

Self-Guided Tour Audio Guide Transcript

1) Info desk (Concourse)

The info desk in the concourse is where you can find out more about what's happening across the Open Days. Student helpers will be leading tours from here, and you can speak with current students and staff about what Churchill College is like. The Concourse connects the Porters Lodge, at the entrance of the College, with the College's café and bar, known as the Buttery, and main routes on to other areas. The Porters Lodge is where College Porters are based. There's always someone available at the Porters Lodge to help with enquiries too.

2) Buttery

The Buttery provides hot and cold drinks, snacks and light meals like sushi, sandwiches and pizza. It's a space used for socialising as well as studying during the day, and in the evenings there are often events here. This includes things like Open Mic nights, Churchill Jazz Band performances, or it can become a dance floor. Typically it's where people come for a drink before a Formal Hall takes place. Formal Halls happen in the Dining Hall, where we'll go next, up the stairs opposite the Buttery.

3) Dining Hall

The Dining Hall is the biggest of all the Cambridge Colleges. Meals are available here 7 days a week, with subsidised rates for students. Eating together is a big part of Cambridge life, although there are snack kitchens available in our accommodation. There's a range of hot food choices available at lunchtimes and dinner, plus a salad bar. Regularly throughout term, Formal Halls are held. These are very reasonably priced 3 course meals where everyone dresses up, and can bring their own wine if they want. It's a bit of an occasion, and sometimes themed formals are organised by the JCR, for Halloween, for instance. The JCR represents the undergraduate student body, and also organises a lot of social events.

Heading back down the stairs and then turning left, and left again we can walk through the double-doors to the libraries.

4) Libraries

As you enter the Wolfson Hall, you will come face to face with the first of Churchill College's two main libraries. The Bracken Library is downstairs and is science-focused, while the Bevin Library is upstairs and has an arts and humanities focus. However students are welcome to work wherever they wish. If you continue to the right as you face the Bracken Library, you'll come to the Wolfson Theatre, which has a capacity of around 300 seats and often hosts events.

As we move upstairs, you'll pass the library office where our friendly librarians are on hand to help. There is also a computer room and printing facilities near the Bevin library. For students whose mobility prevents them from going upstairs, we can put processes in place for them to access the resources. The Bevin Library itself is generally a little more relaxed in atmosphere than the Bracken, with sofas and armchairs as well as desks and chairs.

As we leave this building, we turn right to follow the path round to the Churchill Archives Centre and Jock Colville Hall.

5) Archives Centre / Jock Colville Hall

Entering through the main door takes us into the Jock Colville Hall, which is another space used for events, lectures and similar. Up the stairs, or via the lift, we find the Archives Centre. The Reading Room is available for

up to 8 researchers, or students, to book per day. Here you can access the many unique historical resources held in its collections. The Archives Centre is a world-leading collection of 20th Century history containing a wide-range of documents by more than 570 political, military & scientific luminary figures from the Churchill era and beyond.

6) Accommodation

Churchill College guarantees on-site accommodation for the duration of undergraduate courses. Students are housed in courtyards, with rooms grouped around staircases. Our accommodation includes rooms in North Court, East Court, South Court, West Court, and Cowan Court. As a modern College, Churchill's rooms are large and spacious. En suite and accessible rooms can be requested, but as standard each room has a double bed, a desk, a sink and a heated window seat. The window seats are an iconic part of Churchill College, enjoyed by generations of students.

Rent is billed termly in advance and includes central heating, internet access in your room, wireless internet around College, and use of facilities on-site (the gym, for example). Other College charges are billed monthly and include food purchased in the Dining Hall and Buttery, electricity (not heating) used in your room, and printing. Each room is banded and rents in the academic year 2024-25 range from £156.00 to £261.70 a week.

The next stop on our tour is the Gym, as we head out across the lawns and fields of the College, towards down the building that looks like a cricket pavilion.

7) Gym

The gym is free for all students to use. The buildings adjoining the Gym are the Music Centre and the Moller Institute Study Centre. The Moller Institute features the distinctive octagonal white tower which you can see to your left as you face the Gym, and offers leadership development programmes, typically for those working outside of academia, although the ACCEL leadership programme is open for Churchill students. The Gym itself has a range of equipment from rowing machines, to cross trainers, weights and more. All students need an induction before first use, but are then free to use the gym facilities as they wish.

8) Sports fields and courts

With the Gym behind us you can see the sports fields, courts and outdoor gym equipment. Churchill College students take part in a range of sports teams, and we are well served here with basketball and tennis courts, cricket and football pitches, as well as the dance and yoga studios and squash courts near the entrance. Churchill College is well provided for with student clubs, with over 30 spanning interests including sports, arts, sciences and subject interests – we also host university clubs such as the drone society, who make use of the space we have available. If you follow the path in front of the Gym towards the Moller Institute, it will take you all around the perimeter of our site, around 700m, which is a popular route for runners.

Facing the gym again, we now head down the right hand side of the building towards the Music Centre.

9) Music Centre

Based on-site, Churchill College's purpose-built Music Centre features a recital room, a practice room, a large recording studio, and a fully-equipped control room. It is equipped with a Steinway grand piano, a Rubio harpsichord; an additional piano, keyboard, bass guitar and amplifiers, and College drum kit. Regular recitals take place in the Music Centre during term-time, showcasing the talents of students as well as visiting musicians.

Heading back towards the entrance of the College we follow the roadside footpath from the Music Centre to the gardens, which will be on the left hand side.

10) Gardens

Churchill College has 50 acres of grounds, and you will have seen some of the space and beautiful environment we enjoy. Crossing the road to enter the gardens, we find a quiet space with benches for students to sit and work or enjoy nature. There are also allotments where students can grow things, and a small greenhouse for them to get plants started. The large greenhouse is our Orchid House, where students can visit our extensive orchid collection. Students can also help themselves to the fruit of our orchards, and if you continue to your left as you entered the gardens, you'll find our beehives, which produce honey which we sell in our Buttery each year.

Leaving the garden, continue down the footpath towards the entrance, and take a right at the Staff car-park to find the Bill Brown Creative Workshops.

11) Bill Brown Creative Workshops

The Bill Brown Creative Workshops include makerspaces where students can come and use 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, woodworking tools, arts and crafts material, as well as virtual reality equipment, digital design software, and photography backdrops. Students are encouraged to get hands on and try things. It also includes an exhibition space where you can browse the latest artistic displays.

Just past the Bill Brown Creative Workshops, as we head on towards the main entrance, you'll find our next stop.

12) Squash Courts & Dance studio

The entrance to our squash courts and dance studio is through the door on the left, just before you reach the steps down to the front lawn. Yoga also runs in the dance studio, and students are free to book and use these spaces.

As we continue past the Squash Courts, we return to the main entrance, and the Porters Lodge. If you have further questions about the College, please visit the Info Desk. We hope you have enjoyed your self-guided tour.