



# Year Abroad Handbook

This handbook applies to students going on their Year Abroad in 2023. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years. Please note that this handbook is intended for guidance purposes only – it is not intended to be detailed, or as a replacement for details provided during the YA Training sessions or briefing sessions.

The information in this handbook should be read in conjunction with:

- Your course handbook
- Any materials sent to you by the YA Co-ordinator, your college or the YA Institution

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## Overview

For students on a 4-year programme, you will spend your second year abroad. The purpose of the Year Abroad is two-fold: to enable you to acquire fluency in your chosen language, and to give you the experience of living in a country where the language is spoken. The Year Abroad is essentially what you make of it. The more effort you make to spend time with local people, to learn about their way of life, to visit places of historical interest and to attend cultural events, the more you will benefit, both personally and in terms of your preparedness for FHS.

During your Year Abroad, you are obliged to follow, and successfully complete, an approved course of language instruction. For some languages, you are required to sit a collection to assess your language progress when you return from your Year Abroad.

Students should note that the year abroad is a **compulsory** part of their course, which can only commence following the successful passing of Prelims. Students who are required to resit any of their Preliminary Examinations should be aware that resits are scheduled during the first two weeks of September only (and this may overlap with when students usually begin their year abroad courses). It is a Faculty regulation that students must pass Prelims in order to attend the year abroad. In the event of a resit, students should **not** attend at their year abroad institution until they have been notified that they have successfully passed the prelims resit.

## Courses

The following table summarises which undergraduate courses include a Year Abroad:

Course		Duration	Year Abroad
BA in Arabic		4 years	Yes
BA in Chinese		4 years	Yes
BA in Hebrew		3 years	No
		4 years	Yes
BA in Japanese		4 years	Yes
BA in Persian		4 years	Yes
BA in Turkish		4 years	Yes
BA in Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	BA in Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	4 years	No
	BA in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Classics	3 years	No
		4 years	Yes
BA in European and Middle Eastern Languages		4 years	Yes

## Countries and Institutions

The following table summarises in which countries and institutions students will spend their Year Abroad:

Language	Country	City	Institution
Arabic*	Jordan	Amman	Qasid Institute; Institut Francais du Proche-Orient (IFPO)*
	Tunisia	Tunis	Bourguiba Institute (IBLV)
Chinese	Taiwan	Taipei	National Taiwan Normal University**
Hebrew	Israel	Jerusalem	Hebrew University
Japanese	Japan	Kobe	Kobe University
Persian	MT – Armenia	TBC	TBC
	HT and TT- Tajikistan	Dushanbe	University of Central Asia, Dushanbe campus
Turkish	Turkey	Istanbul	Bosphorus (Bogazici) University

**\*Please note that the fees at IFPO are higher than those at Qasid. Students will be liable to pay the difference to the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies should they choose to attend the higher-cost institution.**

\*\* It is not currently possible to travel to the People’s Republic of China for study. We have sent students to Beijing in the past and will look at doing so again when that becomes possible.

**The Faculty reserves the right to make alternative arrangements with other institutions if there are safety concerns with the current arrangements.**

For students on the European and Middle Eastern Languages degree, you will usually attend the same Year Abroad as single honours Asian and Middle Eastern Studies students for your Middle Eastern languages. Your Year Abroad will consist of a combination of countries depending on the language combination you have chosen. Because of the large amount of combinations possible for this degree, there is no fixed Year Abroad programme. Individual arrangements are made for your Year Abroad. Please speak to your Year Abroad Coordinators at Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Modern Languages. You will usually spend more time in a country learning your AMES Language than your European Language.

## Year Abroad Co-ordinators

Your Year Abroad Coordinator will be the person liaising with the Year Abroad institutions. They also organise pre-departure briefings before you leave. Your College and Year Abroad Coordinator will be your main points of contact during your year abroad. A member of the Faculty (not necessarily your Year Abroad Coordinator) will usually make at least one pastoral visit to the year abroad institution.

(Please note that these are the Year-Abroad Co-ordinators for 2022-23, and may change in 2023-24.)

