



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



Robinson College  
University of Cambridge

# Cambridge Explained

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Schools Liaison Officer - Robinson College

University of Cambridge

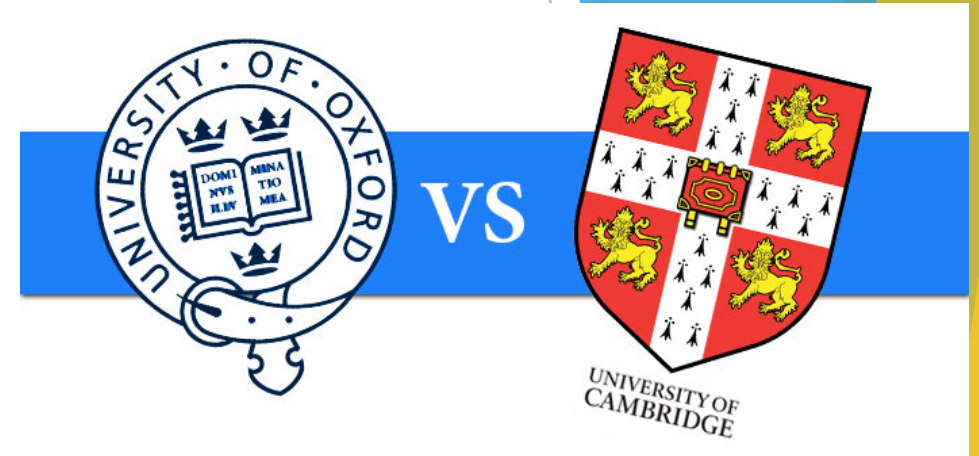
# Why Oxford or Cambridge?

- ▶ Broad range of challenging and stimulating courses
- ▶ Top-rated education
- ▶ Superb facilities
- ▶ Great social life
- ▶ Supportive environment
- ▶ Excellent career prospects
- ▶ Students from all different backgrounds and across the world
- ▶ **World-class resources and teaching**



# What's the difference?

- ▶ Location
- ▶ Some terminology
- ▶ Course choices
- ▶ The admissions process (slightly!)
- ▶ The 'Winter Pool' system
- ▶ You can't apply to both!



# Choosing a course

Below are just some of the courses offered by Oxford and Cambridge

## Cambridge

- ▶ Architecture
- ▶ Education, English and Drama
- ▶ Natural Sciences
- ▶ Land Economy
- ▶ Human, Social and Political Sciences
- ▶ Veterinary Medicine
- ▶ Psychological and Behavioural Sciences



## Oxford

- ▶ Politics, Philosophy and Economics
- ▶ Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
- ▶ Earth Sciences
- ▶ Fine Art

