



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

International
Undergraduate
Guide 2023



Welcome

Cambridge has welcomed and nurtured students for hundreds of years. The collegiate University is bound together by a deep-rooted sense of community and shared purpose. Our commitment to excellence in education, learning and research is uncompromising.

My student days at Cambridge offered me the precious opportunity to challenge and deepen my knowledge. They also provided the space and the time to broaden my intellectual horizons.

Today Cambridge continues to reach outwards, welcoming an ever more diverse group of students who have the desire and ability to learn and produce new insights that shift and deepen our understanding of the world around us.



Professor Stephen J Toope
Vice-Chancellor

Important note

This Guide represents life at the University and Colleges prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. We may need to make changes to the information in this publication due to the pandemic and/or Government guidelines and restrictions. Please see the About this Guide text on p40 and check our website for updates prior to making an application or accepting an offer.



As an international student studying at Cambridge, I have found the University to be academically challenging, culturally stimulating and incredibly welcoming. Cambridge has lived up to my expectations – and more. The supervision-system is particularly rewarding, as you learn from world-renowned academics who have often written your textbooks!

Beyond academics, Cambridge offers a wealth of cultural societies, so you never feel far from home. One of my most treasured memories was this year's International Food Festival organised by the International Students' Campaign, where we celebrated national dishes from Malaysia to Hungary to Brazil.

Throughout my time here, I have always felt welcome and supported. I hope you'll consider applying and have as much fun as I did!

Yi Wen Lee

International Students' Campaign
(ISC) chair

Take a Virtual Tour of Cambridge



Visit our Virtual Tour to access information about the University and to hear directly from our staff and students. Find out more on p20 and visit

www.virtualtour.study.cam.ac.uk

Visit our website and follow us on social media:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

[@cambridge.university](https://www.facebook.com/cambridge.university)

[@Cambridge_Uni](https://twitter.com/Cambridge_Uni)

[@cambridgeuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgeuniversity)

www.youtube.com/CambridgeUniversity

Why Cambridge?

An international community

The University of Cambridge is a diverse international community and welcomes talented students from around the world. While you're at Cambridge, you'll be welcomed and supported by a range of University and College support services, as well as numerous international societies. When you graduate, you'll join one of the widest reaching alumni networks of any university in the world.

+ More than 40%
of our students are from outside of the UK,
including around 3,200 undergraduate students.

+ 140+ countries
represented among our undergraduates and postgraduates.

"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

In this Guide

Why Cambridge?

2

A globally-respected education

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's leading universities, providing a challenging, flexible and individual learning experience. Consistently rated among the top higher education institutions in national and international league tables, the University is globally respected for the quality of our teaching and research, and our students are greatly sought after by employers.

Studying at Cambridge offers you the chance to engage with academics at the forefront of cutting-edge research, and the opportunity to participate in a vibrant and varied student experience. Here you can develop your knowledge and transferable skills to prepare you for your future, whichever direction you wish to take.



+ Top 3
in the Academic Ranking
of World Universities 2021

"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
Poland

The University and Colleges

Cambridge is a collegiate university, which means it comprises University faculties and departments in different academic subjects, and a number of Colleges. As well as being a member of the University and an academic faculty/department, students also belong to a smaller College community. This system offers a huge amount of individual pastoral and academic support for each student.

To show how they fit together, the key functions for which the University and Colleges are responsible are outlined below.

The University (through its faculties and 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

The partnership between the University and the Colleges is one of our greatest strengths. It provides superb facilities, contact with the very best minds, and personal supervision and support to help develop your academic interests. We also pride ourselves on the high level of pastoral care provided by College tutors, support staff and student-run networks.

Our courses

More than 65 subjects are offered within our undergraduate courses – see p7 for the course list, and a subject search facility can be found on our Undergraduate Study website (www.cam.ac.uk/courses). Most courses cover the subject broadly to start with before allowing you to choose from a range of specialisms. This can offer you a high level of flexibility, allowing you to explore subjects widely, develop your interests and discover your strengths.

You're taught by experts in their field through a combination of lectures, practicals (where relevant), seminars, and regular small-group tuition known as 'supervisions'. These sessions allow you to explore course material in much greater depth, investigate new approaches, receive regular feedback and clarify anything you're unsure about. See p7 for more about our teaching and assessment methods.

Each academic year consists of three terms – the dates for these can be found on our website www.cam.ac.uk/apply. 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).

Student life

Cambridge has a diverse and vibrant student community, and this diversity is valued and celebrated. There's plenty for you to get involved with across the University, Colleges and around the city itself. We encourage our students to get involved socially and they certainly do – we have hundreds of student-run clubs and societies, so whatever your interests, you'll be in good company here.

Our extensive welfare and support systems also ensure your individual needs can be recognised and met. There are various University and student-run services, and within your College you have a number of people looking out for your academic and personal welfare. You can find out more about student life and support on p15.



An 800-year history

Cambridge is one of the oldest universities in the world, and during our 800-year history, we've welcomed thousands of students, many of whom have achieved incredible things.

Find out more about the history of the University on our website:

www.cam.ac.uk/about-the-university/history



Credit: The Mistress and Fellows, Girton College, Cambridge



Credit: Ben Watkins



1284

Peterhouse, the first College at Cambridge is founded.

1521

John Siberch borrows £20 from Cambridge University and sets up the first printing press in the city. Today, Cambridge is known throughout the world for its University Press (CUP) – the oldest publishing house in the world.

1687

Isaac Newton publishes *Principia Mathematica*, establishing the fundamental principles of modern physics.

1869 ↑

Emily Davies, suffragist, and others found Girton College, the first residential university-level institution of higher learning for women.

1928 ↑

Xu Zhimo composes his influential poem *On Leaving Cambridge* whilst studying at the University as a visiting scholar.

1947 →

David Attenborough graduates having studied Natural Sciences.



Zadie Smith
Credit: David Shankbone

2000 ↑

Alumna Zadie Smith releases her debut novel, *White Teeth*, which becomes a best seller and wins a number of awards.

2003

Natural Sciences graduate Michael Foale is made commander of the International Space Station Expedition 8, which lasted 194 days.

1999

Cambridge scientists identify the gene causing diabetes and high blood pressure.

1988

Professor Stephen Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, publishes his book, *A Brief History of Time*, one of the best-selling scientific books of all time. He is already eminent for his work on black holes and the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe.

1981

Salman Rushdie wins the Booker Prize for his novel *Midnight's Children*.

1968

Anthony Hewish and Jocelyn Bell discover pulsating stars or 'pulsars' using Cambridge's Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory. Their work alters the course of modern cosmology.



Rosalind Franklin
Credit: Newnham College, Cambridge

1953 ←

Rosalind Franklin, Francis Crick and James Watson discover the structure of DNA. Their discovery opens the door to the study of an entirely new science – genetics.

1950

Code-breaker Alan Turing publishes his paper titled *Computing Machinery and Intelligence* proposing an experiment now known as the 'Turing Test', which tests the intelligence of computers.

2005

Arianna Huffington, first International president of the Cambridge Union, co-founds digital news blog *The Huffington Post* (now *HuffPost*).

2009

The University of Cambridge celebrates its 800th anniversary.

2013

Michael Levitt, who worked at Cambridge as a PhD student, wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry alongside Martin Karplus and Arieh Warshel for the development of multiscale models for complex chemical systems.

2019 →

Her Majesty the Queen opens the Papworth hospital on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.



Her Majesty is the Patroness of Queens' College and visited for lunch with more than 80 Fellows, students and staff.
Credit: Andreas Grieger

2020

A new Virtual Reality (VR) software, vLUME, is created by Cambridge scientists which allows researchers to 'walk' inside and analyse individual cells.

