

Sarah
Lawrence
College
At Oxford

2011-2012

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Introduction

This handbook has been designed to help you prepare for next year. Please read it thoroughly and be sure to bring it with you to Oxford.

You are about to embark on one of the most rewarding and challenging years of your life. We hope that you will enjoy it immensely.

We are delighted that you are joining the Programme.

Best wishes,

Prema Samuel, Assistant Dean
International & Exchange Programs
Sarah Lawrence College
Bronxville, NY 10708
TEL: 914-395-2305/800-873-4752
FAX: 914-395-2666
psamuel@sarahlawrence.edu

Dr. Deborah Sandler
Director of Oxford Programme
Wadham College
Oxford, OX1 3PN, England
TEL: 011-441-865-277-541
FAX: 011-441-865-244-069
slp@wadh.ox.ac.uk

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE AT OXFORD

Wadham College
Oxford OX1 3PN, England
011-44-1865-241832
011-44-1865-244069 – fax
slp@wadh.ox.ac.uk

2011-2012 CALENDAR

Students Arrive	Wednesday, September 28, 2011
Orientation Begins	Thursday, September 29
Orientation Ends	Saturday, October 8
Michaelmas Term Begins	Sunday, October 9 (Week 1)
Michaelmas Term Ends	Saturday, December 3 (Week 8)*
Winter Break	Friday, December 9
Students Must Return by:	Thursday, January 12, 2012 (Week 0)
Hilary Term Begins	Sunday, January 15 (Week 1)
Hilary Term Ends	Saturday, March 10 (Week 8)*
Spring Break	Friday, March 16
Students Must Return by:	Thursday, April 19 (Week 0)
Trinity Term Begins	Sunday, April 22 (Week 1)
Trinity Term Ends	Saturday, June 16 (Week 8)*
Students Must Vacate Rooms	Sunday, June 24, 2012, in the morning

*Please note that students may not leave for breaks prior to, nor may they return later than, the dates specified. Term ends after Week 8 but most students remain into Week 9 as all academic work must be completed before students depart for the vacation.

NOTE: Students may NOT arrive before opening day, September 28, 2011, because housing cannot be prepared before that date. You **must arrive and collect your keys from the Manager at Merifield between 10:00 am and 4:30 pm on September 28th** and be moved in for Orientation which begins the next day. If you are unable to arrive in Oxford before 4:30 pm, you must email the Oxford Office at least a week in advance of September 28.

Personal effects may be shipped to arrive at Merifield on September 28th or after. Our office space is minimal, and we are unable to store your items prior to that date. Mail for you may arrive at Wadham College after September 28th and you may continue to use the Wadham address for mail throughout the year.

Parcels and packages to be sent to: Merifield, Ferry Pool Road
Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7DU

WELCOME TO OXFORD

Welcome to the Sarah Lawrence Programme in Oxford - we look forward to your arrival in this beautiful and stimulating university city. As a member of the Programme you are enrolled as a full Visiting Student of Oxford University. This status gives you access to all University facilities, including sports venues, clubs and societies, lectures, and of course libraries, ranging from specific subject collections to the world-famous Bodleian Library, founded in the 14th century.

Oxford is unique in that students often identify more with their individual college than with the University. The University is made up of 39 colleges and the Sarah Lawrence Programme is affiliated with one of its most central and beautiful, Wadham College. Students are encouraged to become part of this college community – an active engagement with events and activities in college will enhance your experience of Oxford considerably. You will have access to all academic, social and dining facilities enjoyed by Wadham undergraduates, including the college library, common room, computer room, bar, dining hall and informal refectory, and the Moser Theatre. You may also use Wadham's sports facilities, which include squash and tennis courts, a croquet lawn, and a fully equipped boathouse, and you are entitled (indeed, encouraged) to play for Wadham in inter-collegiate competitions, which take place on a number of skill levels, ranging from the fun-seeking amateur to the fiercely experienced! Do get involved, whatever your own level: beginners are more welcome than would generally be the case in US colleges.

Additionally, you will benefit from the practical and pastoral support systems provided by Wadham, ranging from the Porters to the College Chaplain, and including the various student organization officers who can offer advice on many issues and help you integrate into the college community.

The Sarah Lawrence Programme Office

Experienced administrators staff the Programme Office in Wadham College. With their expertise in academic, social and practical matters, they provide an invaluable source of information and advice during Orientation, as well as arrange the students' tutorials which are the centerpiece of their educational experience during the year. The Programme Director meets with students on a regular basis to plan and review their academic programme. The Office works with the University, Wadham, Sarah Lawrence, and the other home institutions of Programme Members to create an effective network of communication and support. Operating during regular business hours, the Office also provides a full emergency back-up service during evenings, weekends and vacations.

