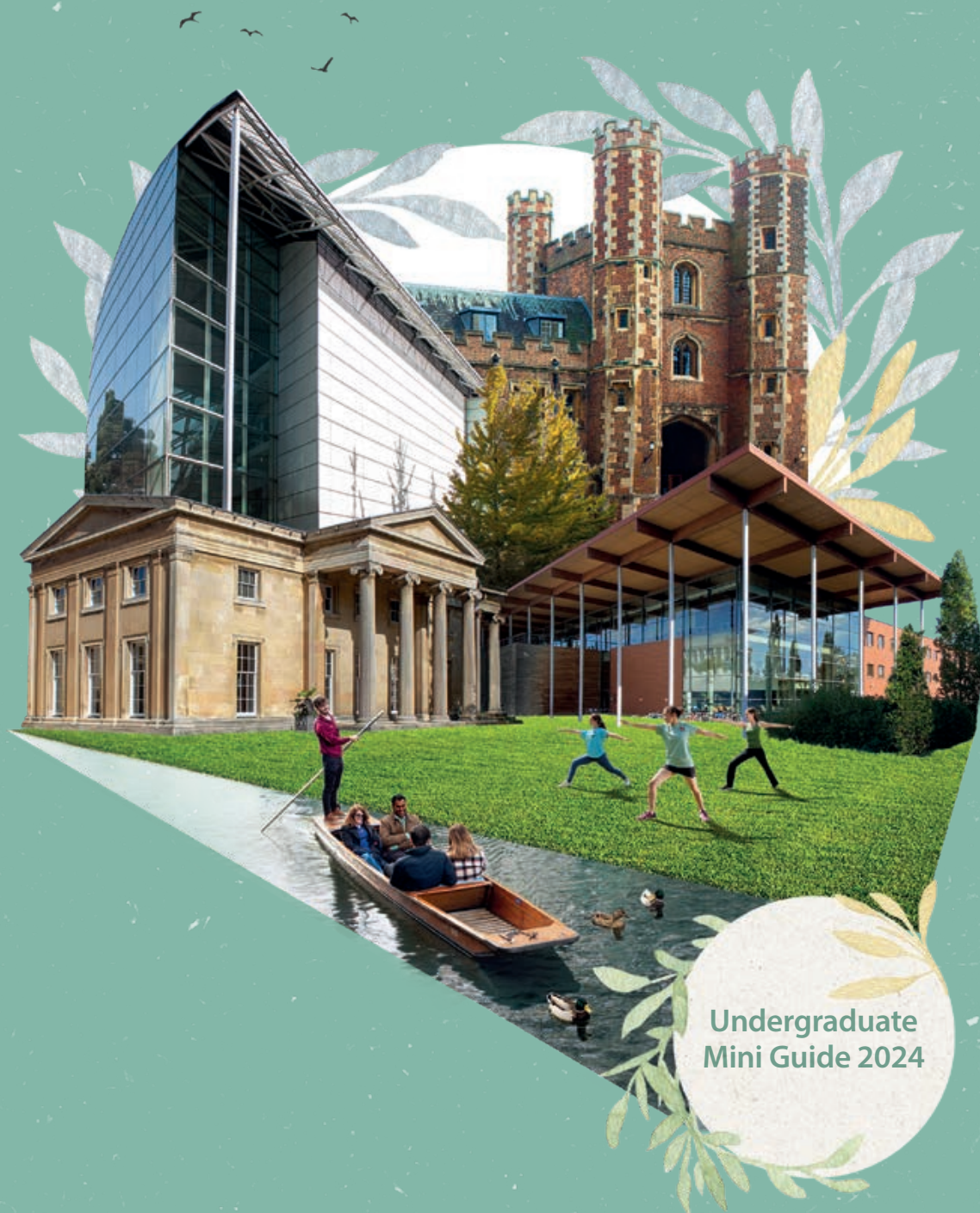




UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Undergraduate
Mini Guide 2024



In this Guide

Use our Guide to find out more about the University of Cambridge and make sure to check the websites referred to throughout the publication for further details, advice and the most up-to-date information.

"Cambridge has certainly lived up to my expectations, but seeing it in brochures versus living here is very different. I really enjoy being around the historical atmosphere and architecture – which I didn't really expect! While there's academic prestige to consider, there're also lots of other things to do – I've found lots of stuff to get involved in!"

Cheryl

Hong Kong

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Join our mailing list

Sign up to our mailing list for regular emails with details about applying to and studying at the University.



www.cam.ac.uk/student-newsletter

Why Cambridge?

Cambridge is one of the best universities in the world.

Home to over **25,000 students** from more than **140 countries**, we offer undergraduate degree courses in the arts and humanities, social sciences, sciences and engineering.

"I think studying at Cambridge is such an asset, both personally and professionally. The reputation of the University will stay with you throughout your career. The teaching is first class – getting three to one weekly teaching in supervisions is unparalleled!"

Jonathon
Ballymena

+ Excellent teaching

Top 3
in the *Complete University Guide* 2023.

Top 3
in the *Guardian University Guide* 2023.

Top 5
in the 2022 Academic Ranking of World Universities.

+ World class research

Top 3
for research quality (*Complete University Guide* 2023).

121 affiliates
of the University have been awarded the **Nobel Prize** since 1904.

+ Great prospects

92%
of our students who responded to the Graduate Outcomes Survey were in work or further study within 15 months of graduating (find out more on p37).

Top 10
Cambridge is one of the top ten universities most often targeted by Britain's leading graduate employers (*The Graduate Market in 2022*).

+ A place to call home

3 years

Cambridge guarantees almost all students College-owned accommodation for at least three years (p30-1).

Support

to help you settle in and more than 700 clubs and societies to get involved with (p28-9).



"The collegiate system allows you to interact with people from a range of subjects and everyone is so passionate about what they do, which leads to lots of interesting discussions."

Antonina
Gliwice, Poland

Cambridge: a collegiate university

What does that mean for you?

Cambridge is a 'collegiate' university. It's made up of faculties and departments in different academic subjects and 31 Colleges (29 of these accept applications for undergraduate study). Our students become part of their College community, giving them a sense of belonging that lasts long after they graduate.

The University

(through its faculties/departments):

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

The Colleges:

- admit undergraduate students
- organise small-group teaching (supervisions)
- are the place where you'll live, offering accommodation, and places to eat, socialise and meet new people
- are there to provide pastoral and academic support when you need it



"My years here have been the best of my life. I have improved both academically and personally, meeting fantastic friends and learning a subject that I adore. I would not trade this experience for the world."

Charlotte
Caerwedros, Wales

Applying to Cambridge

The Cambridge application process is slightly different to other universities. You still need to apply through UCAS, however, at Cambridge the process starts earlier to give us time to collect and consider all of the application information.

The steps below and the following pages will guide you through the process.

1 Choose a course

You're going to be studying to a very high level for several years, so make sure you choose a course you're personally interested in and will really enjoy studying! See p6-11 for course information.

www.cam.ac.uk/courses

2 Decide on your College

Where would you like to live when you're here? In your UCAS application, you can apply directly to one of our 29 Colleges or make an open application. Find out more on p12-5.

www.cam.ac.uk/ugcolls

3 Check assessment requirements

Most applicants are required to take a written assessment. For some assessments you'll need to ensure you are registered in advance via an authorised assessment centre, whereas for others this will be organised by your chosen Cambridge College if you're shortlisted for interview (see p17).

Please check the type of assessment required for your course as early as possible, as some assessments may require you to be registered several weeks before the UCAS application deadline. You can find more information about admissions assessments on our website.

www.cam.ac.uk/assessment

4 Submit your application

Submit your UCAS application online by **16 October** – our institution code is **CAM C05**. Earlier or later deadlines may apply (see opposite). You'll find more information about the application process, including additional items you'll need to provide, on the next few pages.

www.cam.ac.uk/apply

5 Interviews

Everyone with a reasonable chance of being offered a place is invited to attend an interview (see p18).

If you decide to apply, you can find videos and full information about interviews on our website.

www.cam.ac.uk/interviews

6 Our decision

We'll advise you of our decision before the end of January. See p19.

Remember to check our website for all relevant application deadlines – our UCAS application deadline is **16 October**, but other deadlines apply in certain circumstances (see 'a few essentials' opposite).

A few essentials

- You can't apply to both the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford in the same year.
- After you've submitted your UCAS application, you will need to fill in an additional Cambridge-specific application form called 'My Cambridge Application', which we'll send you a link to by email. If we need any further information from you, we'll contact you by email, so you should regularly check the account you provide on your application (including your spam/junk folders). Find out more on our website: www.cam.ac.uk/apply.
- In some cases, different application deadlines might apply. Mature applicants, applicants to the Foundation Year Course and Organ Scholarship applicants should check the relevant webpages for more information (Mature Students: www.cam.ac.uk/mature; Foundation Year: www.cam.ac.uk/foundationyear; Organ Scholarships: www.cam.ac.uk/musicawards).





