

International Student Welcome 2016

A guide to help you settle in Cambridge



Organised by the Cambridge University Christian Graduate Society (CGS)

Life in Cambridge: How do I...

.....find food, buy a blanket, catch a bus, make friends...? Here is some information to help you with your first few days in Cambridge. International Student Welcome (ISW) is organised by the Christian Graduate Society to offer friendship as well as support for international students arriving at Cambridge University for the first time.

This booklet contains information about the essential things you need to know in order to settle in as easily as possible. There is more information on our website, but if you have any questions, you can also ask the porters at your college or contact us directly at cgs.isw@gmail.com.

Social Events This Week

If you can't make the start time, no problem! The events are informal and you can come at anytime (except punting, the tours and the Grantchester walk, when you need to arrive on time).

Date and Time	Event	Venue/Meeting point
Sat 24 Sept 1.30–2.30 pm	Really Useful Tour of Cambridge	Meet in front of the Round Church (at the corner of Bridge Street and Round Church Street)
Sat 24 Sept 2.30–4.30 pm	Traditional English Cream Tea	Trinity College, Great Court, Room N2
Sun 25 Sept 2.30–4.30 pm	Punting!	Meet at the Great Gate, Trinity College (on Trinity Street)
Mon 26 Sept 7.30–10.30 pm	International Dance Evening	St Andrew the Great Church, St Andrew's Street
Tue 27 Sept 7.30–10.30 pm	Jacket Potato Party	33 Victoria Park
Wed 28 Sept 2.00–4.00 pm	Historical Tour of Cambridge	Meet in front of the Round Church
Wed 28 Sept 4.00–6.00 pm	Tea and Cakes	Trinity College, Great Court, Room N2
Thurs/Fri 29/30 Sept 7.00–9.00 pm	CICCU International Welcome Dinners	St Andrew's Street Baptist Church (near where St Andrew's Street meets Regent Street)
Sat 01 Oct 10.30 am (depart)	Walking to Grantchester	Meet in front of the Porters' Lodge, Queens' College (on Silver St, near the bridge)
Sun 02 Oct 1.30–2.30 pm	Really Useful Tour of Cambridge	Meet in front of the Round Church
Sun 02 Oct 2.30–4.30 pm	Traditional English Cream Tea	St Andrew's Street Baptist Church
Sat 08 Oct 7.30–10.30 pm	International Postgrad Dinner	St Andrew's Street Baptist Church

01

Cambridge University

With 31 colleges and many departments, Cambridge University is spread all around the city. You can find out more about the university via their website (www.cam.ac.uk) or by asking the porters at your college. There are also a number of other bodies of which you should be aware:

Cambridge University Students Union (CUSU)

CUSU represents the interests of the student body to the university authorities. All undergraduate and postgraduate students are automatically members. A list of the services that they provide can be found on their website: www.cusu.cam.ac.uk.

Graduate Union (GU)

The GU represents the interests of postgraduate students, who are automatically members of it as well as of CUSU. For more information, visit their website: www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk. You can also view their handbook at www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/files/handbooks.

Clubs and Societies

There are hundreds of clubs and societies catering to a wide range of interests including sport, music, theatre, religion, politics and charity. Many of them can be found at www.societies.cam.ac.uk and www.cusu.co.uk/groups. These societies are a great way to meet new people and develop new interests.

Cambridge Slang

(Typical Cambridge expressions)

Fresher: a new graduate or undergraduate student

P'lodge: Porters' Lodge. This is the main reception area of a college where you can get help.

Squash: Recruitment event for student societies

The Other Place: Nickname for Oxford University

02

Finding Food

Market

- Sainsbury's, located on Sidney Street, is the main supermarket in the centre of town.
- Supermarkets further from the city centre include Tesco (Newmarket Road and Cherry Hinton), Asda and Sainsbury's (Coldham's Lane), Waitrose (Trumpington), and Aldi (Histon Road).
- There are also smaller supermarket branches such as Tesco Express (Hills Road), Sainsbury's Local (Regent Street), Cooperative Food (Hills Road) and Waitrose (Fitzroy Street).
- You can also find fresh produce and a variety of interesting foodstuffs at the Market Square.

Eating Out

- **Cafés:** you will find coffee shops everywhere in the city centre, including Starbucks, Costa, Caffè Nero and a few independent shops like the Indigo Café.
- **Restaurants:** there are restaurants of every variety all around the city, but if you are looking for somewhere to start, try along Regent Street, Bridge Street or, for more international cuisine, Mill Road.
- **Fast food and take-away:** there are many places that offer quick food to take away, including fish & chips, burgers, pizzas, kebabs, Chinese food and Indian food.

