

Churchill College MCR
Freshers Guide



Churchill College MCR Freshers' Guide 2020



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Hello Freshers!

Welcome to Cambridge! Congratulations on starting your courses at the University of Cambridge and on becoming part of Churchill college, the best college in Cambridge.

As a postgraduate student at Churchill College, you are a member of the MCR (Middle Common Room) community. The community is run, in part, by the MCR committee: a group of student volunteers who represent you at College and organise social and academic events throughout the year. We aim to make your time at Cambridge as fun and engaging as possible and encourage you to become a part of the committee should you so wish.

Understandably, this year will be unlike any other year in Cambridge. However, the college and your MCR committee are still committed to supporting you. Until things are back to normal, we will be running many socially distant, household-oriented events to help you feel settled and supported during your time here. These range from scavenger hunts to socially distant trips to the pub to movie nights to BBQs. While things will not be completely normal when you arrive, there will still be lots to do. And if there is anything that you need, please get in touch with your committee, we are here to help. To make sure you don't miss anything, check the event calendar on the Churchill MCR website and keep an eye out for the weekly Gazette on your Cambridge emails. You can also find us on Facebook in the Churchill MCR Members group.

While most postgraduates' academic lives are centered on their departments, your time with the Churchill MCR is just as important for your social life and will no doubt make your time in Cambridge unforgettable. The MCR is made up of brilliant people studying over 60 different subjects from 60 different countries. We pride ourselves in being a friendly, fun and welcoming community. This Freshers' Guide aims to help you settle in and get familiar with the College, the MCR, the city of Cambridge and the University. We appreciate that you've already been bombarded with a lot of new information already - don't be intimidated, you are not alone! There is a whole support network of tutors, College nurse, counselors, new students, College parents and of course, the MCR committee to help you! So please, if you have any concerns/questions about anything, do get in touch and we will try and be of assistance or at least point you in the right direction.

I have no doubt that you will have a fantastic time at Churchill, meet some remarkable people and make some life-long friends. Get involved with the Churchill MCR, because there is no other experience quite like it!

On behalf of the MCR Committee 2020-2021, we are looking forward to meeting you,
Jannat Ijaz

MCR President 2019-2020

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1. Enjoying the First Week

1.1 Five things every graduate fresher should know

1. People/things to see immediately upon reaching Churchill

- a) Rebecca Sawalmeh: To be found in the Postgraduate office in the front hallway of the main college building on the right. She can deal with any problems/questions you may have. She is here to help you so please send her an email and introduce yourself virtually until you can meet her in person (email: postgrad@chu.cam.ac.uk)
- b) Meet the Porters: Residing in the Porters' lodge at the front of college, you need to check in with them upon arrival. 'Porters' is the Cambridge term for describing the people in charge of looking after security and issues like that. They can also sell you phone cards and stamps and assist with questions about mail. If you have shipped boxes to Churchill prior to your arrival, they will have them.
- c) A doctor: You need to register with your local GP as soon as you get settled into Cambridge, and as a student you are entitled to free NHS treatment if required. There are several in town to register with, the closest being 1 Huntingdon Road, although you don't need to settle for this one if you feel it is not for you.
- d) Churchill College Marketplace (<http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/market/>): Have a browse through our own Churchill marketplace for some cheap/free preloved bikes, gowns, electronics, household items, etc!

2. Where do I get..?

- a) A bike: There are a number of bike shops in town, along Mill Road, Cherry Hinton Road, on Jesus Lane and on Hills Road (Action Bikes). Station cycles (Corn Exchange Street) is a favourite for second hand (sometimes brand new) bikes. Also check out Kingsway cycles, they have reasonably priced second-hand bikes. A decent bike should cost £100-150 with lights, mud guards, etc. A good second-hand bike should cost around £50-£70. Facebook groups, Amazon and Gumtree (<http://www.gumtree.com>) are also good options to buy bikes online. There is a bike repairman in college during term as well as in the market in the centre of town. Be sure to register your bike at the Porters' lodge.
- b) Groceries: Sainsbury's in town is the most popular – walk straight down Bridge Street and keep going, and you'll find it on your right just opposite Sidney Sussex College. There is a Sainsbury's in Eddington which is a larger store and is accessible via a bike route north of college. Other options include the big Tesco and Asda, located on Newmarket road, but this may be a bit far out for an initial venture. There is also an Aldi, Iceland and Co-op along Histon Road. Market square has several fresh fruit and vegetable stalls, selling local produce.
- c) Things for your room: Near Grafton Centre, there is a store called Argos which sells pretty much anything you may need at very reasonable prices. They also do home deliveries, www.argos.com. Just down the street from this you can get some cheap clothes from Primark, which may be particularly useful if you're waiting for your things to arrive from home. For higher quality items, the Grand Arcade, the Grafton Centre, John Lewis, or Marks & Spencer are some of the other options around Cambridge. Or if you're feeling adventurous, London is 50 minutes away by train.

3. Where to get information on the MCR

- a) MCR Email lists: There are two major MCR email lists. The addresses of most Freshers have been added automatically by the MCR computing officer. There will be a list in the MCR room of all the newly added addresses. Please check if you've been added or you may miss announcements! If you have not been added, please contact mcrwebmaster@chu.cam.ac.uk or any other MCR committee member
- b) During Freshers' week, a list of all the daily activities will be posted on the MCR website at <http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/calendar/>.
- c) Useful information can be found at the MCR website: <http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/>.
- d) Spouses and partners of Freshers are welcome and encouraged to attend all MCR planned events. In addition, spouses and partners of Freshers are welcome to contact the Families' Representatives at mcr-families@chu.cam.ac.uk
- e) You can contact any MCR committee member anonymously too, see the bottom of the MCR committee page <http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/mcrcommittee/>.

4. How to get a bank account, mobile phone, etc. (relevant to overseas students)

- a) After choosing a bank (Barclay's, Lloyds Bank, NatWest, HSBC, etc.), you'll need a letter from college to confirm your address. Email the Postgraduate Office. Then you'll need to go to the bank where you'll probably have to make an appointment to return another day to set up an account, so plan ahead. If you're lucky and go before the undergraduates turn up, you may be able to walk in and get an account that day.
- b) For a contract mobile phone, you'll need evidence of an address and bank account. So, after you have your bank account, take a copy of your bank statement with your address on it to your chosen store and you should be able to get a phone. Alternatively, it may be easier to get a pay-as-you-go phone. Giffgaff is the cheapest and most popular (online), The Carphone Warehouse, EE, Vodafone, Phones4U and a number of other such stores are all within easy reach of each other near Market Square.