Courses

At Cambridge, we offer a range of courses across the arts, humanities, and sciences. One of the most distinctive characteristics of our courses is that they generally cover the subject area very broadly in the initial years and then offer a wide range of specialist options in later years.



If you know what you want to focus on you can usually start to specialise early on, or you can delay specialising until you've had the chance to fully explore the breadth of your subject and developed your interests. Either way, by graduation you'll have the same depth of understanding and knowledge as other graduates in the field.

Generally, the number of subjects to choose from increases each year and some papers (topics) are offered in numerous courses – check the course outlines for more details. For example, some Classics and language papers are available in the English course. Beyond any compulsory papers, you can usually select your topics from a variety of options.

Changing course

Most students stay on the same degree course but it may be possible to change (with agreement from your College), though there is no guarantee that such requests will be permitted. The process of changing varies between courses and in some cases you may need to undertake an admissions process. Contact a College admissions office for advice.

Tripases

Sometimes, at Cambridge, your course might also be referred to as a Tripos. For example, the Mathematics course may also be known as the Mathematics Tripos.

Choosing a Course



You can hear more about our courses, directly from the students studying them, in our course videos. Follow the link on each course webpage to watch the video for your chosen course and find out what it's like to study at Cambridge.

www.cam.ac.uk/courses



Foundation Year in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

This free and fully-funded one year course is designed to offer a stepping stone to Cambridge for those who have experienced educational disadvantage. The course offers the opportunity to enhance your learning skills and prepare for degree study. To be considered for this course you must have experienced educational disadvantage or disruption.

Visit www.cam.ac.uk/foundationyear for more information.

Next steps

When you've chosen your course, you'll need to decide which College to apply to. There's more information about how to choose a College on p13.



Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/courses



Cambridge courses

Within the course table (right), you'll find important admissions details to help you decide which is the best course for you.

Required subjects

To apply for some courses, you may need to have taken a particular subject at A Level/IB (or equivalent). Subjects which are essential for all Colleges can be found in the table. Please note that 'science/mathematics subjects' refers to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics. It does not include Psychology or Computer Science.

Some Colleges may require additional subjects if you apply to them, as well as the essential subjects for all Colleges. You can find more information about the subjects required by all/some Colleges on the course pages of the Undergraduate Study website.

For courses which don't have any essential subject requirements, you can find a list of useful preparation subjects on the website. These are not required by any Colleges so won't affect admissions decisions, but may be related to your course or help you to build on relevant skills.

Course	Course duration (years) ¹	Subjects required by all Colleges	Admission assessment	Colleges accepting applications
Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic BA (Hons)	3		College registered ²	All
Archaeology BA (Hons) <i>Archaeology, Assyriology, Biological Anthropology, Egyptology</i>	3		College registered	All except Queens'
Architecture BA (Hons)	3		College registered	All except Hughes Hall, St Catharine's ³
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies BA (Hons) <i>Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Persian</i>	4 (Year 3 abroad)	A European language (if you want to combine with this)	College registered ²	All
Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology MEng	4	Chemistry, Mathematics	NSAA Pre-registration	All except Corpus Christi
Classics BA (Hons)	3 or 4	Latin (for the three-year course)	College registered	All
Computer Science BA (Hons) or MEng	3 or 4	Mathematics	TMUA Pre-registration	All
Design MDes New for 2024 entry	4	Mathematics	College registered	All except Hughes Hall, St Catharine's ³
Economics BA (Hons)	3	Mathematics	TMUA Pre-registration	All except Newnham, Wolfson
Education BA (Hons)	3		College registered ²	All except Corpus Christi, Girton, King's, Murray Edwards, Peterhouse, St Catharine's, Sidney Sussex, Trinity, Trinity Hall
Engineering MEng <i>Aerospace and Aerothermal; Bioengineering; Civil, Structural and Environmental; Electrical and Electronic; Electrical and Information Sciences; Energy, Sustainability and the Environment; General; Information and Computer; Instrumentation and Control; Mechanical</i>	4	Mathematics, Physics	ENGAA Pre-registration	All
English BA (Hons)	3	English Literature	College registered	All
Geography BA (Hons)	3		College registered ²	All except Peterhouse
History BA (Hons)	3		College registered ²	All
History and Modern Languages BA (Hons) <i>History and French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian or Spanish</i>	4 (Year 3 abroad)	A language	College registered	All
History and Politics BA (Hons)	3		College registered ²	All
History of Art BA (Hons)	3		College registered	All except Girton, Robinson, St Catharine's
Human, Social, and Political Sciences BA (Hons) <i>Politics and International Relations; Social Anthropology; Sociology; Political and Sociology; Social Anthropology and Politics; Social Anthropology and Religious Studies; Sociology and Criminology; Sociology and Social Anthropology</i>	3		College registered ²	All

Cambridge courses continued

Course	Course duration (years) ¹	Key subjects for admission	Admission assessment	Colleges accepting applications
Land Economy BA (Hons) <i>Environment, Law and Economics</i>	3		No assessment	All except Churchill, Corpus Christi, Emmanuel, King's, Peterhouse
Law BA (Hons)	3		LNAT Pre-registration	All
Linguistics BA (Hons)	3		College registered	All except St Catharine's
Mathematics BA (Hons) or MMath <i>Including Mathematics with Physics</i>	3 or 4	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, STEP	College registered ²	All except Wolfson
Medicine MB, BChir	6	Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Physics, Mathematics	BMAT Pre-registration	All except Hughes Hall
Modern and Medieval Languages BA (Hons) <i>French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish</i>	4 (Year 3 abroad)	At least one of the languages to be studied	College registered	All
Music	3	Music	College registered ²	All except Lucy Cavendish
Natural Sciences BA (Hons) or MSci <i>Astrophysics; Biochemistry; Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry; Earth Sciences; Genetics; History and Philosophy of Science; Materials Science; Neuroscience; Pathology; Pharmacology; Physical Sciences; Physics; Physiology, Development and Neuroscience; Plant Sciences; Psychology; Zoology</i>	3 or 4	Mathematics and two other science subjects	NSAA Pre-registration	All
Philosophy BA (Hons)	3		College registered	All except Murray Edwards, Queens'
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences BA (Hons)	3		College registered ²	All except Peterhouse
Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion BA (Hons)	3		College registered	All except Churchill
Veterinary Medicine VetMB	6	Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Physics, Mathematics	NSAA Pre-registration	All except Christ's, Corpus Christi, Hughes Hall, King's, Peterhouse, Trinity

Check our website for advice about how to choose the most appropriate subjects and subject combinations at A Level.

www.cam.ac.uk/post-16-subject-choices

¹ All undergraduate degrees are full-time, and all students must ordinarily be available to study in Cambridge for the full duration of their course (with the exception of a year abroad, where part of the course).

² Some Colleges require applicants to take a written assessment if shortlisted for interview (Cambridge College registered). Visit www.cam.ac.uk/assessment for more details.

³ Please note that St Catharine's may be accepting Architecture and Design students for 2024 entry. Visit the course pages on the website for updates.



Typical entrance requirements

For many courses, qualifications in certain subjects are required and all Colleges expect required subjects to be passed at Grade A as a minimum: usually, you are required to have achieved A*AA for arts and humanities subjects and A*A*A for science subjects/40-42 points, with 776 at Higher Level for the IB (or equivalent). For more information about entrance requirements, see p20. You can also find details about the grades and subjects of typical entrants for each course on the website.

Some Colleges do not accept applicants to certain courses – you can check which Colleges are not accepting applications to a course in the table.



Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/courses

Admissions assessments

Most applicants are required to take a subject-specific written admission assessment. This might be before shortlisting for interview (pre-registration) or after you've been shortlisted for interview (College registered).

For any courses which have a pre-registration written assessment, you will sit one of the following assessments:

- BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)
- Engineering Admissions Assessment (ENGAA)
- National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT)
- Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA)
- Test of Mathematics for University Admissions (TMUA).

The type of admission assessment required for each course is noted in the table. More information about admissions assessments can be found on p17 and on our website (www.cam.ac.uk/assessment).

For particular courses, only some Colleges will require you to take a written assessment if shortlisted for interview. These courses are marked in the table with a 2.

Colleges

At Cambridge, as well as being a member of the University, you're also a member of a College. Once you've decided on a course you'd like to study, you need to consider College choice.

+ Community

Colleges are a mix of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic Fellows and staff, creating a strong community atmosphere within each College.

+ Accommodation

The 29 undergraduate Colleges provide accommodation for almost all students¹ for at least three years.

What's a College?

