“I thought it would be a long time before I considered anywhere other than where I came from to be my home, but I’m already so attached to Teddy Hall that I can’t face the idea of leaving one day.”

Josh, History and Politics
Welcome to Teddy Hall

First things first, ‘Teddy Hall’ is our pet name for St Edmund Hall. Somewhere down the line somebody shortened Edmund to Ed, which then became Teddy, and now you’ll never hear anyone call it by its proper name.

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

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

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

- The Teddy Hall JCR

All the cover photos were taken by students - either as entries to the College’s annual photography competition, or as part of a paid post as a photo intern. The photos depict, from left to right, top to bottom: one of our women’s rowing crews racing on the River Thames; the wisteria in the front quad; balloons at the annual Parents’ Garden Party; the Front Quad taken from a drone; current students in the music room; an undergraduate room in the Besse building; our College mascot sitting next to the statue of St Edmund in the churchyard.
What does a normal day look like for you?
As I’m a second year I’m living out so a normal day for me would start with breakfast with my friends at our house. Then I’ll head over to the studios – I share my studio with another painter so we usually chat a lot about our work, exhibitions and other projects we are working on. We’ll usually then all have lunch together and in the afternoon I may have a tutorial or I might go to an artist talk, an art film night or an exhibition in town. A good thing about my course is that each day can be so different! In the evening, I’ll usually continue working on things like exhibition plans and set design, or just chill and watch TV with the house.

What do you do to relax?
I try to make sure I have down time where I try and switch off from art. I think this is so important regardless of what subject you’re doing. Even if we just go for a quick walk to Tesco we still have a laugh and a bit of fresh air, and when we get back are able to continue what we’re working on feeling recharged. I try and exercise a lot and enjoy going to the gym or on a run. You’re not short of beautiful places to run in Oxford or plays and shows to go and see in the evening.

What do you think sets Teddy Hall apart from other colleges?
Teddy Hall is a smaller college physically but with a big student body which I think makes it a more sociable place to be a part of, especially in first year when you live there. You’re much more likely to bump into someone for a chat. Also we have breakfast and dinner together so it’s nice being able to have a full English every day and it’s a great sociable place to be.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself...
I turned on my hometown’s Christmas lights one year (dressed as Elsa off Frozen).

Dan
Maths

What does a normal day look like for you?
An average day starts with an early breakfast, followed by a cycle to the Mathematical Institute where I attend lectures, usually for two hours. I will then head over to Teddy Hall for lunch with mates, before I head off to a football match for the College team, which happens a couple of days a week during the football season! After winning (generally!), I may have a tutorial where my tutor and I will go over the problem sheets I have done for the week, then head home for dinner and a quick relax before cracking on with some studying before bed.

What do you do to relax?
I meet up and socialise with friends when there’s time, and I love playing football. It’s very easy to form tight bonds with people at Teddy Hall, especially if you get involved with some kind of activity, whether it’s sports like football, rugby or rowing, or something artier such as the Teddy Hall Musical or choir. I also enjoy running from time to time, as well as playing FIFA or the like with friends, when there’s time to wind down.

What do you think sets Teddy Hall apart from other colleges?
The social atmosphere is on a different level here; I think primarily because of the way the College is laid out. With around 440 undergraduates in a small space, it is impossible not to meet people and make plenty of friends. There is a real sense of community here, with the whole College meeting together to get behind sports teams and with plenty of fun at Junior Common Room meetings every few weeks, it’s the Teddy Hall spirit that really puts us on the map.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself...
I can name at least 47 different African countries.

Haseem
Economics & Management

What does a normal day look like for you?
Usually I’d go to the Exam Schools for a lecture. I have two tutorials a week so I would go to those to cover the work that was set for that week. The bulk of my day is independent study working towards the tutorial. I also go to society events whenever I can and most of my free time is spent carrying out my duties as President of the Islamic Society.

What do you do to relax?
I meet up with my friends, whether that’s through a society social or just having lunch/working at the library in the business school with other students who do E&M across different colleges. I also always try and watch Spurs play on the satellite TV we have in the JCR.

