

Trinity College JCR

Oxford College Rents Statistics

January 2007

Introduction

Background

The information in the following document has been collated in order to assist Trinity College JCR with rent negotiations and has been compiled with this in mind.

Trinity's basic rents are low in comparison with other Oxford colleges. However, additional 'hidden' charges contribute to the overall cost of living in college accommodation, and when combined with basic rent, place Trinity at the upper end of colleges in terms of total expense for students. The main aims of this research were to evaluate the overall actual cost of accommodation in every college, in order to assess how living costs vary between colleges throughout Oxford.

Data Collection

The data for the spreadsheet has been collected over several months by the Trinity JCR Committee. This has been acquired mainly from college/JCR websites, JCR presidents, JCR treasurers and the University website. The accuracy of this data is dependent upon those who provided it. The Trinity JCR Committee is not responsible for the accuracy of this data.

Methodology

Termly accommodation costs

Where applicable, these costs have been divided into basic rent, hall charges, gas & electricity, telephone & internet costs and other miscellaneous costs. If any of these do not apply, they are assumed to be included in the basic rent charge.

The charges are quoted on a termly basis, as at January 2007. The price of accommodation in some colleges is based on a 9 month contract. Where a 59 day per term contract is unavailable, the annual charge has been divided over three terms. This is because the aim of the spreadsheet is to reflect the actual costs to students at each college, regardless of how long they wish to remain up at Oxford during the academic year. Calculating rents on a weekly basis would require a significant amount of time and effort from the Trinity JCR Committee, and given the timetable for rent negotiations, it has been decided that weekly rents by college are not sufficiently valuable.

Where colleges have a variable pricing regime, whether accommodation is banded by price category, or charged at different rates depending on year of study, an overall weighted mean has been calculated. It is believed by the Trinity JCR Executive Committee that this, as opposed to an unweighted mean, will provide the most accurate single figure for comparison.

In some cases, gas & electricity charges vary according to usage and/or type of accommodation. Where this is the case, an estimate has been provided to the Trinity JCR Committee.

Food prices

The price of a 'cheap dinner in hall' is quoted for each college. Where colleges use fixed prices to charge for evening meals, this single figure is quoted. For meals which are charged à la carte, the price of a main meal or a main plus two sides of vegetables has been used.

Vacation residence

This is the nightly charge for a college room during vacation periods. Some colleges offer limited grants across the board for this, regardless of the motivations behind their students' desires for wishing to remain in Oxford. Where this is the case, £0.00 has been entered, but the charge otherwise has been noted in the 'other information' column.

Results

College	Basic rent per term (£)	Rank by basic rent	Fixed Hall / Establishment charge (£)	Telephone & Internet (£)	Gas & Electricity (£)	Other compulsory charges (£)	Total rent per term	Other information	Other optional charges (£)	Cheap dinner in hall (£)	Vacation residence in college per night (£)	2006 Applications from maintained ¹ (%)	Rank	2005 - 2006 Undergraduate numbers ²
1	Pembroke	1,220.29	1				£1,220.29	All first years must prepay 6 dinners a week at start of term but reimbursed for unused dinners		4.32	24.74	43.1	29	391
2	St. Anne's	973.00	6	125.00		18.48	£1,116.48	En-suite charge of £42 for 44% of rooms, 7 nights of vacation residence per year free or 'about £16' per night otherwise		2.00	0.00	63.8	9	412
3	St. Peter's	800.52	21	263.49			£1,064.01	Students in private accommodation must pay fixed hall charge, vacation residence in college cannot be guaranteed, vacation residence elsewhere charged at conference rate; all meals (inc. afternoon tea) free at point of sale		0.00	45.00	65.2	7	336
4	LMH	1,063.00	2				£1,063.00			1.90	15.35	59.4	15	381
5	Trinity	799.54	22	158.21	13.67	37.00	£1,020.42	£12 fridge hire		3.20	11.00	50.1	24	280
6	Brasenose	812.00	20	196.00			£1,008.00			3.00	16.00	45.6	28	368
7	Keble	1,000.73	3				£1,000.73			3.26	16.96	63.7	10	408
8	Magdalen	988.25	4		1.70		£989.95	£25 telephone charge for around 25 people in one part of college, £6 unlimited photocopying	6.00	3.00	16.75	61.9	12	368
9	St. Edmund Hall	974.79	5				£974.79			3.24	16.52	46.5	27	377
10	Jesus	863.33	12	24.00		80.00	£967.33			2.95	12.82	68.2	5	315
11	Balliol	950.18	7	12.57			£962.75			1.77	13.00	58.2	18	408
12	Exeter	794.28	23	152.00			£946.28			3.10	13.46	54.9	19	327
13	St. Catherine's	875.56	11		32.00		£907.56			2.92	6.40	59.2	17	431
14	Queens	898.34	8				£898.34			3.05	10.92	54.5	20	312
15	St. Hugh's	897.00	9				£897.00			2.80	14.40	65.1	8	388
16	St. Hilda's	889.98	10				£889.98			2.00	14.16	60.5	14	408
17	Worcester	814.26	19	2.18	7.80	55.00	£879.25			2.05	14.70	47	26	392
18	St. John's	704.15	29			153.00	£867.15	£153 per term for 'provision of services', vacation residence grants easily obtainable		2.63	0.00	73.6	2	370
19	Wadham	862.24	13				£862.24	£32 laundry charge	32.00	2.70	11.50	66.4	6	449
20	Corpus Christi	854.80	14				£854.80			1.94	9.54	59.4	15	237
21	Somerville	850.11	15			1.50	£851.61	52 days over 3 years free vacation residence - £14 otherwise		2.85	0.00	54.5	20	358
22	Christ Church	847.29	16				£847.29	Everyone eligible for grant for 28 days of vacation residence - £15.13 otherwise		1.75	0.00	50.6	23	408
23	Oriel	839.96	17		6.20		£846.16	£128 p.a. vacation grant - charged at nightly rate otherwise		2.98	0.00	60.9	13	284
24	New	783.17	24	52.20			£835.37	£14 optional fridge hire but own fridges allowed	14.00	3.30	13.57	52.9	22	390
25	University	833.00	18				£833.00			1.65	14.36	49.4	25	387
26	Lincoln	770.79	26			37.11	£810.27	24 or 10 (in college or out of college, respectively) dinners must be prepaid without refund, £7.09 p.a. insurance charge		3.95	13.06	63.7	10	274
27	Mansfield	780.00	25				£780.00	£5 unlimited printing	5.00	2.00	10.23	76.2	1	205
28	Hertford	726.18	28			44.98	£771.16	£44.98 college facilities' charge		3.00	12.00	68.5	3	365
29	Merton	742.33	27				£742.33			2.79	12.00	68.3	4	299
	Highest	1,220.29					£1,220.29			4.32	45.00	76.2		
	Median	850.11					£897.00			2.85	13.00	59.4		
	Lowest	704.15					£742.33			0.00	0.00	43.1		
	Range	516.15					£477.96			4.32	45.00	33.1		
	Mean	869.28					£920.95			2.62	12.36	59.0		

