"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 Rampton, 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

The Cover Photo

Like our cover star? That’s our very own college Teddy Bear, who lives in the postgraduate common room. He’s sat in our churchyard, which is located around the back of the College next to our library (which is a converted church). Nobody’s been buried there for a very long time and in the summer months you’ll often find students reading or socialising while leaning against a gravestone. A little unconventional, but you get used to it!
**What does a normal day look like for you?**
During term I will usually start the day with breakfast in hall with friends. As an Earth Scientist, I usually have between 1 and 4 hours of lectures a day, and maybe a tutorial in the afternoon. In the afternoon I either work on problem sheets or essays, or do some sort of sport (for the past couple of years the JCR have run Yoga and Zumba twice a week, which is a great way to take a break from work!). After this I have dinner in hall, and then might have a drink in the College bar or work in the College library.

**What do you do to relax?**
One of the best things about Oxford is the huge amount of stuff there is to do outside of work! I play Ultimate Frisbee for the University team and play College football, and through this I have really enjoyed meeting friends from different colleges and years at Teddy Hall who I wouldn’t have met otherwise. There are also interesting talks and socials put on by GeCiSoc (the Earth Sciences student society) which are a good way to hang out with other Earth Scientists outside of classes and lectures.

**What do you think sets Teddy Hall apart from other colleges?**
The cosy feel of the main site of Teddy Hall means that the college atmosphere is really friendly, and the fact that everyone eats in hall means that mealtimes are really sociable and a chance to chat with different people. Also, the College library is a really nice and open place to work, set in an amazingly old (12th Century!) church, with a graveyard that is a surprisingly good space to take a break in.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself...**
I’m a national champion at Ultimate Frisbee - last year the Oxford Women’s Ultimate Frisbee team won the UK university championships!
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 houses for a home-cooked family meal in freshers' 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.

Apparently most Oxford students feel down in the fifth week of each term. We wouldn't know anything about that — we run 'anti-fifth-week-blues' events which make fifth week the best week of all. Think massages, bouncy castles, quiz nights, special pizza dinners...

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 pride ourselves on having a welcoming and inclusive community. Our Gender and Sexual Diversity Officers organise regular well-attended LGBTQ+ drinks and social events.

Finally, twice a term we have our college BOP—the archetypal university party, where everyone dresses up in ridiculous fancy dress, dances the night away to music of dubious quality and wakes up the next day to find themselves tagged in the worst photos known to mankind.

International Students

Hey everyone. I'm Ana, the International and Visiting Students' Officer. Our college is renowned for having a very strong international presence, and everyone is willing to make friends no matter where you come from. When I first arrived at Teddy Hall, I was quite nervous and not sure what to expect. Everything was new and rather scary, but everyone in the college was very friendly and welcoming! International Freshers arrive two days before the rest of the students, which gives you the chance to find your feet and get to know the city. As your International Officer, I'll be here to help with your moving in and settling down, as well as organising a series of social events to meet with other students. There are also university-wide events such as the Orientation Programme, which is aimed at helping everyone get familiar with the way things work. There is an amazingly diverse community in Oxford and Teddy Hall, as well as excellent welfare support for all students. We also have many different clubs and societies within the college, so no matter what your interests are it'll be relatively easy to find people who enjoy the same things too!
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.
Accommodation

Living Out

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

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). Although some people are initially put off by this, 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

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.

Off Site

Isis, Iffley Road (third years)
A ten minute walk away from college is the Isis guesthouse. The main rooms are all large and 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 Park. 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 intercollegiate 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 reaching the football cuppers final last year. Our College also has a very strong boat club with extremely competitive men’s and women’s 1st Vlls, 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

Although Teddy Hall doesn’t offer Music as a degree, it has a lively and notably expanding musical community. The Music Society, together with our Director of Music, organises a fortnightly lunchtime concert series (one of several such lunchtime concert series around Oxford). Over the past few years, a whole host of performers have given recitals; this includes solo pianists, singers, piano trios, a contemporary classical musical ensemble and classical guitarists. We occasionally host professional musicians and musicians from other colleges and at the end of each term there is a formal evening chamber music concert at which performers can deliver serious and challenging repertoire.

For the more informal performer, there is a termly schedule of open mic nights and the annual Teddy Hall’s Got Talent, everyone can take part in these events, and they are highlights of the College’s social calendar.

Singers are welcome to join the Chapel and/or Alternative Choirs, both of which are non-auditioning. The Chapel Choir practises on weekends and performs at chapel services and other special occasions; members get a free formal meal every Sunday and travel abroad to perform in September. The Alternative Choir is more informal and performs a cappella arrangements of popular songs.

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 symphony of successes!
And that's not all... other College societies you can get involved with include:

- The John Oldham Society, the College's Drama society
- The Hall Writers' Forum, a platform for students, staff and alumni of the College to collaborate and discuss creative writing
- 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!

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.

*No stock photos here! These are actual photos from one of our Formal Halls*
**Timeline**
Teddy Hall through the year

**St Edmund Dinner** - A very fancy formal meal held in the Dining Hall to celebrate the Saint Day of our eponymous Saint Edmund. All undergraduates get to go once, in their 2nd year.

**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 ‘Cameolot’ 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.

**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 Rathbone, 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:

  - fb.com/StEdmundHall
  - @StEdmundHall
  - youtube.com/StEdmundHall
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