What do you think sets Teddy Hall apart from other colleges?
The atmosphere is so friendly and the small size means you genuinely get to know everyone so much faster than a big college. Everyone kept saying that before I was applying but it definitely holds true. My favourite thing about the college is probably the food, our chef is amazing and we objectively have the best formal dinners in Oxford (I’ve had students from other colleges saying that to me too). The location is also great, I can leave my room just before 9am for a 9 o’clock lecture and still get there on time!

Tell us a fun fact about yourself...
I have done the biggest bungee jump in the world (233m off the Macau Tower).
Welfare and Our Community

Teddy Hall is known for its friendly nature and community spirit—we all look out for one another.

We take wellbeing seriously and tutors hold termly individual meetings to make sure your work (and your work-life balance) is on track. We also have a team of current students who act as trained peer supporters in case you ever need someone to talk to confidentially. If it’s something you’d rather not speak to your fellow students about, our chaplain and nurse are available for any welfare needs.

When you arrive, you’ll be assigned ‘college parents’—students in the year above, one of whom will do your subject. This makes it a whole lot easier to settle in and it means that you’ll have someone to call upon if you have any concerns. You’ll also get to go over to their house for a home-cooked family meal in fresher’s week. (Standards may vary.)

Every week we buy loads of snacks and put them in our common room for everyone to eat. There’s not much more to it than that. It’s awesome.

The JCR Welfare Officers are undergrads elected to organise JCR welfare, and coordinate with the College. They lead a team of peer supporters—undergrads who have undertaken a term’s training learning how to support other students who might come to them to talk about something that’s troubling them.

What’s more, we organise events such as charity auctions, cheese and wine tasting evenings and open mic nights throughout term to keep ourselves entertained.

We’re a really inclusive JCR, with Officers for LGBT, BME, International, and Disabled students. While the welfare provisions are there if you need support, Oxford is usually really fun, and Teddy Hall is particularly famed for its relaxed atmosphere.

Most students at Oxford work hard, but they also have plenty of time to enjoy themselves, whether it be playing sport, music, art, or going out on the town.

International Students

Hi, I’m Angus, your International and Visiting Students’ Officer. Having recently moved to the UK, I understand that settling in a new place can be daunting. I, too, was once in your shoes, nervous about starting a new chapter of my life in Oxford. But don’t worry at all, people at Teddy Hall are friendly and welcoming, and I am also here to help! International freshers normally arrive two days before the rest of the students, which gives you the chance to find your footing and get to know the city. As your International Officer, I’ll be here to help you settle in, as well as organising a series of social events for you to meet other students. There are also university-wide events such as the Orientation Programme which is aimed at helping everyone get familiar with the Oxford way of life. Being in an amazingly diverse community like Oxford, there are numerous clubs and societies for you to explore all the opportunities, and you will definitely find people who share the same passions as you. And finally, no matter where you come from, Teddy Hall is a place where you can truly feel at home!
All first years live on the main College site in one of four accommodation blocks, which means that you get to meet people very quickly. All College rooms are single rooms and contain a sink, a desk and both Ethernet and wireless Internet access; they’re also very well heated in the winter months. All of these rooms are cleaned on a daily basis and bathrooms are available on each floor.

Kelly (first years)
Kelly has spacious rooms, large communal areas and plenty of kitchenettes. Kelly is built above the dining hall which means there are a lot of stairs, but you get fantastic views over all of Oxford from the top floor.

Emden (first years)
Emden’s rooms are the same as Kelly’s and the kitchens are large and modern. Emden rooms are a great place to ‘people watch’ those opposite who live in Kelly.

Whitehall (first years)
Whitehall rooms are cozy and bright. The carpeted corridors and warm lighting give this block a homely feel.

Besse (first & third years)
Besse is ‘architecturally interesting’, with no two floors - or even two rooms - being the same. It’s a friendly block where people in different years can get to know one another.

Front Quad (third years)
The Front Quad rooms are the most sought after in the 3rd year room ballot, as they are often large, and a few are even en-suite. They also have beautiful views over the Quad and Churchyard.

