



THE NEW PETREAN

The MCR Guide for Peterhouse Students from Peterhouse Students

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INTRODUCTIONS

Dear New Petrean,

First of all, many congratulations on your graduate place at the University of Cambridge and admittance to Peterhouse: the oldest, smallest, and — in my opinion—best College in Cambridge!

At Matriculation during the first week of term, you will add your name to a list of distinguished Petreans which dates back to the founding of College in 1284 and which includes such imminent names as Lord Kelvin, Charles Babbage, Frank Whittle, and, more recently, David Mitchell, Sam Mendes, and Michael Portillo. Peterhouse's Hall, in which meals are still served to this day, is often claimed to be the 'oldest secular building in Europe still used for its original purpose,' in other words, the oldest dining hall still in use as a dining hall. Even the graffiti etched into the pews in the Chapel date back to the early 18th century (evidently undergraduates have changed little since then..). Peterhouse, however, does not just belong to the denizens of the past, but is now as much your College as it was theirs.



Whether you have had your heart set on joining us at Peterhouse since day one, chose us at random on your application, or were allocated here after applying, we hope that soon you will begin to see our College as an integral part of daily life and enjoy the lively community of our MCR (the best MCR in Cambridge).

The MCR, or Middle Combination Room, is Peterhouse's graduate society, named after the room in which we meet, socialise and generally live. Our graduate community is diverse, vibrant, and occasionally eccentric, boasting students from backgrounds as varied as our modern world itself. It is a wonderful community which brings together graduate students from other disciplines, cultures, and walks of life, and our hope is that it will be a place in which you might readily meet people outside of your faculty and academic circle.

We hope to expose you to the best Cambridge has to offer: candlelit dinners in Hall, garden parties in the Deer Park, welfare brunches, and, of course, copious amounts of port (for which Peterhouse is renowned!). The MCR aims to have something for every and all Petrean, regularly running events for specific groups such as International, LGBTQ+, BAME students, and more. We have a genuinely lovely and supportive small community here in which everyone is welcome – and we hope you will be keen to participate! In addition to organized events, the graduate common room is an excellent communal space in the ancient heart of College. Here you will be able to meet casually to read a magazine, drink a hot beverage, partake in post-dinner revelry, or simply enjoy the convivial atmosphere of the Peterhouse graduate community. The coffee machine never cools down!

This handbook should provide a starting point for learning about Peterhouse and Cambridge more generally, but if you have any questions (large or small!), don't hesitate to contact me or another member of the committee. Other questions can be directed to the appropriate member of College staff (see the directory below).

In the meantime, the Peterhouse MCR committee wishes you the warmest of welcomes, and we are looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Best wishes,

Freddie Follows
Peterhouse MCR President 2023-2024

The MCR Committee

The MCR Committee is an elected group of students who are responsible for representing postgraduate students and their interests within College.



Freddie Follows

President

mcr-pres@pet.cam.ac.uk

As President, Freddie is responsible for overseeing the work of the Committee and the general direction of the MCR.



Beatrix Huisoon

Secretary

mcr-sec@pet.cam.ac.uk

Our Secretary, Bea, handles administrative issues and queries, both from within College and externally. Amy is also the first year representative and makes sure new students have as smooth a start as possible when starting at Peterhouse.



William Moore

Treasurer

mcr-treas@pet.cam.ac.uk

Will is our Treasurer, and he is in charge of any financial matters relating to the MCR.



Konstanze Schichl

Social Secretary

mcr-soc-sec@pet.cam.ac.uk

Our Social Secretaries, Konstanze and Sumedh, organise a plethora of social events throughout the year, ranging from swaps to film nights. Get in touch if there is a particular event you'd like to see on the calendar!



Sumedh Kampli

Social Secretary

mcr-soc-sec@pet.cam.ac.uk

First Year Representative

mcr-first@pet.cam.ac.uk

Sumedh is also the First Year Representative and makes sure new students have as smooth a start as possible when starting at Peterhouse.



Bhumika Billa

Ethnic minorities officer

bb584@cam.ac.uk

The Ethnic minorities officer, Bhumika, helps promote inclusivity and representation for ethnic minority members of Peterhouse by organising events and acting as a point of contact



Irena Tetkovic

LGBTQ+ Officer

lgbtq@pet.cam.ac.uk

The LGBTQ+ officer, Irena, organises events within college and the wider community, as well as providing support and representation for members of the Peterhouse community who identify as LGBTQ+



Mowei Lu

International Officer

ml2010@cam.ac.uk

The International Officer, Mowei, is able to represent the views of the large international community at Peterhouse and help those arriving from another country in settling into the UK.

Key College Contacts

When you join the College, you don't just have to learn the names of your fellow students: there are all the College staff to get familiar with too. This table details many of the key College contacts that you might come across over your first few days or prove helpful over the course of your studies.



Prof. Andy Parker

Master

ajp212@cam.ac.uk

(The Master's Secretary, Alison Pritchard-Jones)

The Master is at the helm of the College and is also an active participant in MCR social events.



Revd. Dr Stephen Hampton

Dean & Senior Tutor

swph2@cam.ac.uk

The Dean is responsible for overseeing all students' academic and personal welfare during their time at the College.



Dr Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe

Graduate Tutor for the Arts

sjl39@cam.ac.uk

The Graduate Tutor for the Arts is available to assist students with personal, academic and welfare-related issues.



Dr Christopher Lester
Graduate Tutor for the Sciences
lester@hep.phy.cam.ac.uk

The Graduate Tutor for the Sciences can assist students with personal, academic and welfare-related issues.



Mr Peter Waughman
Head Porter
plodge@pet.cam.ac.uk

The Head Porter is responsible for running the Porter's Lodge and ensuring the general security of the College.



Revd. Jennifer Adams- Massmann
Assistant Chaplain and Welfare Coordinator
j.adams-massman@pet.cam.ac.uk

The assistant chaplain oversees Chapel services in College and can tell you who to contact for welfare issues.

ARRIVAL

When to Arrive

Most rooms will be available to incoming students in the first week of October. You can move in during this week whenever you prefer. However, you will need to liaise with the Accommodation Office and inform them of your day of arrival by email or through the “Booker” portal. They will then inform the Porters, who will be expecting you at the Porter’s Lodge and who will provide you with the room key.

We strongly recommend that all students spend Sunday night (1st October) in Cambridge, as your presence is needed on Monday (2nd October) for the Admissions Ceremony. If you move in too late, you might not have time to purchase a gown or attend the scheduled induction talks on Monday morning.

Getting to Cambridge

If you are flying to the UK, it may be most convenient to fly to London airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted etc.) for ease of transport to Cambridge. The closest airport is London-Stansted. Direct buses to Cambridge are available from all of those airports, with travel durations varying widely (trips of approximately 1 to 3 hours). In the case of Stansted, a direct train to

Cambridge is also available (trip of approximately 30 mins). If you are coming from Heathrow, catch the London Underground (Piccadilly Line) to King’s Cross Station from where you can get one of the regular trains to Cambridge.

We recommend checking timetables and reserving your bus/train connection to Cambridge before arrival and allowing plenty of time in the day for the transfer to Cambridge.

If you are travelling by train to Peterhouse, a useful website for checking train times and booking tickets is <http://nationalrail.co.uk>. Your destination should be “**Cambridge Station**”, **NOT** “**Cambridge North**”.

You can book coach travel in advance via the National Express (<http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>) or Megabus websites (<https://uk.megabus.com>). Your destination should be “Cambridge – Parkside” or “Cambridge – Centre”, both of which refer to the stops by Parker’s Piece Park in the centre of town. Incidentally, these bus stops are very close to the Peterhouse residences on Parkside and Warkworth Streets.

If you make a connection in London, we recommend the CityMapper app for all details on how to use the London underground and transfer from station to station.

