

Graduates' guide to Cambridge 2013

YOUR DEPARTMENT OR FACULTY

Your department is responsible for your academic work. Although College and the Board of Graduate Studies theoretically have control of aspects of your studies, in practice they will only play a small part, especially if you are doing a research degree (as opposed to a taught course with lectures and supervisions.). The facilities your department provides for you will vary with the type of course/research you are undertaking. If you are a research student, you will have a supervisor who has an office either in your department or in College (note: undergraduates and some graduates on taught courses have small group teaching sessions called "supervisions". The teacher in these sessions is also known as a supervisor). Your department may also provide you with details of conferences, seminars and how to obtain funds and grants (you may need to ask to be given this information).

COLLEGE

The College is meant to provide what your department doesn't - accommodation, food and lots of social opportunities. Pembroke has a diverse community of about 230 graduates from a range of backgrounds across the world. There are also about 400 undergraduate students who make up the Junior Parlour (JP). Graduates are members of the JP as well as the GP and can attend JP-run events. There are also various College based societies for sports, music and theatre. During Freshers' week there will be both a University-wide Societies fair at the Kelsey Kerridge sports facility (we will have groups walking over to show you the way) where most of the university-wide clubs and societies will be present – 752 currently, listed here: <http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/societies/directory/> - as well as a Pembroke societies fair for college societies. We encourage you to attend both of these sessions not only to find out what is going on but to also take advantage of the freebies on offer!

You will be assigned a Graduate Tutor in College whom you should meet at the beginning of the year and who is there to make sure you are getting on OK.

Other college facilities include:

The Porters' Lodge and Mail Room: You will have a pigeonhole in College. This is where all of your post will arrive. The porters are very useful people to get to know, and the best ones to ask if you're not sure about anything to do with College.

The Hall and Buttery: Pembroke offers buffet-style dining in the Buttery (lovingly referred to as 'Trough') three times a day. In addition, a table service meal ('formal hall') is served every evening, but you must sign up in advance to attend formal halls. Use the kiosk in the Porter's Lodge to purchase tickets for yourself and any guests

you would like to bring along before 2pm two days prior to the event. Every graduate has an initial limit of £100 spending credit on his or her card. This can be topped up with cash in the Buttery (at quiet times, not in the queue for lunch!) or at the College Bar or with a cheque/debit card at the Finance Office.

The College Bar and Café Pembroke: Found through N staircase, our bar is open most nights of the year, serving a variety of beers, wines and spirits at lower prices than most local pubs. During the daytime, our café serves a good range of sandwiches, snacks and hot and cold drinks. You will find table football, a pool table and a lively atmosphere most evenings during term time.

Computer Rooms: A graduate-only workroom close to the GP, with computers and desk space, is currently being renovated, so it will be ready for your arrival! The main computer room, shared with the undergrads, is in the basement of CC (Foundress Court). The computers in both rooms provide standard office and internet software. Computers where you can just check your email are located in the Porters' Lodge mail room and in the GP. The Library also has computers and facilities to plug in laptops along with some catalogue and email only computers.

Library: There are many libraries in Cambridge, but our library is a beautiful space and offers many pleasant areas for studying.

Gym: There is a small gym in CC basement, with a variety of new equipment, including joggers, rowing machines and weights. You will need to get an induction before you can use the gym, which occur at the start of each term. You can sign up for this at the Porter's Lodge and it is advised you do so immediately upon arrival, as bookings fill up quickly once the undergraduates arrive.

TV rooms: Two TV rooms are available, with VCRs and a DVD player in N and BB staircases. The former is opened by the late night gate key, but you must ask the porters for access to the VCR or DVD player. There is also a flat-screen TV in the GP available for watching DVDs (the key for the entertainment system is located in the Porter's Lodge).

Sports ground: Located in Grantchester Meadows (about 10 minutes cycle from College). It has lawn and synthetic tennis courts, squash courts and various pitches for football, rugby, hockey and cricket.

Laundry: Coin operated washing machines and tumble dryers can be found in O staircase and the basement of Foundress Court, as well as at a number of the College hostels.