1.2 MCR Freshers' Checklist

Postgraduate Office

- Room allocation information
- Obtain Proof of Address here. (1 or 2 copies depending on what you need it for)
- Letter should include your full name, length and title of your course and proof of address.
- Make appointment to see your Tutor
- Show a passport or a UK driving licence
- If you are here with a partner, apply for an access card for them
- Request a bank letter

Student Accounts Office students.accounts@chu.cam.ac.uk

- Any questions about payment of fees

Computing Office

- Questions regarding setting up College Account and internet access in rooms

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Porters' Lodge

- Head Porter: David Reece
- Open 24 hours; Tel: 01223 3 (36000)
- Phone-cards to call home
- Check mail in pigeonhole (across from Porters' Lodge)
- Registration number for bikes and car stickers

Setting Up a Bank Account- Barclays, Nationwide, Lloyds Bank, HSBC

- Location: City Centre - Mainly around Market Square and St. Andrews Street
- Common Opening Hours: 9am- 5pm, 9am- 12noon on Saturdays, Closed on Sundays
- Proof of Identity: Passport for International Students, Driver's License
- Proof of Address: Letter from Postgraduate Office. Request by email. Let them know which bank.
- Proof of Enrolment: University Acceptance Letter
- Call the bank first as they may have alterations in their running procedures due to COVID

Middle Common Room (MCR)

- Location: MCR (See College Map)
- Meet your college parents. Show up for Freshers' week activities
- Place to meet other postgraduate students in college
- Get added to the MCR mailing lists - mcr-webmaster@chu.cam.ac.uk

Mobile Phones: Orange, Vodafone, T-Mobile, 3, Virgin, O2, Phones4U

- Location: City Centre; Most shops close at 6pm
- For a Pay-as-you-Go phone, just show up and get it
- For a contract mobile phone:
- You will need a bank account (approximately 1-2 weeks wait)
- Proof of Address (Letter from Postgraduate Office)
- Proof of Identity: Passport for International Students, Driver's License
- Bank Statement

Other Things to Do

- Register with local doctor (GP). More information in Online Welcome Pack from Postgraduate Office. Registration will be done online.
- Visit your new Department or Faculty to notify them of your arrival & collect new timetable. (After 1 October)
- Arrange for Insurance (Forms in CUSU Freshers' Guide)

2. Around college

2.1 Meet your committee

Jannat Ijaz, President

Subject: PhD in Cancer Genetics



Sam Turner, Men's Welfare

Subject: PhD in Astronomy



Angela Harper, General Secretary

Subject: PhD in Physics



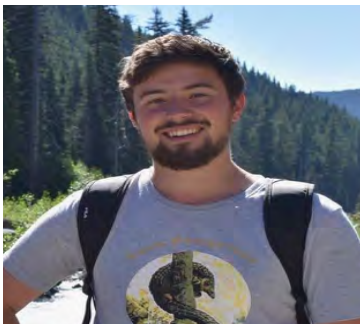
Elre Oldewage, Women's Welfare

Subject: PhD in Machine Learning



Nick Barber, Treasurer

Subject: PhD in Earth Science



Amila Sankalpa Jayasinghe, Families Rep

Subject: PhD in Computer Science



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Jack Hughes, LGBTQ+ Officer

Subject: PhD in Computer Science



Talay Cheema, Green Officer

Subject: PhD in in Machine Learning



James Miller, Internal Social Sec

Subject: PhD in Material Sciences



Ashleigh Jugan, Green Officer

Studied: Ecology & Conservation



Chioma Achi-Jev, Academic Officer

Studies: PhD Veterinary Medicine



Andrea Ferlini, Bar Secretary

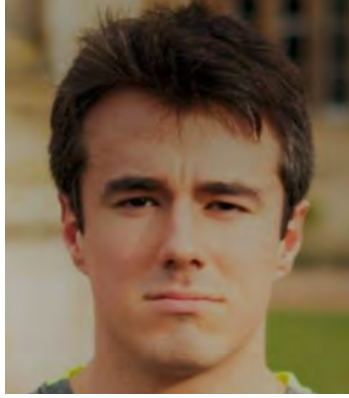
Subject: Computer Science



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Richard Bowen, Bar Treasurer

Subject: PhD in Physics



Sam Bradford, Bar Treasurer

Subject: PhD in Maths



Rebecca Heath, Former First Year Rep

Subject: PhD in Economics



Michael Hunter, Ale Officer

Subject: Subject: PhD Physics



Ben Ashbridge, Quail Officer

Subject: Subject: PhD World History



We also have roles for Internal Social Secretaries, Computing Officer, Equipment Officer, Communication and Publicity Officer and First year representative which are currently unfilled so if you would like to get involved with the MCR, keep an eye out for information regarding Michaelmas term MCR committee elections (other currently filled roles will also be up for election).

2.2 Current COVID-19 guidelines

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, college life will look significantly different to what you might be expecting. We will get back to normal eventually but in the meantime, we are committed to establishing a safe and welcoming environment for you all and if you have any concerns then please get in touch with your personal tutor or the welfare team. In the UK it is a legal requirement to wear a face mask in shops and on public transport. Many pubs and restaurants now take orders through an app so it is a good idea to get set up and connected to the university wifi or have mobile data as soon as possible. There is a COVID-19 specific hardship fund available if you experience hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic so please get in touch with your personal tutor if this applies to you. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 (check your symptoms here: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>), you will need to get swab tested and more information can be found here: <https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/staff/health-and-wellbeing/testing-staff-for-covid-19>. When you get tested, you will be asked for a list of people you have come into contact with in the last 2 weeks so that if you test positive, these people can be tested and quarantine too. It is therefore a good idea to keep a record of people who you have come into contact with, particularly when meeting lots of new people. If you do test positive, get in touch with your personal tutor as soon as possible. Rules and guidelines surrounding COVID-19 are constantly being updated so find the most recent advice here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



2.3 Accommodation

As a first year, you are guaranteed accommodation at Churchill (unless you've been very late accepting your offer). All Churchill accommodation is located on the main site, or a few minutes' walk/cycle away (with the exception of a few outer hostels). You're encouraged to get involved in college life! The Wolfson Flats have been designed particularly with families and/or married couples in mind. After your first year, the

college runs a ballot system to determine who gets rooms – more details will be available nearer the time. While living in college housing, it's a good idea to bookmark this site: <http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/internal/maintenance/> since it can be used for online requests for carpentry, plumbing, and other such repairs, as well as for necessary housekeeping supplies.

2.4 Library

Churchill has two libraries - with the Bevin library aimed more at Arts and Humanities students, and the Bracken library aimed at the scientists. Both may be accessed any time of the day using your university swipe card, and books are borrowed using a self-service system – please don't abuse it! Most books can be borrowed for 2 weeks, and renewed online easily. If there is something in particular you would like and the library doesn't have it, you can always get in touch with the librarian Mary Kendall (librarian@chu.cam.ac.uk), and she may be able to get it for you. The college libraries are designed to cater to undergraduate courses, but are by no means limited to this. However, as a postgraduate you are more likely to need the resources made available at your departmental library or the University library. Nevertheless, the libraries may still prove a useful hideaway when you need some peace and quiet, or a place to focus – in the Maissonneuve room of the Bevin library there are a number of rather comfy sofas, some of which are purported to be Churchill's own. In the same building, Churchill also houses the Churchill Archives Centre, with its own dedicated library. For the archivists among you, this may be an interesting place to nosey about.

