Welcome to the Graduate Union!

The Graduate Union is proud to be the only student union in Britain dedicated solely to serving the needs of graduate students. There are many fantastic experiences to be gained from studying at Cambridge and the GU is here to help you make the most of that opportunity.

Cambridge attracts the best minds from around the world; many of you will be new to the UK and most of you will have not previously experienced the unique education set-up we have here. Whilst you will all belong to both different colleges and different departments, the GU acts as a great cohesive centre and resource for everyone.

We provide a wealth of information – from practical tips on living in the city to welfare support and details of administration procedures in your department or faculty. We also sit on numerous University committees and raise the issues that are important to our current students. Our members come from an eclectic mix of backgrounds and may well be thrown out of their comfort zone by new experiences here. We work with international students, families, mature students and continuing undergraduates amongst others to support you by providing information, holding workshops and arranging a wide range of social events.

To do all of this we really need your input. I would encourage you to pop down to 17 Mill Lane and see what’s going on, let us know what matters are particularly important to you or simply relax and read the newspapers in our lounge.

Wishing you a fantastic time here,

Jennifer Harcourt
GU President 2009-2010

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

In our eight hundred years of history there are monumental glories in which we rightly 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
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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.

secretary@gradunion.cam.ac.uk

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What is the GU?

Organised in 1954 by Mrs G M Burkill, the wife of the then Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge University 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 7,000 – the entire graduate community.

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

Another role of the GU is to represent the interests of graduates. The elected GU Board members share the views and interests of their constituency through membership on 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
The GU Board, 2009

From left to right: Jarrod Ali (Secretary), Anthony Andrews (International Director), Jennifer Harcourt (President), Holly Grimes (Events Director), Uven Chong (Environmental Director) and Naomi Wakefield (Welfare Director).

Not pictured: Ben Smith (Treasurer)

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, include spouses of full members and all graduate research workers including postdoctorates and research assistants.

STRUCTURE

The President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Academic Affairs and Welfare Directors make up the Executive which is responsible for daily management of the GU. 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 on 1st July, whereas the other officers are elected in early November. The Board comprises these five officers, but also elected Families, International, Social and Events Directors as well as up to 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 to the General Secretary. You can also contact any 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 sabbatical officer, is the principal financial officer: she acts for and represents GU members as well as 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 her with problems, queries, service needs or suggestions. To get in touch, email president@gradunion.cam.ac.uk, put a letter in the University’s Mail Service (UMS), or drop by the office.

ELECTIONS

Nominations for Board positions in the 2009 Annual Elections will open 19th October and close on 2nd November, with voting occurring on the 9th-12th November. Please see the Graduate Union website for further details and full election guidelines.
The Graduate Union provides a number of services to help you in your work and student life through the GU Service Point. These services are:

- Business services — Printing, faxing, laminating, scanning, black and colour photocopying with 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 hardbacked binding for final versions of theses.
- Gown hire

Opening hours are 10.00-17.00 Mon-Fri, with an hour’s break for lunch from 13.00-14.00.

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 for individual use or on behalf of a society. All that is required is the payment of a refundable deposit. 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.
**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 GU Café**

The Graduate Union has teamed up with the local coffee company ‘Cambridge Blue’ to provide you with a quality independent café outlet within the Graduate Union at 17 Mill Lane (enter from Silver Street). The Graduate Union Café Blue, open 09.00-18.00 during term time offers:

- Fair-trade coffee, teas and soft drinks
- A range of fresh sandwiches, salads and savoury items, not to mention locally-produced cakes and sweets
- A private working space with wireless internet connection
- A resting space with a selection of daily newspapers
- A neutral place for your supervision/business meetings
- A central and comfortable place to meet with friends
- A safe place for your children to play

We are proud of our low prices, friendly staff and comfortable surroundings.

**P.S. Did you know that you can also bring your own food to the café?!**

For further information about all our services, email enquiries@gradunion.cam.ac.uk
Events

One of the major roles of the GU is to facilitate mixing between grads from different colleges and faculties. To this end, we hold several social events a term as well as some in the vacations. Last year’s events included the freshers’ party ‘MCRevolution’, a Champagne and Chocolates Valentine’s Party in the GU Lounge, an Intercollegiate Paintball Tournament, an end of year party ‘MCR Submission’ at Soul Tree and a Big Summer BBQ.

We have many exciting events planned for this academic year. Our freshers’ week programme includes a Welcome Party in the GU Lounge, a GU Pub Crawl and tea and cake mornings in the GU Lounge. We will be holding our annual freshers’ party ‘MCRevolution’ at Vodka Revolution. Later in the term we will be organising a Speed Dating event and then wrap up Michaelmas term with a Black Tie Winter Party.

In Lent term we will have a Valentine’s Day Party as well as our 2nd Annual Paintballing Tournament. The GU Ski Trip 2010 will take place over the Easter Vacation; this trip takes us to Avoriaz in France, part of the largest ski area in the world, and it’s going to be a fantastic week! We’ll finish the year with ‘MCR Submission’ and another Big Summer BBQ.

We also have several events which run weekly. Lifted @ La Raza is our Tuesday evening club night featuring Synthetic Souls playing the best in funk, soul and motown with drinks deals all night. We host special nights at Lifted, such as the Tapas Feast this summer and a welcome party for our new PGCE students. There is also our Parent and Toddler Coffee Morning every Friday morning from 10.30-12.30 at the University Centre providing free tea, coffee and biscuits and an opportunity for grads, their partners and their children to all socialize together.

We hope you’ll agree that the GU has events to cater for everyone. However, we are always open to any suggestions our students may have for events – please contact social@gradunion.cam.ac.uk.

Please see our GU Term Card for the latest information on events and check our online calendar at www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/calendar.
representation

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.

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 advice. 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 Welfare Director. 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 “Time Management” and “Communication Skills” workshops.

Overall, the GU’s objectives are to listen, help you clarify issues and, if necessary, communicate these concerns to the key figures involved to help you reach a solution in a timely manner.

**CAMPAIGNS**

The GU Environmental Director position was created to increase awareness of environmental issues in Cambridge. This year, the GU brought together College MCR Green Officers for regular meetings to improve coordination and connect with sustainability groups, such as the Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society. As this position is relatively new, we really welcome any suggestions on shaping the role that the GU Environmental Director position can play in sustainability campaigns.

**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 help 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 can then be promoted via representation on University committees such as the Board of Graduate Studies.
HISTORY

The University grew out of an association of scholars who 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 was confirmed by a decree in 1233 from Pope Gregory IX, and by 1290 it had become common for researchers from other European universities to come and study or to give lecture courses. Now the University is one of the oldest 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 from the Faculties and Colleges.

COLLEGES

The University comprises 31 colleges. The first college, Peterhouse, was founded in 1284. Many colleges were founded during the 14th and 15th centuries, but others 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, Robinson, was established in 1979. Originally colleges accepted only male students: the first colleges established for women only 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 women’s colleges. 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 large graduate populations compared with other colleges.

As graduates apply directly to their faculty through the Board of Graduate Studies, unlike undergraduates, many feel less attachment to their colleges. 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 gain the most benefit from 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. These practices might also be extended to undergraduates if you are asked to supervise any. 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:

- Cambridge Terms are 8 weeks long.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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, and May Balls.

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

**Term Dates 2009-10**

*Michaelmas Term:*
- Tue 6th Oct – Fri 4th Dec

*Lent Term:*
- Tue 12th Jan – Fri 12th Mar

*Easter Term:*
- Tue 20th Apr – Fri 11th Jun

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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. Special editions 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.
The University has an extensive variety of resources and libraries to cater for student needs—be they financial, emotional or otherwise. It also promotes self-development and goal-orientation, most notably with the Careers Service and other 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 for 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. See our ‘Living in Cambridge’ section.

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

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

The Cambridge Alumni Relations Office (CARO) helps to keep alumni connected to the University through regular publications, e-bulletins and networking events in the UK and around the world. The Cambridge Alumni Magazine (CAM) is published three times a year and is packed with the latest news, research and events in Cambridge. The e-bulletin is sent out monthly and contains the most recent news and events from across the University, including updates from departments, clubs and societies.