Subject	Year Abroad Coordinator	Period	Email
Arabic	Husam Haj Omar	Academic Year 2022-23	husam.hajomar@ames.ox.ac.uk
Persian	Edmund Herzig Farniyaz Zaker	Academic Year 2022-23	edmund.herzig@ames.ox.ac.uk farniyaz.zaker@ames.ox.ac.uk
Turkish	Emine Çakir	Academic Year 2022-23	emine.cakir@ames.ox.ac.uk
Japanese	Junko Hagiwara	Academic Year 2022-23	junko.hagiwara@ames.ox.ac.uk
Chinese	Shio-yun Kan	Academic Year 2022-23	shioyun.kan@ames.ox.ac.uk
Hebrew	Gil Zahavi Adriana Jacobs	Academic Year 2022-23	gil.zahavi@ames.ox.ac.uk adriana.jacobs@ames.ox.ac.uk

## Attendance Requirements

The Year Abroad is an essential part of your degree programme and a formal requirement for admission to the FHS. Upon your return from your Year Abroad, the programme continues at the Third-Year level, rather than where you left off at the end of the First Year. **For this reason, sufficient attendance at classes during your Year Abroad is essential.** It is important to note that the teaching methods in your year abroad institution may differ from the teaching at Oxford. The year abroad is a valuable experience, and it will be almost impossible to compensate for the Year Abroad in terms of class attendance and personal experiences with the culture(s) of study once you are back in Oxford.

Attendance is monitored by the Faculty, and **we expect at least 70% attendance**, unless permission has been granted by the Faculty and College. This attendance requirement takes into account minor illnesses that a student may experience during the year. If you are ill and cannot attend at least 70% of class hours, you should provide medical certificates and contact the Faculty and College for advice. Year Abroad institutions are required to send the Faculty a student's attendance record at the end of each term/semester. The Year Abroad Coordinators will then monitor the attendance record and let the Faculty know when a student is in danger of not meeting the 70% requirement.

The attendance requirement is only for class attendance at the Year Abroad institution. At the same time, in order to enhance learning experiences, the Faculty encourages all students to spend more time in the country or region beyond just class attendance to immerse themselves in the culture of the country or region they are visiting.

## Curtailment

There may be circumstances which prevent class attendance or even emergencies that necessitate a temporary return to your native country. You must inform your College and Faculty if you are returning to Oxford or home, the reason for returning, and how long you are planning to stay (bearing in mind the 70% attendance requirement). You are not required to let your College and the

Faculty know if you are returning home during the holidays. If, for some reason, you are unable to return to the Year Abroad institution and cannot fulfil the 70% attendance as a result, permission will be required from the Faculty and College in order to continue into the third year.

If extra teaching is required while at home or in Oxford, it is the College's responsibility to arrange it as required in consultation with the Year Abroad Coordinator. The cost will be borne by the College. The general University policy is that students returning for 10 weeks or more will be charged the full tuition fees for the year. If the College or student think that this is unfair due to the student's individual circumstances, a case can be made to the Fees Panel for consideration through the student's College.

During the year abroad, the Faculty's main contact should be the [Year Abroad Coordinator](#) for the relevant degree or the [Senior Academic Administrator \(Christine.mitchell@ames.ox.ac.uk\)](mailto:Christine.mitchell@ames.ox.ac.uk).

For College contact details, please refer to your College handbook.

## Funding

The Faculty will cover the cost to the institution/University where you will be studying during your Year Abroad (please note the exception for Arabic above, where the student is liable for the difference for the higher fee). Fees are still payable to Oxford during your year abroad, at a lower level than the fees charged to students studying in Oxford. See the main [University webpages on Fees and Funding](#).

You are responsible for your travel and living costs during your Year Abroad. Home/EU Students are eligible to be financially assessed in their application for government maintenance support. These students will also be assessed for an Oxford Bursary during their year abroad and the University will use the household income figure which is calculated in their financial assessment to allocate this bursary. Some courses and Colleges have bursaries to help with the costs. Please enquire with your Course Coordinator and College.

## Safety and Security

### Briefings and Preparation

Pre-departure briefings are organised by your [Year Abroad Coordinator](#). These briefings aim to give you some background to the countries to which you will be going, which have different cultures and legal systems from those you are accustomed to. These briefings will also include advice on risk and safety during your Year Abroad. **It is important that you attend these compulsory briefings, as failure to attend them means you will not be eligible for University travel insurance.**

Year Abroad Training sessions for each country are organised by Trudi Pinkerton and are hosted by your Year Abroad Coordinator.

