There's lots of opportunities to give back to our community and increase our sadaqah, all whilst having fun!



Charity Bakesale



Charity Fair



Willowbrook Farm

The Grand Iftar





Islamic Awareness



World Cultural Fair 2023



A talk held during Discover Islam Week

My role is outward facing and has two dimensions. At the society level, my task is to maintain and develop the ties between the Islamic society and other societies in Oxford. I host interfaith events, for example, with other religious communities. At the interpersonal level, I run events to expose people to Islam and give them the chance to learn more about it. The main opportunity for this is Discover Islam week in Hilary term, where we run a series of events and promotional campaigns to draw people to this spiritual path.

Axel Marinho, Islamic Awareness Officer



Understanding Finances Talk



Talk on Palestine

Politics

May God's peace be with you all! My name is Yasmin, the Politics Officer for the ISoc. My role has two primary aims. One of the aims includes coordinating events for students and the wider Oxford community for different concerns and issues that Muslim communities face and that they are provided with a platform to raise awareness. Politics events also cover the achievements and excellence achieved by Muslims which acts as a source of inspiration for many of us! Some events you can look forward to this term, God willing, is the role of Islamic Schools in different communities alongside an interactive discussion and lecture that seeks to bridge the miscommunication that can happen between Muslims and those of other faiths. The ISoc's Politics events attract a wide array of students from all disciplines and different communities - it's a great way to connect with different people and to gain knowledge from truly amazing and gifted speakers! I look forward to seeing many of you attend!

Yasmin Rahman, Politics Officer

OUISoc @ Your College

College	Brothers' rep		Sisters' rep	
	Name	Email	Name	Email
Balliol	Yonis Nuur	yonis.nuur@balliol.ox.ac.uk		
Brasenose	Husayn Sacranie	husayn.sacranie@bnc.ox.ac.uk		
Christ Church	Muse Ismaiel	muse.ismaiel@chch.ox.ac.uk	Asma Issa	asma.issa@chch.ox.ac.uk
Corpus Christi	Tawfik Alterawi	tawfik.alterawi@ccc.ox.ac.uk		
Exeter	Imaan Khaliq	imaan.khaliq@exeter.ox.ac.uk	Haleema Khan	haleema.khan@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Green Templeton*	Muscab Mohamed	muscab.mohamed@exeter.ox.ac.uk		
Harris Manchester	Muhammad Awan	muhammad.awan@hmc.ox.ac.uk		
Hertford			Sara Malik	sara.malik@hertford.ox.ac.uk
Jesus			Jubeda Salam	jubeda.salam@jesus.ox.ac.uk
Keble	Zaheer Sidik	zaheer.sidik@keble.ox.ac.uk	Sarah Said	sarah.said@keble.ox.ac.uk
Lady Margaret Hall	Chaudhary Atif	chaudhary.atif@lmh.ox.ac.uk	Malaikah Butt	malaikah.butt@lmh.ox.ac.uk
Lincoln			Alina Shafiq	alina.shafiq@lincoln.ox.ac.uk
Magdalen	Kaamil Kaba	kaamil.kaba@magd.ox.ac.uk	Zuha Murtaza	zuha.murtaza@magd.ox.ac.uk
Mansfield	Nadia Zouaoui	nadia.zouaoui@mansfield.ox.ac.uk	Ahnaf Farabi	ahnaf.farabi@mansfield.ox.ac.uk
Merton			Basmala Saad	basmala.saad@merton.ox.ac.uk
New	Saimur Rahman	saimur.rahman@new.ox.ac.uk	Imaan Haider	imaan.haider@new.ox.ac.uk
Oriel			Yasmin Mrabet	yasmin.mrabet@oriel.ox.ac.uk
Pembroke	Hasan Shahzad	hasan.shahzad@pmb.ox.ac.uk	Hanin Hassan	hanin.hassan@pmb.ox.ac.uk
Queen's	Ziyad Mahmoud	ziyad.mahmoud@queens.ox.ac.uk	Bahira Malak	bahira.malak@queens.ox.ac.uk
Regent's Park	Axel Marinho	axel.marinho@reagents.ox.ac.uk	Sameeha Qureshi	sameeha.qureshi@regents.ox.ac.uk
St Anne's			Zainab Bhamji	zainab.bhamji@st-annes.ox.ac.uk
St Catherine's	Fahim Miah	fahim.miah@stcatz.ox.ac.uk	Zainab Shaik	zainab.shaik@stcatz.ox.ac.uk
St Edmund Hall	Zakaria Najjar	zakaria.najjar@seh.ox.ac.uk	Jemima Begum	jemima.begum@seh.ox.ac.uk
St Hilda's	Riazul rahman	riazul.rahman@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk	Aysha Adam	aysha.adam@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk
St Hugh's	Zaid Abdulwahab	zaid.abdulwahab@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk		
St John's	Tharin Azad	tharin.azad@spc.ox.ac.uk	Fadumo Hersi	fadumo.hersi@sjc.ox.ac.uk
St Peter's	Sami Haroon	sami.haroon@spc.ox.ac.uk	Tharin Azad	tharin.azad@spc.ox.ac.uk
Somerville	Enes Morina	enes.morina@some.ox.ac.uk	Sana Dar	sana.dar@some.ox.ac.uk
Trinity			Suleqa Warsame	suleqa.warsame@trinity.ox.ac.uk
University	Ahmed Ali	ahmed.ali@univ.ox.ac.uk	Ayesha Ali	ayesha.ali@univ.ox.ac.uk
Wadham			Mahirah Rahman	mahirah.rahman@wadham.ox.ac.uk
Wolfson	Usama Ali	usama.ali@wolfson.ox.ac.uk		
Worcester	Mujaahid Arian	mujaahid.arian@worc.ox.ac.uk	Mahrin Ahmed	mahrin.ahmed@worc.ac.uk