Note: College is divided into staircases. If you remember that the staircases go roughly in alphabetical order starting at the Porters' Lodge (from A to X) and that staircases with 2 letters are in Foundress Court (the new building) then you shouldn't get too lost!

THE REST OF THE UNIVERSITY

At the beginning of your first term, there are literally hundreds of clubs and societies that you can join to meet people who share your interests across the University. Make sure you go along to the Freshers' Fair in Kelsey Kerridge to see what's there, and also the Pembroke College Societies' fair to find out about College-based societies. In addition, the colleges will host a variety of events like theatre, films and 'Bops' (a Cambridge lingo favourite, standing for 'Breach Of The Peace,' but basically meaning a party/disco). You can find out what's on by checking out the student newspapers (*Varsity* and *The Cambridge Student*). Most events happen when the undergrads are around, so more social and sporting activity happens during full term. The biggest party season is 'May Week' (which takes place in June, obviously!) when there are endless balls, events and garden parties to celebrate the end of the academic year. Although some of these are expensive, they are well worth it.

SPORT

Alongside the numerous societies on offer, if you are interested in playing sport our graduates can join many of the sports teams, both at Pembroke and at the University level. Over 111 sports teams (<http://www.cusu.cam.ac.uk/directory/categories/sport/>) and societies exist across the university, not including specific college teams. Pembroke sports tend to be mixed, with undergrads and grads playing in the same team, which provides an excellent opportunity for you to meet others in the College that you would not otherwise have the chance to meet through your course or the GP. There is a sport for people of all skills and if you've never tried a sport, you are made very welcome to try it as a beginner! Depending on the amount of time you wish to set aside, you can find a sport and level that suits. If you are very enthusiastic and think you have what it takes to take it all up a notch, you can always trial and join one of the University sports teams to be a University Blue (a Blue is anyone who does a sport at the University level).

In the past, the GP has organised viewings of major sports events such as the UEFA Champions League, the Euro 2012 Championships, tennis, the Oxford-Cambridge Boat race and the main world sporting event this year, the London 2012 Olympics. We aim to continue this next year and will be open to suggestion for hosting other sporting events that may interest our graduate community.

Therefore, come, play and be make the most of the amazing opportunities on offer! We hope that sports at Pembroke and Cambridge will give you an excellent opportunity to meet people, take a break from all the hard work and achieve a healthy work/life balance, alongside all the other new exciting things you'll be trying.

CAMBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE

Central Cambridge is quite compact. Being located near the centre, Pembroke is well placed for restaurants, shops, pubs and clubs. There are three cinemas, two are multi-screen complexes, the third an Arts cinema. You can also go punting on the River Cam or wander along to Granchester's Orchard tea rooms – a favourite for a scone or two. If you're missing a big city atmosphere it's easy to get to London - less than an hour by train, with fast trains every half hour during the day. Good discount cards for students can be ordered from National Rail (www.16-25railcard.co.uk) and National Express (www.nationalexpress.com/coach/offers/students.cfm).

GETTING STARTED

Here are some answers to a few common questions:
Also visit: <http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/admiss/pg/life/>

Q: What should I do first?

Come into College. If you have College accommodation, you'll have to come to the Porter's Lodge to get your keys - College will ask you to tell them when you are going to arrive. Unless you arrive very early, you'll probably have a stack of papers in your pigeonhole waiting for you. After you have collected these, come along to the GP (M staircase) and meet people; we can tell you about any organizational things that you have to get sorted out after you arrive.

Q: What then?

Find your department and make sure they know you have arrived, and check that they have the correct details etc. If they have arranged an induction programme they will advise you of this. They will probably want you to fill out some more forms and you may need to have your photo taken. The one essential thing you'll need to do in College is attend Matriculation on the Tuesday 8th October. This is the ceremony at which you officially become a member of the University and the College. It is preceded by a group photograph and you need to wear a gown when you do this. There will also be a matriculation dinner for new graduates the following Monday 14th October. Please note that you only matriculate once into the University and Pembroke so if you have been an undergraduate here you do not do it again. If you were at Cambridge as an undergraduate but at another college, then you only need to matriculate into Pembroke, not the University.