2.5 Hall

Every Cambridge College has a dining hall, but Churchill's is the largest. Going to 'Hall' is synonymous with the Cambridge experience – it is a place to discuss the latest scientific discoveries, debate the rise and fall of the markets or simply sit back with your friends and enjoy a meal. With the hectic lab schedules of most postgraduates, going to hall tends to fade into the background, as some like to cook at home. During Freshers' week, it is a fantastic way



to get to know others. On a daily basis, there is lunch and dinner, with brunches on Saturdays and Sunday roasts at Sunday lunchtime. There is also a reasonable salad bar. A standard meal will cost ~£4.00. More importantly, every Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays are formal halls. Formal halls are a chance to get dressed up and have a three-course meal with your friends at a reasonable price. Throughout the year, there will be a number of special occasions that will bring the entire MCR together for a formal, such as Matriculation dinner and Postgraduate Students' dinner. In terms of dress code, most formals are simply suit and tie for the guys and something formal for girls. Only special events (e.g. feasts and balls) are 'Black tie' which means dinner jacket (tuxedo) for men. In terms of dining etiquette, the most important things are to wait until the Master or Fellow says grace before sitting, to start with the cutlery on the outside, and to pass the Port to the left. You'll pick up other things along the way, and if you aren't sure what to do, don't worry...unless you're unlucky to be sitting next to someone too eccentric.

Traditionally it is a Cambridge custom to wear gowns at all formal occasions. This is not the case at Churchill, where gowns are only worn for the extremely formal events. Nevertheless, gowns are an integral part of Cambridge culture, and you're bound to encounter them at some point. The nature of the gown represents your level in the academic hierarchy. As undergraduates, each college has a distinct variation on the standard Cambridge undergraduate gown. As postgraduates, your gown is uniform across the University, but has marks to distinguish your last degree, as well as to identify those who had been Cambridge undergraduates. There are gowns in the MCR cupboard for you to sign out and borrow, in case you need one to go to another college's formal. **Please note that there will be no formal halls until further notice as a result of COVID-19 guidelines.**

2.6 The Vicious Penguin

The Vicious Penguin is the name of the MCR's own student-run bar! Serving cheap drinks most evenings, it is a good excuse to relax in the MCR after a hard day's work. During Freshers' week, the bar will run a number of training sessions for those of you who may want to help run it.

2.7 The Buttery

This is the name for the main bar downstairs, in the main Churchill building. Catering mainly to the undergraduates, it isn't always open especially outside term time. But when it is open, in addition to drinks, it serves a variety of snacks, and is also a great place for a cheap and quick bite to eat if you're in the mood for pizzas, ready meals or sandwiches. Self-service breakfast is served here on a daily basis instead of up in Hall. You can also buy some daily groceries like milk from here if you haven't had the chance to do your shopping in town.



2.8 MCR Sports

One of the joys of the Cambridge college system is that no matter how good you are at a sport, if you enjoy it and/or would like to give it a go, you can without any pressure of expectation. Churchill is particularly lucky to have some of the best sports facilities in all of Cambridge, all on-site. Although run mainly by the JCR (undergraduate), MCR members can and do get involved with most college sports. In general, the “first” level teams are reasonably serious, but

beyond that everything goes. And if you want something really serious, you can always try out for university teams. Or you could take up rowing...as this is Cambridge, no matter what level you row at, you’re likely to be pushed to the limit! As chance would have it, there are also a number of MCR specific teams. The MCR football team and cricket team are always on the lookout for people interested in getting involved. There will be a joint MCR/JCR sports and societies squash at the start of term which will give you an opportunity to sign up for anything that catches your fancy.

Lastly, Churchill also has a small gym for use by college members. You will need to attend an induction session in order to gain card access to the gym, and a series of these sessions will be organised during the first two or three weeks of the Michaelmas Term. An email will be sent out by the welfare officers for you to sign up to and it is highly encouraged to attend one of these sessions! However, if you miss the start of term you can arrange for a private induction by contacting the gym president or a trained inductor (a list will be made available at the beginning of term).

3. Preparing to come to Cambridge

In the middle of saying goodbye to all your family and old friends, packing may drop to the bottom of your priority list. To help you out, here are some of the items you just don't want to forget. Much of this section is aimed more at international students who are less likely to be accustomed to British conditions, but everyone can feel free to use this as a guide.

3.1 Academic/Legal Requirements

Offer letter from Churchill

Documentary evidence of financial support for fees and maintenance

Medical certificate/documentation to assist when you register for the NHS. This is particularly important if you have allergies or suffer from some sort of recurring injury.

Enough cash to support yourself until you can open a bank account

A valid passport (or an EU ID card or UK photo driving licence)

Entry visa/certificate, if from overseas

3.2 Packing

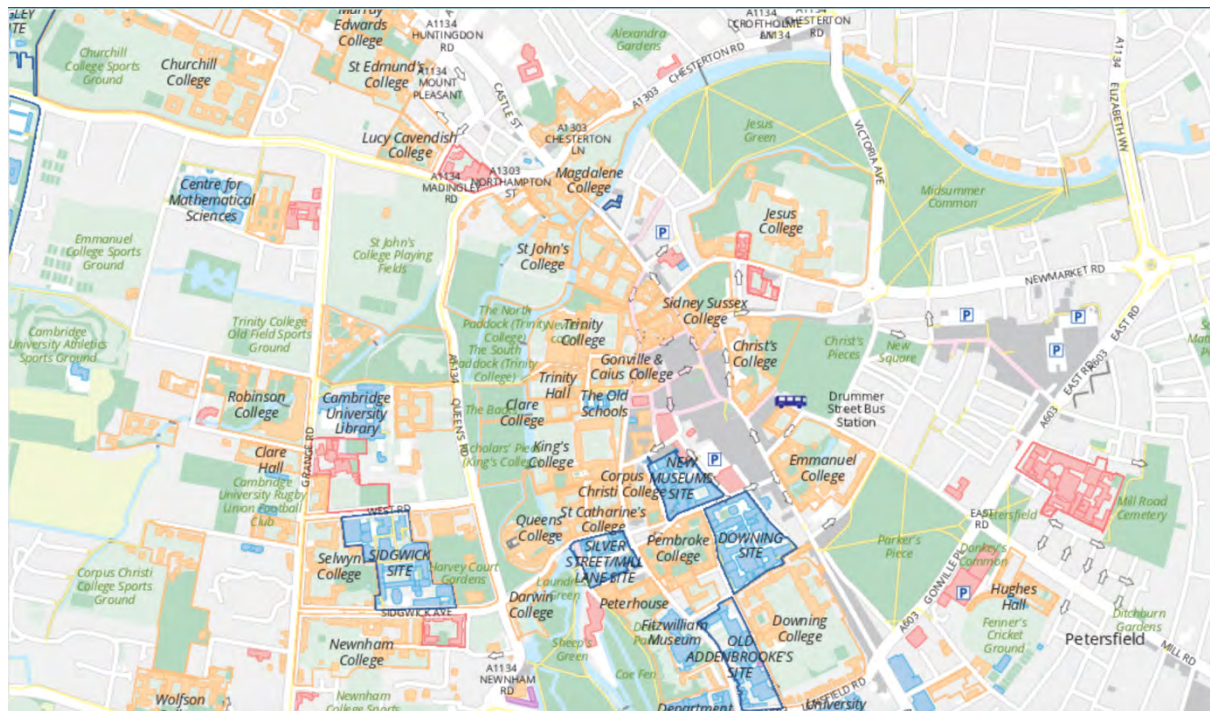
Temperatures in Cambridge usually range from 0°C to 25°C. The weather is damp, but not as rainy as other parts of the UK. Instead it can get rather windy during winter. Pack to this specification, although buying suitable clothes once here may work out cheaper if you have luggage limitations and may also be more appropriate to the weather conditions. There are a lot of formal occasions at Cambridge, and plenty of opportunities to dress up in black tie so bring a suit or an elegant dress along for formal night out. A full-length evening dress may be useful for attending galas or May Balls.

