ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL VENUE HIRE

When are the Museum spaces available for private hire?
The Museum's gallery spaces and cafe are generally available for private events from 18.00, depending on the event and setup requirements. The Headley Lecture Theatre and Boardroom can be booked during the day or evening, subject to availability. The Rooftop Restaurant and Terrace can also be hired during the day, subject to availability and the relevant minimum spend.

Are the event spaces accessible?
The Museum's galleries and event spaces are accessible. Please discuss any specific access requirements with the Events team so they can be considered as part of the event plan.

Who provides catering?
Catering in the Museum galleries is delivered through the Museum's approved catering arrangements, including Oxford Fine Dining. Catering in the Rooftop Restaurant is delivered by Benugo. The Events team will confirm the appropriate catering partner for your chosen space and event type.

Can we use our own suppliers?
The Ashmolean works with trusted suppliers and creatives who are familiar with the Museum and its operational requirements. Any external supplier involvement must be agreed with the Events team in advance.

Are venue hire rates inclusive of VAT?
Unless stated otherwise, published venue hire rates are exclusive of VAT. Catering, production, staffing and other services may be quoted separately.

Can guests explore the Museum during an event?
Private gallery access and Museum experiences depend on the spaces hired, the event format and the agreed event plan. Curator-led introductions and private tours may be available by arrangement.

How far in advance should we enquire?
Availability varies throughout the year. We recommend contacting the Events team as early as possible, particularly if you have a fixed date or require multiple spaces.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CORPORATE EVENTS

What size events can the Ashmolean host?
The Museum offers spaces for small board meetings through to large multi-level receptions for up to 900 guests. Indicative capacities are provided on our Venue Hire Rates PDF, and final numbers depend on the selected layout and event plan.

Can we hold daytime meetings or conferences?
Yes. The Headley Lecture Theatre and Director's Boardroom are available for daytime and evening events, subject to availability. The Rooftop may also be hired during the day under the applicable terms.

Can we include branding, production or entertainment?
Yes. Branding, production equipment, entertainment and installations must be discussed with the Events team and approved for the selected space. Requirements are assessed in the context of public access, conservation, security and the historic building.

Do you host Christmas parties?
Yes. The Museum offers a range of festive reception, dining and celebration formats. See the Christmas at the Ashmolean page for current options and enquiry information.

Can we use multiple spaces for different parts of our event?
Yes. Depending on the event format and guest numbers, your event may move across several Museum spaces, for example, from a drinks reception to dinner and an after-party. The Events team will advise on suitable spaces, timings and guest flow.

Can we have dancing and a late bar?
Yes. Dancing and bar options are available in selected spaces, including the Vaults and the Rooftop Restaurant. Timings and any licence extension must be agreed as part of the event plan.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

What events can the Rooftop host?
The Rooftop can host breakfast meetings, drinks receptions, networking, product launches, private dining and evening celebrations. The appropriate format depends on guest numbers, timings and the agreed package.

Is the terrace included?
Terrace access depends on the event package, weather and operational requirements. The Events team will confirm the arrangements for your booking.

Can we have dancing in the Rooftop?
Dancing and late bar options may be added to suitable evening events, with an optional late licence available depending on availability.

Can we access the Galleries?
Gallery access can be arranged as part of your event as part of your venue hire package. We are unable to accomodate ad-hoc access to the galleries as part of a rooftp event.

Is the Rooftop fully accessible?
Yes. Their is a direct lift available from our St Giles reception up to our Rooftop Restaurant.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WEDDINGS

Can we hold our ceremony at the Ashmolean?
Yes. Selected galleries are licensed for civil ceremonies and partnerships, with options for intimate daytime ceremonies and larger evening ceremonies. The Events team will confirm suitable spaces, capacities and timings.

Can we hold both the ceremony and reception at the Museum?
Yes. Depending on the package and guest numbers, a wedding can include the ceremony, drinks reception, wedding breakfast and evening celebration across the Museum's event spaces.

Can we have dancing and a late bar?
Dancing and bar options are available in selected spaces, including the Vaults and the Rooftop Restaurant. Timings and any licence extension must be agreed as part of the event plan.

Do you offer small or intimate ceremonies?
Yes. The Museum has several smaller galleries suitable for intimate ceremonies. Capacities vary by space and are set out in the wedding brochure.

Can we include our own traditions or a celebrant?
The Ashmolean welcomes a range of traditions and customs. Celebrant-led ceremonies and renewals of vows may be possible, subject to the agreed space and event plan.

Is confetti permitted?
The Museum forecourt can provide a setting for confetti photographs following a ceremony. Arrangements and the type of confetti must be agreed with the Events team in advance.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY

What information should we include in a filming enquiry?
Please provide a project summary, proposed dates and times, crew size, locations of interest, equipment requirements, intended use and any deadlines. This helps the team assess feasibility and identify the appropriate internal approvals.

Can filming take place while the Museum is open?
Filming and photography are assessed case by case. Timing depends on public access, Museum operations, security, conservation, collections and the scale of the proposed activity.

Can we arrange a location visit?
A location visit may be arranged once the Events team has reviewed the initial brief and confirmed that the project is potentially suitable.

Are collection and image permissions included in venue hire?
No. Filming or photographing collection objects, reproducing images and using Museum intellectual property may require separate permissions and fees. The Events team will advise which colleagues or processes are relevant to the project.