Oxford University: A Brief Introduction

Oxford is the oldest English-speaking University in the world. Its origins are Saxon, dating back as far as the 8th century to the nunnery of Saint Frideswide, now the site of Christ Church Cathedral. While there is no clear date of foundation, teaching existed in some form in 1096 and developed rapidly in 1167, as a result of a royal dispute when Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris. By 1200, Oxford was providing a structured course of study, and Oxford's first University Charter was granted in 1214.

In the University's early days students lived in private lodgings. Before long, licensed Academic Halls were established, presided over by 'Masters'. Students were young men who needed 'book learning' - potential monks and priests, as well as 'clerks' destined for royal or civic administration. They would 'come up' (or enroll) around the age of sixteen, and would study Liberal Arts for a first degree (the Trivium of Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, and the Quadrivium of Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy and Music). If they went on to take a Master's degree and then a Doctorate, they could spend up to sixteen years studying. Teaching and exams were all conducted orally, in Latin.

Colleges gradually evolved from the structures of the Academic Halls. University, Balliol and Merton Colleges, established between 1249 and 1264, are the oldest colleges. New College, founded in 1379 by William of Wykeham to educate clergy (depleted by the Black Death of 1348), was the first to be planned in what became the traditional manner - quadrangles with 'staircases' for living accommodation, a hall for eating, and a chapel for worship. The arrival of the Colleges marked the beginning of the takeover of the city centre by the University. This evolution was not without its struggles. In the thirteenth century, rioting between 'town and gown' (townspeople and students) spurred the establishment of halls of residence, followed by the fortress-like colleges.

By the 14th century Oxford had achieved eminence above every other seat of learning. In 1355, King Edward III paid tribute to the University for its invaluable contribution to learning; he also commented on the services rendered the state by Oxford's many distinguished graduates. Famous alumni include Roger Bacon, Erasmus, Sir Walter Raleigh, Lawrence of Arabia, Edmund Halley, Lewis Carroll, JRR Tolkien, Sir Roger Bannister, Dorothy Hodgkin, Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair, and Bill Clinton. Those who have studied or taught at Oxford include John Donne, Philip Larkin, Michael Palin and Stephen Hawking. Six Kings, 46 Nobel prize-winners, and 26 UK Prime Ministers are Oxonians, including David Cameron, the current Prime Minister.

Only men could attend Oxford until 1879, when Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville College opened. Women were properly admitted to the University in 1920 but not granted equal status with men until 1952. During the 1970s and 1980s the men's colleges accepted women students. Six of the colleges are for graduate students only, and one - the illustrious All Souls College - has no students at all. For a more extensive history of Oxford and a list of distinguished alumni, please see Oxford's website: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/aboutoxford/>.

The University has no 'campuses in the manner of an American institution. Colleges each have enclosed sites and gardens, but the rest of the University buildings - libraries, departmental buildings, and lecture halls - are scattered around the city, mixed in with shops, offices, and even people's homes. Strolling around the centre is like stepping back in time, such is the beauty and age of the sandstone architecture: the Sheldonian Theatre, where matriculation and graduation ceremonies take place (designed by Wadham alumnus Sir Christopher Wren, and completed in 1669); the Bodleian Library (founded in the 14th century); the Radcliffe Camera, a rotunda reading room in the city's main square (1748); and the Examination Schools, where students report to sit exams dressed in the traditional uniform of black and white 'sub-fusc' (1876-82).

The Colleges themselves also provide main focal points, each with their own history, traditions and atmosphere. Each student is affiliated to a particular College, which provides tutorials, supervision, social activities, eating facilities and accommodation. Colleges vary in size and character: Wadham has just over 600 students, and is one of the larger and most lively. There are just over 11,000 undergraduates and 6,500 graduate students at the University overall.

Wadham College

Wadham was founded in 1610 by Dorothy Wadham. Now in the centre of bustling Oxford, in the 17th century it was built just outside the old city walls, on a site which had been used by a religious foundation before the Reformation. The original buildings were designed by a famous master-builder from the west of England, William Arnold, and these (the front Quad, the Hall and Chapel) remain almost unaltered to this day. Twentieth-century buildings have been erected behind these older edifices, and include a new library, student rooms, and lecture and drama theatres.

Wadham's history includes the proud entry in the College Register in 1619, recording the admittance of Carew Raleigh (son of Sir Walter Raleigh whom James I had just executed). In 1648, the Warden of Wadham was the scientist John Wilkins. Wilkins designed a number of flying machines and wrote two books on reaching the moon. He brought together an impressive group of scientists and philosophers who, after Wilkins' retirement, went on to establish the Royal Society in London. One of the group was Sir Christopher Wren, whose first commission at Oxford was the Sheldonian Theatre. He went on to design many of the churches in London after the Great Fire. St. Paul's Cathedral is considered his masterpiece. Isaac Newton became the first president of the Royal Society.