If you're planning to bring books, remember that you will have to carry them. The Cambridge libraries are well stocked for anything academic that you would require, so at best you would want to carry along casual reading. If you're bringing along electronic goods, remember to check its compatibility with the UK 240V 50Hz grid, and whether it will fit into a three pin UK socket. Items like laptops should be equipped with voltage adapters, so you don't need to worry – but it is worth the thought. As for UK plugs, cheap adapters can be purchased once you arrive in case your connections are not compatible. If you're planning to travel to mainland Europe at all, there are different plug adapters that you will need for European countries that are different from the UK. A universal adapter is another option, which may save some money in the long run if you're planning to travel extensively.

In case you find you want to carry more than your luggage allowance on your flight, or more than there is space for in the car, then you may want to consider delivery services like DHL, UPS, or ParcelForce. These can be expensive, however, so make sure to compare shipping costs with the fees you would incur by checking another bag for your flight. Don't forget though that people tend to accumulate things, and so you'll probably end up having to carry a lot more pack with you when your time at Cambridge has come to an end.... If you're here on a year-long MPhil, carrying too much may just be a hassle. However, it's worth noting that you'll need to supply your own linen, or else purchase it in town. A duvet and pillow are provided by College, but you need to either bring or buy sheets and duvet covers. Extra blankets for winter can be obtained from the Housekeeping staff. A linen package can be purchased from College for £11.75 for a single set or at a shop such as John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, or TK Maxx.

4. Where to find things in Cambridge

Cambridge is a relatively small city where most things are easily within reach by walking or cycling. Churchill is located on the outskirts of the city centre, about a 15 minute walk from Market square. The benefit of this is that we have beautiful open spaces and no worries about tourists disturbing our lives. The downside is the need to carry your heavy shopping bags home from Sainsbury's...but for the most part you should be fine. And during the week, there is the Universal bus that runs every 15 mins and every 20 mins on Saturdays (<http://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/what-are-we-doing/travel/catch-bus>). It runs from the West Cambridge site, to a stop just outside Churchill on Maddingley Road and takes you to the Addenbrooke's Hospital Bus station via the University Library, Fitzwilliam museum and Cambridge Railway Station. It can be handy on a rainy day, and it only costs £1 if you display your university card to the driver when you get on. A useful map source: www.cam.ac.uk/map (and see map on the next page with labels).



4.1 Arriving in Cambridge

If you are arriving by train, the train station is located on the other side of the city centre from Churchill. At any time of day there is a taxi queue just outside the station, and you can get a lift to Churchill for ~£9.

If you are arriving by coach, the main bus station in Cambridge is located on Drummer Street in the centre of town, but larger coaches, such as National Express, stop outside Parker's Piece, a few minutes' walk from Drummer Street. Consequently, particularly if you're arriving at an odd time of day or night, there may be no taxis around, and if you're arriving in Cambridge for the first time you probably don't want to lug your suitcases all the way across town to get to Churchill. Some numbers that you will find useful for such an eventuality and probably thereafter during your time at Cambridge:

- Panther Taxis: +44 (0) 1223 715 715
- Camcab: +44 (0)1223 704 704

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Note: When calling from international phones, use the +44 UK country code and omit the 0. Otherwise, if calling from UK phones, keep the 0 and omit the +44. If you arrive in Cambridge late at night, there is a vending machine near the Churchill Buttery, by the lift in the main concourse. The Buttery is open until 11 pm during term time and will have drinks, snacks and light meals available. Sainsburys on Sidney Street in the city centre opens until 11:30 pm on weekdays and Saturdays but shuts at 5 pm on Sundays. Just Eat and Deliveroo are great websites on which you can order from local takeaways. Domino's Pizza (01223 355155) do pizza deliveries until 5 am, Esso Service Station on Histon Road is also open 24/7 and sells sweets, crisps and everything you'd expect to be sold at a service station.

4.2 Nurseries and schools

For those of you with little kids who need looking after when you're in the lab or at work, nurseries are a top priority. Just down the road from Churchill, on Clarkson Road, on the other side of the Maths department, is KidsUnlimited Nursery – it looks like it's a part of Girton College's Wolfson court. Slightly further away, on the West Cambridge site is the University Nursery on Charles Babbage Road. In terms of schools, Cambridge is peppered with a range of private and state schools of very high calibre. This would require a lot more consideration than a Freshers' guide can give, but the Families' rep or the Uni Childcare Information Officer (sarah.andrew@admin.cam.ac.uk) may be able to help on this front. It is possible that those of you with families will be arriving much earlier than 'Freshers' Week'. If this is you, then don't hesitate to contact the Families' rep (mcr-families@chu.cam.ac.uk) who will be around to help you and your family settle in to your new home and meet your neighbours.

4.3 Shopping in Cambridge

As a quick note, for many of the stores mentioned in various sectors (grocery, pharmacy, etc.), you may find it worthwhile to sign up for a membership card, such as a Nectar Card for Sainsbury's, a Tesco Clubcard, or a Boots Card. These allow you to accrue points with each purchase, that you can then redeem in the form of in-store vouchers (or even convert your points into vouchers at other venues, such as the Tesco Clubcard point conversion into restaurant vouchers). Most stores will allow you to sign up for a membership card in the store, and there may be options online as well.

Sainsbury's, located opposite Sidney Sussex College on Sidney Street, is the main supermarket in the city centre and is the most convenient place to do shopping, particularly if your department is in the centre of town. Marks & Spencer is located in Market Square and is another good place for food and other groceries, but may put undue strains on your budget with their higher prices. If you are looking for more exotic foods, spices, etc., you'll need to venture up to Mill Road.

