

ducks fun pool bar paddock friendly picnic cool subway love college **pool**
cambridge awesome **ducks** pool bar picnic fun **laughs** paddock subway emma
college cambridge laughs beautiful ducks **pool** bar awesome picnic paddock **cool**
fun love emma college cambridge awesome beautiful ducks pool picnic paddock
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Alternative Prospectus



Thanks

The Emmanuel College Alternative Prospectus has been written, edited and produced entirely by undergraduates from the College. We would like to thank the Master, Fellows and Staff of the College, especially Dr Barnes, Dr Henderson, Dr Howell, Dr White and Lesley Shaw for their support in the production of this prospectus.

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Emmanuel College: www.emma.cam.ac.uk

Emmanuel College Students Union: www.ecsu.org.uk

Cambridge University: www.cam.ac.uk

Cambridge University Students Union: www.cusu.cam.ac.uk

Why did you apply to Emmanuel?

Charlotte: When I visited Emma, there were students sitting out on the Paddock chatting and working in the sun. At no other college did I see grass with people on it!

What's the big idea?

Welcome to the current edition of the Emmanuel College Alternative Prospectus! It's here to give you the low-down on life, work and play at Emma and has been written and produced by the people who know best: the students themselves. Our aim is to tell it as it really is. We promise to provide you with all the essential info you need to see if **Emma is the best college for you!**

All about Emma



1. Character: One of the best things about Cambridge is the college system because it means everyone belongs to a smaller community of students you make friends with; eating, socialising and living together! Emma's known Cambridge-wide for its **friendly character and lively atmosphere**. There are so many fun quirks you'll discover as a student at Emma from our beloved ducks, to the amazing outdoor swimming pool, to our legendary bar ents (short for entertainments). On top of that we make a real effort to provide **great student welfare** so all this means not only do we play hard but we can also get the most out of our work... in fact Emma has been consistently in the top 5 of the Tompkins table of Cambridge colleges' academic performance for the last 10 years.

2. Location: Emmanuel students really do enjoy the **best of both worlds**: not only are we close to all the shops, bars and restaurants of the city centre; but we still have lovely open grounds including a grassy Paddock that's great for picnics, and a big duck pond. We're also just across the road from subjects (like Natural Sciences, PPS and Geography) with faculties on the Downing or New Museum sites - meaning more precious sleep in the mornings. Being off the main King's-Trinity tourist trail means you can avoid being in too many tourist holiday snaps!

3. Size: Emma has about **150 students per year** which means it's small enough for you to always bump into someone you know for a chat at dinner, in the bar (or, ahem, in the library). However, with over 600 students in total there's enough people and variety to ensure that everyone is able to make friends throughout their time here.

What's been your fondest memory of your time here?

Tom: An impromptu afternoon of indoor cricket in the Old JCR with about forty fielders arrayed around the sofas. It was brilliant.



4. Facilities: Emma has fantastic facilities such as the very swish Queen's Building which attracts a huge range of **student society events** from talks given by world renowned experts, to weekly recitals by the Music Society and film screenings from CinEmma. There are plenty of music practice rooms available to students, a big screen for sports in the bar, and the Old JCR has a TV, DVD player and a **Wii!** We also have a 24-hour library which has just been renovated, plenty of sports courts and grounds; and finally we're the only college with a free laundry service.

5. ECSU: Emmanuel College Student Union exists to represent every student at Emma to the college authorities and to the Cambridge Uni Student's Union. It's run by an 'Executive' of around 15 elected roles to make sure student issues are tackled in every

sphere of college life including welfare, green issues, catering, and ents. Any Emma student can run for a position in the annual elections to work to make the **Emma student experience as good as possible**. Around college ECSU also provides lots of services like running the unique college shop selling sweets and stationery (and Emma socks - worn with pride!), Fresher's week, summer term welfare activities, and our amazing ents throughout the year. All this means ECSU is a useful port-of-call if you ever have a problem in college and is always keen to hear any ideas for making college life even better. Oh and ECSU's also been responsible for making this splendid prospectus!