One of the College statutes stipulated that the Warden (the head of Wadham) be unmarried, and so he was until 1806, when the statute was repealed. Nevertheless, Wadham was one of the first Colleges to become mixed and first admitted women in 1973. Nowadays, a high percentage of Wadham's 450 undergraduate students are from state schools and Wadham claims no affiliation with any region or group of schools, preferring a diverse student body. It is consequently one of the most mixed of all the Colleges, and has the reputation

of being progressive - friendly, left-wing and politically active. Sarah Lawrence Programme students are welcomed and integrated into the College during Orientation. They are encouraged to join in with all College and University activities open to Oxford undergraduates (except for sitting examinations). There are many opportunities for political and social involvement: Programme Members elect a SLP Representative Officer to Wadham's Student Union Committee, and all students are entitled to vote at SU meetings. Visiting students are encouraged to involve themselves in different aspects of College life and by doing so become part of an engaging community and a continuing tradition.

What to bring

Important Paperwork (please bring these items with you in carry-on luggage):

- All documents required for entry into Britain and your arrival in Oxford.
- A valid passport and visa for the duration of your stay in Oxford (it's a good idea to make two photocopies of important documents such as these; pack one separately from your passport and leave the other somewhere secure in case you lose the original).
- Any supplementary visa documentation which you have received.
- Financial Guarantee Form completed by your parent or guardian.
- A letter from Sarah Lawrence College certifying your status as a student on the Programme.

Money

Please bring enough money (in the form of cash on you or available to you by accessing an ATM machine upon arrival) to cover the first two weeks in Oxford. You will need easy access to about £500 to cover the Orientation period and the first few weeks. If you bring travelers' cheques (drafted in pounds sterling), these will need to be converted into cash at a bank, since most shops and businesses will not accept them. Try not to tie up all your money in travelers' cheques as you will need cash from the moment you arrive (for the coach from the airport, for example). **Expenses during Orientation will be higher than in subsequent weeks, since you will be purchasing domestic items and books, shopping around for food, joining University and College societies, and taking part in a number of social events which launch the academic year.**

Clothing and Personal Items

- Please plan on purchasing a cellular (mobile) phone soon after arrival as there are no telephones in the flats. Our experience indicates that at present, Orange provides the best network coverage in Oxford. Most students buy a pay-as-you-go phone.
- Bring sufficient personal items and clothes to see you through the first term or longer or, until any luggage that you may have chosen to send via a carrier, arrives in Oxford. Luggage allowances from North America are generous, so hopefully you will be able to bring everything you need on the airplane.
- Be sure to pack some waterproof shoes for walking around Oxford, and some rainwear.

- Bring at least one smart outfit. During the first week of Orientation, there will be a formal dinner in Wadham College, for which men should wear a suit (not tuxedo), or jacket and tie, and women a smart suit, pants or dress.
- The temperature in late September/early October can be warm enough for short sleeves during the day, but also chilly enough to require sweaters and a warm jacket. Winter in Oxford may be cold and is often wet. Clothes in Britain are expensive: we recommend wearing layers to keep out the winter dampness and chill.
- Please bring bath and hand towels.
- Hairdryers and other such appliances will require a voltage conversion plug (British voltage is 240), which you can purchase in Oxford, though you may prefer to invest in an inexpensive British equivalent. The cheapest hairdryers start at £8 and clock radios at £10. Students often play music from their laptops or invest in speakers for their iPod. Please refer to the section 'Bringing Electronic Goods from the US' (page 15 below).
- Computer - please plan on bringing a laptop with you. See below for further details.

How to Bring It

- Check weight limitations for luggage with your airline: if you are a light traveler, you may be able to carry all that you require for the year on your flight. Otherwise, you may arrange to have extra items sent by air or sea carriers.
- Do not pack anything valuable in your checked baggage.
- Make copies of any important documentation and carry these separately.
- Be sure that you are properly insured.
- Anything irreplaceable should be carried with you at all times.
- If you are bringing a musical instrument, call your airline for full instructions about packing and checking it through.

Shipping Items

Consult each company for specific size limits, costs for packing, taxes, insurance and any additional costs for retrieval of luggage at point of destination. Ask for advice on customs tax, and filling out customs forms. Keep copies of all the forms you complete.

Always read your shipping agreement closely, and bring all documents with you. Declare any used belongings that you send by carrier as 'personal property,' to avoid paying customs duty. Do not send trunks: they are unwieldy, may not fit in your room, and cannot be stored. Two services you may want to investigate are the US Postal Service and DHL Worldwide Express.

Your Arrival in England

The Programme asks that all participants arrive in Oxford between 10:00 am and 4:30 pm on September 28, 2011.