These sessions will take place online on Microsoft TEAMS at the beginning of Trinity Term. These sessions are **mandatory** to attend and University insurance cover will not be issued to anyone who does not attend the relevant session without prior warning of any issues being received.

Preparation is extremely important to keep yourself safe. Before you leave, you should be thinking and finding out about accommodation, visa requirements, insurance, healthcare, the local laws and security in the country. Ensure you have a passport which is valid for at least another 3-6 months upon your return to the United Kingdom. This is not an exhaustive list but a useful guide when planning your trip abroad. You are also encouraged to speak to your fellow students and your tutors who have been to the country and ask for their advice.

## Security

You are advised to subscribe to the [Foreign Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) travel alerts to receive up to date information about risks that you might face (travel guides are also a useful source of information).

## Health

You should check in good time with your GP that you are up to date with your immunisations and you receive the required vaccinations for the country you are going to. If you have an existing health condition you will be required to provide a letter from your GP confirming that you are fit to travel. You should ensure you have enough medical supplies to cover your period away and be aware of any restrictions in place on any supplies you need.

Students are advised to keep a copy of their prescription and/or a letter from their GP confirming their medication while travelling.

## Students with disabilities, Student Support Plans (SSP), and/or Chronic illnesses

Issues have been raised in the past regarding students abroad who cannot access their prescribed medication. Normally, students are only prescribed four months' worth of medication in the UK.

For students in Taiwan this is problematic because they have no right to access healthcare within the first four months and cannot travel abroad within that period without losing their right to a student visa. Therefore, students need at least four months plus a few weeks' worth of medication when they first travel to Taiwan.

Students can enquire with an administrator at host university whether their medication is available in the country abroad.

Students with special needs should aim to talk to a disability advisor, either at college or the faculty who can help them with their additional needs.

## Travel Insurance

During your Year Abroad, you will be covered by the University's travel insurance policy. **Cover is not automatic.** The University's travel insurance is strictly for University business only and does not cover activities deemed as dangerous or hazardous or travels to restricted countries. You must seek advice from the University Insurance Office if you decide to do any of these. For other purposes, for example travelling during your holidays or weekends, you are advised to take out additional personal travel insurance.

University travel insurance covers medical costs that you may incur while you are away, be it an emergency or if you are ill and need to see a doctor. **It does not cover pre-existing medical conditions. You are advised to speak to your GP for advice and may be required to take out additional medical insurance yourself. Private Health insurance is not covered under the University Health insurance - treatment for existing chronic illness is not covered by the university's insurance and anyone with an underlying health condition should take out additional health insurance.**

You will complete an online Travel Insurance Application and Travel Registration System (TIRS) application and as part of this application you need to upload a completed Risk Assessment form which can be found on the Faculty webpages. Depending on the situation at the time you are intending to travel, your risk assessments may require the approval of the University Safety Office in addition to the approval of your Year Abroad Coordinator. These must be completed and submitted

for approval in good time before you intend to travel as a prolonged approval process will increase the time required for insurance cover to be put in place.

Please contact [Trudi Pinkerton](#), who can help with any questions about this application.

**It is important that you read your insurance policy and understand what is and is not covered.**

Keep copies of your University insurance policy number and emergency contact numbers with you at all times. You should also keep extra copies of insurance policies, passport and visas with a family member or friend in the UK which can be kept safe. You should keep copies of these documents on secure file hosting services and encrypted USB sticks which you can access from wherever you are.

If you require further information or would like to speak to someone about the University's travel insurance please contact the University Insurance Team or check their [FAQs](#). You might also want to consult the [University Safety Office policies on Safety in Fieldwork and Overseas Travel](#).

### Communication

**You MUST stay in touch with your Year Abroad Coordinator, the Faculty and your College, as well as check your University email account while you are away** as the University may need to contact you from time to time. It is also important that the Faculty has your local address and a contact number in case we need to contact you in an emergency. Students should include their local address and contact numbers on their travel insurance application. Any changes should also be made on the application form. Please email Trudi Pinkerton, who can change the status of the application back to draft temporarily so that students can amend their details. You should send these details (and any changes) by email to [Trudi Pinkerton](#) and the YA Co-ordinator.