6. College Staff Structure:

This has developed over the last 400 years and so can be a little confusing at first, for clarification: the Master is the official head of the college and chairs all the big meetings - our current master is Lord Wilson who used to be the head of the civil service: he's hugely inspiring yet always approachable! The Senior Tutor is in charge of academic matters, the Bursar deals with the college's finances and domestic matters (e.g. accommodation, college bills), and the Dean is in charge of the Chapel as well as providing spiritual support. Your Director of Studies (DoS) organises your teaching including supervisions, and your personal Tutor looks after your general welfare and helps you apply for grants. Phew, hope you managed to keep up, but no worries if you didn't - all this means is that there are many levels of college staff who're there to ensure everything runs smoothly!



Random Emma fact:

Famous alumni: John Harvard, Thomas Young (Young's modulus), Sebastian Faulks, Rory McGrath, Graham Chapman (Monty Python), Griff Rhys Jones...

Accommodation

The best thing about accommodation at Emma is that the college can offer you accommodation for the duration of your course which means **cheap rents, bedders (cleaning staff) to help you keep tidy, and being able to live close to your friends the whole time**. A range of different grades of accommodation with different styles and facilities are on offer to suit all tastes and budgets. Don't worry, these aren't allocated on the basis of your exam results (yes, it happens at some colleges!).

1st Year: All first years live in college, either in lovely sixties South Court with great facilities and easy access to the college bar, or the more traditional North court with big wooden staircases and Savino's Cafe nearby (authentic Italian coffee and panini... and an exclusive Emma student discount!). The fact that everyone lives in college makes settling in and getting to know people very easy.



2nd Year: In the second year you can get together with a couple of mates and then the order of choosing rooms is decided by a random ballot. This order is reversed in 3rd year to make it fair for everyone. Second years live out of college in student halls or converted houses which are still owned by the college and only 10 minutes walk (or 5 minutes cycle away) from Emma and the centre of town. It gives you the opportunity to be out of the Cambridge student 'bubble' a bit as well as having some more independence.



3rd Year+: By third year, all students are back on site again for the remainder of their time here (great for finalists to get to the library). Rooms range from traditional oak-beamed spacious sets overlooking the Paddock, to newer modern rooms with en-suite facilities and mini-kitchens attached. They save the best 'til last!



All rooms have their **own mini-fridges, connection to the internet and most have sinks**. Sizes are between average and huge - great for having friends over or just spreading your stuff around! - and anyone who reckons they've got a small room in Emma would be well advised to pay a visit to mates in standard uni halls of residence elsewhere (great if you like that 'cosy' cupboard-like feel...).

What's been your fondest memory of your time here?

Naomi: I was walking back to my room in South Court after a particularly hard day when I came across two moorhens lying on their backs and slapping each other with their feet. Later that same evening, I fell over a squirrel. At Emma, you're never truly alone..

Everyone has different opinions of what 'good food' is so it's never easy to cater for everyone, but it has to be said that Emma's catering staff meet this challenge very well.

Food

Hall: Most people normally go to hall

(college canteen) for their meals - it's a great way to get together for a chat with friends and whistle away a food-filled hour talking about that new lecturer or your bar extension costume! With around 4 choices of hot main courses (2 meat, 1 fish and 1 vegetarian), a variety of cooked vegetable and potato sides, and a hot and cold pudding everyday, we get a pretty good deal. On top of that there's also a substantial salad bar, soup, fresh bread and a choice of sandwiches and wraps... perfect for a lunch hour treat! In the summer term we can even take our food outside and eat on the paddock, which is great as long as you can fend off the hungry ducks.



Formal hall: On most evenings, you can also have the option of signing up for 'formal hall' where you wear smart clothes and your gown (Emma gowns even come with slits in the sleeves to stick your hands through when having messy things like soup!). You're allowed to bring your own wine on these occasions and the three course meal is waiter-served. This is a **really fun Cambridge tradition** and is the highlight of many a student's week, especially if it's a big gathering of friends for a birthday formal!

