



# UNIQ Summer Schools

**Eliot Ball**

*Computer Science UNIQ Summer School 2011*

*Offer for Maths and Computer Science at St John's College*

**Tom Brown**

*Physics UNIQ Summer School 2011*

*Offer for Physics at Lady Margaret Hall*

# What happens during the week?

- Academic work at first year degree level in the subject you have chosen
- Socialising in your college and in your subject
- Talks on admissions, student life and prospects after Oxford
- Final night 'Bop' (party)
- Chilling with the professors

# Cost

- Nothing.
- You don't even need to spend any money while you're there.

# Your Subject

- Work is at degree level.
- In some subjects the summer school is more intense than the Oxford degree.
- Four days with a full timetable.
  - Computer Science had 3 hours of lectures and 3 hours of labs per day.
  - Physics had problem sheets to do in the evening, although the tutors were discouraged from setting these!
- Some subjects (including Medicine, Geography) have a tutorial at the end of the week, just like being at Oxford for real.

# Your College

- At UNIQ the experience of being at Oxford for real is simulated.
- You live in a college with people studying a variety of subjects.
- Here you eat, sleep, and socialise (even computer science).
- You will be taught in the department for your subject, with people from all colleges taking part in UNIQ.
- You don't get to choose your college for UNIQ, but it's only for a week so don't worry.

# Accommodation and Food

- Accommodation is in the rooms that you would stay in during your first year if you entered the college you're staying at for a degree.
- You are likely to share a bathroom and shower.
- Food is all included.
  - Breakfast and evening meals will be provided in the hall of your college. Breakfast is likely to be cooked (other options are available).
  - For lunch you will be provided with vouchers entitling you to obtain free lunches in Oxford. Ours were for the café in the Oxford Biochemistry department, and for Taylor's, a gourmet sandwich shop.

# Socialising and Activities

- Within the college there are a variety of people, all eating and spending at least part of the evenings together.
- Evening activities are arranged which are good for meeting people.
- On the Thursday night there is a fancy dress 'Bop' – described as a disco. Alcohol is forbidden for the whole week.
- There is plenty of time to look around Oxford during the lunch breaks, which have been deliberately made to last for 2 hours (on my course anyway).

# Travel

- Train tickets will be posted to you a few weeks before the summer school.
- You are not allowed to have any other kind of travel.
- You choose what station your ticket is from.
- Tickets include seat reservations for suitable trains to get you to Oxford on the Sunday, and home from Oxford on the Friday.
- It takes about 3 hours to get to Oxford by train.
- On the final stretch between Birmingham and Oxford half the passengers on the train were heading to UNIQ, and there were 3 of us travelling from Huddersfield when I went.

# Applying

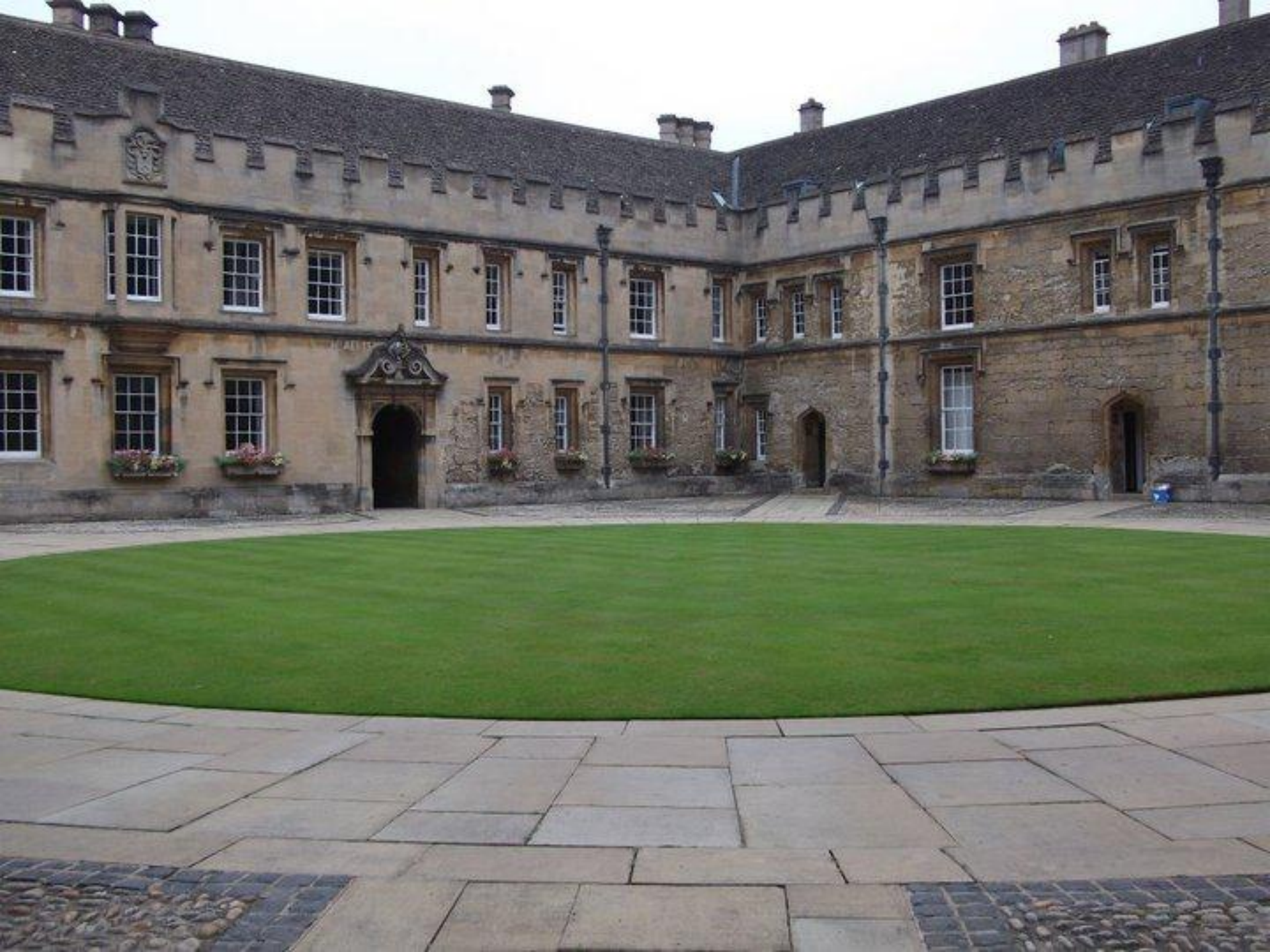
- The admissions for UNIQ are run by UCAS, using a system that feels like the UCAS application you will be doing next year.
- You have to write a 2000 character personal statement. This is much shorter than you might think.
- Your mentors on the summer school will provide you with feedback on your personal statement when you're there.
- Nearly all subjects offered at Oxford are offered at UNIQ.