Third years have a chance of getting an en-suite room!
Living Out

Teddy Hall is a wonderful place to live, but it is one of the smallest colleges in terms of its footprint. Despite this we still have a large number of students, meaning the main site is always busy and bustling, promoting the friendly atmosphere that the college is famous for.

In their second year, most students live out in the Cowley Road area (near the Dawson and Isis buildings). Living out is a lot of fun and you get the classic student experience that you wouldn't necessarily get at another college (as well as some excellent house parties). What's more, Cowley is vibrant, full of personality and packed with bars, restaurants and interesting shops. As a result people tend to have a great time living out - so much so that many people choose to do it in their fourth year too!

Restaurants on Cowley Road, near where most 2nd years live

Off Site

South Parks, near Cowley - a great place for a morning run if you're an early bird

A room in the Dawson Street annex

Not all of the college rooms are on the main site—we have several annexes around Oxford available to third years who choose not to move back onto the main College site, and some rooms are also available for second years who choose not to live out. This accommodation is self-catered, there are big kitchens where you can cook, but you can always make the short walk or cycle back into College for your food there.

Just like the on-site accommodation, all rooms are single rooms; they have the same furnishings, and they are cleaned daily. Also, you can leave your things in your room over the vacation, which is particularly handy if you live far away.

Isis, Iffley Road (third years)
A ten minute walk away from college is the Isis guesthouse. The main rooms are all large and many are en-suite.

Dawson Street, Magdalen Roundabout (third years)
A 7 minute walk from College brings you to the William R Miller annex (on Dawson Street). All rooms are big with en-suites and there's also a common room with table tennis.

Norham Gardens (fourth years & postgrads)
Twenty minutes’ walk north of the college is the peaceful and leafy accommodation used primarily by postgraduate students. A lot of fourth years choose to stay here due to its proximity to the Science Area. It's also where the college's gym is located.
Extracurricular
Oxford's definitely not all about work. There's a ton of stuff to get involved with, both in College and out.

**Sport**

Teddy Hall is the one of the best colleges if you are even considering engaging in some form of exercise. Sports-wise, there is something for everyone here: from rugby and netball teams that are some of the best of all the Oxford colleges, to more relaxed 3rd team football and weekly Zumba and yoga classes.

If you are a serious sportsperson, on a college level the ultimate goal is to win cuppers, the annual intercollegiate sports competition. Recently, we have had strong performances in rugby, netball and mixed hockey, as well as winning the inter-college football competition this year. Our College also has a strong boat club with extremely competitive men's and women's 1st Vllls, but lots of people new to the sport join every year and catch the rowing bug very quickly. If the College does not play the sport you want to, there is funding available if you can find enough others to join in, or there is sure to be a University team.

By no means do you have to be sporty to come here, but even if you don't play sport it's great to be able to cheer on our teams' successes. If you'd rather just watch, there's always a lively debate when the football is on our huge TV in the common room, and the Six Nations and the Superbowl get consistently good turnouts too. Whatever your level of enthusiasm or ability, you can get involved!

**Music**

Teddy Hall has a lively and inclusive musical community, even though it doesn't offer Music as a degree. The Music Society, together with our Director of Music, organise sets of luncheon concerts. Over the past few years, a whole host of performers have given recitals: this includes solo pianists, singers, piano trios, a contemporary classical music ensemble and classical guitarists. We occasionally host professional musicians and musicians from other colleges and hold formal evening chamber music concerts at which performers deliver serious and challenging repertoire. Over the past few years, the College's musical calendar has flourished, with more workshops led by professional musicians, such as the jazz sessions run by Teddy Hall graduate, Alyn Shipton.

Music at Teddy Hall isn't just for the professionals - for the more informal performer, there is a termly schedule of open mic nights, and the annual Teddy Hall's Got Talent. Anyone can take part in these events, and many would say that they are highlights of the College's social calendar.

Singers are welcome to join the Chapel Choir, which is non-auditioning and supported by eight choral scholars. The Chapel Choir practises on weekends and performs at chapel services and other special occasions; members get a free formal meal every Sunday and take part in tours both in the UK and abroad during the vacations.