Freshers' Tips

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Coming to university is a scary change but an amazing opportunity to try new things! Especially during fresher's fortnight, go to as many events as you can and also try loads of different societies/sports - there are so many activities in Oxford that you might not have back home so make the most of it (definitely try Polo!!) Make sure you don't overwork yourself, stay organized and spend plenty of time doing things you enjoy.

- Sara Malik
Medicine, Hertford College



OCIS Freshers' Lunch



Charity Week Auction Dinner

Get stuck in! Try to get involved in as many activities and events as you can both within college and from societies you're interested in (the ISoc will have lots of events lined up for you!); it's a great way to make a lot of new friends and find like-minded people with similar interests. Don't worry too much about the work you're initially given — you'll quickly get used to the workload and there's plenty of time to stress in later years anyway.

And finally, make sure to call your family/close friends every night and update them about what you've been up to, since it'll keep you connected to them while it's the first time you might be away.

- Riazul Rahman
History, St Hilda's College

Your uni experience is much more than your first week or even your first year! Be prepared to grow and don't let your experience at the beginning define the rest of your time at Oxford if you don't want it to. Take every day as it comes and put your faith in Allah and everything will work itself out :)

- Ahmed Ali
Mathematics, University College



Iftar in the Prayer Room



Freshers' Dinner Event

Asalaamu'alaykum! My advice for you would be to attend as many ISoc events as you can during your first few weeks at Oxford :) Moving away from home can be a daunting and lonely experience for all of us. Thankfully, the ISoc's Freshers' Fortnight is the best way to surround yourself with a community of like-minded people and ease the change to university with some fun, relaxing activities. Also, if you are ever in need of some support, please don't be afraid to reach out to members of the committee and the ISoc as a whole! We were all once in your position and are always more than happy to help.