Cooking for yourself: It's limited in 1st year to microwaves in the small kitchens ('gyp rooms') in each staircase although you'll surprise yourself with just how much you can achieve using just a microwave... think whole roasts! In other years there are hobs and even a few ovens available for your own cooking and Sainsbury's is only 10 minutes away from college.



Outside of college:

There are plenty of culinary delights for those who fancy something a bit special. Restaurants near Emma range from all the well-known Italian/Japanese/French/Indian chains, to little cosy family-owned ones; with many having **student discounts and deals**. If you're a pub fan you'll be grateful for Emma's location - the Regal is right across the road and is the largest Wetherspoon's in the country, and there are many characterful local pubs nearby too such as the Free Press and Cricketers.

Random Emma fact:

Emmanuel College won the 2009/10 series of University Challenge, making us the first Cambridge college to do so for 15 years!

Clubs & Societies



Emma offers students a vast (VAST) range of extra-curricular activities which are great ways to **enjoy yourself with like-minded people**. You can keep

up that sport or musical instrument you've been playing for years... or try out something completely different from scratch!.

Here are some examples of the conventional and not-quite-so-conventional clubs and societies you can join at Emma:

Mixed Netball

Swimming

Lacrosse

Sports

Ultimate Frisbee

Football

Rowing

Badminton

Rugby

Chorus

Orchestra

Jazz Band

Music

Starting own band

Chapel Choir

REDS (drama)

CinEmma

Orpheists (creating writing)

Vegetarian Society

Christian Union

Politics Society

ERICS (ice cream)



A full list with descriptions can be found on the ECSU website: www.ecsu.org.uk

If that wasn't enough, ECSU is really generous in granting **funding for new societies**, so if you don't find your niche making and scoffing weird and wonderful flavours of ice-cream with the Emmanuel Real Ice Cream Society, or watching films for free at CinEmma, or within the vibrant and evolving sports and artistic communities here, there's always the chance to launch your own society with a few friends! There truly is **something for everyone** here at Emmanuel.

Facilities

Sports: There are plenty of opportunities to get your sporting fix at Emma. We have two squash courts in college, and own **excellent off-site sports pitches** including football, rugby, netball and hockey, all easily accessible. For those of you who choose the early mornings and tight lycra of the Cambridge rowing experience, Emma boat house is in a prime position on the riverside. In the summer term you can take out your exam stress on the tennis and badminton courts which are painted on the paddock or even go for a (chilly) dip in our outdoor swimming pool. Yes, we know it looks a bit like a holiday resort... wish you were here!

Library: Although some of you may rarely enter, some will come to think of it as your home from home! Whichever the case Emma library has loads of books so that no matter what subject, you're bound to find some useful stuff and it's closer with longer borrowing periods than most faculty libraries. You can also request specific books if they're not currently there. With its charming Edwardian interior and newly renovated modern extension (now with toilets!), the library is a **refreshing place to work** if your room proves too full of distractions. Lots of desk space, wireless internet access and an infeasibly cold water fountain are just some of the perks of the library. It's also open 24 hours a day - useful for nocturnal students or those pulling a coffee-fuelled all nighter!

IT: Emma has 2 well-equipped **24 hour computer rooms** complete with a selection of both Macs and PCs, b/w and colour printers, as well as dedicated IT support staff to deal with technical hitches... and there's always the extra option of asking the computer science students for help! For your own laptops and desktops, the college has **wireless across its grounds** and internet connection is included in your rent. This means checking emails, reading an online journal and yes, procrastinating on Facebook, are all just a click away.



Laundry: For those of you who are less domestically inclined, you'll be pleased to know that Emma is the **only Cambridge college to offer a free laundry service**. It's amazingly convenient and easy to use; the only effort involved is carrying your dirty clothes to laundry, after that it's all washed, tumble dried and folded up for you... amazing! For the less idle (or that top you're scared will get shrunk) there's also DIY washing machines and tumble dryers. A final alternative is to just buy lots of clothes... not recommended.