Getting to Peterhouse

Once you arrive in Cambridge, you will need to pick up your room key, your University ID card and your Welcome Pack from the college. The first two will be given to you by the Porters at the Porter’s Lodge, which is just inside a black door at the entrance (where Google Maps will lead you if you search for “Peterhouse”). Your pack will be in an envelope at your designated pigeonhole in the MCR. If you have any questions or need directions, the porters are always very happy to help!

You can take a bus or taxi to Peterhouse or walk there. Taxis are available in front of the train station's entrance. The taxi fare should be approximately £8. Taxi companies include: Panther Taxis (01223 715715, www.panthertaxi.co.uk), CamCab (01223 704704, www.camcab.co.uk) and Uber.

Alternatively, you could get on the blue U - Bus (Stop 8 in front the train station) and get off at the Fitzwilliam Museum, which is located immediately next to Peterhouse. A timetable for the U bus can be found online at <http://www.thebusway.info/pdfs/tt/U.pdf>. This particular line is subsidised by the university; although on this first occasion you will probably have to pay the standard fare, it is worth remembering for future reference that once you have your university card, you can make any journey for only £1.

After receiving your key from the Porters at the Porter's Lodge you can proceed to your allocated room. College properties at Cosin Court and Fitzwilliam Street are in the immediate vicinity, while houses at Parkside and Warkworth Street are further away (10 to 15 minutes on foot). If you're not sure where to go, the porters can help direct you.

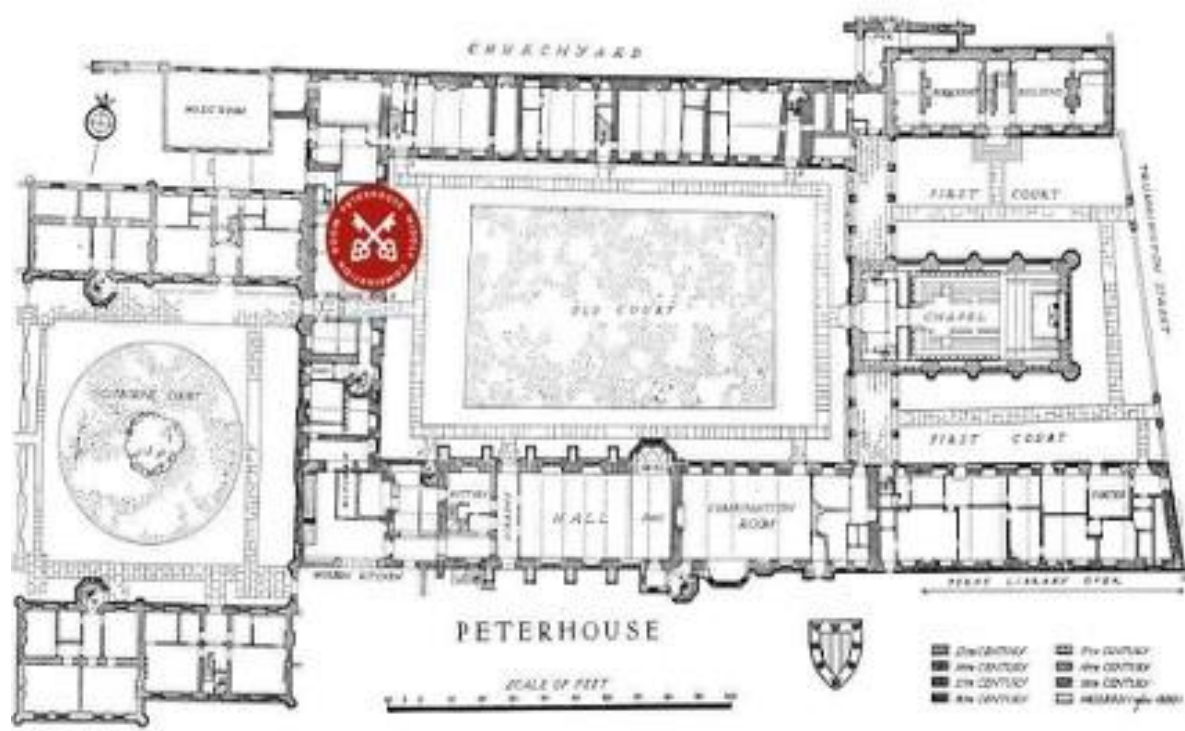
If you have been allocated a room in Parkside or Warkworth Street, members of the MCR Committee might be able to help you carry your luggage there, or (if you are arriving by bus to Parkside) let you into the properties before you receive your keys. Please contact mcr-first@pet.cam.ac.uk, with details of date and time, to arrange this. We will be more than happy to help!

Maps

For finding your way around Cambridge, it will be helpful to have access to a range of maps, including Google Maps of the city. Other useful maps include a map of the University, found online at <https://map.cam.ac.uk> to help in finding your Department, and the map of Peterhouse for finding your way around College (presented below).

In brief, the College is made up of several buildings from different centuries, which form several adjoining courts. In order of proximity to the Porters' Lodge, these are: First Court, Old Court, Gisborne Court and Fen Court. The MCR is located between staircases D and E in Old Court (marked on the map below with a **red seal**). The entrance to the Chapel, the Dining Hall and Upper Hall are also located in this court. The Bar and Gym are housed in the basement of the Whittle Building (the newest in the college) that is located at the back of Gisborne Court. Last but not least, the Ward library and the Peterhouse theatre are in Fen Court, around the corner from the Whittle Building.

Cosin Court, which is a graduate accommodation area, is located across Trumpington Street, in front of the Porter's Lodge. The entrance is through a couple of tall iron gates with crossed keys, next to the Peterhouse Hostel, which is located across the street from the Porter's Lodge.



Warkworth Street and Parkside accommodation are located 10 to 15 minutes walk east of the main college. The quickest route from College is via Downing Street and St. Andrew's Street. The Porters will be happy to direct you!

YOUR FIRST DAYS

Upon Your Arrival in Cambridge

After you arrive in Cambridge, your immediate priority should be to obtain:

- Your room key, the key to the MCR and your University ID card.
- A gown. This will be needed for the Admissions Ceremony (Monday 3rd October) and to attend formal dinners in Hall. We stress getting this as early as possible because they often sell out close to the ceremony days. You can order this online now from Ryder and Amies. (Please go to the Dress Code section for more details).
- A duvet and pillow(s) for your bed, since these are NOT provided by the College (details in Household Items Section).
- The Welcome Pack, including the printed rules and regulations of the College, your personal WiFi password and information on everything related to the College, from library use to dining. This will be waiting for you inside your pigeonhole at the MCR.
- Your CRSid, Raven account and @cam email address. This will be your official electronic address and all emails for MCR and college-related events will be sent there. It is usually allocated by the Department organising your specific course (details in the Computing Section).
- Your UPay account based on your @cam email account, which will allow you to book and pay for events and food at the servery.

The Porters' Lodge is on the left of the entrance gates to the college. The Porters will provide you with the key to your accommodation and an MCR key, along with your University ID card. The University ID card can be used to pay for meals and to unlock various doors in College and Faculties. This time in the Porters' Lodge is also a fantastic opportunity to get to know our Porters. Feel free to ask them for directions or advice about Cambridge.

After collecting your keys, pay a visit to the MCR. The MCR is located off Old Court, as indicated on the College map (red seal). Here you can check your pigeonhole for a welcome pack from the Committee and other useful information. In future, your pigeonhole is where all your mail will be delivered. Your college address, to which all mail should be sent, will be as follows:

[YOUR NAME]

Peterhouse, Cambridge
CB2 1RD, United Kingdom

The porters deliver mail to the MCR at least twice a day, including Royal Mail (the UK postal system), the internal University Mail System (UMS) and parcels, which are securely kept in the Porters' Lodge until you collect them.