- Haleema Khan
Earth Sciences, Exeter College

I remember my first few weeks at Oxford were so exciting but also very overwhelming. You'll be presented with so many different opportunities, so be sure to get involved and make the most of these experiences. The memories I made in 1st year are the ones I cherish most, and although it's important to prioritise work and revision, it's also important to socialise and create lifelong friendships, because trust me, it's the people around you that help you during your toughest times. Whilst you're in the Oxford bubble it's quite easy to fall behind on your faith, so I encourage all of you to be active within the ISoc, as attending these events will ground you in your deen and allow you to flourish as a Muslim in Oxford. It's also important to focus on your mental health whilst ploughing through the intense Oxford workload, remember to actively go out of your way to do things to relieve stress and try to enjoy the small things throughout the day. Finally, I wish nothing but the best for all of you beginning your journey here at Oxford and remember that we're all here rooting for you!!

- Iza Basharat
Medicine, Pembroke College



Freshers' Fair Stall



OCIS Freshers' Lunch



Eid Celebration

The transition to university can be a difficult one but so long as you hold onto your salah and have faith, things will work out for the best, insha'Allah. I've found coming down to the prayer room to pray salah in congregation is the best way to meet wonderful brothers that keep you on the right path with a few bants to go with it, Alhamdulillah.

- Aman Sultan
Economics & Management, Balliol College



Questions about *life in Oxford!*

Halal food?

Our OUISoc website has a comprehensive list of halal dining options in Oxford curated by our members, including which colleges serve halal food. You can also locate these places on our OUISoc Oxford map!

How can I become a member of the OUISoc?

To become an official member of the OUISoc, simply subscribe to our mailing list! You can find the subscription link at the end of this prospectus.

Where can I find a prayer timetable?

You can easily access the daily prayer times on our OUISoc website's main page. Our monthly calendars, including jama'ah (congregational prayer) times, are available on our website, in the prayer room, and on our WhatsApp chats. Throughout term time, we typically hold two Jumu'ah prayers, and one outside of term. For precise Jumu'ah timings, please consult our prayer times calendar.

How to get around Oxford?

Oxford is an extremely walkable city. As a student, most of your daily destinations will be within a 20-minute leisurely walk, allowing you to admire the city's beautiful architecture along the way. Additionally, Oxford is known for cycling, so you'll spot plenty of bikes and rentable e-scooters on the streets.



How can I stay up to date with OUISoc events?

At the beginning of each term, we publish a termcard outlining the events we have lined up. You can also stay in the loop by following us on Facebook, joining our WhatsApp announcement chats, and subscribing to our weekly newsletter.

Check out the end of this prospectus for instructions on how to join our mailing list, Facebook group, and WhatsApp chats!

Work-life balance?

During your first term at Oxford, prioritising time management is crucial. It's essential to find a healthy equilibrium between academic responsibilities and leisure. If you ever need any guidance with this, please don't hesitate to reach out to fellow members of our society!

What support does OUISoc offer to students during Ramadan?

In recent years, Ramadan has rarely coincided with term time. Nevertheless, the OUISoc offers daily free iftars in the Muslim Prayer Room, organised by our dedicated volunteers, alongside Taraweeh prayers. If you find yourself in Oxford during this time, we welcome you to join us!

How can I connect with other OUISoc members who share similar interests or academic pursuits?

As part of our Student Affairs initiatives, we host Subject Advice Sessions throughout the term to foster support networks among students from various academic years within each subject. Additionally, we provide a buddy scheme where incoming freshers are paired with older students who are either studying your subject or a related one, ensuring you always have someone to turn to for guidance.



ISoc Politics Event

How do I access the Muslim Prayer Room?

The Muslim Prayer Room is located in the Robert Hooke Building at OX1 3PP. To obtain the access code, feel free to ask any committee member or send us an email at ouisoc.mail@gmail.com.



Sisters' Games Night

Are there any regular events?

We offer a diverse range of regular religious and social events, such as our weekly Tilawah Circles, sports sessions, and friendly gathering over snacks in the prayer room :) Plus, don't miss our insightful weekly classes by Sheikh Riyadh every Thursday at 7:30pm!



Auction Dinner

Our IKHLAAS Magazine

Assalamu'alaikum everyone, I'm Mahirah, this year's Editor for the Ikhlās Magazine. Every year, we create 2-3 new issues with a specific theme and reach out to students and members of the community to write articles for us, as well as to submit any creative works. It is a great chance to learn from our peers and connect as a society. This year, we have an incredible team who are working tirelessly to create the next issue. Let's meet them!