All courses start very broadly with opportunity to specialise in later years

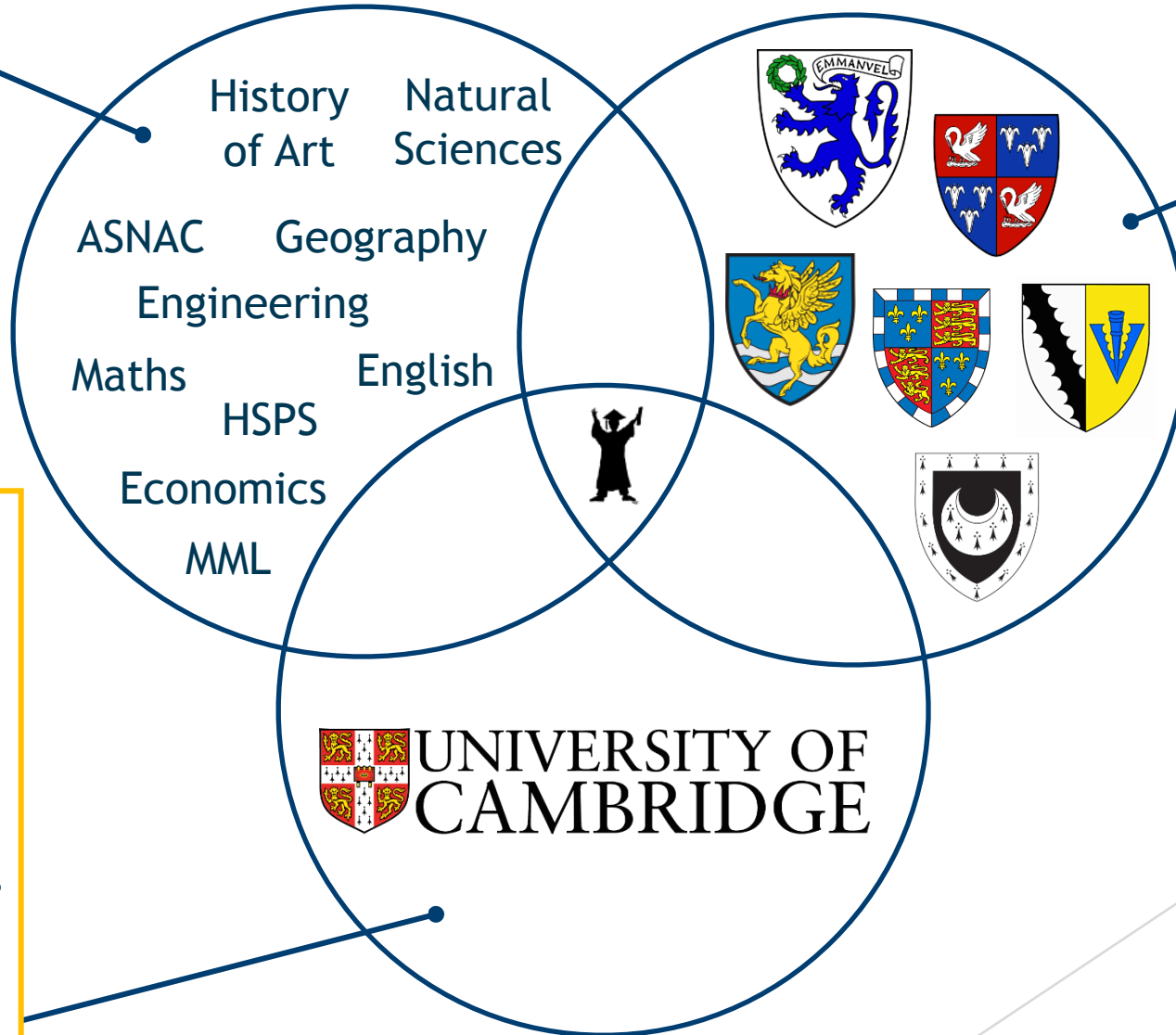
# Oxford and Cambridge are both Collegiate Universities

## Department

Where lectures, practicals and supervisions take place.  
Subject specific library

## University

Determines course content  
Sets and marks exams  
Organises lectures, supervisions, practicals .etc.  
Awards degree



## Colleges

Accommodation  
(for all 3 or 4 years of your degree)

Library

Canteen

Kitchens

Junior Common Room

Sports Facilities

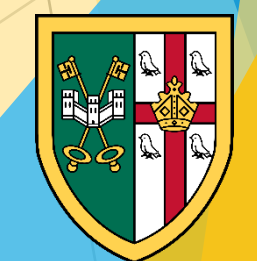
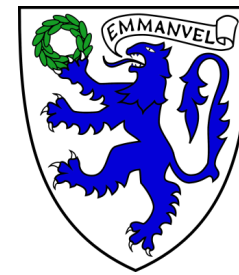
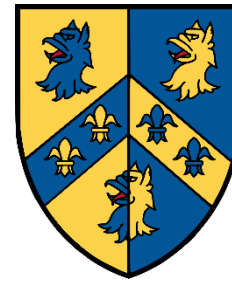
Music facilities

# The Collegiate Structure

## Hogwarts



## Cambridge and Oxford



# The collegiate University

*A College is like a mini campus,  
providing a base for students.*

- 29 undergraduate Colleges in Cambridge
- 34 undergraduate Colleges in Oxford
- Differ in terms of:
  - accommodation
  - appearance
  - facilities
  - size (number of students)



