



QUEENS' COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

Queens' College MCR Welcome Pack

2020/2021





UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Welcome to Queens'!

Congratulations on being accepted at Queens' College Cambridge! Queens' is one of the most (if not the most) friendly, inclusive and supportive colleges in Cambridge, with a large, diverse and active graduate community.

Graduates at Queens' are members of the Middle Combination Room (MCR), and elect a committee each year to organise social events and play a role in college decisions related to graduate life. We are excited that you are joining us!

Whilst we aren't currently living in the most certain of times, we are striving to ensure that your time here is as memorable and enriching as possible. This welcome pack includes some of the most relevant information for

graduates, though as you may see much of what is listed has the potential to change according to circumstances. Nonetheless, this document contains as much information as we can fit in, and hope to get back to as close to normal as soon as possible.

We suggest you also read the Queens' College student Handbook for more detailed information:

<https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents>

For other general queries, please contact the MCR Secretary (mcr-secretary@queens.cam.ac.uk) or MCR President (mcr-president@queens.cam.ac.uk).

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| College Members

Senior Combination Room (SCR)

The **Official Fellows**, led by the **President, Mohammed El-Erian (from later this year)**, govern the college. The **Official Fellows** and **Bye-Fellows** teach undergraduates; **Junior Research Fellows (JRFs)** are researchers who have just finished their PhDs; **Postdoctoral Research Associates (PDRAs)** are university researchers who are on post-doctoral research contracts; **Fellow Commoners** are those associated with the college in a professional capacity. Every now and then the college appoints **Honorary Fellows**, in recognition of significant achievements in their chosen field.

Middle Combination Room (MCR)

The MCR is comprised of students studying for graduate-level qualifications (us!). The MCR Committee represents graduate interests within college and organises events to build community.

Junior Combination Room (JCR)

The JCR Consists of undergraduate students studying at Queens'.



| College Departments

The Porters

porters@queens.cam.ac.uk

Always friendly, courteous, helpful, the porters are usually the first members of staff you will encounter when you arrive at Queens'. They provide a 24/7 emergency response for any serious issue in college, are responsible for site security, and (occasionally!) enforcing the rules, and are a great source of information on almost all college matters. A lodge is occupied 24 hours, 7 days a week at Owlstone Croft and on the Main Site.

Housekeeping Department

housekeeping@queens.cam.ac.uk

Responsible for the cleanliness of college, they can also help you get items like kettles, futon mattresses for guests, picture hooks, and storage padlocks. Just send an email for assistance.

Maintenance Department

maintenance@queens.cam.ac.uk

If you have any problems with your accommodation which need to be fixed (e.g. light bulbs, door problems, dripping taps, windows or heating), just email them with a description of what needs to be fixed.

Tutorial Office

tutorial.office@queens.cam.ac.uk

The Tutorial Office is responsible for your admission, matriculation, examination and graduation. They deal with academic administration for all Queens' students, provide information and liaise with the University administration and other external bodies on your behalf.

Financial Office

fees@queens.cam.ac.uk

The Financial Office deals with tuition fees, funding, and college student bills. If you're receiving Student Loan Company finance remember to take your SLC confirmation letter to the financial office (Essex Building Room 1) to have your documents scanned and your loan payments released.

Other departments are: **The Bursarial Office**, **The Admissions Office**, **The Alumni and Development Office**, and **The Catering Department**. They all take part in supporting the academic activities of college.







| University Card

Your University Card looks like a credit card containing your name and photo, college scarf (green and white strips for Queens'), plus a unique barcode. It has the following functions:

Access: most University buildings are now using the University Card as a 'key' to gain entry. Your Card will need to be activated for this service and access to specific doors will need to be granted before you can gain entry. Most of you should already been granted access to College facilities and your relevant faculty.

Identification: the card identifies you as a University and Queens' student. It is particularly important around exam time when you will need your card to gain entrance into your examinations.

Library Services: all personal University Cards carry a barcode on the back. This barcode can be used by the Library to turn your card into a Library Card.

Additional Privileges: the University Card is recognised by many businesses in Cambridge and around the world, and production of the Card may entitle you to discounts.

Where to collect it?

If you're moving into a college house, main site room, or private accommodation, collect your room keys and university card from the College Porters' Lodge (Plodge) in Silver Street. If you're moving into Owlstone Croft collect your room keys and university card from Owlstone Porters' Lodge.



| University IT Account

CRSid

You'll use your CRSid as your username when you log in to many online services and it forms the basis of your Cambridge email address. Find your CRSid by following the instructions for completing your student registration in the welcome email you got from the Student Registry around mid-September.

Raven authentication

The University's online authentication system is called 'Raven'. Many of the University's or College's online systems and resources are protected by Raven. You'll quickly become familiar with the login screen! Use your CRSid and UIS Password to log in.

Wi-Fi (UniOfCam & eduroam)

UniOfCam and eduroam are wireless networks provid-

ed throughout the university and in college accommodation. Use CRSid and UIS Password to log in UniOfCam, and follow the instructions to set up eduroam: help.uis.cam.ac.uk/service/devices-networks-printing/network-services/wi-fi.

Hermes Webmail

Your @cam email address takes the form of your CRSid at the Cambridge domain: [CRSid]@cam.ac.uk. The University, the College and Department will use this address to contact you, so please check it regularly. Hermes webmail allows you to access your email using a web browser, making it is accessible from an Internet-connected system anywhere in the world. You can also reconfigure Outlook (Windows), Apple Mail (Mac OS X, macOS and Apple iOS) and Evolution (Linux) by following this link: help.uis.cam.ac.uk/service/email.

| MCR Mailing List

The MCR mailing list is our primary method to send out information about MCR-related activities, or other college/university notifications. You should be automatically signed up when you arrive in Cambridge, with your Cambridge email address. This process is not instant, so until this happens, information will be posted to the QMCR website and Freshers' Facebook group. If you have not received an email from the mailing list two weeks after arrival, email MCR Secre-

tary, so that we can add you. Please check the website initially, as changes to timetables may occur. The QMCR Newsletter is sent to the QMCR mailing list on a weekly basis during term time, and also when news appears during the vacation periods, containing notifications about events, studies and competitions. If you want to advertise events or opportunities, email information to MCR Secretary so that it can be included.

