

Churchill College MCR

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# FRESHERS' GUIDE 2022

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CHURCHILL  
COLLEGE

*Freshers' Guide*

© *Middle Common Room*

*Churchill College*

2022

*mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk*

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# Welcome to Cambridge

Dear New and Old Churchillians,

Welcome to the Churchill College MCR; you are now part of our vibrant community. The MCR (Middle Common Room) is the postgraduate body of students you will be part of while you complete your studies. We aim to be inclusive and supportive during your time here so you can have the best Cambridge experience possible.

The opportunities here at Churchill are endless, from various seminars and networking sessions to dining with professors, fancy dress parties, balls, rowing, and more; you'll never be bored! To ensure you don't miss anything, check out the event calendar on the Churchill MCR website, keep an eye out for the weekly Gazette on your cam emails and find us on Facebook. We are quite an informal College (for Cambridge standard) and pride ourselves as a friendly, fun and welcoming community.

A few important things about us:

1. The MCR refers to the postgraduate student body and the common room in College where we all hang out and socialise (it's in the Sandy Ashmore room to the left of the dining hall). We also have our own student-run bar, the Vicious Penguin, which can be a lot of fun.
2. The MCR is also responsible for hosting social events and parties to bring the community together, and we hope you will join us for many of these events. If you have suggestions about events or want to run your own, please contact us since we are always open to new ideas.
3. MCR officers represent the students on several College committees; if you have any questions or concerns or need help with anything, we would love to hear from you.
4. We have a dedicated team of welfare officers who can help you find relevant resources and assistance in the College and the University.

We hope you will have a great time as a member of the MCR and look forward to meeting you when you are here!

Michaela, Eva and Kieran

President and Vice-Presidents of the MCR 2022-2023

## Disclaimer

This document was written by enthusiastic MCR students to provide a guide for the Freshers. The following content is a manual with suggestions and the MCR does not take responsibility for errors or inaccuracies. Please check with the appropriate official sources. Some parts of the text are copied from official websites (e.g. Churchill College website) in order to be the most accurate. Any views or opinions of the authors of this document are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Churchill College. The MCR is not responsible for corruption in transmission or unauthorised use by third parties.

If you find any mistakes, please let us know by emailing the MCR Secretary at [mcr-secretary@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-secretary@chu.cam.ac.uk).

# 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 at international students who are less likely to be accustomed to British conditions, but everyone can feel free to use this as a guide.

## Packing advice

### Weather

Temperatures in Cambridge mainly range from 0°C to 25°C (full range: -5°C to 30°C). The weather is damp but not as rainy as in 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 if you have luggage limitations and may also be more appropriate to the weather conditions.

### Formal dress

There are a lot of formal occasions at Cambridge, and plenty of opportunities to dress up in black-tie. Gentlemen should bring at least a suit with them and ladies should bring something elegant for formal night out. A full-length evening dress, tuxedo, or national dress may be useful for attending galas or May Balls.

### Books

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.

### Electronics/plugs

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. It is strongly suggested to buy high-quality adapters in the UK, so they can be approved by the College electricity test. If you're planning to travel to 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.

### Sending parcels

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 have a tendency 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.

## Bed linen

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 a charge around £12-15 for a single set or at a shop such as John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Wilko, TK Maxx *etc.* (see more at *Shopping in Cambridge* chapter).

## Travelling advice

If you're not lucky enough to be driven up by your parents, or to own a car and drive yourself up, you will either be arriving in Cambridge by (flight and) train or by coach. For further information on transportation, visit the *Transportation* chapter.

## Flight

Gatwick, Heathrow and Luton airports are within two hours drive, and Stansted is just a 40-minute journey. Each destination is similar in time by train as well. We like to say that Stansted is technically a Cambridge airport (closer to us than to London), so if you can, try to arrive there for easier transportation.

## Train

The train station is located on the other side of the city centre from Churchill, nearer the areas that start becoming more 'town' (non-university) instead of 'gown'. The [Universal \(U\) bus](#) travels directly from the station to Madingley Road (you need the bus stop called Storey's Way), near the College and for a single trip costs £1 for Cambridge Students (with student card) or £2.20 for non-student adults.

At any time of day there is a taxi queue just outside the station, and can get a lift to Churchill for ~£10 or take an Uber/Bolt ride, although it's suggested not to accept it if it costs more than £15.

## Bus

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 College.

