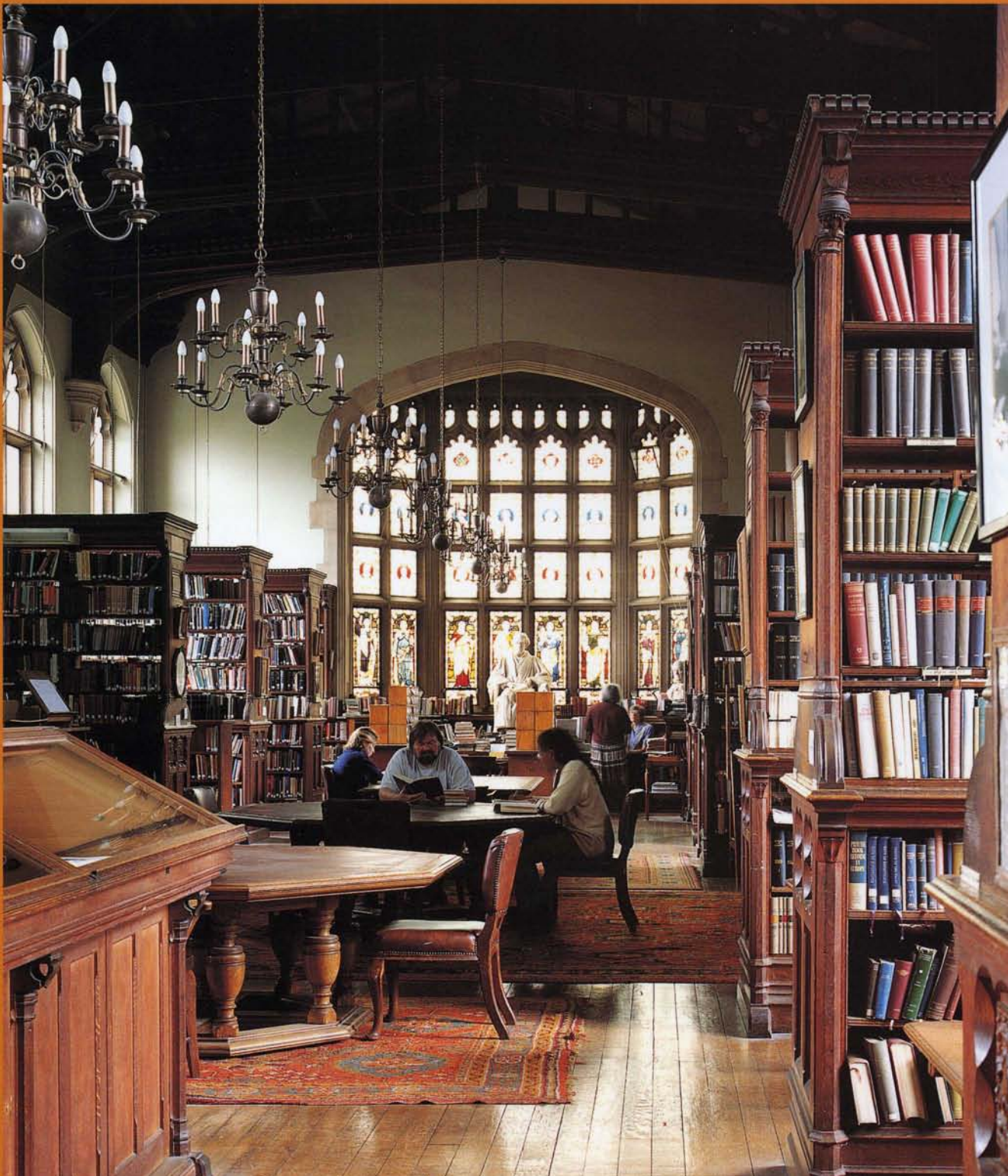




Harris Manchester College – University of Oxford



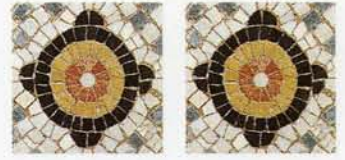








## Harris Manchester College



Harris Manchester College is unique in Oxford, as it takes only mature students to read for undergraduate and graduate degrees. It aims to offer the best possible education to those who come into, or return to education later in life. The College occupies a peaceful site in central Oxford, convenient for the University library (the Bodleian) and the faculty libraries, as well as other University and City facilities.