Your College is your home for the time you're at Cambridge. It's where you live, eat, can do a lot of socialising, receive academic and pastoral support, and where you often (though not always) have your supervisions (see p23).

In your UCAS application, as well as listing Cambridge (institution code CAM C05) as one of your options in the 'Choices' section, you need to enter a College (campus) code. You can either choose a particular College or, if you don't have a preference, you can make an 'open' application (see opposite) and accept the allocation made by a computer program.²

In both cases, your UCAS application is sent to a College and that College assesses it.

Are some Colleges better for certain subjects?

Regardless of their College, all students on the same course attend the same lectures, seminars and practicals, and sit the same exams (see p3).

How do I choose a College?

Everyone's reasons for choosing their College differ. Some Colleges don't take students in all subjects so check availability for your course first, using the College pages on our Undergraduate Study website (www.cam.ac.uk/ugcolls).

Otherwise, you may want to consider the following points:

- **Your age** – three Colleges are exclusively for students aged 21 or older (mature students, www.cam.ac.uk/mature) and their facilities are geared accordingly
- **College size** – number of students
- **Appearance and type of accommodation** (eg on-site or College-owned houses around the city)
- **Particular facilities** – eg for certain sports, performing arts etc
- **Personal preference** – it just 'feels right'.

Please note that two of the Colleges (Murray Edwards and Newnham) consider applications from female students only. You can find more details on the College websites.

The College profiles on our website introduce you to each College. Once you've read the profiles you may wish to:

1. shortlist around half a dozen
2. look at their websites to get more detailed information
3. get in touch with College admissions offices if you have any questions
4. explore the Colleges on our Virtual Tour (www.virtualtour.study.cam.ac.uk) or visit a few Colleges so you can meet current students and see for yourself what it might be like to live and study there.

How NOT to choose a College

- **Application statistics** – choosing a College that attracts fewer applications or making an open application won't increase your chance of receiving an offer.
- **Travelling time** – Cambridge is a compact (and fairly flat) city so wherever you are, it's easy to travel between your College and your department on foot, by bike or by bus.
- **Age of the College** – your student experience isn't dependent on the age of a College. They all provide the facilities and support you'd expect and each has its own traditions and history.
- **Specialisms of College Fellows** – the research specialisms of a College's Fellows won't dictate what you can study or guarantee you'll be supervised by them. You'll attend supervisions at another College if that's where the relevant supervisor is based.

What's an open application?

If you don't mind which College you attend then you don't have to choose – you could make an open application instead.

- After the closing date (16 October), each open applicant is allocated to a College.
- The aim of the allocation is to even out the distribution of applicants for each course across the Colleges.
- Once allocated to a College, your application is treated exactly the same as any other application.

If you're an applicant with unusual qualifications (eg a non-standard choice of A Levels for your subject), a physical/mobility impairment, sensory impairment, or have other considerations that require particular support, then it's advisable to apply to a specific College having sought advice about your circumstances at an early stage, rather than make an open application.

Before you submit an open application, be sure that you'll be quite happy whatever the outcome: we can't change it once it's done. If you decide to make an open application, you should select '9' as the campus code in your UCAS application.

See p16-9 and the website (www.cam.ac.uk/apply) for information about the application process.

It's the University (not your College) that determines course content and students from all Colleges study together in the University's academic faculties and departments (see p3).

For equally well-qualified students, indicating a College preference or not (an 'open' application, see above) doesn't affect your chances of being made an offer. Interviewers aren't told whether you made an open application or selected a preferred College, and some applicants are made an offer through our pool system (see p19) by a different College from the one they originally applied/were allocated to.



Further information

www.cam.ac.uk/choosingacollege

¹ Accommodation guarantee applies to all single undergraduates without children at all Colleges. All single undergraduates without children are usually expected to live in College-owned accommodation where possible.

² You can only submit one application to the University in a year, either choosing a preference College or an open application, and once the UCAS deadline has passed this choice can't be changed.

Colleges at a glance

The Cambridge Colleges have many more similarities than differences, and students settle in quickly and really enjoy their College, whichever that ends up being! All the undergraduate Colleges offer comfortable accommodation, a dining hall, bar and/or café, and library amongst other facilities, some of which you'll see detailed in the table below. Please note, the information below is intended as a guide. You should check individual College websites for the most up-to-date information before making an application.

Many Colleges offer accessible rooms for students who need them – please check individual College websites for details and contact the Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre for further advice (disability@admin.cam.ac.uk).



Location

Colleges are located across the city, all within walking or cycling distance of the city centre and the academic faculties and departments.

		Christ's	Churchill	Clare	Corpus Christi	Downing	Emmanuel	Fitzwilliam	Girton	Gonville & Caius	Homerton	Hughes Hall For students aged 21 and over	Jesus	King's
Applying	Year founded	1437	1960	1326	1352	1800	1584	1869	1869	1348	2001	1885	1496	1441
	All courses offered for 2024 entry?	No ¹	No ¹	Yes	No ¹	Yes	No ¹	Yes	No ¹	Yes	Yes	No ¹	Yes	No ¹
	Campus code	A	B	C	Z	D	E	F	G	Y	H	7	J	K
Student numbers (October 2022)	Undergraduate (UG) students	420	490	519	322	425	470	463	500	560	550	175	550	430
	UG students admitted each year	c125	c135	c140	c95	c130	c145	c140	c145	c160	c185	c55	c145	c135
	Postgraduate students	200	400	297	220	435	250	411	300	250	600	600	475	280
Accommodation ²	All accommodation onsite?	Some offsite	All onsite	Some offsite	Some offsite	All onsite	Some offsite	Some offsite	Some offsite	All onsite	All onsite	Some offsite	Some offsite	Some offsite
	En suite available (1st year)?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	% en suite rooms (all years) ³	40	42	51	13	50	15	77	33	34	90	50	55	40-50
	Standard minimum contract length (weeks, all years) ⁴	30	30	32	30	38	30	29	38	30	28	29	32	28
Sport and fitness	Fitness suite/gym	Onsite	Onsite	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	No	Onsite	Onsite / Offsite
	Squash/tennis courts	Squash - onsite Tennis - offsite	Onsite	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite / Offsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Offsite	No	Onsite	Offsite
	Sports grounds/playing fields	Offsite	Onsite	Offsite	Onsite	Offsite	Offsite	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite / Offsite	No	Onsite	Offsite
	Theatre/performance space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
	Multi-faith space/Chapel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

¹ See College profiles on the Undergraduate Study website for more details (www.cam.ac.uk/ugcolls).

² Based on accommodation available to students joining the University in 2022-23.

³ The type and set up of en suite bedrooms varies across the undergraduate Colleges. Please check individual College websites for details of each room type. Not all Colleges offer a choice of room type.

Lucy Cavendish	Magdalene	Murray Edwards For female students only	Newham For female students only	Pembroke	Peterhouse	Queens'	Robinson	St Catharine's	St Edmund's For students aged 21 and over	St John's	Selwyn	Sidney Sussex	Trinity	Trinity Hall	Wolfson For students aged 21 and over
1965	1542	1954	1871	1347	1284	1448	1977	1473	1896	1511	1882	1596	1546	1350	1965
No ¹	Yes	No ¹	No ¹	Yes	No ¹	No ¹	No ¹	No ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ¹	No ¹	No ¹	No ¹
L	M	O	N	P	U	Q	R	S	I	X	V	3	T	4	W
350	360	369	406	430	284	505	396	440	180	658	400	350	740	407	150
c135	c105	c105	c120	c132	c80	c150	c120	c135	c55	c170	c115	c105	c200	c110	c50
450	200	252	306	295	219	560	230	370	410	312	250	275	350	233	600
Some offsite	Some offsite	Some offsite	All onsite	Some offsite	Some offsite	Some offsite	All onsite	Some offsite	All onsite	Some offsite	All onsite	Some offsite	All onsite	Some offsite	All onsite
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
75	20	34	24	n/a	26	72	50	22	72	25	65	22	33	40	58
38	30	31	30	27	30	38	29	30	39	38	30	30	30	30	27
Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	No	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite
No	Onsite	Onsite	Onsite	Offsite	Onsite	Squash - onsite Tennis - offsite	No	Offsite	No	Onsite	Offsite	No	Onsite	Onsite	No
Offsite	Offsite	No	Onsite	Offsite	Offsite	Offsite	Offsite	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite	Offsite	Offsite	Onsite	Onsite	No
No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

⁴ Based on the minimum standard contract length for the majority of rooms at each College for undergraduate students (all years) staying all three terms in 2022-23. Some Colleges may have shorter contract lengths available. Please check individual College websites for details.

Your Application

What are we looking for?

We assess every application individually, and all admissions decisions are based solely on academic criteria – your ability and potential. We look for different things in different people for different courses, which means there's no blueprint for the perfect Cambridge student.