# Statistics

- In 2011: 3400 applications for 657 places across the whole programme.
- Some subjects are easier to get places on than others.
  - Earth Sciences (62%), Materials Science (53%), Biochemistry (47%) and Computer Science (44%) are amongst the least competitive subjects to apply for.
  - Law (17%), Physics (13%), Maths (10%) and Medicine (6%) are amongst the most competitive.
- Students who attended UNIQ are roughly twice as likely to get an Oxford offer.

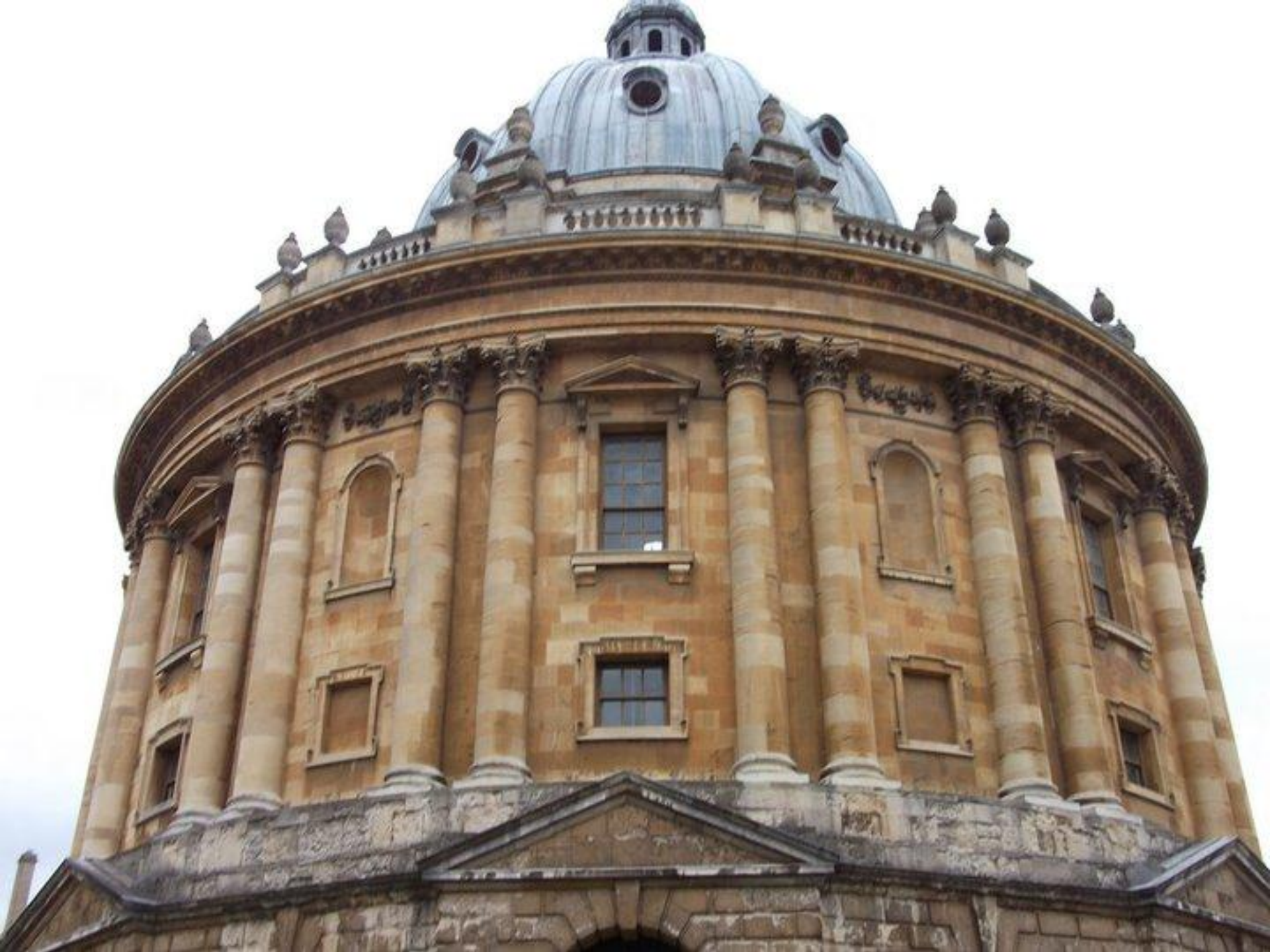


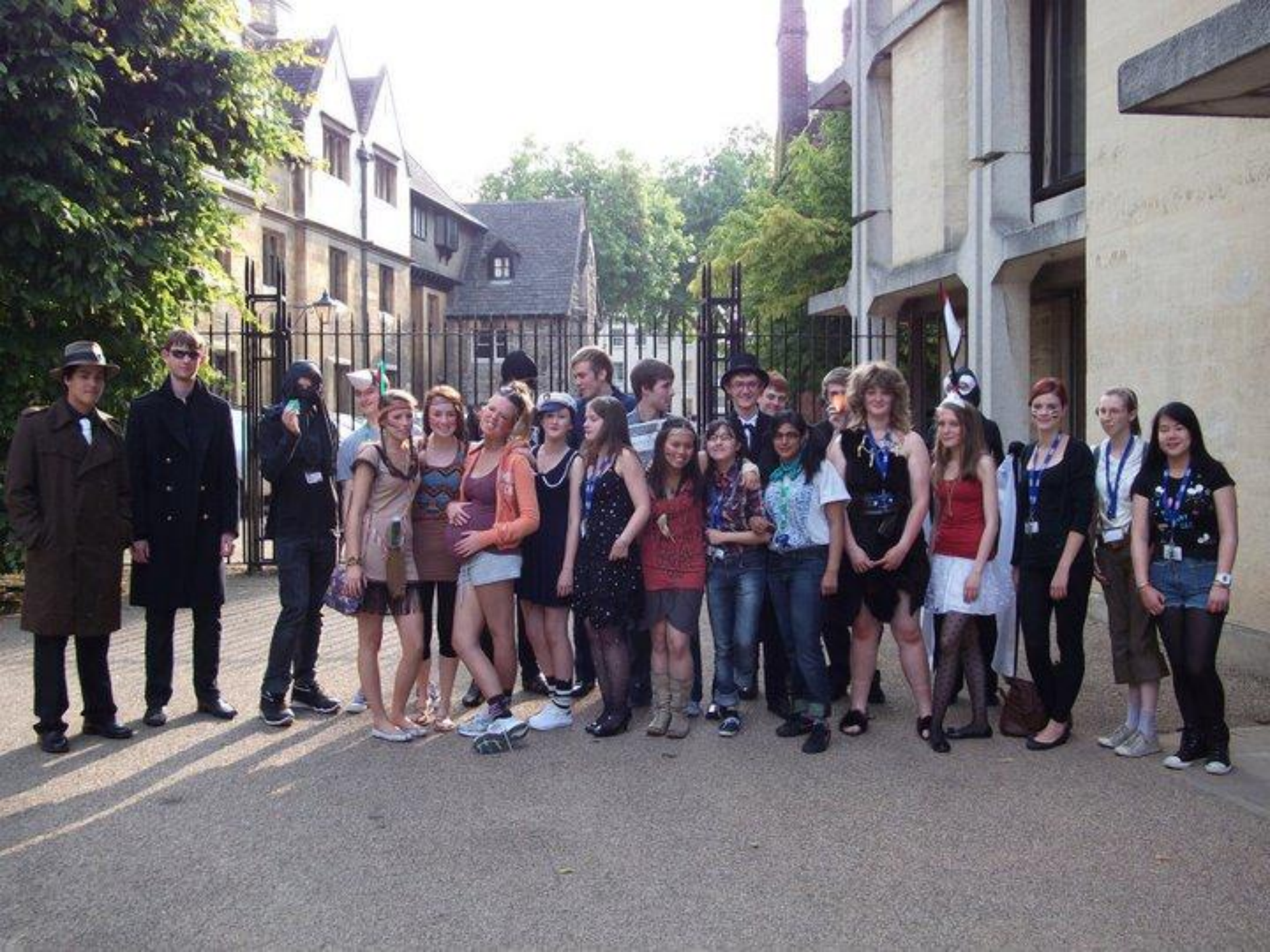


















Why not apply?

*You have nothing to lose.*