• Some prospective non-EEA students are required to apply for a standard visitor visa in advance of travelling to the UK to attend interview. This includes students from India, China, Pakistan and Serbia. The following tool can be used to check whether a visa needs to be obtained before entering the UK: www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa. ‘Tourism’ should be selected for the reason to come to the UK from the list provided.

• The cost of a standard visitor visa application is the equivalent of £87 in the local currency equivalent.

• Information on country-specific visa processing times is available at www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times. Select the city the visa application will be made, the visa category (Visit Visa) and the type (General Visit). Processing times in certain countries can take up to 3 weeks, or possibly longer if it is not considered to be a straightforward application.

• Many visa application centres overseas now offer a priority service which fast-tracks applications at a cost of £150 in the local currency equivalent in addition to the standard fee. The priority service in most countries aims to process applications within 5 days although this timeframe is not guaranteed. The visa processing time in Pakistan is generally longer, with the priority service taking 7 – 9 days.

• Prospective students with certain non-EEA nationalities do not need to obtain a visa in advance of travelling to the UK. They can request entry as a visitor at the port of entry on arrival in the UK. This includes nationals of the USA, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong.

• Colleges are advised to provide a letter to either support a visa application or for the prospective student to show on arrival in the UK to Border Force.

• The International Student Team can be contacted for further advice on applying for a visitor visa by emailing internationalstudents@admin.cam.ac.uk.