A very warm welcome to graduate study at Cambridge and to the Graduate Union.

This University has monumental past glories in which we take pride, but we are conscious always that we are also forging the future – in the research we do, certainly, but also in the people we educate. Graduate students are the University’s future, and it is my hope that you will feel a sense of ownership towards the institution, and share in its fortunes.

This handbook contains a wealth of information to help you navigate the University’s complexities, and to guide you to the best of what is on offer.

The Graduate Union works hard to further the interests of graduate students, both as individuals and as a body, and you should not hesitate to contact the GU if you have a question or problem. I know they will do their best to help.

I wish you all the best for your time here, and I hope to meet as many of you as I can.

Alison Richard
Vice-Chancellor of the University
Patron of the Graduate Union

Welcome to the Graduate Union!

We are delighted to have you with us, in one of the most historic and prestigious universities in the world. This handbook is here to provide you with the essential information about the university and its practices that is relevant to you, as you begin your stay here in Cambridge.

As graduate students we contribute directly to the University, to its academic reputation, and its heritage; we do this for example through our research and through the supervision of undergraduates. However our interaction with the university is often weighed down by the complexity of managing time, personal commitments, dealings with the university and departmental administration, and keeping informed about the university life around you.

Our goal at the Graduate Union (GU) is to be your line of support in these issues; to help you with each step along the path that leads to the successful completion of your study. This handbook may represent your first interaction with a service from the GU, but more importantly, we hope it will be your first step towards becoming a part of an ever-growing, diverse, graduate community.

I look forward to welcoming you to the GU!

Leo Shidai Liu
Graduate Union President 2007–08
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If you are interested in advertising in the next edition of the Handbook (2008–09), then please contact the Graduate Union at the address below.

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All contact details and opening hours are believed to be correct at the time of going to press. Please contact us at the address below if you find any errors.

handbook@gradunion.cam.ac.uk
What is the GU?

Organised in 1954 by Mrs G M Burkill, the wife of the then Master of Peterhouse, the Graduate Union (GU) remains the only student union in the country established expressly for graduate students. Today it is an autonomous organisation, which is officially recognised and partially funded by the University and run by a Board of elected officers. Although the President is no longer required to cook meals for upwards of 150 graduates as Mrs Burkill did, the spirit of the GU still remains to serve not 150 graduates but up to 1,000 the entire graduate community.

The GU provides a wide range of services, including publishing this annual Handbook; running a shop; providing a full-service cafe in a lounge with free wireless internet; offering bookable meeting rooms with audio-visual equipment; hosting events in our bar; organising intercollegiate social events; and providing trained peer support for your welfare and academic issues in a confidential setting.

Another aim of the GU is representing the interests of graduates. The elected GU Board members represent the views and interests of their constituency through membership on most University committees, and actively pursue campaigns on issues which affect all graduate and mature students, such as phone services, rents data and University openness. The GU belongs to every graduate, including you, and welcomes your input and suggestions.
MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the GU is automatic and free. Full members, who have the right to vote in our elections, include: all registered graduate students; candidates for the LLM; Post-Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) and other postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates in the University; clinical students in the School of Medicine and the Department of Veterinary Medicine; undergraduates in their fourth or higher year of residence; affiliated students; and all undergraduate mature students, who are defined as those who were 21 or over at the commencement of their course. Associate members, who are welcome to use all services and facilities, although they do not have voting rights, include spouses of full members and all graduate research workers including post doctorates and research assistants.

STRUCTURE

The Executive is responsible for the daily management of the GU and includes the offices of President, Treasurer, General Secretary, Academic Affairs and Welfare. Each post is elected and is held for one year. To ensure the successful transition of responsibilities year-to-year, the President is elected in May and takes office 1st July, whereas the other officers are elected in early November. The Board comprises these five officers in addition to Families, International and Social and Events officers, and four Council Representatives. The Board is expected to meet weekly during term time and once a fortnight out of term. The Board is accountable to the Council. Membership of the Council, which meets twice per term, is comprised primarily of MCR and Faculty representatives. Minutes for all meetings (Executive, Board and Council) may be found on the GU website. Furthermore, any member of the GU may submit items for inclusion on the agenda of the Council. Please contact a Board member or your MCR or Faculty representative if you would like to raise a point for general consideration.

THE PRESIDENT

The President, the GU’s only sabbatical officer, is the principal financial officer who acts for and represents GU members and leads major initiatives approved by Council. The President is also responsible for the administration of facilities and services of the GU and chairs meetings of the Board and Executive. As a full-time representative, the President invites members to contact them with problems, queries, service needs or suggestions. To get in touch, you may contact the President at the address given at the end of this section, put a letter in the University’s Mail Service (UMS) or drop by the office.

The GU Board, 2006-07
(from left to right):
Simon Ford (General Secretary),
Nikhil Agarwal (Academic Affairs Officer), Geum Young Min (Social & Events Officer), Esuna Dugarova (Faculty Representative), Azela Tunku-Aziz (Treasurer), Elizabeth Bowers (President).
Not pictured: Helen Cliffe (Welfare Officer), Kim Jensen (International Officer), Ann-Marie Martoglio (Families Officer), Kam Mohaddes (CUSU Graduates Officer).
ELECTIONS

For those interested in standing for a Board position, nominations for the 2006 Annual Elections for the offices of Treasurer, General Secretary, Academic Affairs and Welfare will open 12th October and close on 1st November with voting occurring on the 6th–7th November. Please see the Graduate Union website for further details and full election guidelines.

FACILITIES & SERVICES

THE GU SHOP

The Graduate Union provides a number of services to help you in your work and student life through the GU shop. These services are:

- Discount cards – the Young Person’s Railcard and International Student Identification Cards (ISIC cards)*.
- First National Phonecards.
- Business services – printing, faxing, laminating, photocopying in both colour and black and white at competitive rates, public access computers, and a free wireless internet facility throughout the building.
- Binding services, ranging from soft-binding for drafts to professionally-produced hard-cased binding for final versions of theses.
- Gown hire services.
- University-crested stationery sales – ring-binders, document wallets and boxes in a range of colours, the official University diary, University-crested envelopes and headed paper.
- Basic stationery sales – staplers, paper clips, USB data storage drives, CD-RWs, individual highlighters, post-its, paper and notebooks, etc.

Staff will always be on hand to guide you through the options for binding or gown hire and to help you use any of services offered.

* In order to make one, please bring your passport-sized photos and cash or cheque for payment.
GU Lounge & Room Booking

The GU has a fantastic central venue where a variety of events, from seminars and workshops to parties, film nights and poetry readings may be hosted. The central lounge space and meeting rooms are available for hire free of charge by graduates as individuals or on behalf of a society. All that is required is the payment of a refundable deposit. Upon approval from the Board, you may also use the bar for your event. The lounge is wired with surround-sound audio-visual equipment; the meeting room has white boards and flip charts. There is also a PA system which may be booked for use by MCRs and other societies. If you are organising an event and would like to find out whether the GU might be a suitable venue, email the address below for further details.

The GU Bar

The Graduate Union operates the first and only central student union bar in Cambridge. This fully-licensed facility is open for graduate parties, social functions and private events. Free bar training is offered to volunteer staff, so use the contact address below if you would like to join our team.

The Graduate Exchange

Another new service starting in the 2006–7 academic year is a Graduate Exchange, an online searchable buy-and-sell resource for books, computers, bicycles, household items and much more. So, if you wish to purchase or rid yourself of second-hand items within the University community, this will be the most comprehensive resource to use.

Congratulations!

Commemorate your achievement and memorable time at The University of Cambridge with a bespoke, high-quality graduation tapestry

View a sample in the Graduate Union

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We specialise in all types of thesis binding for all universities

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www.jswilsonandson.co.uk
All major payment cards accepted

Order forms available from the Graduate Union Shop
17 Mill Lane, CB2 1RX
The GU Café

The Graduate Union has teamed up with the local coffee company ‘Cambridge Blue’ to provide you with a quality independent cafe outlet within the Graduate Union at 17 Mill Lane (enter from Silver Street). The Graduate Union Café Blue can offer...

- Coffee of the highest quality as well as tea/soft drinks.
- A range of fresh sandwiches, salads and savoury items, not to mention locally-produced cakes and sweets, to accompany your beverage.
- A private working space with wireless internet connection.
- A resting space with new A/V equipments/magazines/newspapers.
- Your entertainment with a range of board games and Nintendo Wii.
- A neutral place for your supervision/business meetings.
- A central and comfortable place to meet your friends.
- High quality service with friendly staff.
- A playful place for your children with toys.

As we continue to grow, our aim is to offer a range of products including fair-trade, gluten-free and other health-conscious items at a price lower than the competition and to serve you with friendly staff in comfortable surroundings.

PS Did you also know that you can bring your own food to the café?!
GU Events

How fun Cambridge grads can be? Here we can tell you how you can enjoy your graduate life in Cambridge.

With its central location and fully-licensed bar, the Graduate Union provides an excellent opportunity for grads to meet and mingle with fellow graduates from different backgrounds regardless of their college or department. The Graduate Union organises various events not only for individual grads but also for their families.

Over the past year, the GU has held extremely popular end-of-term and beginning-of-term parties with live bands and DJs as well as a regular Open Mic Night and Karaoke Night at which graduates from all over the University showcased their musical talents. The beginning-of-term parties include exciting theme parties, such as the ‘T Party’, where everyone wore or brought an item which began with the letter ‘T’, and ‘Royale with Cheese’, a funky fancy dress party. The GU has also run Christmas College, a temporary society for those who are staying over the Christmas holiday in Cambridge, organising Christmas Mingles with freshly made mulled wine, a film night out, a games night, a visit to a Christmas carol service and a trip up Castle Hill.

As well as the special events already mentioned, the GU has organised and helped to organise various events to satisfy the different wants and needs of its members. These events have included GU Window Shopping Dating, an alternative form of speed dating, regular film nights with themes, postgraduate seminars, interdisciplinary workshops and a series of relaxation sessions. These have proved a real hit with many graduates. The Graduate Union bar has, of course, opened regularly throughout the year, providing a selection of drinks at a reasonable price and serving any external events organised by university societies.

If you feel guilty to enjoy all this by yourself because of your family, there’s no need to worry. The GU has held a large number of family events throughout the year including a regular Parent and Toddler Play Group and a family picnic. The Parent and Toddler Play Group meets every Friday morning at the University Centre and provides a wonderful opportunity for graduates and their partners to bring their children to socialise and share their life together. With toys, free soft drinks, biscuits and a large playing space, it’s a good opportunity for your kids to mingle with their pals.

As a representative body of all Cambridge graduates, the Graduate Union also supports various intercollegiate events such as the collaborative MCR event, M.C.Revolution on Sunday 14th October. The GU events are open to every graduate and you are encouraged to help join in with their organisation. Check out the calendar on the GU website to find out what’s going on in the GU and around the colleges, www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/calendar.
Ruins

When I looked back up from my books, the sky had broken into huge, ruined torsos.

A spider – the size of the talon mark a bird track leaves in the sand – rappelled to my wrist as I sat in the forked, tangled roots of a fir on the grounds of Gonville and Caius.

Sun dropping by degrees, I ran back and forth across a rain-softened field, watched stars making perfect blue pairs. The world – from my window in the eaves – is filled with abandoned webs still catching any stray thing – dead or living – from the brisk, blank pages of the breeze.

© Avery Slater
Representations

University Committees

Graduate representation exists on almost all of the University committees, but the rules governing the appointment of graduate representatives vary. The University runs annual elections for student members of the General Board and University Council during Easter term, and the GU President is automatically the graduate representative on several of the committees. The others generally accept a graduate member nominated by the Council, though in some cases preference may be given to elected members of the Board. If you would like to volunteer to serve on any available committees, please contact the President for further details or use the online nomination form.

Welfare Support

If you encounter problems with your work, supervisor, department, college or anything else, it might be useful to know that the Graduate Union offers confidential welfare support. Trained executive members are available to listen to your concerns and direct you towards resources within and beyond the University. If you have a serious complaint against your Supervisor, department or any member of staff, there are often ways to resolve difficult issues without resorting to the University’s time-consuming formal complaints procedure. Depending on the situation, you might consult your Departmental Adviser, Graduate Tutor, Secretary of the Degree Committee, College Welfare Officer or College Nurse. If you are having difficulty obtaining the answers you require, then contact the Graduate Union by email or visit the weekly Welfare Surgery. The GU also organises and hosts talks by experts throughout the year. These are aimed to equip graduates with practical resources and skills. Recent presentations include ‘Handling your Supervisor’, ‘Out of your Head and into your Skills’ and ‘Proactive Coping Strategies’.

The 2nd and 3rd placed entries in the GU Photography Competition by Chien-Wen Hsieh (above) and David Ranc (below)
Overall, the GU’s objective is to listen, help you clarify the issues and, if necessary, communicate these concerns to the key figures involved to help you reach quantifiable results in a timely manner.

CAMPAIGNS

Through mature and targeted campaigning within the University governance structure and occasionally even at the local government level, the Graduate Union has been effective in bringing about real improvements to the lives of its members. In the process, we have acquired a reputation within the University for constructive, detailed and challenging contributions to its often chaotic decision-making process. Some of the larger campaigns in 2005–06 included mental health provision, accommodation pooling, rents and college fees, a Code of Practice for Research Students, University openness and CamSIS. Further details and accompanying reports are provided on the GU website.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENT REPS

The GU is a useful and helpful resource for student representatives in terms of offering direct support, access to the student community and liaison opportunities with University bodies. The GU assists representatives with conducting student surveys on topics relevant within their Faculties as well as organising intra-departmental academic and social events. The GU directly interacts with student representatives and deals with their queries via their automatic membership on the GU Council and through a weekly e-bulletin and online forum. Graduate issues raised by student representatives are promoted via representation on University committees, including the Board of Graduate Studies, and thus inform representatives about academic developments. The GU welcomes suggestions and feedback; queries should be directed to Esuna Dugarova (ed300), who currently serves as the Faculty Representative on the GU Board.
History

The University grew out of an association of scholars migrated from Oxford to the city of Cambridge in 1209. At that time houses were hired as hostels with a Master in charge of the students. By 1226 the scholars were numerous enough to have set up an organisation, represented by an official called a Chancellor. Cambridge’s status as a University is confirmed by a decree in 1233 from Pope Gregory IX, and by 1290 it became common for researchers from other European universities to come and study or to give lecture courses. Now the University is one of the oldest universities in the world and one of the largest in the United Kingdom.

Structure

The University of Cambridge is a confederation of Colleges, Faculties and other institutions. The University functions with a relatively small central administration, and with central bodies consisting of the elected academic personnel of the Faculties and Colleges.

Colleges

The University comprises 31 colleges. The first college, Peterhouse was found in 1284. Many colleges were found during the 14th and 15th centuries, but colleges continued to be established throughout the centuries to modern times despite a gap of 204 years between the founding of Sidney Sussex in 1596 and Downing in 1800. The most recent college is Robinson established in 1979. Originally colleges accepted only male students. The first colleges for only women were Girton in 1869 and Newnham in 1872. Between 1960 and 1988 all of the men’s colleges began to admit women, and Girton also began to admit men, but Newnham, New Hall, and Lucy Cavendish still remain as a women’s college. Darwin and Clare Hall are known as graduate colleges, which accept only graduates, along with Hughes Hall, St Edmund’s and Wolfson, which have relatively larger graduate populations amongst other colleges.

As graduates apply directly to their faculty through the Board of Graduate Studies, unlike
undergraduates, many graduates feel less
belong to the college. However, regardless of
your relationship with your college or MCR, it
is still important to get to know your Graduate
Tutor whose role is to assist you with any
academic- or welfare-related query.

Faculties

In most cases, the faculty, department or
appropriate library becomes the base for
graduates. In addition to having a Supervisor,
graduates are assigned an Adviser. In principle,
this person is available to read your material,
write reference letters and offer career advice;
however, it is up to you to get to know him or
her and to develop that relationship. Although
the job titles differ, all departments and
faculties also have a graduate secretary (e.g.,
Secretary to the Degree Committee) who
is designated to handle all queries relating to
graduate degrees. Each faculty has a Faculty
Representative elected by graduates to sit on
the Faculty Board and the Graduate Union
Council. Contact this person should you wish
to express any concerns or to raise points of
interest.