Students will be given their Year Abroad Coordinators contact details (mobile phone number, Oxford email addresses), whom they should check-in with frequently and not just if there is an issue. Students should contact their YA Coordinator as soon as possible if they encounter problems or difficulties. The students will also have contact details for the 3rd and 4th year students from the Q&A sessions from whom they can ask advice, but they should maintain regular contact with their YA Coordinator throughout their year abroad.

### Paperwork:

- 1) **Faculty Risk Assessment Form:** All students need to complete the University Safety Office Risk Assessment for Overseas Travel and Fieldwork for each year abroad activity. This is compulsory and University travel insurance and Turing Funding cannot be received without it. As discussed at the training session, you are required to complete and sign the risk assessment form and return it to your Year Abroad Coordinator for approval. Once approved by your Year Abroad Coordinator, with any amendments made, they will be returned to you to upload with your online travel insurance application form (using the Trip tab in the risk assessment section of the form) before submitting your completed online application for insurance cover. Please email Trudi Pinkerton ([trudi.pinkerton@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:trudi.pinkerton@ames.ox.ac.uk)) when you submit your approved application and you will then be registered for cover and will receive an email confirmation of this.
- 2) **Year Abroad Confirmation Letter:** This may be needed, for e.g. to confirm your Year Abroad to Student Finance (if requested by Student Finance). Please email the Academic Office on [undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk) for this.
- 3) **Turing Learning Agreement Form:** The learning agreement, along with the grant agreement, are sent to students a few weeks before the start of their placement. In case the learning



agreement is required in advance by their host institution, it can be requested by emailing [studyabroad@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@admin.ox.ac.uk)

- 4) **Student Finance:** Student Finance may send some students a form that is to be completed by the Faculty. If applicable, please email this form to [undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.administrator@ames.ox.ac.uk)

### Pastoral care

Your College Tutor and the Senior Tutor of your College are responsible for monitoring your well-being and progress during your Year Abroad. Please raise any issues, especially urgent ones, directly with them. Pastoral care is under normal circumstances managed by the colleges. However, the YA co-ordinators all take an active role in students' welfare while abroad. Students will be provided with contact details for their YA coordinator and are encouraged to contact them as soon as possible when a problem arises. The disability contacts at the Faculty are also able to support students and liaise with colleges and the YA coordinators.

### Useful Faculty Contacts:

Faculty Administration: For general enquiries, administrative questions:

Address: **Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies**, Pusey Lane, Oxford, OX1 2LE

- [Christine Mitchell](#) – **Senior Academic Administrator**
- [Academic Administrator](#) (**Undergraduate Studies**)
- [Trudi Pinkerton](#) – **Senior Facilities Administrator** – Contact for queries relating to travel and insurance (for example, for the Year Abroad, or language/research grants.)

Harassment Officers:

- [Zeynep Yürekli](#)
- [Christine Mitchell](#)

Disability Contacts:

- [Thomas Hall](#)
- [Christine Mitchell](#)

### Health and Wellbeing on your Year Abroad

If you find yourself struggling whilst on your Year abroad, please do not hesitate to contact the Counselling Service, which offers several programmes if you are looking for help or support:

Counselling Service

3 Worcester Street

Oxford OX12BX

01865 270300

Email: [counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk)

[Oxford University Supportive resources webpage.](#)

[Information on Online Counselling.](#)

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling>

You can find very useful resources (including a series of podcasts for Oxford students) @ <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling/self-help>

Please contact the counselling service as mentioned at your Year Abroad Training sessions if you need to book an appointment prior to departure or indeed to set up remote online counselling during your time away:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling/appointment?wssl=1>

(to make an appointment Weblink – counselling service)

Email: [disability@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:disability@admin.ox.ac.uk) (email contact for the Disability Advisory Service)

You can also request appointments with the University Student Welfare and Support Service for services as below when you are overseas. If you tell them you are overseas on your year abroad they will offer telephone or video appointments with a member of the team who will often be someone who has given presentations at previous training sessions or at the sessions this year:

SV Support Service: [supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk)

[Student Welfare and Support Services: swss@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:swss@admin.ox.ac.uk)