# College Life



Accommodation



College Bar



Library



IT Facilities



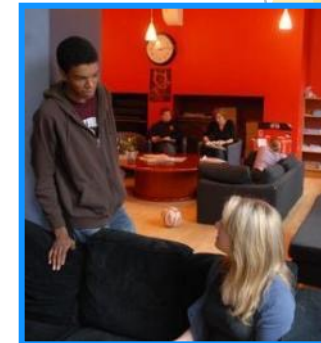
Music Facilities



Canteen

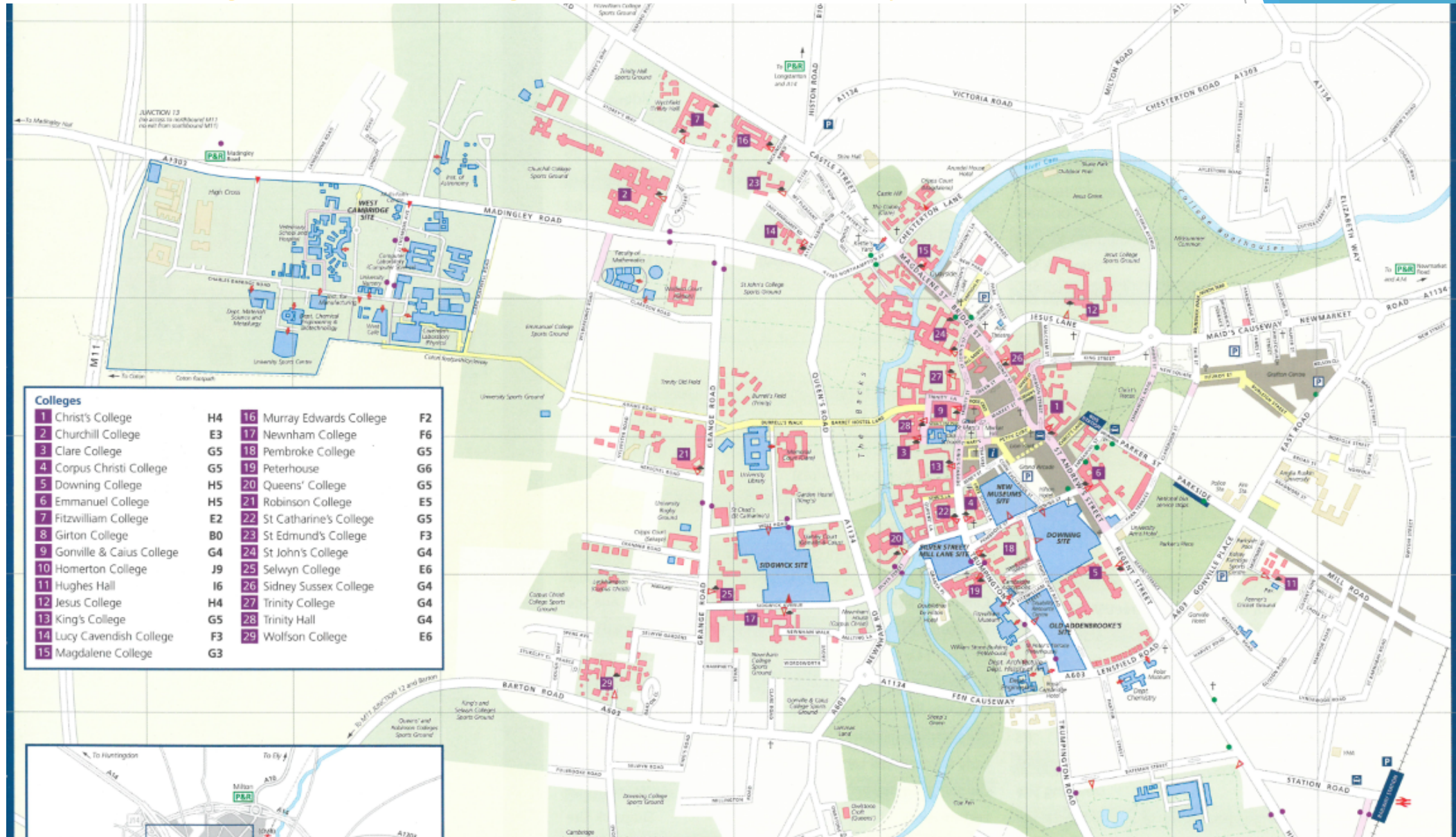


Sports Facilities

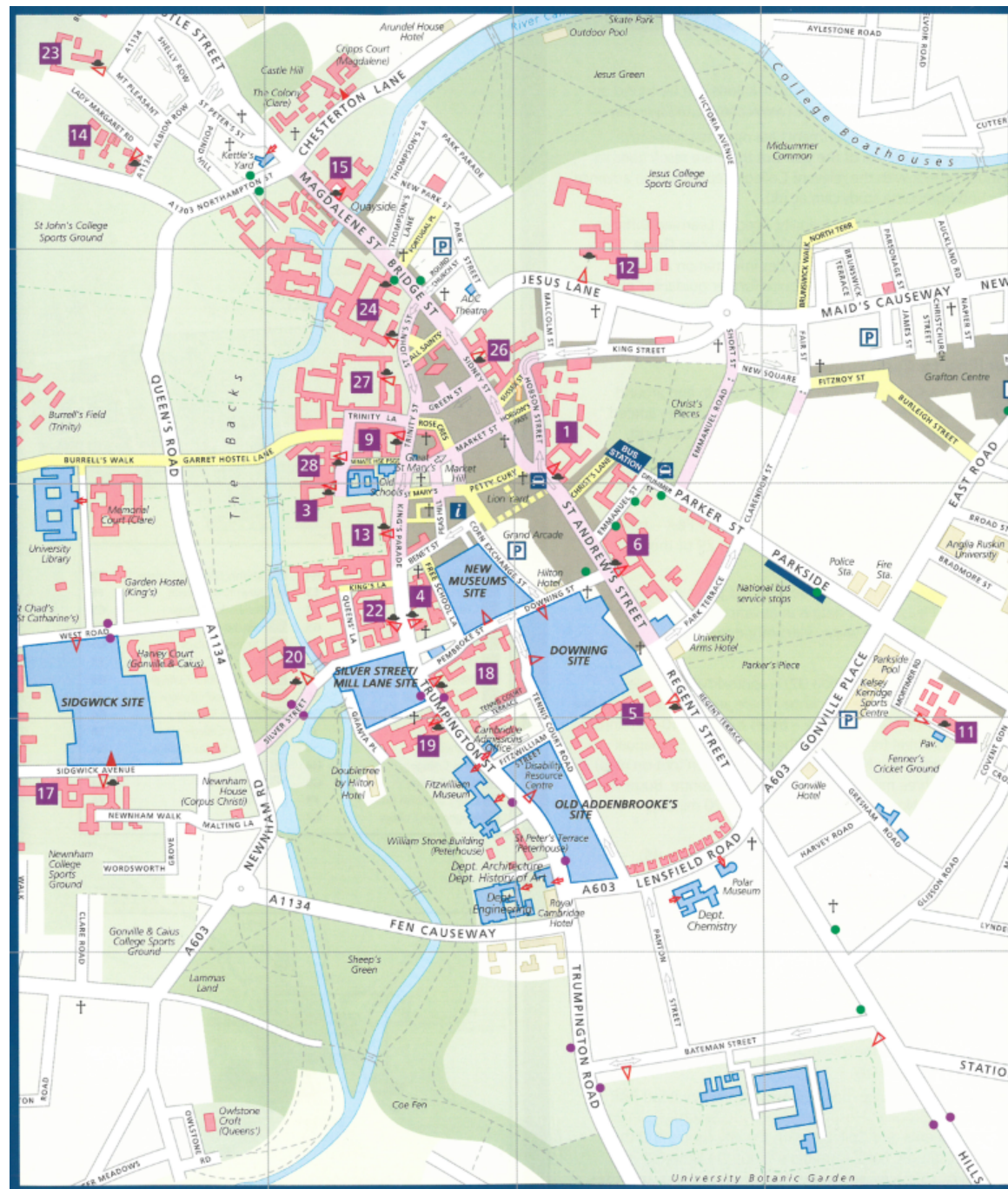


Common Room

# Cambridge: A Collegiate University



- College of the University
- University building
- University or College grounds
- Public open space
- Main shopping area



Colleges	
1	Christ's College
2	Churchill College
3	Clare College
4	Corpus Christi College
5	Downing College
6	Emmanuel College
7	Fitzwilliam College
8	Girton College
9	Gonville & Caius College
10	Homerton College
11	Hughes Hall
12	Jesus College
13	King's College
14	Lucy Cavendish College
15	Magdalene College
16	Murray Edwards College
17	Newham College
18	Pembroke College
19	Peterhouse
20	Queens' College
21	Robinson College
22	St Catharine's College
23	St Edmund's College
24	St John's College
25	Selwyn College
26	Sidney Sussex College
27	Trinity College
28	Trinity Hall
29	Wolfson College

# Supportive environment



- ▶ Academic
- ▶ Pastoral
- ▶ Students' unions and peer support - college 'families'
- ▶ Counselling Service
- ▶ Disability Resource Centre (DRC)
- ▶ Financial

# World class education and courses

**Lectures**



**Supervisions/Tutorials**



**Practicals (Labs)**



**Independent study**



**Time in the library**



**Seminars**



# Supervisions/ Tutorials

Individual or small group teaching...