If you have lost contact with one of your peers, CARO also provides a ‘Lost and Found’ service to help reconnect you. The extremely popular annual Alumni Weekend takes place at the end of September, and has more than 160 lectures, tours and events. It provides the perfect opportunity to revisit the University and meet up with old friends.

CARO also organises the Alumni Travel Programme, which offers alumni, family and friends unique opportunities to see extraordinary places in the company of expert lecturers and with like-minded companions. The full programme is available on the website, and a travel supplement is published annually. Over 300 Alumni Groups provide a welcome connection for graduates returning home, or for those arriving in a new area. You can search for Groups in your area on our website.

As an alumnus/alumna of the University, you are also entitled to a CAMCard, which identifies you as a lifetime member of the University and enables you to benefit from various discounts and privileges. For more information about CAMCard benefits please visit our website.

*University of Cambridge Alumni Relations Office*
*1 Quayside, Bridge Street, CB5 8AB*
*Tel: 01223 332288*
*Email: 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, 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 09.15-17.15 (During Full Term)/ Mon-Fri 09.15-13.00 & 14.15-17.15 (Outside Full Term)/ Close at 17.00 (Long Vacation)
Tel: 01223 338283 (Students & Alumni)/ 01223 338288 (All enquiries)
Email: 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.

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 access to 500 MB of 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 reduced prices 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, Magpie; 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.

New Museums Site, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QH
Tel: 01223 334600 (Reception)/ 01223 334681 (Help Desk)
Opening hours: 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)
Email: Reception reception@ucs.cam.ac.uk Help Desk: help-desk@ucs.cam.ac.uk

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

While there are many people around who can offer support with decisions and problems faced by students, the University Counselling Service (UCS) provides for times when it may be best to seek professional help and advice. ‘Counselling’ can seem like a word loaded with connotations, but a counsellor simply aims to help people understand issues concerning them and then to work together 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 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.

2,3 Bene’t Street, Cambridge CB2 1EL
Tel: 01223 332865
Opening hours: Mon & Fri 09.00-17.30, Tue-Thu 09.00-19.30
Email: reception@counselling.cam.ac.uk

**Linkline**
[www.linkline.org.uk]

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 from 7pm throughout the night and you can share your worries and concerns by talking to them until 8am the next morning, every night of full term. During these hours you can phone them – or if you prefer, you can drop in – and you will find both a male and female volunteer available to talk with. Linkline also holds a range of welfare supplies, including free pregnancy tests and condoms. They also have a library of pamphlets and information on various topics, including eating disorders, sexuality, pregnancy, depression, etc.

21 Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BQ
Tel: 01223 744444
Open: Mon-Sun 19.00-07.00 (during full term)
Email: linkline@cusu.cam.ac.uk

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

Before going for any professional counselling services many students often prefer to speak confidentially to a fellow student. This service is complementary to the college welfare system and supportive of the work done by 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 referrals to other agencies if necessary. Peer Support is currently active in eleven Cambridge Colleges and interest from further colleges continues. Peer Support is organised autonomously within each College, some holding drop-in sessions, others inviting informal contact with individual peer supporters, and some do both. Colleges, which have available Peer Support Teams, are: Clare, Clare Hall, Fitzwilliam, Gonville and Caius, Homerton, Jesus, Pembroke, St John’s, Trinity, Trinity Hall, and Wolfson. For more information, you can contact two Peer Support Co-ordinators, Jane McCann and Charlotte Snoxall.

University Counselling Service
2,3 Bene’t Street, Cambridge, CB2 1EL
Tel: 01223 332865
Email: Jane McCann mjm96@cam.ac.uk
Charlotte Snoxall ces52@cam.ac.uk
**CUSU**
[www.cusu.cam.ac.uk]

Every member of the University of Cambridge automatically becomes a member of Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU). CUSU exists to represent all students and provide welfare advice, support and services for everyone studying at the University.

Alongside the Graduate Union, CUSU also has an executive officer who represents the interests of graduates and mature students, so graduates are doubly represented in Cambridge. However, the majority of representation is undergrad-led.

*Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU)*
*Old Examination Hall, Free School Lane, Cambridge, CB2 3RF*
*Tel: 01223 333313*
*Email: President president@cusu.cam.ac.uk*

**Disability Resource Centre**
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/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 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.

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.

*Keynes House, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA*
*Tel: 01223 332301*
*Textphone: 01223 764085*
*Email: ucam-disability@lists.cam.ac.uk*
**Employment**

Graduate students are entitled under University regulations to take on ten 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. For information about university regulations for employment, please check [www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/funding/costs/supplement.html](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/funding/costs/supplement.html)

**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

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**Student Spotlight: The McNeilly Family**

Edward and Beth McNeilly arrived in Cambridge in 2006, Edward to pursue his MPhil/PhD in History and Beth her PGCE/MEd. When they found out they were unexpectedly expecting their first baby that year, it seemed initially they would lose out on many of the social and academic opportunities that their childless friends enjoyed at the University. As it happened, the contrary proved true: a new world opened up to them as they became involved with family activities at their college, the University and in the wider community of Cambridge. For example, while taking a break from her studies, Beth began attending the Graduate Union Coffee Morning for university families with small children. There she made friends with other mums from around the world – Japan, Chile, Sri Lanka, South Africa, the United States, Germany, France, Switzerland, South Korea, China – and has really enjoyed the welcoming, stimulating environment, as well as the opportunity to get involved in organising events. Their daughter Maria also loves the variety of toys, the singing, the other children and the chance to run about madly. Academic life has continued without hitch: Edward will complete his PhD in 2010 and Beth will conclude her MEd in 2009-10, just after they welcome their second baby in August 2009.

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**Families Contacts**

- **The Graduate Union Students with Children**
  [www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/info/children](http://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/info/children)
  Email: families@gradunion.cam.ac.uk

- **The University Family Society**
  [www.societies.cam.ac.uk/family/]
  Email: 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
  Email: Cassie Marks childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk

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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. 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 lots of things to play with when they visit.

At the University level, the Cambridge University Family Society provides excellent information on all aspects of childcare and student parenting in Cambridge. They organise family outings, babysitters, a 'pyjama creche' and run an electronic mailing list for student parents.

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.

**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. 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.

Language Centre
[www.langcen.cam.ac.uk]

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 about £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 is 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.

Downing Place, Cambridge, CB2 3EL
Tel: 01223 335058
Opening hours: During Full Term (Mon-Fri 09.00-19.00 & Sat 12.00-16.00)/ Outside Full Term (Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00)
Wheel chair access through a side entrance from Downing Place.
Email: enquires@langcen.cam.ac.uk

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 will be 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. Most of the libraries have online access also.

University Library (UL)
[www.lib.cam.ac.uk]
West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DR
Opening hours: 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. Group 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 direct 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 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 Staff Development Office.

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.

Centre for Personal and Professional Development
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/global/cgi/sti]
25 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA
Tel: 01223 332343
Email: cppd@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.

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 programmes. You can find more information on the website. Each department will have its own transferable skills training programme. The 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 whichever 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.

As well as using your department, The Careers Service, Staff Development, the Computing Service and the Language Centre can all offer training and guidance.

The UK GRAD Programme and UK HERD are now incorporated into ‘Vitae’
[www.vitae.ac.uk]
Email: admin@vitae.ac.uk

Transferable Skills Development Officer: Jane Wilkinson
Tel: 01223 764198
Email: jw437@cam.ac.uk
The University Centre
[www.unicen.cam.ac.uk/]

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
Tel: 01223 337766
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 09.00-00.00
Email: info@unicen.cam.ac.uk

Volunteering

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.

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

The Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO) is regularly looking for student helpers to assist with school visits and open days to attract students from less privileged backgrounds to apply to Cambridge. Taking a day off to help a worthwhile cause can help break up the monotony of research.

The Active Community Fund is also available to encourage volunteering by students and staff and is open to projects, which must be of benefit to the community (local, national or international) and must involve the University staff or students as volunteers.

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.
**Contact Details**

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

Active Community Fund
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/communications/community/fund/]
Tel: 01223 339666
Email: 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)
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/community/]
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RP
Tel: 01223 339666
Email: community@admin.cam.ac.uk

Student Community Action
[www.talks.cam.ac.uk/]

Is it your first time to study abroad? Leaving home and coming to a new place to live can be a daunting experience. Thankfully, Cambridge has a vibrant international 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 the college site, your college is still the best place to make friends.

