



QUEENS' COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE  
MCR

## Dear New Queens' Postgraduates,

I want to wish you the warmest of welcomes to our community at Queens'. When you arrive in October (or before) you'll join the MCR (middle combination room), which is the name Cambridge colleges use for their postgraduate communities. We're lucky at Queens' to have one of the biggest, friendliest, and most diverse MCR's in Cambridge and so I'm sure you will find yourself feeling at home almost immediately. That said, this year poses many challenges and uncertainties. Some of the activities and events that we would normally run during Freshers' Week simply aren't possible, many others will be different to usual. With this letter I want to take an opportunity to let you know where we've got to with our planning, what you can expect over the next few months, and give you some crucial information about international travel to Cambridge.

I've been at Queens' for over five years; first as an engineering student in the JCR and now as a PhD candidate in logistics and supply chain management (engineering). I'm sure that just like me, you'll find yourself falling in love with the beautiful grounds of the college, the vibrant and active community, and the friendly college staff. The MCR is a strong community and runs a wide range of activities and events through the academic year, intended to give you a well-earned break from work. Usually, these include parties and drinks receptions in the beautiful old hall, formal dining in Queens' and other colleges, tea and cake, day trips, quizzes and much more. Since March we have successfully moved many of these events online. Within the college community there are many sports clubs and societies, including arts, music, theatre, football, rugby, tennis, rowing (and more). More details of these can be found on the websites linked below. We also arrange talks from guest speakers (including famous alumni) and current students to share research and stimulate interesting discussions.

The MCR committee, the Queens' Fellows, and the college staff have been working hard to prepare for the start of term. We're aiming to get things back as close to normal as possible, but a few changes are having to be made to keep everyone (students and staff) safe. For example, although our library has reduced capacity for working in, we have opened up more spaces around college to replace this. We hope to have butchery (the canteen) serving food to all members of college, but expect to need to bring your own cutlery and a food-safe container to reduce contact points. More of our events during freshers week, and our social lives, will be taking place outside. Keeping this in mind, it is sensible to bring a warm coat and a picnic blanket.

The UK Government guidelines are updated regularly, so I suggest paying close attention to any changes. At the moment, it is possible to socialise both indoors and outdoors in small groups. The University has stated that it requires mask wearing in most work settings, so be wary of this and bring your own supply of face coverings with you. More information can be found here: [link](#).

For international students, I appreciate that there may be stress about travel plans, self-isolation, and so-called 'travel corridors'. The situation differs greatly depending on where in the world you are travelling from. You should make sure you are familiar with the UK Government's current list of countries that you are required to quarantine when entering the UK from. This list can be found [here](#) and is usually updated on Thursdays. I would also suggest that you try to arrive in advance of your course starting, so that you can self-isolate in Cambridge if required and also to give yourself time to settle in.

The MCR Committee and I are your representatives in college. We work hard to collate your views and make sure that the college works for everybody. We also appreciate that tensions are running particularly high at the moment. You can always raise your concerns to us; from the serious to the mundane, we are here to support you and find answers if we don't have them ourselves.

I can't wait to meet you all over the coming months. Whilst we may not know exactly what shape that 'meeting' will take, rest assured that you are joining a fantastic community that you will remain part of for all of your life.

All the best,

**Rob Glew | MCR President | Queens' College**

Useful Links:

[Queens' Postgraduate Freshers Facebook Page](#)

[Queens' MCR Freshers Week Calendar](#)

[Queens' MCR WhatsApp Group](#)

[Queens' MCR Accommodation WhatsApp Group](#)