Working to improve the future

At Cambridge, we are committed to achieving excellence in research, and to ensuring that our research contributes to the wellbeing of society.

Here are a few examples of recent research topics at Cambridge:

1 Detecting brain tumours

Researchers from the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute have developed two tests that can detect the presence of glioma, a type of brain tumour, in patient urine or blood plasma. The researchers suggest that in the future, these tests could be used by GPs to monitor patients at high risk of brain tumours, which may be more convenient than having an MRI every three months, which is the standard method.



Credit: Dr Harley Katz, Beecroft Fellow, Department of Physics, University of Oxford

2 Scientists reverse age-related memory loss in mice

Scientists at Cambridge and Leeds have successfully reversed age-related memory loss in mice and say their discovery could lead to the development of treatments to prevent memory loss in people as they age. The team have shown that changes in the extracellular matrix of the brain – ‘scaffolding’ around nerve cells – lead to loss of memory with ageing, but that it is possible to reverse these using genetic treatments.

Credit: image by Pexels from Pixabay



3 Astronomers pinpoint when cosmic dawn occurred

Cosmic dawn, when stars formed for the first time, occurred 250 million to 350 million years after the beginning of the universe, according to a new study led by researchers from the University of Cambridge and University College London (UCL).

4 Saving lives from heart attack and stroke

Researchers from the University of Cambridge played a leading role in a major collaborative effort to develop a risk calculator which will better predict people at high risk of heart and circulatory diseases years before they strike. The researchers say this new prediction tool will help save many more people across Europe from having a potentially deadly heart attack or stroke, ultimately saving lives. People who are flagged as having an increased risk can be put on personalised preventative treatment, such as statins, or will receive lifestyle advice to lower their risk.



Credit: Xampla

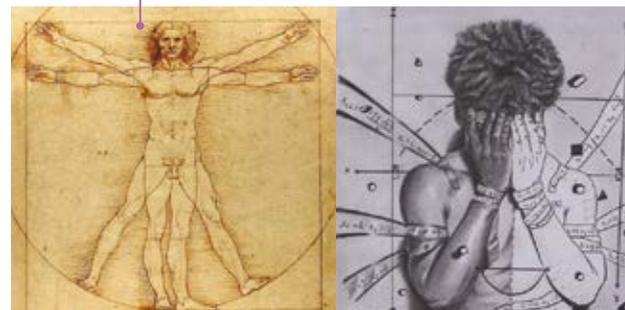
5 Sustainable alternative to single-use plastics

Researchers from the University of Cambridge have created a polymer film by mimicking the properties of spider silk, one of the strongest materials in nature. The new material is as strong as many common plastics in use today and could replace plastic in many common household products. The material was created using a new approach for assembling plant proteins into materials that mimic silk on a molecular level. The energy-efficient method, which uses sustainable ingredients, results in a plastic-like free-standing film, which can be made at industrial scale.

6 Teaching pupils to ‘think like Da Vinci’

Curriculum reforms which mix the arts and sciences will better prepare young people for the real-world challenges that will define their adult lives, researchers argue. In a newly-published study, education researchers from the Universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh argue that there is a compelling case for a drastic shake-up of the school curriculum, so that subjects are no longer taught independently of one another. Instead, they argue that the arts and sciences should ‘teach together’ around real-world problems, and in a manner rooted in pupils’ lived experiences.

L-R: Vitruvian Man (Leonardo da Vinci, public domain image from Wikimedia Commons)/Stressed Vitruvian Man (Jubalani)



7 Reconstructing Stone Age bear genome

Scientists have reconstructed ancient DNA from soil for the first time, in an advance that will significantly enhance the study of animal, plant and microorganism evolution. A team of scientists led by Professor Eske Willerslev in the University of Cambridge’s Department of Zoology and the Lundbeck Foundation GeoGenetics Centre, University of Copenhagen, have recreated the genomes of animals, plants and bacteria from microscopic fragments of DNA found in the remote Chiquihuite Cave in Mexico.



Credit: image by Gab-Rysia from Pixabay

8 Combatting malnutrition

Researchers at the University of Cambridge say our future global food supply cannot be safeguarded by traditional approaches to improving food production. They suggest state-of-the-art, controlled-environment systems, producing novel foods, should be integrated into the food system to reduce vulnerability to environmental changes, pests and diseases. The researchers say that global malnutrition could be eradicated by farming foods including spirulina, chlorella, larvae of insects such as the house fly, mycoprotein (protein derived from fungi), and macro-algae such as sugar kelp.

Read more about these projects and other research news on our website.



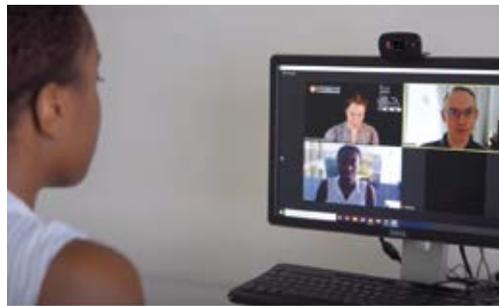
Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/research/news

Applying to Cambridge

To apply to the University of Cambridge, you must submit an online application through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). You will also need to complete an additional application form that is specific to Cambridge. This section guides 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 p7 and www.cam.ac.uk/courses.



2 Decide on your College

Where would you like to live when you're here? In your application, indicate if you have a preference College or if you're making an open application. See p9 for guidance on choosing.

3 Submit your application

Submit your UCAS application and Cambridge-specific additional application form by the relevant deadlines, which you'll find online. Please note that in some circumstances, early application deadlines may apply. You can find further details on our website: www.cam.ac.uk/apply.

4 Written assessment

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 p12). You can find more information about admissions assessments, including examples of specimen papers, on the course pages of our website. www.cam.ac.uk/assessment.

5 Interview

Everyone with a good chance of being offered a place is invited to attend an interview. Your interview may take place in Cambridge, online or closer to where you live. In each instance, there may be an earlier application deadline. Please check the website for details.

www.cam.ac.uk/international-interviews

6 Our decision

All undergraduate admissions decisions are the responsibility of the Cambridge Colleges – you'll be notified of the outcome of your application before the end of January 2023.

"I applied to Cambridge because it is an excellent and renowned institution, where you can benefit from the opportunities of being in a big university while still enjoying a close knit community in your College."

Maria Eduarda,
Brazil





Courses

Many of our courses (also called Triposes at Cambridge) encompass several subjects (as indicated on the following pages), with some options available in a number of courses.

Our courses cover the subject area very broadly in the initial years, and then offer an increasingly wide range of options in the later years, of which you will typically choose just a few in which to specialise. If you already know what you want to focus on, you can start to specialise early on at Cambridge. However, if you're not sure just yet, you have the flexibility to delay specialising until you've explored the subject and confirmed your interests.

Changing courses

Most students stay on the same degree course. However, it may be possible to change (with agreement from your College, though there is no guarantee that such requests will be permitted). The course details on our website (www.cam.ac.uk/courses) give information about more common changes and you should contact a College for further advice.

How you're taught and assessed

The University faculty or department arranges lectures, seminars and practicals that students from all Colleges attend together. While your College arranges supervisions (see right) for you, this will not affect your experience on a course; whichever College you attend, you will be engaging with experts in your chosen subject.

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 during the vacations (eg further reading, research, revision, assignments).

You can find out more about how you'll be taught (including contact hours) and the assessment methods that form part of your course on our website (www.cam.ac.uk/courses). You should check these details before applying, and before accepting any offer, for any changes and for up-to-date information on methods of assessment. If you have any concerns about a course's mode of assessment or any other elements of our courses, before applying or accepting a place at Cambridge, please contact the relevant department or faculty – you'll find contact details on each course webpage.