Computing

Your CRSID and @cam email address:

For students new to Cambridge, your 'Common Registration Scheme Identifier' or CRSID, and the attached @cam email address is available to you a few weeks before starting in Cambridge. You can find out your CRSID via the webpage <https://jackdaw.cam.ac.uk/mailsearch/newPG>. For those who have already studied at Cambridge in the past, you will keep

the same CRSID and email address. The CRSID allows you to access both the University email system, Microsoft Outlook (<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox>), and also Raven (<http://raven.cam.ac.uk>), the University-wide authentication system for accounts and departmental use. Using your CRSID you can also access CamSIS (<https://www.camsis.cam.ac.uk>), the University's system for managing and holding student data and transcripts.

Internet:

Peterhouse has its own WiFi and you will be provided with log-in details when you arrive (in your Welcome Pack). Many of the graduate accommodation options also provide their own WiFi.

Your CRSID will allow you access to Eduroam, which enables free access to WiFi in Colleges, Faculties and Departments. Eduroam is also accessible at a range of other institutions across Europe. To register with Eduroam you will need to first note your Network Access Token at <https://tokens.csx.cam.ac.uk>.

Should you experience any difficulties, please contact the College Computing Office. Their opening hours are 9.00am-5.00pm.

Mailing Lists

You will be automatically added to the MCR mailing list, through which events and a weekly bulletin will be advertised.

Details of events and other MCR happenings will also be shared on the various MCR social media accounts (notably via this Facebook group, which we encourage you to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/peterhousegraduatesociety>). If you are having problems receiving emails from the MCR, please contact the MCR Secretary (mcr-sec@pet.cam.ac.uk).

UPay Account

The College uses the app UPay to sign-up for events and for food and bar charges. To register for your account, please download the UPay app from the App Store, Google Play or Windows Phone Store, or visit the website via desktop to set up your account with the following details:

- Affiliate ID: Peterhouse
- User ID: Your CRSid (your Cambridge email address ID)

This will allow you to sign up for a range of college events including Grad Halls. Details of how to use the app are provided on the UPay website and the committee are also happy to help.

Admissions Ceremony

The Admissions Ceremony is held on the Monday of Freshers' Week (in 2022: 3rd October). The event is a longstanding Cambridge tradition and involves wearing a gown while swearing to abide by College and University rules. The ceremony takes place simultaneously for all new junior members (undergraduate & graduate students) and entails signing the college register and reciting an oath in front of the College Master. The text of the oath is provided, so there is no need to memorise anything beforehand.

YOUR FIRST WEEKS

Registering for a Doctors Surgery

Registering with a general practitioner's (GP) surgery is very important once you have arrived in Cambridge. This enables you to have access to doctor's appointments and prescriptions on the NHS. The surgery at 56 Trumpington Street is closest to Peterhouse, convenient for people living in Cosin Court. Their staff includes several female doctors. There are also surgeries on Lensfield Road (6-8 min walk from Peterhouse) and Newnham Walk which are slightly less busy as they are further from the city centre. You are free to register in any other medical practitioner you like: many other options can be found online or by asking the Porters. Please note that where you register is where you will need to go for your appointments.

To register you need to go to the surgery in person. Be aware that once you've registered, it can be difficult and time-consuming to change to a different doctor's surgery. In the first weeks of October most surgeries expect to register new students, and will be happy to help you.

Consultations with a GP are free, but you will need to book an appointment. If you are prescribed medication by a doctor, you can collect this at Boots or any other pharmacy: there is a charge of £8.60 per item, with the rest of the price covered by the NHS. If you regularly pay for prescription medication, you may wish to look into getting a Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC), which allows you to claim as many prescriptions as you need for a set price within a set period (£29.10 for 3 months, £104 for 12 months: for more details, see <https://apps.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc-online/patient.do>). Certain chronic conditions (e.g. hypothyroidism) are exempt from the charge on pharmaceuticals; for more information see: <https://nhsbsa.nhs.uk/exemption-certificates/medical-exemption-certificates>.

You will need to tell the Tutorial Office which surgery you are registered at.

Please note that access to a GP is free for all students of the University. However, if you are not a UK citizen and have to go to hospital, or require specific tests, you may incur further costs. You can find more information in the following link: <https://www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/arriving/healthcare-uk>

Dental care in the UK is provided by both the NHS and private practitioners for a cost: the former is substantially cheaper. Although it is not compulsory, you can register with a dentist in the Cambridge area and arrange dental care or emergency cover, according to your needs: <https://www.studentwellbeing.admin.cam.ac.uk/access-nhs-and-healthcare/dental-health>

UK Bank Account Set-up

There are various branch and account options for this in the UK. It is advised that you book an appointment with the branch you choose to bank with to set up your account. It is also advisable to bring with you a copy of your confirmation letter and a form of identification. Peterhouse will provide a letter confirming your residence and status as student if you request one here: <https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/content/introduction-letter-uk-bank>. Each branch provides slightly different benefits and drawbacks so it is worth doing some research. Remember to ask for a student account and policies regarding overdrafts. It may take a while to get your account set up, and in the meantime, online banks such as Monzo and Starling are quick and easy to set up on your phone.

Register with Police

If you have been told to register with the Police by Immigration at the airport, the Police Station is located next to Parker's Piece. You must do this within 7 days of your arrival. It requires six passport photographs, and registration may incur a fee. Please ensure that you follow the instructions given to you for this process.

University Library Borrowing Rights

The University Library, or 'UL', situated on West Road, is the largest library in Cambridge, and one of the largest in the UK. All students are permitted to use it, regardless of their college or faculty. For guidance on using the library, please visit the [library website](#) where you will find the relevant details. New postgraduate students should find that their University ID cards are automatically registered with the University Library. However, an in-person visit at the dedicated desk is always necessary, in order for your details to be checked and your account activated. You will also need to register with your faculty library in-person in the same way.

Though not a priority for now, a tip worth bearing in mind is that it is often possible to register with other faculties too. When the need arises, if you visit in-person and enquire with the relevant librarian they are usually happy to help. This can be very useful to access a particular text or to expand your lending allowance.

Insure Your Belongings

As of 2019 Peterhouse is now working with Endsleigh, student insurance, to protect the contents inside your room. You don't need to do anything to activate this cover, the cost of which will be included in your rent, but it is important for you to check and ensure that you fully understand the protection provided and whether it is sufficient for your needs. Please see p.4 of the official Graduate Student Handbook for detailed instructions on how to do this www.pet.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.pet.cam.ac.uk/files/pg_handbook_-_2019.pdf.

You may also wish to register your laptop, bike and other valuables – all for free – on a secure database called Immobilise, which can help with returning items which have been stolen: <https://www.immobilise.com>. Although Cambridge is, in general, a very safe city, it is advisable to follow a few security precautions in your accommodation: ensure all doors and windows are locked when you leave your room, and do not leave valuables in plain sight or bikes unsecured.

Induction Events

During your first week at Cambridge, known as 'Freshers' Week', there will be a range of Welcome and Induction events for you to attend, both within college and your department. These events are designed to help you get stuck into life here at

Cambridge and Peterhouse. To ensure you do not miss out on college events, be sure to check your email frequently.. A Freshers' Week Schedule is released in the weeks prior and can be found on the MCR website and on our Facebook page.

There are also events outside of College you may find useful in your first weeks including:

The Cambridge University Freshers' Fair

This event is run by the Cambridge SU (students' union) and is a chance to meet the University's societies and clubs and to sign up as a member. This year, the event is being run both in person and online throughout Freshers' Week with most sports clubs, academic-related societies and other inventive societies taking part to encourage you to join their club or society. More information about this event can be found online at www.cambridgesu.co.uk.