If you're looking for a bigger selection and lower prices there are several Tescos on the outskirts of Cambridge, the largest being on Newmarket Road. There is also a large ASDA just off Newmarket Road on Coldham's Lane. There is also a small Waitrose on Fitzroy Street near the Grafton Centre. Alternatively, you could order online, and typically for Tesco's and other stores there is a 1 or 2-hour delivery window, which can be very handy. Nearer to Churchill, on the other side of Murray Edwards is a little corner shop – Midan, Histon Road. This is good for little emergencies, and if you're into your Indian cooking, this is the place to stock up on spices. If you turn up Histon road a little bit of a walk will get you to Aldi, Iceland and a Co-op.

When you arrive in Cambridge, you're probably going to lack a number of essentials, such as dishes, utensils, etc., simply because you were prudent not to fill up your bags unnecessarily. Once in the city centre, walk past Drummer Street, up through Christ's Pieces, and you'll find yourself heading towards the Grafton Centre. Just before you get there, you will find Argos, which is possibly the best place to pick up any basics you may need. There are a number of other major shops and clothes stores in the Grafton that you may find of interest.

Closer to the town centre, the main place to shop is the Grand Arcade/Lion Yard where you can find department stores like John Lewis. Or there's always Marks & Spencer's. If you're looking to decorate your room, the Guildhall holds a random poster sale at the start of every Michaelmas term (during Freshers' week usually) where you can find something to suit most tastes. Stationery and books WH Smith, just off Market square, or Ryman's, a few metres down the street from Sainsbury's are good places to shop, and the latter even offers a student discount when you present your student ID and sign up for a free student membership card. The Porters Lodge at Churchill College also stock some stationery. In terms of bookshops, Cambridge is simply littered with them. The true treasures are the little out of the way hidden ones where you can spend some time nosing around dust lined book shelves. A more likely stop for most of you however will be Heffers (Trinity Street) or Waterstones (Market street). The Cambridge University Press has a bookshop just opposite Senate Passage (near Gonville and Caius College and the Senate House) where you, as a Cambridge student, can get a 20% discount on any purchases.

Pharmacies and Opticians

There is a very large Boots on Sidney Street that sells most healthcare items in addition to pharmaceutical goods. Superdrug, also on Sidney street, is possibly a better option if you are on the lookout for specific medications. Clamp Opticians, on St. Andrew's Street, or Boots are good places to go in the event you need glasses or your eyes checked. There is also a Rowlands pharmacy on Histon Road near Aldi, the Co-op, and Iceland.



4.4 Religious institutions

The Chapel at Churchill College may be found at the top of the fields and is open for general prayer. Unlike some of the older colleges, the Chapel does not play a significant part in the life of Churchill College because it was founded as a secular institution. However, there is a Christian service every Sunday at 5.45pm, led by the Chaplain Revd. Dr. John Rawlinson.

Cambridge is also replete with churches of all sorts of denominations, although predominantly Church of England. A church frequented by most Anglican students, particularly by members of the Christian Union, is St. Andrew's the Great (on St. Andrew's Street). The Catholic Chaplaincy (Fisher House) is located off Market Square on Guildhall Street. The Cambridge Jewish Centre may be found off Bridge Street, along Thompsons Lane. For other religions some research may be required. The University Church, Great St. Mary's, serves a more symbolic purpose – although it runs regular Anglican services, its main use is for special University religious services. There is also a new Central Cambridge Mosque on 309-313 Mill Rd.

4.5 Movies and Theatre

The Vue Cinema, in the Grafton Centre, and Cineworld, on Clifton Road in the Cambridge Leisure centre, show all the big releases. The latter is a little far out, but if you have a bike and want a relaxed evening out including a movie, there are a number of restaurants in the area, and a bowling alley and an arcade on the ground floor. The



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Arts Picturehouse, on St. Andrew's street, is an independent cinema that plays more artsy films and local talents – and has a great bar!

Cambridge has a thriving amateur theatre community, as well as being a place that attracts a number of professional stars. The ADC and the Cambridge Arts Theatre are wonderful places to spend an enjoyable evening, as is the Corn Exchange. Churchill's very own GODS society is a good group to get involved with if you are keen on acting or producing.

4.6 Student welfare

The MCR is a community consisting of friendly members who support each other. Whether you need some advice, an ear to listen to your problems, or someone to give you a helping hand, feel free to get in touch with any of your fellow MCR members. The welfare officers in particular are here to help, and they can put you in touch with professional welfare services if necessary. All communication between you and the welfare officers is strictly confidential. The officers can supply you with free condoms, pregnancy tests, and personal attack alarms on request – they will be in contact at the start of the year to detail what they can do, but you are always free to get in touch directly as follows:

- Women's welfare: Elre Oldewage, mcr-womenswelfare@chu.cam.ac.uk.
- Men's welfare: Sam Turner, mcr-menswelfare@chu.cam.ac.uk
- Families' representatives: Amila Sankalpa Jayasinghe, mcr-marriedstudents@chu.cam.ac.uk
- LGBT+ Officer: Jack Hughes, mcr-lgbt@chu.cam.ac.uk

You can contact the welfare officers anonymously via the links below. They will be able to reply to your note, but your email-address will remain hidden to them.

<http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/contact-form/?id=1> (Men's)

<http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/contact-form/?id=2> (Women's)

<http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/contact-form/?id=6> (Families')

<http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/contact-form/?id=7> (LGBT+)

The Churchill College nurse (nurse@chu.cam.ac.uk; 01223 336133) and Churchill counsellor (counsellor@chu.cam.ac.uk; 01223 313515) are other people you can contact for help on welfare issues.

5. Random useful other things

5.1 The Academic Year

While this is irrelevant to most post-graduate students as most courses don't operate on the same cycle as undergraduates, it is handy to point out the structure of the Cambridge academic year. There are three 8-week terms known as Michaelmas, Lent, and Easter, with a five-week break in between each. The term dates may be found at <http://www.cam.ac.uk/univ/termdates.html>. All undergraduate lectures, with the exception of some courses like the 3rd and 4th year Manufacturing Engineering courses, take place only during these periods, known as Full Term.

By university statutes you are required to remain within a certain radius from Great St. Mary's (the University Church) for the duration of Full Term, unless special dispensation has been made. This is known as 'keeping residence'. Therefore, most postgraduate students stay in Cambridge for Full Term.

The week after the last week of Full Term in Easter term is known as 'May Week', despite it being held in June. This is the week of frivolity and festivity when most Cambridge balls are held to celebrate the end of the year. Churchill does not host its own May Ball, but holds a smaller Spring Ball in February every other year.

5.2 Post – your pigeon holes

Your address while at Churchill is simply:

Your name, Churchill College, Cambridge, UK, CB3 0DS.

All post gets delivered to your little hole in the wall letter box known as your 'pigeon hole' – these are located either in the mail room, or in the Porters' lodge, depending on your surname. The pigeon hole name tags are also colour coded, with all postgraduates demarcated by white tags so that they are easier to spot. If your post is too big to fit into the pigeon hole, the porters will put a note in its place to ask you to pick it up.