¹Source: <http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/adstats.pdf>

²Source: <http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/colleges/colnos.pdf>

As predicted, Trinity is within the upper quartile of colleges in terms of expense, after the inclusion of other charges.

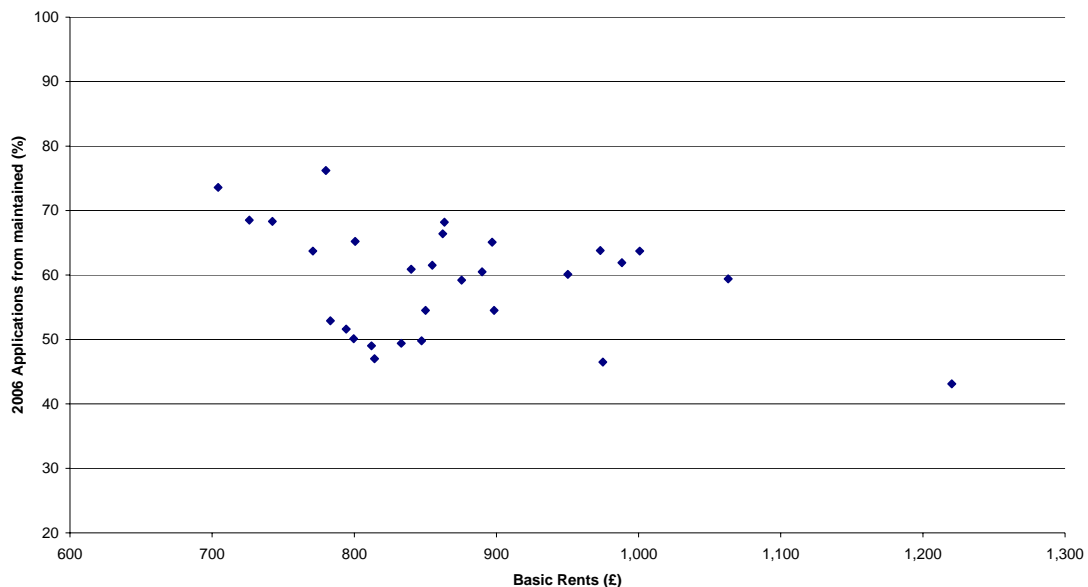
It is worth noting that some colleges' total rents per term vary significantly from their basic rents. Furthermore, the accommodation charges quoted in the OUSU Alternative Prospectus 2006-2007 are wholly inaccurate and misleading for potential applicants. In the interests of transparency and freedom of information for prospective students, the Trinity JCR Executive Committee believes that a truer indication of college charges should be made freely available on the OUSU website.

The range of rents across colleges, £478 per term, is surprising. This further emphasises the need for accommodation charges to be freely accessible to potential applicants.

In comparison, The University of Cambridge, states on its website that: "As a rough guide most single study-bedroom rents in Colleges are in the range £65-80 per week for a 30-week year (for rooms without en suite bathrooms; those with en suite cost more), and most kitchen facilities charges are in the range £10-£16 per week." This results in a termly rent of £750 - £960 per term.

The most interesting finding is the effect of rent prices on maintained school applications. The least expensive colleges, as expected, tend to have the highest proportion of applications from maintained schools. However, we believe there are many other factors which influence applications from the maintained sector, such as the reputation of individual colleges.

Basic Rent vs. Applications from Maintained Schools



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