Pigeon Hole

A pigeon hole, or 'pidge' is your mailbox in college. You will have one in the porter's lodge, and another in your place of residence, if it is a college property. Check this early and often, as a lot of information will come through it in the first couple of weeks.



| Getting a Gown

The gown, a vital part of college attire, is worn for formal hall in Queens' and in many other colleges, for the matriculation photograph and dinner, graduation, and on a number of other occasions. Ordinarily, a limited number of second-hand gowns are available from the MCR, though owing to current circumstances an alternative will likely be put in place.

Ryder & Amies also sell ex-rental gowns: you can order online at ryderamies.co.uk. If you do not already hold a Cambridge degree, your gown depends upon your age - the course you are studying is irrelevant.

There are typically two types of gown worn by graduate students:

BA Status Gown

BA status is held by graduate students at the University who do not already possess a Cambridge degree and are under the age of 24.

MA Status Gown

MA status is held by graduate students at the University who do not already possess a Cambridge degree and are 24 or older. If you are turning 24 during the year, the college doesn't mind if you wear an MA or BA gown.

For those who already possess a Cambridge degree, a flowchart detailing which gown to wear can be found at qmcr.org.uk.





| UPAY

There are a number of different ways of dining at Queens'. Most of these require payment via UPAY. Setting up UPAY as soon as you arrive is useful. To activate your account, follow these steps:

1. Go to: upaychilli.com.
2. Click on "register for a UPAY account" in the right hand menu.
3. The client/Company ID for Queens' college is 32.
4. Your user ID is found on the back of your university card in the bottom left hand corner before the forward slash, e.g. xy1234t.
5. Enter your full Cambridge email address, e.g. abc123@cam.ac.uk.
6. An email will be sent to you (this may take 30 mins to 1 hour, but may be much faster). Once you have received the email go back to the UPAY website and use the "log in" option, entering in the username and password emailed to you.
7. Follow the on-screen instructions to create your account.



| Buttery (Cafeteria)

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in college (Cripps Hall) during the week, with brunch and dinner available at the weekend. The buttery menu can be viewed in the catering section of the Queens' main website: [queens](https://queens.cam.ac.uk).

cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/domestic/catering. Payments in the buttery may be made with your university card, or by cash for guests. Your college card can be linked to your bank account on the UPAY website.

Opening times (subject to change)

Termtime

Breakfast	08:15 – 09:30	Mon-Fri
Lunch	12:30 – 14:00	Mon-Fri
Brunch	11:00 – 13:30	Sat & Sun
Dinner	17:45 – 19:00	every day

Out of term

Breakfast	08:15 – 09:30	Mon-Fri
Lunch	12:30 – 13:30	Mon-Sat
Brunch	12:30 – 13:30	Sun only
Dinner	18:00 – 19:00	every day

| QBar & Café

Queens' bar offers a wide selection of quality lagers, ciders and wines, different ales on tap, a range of spirits, and a selection of soft drinks as well as an ever increasing and morphing range of cocktails. It also serves a selection of bar snacks, sandwiches and coffee to get you through the long night.

The bar is one of the main social hubs in college and has a great atmosphere in the evenings, with incredibly friendly staff, who are always willing to listen to suggestions or comments. It has two pool tables and a dart board, as well as a projector for screening of sports matches. If you'd like a particular program/match to be shown, simply ask the staff and providing it doesn't clash with another event they'll be more than happy to oblige. The Café opens daily in the same place during the week, serving handmade sandwiches to order, cakes and barista coffee.

Opening times (subject to change)

QBar (during term)

18:30 – 23:00 Sun – Thu
18:30 – 23:30 Fri – Sat

Café (during term)

10:30 – 17:00 Mon – Fri





| Formal Hall

Formal hall is a 3-course set menu which is served from 19:30. As a Queens' member, you are required to wear a gown. Formals are booked via the UPAY, where dietary requirements may be specified; you can invite up to 3 guests in addition to yourself; arrangements for larger groups or society dinners can be made through the MCR steward, contacted at mcr-steward@queens.cam.ac.uk. Formal attire is required for all attending. MCR-only formals are served each week during term time, and alternate between Tuesday and Thursday. It is customary to bring your own wine.

A typical MCR Formal Hall schedule:

Sherry is served from 19:00 in the Woodville room before formal hall; you should be seated by 19:30 in Cripps Hal. The dinner starts with a gong (all rise) and the Fellows enter sitting at the high table. A Latin grace is then said by an undergraduate scholar before the meal is served. After the meal, a gong sounds again (all rise) and an after-dinner grace is said by a presiding Fellow. The fellows leave the hall to the SCR and the rest of night is ours. There will be tea or coffee, and the MCR provides a glass of port. QBar is always a good place to go for post-formal drinks and mingles.

| Library

Queens' offers a library for all college members, providing convenient access to books and other resources across almost every discipline, alongside study space, internet access and printing services. The college librarian (Dr Tim Eggington, librarian@queens.cam.ac.uk) and library staff (library@queens.cam.ac.uk) run workshops throughout the year, and a regular graduate writing session each week in term time. All resources across the University are searchable online using iDiscover (<http://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk>), and the University publishes a helpful guide at <https://camguides.lib.cam.ac.uk/index.html>.

War Memorial Library

This is the principle library for students, providing a pleasant place to study and an ample stock of books for most subjects. Open 7am-2am daily.

Old Library

Founded in 1448, the Old Library is one of Cambridge's oldest and finest libraries, and houses a collection of 30,000 early printed books and manuscripts. Open for visiting periodically, or arrange a visit by contacting the College Librarian.





| IT and Computing

The college has computing facilities by way of two computer rooms: one in Essex Building on the main college site, and another at Owlstone Croft. Both provide PCs and Macs on the University network, and printing facilities.

Black-and-white printing and colour printing are available for a small fee; you can purchase printer credits following the instructions here: <https://help.uis.cam.ac.uk/service/printing>.

WiFi is available throughout college and in all graduate accommodation, and Ethernet is available in every student room. Setup instructions for new students can be found online (<https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/teaching-learning/computing/new-students>) and the college's IT department (helpdesk@queens.cam.ac.uk) can be contacted with any problems.

| Guest Nights & Feasts

Guest nights are special occasions where you may invite friends or family to a dinner in our medieval Old Hall, generally considered one of the finest in Oxbridge.

Feasts are another opportunity to dine in Old Hall, with a five course menu and wine included. The MCR's feasts are one of the highlights of each term, and prove exceptionally popular events with high attendance.

One MCR feast is held each term, and you are guaranteed to attend at least one during your time at Queens'.