As a graduate student you may find yourself spending a lot of your time in the lab or library in the department. Your mates from the same department can be your friend/mentor/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 at home in Cambridge while you are with your countrymen and women.

Most 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, and ought to be able to give advice regarding College matters.

**Adjusting to British Regulations**

**Visas**

[www.ukvisas.gov.uk]
The Immigration and Nationality Directorate (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 your student visa, you should check the IND website for more information. 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. Please note that visa requirements changed in early 2009, so make sure you check the website for up-to-date information.

Home Office
[www.homeoffice.co.uk]
Immigration and Nationality Directorate
[www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk]

Registration with the Police
[www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk]
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 below) 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.

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 allowed 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. Please see the university guidelines at www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/funding/costs/supplement.html.

Driving legally
Overseas students who wish to drive whilst in the UK must take out a provisional driving licence within one year of becoming resident here, unless they have previously passed a UK driving test or have held a full UK licence 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 three years old, a valid MOT certificate*.

* MOT stands for the Ministry of Transport test. It is an annual test of car safety and roadworthiness 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.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)
[www.motinfo.gov.uk]

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). This course includes English-language support during the academic year. The Language Centre has various materials to help your English needs, so if you struggle with the English language 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.

Language Centre
[www.langcen.cam.ac.uk]
Downing Place, Cambridge, CB2 3EL
Tel: 01223 335058
enquiries@langcen.cam.ac.uk

Practical tips

Weather
The climate in the UK is varied, so keep an umbrella handy or a waterproof jacket for cycling, and a spare long sleeved jacket or jumper at all times.

Food
The British Council’s view on British food: “One widely held perception is that British food is bland and uninteresting and while this perception is held for a reason, we also have a long tradition of interesting and tasty regional dishes as well as having embraced dishes and cuisines from around the world.”

It is common to find people enjoying fish and chips on Friday or a traditional English Breakfast on lazy weekends. Sunday roast in a local home is nice, and sausage and mashed potato is not a bad option to have in the pub. A jacket potato with different fillings can fill you up at a reasonable price. You might enjoy Christmas dinner, mince pie and mulled wine for Michaelmas term, pancakes
and hot cross buns for Lent term, and lots of BBQs, strawberries with cream, and Pimm’s for Easter term. Who knows, at the end of next year you might feel sorry to leave the UK because you miss the food so much here!!

If you are not convinced by those foods listed above, don’t worry. The UK has a reputation of having food from all around the world. You can find all kinds of restaurants in Cambridge, including French, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Chinese, Japanese, etc. You can also get exotic ingredients and sources from various supermarkets in Mill Road. There are a few Chinese supermarkets, a Korean supermarket, Indian supermarkets as well as Halal grocers and butchers. If you are a consumer of Halal or Kosher food, you can check the availability with your college and it will be provided at hall. Another way (possibly the best way) of trying international food is to make as many friends from different nationalities as you can and let them cook for you!

**Clothing**

There is one good thing about clothing in the UK: people wear whatever they want and nobody cares. However, there is a certain ‘dress code’ in Cambridge. The first garment item you hear when you get to Cambridge is a gown. It may not be necessary to have one in some colleges but in others you need to have one because they will be worn for your matriculation photo and any Formal Hall 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.

There are two types of gowns – a BA gown or an MA gown. If you are under the age of 24, a BA gown is for you, even if you have an MA from another university (Cambridge does not recognise degrees from Universities other than Cambridge and Oxford when it comes to gowns). If you are 24 or older, an MA gown is appropriate. If you have a previous degree from the University of Cambridge, you should wear a gown with “strings” which are ribbons in the gown’s shoulder. If you do not have a previous degree from Cambridge you should remove the strings or tuck them in.

At some point you are also likely to need ‘black tie’. While some Cambridge events are flexible with what you wear, other events such as special formal halls and dinners require ‘black tie’. For men this consists of a dinner jacket, trousers, soft-fronted white shirt, and black bow-tie. A more formal version contains stiff-fronted white shirt and black waistcoat. The female equivalent is the evening dress.
My journey to Cambridge started almost two years ago in a laboratory overlooking the busy streets of Johannesburg. One afternoon when I was checking my email, Google Mail detected the word “PhD” in one of my incoming messages and placed a list of PhD-related adverts in the sidebar. I clicked on a link entitled “PhD Programme at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute – Cambridge”. Today I live in Cambridge, working towards a PhD in Molecular Biology.

Most will agree that it is daunting for an international student arriving here alone, especially if you are used to having a large group of friends or family in your home country. The feeling is usually short-lived, as most people soon have a large network of friends, many from interesting and exotic places. Your college will soon become your home, and your friends will be like family. Within Cambridge there are activities to suit every individual. Whether you choose to immerse yourself in the Cambridge lifestyle of secret societies, garden parties and opulent balls, or nights of debates with world renowned guests at the Cambridge Union, recitals and performances at the ADC and events by any of the university’s hundreds of registered societies, there will be very little time to feel bored or lonely.

No matter how you choose to spend your time in Cambridge, it is common amongst most graduate students coming here to experience a period of profound learning and growth, both as individuals and as professionals. If the beautiful surroundings are not enough to inspire you, then retracing the footsteps of some of the greatest minds in the world will surely be. Be prepared to come to Cambridge and fall in love with this university and 800 years worth of quirks and customs that come along with it. I am yet to encounter an international graduate student who will leave Cambridge without the best education the world has to offer, a collection of incredible memories and friends, and a heavy heart.

**International Calls**

International calling cards can be purchased from various newsagents and international supermarkets. The rate is different dependent on where you are calling to, and sometimes the card has an expiry date. If you have a BT phone 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 it is worth asking!
**Useful Organisations**

**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 on its website.

9 Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BA
Tel: 01223 764680
Email: international@admin.cam.ac.uk

**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.

**Council for International Education (UKCOSA)**
[www.ukcosa.org.uk/]
A national independent charity, which 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

**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.
**Living in Cambridge**

### Council Tax

The 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’

Cambridge Council Revenues Reception
Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY
Tel: 01223 457790
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 09.00-17.00 & Fri 09.00-16.30
Email: revenues@cambridge.gov.uk

### 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.
HEALTH

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Dial 999 or 112. These both connect to the same exchange from which you can request any emergency service.

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 NHS (National Health Service). Lists 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.

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

HOSPITALS & DENTISTS
The local NHS Hospital and Accident & Emergency Unit is at Cambridge University Hospitals, 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 as 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

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

University Dental Service
[www.dental.cam.ac.uk]
3 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA
Tel: 01223 332860
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 09.00-12.45 & 14.00-17.00

HOUSING
Unlike undergraduates, not many graduates live in the college accommodation. You may want a place to live with your friends, or somewhere private if you come with a family.

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

A more 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 a viewing, etc.
I originally moved to Cambridge in September 2006 after accepting a year-long job offer to work as a research assistant. However, the Cambridge gravity soon captured me, and in April 2007 I began my graduate work in the Department of Clinical Biochemistry.

Most graduate students at some point consider living outside of college accommodation. Personally I enjoy many advantages of private housing: I live with flatmates of my choosing, enjoy a living room with a TV and couch, and a full kitchen to cook for myself. On the other hand, college housing has a number of conveniences, with no utility bills to worry about and close proximity to college dining and facilities. As a fresher, living in college residence is also a fantastic way to get to know fellow grads. In the end, your housing decisions are a product of personal preference, but if you plan on moving out of college here’s some advice: 1) Make inquiries with friends already living in private residence regarding how they found their flat, 2) Beware overpriced and unscrupulous landlords, and 3) Do familiarize yourself with council tax regulations.

Regardless of where you live, I would encourage all graduates to participate in college events. On the whole, many individuals I have met in Cambridge display a clarity of thinking that is refreshing, and I feel that by interacting with such bright people I have grown immeasurably, both professionally and personally. Development offices call this “The Cambridge Experience,” but I believe it’s better described as a brilliant university ecosystem. If you don’t enjoy your own college atmosphere, go to the one next door and introduce yourself there. As a person who has experienced Cambridge life both outside and within the college system, I’ve developed a deep appreciation of its value. Don’t take your college for granted!