Lectures

Lectures typically last around 50 minutes. Many lecturers are leading academics working at the forefront of their field.

Seminars and classes

These usually last between one and two hours. For groups of 10-30 students, they're led by academics but you're expected to actively contribute.

Practicals

Some courses include practicals, such as laboratory classes or 'labs'. Practical work may be assessed on some courses.



Supervisions

Supervisions are small-group sessions (most often for between one and three students) during which you discuss your work and ideas in depth, and receive regular feedback. This more personal tuition is one of our greatest strengths.

Typically, you have one or two hour-long supervisions each week (depending on your course). You do some appropriate preparation for each supervision (eg reading, writing an essay, working on some problems), and in the session get feedback on your work and explore ideas further.

Supervisors are specialists in particular subject areas (they may be one of the country's or world's leading authorities). Throughout your time at Cambridge, you see different supervisors (who may be based at different Colleges) according to the topics you're covering.



Watch our supervisions video

www.cam.ac.uk/supervisions

Independent research

There's considerable emphasis on independent and self-directed study at Cambridge – all students are expected to undertake wider reading and exploration beyond what's required for lectures, classes etc. All courses also include dissertations and/or research projects (usually in the later years), in which you can test out theories and put forward ideas.

Field trips, visits, study abroad, language courses

Several courses offer such opportunities – where you go, for how long and what you do varies depending on your course (see course information online).

Work experience

Some courses include a period of work experience, giving you the chance to explore potential career paths and develop vocational skills. As well as or instead of this, many students (regardless of course) organise work experience during the long summer breaks.



Further information

www.cam.ac.uk/courses



Cambridge courses

For information about our courses and links to faculties and departments, please see the Undergraduate Study website at: www.cam.ac.uk/courses.

Course	Degree award	Course duration (years) ¹	Location (map ref, see p38-9)	Key subjects for admission (see p20-3)	Admission assessment (see p21)	Colleges accepting applications
Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic	BA (Hons)	3	S		Cambridge College registered ²	All
Archaeology <i>Archaeology, Assyriology, Biological Anthropology, Egyptology</i>	BA (Hons)	3	D		Cambridge College registered	All except Queens'
Architecture	BA (Hons)	3	L	Mathematics or Physics	Cambridge College registered	All except Hughes Hall, St Catharine's
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies <i>Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Persian</i>	BA (Hons)	4 (Year 3 abroad)	S	A language	Cambridge College registered ²	All
Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	MEng	4	W	Chemistry, Mathematics	Pre-registration	All
Classics	BA (Hons)	3 or 4	S	Latin (for the three-year course)	Cambridge College registered	All
Computer Science	BA (Hons) or MEng	3 or 4	W	Mathematics, science subjects ³	Pre-registration	All
Economics	BA (Hons)	3	S	Mathematics	Pre-registration	All except Newnham, Wolfson
Education	BA (Hons)	3	N		Cambridge College registered ²	All except Corpus Christi, Girton, King's, Murray Edwards, Newnham, Peterhouse, St Catharine's, Sidney Sussex, Trinity, Trinity Hall
Engineering <i>Aerospace and Aeronautical; 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>	MEng	4	E	Mathematics, Physics	Pre-registration	All
English	BA (Hons)	3	S	English Literature	Cambridge College registered	All
Geography	BA (Hons)	3	D	Geography	Cambridge College registered ²	All except Peterhouse
History	BA (Hons)	3	S	History	Cambridge College registered ²	All
History and Modern Languages <i>History and French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian or Spanish</i>	BA (Hons)	4 (Year 3 abroad)	S	History, a language	Cambridge College registered	All
History and Politics	BA (Hons)	3	S	History	Cambridge College registered ²	All
History of Art	BA (Hons)	3	L		Cambridge College registered	All except Girton, Robinson, St Catharine's

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) (see p12).

³ 'Science/mathematics subjects' refers to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics. It does not include Psychology.

Course	Degree award	Course duration (years) ¹	Location (map ref, see p38-9)	Key subjects for admission (see p20-3)	Admission assessment (see p21)	Colleges accepting applications
Human, Social, and Political Sciences <i>Politics and International Relations; Social Anthropology; Sociology; Politics and Sociology; Social Anthropology and Politics; Social Anthropology and Religious Studies; Sociology and Criminology; Sociology and Social Anthropology</i>	BA (Hons)	3	M S		Cambridge College registered ²	All
Land Economy <i>Environment, Law and Economics</i>	BA (Hons)	3	F		No assessment	All except Churchill, Corpus Christi, Emmanuel, King's, Peterhouse
Law	BA (Hons)	3	S		LNAT Pre-registration	All
Linguistics	BA (Hons)	3	S		Cambridge College registered	All except St Catharine's
Mathematics <i>Including Mathematics with Physics</i>	BA (Hons) or MMath	3 or 4	X	Mathematics, Sixth Term Examination Paper in Mathematics (STEP), sciences ³	Cambridge College registered ²	All except Wolfson
Medicine	MB, BChir	6	D M	Chemistry and at least one other science/mathematics subject ³	BMAT Pre-registration	All except Hughes Hall
Modern and Medieval Languages <i>French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish</i>	BA (Hons)	4 (Year 3 abroad)	S	At least one of the languages to be studied	Cambridge College registered	All
Music	BA (Hons)	3	S	Music	Cambridge College registered ²	All except Lucy Cavendish
Natural Sciences <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>	BA (Hons) or MSci	3 or 4	C D J M W	At least two science/mathematics subjects ³	Pre-registration	All
Philosophy	BA (Hons)	3	S		Cambridge College registered	All except Murray Edwards, Queens'
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	BA (Hons)	3	D M	Science/mathematics subjects ³	Cambridge College registered ²	All except Peterhouse
Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion	BA (Hons)	3	S		Cambridge College registered	All except Churchill
Veterinary Medicine	VetMB	6	D M W	Chemistry and at least one other science/mathematics subject ³	Pre-registration	All except Christ's, Corpus Christi, Hughes Hall, King's, Peterhouse, Trinity

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 can start to consider your College choice.

What's a College?

Your College is your base for the time you're at Cambridge (see p2). It's where you live, eat, socialise, receive academic and pastoral support, and where you often have your supervisions (see p7).

Accommodation

The majority of students are guaranteed accommodation in College-owned property for three years, and many Colleges provide for fourth-year students too.¹ This means that you don't have to worry about finding private rented accommodation during that time.

Some Colleges have all their accommodation on their main site. Others have some on their main site plus College-owned flats and houses around the city. Either way, most accommodation is within easy walking or cycling distance of the University departments and facilities, and the city centre. See the map on p21 for locations.

Colleges have a variety of accommodation available, and at some Colleges, you may have a choice of en suite or shared bathroom facilities. Whatever the style, you have a room of your own and access to a shared kitchen and laundry room. All Colleges have their own library and computer suite too.

Annual contracts for College accommodation are normally in the range of 26 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.² If you want to stay in Cambridge throughout the year, you should discuss this with your College.

See p17 for information about accommodation costs, and visit the Undergraduate Study website (www.cam.ac.uk/accommodation) and individual College websites (p10) for full details.

Food

All students have access to basic self-catering facilities (these vary between Colleges), 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 p17).

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

Recreational facilities

The main social hub of every College is its common room and/or bar (also known as a JCR, or Junior Common/Combination Room). Many offer 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 p14-6 for more information about student life at the University.

How do I choose a College?

In your application, you can either choose a particular College or, if you don't have a preference, you can make an 'open' application (see p10) and accept the allocation.³ In both cases, your application is sent to a College and that College assesses it.