Places at guest nights and feasts are allocated by ballot, with those who have not previously attended given priority for places. More information will be provided by the MCR Steward when the application for places opens.





| Super Hall & Formal Exchanges

Super Halls and Formal Exchanges are excellent opportunities to meet graduate students from other colleges in Cambridge. Queens' Super Halls are held in the Old Hall and tickets are split between Queens' MCR and MCR of several other colleges, usually through a ballot sys-

tem. You can apply for one ticket for yourself and you are encouraged to socialise with our guests! Formal Exchanges are regular events where Queens' MCR visits other colleges. Our Formal Exchanges Officer will organise and advertise those events.

| Events & Parties

The MCR team puts on a wide range of different parties and events which are advertised on the termcard listed on the MCR website. These include wine & cheese evenings, parties in the Woodville Room, quizzes, trips,

welfare and LGBTQ+ events. If hosting a party in college, feel free to contact the ENTS officers for advice on the permission process.





| MCR-SCR Talks

The MCR-SCR Talks offer a great opportunity to learn more about the academic careers of other students at Queens'. Graduate students of the college and college fellows can give a short presentation (~20 minutes) on their topic to a supportive audience of members of the MCR and SCR. The talks are an opportunity for academic enrichment outside your subject area, and are often followed by a dinner in Cripps Hall with fellows and other members of the MCR.

| Alumni Series

Founded in 2019, the MCR Alumni Series aims to bring influential former students and close friends of Queens' to speak to our members. Last year saw speakers from astronaut Michael Foale, to influential businessman David Cleeveley CBE. We hope to bring a variety of eminent figures over the coming year, so look out for more detail as events are confirmed.



| Sports

There are plenty of opportunities to join a variety of clubs at Cambridge, both in college and in the wider university. Sport is an important part of student life at Queens' - ranging from playing for fun and exercise to pursuing elite level challenges. The College has a fine sporting tradition, producing many Olympians and other international

athletes. The Sports Ground at Barton Road is one of the best in Cambridge and short cycle ride away. See the college and MCR websites for more on what goes on:
queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens
qmcr.org.uk/college-life/sports-and-societies

Queens' College Boat Club (QCBC)

QCBC is the biggest society of Queens' College and provides all current students of the college with the opportunity to row and/or cox, with any level of prior experience. Beginner graduate students start rowing in October; as do coxes, who steer the boats. All college crews take part in the famous 'Bumps races' on the river Cam. Check qcbc.soc.srcf.net for further details and email queens.captain@cucbc.org with enquiries.

Queens' College Association Football Club

All levels encouraged, and we have a particularly strong women's team. Contact mcr-clubs-socs@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Queens' College Rugby Club

QCRC encompass both a Men's and Women's rugby union team, which compete in the College rugby leagues. Contact mcr-clubs-socs@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Queens' College Cricket Club

The Club runs a JCR XI and an MCR XI in both the Cuppers and League competitions and would like to encourage a Women's team to play. MCR Cricket is great fun in the summer; all levels welcome. Contact mcr-clubs-socs@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Queens' Sports Ground

Located close to college, with football, rugby, lacrosse and cricket pitches, netball courts, grass and hard tennis courts, and available for use by all college members. Contact sportsground@queens.cam.ac.uk.

MCR Squash

From beginners to county level. Courts are booked in the Porter's Lodge, where keys are kept, and rackets and balls are in the Woodville Room. Climb the college ladder! Contact mcr-clubs-socs@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Multigym

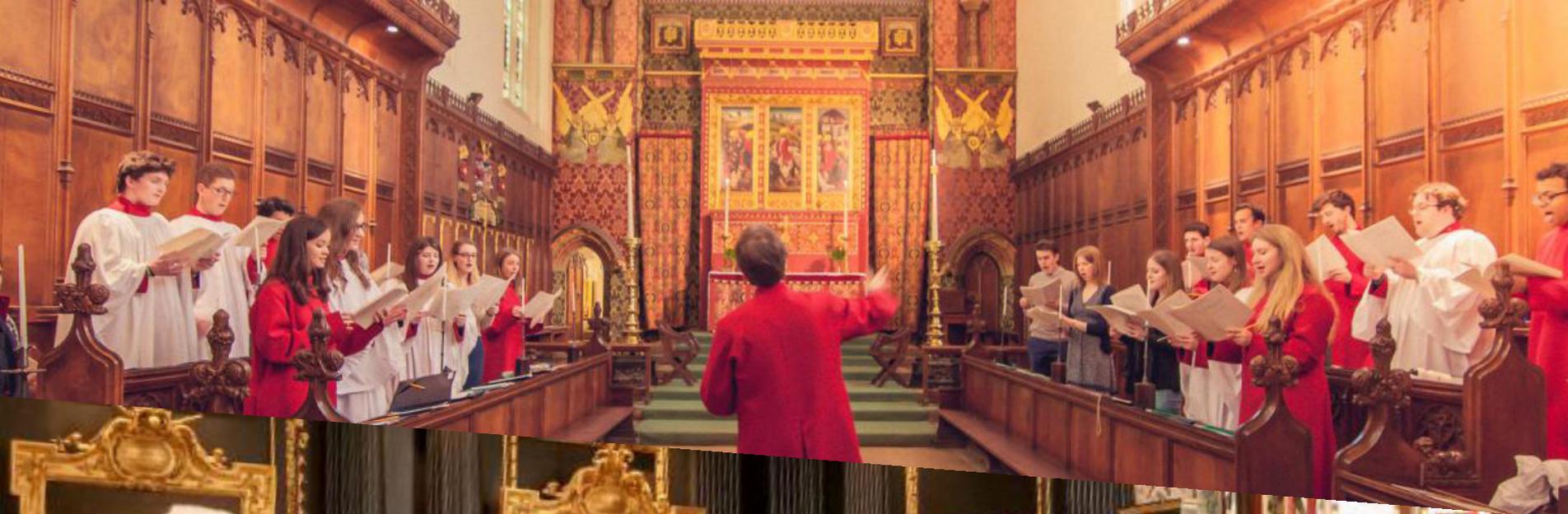
Membership is limited to 250 people. Email gym@queens.cam.ac.uk and fill out the application form here: www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/sports/multigym.

Running

The MCR run club meets every Sunday at 11am, open to all abilities. Contact mcr-clubs-socs@queens.cam.ac.uk.