Graduate courses are either taught (most
MPhils) or research based (most PhDs), and
supervisions occur year-round in most instances.
Your relationship with your Supervisor will play
a key role in your experience of Cambridge. In
order to maximise your working relationship
with your Supervisor, set clear expectations at
the beginning, minute meetings and follow-up
with an email confirming what was discussed
and when you will next meet, and honour
deadlines. These practices might also be
extended to the undergraduates you are
asked to supervise. Should your relationship
with your Supervisor deteriorate, consult your
Faculty Adviser, Graduate Tutor, MCR Welfare
Officer or the Graduate Union Welfare Officer
for confidential advice.

Cambridge Terms

One of the major oddities in Cambridge is
the way the University organises its annual
calendar. This often causes problems for new
students; the essential points are:

1. Cambridge Terms are 8 weeks long;
2. There are three terms in a year; and they
are known consecutively as Michaelmas,
Lent and Easter. Full Term starts on a
Tuesday and ends on a Friday. However,
lectures and seminars start on Thursdays.
3. Technically, there is a fourth, non-teaching
term called the Long Vacation Term in the
period between the end of the Easter and
the start of Michaelmas. However, most
staff and undergraduates refer to this as
the long vacation or holidays.
4. May Week is in June – this is the end of
the academic year when Cambridge lets its
hair down with non-stop garden parties,
strawberries and champagne at May Balls;
it’s a city populated by penguins and bad
hangovers!

Because the terms are so short in Cambridge,
they can be very intense and active. This can
be juxtaposed with the quieter periods in
between, where undergraduates disappear
and many graduates go into hibernation. Many
graduate students find that they get most of
their work done outside term time when there
are not so many commitments or distractions
to keep up with – seminars or supervising
– and when peace descends on the libraries.

Term Dates 2007–08

Michaelmas Term:
2nd October – 30th November
Lent Term:
15th January – 14th March
Easter Term:
22nd April – 13th June
THE REPORTER
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/]

The Reporter is the official journal of the University which has both weekly and special publications. You can subscribe to receive an electronic version each Wednesday (contact details below). Special numbers of interest to graduates include the Lecture List for the academic year which is published in late September, and the Awards, Funds, Studentships and Prizes issue which is published in late November. Copies of these larger issues are available for purchase at the Cambridge University Press Bookshop.

BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/]

The Board of Graduate Studies is affectionately known by graduate students and the University’s staff as ‘BoGS’. BoGS is charged with the admission, registration and approval of most of the University’s graduate students: that is, those students studying for the PhD, MSc, MLitt, MPhil Degree, Certificate of Postgraduate Study (CPGS) and some Graduate Diplomas. BoGS manages graduate supervisor reporting (CamGRAD), most graduate examinations and the creation and maintenance of online graduate records (CamSIS). BoGS also administers graduate fee payments, some funding agreements (including Research Councils), and liaise with the Cambridge Trusts about their funding schemes.

As well as an administrative office, the Board of Graduate Studies is also a committee of 12 senior academics from across the University, plus a Graduate Union member and a Graduate Tutor, who meet monthly from October–July to approve degrees and discuss policy. They aim to ensure that all matters concerning graduate education fall within the University’s regulations and that good practice is identified and adopted wherever possible. This is done mainly through liaison with the 25 Degree Committees that manage graduate matters in their respective faculties.

The BoGS website is your first port of call for information on how to manage your graduate studies while at Cambridge; for example, what to do if you become ill or need to take time off, what to do if you want to undertake fieldwork, if you need to extend your submission date, or helpful advice relating to fees and funding.

While the website will provide you with information on what to do, you will also need to make sure that you have access to CamSIS, the University’s online student record system, in order to turn this into practice. CamSIS is the means by which you maintain your own personal data and read your termly supervision reports. You can also view and print unofficial transcripts, and request official transcripts.

If you need to discuss matters with BoGS’ helpful staff, the centrally-located office is open from 10.00 to 16.00 during the week and is wheelchair accessible via the entrance at the rear of the building.

BoGS Contacts
4 Mill Lane, Cambridge. CB2 1RZ
Tel: 01223 (7)66302
Fax: 01223 (3)38398
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00
Admissions
admissions@gradstudies.cam.ac.uk
General Enquiries
graduatestudents@gradstudies.cam.ac.uk
Fees and Funding
feesandfunding@gradstudies.cam.ac.uk
Wheelchair access via the entrance at the rear of the building
University Facilities & Services

Studying in Cambridge can be quite stressful and the University tries its best to optimise your work to make you most productive. This can take many forms, whether it be the extensive libraries or variety of resources, and aids to help students with particular needs be they financial, emotional or otherwise. The University also promotes self-development and goal-orientation, most notably with the Careers Service, and even has provisions for when you leave Cambridge so that you can keep in touch.

In this section, all these facilities and services are introduced, together with contact details for where to go if you want more information.

Accommodation Service
[www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk]

The Accommodation Service helps all members of the University, from students and academics to staff and visiting scholars, to find a suitable place to live. You can find the list of properties on their website, ranging from privately rented properties including flats, houses, and rooms in shared houses, to self-contained properties owned by the University, which are available to post-graduate students, academics, staff and visiting scholars.

Kellet Lodge, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, CB2 1QJ
Open: Mon-Fri 9.00-12.45 & 14.00-16.45
Tel: 01223 338099
accommodation_service@admin.cam.ac.uk

Alumni Office
[www.cam.ac.uk/alumni/]

University alumni staff are there to help you keep in touch with the University and former students even after you have finished a first or further degree. The Alumni office publishes the Cambridge Alumni Magazine (CAM) three times a year and it is delivered to all alumni with free of charge. It contains lively and in-depth articles, news and features all focused on life in and around Cambridge, helping you to keep in touch with the latest developments. It also has a Notices section, providing the opportunity to announce details of reunions or local events.

The Alumni Office also provides ‘Lost and Found’ service to give you an opportunity to reunite old friends if you lose touch with a Cambridge contemporary. The University holds the Alumni Weekend every year with various themes at the end of September. Over the course of three days a programme of tours, lectures and social events entices a large number of former students to return. The Weekend enables alumni to hear about the latest research across the academic spectrum, and also provides the perfect opportunity to revisit College, meet up with old friends and to make new ones.

Each year the Alumni Office arranges a travel programme for alumni. There is a large and fascinating range of destinations, from the Galapagos Islands to Ireland. Explore new territory in the company of Cambridge people, with an accompanying academic from the University. The full programme is available on the website, and a travel supplement is published annually with the Michaelmas edition of CAM.

Moreover, over 200 Cambridge alumni societies and branches of the Cambridge Society throughout the UK and the rest of the world are ready to welcome you wherever you go with a wide range of events and activities. So,
if you are returning home or moving to a new area, please introduce yourself to your local group and find out about local social events.

Even in Cambridge, you are entitled to a CAMCard, which identifies you as a lifetime member of the University and allows you to visit all of the Colleges without paying an entrance fee. Please find more information on the Alumni Office website.

University of Cambridge Development Office, 1 Quayside, Cambridge, CB5 8AB
Tel: 01223 332288
alumni@foundation.cam.ac.uk

Careers Service
[www.careers.cam.ac.uk]

The University Careers Service provides information and advice to all current students and alumni. It can offer guidance at all stages of your career choice, even if you’re not yet sure which direction you want to go in.

The careers staff are available for advice and also run regular workshops on subjects such as compiling a CV, vacation work and being interviewed, as well as a year-round programme of briefing sessions and careers fairs covering different types of work.

Stuart House, Mill Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1XE
Open: Mon-Fri 9.15-17.15 (During Full Term)/ Mon-Fri 9.15-13.00 & 14.15-17.15 (Outside Full Term)/ Close at 17.00 (Long Vacation)
Tel: 01223 338283 (Students & Alumni)/ 01223 338288 (All enquiries)
enquiries@careers.cam.ac.uk

Computing
[www.cam.ac.uk/cs/]

The University Computing Service provides a number of facilities for students. The names which you will probably encounter first are:

Hermes: Named after the Greek messenger of the Gods, this is the University’s email system. You will be assigned an email account and a password when you arrive.

Raven: You will need your Raven password to access CamSIS and a variety of University-only systems. Your college may use it for Hall or Punt booking, amongst other things. Furthermore, many organisations, including the Graduate Union, use Raven-authenticated online voting for all elections.

ATHENS: This is a national authentication system used to access ejournals and databases. Users have accounts created for them which are then stored on an external database. The management of the account data is handled locally by library staff within the University Library or individual departments. You should check with the computing officers in your department how to obtain an ATHENS account.

PWF: The Public Workstation Facility consists of networked PCs and Macs at a large number of University, departmental and college locations. Several of these rooms, including the Phoenix User Area on the New Museums Site and the Sidgwick Computing Facility, are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may need to get a key to access them out of standard office hours – these are available from Computing Service Reception for a deposit of £10. Your PWF account gives you 500 MB space to store files, internet access and printing facilities. You will need to buy printer credit at the Computing Service Helpdesk which is in the New Museums site on Pembroke Street, (contact details below).
Technical support: The Helpdesk is also the place to go if you have any queries or need technical support. If you wish to improve your computer skills, the Computing Service runs a number of courses. Many are available as self-teach programmes, so you can go at your own pace, or you can attend a more traditional class. Speak to them about obtaining computer software at a reduced price on a student licence or visit the website listed in the contact details.

CUDN: If you live in private accommodation and use a third-party company for your internet access, you will need to use the Cambridge University Data Network (CUDN) to access certain sites in the Cambridge domain (@cam.ac.uk) and other protected sites. This works via virtual private dial-up networking (VPDN), and you can sign up for the necessary account at the Helpdesk. The University also offers its own dial-up internet access, Maggie; this connects to the CUDN and costs £27+VAT/year; VAT will be charged with the exception of departmental orders and registered students for whom a student declaration form is available. There are no refunds for part-used units. The charging year runs from 1 October to 30 September but new users may start to use their first units during July.

New Museums Site, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QH
Open: Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri 09.00-17.00,
Wed 10.00-17.00 (Reception)/ Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri 09.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00, Wed 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-17.00 (Help Desk)
Tel: 01223 334600 (Reception) / 01223 334681 (Help Desk)
Reception: reception@ucs.cam.ac.uk
Help Desk: help-desk@ucs.cam.ac.uk

Counselling

Counselling Service
[www.counselling.cam.ac.uk]

While there are many people around who can lend support with the decisions and problems faced by students, the University Counselling Service (UCS) provides for times when it may be best to seek confidential help outside familiar environments.

‘Counselling’ can seem very loaded, but a counsellor simply aims to help people understand issues concerning them and then to work together with them to find the best way forward. There are both male and female counsellors at the UCS and all are trained and experienced in helping people with various issues, such as anxiety, stress, depression, family or relationship difficulties, sexual problems or identity issues. They can also talk through adjusting to a new culture, facing difficult decisions or more specific problems such as addictions, eating disorders or self-harming. There is a team of experienced professionals who have a great deal of experience in student-related matters and includes cognitive therapists who can offer a more directive approach to working with specific psychological problems. If it is appropriate, the counsellors can make referrals to community psychological, therapeutic or psychiatric services after discussion.

The quickest way to arrange ongoing counselling is through the UCS website, but single appointments can also be made by phone or email. Appointments are confidential and open to all students in the University. As well as individual counselling, group sessions are available, both for specific issues and on a more general basis, some of these are arranged specifically for graduate students. If you have any comments on the service or suggestions you can contact the UCS directly or via the GU.
13 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA
Open: Mon & Fri 09.00-17.00, Tue-Thu 09.00-19.30
Tel: 01223 332865
reception@counselling.cam.ac.uk

**LinkLine**
[www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/linkline/]

Linkline is a student-run listening support service. Linkline is not a professional counselling service, but it is a listening support and information service run by students for students. They are open 7 pm throughout the night until you can share your worries and concerns by talking to until 8am the next morning, every night of full term. During these hours you can phone them, or if you would prefer, you can drop in, and either way you will find both a male and female volunteer available to talk with.

Linkline also keeps a range of welfare supplies, including free pregnancy tests and condoms. They also have a library of pamphlets and information on a variety of topics, including eating disorders, sexuality, pregnancy, depression etc.

17 St Edwards Passage, Cambridge, CB2 3P
Open: Mon-Sun 19.00-08.00 (During Full Term)
Tel: 01223 744444
Email: linkline@cusu.cam.ac.uk

**Peer Support**
[www.peersupport.cam.ac.uk]

Before going for any professional counseling services many students often prefer to speak confidentially to a fellow student in the first instance. It is a service that is complementary to the college welfare system, supportive of the tutorial system and the work of welfare officers and groups such as Linkline. Peer supporters are listeners (though not counsellors) who have received formal training from the University Counselling Service. They offer impartial, non-judgemental support and referral to other agencies if necessary.

Peer Support is currently active in eight Cambridge Colleges and will expand in 2007/8 into at least three more. Peer Support is organised autonomously within a College, some holding drop-in sessions, others inviting informal contact with individual peer supporters, some both. Colleges, which have available Peer Support Teams, are: Clare Hall, Homerton, Jesus, Pembroke, St John’s, Trinity, Trinity Hall, Wolfson. A Peer Supporter is also working from CUSU Welfare. For more information, you can contact two Peer Support Co-ordinators, Jane Cooper and Carol Dasgupta.

University Counselling Service, 13-14 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA
Tel: 01223 332865
Jane Cooper jc307@cam.ac.uk
Carol Dasgupta cd218@cam.ac.uk
Every member of the University of Cambridge automatically becomes a member of Cambridge University Students Union (CUSU). CUSU exists to represent you and provide welfare advice, support and services for everyone studying at the University.

Alongside the Graduate Union, CUSU also has executive officer who represents the interests of graduates and mature students, so graduates are doubly represented in Cambridge. CUSU ents, CUSU’s entertainment division, are also working closely with the Graduate Union to ensure that they provide nights out that appeal to everyone, including graduate students. Email the CUSU Ents Manager if you have any suggestions for events.

There’s always a place for graduates to get involved with CUSU. Go along to their open meetings, council meetings or e-mail their President for 2007–08, Mark Fletcher.

Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU), Old Examination Hall, Free School Lane, Cambridge, CB2 3RF
Tel: 01223 333313
President: president@cusu.cam.ac.uk
Graduates: graduates@cusu.cam.ac.uk
Entertainments manager: ents-manager@cusu.cam.ac.uk

Representation, Services, Support, Campaigns - Your Union

Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU) represents the interests of all 20,000+ students in the University. We work with MCRs and alongside the GU to provide representation, support and services for graduate and undergraduate students, as well as running campaigns on issues of particular student concern.

To find out more please visit: www.cusu.cam.ac.uk
or e-mail the CUSU President Mark Fletcher, president@cusu.cam.ac.uk

What CUSU does for Graduates, in brief:

Casework support (such as help dealing with supervisors), support, advice and training for MCRs, representation on university committees (as well as locally and nationally), the Societies fair and societies training, Publications on a wide variety of issues, cheap welfare supplies, minivan hire and much more!
**Disability Resource Centre**

[www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/disability/]

The University has an active Disability Resource Centre (DRC) with advisers available to provide information, advice and support on issues relating to disability either on a one-to-one or email basis. Expert advice is available on a wide range of disabilities including mobility and sensory impairments, chronic illness and those with a Specific Learning Difficulty (including Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and ADHD). The Resource Centre has a PWF computer suite complete with a wide range of Assistive Technology, a library of publications, fact sheets and magazines. The Centre also has a loan pool of equipment, including laptops and Assistive Software packages. This service is available for disabled students who experience difficulties in accessing equipment of their own with support from an adviser from the Centre. The Disability Resource Centre produces a termly student disability newsletter – contact them if you are interested in receiving it – or you can read it online.

The DRC also operates a Non-Medical Assistants scheme, linking disabled students with (paid or unpaid) assistance, for example note takers or people to help with reading or library work. Contact the DRC if you are looking for this sort of assistance, or if you have some spare time and would like to help out in this way.