Another way of finding 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 an extra ‘Tenancy Administration Fee’ of 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.

**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 want somewhere better equipped:

The **University Sports Centre** (Fenner’s) includes a Fitness Suite which contains cardiovascular machines and weights. Membership is £35 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 depending on what workout you want to focus on, and you may also need to pay extra to use certain facilities. They run a wide variety of classes. There is also a 25m swimming pool and a small climbing wall.

The Atrium Club (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.

Glassworks Gym is a favourite with the beautiful people. The fitness suite is small, but has all the basics you would want and a freeweights area. It is also very clean and has TVs. The spa suite has a sauna, steam room and a jacuzzi from which you can watch walkers on the riverbank.
**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. If there is any incident happening in the 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 the victim on University premises or you observe any suspicious activity happening in your department/faculty/office, please report it to the Security Control Centre.

Cambridgeshire Police
[www.cambs.police.uk]
Parkside Police Station,
Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1JG
Tel: 0345 456 456 4 (Non-emergency, 24 hours)
Public opening hours: Sun-Thu 07.00-00.00 & Fri-Sat 07.00-02.00

The University Security
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/security/]
New Museum Site,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QH
Routine Security: 01223 331818
Textphone: 01223 762834
Emergency calls in network: 101
Emergency calls out of network: 01223 767444
Email: uscc@admin.cam.ac.uk

**Telephones**

**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.

**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 you be able to make and receive calls.

**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. Rates on international calls, in particular, are much lower than if you use coins in a machine.

**Transport**

**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 is also extremely dangerous.
- It is illegal to ride your bike on the pavement.
- Wearing a cycle helmet isn’t a legal requirement but probably a very 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 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 second-hand 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: 01480 375105
Email: 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 written recommendation of your Tutor. An application for a licence must be made within 7 days of the vehicle being brought within the radius. 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.

If you are accommodated in a College-owned house or rent in the private sector, it is quite likely that you will live in a “Residents’ parking zone”, where to park on the road you must obtain a permit to avoid receiving a Penalty Charge Notice from the local Council. To obtain the permit you must produce your vehicle logbook, have your driving license registered to the Cambridge address and have proof of residency at the address in the form of a rental contract or a stamped letter from the College. There will be a small fee for the permit. You can find more information on parking from the Council’s website under the ‘Transport & Streets’ section.

The Motor Proctor
[www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/proctors/motor/]
1 St Mary’s Passage, Cambridge, CB2 3PQ
Tel: 01223 333310
Open: Mon-Thu 14.00-16.00
motor.proctor@cam.ac.uk

Council Parking Services
PO box 180, Cambridge, CB1 2WT
Tel: 01223 458500
Open: Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00
lape@cambridge.gov.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 Enquires’ website. If you’re aged 16-25 or you are a full-time student, you can buy a Young Person’s Railcard, giving you a
third off most rail fares anywhere in Britain.

Cambridge Train Station (CBG)
Station Road, Cambridge, CB1 2JW
Tel: 0845 600 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 Enquires
[www.nationalrail.co.uk]
Tel: 08457 484950

Student and 16-25 Railcards
[www.16-25railcard.co.uk]

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 picnics 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/]
1 Brookside, Cambridge, CB2 1JE
Tel: 01223 336265
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 cheap. This is also the main venue of the Cambridge Film Festival, an extensive cinematic offering, taking place in summer each year. On 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. Cineworld is located in the south part of Cambridge, past the bridge on Hills Road. The centre also boasts various eateries, a tenpin bowling alley and a gym. With its state-of-art AV equipment, 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. As an added bonus, you can often purchase cheap drinks from the bar beforehand and to drink them as you watch another great film from the comfort of our sofas.

Theatres and Shows

The theatre scene in Cambridge is predominantly student-based. The University’s main theatre is the ADC Theatre (Park Street), which usually puts on two performances per night by student companies during term time. See the website for the current programme. Other student productions can be found in various college theatres, and in The Playroom (St. Edward’s Passage). Full listings can be found in Varsity and The Cambridge Student newspapers. The Arts Theatre, just opposite King’s College, offers professional productions by both local and touring companies. 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, and regular talks. It is now displaying a reconstructed Chinese vase, one of the pair that was infamously broken when a visitor tripped over his shoe-laces. Kettle’s Yard Art Gallery has exhibitions of contemporary art and live music recitals (often for free). It also runs an educational programme, including seminars and practical workshops. 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.

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. The Cricketers also hosts live jazz every Thursday night.

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 22.30-01.00. La Raza also invites various music bands, ranging from electro funk, hip-hop to blues and jazz.

The Portland Arms, located on Chesterton Road, is also a great venue where you can enjoy different genres of music as well as comedy acts almost every night. Check the student papers for what is going on around town; many colleges run really good quality live music events, especially Jazz at John’s which is always well received. For something classical, West Road Concert Hall
(home to the Music Faculty) has a lot to offer as well. 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 charity 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

**Live Music Details**

- **The Elm Tree**
  42 Orchard Street, Cambridge, CB1 1JT
  Tel: 01223 363005

- **The Cricketers**
  18 Melbourne Place, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB1 1EQ
  Tel: 01223 516701

- **The Depot**
  14a Trinity Street, Cambridge, CB2 1TB
  Tel: 01223 506090

- **La Raza**
  [www.laraza.co.uk]
  The basement, 4,5&6 Rose Crescent, Cambridge, CB2 3LL
  Tel: 01223 464 550
  Opening hours: Mon-Thu 09.00-01.00 & Fri-Sat 09.00-02.00 & Sun 11.00-00.30

- **The Portland Arms**
  [www.theportland.co.uk]
  Mitcham’s Corner, 129 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CB4 3BA
  Tel: 01223 357268

- **West Road Concert Hall**
  [www.westroad.org]
  Faculty of Music, 11 West Rd, Cambridge, CB3 9DP
  Tel: 01223 335184
The University of Cambridge and its colleges have so much to offer students in their time away from coursework or research. When it comes to sport, every level of enthusiasm and skill (or lack of it!) is catered for. I am currently a third year Materials Science PhD student and I’ve found Cambridge to be a very friendly place where people love to include new members in their sports clubs or activities. I’m originally from the USA, where serious sports teams are only for the undergraduate students. Here at Cambridge, undergraduates and graduates alike are eligible and do join all of these teams together, leading to a very inclusive feeling for graduates at the university. My experience with sport here runs the full spectrum from the most relaxed inter-college games of basketball, to some swimming races, to learning to row with my college, which finally led me to university-level sport with the Cambridge University Women’s Boat Club. At twelve practices every week, university rowing was the most intense sport I’ve ever done, but the people I met and the national-level competitions we raced in made it all worthwhile! Of course, most sports teams here only train together during the terms, so year-round there’s also the University Sports Centre, called Fenners, which has a full gym and fitness suite. So I hope you have fun with sport in your time at Cambridge!

The University of Cambridge, and showcases the best of Cambridge acting talent. This theatre has seen the emergence of, amongst others, Academy Award winners Emma Thompson (Newnham) and Rachel Weisz (Trinity Hall). 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, Borat and Bruno). 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.

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 (ADC) is the main performance venue within the University, and showcases the best of Cambridge acting talent. This theatre has seen the emergence of, amongst others, Academy Award winners Emma Thompson (Newnham) and Rachel Weisz (Trinity Hall). 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, Borat and Bruno). 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.

The Cambridge Students’ Rag Appeal is the University’s major student fund-raising organisation. Get involved by attending their events or by becoming a graduate RAG rep for your college. Tiddlywinks, quizzes and hot chocolate drinking all have their own clubs and societies in Cambridge: for a full list, see www.societies.cam.ac.uk.
As in most cities, Cambridge has its share of the ubiquitous coffee chains: Nero, Starbucks, Costa etc… 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.

**Benets**  
20 Kings Parade + 4 Benet Street  
Mon-Sun: 09.00-21.00  

Owned and managed by a local English couple, George and Julia, Benets serve a scrumptious menu, including freshly made paninis, baguettes and wraps, alongside cakes, cookies, freshly ground coffees and award-winning English Teapig teas. They also serve good ice creams – which will soon be homemade – and offer a 20% discount every Wednesday.