Getting Around Cambridge

Once in Cambridge there are a range of ways to get around:

- Walking: Cambridge is a small city and most things are accessible by foot. For information on how to get around please see our Maps section.
- Cycling: Travelling by bike is very popular in Cambridge, as it is a rather small and very flat city. Should you wish to purchase a bike you can consider second-hand or buying new. The 'Around Cambridge' section below has a list of some bike shops in Central Cambridge.
 - o You are not legally obliged to wear a helmet when cycling, but it is strongly recommended.
 - o Don't forget to buy front and back lights for your bike: cycling without lights in the dark can result in a police fine of £50.
 - o Cycle theft in Cambridge is, sadly, not uncommon. You can take sensible precautions by buying a substantial bike lock – a 'D-lock' is usually best – and locking your bike in secure, well-lit areas

Once you have bought your bike, take it to the Porters' Lodge to register it. You will be given a tag that allows you to park your bike on college grounds. The porters regularly remove untagged bikes, so it is wise to register your bike as soon as possible. If you are planning to use a bike, we recommend that you review the UK Highway Code's regulations for cyclists, in the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/rules-for-cyclists-59-to-82>.

If you intend to travel by train frequently, it might be wise to purchase a Railcard. There are several options for discount cards, including two choices of Young Persons cards for anyone aged 16 to 25 or 26 to 30 respectively. Each card costs £30 for the year and offers a 1/3 off ticket prices, which quickly pays for itself. Railcards may be purchased online at <https://www.railcard.co.uk> or at the train station; you will need to provide a passport-sized photo and your passport or a form of identification.

A Young Person's Coachcard is also available for those aged between 16 and 26 providing 1/3 off ticket prices for £10 per year. These cards are for use on National Express services and can be purchased online at <http://www.nationalexpress.com/offers/coachcards.aspx>.

SUPPORT

Welfare

In College, the MCR Committee, your Tutor, and the Dean can always offer a listening ear or help when it is needed. The College Nurse, Ms. Natasha Kear, (nurse@pet.cam.ac.uk, 338222), the College Mental Health Advisor, Leanne Freear (mha@pet.cam.ac.uk), and the Welfare Coordinator, Revd. Jennifer Adams-Massmann (welfare@pet.cam.ac.uk), are also excellent listeners.

We also have a College-based Counselling Service. It is free to see the counsellor, but it is not a drop-in service, and sessions must be booked in advance. Remote appointments are available (for students both in the UK and abroad) via zoom.us.

Appointments are available every Friday, by applying using the form in the following link:

<https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk/cbccouns/peterhouse>.

Outside College, there is the University Counselling Service ([University Counselling Service | Student Counselling \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk), 332865), and the Student Union Advice Service (SUAS, [Student Advice Service \(cambridgesu.co.uk\)](https://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk)). In a crisis during term time there is Linkline, the student crisis-line (744444). Alternatively, the Samaritans (364455) will listen anytime, 24 hours a day.

Sexual Health

Sexual health supplies, including condoms and sanitary products, are available in the MCR bathroom. Pregnancy tests can also be requested anonymously through the MCR website: if you go to the 'contact' form and leave a false email address, one of the Committee will leave a pregnancy test in the MCR Welfare pigeonhole for you to pick up (we will obviously, however, not be able to email you back).

You can also collect supplies from the SU Building at 17 Mill Lane: this is open from 9.30am – 5.00pm on weekdays during term, and with reduced hours outside of term. (<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/support/sexualhealthscheme/>).

Free STI screenings, emergency contraception and further support and advice can also be accessed through the Lime Tree Clinic on Brookfields Road (0300 300 3030;

<https://www.icash.nhs.uk/where-to-go/icash-cambridgeshire/lime-tree-clinic-cambridge>). Lime Tree Clinic also provides a free STI self-test kit via mail, which is recommended if you don't have symptoms. The package arrives with discreet packaging in a few days in the post with detailed instructions on how to use it: <https://www.icash.nhs.uk/contraception-sexual-health/postal-self-test-kits>.

Further Helpful Links

- Peterhouse Health and Welfare: <https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/health-and-welfare>
- Cambridge University Welfare and Wellbeing: <http://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/welfare-and-wellbeing>
- Cambridge University Counselling service: <https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk>
- Cambridge University Students' Union Life & Welfare: <http://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/welfare>

MCR Code of Conduct

The MCR is perfectly designed to facilitate discussion and conversation: it is a wonderful place to relax after work and hang out with other Petreans. We hope it will feel like home, but we would also ask that you respect that it is a shared space and should be treated accordingly. We also ask that you adhere to the latest Covid safety advice when using any College space or facility.

As the MCR is a common room, it is not possible to 'book' it for private functions or events. If you would like to hold an event in college, you are advised to contact Anne Gifford (anne.gifford@pet.cam.ac.uk) to book a function room.

As everywhere else in Cambridge, discussions in the MCR often result in lively debates amongst strong-minded individuals of various backgrounds and with different sensibilities. It is important to remember that the MCR constitutes a public space and that, above all, you should treat fellow MCR members with respect, tolerance, and kindness. The MCR Committee has a zero-tolerance policy on speech of a racist, sexist, homophobic, or generally hateful nature, and on instances of sexual harassment or violence. Drunken, obnoxious behaviour will not be tolerated. The same is expected of any guests you may bring into the MCR.

Should an incident in the MCR, or with another MCR member, make you feel uncomfortable or upset, please contact a member of the Committee, who can address the issue, reassure you, and, in serious cases, refer the matter to the Graduate Tutor or the Dean.

Financial

If you are struggling financially, there are multiple options you can consider. MCR members at Peterhouse can earn extra cash by helping with college events (e.g. admissions exams for undergraduate candidates), becoming an undergraduate supervisor, or working behind the College bar or as a Ward library assistant. You can also ask for an interest-free overdraft at your bank, which is often granted to graduate students with a UK bank account (check your bank's requirements). If personal, unforeseen circumstances arise, you should speak to the Graduate or Senior Tutor, as they may be able to help. There are a surprising number of additional sources of income that are open to applications from graduate students, including hardship funds, College and University scholarships, prizes, and the Crane's Charity (assistance with medical costs). You can simultaneously apply for funding from College, the University itself and any of the funding bodies associated with your subject. You should note though, that some funds are not always available to overseas students (and vice versa). You might find the University's funding search helpful: <http://www.student-funding.cam.ac.uk>.

If you need funding for academic purposes, such as conducting fieldwork, attending international conferences, or paying for specific training, ask your College Tutor directly about applying for funding. Many private donors to Peterhouse specifically provide funding for these purposes. It is advisable to ask your supervisor as well if there is funding available in your faculty.

Peterhouse also provides the opportunity to apply for grants which facilitate traveling specifically for non-academic purposes (but not to fund a trip back home). Most students who apply are successful at least once during their course, as long as the trip is taken before they graduate. The College may place a cap per grant but that varies from year to year. The ultimate purpose is for students to make the most of their time in University, take an opportunity to unwind and expand their horizons. You will receive an email from college inviting you to apply in Michaelmas.

Academic

Academic issues can crop up unexpectedly during graduate study, such as competition within a research group, ownership of intellectual property, or discovering that someone else has already written your thesis. In these cases, your supervisor would ideally be the first port of call.

However, that doesn't help if your supervisor is the source of your problems. As an alternative to your supervisor, you might prefer to discuss the issue with colleagues in your department, or other graduates on your course. At a more formal level, you might approach your course convenor or Director of Studies, or one of the other lecturers in your department. This is a situation in which the College system, and your Tutor in particular, can be of a lot of help. Your Tutor is there to help you resolve both administrative and academic issues you might be facing while undertaking your degree. It is always best to contact your Tutor if you have a problem: you do not need to wait for the situation to become grave. If your grievance is serious, however, and you are thinking of taking action, your Tutor will be able to advise you or to act as an intermediary with the appropriate party. No action would be taken without your agreement.