Q: What happens in Freshers' Week?

Freshers' Week can be quite a hectic time. The GP will organize events throughout the week for graduates to meet each other, we will put details in your pigeonhole and post them on our website nearer the time. Your department will probably also have various introductory things for you to attend. In addition there's the Freshers' Fair with all the University societies (there is also a version in College for the College-

based societies).

Q: What should I bring and what does College provide?

- **Clothes:** There are quite a few smart dress dinners and events in Cambridge, both lounge suit and black tie or cocktail dress for the ladies. If you don't own them, they can be bought or hired at reasonable prices. However, as you'll be here for a while, buying is recommended as you will wear them regularly. You may also want to get an academic gown as they are worn to formal hall and a couple of other events in College. These, again, can be bought second hand in Cambridge, or may be hired from the Graduate Union. Just make sure you get the right sort (undergraduate gowns are slightly shorter and less elaborate). Furthermore, there are two different types of graduate gown: the BA gown, and the MA gown to which you are entitled if you have reached the age of 24.

- **Bicycle:** Most places in Cambridge are within walking distance, but cycling is a lot faster. If you don't bring one with you, there are plenty of places to buy them either new or second hand in town. Shop around to get the best deal. Good quality second-hand bikes are available in the market at the "Bike Man" or at some local auctions. The porters may also know of a sale or a good deal. It is important that you invest in:

- ✓ a good lock, as bike theft is common (preferably a D lock);
- ✓ a helmet, as the traffic can be heavy and unpredictable. Too many students get injured, and even killed, each year – so TAKE CARE;
- ✓ bike lights – not only is it very dangerous to ride without lights but the police fine people if they don't.

- **Computer:** All of the College rooms allocated to first year graduates are connected to the College network. You are welcome to bring computing devices with you, but should you not have access, it may be possible to borrow one from College. Please speak to the IT Office regarding your specific circumstances. If you have a wireless-only device you are able to apply for a wireless router in your room via <https://online.pem.cam.ac.uk/wireless/> requiring a deposit of £40. Both Macs and PCs are supported by the College and the University.

- **Furniture:** College rooms are furnished with a desk, small table, bed, duvet, pillows etc, wardrobe, some shelves and cupboards, and a couple of chairs. If you need more furniture, or a heater, mention to this your "bedder" (cleaner).

- **Sheets/bedding:** College will provide bedding if you don't have your own, but you'll need to arrange it in advance with Ms Caroline Adams (com@pem.cam.ac.uk) in the Linen Room and a deposit of £50 will be charged to your College bill.

- **Cooking Utensils:** If you have a room in College itself the cooking facilities will be minimal – a couple of hotplates, a microwave and a fridge shared between several people – as you're expected to use the Buttery most of the time. Cooking facilities are generally more extensive in the hostels.

Q: What else can you tell me?

- **Banks:** Several banks in town have student accounts such as Barclay's, HSBC, and NatWest. It is important to have the necessary information with you when you go to the bank (passport, letter from Cambridge/Pembroke accepting you as a student, letter from Pembroke that you have accommodation, previous bank statements). Be aware that you may need to make an appointment to open an account and the entire process may span over a week. Queues may be long, so it is best to go as early in the day as possible. Try and do this before the start of the undergraduate term as the banks will be very busy from that point onwards. As to opening a bank account, it's not actually that hard. You need to prove who you are, where you live and that you're a student at Cambridge (in order to open a student account). The Tutorial Office can supply you with the appropriate letters. Most national ID cards have your home address printed on them. Also, not all banks offer the same conditions, so it's worth looking around.
- **Shops:** Kitchen crockery can be obtained fairly reasonably from Sainsbury's supermarket on Sidney Street, which is also the nearest supermarket to the College and open late Monday to Saturday. Argos, which can be found near the Grafton Centre on Burleigh Street, sells everything from TVs and lamps to calculators and soft furnishings. John Lewis is in the Grand Arcade at the end of Pembroke Street, and Debenhams, in the Grafton Centre, might be worth a visit too. If you need computer things, PC World is located a short bike or bus ride to the east of central Cambridge on the Newmarket Road and nearby are other large outlets such as Homebase, Halfords and larger supermarkets such as Tesco and Asda.
- **Gowns:** During matriculation and beyond, you will need a graduate academic gown to attend formal halls. At Pembroke, unless it is a very special occasion, gowns are required for all formal halls within the Hall. Graduate BA dinner, which is usually held on Thursday in the Old Library, does not require a gown. Several places around town rent gowns; however, it can be useful to either buy a new gown or a second hand gown. AE Clothier on Pembroke St often sells ex-rental gowns as well as new ones. Ryder & Amies on King's Parade also rents and sells gowns.
- **Black Tie Dinners:** Please be aware that up to several times a term Pembroke has black tie events (including end of term BA dinners, June event) and there are many opportunities to attend black tie events throughout the University. Places around town rent black tie attire but if you are planning on attending many black tie