**Café Blue at the GU!**  
17 Mill Lane, GU Building  
Mon-Fri 09.00-18.00, late nights on Thursday

A wide selection of coffee and snacks, friendly staff, comfy sofas, wireless internet and free newspapers. All this at the home of the Graduate Union!

**The Café Project**  
22 Jesus Lane  
Open: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, and Sun  
Check www.cafeproject.org for times

A student volunteer run community space - serving tea, home made cake and fair-trade treats. The project aims to promote diversity and certainly can boast an eclectic mix of furniture. The Café Project is always seeking volunteers, especially during the vacations.

**Cazimir**  
13 King Street  
01223 355156  
Opening: Mon–Fri 08.00–17.30 & Sat 08.00–18.30 & Sun 10.00–17.00

Great for an al fresco coffee break and various European snacks. Here you can try a number of interesting dishes – from Polish and Greek treats to Spanish or Scandinavian snacks. More than just coffee, try their smoothies, paninis and salads.
**Clown’s**
54 King Street
01223 355711
Open: Mon–Sun 08.00-22.00

An Italian family-run café, Clown’s has a good range of homemade pasta dishes and cheesecakes. The waitresses are friendly, and the opening hours long. If you can brave the clown inspired décor, they also host a number of relaxed acoustic music sessions.

**Fitzbillies**
51 Trumpington Street
01223 352500
Open: Mon–Sat 09.00–21.30 & Sun 12.00–17.00/Tea 14.30–16.45

Favoured for its ultra-sticky Chelsea buns, Fitzbillies is a popular tourist choice. Their cute mini cakes make good presents, and you can also custom design large cakes (although these tend to be expensive). The restaurant next door serves lunches, dinners and afternoon teas. Ask for student deals and their membership card which, for £3, gives you special offers and a free coffee!

**Indigo**
8 St. Edward’s Passage
01223 368753
Open: Mon-Sat 10.00-19.00

The tiny Indigo café is an extremely popular café right in the middle of town. If you can find a seat then try one of their great 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.

**Jaffa Net Café**
22A Mill Road
01223 308380
Open: Mon–Sat 10.00–22.00, Sun: 10.00-18.00

An internet café and social space often frequented by international students, this is a café with a difference. Amongst other things, it serves good mint tea, Arabic sweets and shisha.

**The Orchard**
45 Mill Way, Grantchester
01223 845788
Open Summer: 09.30–19.00; Autumn & Spring: 09.30–17.30; Winter: 09.30–16.30

A 30min stroll across Grantchester meadows, this is the famous cream tea spot where Rupert Brooke spend many an afternoon. It is also a great place to bring visiting friends or family. Relax in a deck chair with tea and cake, or try one of their tasty sandwiches.

**Savino’s**
3 Emmanuel Street
01223 566186
Open: Mon–Sat: 07.00–20.00
Sun: 09.00–18.00

With a great Italian vibe, and beautifully decorated cappuccino, Savino’s probably serves the best coffee in Cambridge. The view of the local bus station is certainly an unusual choice, but it is a great place to people watch.
For a special occasion or simply when you are tired of cooking or the offerings of College hall, there is plenty of variety in Cambridge.

Details of many, but by no means all of what is on offer, are given below. The price guide 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

£££ The 3 Horseshoes
High Street, Madingley
01954 210221
Open: Mon-Sat: 11.30-15.00, 18.00-21.30, Sun: 12.00-20.30

If you have access to a car and want to escape from the city, drive out to Madingley for some imaginative, Italian influenced cuisine. Expect well executed seasonal dishes prepared with quality ingredients. Choose from a wooden table in the busy bar area or a main table in the conservatory restaurant – but either way, don’t forget to book. This thatched inn serves great food, but it can come at a slightly hefty price.

££ 196 Meze Bar
196 Mill Road
01223 410519

Seating just 26 people in total, this is definitely a place where you should book your table! The Meze Bar serves a whole range of authentic Turkish dishes and the meat is literally butchered next door. Food is fresh and you receive a warm welcome regardless of whether you want a small dish as a snack or a whole range to try. Do take cash with you though as they don’t accept credit cards!

£££ Alimentum
152-154 Hills Road
01223 902089
Open: Mon-Sat: 12.00-14.30, 20.00-22.00, Sun: 12.00-16.00

Ethical and award-winning food, in a sleek Art Deco influenced setting. Some may call it pretentious, but Alimentum has its fair share of top restaurant awards to support its otherwise great reputation as a dining experience. Check out the ‘Tuesday Jazz Season’ and enjoy interesting dishes which are locally sourced wherever possible.
Anatolia
30 Bridge Street
01223 362372
Open: Sun–Thu 11.30–14.30, 17.00-23.00 & Fri–Sat 11.30–14.30, 17.30-23.30

A Turkish restaurant overlooking the bustling quayside by Magdalene College. You will find all the usual Middle Eastern fare of kebabs and meats, but do expect to wait a while to be served. The food is often of decent quality, but with the Bridge Street location is a little expensive for what you get. The prix-fixe menu is a better option, but vegetarians may find the choice a little limited.

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

Part of the ultramodern pizza chain, expect a decent selection of Italian dishes and simple, clean décor. Sitting at your table you can see into the kitchens where the same theme continues. Service is laid back and pleasant, but the menu slightly overpriced for a chain. Avoid the small starters, but expect good quality pizzas. A middle of the range option: not bad, but probably not the most exciting Italian you could pick.

Asia
66 Regent Street
01223 902143

Described as serving Pan-Asian cuisine, there are lots of interesting sounding dishes on the menu here. However, Asia seems to get mixed reviews. As a relatively new restaurant it may be worth another try in the future, but service can certainly be slow. Whilst some of the food was well received, other dishes just did not live up to high expectations.

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

Statuettes of Buddhas, lots of bamboo and plenty of lemongrass make this a fun and lively Thai curry experience. Whilst perhaps not the most authentic dishes for those who’ve experienced the real thing, it tends to be a place where groups of friends can leave feeling they’ve had a good time.
**££ Brown's Restaurant and Bar**
23 Trumpington Street  
01223 461655  
Open: Mon–Sat 9.30–23.00 & Sun 9.30–10.00  

Believe it or not, the large Brown's restaurant used to be the outpatient department of the former Addenbrooke's hospital. If you look carefully beneath the ivy growing over the front of the building, you might just see the old sign. The back of the restaurant has traditional cane furniture but the front is also great for open air dining in the summer. Brown's has a reputation for being busy, especially at weekends, and since you can't book in advance you may have to be prepared to wait… The cocktails are good but food can be hit and miss. Not one for vegetarians, but certainly a Cambridge institution that is here to stay.

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

Visit the Watermill for a better experience of this chain. Avoid the terrible service of the leisure park branch and head straight to the Watermill where you can watch the Cam beneath your feet through the glass below you. Slightly overpriced, standard Italian dishes, but worth a visit nonetheless.

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

One of the better Thai options, with an extensive menu. Expect large portions, generous servings and attentive staff. There's also a private corner with Thai cushions to lounge on as you enjoy your starters… If you can ignore the pink tablecloths, it is well worth a visit.

**££ Cafe Adriatic**
66 Mill Road  
Tel: 01223 352836  
Open: Mon–Sat 12.00-23.00  

Known for its Mediterranean dishes and seafood, Adriatic is popular with both students living on Mill Road and other local residents. Always busy, the Café now seats 80 downstairs but also has an elaborately decorated first floor. A great spot for good pizza, pasta, mussels and prawns, this is definitely worth visiting.

**££ Caffe Uno**
32 Bridge Street  
01223 314954  
Open: Mon–Sat 10.00–23.30 & Sun 10.00–23.00  

Another Italian chain, but with good desserts. Whilst the menu (like most other chains) is not very imaginative, if you sweet talk the waiters you can usually pop in for puddings alone. This is a predictable Italian that caters for tourists on the water front near Bridge Street, but you can avoid the crowds a little in the winter months. Pop in for a coffee and warm brownie, but don't expect to get excited about the pasta.
**Cambridge Chop House**

27–28 Bridge Street  
01223 448620  
Open: Sun–Thu 12.00–22.30 & Fri–Sat 12.00–23.00

A fabulous location on the corner of King’s Parade and Bene’t Street, this is a perfect place to sit over dessert and watch tourists admire the Corpus Clock. Upstairs has more of a bar atmosphere, with casks of real ale and an extensive wine list. The main part of the restaurant is downstairs in the cellar, which can provide a great atmosphere for parties. The menu is traditional and very ‘English’. Expect chops, roast meats, homemade sausages and suet puddings. Ask about their good value pre-theatre menus for early dining, and 10% student and faculty member discounts. Can be pricey depending on how much you are enjoying the wine, but stylish and in great surroundings.