The University and the College have a code of conduct for all staff and student, which covers racial and sexual harassment. You can find more information, and advice if you have been affected by such issues, at <https://www.breakingthesilence.cam.ac.uk/>.

Accommodation

Since we have a bit more freedom as graduate students, College is occasionally not aware of problems in accommodation, particularly if you live further away from college. Whilst maintenance and housekeeping would very much like to maintain our properties and ensure our living conditions are decent, it is up to students to inform them of any issues.

Contact the Accommodation Officer with questions or concerns about the room you've been assigned in College. Maintenance usually deals with minor problems within a few working days and you can email problems to them at fixit@pet.cam.ac.uk. If you have an urgent maintenance problem, e.g. problems with the house fuse-box or a leaking ceiling, it is easiest to contact the Porters.

Whereas undergraduates regularly clear out of their rooms during the holidays (during which time they can be fully cleaned), graduate students tend to remain in their rooms throughout the year. Therefore, if you have something that needs deep cleaning, like your carpet or curtains, and you know you are going to be away for a week, then send an email to Maintenance or Housekeeping saying what you need done and when you'll be away (or not bothered by their intruding).

One thing you have to come to terms with when living in college accommodation is that various members of the college do have access to your rooms and may come in to check electrical appliances or fix things. It is now Peterhouse policy to email residents beforehand or retroactively give notice as to when maintenance such as fire alarm checks will be done.

Helpful Links & Contacts

- Mrs Corinne Davidson (Accommodation & Housekeeping Manager): corinne.davidson@pet.cam.ac.uk
- Mrs Karen Austin (Accommodation Officer): rooms@pet.cam.ac.uk

CAMBRIDGE CRASH COURSE

How the University works

Cambridge is a collegiate university. This decentralised structure can be a bit confusing when you first arrive, so here's a quick guide.

- University — The overall body that awards your degree. It is made up of numerous faculties, departments and colleges.
- Faculty — The University is made up of various faculties (e.g. the History Faculty, the Engineering Faculty, the School of Clinical Medicine etc). Faculties plan courses and oversee the academic side of your life in Cambridge (e.g. the allocation of a supervisor) and are often made up by different Departments.
- College — The University is made up of 31 colleges. Your college (Peterhouse) provides accommodation, welfare and financial support to all of its students. Furthermore, it brings together graduate students and fellows, in order to provide teaching (via supervisions) to its undergraduate members. On-site facilities in Peterhouse include two libraries, a student bar, a gym, common rooms and a theatre.

Cambridge SU - the Cambridge University student union, formed in a recent merger of the former undergraduate and postgraduate unions, is a university-wide organisation that advocates for the rights of all students of the University. Peterhouse's MCR president actively liaises with the SU, and members of our Committee regularly attend their meetings. The Cambridge SU also host several events pertaining to students' Welfare, organise workshops and kindly provide the Peterhouse MCR with free condoms and sanitary products. You can visit their website (www.cambridgesu.co.uk) to learn more about their activities.

A side-note on the Cambridge Union: if you hear people talking about 'the Union', they are usually referring to an independent, student-run society, 'The Cambridge Union Society'. The Union invites speakers and facilitates debating between students on a variety of topics. Access to most events is restricted to its paying members. Annual rates, as well as a lifelong rate, are available. It should be stressed, however, that membership of the Cambridge Union is not at all compulsory for students. In fact, the Peterhouse MCR organises Discussion Suppers, a less competitive outlet for conversation over free food and drinks kindly provided by the Peterhouse Fellows. However, if you are a fan of competitive, Parliament-style debating, the Cambridge Union offers a rare opportunity to practise and meet like-minded people. It is the oldest debating society in the UK, as well as the largest student society in the University. More details, as well as their Term Card can be found online: <https://www.cus.org>.

Term Times

Cambridge terms are eight weeks long and, like many things round these parts, have strange names:

- Michaelmas (October - December),
 - Lent (January - March)
- and, · Easter (April - June).

The long summer break (June - October) is called, rather unimaginatively, the Long Vacation. Be aware that during the breaks between terms, college facilities and the provision of food in Hall are often less frequent or halted altogether.

Term dates for 2023-24 and future years can be found at <https://www.cam.ac.uk/about-theuniversity/term-dates-and-calendars>.

Tutors, Supervisors, and Advisors

In your Faculty: your department or faculty will usually provide you with a main supervisor and, for PhDs, an advisor (sometimes called a second supervisor). They oversee your academic work.

In College: the Tutor for Graduate Affairs can assist you with any administrative or pastoral issues. Tutors serve as an intermediary between you and College or the University: if, for example, you require an extension to your study time or need to apply for additional funding.

The term 'supervision' in the College context refers to weekly meetings between undergraduate students (in small groups of 1 to 4, at a time) and their course supervisors. It is an essential part of teaching at the University of Cambridge and one of the main functions of the College. Supervisions are regulated by Directors of Studies (DoS) for each course, who are almost always senior members of the College. PhD students at Peterhouse may be asked to help with supervisions of undergraduate students. If you would like to explore this possibility (and earn an additional income), it is recommended that you contact the Senior Tutor, who can then direct you to the appropriate DoS and ask for any vacancies. A training course (provided by the University) is also essential to become a supervisor.

A Brief History of Peterhouse

Peterhouse is a college of superlatives - the oldest, one of the smallest, and definitely the best. It was founded by the Bishop of Ely Hugo de Balsham in 1284. During its colourful history, Peterhouse has always tended towards eccentricity. From 1642-9 during the English Civil War it enjoyed a stint as a rare Royalist stronghold in Parliamentary Cambridge. In 1756 the poet Thomas Gray climbed out of his Peterhouse window and fled across the road to Pembroke College, enraged by a practical joke in which his fellow Petreans pretended to set his room on fire. In the nineteenth century, Peterhouse's Hall was the second building in the country (after the Palace of Westminster) to have electric lighting installed. The Fellows swiftly decided it was a change for the worse and had the lights removed. In the 1980s the College acquired a reputation for both Thatcherism and homosexuality, since it housed many members of the so-called "Peterhouse right", as well as the dinners of the Adonian society. After admitting women in 1984, Peterhouse has since grown into a diverse student body, welcoming people from all backgrounds, lifestyles and nationalities to become part of its vibrant, and often quirky, community. We look forward to welcoming you into the mix!

The MCR ('Middle Combination Room')

All graduate students in Peterhouse are members of the College's graduate society, known as the MCR. MCR members are given a key to and a pigeonhole in the graduate common room (the 'Middle Combination Room' after which the society is named) on arrival and can take part in the numerous graduate social events held in college. The JCR ('Junior Combination Room') is the equivalent for undergraduates, who call their student society the Sexcentenary Club (aka the 'Sex Club'). It is housed in the basement of the Whittle Building, next to the Bar. As Peterhouse is a small college, there is a lot of scope for mingling with undergraduates too. Usage of the Bar, the gym and the pool table in the JCR is permitted to all students of the College.

What the MCR does

The MCR is here to support you during your time in Cambridge. We liaise with the college administration to represent the interests of postgraduate students, and aim to provide social events that appeal to the whole spectrum of the graduate population. We strongly encourage all members to get involved in our vibrant graduate community. If you have any ideas or changes you want to see, talk to the Committee!

Events are announced via the Peterhouse MCR email list as well as on the MCR Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/peterhousegraduatesociety>, and a calendar of the events for the term are available to view on the MCR website: <https://www.peterhousemcr.co.uk/>.