The DRC website contains the latest version of the Access Guide to the University and a guide book on supporting disabled students and colleagues (intended for Tutors and Teaching Staff) and some general information on what the University can offer.

In addition to such support for students, the DRC also offers training for staff and students on matters relating to disability. Courses are available on a range of topics, including teaching and learning, library access and admissions, and are open to graduate students. Courses relating specifically to the needs of graduate supervisors and courses relating to the support of disabled postgraduate students are available on request. In addition, there is a range of online courses available starting throughout the year. For more information please contact the DRC.

There are some sources of funding specifically for students with a disability, which can also be found on the website, such as the Charlie Bayne Travel Trust which makes grants for those wishing to travel for educational purposes (widely interpreted), the Disabled Students Bursary Fund, the Elsie Widdowson Bursary Fund, and Bridget’s Last Resort Fund which make small grants to cover costs arising from a student’s disability such as special equipment or other support. All this information can be provided in an alternative format if you prefer.

You can also contact CUSU’s Students with Disabilities officer who has a network of useful contacts, and runs a campaign promoting access and awareness throughout the University.

*Keynes House, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA*
*Tel: 01223 332301*
*Textphone: 01223 764085*
*Email: ucam-disability@lists.cam.ac.uk*
*CUSU Student with Disabilities Officer: disabilities@cusu.cam.ac.uk*
**Employment**

Graduate students are entitled under University regulations to take on eight hours of paid employment per week to supplement their income. Part-time jobs might include supervising; work in the College; proof-reading; translation; exam invigilating during the Easter term; participating in psychological experiments; or taking lecture notes for students with disabilities. Those opportunities are often found through your department, college, societies, or personal contacts. Please see ‘supervising’ session for more information on supervision. While the University appreciates that graduates often have very little disposable income, most have found that a non-academic part-time job is difficult to juggle with their studies.

**Student Spotlight: Alex-James**

Hi! I’m Alex-James and I’m in the final year of my Chemistry PhD. I did my undergrad at “the other place”, so adjusting to Cam wasn’t difficult - despite the intense rivalry, they’re pretty much the same place!

Academically, I work with some fantastic people - my research group is looking into a cure for cancer (a great one-liner for parties!) and I have a fab, long-suffering (and here nameless!) boss who indulges my many extra-curricular pursuits. Being able to work when you want is one of the best things about graduate student life.

Extra-curricular wise, I do probably more than I should, and certainly more than I let on(!). You can get great CV kudos with the plethora of societies/sports teams available. I was General Secretary of the GU at a time of intensive political/administrative upheaval, I organise college exchange parties/formal swaps for my MCR and I also do a lot for CUR1350, the Cambridge University radio station. In fact, you can wake up with me every morning 8-10am, although 2 hours a day of me and my ego is more than most people can take!
Families

Each year, around one-fifth of Cambridge’s five thousand graduate students are accompanied by their families. The Graduate Union takes seriously its responsibility of making such students – along with their families – feel welcome and at home in Cambridge. Members of current students’ immediate families are counted as associate members of the Graduate Union, entitling them to all the benefits and support which come with that membership. The concerns of student parents are dealt with by an elected Families Officer who sits on the GU Board and all relevant committees. They are available to offer advice and, where the need arises, will pass on concerns to the appropriate authorities.

The Graduate Union hosts a weekly coffee morning for student parents, every Friday between 10.30 and 12.30 at the University Centre. Children are especially welcome, and will be delighted by all the beautiful toys on offer. While they play, parents can enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat. A large number of student parents turn up to these events, making them a great way to meet new people. Refreshments and biscuits are paid for by the GU and are free for members. At the end of each year, a lot of toys are donated to the GU by graduating student parents as they pack up to go home. These are offered for free to other parents who are welcome to take them home for their kids. Of course, the GU has only limited space for storage, but many toys are retained so kids have something to play with when they visit. The GU Families Officer also arranges two parties every year. Last year these were held just before Christmas and to mark the annual Muslim festival of Eid. The GU looks forward to arranging other cultural functions depending upon the number of student parents from various communities and the level of interest expressed.

At the University level, the Cambridge University Family Society provides excellent information on all aspects of childcare and

Families Contacts

The Graduate Union Students with Children
[www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/info/children]
families@gradunion.cam.ac.uk

The University Family Society
[www.societies.cam.ac.uk/family/]
soc-family@lists.cam.ac.uk

The University Childcare Office
[www.cam.ac.uk/cambuniv/childcare]
25 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA
Tel: 01223 332249
Cassie Marks: childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk

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student parenting through in Cambridge. They organise family outings, babysitters, a ‘pyjamacreche’ and run an electronic mailing list for student parents. This year, a ‘buddy’ scheme is also being introduced in an attempt to combat the isolation that some parents (particularly lone parents) experience whilst pursuing their studies. In addition, the family society campaigns for better representation, facilities and accommodation as well as undertaking casework for individual students having problems accessing their entitlements.

You can find other services offered by the University, including advice about the central University grants available to help meet the costs of childcare in the University Childcare Office. If this is your first time in Cambridge with your family, you are welcome to attend a welcome party hosted by the University Childcare Information Adviser, Cassie Marks.

**Funding**

As we all know, funding is one of the most crucial aspects of graduate study. While most of you will have arrived with your funding organised, some of you may, at some point, still need to apply for funding, especially if moving from a Masters to a PhD degree. In addition to the large national or international funding bodies, such as the Research Councils in the UK, the University also has some of its own sources of funding.

The Board of Graduate Studies administers most of the University-wide funding for graduate students. The main ones are the Domestic Research Trinity Studentships (for home students) and the Overseas Research Studentships (for overseas students). For more details on these, go to the BoGS website.

The University Hardship Fund is available for home students in financial difficulty. Those students with high housing costs, disabled students, students with children, or students whose funding has unexpectedly been withdrawn after starting their course may have strong claims for support. Application forms are available from the Graduate Secretaries in colleges, and your Graduate Tutor will need to support your application. Grants range from £100–£3500, and there are two deadlines each academic year: 1st December and 1st March. Your application will be assessed according to a formula weighing your annual income with expenditure.

The Cambridge Trusts, comprising the Gates Cambridge Trust, the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, the Cambridge Overseas Trust, the Cambridge European Trust and associated trusts, offer scholarships and part-cost bursaries to students from overseas and the European Union (excluding the United Kingdom) who have been accepted for admission to the University of Cambridge. The Cambridge European Trust offers grants of around £250 towards the cost of academically valuable activities undertaken by Cambridge students in European countries (not confined to the EU), whether related or unrelated to the applicant’s degree subject. The Trust also offers a number of modest part-cost bursaries and scholarships, tenable for up to three years, to enable students of outstanding academic merit to study at Cambridge.

The International Office also administers some scholarships relevant to International students.

Details of other Studentships, Scholarships, Fellowships and other financial awards are published annually in a Special Issue of the Reporter, released in mid-November.
The Language Centre on Downing Place teaches foreign languages to non-specialist learners. Some courses in English as a foreign language are offered to students arriving from abroad before the start of term, and the centre specialises in helping students attain proficiency (or attempt perfection) in other languages. For the most popular ones (French, Italian, Spanish and German), taught classes are offered. For a course lasting two terms and comprising a two-hour lesson each week, you will be charged £50 in total. Certain other courses are offered free-of-charge (ask about the Pressland Fund for scientists, or see the Centre’s website). There are also bursaries available in some cases for attending language schools abroad.

For those dedicated enough to teach themselves, material is available in more than 140 other languages. Visit the Centre and you will be allocated a learning adviser, who will help you decide a suitable study plan using the multimedia resources that are available on-site. As well as tapes and videos, foreign language television programmes and films are also available. The Centre’s use of new technology is quite impressive, and many of the facilities are available online, so it’s possible to study without physically going to the Centre every week. You will need to go to the Language Centre to register, however, for which you need to take your University Card.
LIBRARIES

Cambridge University Library consists of the main University Library building on West Road, often known as the ‘UL’, together with four dependent libraries. These are the:

- Betty and Gordon Moore Library (Centre for Mathematical Sciences);
- Central Science Library (The Arts’ School, New Museums Site);
- Medical Library (Addenbrooke’s Site);
- Squire Law Library (Sidgwick Site).

Being a legal deposit library, the UL is entitled to claim a copy of every book published in the UK. It also has an extensive collection of books published elsewhere as well as journals, maps, microfilms, photographs and sound recordings.

As a graduate student, you are entitled to membership of the library and to borrow up to 10 books for up to 8 weeks at a time. However, in order to use these facilities you will need to register as a reader on your first visit. To do this, you will need to bring your University Card and a letter from BoGS confirming both your place as a graduate student and the expected length of your course.

The library subscribes to a number of online scholarly resources and electronic journals. If your room has a connection to the University network you will be able to use these from home. The library runs a number of induction courses for new users. These are advertised in the library foyer and on the library website at the start of term.

In addition to the University and Dependent Libraries, all colleges and departments have their own libraries. Check with the relevant institution for terms of access.

University Library (UL)
[www.lib.cam.ac.uk]
West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DR
Open: Mon-Fri 09.00-19.15 (No admittance after 19.00)/ 09.00-22.00 (Easter Full Term) & Sat 09.00-17.00 (No admittance after 16.45)
Tel: 01223 333000
Email: library@lib.cam.ac.uk

SUPERVISING

A unique aspect of the Cambridge undergraduate curriculum is the provision of small group teaching provided by colleges. While often done by a member of the academic staff, supervisions can also be conducted by other specialists in the field, whether a graduate or post-doctorate. Indeed, in many departments the graduate students shoulder the majority of this particular teaching load.

Supervisions last for an hour and are generally held on a weekly basis. Groups sizes vary between one and four students and pay is standardised across colleges. Other than the weekly meetings, the supervisors are expected to grade work and provide directed feedback to the students in preparation for their yearly Tripos exams in June.

The CamCORS system is used to provide termly reports to the undergraduates on their progress and is also the place to register for automated payment. Colleges pay supervisors at the end of each term (quarterly). National Insurance only becomes payable if a supervisor earns more than £1260 from supervising in one term. It is unlikely that graduate supervisors will achieve this.
Many graduate students use the opportunity to further their own educational development: teaching others can be the best way to properly understand a subject yourself. Supervising also gives graduates other valuable skills, especially if they are considering a career in teaching or academia. Both those who are new to Cambridge and those who were once undergraduates here would benefit from a new supervisors course run by the Self Development Office. Many colleges and some departments also run their own supervisor training sessions.

Supervisions tend to be organised by undergraduate Directors of Studies, so if you are interested in supervising, contact the Director of Studies in your college. It is also worth talking to lecturers in your department or even your Supervisor.

An alternative to supervising in many scientific disciplines is demonstrating. Many departments run practical classes which are headed by a lecturer with graduate students providing supplementary staffing. Training and rates of pay vary between departments.

[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/personnel/staffdev/graduates/]
25 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA
Tel: 01223 332343
staffdev@admin.cam.ac.uk

Leadership, problem solving, teamwork, delegation, communication, presentation – these are just some of the skills that you will be encouraged to develop alongside your research. It is important to recognise which of these skills you have and which you need to develop. They will help you to take the next step after completing your doctorate.

Recognising and developing these skills is not always easy when you are under pressure to complete your research work and when time is of the essence, so the Transferable Skills Development Programme aims to provide as many opportunities as possible for you to develop these abilities alongside your research. Opportunities are available in many different guises – online Personal Development Planning, online courses, supervising undergraduates, courses offered by your department, volunteering for the peer support programme and so on. Making the most of these opportunities, taking the initiative yourself to develop these talents and manage your PhD programme, is in itself a transferable skill.

The Research Councils already have a statement identifying the skills students should be expected to develop during their research training. The Research Councils UK funds the UK GRAD Programme in order to support the academic sector to embed personal and professional skills development into research degree programme. You can find more information on the website.
Each department will have its own transferable skills training programme. Transferable Skills Development Officer in the Board of Graduate Studies is responsible for co-ordinating transferable skills activities for graduates and postdoctoral researchers, ensuring that all students are provided with the opportunities described above, alongside promoting and developing new training initiatives.

As ever, the onus is on you, the graduate student, to take responsibility for your own career path, arming yourself with the training that you will need to go in which ever direction you choose. The recommendation is that you spend at least 10 days each year (in the second and third years of your doctorate) on transferable skills training.

You should speak to your departmental administrator or look at your departmental website to find out what your department can offer you, but there are also opportunities outside your department that you should make the most of whilst at Cambridge. The Careers Service, Staff Development, the Computing Service and the Language Centre can all offer training and guidance, and the Graduate Union also runs seminars and programmes with which you can get involved.

The UK GRAD Programme
[www.grad.ac.uk]
Sheraton House, Castle Park, Cambridge, CB3 0AX
Tel: 01223 448510
admin@grad.ac.uk

Transferable Skills Development Officer: Jane Wilkinson
Tel: 01223 764198
jw437@cam.ac.uk

Uni4 Bus
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/embs/travel/bus/uni4.shtml]

The Uni4 is a local bus route supported by the University. The service runs every 20 minutes during the day along a route from Addenbrooke’s Hospital via Silver Street and the West Cambridge site, terminating at Madingley Road Park and Ride. Single journeys cost 50p on production of your University card.

In addition to the Uni4, the Citi4 runs from Camborne to Madingley Road Park and Ride and then along the same route into the city centre. The timetables of these two buses are coordinated to provide a 10-minute service frequency between West Cambridge and Trumpington Street. Note that the reduced 50p fare is currently only available when travelling on the Uni4, but there are plans to extend this to all bus routes.

Students working at the Addenbrooke’s site are eligible for a discounted 7-day bus pass. Ask at the Access Office on Level 1 of the Hospital for more information.

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The University Centre
[www.unicen.cam.ac.uk/Centre/]

The University Centre offers a wide range of catering and social facilities for Graduate members of the University, as well as University and College staff. Located off Mill Lane, the Centre enjoys lovely views across the river near Mill Pond. There is a bar, a restaurant, a cafeteria-style dining room, TV lounge, computer room, cafe, reading room, games room and a number of conference rooms.

Granta Place, Mill Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1RU
Open: Mon-Sun 09.00-00.00
Tel: 01223 337766
info@unicen.cam.ac.uk

Volunteering can help you gain transferable skills and can be an excellent release from academic work, not to mention the pleasure gained from putting something back into the community. Around a third of Cambridge graduates volunteer during their time at Cambridge and volunteering opportunities are as varied as the people who volunteer. You can choose how much time you want to give – as little as an hour a week can be enormously helpful to a community organisation – and training is normally available. Volunteering opportunities include:

• Going into local schools to help inspire students in the classroom;
• Mentor a homeless person back into work with Business Action on Homelessness;
• Go to a developing country with Engineers without Borders.

You can also contact the Office of Community Affairs (OCA), or Student Community Action who recruit for several of their own community projects and for over 60 local charitable organisations for more volunteering opportunities.

Cambridge Science Festival
[www.cambridgescience.org]

The Cambridge Science Festival is the largest free science festival in the UK, welcoming around 25,000 members of the public each year. The Festival aims to encourage young people’s interest in science and technology,
and to encourage them to study these subjects at school and university; open up the research taking place at the University and engage the public, through debates, talks and activities.

During the Festival, over 1,000 students and researchers from scientific departments volunteer to encourage visitors to learn more about science through talks and workshops. If you'd like to get involved with hands-on demonstrations, the OCA can put you in touch with the student group Cambridge Hands-On Science who will involve over 100 volunteers in demonstrations on 10th–20th March 2008. If you are at all interested in a career in science communication, then this opportunity is definitely for you.

**Contact Details**

The Cambridge Admission Office (CAO)
[http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/admissions/]
Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QY
Tel: 01223 333308
admissions@cam.ac.uk

Active Community Fund
[http://www.cam.ac.uk/cambuni/volunteering/activecommfund.html]
Tel: 01223 339666
Emma Wenborn:
emma.wenborn@admin.cam.ac.uk
Deadline for funding rounds: Round 16 (17.00 Fri 12 Oct 2007)/ Round 17 (Fri 25 Jan 2008)/ Round 18 (Fri 2 May 2008)

The Office of Community Affairs (OCA)
[http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/community/]
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RP
Tel: 01223 339666
community@admin.cam.ac.uk

Student Community Action
[http://www.talks.cam.ac.uk/]
Are you an international student? Is it your first time to study abroad? Leaving home and coming to a new place to live can be a daunting experience. You may feel homesick and may feel lonely and isolated from language or cultural barriers.