... With a world class academic

# Clubs and Societies



African Prisons Project African Science Truck Experience African-Caribbean Society Afrinspire Aid and Save Animal Planet Amateur Boxing Club Amateur Dramatic Club American Football Club American Stage Tour Amnesty International Anime and Manga Society Arab Innovation Network Archaeological Field Club Archimedean Architects Sans Frontieres Arts and Cultures Society Assassins' Guild Association Football Club Women's Association Football Club Astronomical Society Atheist and Agnostic Society Athletic Club Australia and New Zealand Society Australian Rules Football Club Automobile Club Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Society Azerbaijan Society Badminton Club Baha'i Ballet Club Bangla Society Baroque Ensemble Basketball Club Behavioural Economics Society Blue Light Society Blue Shakti A Capella Group Boat Club Bobbin Lace-Making Club Boules Society Bowmen Brass Band Society Brazilian Society Breakdance Club Bridge Club Brunei Society Buddhist Society Bulgarian Society Business School Club Cambridge Cafe Project Cambridge Futures Canadian Club Canoe Club Cantabulgarian Caving Club Celidh Band Chabad Jewish Society Cambridge Cheerleading Society Chess Club Chinese Calligraphy Society Chinese Cultural Society Chinese New Year Trust Society Chinese Society Christians on Campus Cinecam Clay Pigeon Shooting Club Commonwealth Society Communist Society Computing and Technology Society Concert Band Conservative Association Consulting Society Contemporary Dance Workshop Cricket Club Croquet Club Cruising Club Crusaders Cricket Club Cycling Club Cymdeithas Y Mabinogi Czech & Slovak Society Dancers Club Cambridge Development Initiative Dialectic Society The Digital-Gaming Society Diplomacy Society Dr Perse Memorial Ancient Literature Society Duke of Edinburgh's Award Society Eastern African Society Eco-House Initiative Society Electronic Music Society Energy Network Engineers without Borders Entrepreneurs Environmental Consulting Society Estonian Society European Theatre Group Expeditions Society Fabian Society Faith Forum Falcons Football Club Fencing Club Film-Making and Production Group Finnish Society Fire Troupe First Aid Society Fitzwilliam Museum Society Fives & Rackets Association Fute Choir Society Footlights Dramatic Club French Society Fujian White Crane Kung Fu and Tai Chi Full Blue Racing Gaelic Athletic Club Gastronomic Discovery German Society Ghanaian Society Gilbert & Sullivan Society Giving What We Can Gliding Club Go Society Gog Magog Molly Golf Club GreenBRIDGE Guild of Change Ringers Handball Club Hands-on Science Heartstart Hellenic Society Heraldic and Genealogical Society Herodoteans Hillwalking Club Hindu Cultural Society Hispanic Society Hockey Club Hong Kong and China Affairs Society The Humanitarian