Badminton

Fitzpatrick Hall can be booked and arrangements will be communicated later. Contact mcr-clubs-socs@queens.cam.ac.uk.



| Music, Arts & Drama

St Margaret's Society of Queens' (MagSoc)

MagSoc is the student music society of Queens'. It is one of the largest and most inclusive music societies in Cambridge, with activities ranging from jazz sets to operas! Whether you are an experienced instrumentalist, or a complete novice, you are sure to find a group which suits your tastes. Visit magsoc.soc.srcf.net for more information.

Queens' College Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir (queenscollegechoir.co.uk) is one of the finest mixed choirs in Cambridge, with a busy schedule of services, concerts, tours and recordings. The choir is run by the Organ Scholars in conjunction with the Chaplain, and the services and concerts are conducted by Ralph Allwood, who is a Fellow Commoner of the College.

BATS

BATs is the renowned drama group at Queens' that has traditionally put on Shakespearean plays in Cloister Court each summer, as well as a variety of other productions. Find out more: queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/music-arts-drama/bats.

Queens' Graduate Choir

The Graduate Choir is a friendly, relaxed and welcoming (audition-free) music group. It organises weekly rehearsals (usually on Thursday evenings in the Chapel) and covers a great variety of music. One of its traditions is to perform Christmas Carols during the MCR Christmas formals. Contact Will Rose (wr268@cam.ac.uk) to get involved.



| Welfare System

We hope you feel welcome here during your time at Cambridge. Our MCR provides information, welfare, support and representation for every graduate student. Queens' has one of the most robust student welfare systems in Cambridge. Alongside regular welfare events run by our MCR Welfare Officer, including tea times, movie nights, walks and much more, support is offered by the Graduate Tutors and welfare staff in college. The Graduate Tutors provide individual, dedicated support and advocacy to students, and help represent graduate interests at college level. They also periodically invite their tutees to Mid-Table Dinner, a free formal with an extra course!

If you would like to speak to someone, you can always email our current Welfare Officer with your concerns. In addition, Queens' has a Clinical Lead, Dean of Chapel, Chaplain, and two Counsellors available (The Welfare Team) to deal with any personal issues that may come up during or as a part of your degree. Academic issues (or any other issues) can always be brought to your Graduate Tutor. Visit college website welfare section for more: www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/student-health-welfare.

Who to talk to?

Welfare Officer

Any welfare-related issue can be raised with our Welfare Officer, Elizabeth Weir, who can listen, signpost, and provide counsel as a fellow MCR member. You can email to raise an issue, or schedule a meeting to discuss an issue privately. She can introduce you to additional resources if you are a parent. She can also provide pregnancy tests in your pigeonhole (in an unmarked envelope), and free condoms, tea, coffee, and biscuits are available in the MCR welfare cupboard.

Graduate Tutors

They are great people to talk to if you are experiencing a problem related to your supervision, accommodation, administration, or academic performance, serious personal issue or financial problem which cannot be resolved through your department. Talking over matters with a tutor is helpful; they can also help as an academic advocate in matters related to the university, college and finance, with the dedication to providing pastoral care.

College Counsellors

Anna Reali (welfare.anna@queens.cam.ac.uk) is an experienced counsellor, with particular expertise in life transitions, relationships, anxiety and stress-related issues, and self-esteem; Emily Farrar (welfare.emily@queens.cam.ac.uk) is a mental health nurse, offering support and guidance to students with medical health difficulties.

Clinical Lead

The college's Clinical Lead (nurse@queens.cam.ac.uk) has experience in a wide range of physical health and welfare issues and can offer advice and support any health-related issue during your time at Cambridge.

Dean of Chapel & Head of Welfare

Our Dean of Chapel and Head of Welfare, Revd Tim Harling, is available to talk with all students confidentially (note there is no need to be of the Christian faith). He is also available to enable and inform students about different faiths or spiritual health issues in College and across Cambridge.

Chaplain

The Chaplain, Revd Max Bayliss, is always happy to meet and discuss anything with any member of the college.

The Porters

For emergencies and serious situations, contact the Porters (in person or via phone: 01223 335511). They can handle almost anything and can contact anybody needed quickly.

Assault and Harassment Officers

Two Assault and Harassment officers, Revd Tim Harling and Dr Jane Garrison (hao@queens.cam.ac.uk), are available to confidentially disclose any assault or harassment that you have faced.

Women's Officer

There are many resources available for women students and researchers. Any women-specific issue can be raised with our Women's Officer, Aihong Li.

LGBTQ+ Officer

Susie Bower-Brown and Marcos Fernández-Álvarez can guide you to relevant resources, social scenes, and events.

Diversity Officer

Any diversity-related (including BME-related) issue can be raised with our Diversity Officer, Sophia Salma.

| LGBTQ+ at Queens'

Queens' is a place where you can be yourself. The College is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination and affirms the right of all members of the College and its staff to be treated with dignity. Our MCR works closely with the college to promote equality and diversity by ensuring our members are aware of the welfare provisions offered both within the college and the wider university as well as increasing the visibility of LGBTQ+ community. Our LGBTQ+ Officer provides welfare support and organises events, from afternoon teas and film evenings to LGBTQ+ formals, club nights and pub

crawls – there's something for everyone. We treat all members of the community equally and respectfully, however you identify, and encourage friends of LGBTQ+ to get involved, too. Reach us on mcr-lgbt@queens.cam.ac.uk, we can act as a contact point for anyone questioning their sexuality or wanting LGBTQ+-specific advice or support. Subscribe to our email list at Lists at Cam: lists.cam.ac.uk (log in with Raven and search for `quen-mcr-lgbt`). We use this to keep you up to date with LGBTQ+ news in college, and to publicise more impromptu events, so make sure you don't miss out!





| College Community

Graduate Director of Studies

A new scheme from Queens' for the coming academic year, all incoming graduate students will be assigned a Graduate Director of Studies (GDoS). These aim to be large groups of students with broadly similar academic focus. In addition to your courses and relationships with your supervisors, your GDoS is a source of broader networking and a bridge into the college's academic community, facilitating contact with others working in the same or related disciplines. We hope that you'll meet your GDoS early in Michaelmas term, and throughout the year at social events, dinners, or speaker events.

