

Do you love to sing?

Have you thought about applying for a Choral Award?

Choral Awards, Choral Exhibitions, Choral Studentships, and Choral Scholarships all indicate the same thing: the music award held by a student in a Cambridge chapel choir, usually referred to as a 'Choral Scholar'. There are various different official names for Choral Awards depending on the history and statutes of the individual College concerned. They all come with 'perks', for example singing lessons, trips and tours, free (or heavily-subsided) meals etc. And the social side of being in a choir is a lovely part of being a Choral Scholar too!

What does it mean to hold a Choral Award?

Choral Award-holders are required to sing in the choir of their College chapel, attending regular rehearsals and services. Most Colleges also expect Choral Award-holders to play an active role in College music-making. The responsibilities of Choral Award-holders vary greatly from College to College and are outlined on the relevant College websites.

A Choral Award comes with a small financial award each year, which is the same across all Colleges participating in the Intercollegiate Choral Awards Scheme; however, the true value of the Award lies in the educational, social, and cultural opportunities and training made available to the holder, facilitating their intellectual and personal development in support of and far beyond the academic subject they happen to be studying. A Cambridge Choral Award is also an excellent addition to a CV: it demonstrates that the recipient is committed, reliable, and highly-skilled.

Do I need to be a brilliant singer with years of experience?

In a word...no! There is a huge range of choirs in Cambridge in terms of time commitment required – some ask for ten hours of your time per term, some a few hours a week; in others you may find yourself singing anything up to seven services a week. It's true some people have experience in school choirs or elsewhere, but for every one of them there will be others who do not. At the auditions (in March each year) we hear all sorts of singers, including some who might have perhaps played an instrument in the past and are enthused by the thought of being involved in college life by singing in their college's Chapel Choir. Some people will have had singing lessons, others not. Many who want to give it a go but have no experience often surprise themselves! (A basic ability to read music is required, however.)

How can I find out more?

There is lots of information on the [Choral Awards Scheme webpages](#). If, having read it carefully (including the [FAQs](#)), you still have questions, or would like advice on the application process, please email the Choral Awards Co-ordinator, Miss Louisa Denby, on choralawards@group.cam.ac.uk.