2020-2021

Family Resources: Quick Guide

Linacre College
Common Room

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Family Life at Linacre

One of Linacre’s strengths is its multifaceted diversity, which includes many members who come to the University with a wide variety of family situations and structures. Our position as a graduate college means that many of our colleagues have long-term committed partners, children, or both.

Hopefully this guide can help you and your family find the resources you need to kick-start your Oxford experience and get active in our wonderful international graduate community as soon as possible.

Welcome to Linacre!
Schools in Oxford (starting from age 4-5)

There are many excellent schools for young people in the Oxford area! To find a free school place for your child, make sure you apply before your arrival as soon as you have figured out your accommodation and acquired visas. Note: make sure to include photocopies of your child's passport and visa (if applicable). When applying be sure to put down, in ranked order, four schools of your choice. It is highly recommended to make one of your top choices your catchment school (the school assigned to where you live), as location is a large factor in student placement.

Applying to School:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place

School Transfer Application:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schooltransfer

Find Your Catchment Area:
https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/list

OFSTED (reporting agency for schools):
http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/

It may help to clarify (for some of us Linacrites coming from abroad) that many state schools have "Church of England" in their names. Despite this naming convention, these schools are run by the state, free to attend, and are open to children of all faiths or children who do not ascribe to any particular faith tradition.
Nursery Care

University Nurseries

It is highly recommended that you apply for nursery care as soon as you possibly can.

Oxford University has 5 University Nurseries, 5 independently run college nurseries (Balliol, Somerville, St. Anne’s, St John’s, and Wolfson), and 11 community nurseries. There is a common application for these nurseries available here:

https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/home

or email directly for an application:

childcare@admin.ox.ac.uk

(Note: College nurseries are separate from University Childcare Services and so you must apply to them directly)

Oxfordshire Day Nurseries

To find nursery options not affiliated with the University in the Oxfordshire area, visit this website and apply:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/information-parents/find-childcare/day-nurseries

Resources for all kinds of situation are also available on the Oxfordshire website, including: crèches, care for disabled children, childminders, toddler groups, out-of-school clubs, and more. More information can be found on the web at:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/information-parents/find-childcare
Partners at Linacre

Don't be shy! Partners are most welcome in college and at Common Room events!

As per the college handbook:
A spouse or nominated partner of a full member of the College may, on request from that member, be issued with a duplicate Linacre Card for which a small fee is charged. This gives the spouse/partner access, in the member's absence but still as a guest, to Dining Hall, Bar, and Common Room facilities. Access to the College computer network can be arranged via the IT Manager. Dual Membership may be terminated at any time on request from the full member concerned and the card withdrawn. It lapses automatically, in any case, on the departure of the full member from College. Please see the Accounts Manager for details.
Children at Linacre

Linacre is one of the select colleges that openly welcomes children for meals in the dining hall, including breakfast, lunch, and ordinary dinner (the exception is formal dinner, see below). There are high chairs available in the dining hall, a baby changing station on the main college site, pram/pushchair accessible entrances, and an elevator.

Children are very welcome in most parts of the college and at most events! Families are encouraged to enjoy Linacre's lovely gardens, college facilities, and proximity to University Parks.

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Formal dinner policy regarding children as per the college handbook:

We do not feel it is appropriate to bring infants or children under the age of 14 to a formal guest night dinner as the emphasis at this event is adult conversation, and often Fellows are bringing guests into College for this purpose. In this environment, even a well-behaved child is a distraction. The Common Room can try to find child-minders if notice is provided.
Accommodation

Finding accommodation in Oxford is difficult for one person...
Linacre's accommodation manager and the University Graduate Accommodation Office can help find your family suitable housing.

Webpage for Linacre accommodation:
https://www.linacre.ox.ac.uk/facilities/accommodation

Get in touch with Linacre's administer of student accommodation for more information: accommodation@linacre.ox.ac.uk

The University Graduate Accommodation Office also has accommodation for families in sites across the city:
https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/graduateaccommodation

Many families choose to live in private accommodation. Costs in the private rented sector vary quite widely by area and your required amenities (number of bedrooms, proximity to transportation, off street parking, etc.)
Additional Resources

Pregnancy and Parental Leave

University Parental Leave Policy:
https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/childcare

If you have any questions about pregnancy, children or other family issues, you can contact:

Dr Laura Rival: laura.rival@linacre.ox.ac.uk
Dr Jane Hoverd: senior.tutor@linacre.ox.ac.uk

Visas

Visas for your Family:
https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family

General Visa Information:
https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa

For questions regarding visas and immigration:
student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk