

# Useful information

Now that you've had the opportunity to read about our courses and the Cambridge Colleges, there's some more information that you might find useful. In this section of the Prospectus, you'll find more details about entrance requirements, opportunities to hear from staff and students about life at the University, and some other essentials such as contact details and a map of the city.

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*Any questions?*

If you have any questions that haven't been answered in the Prospectus, please contact one of the College admissions offices or the Cambridge Admissions Office ([admissions@cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@cam.ac.uk)).



# Entrance Requirements

The following pages give more details on course requirements and typical offers. Additional guidance is available on p4-11, including information used to assess applications and general information about what Admissions Tutors look for in applicants.



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



## Typical offers and requirements

Whatever system you're being educated in, we require top grades in the highest level qualifications available for school/college students – most successful applicants ultimately exceed the conditions of their offer.

Each year, we typically receive six applications for every place.<sup>1</sup> These figures vary by course, and can be found on each of the course pages (see p44-117).

One of the strengths of the Cambridge admissions system is its ability to assess all applications 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 below and in the course entries, and some offers may specify grades to be achieved in particular subjects. There are factors which are considered when setting offer levels, and which may result in a more challenging offer:

- Cambridge courses are heavily exam based. As a result, we expect to see qualifications in a single sitting. Applicants who have taken any qualifications early may be expected to achieve the highest possible grades in their remaining exams (potentially resulting in a higher overall academic profile). This is to ensure they can manage the academic challenge of a single sitting of exams, which is how Cambridge degrees usually operate.
- To encourage applicants to continue with an optimum combination of A Levels.
- To enable applicants with less common subject combinations to demonstrate their ability to cope with the course.

- To enable more offers to be made in a competitive field, thus allowing more applicants a chance of entry.
- Where an applicant has performed less well in some elements of the application process, a higher offer may be made as an alternative to no offer.

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](http://www.cam.ac.uk/termsofadmission).

## Transcripts

If you have taken six or more GCSEs/IGCSEs or five or more Scottish National qualifications in the last three years, you are not required to submit a transcript. All other applicants are required to submit a transcript outlining details of your qualifications as part of your application. See the College websites for subject requirements/preferences and admissions guidance.

## GCSEs

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.

Qualification	Notes
<b>A Levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to the relevant course entry/entries (p44-117) for typical A Level offers and achieved profiles.</li> <li>• Applicants may be required to achieve A* in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.</li> <li>• Students taking any modular A Levels are required to provide details of these qualifications and UMS as part of the application process.</li> <li>• We usually expect that students taking A Levels in science subjects will successfully complete any practical assessment.</li> <li>• Key Skills aren't included in academic assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Access to HE Diploma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attainment of an Access to HE Diploma with Distinctions in all relevant subject units can be acceptable preparation for most arts subjects and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences (PBS) at Cambridge.</li> <li>• An Access to HE Diploma alone is not sufficient for sciences (excluding PBS) or Economics at Cambridge.</li> <li>• Some courses may have additional academic requirements (see online for details).</li> <li>• In all cases, contact a College admissions office for advice.</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced Diploma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Advanced Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies is acceptable for Geography and Natural Sciences (Biological). Conditions apply in all cases (details online).</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced Placement (AP) Tests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful applicants normally have high passes in the High School Diploma and the SAT, and 5s in at least five AP Tests in appropriate subjects (APs may form part of a conditional offer).</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.cam.ac.uk/ugstatistics).

Qualification	Notes
<b>Applied Certificates and Diplomas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied Certificates and Diplomas are not considered sufficient preparation for any undergraduate degree courses at Cambridge and are therefore not accepted for entry. They may be considered for admission to the Foundation Year.</li> </ul>
<b>AQA Baccalaureate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers are conditional on achievement in the A Levels (see above) within the qualification, rather than the overall Baccalaureate award.</li> </ul>
<b>English language requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If your first language isn't English, see the guidance on our website: <a href="http://www.cam.ac.uk/uginternational">www.cam.ac.uk/uginternational</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>European Baccalaureate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85-90 per cent overall, scores of 9 or more in subjects most closely related to the course you want to study.</li> </ul>
<b>Extended Project (EPQ)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We welcome the EPQ and would encourage applicants to take one as it will help to develop independent study and research skills valuable for higher education.</li> <li>We recognise that not all students have equal access to them, so the completion of the EPQ won't normally be a requirement of any offer made.</li> </ul>
<b>French Baccalaureate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 or 17 ('mention très bien') out of 20, with 16 or 17 usually required in individual subjects.</li> </ul>
<b>German Abitur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 1.0 and 1.2 overall, with 14 or 15 in subjects most closely related to the course you want to study.</li> </ul>
<b>International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typical offers are 40-42 points out of 45, with 776 or 777 in Higher Level subjects.</li> <li>Applicants may be required to achieve 7 in a particular subject(s), depending on individual circumstances.</li> </ul>
<b>Irish Leaving Certificate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers are based on achievement in Higher Level subjects, with H1 in subjects most relevant to the course.</li> <li>Courses with a typical A Level offer of A*AA generally require H1, H1, H1, H2, H2, H2; and for courses with a typical A Level offer of A*A*A, Leaving Certificate offers are usually H1, H1, H1, H1, H2, H2.</li> </ul>
<b>Scottish qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Courses with a typical A Level offer of A*AA generally require A1, A2, A2; and for courses with a typical A Level offer of A*A*A, offers are usually A1, A1, A2.</li> <li>In some cases, two Advanced Highers and an additional Higher may be acceptable – contact a College for advice.</li> <li>Three Advanced Highers are expected within the Scottish Baccalaureate.</li> </ul>
<b>Sixth Term Examination Papers in Mathematics (STEP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STEP Mathematics is used to assess aptitude for university study in mathematical subjects.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>The STEP content is based on core A Level/IB Higher Level/Scottish Advanced Higher (or equivalent) Mathematics material, and is taken during the A Level examination period. You must speak to your school/college about registering for the STEP assessments.</li> <li>More information and links to resources (including the free online STEP support programme) are available online at: <a href="http://www.cam.ac.uk/step">www.cam.ac.uk/step</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>VCE and Applied A Levels, GNVQs and BTECs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These qualifications aren't an appropriate preparation for most Cambridge courses, although a combination of A Levels and VCE or other qualifications may be acceptable for some courses.</li> <li>See the website for guidance and seek further advice from a College Admissions Tutor.</li> </ul>
<b>Welsh qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers are conditional on three A Level subjects studied as options for the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma. The Skills Challenge may be taken into consideration in assessment for admission, but would not normally be included as part of an offer.</li> <li>Students taking any modular A Levels are required to provide details of these and their UMS as part of the application process.</li> </ul>

If the qualification you're taking isn't listed here, please look online as early as possible to check that it provides an appropriate preparation for the course you hope to study.

Applicants taking a mix of qualifications from different examination systems are considered providing that 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.

# Finding Out More

We've tried to provide as much information as we can in this Prospectus, but should you have any further questions after reading it and checking our website, please get in touch or visit one of our on campus or virtual events (see p156-7).



## Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO)

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

01223 333308

admissions@cam.ac.uk

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

### Location

Map reference M (see p158-9)

## Cambridge Students' Union (Cambridge SU)

Cambridge SU provides information and advice for prospective applicants on their website. They also run the Shadowing Scheme (see p157).

080 1641 222

www.cambridgesu.co.uk

www.applytocambridge.com

### Location

Map reference F (see p158-9)

## Colleges

All of the Colleges have their own websites (see p122-50) providing much of the information you may wish to know. To then 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 for web links and contact details (p44-117).

www.cam.ac.uk/courses

## Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre (ADRC)

Prospective applicants 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.cam.ac.uk/disability

### Location

Map reference M (see p158-9)

## 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

### Location

Map reference M (see p158-9)

## 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 Hub.

0371 468 0 468

www.ucas.com



# Open Days and Events

You don't have to visit Cambridge to apply to the University, but our events offer opportunities to get a feel for the city and the University, find out more about admissions procedures, courses and facilities, and to ask any questions you might have.

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 as well as advice and resources from the University and Colleges. [www.cam.ac.uk/student-newsletter](http://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 videos 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](http://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 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.



**Further information**  
[www.cam.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.cam.ac.uk/opendays)



## 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.

[www.cam.ac.uk/ugevents](http://www.cam.ac.uk/ugevents)

## Other events

### Subject Masterclasses

Subject Masterclasses provide an opportunity for students in Year 12 or equivalent to explore topics of interest beyond what's covered at A Level/IB Higher Level, and to experience typical undergraduate teaching at Cambridge.

[www.cam.ac.uk/masterclasses](http://www.cam.ac.uk/masterclasses)

### Outreach events and initiatives

Hundreds of outreach initiatives and events are usually run each year both in Cambridge and in schools and colleges across the UK. These include subject-specific Sutton Trust Summer Schools for students in Year 12 or equivalent. You can find out more about whether you are eligible for the scheme, how to apply and other outreach activities for you to get involved in on our website.

[www.cam.ac.uk/outreachevents](http://www.cam.ac.uk/outreachevents)

### College Area Links Scheme

The Area Links Scheme was established to enable schools and colleges across the UK to build strong, effective relationships with the Cambridge Colleges. Every part of the UK is linked with a Cambridge College, giving the schools and colleges in that area a specific contact point at the University.

*"I've always loved learning and academia, and so I knew I wanted to go to university. In Year 12, I shadowed a Cambridge student through the Shadowing Scheme, and I fell in love with the University. The beautiful surroundings and academic rigour through the supervision system create a truly unique learning experience."*

**Charlotte**

Shadowing Scheme participant,  
Education graduate

The Area Links Scheme has enabled our Colleges to get to know specific regions and their local educational environments, allowing them to tailor their outreach activities to the needs of each location.

If you'd like more information about the University or to arrange a school visit to or from Cambridge, your link College is keen to hear from you! Each College runs its own programme of activities for schools/colleges in their link regions. For more details visit:

[www.cam.ac.uk/arealinks](http://www.cam.ac.uk/arealinks)

### Cambridge SU Shadowing Scheme

The Shadowing Scheme invites UK students from state schools who may not have considered Cambridge before to visit the University for three days to shadow a current undergraduate studying a subject they are interested in.

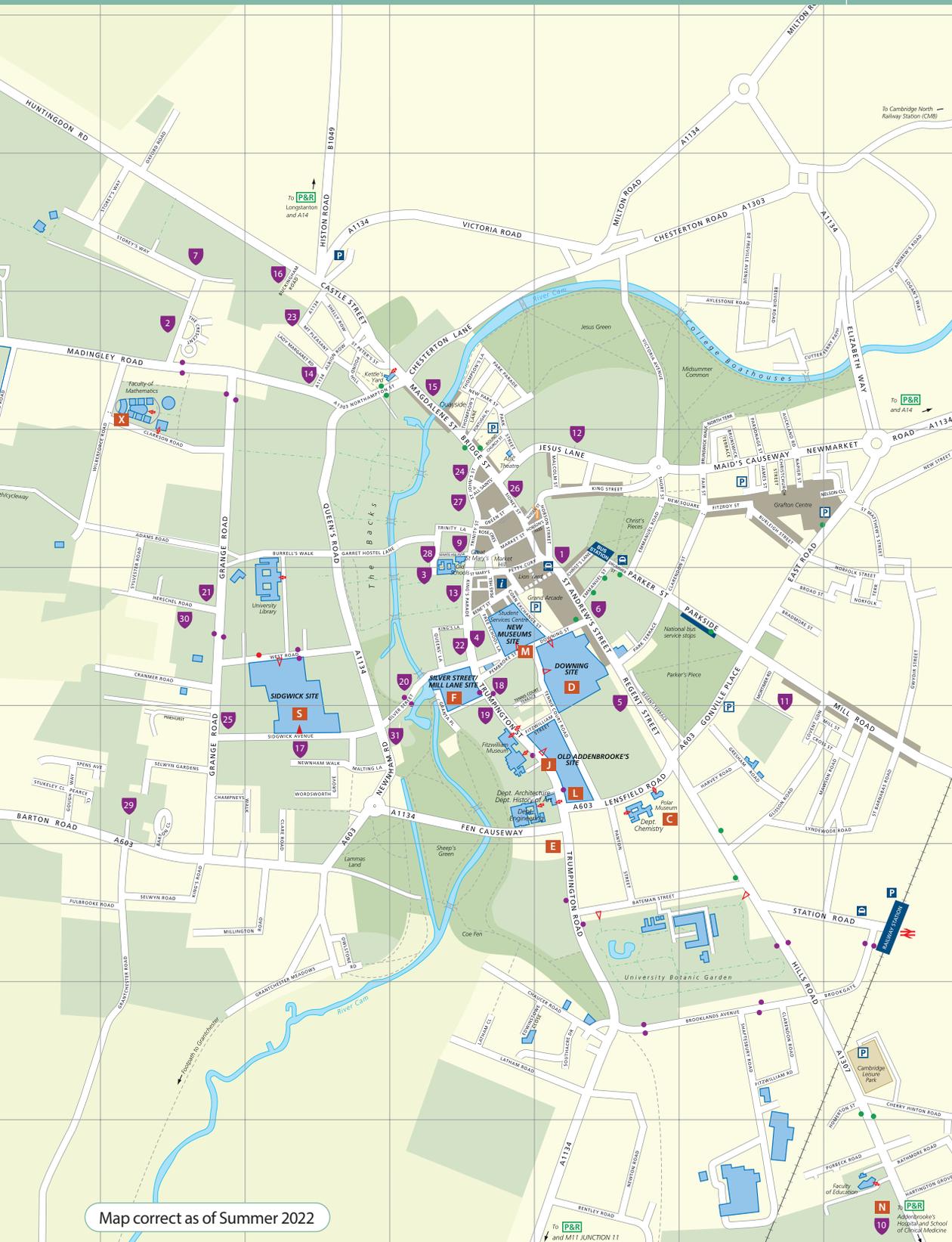
It's a great way to experience Cambridge life, and find out about the admissions process! You can find out more about the Scheme on the Cambridge SU website:

[www.cambridgesu.co.uk/shadowingscheme](http://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/shadowingscheme).

### Teachers and Advisers

A number of events for teachers and HE advisers are organised by the Cambridge Admissions Office and several of the Colleges to provide up-to-date information about the University, application procedure and outreach activities offered. Details are available in the teachers' and advisers' area of our website: [www.cam.ac.uk/teachers](http://www.cam.ac.uk/teachers).





Map correct as of Summer 2022

To Cambridge North Railway Station (CNR)

To P&R and A14

To P&R and M11 JUNCTION 11

To Addenbrooke's Hospital and School of Clinical Medicine

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We offer more than 30 undergraduate courses which are highlighted **blue** in the index below. Over 65 different subjects are offered within those courses. These are highlighted **green**.

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# About this Prospectus

While we have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this Prospectus is accurate at the time of going to press, 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](http://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 Prospectus 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/terms-of-admission](http://www.cam.ac.uk/terms-of-admission). 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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## Cover photography

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# 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 in the Prospectus or on our website.

**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 (p44-117).

**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 p10.

**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 p13).



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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](http://www.cam.ac.uk/student-newsletter)

If you come across anything else that isn't clear or you simply want to find out more about being a student at Cambridge, have a look at our website or contact the Cambridge Admissions Office:

 [www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk)

 [admissions@cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@cam.ac.uk)



Visit our Virtual Tour to find out more:

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