College Family

Before you arrive this autumn, you'll be introduced to your new *college family*. With two existing students and a handful of incoming MCR members, you'll become part of a small, informal group of students across disciplines, degrees, and years. The perfect opportunity not only to make new friends, but also to gain advice from current students, your college parents will be in touch in the near future.



| International Students & Practical Guide



Some of this content has been prepared by us, and some is from the 'University of Cambridge International Student Guide', which we suggest you read, with information on university services:

www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/files/international_student_guide.pdf

It's also worth checking out the international student's portal:

www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk

Information and guidelines for international students in the current climate are changing all the time so please do look for the latest government guidance. Here we have detailed the "normal" advice which you will then need to adapt. Please don't hesitate to get in touch and we will do our best to help understand the current requirements you might face.

Jenna Foale, our International Rep, can advise and listen to international students whenever a problem comes up.



Planning Your Journey to Cambridge

By Air

Cambridge is served by five main airports: Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick, City and Luton. Trains from the airport will stop at Cambridge Station. Coaches will stop at Parkside. Taxis are available from the airports or can be pre-booked but will be very expensive.

From Stansted: take either a direct train or coach. Further details are outlined at www.stanstedairport.com/getting-to-and-from/cambridge.

From Heathrow: take a coach direct to Cambridge; journey times and ticket costs are outlined at www.nationalexpress.com Alternatively, you can take the train to Cambridge from King's Cross Station - first take the Piccadilly Line on the London Underground to King's Cross or take the Heathrow Express to Paddington Station and change to the Circle or Hammersmith and City lines on the London Underground to King's Cross.

From Gatwick: take a coach direct to Cambridge; journey times and ticket costs are outlined at www.nationalexpress.com. A direct train to Cambridge is available but check journey times at thameslinkrailway.com. Alternatively take

the train to St Pancras Station, which is adjacent to King's Cross, where you can take a train to Cambridge. Check journey time and costs at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

From London City: Take the DLR (Docklands Light Railway) to Bank Underground Station, change to the Northern Line to King's Cross and then a train to Cambridge. Check journey time and costs at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

From Luton: take a National Express coach from Luton to Cambridge. Check journey time and ticket costs at www.nationalexpress.com.

By Train

There are direct trains from King's Cross and Liverpool Street Stations in central London, which take about one hour to Cambridge. For further information visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

By Road

If you are traveling by car, please obey the traffic restriction in Silver Street, and telephone the Porter's Lodge in advance to arrange temporary parking whilst you unload, on 01223 335511.



UK Visas and Immigration

Collecting Your Visa

UK visas are in the form of a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP): these look like ID cards. Visas are collected at the location given in the letter notifying you of your successful application- typically either at a Post Office or at the University (whichever you put on the application form). You must collect your visa within 10 days of arrival in the UK, or prior to the expiry of your 30-day entry permit (whichever is later). More information is found at the international student's portal as well as the UK government website: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits.

Police Registration & Reporting

Some international students need to register with the police as they arrive at the UK- this includes all over the age of 16, not from the Commonwealth or EEA countries, with visas to enter the UK for a period of over six months. Registration should be done at the Aliens Registration Office, Parkside Police Station, Cambridge, within a few days of arrival; you will be required to pay a fee of approximately £34 pounds, paid

in cash or card, which may be increased shortly, and provide two passport size photographs of yourself. Bring your BRP, and the decision letter notifying you of your successful visa application. You will also need to complete a form. You must book an appointment in advance by emailing ovrd@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

If you have studied in the UK before, but are in Cambridge for the first time, you must inform the police of your new details at the Parkside Police Station; there is no need to make an appointment. You will need to take your passport, certificate of registration and BRP (if received).

Once you have received your visa and permission to enter the UK, you must comply with specific reporting requirements: within one or two days of arrival, you must take your passport and biometric card (if applicable) to the tutorial reception office (first floor, Essex building). A copy of your documents will be taken, and you will be asked to sign a register. Failure to comply with this could result in your visa being revoked and expulsion from the UK.

More details on: www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/tier-4-responsibilities/police-registration.



Healthcare & NHS

The National Health Service (NHS) is the main healthcare system in the UK. You are eligible for treatment by the NHS if you are resident in the UK, or if you are studying full time on a course that will last longer than 6 months. The NHS website (www.nhs.uk) has a wealth of information on health services in your area, conditions, well-being issues and costs. Should you need to get over-the-counter medications or skincare products, your go-to stores would be Boots and Superdrug. Both can be found in the city centre.

You need to register with a medical GP surgery. A list of local surgeries can be found on the Queens' website: www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/gp_surgeries_cambridge_aug_2018.pdf.



Getting a British Bank Account

When you open a bank account, the bank will expect to see a letter proving that you are a student. You can request a bank letter electronically by completing the online request form on the college website: www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/documents-policy/forms/bank-letter-to-open-a-uk-bank-account. The letter should arrive about a week or so after you return the form (bear in mind there will be 200 letters for the college to write, so please be patient).



Major banks that you can find in Cambridge are:

HSBC 

 BARCLAYS

LLOYDS BANK 

 RBS


NatWest

 Santander

Mobile Service Providers

There are four major providers in the UK: EE, O2, Three, and Vodafone. You can find shops for each of those in the Grand Arcade shopping complex in the center of the city. In addition to these, there are also smaller providers such as GiffGaff and Lyca Mobile. These tend to have cheaper deals for international calling as well as data; it's worth shopping around especially if you're here for multiple years.



UK Electricity

Amongst all the other things internationals are thinking about upon arrival, the fine details of the UK electricity system are often forgotten! If you are bringing electrical products from other countries you will probably need an adaptor for connecting them to UK sockets, and should check the voltage and frequency in case you will need a convertor. In England the power sockets are of type G, the standard voltage is 230 V, and the frequency is 50 Hz.





Religion

Queens' college has a chapel in which Church of England (Anglican) services are held during term. All members of the College can participate, whatever their religious beliefs or denomination. The Chaplain and Dean of Chapel organise the religious life of the College can help and advise all members of College, regardless of their religious beliefs. Great St Mary's is the University Church, and Cambridge has a wide variety of churches and other places of worship, including the University's

Catholic Chaplaincy (Fisher House, near the market-place) a Catholic Church (Corner of Lensfield Rd and Hills Rd), the Eden Baptist Church (Eden Street, near the Grafton Centre), a Presbyterian Church (near Wolfson College), and the Cambridge Mosque (on Mawson Road). There are two synagogues: The Orthodox Synagogue (Thompson's Lane) and The Reform Synagogue, Beth Shalom, and many other religious societies: cam.ac.uk/societies.