## Taxi

If you would like alternatives for Uber and Bolt, 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

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.

## Churchill College full address

Churchill College, University of Cambridge

Storey's Way

Cambridge

CB3 0DS

UK

Churchill College contact details:

Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 336000

Fax: +44 (0) 1223 336180

For further information, visit the [College website's How to find us](#) section.

# Beginning of a new adventure

## First Week

In the first week, you will probably be overwhelmed with opportunities, (social) events and tasks. This guide is here to help you with the most important details and to assist you in making the most of your stay in Cambridge. In case you have any questions, the MCR Committee, the College staff and your fellow Students are always here to give answers for you; you only need to ask. Let's see what the most crucial things are to do/know when you arrive at the College.

## Things every graduate fresher should know

### People/things to see immediately upon reaching Churchill

#### *Ms Rebecca Sawalmeh*

To be found in the Churchill Postgraduate Office in the front hallway of the main College building on the right. She can deal with all sorts of enquiries, letters to start a bank account, and any problems/questions you may have. (Email: [postgrad@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:postgrad@chu.cam.ac.uk))

#### *Meet the Porters*

The porters are based at the Porters' lodge in the front of the College, and you will need to check in with them upon arrival to get your room key. 'Porters' is the Cambridge term for describing the people in charge of looking after security and issues like that – if you ask them to carry your bags for you, be warned that you may have a very long few years ahead of you – do not do that! They can also sell you phone cards and stamps and assist with questions about mail. See more at the *Post* chapter. If you have shipped boxes to Churchill prior to your arrival, they will have them. You also need to register your bike with them and if the fire alarm goes off at your on-site accommodation, you need to call them. (Email: [porters@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:porters@chu.cam.ac.uk))

#### *A doctor*

You need to register with your local GP as soon as you get settled into Cambridge, 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. You can do this registration by filling in the appropriate online form – please note, you can fill it in once you have arrived in the UK but be prepared as they ask for your medical information, such as vaccination or medical family history.

#### *Meet other MCR members*

Once you are settled in, come by the 'Sandy Ashmore' MCR room, located to your left at the top of the stairs in the main building. Come along if you would like to meet people, have a question, need to find food late at night (this one probably will be from the Buttery), or are feeling lost and lonely. There will be subsidised tea, coffee, and hot chocolate or you can choose from the MCR Bar's drink menu.

## *Churchill College MCR Facebook group*

Join the [MCR Facebook group](#) to e-meet your fellow Churchillians and ask any of your questions. Please, fill in the questionnaire so we can add you to the group.

## Where do I get..?

### *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. Mike the Bikeman can be found selling second-hand bikes in Market Square. Also, check out Kingsway cycles, they have reasonably priced second-hand bikes. A decent bike should cost £150-250 with lights, mudguards, *etc.* A good second-hand bike should cost around £90-120. Facebook groups, Amazon and Gumtree (<http://www.gumtree.com>) are also good options for buying bikes online. There is a bike repairman in College during the term as well as in the market in the centre of town. See more at the *Cycling* chapter.

**Be sure to register your bike at the Porters' lodge:** for that go to the Porters' lodge and say that you would like to register your bike. The Porters will give you a marker pan and tell you to write your student number on the bike. Please note: do not bring your bike to the Porters' lodge for registration, instead park it in front of the College at the racks (on the right).

### *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. The 'big Sainsbury's' is at Eddington, you can walk there through the fields (approx. 10-15 mins) or take the U bus. There is also an Aldi and Iceland along Histon Road, which are usually less expensive than Sainsbury's, and a Co-op which is open longer on Sundays (note most shops close early due to Sunday Trading Laws). Other options include the big Tesco and Asda, located on Newmarket road, but this may be a bit far out for an initial venture. The market square has several fresh fruit and vegetable stalls, selling local produce; or, visit Mill road and national shops for goodies from all around the world. See more at *Shopping in Cambridge* chapter.

### *Appliances and decorations for your room*

Near Grafton Centre, there is Wilko which sells pretty much anything you may need at very reasonable prices. Also, Argos has a wide selection of items, and can be picked up from their store next to Sainsburys in Eddington (they do home deliveries, [www.argos.com](http://www.argos.com)). Just down the street from Wilko you can get some cheap (lower quality) 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. See more at *Shopping in Cambridge* chapter.

