

Glossary of Terms



Students on the High Street c. 1933, photograph by Emil O Hoppe

Organisations

Association for Promoting the Education of Women in Oxford (A.E.W)

Formed in 1878, the A.E.W organised lectures for women students. In 1883 the AEW was successful in gaining permission for women to enter for examinations being taken by undergraduates in Honour Moderations and in the Final Honour Schools of Modern History, Natural Science and Mathematics. It was formally disbanded in November 1920 following the University's decision to recognise women as full members.

Society of Oxford Home Students

Administered by the Association for the Education of Women, this body made provision for women students who had not been allocated to a Hall. They studied in Oxford, attended lectures and entered for examinations but lived in various approved lodgings across Oxford and came from all social backgrounds.

In 1942, the OHS became the St. Anne's Society and then St. Anne's College in 1952.

Delegacy of Women's Students

Established by statute in November 1910, the Delegacy was a University body which, for the first time, officially acknowledged women students and helped oversee their examinations. This body kept a register of those women students entitled to take examination and recorded the examinations passed by them.

The Nettleship Library

An intercolliate Library founded in 1895 as a result of a gift and originally run by the Association for the Education of Women.

Examinations

Women's First Examination

Held twice a year, this examination consisted of two papers in two languages; arithmetic; and either the first two books of Euclid or algebra. Women were encouraged to take the examination before arriving at Oxford. After completion of this examination, women were then allowed to work towards their finals.

Moderations: Name in certain subjects for the first public examination sat by an undergraduate.

Prelims: Name in certain subjects for the first public examination sat by an undergraduate.

Greats: The final examination in *Literae Humaniores* (Classics)

Responsions: Originally an examination in Greek, Latin, Logic and Geometry which had to be passed before a student could sit for a B.A. It was abolished in 1960.

Rules and Regulations

Chaperones

From the foundation of the women's colleges, some all-male colleges allowed women to attend lectures but only if accompanied by a suitable female chaperone, for example a married lady or widow engaged as a guardian. This was obligatory until 1893. In the 1920s this was superseded by a 'two women rule', which meant two women must be present at any mixed party. Chaperonage was finally abolished in 1925.