Everyone's reasons for choosing their College differ. Some Colleges don't take students in all subjects so check availability for your course first (see p8 and p10). Otherwise, we suggest that you think of choosing a College in terms of where you'd like to live; you may want to consider the following points:

- **your age**
three Colleges are exclusively for students aged 21 or older on 1 October in your year of entry (mature students). These Colleges are Hughes Hall, St Edmund's and Wolfson.
- **College size**
number of students
- **type of accommodation**
eg on-site or College-owned houses around the city
- **particular facilities**
eg for certain sports, performing arts etc
- **personal instinct**
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.

¹ Accommodation 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.

² Colleges can usually offer storage facilities for overseas students' belongings during vacations.

³ Whether you select a preference College or an open application, you must choose the same option in your UCAS application and any additional questionnaires; and after the UCAS application deadline, this choice can't be changed.



Do I need to apply to a specific College for my course?

You can apply to any College that offers your course. Regardless of their College, all students on the same course are taught together by the University's academic faculties/departments, attending the same lectures, seminars and practicals, and sitting the same exams.

 **Further information**
www.cam.ac.uk/choosingacollege

 **Watch the video**
www.cam.ac.uk/choosingacollege



College	Location (map ref, see p38-9)	Undergraduates admitted each year	Undergraduate/ postgraduate numbers	Courses available	Information
Christ's	1	c125	420/200	All except Veterinary Medicine	www.christs.cam.ac.uk/admissions@christss.cam.ac.uk
Churchill	2	c135	485/375	All except Land Economy and Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion	www.chu.cam.ac.uk/admissions@chu.cam.ac.uk
Clare	3	c140	519/297	All	www.clare.cam.ac.uk/admissions@clare.cam.ac.uk
Corpus Christi	4	c95	290/220	All except Education, Land Economy and Veterinary Medicine	www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/admissions@corpus.cam.ac.uk
Downing	5	c130	425/220	All	www.dow.cam.ac.uk/admissions@dow.cam.ac.uk
Emmanuel	6	c145	470/220	All except Land Economy	www.emma.cam.ac.uk/admissions@emma.cam.ac.uk
Fitzwilliam	7	c140	463/411	All	www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/admissions@fitz.cam.ac.uk
Girton	8	c140	500/300	All except Education and History of Art	www.girton.cam.ac.uk/admissions@girton.cam.ac.uk
Gonville & Caius	9	c160	560/250	All	www.cai.cam.ac.uk/admissions@cai.cam.ac.uk
Homerton	10	c185	550/500	All	www.homerton.cam.ac.uk/admissions@homerton.cam.ac.uk
Hughes Hall For students aged 21 and over (mature)	11	c55	150/600	All except Architecture, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine	www.hughes.cam.ac.uk/admissions@hughes.cam.ac.uk
Jesus	12	c145	550/475	All	www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions@jesus.cam.ac.uk
King's	13	c135	430/280	All except Education, Land Economy and Veterinary Medicine	www.kings.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate.admissions@kings.cam.ac.uk
Lucy Cavendish	14	c135	350/400	All except Music	www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/admissions@lucy.cam.ac.uk
Magdalene	15	c105	360/213	All	www.magd.cam.ac.uk/admissions@magd.cam.ac.uk
Murray Edwards For female students	16	c105	402/197	All except Education and Philosophy	www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/admissions@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

College	Location (map ref, see p38-9)	Undergraduates admitted each year	Undergraduate/ postgraduate numbers	Courses available	Information
Newnham For female students	17	c120	406/306	All except Economics and Education	www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions@newn.cam.ac.uk
Pembroke	18	c132	430/295	All	www.pem.cam.ac.uk/adm@pem.cam.ac.uk
Peterhouse	19	c80	284/219	All except Education, Geography, Land Economy, and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences, Veterinary Medicine	www.pet.cam.ac.uk/admissions@pet.cam.ac.uk
Queens'	20	c140	500/500	All except Archaeology and Philosophy	www.queens.cam.ac.uk/admissions@queens.cam.ac.uk
Robinson	21	c120	396/230	All except History of Art	www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/apply@robinson.cam.ac.uk
St Catharine's	22	c135	440/370	All except Architecture, Education, History of Art and Linguistics	www.caths.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate.admissions@caths.cam.ac.uk
St Edmund's For students aged 21 and over (mature)	23	c55	150/529	All	www.applying.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/admissions@st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk
St John's	24	c172	664/312	All	www.joh.cam.ac.uk/admissions@joh.cam.ac.uk
Selwyn	25	c115	400/250	All	www.sel.cam.ac.uk/admissions@sel.cam.ac.uk
Sidney Sussex	26	c105	350/275	All except Education	www.sid.cam.ac.uk/admissions@sid.cam.ac.uk
Trinity	27	c200	740/350	All except Education and Veterinary Medicine	www.trin.cam.ac.uk/admissions@trin.cam.ac.uk
Trinity Hall	28	c110	410/224	All except Education	www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/admissions@trinhall.cam.ac.uk
Wolfson For students aged 21 and over (mature)	29	c50	150/600	All except Economics and Mathematics	www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/ug-admissions@wolfson.cam.ac.uk

Open applications

If you don't have a preference for a particular College, you don't have to choose – you can make an open application instead.

After the closing date, each open application is allocated to a College. Once allocated, open applications are treated exactly the same as any other application received by that College – interviewers aren't told whether an open application or preference College was stated, and candidates won't be asked about their choice at interview.

If I make an open application, will it increase or decrease my chances?

For equally well-qualified applicants, indicating a preference College or selecting the open application option makes no difference to the chance of being made an offer.

If you have unusual qualifications (eg a non-standard combination of subjects for the course) or have particular requirements (eg a disability or other considerations that require specific guidance or support), then it's advisable to apply to a specific College having sought advice about your circumstances at an early stage.

Before submitting an open application, you should be sure that you'll be content whatever the outcome of the allocation – preferences can't be stated and the application can't be changed once submitted.



The pool

At Cambridge, we operate a 'pool' system to ensure the best applicants are offered places, no matter which College they applied/were allocated to. If a College is over-subscribed in a particular course, strong applicants are put into the pool for other Colleges to consider.

Normally, around one in five applicants is pooled and, of these, around one in seven receives an offer of a place from a College other than the one they applied/were allocated to. More information about the pool system is available online (www.cam.ac.uk/apply).

Applying



UCAS application

All applicants must complete and submit a UCAS application online by the relevant deadline.

You can include up to five UK university courses on your UCAS application (please note that it's not possible to apply to both the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford in the same year). You must provide information about your education to date, and include a personal statement and an academic reference. Further details about the UCAS application are available from our website (www.cam.ac.uk/apply) and the UCAS website (www.ucas.com).

Additional application forms

After you've submitted your UCAS application, we'll send you a link to a Cambridge-specific additional application form by email. This usually 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 we need any further information following the submission of this form, we'll contact you by email.



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.

What's the most important part of my application?

Every application is assessed individually and Admissions Tutors consider all of the information available in each element of your application before making any decisions. While the most recent academic performance carries the greatest weight, the relative importance of each element 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.

Interviews

Every applicant with a good chance of being offered a place is invited to interview. While most of these take place in December, some can start from as early as October. For 2023 entry, interviews may be held in Cambridge, closer to where you live or online. See p6 and check our website for the most up-to-date information, including videos about preparing and what to expect: www.cam.ac.uk/international-interviews.

Visas and immigration

The University's International Student Office provides a visa advice service to assist students in applying for a student visa. The primary source of information on all matters concerning immigration is the Home Office.

It's your responsibility to ensure that you understand and fulfil the immigration requirements for your student visa application and comply with the conditions of your visa during your studies.



Further information
www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk



Further information
www.gov.uk/student-visa



Entrance requirements

What are we looking for?

Admissions decisions at the University are based solely on academic criteria – your ability and your potential. We assess everyone individually, which means we look at – and for – different things in different people for different courses. Consequently, there's no magic formula that will guarantee you're offered a place. However, all Admissions Tutors are looking for the students who they believe:

- have the most academic ability and potential for the course at Cambridge – successful candidates are in the top one or two per cent of their year group, and doing very well in the subjects most relevant to the course applied for
- will benefit from and flourish in the Cambridge learning environment – that they have the ability to think critically and independently, are willing to argue logically while remaining open to new ideas, and have the potential to go beyond what they've learned so far
- are best suited to the course they applied for – that they're self-motivated, self-disciplined and academically committed to the subject



Information used to 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 all elements of the application are carefully reviewed before a decision is made. Admissions staff consider all of the following elements when assessing applications:

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

English language requirements

If English isn't your first language, it's essential that your English language skills are good enough for you to undertake a challenging course that's taught and examined in English. Your language ability will be assessed throughout the admissions process – a good standard is expected at interview, should you be invited to attend. To be competitive, you should be able to comfortably achieve one of the English language requirements listed below, and you may be asked to achieve one of these qualifications as part of the conditions of an offer:

- IELTS Academic – normally a minimum overall grade of 7.5, usually with 7.0 or above in each element (achieved in one sitting)
- TOEFL Internet Based Test (IBT) – normally a minimum overall score of 110, with 25 or above in each element.

See the website for more details and other acceptable English language qualifications (www.cam.ac.uk/uginternational).

What work experience do I need to have?

Work experience isn't expected or required for Cambridge. However, for vocational courses, such as Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, having some relevant work experience is useful and recommended. It demonstrates commitment to your intended career and gives you the opportunity to acquire greater understanding of the realities and pressures associated with that career.

We're mindful that the COVID-19 pandemic may prevent you from completing work experience. Consequently, applying without this experience will not disadvantage your application to Cambridge. We would encourage you to do some online research about your chosen subject area instead of practical work experience. You can find further advice and resources on the website.

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. Key subjects required for admission by all or some Colleges are indicated in the table on p8.

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.¹

Admission assessments

Most applicants are required to take a subject-specific written admission assessment. Depending on your chosen course, this might be taken before decisions about interview shortlisting are made (pre-registration required), or taken as part of the interview process if you are invited to attend (Cambridge College registered).

¹Although you may be considering a number of Colleges, you can only make one application to the University in a year – either indicating one preference College or selecting the open application option in your UCAS application. Once the UCAS application deadline has passed, your choice can't be changed.

Written assessments – pre-registration required

For assessments taken before shortlisting, you must be registered in advance via an authorised assessment centre. It is important to find a centre as early as possible before the registration deadline. If your assessment centre doesn't register you (you can't register yourself) by the appropriate deadline you won't be able to take the relevant pre-interview assessment, which will mean your application to the University will be rejected. Visit the Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing website for more information about pre-interview assessment registration deadlines:

www.admissionstesting.org/administering-our-tests.

Some schools/colleges are authorised centres or you can find out where your nearest 'open' centre is at: www.admissionstesting.org/find-a-centre.

These assessments are usually taken in early November at an authorised centre local to you.

With the exception of the BMAT for Medicine and the TMUA for Computer Science and Economics, there's no entry fee set by the University for the pre-registration assessments, but some assessment centres may charge candidates an administration fee.

Written assessments – Cambridge College registered

For some courses if you are shortlisted for interview, you will be required to take a written assessment, normally shortly before your interview. You will not need to register for these assessments in advance and Colleges will provide details in the information they send you about your interview.

See online for more information about admission assessments, examples of specimen papers and to find an assessment centre at: www.cam.ac.uk/assessment.

Typical offers and requirements

We accept a wide variety of qualifications from all over the world and expect students to be achieving the highest grades – most successful applicants ultimately exceed the conditions of their offer.

On the pages that follow you'll find information about typical offers and requirements for a range of qualifications accepted for admission to Cambridge for 2023 entry (see also Course requirements, left). Information about other qualifications we accept can be found online at: www.cam.ac.uk/entrancerequirements.

One of the strengths of the Cambridge admissions system is its ability to assess all applicants individually, and all Colleges may modify offers to take account of individual circumstances. This means that some applicants may be set less or more challenging offers than those listed on the following page, and some offers may specify grades to be achieved in particular subjects.



Qualifications

A Levels/International A Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rank of 98.5-99.5 overall, together with documentation of similar performance in individual subjects relevant to the course applied for. Offers for many courses include a top result in mathematics at the highest academic level.
Canadian High School/Secondary School Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants will usually be expected to be on course to attain an overall average of 90 per cent in six or more Grade 12 courses. In addition, five or more College Board AP tests with scores of 5 or at least 776 in three IB Higher Level subjects appropriate for the course.
Chinese University Entrance Examination (Gaokao)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers are made on an individual basis, but students typically need to achieve within the top 0.1 per cent of the gathered field. This can vary by province.
College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five or more APs at grade 5 in appropriate subjects for the intended course. In addition, high passes in the High School Diploma and high scores in the SAT (I) Reasoning Tests (a combined score of at least 1,460-1,500 depending on the course) are expected. An ACT score of at least 32-33 out of 36 is accepted instead of the SAT.
European Baccalaureate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful applicants are typically asked for at least 85 per cent overall, with scores of 9 or more in subjects most relevant to the course they want to study.
French Baccalaureate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 or 17 ('mention très bien') out of 20, with 16 or 17 usually required in individual subjects.
German Abitur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 1.0 and 1.2 overall, with 14 or 15 in subjects most closely related to the course you want to study.
Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 5 in all core subjects, and grade 5* in one or two relevant core subjects. Arts courses (except Economics), Psychological and Behavioural Sciences (PBS) and Veterinary Medicine expect applicants to achieve 5*55 in their electives, and science courses (excluding PBS and Veterinary Medicine) and Economics expect applicants to achieve 5*5*5 in their electives. Demanding conditions are usually set in the other compulsory subjects in the Diploma core (particularly Mathematics and English) as well.
Indian Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or Indian School Certificate (ISC) Class XII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications from students taking Class XII will only be considered competitive if they are accompanied by additional qualifications. Please check the website for details about the typical qualifications and levels expected to be achieved in addition to a very high level of performance in Class XII. Applicants studying towards Class XII will be expected to be on course to attain grades at a very high level in subjects relevant to the course being applied to. Examples of typical requirements are detailed on our website.
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers usually require 40-42 points out of 45, with 776 in Higher Level subjects. Applicants may be required to achieve 7 in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.
Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typical offers are based on AAA in the Malaysia Higher School Certificate.
Singapore/Cambridge A Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants are usually required to achieve AAAA at H2 Level. Applicants should take relevant H3 subjects where available. Examples of typical requirements are detailed on our website.
Sixth Term Examination Paper in Mathematics (STEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used to assess aptitude for university study in mathematical subjects. It's used as part of almost all conditional offers from Cambridge for Mathematics. Some Colleges require/may require STEP for other courses needing strong mathematical ability. Offers typically require grade 1 in two STEP papers. More information is available online at: www.cam.ac.uk/step.



Other qualifications

If the qualification you're taking isn't listed here, please look online (www.cam.ac.uk/entrancerequirements) as early as possible to check if it provides an appropriate preparation for the course you hope to study.

Applicants studying a mix of qualifications from different examination systems are considered providing the individual qualifications are acceptable and any subject requirements are met. Conditional offers are made on a case-by-case basis but are normally in line with the typical offers made when the qualifications are taken on their own.

Is there a GCSE (or equivalent) requirement?

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

If you haven't taken six or more GCSEs/IGCSEs in the last three years, or you have taken different qualifications in Grade 10/Year 11, you're required to submit a transcript outlining details of your qualifications as part of your application.

Transcripts

Most overseas applicants are required to submit a High School Transcript (record of academic achievement in the most recent years of schooling).

However, if you take both IGCSEs/GCSEs and modular AS/A Levels or Cambridge International A Levels in which you receive a Percentage Uniform Mark (PUM), you won't be required to submit a transcript.

Further information
www.cam.ac.uk/transcripts

All qualifications taken and scores achieved must be disclosed. For full details check our website: www.cam.ac.uk/entrancerequirements.



Arrival and settling in

Once offer-holders meet their offer conditions, their College will start to contact them about arrangements for coming to Cambridge.

Before you arrive

The International Student Office website – www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/arriving – offers a wide range of information and advice on visa support, pre-arrival, arrival and orientation matters for new international students. In addition, some University alumni groups offer pre-arrival freshers' events for undergraduates and postgraduates in various places around the world each August and September (www.cam.ac.uk/freshers) to help you to meet other new students before arriving at Cambridge.

When you get to Cambridge

The first few weeks

It's common for undergraduates to feel a little nervous about moving somewhere new – if you experience this, there are plenty of people around who can offer some advice and support while you find your feet (see opposite). The best way to lose any initial nerves and get settled in at Cambridge is to make the most of all the different opportunities to get to know the city, University and your fellow students.

The students' union, Cambridge SU offers information for new undergraduates, and runs programmes of events and activities to help you settle in (www.cambridgesu.co.uk). You can also find information on their website about the International Students' Campaign.

Colleges and faculties/departments usually offer an induction or orientation programme in the first few days of your arrival to cover key information (eg finding your way around, facilities/resources etc).

Ongoing support

Throughout your time at Cambridge, you'll have access to a wide range of support and help when you need it. There's an extensive welfare network in place at Cambridge, within your College, at a University level and through the Cambridge SU.

College welfare

Within your College, you have a Director of Studies (DoS) looking after your academic welfare, who advises you on course options and monitors your academic progress. As well as a DoS, you have access to a Tutor who can provide pastoral support and offer advice on personal or financial matters. Most Colleges have a number of others you can turn to for medical or personal support, such as a nurse, counsellor and/or chaplain.

University services

As well as department lecturers and staff, University support services include the Counselling Service, the Childcare Office for student parents, and the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) for disabled applicants, offer holders and students, including those with a specific learning difficulty, mental health conditions or long-term health conditions.

www.cam.ac.uk/support



Watch our journey to Cambridge video

www.cam.ac.uk/international-students

Students supporting students

Every College has its own students' union, to which undergraduates are elected to represent students at a College level, and each has a welfare officer or team that can provide support and advice. Many Colleges also assign 'College families' (students in other years) to new students to help them settle in and find their feet.

As every student is a member of the Students' Union, Cambridge SU seeks to represent them all effectively. The Cambridge SU campaigns also provide specific communities for students with shared backgrounds and interests. Many of the campaigns have 'buddy' schemes, similar to College families.

In addition to this, most clubs, societies and College students' unions have elected committees to support their members' welfare as well as provide great opportunities for socialising, having fun and learning new skills.

www.cambridgesu.co.uk

Unibuddy

If you have questions about what it's like studying as an international student at Cambridge, you can chat to a number of our student ambassadors from across the world. These are current students who will be able to answer your questions about applying, student life, travelling to Cambridge and more.

www.cam.ac.uk/international-students



Student life

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. We have a great social scene here. There's loads going on in the University, Colleges and city, so it's a great place to be a student!



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, with options for any taste and price range. You'll find a vast range of international cuisines available in Cambridge, and most dietary requirements (eg vegan, halal) are catered for. 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 well-known stores alongside independent shops and boutiques. The stalls in Market Square sell handmade jewellery, vintage clothes, books and much more. You can pick up artisan breads and local produce as well as a delicious range of street food.

Just outside the centre, you can find an eclectic mix of international food shops, cafés and restaurants, offering a wide variety of cuisines from around the world.

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 other 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, cycle or punt up the river to nearby Grantchester, a traditional village that has inspired songs, novels and television dramas.

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).

Entertainment, music and festivals

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.

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 hosts a growing number of music festivals too.

There are usually lots of other events, fairs and festivals throughout the year, including the University-run Cambridge Festival (www.festival.cam.ac.uk).

Well connected

Cambridge is only 60 miles/95km 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).





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.

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.

Cambridge Rules

In the 1800s, a group of students drew up a definitive set of football rules which were adopted by the Football Association when it was established in 1863. The first game to be played to these rules took place on Parker's Piece, at the heart of the city.

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 (plus flexible student gym memberships and personal training)
- a strength and conditioning room
- a multi-purpose room for fitness classes, martial arts and dance
- a sports hall
- team training room
- squash courts
- a physiotherapy and sports injury clinic

In addition, we offer facilities for athletics, ice-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.sport.cam.ac.uk

Study facilities

It's not just our teaching that's world class – we provide extensive resources and facilities to support your learning too.

Libraries

The collegiate University has more than 100 libraries across the Colleges, faculties and departments, and the University Library. As well as books, journals and other hard copy documents, our libraries offer vast online collections and practical sessions to help you make the most of their resources.

www.libraries.cam.ac.uk

Museums and collections

The University has nine specialist museums and collections open to students and the public alike.

www.cam.ac.uk/museums

Highlights

Highlights from our museums and collections include snow goggles used by Ernest Shackleton, 140 million year old fossil ferns, pieces by Rembrandt and Monet, and a 21 metre fin whale skeleton!



Computing and IT

All Colleges and many departments and libraries have computer suites offering a range of general and specialist software. Most student rooms are connected to the University network and internet, and there is wireless internet throughout the departments and Colleges. An IT service desk and free training courses are available to all students.

help.uis.cam.ac.uk

Language Centre

The Language Centre offers an academic English support programme for overseas students, as well as taught and self-study courses in more than 180 languages, and a dedicated Advising Team.

www.langcen.cam.ac.uk

Fees and finance

International students' costs at Cambridge include tuition fees, separate College fees and living costs. There is some support available to help eligible students manage the cost of University study (see p18).



Tuition fees

Tuition fees for international students depend on the course you're studying. For information on international/overseas tuition fees for 2023 entry, please see the website where fee details will be published as soon as they are available: www.cam.ac.uk/uginternationalfees.

Please note, fees are fixed for the duration of your course. The fees for new entrants are subject to annual review and will usually be higher than those for continuing students.

If you're unsure whether you're classed as Home or international/overseas for fee purposes, you can find information at: www.cam.ac.uk/uginternationalfees.

Visa applications require you to prove in advance that you can finance all of the costs, as we do not advise students to undertake paid employment during the academic term. Colleges also ask offer holders for guarantees that they can finance all of the costs for the full duration of their course.

College fees

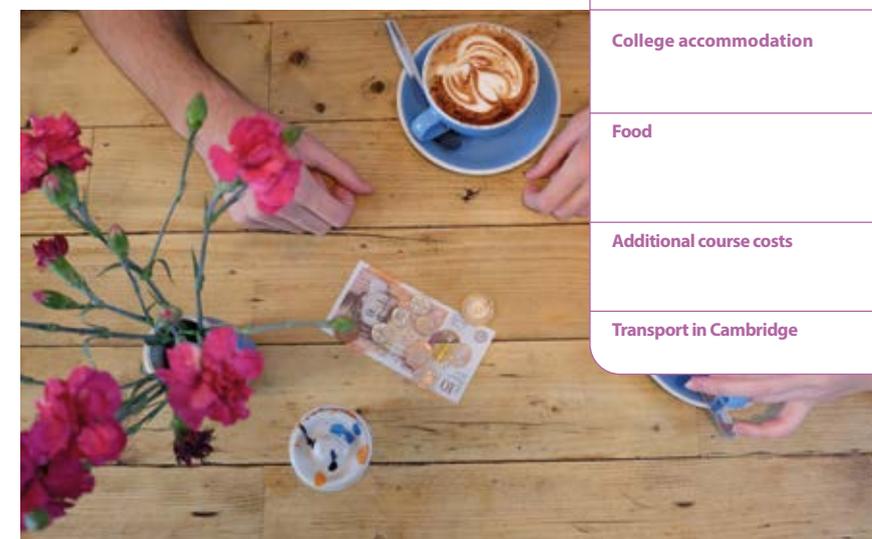
International/overseas fee status students normally have to pay College fees in addition to tuition fees. These cover the cost of educational, domestic and pastoral services and support that you receive through your College.

Annual College fees may vary between Colleges and in many cases are fixed for the duration of your course. Net College fees in 2022-23 range between £8,250 and £10,939. See individual College websites for fees for 2023-24 onwards.

Living costs

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

In 2022-23, the minimum resources for living costs needed in Cambridge for the year are estimated to be approximately £11,440,¹ depending on lifestyle. You should allow for increases in future years and if you stay in Cambridge during the vacations.



Living costs 2021-22	
College accommodation	£120-£190 per week ² £140-£220 en suite per week ²
Food	£4-£7 per College meal £10-£15 per College formal hall meal (typical cost at most Colleges)
Additional course costs	Dependent on course – see course information online (www.cam.ac.uk/courses)
Transport in Cambridge	Most students walk or cycle to get around

¹ Figure rounded up to the nearest £10. A settling-in figure of £350 should be added to account for any settling-in/travel costs.
² Figures are based on the median room costs for first year undergraduate students in 2021-22. Students should allow for price increases in subsequent years of study. A choice of shared bathroom and en suite rooms is not available at all Colleges and figures do not include any deposits that may apply. Costs have been rounded up to the nearest £10. Please see individual College websites for further details.



Accommodation

The majority of students are guaranteed single accommodation in College-owned property for three years, and many Colleges provide for fourth-year students too (see also p9).¹

The rent 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), internet access and basic self-catering facilities. Some Colleges may charge a deposit in addition to your rent. Please check individual College websites for details.

Food

At Cambridge, basic self-catering facilities are available, 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 also p9 and p17). Some levy a separate charge towards the running costs of the College kitchens – a Kitchen Fixed Charge which ranges from £375 to £585 per year in those Colleges that make such a charge. 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.

¹ Accommodation 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.

Additional course costs

Additional course costs are costs in addition to your tuition fees and living costs that you may need to meet. These costs will vary depending on your course but may include you having to pay for your own personally-owned equipment (eg calculator, lab coat), printing, and/or travel costs (eg field or dissertation research trips), in addition to basic study materials (eg paper, pens, books).

Specific additional course costs can be found online (www.cam.ac.uk/courses). The University's numerous libraries and IT facilities help to keep study costs down and some department/College grants may be available.

Personal expenses

What you spend on food, clothing, social activities, 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.



Financial support

At Cambridge there is limited financial support available (mostly means-tested) to help overseas students with costs. This includes:

- Cambridge Commonwealth, European and International Trust awards
- College awards – such as book and equipment grants, scholarships and prizes for academic and other achievements, and travel grants for academic work
- country-specific scholarships
- International Disabled Students' Fund

See individual College websites and www.cam.ac.uk/uginternationalsupport for details. Please pay particular attention to eligibility, application requirements and deadlines.

Part-time work

The University takes the view that students shouldn't undertake paid employment during term time, as it's important that you have an appropriate work-life balance. There may be a few opportunities available within the University and Colleges that are exceptions to this, such as working in the College bar, College library or as a student helper during open days. However, you must ensure that any such work wouldn't breach the conditions of your visa.



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.

+ Top 5
in the UK for graduate prospects¹

+ 91%
of our students who responded to the Graduate Outcomes Survey were in work or further study within 15 months of graduating²

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

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.

Networking opportunities

The Careers Service's alumni and mentoring system, Alumni Careers Connect, will give you access to contact details for over 1,200 Cambridge alumni working in a huge range of industries across the globe 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, within 15 months of graduating.²

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

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



Afsara Chemical Engineering Graduate

Afsara came to the UK from Bangladesh to study Chemical Engineering. She graduated in 2018 and is now working as a Technical Development Process Engineer after completing the National Grid graduate scheme.

"The grad scheme consists of three six-month rotations, which is fantastic because it allows you to experience different parts of the energy business, not necessarily only related to engineering. The placements have been great for increasing my commercial awareness and honing my process engineering skills. If you want to maximise and diversify your on-the-job learning, graduate schemes with rotations are ideal!"

Find out more about the opportunities available after graduation on the Careers Service website.

www.careers.cam.ac.uk

¹ Complete University Guide 2022
² Based on responses to the Graduate Outcomes survey. This records the outcomes of students who completed their studies between August 2018 and July 2019. 59 per cent of graduates responded to the survey.

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. You can find useful contact details at the back of the Guide.

We organise a range of on campus and virtual events each year. We've detailed some of these below. Please check the University website, or relevant College or department website for event updates and details before planning your visit.

Please sign up to our mailing list to be notified about upcoming events and opportunities at the University that may be of interest.

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.virtualtour.study.cam.ac.uk to start exploring.

Cambridge Open Days

Our University-wide Open Days are aimed at prospective applicants in Year 12/Grade 11 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 2022 Open Day dates, regular updates, and booking instructions: www.cam.ac.uk/opensdays.

College and department open days

Many of the Cambridge Colleges and academic departments also run open days and events throughout the year, both in person and via online platforms. Check the Undergraduate Study website (above), as well as individual College websites and relevant department and faculty websites for dates and details.

International events

The University makes various visits and usually attends a number of events globally throughout the year. Details of these and contacts to request further information can be found on the international events page of our website at: www.cam.ac.uk/uginternationalevents.

Typical direct flight times to London airports

Amsterdam	1 hour
Beijing	10 hours
Buenos Aires	13.5 hours
Dubai	7 hours
Frankfurt	1.5 hours
Hong Kong	12 hours
Lagos	6.5 hours
Los Angeles	11.5 hours
Mumbai	9 hours
New York	8 hours
Paris	1 hour
Shanghai	11.5 hours
Singapore	13 hours
Toronto	8 hours
Vancouver	10 hours

Travelling to Cambridge

Cambridge is a small, busy and historic city that wasn't built with modern traffic flows in mind, so it's best to visit the centre – where many of the University buildings and Colleges are situated – on foot.

By air

Cambridge has excellent transport connections to five of the country's major international airports, making it very easy for our international students to travel to the city from anywhere in the world.

Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick and London City (not marked) are all easily accessible by train, and buses run regularly from Stansted, Luton, Heathrow and Gatwick to the city centre.



By bus

National bus services (eg from/to airports and other cities around the UK) stop on Parkside, Parker's Piece in the city centre.

In Cambridge, the Universal bus service links some departments and Colleges with the city centre and central train station, and offers discounted fares to students.

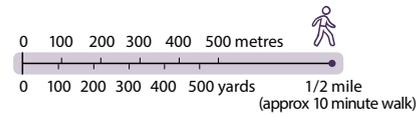
By train

Cambridge is well-connected by train and the main station is located about a mile from the city centre (around 20 minutes on foot). Buses run frequently between the station and city centre, and there's a taxi rank outside the station.