Bicycles

Bicycles are the primary mode of transport for most students at Cambridge. Check out this webpage for more information on purchasing, cycling law, registration and lots of useful links: studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/welfare/cycling. Always make sure to lock up well when your bicycle is left unattended. Bicycles must be registered with the Porter's Lodge: they will give you a unique ID

number for it on a green sticker, which must be placed on the bicycle in a visible location if you want to park it in college. This is very helpful in the event of theft, as the police can contact you via the porters if your bicycle is recovered, and will prevent your bicycle being cleared out with abandoned ones.



Groceries

There are three big supermarket chains in Cambridge – Sainsbury's, Co-op and (the slightly more pricey) M&S, plus a big Tesco a little further out. There are also other, less numerous outlets, such as Aldi. Generally, the Co-op is a little more expensive than Sainsbury's, whilst Aldi and Tesco are typically cheaper.





Shopping

Shops are concentrated in the city centre and there are several shopping malls in Cambridge.

Grand Arcade is Cambridge's newest shopping centre where you can find both stylish and high street brands, a John Lewis flagship store and the Apple Store.

Lion Yard Shopping Centre is right next to the Grand Arcade and you can find a good mix of high street brands.

The Grafton, a short walk across Christ's Pieces, is a shopping centre with high street names, including Debenhams, as well as fashion stores galore, cafes, restaurants and a Vue Cinema.

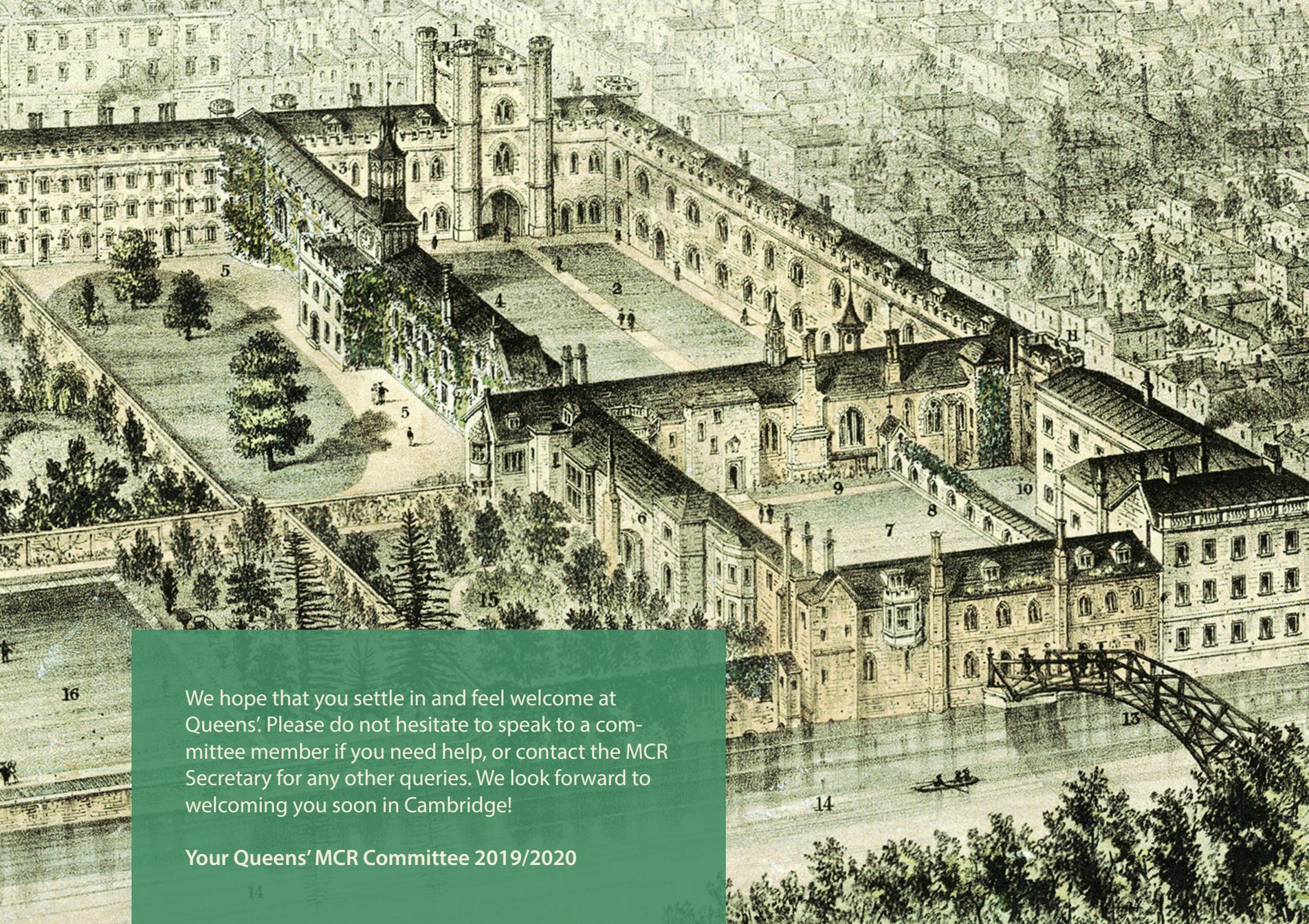
Mill Road, off Parker's Piece, is the city's bohemian area hosting a diverse range of international restaurants and shops.

Cambridge Leisure Centre is located not far from the railway station and is home to The Light Cinema, ten-pin bowling, Tesco and Sainsbury's Supermarket and a range of restaurants.