The College has a well-equipped music room with pianos, a drum kit and amps, though the Steinway and Bechstein pianos are the jewels in Teddy Hall's musical crown! The Hall has also recently purchased state of the art recording equipment which is available for student use. Whatever your musical talent or however much time you wish to commit to music, there is no barrier to you becoming a part of the Hall's musical success!
And that’s not all... other College societies you can get involved with include:

- The John Oldham Society, the College’s Drama society
- The creative writing group, which meets for weekly workshops to share and discuss their work, in the bar
- The Venus Society, a society across all years to organise fundraising events for Macmillan Cancer Support
- The Christian Union, for Christians of the College to meet weekly in order to chat, pray and study the Bible together

There are also hundreds more societies running on a university level - far too many to list here!

Food

Teddy Hall is known for having some of the best food in the university. Meals are a great time to socialise, so even though kitchens are available in the accommodation blocks most people like to eat with friends in our modern dining hall. Meals include:

- **Breakfast**: served every weekday morning, with food including fried breakfast items, porridge, pastries, yogurt and fruit, as well as tea, coffee and fruit juices; brunch is similar and takes place later on weekend mornings
- **Lunch**: a variety of hot food and sandwiches, cheaper than anything you'll find in town
- **Dinner**: served every evening - a three-course meal with generous portion sizes and plenty of choice

College caters for all sorts of dietary requirements and there’s a vegetarian option at every evening meal. All these meals are completely casual affairs - wear whatever you want and sit wherever you want.

Twice a week College offers ‘Formal Hall’ - a waited three-course meal with wine - which most people like to attend once or twice a term along with all their friends. It’s totally optional, but it’s difficult to turn down.

Students enjoying a relaxed Saturday morning brunch

No stock photos here! These are actual photos from one of our Formal Halls
**Freshers' Week** - your first week as a student at Oxford! Lots of activities to help you get to know everyone, from film nights and quizzes, to meals and tours of the city. Freshers' Fair is also a chance to get involved in all the sports, clubs and societies available at the College.

**Carols in the Quad** - A once-a-year chance to walk on our Front Quad, complete with carol singing around the Christmas tree, mince pies and mulled wine.

**Freshers' Parents Dinner** - A chance for 1st years to bring their parents along to a formal meal in College. (There’s also one for parents of all other years in the Winter.)

**Teddy Hall Ball** - Our biennial themed ball sees the College transported for one night to another place and time, along with copious amounts of food, drink and entertainment. In recent years we’ve had ‘Camelot’ and ‘Road to Rio’ as themes.

**Friends and Family Day** - An opportunity for students about to start their courses to spend a relaxed visit, have lunch with friends and family and have a peek at their new bedrooms so they know what to pack!

**Oxmas Dinner** - As the Oxford terms are quite short we celebrate Christmas a month early with our annual Christmas Dinner!

**Teddy Hall’s Got Talent** - Our annual talent show. No talent necessary.

**Research Expo** - a celebration of the wide range of research at the College that takes place every other year, with short ‘Teddy’ Talks, interactive experiments and displays.

**Parents’ Garden Party** - A garden party - complete with a fancy buffet meal - held in our churchyard, where parents can meet the Principal, Fellows of the College and other parents.
"Having applied to a different college I didn’t actually choose Teddy Hall, but I’m really glad I ended up here. I love the friendly atmosphere and sense of community - there are very few times walking across the quad when I don’t meet someone I know."

- Esther, French and German

For a couple of years in a row a pair of breeding ducks have taken up residence on our main site. Once we had to rescue their ducklings after they fell down the stairs. (We don’t expect that this will convince you to apply, we just thought it was cute.)

We’ve only just scratched the surface...

If you’d like more information about the College, including information about financial support, there’s plenty of places you can go:

- Check out the official prospectus, available on the college’s website: www.seh.ox.ac.uk/study

- Visit our JCR (undergraduate) website at www.teddyhall.co.uk

- Find out about courses and general information on the university website at ox.ac.uk/study

- If you can, come and visit us on an open day! We’d love to have you and it’s a great way to get a feel for the place. www.seh.ox.ac.uk/open-days

- Follow us on social media:

  [Facebook link]
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  [Instagram link]
  [YouTube link]