

Oriel MCR Facilities Guide 2025

Overview

Welcome to your MCR! Our MCR is located at the southernmost end of the Island Site. In the MCR you'll find study spaces, comfy chairs, tea and coffee facilities, and our MCR bar. This is our little home from home, and with a bit of care from everyone is a wonderful little space to work, hang out with friends at a Welfare Tea, curl up with a good book, or join a party at the bar.

Common Room

The common room is the heart of the MCR. Full of comfy sofas it's a great place to hang out, meet up with friends, or bring guests to. During the day you'll usually find people curled up with a book, chatting over a coffee, having lunch or occasionally frantically typing the final bits of an essay. By night it all becomes a bit livelier over bar nights and social events, which might be anything from a film night, wine tasting or cocktail making evenings, to crafting sessions, or parties. Keep an eye on the term card for details of when things are going on.

There's a large cupboard in the corner which contains one of our coffee machines (Betty), tea, coffee, and biscuit supplies, and a general MCR member fridge where you can keep your lunch or snacks. Milk and non-dairy milk supplies are also kept in here for general use. Please help yourself to all of these, and if anything is running low either message the WhatsApp general group or find or message the MCR manager so we can re-stock.

Power sockets are located all around the edges of the room, and lights are powered from a central switch.

On a serious note, it's really important that the space is kept clean, so we do ask the simple requirement of all MCR members to keep the place tidy and clear up after yourselves. It sounds obvious, but if you spill something, mop it up (mops, brushes etc. are by the side of the main door, cloths are in the kitchen), use a coaster for your drinks (spares are in the sideboard), wash up your mugs and plates, and throw your rubbish away. The same goes for the toilet facilities in the stairwells, please keep these clean and as you would like to

find them. Fundamentally, it's not down to the Scouts, or any other MCR member, to clear up after you.

Kitchen

In the kitchen you'll find cutlery, plates & mugs so you can have your lunch, and a sink to do your washing up in (unsubtle hint!). Please do not take ANY crockery or cutlery out of the MCR. You can take drinks up to the study room, but, not to your room (or beyond, we have no idea where all our mugs wandered off to last year!). The fridge in the kitchen isn't however for general use, it's for the committee to store things for events, so please use the one in the main common room. You'll also find an ice machine, the bins, and a glass sanitizer for the bar. Please do not use this as a dishwasher, it is ONLY for use by bar staff during bar nights. We are however hoping to have a dishwasher installed this year, hopefully before Hillary Term. Our second coffee machine, Monica, is also in the kitchen.

Coffee Machines

We do like a coffee in the MCR, so much so we have two coffee machines (tea is also available, and there is a selection of teas in the big cupboard in the common room).

Betty

Betty is the coffee machine in the big cupboard in the common room. Slightly temperamental, but many people enjoy an Americano courtesy of Betty. Unfortunately, we've had to remove the milk element, so cappuccinos and lattes aren't possible, but she produces a fine mug of coffee.

Monica

Monica is our little treat for the MCR. A SMEG espresso machine, she produces a wonderful coffee and has a milk steamer wand on the side. She does need a little thought to use well, however, so please follow these instructions:

1. Ensure the grinder is set to 10. Any smaller than this and she can get blocked up. 10 makes a fine espresso.
2. Put the coffee holder into the left-hand slot and press either the single or double grind button.

3. Tamp down your coffee using the tamper on the top and put the coffee holder into the right-hand slot (turn firmly until it clicks).
4. Put a mug underneath the coffee holder and wait until the lights stop flashing. Select either the single or double brew by pushing the left or right-hand button.
5. Wait until your mug is filled before removing.
6. If you want milk, add this to the metal jug and use the steamer wand on the right of the machine.
7. BEFORE YOU DRINK YOUR COFFEE remove the coffee holder, empty it into the compost bin, clean it out, and wipe down the whole machine, including steamer wand and surrounding area.
8. Please leave the machine as you would want to find it, if the bottom tray is full, please empty it and wipe it down. Yes, you're in a rush, but it's not fair on the next person to leave it anything other than perfect.

Bar

The bar is run by our Bar Manager and her trusty team. The bar team are always looking for new people to help run bar nights, please do sign up for bar training so you can help. Our bar is only open on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays and bar nights are always great fun. We serve a variety of drinks, including our own cocktails, and a range of non-alcoholic drinks for the non-drinkers or if you're having a night off the booze.

Please, however, ensure that you and your guests treat our bar staff with respect. You will be asked to leave if you are rude or aggressive to our fantastic volunteer team. Bar nights can get busy; you might need to queue for a few minutes. You're not going to die of thirst while you wait for a drink, and please respect those around you.

Study Room

This is a quiet study space located on the upper floor directly above the common room. There are a range of desks (desk chairs are being updated soon), monitors you can connect your laptop to, desk lamps, and power sockets for charging. Please ensure you use headphones rather than blasting out music or the contents of the

seminar you're listening to across the room. If you need to take a meeting in which you'll be doing a lot of talking, please book our meeting pod instead of using the study room.

The study room is occasionally used for other events, including our weekly yoga sessions, please ensure you keep an eye on the notices on the Term Card and WhatsApp for when the study room is out of use.

Lockers

There are a small number of lockers available for use by MCR members on the upper floor of the MCR. These are in high demand, but please ask the committee if there are any available. A deposit will be levied for your key, which will enable replacement of the lock if you lose your key or don't return it.

Lockers are also available in the Island Site printing room area. For these you only need to find an empty one and put a lock onto it, so you might find these easier to get.

Meeting Pod

Our meeting pod is in the Island Site printing room area. We are updating the booking process for this at the moment, but for now please contact the MCR president. Please do not just use it without booking, you never know when someone has booked it and will turn up partway through your meeting and kick you out!

Meeting Room

New for this year is a meeting room! This space is bookable by the MCR President and Vice President only at the moment, but if you would find a small meeting room (suitable for around 6 people) useful, get in touch and hopefully we can help.

Guests

You are welcome to bring guests to the MCR, but any guests you bring in are your responsibility and you are expected to be there to host them. If your guest(s) break something, make a mess, or are being loud, aggressive, or otherwise acting inappropriately they will be asked to leave, and you will be asked to make reparations. Please ensure your guests are aware of how we look after our MCR.

Smoking

The college estate is a non-smoking facility. This includes the MCR and its environs, including outdoor spaces on the Island Site. If you, or your guests, want to smoke you will need to leave the college premises to do so. This includes cigarettes, cigars, and vapes.

Drugs

This should go without saying, but drugs are not welcome in the MCR. Anyone found using narcotics within the MCR will be requested to leave immediately, and a report will be made to the Deans.