

The aim of this session is to give an overview of what Cambridge has to offer and briefly highlight key points that prospective students should look into through the University's and Colleges' websites, or by contacting the Cambridge Admissions Office or one of the College admissions offices.

The University values the work that alumni do to encourage applications from bright students from all backgrounds and from all over the world. However, it's vital that you're properly equipped to engage and are in contact with the collegiate University. Do use your experience to inform and inspire, but don't attempt to speak authoritatively on the admissions process – this has changed and will be different to the process that you experienced when applying. Similarly, other aspects of the University and Colleges will have changed since you applied to or studied here and, whilst prospective students are keen to hear your personal experiences, please remember that they're not necessarily representative of the experience a student may have now.

Please note that the collegiate University doesn't engage with individuals on an agency basis and cannot officially endorse the activities of those who aren't employed by either the University or a Cambridge College. Please direct students and their teachers/advisers/supporters with specific and/or detailed questions about applying to or studying at the University to contact the University or one of the Colleges directly for information and guidance.

Details are correct at the time of going to press in February 2019. Any updates or changes to information can be found on our webpages : www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

About me

- Cambridge graduate – speaking from personal experience
- Hope my experiences will encourage you to consider Cambridge
- Please see the website, or contact the University or a College to find out more!



Introduce yourself and explain that you are a graduate of the University. Explain that you are not an official representative of the University but here to share your experiences of your time there.

The aim of this session is to give an overview of what Cambridge has to offer undergraduates and what the University is looking for.

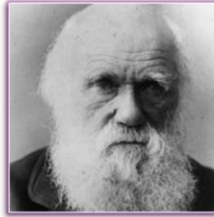
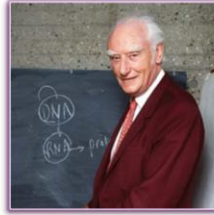
Prospective applicants must refer to the University's Undergraduate Study website (www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk) and individual College websites, or contact the Cambridge Admissions Office or one of the College admissions offices for the most up-to-date information and guidance.

Cambridge in Numbers

- Founded 1208 – more than 800 years old, one of the oldest universities in the world
- High global rankings
 - QS World University Rankings 2019: number 6
 - Centre for World University Rankings 2018-19: number 4
 - *Times Higher Education* World Rankings 2019: number 2
- 96 Nobel Laureates across all categories – Physics, Medicine, Chemistry, Economics, Literature and Peace



Famous Alumni



Top from left:

Alan Turing – mathematician and computer scientist

Hugh Bonneville – actor

Sir Francis Crick – scientist and discoverer of DNA

Thandie Newton – actress

Bottom from left:

Professor Stephen Hawking – cosmologist

Zadie Smith – author

Charles Darwin – scientist

Arianna Huffington – journalist and businesswoman

Why consider Cambridge?

- Ranked within the top six universities globally (QS, *Times*, CWUR)
- Students from every part of the UK and around the world
- 90% of our students are satisfied with their course (National Student Survey 2016)
- Excellent career prospects – 90% in employment or further study after six months



1. World-class education
2. Supportive environment
3. Fulfilling student experience
4. Excellent graduate prospects

Consistently have amongst the lowest drop-out rates in the UK – 98.5% of our students continue their courses compared to 90.1% nationally

The Collegiate University: how does it fit together?

The University:

- determines course content
- organises lectures, seminars, practicals and projects
- sets and marks examinations
- awards degrees

The Colleges:

- admit undergraduate students
- academic and pastoral care
- accommodation, dining and recreation
- organise small-group teaching (supervisions)
- facilities for academic study



Choosing a course

- The most important decision you'll make!
- Genuine subject interest – what interests, inspires and enthuses you?
- 32 undergraduate courses offering more than 65 subjects – be open minded
- Research course content, and teaching and assessment methods



www.cam.ac.uk/courses



- Courses generally cover the subject field very broadly at first and narrow in focus each year/as progress
- Students should look into the structure and content of courses
 - subject(s) interested in may be within a bigger course/don't just look at courses with 'obvious'/familiar titles;
 - look at details as courses with the same/similar title at different universities can cover quite different content, different options, different teaching and assessment methods etc
- Lectures, classes, practicals in the University's academic faculties/departments
- Small-group teaching – supervisions – give opportunity be taught by subject leaders on more personal level, as well as in lectures
 - supervisor (expert in subject area being looked at – will change as what studying changes) and typically up to five students;
 - on average at least one per week;
 - get regular feedback on work, delve deeper into areas of most interest and clear up anything from department teaching unsure of