## Where to get information on the MCR?

### *MCR Email lists*

There are two major MCR email lists. The addresses of most Freshers have been added automatically by the MCR Executive. If you have not been added (so do not get any message in the first 2 weeks), please contact the MCR President ([mcr-president@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-president@chu.cam.ac.uk)) or any other MCR committee member.

We send out a [weekly newsletter called Gazette](#) during term time. You will get it automatically but in case you have anything (e.g. an event or an interesting opportunity) to share, please use the [dedicated Gazette form](#) for that.

### *Freshers' week program*

During Freshers' week, a list of all the daily activities will be posted on the [MCR website](#) as well as shared in the [weekly Gazette](#) via email.

### *Website*

Useful information can be found at the MCR website: <https://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk/>.

### *Contact the MCR Officers*

You can contact any MCR committee member with your name or anonymously too, see the bottom of the [MCR committee page](#).

Spouses and partners of Freshers (and all members) are welcome and encouraged to attend all MCR planned events. We'll publish the link for application to register as an Associate Member. If you're a partner, please use that option, so you can join the community at the Churchill MCR. In addition, spouses and partners of Freshers are welcome to contact the Families' Representative with any questions at [mcr-families@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-families@chu.cam.ac.uk).

## How to get a bank account and mobile phone?

*(Relevant to overseas students)*

### *Bank account*

After choosing a bank (Barclay's, Lloyds Bank, NatWest, HSBC, etc.), you'll need a letter from College to confirm your address. You can get this from Rebecca Sawalmeh (Email: [postgrad@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:postgrad@chu.cam.ac.uk)). 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.

### *Mobile*

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 (online), The Carphone Warehouse, EE, Vodafone (best deal is

Voxi), Phones4U and a number of other such stores are all within easy reach of each other near Market Square.

## MCR Freshers' Survival Checklist

- Read Senior Postgraduate Tutor's Welcome Letter.
- Look through the virtual welcome pack.
- Complete Medical Information Form.
- Register with a Doctor.
- Update personal information on CamSIS (GP, Cambridge address and UK Mobile number).
- Register Bike with Porters' Lodge.
- Read the Student Handbook.
- Read Accommodation Handbook.
- Sign up for a slot to meet your tutor via Moodle: Optional, but strongly advised.
- Set up Wi-Fi and Raven Account.
- Read Counselling Information.
- Check the Diary of Events and Freshers' programme for mandatory and optional events.
- Read MCR Freshers' guide (*You are doing it now and you are doing it right ;*)).
- If you will live in College Accommodation, sign Room/Flat agreement online that you should have received an email requesting this from [noreply.tutorial@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:noreply.tutorial@chu.cam.ac.uk) through 'Hello Sign'. This is not a phishing scam.
- If you will live in College Accommodation, note the information *re. Electrical items safety check*.
- If you will live in College Accommodation, confirm and personalise Endsleigh Insurance Cover.
- Take your passport to the Postgraduate Office (driving licence is OK for students not on a student visa).
- If you are on a Student Visa, collect BRP from the post-office/Rebecca: Rebecca will email you when your BRP has arrived to arrange a collection.
- If you are on a Student Visa, read Student Visa Guidance.
- If you are from countries listed on the OVR page, register at the police station.

## Academic year

While this is irrelevant to most postgraduate students as they 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-long terms known as Michaelmas, Lent, and Easter, with a five-week-long break (approximately) in between each. [The term dates may be found here](#). 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'.

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 host its own May Ball last year, but even if we don't have that, a smaller Spring Ball is organised in February. These events are more targeted for undergraduates but every university student is welcomed to buy tickets.

## Churchill MCR

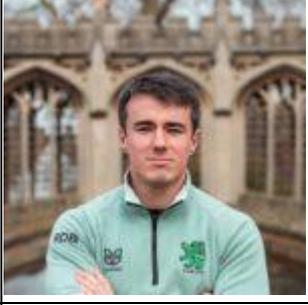
### MCR overview

The Middle Common Room (MCR) is a student body that exists to represent the graduate students of Churchill College in day to day activities and in dealings with the College administration. We organise academic and recreational events throughout the year to encourage bonding between students and to enrich their lives. These events are primarily organised during the Cambridge term time, however, as we are graduate students we don't have any fixed holidays so we have the odd event or two out of term. The MCR Committee is awarded a budget from the College each year to sponsor events organised by the Committee, and suggestions for new events are always welcome. Please contact the committee if you want to organise a sponsored event.