#### Useful Information and Links

- [Undergraduate year abroad fees page](#) - For further information on fees and funding during the year abroad
- [University statement of health and safety policy](#)
- [FCDO Travel Advice.](#)
- [Fit for Travel - The NHS](#)
- [The Travel Doctor](#)
- [Bribery and fraud policy](#)
- [Study and work outside the UK | British Council](#)
- [Wiki Travel](#)
- [World Travel Guide](#)
- [Lonely Planet Travel Forum](#)
- [Travel during Ramadan.](#)
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice>
- [FCDO TRAVEL ADVICE / LGBTQ+.](#)
- [Accommodation Engine](#)

- [Sublet.com](#)

## General Information

- [Using Library Resources during Year Abroad:](#)

You can still access electronic resources from the library whilst you are abroad. All you need is your Single Sign-On in order to read e-books and e-journal articles, as well as accessing databases or reference works such as online dictionaries. If you have any queries, please get in touch with your subject librarian.

Please make sure you return all library books and pay any fines before you go abroad.

- [Covid Updates](#)

Generic Covid updates and advice can be found [here](#).

Covid FAQ for Year Abroad students can be found [here](#).

# **Year Abroad Travel Pack**

## INSURANCE COVER INFORMATION AND EXCLUSIONS

### Cover information

- Worldwide cover
- Unlimited travel period
- Cover for pre-existing medical conditions is included provided the guidance on [arranging insurance](#) is followed.
- Carrying large amounts of cash outside the UK is discouraged, however, where there is no alternative, cover for personal cash can be included. This is subject to appropriate and adequate risk assessments having been completed and cash being specified on the insurance application form where £500 or more is being taken.
- Cover is only provided for personal time when it is incidental to the University business trip and the traveller is returning from the same airport.
- Personal items whilst travelling in your home country are only covered where travel is outside of your home overnight and where they are not covered under your home insurance cover.
- The University does not prohibit the use of Airbnb; the risks related to the accommodation should be assessed in the usual way.
- Please note, travel insurance claims will be paid in accordance with the University Expenses Principles and therefore the University's Expenses Policy should be followed when arranging travel: <https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/expenses>.

### Exclusions

- The Cancellation, Curtailment, Change of itinerary, Rearrangement and Replacement element of the policy
  - 2021/22 - will not operate in relation to Covid-19 losses.
  - 2022/23 - will not operate as a result of any cancellation of an event, conference or convention hosting in excess of 10 Insured Persons
- The standard policy excess of £50 per person (increased to £100 when travelling for more than 364 days).
- Recreational travel which falls outside of incidental personal time
- Costs incurred due to an airline or carrier entering into administration or liquidation.
- Cover for family members.
- Travelling against the advice of a qualified medical practitioner or occupational health.
- Departmental contents such as departmentally owned equipment/laptops.
- When travelling to your home country, emergency repatriation, cancellation cover and medical expenses (where you are eligible for state health care).
- Any loss incurred as a result of travel documents/visas not being issued in time.
- Routine medical examinations, including vaccinations and the issue of medical certificates.
- Any expenses or losses which are recoverable from any private medical insurance policy.

March 2023

## TURING AWARD: APPLICATION PROCEDURE

### APPLICATION PERIOD 3<sup>rd</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Eligible students will get an email from the Study Abroad team, asking them to ensure that the following are submitted for funding for 2023-24:

1. Signed Appendix 2 – Confirmation of Acceptance
2. Learning agreement – fully completed and signed by you, your tutor, and host institution
3. Confirmation from your Department/Faculty that your risk assessments and insurance arrangements have been approved. It is your responsibility to ensure that your department/faculty complete this [online form](#) to validate this information to the Student Fees and Funding team.

Please wait to receive the paperwork for **2023-24** and do not use forms issued last year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete their travel insurance applications, which should be titled **“Year Abroad Jordan 2023”, “Year Abroad Tunisia 2023”, Year Abroad Tajikistan/Armenia 2023”, “Year Abroad Israel 2023”, “Year Abroad Japan 2023”, and “Year Abroad Taiwan 2023”**, and risk assessments for Year Abroad Coordinator approval as soon as possible following the training sessions. This will allow the Faculty to inform the Turing Fund Team that risk assessments and insurance arrangements have been confirmed before the summer vacation.

The procedure the students should follow is set out below:

**Item 1. Signed Appendix 2 – Confirmation of Acceptance:** This should be straightforward, and involves just the student.

