

# Graduate Accommodation Room Ballot Rules

Due to the shortage of University and College-owned single accommodation in Oxford, demand currently exceeds supply. We are very aware that securing suitable accommodation is especially difficult for graduate freshers who may be overseas, unfamiliar with Oxford, and unable to attend viewings, and it is for this reason that the Graduate Accommodation Office operate a policy of prioritising freshers for Graduate Accommodation. In order to do so, the Graduate Accommodation Office reserves 70% of its single graduate accommodation for graduate freshers, and allocates the remaining 30% by ballot.

## 1. Eligibility

To be eligible to enter the Graduate Accommodation Ballot for returning students, you must be a current full-time graduate student of Oxford University, your rent must have been paid up to date, and there should be no arrears on your account. Checks will be made to confirm that you satisfy these criteria before you will be entered into the ballot.

This ballot is separate to any that may be run by your college. Students will need to contact their college directly to enter their college's ballot.

Students may only enter the Graduate Accommodation ballot once.

## 2. Ballot draw

The deadline for entry into the ballot is **5pm on Sunday 17th March 2024**. The Graduate Accommodation Office will complete checks to confirm that all applicants satisfy the eligibility criteria. The ballot draw will then be made using a random list generator on **19th March 2024**, and in the presence of a representative from OUSU. Applicants will be informed by email of their position on the ballot list as soon as possible following the ballot draw.

Applicants will be able to state a preference for continuing in their current room, or alternatively can opt to choose an alternative room. Further details about how the room choosing process will work are in point 4 below.

All new tenancies will be available on a fixed-term basis until 31 July 2025, with no gap in occupancy. Successful applicants who wished to stay on in their current room would sign a new fixed-term tenancy from 1 August 2024 until 31 July 2025. Successful applicants who have selected an alternative room in the ballot would be required to sign a short-term tenancy to cover the period in the current room from 1 August 2024 until their transfer date, and then a new tenancy to commence on their transfer date, and to run until 31 July 2025. A sample of the new tenancy agreement and updated handbook will be circulated at the time when applicants are informed of their position on the ballot.

## 3. Rents and tenancy terms

All rents are due to change on 1 August 2024. Please visit the [Graduate Accommodation website](#) for further information. Any new tenancy agreement will be offered at the new rental rate. For those successful applicants who will be selecting an alternative room to transfer into, a document detailing the available accommodation and the rents for each unit will be circulated prior to room choosing. This will also outline the date that each accommodation unit would be available to transfer into.

#### 4. Room choosing

Students will be allocated a date and time to choose their room depending on their position in the ballot. This will take place on **22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. In order to do so, they will need to phone the Graduate Accommodation Office. If a student is not available at the designated time, they can email the Graduate Accommodation Office with a list of preferences in advance of their choosing date.

#### 5. Ballot waiting list

Those students that are initially unsuccessful in the ballot will be contacted in ballot waiting list order if places subsequently become available due to cancellations.