Random Emma fact:

Our beloved outdoor pool is the oldest pool in the country still in use... since around the 1690s! Don't worry though, it has been renovated since then!

Bar



Despite a slightly dogdy nautical theme, Emma bar is fantastic. It's almost guaranteed to be **full of friendly faces every night** and is great for a post-formal hall drink, having a game of table football or pool with friends, or if you're living in South Court in your first year, just popping downstairs for a break from work! There really is no pressure to drink and anyone, experienced or not, can work behind the bar to earn some cash during term time. Emma Ents is a student-run night where some of the best DJs from Cambridge and around show off their DnB, electro and dub-step talents. Our **cheap cheap prices, almost entirely student bar staff, and amazing ents attract students from across Cambridge.**

Bar Extension

Last by no means least, is the 2am-extended license Bar Extension, for which some people spend ridiculous lengths of time messing around with papier mache and chicken wire. The reason? We take our **fancy dress** very seriously! Dancing your cares away with Emma students ourselves doing the DJ-ing whilst dressed as a 7ft dinosaur is a sure way of getting rid of those work-based worries. Past themes have included: myths & legends, top of the pops, under the sea and the annual halloween theme.

Welfare

One of the best things about the college system is the community feel: people know who you are and walking around college there'll always be loads of people to say hi to (it's made me late many a time for lectures!). This also means Emma has really great support networks if you need confidential, constructive advice and support about any issues that come up, or if you just need a chat!

Families: When you arrive you're put into a college 'family' where a group of 5 or 6 first years will be parented by 2 third year students. This is a fantastic way of making sure you have people to hang out with in the first few days, and your college parents will have so much personal experience to **help you when everything's new and unfamiliar.** You'll also have subject parents who are second year students doing your subject. They can help you with academic stuff since all the first year material will still be fresh in their minds (is the theory!).

Tutor: Everyone is assigned a personal Tutor who's a College Fellow in a different department to you. You'll meet them once or twice a term (or more if you'd like) and they're there to check that you're doing okay with everything and can help you with any problems you have. On top of that, we also have a lovely college counsellor, the Dean, and a Women's Tutor.

ECSU Welfare: The dedicated student welfare team on the Emma Student Union is always on hand for a chat. We also organise **great events and nice treats** to make sure people stay happy even if they don't have a specific problem. Some examples include... Free comedy nights, 'happiness packs' with sweets and hot chocolate sachets, getting a Wii for the common room; and in exam term: free massages, BBQs and... **a bouncy castle!**





Finances

A common misconception is that Cambridge is an expensive place to live and study, but this generally isn't the case at all...

Tuition Fees: Cambridge has the same level of tuition fees as 99% of all the other universities in England

Bursaries:

It's really important to Cambridge and Emma in particular that no student who deserves a place here is unable to come or stay for financial reasons and so there are a lot of funds available if you need it. For a start the University **doubles the government grant** you can receive if your combined family income is less than £52,000 a year... this is money you never have to pay back! Emma has its own hardship funds too which can cover for any unseen financial difficulties so you really are well provided for. There are also travel and charity grants which you can apply for.

Food: Similarly to the rent, food from our **hall is subsidised** by the college so you can get a hot main with vegetables, and a dessert for on average only £3 to £3.50! In your 2nd and 3rd year there are also hobs in most accommodation with Sainsbury's nearby so you can cook for yourself if you'd like to.

Books: Cambridge has the highest density of libraries in the country and so you very **rarely have to buy any books** yourself, and even when you do, there are funds to reimburse the costs in certain subjects like History and Law. Great if you need to get through 6 history books a week!

Transport: Cambridge city centre is so small that all the colleges and faculties are within cycling if not walking distance of each other. You'll never have to pay for public transport since a **15 minute bike ride is enough to get you right across town!** It also has the added benefit of waking you up before those dreaded 9am lectures.



Social life: Emma has a great policy on funding for societies which means **you'll hardly ever need to pay to take part in a society** here and that's the case across much of the university. Also there are loads of student deals across the restaurants, cinemas, bars and nightclubs in Cambridge. In fact, Emma has one of the cheapest bars in the university so you really can't go wrong!