You are likely to arrive at one of the two major London airports: Heathrow or Gatwick.

Heathrow Airport

Heathrow is served by a regular coach service (blue and yellow buses called 'the Airline') to and from Oxford. If you arrive at Terminals 1, 2, or 3, exit Customs and follow signs to the Central Bus Station and go to Bay 14. If you arrive at Terminal 4, exit the terminal and go to Bay 15, from Terminal 5 go to Bay 11. Buses to Oxford run approximately every 30 minutes between 4.00 am and 10.00 pm, less frequently during the night. A one-way fare costs £22, a period return (round trip), valid for 3 months, costs £26. The ride should take about an hour, perhaps a little longer, in heavy traffic.

Gatwick Airport

Gatwick is also served by the Airline coach service to and from Oxford that leaves once an hour during the day. The coaches to Oxford leave at quarter past the hour from the upper forecourt of the South Terminal Bus Station and at twenty minutes past the hour from Bay 4 of the North Terminal Bus Station. A one-way fare costs £27, a period return (valid for 3 months) costs £36. The ride will take 2 to 2 1/2 hours, depending on traffic.

- The luggage allowance on both routes is two suitcases per person in the luggage compartment and small carry-on luggage inside the coach.
- The driver may ask for your destination. Your journey will end at Gloucester Green (pronounced 'Gloster'), the Oxford bus station.
- Unfortunately, neither of these coach services offers a student fare rate.
- You may also want to check the latest schedule available online at <http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/airline1.html>.

Taxis from the airports are expensive. If booked in advance, Heathrow prices range from £75 to £85; Gatwick prices range from £110 to £125. If not booked in advance, these fares can triple in cost, so always prearrange such journeys. If you require further information on pre-booking a taxi from the airport, please ask Prema Samuel at Sarah Lawrence College.

If you are making your way to Oxford from Central London, trains leave from Paddington Station (telephone 08457 484950 for timetable information, or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk), and a one-way ticket will cost £10.50 - £26.00, depending on the time of travel, and can be cheaper if booked well in advance online. Coaches (the Oxford Express and Oxford Tube) leave from Victoria coach station and other central London stops every 15 minutes or so. The coach services offer a student ticket one-way for £10; £15 for a period return valid for three months. Information is available online at: <http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/espress1.shtml> and <http://www.oxfordtube.com/>.

Arrival in Oxford

If you have taken a coach from the airport, please travel to the last stop, the central bus station in Oxford, known as Gloucester Green. From here you will need to find the taxi stand or 'taxi rank' (ask or follow signs), and take a taxi to Merifield in Ferry Pool Road, Summertown. The fare from Gloucester Green to Merifield is around £5 - £6, with a charge of 50p for each item of luggage. Tipping for good service is approximately 10%.

If you have taken the train, you will find the taxi rank outside the main entrance to Oxford rail station. The fare is on average £6 with, again, a charge of 50p per item of luggage.

Arrival at Merifield

When you arrive at Merifield you will need to use the buzzer at the front gate to contact the Manager, who will issue keys and show you to your accommodation. Please feel free to call the office (01865 277 541) or Merifield (01865 432 259) if you have difficulties en route.

As many of you will have flown overnight to reach England, procedures on arrivals day will be kept to a minimum. We will have prepared information to help you settle in, including maps, housing information and an Orientation schedule, which provides introductory and essential information for your year in Oxford.

Your first day will be a quiet one and a time for you to settle into your flat and meet your flat mates. We will meet for our first meeting, with a pizza dinner, at 5.00 pm at the North Oxford Community Centre, opposite Merifield. While you may feel tired after 'losing' a minimum of five hours, it is a good idea to try and keep awake until at least 9.00 pm. Otherwise, you may prolong jet lag and delay adjustment to local time.

Orientation Week

The ten days are designed not only to introduce you to many aspects of your life in a new place, but also to fulfill the registration requirements of the University. You will be busy with talks, tours, enrollment at the Bodleian Library, registration with the College medical practice, and various social events.

During Orientation, every student will meet with the Director, Dr. Deborah Sandler, to discuss the course of study over both the first term and the remainder of the academic year. These discussions will be based on your application and tutorial forms.

You will also use this time to organize your finances, explore your surroundings, and orient yourselves within Oxford.

Families and friends are welcome to accompany you to Oxford, and they are invited to coffee at our first formal Orientation meeting at 10.00 am on Thursday, 29 September. A tour of Wadham will also be arranged for parents that morning. For the rest of Orientation, your time with them will be limited due to the demands of the University and the Orientation timetable. As Wadham Freshers' Week coincides with the second week of Orientation, and you will be attending most of the events, this will be a very busy time.