Climate

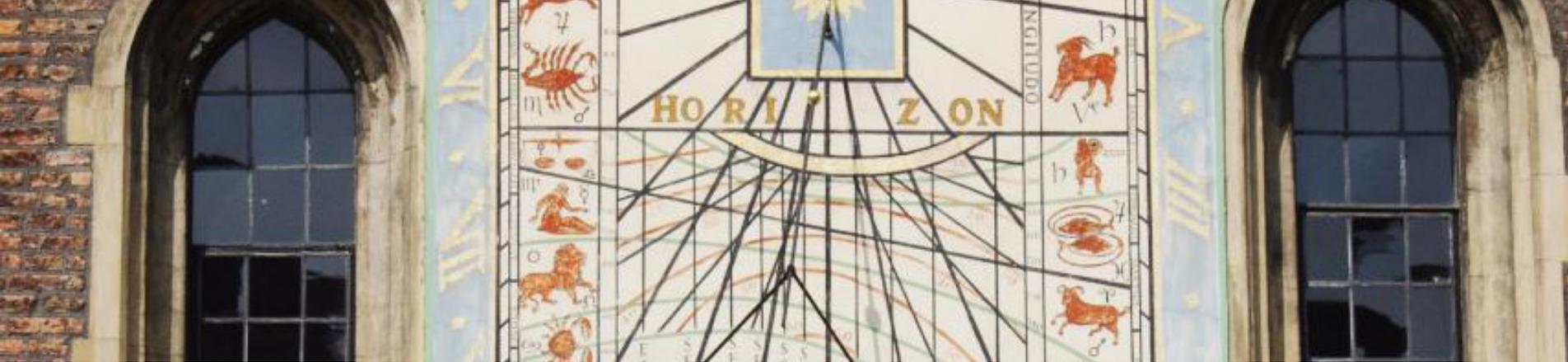
English weather is notoriously unpredictable; September/October is typically between mild and very cold. Warm clothing for winter is essential. It's wisest to invest in a warm, waterproof coat and footwear to get you through an English winter. Summers vary, though in 2019 Cambridge recorded the highest temperature the UK has ever seen.





We hope that you settle in and feel welcome at Queens'. Please do not hesitate to speak to a committee member if you need help, or contact the MCR Secretary for any other queries. We look forward to welcoming you soon in Cambridge!

Your Queens' MCR Committee 2019/2020



QMCR Committee 2019/2020 onward

Senior Members

Given the current situation, the college has asked our current MCR committee to remain in post. As such, these pages describe the current committee. Though a number of the positions may change, almost everyone here will remain a friendly face at Queens' over the coming year. All email addresses will remain active even as those in the role may change.



William Ackernely | President
mcr-president@queens.cam.ac.uk

I liaise with the college, university officials and governance bodies, representing the interests of the MCR, negotiate issues affecting Queens' graduate students, and chair/run the MCR committee.



Samuel Bell | Secretary
mcr-secretary@queens.cam.ac.uk

I assist in committee management, handle the college communications, keep record of events, administer the website, and construct the weekly newsletter. I listen and help out wherever needed.



Claire Fielding | Treasurer
mcr-treasurer@queens.cam.ac.uk

I'm in charge of the MCR accounts, and keep track of all the financial matters relating to MCR business. I also collate and express views of MCR members regarding financial matters to College.

Piet Lammers, Arian Jamasb, Paul Miller & Alexandra Nikolaeva | Ents Officers

mcr-ents@queens.cam.ac.uk

We coordinate and organise events – everything from parties, wine and cheese events in the Old Hall to the annual exchange with our sister college, Pembroke in Oxford. We build the QMCR community within and beyond the college through events and activities! Your time at Queens' will be memorable!



Aracely Castillo-Venzor | Steward

mcr-steward@queens.cam.ac.uk

I organise formals, guest nights and feasts on behalf of the MCR, working with the Catering Department in college. If you wish to organise a formal for a larger group of friends, please contact me. I urge you to attend as many MCR formals as you can!



Freddy Markanday | Woodville Steward

mcr-room-steward@queens.cam.ac.uk

I serve drinks before formals and have responsibility for the MCR Combination Rooms and communal space. I also manage the college punts, and obtain port wine and sherry on the MCR's behalf.



Vivek Badiani | Formal Exchanges Officer

mcr-exchanges@queens.cam.ac.uk

I organise formal hall exchanges with other colleges during the year. These are a great chance to meet students at other colleges, as well as exploring Cambridge's college cultures and cuisines.



Andrea Wessendorf | Academic Officer

mcr-academic@queens.cam.ac.uk

I organise the MCR-SCR talks series, and other MCR events related to academic life whilst in college. Get in touch if you want to give a talk, or to find out more!

Welfare and Support



Elizabeth Weir | Welfare Officer

mcr-welfare@queens.cam.ac.uk

I am here to help, advise and listen to you whenever a problem comes up. Contact me privately about stress issues, emotional problems, sexual health, disability, academic or personal matters. I run regular tea events for general relaxation, plus post-brunch walks at weekends.



Aihong Li | Women's Officer

mcr-womens-welfare@queens.cam.ac.uk

I take care of women's issues within the MCR community: please get in touch with me if you have any issues or concerns.

Susie Bower-Brown & Marcos Fernández-Álvarez | LGBTQ+ Officers

mcr-lgbt@queens.cam.ac.uk

We take care of all things LGBTQ+, organising various LGBTQ+ events for the community to join together and hang out. Come and get involved!



Sophia Salma | Diversity Officer

mcr-diversity@queens.cam.ac.uk

I take care of matters related to inclusion and integration with a view to promoting diversity. I'm here to help if you have any concerns settling in, dealing with barriers and cultural shifts and have any issues regarding educational, social and cultural engagement.





Jenna Foale | International Rep

mcr-international@queens.cam.ac.uk

I am here to help, advise and listen to international students whenever a problem comes up. Contact me privately about stress issues, emotional problems, sexual health, disability, academic or personal matters.

Roohia Salma | External Rep

mcr-external@queens.cam.ac.uk

I am the Queens' MCR representative to the Graduate Union, and deal with external matters in the university that concern Queens' graduate students, voting on behalf of QMCR.



David Brossault | Sports Officer

mcr-clubs-socs@queens.cam.ac.uk

I organise and promote a number of sports societies across the college, and signpost to other sports or societies-related activities across the University and Cambridge.

Adam Pullen | Owlstone Rep

mcr-owlstone-rep@queens.cam.ac.uk

I represent the interests of the members who reside at Owlstone Croft: if you have any concerns or ideas, please get in touch.



Brett Cotton | First Year Rep

mcr-firstyear@queens.cam.ac.uk

I represent first year students, helping when needed and making sure that the interests of those on one-year courses are taken into account. Elections for a new First Year Rep. will be held in the middle of Michaelmas term.