Mahirah Rahman, Editor



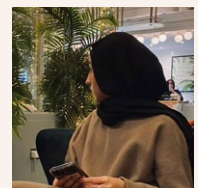
Assalamualaikum! I am Bahira, third year Law student and the Content Curator of Ikhlās! This means I brainstorm content ideas centering around the magazine theme, and then reach out to potential writers. I get to interact with different parts of the ISoc, and even academics and scholars. This is such a creative role, and it brings me so much joy when I'm working for the magazine. I cannot wait for all of you to see our first issue as a team!

Bahira Malak, Content Curator



Salaam, I'm Anisha, the Designer for this year! I've been responsible for creating the magazine's visual layout and I can only describe the experience as fulfilling and inspiring. I've been able to push myself creatively and have had the honour of ensuring the articles have come to life on paper. Being on the Ikhlās team has been wonderful and I am delighted to have played a part in producing what is another outstanding edition.

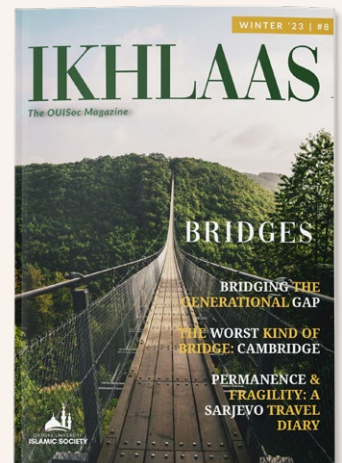
Anisha Khanom, Designer



Salam everyone, Nada here, the OUISoc Tech and Comms Officer. My role within the Ikhlās magazine is to take charge of the marketing. Signing up for my role on committee, I did not know I was also signing up to the mag team lol. So that was a surprise. I don't think I have it in me to be Mahirah and fix peoples grammar, when I am the queen of terrible grammar :/. Anyways, all the WhatsApp announcements and promotions are done by me :)

Nada Omar, Technology & Communications Officer

You can also explore previous issues on our website. Simply visit ouisoc.org/magazine to access a library of all our *Ikhlās* editions released over the past few years. We're always on the lookout for fresh voices and perspectives to feature in our upcoming issues, so stay tuned for article submission requests in the near future. Jazakallahu Khayr!



Ikhlās Edition #8



The Prayer Room

Our Muslim Prayer Room is located in central Oxford in the Robert Hooke Building (OX1 3PP), and is open 24/7. To request the entry code, just email ouisoc.mail@gmail.com with the subject 'Prayer Room Code'. The prayer room has brothers' and sisters' spaces and toilets with areas to make ablution - all these areas are wheelchair accessible.

It is an open, key space for Muslim students and the wider Oxford community alike, offering:

- Congregational prayers
- Tilawah Circles
- Tarawih & Iftars
- Jummah
- Open Meetings
- Eid Prayer