The College's primary objective is to provide an academic and social environment in which mature students can flourish. Although the College was founded over 200 years ago, it became a part of the University of Oxford only in 1990 and offers a non-traditional, friendly and supportive atmosphere. The College community consists of some 120 mature students reading for Oxford degrees, both at undergraduate and at graduate level. Also resident in College each year is a group of visiting students from American and European Universities, some men and women training for the ministry and some school teachers undertaking research into religious education.



Harris Manchester has no 'typical' student. Our students range in age from 21 to over 60, and have a correspondingly wide range of backgrounds, life experience and academic qualifications. There are those who left school at the age of 16 with few qualifications, but returned to study later in life: those who wish to change careers or to start a career after bringing up a family: and those who, having completed a successful career wish to pursue an interest in a particular subject. Our successful students include actors, musicians, builders, barmaids, accountants and bankers, serving police officers, members of the armed forces, professional photographers, secretaries, hoteliers, parents... There is usually a good balance of men and women, and around 10% of our undergraduates are from Europe and overseas. This wide variety is one of the great assets of the College, and you can be sure of finding

someone interesting to talk to at meals, or someone who is sharing the challenges you face.

### ACADEMIC LIFE

The formal instruction for undergraduate courses is given in tutorials arranged by the College, as well as through University lectures, classes and seminars. In addition to the full-time tutorial staff, Harris Manchester College uses tutors throughout the University to teach their specialist subjects to our students.



The tutorial system encourages you to read, write and think for yourself. Depending on your subject, one or two papers for the University syllabus will be studied each term. For each paper you will have a weekly tutorial, normally either in pairs or singly, which will last approximately an hour. For each tutorial an essay or other written work will be required, based on guided reading, and this will lead to a discussion of the week's work during which you will receive suggestions, criticisms and encouragement from your tutor. This system is helpful in teaching you to organise your own work, to follow an argument to its logical conclusion, and to be sympathetic to the views of others. There are also lectures to attend and sometimes classes or seminars, and practical laboratory work for scientists. At the beginning of each term there are college examinations to monitor progress, and students are expected to read extensively during vacations to consolidate the work they have done previously, and to prepare for the next term's tutorials.



**Michael Murphy** – 34, Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Michael left school at the age of 17 and joined the merchant navy as a caterer. After five years he left to travel the world for two years, before joining the Royal Navy as a chef and serving for five years. Mike then worked with people with mental health problems before returning to study at Ruskin College, Oxford, where he completed the full-time certificate in Higher Education before coming to Harris Manchester.





## Harris Manchester College



You will be examined by the University twice during your course. The first examinations take place during your first year, and you will be expected to pass these in order to be allowed to continue with the course. The second, final examinations take place at the end of your course, and consist of several three-hour papers over a period of up to two weeks. Some courses allow you to replace one paper with an extended essay, but your final grade will be on the basis of these examinations: there is no continuous assessment.



### GRADUATE STUDENTS

The College welcomes applications from graduates wishing to read for most of the degrees offered by the University, including the Certificate in Education and the Master in Business Administration. Harris Manchester aims to offer accommodation in College to all single first year graduate students from outside Oxford, and is often able to offer accommodation in following years. The graduate house (Johnson House) is an 18th century town house on the main college site which was completely renovated in 1998/9. All rooms have telephone and internet connections, and the house contains a common room and kitchen for use by all graduate students. Graduates may also be housed elsewhere in the residential accommodation on site. There is full access to the College's computing facilities for all graduate students, and a dedicated computer and printer for graduates in Johnson House. The graduates have their own annually elected representatives who are able to raise matters of interest and concern to graduates at the Governing Body and other meetings. The Tutor for Graduates is responsible for the general well being of students and is available for consultation on academic and non-academic matters. We encourage all graduate members of Harris Manchester College to dine regularly in College.