Academic Structure of the Programme

The Academic Year

The academic year at Oxford is divided into three eight-week terms: Michaelmas (Fall), Hilary (Spring), and Trinity (Summer). Officially, all lectures and tutorials take place within each eight-week term, but students are also encouraged to be in Oxford for the week preceding Full Term (0th Week) and the week following Full Term (9th Week) if they have work to complete.

Course Structure and Credit

Students pursue two courses of study each term, working in weekly tutorials with their course tutor. Students receive a written evaluation and a grade from each tutor at the end of each term, which is then placed on their transcript. Guest Students must consult with their home institution advisors to ensure that their credit requirements will be fulfilled during the year in Oxford.

Tutorials

Tutors for the Programme are drawn from throughout the University (not just from Wadham College) and sometimes beyond if we wish to take advantage of an expert in the field who is not affiliated with the University. Students meet weekly with their tutor in each subject. The student often reads aloud a paper (or 'essay') based on the assigned reading for that week, and the tutorial discussion centres on the ideas contained in the paper. Sometimes the tutor expects the paper to be delivered or e-mailed in advance of the tutorial; sometimes the tutor will only receive the paper in the tutorial. The tutorials are designed to last one, two, or all three terms.

In general, we request that each student continue with one tutorial throughout the year, or a minimum of two terms. Frequently students choose to stay with both tutors, thereby benefitting from the rewards of an in-depth relationship. Like all Oxford students, we may suggest you experience a double tutorial. This means that one of your termly tutorials may be shared with another Programme student. Double tutorials allow for lively discussions with a fellow student in and out of tutorials. Your other tutorial will remain a 'single'. When choosing your tutorials, it is not necessarily a good idea to attempt to use courses designed by your home institution. By all means use them as a guide, but please, in general, do not expect Oxford tutors to adapt themselves to reading lists or syllabi of other institutions. While Visiting Students do have the freedom to create courses and reading lists which go beyond the standard Oxford curriculum, those who draw on the University's established strengths make the best use of its resources. We encourage students to research the University's departments and the courses which make up their degrees (see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/departments/> and <http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses/>) as a guide in focusing their studies.

Dr. Sandler will meet with students during the term to ensure the tutorials are progressing in a satisfactory manner, and to provide support where necessary. She will also liaise directly with each tutor before and during term time. **Please do not contact any Oxford tutor directly before your academic year begins**, unless you confirm it beforehand with the Oxford office. The Director is always available to meet informally with the Programme Students to discuss any issues

that may arise in relation to their tutorials or tutors.

Core Programme

The Core Programme is designed to introduce students to British culture and society. Consisting of lectures, discussions, and field trips to sites of historic and cultural interest, the course meets for all three terms. Core Programme lectures are held in one of the Wadham seminar rooms, and provide a good opportunity for the group to come together on a regular basis.

University Lectures and Classes

As Visiting Students, everyone on the Programme is entitled to attend University lectures. These are offered in the full range of academic disciplines, and are often given by world experts in the field. They are an excellent means of extending the scope of tutorial work. Full lecture lists are published at the beginning of each term, and will be available in the Programme Office. They are also available online at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/pubs/lectures/>.

Additionally, you may be able to pursue University classes in classical or modern languages, to complement your tutorials. Places at the University Language Centre are limited, and priority is given to those studying the language for an examinable tutorial course. If a language course is oversubscribed, students have to enter a lottery for available spaces.

Please see <http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk/> for more details.

Programme Housing

Students are required to live in the housing provided by the Programme. We are fortunate to house all SLP students in Merifield, Wadham College Housing for graduate students and second and third-year undergraduates. All SLP students live in one building on the Wadham site enabling both the creation of a Programme community as well as ample opportunity for mixing with Wadham students. Merifield is located in Summertown, North Oxford, which is a ten minute bus ride or half-hour walk from town. It is right next to a fully equipped sports centre with a gym and swimming pool. You will be sharing a flat with other members of the Programme. Housing assignments are carefully thought out and are made on the basis of the information you convey in your housing questionnaire. While we cannot promise you everything you ask for, we do our very best to ensure a comfortable and congenial environment. You will find out about your housing assignment when you arrive in Oxford. Please do not expect to have access to your flat before September 28.

You will be housed in North Oxford,

In all flats there is a single bedroom for each student as well as a shared kitchen, living room and bathroom facilities. Each bedroom is furnished with a bed, dresser, desk and chair, and lamp. One set of linens, a comforter and pillow with covers will be provided. Each kitchen has a fridge and oven, and is equipped with crockery, cutlery, and cookware. All flats have central heating and access to the internet. Washing machines are available on site.

Residency

As Visiting Students, you are entitled to University privileges and required to observe University regulations. The University stipulates that during Full Term permission needs to be sought for absences from Oxford of more than three consecutive nights. Except in an emergency, all requests for leave of absence must be made in advance to the Director, Dr. Sandler.

