

FROM THE RECTOR
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EXETER
COLLEGE
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Welcome from the Rector

Welcome to Exeter College! We are very much looking forward to your arrival here. This is one of Oxford's oldest colleges – 2023 marks the ninth year of our eighth century – and Exeter remains one of the most beautiful, with a lovely garden right in the centre of town. It is also extremely friendly, with lots of interesting activities going on throughout the year.

Our Middle Common Room (otherwise known as the MCR), our postgraduate representative organization that functions as the centre of Exeter's postgraduate student life - is very experienced (having celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015) in serving as a lively focus for social and intellectual interaction. The physical MCR, on the West side of Front Quad, is where many of the activities take place and is open to all MCR members. We have a substantial number of postgraduates here, both doctoral and master's students, in a wide variety of academic disciplines, and they play a major role in College activities.

In addition to the supervisors and tutors that the University provides, you will also have an Exeter Fellow as a College advisor and you will be able to participate in special College dinners and other events specifically for postgraduates. You will also have access to the full range of the College's extracurricular activities.

I do hope that you will enjoy your time with us. The work may seem very demanding, especially at the start, but remember that everyone else will be in the same boat (even if they don't show it). One of the best reasons for coming to Oxford is the enormous amount of personal attention you will get from those who supervise and teach you, as well as from other members of staff, including those in College whose particular concern is the general wellbeing of our students (very much including postgraduates). Work must always come first, but please do try to make time for the sporting, cultural, and social activities that are an important part of both College and University life. You will have more opportunities to try things out here, whether rowing or acting or debating, than will ever come your way again.

I arrived at Exeter as Rector (i.e. Head) of the College in the autumn of 2014, after many years as an academic historian and academic leader in other UK universities. I was once an Oxford postgraduate myself, so I have some idea of what lies ahead of you! I work and live in the College, and you should feel able to come to see me if you have a problem that you can't sort out elsewhere, or if you have a suggestion that seems particularly appropriate for me.

If your parents, guardians, or other family members are bringing you to Oxford or intend to visit you while you are here, I would be delighted to see them. For instance, there will be a tea party for the families of new students on Sunday, 1st October 2023, between 2:00pm and 4.30pm in the College Dining Hall (on Exeter's historic Turl Street site), at which members of your family would be very welcome.

I look forward to seeing you when you arrive - especially on the occasion when you will sign The College Register - and to getting to know you throughout your time at Exeter.

Professor Sir Rick Trainor
Rector