### ACADEMIC FACILITIES

The College is proud of its Library, which contains collections of books and manuscripts reaching back to the seventeenth century and is important for the history of Dissent and of Education. There is a fine Victorian reading-room - the Tate Library - designed by Thomas Worthington and given to the College by Sir Henry Tate, the Unitarian sugar merchant who also gave his name to the Tate Gallery. It is here that the undergraduate collections are housed, and this library is open from 8.30 am to 11.30 pm. The College attaches great importance to keeping these collections up-to-date and matching the needs of students. There is also computer access to various databases and on-line catalogues in Oxford and throughout the world. Students may also use the other Oxford libraries: the various faculty and departmental libraries, and the University Library, the Bodleian.

The College's computer room is open 24 hours a day to students, and contains a range of computers and printers. It is connected to the University network and via this, to the internet. All student rooms have telephone lines and the majority also have direct internet access.

### COLLEGE LIFE

#### Accommodation

Harris Manchester College has the advantage of being able to accommodate a high proportion of its members within the college. This



**Kate Elliott** – 37, English

Kate left school at 16 with 13 GCSEs. She has two children, and after voluntary work at their junior school teaching language, reading and running a poetry workshop, Kate gained a place at the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education on the two-year, part-time Foundation Course. Having successfully completed this, she was accepted directly into the second year of the degree course at Harris Manchester.



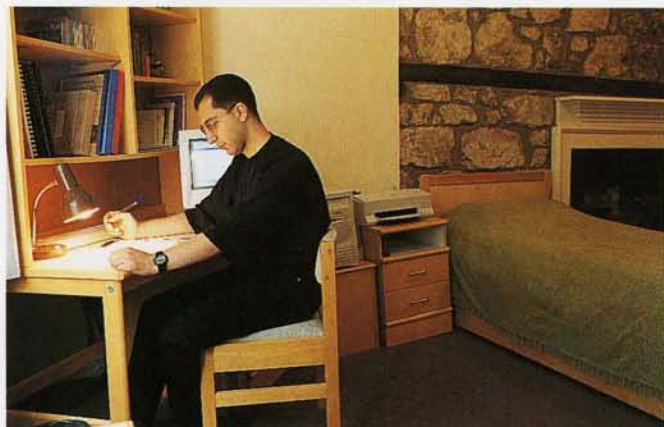


## Harris Manchester College



helps to create a good college community. At present all first and final year undergraduate students who wish to live in can be accommodated in single study-bedrooms on the College site, and it is often possible to live in College for the whole duration of your course. The College is now a virtually smoke-free environment, with the bar being the only room in College in which smoking is permitted. The College does not have any accommodation for couples or families, but the University does provide some flats and houses for which our students are eligible to apply.

The majority of study-bedrooms are in the College's historic old houses, which are gradually being renovated, and there are 27 rooms in the new buildings. One house is set aside for graduate students. All rooms have central heating and hand basins and all have telephone connections. Eighteen meals a week are included in the accommodation charge. It is not possible to live in College on a self-catering basis, although there are several student kitchens which can be used for making snacks and occasional meals.



No student is required to live in College for any part of his or her course, but the University regulations requiring residence within 6 miles (or for those living in their family home, 25 miles) of the centre of Oxford must be observed.

### Meals

Lunch is self-service, with a choice of a hot dish or salad bar, and dinner is served at the table. The College prides itself on the quality of its food and makes a special effort to cater effectively for vegetarians and those on special diets.

While you may sign family and friends into any meal, Monday and Wednesday are the official Guest Nights, and Dinner on those occasions

is a formal meal. Grace is said at the beginning of the meal, and following the Oxford custom on such occasions, members are expected to dress more formally and to wear their academic gowns. Students living out of College are encouraged to take meals in College and to sign in guests.

### Welfare

The College Doctors belong to a group practice in the City, and have overall responsibility for students' health. Subject tutors also take an interest in the general well-being of their students, and are happy to be approached on non-academic as well as academic matters. The Junior Dean lives in College and may be approached for confidential help and advice at any time, as may the Dean, the Chaplain and the Principal. The College provides seminars for first year students on study skills, and the University Counselling Service provides a wide range of professional support for both academic and personal problems.