### Meet your committee

Please note, each email address is ending with *.cam.ac.uk*

Position	Name	Email	Photo
President	Michaela Taylor-Williams	mcr-president@chu	
General Secretary	Éva Bernadett Bényei	mcr-secretary@chu	

Treasurer	Kieran Heal	mcr-treasurer@chu	
Women's Welfare	Thea Fennell	mcr-womenswelfare@chu	
Men's Welfare	Richard Bowen	mcr-menswelfare@chu	
Families' Welfare	Elre Oldewage	mcr-families@chu	
LGBT+	Jack Hughes	mcr-lgbt@chu	
Internal Social Secretary	Shany Richaud	mcr-socialsecretary@chu	

External Social Secretary		mcr-externalevents@chu	
First Year Representative	Madeline Prince	mcr-firstyearrep@chu	
Equality & Diversity		mcr-diversity@chu	
Disability Access		mcr-access@chu	
Green		mcr-green@chu	
Academic	Lorrie Jacobs	mcr-academic@chu	
Communications & Publicity		mcr-publicity@chu	
Computing	David Barry	mcr-webmaster@chu	
Equipment	Liam Webb	mcr-equipmentsports@chu	
Bar Treasurer	Reece McCoy	mcr-bar-treasurer@chu	
Bar Secretary		mcr-bar-secretary@chu	
Ale & Quail	Sam Turner	mcr-alequail@chu	

Find out more about the [MCR Committee here](#).

## **MCR Room**

The MCR Room is officially called Sandy Ashmore room and placed to the left of the dining hall. MCR students come here to play board and video games, foosball or just to chat. Drop in anytime if you are looking for company or just would like to chill. Importantly, going through this room, you will arrive at the Vicious Penguin.

## **The Vicious Penguin**

No, Churchill does not house any strange wildlife...(at least not at the moment). 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', the bar will run a number of training sessions for those of you who may want to help run it - it's fun!

## **Our Welfare Work**

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 and pregnancy tests – 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: [mcr-womenswelfare@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-womenswelfare@chu.cam.ac.uk)

Men's welfare: [mcr-menswelfare@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-menswelfare@chu.cam.ac.uk)

Families' representatives: [mcr-marriedstudents@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-marriedstudents@chu.cam.ac.uk)

LGBT+ Officer: [mcr-lgbt@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-lgbt@chu.cam.ac.uk)

The Churchill College nurse (Jo Livingstone; [nurse@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:nurse@chu.cam.ac.uk); 01223 336133) and Churchill Counselling Services (Louise Ranger, the College's Wellbeing Co-ordinator; [counsellor@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:counsellor@chu.cam.ac.uk)) are other people you can contact for help on welfare issues.

Find more information at the links below:

- [College Nurse and Surgery](#)
- [Counselling Services](#)

## **Getting involved**

If you are interested in the MCR activities and/or thinking about joining the Committee, we are more than happy to chat with you about the details. Please contact the President ([mcr-president@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-president@chu.cam.ac.uk)) or the Secretary ([mcr-secretary@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-secretary@chu.cam.ac.uk)) to arrange a chat.

# Discover Churchill College

## Churchill College

With the largest College campus in Cambridge, a diverse student population and a track record of excellence, Churchill College is one of the most forward-thinking academic institutions in the world.

## 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). More information can be found on [College housing here](#).

Independently from living on or off site, everyone is encouraged to get involved in College life!

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 the Maintenance website](#) (click on the question mark at the bottom right corner) since it can be used for online requests for carpentry, plumbing, and other such repairs, maintenance issues. For housekeeping requests, e.g. necessary housekeeping supplies or cleaning issues, use [Housekeeping website](#).

## Laundry

If you're living on College accommodation, you either have washing and drying machines in your house or you can use the shared facilities. For the latter, you'll need a laundry card/app and then you can use the service provider's website to top it up with money. For further details, ask your fellow students, the Porters or [visit this Laundry website](#).

## Post

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. Amazon deliveries are placed to the Amazon room.

You can post normal mail at the Porters' lodge instead of walking to a Post office in town. Also, if you send a parcel, arrange the pick up at the Porters' lodge, bring the package there (with all the required documents printed and stick to the package) preferably the day before and the Porters will take care about the rest; so you don't need to stay at home waiting for collection.

## 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 Annie Gleeson ([librarian@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:librarian@chu.cam.ac.uk); 01223 336138), 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 be nosey about.