A place of peace

Connecting with other Muslims

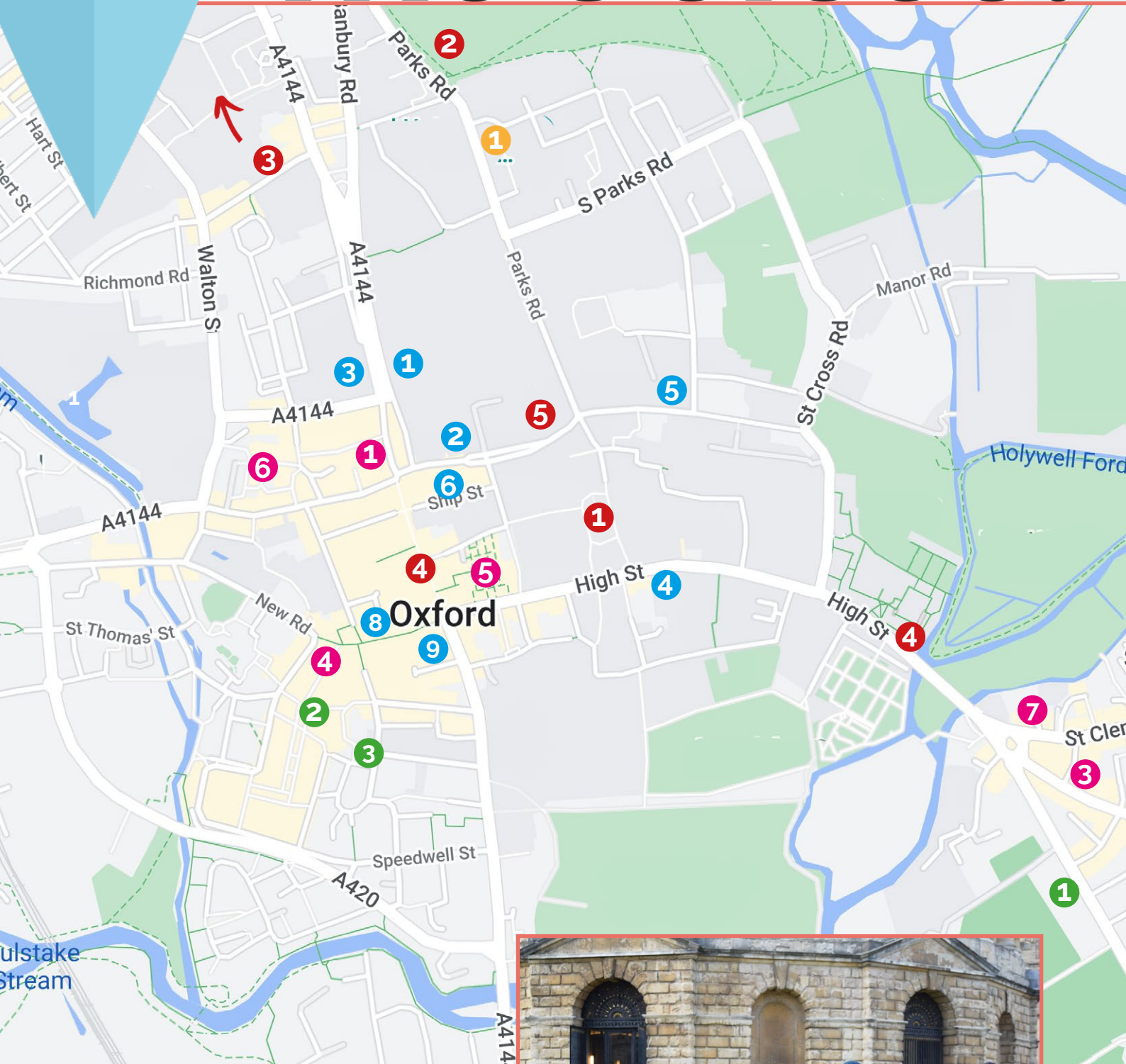


What does the Prayer Room mean to me?

An open space to experience and learn more about Islam

Opportunity for individual reflection

The OUISoc!



Sisters' Scavenger Hunt
Outside the Radcam



Map of Oxford



We've put together a helpful list of places for freshers to check out. From lesser known halal food spots to the nearest prayer spaces, we've tried to include as much as we can on our Map of Oxford!

Food See our website for more locations!

1. Najar's Place, OX1 3LU
 2. Hassan's Street Kitchen, OX1 3BS
 3. Solomon's Grill, OX1 3JS
 4. Ahmed's Kebab Van, OX1 4BH
 5. Alternative Tuck Shop, OX1 3BQ
 6. Cafe Creme, OX1 3AS
 7. Philly's Burger, OX4 1AH
 8. Popeyes, OX1 1ER
 9. Kokoro, OX1 1BD
 10. Bodrum, OX4 1UH
 11. Chaiiwala, OX4 1UH
 12. Sundaes, OX4 1UT
- (halal availability can vary, so please check beforehand)*