### Student life

Harris Manchester College has a lively Junior Common Room to which all members of the College belong. Its officers organise social events and are concerned with aspects of student welfare. Some officers attend meetings of the Governing Body of the College. Graduate students are also members of the Middle Common Room.

There are four student common rooms - a sitting room with a television in one of the student houses, a bar and another room in the main building and the MCR for graduates in the graduate house.

Membership of all University clubs and societies is open to members of Harris Manchester College, and though we have few sporting facilities of our own a large number of our students are keenly involved in sporting activities. Harris Manchester College students have fenced, played cricket, soccer, rugby, tennis, lacrosse, and basketball, not only for this and other Colleges, but also for the University. Depending on the interests of the students in any one year, the College has fielded teams in football, chess, croquet, cricket and swimming and rowing. There is a multi-gym for use by members of the College. The College has its own punt, 'The Royle Yacht' (named in memory of a former student) which is available to students during the Trinity (summer) term.

There have been strong traditions of drama and music in the College with a vigorous Drama Society, and the students produce a regular college newsletter.

### THE COLLEGE CHAPEL

The College Chapel with its beautiful woodcarvings, its stained glass windows by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris, and its fine organ is



**Ali Parchami** – 28, Ancient & Modern History

Ali gained 5 very good A levels studying privately at his home in Iran while holding down a full-time job in a transport company. Ali has now gone on to study for a graduate degree in Oxford.





## Harris Manchester College



a centre for liberal religion for students and others in and around Oxford. There is a service on Sunday and morning prayers each day. Visiting preachers and speakers are often invited, and the Chaplain, staff and students participate fully in a wide range of activities that contribute to worship.

Oxford provides all kinds of opportunities for those who wish to explore church worship or take part in religious and theological meetings. Almost all denominations and shades of opinion are represented within a short walk of the College and many students attend worship in the city centre churches and college chapels.

### HISTORY

Manchester College was founded in Manchester in 1786 by English Presbyterians. It was one of the last of a long line of dissenting academies established after the Restoration to provide higher education for Nonconformists, who were debarred from the ancient universities of Oxford and Cambridge by religious tests. The principal of religious liberty was fundamental to the new foundation, which was to be open to 'young men of every religious denomination, from whom no test, or confession of faith' would be required. Both lay and divinity students would be enrolled.

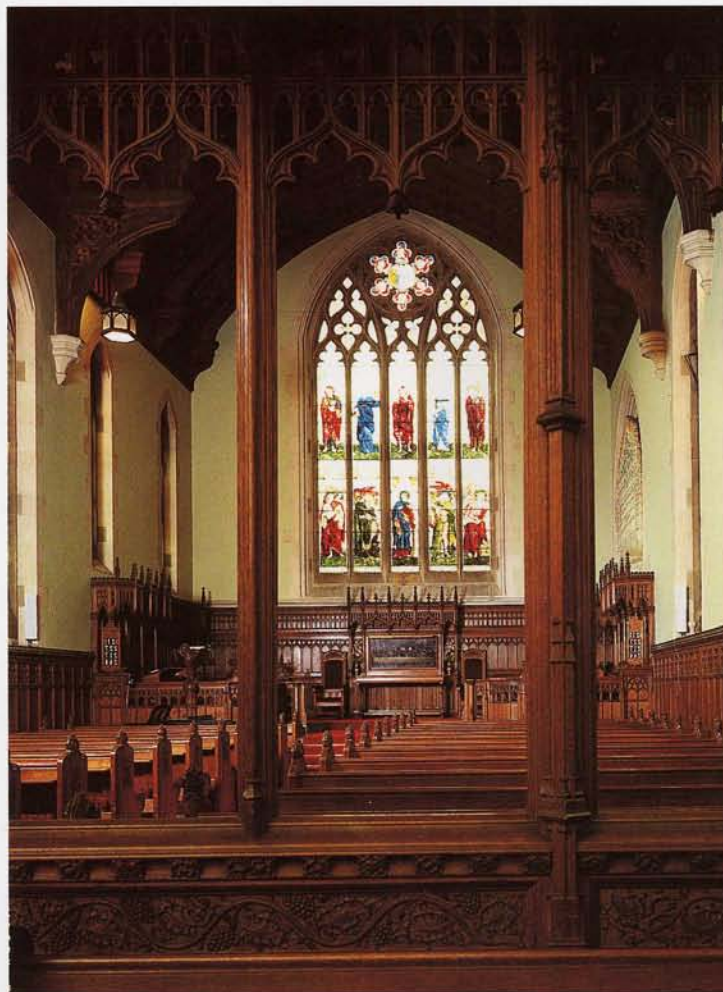
Manchester Academy was the direct heir of the famous Warrington Academy (commemorated in a handsome stained-glass window in the Library) at which Joseph Priestley, discoverer of oxygen and radical theologian, had taught. Teaching staff at Manchester Academy included the Quaker chemist John Dalton, and the College taught 'modern' subjects: science, modern languages, history and