**Charlie Chan**

14 Regent Street  
01223 902114

A well reviewed Chinese restaurant, close to the centre of town. Here you can expect all the traditional Chinese dishes, in smart and airy surroundings. Enquire about jazz music at weekends plus their facilities for larger functions including the ‘Blue Lagoon Lounge’ and full dance floor.

**Chez Gerard**

27–28 Bridge Street  
01223 448620  
Open: Sun–Thu 12.00–22.30 & Fri–Sat 12.00–23.00

Another chain restaurant, but with some nice touches. Mains are often served on chopping boards and the décor is sleek. However, dishes are generally served without vegetables or a side salad so expect to pay extra. This makes things a bit expensive despite the food being generally good. The prix-fixe menus are almost worth the effort, and the wine list is long.

**Curry Houses**

- very popular in the UK, and Cambridge is no exception. A few to try are listed below…

- **Cambridge Curry Centre**, 45-47 Castle Street, 01223 363666
- **Curry Garden**, 106 Regent Street, 01223 301071
- **The Curry King**, 5 Jordans Yard, 01223 324351
- **The Curry Queen**, 106 Mill Road, 01223 350407
- **The Gandhi**, 72 Regent Street, 01223 353942
- **Golden Curry**, 113 Mill Road, 01223 329432
- **India House**, 31 Newnham Road, 01223 461661
- **India Palace**, 70 Newmarket Road, 01223 305051
- **Kohinoor Tandoori**, 74 Mill Road, 01223 566476
- **Maharajah**, 9 Castle Street, 01223 358399
- **Nirala**, 7 Milton Road, 01223 360966
- **Panahar**, 8 Norfolk Street, 01223 355012
- **Pipasha**, 529c Newmarket Road, 01223 577786
- **Raj Malabar**, 71 Castle Street, 01223 312569
- **The Rice Boat**, 37 Newnham Road, 01223 302800
- **The Saffron Brasserie**, 36 Hills Road, 01223 354679
- **Tandoori Palace**, 68 Histon Road, 01223 506055
- **Tandoori Station**, 59 Hills Road, 01223 369696
££ De Luca Cucina & Bar
83 Regent Street
01223 356666
Open: Sun–Thu 11.00–01.00 & Fri–Sat 11.00–02.00

An interesting mix of Italian and British food, this ‘fusion’ restaurant certainly offers its customers choice. There is a great front bar and a bright, airy back section with stone flooring and nice skylight. This recently refurbished venue has been well received and always has a buzzing atmosphere.

£ Dojo’s
1–2 Millers Yard, Mill Lane
01223 363471
Open: Mon-Sun 12.00-01.00

A popular, quick and easy option for students in town in search of something filling and relatively inexpensive. As one of the restaurants in the small courtyard off Mill Lane it is in a conveniently central location for many graduate students. There is a large choice of rice and noodle dishes from around the Pacific Rim and the portions are generous. There are excellent, steaming hot soups and plenty for vegetarians and those with nut allergies as well. Do not expect an intimate night out - parties are often asked to share benches and service is basic – but this place does have a nice buzz to it. Take-away is available as well, making this a generally useful backup where you know what to expect and won’t be stung by an inflated bill.

Established in 1992 the Galleria restaurant is now a firm favourite in the Cambridge dining scene. Located at the foot of Magdalene Bridge, on the banks of the river Cam it is quite simply ‘the restaurant on the river’.

The Galleria has a split level design, set over three floors, an airy interior with a stunning two tone colour scheme with brushed steel posts & clear glass with contemporary paintings adorning the walls.

Taking advantage of its unique location the Galleria has two riverside terraces, constantly in demand throughout the season, ideal for al fresco dining in the summer.

The cuisine has world wide influences with a menu revolving around steak, fish, poultry & vegetarian options all with some interesting sauces. The chef’s signature dish is monkfish fillets and is a must try along with a comprehensive wine list, enticing cocktails and excellent coffee.

Visit www.galleriacambridge.co.uk for more info.
**££ Don Pasquale**  
Cambridge Market Square  
01223 350106

Right on the corner of Market Square, with seats spilling out into the street, you can’t find anywhere much more central. Great for people watching, but the lunch menu is certainly nothing special. The best thing about this place is the friendly staff and late opening hours. As things calm down in the later evening it is often possible to pop in just for coffee and dessert; a nice way to end an evening at the theatre or date in town.

**££ Efes Restaurant**  
78-80 King St  
Tel: 01223 350491  
Open: Mon-Sat: 12.00-14.30 & 18.00-23.00,  
Sun: 12.00-23.00)

Named after the famous town in western Turkey where the Virgin Mary is said to be buried, this Turkish restaurant boasts an open grill with specially imported charcoal to cook the meat to perfection. The interior is compact, so expect to sit close together with other tables, creating an potentially busy and noisy atmosphere. On arrival, a dish of olives and pickled chillies is usually brought to the table. Generous helpings of meat and kebobs are the most popular dishes. Authentic aromatic Turkish coffee is available as well as a selection of Turkish wines.

**£ Eraina Taverna**  
2 Free School Lane  
01223 368786  
Open: Mon–Fri 12.00–02.30 & Sat 12.00–23.30 &  
Sun 12.00–23.00

Eraina Taverna has over 150 main courses, so you really won’t be short of choice. There are many international dishes, but the Greek cooking influence makes these options the most worthwhile. Whilst the claim that it was frequented by Prince Charles during his time as an undergraduate in Cambridge is somewhat dubious, the reasonably-priced food is served quickly and by friendly staff. By no means haute-cuisine, but a fun place to come with friends.

**££ Gourmet Burger Kitchen**  
43-45 Regent Street  
01223 312598  
Open: Mon-Fri: 12.00-23.00, Sat-Sun: 11.00-22.00

One of the more recent chains to take up residence in Cambridge, you always know what to expect here: large, tasty burgers made from good quality meat. If you are feeling adventurous, opt for the buffalo, wild boar or lamb varieties. Perhaps slightly overpriced for ‘just a burger’, expect to have to pay for your dips and chips as extras. Despite this, it is still a popular choice and it can be difficult to find a table at weekends.

**££ La Margherita**  
15 Magdalene Street  
01223 315232  
Open: Mon-Sat 12.00-14.30, 18.00-23.00

For this generally overpriced part of town, you can do a lot worse than this Italian. The food is generally more interesting that the rest of the pasta places, there are a number of fresh daily specials and they even have authentic gelatti. Opt for a pasta/meat main and save your pizza craving for the excellent chocolate and banana pizza dessert – perfect to share!

**££ La Tasca**  
14-16 Bridge Street  
01223 464630  
Open: Sun 11.00-22.30 & Mon-Fri 11.30-23.00 &  
Sat 11.00-23.00

A Tapas chain, with plenty of paella. The whole place has a slightly cheesy feel, with Latin
music in the background and themed fixtures and fittings. The menu sounds good and is well priced, but the service can be slow and the dishes disappointing. Cold paella and Sangria made almost solely of ice was not well received. If you have to try it, look out for a week-time deal of all you can eat tapas, grab a group of friends, and make sure you get your money’s worth!

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

Cambridge’s best seafood offerings in an attractive, airy atmosphere. Like others in this small chain, the restaurant is finished with wooden floors and visible ceiling beams. However, Loch Fyne manages to avoid many of the corporate chain pitfalls. The menu is interesting, the service is polite and food is consistently good. A little pricey but great for a special occasion - this is the perfect place to bring parents with confidence. Don’t forget to book!

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

At Nando’s you always know what to expect. Freshly cooked chicken with your choice of Peri-Peri sauces in this Portuguese chain. Order at the counter but beware of the hot sauces! This is an inexpensive option with fast service and even options for the vegetarians/ non chicken fanatics.