Food at the university

The college dining hall, or buttery, is usually the cheapest place to eat if you don't want to cook for yourself. Your college will also offer formal hall on certain nights of the week. This is where formal dinners are served for less than you would pay at a restaurant and in the beautiful setting of your college dining hall. A number of University buildings also contain their own cafeteria.

03

Accommodation

University Housing

Your college may provide you with accommodation for your first year and possibly for the whole of your course, either in college or in college-owned housing. If you have to find your own accommodation, you can try one of the following websites: Easy-Roommates, Rightmove, ChristianFlatshare, Roombuddies and SpareRooms. As a student, you won't be personally liable for Council Tax, but you should confirm this with your landlord. In addition, be sure to find out whether gas, water and electricity bills are included in the price. The university is also in contact with a number of landlords around the city offering rooms to rent to students, and you can find them through the Accommodation Service at www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk.

Hotels / Hostels

If, at first, you can't find long-term accommodation, Cambridge has a large range of hotels, bed-and-breakfasts and guest houses that you can find through websites such as Hotels.co.uk or Booking.com. You can also try AirBnB, Couchsurfing or the Youth Hostel on Tenison Road.

04

Shopping

Shopping Centres

- **Grand Arcade/Lion Yard:** The main shopping centre in the city centre (St Andrew's Street/Petty Cury) with many clothes shops and the department store John Lewis.
- **Grafton Centre:** Between Burleigh Street and Fitzroy Street, it is a little further from the city centre and next to a range of other cheaper shops such as Argos and Primark.
- **Beehive Centre/Cambridge Retail Park:** Just outside of the city centre and containing numerous large chain stores including furniture, electronics, hardware and gardening stores, along with a few restaurants and a large Tesco branch nearby.

What's the Best Deal?

(All about Cambridge's cheapest places)

Poundland: On Fitzroy Lane.

Everything there is £1!

Primark: The number one option for cheap new clothes, on Burleigh Street.

Charity shops: These sell second-hand clothes and household items. There are many around the city, particularly along Burleigh Street, and Mill Road.

For Studying Supplies

- **Books:** Waterstones (Sidney Street), Heffers (Trinity Street) and the Cambridge University Press (Trinity Street). At CUP, students get a 20% discount.
- **Stationery:** WHSmith (Market Street) and Ryman's (Sidney Street). A little further out of the city centre is Staples (Chesterton Road).

Important Information

Banking

You should be able to withdraw money from any bank ATM in the city centre, but be aware of fees if you're using an overseas bank account. You should get a UK bank account as soon as possible. Be aware that this can take a few days. Before going to the bank, check online to see what personal information or ID you need to take with you in order to open an account.

Most banks, including Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, Santander and NatWest, offer student accounts. You can find main branches of these banks on or near St Andrew's Street.

Immigration

- For nationalities that need to register with the police (this is only if your passport says you need to – most do not), the University Centre is open for registration on certain dates, or you can go to Parkside Police Station. For details, check with Cambridge University International Student Team (www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/arriving/police-registration).
- If your details change, you will need to notify the police at Parkside Police Station to update your Police Registration Certificate.

Mobile phones / Internet

- You can find branches of most phone operators, such as Vodafone, EE, O2 or Three, in the city centre. UK mobile phone numbers begin with 07 and contain 11 digits.
- Many places in the city centre offer free Wifi, including libraries and cafés. If you are living in rented accommodation, then your landlord will usually provide you with internet access.

Health Care

The NHS (National Health Service) is the UK public health system which, as a student, you are automatically covered by. Check their website (www.nhs.uk) for more information. Most colleges have nurses for quick help and advice.

- **Doctor:** Register with a GP (General Practitioner) as soon as possible: they are your first contact for almost any health problem. If you need to see a specialist, your GP will refer you. Check online or ask your college to find the nearest surgery/clinic to you.
- **Dentist:** There is the University Dental Service (Trumpington Street) or you can register with one closer to you. Unlike the doctor, you will have to pay for the dentist.
- **Pharmacies:** The main shops are Boots and Superdrug, located on Sidney Street.