There are elements our Admissions Tutors look for in every application.

Academic ability and potential

We're looking for students with the academic ability and potential to thrive at the University. Therefore, you should be aiming for excellent examination grades. Find out more at www.cam.ac.uk/entrancerequirements.

An ability to think critically and independently

We're looking for an indication of your willingness to think logically while keeping your mind open to new ideas. You also need self-discipline, motivation, commitment, and the desire and potential to go beyond what you've learned so far.

Suitability and enthusiasm for your course

Finally, we're looking for students who really want to learn about the subject they've applied for. While the degree you will receive at the end is important, you should think carefully about your options: which courses and subject areas will inspire your curiosity and commitment?

Should I refer to extra-curricular activities in my personal statement?

Our admissions decisions are based on academic criteria (ability and potential) and we expect to see evidence in your application of your wider engagement with areas of academic interest, such as reading and other explorations relevant to the course for which you have applied. Extra-curricular activities which are of no relevance to the course will not increase your chances of receiving an offer.

If, however, particular extra-curricular activities have enabled you to develop transferable skills, such as organisation or time management, then do include them in your personal statement. Such activities might include significant caring responsibilities or paid employment, which can help us fully contextualise your application, as well as sport, physical activity, music, drama and volunteering.

After your UCAS application

Following the submission of your UCAS application, there are several more elements to the application process at Cambridge, including additional forms, admissions assessments and interviews.

Additional forms

After submitting your UCAS application, we'll send you a link to an additional application form, known as 'My Cambridge Application', by email. This collects information that isn't on the UCAS application but which we find useful when assessing your application to Cambridge. You'll also have the opportunity to complete an optional Cambridge-specific personal statement. You can find out more on our website: www.cam.ac.uk/apply. If you're applying to the Graduate Course in Medicine, you'll complete a form specific to that course. Organ Scholarship applicants (www.cam.ac.uk/musicawards), will need to complete their UCAS application, My Cambridge Application and an Organ Scholarship application.

Admission assessments

Most applicants are required to take a subject-specific written admission assessment.

When you take these assessments and how you are registered for them depends on your chosen course. These assessments are designed to supplement the information in your application and to assess skills, such as writing and language skills, and levels of knowledge and understanding relevant to your course. You can find examples of past papers on the course pages of our website www.cam.ac.uk/courses.

• Written assessments: pre-registration required

– these are usually taken in October or November, with the exception of the LNAT for Law which usually takes place in September. For all pre-registration assessments you must be registered at a centre local to you in advance - you can find dates and details on our website. Please note, if you are not registered for any necessary assessment by the relevant deadline, your application to the University will not be valid.

• Written assessments: Cambridge College registered

– these are normally taken shortly before your interview, if you are invited to attend one. You do not need to register in advance and your College will provide details of the assessment with your interview information.

More information about these assessments can be found on our website www.cam.ac.uk/assessment.

The interview

Everyone with a reasonable chance of being offered a place is invited to attend an interview, so it's a sensible idea to be aware of what might happen during your interview so you can be fully prepared.

Interviews help our Admissions Tutors to get to know you and your motivations for applying to Cambridge; they contribute to our assessment of your academic potential and suitability for your chosen course, while giving you the opportunity to expand on the written elements of your application. The form and length of interviews varies from subject to subject and from College to College. You'll have one, two or three interviews (most commonly two), normally making a total of 35-50 minutes of interview time.

There aren't any special tricks to preparing for interviews, however there are some things you can do beforehand which will, at the very least, make you feel more confident.

- Watch our interview films to give you an idea of what to expect on the day.
- Re-read your personal statement and any written work.
- Read around your subject and think about any particular topics you'd like to talk about.
- Practise talking and answering questions about your subject and wider academic interests with your friends, family and/or teachers.

For more tips, advice and interview films, visit our website.

Probably the most important tips are to be on time, be as relaxed as possible, and, above all, be yourself!

www.cam.ac.uk/interviews

How do we assess applications?

There's no blueprint for an ideal Cambridge student and we want to give applicants as many opportunities as possible to demonstrate their strengths and potential. Therefore, each application is considered individually and holistically, using all of the following information:

- academic record
- school/college reference
- personal statement
- any written work submitted
- performance in any written assessment
- contextual data
- performance at interview

What's the most important part of my application?

Admissions Tutors consider all of the information available together before making any decisions. While the most recent academic performance carries the greatest weight, the relative importance of each element of the application varies because each student is different. No part of an application is considered in isolation; for example, a student's performance at interview alone doesn't determine the outcome of their application.

Our decision

All undergraduate admissions decisions are the responsibility of the Cambridge Colleges. Following the assessment of your application, there are two possible outcomes.

1. You're made an offer.

This might be from the College you applied/were allocated to, or from a different College as a result of your application being placed in our winter pool. The winter pool gives other Colleges the opportunity to consider your application if the College you applied to was impressed by your application, but doesn't have a place for you.

2. Your application is unsuccessful.

With around six applications per place¹, every year we aren't able to make offers to many students with good grade predictions. Don't let the prospect of not getting a place put you off applying. We can't offer you a place if you don't apply to us!

Visit www.cam.ac.uk/apply for more details about the application process, including what to do if you've experienced any health or personal problems, or difficulties with your schooling that you think we should be aware of.

¹ Of the 22,470 applications made for entry in October 2022 (or deferred entry in October 2023), 3,544 students were accepted. To see application statistics from previous years, please visit www.cam.ac.uk/ugstatistics.

The Pools

The 'winter pool' is designed to ensure that the best applicants who could not be accepted by their original College are offered places – Colleges would rather admit a strong applicant from the pool than a weaker applicant who applied directly/was allocated to them.

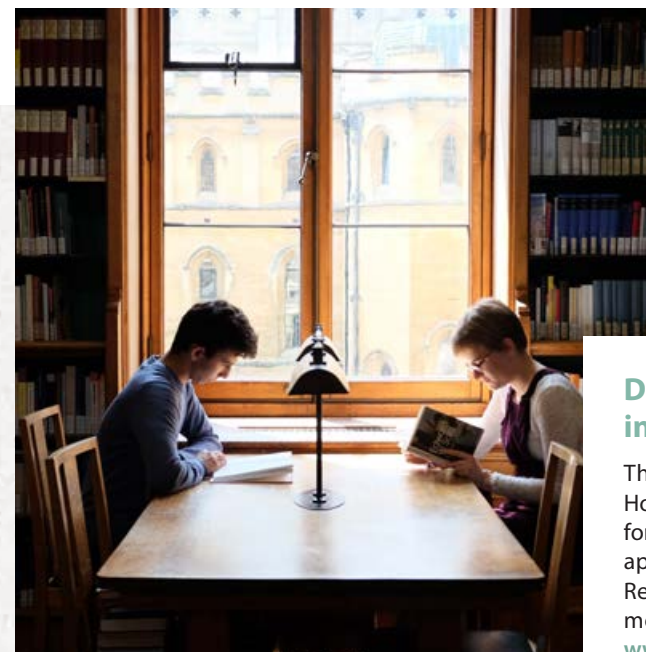
Although impressed by your application, your College may not have a place for you and so may pool your application for other Colleges to consider.

A few pooled applicants may be asked to attend another interview in early January. When all pooled applications have been reviewed, you may be offered a place by a different College. If no College can offer you a place, your original College will advise you of this decision by the end of January.

For 2022 entry, 750 pooled applicants were made an offer of a place by a different College from the one they applied/were allocated to.

A second smaller pool (of offer holders who narrowly miss the conditions of their original offer and some widening participation applicants – see August Reconsideration Pool, below) takes place in August after examination results are released and places can be confirmed. This again helps to ensure that the best applicants secure places.

Visit www.cam.ac.uk/apply for more details about the application process and to watch our explainer video.



Does the University take part in Clearing?

The University doesn't enter Clearing. However, we may have places available for some widening participation applicants during our August Reconsideration Pool. You can find more information at www.cam.ac.uk/august-reconsideration.

Entrance Requirements

The following pages give more details on course requirements and typical offers.

Please see the Undergraduate Study and College websites for the most up-to-date information.



Course requirements

For many Cambridge courses, qualifications in certain subjects are required and all Colleges expect such subjects to be passed, normally with the highest grade available. Subjects required for admission by all Colleges are indicated in the table on p9-10.

For courses without particular subject requirements, the Colleges will expect high grades in the subjects most relevant to the course you're applying for.

All undergraduate admissions decisions are the responsibility of the Cambridge Colleges and entry requirements may differ slightly between Colleges. College-specific requirements and preferences can be found on the course pages of our website. Please contact the College(s) you're considering to check any queries you have about your specific qualifications. Although you may be considering a number of Colleges, you can only make one application to the University in a year – either indicating a preference College or selecting the open application option in your UCAS application.