£ **Nanna Mexico**
33A Regent Street
01223 363439
Open Daily: 11.30-21.30

Cambridge is short on Mexican food, and for a quick, tasty snack this hits the spot. What started simply as a takeaway has now expanded with ample seating for you to enjoy your nachos. When you’ve forgotten about dinner and want something filling in a rush, the generous burritos are a great idea.
The Oak Bistro
6 Lensfield Road
01223 323361
Open: Mon–Wed: 11.30-00.30, Thurs–Fri: 11.30-01.30, Sat: 10.30-01.30 & Sun: 10.30-17.30

A new addition to the Cambridge restaurant scene, and already gaining a good reputation. The Oak used to be a coaching house for weary travelers but has been brought up to date with chic wooden furnishings to give a nice sense of calm away from the Regent Street traffic. The ‘modern British’ menu is small, but dishes are executed very well. What may be slightly lacking in presentation is definitely made up for by the generous size of portions. Booking advisable!

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

One of the best Chinese restaurants around. Although an expensive option, food is authentic and the owners very friendly. The surroundings are simple, but diners are really here for the food. It feels a little like eating at a friend’s house, but if you can cope with the atmosphere, you’re likely to leave impressed by the dishes.

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

Yet another Italian chain but the trademark pizza dough really does taste different to other places! The main plus about the Cambridge branches are their locations, and their ability to accommodate large groups. The Regent Street branch is spacious and close to Parkers Piece, but if you can, head to Jesus Lane. This restaurant is certainly distinctive, boasts two mirrored and panelled rooms, and even has a pianist Tue–Sat evenings.

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

Awarded “Best Vegetarian Café” by The Vegetarian Society, this is an oasis for all fans of vegan and vegetarian food. Portions are hearty, healthy and interesting, so it’s not surprising that the café claims that 60% of customers are not vegetarian. Don’t miss the famous carrot cake which was “the best I ever tasted” according to food expert Nigel Slater. Don’t expect many meat substitutes and tofu, but do look out for the organic wine.

Restaurant 22
22 Chesterton Road
01223 351880
Open: Tue–Sat: 07.00–21.45

A little out of the way as far as restaurants go, in a terrace house on Chesterton Road, Number 22 is an oasis of Victorian indulgence. Choice is limited to the seasonal menu for each month (starting at £27.95 for 4 courses) but does not disappoint. For more variety, there is a lot on offer from the well stocked cellar of over 80 bins. The décor gives the feel of sitting in a lavishly furnished front room, but provides a nice setting for an intimate meal. With a number of good food awards to its name, this restaurant is surpassed by few others in Cambridge.

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

According to the tag line, “Indian food, but not as you know it”. Unlike most of the city’s curry houses, the food here is mostly of South Indian origin rather than Eastern Indian or Bangladeshi style. A refreshing change and pleasant atmosphere where the service is not rushed.
£££ The Rupert Brooke
2 The Broadway, Grantchester
01223 902113
Open: Mon-Thurs: 11.30-23.00, Fri-Sat: 11.30-00.00, Sun: 11.00-22.30

Great for a celebratory meal away from the city centre, this pub and restaurant serves excellent modern British food. They make a point of trying to source ingredients locally, and produce interesting dishes that are well presented. Do not expect a quick and inexpensive evening out if you choose to dine in the restaurant, but great if you are looking for something a little more special away from the usual city chains...

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

‘Tatties’ is a British slang word for potatoes, served here with any topping you can think of. Large portions of filling food are great for a cold day, although brunches and baguettes are also on offer. You can find their other two branches on Sidney Street and Hills Road.

£££ Varsity
35 St Andrews Street
01223 356060

As the oldest restaurant in Cambridge, this is your chance to eat where royalty have dined. Whilst many famous alumni have visited through the years, the famous manager George Antoni returned to the Ivy in London and left behind a feel of faded elegance. That said, the Greek Cypriot inspired food is good and very reasonably priced.

££ Teri-Aki
6–8 Quayside
01223 882288
Open: Sun–Sat 12.00–23.00

Japanese Cuisine in a very modern quayside setting. A little pricier than many other oriental restaurants in Cambridge, but worth it for the vastly improved food quality. There is a small range of great sushi as well as good, fresh noodle and rice dishes. Great for a summer evening by the river.

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

Despite having a wood-fire pizza oven, local bye-laws prevent it from being used here. However the pizzas are still popular and the venue large enough to host big groups. Possibly the best of the Italian chains, the ice cream here also provides a good end to an evening. Definitely worth trying it out with any takeaway pizza for £5.

These student reviews are personal and are not the views of the GU as a whole. Please email enquiries@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 - from the rather old-fashioned country pub to the trendy wine bars that have taken over buildings that used to be banks. This guide aims to explore a number of them although, 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  
01223 353554

The Anchor sits on the banks of the Cam next to Silver Street bridge and Queens’ College. On a summer’s day the outside seating provides the perfect spot to watch punt operators plying their trade – assuming you are fast enough to get a table. The food is not great, but the three split levels and multiple bars make it a popular choice. The open fires in winter also create a bit more atmosphere. You do pay a premium for drinks at the riverside but this place is still a city centre favourite for grads who want to escape the college bar.

**BRB@The Cow**
Corn Exchange Street  
01223 308871

What used to be a pub, this is now a trendy bar and pizzeria. Deals like all day 2-for-1 pizza Tuesdays and Thursday 2-for-1
cocktails night are very popular so expect the place to be buzzing and be prepared to wait. The basement can be booked for private functions, but lacks atmosphere.

**The Eagle**  
8 Bene’t St  
01223 505020

The Eagle is perhaps the best known pub in Cambridge. Situated in the middle of the town, it’s always popular with tourists, students and townsfolk alike. The pub is most famous for being the spot that Watson and Crick chose to celebrate their discovery of the structure of DNA, as commemorated by a plaque near the front door. Also look out for the signatures burned into the ceiling by RAF and US air force troops stationed in Cambridge during World War II. Usual selection of Greene King beers on tap. Perfect place to take visiting relatives, but be sure to arrive early as food often runs out by 9pm.

**The Elm Tree**  
Orchard Street  
01223 363005

A small pub with atmospheric lighting. The interior of this place is quite dimly lit, adding to the old fashioned vibe you get here. The Elm Tree does not serve food, but do pop in for a pint and ask about their live jazz evenings.

**The Flying Pig**  
106 Hills Road  
01223 354623

With memorabilia of city events, pig-themed curios and an impressive collection of beer bottles, this is certainly one of the more original choices. Try your hand on the bar billiards table (much more unusual that the standard pool/table football options at other venues). For Addenbrooke’s students this is a perfect after work venue halfway in to the city. Weekly acoustic gigs liven the atmosphere up a bit as well.

**The Fountain Inn**  
12 Regent Street  
01223 366540

Recently renovated, this is really a pub-turned-bar. With a smart interior, long bar and numerous uplighters, it has a very similar feel to nearby All Bar One (also on Regent Street). As well as the usual drinks you will find a modern light food menu and a DJ booth that gets used at weekends.

**The Free Press**  
7 Prospect Row  
01223 368337

A charming pub, hidden away behind the police station. The Free Press offers friendly staff, a wide selection of real ales and decent home-made food. In summer you can enjoy the outdoor walled garden and in winter settle down with a board game over a drink. Mobile phones are banned.

**The Granta**  
14 Newnham Terrace  
01223 505016

Real ales with a great view of the river. Just round the corner from Darwin College you can enjoy a decent pint overlooking the ‘Pond’. The food is nothing above average, but a drink here in summer is certainly a pleasant experience.

**The Kingston Arms**  
33 Kingston Street  
01223 361868

Tucked out of the way, off Mill Road, this is a great neighbourhood pub. Wooden tables, glass jugs hanging everywhere, and real fires in the winter. Whilst some of their main meals do not seem cheap, they also serve light snacks. A favourite with fans of ‘real ale’, the pub makes a point of not encouraging lager.
**Live and Let Live**
40 Mawson Road
01223 460261

Surround yourself with old timber for a drink with a very traditional feel. Transport yourself back a few centuries as you sample their large selection of locally-brewed real ale. Well worth adventuring down a side street to find this place; the food is also decent and reasonably priced.