Well-being

- **Linkline:** A student-run listening and support service (01223 744444)
- **University Counselling Service:** Free professional counselling for students and staff (01223 332865)

Important Numbers

- **999:** Emergency number that will redirect you to the police, ambulance or fire brigade.
- **101:** Police number to report less urgent crime or disorder (non-emergency)
- **111:** NHS number for quick medical help (non-emergency)

Transport

Cycling

Cambridge is the cycling capital of the UK. Lights are a legal requirement and a cycling helmet and a good bike lock are highly recommended, as bike theft is common. The rules for cycling on the road can be found on the Highway Code website (www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code). There are many bike shops in Cambridge: King Street Cycles (King Street), Rutland Cycling (Grand Arcade) The Bikeman (Market Square), Lensfield Road Cycles (Lensfield Road), Townsends Light Blue Cycle Centre (Chesterton Road), University Cycles (Victoria Avenue), Halfords (Cambridge Retail Park); and City Cycle Hire (Newnham Road).

Get the App

(For people with smart phones)

MyBusTrip: Bus routes, stops and timetables in Cambridge.

Taxis: Most taxi companies have Apps.

NationalRail: View timetables and book train tickets.

Cambridge: Check the App of Cambridge University for offline maps, events, news, etc.

Bus

Bus routes cover most of the city. Timetables and routes can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20017/buses. Most services run until the late evening. Buy a ticket from the driver when you get on the bus. You can get an individual journey (single/return) ticket or daily/weekly ones, or you can order monthly tickets online.

Taxi Companies

Taxis are useful for a quick trip or a very early or late journey. Panther (01223 715715), A1 CabCo (01223 525555) and CamCab (01223 704704) are popular companies and most journeys cost under £10 within the city.

Train

You can buy tickets at the train station or online via the National Rail website. Advance purchase tickets can be posted to you or collected at the station from the ticket machines. Tickets can be cheaper if you book them well in advance. As a student, you can also buy a railcard that gets you 33% off most rail fares.

Coach

The coach is a cheaper but slower alternative to the train. For more details, check the National Express or Megabus websites.

Life in Cambridge

The Cambridge “Bucket List” Top 5

Of all the things to do in Cambridge, here is a list of activities you ought to do during your stay.

- **Punting:** Go to the river to see what this is. You can either book a guide, hire your own punt from Scudamore’s, or, if your college has its own punts, hire one of these. On a nice day, you can punt all the way to the village of Grantchester.

- **Tour of the main colleges:** You should visit as many colleges as possible. The oldest colleges and the ones along the River Cam are particularly worth a visit.
- **Fitzwilliam Museum:** A free museum of art and antiquities on Trumpington Street.
- **Photo with the Cambridge cows:** You can find cows in various parks in Cambridge, and even in King's College!
- **Evensong:** Many of the colleges have world-famous choirs. Go to a chapel service to hear them, particularly at St John's, King's, Clare, or Trinity.

Did you know?

(Little facts about Cambridge)

Cambridgeshire is said to be the driest county in the UK
Prince William & Kate Middleton are Duke and Duchess of Cambridge
Tennis originated here and you can still try it: it's called "real tennis" or "tennis of the kings"
Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton and Stephen Hawking are some of the famous Cambridge alumni.

Main Dates and Events in Cambridge

- **Fresher's Fair:** Discover all the Cambridge clubs and societies on October 4th and 5th at Parker's Piece and Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre.
- **Bonfire Night:** Every year on the 5th of November, the British celebrate a failed attempt to blow up the government in 1605 by a group of rebels with a night of bonfires and fireworks.
- **Christmas Choirs:** In the period before Christmas, many churches and colleges hold carol services to celebrate Advent and Christmas itself.
- **Mill Road Winter Fair:** On the 3rd of December, 10:30 – 4:30, come to Mill Road for a day of street performers, marching bands, food stalls and other activities.
- **The Bumps:** Towards the end of Lent Term, and again in May/June, all the colleges compete in a rowing competition on the River Cam.

08

A Little Bit of Fun

Clubs and Societies

Mentioned previously, there are many societies and clubs in Cambridge, so whatever your interest, there is a group that will cater to it – and if there isn't, you can start one and register it.

Sports Facilities

There are several facilities in Cambridge available for use for various sports. If you are looking for facilities for a specific sport, it is worth going to whichever club exists for that sport for advice.

- **The University Sports Centre:** Located on the West Cambridge Site, it offers a wide range of facilities, including a gym.
- **Kelsey Kerridge/Parkside Pool:** Located on Gonville Place next to Parker's Piece, this commercial sports centre and swimming pool offers a range of facilities and group activities.
- **Jesus Green:** In warmer weather the outdoor swimming pool at Jesus Green is open, and the wide grassy green lends itself to a casual game of football or cricket.
- **College facilities:** most colleges have a rowing club and a boathouse somewhere along the Cam, and many have their own gyms and other sports facilities.