Centre Hungarian Society Ice Hockey India Society Indian Classical Arts Society Innovation Forum Intercollegiate Christian Union Cambridge International Student Film Festival International Studies Association Investment Banking Society Islamic Society Israel Society Italian Society Japanese Interdisciplinary Forum Jazz Orchestra Society Jewish Society Judo Club Jugglers' Association Karate Club Kazakh Society Kendo Society Kenya Education Partnerships Korean Society Korfbal Club Labour Club Lacrosse Club Law Society Lawn Tennis Club Cambridge Libertarians Life Saving Club Light Entertainment Society Lightweight Rowing Club Lion Dance Troupe Lithuanian Society Makespace Society Malaysia & Singapore Association Martowe Society Massage Society Medics Revue Mexican Society Middle Temple Society Mixed Martial Arts Model United Nations Modern Pentathlon Club Mountaineering Club Cambridge Muse Society Musical Society Musical Theatre Society Nature Society Netball Club Nigeria Society Olympic Gymnastics Club Opera Society Orchestra on the Hill Oriental Dance Association Orienteering Club Orthodox Society The Ospreys Persian Society Pescatarian and Vegetarian Society Philharmonic Orchestra Planting Promise Polish Society Political Forum Rod Club Portuguese Speakers Society Powerlifting Club Quiz Society Rackets Club Raja Yoga Society Rambling Club Real Ale Society Real Estate Finance and Investment Society Real Tennis Club Recorder Ensemble Revelation Rock Gospel Choir Revolver & Pistol Club Riding Club Rifle Association Rock Society Role-Playing Society Romanian Society English Country Dancing Club Rugby Club Rugby Union Club Kickboxing & Cane Fighting Society Scandinavian Society Science Fiction Society Scout & Guide Club Ski and Snowboarding Club Slovenian Society Somali Society South African Society Liberal Democrats Pugwash Society Surfing Association Swimming & Waterpolo Club Swiss Society Table Tennis Club Tae Kwon Do Taiwanese Society Tamil Society Tap and Jazz Dance Society Tea Society That Society Tiddlywinks Club Tolkien Society Trampoline Club Treasure Trap Triathlon Club Turkish Society Union Society Uzbekistan Society Vietnamese Society Volleyball Club Wagner Society Witberforce Society Wine Society Yoga Society Zero Carbon Society Spaceflight Society...and more!

# Fulfilling student experience

- ▶ University clubs and societies
- ▶ Sport, music and drama at every level
  - ▶ Multiple university and college teams
- ▶ College community



# Other Leisure Activities

- ▶ You aren't just stuck in the university all day!
- ▶ Shops, restaurants, bars, pubs, clubs, cafes, cinemas, ice rinks, bowling, markets...
- ▶ Socialising with friends
- ▶ Going away - visiting other cities, going home
- ▶ Or you can just relax in your room/house - read, watch TV, videogames, Instagram etc.