events it is advisable to either buy a new black tie suit or a second hand one.

- **Sports equipment:** The GP has some casual sports equipment and access to a croquet set for use by all. Please ask for details of where this is stored.

Q: How will people be able to contact me?

Post should be sent to: <Your Name>, Pembroke College, Cambridge, CB2 1RF and will arrive in your pigeonhole. Faxes or phone messages for you sent to the College phone numbers will also be put in your pigeon-hole by the porters. You will receive details of your University email account from the University directly.

Q: How do I pay for things?

Most College things are included on your College bill, which you have to pay at the start of each term. Unfortunately your first bill may arrive before your first grant payment and remember your fees must be paid before you can matriculate. Rent for College rooms are paid termly in advance and almost everything else is charged on to the next term's bill. If you pay for meals in College with your University card (you will get this when you arrive) it will be charged to your College bill; this applies to both meals taken in the buttery and formals etc. swiped for using the machine. There is a limit of £100 for each student. If this limit is reached, you can top up your card with cash at the BATTERY till or Café Pembroke, or with a cheque (or debit card payment) to the Finance Office. It is extremely important that you open a bank account as soon as you arrive in Cambridge.

Q: How do I get there?

From Cambridge railway station, you can get a bus to the city centre - Pembroke is a 5 minute walk from the bus station. Alternatively, a taxi from the station is the easiest way and will cost you about five pounds. The main gate and Porter's Lodge is by the corner of Trumpington Street and Pembroke Street, next to the red post box. There is a porter on duty 24 hours a day, however if you are going to be arriving late at night (after ~9pm) the gate will be locked so you should contact the Porter's Lodge in advance to make arrangements. You can find a number of maps on the GP website as well as at the website below, which includes a map and clear directions on how to get to Pembroke, wherever you're arriving from or at.

<http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/the-college/visitors/maps-directions/>

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

Much more information available on the web and useful sites include:

- University www.cam.ac.uk
- College www.pem.cam.ac.uk
- GP www.facebook.com/PembrokeCollegeGraduateParlour
- JP www.srcf.ucam.org/pemjp/
(Have made their own Freshers' Guide and much of the info is also applicable to graduates)
- Graduate Union www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk
(University wide graduate students' body. Site includes an online forum where you can ask questions)
- Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU) www.cusu.cam.ac.uk
- Board of Graduate Studies www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/current/new/

If this doesn't help, please feel free to contact the GP Committee with your questions. If you are from overseas and have a question relating to coming to Britain, it might help to know that many of the committee are also overseas students and we will all be happy to help in any way that we can. The GP reps go to various College meetings, graduate tutors meetings and GU and CUSU meetings, so let us know if you would like issues raised at any of these.

You can also contact the Tutor for Graduate Affairs (Loraine Gelsthorpe, lrg10@cam.ac.uk) or the Graduate Secretary (Frances Kentish, TUT@pem.cam.ac.uk). Both would be happy to answer any questions, although the GP committee should be your first port of call.

And for any other queries, please feel free as ever to contact the GP committee directly at gp@pem.cam.ac.uk.

We look forward to meeting you soon!