For more details about the [Library click here](#).

## Churchill Archives Centre

The Churchill Archives Centre is a world-leading collection of 20th Century history. Their collection contains a wide range of documents by more than 570 politicians, military and scientific luminary figures from the Churchill era and beyond. If you would like to see the original papers from Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Rosalind Franklin or many more, visit their [Archive website](#) or dedicate an in-person visit to this wonderful experience.

## Hall

Every Cambridge College has a dining hall, but Churchill's is the largest (although far from the classical "Harry Potter" style in architecture). 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.

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 ~£6.00. With the hectic lab schedules of most postgraduates, going to hall tends to fade into the background, as some like to cook at home. Although, during Freshers' week, it is a fantastic way to get to know others.

More importantly, several times each week, there 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 (~£15.00). 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 Advanced 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. Definitely sign up for the Matriculation dinner, so you will understand these ‘rules’ much better. 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, everyone is happy to help – just ask. You can [book Formal Halls on the website](#).

Traditionally it is a Cambridge custom to wear gowns at all formal occasions, e.g. formal halls. 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. In case you need one to go to another College’s formal, there are gowns in the MCR cupboard for you to sign out and borrow or just ask a friend or housemate if they have any.

## **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. You can also buy some daily groceries like milk from here if you haven’t had the chance to do your shopping in town. You can pay with your students card unless it’s alcohol for which you need a credit card.

## **Sport**

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 – so sport up!

Churchill is particularly lucky to have some of the best sports facilities in all of Cambridge, all on-site. We have 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 weeks of the Michaelmas Term. An email will be sent out by the gym 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). Visit the [Gym website](#) for details.

Besides the gym and sport pitches, you can use for free the Dance Studio, Basketball, Squash and Tennis Courts. [Click here for the details and the booking](#).

Although run mainly by the JCR (undergraduates), 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! Definitely participate in the Try rowing event to see if this is your cup of tea. For more information about rowing, visit the [Churchill College Boat Club website](#).

## **Music**

We have a range of instruments available at Churchill College. Additionally the Music Centre is a popular facility for the many members of the College that are musically inclined and rooms can be booked online for use. The Chapel can also be booked for practices as well, however services and events do take precedence. Moreover, our Director of Music ensures that there are a rich and active number of societies and groups at Churchill College which are listed on the website. For Music grants, visit the *Finances* chapter.

For more information, visit the [Music at Churchill website](#).

## **Grounds and Gardens**

Churchill College's grounds and gardens are one of Cambridge's best-kept secrets. Covering a 42-acre site, the original design was drawn up in the early 1960s by the landscape architect Sheila Haywood, who used planting for foliage and form—creating landscapes with borders surrounding buildings rather than traditional gardens. The grounds and gardens have evolved over the years but they still retain the integrity of the original planting. Whenever you have a free hour, walk around and have a look at the Winston Churchill Border, the summer herbaceous borders, the orchid collection or the Xiaotian Fu garden. If you would like to have a tour, join the Grounds and Gardens Tour – details will be shared in the term card. For more information about the [gardens visit the website](#).

## **Chapel at Churchill College**

The majority of the Colleges of the University of Cambridge are religious foundations; at least that is how they originated. Many of them demonstrate that in their names (Christ's, Jesus, St John's, Trinity, Magdalene, Corpus Christi, and so on), and in fact many of their formal ceremonies take place in their chapels. Churchill is not like that. We were founded without any specific religious mission, and the Chapel at Churchill College was not part of the original foundation of the College. Churchill is a tolerant College, where people of all religions, and of none, can feel at home, and will find others of similar persuasions.

The Chapel at Churchill College is ecumenical and provides a locus for worship for all Christian people in the College community. Members of the congregation are encouraged to take part in shaping the worship within the Chapel. All who seek, who worship or who are in doubt are welcome. Services are generally held at 17:45 on Sundays in term.

Any Christian group seeking a venue for prayer, Bible study or discussion, and other groups wishing to use the Chapel should approach Dr Martyn Johnson, Chairman of the Trustees. Please feel free to come to the Chapel at any time for private prayer and as a place for quiet reflection. Baptisms, weddings, funerals and memorial services may be arranged by speaking to the Chaplain.

Visit the [Chapel website](#) for further details.

## **Counselling**

The College provides a confidential, inclusive counselling service for students. You can talk to the Counsellor about any personal issue that is troubling you.