During term time the university-wide student union, CUSU, runs a free mail system that allows you to post between colleges. Similarly, the main University Mail System, UMS, may be used during term time free of charge to post things of an academic nature to your supervisor or other colleagues. You can post normal mail at the Porters' lodge instead of walking to a Post office in town.

5.3 Cycling in Cambridge

A new city always brings a whole new set of rules. For a place like Cambridge where cycling is second nature, it is surprisingly not very cycle friendly, with numerous tourists doing their very best to walk right into you as you cycle around town. To assist with the flow of students, residents and everyone else who decides to visit, Cambridge has a strict (~ish, given that you always find ignorant people cycling the wrong way) one way and no cycling policy along certain streets in the historic city centre – see the mini map below. Try and keep to this because if you're caught, and the officer isn't very kind, you can be fined a rather hefty sum. Also, for those of you coming from abroad, we drive on the left-hand side of the road here. Cycles are expected to follow the flow of traffic and the normal rules of the road, so please be careful not to end up cycling on the wrong side. Given the number of cyclists in town, it is somewhat unsurprising that there are also significant numbers of reported cycle theft. As a precautionary measure, and also to keep track of who has a bike in college, all students are required to register their bike with the porters when they first buy/arrive with a bike. If you have a more expensive one, it may be worth considering registering yourself with a service like Immobilise just in case - <http://www.immobilise.com/index.php>

In addition to registering your bike with the Churchill Porters, a useful note is that you can also request more information from the Porters about secure bike storage. Churchill has several secure bike sheds for students, one with a PIN access code and the other with lock and key access. The Porters can help supply the code and get you set up with the lock and key system, if you so wish. For some more helpful advice about cycling and other transportation-related concerns in Cambridge and throughout the UK, please see the Transportation FAQ section!

5.4 Accommodation around Cambridge for visiting families

If you have any guests staying overnight in College, you should let the porters know how many guests you are having over as well as the date they anticipate leaving. If you are in a single occupancy College room (i.e. every College room apart from the Wolfson flats), children are not allowed to stay overnight. We understand this is quite difficult as accommodation around Cambridge is quite expensive, so we have compiled a list of some more affordable hotels/B&Bs in Cambridge:

- Arundel House Hotel
- Premier Inn Cambridge (A14, J32) Hotel
- Travelodge Newmarket Road Cambridge
- Stationroomz
- Holiday Inn Express Cambridge
- Hamilton Lodge
- Travelodge Cambridge Central Hotel

Also check out:

- University rooms to rent available rooms in the Colleges though (generally better out of termtime) (<http://www.universityrooms.com/en/city/cambridge/home>)
- The University Accommodation Service which has a section on short visits (<http://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/VisitingCambridge/>)
- Airbnb (<https://www.airbnb.co.uk/s/Cambridge--United-Kingdom>)

5.5 Trips and Travelling

After some time in Cambridge, sooner or later, you will experience what is widely known as “The Bubble Depression.” If your mood levels have dropped significantly and amid all the work you realize that the only places you visit every single day do not go beyond your room, the library, college hall and MCR Bar (if you are lucky), then it is time to leave this place – even for just a few hours. Here are some inspiring places around Cambridge you can easily visit by foot or on your bike if you need a retreat (London is a chapter on its own).



Ely

10 mins by train (or ca. 1.5 hours on a bike) from Cambridge lies one of Britain’s most impressive cathedrals. Also check out Oliver Cromwell House and the river, where the University rowing crews train every day.

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Wimpole Hall Estate

Easily reached within an hour on your bike. Nice British countryside architecture with a huge park full of grazing sheep. Feed pigs and cows on their estate farm for a truly rural experience.



Wandlebury Country Park

Originally a large Iron Age Hillfort – today a natural reserve great for picnics, geocaching or just chilling. Just south of Addenbrooke’s and can be easily cycled to. Don’t miss the great view of Cambridge and the old Roman road.



Grantchester

A stereotypical escape for the tired Cambridge student. Explore the meadows, tease the cows and enjoy some afternoon tea in the famous Orchard like Virginia Woolf or Bertrand Russell did before you. Takes one hour of slow strolling to reach.

Coton

A small village just 30 min on foot from Churchill. Walk past West Cambridge and cross the motorway bridge to explore this small place with a nice church, pub and grazing llamas. Good for refreshing your brain.



Castle Rising, Sandringham & Hunstanton

Makes a great weekend trip. Catch a train to King’s Lynn and then go on with the Coasthopper bus to explore a 12th century castle, Her Majesty’s Norfolk estate and gardens, and a nice seaside town called Hunstanton (lighthouse, seal safari, beach).

If you feel like leaving the country altogether this is a great place to be! London’s airports (especially Stansted, Gatwick and Luton) offer a wide range of extremely cheap flights all over Europe, Turkey and Morocco. You can get flights as cheap as £30! Check out some of these low-cost airlines:

www.ryanair.com

www.wizzair.com

www.easyjet.com

www.monarch.co.uk

Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam are just a few hours away by the Eurostar trains:

www.eurostar.com

5.5 Transportation FAQ

Q1: I’m flying into Heathrow airport and need to know how to get to Cambridge. What’s the best way to do this?

A1: There are a few ways to get to Cambridge, and how much luggage you have will likely determine the best approach. If you’re travelling with several pieces of heavy luggage (which is likely if you’re coming from far away), it’s probably best to take a National Express Coach from Heathrow to Cambridge. You may save some money if you buy your ticket online in advance (see Useful Links), or else you can buy the ticket at the Central Bus Station, which is attached to Heathrow Airport. If you

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choose to buy your bus ticket on the same day as your flight, it would be a good option to consider purchasing a Coachcard as well, which can then be applied to your ticket purchase and all future purchases. See Q3 and corresponding answer on the following page. A useful note is that Heathrow has free trolleys to use for your luggage, pick them up when you retrieve your luggage and they will certainly be useful for the long walk from your terminal to the Central Bus Station. If you are not overloaded with heavy luggage, you may also consider taking the Piccadilly Line of the London Underground Tube all the way to King's Cross station in London, from which you'll need to take another train to Cambridge. Although this may work out to be quicker and possibly a bit cheaper than the coach, it may be inconvenient with a lot of luggage, and very difficult to do when you need to transfer from the tube to the King's Cross train station and its many stairs. It can be done, though, and worth considering with fewer bags.

Whether you arrive by train or by coach, you will need to take a taxi from either Parker's Piece (if arriving by coach) or the Cambridge Rail Station. As mentioned in section 4.1, there is typically a taxi queue at the rail station, so you can find a driver willing to take you to Churchill College. As a note for international students, it is not customary to tip the taxi drivers, though they may be appreciative if you do. Section 4.1 also lists two common cab company numbers in Cambridge, and another link to taxi numbers can be found in the Useful Links section.

