

*Oxford University Malaysian and Singaporean
Students' Association (OUMSSA)
Annual Report 2017-2018*

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Committee Foreword

Dear OUMSSA,

It has been our privilege serving you the past year. We hope that you have enjoyed the past year of Oxford life and Singaporean community as much as we have. Thank you for all your support, understanding and encouragement – without which, many of our events and initiatives would not have been possible.

This annual report contains a summary of the past year's (HT 2017 – HT 2018) events, initiatives and engagements. We hope that recounting these memories will bring a smile to your face. This annual report is to be read in conjunction with the annual treasury report, which outlines OUMSSA's expenditure in the past year.

Regarding the annual reports and any other issues (treasury, administrative, etc.) regarding the 2017-2018 term of office, please feel free to direct your questions to Olivia (olivia.ong@stcatz.ox.ac.uk).

We wish all OUMSSA members a great year ahead. We look forward to the good work the 2018-2019 committee in their incoming term of office and wish them all the best.

On behalf of the 2017-2018 committee,



Olivia Ong
President (2017-2018)

2017-2018 Committee

President	Olivia Ong	Elected
Vice President	Matthew Ng	Elected
Treasurer	Gladys Lee	Elected
Secretary	Wesley Zhang	Elected
General Committee (arranged alphabetically by last name)	Ryan Friets	Elected
	Jefri Ho	Elected
	Abinaya Mahatma	Elected
	Claire Soh	Elected
Graduate Representative	Aniq Ahsan	Nominated
Senior Member	Dr Simon Benjamin	Nominated

2018-2019 Committee

President	Nicole Neo	Elected
Vice President	Brian Leong	Elected
Treasurer	Tan Jun	Elected
Secretary	Ng Wei Kai	Elected
General Committee (arranged alphabetically by last name)	Eliza Chee	Elected
	Celine Leong	Elected
	Ng Si Hong	Elected
	Tan Jun Xiang	Elected



Engaging with Home

Sponsorships and Institutions

OUMSSA has received generous support from our sponsors in the 2017-2018 year.

Rajah and Tann LLP has been our platinum tier sponsor for the 2017-2018 year. In the past year, we have strengthened many platforms for OUMSSA members to engage with the opportunities available at the firm. These include the annual Rajah and Tann Book Prize for the best performing first-year law undergraduate student and tea sessions held with Rajah and Tann's recruiting partners, both in Singapore and in Oxford.

GIC has been our silver tier sponsor for the 2017-2018 year. OUMSSA has helped publicise and support GIC's events in Oxford that are held in conjunction with the university's career services and faculties, as well as the firm's internship programmes.

The Overseas Singaporean Unit has been a generous sponsor of OUMSSA's termly events. Their financial and logistical support has been pivotal in helping us organise events that bring the Singaporean community in Oxford together.

One of OUMSSA's main aims is to keep our members informed of the many available opportunities from organisations abroad and at home. To better serve the broad interests of OUMSSA members, the 2017-2018 committee has engaged with representatives from different organisations to expand our sponsorship network, which will be continued upon by the incoming 2018-2019 committee.

If you are interested in pursuing a sponsorship with OUMSSA, please email president@oumssa.org and sponsors@oumssa.org.



Politicians and Public Figures

In the 2017-2018 year, OUMSSA has organised and hosted two engagement events with politicians from home.

Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Trade and Industry, hosted a dinner for 25 of OUMSSA's members on 17 March 2017 at the Randolph hotel. We had an encouraging discussion about important issues, such as how Singapore will retain its competitive advantage in an ever-changing global scene. We were also encouraged by Ms Sim's sharing of the lessons she has learnt from being a member-of-parliament and the portfolios she holds as Senior Minister of State. This event would not have been possible without the generosity of the Overseas Singaporean Unit.

On 19 November 2017, Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of Parliament, paid a visit to Oxford to join 65 of OUMSSA's members for dinner at the Handlebar Café. We had an informal and intimate dialogue over food and drinks regarding university and family life. We also had open and honest discussions regarding the different local issues on our hearts, such as the upcoming 4G political leadership, the sustainability of Singapore's infrastructure to support a growing population, and the social climate in Singapore. Again, this event would not have been possible without the generous support of the Overseas Singaporean Unit.



Social Events

Welcome Back Drinks

One of the most iconic OUMSSA events is Welcome Back Drinks, which happen at the start of each academic term. These events provide free drinks for OUMSSA members and create a space for OUMSSA members to catch up with one another after each vacation break and before the busyness of term begins.

The 2017-2018 committee has made homemade *teh tarik*, *milo peng* and *kaya toast* a core feature of the Welcome Back Drinks – which has been greatly enjoyed by OUMSSA members. We have also organised small trivia quizzes containing facts about Oxford and Singapore that those in attendance can participate in.

We would like to thank St Edmund Hall and OUMSSA members at the college for providing the venue for the event.



OUMSSA Flagship Events

OUMSSA organises one flagship event per term. These flagship events are the largest-scale events of the term and provide opportunities for the Singaporean community to gather together and celebrate something unique to that particular Oxford term.