Shops & Markets

1. Tesco Express Magdalen St, OX1 3AD
2. Tesco Express Cowley Rd, OX4 1UT
3. Tahmid Stores, OX4 1HP
4. Westgate, OX1 1PE
5. The Covered Market, OX1 3DZ
6. Gloucester Green, OX1 2BU
7. Sainsbury's Local St Clement's, OX4 1DS

Mosques/Prayer Spaces

1. OUISoc Muslim Prayer Room, OX1 3PP
2. Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, OX3 0EE
3. Central Oxford Mosque Society, OX4 1DJ
4. Bangladesh Islamic Centre, OX4 1HR (males)

Sports & Fitness

1. Iffley Road Sports Centre, OX4 1EQ
2. Buzz Gym, OX1 1NZ
3. Pure Gym, OX1 1PT

Other

1. Radcliffe Camera, OX1 3BG
2. Uni Parks, OX1 3RF
3. Port Meadow, OX2 6ED
4. Magdalen Boathouse, OX1 3PP
5. Blackwell's Bookshop, OX1 3BQ

Sisters' Kebab Van Crawl
Hassan's Street Kitchen



Being a Muslim in Oxford

Making Oxford a Second Home

Salaam! Congratulations on getting into Oxford!! The ISoc is a very friendly and welcoming community as well as being one of the biggest societies. I don't think there's been one time I've walked around central Oxford and not bumped into someone from ISoc; it really helps Oxford seem like a second home being surrounded by like-minded people! Relaxing in the prayer room is definitely something a lot of people do when feeling stressed or homesick and there's always someone there to talk to! Don't stress too much about trying to fit in and make friends as there's such a variety of people in your colleges and in ISoc, just be yourself and have fun! InshaAllah you will have an amazing Oxford experience :)

~ Sara Malik | Medicine, Hertford College



Find a Balance

My advice to upcoming freshers would be to seek a balance between growth and authenticity. It is important to be open to new experiences and new encounters but this doesn't mean you have to pretend to be someone you are not. At the same time it doesn't make sense to stick so rigidly to the idea you have of yourself in your mind that you don't allow yourself to grow at all throughout your time here. The point of balance is different for everyone but it is a good thing to keep in mind.

~ Axel Marinho | Philosophy and Theology, Regent's Park College



There's a Welcoming Muslim Community Here!

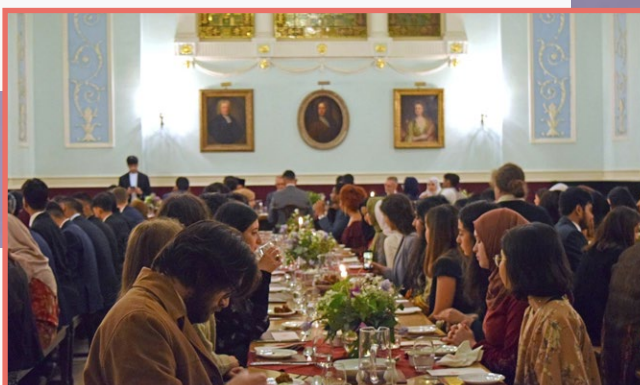
Salaam everyone! Congratulations for making it to Oxford! This is a huge achievement and you should be really proud of all the hard work you've done. One advice I would give is don't be afraid to meet others. Everyone is a little nervous but do try to start the conversation and meet someone new. Students here are not only from the rest of the country, but the world! There's a growing Muslim community here at Oxford which is extremely welcoming with a large number of local Muslim residents too. Take part in Islamic lectures, OUISoc events and surround yourself with good company to help strengthen your deen during your time here at Oxford. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or you just want to say hello!

~ Fahim Miah History, St Catherine's College

Take Time to Discover Yourself

Asalaamu Alaykum, congratulations on making it here! This is a massive achievement that you should be proud of. In Oxford, there is a large Muslim community, it was easy to be myself around others. I always had someone to talk to and rant about my (never ending) problems lol, whether it was in ISoc or not. The ISoc has so many Muslim friendly events: my favourites were the formals and the Sisters' Self-care Night. First year was a time for me to discover a lot about myself and being around amazing sisters really helped me strengthen my Iman.