What You Can Find in the MCR

(in no particular order)

- Notice boards with upcoming events
- Your pigeonhole
- Tea, coffee, hot chocolate
- A weekly news magazine
- Fresh flowers each fortnight
- A television & DVD player
- Video Game consoles (PS4, Nintendo Switch, Nintendo Wii)
- A selection of books, board games and sporting equipment (tennis & squash rackets, croquet set, badminton net)
- Comfortable seats
- First aid kit
- Sexual health supplies (condoms and sanitary products)
- Fetching William Morris wallpaper

Peterhouse Facilities

Servery. The college servery offers hot meals for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner on most days, which can be consumed in Hall (subject to Covid-19 restrictions) or taken away. It can be accessed via F Staircase on Old Court. For more details see below under 'Meals'

Guest rooms. Three single rooms, with shared bathrooms, in College are available to rent for £24.24 per night. Bookable through Anne Gifford (01223 338205, anne.gifford@pet.cam.ac.uk, office in L staircase).

Computer Room. Offers computers, scanning, and colour laser printing, charged via a University-wide top-up system. These can be found at the back of the library, and below the library (accessible via a door near the gate to Granta Place and the Fen Court laundry facilities).

Chapel. The College has a particularly vibrant and inclusive Anglican chapel. Services are well-attended by those of all faiths and none. Sherry in the Combination Room is provided every Sunday after Evensong, and every term a Corporate

Communion service is held followed by a free dinner. You will receive a Chapel term card with service times in your pigeonhole. The Chaplain is always available to talk to students.

Laundry. There are two college laundry rooms, one located in Cosin Court, the other in Fen Court. These can be accessed at all hours using your University ID card and cost £1.40 a load for washing, and £1 a load for tumble drying. You may also have a washing machine in your flat or house.

The Bar. The place to go for cheap drinks for graduates and undergraduates alike. Payment in the bar can be made in cash or added to your college bill using your student ID card. Bottles of Peterhouse port are also on sale and make nice gifts.

Gym. The gym is located in the basement of the Whittle Building. There are specific hours for people working out alone (7am-8:30pm in term and on weekends, 7:30am-5pm otherwise). If you wish to use the gym outside of these hours, you will need to find at least one gym buddy. All users must have taken a gym induction before using the facilities. You can book a place by choosing a date/time slot in the following link: http://www.supersaas.com/schedule/S&Csessions/Peterhouse_Gym.

Squash court. Bookable through the Porter's Lodge. Racquets and balls are available in the MCR. Also features a table tennis table.

Croquet pitch. Located in the Scholars' Garden, by the William Stone building, during Easter term and over the summer. No need to book, just borrow equipment from the MCR and head on over. Please do not forget to return the equipment once you are finished playing.

College sports ground. Peterhouse shares the Pembroke College Sports Ground with Pembroke College. It is located approximately one mile southwest of Peterhouse, towards Grantchester.

Boat House. On the river, just a little way along from Jesus Green. If you would like to get involved with rowing, it is worth contacting the Men's and Women's Captains, Tom Nuttall and Clara Dunbavin, at captain@peterhousebc.org, who will be happy to help you.

Pool table. Located in the JCR next to the Bar. Free to use.

Music practice rooms. There is a music practice room next to the back entrance to Peterhouse (it was temporarily moved to this location) with an upright piano. We also have a nice new space called the Brewhouse, which is located just behind the Master's Lodge. There is a practice room and a recital room, which have an upright and a Steinway grand piano respectively. All of these rooms are bookable on Booker. Please contact Dr Simon Jackson (sjj32@cam.ac.uk), our Director of Music, for an induction to the Brewhouse.

Sports Clubs and Societies

Cambridge offers a wide array of opportunities to play different kinds of sport and various levels.

If you are serious about sport, you may want to try out for a University team. Peterhouse has produced many 'blues' (university level players) over the years, and Peterhouse members who play sport at the highest level are rewarded with an invitation to the annual Crossed Keys Dinner. Trials generally happen in the first couple of weeks of term. If you are interested, get in touch with the relevant club at the Freshers' Fair.

Looking for something more relaxed? Peterhouse also has a wealth of college sports teams. As we are a small college, standards vary, and some teams are joint with other colleges, but enthusiasm is always prized and new players are always welcomed. Most teams comprise a mix of beginners, people who haven't played for a while and people who play more regularly.

Peterhouse currently has teams for:

- Basketball
- Badminton
- Boat Club
- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Netball
- Pool
- Rock Climbing
- Rugby (Men's only)
- Sailing
- Squash
- Table Tennis
- Ultimate Frisbee

If you are interested in joining a College team, you should attend the Amalgamated Clubs (AMALS) 'squash' during Freshers' Week. This is an introductory event at which all the College captains will be present to introduce their sport/society and gather names of people interested in joining their mailing list.

Intellectual and Arts Societies

Thanks to generous College funding, Peterhouse is home to an unusually high number of intellectual societies. Always accompanied by free wine and nibbles, these events are open to all and a great way to mingle with undergraduates and fellows. The Politics, Perne and History Societies also host annual dinners.

The Kelvin Club. Peterhouse's science society, named for the famous physicist Lord Kelvin, a Peterhouse alumnus (you can find a plaque marking his old room in I Staircase). Hosts three talks by scientists a term, commonly attended by numerous arts as well as science students.

Politics Society. A chance to hear and quiz notable politicians, economists and journalists in the intimate and cosy College Parlour. Past guests include Tony Benn, Shami Chakrabarti and Charles Moore.

History Society. Similar to the Politics Society, the History Society invites Academics from within Cambridge and from further afield to speak on their research in an after-dinner setting more relaxed than research seminars.

The Perne Club. Similar to the two previous, The Perne Club hosts speakers on more general arts themes, such as literature, history and philosophy.

The Beard Society. Peterhouse's confusingly named (origin myths vary) Feminism Society, founded as recently as 2012. The society holds around three events (speaker events, discussion groups and film nights) a term.

The Heywood Society. The College drama society, which organises and funds productions in the College theatre and Deer Park.

Chapel Choir. The Choir sings regularly in Chapel services. They get three free formal halls a week and every year they go on tour. Auditions usually held at the start of the year: speak to the Director of Music, Simon Jackson.

Peterhouse Music Society. Hosts various concerts throughout the year. A chance to perform or enjoy the talents of your fellow Petreans.

Caseus Club. A prestigious society dedicated to that most worthy of foods: Cheese. The club holds regular tastings of cheeses sourced from far and wide.

Term cards for the above should find their way into your pigeonhole but ask the MCR committee if you feel you might have missed something.

Meals

The most important thing to note about meals is that you are automatically charged £100 of credit for meals in Hall (that is, from the College and excluding special dinners). This is charged at the beginning of each term, applied to your UPay account, and does not roll over between terms, so you may as well spend it! During term time, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in Hall. Dinner comes in two sittings: self-service and Formal Hall. Self-service meals are available in the Servery (F staircase, far left corner of Old Court) and then eaten in our beautiful 13th century dining hall.

For all meals, you pay per item that you order, so you can have as much or as little as you like. Breakfast is served between 8 and 9.30am on weekdays and is replaced by brunch (10.30am-1.30pm) on Saturdays. At these meals, you help yourself to a selection of hot and cold items (toast, cereal, sausage, bacon, mushrooms, potatoes, etc.). Brunch has a wider selection and a special dish, too, plus pastries. Lunch is 12-1.30pm on weekdays and dinner 5.45-6.45pm 7 days a week. Here, there will be 3 main course options (at least one of which will be vegetarian - there is also always a vegan option if you ask), 2 "carb" options (potatoes, rice, pasta, etc.) and 2 vegetable options. There is a salad bar and, at lunch time, soup. If you have any

allergies, make sure the College Nurse and the Catering Manager know and there will always be a meal that you can have – even if the chef has to prepare it specially for you.

