

OXFORD SU: Student Advice Service Standards

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1: Statement of Purpose

Oxford SU Student Advice is a free, independent, and confidential information and advice service. Student Advice works to empower students by giving them the information they need in order to navigate difficult situations and make the decisions that are right for them. Student Advice is staffed by experienced and trained staff who aim to provide clear information and realistic advice and who constantly strive to develop and maintain best practice standards across the Service.

2: Our Service Users

Student Advice is available to all current matriculated students at Oxford University including:

- Students who are on a year out or whose student status has been suspended
- Students who have been sent down by the University who wish to appeal within the permitted time limit
- Ex-students engaged in complaints or appeals procedures dating one year from receipt of the Close of Procedure letter from College or the University

3: Services We Offer

- *Advice:* we aim to outline the range of options available to you, the possible outcome(s) and to support you in your decision
- *Information:* we aim to offer you appropriate and accurate information
- *Proof-reading documents:* We will read and comment on draft documents
- *Accompanying you:* we can accompany you to meetings with your college or the University. **We will need 72 business hours notice to do this and to meet with you at least 24 hours before the meeting.**

4: Services We Are Unable to Offer

Please note: we are not an emergency service and should not be contacted if you need emergency advice and support.

- Legal advice or legal advocacy
- Ongoing emotional support or counselling
- Visa advice
- Drafting documents

We aim to signpost you to specialist advisors in these areas.

5: How We Deliver Our Service

Our offices are open all year. You can contact Student Advice here:

- Email: advice@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

6: Our Responsibilities to our Service Users

We want to give you the best service we can. When you contact us, we want you to be happy with the advice we give you and the way we treat you.

Treatment

We aim to treat all our service users in the same way. We will:

- Be friendly, fair and helpful
- Treat you as an individual, and with respect
- Listen to you and take you seriously
- Behave professionally
- Ensure our office is as safe as possible for all our service users
- Respect your privacy

When you contact us

Timing

We aim to respond to correspondence within **two working days**. If we are unable to respond within this time will tell you why and

- Who is dealing with the matter
- When you can expect a full reply

Visiting our Office

When you visit our office, our staff will:

- Greet you in a friendly and professional manner
- Aim to see you at the time you have an appointment
- Speak with you in a private interview room.

If you visit our offices without an appointment or outside drop-in session times, we may not be able to see you straight away. If an advisor is available it may be possible to offer a short triage appointment. The details of the triage service will be explained by a member of staff.

Easy Access

We aim to make sure you can access our service easily and are committed to our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and outlined in the Student Advice Equality and Diversity Policy available at www.oxfordsu.org and hard copy on request. Student Advice is wheelchair accessible and we aim to accommodate any additional access requirements and make appropriate adjustments where possible.

In addition, we will

- Give you the advice you need taking account of any health condition, disability or language barrier that you may have

- Provide different ways to access our services (by phone, email and in person) so you can choose the one best for you
- Make sure our offices have easy access for people with impaired mobility

If you have a health condition or disability that affects how you use our service please tell us as soon as possible so that we can arrange to give you the support you need.

Follow up

We will talk to you at each meeting about how any follow up work will be done. Follow up work may take the form of a summary of advice email, a phone call or an appointment to review your case at an agreed time. If you would specifically like a summary of advice email after each appointment, please let us know at the end of each meeting.

When we contact you

You can choose how we contact you either by phone, by email or in person. When we contact you, we aim for all communication to be clear and easy to understand. Where requested, we aim to provide assistance with reading and language interpretation.

Contacting third parties

We are a confidential service. We will not contact third parties unless you give us permission or unless it is judged by the Manager of Student Advice that there is:

- Individual Risk (to the safety or well-being of students, staff and those associated with the organisation)
- Reputational Risk
- Financial Risk
- Litigation Risk
- Or where there is a legal obligation

In any of the above situations, it may be necessary to disclose information to the Oxford SU Chief Executive Officer.

If we have to break confidentiality, where possible, we will make a reasonable effort to inform you of this decision, specifying the reason why and to whom confidentiality will be breached.

Our full Confidentiality Policy can be found at www.oxfordsu.org and a hard copy is available on request.

7: Our Expectations of Service Users

If you choose to access the Student Advice you must:

- Provide the Service with as full and accurate an account of your situation as possible
- Inform us in good time of changes to arrangements: how we should contact you, whether you are able to attend an appointment etc.
- Not engage in any form of harassment or intimidation, including verbal and physical abuse, towards members of the Student Advice, employees of Oxford SU or any other persons on the premises

Student Advice reserves the right to refuse service when, in the judgment of the

Manager, a student has failed to behave in line with these standards or in cases where the service is not in a position to support that student. Our full Exclusion Policy can be found at www.oxfordsu.org and a hard copy is available on request.

8: The Right Result

We aim to give you accurate information and to signpost you to the advice you feel is best suited to help you.

9: Feedback

We are always looking for new ways to improve our service. If you have any ideas that could help us do this please let us know. If you write to us, we aim to reply to your comments within **ten** working days of receiving them.

You can also give us anonymous feedback by completing this online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKZ3YMD>.

Complaints about the service should follow guidelines in the Student Advice Complaints Policy. This can be found at www.oxfordsu.org and a hard copy is available on request.

10: Responsibility and Review

10:1 Operational oversight and the daily implementation of the Service Standards lie with the Manager of Student Advice.

10:2 Ultimate responsibility for the Service Standards lies with the Chief Executive of Oxford SU.

10:3 Service Standards will be reviewed annually or when required through Operational need. Review will be the responsibility of the Chief Executive of Oxford SU.