Counselling provides a safe and accepting space to be heard whatever your background, identity or race. The Counsellor is trained to listen carefully and respectfully to help you validate your experience, work through the issues you bring and strengthen your ability to cope. Counselling aims to relieve your distress, increase your personal understanding and widen the options you feel you have.

You can use counselling to help you address any personal issue from immediate concerns to longer-term problems. Issues people bring include, abuse, anxiety, bereavement, depression, eating disorders, family difficulties, identity, procrastination, racism, relationships or social concerns, self-harm, settling in, sexual harassment, sexuality, stress and suicidal feelings.

Talking to family, friends or other staff can be very helpful, but counselling provides another option if you want to talk to someone separate from the rest of your life who is professionally trained and who has time for you.

For appointment booking or further details, [click here](#).

If you are looking for Welfare and Medical Support, [click here](#).

## **Finances**

To have an overview about any financial questions, [visit the website](#).

The College is supporting Churchill students with a big variety of grants, including (but not limited to) Postgraduate Travel Grants, University Sports & Arts Representation Grants, Funding for Financial Adversity, Sizarships, Music Scholarships and Bursaries, Poetry & Play Writing Prizes, Language Bursaries, Chapel Bursaries *etc.* For applications, visit the [Financial support website](#).

The University also runs a Hardship Funding for Postgraduate Students, [visit the website for the details](#).

Moreover, the College Finance Tutor ([Finance.Tutor@chu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Finance.Tutor@chu.cam.ac.uk)) is available to be consulted on any matters relating to funding or financial situations in addition to the support provided by the Tutorial Office, Postgraduate Office, College Accounts and your own Tutors.

## **Computing Support**

Computing provides a wide range of services from Wi-Fi to printing. Visit the [Computing website](#) for further details.

## **Study Skills Sessions**

Dr Eric Brewster is running several one-to-one study sessions and training courses, e.g. Writing and Time Management Essentials, Writing Up Your Research for Publication, Conference and Poster Presentations *etc.* Keep an eye on your emails and we do suggest signing up for these because they are not only very useful but also entertaining.

## **Churchill Enterprise Competition**

In 2015 Churchill College launched the Churchill Enterprise Competition to help identify and support the best business ideas of current Churchill students and alumni. It also runs a broad programme of events including training, networking and competitions, designed to develop and support the entrepreneurial skills of current students and alumni.

Visit the [Churchill Enterprise website](#) for further details.

## Cambridge dictionary

Term	What the heck does it mean?
Bedder	This term varies in exact definition 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).
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'.
Boatie	The most famous and arguably important sport in Cambridge is rowing. A person partaking in the sport is known colloquially as a boatie.
Bop	A dance party, usually featuring drinks, loud music, & fancy dress (costumes).
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.
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'.
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.
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, unless you want to get involved with undergraduate supervisions, in which case these are the people to talk to.
Fancy dress	Means to wear a costume according to a theme (as opposed to dressing up for a formal event)

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.
JCR	Junior Combination Room - The JCR refers to the undergraduate student common room and undergraduate student body at a College.
Matriculation	This is the ceremony during which all new students enroll in College by signing a register confirming that they will conform to University regulations.
Mathmo	The colloquial term used to describe a maths student.
MCR	Middle Combination Room - The postgraduate student body (and common room) of a College. You are members of the Churchill MCR.
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.
NatSci	Historically there was never any distinction between the studies 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, <i>etc.</i> At Cambridge, however, as an undergraduate you embark on the Natural Sciences Tripos, from where you may then specialise 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.
P'lodge	Shortened nickname for the Porters' Lodge, which is the place where the Porters operate from in a College.
Porters	The people responsible for College security.

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.
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.
Scarlet days	Days of special importance to the University, or nationally, during which Doctors are required to wear their scarlet gowns in public.
SCR	Senior Combination Room - The room, and body of members, for the Fellows of a College.
Supervision	A small group (usually 1, 2 or 3 people) teaching environment undertaken as part of undergraduate courses to help consolidate the normal lecture course.
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.
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.
Tripes	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. 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.

Tutor	A College officer responsible for the welfare and guidance of students. With respect to MCR members at Churchill, they are referred to as Advanced Studies Tutors. You will be assigned one when you receive your acceptance from College.
Vice Chancellor	The Vice-Chancellor is the principal academic and administrative officer of the University. Our current Acting Vice-Chancellor is Dr Anthony Freeling.