In terms of quality, the food is reasonably good. You will soon find your favourites (and what to avoid!) and menus are provided in advance (see <https://petmenu.soc.srcf.net/index.html>). For many, the main attraction to going to Hall is that it provides a nice environment to socialise and make sure you regularly see friends who spend the rest of their waking hours in the library/lab.

Out of term, graduate students can go to lunch in the Hall when it's open for staff. This is almost all the time, but you'll be told in advance. Of course, you can also cook for yourself – all accommodation has fully equipped kitchens (hob, grill, oven, fridge, freezer, etc.).

Formal Halls

Formal Hall is the second sitting of dinner and is served every day in term time at 7.30pm. It is usually finished by around 8.45pm. It's a three-course meal, served to your table with coffee at the end and it costs around £8. The main dish is usually of the same quality as regular dinner. But the formal sitting is admittedly a grander occasion and an opportunity to don your gown, join fellows, undergrads and often the Master himself in sharing three courses by candlelight, in one of the oldest buildings in the UK.

You must sign up for Formal Hall in advance. You do this by going to the "Events" tab on UPayChilli and selecting the day you want. Sign up closes at 1.30pm on the day of the Formal (1.30pm on the Saturday for a Sunday Formal). Sunday Formal Hall is usually a roast dinner and is well attended by MCR members. The dress code requirement for Formal is that you wear your gown. What you wear under that is down to you, but most people go for something a little smarter: a suit, jacket and tie, or equivalent (see below for dress codes). The MCR also runs 'MCR formals' where we give MCR members an excuse to come to formal, sit together and have a little wine.

Drinks other than tap water are not provided at Formal, but you can bring wine (or even beer, cider or soft drinks, if you prefer – just no spirits). Wine can be bought from the bar for around £9 a bottle. Alternatively, you may bring your own bottle, though if you do that, you have to pay corkage on it in the bar (£2) and they'll put a sticker on your bottle to show that you've paid. Savvy savers will often reuse the same bottle with a corkage sticker on many times to avoid paying again! The bar wine is usually decent but quite variable, so remember your favourites. Supermarkets often have fantastic offers on wine to encourage footfall, so it may be worth bringing your own. If a whole bottle sounds rather too much wine for you and you can't find anyone to share with, Cambridge Wine Merchants (opposite King's College) has a good selection of half bottles. They also have an excellent selection of wine in general which is more expensive (but usually better) than a supermarket.

You can bring up to 6 guests to Formal Hall, or up to 12 with a dining permit (email Matthew Speller, the Manciple, for this). You should note that while your Formal ticket counts towards your minimum spend, guest tickets do not. With the guest charge and VAT, guest tickets are about £12.

MCR Dinners

The MCR also organises their own special dinners throughout the year, where we book out the Combination Room or Hall for graduate uses. These don't count towards the minimum canteen spend but are booked the same way through Upay. Booking for these normally open 10 days before the dinner at 1:30pm.

The dinners range from Superhalls at £16.40 to the more expensive Christmas Dinner, Burns Night and Annual Dinner. The dress-code for these are either themed or black-tie. It goes without saying that this is not enforced, and is meant to be a good excuse to dress up a little, rather than as a necessary requirement.

The price you pay for these dinners are never more than the price the kitchens charge us for these. Occasionally the MCR will subsidise them further, and always do so for non-alcoholic tickets. These dinners additionally include free pre and post drinks, as well as wine for the dinner. They are usually very good fun and a highlight in the social calendar.

In addition to the MCR run dinners above, we also have one 'Graduate Guest Night' a term. These are exactly the same as a normal Formal Hall (bookable through Upay, you have to bring your own wine, we sit in the Hall with JCR and SCR as normal) but the food is what Fellows are having at High Table. The food is a significant increase in quality, but with these tickets costing about £24.65, are not quite as good value as the MCR dinners mentioned above! They can be a good occasion though to impress or go for a nice dinner with friends.

May Week

Most Cambridge colleges and societies host May Balls, June Events and garden parties to celebrate the end of the exam season and of the academic year. These events take place during May Week, which corresponds (counter-intuitively) to the second week of June. They are by no means mandatory, and range greatly in price from the most expensive (£200-250 at St John's or Trinity May Ball) to the more affordable (June Events are usually around £100, and most garden parties will be £20 or so). Tickets are usually available to members of colleges first, then alumni, and then go on general sale. Peterhouse holds a white tie ball biannually, with one scheduled for June 2024.

Dress Codes

Some events in Cambridge have a dress code. A brief guide is below, and the definitive guide can be found at <http://www.debretts.com/expertise/etiquette/dress-codes>. For MCR-organised events, dress codes are strictly advisory. No one will be turned away because of what they're wearing (unless it's obscene or offensive), although the dress code will indicate what most people will be wearing. Naturally, we can't make promises for other events, including those organised by Peterhouse.

Academic Dress — Gowns

Your gown is required for formal academic events, such as the Admissions Ceremony, and also when you are attending Formal or if you are reading in chapel. For those under 24 without a Cambridge degree, you should wear a BA status gown.

This is a BA gown but with the two silk ribbons tucked in. Those over 24 (even without a Cambridge degree) wear an MA status gown (MA gown with the ribbons tucked in).

Those holding degrees from Cambridge wear the gown of the highest degree they hold (a note to people joining us from the JCR – this does mean you need a new gown, at least to graduate in). If you're in any doubt about which gown you should wear, contact the Praelector or speak to the Porters. When you hire your hood for graduation (details will be provided when you sign up to graduate), you can ask the shop you're hiring from to check you have the right gown – they will know.

The Student Union at the University Centre sell second hand gowns. Ryder and Amies, opposite the Senate House, sells both new and used gowns. Ede and Ravenscroft sell new gowns, and although it is typically considered more upmarket than Ryder and Amies, both shops may also offer discounts at the beginning of Term, and compete with one another to offer gown rentals in the run up to Easter Graduation ceremonies, so it is advisable to keep an eye on both websites. Prices vary by gown type, but a second- hand BA gown will cost £40-£55.

For more in-depth descriptions and links for purchases please follow the following links:

<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/shop/catalogue/academicgowns/>

<https://www.ryderamies.co.uk/shop/range/academic-robess/graduate-gowns/>

Lounge Suit

Lounge suit is the preferred option for formal dinner at Peterhouse, with a gown.

For those wearing a suit, this is quite easy. It's a regular suit, of the sort you might wear to work, a collared shirt and tie and formal shoes. For the Admissions Ceremony, you will need to wear a dark suit, dark tie, white shirt and black shoes. Of course, lighter suits, brighter ties and funkier shirts are acceptable unless stated otherwise (so not at the Admissions Ceremony).

If you do not wear a suit, your options include: a smart shirt/blouse worn with proper trousers (aka not jeans or corduroy) and/or a skirt; a semi-formal dress or jumpsuit. High heels are not compulsory. For the Admissions Ceremony you will need to wear a black skirt and/or trousers with a white collared shirt, or a knee-length, plain black dress, with black shoes.

Black Tie

Black tie is preferred for Grad Halls at Peterhouse. This involves either:

a) a bow tie, a white collared shirt (a wing collar or regular collar is fine) and a dinner jacket (aka a tuxedo) with satin (or equivalent) lapels. The bow tie and dinner jacket need not be black, but these are the most common colours and the safest options. Peterhouse bow ties are available from Ryder and Amies. Strictly speaking, the trousers that go with a dinner jacket are different too, but suit trousers that match your jacket would be more than acceptable. Formal, preferably black, shoes should be worn. If you don't yet own black tie, M&S, Zara and Moss Bros sell them relatively cheaply, and have luxury

ranges too. John Lewis, TM Lewin and Charles Tywitt (all in the Grand Arcade) also sell dinner suits, but these are more expensive.