literature, as well as classics and theology. Later teachers included William Gaskell, husband of the novelist Elizabeth, F. W. Newman, attacked by Matthew Arnold in *On Translating Homer*, and James Martineau, the Victorian theologian whom Gladstone called 'first among English thinkers'. Always adaptable to changing circumstances, the College changed its location four times: from Manchester (1786-1803) to York (1803-40), back to Manchester (1840-1853), then to London (1853-1889) and finally to

Oxford (1889-). The association with the University of London began in 1840, when a Royal Warrant gave the College the right to present candidates for London degrees. The College came to Oxford in 1889 and opened its new buildings designed by Thomas Worthington in 1893, housing its students, as now, in the seventeenth and eighteenth century houses in Holywell Street. The College became a Permanent Private Hall of the University for mature undergraduate and postgraduate students in 1990, and in 1996 gained its Royal Charter as a full college of the University, becoming Harris Manchester College.

Harris Manchester College has always been proud of its liberal and pioneering ethos. In its early days, it supported reforming causes, such as the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts and the abolition of slavery. The first woman candidate for the Nonconformist ministry was accepted in 1907. Students from many overseas countries, including Hungary, Japan, India and the United States, as well as Europe have enriched the College community from the start. In the

1920s and 30s the College provided courses for the Workers Educational Association (W.E.A.). Today the College is pleased to provide opportunities for mature students.