What work experience do I need to have?

Work experience isn't required. However, for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, having some relevant work experience is recommended. Check the course pages on our website for more information about which courses recommend work experience (www.cam.ac.uk/courses).



Please see the Undergraduate Study and College websites for full conditions of entry (www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/decisions).

Typical offers and requirements

One of the strengths of the Cambridge admissions system is its ability to assess all applications individually. Typical offers are the minimum level successful applicants are expected to achieve for that subject. Colleges sometimes make conditional offers that are less or more challenging than the typical offer. Factors which are considered when setting offer levels, and which may result in a more challenging offer, can be found on our website (see below).

Admissions Tutors at each College will review all offers before they are sent to candidates to ensure that individual circumstances are considered.

Any offer of a place to study at the University is subject to terms and conditions which can be found here: www.cam.ac.uk/termsofadmission.

A Levels:

- Typically A*AA or A*A*A, depending on the course (www.cam.ac.uk/courses).
- Applicants may be required to achieve A* in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB):

- Offers usually require 40-42 points out of 45, with 776 or 777 in Higher Level subjects.
- Applicants may be required to achieve 7 in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.

Other qualifications

Full details of the qualifications required for entry to the University can be found on our website. If you have any queries about the qualifications you're studying, please contact a College admissions office for advice.



Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/entrancerequirements

Is there a GCSE requirement?

There are no GCSE (or equivalent) requirements for entry to Cambridge. GCSE results are looked at as a performance indicator, but within the context of the performance of the school/college where they were achieved.

Teaching and Learning

Cambridge is known and respected across the globe for the excellence of our teaching and research, and the quality of our graduates. You'll be taught by inspiring academics who are experts in their field, and our supervision system means you'll receive personal tuition and support.

+ Top 10
in the world for academic reputation (QS World University Rankings 2023).

+ Top 10
in the world for teaching (THE World University Rankings 2022).

+ Supervisions
provide regular small-group tuition with subject specialists.

"There is such amazing teaching quality in both lectures and supervisions that you really do learn your course at an incredibly high level and can push well beyond the fundamentals and into the detail of the things you're interested in."

Daniel
London

How you're taught

Our University faculties and departments arrange lectures, seminars and practicals that students from all Colleges attend together. Most of your teaching will take place in-person. In other cases, where there are good reasons to do so, a blend of in-person and online teaching is delivered. At Cambridge, you'll also attend supervisions, a system of personal tuition that is one of our greatest strengths. Your College arranges supervisions for you.

You must ordinarily be available to study in Cambridge for the full duration of your course (with the exception of a year abroad, where part of your course). You can find expected term dates on our website: www.cam.ac.uk/about-the-university/term-dates-and-calendars.

As the terms are short, the pace and volume of work is likely to be greater than you're currently used to and there's much greater emphasis on independent and self-directed study here compared to school or college.

During term time, you're expected to spend an average of 42-46 hours a week on your academic studies (including teaching/contact time and independent study), and you also need to undertake some work, such as further reading or research, revision or assignments, during the vacations.

Every student adjusts to this new workload in their own way and time, and there are plenty of people who can offer advice and support while you get settled in and throughout your degree (see p32-3).

Teaching methods

Lectures

Lectures act as a starting point for your own research and typically last around 50 minutes. Depending on the subject anywhere up to several hundred students may attend. Many lecturers are leading academics working at the forefront of their field, so lectures are a fantastic opportunity to find out about the latest research.

Seminars and classes

These are usually for medium-sized groups (eg 10-30 students), last between one and two hours, and provide the opportunity to discuss particular topics in more detail. They're led by academic staff but you're expected to contribute actively.

Practicals

Sometimes called 'labs' or laboratory classes. Practical work on some courses may be assessed.

Supervisions

Small-group sessions most often for between one and three students, supervisions provide the opportunity to explore your subject more deeply, discuss your own work and ideas, and receive regular feedback. As they aren't assessed, supervisions provide the ideal environment for you to test your ideas and interests, while encouraging you to develop your thinking.

The number of supervisions you have each week varies from course to course and you do preparation for each one – usually reading, writing an essay or working on some problems. Supervisors are specialists in particular subjects (they may be one of the country's or the world's leading authorities) and throughout your course, your supervisors will change depending on what you are studying at the time.

Field trips, study visits, language courses, study abroad

Several courses include opportunities to go on field trips, study visits or language courses, or to study abroad through exchange programmes. Naturally, where you go, how long for and what you do varies depending on your course. The faculties, departments and Colleges often have funds available to help you go on trips in Britain and abroad.

Independent research

A chance to carry out your own research, test out theories and put forward your own ideas. Your work might even get published while you're still an undergraduate.

Work experience

Some courses include a period of work experience, giving you a chance to explore potential career paths, develop your employability skills and create networks that could lead to job opportunities after you graduate.

Refer to the faculty/department websites for more details about teaching.



Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/courses



Watch our supervisions video
www.cam.ac.uk/supervisions



Facilities and Resources

We admit the most academically able and motivated students and provide them with inspiring, world class teaching. We're confident that we also offer the best resources and facilities to support their learning.

Libraries

You certainly won't be short of libraries at Cambridge – the collegiate University has more than 100! Libraries provide study spaces, resources and staff to help you find what you need for your studies.

- College libraries contain standard course texts and other related materials, as well as some specialist collections.
- Faculty and department libraries offer more specialised subject collections and can signpost you to subject-specific electronic resources, including journals, ebooks and databases.
- The University Library (or UL) is a legal deposit library holding more than eight million books, journals and other documents ranging in age from ancient manuscripts to a vast range of electronic resources available for you to access from anywhere.

To ensure you get the most from the University's libraries, the UL and many of the College, faculty and department libraries offer practical sessions and one-to-one help. These include introductory tours, sessions to highlight the resources available for particular disciplines and information skills classes.

The CamGuides pre-arrival resource will also introduce you to some of the academic, research and digital practices in which Cambridge students engage: www.camguides.lib.cam.ac.uk.



Further information
www.libraries.cam.ac.uk

Computing and IT

University Information Services (UIS) works in partnership with your College and department to provide for all your computing needs while you are at Cambridge. UIS offers all students comprehensive IT support, including:

- eduroam wifi provision throughout the University and most Colleges
- free email accounts and file storage
- free software, including Microsoft 365 and Trellix antivirus protection
- free IT training courses
- a service desk.



help.uis.cam.ac.uk

Language Centre

The Language Centre provides language-learning opportunities to all students wishing to take up or continue a language. Our Language Programme (CULP) offers taught courses at various levels in a number of languages. We also run a popular conversation exchange scheme with native speakers, and conversation sessions for students to maintain their spoken ability.

Our range of static and interactive resources includes books, CDs, foreign films and online programmes. In addition, the John Trim Centre houses self-study resources in more than 180 languages (including English) and a dedicated Advising Team is on hand to help.



www.langcen.cam.ac.uk



Museums and collections

Cambridge has nine specialist museums and collections, all of which are open to students and the public. The fascinating exhibits range from dinosaurs to modern art, and rock samples to Rembrandt. Even if none relates directly to your course, a look at the whale skeletons, classical sculpture or even the camera used by Robert Falcon Scott at the South Pole in 1912 has to add something to your time at Cambridge!

Highlights from our museums and collections include:

- Snow goggles used by Ernest Shackleton
- 140 million year old fossil ferns
- Samurai armour complete with a moustache made of boar's bristles
- Rembrandt, Titian and Monet at the Fitzwilliam Museum
- Modern and contemporary art at Kettle's Yard
- Charles Darwin's microscope
- 21 metre fin whale skeleton



www.cam.ac.uk/museums

Facilities for worship, celebration and meditation

There are religion-specific places of worship in and around Cambridge for those following the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faiths, and many Colleges have chapels and designated spaces for prayer and reflection by students of all faiths or none.

A number of rooms are also made available by the University for its students, staff and authorised visitors with the primary purpose of providing a safe, clean and inclusive place for worship, celebration or meditation.



www.studentwellbeing.admin.cam.ac.uk

Course-specific facilities and resources

Our course-specific facilities range from laboratories and surgical suites to concert halls and theatres. You can find out more about the facilities and resources that support learning at Cambridge on our course pages (www.cam.ac.uk/courses).



In and around Cambridge

Cambridge is a vibrant city that embraces the old and the new. It combines the welcoming feel of a small town with the variety and energy of a larger city.



Getting around

Most University buildings are situated in the city centre and it's easiest to travel between them on foot or by bicycle (one of the most popular modes of transport for our students).