What's been your fondest memory of your time here?

Yvonne: Playing in the snow in the Paddock; there was a giant snowman, snow-duck, and even snow-lion (very topical!). Some of the engineers really made the most of their talents and managed an epic life-sized snow-igloo.

Day in the Life of... a Science Student



Name: Max Foreman
Subject: Veterinary Medicine

Year: 1st year

Home town: Dartford, Kent

Reason for choosing Emma: I really liked the open grassy space in college, as well as how it has a traditional feeling without being too intimidating.



- >8.30am: Wake up. Surprisingly easy on a Tuesday morning – Monday's not one of the big clubbing nights in Cambridge. Have some toast in my room...need to get some food in before dissection!
- >9am: First lecture: Biochemistry. Not everyone's cup of tea, it is at a ridiculous time in the morning...
- >10am: Dissection time. We had whole sheep today and were looking at their guts. They were still warm: gross. We normally have preserved dogs to dissect, which don't smell quite as bad but the preservative makes you really hungry!
- >12pm: Physiology lecture. We're learning about the kidney at the moment, which is pretty interesting. At least now I know why alcohol makes you need to wee so much...
- >1pm: Lunch time woo woo. Pop back to hall in college, seeing as it's only 2 minutes away from the faculty.. Also have a cheeky check of Facebook.
- >2pm: Back to lectures. Have a double lecture on "Principles of Animal Management". Normally pretty funny: learnt about how to mate pigs today, with a bit of stick insect husbandry thrown in. Also valuable time for catching up on sleep, if stick insects aren't your thing.
- >5pm: Homoeostasis supervision. Used the weekend to do the worksheet and the essay, which was good. Unfortunately now is the time that I pay for texting my mum in the middle of a lecture, because I can't remember the precise amount of urine that a human makes in a day... supervisor seems decidedly disappointed. Right now all I can think about is dinner...
- >6pm: DINNER! Meet everyone in hall for some good quality gossip, and a bit of food on the side too.
- >7pm: Do some work in my room. Normally consists of going over the day's lecture notes, and drawing pretty pictures of animal insides.
- >10pm: Hit the college bar for the cheapest drink in town. The evening gets increasingly fuzzy, but a trip to the cheesiest club in town, Cindies, and a late night burger-van trip is definitely included.
- >2am: BED! Realise I have another 9am start tomorrow but term's only 8 weeks long and I can sleep when I get home!

Photos of family/
friends/stuff in college



Emma June Event flyer,
I'm on the décor
committee

Invites to various
college events

*General animal
theme* haha

Calendar (for the
essential organisation)

Exam entry form
arrgh

Day in the Life of... an Arts Student



Name: Yvonne Zhang

Subject: History

Year: 2nd Year

Home town: Durham

Reason for choosing Emma: I visited Cambridge on an Aimhigher trip with my school and looked around lots of colleges. Emma had the friendliest undergrads - one of them even gave me an impromptu tour!



- >9.30am: My alarm's gone off... but bed is so warm.... snooze...
- >10am: Wake up a bit groggy but well rested! Have cereal and milk in my room, mini fridges are a life saver.
- >11am: 1st lecture of the day: it's about the impact of conspiracy theories and paranoia on the decision-making process in authoritarian regimes. Our lecturer is an absolute legend and a world expert in his field, I keep reading books written by him.
- >12pm: Class discussion on the changing role of marriage in African societies in the colonial period, everyone takes a while to warm up (like reptiles!) but we do come up with some really interesting points; wish I'd done a little more of the pre-reading though.
- >1pm: Lunch with a friend in the History faculty tea room where they're famous for their toasties oozing with cheese: very moreish and only £1.75. WIN.
- >2-6pm: Go to Emma library which is full of friendly faces and books (unsurprisingly). Read up for my weekly essay and invariably end up taking too many notes but at least I know I've got all the important points on the role of the FBI in the 9/11 terrorist attacks (basically they screwed up). It's great having wireless connection in the library... but does mean I end up commenting on about 400 of the Facebook photos from last week's bar extension! None of them are very flattering :(
- >7pm: Cycle back to my room and attempt to cook dinner in the kitchen but then realise I haven't been to Tesco for a week. So end up just having pizza and copious amounts of Tabasco sauce. Note to self: eat more healthily tomorrow.
- >8pm: Emma badminton society training, I'm the girl's team captain this year so we do a few drills before having some casual matches. It's a great way of unwinding after a day's work!
- >10pm: After a much needed shower I decide against going to see a late-night comedy show at the ADC student theatre and instead meet up with some friends to watch a film together whilst scoffing microwave popcorn (healthy eating starts tomorrow). We end up staying up and chatting until 1am. Ah well, my first lecture isn't until 10am tomorrow.