## 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 \(U bus\)](#) that runs every 15 mins and every 20 mins on Saturdays. It runs from the West Cambridge site, to a stop just outside Churchill on Madingley Road (bus stop: Storey's Way) 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, or you can purchase a monthly ticket for £28 using the [myTrip app](#). [A useful map source](#) (map with labels).

### Cycling

A new city always brings a whole new set of rules. Cambridge where cycling is second nature, is a cycle friendly city but be careful 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 kindly, 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.

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.

[Cambridge Cycling Campaign](#): 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.

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.

## **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 ([sarah.andrew@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.andrew@admin.cam.ac.uk); Ph: 01223 332249) 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](mailto: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.

## **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.

## **Supermarkets**

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. The 'big' Sainsbury's is located in Eddington, approximately 15 mins walking from the College. 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 Tesco 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 – Nazreen Dar, 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.

## General

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 Wilko, 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. Or check Argos website and pick your order up next to the Eddington Sainsbury's.

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 bookshelves. 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.

## Electronics

Maplin, located on St. Andrew's Street, or Curry's, on Newmarket Road, are the best for these.

## 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. If you have regular medication, the GP will ask you which Pharmacy you would like to use and they'll send your subscription there.

## **Religious Institutions**

Cambridge is 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.

## **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 Arts Picturehouse, on St. Andrew's street, is an independent cinema that plays more artsy films and local talents – and has a great bar! Vue is famous for its very comfy chairs.

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.

## **Accommodation around Cambridge for visiting families/friends**

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 term time): <http://www.universityrooms.com/en/city/cambridge/home>

The [University Accommodation Service](#) which has a section on short visits.

[Airbnb](#)

## Tips for transportation

If you're travelling at least a few times by train, get a Railcard! [Railcards](#) (such as the young person's 16-25 or 26-30 railcard) provide a 33% discount on rail tickets in the UK. Check out the [Railcard](#) website for more info.

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](#). 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.

You can use your contactless payment credit card or Oyster cards for travelling with London public transportation. [Oyster cards](#) 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. An important note is that you need to "touch" the credit card/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 travelling as well (classified as "peak" and "off-peak"), and can be found [here](#).

[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 travelling directly from Cambridge to various London airports since National Express provides direct coaches to Heathrow, Luton, and other airports. You can buy the £12.50 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. [More info about Coachcards can be found here](#).

Useful links:

Cycling in Cambridge: <http://www.camcycle.org.uk/resources/citycentre/>

National Rail services – info about train times, fares, *etc.*: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

National Express coaches: [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

Transport for London site – info about the underground, buses, *etc.*: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>

The Trainline rail site - another train searching site, but allows slightly more flexibility when selecting tickets: <http://www.thetrainline.com>

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 night-time estimates may not be as accurate.

## **Trips for short 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 realise 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 different chapter on its own, to discover that check it online or ask your student fellows).

**Ely:** 15 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's House and the river, where the University rowing crews train every day.

**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 6. St. Ives the motorway bridge to explore this small place with a nice church, pub and grazing llamas. Good for refreshing your brain. Connected with Cambridge through a guided busway. Cycle (1 hour leisurely), walk or skate right next to it. Don't miss the fen lakes reserve on the road and enjoy some ice cream at the town's beautiful bridge or next to the Oliver Cromwell statue.

**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).

**International:** 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:

- Ryanair
- Wizzair
- Easyjet
- Monarch

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

## Useful links

### University

The University website: [www.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cam.ac.uk)

Student Union website: <https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk>

University sports and societies website: [www.societies.cam.ac.uk](http://www.societies.cam.ac.uk)

### Churchill College

The College website: [www.chu.cam.ac.uk](http://www.chu.cam.ac.uk)

MCR website: <https://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk>

Formal Hall booking link:

<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/student-hub/college-dining/formal-halls/>

Maintenance Requests (Raven login):

<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/student-hub/resources/maintenance/?raven=true>

Postgraduate Tutorial Team:

<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/study-us/postgraduates/virtual-freshers-pack-postgraduate-students/postgraduate-tutorial-team/>

Student Handbooks and College Documents:

<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/student-hub/resources/handbooks-documentation/>

Map of Cambridge: <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/student-hub/the-college/map/>

Quick links: <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/student-hub/quick-links/>