B) an approximately knee-length or longer dress, often called a cocktail dress. You may also wish to wear a jacket or bolero to more formal occasions.

Or C) If you are coming from a country with your own national formal dress or possess a formal military uniform, you are more than welcome to wear it on these occasions.

White Tie

White tie is rarely worn, being the preferred dress code for a few May Balls in Cambridge, so most people rent it for the occasion rather than own it.

Officially it involves either:

- a) A tail coat, waistcoat (a sort of waistcoat with no back), dress shirt and dress trousers. If you're interested in hiring it, or even buying it, we suggest going to Moss Bros or Ede and Ravenscroft (the latter is much more expensive) and letting them sort you out. The online outfitters Dobell also provides economical formalwear.
- b) A full-length dress. It is traditional to pair this with elbow-length, white gloves, but not essential.
- c) National formal dress, or formal military uniform is also accepted at white tie events

“Optional” and “Preferred”

The word “optional” is rather misleading in Cambridge. It does not mean the dress code can be ignored, but rather that you may go one level down in formality on the dress code scale (see below) if you wish. “Preferred” means the same thing, but indicates a higher preference for the more formal style of dress – which is what most people will be wearing.

Ranking of dress codes, from most formal to most casual: white tie, black tie, dark suit/dark tie/white shirt (a la Admissions Ceremony), lounge suit.

Around Cambridge

Please check this [Google Maps](https://tinyurl.com/cambridgemappeterhouse) for a summary of all the suggested locations below:

<https://tinyurl.com/cambridgemappeterhouse>

Grocery

There are a range of small supermarkets in Cambridge centre, and larger superstores a bit further out of town.

Some options are listed below:

SMALL SUPERMARKETS	SUPERSTORES
Sainsbury's Local 1. 52-54 St Andrew's Street 2. 78-80 Mill Road 3. Train station	Sainsbury's 1. 42-45 Sidney Street
Tesco Express 1. Hills Road 2. East Road	Tesco 1. Cheddars Lane, Newmarket Road 2. 5 Petty Cury
Little Waitrose 1. 6-8 Fitzroy Street	ASDA 1. Beehive Centre, Coldhams Lane
Marks & Spencer 1. Train station	Lidl 1. Newmarket Road
	Aldi 1. Newmarket Road 2. Histon Road
	Marks & Spencer 1. Market Square

Please be advised that Alcohol Licensing Laws do not allow smaller supermarkets to provide alcohol in the evenings. Head to the Sainsbury's superstore if you would like to purchase alcohol or food after 8pm. Or to a pub.

Clothes

There are a multitude of clothing stores in the city centre to help you find whatever you need. There are cheaper options, typical high street shops, more specialist outfitters and some very good second-hand stores. Some options for basic items are listed below:

H&M 1. 68 St Andrews Street. 2. The Grafton Centre.	Zara 1. 66 St Andrews Street.
Marks & Spencer 1. 6-11 Sidney Street.	TK Maxx 1. 12-13 Market Street. 2. The Beehive Centre.
Topshop 1. The Grand Arcade	Moss Bros 1. 11 Petty Cury
John Lewis 1. The Grand Arcade	Next 1. 13-15 Sidney Street 2. The Grafton Centre.

Books and Stationery

Should you wish to shop in person, there are a range of suitable stores listed below:

BOOKS	STATIONERY
Heffers 1. 20 Trinity Street	Rymans 1. 7 Fitzroy Street 2. 53 Sidney Street
Waterstones 1. 22 Sidney Street	Paperchase 1. 20 Market Hill

Oxfam
1. 28 Sidney Street

WHSmith
14-15 Market Square

The Works
1. 31-33 Fitzroy Street

G. David
1. St Edwards Passage

Medicines and Toiletries

The list below outlines our recommendations for buying medicines, collecting prescriptions and buying toiletries:

MEDICINES	TOILETRIES
Boots 1. The Lion Yard. 2. The Grafton Centre	Boots 1. The Lion Yard. 2. The Grafton Centre
Superdrug 1. 59 Sidney Street 2. 38 Fitzroy Street	Superdrug 1. 59 Sidney Street 2. 38 Fitzroy Street
Fitzwilliam Pharmacy 1. 28-30 Trumpington Street	Wilkonsons 1. 17 Fitzroy Street

Household Items

For items such as cooking equipment, storage, decorations, cleaning supplies etc. we have listed a range of stores that sell such household items.

Wilkonsons
1. 17 Fitzroy Street

Poundland
1. 19-25 Fitzroy Street

John Lewis 1. The Grand Arcade	Tiger 1. Lion Yard Shopping Centre
Argos 1. Cambridge Retail Park	Tesco 1. Cheddars Lane, Newmarket Road
B&M 1. The Beehive Centre	ASDA 1. The Beehive Centre
Next 1. The Grafton Centre 2. The Beehive Centre 3. 13-15 Sidney Street	TK Maxx 1. 12-13 Market Street 2. The Beehive Centre

Please be advised that prices vary considerably according to the store. For example, John Lewis is quite high end and expensive, whereas somewhere like Argos offers much cheaper alternatives. Similarly, TK Maxx is more of an outlet store, rather than a high-end boutique. If you would like specific advice on where to purchase items from, feel free to ask the Committee!

Bikes

There are numerous options for purchasing bikes in Cambridge, both for new and second hand. We have included a list of shops where you can compare both of these options.

Howes-Cycles Regent Street	Halfords Newmarket Road
Cambridge Cycle Centre Botolph Lane	Primo-Cycles Mill Road
Kingsway Cycles City Road	The Bike Shed Mill Road

Lensfield Cycles
Lensfield Road

Rutland Cycles
The Grand Arcade

Decathlon
The Grafton Centre

Entertainment

There are a wealth of options for entertainment around Cambridge to suit all styles. We recommend looking into Societies that may interest you for group outings, talks and meetings and have compiled a brief list below of some venues that may be of interest. During Freshers' Week you will also be introduced to a range of places around town to spend your free time.

Arts Picturehouse 38-
39 St Andrew's Street

ADC Theatre
Park Street

Vue Cinema The
Grafton Centre

Cambridge Corn
Exchange
2 Wheeler Street

The Light Cinema
Cambridge Leisure Park

Cambridge Junction
Clifton Way

Cambridge Arts Theatre
6 St Edwards Passage

If you are a cinephile, there are several deals and offers to save money. The Picturehouse offers a membership card with several perks (including free membership tickets) and a discount for any food items purchased on-site. Vue Cinema (located near the residences at Parkside and Warkworth Street) also offers cheaper tickets every Monday

Pubs which hold regular live music nights include:

The Blue Moon
2 Norfolk Street

The Panton Arms
43 Panton Street

Portland Arms 129
Chesterton Road

Arcana

There is no shortage of quirky Cambridge and British traditions and events to enjoy over the year. During term you can go to the service of Choral Evensong not just at Peterhouse but at all colleges: the world-famous choirs at King's College and St John's are especially worth a visit. Many college choirs also perform concerts throughout the year with different repertoires or perform at special events like Trinity's concert on the river in Easter term, or St John's choir singing from the tower on Ascension Day. The rowing 'Bumps' races across four days in Lent and Easter terms are terrific entertainment, and a chance to cheer Peterhouse on to victory. There are also various other events which happen from time to time like ceremonial re-enactments of medieval fairs, so it's worth keeping an eye out for them.

Cambridge has even developed its own vocabulary of sorts. For a guide to translation see this article by the Tab: [The Cambridge \(Tab's\) Dictionary of bizarre lingo used only at Cambridge - University of Cambridge \(thetab.com\)](https://thetab.com/dictionary/)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & DISCLAIMER

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If you have any comments or suggestions regarding The New Petrean please email: mcr-pres@pet.cam.ac.uk.

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