

MCR Room Ballot Rules 2017

Eligibility

Current full MCR members that will be continuing their graduate course in the upcoming academic year are eligible to enter the MCR Room Ballot. Note that students beginning new graduate courses in the coming academic year will be assigned accommodation directly by College.

Any MCR member wishing to the MCR Room Ballot must complete and submit all necessary forms to the MCR Vice President when called upon to do so.

If inaccurate information is provided OR information is provided late, the Vice President may demote or remove the applicant from the ranking list.

The Ballot System

The MCR Room Ballot consists of Ballots 1, 2, 3, and the Reserve Ballot.

No student may enter any of Ballots 1, 2, and 3 more than once, but a student may enter the Reserve Ballot more than once. Please note that to 'enter' a ballot means to obtain a room in the ballot, regardless of whether the student actually goes on to live in the room. Finalists get priority on Ballot 1 over non-finalists, so it is typical for students to save their Ballot 1 entry for the final year of their course, though it is possible to use it at any time.

Students that will be past the full fee-paying duration of their course will be automatically placed on the reserve ballot. The standard fee liabilities of all courses can be found here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/fees/liability?wssl=1>. As an example, since the fee liability of a standard DPhil student (i.e. not CDT or DTP) is nine terms, a standard DPhil student entering their fourth year of studies in Michaelmas 2017 will automatically be placed on the reserve ballot. This is a College policy that will be strictly adhered to.

Ballot 1 takes place first, so entrance have first choice of available rooms. It is followed by Ballots 2, 3, and the Reserve Ballot, in that order.

The President and Vice President are given the first and second place respectively on Ballot 1. These entries will not count as ballot entries by these students in future ballots, though the score from these rooms will count.

For Ballot 1, entrants are ranked as follows:

1. The MCR President
2. The MCR Vice President
3. Students entering the final year of any course are ranked above those who are not entering the final year of any course.
4. Entrants are ranked according to the average of their room scores, from lowest to highest. Information about this calculation is provided below.
5. In the event of a tie, students starting the final year of a doctorate are ranked above those starting the final year of a master's degree.

For ballots 2-3, entrants are ranked as follows:

1. Entrants are ranked according to the average of their room scores, from lowest to highest. Information about this calculation is provided below.
2. In the event of a tie, students starting a relatively higher year-in-course are ranked higher.

For the Reserve Ballot, entrants are ranked as follows:

1. Entrants within the standard duration of their course (i.e. within the 3 years of a DPhil, or the 4 years of a DTC DPhil) are ranked above those who have exceeded the standard duration of their course.
2. Entrants within the standard duration of their course will be ranked from highest to lowest relative year-in-course.
3. Entrants who have exceeded the nominal duration of their course by the longest time will be ranked lowest.
4. Entrants with equal rank after steps 1 to 3 are ranked according to the average of their room scores, from lowest to highest.

For Ballot 1, students can only enter as a finalist if they are in the last year of their course (e.g. about to start the 3rd year of their DPhil, or the 4th of a DTC DPhil).

In the event of a tie in the ranking for any ballot after the administration of the following rules, the Vice President will randomly order such entrants.

Room Scores

Rooms are given a score out of 200 based on a number of different objective criteria, considering room size (a score out of 100), ensuite facilities (a score out of 50), storage (a score out of 25), and kitchen quality (a score out of 25). In addition, changes to a room score may have been made due to specific advantages or disadvantages such as having an individual kitchen or very poor lighting.

A list of these room scores will be distributed by the Vice President prior to the ballot.

Calculating Your Ballot Score

Your ballot score, used to determine your ballot ranking, is calculated using the following system:

1. The average of the room scores of your previous College rooms is calculated.
2. In the event that you have occupied more than one room in a single year, the highest room score will be used as that year's value. The exception to this rule is if the move in rooms was necessitated (e.g. on grounds of refurbishment, medical reasons).
3. Couples accommodation has a score of 200 (the maximum).
4. Any full year spent out of College during an entrant's current course will contribute a score of 0 for that year in the calculation of the entrant's average room score.
5. If inaccurate information is provided in the registration form in an attempt to attain a better ballot position, the MCR Vice President reserves the right to move the entrant to a lower ballot.
6. Individuals who have had ballot privileges in the past (e.g. the MCR President) retain that ballot entry, but the room score will still be included in the calculation of their average.