Well connected

Cambridge is only 60 miles/95 kilometres from London and is well connected to most of the UK from its main station located about a mile from the city centre. There are direct train connections to Stansted and Gatwick airports, and Heathrow airport is also easily accessible (via London Kings Cross/London St Pancras).

www.cam.ac.uk/traveltocam

Entertainment and comedy

However you like to spend your time, there's always something to keep you entertained. Cambridge has theatres, cinemas and entertainment venues offering varied programmes that include comedy, drama, dance, concerts and club nights.

Those who are into comedy won't be disappointed as, along with student groups, Cambridge regularly attracts top stand-up acts.

Music

Live music is a big part of life in both the city and University, from buskers and pub gigs, to classical concerts and big name acts.

The city usually hosts a number of music festivals featuring a wide variety of acts and music styles, including folk, jazz, rock, ska, UK urban and dance.

Pubs, clubs and restaurants

Cambridge has a great range of pubs, bars and cafés, from traditional pubs with open fires perfect for a winter evening to modern bars overlooking the river, ideal for a spot of people watching. The city has a mix of clubs offering everything you'd expect – a variety of music nights alongside cheap entry and offers for students.

There's a great selection of places to eat too. Something for any mood, taste, occasion, and price range. Better still, there are lots of discounts and special deals for students at various restaurants and cafés.

Shopping

Cambridge's three shopping centres and the city's central streets house most high street names alongside independent shops and boutiques. The stalls in Market Square sell handmade jewellery, vintage clothes, books and much more. You can pick up baked goods and local produce as well as a range of street food.

Just on the edge of the city centre, is an eclectic mix of shops, cafés and restaurants on Mill Road, offering anything from just about anywhere in the world and to suit any budget.

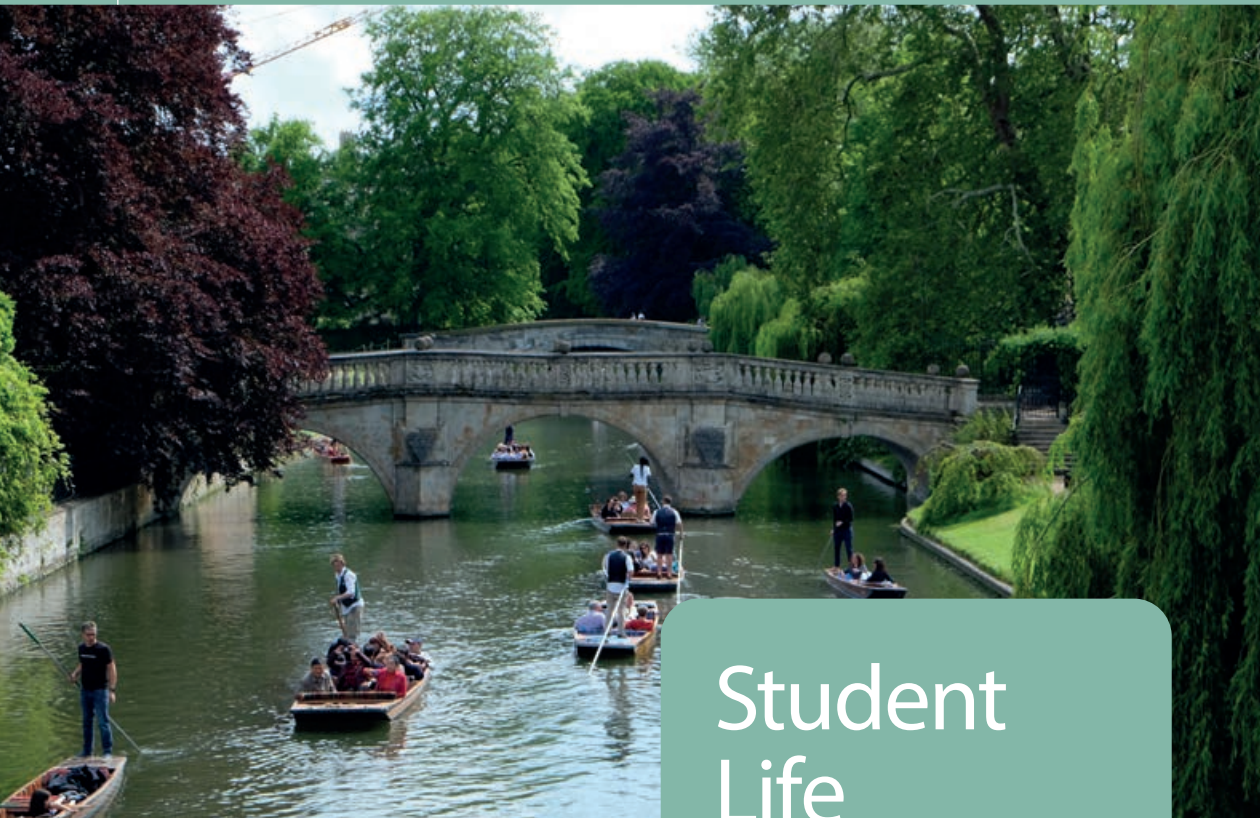
Outside the city

If you want to explore further afield, Cambridge has direct rail connections to London, Brighton and Birmingham, and there's a range of local attractions in the surrounding area, including:

- Ely (historic city and Norman cathedral)
- Shepreth Wildlife Park
- Thetford Forest
- Audley End (English Heritage property)

And you don't have to go far to feel like you've escaped the city – you can walk or punt up the river to nearby Grantchester, a traditional village that has inspired songs, novels and television dramas.





Student Life

Cambridge is a great place to be a student. There's loads going on within the University and Colleges, and there are also over 700 student clubs that you can join – a great opportunity to meet like-minded people or to try something new.



Cambridge Students' Union (Cambridge SU)

Cambridge SU exists to increase the power of the Cambridge student community to deliver positive change whilst also enhancing the students' experience. It provides high-quality tools, skills, strategies, knowledge, and development opportunities for students to shape their education and experiences.

Every College also has its own students' union, to which undergraduates are elected to represent students at a College level. So, if you want to have a say in student affairs, consider running for election!



Further information
www.cambridgesu.co.uk

Student societies and groups

At Cambridge, you can do almost anything at almost any level, from 'having a go' to semi-professional. Extra-curricular activities can provide some of the most meaningful experiences you have at university and might even be a springboard for careers or be part of life beyond university too.

At Cambridge, there are hundreds of student groups, clubs and societies relating to:

- academic subjects
- particular cultures and nationalities
- community, charity and volunteering projects
- the environment
- faiths and religions
- food and drink
- games, hobbies and outdoor pursuits
- media (eg journalism, TV, radio, film-making, photography)
- performing arts (eg comedy, dance, drama, music)
- politics and debating
- science and technology

See the Societies Directory for the full range at:
www.cambridgesu.co.uk/opportunities/societies.



Sport

Cambridge offers a diverse range of competitive and recreational sporting opportunities to help you lead a healthy and active lifestyle alongside your academic studies. Whether you want to continue playing a sport you love or try something new, the University and Colleges offer a variety of facilities and support services for everyone from beginners to elite athletes.

More than 80 sports and activities are offered here, including team games, water sports, martial arts, racket sports and extreme sports.

Facilities for sport

- a gym (including flexible student gym memberships and personal training)
- a strength and conditioning room
- studios
- a sports hall
- team training room
- squash and fives courts
- a physiotherapy and sports injury clinic
- group fitness classes

In addition, we offer facilities for athletics, hockey pitches, a cricket pitch and indoor cricket school, and tennis courts. The individual Colleges also provide facilities for traditional team games and sports such as tennis and rowing, and many have their own gym and other sports facilities.



www.cam.ac.uk/sports



Accommodation

At Cambridge, rather than choosing a hall of residence for your first year of study, you live in a College for the full duration of your course. The majority of students are guaranteed accommodation in College-owned property for three years, and many Colleges provide for fourth-year students too, so you don't have to find private accommodation during that time.¹ Your College is where you do a lot of your studying and socialising, and each College community offers pastoral and academic support.

+ Shorter contracts

Annual contracts for College accommodation are normally in the range of 27 to 39 weeks, so you don't have to pay rent for a full calendar year, and you won't be charged for some vacations unless you choose to stay in Cambridge.

+ Not far to travel

Accommodation is close to the city centre and within walking or cycling distance of departments.

Where is the accommodation?

Some Colleges have all their accommodation on their main site. Others have some on their main site plus a range of College-owned flats/houses around the city – check the table on p14-5 for details. All College accommodation is within the University precincts, an area covering a three-mile radius around Great St Mary's Church, which is next to the Market Square in the heart of the city.

During term time, students are required to live in this area unless given permission to live elsewhere by their College. All students should be available to study in Cambridge for the full duration of their course (with the exception of a year abroad should that form part of your course). Most accommodation is within easy walking or cycling distance of the University departments and facilities, and the city centre (www.cam.ac.uk/map).

What's the accommodation like?