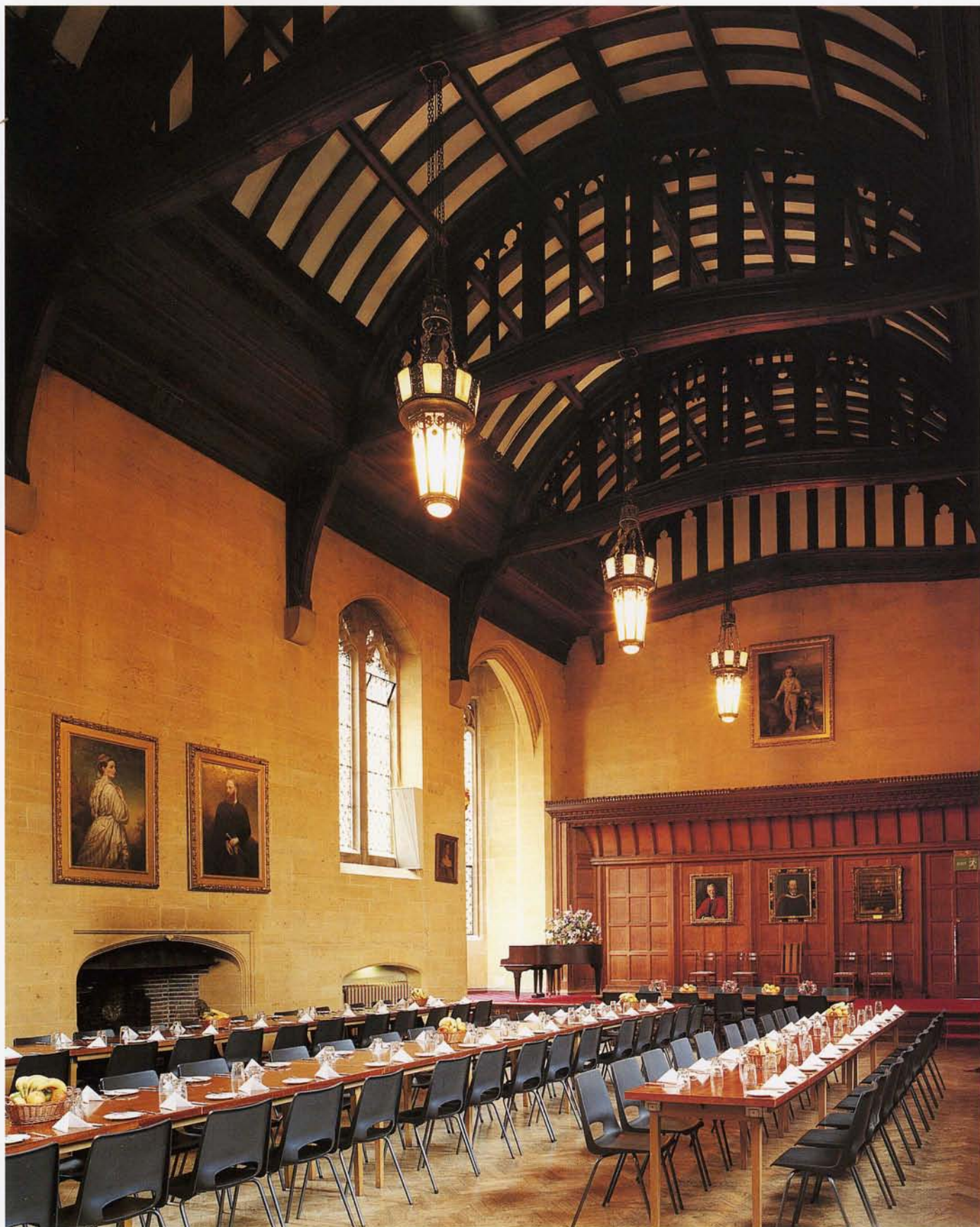
**Hayley Roper – 28, Experimental Psychology**

After taking GCSEs, Hayley studied for a BTec in Hotel Catering and Institutional Operations and worked in the hotel/conference industry. She gained her place at Harris Manchester having achieved two good A level results studying part-time while working. She is now doing graduate study in the United States.

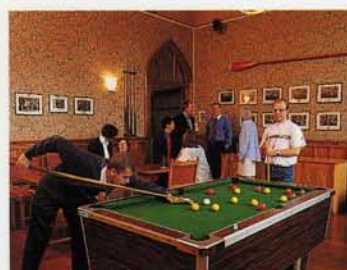




# Harris Manchester College







Bar



Lecture Room

Harris Manchester College is in the heart of Oxford close to the Bodleian Library, the English, History and Law Faculty Libraries, the museums and other colleges of the University.

It is also a very pleasant stroll through the middle of Oxford to the Shopping Centres of the Cornmarket and Queen Street. The famous University Parks can be reached on foot within 3 minutes.

#### By car

To avoid the City centre, approach via the A40 northern ring road and take the A4165 Banbury Road southwards for about 2 miles to Parks Road. NB Broad Street is no longer a through-route and the High Street is closed to private vehicles between 7.30 to 18.30

#### Parking

Long-stay on-street parking is available to the north of Harris Manchester on Norham Gardens and beyond. The nearest short-stay parking is in Mansfield Road.

#### By train

Harris Manchester is 15 minutes walk from Oxford Station, via Park End Street, George Street, Broad Street, Holywell Street, and Mansfield Road.

#### By Coach

The main coach station is at Gloucester Green, off George Street. Harris Manchester is 10 minutes walk from the coach station, via George Street, Broad Street, Holywell Street and Mansfield Road.

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