Other entertainment

- **Parks:** Take advantage of all the greens in Cambridge: Parker's Piece, Midsummer Common, Jesus Green and Christ's Pieces. Some even have tennis courts and bowling greens.

- **Pubs:** Cambridge is home to over 100 pubs, which have a range of entertainment facilities, including wide screen TVs for sports events and pool tables. Every college also has a bar.
- **Cinema:** The Vue (Grafton Centre) and The Light Cinema (Hills Road Leisure Park) are the main ones, but don't miss the Arts Picturehouse (Regent Street) for less mainstream films.
- **Concerts:** The Cambridge Corn Exchange (Wheeler Street) and the Junction (Hills Road Leisure Park) are host to many pop concerts, comedians, musicals, and festivals.
- **Theatre:** the ADC Theatre, Cambridge Arts Theatre, Cambridge Footlights Dramatic Club, and Corpus Christi Playroom are all located in the city centre.

09

Meeting People

If you would like a welcome visit, please email us at cgs.isw@gmail.com, or speak to a volunteer at any of the International Student Welcome events. This could simply be to say hello or, if you need practical advice, we'd be happy to help in any way we can. Where possible, we'll put you in touch with someone from your college or department.

International cafés

Friends International offers support to international students and runs three cafés, offering free refreshments and activities and providing a relaxed environment in which to meet people. More information can be found at www.cafi.org.uk/events.

- **The Barn:** every Thursday at 7:45 - 10:30 pm at Christ Church on Newmarket Road.
- **iCafe:** every Monday at 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Coslett Common Room at Anglia Ruskin University, near East Road (this is run by Friends International and the chaplaincy at ARU).
- **Compass Cafe:** Compass Cafe: every Friday during University Term, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, in Livingstones Café, St Andrews Street Baptist Church (this is run by Cambridge Intercollegiate Christian Union [CICCU])

Hospitality programme

Friends International also runs a hospitality scheme where they put international students in touch with local families. Hosts often invite students into their home for an occasional meal or maybe to stay for a few days over Christmas. The friendships built through this programme often continue well beyond the students' stay in Britain. If you would like to be linked to a family, please contact the Friends International team: www.cafi.org.uk/locallink.

Christian Graduate Society (CGS) events

If you would like to know more about CGS, including other events happening throughout the year, please email Ben (bjw48@cam.ac.uk) or visit www.societies.cam.ac.uk/cgs.

- **Freshers' Week events:** Come to our CGS Squash (Thursday 13th October, 7.30 p.m. in the Junior Parlour of Trinity College) to find out more about our events and the CGS face to face, and meet Christians from other churches. Other events are listed on the website.
- **CGS Connect** (Michaelmas Term dates: October 15th, November 12th & 26th, from 10:30 am - 12 pm, see www.societies.cam.ac.uk/cgs/#events for locations): A bi-monthly gathering to investigate and discuss issues in the context of Christian faith. Those who wish go out for Brunch afterwards.

- **Bible study groups** (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings): To join one of these, please email soc.cgs@gmail.com. They are open to everyone, not just Christians.
- **"Come and See"** (Three Monday evenings in October, beginning 10th October, 7:30pm-9pm at 4 Gresham Road, CB1 2EP): A group for postgraduate students to explore the Christian faith. Contact Ben (bjw48@cam.ac.uk) or Bihe (bc407@cam.ac.uk).

Cambridge Intercollegiate Christian Union (CICCU) events

If you would like to know more about CICCU and its events you can visit their website at www.ciccu.org.uk. To contact your College representative, go to the Freshers 2016 page. Alternatively, feel free to contact their secretary Tor (vam37@cam.ac.uk) with any questions.

- **College groups** (usually on Wednesday evenings): We meet weekly in our colleges for fellowship, discussion and prayer. Details can be found from your college rep.
- **CICCU Central meeting** (every Saturday from 8th October, from 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. at Eden Baptist Church): This is a session of prayer and praise with Christians from other colleges.
- **Big Questions** (every Friday from 7th October 1:10 - 1.50 p.m.): A series of talks about the Christian faith. Ideal for people exploring Christianity - and includes a free lunch.

10

Places of Worship

Christian Churches

Below is a selection of churches in Cambridge with which the Christian Graduate Society has links. If you would like help finding a church, or someone to go with, email soc.cgs@gmail.com.