There's a variety of accommodation available – rooms vary from medieval to modern. Whatever the style, you have a room of your own and access to a shared kitchen and laundry room. All Colleges provide a library and computer suite too, amongst a range of other facilities (see individual College websites for details).

Somewhere to relax

The main social hub of every College is its common room and/or bar (also known as a JCR, or Junior Common/Combination Room), usually offering TVs, newspapers, pool tables, or computer games.

Colleges have a wide range of sports and music facilities too – such as playing fields, gyms, music practice rooms and performance venues. See p28-9 for more information about music and sport at the University.

Somewhere to eat

At Cambridge, you don't have to choose between 'catered' or 'self-catered' accommodation. Basic self-catering facilities are available if you want to cook for yourself, and all Colleges provide dining facilities where you can buy cafeteria-style meals as well as three-course dinners (known as 'formal halls') at a reasonable price (see p35).

The Colleges encourage communal dining; it's a chance to catch up with friends and meet new people. Some Colleges require you to have a certain number of meals in the buttery (College cafeteria) or dining hall each term (see College websites for details).

Porters

Every College has a team of Porters to maintain the safety and security of staff and students. One of the linchpins of College life, the Porters are often a first point of contact about any problems in College or if you need any information.

How much does it cost?

The cost varies from College to College, and usually depends on the type and style of your room (size, en suite etc) but the cost generally covers utilities (water, electricity, heating), cleaning, internet access and basic self-catering facilities. Some Colleges may charge a deposit in addition to your rent or charge separately for some utilities. Please check individual College websites for details.

You can find more information about accommodation costs, living costs, tuition fees and financial support on p34-5.



Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/accommodation



¹Accommodation guarantee applies to single undergraduates without children at all Colleges. All single undergraduates without children are usually expected to live in College-owned accommodation where possible.

Support

The transition to university study and living away from home can be a big change for many of our students. If you need a bit of extra support while at the University, whether that's with your academic work or personal issues, we have an extensive welfare system in place.

College welfare

At a College level, you'll be appointed a Director of Studies (DoS) to look after your academic welfare. Your DoS will advise you on your subject and course choices, help to arrange your supervisions, and monitor your progress so they can help with any problems arising from your studies. As well as your DoS, you have access to a College Tutor who can provide pastoral support and advise on personal and financial matters. Colleges also have a variety of other people you can turn to for medical and personal support, including nurses, counsellors and chaplains.

Students supporting students

Throughout the University and Colleges, there's an extensive student-run welfare network. Every College common room has its own welfare officer or team that can provide support and advice to students. Many Colleges also assign 'College families' (students in other years) to new students to help them settle in. Cambridge SU runs campaigns and initiatives about issues that matter to the student community and also runs the Student Advice Service, providing free, confidential and impartial advice to students by phone, email or video call.

Counselling

The University's Counselling Service offers a free and confidential service to all students at the University. The Service's professional staff are available to talk through any personal or emotional concerns that you might have during your time at the University. More information, as well as a wide range of self-help resources and access to workshops, is available from the Service's website (www.counselling.cam.ac.uk).

Disabled students

The Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre (ADRC) offers guidance, information and support, and is an essential contact for disabled applicants, including those with a specific learning difficulty, mental health conditions, or long-term health conditions. The ADRC liaises with relevant University and College staff to ensure disabled students have appropriate support established and to make specific arrangements for examinations. The ADRC can also advise on financial support and funding applications.

Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre

01223 332301

disability@admin.cam.ac.uk

www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/prospective-students

Care-experienced students

Further support is available for care-experienced students, including year-round accommodation and financial support, such as a higher level of the Cambridge Bursary (see p35). If you are or have been in care or you're supporting a young person currently or previously in care and would like to find out more about visiting or studying at the University, please see the website or contact the Widening Participation Team.

Widening Participation Team

realise@admin.cam.ac.uk

www.cam.ac.uk/careleavers

Student support

Our student support pages provide information on a variety of support and wellbeing services. Students can access counselling, mental health advice, sexual harassment and violence support and services for students with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

Visit www.studentsupport.cam.ac.uk for more information.

Estranged students

Further support is available for students studying at the University who are estranged from their families. This includes 365-day accommodation and estranged students can also receive enhanced financial support, such as a higher level of the Cambridge Bursary (see p35).

If you are an estranged student and would like to find out more about visiting or studying at the University, please see the website or contact the Widening Participation Team. Students can also contact the team when they arrive in Cambridge to find out more about the support available. www.cam.ac.uk/estranged-students

Student parents and childcare

The University's Childcare Office operates the Information Service that provides comprehensive guidance on family-related matters such as childcare, schooling, healthcare, financial support and local community resources. Some Colleges can provide family accommodation (see the individual College websites). Where this isn't available, please refer to the central Accommodation Service (www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk).

Childcare Office

01223 332249

childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk

www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk



You can find more details about the support available when you arrive at the University and throughout your time as a student in our settling in video.

 **Watch the video:**
www.cam.ac.uk/support

Money

Going to university is an investment in your future. Whichever university you apply to, you need to consider the cost of your tuition and your living (or 'maintenance') costs. These amounts can seem daunting but there's lots of support available to help you finance your studies.

+ Cost effective

The University's plentiful resources include specialist computer rooms and more than 100 libraries which can help to keep your study costs low.

Tuition fees

The University is committed to providing world-class education and access to the very best teachers, resources and support. Therefore, we invest significantly more than the government regulated tuition fee on each student every year to ensure you get the most from your Cambridge education.

The tuition fee for Home fee status students starting their first undergraduate degree in 2023 will be £9,250 for the year. Details of the fee for 2024 entry will be published on the Undergraduate Study website as soon as they are available; see: www.cam.ac.uk/ugtuitionfees.

You should check the website for the most up-to-date information on tuition fees before applying and prior to accepting an offer from the University should your application be successful.

Fee status

If you're unsure whether you're classed as Home or international/overseas for fee purposes, you can find more information at www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international/fee-status.



Living costs

Living costs cover whatever you need to pay for, excluding tuition fees, while you're at university. For example, accommodation, food, course costs/study materials, personal expenses and transport.

- **Accommodation:** most Colleges offer a range of accommodation to suit your preference and affordability. The weekly rent and the length of your accommodation contract will vary depending on your College choice – minimum contract lengths usually range from 27 to 39 weeks. Please see individual College websites for details about accommodation costs, contract lengths and additional charges.
- **Food:** Colleges provide basic self-catering facilities as well as cafeterias/dining halls that serve reasonably priced meals. Some levy a separate charge towards the running costs of the College kitchens. Some Colleges also have a minimum meal charge, which is paid in advance and provides credit for meals bought in College. Please see individual College websites for details.
- **Additional course costs:** these costs are in addition to tuition fees and living costs and will vary depending on your course but may include you having to pay for your own personally owned equipment (eg calculator, lab coat), printing, study materials (eg paper, pens, books), and travel costs (eg field or dissertation research trips). You can find details on our website (www.cam.ac.uk/courses).
- **Personal expenses:** What you spend on food, clothing, transport etc depends on your lifestyle. However, there are lots of free recreational facilities plus loads of College-based and student-run activities that don't cost very much. What's more, Cambridge is a small place so transport in the city is cheap or free: most students walk or cycle and there's a 'Universal' bus service that offers discounted fares to students.

Financial support

There's a range of support available from the government, University and Colleges to help you manage the cost of university study.

- **Government support:** Home fee status students can take out a government loan for their tuition fees. At the moment, students can defer payment of the loan until after they've left university and are earning a minimum salary, at which point the loan is repaid in instalments. Refer to the appropriate student finance award agency for information about tuition fee support. You can find details on our website.
- **University support:** the Cambridge Bursary Scheme offers Home fee status students studying for their first undergraduate degree non-repayable bursaries to help with living costs. These are offered in addition to any government financial support. Visit our website for more information about the Scheme, such as eligibility criteria and bursary value (www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary).
- **College support:** additional sources of funding may be available from your College, such as book and equipment grants to help with specific study-related costs, scholarships and prizes for academic or other achievements, travel grants for academic work and personal enrichment, grants and loans to help deal with unforeseen, financial difficulties, and supplementary bursaries for living costs/maintenance. Information on any such funds is available from each College (www.cam.ac.uk/collegeawards).

Student Finance



To find out more and watch our helpful video guide, visit www.cam.ac.uk/studentfinance

Careers

Whether you're sure of the career you want to pursue when you graduate or you're looking to explore your options, we'll help you to prepare for your future.

Transferable skills

The majority of graduate employers recruit students with any degree discipline. It's the flexibility of your degree, as well as the range of transferable skills that you develop, that are of interest to employers.

Cambridge students are typically ambitious, intelligent, motivated, hard-working, passionate, committed, curious, intellectually creative, independent thinkers, and able to manage their time effectively. Employers know this and look for the same attributes in potential new employees, which is why our graduates are so sought after.