Choosing a College

- 29 undergraduate Colleges – ‘open’ application if no preference
- Where would you like to live?
 - Accommodation types, number of students, appearance, facilities, instinct
- Further guidance on how (and how not) to choose online
- Research – College websites, visit a few (if possible)
- No Colleges ‘better’ for any subjects

www.cam.ac.uk/choosingacollege



- If decide to apply to Cambridge, as well as selecting that University in UCAS application, will also be asked to choose a College (‘campus’):
 - Can either indicate a preference College or, if don’t mind, choose an ‘open’ application and accept allocation of a computer programme – either option makes no difference to chance of being made an offer for equally well-qualified Home students
 - Plenty guidance on how to choose (and how not to choose) College on websites, but don’t spend too long trying to choose
 - It’s the University (not Colleges) which determines course content, and students from all Colleges on same course attend lectures, classes etc together in University academic departments – no Colleges ‘better’ for certain subjects
 - Around 20-25 per cent of students receive offer from a College different to the one applied/allocated to

Additional background information

Cambridge

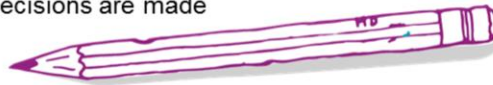
- 29 UG Colleges
- 4 exclusively for mature students (aged 21 or older, though all UG Colleges accept mature applications) – Hughes Hall, Lucy Cavendish College, St Edmund’s College, Wolfson College
- 2 Colleges consider applications from female students only – Lucy Cavendish College, Murray Edwards College, Newnham College

What information does Cambridge use to assess applications?

Cambridge considers every application individually, taking all aspects into account:

- academic record
- personal statement
- school/college reference
- performance in any admission assessment
- any written work submitted (where required)
- contextual data
- interview (if interviewed)

No part of an application is considered in isolation – all available information is looked at together before decisions are made



- Admission to Cambridge very competitive and Admissions Tutors have to make difficult decisions, so to **fairly** assess applicants Admissions Tutors look at all aspects of each application – want to give applicants as many opportunities as possible to demonstrate strengths and potential
- No blueprint of ideal student so every applicant is looked at within the context of their own personal set of circumstances. Therefore, each part of the application may vary in relative importance, depending on the candidate
- *Contextual data includes, for example, if time spent in care (indicated in UCAS application), their school's GCSE performance (NB no GCSE requirements for any of our courses), current school/college performance, progression to HE in local area, information from Extenuating Circumstances Form (where relevant) etc*

Student Finance

Home students

- Costs
 - Tuition fees
 - Living/'maintenance' costs – eg accommodation, food, additional course costs, travel, social/recreational activities
- Possible financial support
 - Government student loans (tuition, living costs)
 - Cambridge Bursary Scheme
 - College awards

International students

- Costs
 - Tuition fees
 - College fees
 - Living/'maintenance' costs – eg accommodation, food, additional course costs, travel, social/recreational activities
- Possible financial support
 - Cambridge Trust Scholarships
 - College awards



- Committed to supporting students financially where needed (one of most extensive financial support packages in UK, one of the reasons for low drop-out rate)
- Non-repayable Cambridge Bursary, currently of up to £3,500 for Home students (eligibility dependent on household income) – should check website for most up-to-date details
- Many Colleges and some departments may be able offer variety of other financial support to students.
- EU students starting undergraduate degree in October 2019 classified as Home fee status; fee status and financial arrangements for EU nationals (from outside UK) for 2020 entry onwards not yet determined by UK government – www.cam.ac.uk/eu
- Some financial support available to overseas/international students (those from outside the EU, includes Channel Islands and Isle of Man) – generally part-cost and based on financial assessment/need. Also see individual College websites for details of College-specific scholarships

Graduate/Career Prospects

- Top five for employer reputation (QS World University Rankings 2018)
- Graduates in high demand, irrespective of discipline – 90% of students in employment or further study six months after graduating
- Graduates of all disciplines are highly sought after due to valuable transferable skills
- 200+ careers events and briefing/skills sessions typically offered each year by the University Careers Service



89.7 per cent of students in employment or further study six months after graduation (*HESA stats - first degree UK/EU UG students who graduated in 2016, six months after graduation; vs 89.3 per cent nationally*); NB higher proportion of Cambridge graduates pursue further study/training – c34 per cent, compared with c15 per cent nationally

Finding out more



- *Undergraduate Prospectus*
- Undergraduate Study website
- Contact the Cambridge Admissions Office or any College admissions office

For the most up-to-date information and advice about anything mentioned in the presentation, please refer to the Undergraduate Study website



Should refer to the Undergraduate Study website, the Cambridge Admissions Office or one of the College admissions offices for full information and guidance
Overseas students should also refer to the International Students website – www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk – for information about immigration and visas (also linked to from the Undergraduate Study website)



www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

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