Queens' Main Site Map

Entrances

1. Porters' Lodge on Silver St (pedestrian)
2. Great Gate on Queens' Ln (visitor's)
3. Fisher Gate on Silver St (vehicular)
4. Dokket Building on Queens' Ln

Courts, Lawns & Gardens

5. Old Court
6. Cloister Court
7. Walnut Tree Court
8. Friars' Court
9. Erasmus Lawn (Fellows' Garden)
10. President's Garden
11. Cripps Court
12. Lyon Court
13. The Grove
14. Rooftop Garden

Buildings

15. Old Hall
16. Library
17. Chapel
18. President's Lodge
19. Essex Building
20. Walnut Tree Building

21. Frairs' Building
22. Erasmus Building
23. Dokket Building
24. Fisher Building
25. Cripps Building

Halls, Rooms & Facilities

26. Woodville Room (MCR)
27. QBar & Cafe
28. Conservatory
29. Old Kitchen
30. Cripps Hall
31. Fitzpatrick Hall
32. Tutorial/Admission Office (1st floor)
33. Junior Combination Room (JCR)
34. Senior Combination Room (SCR)
35. Old SCR (OSCR)
36. Munro Room
37. Armitage Room (1st floor)
38. Erasmus Room (1st floor)
39. Bowett Room & Squash Courts
40. Health Care
41. College Punts
42. Music Rooms (Basement)



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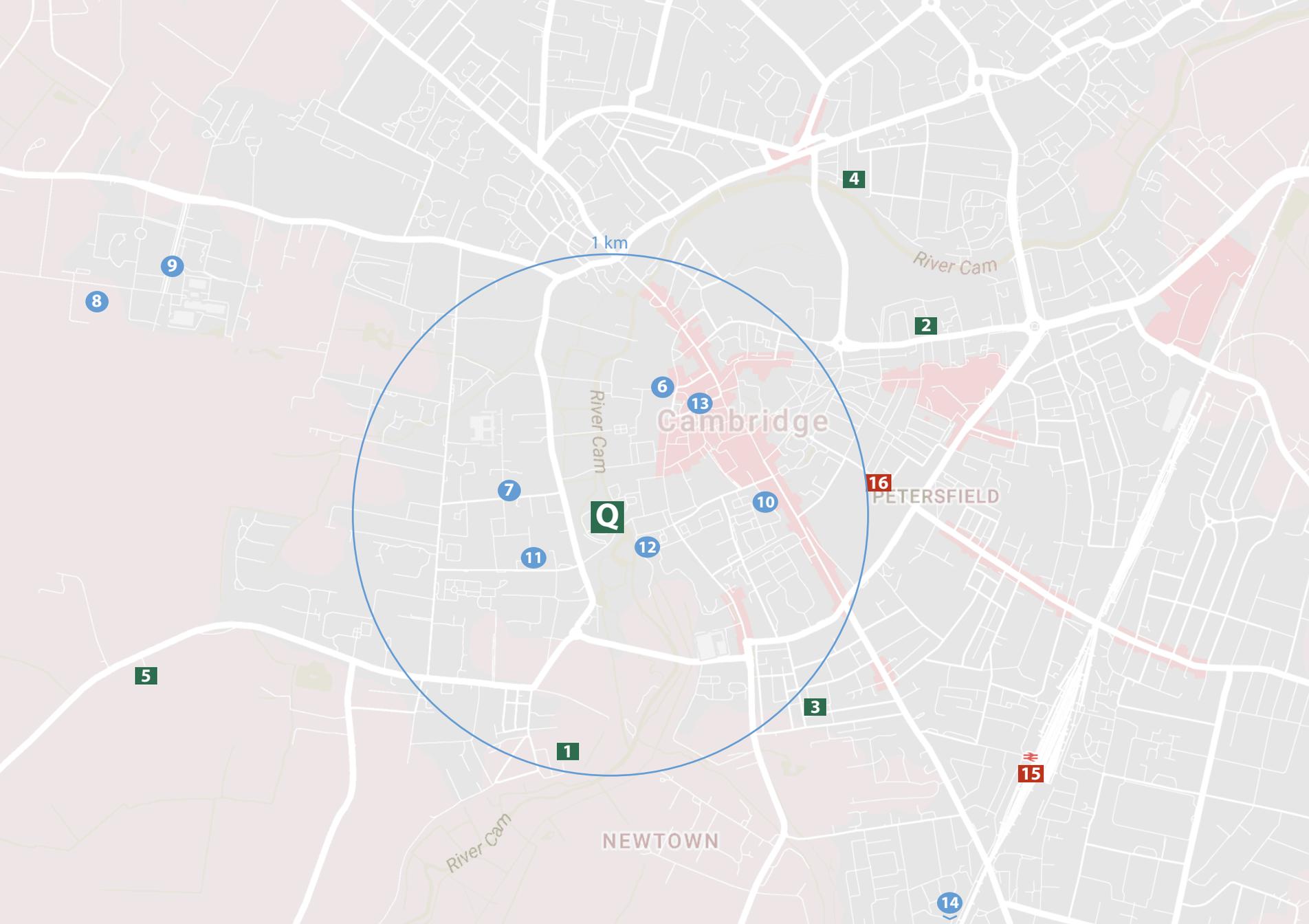
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Orientation in Cambridge

Queens' Graduate Accomodations

1. Owlstone Croft
2. Maids Causway Houses
3. Panton St & Norwich St Houses
4. Trafalgar St Houses (over the Boat House)

Queens' Boat House & Sports Ground

4. Queens' Boat House
5. Queens' Sports Ground

University Buildings

6. Senate House

7. University Library
8. University Sports Centre
9. West Cambridge Site
10. Downing Site
11. Sidgwick Site
12. University Centre
13. ADC Theatre
14. Addenbrook's Hospital

Cambridge Stations

15. Cambridge Rail Station
16. Cambridge Coach Station (City Centre)

Checklist upon Arrival

- Collect your University Card from the main site Plodge (Owlstone Plodge for Owlstone residents).
- Attend the Freshers' Week events! Check out our Freshers' Week Calendar and Guide.
- Locate your pigeon hole in the Plodge.
- Activate your Raven/Hermes account.
- Set up internet/Wi-Fi connections.
- Set up UPAY.
- Get a gown.
- Register with a local GP practice.
- Register your bicycle.

Useful Links

- Queens' College:
queens.cam.ac.uk
- Queens' MCR:
qmcr.org.uk
- Postgraduate Freshers 2020/2021 Facebook Group:
facebook.com/groups/340888203552494
- Queens' College Student Handbook:
queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents
- Queens' College Graduate Freshers Page:
queens.cam.ac.uk/apply-to-queens/incoming-students-freshers/graduate-freshers
- University New Student Portal:
cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/new-students
- University Student Wellbeing:
studentwellbeing.admin.cam.ac.uk
- Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU):
cusu.co.uk
- Cambridge University Graduate Union (GU):
gradunion.cam.ac.uk
- University International Student Guide:
internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/files/international_student_guide.pdf

Acknowledgements

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Samuel Bell & William Ackernley