# The cost of studying at Oxford or Cambridge

- ▶ Costs the same as other universities in the UK
- ▶ College owned accommodation
  - ▶ Subsidised accommodation and college catering
- ▶ Short terms
  - ▶ Long holidays for paid employment/ work experience
- ▶ 113 Libraries and book grants
- ▶ No/low travel costs within the city
- ▶ Cambridge Bursaries and Hardship funds
- ▶ College prizes and scholarships, travel awards, academic awards



# Excellent employment prospects

- ▶ Cambridge and Oxford are in the top five UK universities targeted by Britain's leading graduate employers (*The Graduate Market in 2016*)
- ▶ Students and graduates have access to an active Careers Service
- ▶ 92 per cent of students in employment or further study within six months of graduating



# What are we looking for?

✓ **Academic ability and potential**

✓ **Subject requirements**

✓ **Genuine subject interest**  
– motivation and enthusiasm

✓ **Suitability for chosen course**



✗ **Particular school types**



✗ **Irrelevant extra-curricular activities**

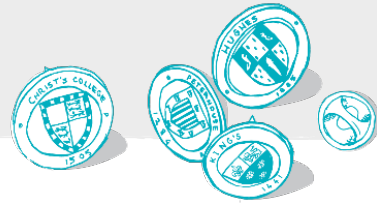
✗ **Particular backgrounds**

# Application Process

1 Choose your course



2 Choose a College or open application



3 Check admission assessment arrangements



4 UCAS application

*Remember!!  
Application deadline  
15 Oct*

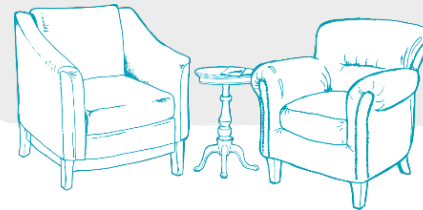
5 SAQ (22 October)



6 Submit written work and/or take admission assessment



7 Interview (December)



8 Decision (January)

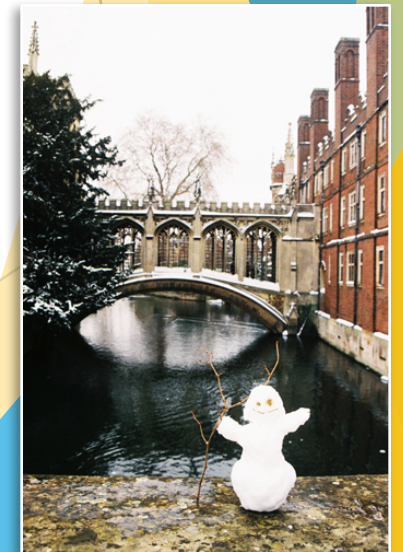


# What information do we use to assess applications?

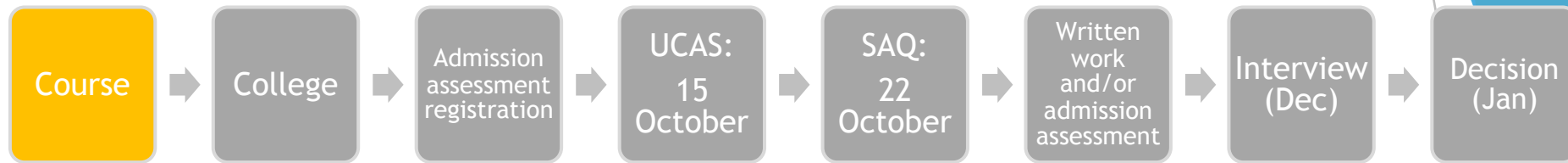
We consider every application individually, taking all aspects into account:

- Academic record
- Personal statement
- Teacher's reference
- Performance in any admission test / assessment (where required)
- Written work (where required)
- Contextual data
- Interview (if interviewed)

No part of an application is considered in isolation – all available information is looked at together before decisions are made.



# The application process: Choosing a course



- Think about what you enjoy
- Look at course details
- Talk to staff and students today



# Choosing a course

Below are just some of the courses offered by Oxford and Cambridge

## Cambridge

- ▶ Architecture
- ▶ Education, English and Drama
- ▶ Natural Sciences
- ▶ Land Economy
- ▶ Human, Social and Political Sciences
- ▶ Veterinary Medicine
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## Oxford

- ▶ Politics, Philosophy and Economics
- ▶ Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
- ▶ Earth Sciences
- ▶ Fine Art

All courses start very broadly with opportunity to specialise in later years

# HSPS



# Hu

# e

Suited both to those with specific subject interests and to those looking for a multidisciplinary degree. The course comprises three core disciplines

- **Politics and International Relations** explores politics within and between countries, covering issues from human rights and democracy, to financial crises and international conflict.
- **Social anthropologists** address 'what it is to be human' by studying social and cultural diversity - how people live, think and relate to each other around the world.
- **Sociology** focuses on the nature of modern societies and the processes that shape social life, by examining social institutions and topics such as power and inequality.