- **Cambridge Chinese Christian Church:** St Columba's Church, Downing Street (www.cccc.org.uk)
- **Cambridge Korean Church:** In St Andrew's St Baptist Church (www.cambridgekoreanchurch.net)
- **Cambridge Presbyterian Church:** Queen Edith School, Godwin Way (www.cambridgepres.org.uk)
- **Christ Church** (Anglican): Christchurch Street (www.christchurchcambridge.org.uk)
- **City Church** (New Frontiers International): Cheddars Lane (www.citychurchcambridge.org.uk)
- **Eden Baptist Church:** Fitzroy Street (www.eden-cambridge.org)
- **Holy Trinity** (Anglican): All Saints' Church, Jesus Lane (www.htcambridge.org.uk)
- **Lutheran Church, German speaking:** Shaftesbury Road (www.german-church.org/cambridge/)
- **St Andrew the Great** (Anglican): Opposite Christ's College (www.stag.org)
- **St Andrew's Street Baptist Church:** St Andrew's Street (<http://www.stasbaptist.org/>)
- **St Barnabas'** (Anglican): Corner of Mill Road & St. Barnabas Road (www.stbs.org.uk)
- **St Matthew's** (Anglican): St Matthew's Street (www.stmatthews.uk.net)

Chaplaincy and Other Religions

- **Cambridge University Chaplaincy:** Primarily based in Great St Mary's and Michaelhouse, it provides support to university students and staff.
- **Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy:** Based at the Chapel of St John Fisher (i.e. Fisher House), located behind Lion Yard shopping centre.
- **Cambridge Islamic Centre and Mosque:** Devonshire Road (www.cambridgemosque.com)
- **Cambridge Traditional Jewish Congregation:** Thompson's Lane (www.ctjc.org.uk)
- **The Buddhist Centre:** Near Christ Church, Newmarket Road (www.cambridgebuddhistcentre.com)

Contacts: Colleges and Departments

If you have any questions, would like help with something, or simply would like to talk to someone, feel free to contact any of the people on this list – they will be very glad to hear from new students in their college or department. If your college/department does not have a contact person listed, please email us (cgs.isw@gmail.com) and we will be in touch with you!

College	Department	Contact Student	Email Address	Phone
Churchill	Chemical Engineering	Douglas Gibson	douglas91gibson@gmail.com	7532385535
Clare	Physics	Philip Leung	pkcl2@cam.ac.uk	7805553270
Darwin	Cancer Research UK	Angelina Morelos	angelina.morelos88@gmail.com	7405325490
Emmanuel	Development Studies	Christine Kim	christine.minju.kim@gmail.com	7340956140
Gonville & Caius	Biochemistry	Bihe Chen	bc407@cam.ac.uk	7902781099
Homerton	Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics	Parousia Rockstroh	pr367@cam.ac.uk	7908416369
Jesus	Engineering	Feri Wibisono	afw36@cam.ac.uk	7943207900
Lucy Cavendish	Medicine	Vivian Sze-To	stvw2@cam.ac.uk	7424305434
Magdalene	Engineering	Deryck Chan	dykc3@cam.ac.uk	7818528804
Murray Edwards	Chemical Engineering	Philippa Hooper	pjh200@cam.ac.uk	7976473045
Newnham	Sociology	Dana Brablec	dab70@cam.ac.uk	7902581058
Peterhouse	Engineering Zoology	Clara Lloyd Hanlu Twyman	cal65@cam.ac.uk hanlu1991@gmail.com	7585532049 7847963998
St Catharine's	Archaeology Medicine	Hannah Parish Katy Fischbacher	hgp22@cam.ac.uk kf353@cam.ac.uk	7539720496 7881383516
St Edmund's	Applied & Theoretical Linguistics	Gamal Crichton	gkoc2@cam.ac.uk	7871223178
St John's	Physics and Cancer Research UK	Ben Woodhams	bjw48@cam.ac.uk	7902925431
Trinity	MRC CBU	Patrick McClure	psm43@cam.ac.uk	7984829801
Trinity Hall	Education	Nard Choi	nc425@cam.ac.uk	7548192085

To Do List

- ☐ Sort permanent accommodation
- ☐ Sort permanent internet and Wifi
- ☐ Buy a bike
- ☐ Go through the immigration process (if needed)
- ☐ Get a bank account
- ☐ Get a UK phone
- ☐ Register with a doctor
- ☐ Go punting!

Notes



International Student Welcome 2016

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More information on our website:
www.societies.cam.ac.uk/cgs/isw/

This booklet has been produced by the Cambridge University Christian Graduate Society (CGS). We hope that it will help you settle into Cambridge more smoothly.