Thankfully, Cambridge has a vibrant internal community, which is very well integrated with the rest of the student population. While it may be difficult for some graduate students to live on campus, your college is still the best place to make friends. By simply saying ‘hi’ in the dining hall or in your accommodation corridor you may find yourself far away from ‘loneliness’.

Your faculty is also a good place to find your true mates. As a graduate student you may find yourself spending most of your time in the lab or library in the department. Your mates from the same department can be your friend/mentor/personal supervisor/helper. Just ask them if they fancy a coffee or a pint after work.

If you suffer from serious homesickness, various international societies can be also helpful. You may be surprised to find out how much you can feel home in Cambridge while you are with your countrymen and women.

Most of college MCRs have international representatives who cater specifically to the needs of the international community, but if you find yourself in difficulty, your Graduate Tutor can be the best person to speak to. Your Graduate Tutor ought to be able to give advice regarding College matters.

At the University level, the University Counselling Service runs group sessions with a trained counsellor for overseas students where the problems and stresses faced in adjusting to life in a different country may be discussed. If you want more advices and help at the student level, two student unions, the Cambridge University Student Union (CUSU) and the Graduate Union (GU) provide excellent services for international students. The International arm of CUSU
aims to provide information and support for international students, while the GU International Representative is always happy to help.

**ADJUSTING TO BRITISH REGULATIONS**

**VISAS**
[www.ukvisas.gov.uk]

Information regarding visas to enter the UK is available from the website. Information regarding visa extensions is available on the **Immigration and Nationality Directorate** (IND) website. The IND, a department of the **Home Office**, is responsible for immigration policies and controls on entry to the UK and afterwards, including visa extensions.

When you need to renew the Leave to Remain stamp in your passport, get an application form from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. The renewal fee varies, depending on whether you require a premium service. Instructions are provided on the website; you may need to get documentation from your college and the Board of Graduate Studies. Try to have your visa extended for as long as you expect to need to complete your degree, so that you don’t have to pay the hefty fee each year. If you have difficulties, consult your Graduate Tutor, Supervisor or the Graduate Union.

**Home Office**
[www.homeoffice.co.uk]

**Immigration and Nationality Directorate**
[www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk]

**REGISTRATION WITH THE POLICE**
[www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk]
search ‘police registration’

Students from certain nations are required to register with the police within seven days of their arrival in the UK. If this applies to you, it will have been stamped in your passport on arrival in the UK. You can call the Overseas Visitors Registration Department at Parkside Police Station (details in a separate box) for more information. To register you will need your passport, two passport-sized photographs, a letter from your College confirming your address, and to pay a registration fee (currently £34).

**Parkside Police Station**
Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1JG
Tel: 01223 358 966 or 0845 456 456 4
Open: Mon-Fri 10.00-13.00 & 14.00-16.00

**WORKING LEGALLY**

One very common query is whether international students are able to work. You can take up part-time or vacation work but must not work for more than 20 hours per week during term time unless your placement
is part of your studies. You cannot run a business, be self-employed or provide services as a professional sports person or entertainer. You cannot take up full-time employment to pursue a career. Contact the Home Office for further information. You should also note that the University has its own rules about students taking employment. See the Employment section of this Handbook.

**Driving legally**

Overseas students who wish to drive whilst in the UK must take out a provisional driving license within one year of becoming resident here, unless they have previously passed a UK driving test or have held a full UK license during the last ten years. If you own a car in Britain you must legally have the car registered in your name on the logbook, have insurance, have valid road tax and, if the car is over 3 years old, have a valid MOT certificate*.

* MOT certificate: MOT stands for the Ministry of Transport test. It is an annual test of car safety and roadworthiness aspects applicable to most vehicles over a certain age in the UK if they are used on public roads. The MOT test certificates are currently issued in Great Britain under the auspices of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), an agency within the Department for Transport. Certificates in Northern Ireland are issued by the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA).

**Help with the English Language**

The Language Centre offers a five-week, intensive English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course in August and September before the start of the academic year, for a fee, which includes English-language support during the academic year. The Language Centre has various materials to help your English needs, so if you struggle with English language difficulties during the academic year, please contact the Language Centre and find out about the different kinds of support available.

Beyond this, it is up to the individual to enrol in a private language school if help is needed in this area. There are many of these in Cambridge and details can be found on the GU notice board.

**Practical tips**

**Weather**

The climate in the UK is “moderate, actually more comfortable, varied and more interesting” (apparently, according to British). In some sense, it is true. It never gets too hot in summer or too cold in winter, and you can

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experience rain, snow, thunder and lightning, hail, and glorious sunshine all in the course of a single day! So keep an umbrella handy or a waterproof jacket for cycling, and a spare long sleeved jacket or jumper at all times.

For international students who are not used to 4 o’clock sunset during the winter time, I would recommend an extra bright light bulb and an advanced heating system check in order to avoid depression.

FOOD

The British Council speaks about British food… “One widely held perception is that British food is bland and uninteresting and while this perception is held for a reason - some of our food does meet this description! (Glad that they admit that!!) - we also have a long tradition of interesting and tasty regional dishes as well as having embraced dishes and cuisines from around the world.”

Although I am not sure about ‘a long tradition of interesting and tasty regional dishes’, I enjoy fish and chips on Friday and Traditional English Breakfast on lazy weekends. Sunday roast in a local home is nice, sausage and mashed potato is not a bad option to have in the pub. A jacket potato with different fillings can fill you up well with a reasonable price. You might enjoy Christmas dinner, mince pie and mulled wine for Michaelmas time, pancakes and hot cross buns for Lent term, and lots of BBQs, strawberry with cream, Pimm’s for Easter term. Who knows, at the end of next year you

Student Spotlight: Esuna

I find Cambridge a unique place in that you can meet people from different ethnic backgrounds from all over the world and find yourself exposed to various cultures. It is often misleading to judge a person according to appearance. Look at me. Hardly anyone has ever guessed correctly that I come from Russia. I look Asian because my ancestors were Mongolian. My hometown is Ulan-Ude which is the capital of the Republic of Buryatia in Eastern Siberia. Ethnically, I am Buryat and we have our own traditions and customs which we preserve and follow. In my experience, this gives me a better understanding of others from diverse backgrounds and provides something for others to discover about me. While in Cambridge, I have seen in so many ways how culture can reflect people’s lifestyles, attitudes and interests. What is common in one society might turn out to be unusual in another. Don’t be surprised if after your studies in Cambridge, your outlook has been changed and expanded considerably. I believe there is something unique about every individual, both academically and personally. And this is what makes studying in Cambridge an extraordinary experience.
than Cambridge and Oxford when it comes to gowns). If you are 24 or older, an M.A. gown is appropriate. If you have a previous degree from the University of Cambridge, you are to wear a gown with “strings” which are ribbons in the gown’s shoulder. If you do not have a previous degree from Cambridge you are to remove the strings or tuck them in.

Another dress code you need to know is ‘Black Tie’. While some of Cambridge events are flexible with what you wear, some of events, formal halls and dinners required ‘Black Tie’. Black tie is another way of saying ‘dinner jacket’ and for men it consists of dinner jacket, trousers, soft-fronted white shirt, and black bow-tie. A more formal version contains stiff-fronted white shirt and black waistcoat. The

Clothing

There is one fine fact about clothing in the UK: People wear whatever they want and nobody cares. However, there is certain ‘dress code’ in Cambridge.

The first garment item you hear when you get to Cambridge would be a gown. It may not be necessary to have one in some colleges but for some colleges you ‘must’ have one because they will be worn for your matriculation photo and any formal you attend in the college. You can either buy your own gown new or used at local Cambridge shops or from another student who has one up for sale. You can also rent it from a local shop or the Graduate Union, or your MCR may provide rental service too.

When you purchase your gown, please remember that there are more commonly two types of gowns – a B.A. gown or an M.A. gown. Basically if you are under the age of 24, a B.A. gown is for you, even if you have an M.A. from another university (Cambridge does not recognise degrees from Universities other

Gown Purchase or Rental

Graduate Union
Rental only
hire@gradunion.cam.ac.uk

A. E. Clothier
[www.aeclothier.co.uk/]
5A Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QY
Tel: 01223 354339
Open: Mon-Sat 9.30-17.00 & Sun 12.00-16.00
sales@aeclothier.co.uk

Ede & Ravenscroft
[www.gownhire.co.uk/]
71/72 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RJ
Tel: 01223 350048 (Sales)/ 01223 861854 (Hire)
Open: Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm
student@edeandravenscroft.co.uk

Ryder & Amies
[http://www.ryderamies.co.uk/]
22 King’s Parade, Cambridge, CB2 1SP
Tel: 01223 350371
Opening hours: Mon-Sat: 8.30am-5.30pm, Sun: 10am-5pm
rental@ryderamies.co.uk
sales@ryderamies.co.uk
female equivalent to the male black tie is
the evening dress. Appropriate evening gown
lengths range from full length to tea (mid-calf),
but should usually not be shorter.

INTERNATIONAL CALLS

International calling cards can be purchased
from various newsagents, international
supermarkets, or the Graduate Union Shop.
The rate is different dependent on where you
are calling to, and sometimes the card has an
expiry date after certain period of the first use,
so compare the price and read the instruction
before the purchase.

If you have a BT line, it may be useful to route
your calls through a different company. This
may be slightly more expensive than calling
cards (2-3p/min more) but is more convenient.
It is possible to route mobile calls through
different providers as well. Whilst this often
requires you to dial an access number, you do
not need to enter a PIN.

If you have an internet connection, it may
be worth considering Voice over IP (VoIP)
solutions. Computer to computer calls are
free, while a small charge (~1.5p/min) is levied
on calls to fixed lines. These solutions may not
always work if connected to a college network,
but you can try!

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS TO
KNOW

THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/international/]

The International Office provides information
and advice on issues affecting international
students, such as exchange programmes,
academic credit, finance, and funding. In
particular it administers the Socrates-Erasmus
Exchange Programme and the Cambridge
European Trust Vacation Scholarships. The
office provides an orientation session for all
new International Students each year prior to
the start of Michaelmas Term. It also produces
an A-Z guide for international students
available on the website.

Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street,
Cambridge, CB2 1QY
Tel: 01223 764680
International Officer: gew22@admin.cam.ac.uk

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION (UKCOSA)
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/international]

A national independent charity, which

BEAR IN MIND!!

1. Don’t expect anything from the British
weather!
2. Studying isn’t everything!
3. You’re not the only one who’s suffering
4. Enjoy it when the sun comes out!
5. Try again!
6. Your English is not equal to your
intelligence
7. Try something new you can’t do in your
home country!
8. Don’t rely on ready meals
9. Be positive, it’s not your home country!
10. Enjoy yourself while you’re here!
puts students in contact with experts on immigration, employment, fee status, funding, etc. Its website has a wealth of information for international students.

9-17 St Albans Place, London, N1 0NX
Tel: 020 7288 4330
Open: Mon-Fri 13.00-16.00

IMMIGRATION ADVISORY SERVICE
[www.iasuk.org]

The IAS is an independent charity that gives advice and assistance to people applying for entry clearance into the UK. A surgery is run in Cambridge every Thursday between 10.30 and 14.00 at the address below. Call to make an appointment.

Cambridge Refugee Support Centre, Llandaff Chambers, 2 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1AX

Tel: 01223 575489

HOSTING FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS (HOST)
[www.hostuk.org]

HOST is a national organisation set up to provide a friendly link between international students and the British people to meet, make friends, exchange cultural ideas and experience home life in Britain. Students who join HOST can receive invitations to stay for a few days in the homes of British residents. There is no charge for the visits. Students only have to pay the cost of travel to their hosts.

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SINGHANIAUK@AOL.COM

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WWW.SINGHANIA.COM
Living in Cambridge

**Banks**

Open a bank account as soon as possible as it usually takes a while for cards, PINs, cheque books etc. to come through. It’s worth researching the schemes the various banks offer to students, in particular rates of interest on student loans and pay-back periods. Some banks are more willing than others to help graduates to open accounts and allow overdrafts for overseas students, so it is worth investigating what each bank can offer.

Remember to take along the relevant documents when you go to open an account:

- Passport
- University registration letters
- Accommodation letter from your College stating your residential address. (However, it is often advisable to have all your correspondence sent to the College Porters’ Lodge rather than your residential address for security reasons.)
- Confirmation letter about your sources of funding, e.g. letter from your sponsor, award, etc.

**Council Tax**

Council Tax is a tax on private property from which students are usually exempt. However, if you are living in a shared house with one non-student, the household will be charged 75% of the usual rate. If there are two or more non-students, the whole fee will be charged. Sometimes, depending on the terms of your tenancy agreement, it is the landlord who will be responsible for paying. Contact the Council’s Revenue Services department for assistance.

Council Tax

[www.cambridge.gov.uk] > ‘About the Council’ > ‘Council Tax’
**Health**

Being ill alone far away from home is one of the worst experiences you could want to have. In order to prevent this situations from arising make a note of health services available in different circumstances.

**a. Emergency Service**
Dial 999 or 112. These both connect to the same exchange from which you can request any emergency service.

**b. General Practitioners (GPs)**
Your College Nurse may be able to help you with a variety of non-emergency conditions, but you should also register with a GP as soon as possible after your arrival. GPs are run by the NLists of Medical Practices are available from the phone book, the internet or the College Nurse. You can find more information about GPs from the National Health Service website.

**c. NHS Direct**
NHS Direct is a 24 hour, confidential telephone, online and interactive digital TV health advice and information service provided by the National Health Service (NHS). If you are a British subject or EU national, or a student (or dependent of a student) from any country on a full-time course lasting over six months, you are entitled to free health care from the NHS. The NHS Direct provides advice on how to manage an episode of illness at home, and can provide the gateway for out-of-hours access to GP’s surgeries and clinics as well as to emergency and routine NHS dentistry.

**d. Hospitals & Dentists**
The local NHS Hospital and Accident & Emergency Unit is at Addenbrooke’s Hospital. The University has its own University Dental Service and you can register with them or with a local NHS dentist. Charges are the same in either case. Registration is free and ensures prompt emergency treatment.

If you require routine treatment, make an appointment early in the term if possible. For emergency treatment, phone or call as early in the day as possible. If you are not registered with an NHS dentist, you will need to have private treatment for any emergency. This costs a great deal more than NHS treatment.

**NHS Direct**
[www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk]
Tel: 0845 4647

**Addenbrooke’s Hospital**
[www.addenbrookes.org.uk/]
Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ
Tel: 01223 245151

**University Dental Service**
[http://www-euro.educ.cam.ac.uk/dentalservice]
Housing

Unlike undergraduates, not many graduates live in the college accommodation, or even if they are provided with college accommodation it is often too far from the city centre/department or too expensive to live. If you come with a family, you may also want a private accommodation for your family. Or you may simply want a place to live with your friends. Whatever reason you have, if you are seeking an alternative place to live, there are several options you can take.

The most reliable source for properties is from the Accommodation Service. You can find both privately rented- and University owned- properties and their database vary from a single room to a house. Once you are registered, you can search your matching properties on internet and you can also get a regular update of new properties.

Another private source is the Cambridge Accommodation Notice Board. This is a free online service sponsored by Brett Ward Ltd and you don’t have to register. You can find advertisements from property landlords and if you find a nice one, you can directly contact them and arrange viewing, etc.

Another way of finding an accommodation is through a letting property company. If you are looking for a flat or a house for a couple or a family, this may be a good option. However, in many cases you have to pay extra ‘Tenancy Administration Fee’ up to £150.

If you have any problem with housing, you can get advice from the Housing Advice Team in Cambridge City Council. The Housing Advice Team gives free specialist advice and assistance on all matters relating to housing, for residents of the city who are private tenants, leaseholders, owner-occupiers or housing association tenants.
Student membership from £35.50 per month!