Visitors

In order not to violate any safety or insurance regulations, it is important that you check with the Programme Office before inviting any visitors to stay for more than three consecutive nights. Please speak with members of your household about the visitors before approaching the Office for permission.

Damages

You will be responsible for looking after your flat during your residency and will therefore be charged for any damages incurred during your stay. A schedule of damages will be conveyed to you upon arrival.

Banking, Finance and Budgeting

Many students choose to open bank accounts upon arrival in Oxford, while some simply use ATMs (cashpoints) to draw money from their US bank accounts. British banks offer the same sort of accounts as in the US. You will have the chance to investigate the various options when you arrive. Please be sure that you have at least enough cash to get from the airport to Oxford, allowing extra for food and contingencies.

Before you leave for England, ask your home bank for advice. Ask about cash transfers and any services that may help you during your year abroad. Can you access your account details via the Internet, for example? A letter of recommendation from your bank may prove useful if you decide to open an account in Oxford. The Programme will also write you a letter of support. If you wish to bring a credit card, bear in mind that Visa and MasterCard are far more widely accepted in the UK than American Express.

Your Home Bank Account: Points to Bear in Mind

- It is a good idea to inform your bank in writing of your travel plans, so that your account record is up to date. You should do the same if you have a credit card, so that overseas usage of your card for a year is not seen to constitute 'abnormal usage'.
- Make a note of your bank's routing number as well as their procedures for transferring and depositing money.
- Consider adding a parent or sibling to your account, so that deposits can be made on your behalf while you are away, obviating the need for you to mail checks to and from the UK.
- Most overseas ATM machines cannot provide you with account balance information. Although most banks have toll-free information numbers, you are likely to have to pay if dialing from the UK. The easiest way to keep track of your accounts from overseas may be to view your accounts on-line.

- Most banks charge a conversion commission, either a fixed or a percentage charge. Be aware that some banks may charge you for each international withdrawal in addition to an exchange commission proportional to the amount withdrawn.
- Not all international ATM cards will work with UK ATM machines. ATM networks (e.g., NYCE, CIRRUS, PLUS) vary in availability. Ask your bank to look into this for you before you leave home.
- * Any card with a Visa mark on it will be accepted in most places in Europe.

Financial Assistance

If you are dependent on financial aid, it is crucial that you resolve any questions you may have about your package before leaving. If you are expecting a refund, bear in mind that it may not be issued until late October for the fall and late January to mid-February for the spring. This applies to most government loans and grants, particularly the Stafford loan.

You should be aware that Oxford University requires that students get permission to work even part-time during term, because of the academic intensity of each term. Moreover, part-time jobs in Oxford can be difficult to find. Under no circumstances, therefore, should you rely on being able to gain paid employment when drawing up your budget for the year.

Budgeting for the Year

It is essential that funds are available to you for the duration of your stay. You should plan a budget - however provisional - before you leave for Oxford. Bear in mind that your expenses continue during vacations, and that the academic year is a full nine months and runs through to the end of June.

After the Orientation period, which may entail higher expenditures, students find that they settle into a steadier pattern of purchasing by the start of Full Term. To give you some guidance, the average student spends £60-100 per week on food, personal expenses, and entertainment (once the higher outlays of Orientation are behind them). Weekly meal expenditures have ranged from £40 (this student was a vegetarian) to £150 (this student chose to eat a number of meals at restaurants). Obviously, spending varies according to whether students choose to eat mainly in the college dining hall, out at cafes and restaurants, or by cooking at home.

In Wadham you have access to dining facilities, allowing you to purchase inexpensive breakfasts, lunches, and dinners during Full Term. **We have a happy arrangement with Wadham that entitles you to 10 free meals (lunch or dinner) a term.** Eating in College is an excellent way of meeting Wadham undergraduate and postgraduate students. More information is available on the Wadham website and will also be communicated upon your arrival.

Books are expensive. Most students choose to use the many libraries (lending and non-lending) that are open to them. If you intend to buy your textbooks, anticipate spending as much as £100 per term and between £10 and £40 per textbook. Remember that books are heavy and can be costly to transport home

at the end of the year.

Travel during Breaks

Beyond the cost of a round trip to Oxford, travel expenses for the two breaks can be minimal, since students can stay in their flats throughout the academic year. However, many students choose to travel around Europe or the UK during at least one break.

Remember to budget for vacation travel: check the cost of tickets and travel passes. Eurail passes must be purchased in the States; although you will be able to purchase a rail pass for travel within a single European country once you are in England, you will not be able to buy a full Eurail pass. Eurail passes must be validated for initial use within six months from the issue date. If you are not planning to travel in Europe until the Easter vacation, therefore, you should have someone in the States purchase the pass for you and mail it to you in Oxford. You can consult www.railpass.com for more information about rail passes. Many students also make use of the many inexpensive, no frills airlines operating in Europe. See www.flylowcostairlines.org or www.whichbudget.com for details.