~ Nada Omar Chemistry, Exeter College



Go at Your Own Pace

There's lots to do in Oxford, especially with the ISoc and it may be quite overwhelming at first but you'll soon realise that everyone is actually really friendly, so do try and get involved with as much as you can and speak to loads of people. At the same time though, don't worry if you want to take it easy at first. I went to my first ISoc event, three weeks into term and it only took me 10 minutes to feel like part of the community. You're here for a long time and there'll be many opportunities to meet great people and do fun things. Look after yourself and your religion and inshallah you'll have a great time.

~ Ahmad Awais Medicine, Lady Margaret Hall



Alumni Reflections

Tips from our Alumni!

Haseem Shah

My time at ISoc is what really made my whole uni experience. It provided countless memories, lifelong friends, and importantly a much stronger relationship with Allah and understanding of Islam. It was a constant source of comfort to get away from all the deadlines and stresses of the academic side of uni, and head over to the prayer room or whatever daily ISoc event was going on. The ISoc also provided such a beautiful breadth of people from all walks of life, different countries and across the whole spectrum of Islam, and I really appreciated the opportunity to learn about all those differences, brought together by our similarities.

My advice to freshers would be make the absolute most of your time at uni and what the ISoc has to offer. It is those memories and friends from ISoc that I still hold with me today, not what I wrote in each essay. I'd also highly recommend getting involved in the committee if you have the opportunity, which was by far the most rewarding experience I had in Oxford.

Haseem Shah
OUISoc President
2017-18



Lamis Hamdi

The first few weeks at university can be an eclectic mix of emotions: exciting, overwhelming, fun and daunting! With information being constantly bombarded at you, particularly in the first week, it can be difficult to know where to get started in your journey of discovering Oxford. To this I say: pause.

It may feel like you need to be signing up to a million things to try at once, or to attend every single social event. And there's nothing wrong with that (it can actually be quite fun!). But if you feel that you are becoming far too swamped with too much social interaction and too little time for yourself, then taking the time out to rejuvenate and recharge, whatever that may look like, is perfectly valid. You are about to embark on a degree that will keep you pre-occupied for the most part, and being well-rested will be so important in keeping you going throughout the term. Having said that, enjoy everything, say yes to things that take you out of your comfort zone and soak in the beauty of the city at every moment! It's a truly wondrous place!



Lamis Hamdi
Medicine Graduate
2022

WEEK 0

1ST OCT



FRE FOR

SUN

*Desserts
Night*

WED

SISTERS'

ICE SKATING

+



BROTHERS'
OXFORD/MUSEUM
TOUR



MON

BROTHERS'
Punting

+

SISTERS'
OXFORD/MUSEUM
TOUR

TUE



OUISOC
GAMES NIGHT

THU

MEET THE

COMMITTEE!

SAT

*Port
Meadow*

MRN

+

AI CONFERENCE

FRI

*Jumma
Tea*

+

FOOTBALL
AND DINNER

FAIR

breakfast

BROs'

FISHERS' NIGHT

WEEK 1
8TH OCT

SUN

BROTHERS' PANTBALLING



&

SISTERS' LASER TAG



QURAN TILAWA



MON

SISTERS! ESCAPE ROOM



+

BROTHERS' Rugby Games!



TUE

MUSLIMS' INTRO TO OXFORD

THU

SH. RIYAD NADWI ACTIONABLE TAFSIR



SAT



Matriculation

WED

GRADUATE DINNER

FRI



SISTERS' DINNER

+



FOOTBALL AND DINNER



OXFORD UNIVERSITY
ISLAMIC SOCIETY

Find out more about OUISoc on our website, and access bonus content - including the OUISoc History Project and the OUISoc Store!



ouisoc.org

Find us on:



[@oxforduni_isoc](https://www.instagram.com/oxforduni_isoc)



[@ouisoc](https://www.facebook.com/ouisoc)

All of our events are posted here!