**Item 2. The Learning Agreement:** The students complete what they can and sign the Learning Agreement, and then sends or gives this to their Year Abroad Co-ordinator who signs as the ‘Departmental Coordinator/Oxford Tutor’ having completed anything missing. The Co-ordinator can then forward this to the host institution for their signature, receive it back, and pass it to Study Abroad.

**Item 3. Faculty confirmation that risk assessments and insurance arrangements have been approved:** Students to email Trudi Pinkerton requesting that Thomas Hall, Head of Administration and Finance, completes the online confirmation. Trudi Pinkerton to forward the email to Thomas Hall for approval confirming that risk assessments and insurance arrangements are in place.

In summary, students should send the Learning Agreement to their Year Abroad Coordinator, and should send the email to Trudi Pinkerton requesting Thomas Hall complete the online confirmation that the Faculty have approved risk assessments and insurance arrangements in place.

**10/03/23**

## Airbnb Advice 2023

The University does not prohibit the use of Airbnb and the risks related to renting the accommodation should be assessed in the usual way. Please refer to the following advice when making your decision:

- There is no guarantee of safety standards: for example, the installation of smoke alarms, electrical safety.
- Hosts may not have liability insurance for the property to cover any claims made by tenants which includes damage to or theft of personal property.
- Hosts may access the property at any time.
- Private Wi-Fi may not be secure. Follow the advice from Airbnb on <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/help/topic/245/guests> and <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/trust>.
- The above links include profiles and reviews of hosts which you should look at before you book. You can verify phone numbers, connections to social networks, and check references. It is a good rule to avoid being the first person to book!
- Communicate using the Airbnb messaging system
- Use the messaging system before making a booking to confirm details about specific amenities, find out if others share the same space, discuss any house rules, and talk about the neighbourhood.
- Start a conversation: once you have some details about your host's Airbnb history, start a conversation with them about your plans and what you can expect.
- Research the neighbourhood where you will be staying, familiarise yourself with major roads and landmarks, and have a plan for where you would go in an emergency. If you intend to travel away from your base, either for leisure or as part of your study abroad, always tell your family, friends, and your University supervisor where you will be.

March 2023

## UBER SAFETY

The University does not prohibit the use of Uber and the risks related to travel should be assessed as you would for any taxi journey. Below is advice on using Uber and you are also advised to check local advice on using this service. The following safety measures are advised:

- **Avoid travelling alone and at night** and follow Uber's safety guidelines on <https://www.uber.com/en-ZA/blog/prioritising-your-safety>.
- **Know your driver:** check the driver's name, photo, vehicle type, and license plate number against those in the app.
- **Track the trip:** from the minute a ride is requested, the passenger is able to track the vehicle on the app as it makes its way to pick them up. In addition to ensuring that you get into the correct vehicle, the GPS feature allows passengers to know exactly where they are headed and that they are on the right track.
- **Share your ETA:** with friends, family, or a colleague/mentor at your institution. This is easily done via the app and they won't need to download the app themselves. Friends or family will receive a link where they can see in real time the name and photo of the driver, their vehicle details, and where on the map the passenger is, until you reach your destination.
- **Charge your phone:** having a charged phone ensures you can see your driver's details and track your trip while on the ride.
- **Don't unnecessarily share your personal details:** Uber has implemented an anonymous contact system to ensure passengers and drivers don't need to share their personal information. Passengers and drivers can contact each other at any time through the app.
- **Provide feedback:** to make sure Uber are made aware of any issues.