Communications

Mail

It is most advisable that your mail be sent directly to you at: *your name*, Sarah Lawrence Programme, Wadham College, Oxford, OX1 3PN, England, where you have a mailbox.

You will also be able to use your flat address, which will be confirmed with you on arrival.

Telephones

As mentioned, most students choose to purchase a mobile phone for the year. You will be able to find an affordable pay-as-you-go option to suit your needs. Information about mobile phones is easily obtainable upon your arrival.

E-mail and Internet

The flats are wired for internet connection. You are also permitted to take advantage of the computer facilities available at Wadham College and at the University's Computing Services Building. An Oxford e-mail account will be made available to you at the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

Computers

Please bring your own laptop with you to Oxford. (Please be sure you do so as carry-on luggage, and see below for advice on compatibility). Students are expected to write an essay for each tutorial each week, so there will be lots of writing to do during your academic year; having your own computer is therefore a real advantage.

The Computer Room in Wadham is open 24 hours a day and has its own Computer Officer available to help on a regular basis. It has 24 computer

terminals (all IBM compatible, running Windows) for students to use, and one networked printer. A small note of warning: there are no Macs! The University also has a very well-resourced Computing Services building, which you may use, but hours are limited.

Bringing Electronic Goods from the US

If you intend to bring your laptop computer with you, check with the manufacturer or place of purchase that it will function in the UK. Most new laptops are equipped with built-in adapters in their power-supply cords. If the AC adapter states INPUT: 100V-240V, it is compatible with the UK power supply: a plug adapter will be required, but not an electric transformer.

Other electric goods will need a transformer and/or a plug adapter. Again, you should check with the manufacturer or a retailer before purchasing or bringing over goods. If you are concerned about compatibility, you may find it easier to buy a cheap stereo, hairdryer, or radio alarm clock on arrival. Computers are much more expensive in the UK, so best to make those purchases at home.

Healthcare

Medical Insurance and Services. All students will be covered while abroad by a policy administered by HTH Worldwide. Pamphlets regarding this coverage have been distributed to all students and their families. **Please note, however, that students still need to have their own medical insurance through the Sarah Lawrence plan or through their parents. This is to ensure they have adequate health insurance before they leave the US and upon their return.** You will receive information on the Sarah Lawrence plan from our Business Office. Included will be a waiver form if you have your own insurance. This can also be found at www.slc.edu/studentaccounts.

The National Health Service

As residents in Britain for more than six months, you are entitled to use the National Health Service (NHS). Under this system, all consultations (whether routine or emergency) are free of charge, although you pay a nominal sum (currently £7.40) for any medication you may be prescribed. Oxford is well provided for in terms of hospital emergency services.

Oxford also has a number of clinics and hotlines. Under the NHS, you are entitled to free contraception: this can be obtained from the College medical practice, the College nurse, or various clinics in Oxford.

Wadham College Doctors and Nurse

As a Wadham student, you will be registered with the College medical practice, affiliated with the National Health Service. Except in an emergency situation (when you should go straight to the hospital), your first port of call with any illness will be with your practice doctor (or 'GP', 'general practitioner'), whose surgery is situated in the centre of town. The surgery offers an appointment service, which will be available to you after registration.

Consultations with your GP are free of charge, and generally brief. If necessary, your GP will refer you to a specialist. Wadham also has a resident nurse in College, who can deal with any minor ailments, and help to arrange appointments with the doctor.

Private Medical Care

If you prefer, you may register with a private practitioner while you are in Oxford. Fees for private consultation start at £35.

** Be sure to keep all receipts if you intend to submit a claim to your insurance company.*

Prescription Drugs

In Britain, prescription drugs often have different names from those in the US. It is important to bring a sufficient supply of your medication for the first weeks. Please also bring a letter from your doctor giving full details of any medication you require, including generic name and chemical profile. This should assist you in obtaining your prescription in Oxford. However, you are strongly urged to check with your own doctor for any restrictions that may apply.

If you discover that your prescription medication is not licensed in Britain, it is essential that you address this with your physician before you arrive. The Oxford Programme Office can arrange for further advice from a health-care professional in England. It is not advisable to arrange for non-licensed medication to be shipped into Britain. Any medication you bring with you should be clearly identified in its original packaging.

Dental Care

You may want to have a thorough dental check-up prior to leaving the US, as it is hard to access dental care that is subsidized by the NHS. You will generally have to pay for dental work in Oxford.