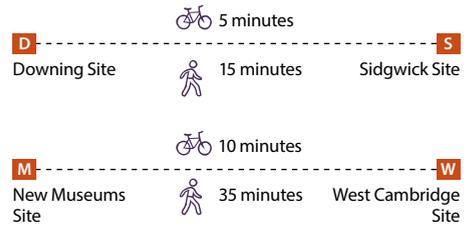
For further travel advice, see the University's pre-arrival information (www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/arriving) or the Tourist Information Centre website at: www.visitcambridge.org.



Map



Example journeys

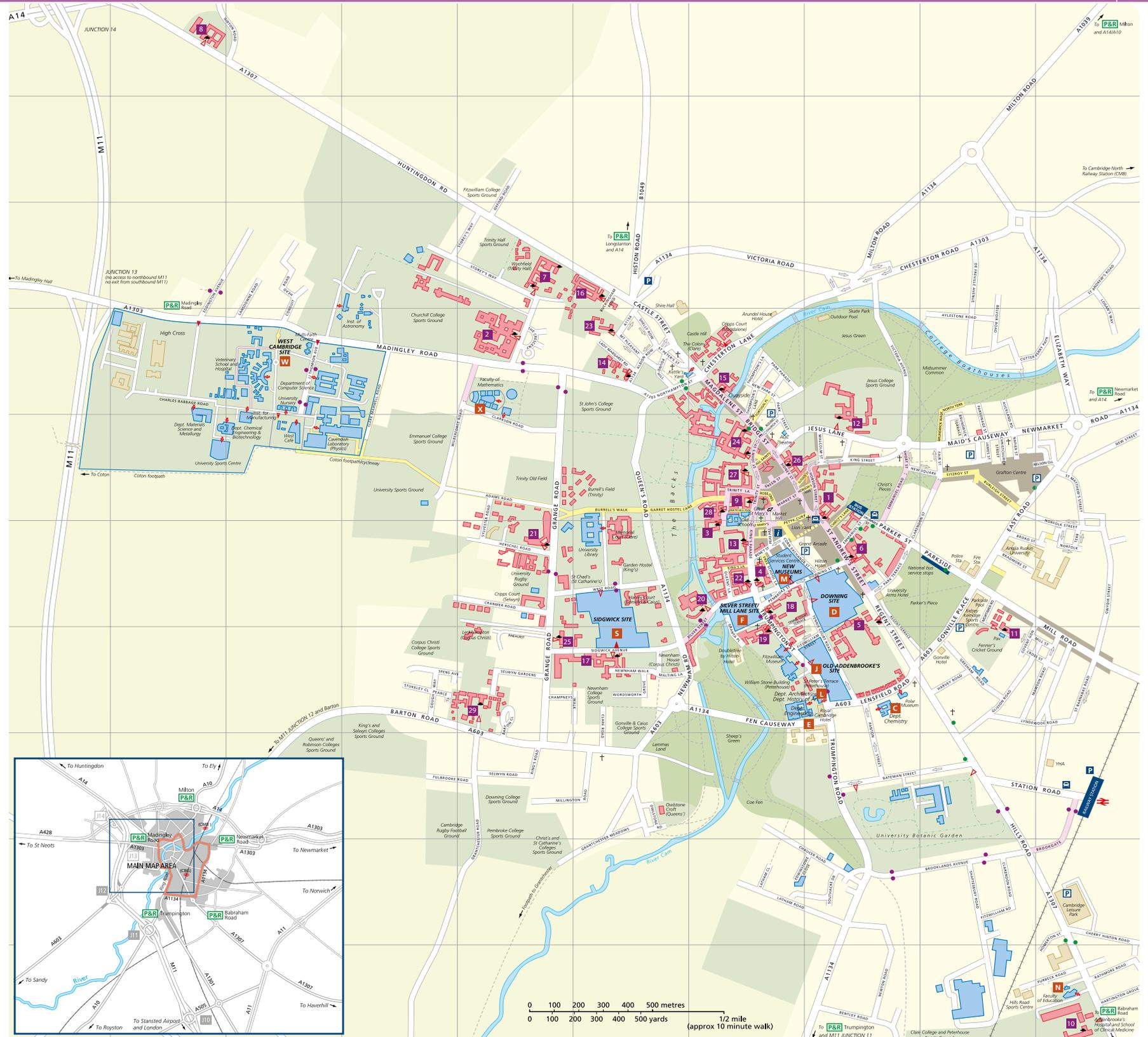


Colleges

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Christ's College | 16 Murray Edwards College |
| 2 Churchill College | 17 Newnham College |
| 3 Clare College | 18 Pembroke College |
| 4 Corpus Christi College | 19 Peterhouse |
| 5 Downing College | 20 Queens' College |
| 6 Emmanuel College | 21 Robinson College |
| 7 Fitzwilliam College | 22 St Catharine's College |
| 8 Girton College | 23 St Edmund's College |
| 9 Gonville & Caius College | 24 St John's College |
| 10 Homerton College | 25 Selwyn College |
| 11 Hughes Hall | 26 Sidney Sussex College |
| 12 Jesus College | 27 Trinity College |
| 13 King's College | 28 Trinity Hall |
| 14 Lucy Cavendish College | 29 Wolfson College |
| 15 Magdalene College | |

- College of the University
- University building
- Non-University building
- University, College and other private grounds
- Public open space
- Surrounding countryside
- Built-up area
- Main shopping area
- One-way street
- Limited vehicle access
- Pedestrian street/cycle way (cycling restrictions may apply)
- Public footpath/cycle path (cycling restrictions may apply)
- University/College path
- ▶ Site entrance (vehicle access)
- ▷ Site entrance (no vehicle access)
- ➔ Main entrance to building
- ▲ Porters' Lodge (main College entrance)
- + Church
- i Tourist office
- T Taxi rank
- P Public parking
- P Multi-storey car park
- P&R Park and Ride site
- Park and Ride bus stops
- Universal bus stops

Please note: map correct as of Summer 2019. Some buildings may be closed to the public or operating differently due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



About this Guide



This Guide represents life at the University and Colleges prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, as it is assumed that by 2023 admissions this will have resumed.

However, it is possible that we may need to make changes to the information in this publication – regarding both the admissions process and studying at Cambridge – due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or UK Government restrictions or guidance. For example, it may be necessary for interviews to be conducted virtually or for teaching and assessment methods to be adapted. There may also be additional changes required due to other unforeseen circumstances.

While we have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this Guide is accurate at the time of going to press (except for current Covid-19 related changes), changes are also likely to occur given the lengthy interval between publication and commencement of the course.

It is therefore very important that you check the University and College websites for the most up-to-date information and for any changes before you apply for a course by visiting www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk and again before accepting any offer to study at the University. Where there is a difference between the contents of this Guide and these websites, the contents of the websites take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our educational services to you.

Any offer of a place to study at the University is subject to terms and conditions which can be found at www.cam.ac.uk/termsofadmission. The terms and conditions set out your key obligations as a student and when we might make changes which include to your course, the fees payable and the student regulations with which all students are required to comply. Again, it is important that you do read these before making an application.

If you are unable to access our website for any reason, please contact us on +44 (0) 1223 333308.

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Undergraduate study (Cambridge Admissions Office)

+44 (0) 1223 333308

internationaladmissions@admin.cam.ac.uk

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Postgraduate study (Postgraduate Admissions Office)

www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

International Student Team (including visa advice service)

+44 (0) 1223 761806

www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk

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+44 (0) 1223 332301

disability@admin.cam.ac.uk

www.cam.ac.uk/disability



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

Other

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS, undergraduate applications)

+44 (0) 330 3330 230

www.ucas.com

British Council (guidance on living and studying in the UK)

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>

Home Office (visa and immigration matters)

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA, advisory body for overseas students)

www.ukcisa.org.uk



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

Cambridge Admissions Office

+44 (0) 1223 333308

admissions@cam.ac.uk

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