Updated March 2023



YEAR ABROAD 2023: STUDENT VOLUNTEERS FOR Q&A

<b>Arabic (Jordan IFPO/Qasid)</b>	Annabelle Leivers Nadia Roeske Talula Reid	<a href="mailto:annabelle.leivers@mansfield.ox.ac.uk">annabelle.leivers@mansfield.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:a.leivers23@gmail.com">a.leivers23@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:nadia.roeske@pmb.ox.ac.uk">nadia.roeske@pmb.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:talula.reid@sjc.ox.ac.uk">talula.reid@sjc.ox.ac.uk</a>
<b>Armenia/Tajikistan</b>	Gabriel Ross Eloise Stevens Rafay Yousuf Robert Allan	<a href="mailto:gabriel.ross@chch.ox.ac.uk">gabriel.ross@chch.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:eloise.stevens@wadham.ox.ac.uk">eloise.stevens@wadham.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:rafay.yousuf@wadham.ox.ac.uk">rafay.yousuf@wadham.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:robert.allan@wadham.ox.ac.uk">robert.allan@wadham.ox.ac.uk</a>
<b>Tunisia</b>	Joshua Kirkhope-Arkley Rosabel Thorne Ayra Tariq	<a href="mailto:Joshua.kirkhope-arkley@pmb.ox.ac.uk">Joshua.kirkhope-arkley@pmb.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:rosabel.thorne@wadham.ox.ac.uk">rosabel.thorne@wadham.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:ayra.tariq@jesus.ox.ac.uk">ayra.tariq@jesus.ox.ac.uk</a>
<b>Japan</b>	Lucie Colonna Iustina Roman	<a href="mailto:lucie.colonna@pmb.ox.ac.uk">lucie.colonna@pmb.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:lustina.roman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk">lustina.roman@st-annes.ox.ac.uk</a>
<b>Taiwan</b>	Charlie Croft Harmony Allen	<a href="mailto:charlie.croft@wadham.ox.ac.uk">charlie.croft@wadham.ox.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:harmony.allen@wadham.ox.ac.uk">harmony.allen@wadham.ox.ac.uk</a>

## Information for LGBTQ+ students on their Year Abroad

### **Introduction**

If you identify as LGBTQ+ (i.e. a sexual orientation and/or gender identity minority), you may face additional challenges or worries when it comes to your year abroad. The country that you will reside in may have different laws when it comes to issues like same-sex marriage, change of legal sex, or even the permissibility of non-heterosexual intercourse. These things aside, you may also be residing in a place where it may be, for example, taboo to espouse pro-equality views. However, it is our hope that you will still have a meaningful and safe year abroad experience as an LGBTQ+ individual.

### **Doing some research**

Ideally, you should already be familiar with, or intend to do some research on, the culture and laws of your destination country with regard to LGBTQ+ issues. Here are some starting points that may be useful:

<http://ilga.org/>

<https://www.hrw.org/lgbt-international-resources>

### **Sources of support**

In addition to other general support services in Oxford that remain available to you on your year abroad, you should be aware of sources of support that are specific to LGBTQ+ students:

*Queer Abroad* - a new (secret) Facebook group created with the aim of allowing LGBTQ+ students to network with each other and which will ideally become a repository of advice and information

<https://tinyurl.com/queerabroad>

*Rainbow Peers* - trained Peer Supporters who identify as LGBTQ+ and have experience with such topics

<https://www.facebook.com/rainbowpeers/>  
[rainbowpeers@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rainbowpeers@admin.ox.ac.uk)

*LGBTQ+ Society Welfare Reps* - always ready to lend a listening ear

<https://www.facebook.com/OULGBTQ/>

*Oxford Friend* - if, for whatever reason, you would rather not communicate with a fellow peer from the university, please consider contacting this Oxford-based LGBTQ+ charity of trained volunteer counsellors

[confidential@oxfordfriend.co.uk](mailto:confidential@oxfordfriend.co.uk)

### **Specific advice for trans, non-binary and androgynous students**

If you are transgender, gender non-binary, and/or androgynous, you may face the dilemma of having to change your gender presentation or “public” gender identity (e.g. conforming to the gender binary) in order to live more easily or safely in your destination country. While it is difficult for us to give advice that would be applicable to everyone, we urge individuals to contact us with their specific situation:

VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities (LGBTQ+ Rep) 2022-23  
Grace Olusola  
[vpweo@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpweo@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

Additionally, if you have recently changed your legal name and/or legal sex and/or have transitioned (to any extent), you should be especially meticulous in having a repertoire of old and current identity documents. If you have a letter of invitation/confirmation from a university or an employer, you may perhaps find it useful to request to have your previous legal name and/or legal sex mentioned in such a letter.

**Final note**

This set of information has been drafted by the Student Union's LGBTQ+ Campaign. If you still have any worries that are not resolved from reading this, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to get in contact with us: [vpwealgbtq-chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpwealgbtq-chair@ousu.ox.ac.uk).