Mental Health

Every College has Fellows and students who volunteer to act as student counsellors. There is an excellent University Counselling Service which all Visiting Students are entitled to use, but it offers problem-based counselling rather than long-term therapy. Your GP will be able to refer you for more specialist help, if necessary, but this might entail extra costs.

Other Health Practitioners

There are plenty of specialists in Oxford: opticians, chiropractors, physiotherapists, osteopaths, acupuncturists, homeopaths, psychotherapists, etc. You will have to pay for such services. The College medical practice and the Programme Office will be happy to investigate on your behalf: full listings are also available in local telephone directories.

Traveling in Europe (beyond Britain)

Once you leave British shores, you are no longer entitled to free, state-funded (NHS) health care. If you are intending to travel within Europe during vacations, you must have appropriate medical coverage. You should therefore ensure that

your US medical insurance remains active for your entire year abroad. You can also purchase short-term travel insurance packages from a range of banks and travel agencies in Oxford.

Illegal Drugs: English Law does not tolerate the possession or use of any illegal drugs.

Visiting Students and the Law

As Visiting Students, members of the Programme are subject to English Law and the Statutes of the University. If a student commits a serious offense which is open to police action such as physical assault, sexual assault, drug abuse, computer misuse, theft, fraud, or harassment, the University's policy is to refer the matter to the police. The University also has the right to deal with any offenses under its own internal disciplinary procedures.

The expectation of Sarah Lawrence College is to be kept informed of any financial, academic, medical or mental health issues that challenge the student. Confidences will be strongly respected, but the appropriate people at Sarah Lawrence will be informed of any difficulty facing the student.

It is in the discretion of the Director, in consultation with the Dean of Wadham and the Dean of Sarah Lawrence College, to suggest that any student who acts beyond the bounds of appropriate, reasonable expectations, legal or otherwise, can be asked to leave the Programme.

Information about Oxford

Internet Sources:

The English Tourist Board (www.travelengland.org.uk)
The London Tourist Information Service (www.visitlondon.com)
Welcome to the City of Oxford (www.oxfordcity.co.uk)
University of Oxford (www.ox.ac.uk)
Wadham College, Oxford (www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/public)
What's On In Oxford (www.inoxfordmag.co.uk)
Daily Information Oxford (<http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/>)
Virtual Tour of Oxford (<http://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtour>)

Fiction

Beerbohm, Max, *Zuleika Dobson* (1911) - set in the 1890s, the elegantly amusing story of the girl who turned the heads of all the undergraduates.
Carroll, Lewis, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) & *Through the Looking Glass* (1871) - written by Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) when he was a Mathematics Fellow of Christ Church College, to amuse the small daughters of the Dean.
Crispin, Edmund, *The Moving Toyshop* (1958) - eccentric detective thriller.
Dexter, Colin, the *Inspector Morse* novels (from 1980 onwards) - contemporary crime classics, featuring Dexter's grumpy, opera-loving detective (as played by John Thaw in the long-running TV series).
Pears, Iain, *An Instance of the Fingerpost* (1998) - an intellectual medieval thriller set in Oxford.
Pullman, Philip, *His Dark Materials: The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass* (2003) – a fantasy trilogy, set in a parallel universe based on Oxford.
Stallwood, Veronica, *Oxford Exit* (1994) and *Oxford Mourning* (1995) - academic thrillers with a literary and feminist twist.
Waugh, Evelyn, *Brideshead Revisited* (1945) - satire about young aristocrats at Oxford.

Non-Fiction

Hudson, Sarah, *Insight Guide Oxford* (2000).
Tyack, Geoffrey, *The Blue Guide to Oxford and Cambridge* (1987), and *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (1998).
Morris, Jan, *Oxford* (1988), and *The Oxford Book of Oxford* (1984).
Pursglove, Glyn (ed.), *Oxford in Verse* (1999).

Films

Shadowlands, True Blue, Harry Potter, Iris, The Golden Compass, The Oxford Murders.

When you arrive in Oxford you will find current information in the following publications:

- * *Alternative Student Prospectus* and the *Oxford Student Handbook*, both published by the Oxford University Student Union. Sections of these publications are available online; please see

- <http://su.wadham.ox.ac.uk/prospectus/> or <http://www.oxfordhandbook.com/>.
- * Wadham Prospectus, produced by the college. The Wadham handbook is also available online at <http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/students/handbook.pdf>
 - * *Daily Information* is a large-format single sheet of paper that is posted up around the colleges and the city, giving listings of talks, theatre and cinema events, as well as maps and information about Oxford and classified ads for second-hand items. It is published daily during Full Term, otherwise weekly, and can also be consulted on the web: www.dailyinfo.co.uk.
 - * Throughout the year, you will also want to check the events and lecture listings in the Oxford University Gazette: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/>