Dedicated support and guidance

Once you're at Cambridge, you can work with our dedicated Careers Service from day one to explore your career options. The team of experienced and impartial careers advisers can help you connect with employers and navigate the complex job market, saving you time and maximising your employability prospects. The Careers Service run a range of workshops on topics including choosing a career, cover letters, applications and getting ready for interviews. They also organise more than 200 careers events and briefing and skills sessions, and typically around 15 major careers fairs each year.



Further information
www.careers.cam.ac.uk



Monica
History graduate

Monica graduated with a History degree in 2018 and the transferable skills she gained have allowed her to take an unconventional career journey. After graduation, Monica took some time to consider her options, travelling the world for eight months as cabin crew at British Airways. She is currently working at PwC after successfully completing their Management Consulting Graduate Scheme.

"For upcoming graduates who may be stressed about deciding upon a career, I would advise taking your time until the right opportunity for you opens up. The Careers Service can be really helpful in connecting you to alumni. But don't fret if you don't have a clear idea of your career goals in your final year; sometimes it's best to dip your toe in a few areas first as you might surprise yourself and fall in love with a vocation that you wouldn't have expected!"

Read more about our graduates' career destinations on the Careers Service website: unicamcareers.edublogs.org

+ 92%

of our students who responded to the Graduate Outcomes Survey were in work or further study within 15 months of graduating.¹

Networking opportunities

The Careers Service's alumni database, Alumni Careers Connect, will give you access to contact details for over 1,200 Cambridge alumni working in a huge range of industries who can offer first-hand advice. The Service also runs more than 50 employment-related skills training sessions and can offer information on occupations, further study courses and funding.

Graduate employment destinations

Our graduates go on to work in a wide range of industries, from social work and education to legal activities and finance. The list below shows the top ten occupations of respondents to the Graduate Outcomes survey (15 months after graduation).¹

- 1 Management consultants and business analysts
- 2 Secondary education teaching professionals
- 3 Medical practitioner
- 4 University researchers
- 5 Programmer/software development professional
- 6 Finance and investment analysts and advisers
- 7 Higher education teaching professionals
- 8 Business and related associate professionals
- 9 Primary and nursery teaching professionals
- 10 Marketing associate professionals



Further information

www.information-hub.admin.cam.ac.uk/university-profile/graduate-outcomes

Further study

Our degrees don't just prepare you for employment – usually, more than a quarter of our graduates each year progress into further study or training.¹ We offer world-leading graduate education, with over 300 graduate courses spanning 21 types of qualification. Visit www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk for more details.

¹ Based on responses to the Graduate Outcomes survey. This records the outcomes of students who completed their studies between August 2019 and July 2020. 55 per cent of graduates responded to the survey.

+ Top 5

in the UK for graduate prospects (*Complete University Guide 2023*).

Internships and work experience

Our industry connections provide a range of opportunities for you to undertake work experience, enhancing your CV ready for graduation. Thousands of opportunities are publicised across all sectors on the Careers Service's Handshake site, with bursaries offered to support unpaid opportunities with charities.



Zain
Mathematics graduate

Zain spent the summer between the second and third years of his Mathematics degree interning as a data scientist at Satavia, an up and coming aviation tech company. Zain graduated in 2019 and is now using his experience in his current role as a Software Engineer at QuantumBlack.

"Working at a start-up appealed to me as I was guaranteed to be working in an energetic environment where I would have the opportunity to take responsibility and have a far-ranging impact on the company. It also meant that I'd have a chance to work on a broad range of areas.

The internship was everything I expected and more. I had the chance to make core business decisions and was able to see and work on almost every part of the company. The experience really solidified the idea that I wanted to work in the tech industry when I graduated."

Find out about internships and placements on the Careers Service website: www.careers.cam.ac.uk

Finding out more

You can contact the Cambridge Admissions Office or any of our College admissions offices to find out more about admissions procedures, courses and facilities, and to ask any questions you might have. We've included some useful contact details here.

We organise a range of on campus and virtual events each year. You can find out more about some of these below. Please check the University website, or relevant College or department website for event updates and details before planning your visit.

To keep up to date with events at Cambridge, sign up to our student newsletter for monthly updates on events, as well as advice and resources from the University and Colleges.

 www.cam.ac.uk/student-newsletter

Explore the University on our Virtual Tour



You can access a range of information, 360 degree photography, articles and films from our Colleges and departments on our Virtual Tour.

A great way to hear directly from our staff and students, the Virtual Tour gives you a sense of the collegiate University and what it's like to study here. Alongside information about our Colleges and departments, you'll find details about general University facilities and life in Cambridge.

Visit www.virtualltour.study.cam.ac.uk to start exploring.

Cambridge Open Days

Our University-wide Open Days are aimed at prospective applicants in Year 12 (or equivalent), and feature a range of activities, tours and presentations from academic and admissions office staff.

Please check the Undergraduate Study website for the 2023 Open Day dates and sign up to our newsletter to make sure you're notified when bookings open.

College and department open days

Many of the Cambridge Colleges and academic departments also run open days and events throughout the year, some of which may be online. Check the Undergraduate Study website, as well as individual College websites and relevant department and faculty websites for dates and details.




Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/ugevents




Useful contacts

Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO)

The CAO provides general advice to prospective applicants and their advisers about applying to and studying at Cambridge. Our full Undergraduate Prospectus and information about interviews and student finance are also available online.


 01223 333308


 admissions@cam.ac.uk

 www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Cambridge Students' Union (Cambridge SU)

Cambridge SU provides information and advice for prospective applicants on their website. Cambridge SU also runs the Shadowing Scheme – see the website for more details.

 080 1641 222

 www.cambridgesu.co.uk

 www.applytocambridge.com


Colleges

All of the Colleges have their own websites providing much of the information you may wish to know. To find out more about a College, get in touch with that College's admissions office.

 www.cam.ac.uk/ugcolls


Courses


All of the faculties and departments have their own websites providing further information. See the individual course entries on our Undergraduate Study website for more details and contact information.


 www.cam.ac.uk/courses

Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre (ADRC)

Students with a disability/long-term health condition/specific learning difficulty are encouraged to contact the ADRC and a College admissions office as early as possible for advice. Guidance can also be found on the ADRC website. Information from this and other CAO publications can be provided in alternative formats on request from the CAO (see left).

 01223 332301

 disability@admin.cam.ac.uk

 www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/prospective-students


Postgraduate study

The University offers a wide range of postgraduate courses, including PhD, MSc, MLitt and MPhil degrees and certain Certificates and Diplomas. Information is available online and from the Postgraduate Admissions Office.

 www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Applications to Cambridge are made online through UCAS. Once you've submitted your application, you'll be able to monitor its progress using UCAS Track.

 0371 468 0 468

 www.ucas.com





Cambridge Terminology

You might come across many new and unfamiliar words, terms and expressions when you are researching your university options. Some universities mention things that are particular to their institution, and Cambridge is no exception! Listed here are definitions for some of the terms you might come across on our website or in our publications.

Collegiate university – a university made up of faculties and departments in different academic subjects and Colleges. Find out who does what on p3.

DoS – Director of Studies. All undergraduates have a DoS who's an expert in their subject and who is responsible for their academic provision.

Fellow – a senior member of a College, elected to a particular position of authority and responsibility in relation to the academic work and government of the College.

Formal (hall) – a College meal with waiter service, normally three courses and formal clothing (and gown) is worn. The regularity and price varies from College to College. You can find more information on the College websites.

Gyp room – basic College kitchen that students can use. Gyp rooms differ from College to College, with some offering full ovens and hobs while others might have a microwave, kettle and toaster. Find out more on the College websites.

Long Vacation – this is the holiday which takes place between June and October and marks the end of the academic year.

May Week – confusingly, this refers to the fortnight at the beginning of June after exams finish. Most end of year celebrations (including May Balls) are held at this time.

Matriculation – this is the formal admission of a student to the University.

Paper – an individual module, unit or topic on an undergraduate course. You will usually take a number of papers each year, some compulsory and some chosen from several options. See your chosen course page for more details (www.cam.ac.uk/courses).

Pools – if your College is impressed by your application but does not have a place for you, they may pool your application for other Colleges to consider. Find out more about our winter and summer pools on our website (www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/decisions).

Porters – every College has a team of Porters to maintain the safety and security of students and staff; they'll often be your first point of contact for information or help around College.

Senior Tutor – the College officer with overall responsibility for academic, welfare and disciplinary matters.

Supervision – regular small-group teaching sessions for undergraduates (see p23).



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

For more information contact one
of the College admissions offices or:

Cambridge Admissions Office
admissions@cam.ac.uk

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Details are correct at the time of printing
(February 2023) but should be checked
against the Undergraduate Study website
for the most up-to-date information.

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