Finally, a wonderful resource if you still have questions about arriving in the UK and getting to Cambridge, potentially from Gatwick or other airports, be sure to check out this Graduate Union page: <http://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/wp/support/living-in-cambridge/informationtransport/#air>

Q2: What is the best way to get around Cambridge, and what resources are available for the different transportation options?

A2: Depending when you'd like to travel, several options may be worth considering. A bike is really essential if you'd like to get around Cambridge easily and to set your own schedule with more freedom. The bus system can be helpful, though, for getting to big landmarks such as the city centre and Addenbrooke's hospital. The bus system is considerably less reliable in the evenings, however, for certain parts of Cambridge. Some helpful links for when you first arrive to figure out which buses to take or where to cycle or walk are listed below:

- GoogleMaps (<http://maps.google.com/>) of course is a great resource for getting maps of an area and planning public transportation, walking, or even cycling trips. However, its infrastructure is much better for the US and is not as detailed for the UK and Cambridge. Thus some of the links below, like TransportDirect, are much more helpful for the UK.
- TransportDirect (<http://www.transportdirect.info>) allows you to search public transportation options or cycle routes in and around Cambridge and other parts of the UK. The bus times may not be reliable using that site, though, and for that you should use the link below to determine timetables and bus routes.
- StageCoach (<http://www.stagecoachbus.com>) operates the bus system in Cambridge. You can get timetables, bus routes, and other information regarding buses for travel within Cambridge and in other parts of the UK. The times are fairly reliable but listings for times where there's heavy traffic (common in the mornings and evenings around "rush hour" times such as 8 - 9:30 am and 5 - 7 pm) and nighttime estimates may not be as accurate.
- WalkIt (<http://walkit.com/>) offers good information about walking routes in the UK. It's helpful both for figuring out routes in Cambridge and London.

Cycling Resources

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Cambridge Cycling Campaign (<http://www.camcycle.org.uk/resources/map/>) offers a good map, and you can request one for free to your UK address, as well as helpful links shown to the left for cycling rules and bike maintenance.

Second hand bike shops in Cambridge (there are various... one is: <http://www.camcycles.co.uk/> and you can search for bike shops in Cambridge on this site, which also has helpful general info about cycling: <http://www.cyclescheme.co.uk/partners>)

CUSU cycle information (<http://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/welfareissues/cyclingsafety.html>) has a lot more links than are provided here for information about cycling in Cambridge.

Important cycle safety tips:

- Always wear a helmet! It's not the law to do so in the UK, but is best for your overall health and safety.
- Turning left on red is illegal for cars AND for cyclists! You could be fined for doing this.
- It's also best NOT to cycle against the flow of traffic, as this will endanger your life and confuse drivers and pedestrians.
- Stick to the flow of traffic and obey all traffic laws, including stopping at "zebra crossing" crosswalks when pedestrians are present.
- You must have lights on your bike at night, white for the front and red for the back, and can be fined for not doing so

Q3: There are a lot of "cards" out there for transportation to and around London. What's the difference between the types of "cards"?

A3: There are 4 types of cards you should be aware of, travelcards, railcards, Oyster cards, and coachcards.

- Travelcards provide a day's worth of travel on London public transportation, such as the underground subway (tube), buses, and trains. Read more about travelcards here: <http://www.londontravelpass.com/>. You can choose the travelcard option when purchasing rail tickets either online or at the station, and this will potentially save you money when you're in London. If you're doing a day trip, especially, and are planning to use a lot of the tube lines and buses in London, it's probably worth it to get a travelcard rather than a return rail pass (two-way) and Oyster card top ups (see below for more info on Oyster cards). You can also buy a travelcard independently of a rail ticket, if that seems like a more economical option for a day's worth of extensive travel in London.
- Railcards (such as the young person's 16- 25 railcard: <http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>) provide a 33% discount on rail tickets in the UK. Even if you are older than age 25, you can still qualify for a 16-25 railcard as a full-time student; however, you'll need to get the necessary paperwork from your department in order to do so. Check out the website for more info. An important note for international students is that the online form is designed for evaluating UK passport numbers and may not work for your country's passport. Thus you will need to bring a UK-sized passport photo to the rail office to obtain your railcard, which is £30. The office where you will get your railcard is not located in the main Cambridge rail station entry, but in a side entry to the right of the main entrance. It also helps to print out and fill out the railcard form ahead of time so you can expedite the process of getting your railcard. The most important point is that you'll need to bring in a passport photo, so for international students already getting one of those for the Visa process just get an extra one at that time and hold onto it for the railcard. The size isn't super important since they trim your photo anyway (so they'll probably accept a US-sized passport photo), but you'll need one of approximately the right size.
- Oyster cards (<https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/oyster/entry.do>) are used for the public transportation network in London and are valid for pay-as-you-go credit on the tube, buses, and some rail lines. You can buy an Oyster card from one of the machines at an underground (tube) station for a £5 deposit or can buy a card online too. After you have the card, you simply "top up" or add credit as you travel around and the cost of certain modes of transportation is determined by zoning. The

Oyster card is definitely a good investment for any trip longer than a day trip to London (where the travelcard may be more economical) because it's a reloadable card and not time-limited. You can "top up" or add credit to your Oyster card online, or else you can top up at tube stations. An important note is that you need to "touch" the Oyster card to the sensor both when you enter the underground station and when you leave, so keep it handy after the tube ride. For buses, though, you just "touch" the Oyster card to the sensor when you get onto a bus but not when you get off the bus. It's actually important to know how to "touch" in and out since the maximum daily pay-as-you-go fee of £7.40 will be charged if it's done incorrectly. The Oyster card can also give a discount on riverboat fares. The fees for various zones and modes of public transport are quite detailed and depend on what time of year you're traveling as well (classified as "peak" and "off-peak"), and can be found here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/>.

- Coachcards are considerably less complex than the other cards described, and are only £10 for a young person coach card. They are offered by the National Express coach service and provide up to a 30% discount on coach fares, which could be helpful for traveling directly from Cambridge to various London airports since National Express provides direct coaches to Heathrow, Luton, and other airports. You can buy the £10 coach card from a National Express bus station (such as the one at Heathrow) or online, but you have to wait for the card to be mailed to you if you buy it online. As opposed to the railcard, you do not need a photo for the coachcard. More info can be found here: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/coach/Offers/StudentCoachDeals.cfm>

As a final summary, the transportation terminology (using the term "card" prolifically for example) can be confusing but with the information and links above it can be manageable, and once you have the terms distinguished traveling to and within London isn't impossible, but perfectly doable with a bit of planning. A tube map that shows all the underground lines and which stops connect with which lines is a must (such as this one: <http://www.afn.org/~alplatt/tube.html>) You can also pick up tube maps from some of the underground stations, but it's not intuitively obvious where they're kept. More helpful links, transportation-related and otherwise, are listed below.