In Week 4 of Trinity 2017, we organised Punts and Pints. This was held at Christchurch Meadow, providing free punts, pints and food for OUMSSA members to enjoy the Oxonian tradition of punting under the summer sun in Trinity term. This event would not have been possible without the help of OUMSSA members who booked and collected punts from their college to support this event.

In Michaelmas 2017, we organised *Pasar Malam*. This was a ticketed event held at Wadham College, where we served (mostly) homemade food that reflect our local Singaporean cuisine. This is held on 25 November 2017, commemorating the Oxonian tradition of celebrating Christmas a month early during *Oxmas*, by gathering together to enjoy time with community and food – but in Singaporean fashion. This year's event featured a wide spread of food, including *char kway teow*, chicken curry, cereal prawns, chicken rice and seafood stew. This event would not have been possible without the helpers and the chefs who tirelessly put in hours to help prepare the logistics needed.



OUMSSA Hangouts

OUMSSA Hangouts are smaller-scaled events that occur about twice a term. They are aimed at providing a stress-free time with fun activities to help OUMSSA members de-stress from the busyness of term.

The hangouts feature a wide range of activities. We have organised a badminton and squash hangout, a board games hangout, a movie night hangout, a dinner get-together leveraging on student discounts available at restaurants, an outdoor picnic and an ice-skating trip followed by supper.



Freshers, Finalists and Examinations

Freshers' Events

To welcome and help incoming freshers, a range of activities and get-togethers were organised for incoming freshers to get to know one another and to receive help, encouragement and advice from current OUMSSA members.



Freshers' Tea was organised on 29 July 2017. This was an informal event for all offer-holders (undergraduate and post-graduate) to come together for the first time in Singapore. We organised ice breaker activities, disseminated important information regarding moving abroad to the UK and to Oxford, and had subject-specific breakout groups for current or graduated students to advice and answer the queries of incoming freshers reading the same or a related course. This would not have been possible without the help of OUMSSA members who came down to support the subject-specific breakout groups.

We also organised a Freshers' Chalet from 12-14 September 2017 at NSRCC. This was a 3D2N opportunity for undergraduate offer-holders to get to know each other better. Over three days, we organised activities such as a mass water game, an Amazing Race across the island and indoor games within the chalet compounds. There were many opportunities for unstructured bonding through bowling, card games, karaoke and late-night suppers. This was a ticketed event partially sponsored by the Overseas Singaporean Unit. We are also deeply grateful for the help of OUMSSA members, who volunteered their time as station masters and orientation group leaders.

Specifically for post-graduate offer-holders, we organised an informal dinner get-together on 11 September 2017. This saw incoming students coming together over an informal meal to share their experiences and get to know one another. We would like to thank the graduated students who came down to support the event and share their experiences.

Beyond these events that were held in the summer, we sought to provide more practical and sustained support for freshers even when the academic year began. Current OUMSSA members became “parents” and took freshers, both undergraduate and graduate, as their “children”. In this family structure, existing OUMSSA members could provide continued support for freshers after arriving in Oxford. To encourage OUMSSA families to meet up regularly at the start of the academic year, we launched a reimbursement scheme of £2 per person for OUMSSA families that gathered for a meal together in Michaelmas 2017. We are grateful for all OUMSSA members who kindly signed up as “parents”. Also, Freshers’ Guides were prepared, outlining important information regarding life in Oxford, advice on how to settle into Oxford life and practical tips of getting around Oxford and the available amenities, shops and food in town.



Finalists' Picnic

To celebrate the end of their degrees and strenuous examinations, the 2016-2017 committee organised a picnic at University Parks in Week 7 of Trinity term. Around 80 finalists and OUMSSA members who wanted to bid farewell to them came down to enjoy free food and drinks under the summer sun.



Welfare Initiatives during Examination Season



In support of all OUMSSA members who were battling with examinations, we packed and distributed welfare packs and handwritten encouragements at the end of the 2017 Hilary and Trinity terms. This year, we expanded this practice of preparing welfare packs not just for freshers sitting for preliminary examinations, but for all undergraduate and graduate students who had upcoming examinations. We hope that all who received a welfare pack were encouraged.

Cultural Events

Chinese New Year Reunion Dinner

On 15 March 2018, the eve of the Lunar New Year, 120 OUMSSA members gathered at My Sichuan restaurant for a 10-course meal. We also provided familiar Chinese New Year snacks, such as love letters and pineapple tarts. This was a ticketed event partially sponsored by the Overseas Singaporean Unit.



Deepavali Dinner

On 19 November 2017, around 20 OUMSSA members gathered for a cosy, home-cooked dinner to celebrate Diwali with a spread of Indian food. This would not have been possible without OUMSSA members taking the time to prepare the meal.



Annual Ski Trip

An annual OUMSSA highlight is our ski trip to *Val d'Isere* in the French Alps. 25 OUMSSA members went for a week to learn how to ski and/or snowboard, while tumbling down the slopes, in the company of friends and good food. We would like to thank Action Outdoors for their administrative advice and support in the yearly planning of the ski trip.