**The Mill**
14 Mill Lane
01223 357026

One of the most popular summer pubs, the Mill is small but spills out on to the Mill Pond where you can take your drinks. Despite the high season invasion of tourists, this place still retains some local charm. Food is good if a little pricey, but service is decent and the drinks selection is large. The Mill serves scrumpy, a more potent version of cider, which is tasty but should be approached for the first time with caution!

**The Pickle**
30 Magdalene Street
01223 355068

A centrally-located pub with a well-sized beer garden. Enjoy a rotating selection of guest ales and the wooden beams adding to the traditional décor,

**The Plough**
Green End, Fen Ditton
01223 293264

Take a trip out to Fen Ditton for a great pub with beach holiday house charm. With seating on the grass directly at the water’s edge, this is a good place to while away a few hours watching boaties. It also has pretty good pub food.

**The Prince Regent**
91 Regent Street
01223 505030

A fairly typical city pub belonging to the ‘Greene King’ empire. As with many of the establishments on Regent Street, it is often popular with town folk. It serves limited snacks and has a conservatory and outdoor benches for the summer.

**The Red Bull**
11 Barton Road
01223 300943

From the outside a traditional looking British pub, but in reality run by an entertaining Dutchman. Expect a friendly welcome, plenty of banter, and seasonal food
The Snug followed the popular bar/restaurant format and has a cozy atmosphere to suit its name. Expect pub style food, but also a decent selection of snacks to share which are often the better option. The weekend brunch menu is very tempting, there is outdoor seating in the summer, and the place is always open reasonably late despite being a little out of the way.

The Regal
Regent Street
01223 366459

Part of the Wetherspoons chain, and credited to be their largest branch in all of Europe. With lower prices than many of the nearer pubs, this is often the starting place for a big night out. Keep in mind that it’s not just a student pub, it’s popular with the locals and can get pretty packed and noisy, especially at weekends.

Revolution
Downing Street
01223 364895

On the site of what used to be the Rat and Parrot, Revolution vodka bar has become an instant success. Alongside the usual beers and spirits, you’ll find a number of interesting vodka options. Keep a look out for student deals and promotion cards. At the weekends, Revolution becomes more of a club, so don’t expect a quiet drink much past 8pm. The décor is cool, the dress code is strict (no hoodies, flipflops or trainers) and the music is funky. Don’t miss the GU’s MCRevolution party here on Sunday 18th October!

The Snug
67 Lensfield Road
01223 566291
and 170 East Road
01223 367888

The Snug followed the popular bar/restaurant format and has a cozy atmosphere to suit its name. Expect pub style food, but also a decent selection of snacks to share which are often the better option. The weekend brunch menu is very tempting, there is outdoor seating in the summer, and the place is always open reasonably late despite being a little out of the way.

The St. Radegund
129 King Street
01223 311794

A funny, small pub with plenty of character. Situated at the end of King Street by the four lamps roundabout, this place has repeatedly been recommended in the good pub guide. Watch out for the eclectic taste of the long serving landlord, and beware that you may be punished for using a mobile phone (by being asked to make a donation to the RNLI Lifeboats).
Clubbing

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.co.uk]
26-29 Lion Yard, Cambridge, CB2 3NA
01223 364222
Open: Mon-Sat 21.00-02.00

Once upon a time this place was called ‘Cindies’ and, regardless of the many recent makeovers, this is what it seems it will always be known as. Popular with the undergrad crowd, particularly on Wednesday, this can be one of the liveliest clubs in Cambridge. Here you can find all the usual cheesy tunes and plenty of student drinks offers. Other nights also play a variety of house and R+B but, for the class pop nights at least, get there early.

**The Fez**
[www.eclecticbars.co.uk/cambridgefez]
Market Passage, 15 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 3HX
01223 519224
Open: Mon-Thu 21.00-2.00, Fri/Sat 21.00-3.00
Sun 20.30-0.30

For something more eclectic, join the queue outside Fez. Here you will find all sorts of stuff including some good indie and funk. Unlike many of the other clubs, there are even corners where you can sit, relax and enjoy the North African-inspired décor.

**The Hidden Rooms**
www.hiddenthing.com
The Basement, 7a Jesus Lane, CB5 8BA
01223 514 777
Opening Hours: Daily, Noon until Midnight

These funky new bar rooms bring an irresistible vibe to old Cambridge. Located underneath Pizza Express and the world-famous University Pitt Club on Jesus Lane, Hidden Rooms recently opened this August. The club comprises two distinctly different rooms each with their own personality. The Lounge Room with chocolate silk drapes, leather seating and access to the Hidden Shisha Garden, provide visitors with the opportunity to reserve their own booth. The Dance Room with its express bar serves bottles and shots for those who like their dancing undisturbed. Evoking the Hidden Rooms’ secret is the underground music hosted by top DJs and live artists. Early evening entertainment will include comedy clubs, wine tasting, cocktail making, DJ tuition and Salsa classes. ‘Social Twist’ is their exclusive student night - Free Entry door policy until 9pm (if you apply for membership!) and a 50% reduction in your bar bill!

**The Junction**
[www.junction.co.uk]
The Cattle Market off Clifton Road, Cambridge, CB1 4GX
A little out of town and with separate spaces, this is where you are likely to find any of the larger names who come to Cambridge. The main space can be used as a club night, but also provides a good venue for live gigs. With prices slightly cheaper than that of the rival Corn Exchange theatre, look out for up-and-coming bands who stop off here before they become famous. There is less of a pretentious student feel to this place and the regular clubnights are well supported by locals. Check the website for full details, but their programme of dance and arts performances can also be recommended.

The Soul Tree
[www.soultree.co.uk]
1–6 Corn Exchange Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QF
01223 477900
Open: Mon-Sun 23.00-02.00

Avoid the deserted café during the day, but expect good nights out at one of the larger clubs in Cambridge. Soul Tree has three floors, with a stage for live acts, a gallery to watch revellers below, and a more exclusive ‘penthouse’ on the top floor (which often hosts alternative music options on the most popular nights). It is common to hear R&B and dance here, but also look out for international student nights and funk. All the usual drinks and some decent dancing in a club that does not take itself too seriously.

The Place
[www.theplacennightclub.co.uk/cambridge/]
22 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB3 3HG
01223 324600
Open: Mon-Thu, Sun 10.00-02.00 & Fri-Sat 10.00-04.00

Another favourite with Cambridge students and often subject to name changes. Formerly known as ‘Life’ and ‘Twenty Two’, ‘The Place’ is similar in its approach to Ballare/Cindies. ‘Sunday night Life’ is an institution, although the whole club is underground so when less busy it can feel like you’re in a soulless bunker.
AROUND CAMBRIDGE

Other than the grand colleges and libraries, there are many interesting places in and around Cambridge to visit during vacations or long weekends. Many students like to relax along the River Cam for short picnics, or in places such as Byron’s Pool, two miles south of Cambridge on Grantchester 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. For more information, go to 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 and 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 and Peterborough. There are picnic tables and a number of paths through the wood. Location: three 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 seven 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: five 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: seven miles southwest 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, four 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: nine 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 and bus. Some other nearby towns of interest include:

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

Oxford: Sometimes referred to as the otherside of Cambridge; Oxford is one of the oldest University towns 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 in the world. Samuel Johnson has said, “If you are tired of London, you are tired of life.” Just one hour’s train ride from Cambridge to the city of life. Good to visit anytime of the year.

With thanks to Nikhil Agarwal
**Cambridge Glossary**

**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 interdisciplinary centre runs many seminars, conferences and events of interest to a wide range of graduate students.

**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

**May Week:** Seven or more days of mayhem that actually falls at the end of the undergraduate year in June. Beginning on ‘Suicide Sunday’ this is a week full of garden parties, May balls, punting, and pure Cambridge decadence.

**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, 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 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).

**Varsity:** 1. One of two student newspapers printed weekly during term time; 2. Varsity competition: a fixture between Oxford and Cambridge.
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**Cambridge Alumni Relations Office**

**Come and see us at** 1 Quayside, Bridge Street, Cambridge, CB5 8AB (9am - 5pm)

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