Cambridges ONLY city centre health club!
Spaces limited - drop by for a tour!

1st 25 members receive a free month!

Membership includes:

Full free weights + Cardio gym access, Studio Classes, Sauna, Steam Room + Jacuzzi - overlooking the river, complimentary Towels, fitness assessments and programs. And AVEDA body wash and shampoo in the showers.

15% Student discount at the Aveda beauty treatment Spa
15% Student discount at the Aveda Hair salon

For information or to make bookings call 01223 30 50 60

Thompson’s Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8AQ tel: 01223 30 50 60 Fax: 01223 30 50 70
info@theglassworkshealthclub.co.uk - www.theglassworksgym.co.uk
Gyms

Some colleges and sporting clubs have their own gyms, but these tend to be small. Therefore, if you intend to work out at a gym, you may wish to join one of these better-equipped choices.

The University Sports Centre (Fenner’s) includes a Fitness Suite which contains cardiovascular machines and weights. Membership is £30 per year for students. There is also a small free weights room which requires a separate induction from the Fitness Suite staff, or membership of the Powerlifting Club. The Sports Centre also has a circuit gym where classes are held and a large gymnasium. These are both used by various University sports clubs.

Kelsey Kerridge is larger and better equipped than the University facilities, but more expensive. Membership cost varies dependent on what work out you want to focus one, and you may also need to pay extra to use certain facilities although your hold membership. They run a wide variety of classes. There is also a 25m swimming pool and a small climbing wall.

Glassworks Gym is a favourite with the beautiful people. The fitness suite is small, but has all the basics you would want and a free-weights area. It is also very clean and has TVs. The spa suite has a sauna, steam room and a jaccuzi from which you can watch walkers on the riverbank.

The Atrium Club (Amax) Amax has a variety of machines, free-weights, aerobic classes, and spa facilities – plus some good student offers.

L.A. Fitness, located at the Cineworld complex, offers an alternative venue for people south of the City to work out. Free towels, and entry to various classes and the sauna come as a perk of membership.

Contact Details

University Sports Facilities
[www.sport.cam.ac.uk/facilities/]
P.E Centre, Fenner’s Gresham Road, Cambridge, CB1 2ES
Tel: 01223 336580
Open: Mon-Fri 07.30-22.00 & Sat-Sun 09.00-21.00
fitness@sport.cam.ac.uk

Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre
[www.kelseykerridge.co.uk]
Queen Anne Terrace, Cambridge, CB1 1NA
Tel: 01223 462226
Open: Mon-Sun 09.00-23.00

The Glassworks Gym
[www.theglassworksgym.co.uk]
Halfmoon Yard, Quayside, Cambridge, CB5 8AQ
Tel: 01223 305060
Open: Mon-Fri 07.00-21.30 & Sat-Sun 09.00-19.00 (Full Membership)/ Mon-Fri 07.00-17.00 & Sat-Sun 09.00-17.00 (Off-peak Membership)

The Atrium Club
[www.atriumclub.com]
64 Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8DZ
Tel: 01223 522522
Open: Mon-Fri 06.00-22.00 & Sat-Sun 08.00-17.00

L.A. Fitness
[www.lafitness.co.uk]
Unit 34, Clifton Way, Cambridge, CB1 7DY
Tel: 0870 066 7151
Open: Mon-Thu 6.30-22.00, Fri 06.30-20.00 & Sat-Sun 09.00-17.00
**Security**

Although Cambridge is a relatively safe city, you may not feel safe when you walk alone at night passing a bunch of drunken people. If you are in danger or witness a crime, dial 999. The police operator will need to take your name, address and details of what has happened. This will take time, but it is important to get all of the information so that they can send the appropriate resources to you if necessary.

If there is an incident happening in your college, you can first ask your Porter for help, but if the Porter is not available or in a case of serious crime, again call the police.

The University Security Section is mainly responsible for safety and security of the University estate. If you are a victim on University premises or you observe any suspicious activity happening in your department/faculty/office, please report it to the Security Control Centre.

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**Telephones**

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**University Network**

The University is linked by its own telephone network. To make a call from one network phone to another simply dial the five digit extension number. For example, if you come across a telephone number given as (3)33312, it means that it is part of the University network and you only have to dial the last 5 digits when calling from within the network. Callers from outside the network will have to dial the extra preceding digit. Calls within the network are free. Some network phones also allow calls to be made to non-networked phones, both within and outside the UK. Restrictions are placed on each extension, which limit the range of outgoing calls.

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**Home Telephones**

Your room will probably already have a point to which you can connect a landline. The national providers in Cambridge are BT and NTL. Graduate students are also eligible for a service called the CU2 line. The CU2 line offers very competitive rates, on local, national and international calls. It also offers various extra services and runs on a normal billing (as opposed to a prepay) system. However, the physical presence of a line is not enough to use it — you will need to activate it before you're allocated a phone number by the service provider. Only then will be able to make and receive calls.

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**Phonecards**

If you don't have your own phone, payphones are dotted all over town and in College accommodation. To avoid the hassle of collecting a huge stack of coins before making a call, and to benefit from reduced call charges, buy a phonecard. Phonecards are available from the GU shop: if you buy £20 credit, we'll give you £5 extra credit for free. Rates on
international calls, in particular, are much lower than if you use coins in a machine.

For more information about telephones, please visit the GU website (http://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/info/telephones.html).

**Transport**

**Cycling**

A few legal points regarding cycling:

- In the UK, it is illegal to cycle at night without a continuous front and rear light. The police regularly fine people for cycling without lights; it’s also extremely dangerous.
- It is illegal to ride your bike on the pavement.
- Wearing a cycle helmet isn’t a legal requirement (but is probably a good idea!).
- Many Colleges operate a scheme whereby cycle helmets can be bought at cost price or you can claim the cost of a helmet back. It is worth asking your MCR if this is the case.
- At the start of every term the Police hold an auction of recovered stolen bikes. Bike-theft is common in Cambridge, especially if your bike is obviously new. To avoid having your bike stolen, always lock it to an immovable object and, ideally, lock the wheels to the frame too. D-locks are the most effective. The University requires all students to register their bikes. Do this at your college’s Porter’s Lodge. If you are buying or offered a second-hand bike,
- If you aren’t confident about cycling, adult cycle training is available. The Adult Cycle Training Scheme is run by the Road Safety Team at Cambridgeshire County Council and it will help you overcome any fears and be confident enough to get out on the road. You can find more information on the Cambridge Cycling Campaign’s website or Cambridgeshire County Council’s website.

The Cambridge Cycling Campaign also provides a useful checklist for a second-bike as well as a cycling map and cycle journey planner.

**Cambridge Cycling Campaign**
[www.camcycle.org.uk/]

**Adult Cycle Training**
[www.camcycle.org.uk/resources/training/]
Tel: 01223 717385
roadsafety@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

**Cars**

You can own a car but if you keep or use the car within the ten-mile radius of Great St Mary’s Church, you must obtain a licence from the Motor Proctor of the University on a written recommendation of your Tutor. An application for a licence must be made within 7 days of the vehicle being brought within a 10 mile radius of Great St Mary’s Church. A licence will normally be valid until the end of the academic year in which it is issued but it may be suspended or revoked at any time by the Motor Proctor.
**Social Information**

**Green Spaces**

The University Botanic Garden is wonderful and entrance is free with your University card. The Garden comprises 40 acres with many fascinating features including a lake, glasshouses, Winter Garden, Chronological Bed, Rock Gardens, and a superb collection of mature trees.

Many college gardens are similarly lovely and open to all students. Equally, Jesus Green, Parkers Piece, and Mill Pond are also good candidates for summer picnic or simple outdoor activities. For walkers and cyclists with an afternoon to spare, the historic village of Grantchester, with its scenic meadows and friendly pubs, is an essential destination. It’s about 45 minutes on foot each way, but to keep you motivated, there’s the treat of divine cream teas at The Orchard once you get there.

-botanic Garden
[www.botanic.cam.ac.uk]
Cory Lodge, Bateman Street, Cambridge, CB2 1JF
Tel: 01223 336265
Garden opens: Mon-Sun 10.00-18.00 (Apr-Sep)/ Mon-Sun 10.00-17.00 (Feb-Mar & Oct)/ Mon-Sun 10.00-16.00 (Nov-Jan)
enquiries@botanic.cam.ac.uk

**Trains**

Cambridge Train Station is located just south of the city centre; there is a fast and regular service to London and many trains to local destinations. You can check the timetable, fares, and destinations from the National Rail Enquiries’ website.

If you’re aged 16–25 or you are a full-time student, you can buy a Young Person’s Railcard, (available from the Graduate Union Shop), giving you a third off most rail fares anywhere in Britain.

-Cambridge Train Station (CBG)
Station Road, Cambridge, CB1 2JW
Tel: 0845 600 7245
Textphone: 0845 606 7245
Ticket Office opens: Mon-Fri 05.10-23.00, Sat 05.10-23.00 & Sun 07.00-22.55
Customer Services:
customer.relations@onerailway.com
Lost Property: onelost.property@onerailway.com

-National Rail Enquiries
[www.nationalrail.co.uk]
Tel: 08457 484950
Films and Cinemas

There are three main cinemas in Cambridge. The Arts Picturehouse is an excellent centrally-located cinema which shows a good range of the blockbusters and ‘arty’ foreign films. It has student discounts at certain days and times, and if you catch them it really can be very cheap. This is also the main venue of the Cambridge Film Festival, an outstanding cinematic offering for the celluloid enthusiasts, taking place in June or July.

In the east side of Cambridge, Vue may be the most popular cinema not only for students but also for local people due to its central location in the Grafton Centre. The cinema offers you the latest from Hollywood with a student discount. Cineworld Cambridge locates in the south part of Cambridge after the bridge on Hills Road. Despite its location and a slightly higher student price, Cineworld Cambridge shows all the hits and also boasts various eateries, a ten-pin bowling alley and a gym.

With its state-of-art A/V equipments, The Graduate Union also provides a great venue for film nights. You can either organise your own film night, or you can simply come and enjoy film nights organised by the GU and other students. These are usually on Sunday evenings and give you a chance to catch up on those films you never made it to the cinema for and showcase some foreign and independent films. As an added bonus, you are welcome to purchase your drinks from the bar beforehand and to drink them as you watch another great film from the comfort of our sofas.

Cinema & Theatre Venue Details

The Arts Picturehouse
[www.picturehouses.co.uk]
38-39 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, CB2 3AR
Tel: 08871 704 2050
Cambridge@picturehouses.co.uk

Vue Cinemas
[www.myvue.com]
The Grafton Centre, East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1PS
Tel: 0871 240 240
guestservices@myvue.com

Cineworld
[www.cineworld.co.uk]
Cambridge Leisure Park, Clifton way, Cambridge, CB1 7DY
Tel: 0871 200 2000

ADC Theatre
[www.adctheatre.com]
Park Street, CB5 8AS
Tel (Bookings): 01223 300085 (15.00-19.00 only)

Cambridge Arts Theatre
[www.cambridgeartstheatre.com]
6 St Edward's Passage, CB2 3P
Tel (Bookings): 01223 503333
info@cambridgeartstheatre.com

Cambridge Corn Exchange
[www.cornex.co.uk]
Wheeler Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QB
Tel (Bookings): 01223 357851
admin.cornex@cambridge.gov.uk

The Junction
[www.junction.co.uk]
The Cattle Market off Clifton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4GX
Tel: 01223 511511
info@junction.co.uk
The theatre scene in Cambridge is predominantly student-based. The University’s main theatre is the ADC Theatre, which usually puts on two performances per night by student companies during term time. These are usually of a high standard and, who knows, you could see some stars of the future. See the website for the current programme. Other student productions can be found in various college theatres, and in The Playroom. Full listings can be found in Varsity and The Cambridge Student.

The Cambridge Arts Theatre, just opposite King’s College, offers professional productions by both local and touring companies. If you enjoy grander scale of shows The Cambridge Corn Exchange provides great value shows and concerts. However, if you prefer something a little more fringe, independent or experimental, than you can catch a variety of plays and dance shows at The Junction. A free-to-subscribe website, localsecrets.com will send you a weekly email of what’s on in Cambridge, together with regular money-off vouchers.

Cambridge has a wide range of free attractions catering for all tastes. The impressive Fitzwilliam Museum has fabulous exhibits, including a new Egyptian gallery, regular lunchtime talks, music concerts, and family events. The admission is free, and the Museum runs art courses for adults and kids. New coming exhibitions include ‘The Gentle Art’ in Whistler’s Prints, a photographic exhibition about Ethiopia, and illuminated manuscripts. Kettle’s Yard Art Gallery has exhibitions of contemporary art and live music recitals (often for free), and also runs an educational programme of seminars and practical workshops – it is a gem of a place. The Archaeology and Anthropology Museum, the Zoology Museum, the Folk Museum and the Scott Polar Research Centre (home to a stuffed polar bear) are also worth a visit. Further information can be acquired from a browse through the University web pages.
Live Music

The biggest venue is the Corn Exchange which gets quite an eclectic mix of mid-range acts. The Junction is also a regular venue for touring bands and artists. If you’re into Jazz, then try The Elm Tree near the Grafton Centre. They have excellent music selections in jazz and swing. Check their diary and artist information on the website.

If you are looking for a venue in the centre of the city, you can try the Depot, formerly known as the Vaults, and La Raza. The Depot has live music every Friday and a resident DJ plays every Saturday from 10.30 pm to 1 am. La Raza also invites various music bands, ranging from electro funk, HipHop to blues and jazz, every night from Tuesday to Saturday.

The Portland Arms, located in Chesterton Road, is also a great venue where you can enjoy different genres of music as well as comedy act almost every night. Check the student papers for what is going on about town; many colleges run really good quality live music events. Jazz at John’s is probably the finest offering. The Graduate Union also hosts regular live music and open mic nights, so feel free to come and check out the talent of fellow graduates.
**Sports and Societies**

“Work Hard, Play Harder” is the maxim by which most of the University’s students live. Due to the combination of an extraordinarily high level of opportunity and multi-talented students, seldom do you find that someone is wholly focused on their work alone. Participation in these various activities and events galvanises much of the University. Cambridge boasts excellence in various fields ranging from sports and acting to comedy and fundraising. Whilst the examples below are not exhaustive, they should give you a flavour of what is available.

The University competes at the highest levels with its sports teams, most notably in the series of head-to-head Varsity fixtures against Oxford. While the reputation of Cambridge rowing has seen a number of students move on to become Olympic and World Champions, other sports have also had participants at major championships – most recently at the Commonwealth Games and European Athletic Championships. The success of the University’s first teams is buttressed by numerous inter-Collegiate competitions beneath, providing a level at which everyone can participate. Whatever your sport, there is always the opportunity to get involved.

Aside from sporting success, the University also has a long history of nurturing performing talents. The Amateur Dramatics Club theatre is the main performance venue within the University; it hosts two productions each week during term time and showcases the best of Cambridge acting talent. This theatre has seen the emergence of, amongst others, Academy Award winners Emma Thompson and Rachel Weisz. The Cambridge Footlights are a collective of comedy performers, writers and...
producers and have long sustained the British entertainment industry with alumni including Stephen Fry, John Cleese and Sacha Baron Cohen (the creator of Ali G and Borat). If you enjoy the more musical side of performance, the Cambridge University Music Society has several orchestras and most colleges have their own music societies and choirs.

Another usually overlooked society is the Cambridge Students’ Rag Appeal – the University’s major student fund-raising organisation which raised over £150,000 in 2005–06. Get involved by attending their events or by becoming a graduate RAG rep for your college. If volunteering is your cup of tea, the Student Community Action (SCA) group have a number of projects involving the local community and would welcome your time and efforts.

Tiddlywinks, quizzes and hot chocolate drinking all have their own clubs and societies in Cambridge: for a full list, see the links below or check out the stalls at the CUSU Societies’ Fair on Tuesday 2nd – Wednesday 3rd October 2007.

Much of the fun times in Cambridge will be spent wearing your GOWN: whether it’s running around College, matriculating or graduating. Extend the fun with GOWN – write for us and read us!