We have social group chats (to connect and chat with other Muslims!) and announcement group chats (where event details are posted!) - feel free to message a committee member to be added to these!

And to officially join OUISoc simply join our mailing list! We send a weekly newsletter with details of all the upcoming events...



Our Mailing List



OXFORD UNIVERSITY
ISLAMIC SOCIETY
 Michaelmas Termcard 2023

KEY

Religious Education	Community	Politics	Other
Graduates	Islamic Awareness	Welfare & Social	

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Week 0	Brothers' Desserts Night (7pm)	Brothers' Punting (2pm)	Brothers' Games Night (7pm)	Brothers' Oxford/Museum Tour (2pm)	Meet the Committee (8pm)	Brothers' Fajr Breakfast (8pm)	MRN - AI Conference
1st Oct	Sisters' Desserts Night (7pm)	Sisters' Oxford/Museum Tour (2pm)	Sisters' Games Night (7pm)	Sisters' Ice Skating (2pm)		Brothers' Football (8pm)	Port Meadows (6am)
Week 1	Brothers' Paintballing (7am)	Sisters' Escape Room (4.15pm & 6.45pm)	Muslims' Intro to Oxford (7pm)	Graduate Dinner (7pm)	Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)	Sisters' Welfare Tea (7pm)	
8th Oct	Sisters' Laser Tag (3pm)	Brothers' Rug-Games (8pm)			Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)	Sisters' Dinner (7pm)	Matriculation
	Quran Tilawat	Subject Advice Session (5pm)	Companionship and Community w/ Ustadh Hisham		Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)	Brothers' Football (8pm)	
Week 2	OCIS Freshers' Dinner				Sweetcone Making for Charity (6pm)		Snowdon Challenge
15th Oct					CHARITY WEEK		
Week 3	Sisters' PJ Party (7pm)	Sisters' Kickboxing (6pm)	Brothers' Fifa (7pm)	Quiz Night (7pm)	Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)	Jummah Bake Sale	Auction Dinner
22nd Oct			Islam in the Modern World (7pm)	Masculinity and Modesty	Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)	Brothers' Football (8pm)	
Week 4			Q-Club (7pm)	Islam and Academia w/ Sh Haroon Sidat	Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)		Graduate Desserts Night (7pm)
29th Oct				Even Angels Ask Questions (7pm)	Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)	Sisters' Arts & Crafts (7pm)	Intro to Internships (5pm)
Week 5		The Role of Islamic Schools (7pm)	Q-Club (7pm)	Sisters' High Tea Party (6pm)	Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)		Spiritual Health w/ Imam Ashraf (7pm)
5th Nov	Community Volunteering (11:30am)				Sh. Riyad Nadwi Actionable Tafsis (7:30pm)	Brothers' Dinner (8pm)	Oxbridge Varsity
Week 6						Brothers' Bowling (7pm)	
12th Nov						Sisters' Mocktails (7pm)	
Week 7	Cambridge Day Trip	Halal Investing (7pm)					
19th Nov							
Week 8	Open Meeting						
26th Nov							

REGULAR EVENTS

Event	Brothers' Tilawah	Sisters' Tilawah	Dua Kumayl	Sisters' Welfare Tea	Sisters' Kickboxing	Brothers' Jummah Tea	Brothers' Friday Breakfast	Brothers' Football
Date/Time	Sun After Maghrib	Sun After Maghrib	Thur	Fri - Week 2, 4 & 6 (7pm)	Sun - Week 2, 4 & 5 (11-12pm)	Fri - Week 3, 6 & 8 After 2nd Jummah	Fajr Jama'ah	Fri (8pm)
Facilitator	mohamed.heiki @ccc.ox.ac.uk	zainab.bhamji @st-annes.ox.ac.uk	mehdi.mojarradi @exeter.ox.ac.uk	nafisa.sharder @jesus.ox.ac.uk	nafisa.sharder @jesus.ox.ac.uk	saimur.rahman @new.ox.ac.uk	aman.sultan @balliol.ox.ac.uk	ahmad.awais @lmh.ox.ac.uk

OUISoc
**Freshers'
Guide**



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