5.6 Cambridgisms

1. **Bedder:** This term varies from one college to the next but essentially refers to the people responsible for cleaning rooms and college staircases/houses (the places where students live).
2. **Blue:** The Cambridge colour is light blue. 'Blue' is the term to describe sports undertaken at university level, and people who have taken part in a 'Varsity' match (a game against Oxford) for events deemed to be at 'Blue' level are awarded the title of a 'blue'.
3. **Boatie:** The most famous and arguably important sport in Cambridge is rowing. A person partaking in the sport is known colloquially as a boatie.
4. **Bop:** A dance party, usually featuring drinks, loud music, & fancy dress (costumes).
5. **Bumps:** Bumps are the most important rowing races that occur within the University. These take place at the end of every Lent and Easter term between college teams. The name of the event derives from the fact that to progress in the race it is necessary to bump the boat ahead of you in the starting line-up.
6. **Cuppers:** Every year, the college teams compete against each other in a range of sporting events. Each competition at this level is known as 'Cuppers'.
7. **Dean:** In general Cambridge terminology, the Dean may either be the person responsible for College discipline or the person responsible for the college Chapel. At Churchill the Dean is the academic responsible for enforcing discipline within the college. If you commit 3 misdemeanours considered 'deanable' offenses, you may be 'sent down' (i.e. – expelled) from the University.
8. **Director of Studies:** This is the college academic responsible for the overall academic welfare of a student. This exists in an undergraduate capacity, but is mostly irrelevant for postgraduates,

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unless you want to get involved with undergraduate supervisions, in which case these are the people to talk to.

9. **Fancy dress:** Means to wear a costume according to a theme (as opposed to dressing up for a formal event)
10. **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.
11. **JCR (Junior Combination Room):** The JCR refers to the undergraduate student common room and undergraduate student body at a college.
12. **Matriculation:** This is the ceremony during which all new students enroll in college by signing a register confirming that they will conform with University regulations.
13. **Mathmo:** The colloquial term used to describe a maths student.
14. **MCR (Middle Combination Room):** The postgraduate student body (and common room) of a college. You are members of the Churchill MCR.
15. **Mentor:** A College Mentor is an academic at college in a vaguely similar field to your own, who will be assigned to you as a contact during your time as a Postgraduate at Churchill. They do not serve any academic purposes, but give you an opportunity to mix with the College fellowship and expand your academic horizons.
16. **NatSci:** Historically there was never any distinction between the study of worldly phenomenon, largely classed as the Natural Sciences. The modern system of classification gives us a diversity of subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Materials, Biology, etc. At Cambridge, however, as an undergraduate you embark on the Natural Sciences Tripos, from where you may then specialize in the field of your choice. People working/studying in any of these fields are consequently referred to as NatScis. Computer scientists are similarly referred to as CompScis.
17. **P'lodge:** Shortened nickname for the Porters' Lodge, which is the place where the Porters operate from in a College.
18. **Porters:** The people responsible for College security.
19. **Proctors:** Two officials who are elected annually by the Senate house upon nomination by the Colleges. They are representatives of the Senate house in most formal and disciplinary matter across the University.
20. **Regent House:** This is the governing and legislative body of the University comprised of all the academic and administrative officers of the University and Colleges. The physical entity is the Senate house at the Centre of Cambridge.
21. **Scarlet days:** Days of special importance to the University, or nationally, during which Doctors are required to wear their scarlet gowns in public.
22. **SCR Senior Combination Room:** The room, and body of members, for the Fellows of a College.
23. **Supervision:** A small group (usually 1-3 people) teaching environment undertaken as part of undergraduate courses to help consolidate the normal lecture course.
24. **Supervisor:** In an undergraduate sense, the person responsible for teaching undergraduates either individually or on a small group basis. In a postgraduate sense, the person in charge of guiding your research.
25. **Swap:** Formal hall swaps are arranged with the MCRs of other colleges such that students can dine with people from other colleges. They are a good way to meet new people, try new food and dance the night away at a party afterwards.
26. **Tripos:** The Cambridge Tripos system refers to the undergraduate system of study wherein you begin on a very general course of study, before becoming more and more specialised as you narrow down on what you want to do with your life. This structure consists of a Part 1 (usually 2 years, but possibly 1) followed by a more specialised Part 2 (normally 1 year, but sometimes 2) – three years = the Tripos. In reality, for a number of subjects the undergrad degree continues a further year, concluding with masters level knowledge of the subject most usually referred to as Part 3 (except if you're an engineer where it is Part 2B) – this is the alternative way of looking at the Tripos structure. In fact, a number of you will be here to undertake the Part 3 Maths course.

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But the more colourful etymology suggests that it stems from the fact that students once had to take oral exams sitting on a three legged stool, and legend has it that for each Part passed the students were awarded a leg of the stool until they received the full stool at graduation.

27. **Tutor:** A college officer responsible for the welfare and guidance of students. With respect to MCR members at Churchill, they are referred to as Postgraduate Studies Tutors. You will be assigned one when you come receive your acceptance from College.
28. **Vice- Chancellor:** The Vice-Chancellor is the principal academic and administrative officer of the University. Our current Vice-Chancellor is Prof. Stephen Toope

5.7 Useful links

University Links

- The university website: www.cam.ac.uk
- Graduate Union website: <http://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/>
- Note that the Graduate Union has a lot of really useful pages about various aspects of student life, including living in Cambridge (scroll down to the bottom to view the subtopics): <http://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/wp/support/living-in-cambridge/>
- <https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus>

Churchill Links

- The college website: www.chu.cam.ac.uk
- MCR website: <http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk>
- University sports and societies website: www.societies.cam.ac.uk
- Formal Hall booking link: <http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/internal/catering/hallbooking/>
- Maintenance Requests (Raven login): <http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/internal/maintenance/>

Transportation Links

- Cycling in Cambridge: <http://www.camcycle.org.uk/resources/citycentre/>
- National Rail services – info about train times, fares, etc: www.nationalrail.co.uk
- National Express coaches: www.nationalexpress.com/
- Transport for London site – info about the underground, buses, etc: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>
- The Trainline rail site (<http://www.thetrainline.com/>)

Note that the Trainline is just another train searching site, but allows slightly more flexibility when selecting tickets.

Also note for using the Journey Planner tools with the National Express, National Rail, and First Capital Connect sites: Remember to check “I have a Coachcard” if you have one. (And similarly for searching for tickets on the National Rail or Trainline pages, indicate that you have a 16-25 railcard) You will also need to carry your Coachcard and railcard with you at all times when you’re using that mode of transportation (bus or train, respectively); otherwise, you will be fined!

In closing, welcome to Churchill College! We’re friendly people who want to get to know you, so do all you can during Freshers’ Week and, once the MCR is safe to open again, stop by the MCR whenever you need a break. The committee is always willing to answer questions and help you navigate this new place, so say “Hi” and introduce yourself. The experiences you’ll have here will be unforgettable and we are looking forward to meeting you!