GOWN is the only publication at Cambridge which is written and produced by graduate students, for graduate students. Indeed, it is the only student publication that is produced by students only (yes, the weekly student papers have teams of full-time staff… grads do it by themselves!). GOWN was founded in 2004 by a group of grads who were interested in providing a platform for graduate students to talk about all aspects of graduate life: academic, social, travel, politics, and basically anything you can think of! GOWN is a quarterly glossy magazine.

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Feature: Life on Mill Road

'Reality Checkpoint' is a tall iron lamppost standing in the centre of Parker’s Piece. Why is it called Reality Checkpoint? One theory is that once you step beyond it, you leave the bubble that is the central university area of Cambridge, and enter the ‘real world’. The real world is reputedly populated by people who have nothing to do with the university.

Mill Road is on the ‘real world’ side of the lamppost. I lived just off Mill Road while doing my MPhil last year. The road is lined with independent shops, where people recognise you and always have time for a chat. Here are some highlights of the cuisine, culture and community around Mill Road.

International Groceries of Mystery

As you walk down Mill Road toward the rail bridge, you will come across half a dozen or so international grocery stores – Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Indian, African, Iranian, Turkish... They sell fruit and vegetables, cupboard fillers, Halal meat, freshly cooked take away, even crockery and cookware. Student favourites include frozen dumplings from Winfield Chinese grocery, a full range of fresh and dried noodles from Seoul Plaza, and Al-Amin’s home-cooked curry take away. Al-Amin and Spice Gate are sensory treats. Visit simply to stand in the rooms of spices and colours. It is also worth making the trek beyond the bridge to Limoncello, an Italian deli. Your student budget may need to absorb the cost of the amazing olives and fresh pesto.
THE BEST KIND OF FOOD

Also over the bridge is a greengrocers called Hilary’s. The fruit and veg is colourful, fresh and local. Andrew Northrop Butchers staff always have a cheerful hello and a recommendation. Donaldsons Bakers is one of the rare true bakeries in Cambridge. Drop by for fresh baguettes and rolls, as well as sweet treats and sandwiches. The Bacchanalia off-licence is filled floor to ceiling with bottles of alcoholic drinks. The storeperson will advise on any of your cocktail ideas. Note especially the environmentally-friendly beers from mainland Europe. Now you can drink and be green at the same time!

One of my favourites is Arjuna Wholefoods, where you can do your whole week’s organic and Fairtrade shopping. If you’re into muesli, definitely try the ‘Mega Muesli’. It is cheap and the best muesli I have ever tasted. If I could, I would take it home to Australia, and hang the food miles. Ladies, you can also get the ‘Mooncup’ from Arjuna. Look it up on the web...

EATING OUT AND PUBS

Mill Road has restaurants, cafés, noodle bars, takeaways, and pubs aplenty. I personally recommend Black Cat Café (yummy smoothies) and Al Casbah (North African cuisine for a tasty lunch or dinner but you must book first!). Others have praised 196 Meze Bar (Turkish), Café Adriatic (brilliant pizzas), Bruno’s Brasserie (French), and Kymmoy (noodle bar). CB1 is a popular café. Come in to escape the dreariness of studying at your department or college and connect to the free wireless internet. There is also fierce competition for your student pound amongst the Indian restaurants on Mill Road. Demand your student discount!

You’ll find a host of pubs serving real ale and good food on Mill Road’s side streets. Try the Kingston Arms, the Cambridge Blue, and Live and Let Live. Visit the Locomotive for close encounters with the real (non-university) people that populate Cambridge, whether or not you’re looking for them!

STORES TO HELP YOU BE A STUDENT

Sally Ann’s is the most well-stocked second-hand goods store in Cambridge. Get in early in the academic year to grab kitchen supplies. You’ll also get clothes, furniture, bags, CDs, books and bed linen. Proceeds go to the Salvation Army. If bargain and treasure hunting is your game, visit also the second hand bookshops, the strange cramped sundries store manned by a friendly hobbit (Gee) and Cherry Tree (gift store).

Other student essentials – Mr Stacey’s Excellent Video Emporium (has mainstream, foreign and independent films, plus documentaries, plus honest film reviews by staff) and five bicycle stores. I’ve found Cam Cycles to be handy for bike repairs.

NOT JUST OR THE DEAD

Finally, venture down the laneway directly south of Mackenzie Road. It will open up into an unexpectedly expansive and semi-wild green space. Mill Road Cemetery has attracted a few sunbathers and frisbee players but don’t let them distract you. It is a beautiful place to walk, rest, and ponder the lives of hundreds of people who once lived in Cambridge.

Joan Ko
As you would expect, Cambridge has its share of the ubiquitous coffee chains: Cafe Nero, Starbucks and Costa. Several of the larger bookshops have their own embedded franchises. The guide below presents some of the independent outlets which have a great deal more character and personality.

**Cazimir**

13 King Street  
Tel: 01223 355156  
Opening: Mon–Fri 8.30–17.30 & Sat 8.30–19.00 & Sun 12.00–17.00

With its delicious variety of salads, juices and smoothies, Cazimir is the perfect hangover cure. If the salads are too healthy for you, you can opt for a panini, a sandwich or even a slice of cake. They even have some tables outdoors for the few days when the weather is nice.

**Clown’s**

54 King Street  
Tel: 01223 355711  
Open: Mon–Sun 08.00–00.00

Run by a charming Italian family, Clown’s boasts a range of homemade pasta dishes and cheesecakes, as well as very un-Cambridge opening hours and the friendliest waitresses in the South of England. If you can brave the many clown drawings covering a spectrum of talent, it is well worth making Clown’s a regular haunt. You can sit there for hours with either a glass of wine or a hot mug of tea.

**Fitzbillies**

51 Trumpington Street  
Tel: 01223 352500  
Open: Mon–Sat 09.00–21.30 & Sun 12.00–17.00/Tea 2.30–4.45

With its renowned ultra-sticky Chelsea buns, Fitzbillies provides an excellent selection of pastries and confectionery. Their cute selection of small animal-shaped cakes is a perfect surprise gift for your girl or boy friends. You can also order a special cake for every occasion with a customised design. The restaurant next door serves lunches and dinners as well as afternoon teas with comfortable yet professional services. As a student, you can maximise your benefits by making a Tuckbox membership card. You only pay a £3 lifetime fee, and you can enjoy a range of special offers and discounts, including a free coffee!
**Indigo**
8 St. Edward’s Passage  
(01223 368753)  
Sun: 11–6; Mon: 10–7  
Tue–Sat: 10am–11pm  

Indigo is the tiny and extremely popular little café that serves huge mugs of hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows on top. It is cozy and intimate and if you can find a seat then you can try lunching on one of their great variety of bagel toppings, from humous and olives, to brie and cranberry. While waiting to order your drinks, amuse yourself by perusing the staff’s witty musings on the wall.

**The Orchard**
45 Mill Way, Grantchester  
(01223 845788)  
Summer: 9.30–7;  
Winter: 9.30–5.30

If you have braved the cows and the mud to walk across Granchester meadows, you really must reward yourself with The Orchard’s famous cream tea, after all Rupert Brooke would have done! Whether it is a morning coffee, light luncheon, or afternoon tea you’re after, you can be sure that The Orchard will have something delicious. My personal favourite is the cake counter with an enormous variety all served in ample, though quite expensive, portions.

**Savino’s**
3 Emmanuel Street  
(01223 566186)  
Mon–Sat: 7am–11pm  
Sun: 9am–6pm

The best coffee in Cambridge is probably served with the most interesting of views. Located near the bus station, every person coming into and going out of Cambridge walks past here, and in the summertime the outdoor seating provides an unrivalled spot for people-watching. The Italian newspapers fit in perfectly with the hot paninis, salads and impeccable service offered here. A must for those who enjoy the European café culture.
Restaurants

Whether it is to celebrate a special occasion or simply because you don’t want to cook and are tired of the offerings of College hall, eating out in Cambridge can be a thoroughly enjoyable affair. Virtually every type of cuisine is on offer if you search hard enough, and over the next few pages we explore the variety that is on offer. The reviews that follow are written by current students of the University and aim to give a flavour of what each establishment is like. They are personal and are not the views of the GU as a whole.

There is a simple guide which indicates the average cost of a two-course meal for one, with an alcoholic drink and service:

£ = less than £15
££ = £15–25
£££ = more than £25

Contact details and opening hours given are believed to be accurate at the time of publication.

£££ 22 Chesterton Rd
22 Chesterton Road
Tel: 01223 351880
Open: Tue–Sat: 07.00–23.30

Tucked away on the otherwise undistinguished and culinarily barren Chesterton Road, Number 22 is a quaint pearl of Victorian indulgence. The service is relaxed, but the menu does not disappoint with its exciting range of English gastronomic delights. This is complemented by a lavishly stocked cellar containing over 110 wines (starting from as little as £11.25), ensuring that you always have something appropriate to accompany the exquisitely presented food. You may feel that you are in someone’s front room, albeit a sumptuously furnished one with flowing curtains, large mirrors and padded chairs, but this rather lends itself to an uncommon feeling of warmth and intimacy. Number 22 is a refined and enchanting little place which is surpassed by few other restaurants in Cambridge.

AJS

£ Alchemy Bistro
The Bun Shop, 1 King Street
Tel: 01223 366866
Open: Mon–Sun 11.00–23.00

Alchemy is the place to enjoy real food in a non-smoking, friendly atmosphere with caring, unobtrusive table service. The food – all made fresh daily – ranges from lighter starters through snacks and salads, burgers and pastas, to a global tapas selection. For groups of 8 or more they offer a chef’s selection
served tapas style at £12.50 per person. With this party menu, you also get a discount on wine and their potent sangria. Groups can request an upstairs room where you can listen to your own music or even watch a film on the big screen while you eat your meal. There’s live acoustic music on Mondays and Thursdays, wine and food pairing the first Monday of each month, sushi and jazz on Thursdays and much more! Best of all, Alchemy offers a 15% student discount on everything!

CSH

**Anatolia**

30 Bridge Street  
Tel: 01223 362372  

The reports from this subterranean Turkish restaurant are variable, but all agree that the service could be a great deal better. The food is the usual Middle Eastern fare of kebabs and meats, but expect to wait a while to be served. When it does arrive, the food is often of decent quality, but be prepared for the Bridge Street curse of extortionate prices. Vegetarians may grimace at the token meat-free dish on the a la carte menu, but the prix fixe menu is probably better suited with greater variety. At least they make a song and dance if it’s your birthday!

DHB

**Ask Restaurant**

12 Bridge Street  
Tel: 01223 364917  
Mon–Sat: 12.00-23.00 & Sun 12.00–22.30

A different world is what you should expect upon entering the premises. Sharp lines, chic surfaces and crisp arrangements greet you in this ultra-modern restaurant. Sitting at your table you can see into the kitchens where the same theme continues. Service here is pleasant but laid back in its time-keeping. Generally overpriced in comparison with the other pizza places in town, the increased price brings you very little in return. The starters are microscopic – don’t even think about ordering the garlic bread – but the pizzas, on the other hand, are generally quite good. While you could do much worse, you probably could do much better as well.

DHB

**Bangkok City**

24 Green Street  
Tel: 01223 354382  
Open: Sun 12.00-22.00 & Mon–Fri 12.00–15.00, 18.00–23.00 & Sat 12.00-23.00

It seems that anyone can add some food colouring and lemongrass to amorphous chunks of meat and call it a Thai green curry. If you’ve actually been anywhere in Thailand away from Thanon Khaosan, you’ll know what it should really taste like. As a result, I was the sole dissenting voice of my party when we dined here. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the food, but I thought that I could have probably got a more authentic flavour from Sainsbury’s down the street. The statuettes and mini Buddhas do take you away from the hustle and bustle of the town centre and the bamboo is a nice touch, but the plain boiled rice was the highlight of the evening for me.

DHB
**££ Bella Italia**
The Watermill, Newnham Road
Tel: 01223 367507
Open: Mon-Fri 08.00-23.00 & Sat 08.00-22.30 & Sun 09.00-23.00
Cambridge Leisure Park, Clifton Way
Tel: 01223 247099
Open: Sat-Thu 09.00-23.00 & Fri 09.00-23.30

The Cambridge branches of this chain could not differ from each other any more if they tried. The poor service and long waiting times of the leisure park branch are well worth missing, whilst the location of the other restaurant is perhaps second to none. Watching the Cam pass beneath you through the glass tables in the old watermill add to the ambience of the slightly overpriced good Italian food. The pastas and pizzas don't quite match the location but it is worth visiting nonetheless.

**££ Big Buddha**
12 St Johns Street
Tel: 01223 358944
Open: Mon-Sat 12.00-14.30, 18.00-23.00 & Sun 12.00-14.30 & 18.00-22.30

Serving some of the best Thai food around, the menu is extensive but conventional. The prices are reasonable and the portions satisfy even the largest of appetites. If sitting at a table seems too much like hard work, they have a private corner with Thai cushions on which to lounge and feed your nearest and dearest delectable starters – very good for first dates and anniversaries. The staff are very attentive, but not intrusive, and never rush you out the door. If you can ignore the pink tablecloths, it is well worth a visit.

**£££ Browns Restaurant and Bar**
23 Trumpington Street
Tel: 01223 461655
Open: Mon–Sat 09.30–23.00 & Sun 9.30–10.00

Situated in the old outpatient department of the former Addenbrooke's hospital, very few remnants of the building's previous use remain. If you look carefully beneath the ivy growing over the front of the building, you might just see the old sign. The front area itself is good for dining in the open air and moving inside you find the distinguished old-style seating area with cane furniture and several large plants. Browns has a reputation for being busy, and it is probably busy due to its reputation. The menu is carefully crafted, bringing old, and new together in an intelligent fashion. The servers are knowledgeable and more than competent. They are unoppressive, but it did take twenty minutes to pay our bill. The food here can be hit and miss; some dishes are made to a treat, others seem to be nowhere near. Perhaps the food is not what you really come to Browns for. Either way it is inevitable that this Cambridge institution will continue strong. Vegetarians beware!

**DHB**
The old Cafe Adriatic from Norfolk Street moved to this location in the summer of 2005 and has gone from strength to strength. Now seating 80 diners on the ground floor with the open kitchen and the sumptuously decorated first floor, Adriatic tends to be full on most nights. Offering a variety of Italian-themed Mediterranean dishes with pizzas and fresh seafood, Adriatic is very popular with both locals and students living in the Mill Road area. We started with the tasty breads, my colleague moving on to the linguine with black mussels and prawns whilst I chose from the extensive Pizza menu: both come highly recommended. We felt unhurried and able to linger while we enjoyed coffees after dinner and no one seemed to mind, even though they were rather busy. Definitely worth visiting.

DHB

Caffe Uno had always been a good stop before heading up Castle Hill on the way home after a good meal. The puddings here are amazing and, with a bit of sweet talking, the waiters will let you skip to dessert straight away. Take time to indulge in the warm brownies. Dining here reminds you of the benefits and drawbacks of a chain restaurant – the food will never be a risk, a leap into the unknown, but it tends never to be exciting either. Situated towards the water front on Bridge Street, this bog-standard Italian restaurant is clearly geared towards the tourist crowd, so it is probably best chosen as a venue for winter dining when the visitors tend to be at their most scarce.

DHB
Anyone who has seen what America has done to the pizza will sympathise with the sentiments of this reviewer. In the same way that the thin and crispy crust with some tomato and cheese has become a large excuse for a gloop of calorific mozzarella cheese with a base as thick as a loaf, we must blame the Americans for their “reversion” of Mexican food. The Mexican food in this restaurant lacks authenticity, but the aim was never to be authentic in the first place. The food that is served is actually quite tasty and the portions are huge with the bottomless tostado chips and free-refill drinks. The steaks do come recommended, but they will (of course) be the American style. The service here is mediocre and the pricing seems to be out-of-this-world leaving us out of pocket. Make yourself feel better with a gloppy dessert!

DHB

Opened in early 2006, this restaurant offers an Italian/British fusion where you will see fish and chips and a traditional pasta dish on the same menu. This certainly gives the customer choice. The inside has been totally refurbished and looks great. A cool curve bar in the front and a capacious skylight-lit back area with stone flooring, the tables and chairs are eye catching in their originality. The atmosphere was buzzing when we last visited and the service was slick and friendly. This place is like a breath of fresh air to the Cambridge restaurant scene.