Franz Ferdinand gig ticket

Part of a bar extension costume.. Red Hot Chili Peppers!

Team t-shirt for 'Emma Sprints' rowing race - we won!

Savino's cafe mmm



Emma May Ball poster

Cambridge Union debating society programme

'The Tempest' flyer - my friend acted in the play

Cambridge Astronomy Society leaflet

Admissions

So now that you've seen some of the delights and quirks Emmanuel College has to offer (the rest are up to you to discover!), we get to the 'scary' bit, the admissions process. We're here to tell you that **it isn't actually that scary**; there's plenty of people to help along the way and all applicants go through roughly the same process.

The process: Firstly, you fill in your UCAS form as normal, specifying which one of the Cambridge Colleges to apply to (we hope you choose Emma!) or else go for an open application in which case the university will designate you a college. The colleges then decide who to take based on a **variety of indicators** such as your personal statement, GCSE's, AS and predicted A2s, teacher reference, subject-specific tests where required... and finally an interview. Almost 90% of people who apply will get an interview to make it as fair as possible, and as you can see it's only one part of a lot of information the college will take into account!

The Interview

The good news: contrary to popular belief, at the interview you won't be expected to answer questions in Latin on your whole A-Level syllabus (except perhaps if you're applying for Latin...!), recite all the capitals of the world in alphabetical order, or beat the interviewer in a boat race. You'll be interviewed by the people who're teaching your subject here and so all they want to do is find out your reasons for choosing the subject, whether you have a real interest in it and also how compatible you are with the Cambridge teaching system based on small-group supervisions.



Here comes the scary phrase; 'they JUST want to see how you think', to which the little voice inside your head responds, 'arrrrghh, I'm not sure if I can think!' Don't worry, **you're not expected to know everything** - in fact they'll keep pushing you to see how you respond to new concepts - but the key is to really listen to the question, take time to consider any new info, and then voice your reactions out loud.

We accept it's pretty easy, having gone through the experience and come out successful, to tell you it's all going to be fine, and the truth is that people do get nervous. However, that's something the interviewer is used to taking into account. There'll have been someone else who has stuttered, snorted, or walked into the table before you, and there'll be many more to come. Remember, the **interviewers really do want to get the best out of you**, and it's more like a conversation than an interrogation.

... And that's it! For more info on the admissions process, do check out the **College website** which has mock interview videos, useful subject specific course details and our Open Day dates. If you have any questions on admissions please email Lesley Shaw our friendly college Admissions Officer (admissions@emma.cam.ac.uk) and for questions on student life the Student Union Access Officer (access@ecsu.org.uk) is here to help. **We'd love to see you here!**

Why did you apply to Emmanuel?

Katharine: I was going to be in Australia on my gap year when Cambridge normally did the interviews and Emma was the only college which offered me a solution. They were amazing and specially interviewed me individually before my gap year started.



The pond: here be ducks!

Our outdoor swimming pool - not for the faint hearted!

Free laundry service

The Paddock: grassy heaven

Our own subway... it beats being run over by a bus!

The Queen's building:
perfect for concerts,
talks and plays

The best college bar in Cambridge

Our lovely dining hall