CEMS

Nestled in a small courtyard at the bottom of Mill Lane, Dojo’s is a popular haunt among grads, offering reasonably-priced rice and noodle dishes featuring flavours from the Pacific Rim. Menus proclaim the dictum of Dojo’s sage, Noodfucius: ‘Be fulfilled...satisfy the hunger within’. The portions are certainly healthy and arrive at the table steaming hot, meaning you are likely to leave feeling full. Prices are easy on the wallet too, and dishes cater for vegetarians and those with nut allergies. The restaurant itself is not spacious creating a buzzy atmosphere, particularly in the evenings when parties regularly share benches. Service is basic and staff are keen to keep customers moving through at the busiest times. That said, Dojo’s casual cosiness might be just the atmosphere you are seeking for outings with a new friend in a relaxed location. Take away is also available.

EB

Eraina Taverna boasts that it was frequented by Prince Charles during his time as an undergraduate in Cambridge. It’s probably fair to say that the intervening years have seen the Prince’s tastes develop considerably more than those to be found at his favourite restaurant. Even before taking your seat, you are presented with a bewildering array of dishes displayed on menu boards outside the establishment. There are 23 starters and over 150 mains on the menu, all served with chips! The emphasis is on Greek cooking, but with a menu this size you can choose international dishes ranging from curries to pasta. Haute cuisine this is not; rather reasonably-priced food served quickly in a friendly and intimate atmosphere.

CSH
**GALLERIA**
33 Bridge Street  
Tel: 01223 362054  
Open: Sun–Sat 11.30–22.30

The food here is only half of the draw; dining on the banks of Cam adds to the occasion of a meal (see the picture at the start of this section). The split-level seating allows a large-capacity restaurant the air of intimacy that suits itself well to romantic dinners and celebrations alike. The food is grand, traditional fayre of well prepared meats in simple sauces. The flavour relies on the quality of the ingredients and the diligence with which they are prepared, which is often of the highest standard. Throw in some excellent vegetarian options, and this makes an excellent place to enjoy a special meal. Only the price and the limited wine list would stop you from coming too often!

**LA TASCA**
14–16 Bridge Street  
Tel: 01223 464630  
Open: Sun 11.00-22.30 & Mon-Fri 11.30-23.00 & Sat 11.00-23.00

Tapas and paella are what this restaurant prides itself on. The fixtures and fittings seem appropriate to the theme developed by the classical Latin music in the background. The menu looked promising, offering a variety of dishes at not too unreasonable prices, ready for the mixing and matching we were looking for. In the end, however, the quality of the preparation and the poor service let the meal down. Some of the food was raw – some of it was meant to be, (notably the Manchego cheese,) others not quite so – and then the rest of the food was a bit overdone. The server took a long time to reach us to take the order in the first place, and then took even longer to deliver the food – all of this on a quiet evening. Perhaps we went on the wrong night…

**LA MARGHERITA**
15 Magdalene Street  
Tel: 01223 315232  
Open: Mon-Sat 12.00-14.30, 18.00-23.00

I remember the first time I came to dine here; I managed to work up a sweat worrying that I was going to be sent home with an empty wallet and an unsatisfied appetite as is so often the case when dining in this part of town. It proved to be a good night since I managed to leave with an intact credit rating and no hankering for a kebab! The food here is sumptuous and the variety astounding; this is not your average Italian pizza joint! The menu is extensive with daily specials written on post-it notes and the desserts are magnificent. One of my fellow diners criticised the decor and the furnishings for not being of the same standard as the other eateries in the area. But, with the food served here tasting as good as it did, frankly I couldn’t care less!

**DHB**
£££ **Loch Fyne**
37 Trumpington Street
Tel: 01223 362433
Open: Mon–Thu 09.00-22.00 & Fri 09.00-22.30
& Sat 10.00-23.00 & Sun 10.00-21.00

This former pub, with its wooden floors and ceiling beams, is now the venue for Cambridge’s best seafood offerings. The menu is, without exception, exquisite; the service is polite and efficient; and the surroundings have a special rustic charm. However, as it is a little on the pricey side, this is one to dress up for and go to on a special occasion – and whatever you do, don’t forget to book.

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££ **Masa**
76–78 High Street, Sawston
Tel: 01223 711711
Open: Mon–Sat 12.00–14.30, 18.00-23.00 & Sun 12.00–15.30, 18.00–23.00

A little off the beaten track, but certainly worth the journey to enjoy Middle Eastern cuisine done to perfection. All of the great foods you dreamed about eating all in one place! From the usual staple of stuffed vine leaves and the various kebabs with cacik and humous to the extraordinary fried lamb’s liver or salmon fillets and tiger prawns. If you’re a vegetarian they are more than happy to accommodate by preparing dishes off the menu. The restaurant does a weekday lunchtime buffet for £6.95 and an evening set menu for £12.50. We decided not to eat for a day and were not disappointed by the Sunday Grill all-you-can-eat buffet (£9.50). How could you be when there is always more baklava to eat? Parking on site and the menu is completely halal.

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£ **Nando’s**
33–34 St. Andrews Street
Tel: 01223 327908
Cambridge Leisure Park, Clifton Way,
Tel: 01223 246568
Open: Sun-Thu 11–22.30 & Fri-Sat: 11.00–23.00

Two usefully placed outlets of the Portuguese chain where you order at the counter and food quickly arrives at your table without making too much of a dent in the wallet. Freshly cooked chicken, in every style possible, allied to the range of Peri-Peri sauces and the bottomless frozen yoghurt leave few disappointed. Why not pass the time with some olives or delicious corn-on-the-cob before your main arrives. Good vegetarian options and take away are available. What more could you want?
This place goes almost unnoticed on Burleigh Street, but it is probably one of the best Chinese restaurants for miles around. You will need quite deep pockets, but you will not be disappointed with the quality and authenticity of the food coupled with the enthusiasm of the owners. Real food lovers go here who do not worry about the simple, adequate surroundings. It’s a bit like eating in a friend’s house and has an intimate relaxed feel.

**CSH**

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**Peking Restaurant**

21 Burleigh Street  
Tel: 01223 354755  
Open: Mon–Sun 12.00–14.30 & 18.00–22.30

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**Rainbow Cafe**

9a King’s Parade  
Tel: 01223 321551  
Open: Tue–Sat 10.00–22.00

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**Pizza Express**

7A Jesus Lane  
Tel: 01223 324033  
26–28 Regent Street  
Tel: 01223 306777  
Open: Mon–Sun 11.30–00.00

Pizza Express serves competently-produced Italian food for the modest budget. The service is efficient and medium-sized groups are easily accommodated. What distinguishes the two Cambridge branches of this chain are their locations. Whilst the Regent St. branch has a spacious and airy upstairs seating area with views over Downing College from the terrace, the Jesus Lane restaurant is the better of the two. With several spacious panelled and mirrored rooms and a pianist Tue–Sat, this restaurant has real atmosphere. Both branches can accommodate large groups.

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**The Rice Boat**

37 Newnham Road  
Tel: 01223 302800  
Open: Tue–Sun 12.00–14.30, 18.00-22.00

“Indian food, but not as you know it” is the rather apt tag line to this restaurant. The food is not of the usual Eastern Indian or Bangladeshi style served in most the city’s curry houses but is mostly of South Indian origin. Gone are the greasy sauces spiced up or creamed down to order: rice plays a more prominent role in dishes as does seafood. Personal recommendations would include Dosa (pancakes made out of rice flour) and...
the Porotta (also known as Paratha and Roti-Perata) a griddle cooked unleavened bread. The food here is a refreshing change to what you would expect. Because the service is un-rushed, we would advise that you set aside some time to enjoy your meal.

DHB

£ TATTIES
15 Trinity Street
Tel: 01223 357766
Open: Mon-Fri 08.00-18.00 & Sun 09.00-17.00

‘Tatties’ is a British slang word for potatoes and here you get huge jacket potatoes served with almost anything you can imagine. It’s good cheap food in a man-size portion and will keep the hungriest of bellies satisfied. Brunches and baguettes are also available. But you’re really coming here for the ‘tatties’!
It’s also worth checking out their other two branches on Sidney Street and Hills Road.

SJF

££ TÉRI-AKI
6–8 Quayside
Tel: 01223 882288
Open: Sun–Sat 12.00–23.00

Not the sauce but the style of Japanese cuisine is the staple of servings at the quayside restaurant. The restaurant is very modern with its furnishings and the theme is developed by the visible kitchens. The food is fresh, wholesome and based mainly on noodles and rice dishes. The quality of the food is perhaps better than most of the other oriental restaurants in Cambridge, but you do pay for the privilege. The bento box style lunches are particularly good and the sushi is impeccable, although the range is rather limited. Go on a warm evening and enjoy dinner beside the river.

DHB

£ ZIZZI
47/53 Regent Street
Tel: 01223 365599
Open: Mon–Sat 12.00–23.00 & Sun 12.00–22.30

This is the only restaurant in the chain that isn’t able to use its wood-fired oven due to local bye-laws, but the food doesn’t suffer as a consequence. Good portions, good pizzas and good service make this a great place to dine. Large enough to hold a party for a hundred people and still able to hold its own as a venue for a romantic dinner for two. Try their delicious calzone as an alternative to regular pizza and ensure you order the pistachio ice cream to end with. Truly authentic and possibly the best pizzas in Cambridge. Take away available, any pizza for £5.

DHB

Please email handbook@gradunion.cam.ac.uk if you would like to submit a review for next year’s Handbook.
Cambridge has a wide variety of established drinking venues which range from the rather old-fashioned country pub to the trendy wine bar that has taken over all of the buildings that used to be banks. Whilst there are institutions such as The Eagle (Ben’et Street) where Watson and Crick used to drink whilst pondering the structure of DNA and The Regal (Regent Street), a Wetherspoons pub credited to be the largest in Europe, Cambridge can offer a selection of other venues which this guide aims to explore. However, through necessity, the reviews below represent but a small fraction of the possibilities.

Keep in mind that having a drink with a riverside view will tend to cost you a bit more and that there might be a large number of tourists in close proximity!

**The Anchor**
Silver Street
Tel: 01223 353554

The Anchor is situated right on the banks of the Cam next to the Silver Street bridge near Queens’ College. There is the constant natter of the punt operators plying their trade and other staff looking to generate business from passers-by. The outside seating might be nice on a summer’s day, but the inside is quite dreary on three split levels. The food is not the best and their menu is rather inflexible and limited. You also pay a premium on the drinks for being riverside. Then again, what would you expect from a pub whose biggest draw is that Spencer from the first UK Big Brother drinks here.

*DHB*
Tackling the premises four years ago saw the ‘brb’ chain model the old pub into a trendy bar with an adjoining pizza restaurant and underground party venue. Whilst the drinks menu is extensive, it can be a bit pricey, the Thursday 2-for-1 cocktails night is probably the best time to visit. As for the pizzas, they are wood-fired to perfection and great value when compared to the similar pizzas served by the city’s Greene King pubs. Pizzas are 2-for-1 all day Tuesday.

The Bun Shop is great place for a quiet drink, meeting, big night out or great home-made food at reasonable prices – even the burgers are made fresh daily. There are £5.00 lunch deals as well as a 15% discount for students on everything. The bar hosts L’Aperitivo Italiano evening every Thursday from 5.30 with a fantastic buffet selection of Italian meats, cheeses, pasta and pizzas; all you pay for is your drinks. There’s always something going on with karaoke on Tuesdays, movies and TV on the big screen, live music, and pub quizzes written and hosted by The Cambridge University Quiz Society every Wednesday. Check out the website for the latest on themed nights: www.thebunshop.com.

This is one of the most original pubs in Cambridge, the walls adorned with memorabilia of city events, pig-themed curios and an impressive collection of beer bottles. Cosy and cheery with a great soundtrack, the Pig boasts a bar billiards table, a highly addictive game far superior to the usual pool/table football and one at which you are guaranteed to improve after a few pints. The perfect place for after-work drinks, especially if you’re based at Addenbrooke’s as it’s about halfway home. Also, they host acoustic music gigs about once a week, for a not-so-quiet drink after work!

Tucked away on Prospect Row behind the police station. A charming little pub with traditional features, it even boasts a snug for those more intimate moments. The staff are very friendly, serving an excellent selection of real ales and Budvar draught lager. The food is of the good honest home-made variety and caters for vegetarians. There is ample room outside in the walled garden or front benches for hot summer days. The walls boast printing memorabilia reflecting the original use of the building. A selection of board games and newspapers will keep you amused, and the only ambient noise is the hubub of conversation. Mobile phones are banned.
The Granta
14 Newnham Terrace
Tel: 01223 505016

Situated near Darwin College on the ‘Pond’ opposite Bella Italia, you can overlook the river and get a decent pint; they serve a selection of real ales. The wine is bog standard but they often give you the rest of the bottle free if you buy a couple of glasses. They serve average pub food if all you’re after is a burger and chips. Takeaway pizza is available after 9.30pm.

Live and Let Live
40 Mawson Road
Tel: 01223 460261

Very traditional, this pub has a copious selection of locally-brewed real ale for you to work through at your leisure. A fine complement is the bangers and mash (the best I’ve tasted in any establishment, and very reasonably priced). The surroundings, all old timber, make you feel as if you’ve accidentally stumbled back a few centuries. A little hard to find, tucked away down a side street, but well worth the effort.

The Mill
14 Mill Lane
Tel: 01223 357026

With its location by the river, The Mill is one of the most popular pubs during the summer months because you can take your drinks and sit outside by the Mill Pond. The pub itself is not that large, but it provides a pleasant environment with decent service. The Mill serves scrumpy, a large selection of real ales and fruit wines, and also does some standard pub grub. If you’ve been there you may know why it’s so popular. It’s worth trying a cold pint at The Mill because despite being right on the tourist trail it still retains its local charm.

The Pickerel
30 Magdalene Street
Tel: 01223 355068

A centrally-located public house that keeps in tradition with the late Tudor style of its surroundings. It boasts a sizeable rotating selection of guest ales to enjoy in its well-sized beer garden. Inside, wooden beams are the order of the day in this old style establishment.

The Queens Head, Newton
Fowlmere Road, Newton
Tel: 01223 870436

If you feel like a short drive outside Cambridge, this pub is a must. A family-run Free House that serves great homemade soup (named by colour) and delicious sandwiches. The beer is Adnams and poured straight from the barrel. No music, just conversation over a good pint. The walls feature many interesting quirks like a goose (now stuffed), that used to be guardian of the car park. There is no garden, but there is ample room on benches outside or even the village green opposite. The saloon bar has a roaring fire in the winter, and the public bar has a games room with skittles and darts. The beauty of this pub is its refusal to change over time, keeping to a simple formula that works very well indeed.

© S.J. Ford
This looks and feels like a traditional British pub but is run by exuberant Dutchman Niko, who is always around for entertainment and banter. The snacks and food are quality and seasonal, the beer is cold and you're guaranteed one of the friendliest welcomes in Cambridge. An excellent old-style jazz band play classics from the 1920’s – 1960’s once a month, and it's a great venue for live music, particularly on St Patrick's Day. I've whiled away (far too) many a summer’s evening in the pleasant beer garden – well worth the walk to Newnham and, although there is always a good crowd, it is far less touristy and cramped than many of the traditional pubs in the centre.

**Revolution**

Downing Street
Tel: 01223 364895

New to Cambridge this summer, standing where the Rat and Parrot was located, is the new vodka bar, Revolution. Revolution has a strict dress code - including no hoodies and flipflops - which can make a night both hotter and cooler. It offers a range of speciality vodka-based drinks, along with the usual beers and spirits, at a reasonable price for students. Its cool decor and funky music, means that Revolution can be considered Cambridge’s trendiest bar of the moment. Listen out for news of the GU’s M.C.Revolution event here on Sunday 14th October!!

**Slug and Lettuce**

34–35 Green Street
Tel: 01223 306051

The Slug and Lettuce is the classic ‘trendy’ bar/restaurant. The menu is what one might expect to find in a good pub and, as such, it is well executed. A pleasant venue at which to eat during the day and early evening, be warned that it can get busy after 8pm, which slows the service considerably. Also, beware that screens magically appear on all the walls during big sporting events, relaying the proceedings to increasingly enthusiastic crowds. Not the place for a quiet romantic meal but good fun for groups seeking somewhere a notch above the pub.

**The Snug**

67 Lensfield Road
Tel: 01223 566291

The Snug was the new bar/restaurant sensation of 2005 and has survived the honeymoon period as the booze, food and service are fabulous. If you don’t want a proper meal there is an excellent selection of snacks to share. It’s one of the few non-smoking bars in Cambridge, although there is a pleasant seating area outside. This has the feel of a modern wine bar, but maintains a friendly atmosphere suited to its name.
Cambridge is not a large town, and so one should not expect it to have a nightlife to rival big cities such as London or Manchester. That said, Cambridge does have a good mix of small to medium-sized clubs, serving up a fair variety of musical styles. The list of clubs below is by no means exclusive.

**Ballare**
[www.ballare-nights.co.uk]
26-29 Lion Yard, Cambridge, CB2 3NA
Tel: 01223 364222
Open: Mon–Sat 21.00-02.00

Whatever the owners decide to call it, this club will always be known by one name and one name alone: ‘Cindies’. Ballare underwent a major refurbishment a few years ago and is one of the liveliest clubs in all of Cambridge. A variety of nights are on offer, delivering anything from thumping house and R&B right the way through to pure, unadulterated cheese.

By far the best is Rumboogie on a Wednesday, delivering all your classic cheesy favourites and one or two drinks offers to ensure you have a good night. Get there early though as this is one of the most popular nights in Cambridge.

**The Fez**
[www.eclecticbars.co.uk/cambridgefez]
Market Passage, 15 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 3HX
Tel: 01223 519224
Open: Mon–Sun 22.00-03.00

The queue outside the Fez most nights reflects the eclectic nature of the music at this venue. Always original, the most popular night is Mondays, with two-for-one cocktails and tunes ranging from funk to indie to 60’s pop! The décor is North African-inspired and there are plenty of nooks in which to sit and chill. This is a interesting club without pretension or chrome/glass monstrosities; my personal favourite.

**The Junction**
[www.junction.co.uk]
The Cattle Market off Clifton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4GX
Tel: 01223 511511
Open (Club): Fri–Sat 22.00-04.00

A great venue which in fact encompasses four separate units. The main space here is used as an intimate live venue and as a club night. Having featured bands like the Delays and the Automatic, many of the up-and-coming indie bands play here on their rise to stardom. The prices tend to be cheaper than for gigs at the Corn Exchange and it is well worth attending.

The regular clubnights (the disco “Boogie Wonderland”, the hip hop haven “Rawganics” and the camp as a sailor “Dot Cottons” to name but a few) are well supported and promise a lively crowd devoid of much of the posing found at University nights at the town centre venues. The Junction features many dance and arts performances, details of which can be found on their website.
**The Soul Tree**  
[www.soultree.co.uk]  
1–6 Corn Exchange Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QF  
Tel: 01223 477900  
Open: Mon-Sun 21.00-03.00

One of the larger clubs in Cambridge, this has been refurbished in the last few years. It has a tasteful if a little soulless café/bar area with large sofas which is open during the day. This provides chill-out space at night, in addition to the funk-playing bar on the top floor. Music in the main dance area varies depending on the night, but the focus is usually modern R&B and mainstream dance. The Soul Tree can provide some decent dancing, but never takes itself too seriously and the drinks prices are not too inflated. This is definitely one of the better clubs in Cambridge.

**TwentyTwo**  
[www.twentytwo-cambridge.co.uk]  
22 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB3 3HG  
Tel: 01223 324600  
Open: Mon-Thu, Sun 10.00-02.00 & Fri-Sat 10.00-04.00

The nightclub formerly known as ‘Life’, this is a seasoned favourite with Cambridge students. Similar in its approach to Ballare, Twenty-Two can boast better music and a floor that is less sticky. Frequent by the young and old, “Sunday night Life” is an institution. Less cheesy than many of the other Cambridge clubs, Twenty Two still boasts great nights. The CUSU LesBiGay night also happens here.

RSE
Fancy a Kebab?

An age old question is why one feels the urge to do things after drinking alcohol that one would not normally do otherwise. This has troubled mankind for a long time, whether it be to do with the crazed dance moves only seen after a drink or two, or the ritualistic mating technique used by men after a few pints. Leaving those two aside, one must seriously question the attraction to kebabs whilst inebriated. How does a food most people consider to be the least healthy form of nutrition suddenly become the rations of choice after some alcohol? The answer, it seems, was uncovered here in Cambridge by Professor J.T. Fitzsimons in the Physiological Laboratory a few years back, and a simplified explanation is given below.

It seems that when out at a club, many people seem to enjoy dancing. With all of the people in the club and the temperature generated, a period of sweating accompanies the vigorous physical act of "grooving to the beat". The dehydration is sensed by the kidney and renin (a hormone) is released. Renin causes a chemical pathway, which results in the formation of another hormone called aldosterone, which is where the answer lies. Aldosterone has many effects; it tries to stop the loss of fluid from the kidneys and drives thirst. So to bring it back to real life, the dancing has now made you thirsty, which makes you want to drink more. If you drink more alcohol, this causes more water to be lost by the kidneys, making the dehydration worse and leading to more aldosterone and its final effect: the creation of a sodium appetite. All of a sudden an insensible urge to consume anything salty is generated by the body, making anything taste much nicer than before so long as it contains salt. This is how the meagre, unappealing kebab becomes Michelin-starred cuisine.

In Cambridge there are several venues to satiate your sodium appetite with burgers, kebabs and pizza slices. In the town centre, witness the battle of the vans. The original Uncle Franks mobile caterers (located near the Guildhall), had been locally dubbed, without foundation, the ‘Van of Death’. To play on the humour, a rival, ‘The Trailer of Life’, began trading on the opposite side of Market Square. Added into the mix is Gardies restaurant along Rose Crescent where the variety available is mind-boggling. Of the three, Gardies probably wins for their extensive Greek menu, though the Van of Life does have great vegetarian options. Further away from the centre of town, venues of note include Fagitos along Mill Road, which has a witty ‘Chip Batty’ on their menu, whilst Bosphorus Take Away is only a little further along. Don’t fret if you live on the West side of Cambridge: a mobile kebab van makes its way up to West Road on most weekends to cater for your needs. We recommend you form your own opinions by trying these places out. Everyone has their own obvious personal favourite, often for less than obvious reasons!

Darshan H. Brahmbhatt
Described by some as the quintessential British staple of the last decade, a night out for a curry had become such an important part of the fabric of everyday life that it became the most popular cuisine across the country. Most of the curry restaurants in the UK are actually Bangladeshi in origin and prepare dishes which bear little, if any, resemblance to the original sub-continental dish. In fact, the famous ‘balti’ curry is a complete invention of the curryhouses of Birmingham, rather than being a traditional Indian dish. To this end, ‘curry’ is used to refer to almost any spiced, sauce-based dish cooked in one of the many south Asian styles.

Most of the restaurants in Cambridge are of the same formula. They use a large vat of generic sauce based on onion, garlic, tomato and ginger and then re-spice and re-fry it to the particular dish adding in the relevant differential ingredients. For a ceylon add coconut milk, for a korma add cream and for a vindaloo add as much fresh green chilli and dried chilli powder as possible. Some of the dishes are cooked in a tandoor, a large clay oven which should be kept underground due to the extremes of heat generated – without this there would be no tandoori chicken!

Supplement your curry with some traditional bread or styled rice. The tandoori naan is a soft puffed leavened bread which can come in varieties stuffed with meat or topped with herbs and garlic amongst others. There are also the parathas, a shallow fried unleavened bread, and puris are deep-fried air-filled crispy bread. Amongst the rice dishes, you can find plain rice, boiled rice, steamed rice, mushroom rice, lime rice, pilau rice and as many odd combinations as you can imagine. Traditionally these are always preceded by poppadoms and a selection of chutneys, chugged down with a pint of Kingfisher, Cobra or Lal Toofan (all Indian lagers). Though if you take down a few too many pints, the literal translation of the last beverage ‘red thunder’ might be the result!

If you are interested in something a little different, then try some of the starters and accompaniments. Stepping away from the onion bhaji, many restaurants offer semi-authentic dishes which are designed for the non-
Asian palate. For those looking for a good night out, many of the restaurants offer a £10 meal deal which includes a curry with naan and rice, poppadom, chutneys and a pint of lager. Bargain!

Cambridge’s curry land begins at the top of Castle Street and continues down towards town along Regent Street, Hills Road, ending near the station. A separate curry strip exists along Mill Road and extends over the railway bridge to the Ring Road. Good recommendations always come through for Café Naz and The Gandhi. The Saffron Brasserie has a very large menu and great biryanis, whilst the Tandoori Station offers great deals for groups who continue the evening at the Salsa club next door, which is owned by the same person. If you live along Mill Road, the service at the Kohinoor may not be the best but the food is. A little further on is the Curry Queen, widely recognised as the most authentic of the Cambridge curry houses. The Curry Mahal is useful if you’re in a group and want to bring your own alcohol, whilst India House is a great place overlooking the river. For those who want Indian food but devoid of curry, try The Rice Boat. Those of a steely disposition will take delight in the Phaal range available at The Maharajah, which boasts probably the hottest curries this side of Jalandar.

If you really need a fix of authentic Indian food, then you must go further afield. A number of curry miles are to be found along Ealing Road and Kenton Road in North London a short distance from the A1, or along Green Street in East London just down the M11.

Darshan H. Brahmbhatt
A R O U N D C A M B R I D G E

Other than the grand colleges and libraries, there are many interesting places in-and-around Cambridge. During vacations and weekends you can visit them for short picnics & relaxation, along the River Cam or in places such as Byron’s Pool, 2 miles south of Cambridge on Granchester Road, just off the A1309 at Trumpington. Cambridgeshire County Council maintains the details of many such places with information on facilities, transport and what-to-see: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/activities/cambridge/. A few sites of interest around Cambridge include:

Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill: 15th century house, and 100 acres of gardens created this century by the first Lord Fairhaven including herbaceous borders, sweeping lawns and avenues; hyacinths and dahlias especially renowned. Garden and mill open all year (check days & times with the National Trust). House open from Easter to October. Location: In Lode, 6 miles north-east of Cambridge on north side of the B1102.

Bartlow Hills: Three impressive tumuli in the village of Bartlow. Location: 12 miles south-east of Cambridge off the A604.

Beechwood, Great Shelford: A 12-acre woodland designated as a local nature reserve and managed by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough. There are picnic tables and a number of paths through the wood. Location: 3 miles south-west of Cambridge City Centre, off A1307.

Coe Fen and Paradise Nature Reserve: Two circular walks in the Newnham area of Cambridge City. Coe Fen follows the River Granta north through meadowland. Paradise walk traces the perimeter of wet meadow and marshland to the south. Location: East on Barton Road to the junction with Grantchester Street. Turn left into Newnham Driftway to car park. Distance 0.5 miles.

Fowlmere Manor: Former moated manor site. The moat has been recently restored for informal countryside recreation. Location: At Fowlmere south of Cambridge off the B1368.
Giant's Hill, Rampton: 14-acre site of archaeological and wildlife interest with information boards. Cattle grazing in the summer. Location: About 7 miles north of Cambridge, west of the B1049 at Cottenham.

Landbeach Pocket Park: A pocket park centred on the site of a moated manor house. Moat still exists, meadowland is being created and a new woodland planted. Grazed by cattle in the summer. Location: 5 miles north of Cambridge.

Reach Conservation Area: Wildlife conservation area north-west of the village, owned by the County Farms Estate. An area of pond and marsh is being created following the extraction of clay to strengthen the Lode banks. Location: North-west of Reach, 10 miles north-east of Cambridge off the B1102, access by footpaths from village.

Shepreth Riverside Park: Picnic area and walks along the River Cam. Gentle walk suitable for elderly people or those with limited mobility, but not accessible to wheelchair users. Location: 7 miles south-west of Cambridge off the A10.

Wandlebury Country Park and Nature Reserve: Picnic sites, way-marked walks and a nature trail in wooded parkland. Site of Iron Age hill fort. Location: Off the A1307, 4 miles south-east of Cambridge City Centre and 2.5 miles north-west of Babraham.

Wimpole Park: 350-acre park, landscaped by Bridgeman, Brown and Repton, surrounding Wimpole Hall. There are several waymarked walks of varying length. Location: 9 miles south-west of Cambridge on A1198, just north of junction with A603 at New Wimpole.

FURTHER AFIELD

The UK can be well travelled by train & bus. Some other nearby towns of interest include:

Ely Cathedral: 20 mins train ride. The 1189 AD Cathedral is a remarkable example of Romanesque architecture.

Oxford: Sometime referred to as other-side of Cambridge; Oxford is one of the oldest University town in the world. Great place to meet fellow students, party, visit colleges. Find out cheap tickets to travel to Oxford on Megabus www.megabus.co.uk

London: Truly the most amazing city of the world. Samuel Johnson have said, “If you are tired of London, you are tired of life.” Just one hour train ride from Cambridge to the city of life. Good to visit anytime of the year.

Nikhil Agarwal
Cambridge Glossary

5th Week blues: Describes how some students feel in the middle of term: so tired, and still three weeks to go!

Bedder: The person in colleges who empties your bin and gives you new bed sheets.

Blue: A highly-prized sporting accomplishment. Can be won in Varsity competitions in many sports as decided by the Blues Committee.

BoGS: Board of Graduate Studies

Bop: A party held in one of the colleges with music and alcohol.

Cam: The glorious river that runs through the city.

CamCORS: The Cambridge Colleges’ Online Reporting System for Supervisions. If you are supervising, this is the system through which you will need to submit your reports and manage payments.

CamGRAD: The Board of Graduate Studies’ online reporting system for graduate supervisions. Can be accessed through CamSIS.

CamSIS: Cambridge Student Information System. A student information system to provide all staff and students with technologically up-to-date facilities to obtain and process the administrative information necessary to carry out their work or to support their studies.

CPGS: Certificate of Postgraduate Study

CRASSH: Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities. This inter-disciplinary centre runs many seminars, conferences and events of interest to a wide range of graduate students.

CUSU: The Cambridge University Students’ Union. All Cambridge students are members, although the majority of activities tend to be focused towards undergraduates.

Ents: Events organised by and held in colleges, targeted specifically at Cambridge students.

Formal (Hall): A formal dinner held in college. ‘Formal’ is a relative term and the levels of formality practised at these events vary between colleges.

GU: The Graduate Union, which provides services and representation for graduate students.

JCR: Junior Common Room. The place in colleges designated for undergraduate students.

LLM: Master of Law, awarded by the Law Faculty

MCR: The Middle Common Room. The place in colleges designated for graduate students.

MML: Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages

PGCE: Postgraduate Certificate in Education. This is what you study if you want to become a teacher.

Porter: Portly pipe-smoking gentlemen who guard the colleges. Although strictly speaking they needn’t be portly or smoke a pipe, or even be a gentleman as there are reports circulating of a female porter or two amongst the colleges.

Punt: A cross between a boat and a gondola. The verb ‘to punt’ refers to standing precariously on the back of the said punt, attempting to propel it forward by pushing an extremely large and heavy pole into the river. This is the number one outdoor activity for the warm(er) month(s) in Cambridge.

PWF: The Public Workstation Facility. This is a network of computing facilities across Cambridge connected to a centralised server run by the Computing Service.

SCR: Senior Combination Room. The place in colleges designated for fellows and senior members.

SPS: The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences

TCS: The Cambridge Student. This is one of two student newspapers printed weekly during term time.

The Reporter: The definitive guide to lectures and seminars. A special edition Lecture List is published at the start of the academic year, with subsequent weekly editions advertising academic events and funding sources.

UL: The University Library

UMS: University Mail Service. This delivers internal mail for free to colleges, departments and University offices (including the GU).

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We look forward to seeing you!