# NatSci???



## Natural Sciences

Natural Sciences (NST) offers a wide range of physical and biological science subjects from 16 departments in a unique and demanding course. A broad first year is combined with increasing specialisation in the second year and the possibility of total specialisation in the third year.

The breadth of the course reflects the blurring of boundaries between the different sciences and before committing yourself to one department you study a variety of subjects, some of which may be new to you. This means you can change your mind about which subject to specialise in.

# ASNC???



## Anglo- Saxon, Norse, and Celtic

ASNC focuses on the history, material culture, languages and literature of the peoples of Britain, Ireland and the Scandinavian world in the earlier Middle Ages.

The history and culture of Anglo-Saxon England, Celtic languages and literature, or Viking exploits - Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic (ASNC) allows you to explore a range of cultures, and to look at history, language and literature side by side.

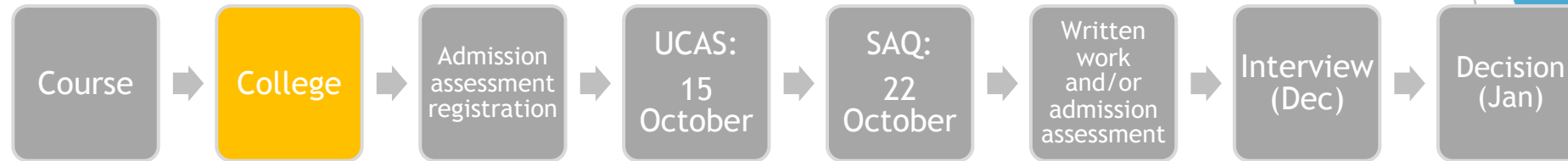
# AMES???



## Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Studying Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) is essentially studying one or more languages of the Middle or Far East. As you progress through the years, you also learn about aspects of the **culture and history of your chosen region**, and in third year go on a **year abroad**. Some people think you have to have studied the language, but actually every AMES course is taught starting from the most basic level. AMES is taught at the Sidgwick Site, and classes are quite small, usually around 10-20 people.

# Choosing a College - where would you like to live?



- ▶ 29 undergraduate Colleges in Cambridge
- ▶ 34 undergraduate Colleges in Oxford
- ▶ Differ in terms of:
  - ▶ accommodation
  - ▶ appearance
  - ▶ facilities
  - ▶ size (number of students)
- ▶ Instinct
- ▶ Open application



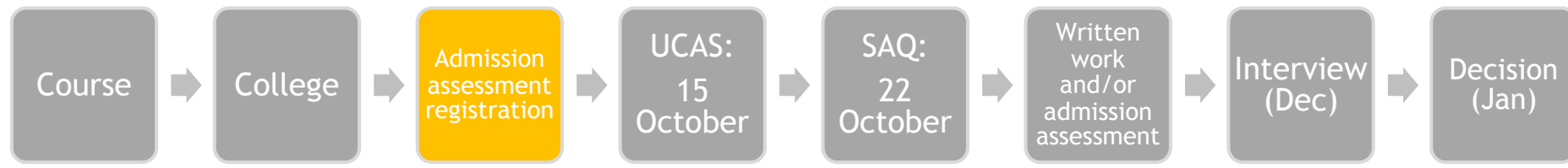
# The Colleges - where would you like to live?

## ▶ Common facilities include:

- accommodation
- JCR (Junior Common/Combination Room)
- library and computing facilities
- dining hall and bar
- sports facilities



# Pre-interview assessment registration



- Registration deadline for others – **15 October**
- Assessments taken – **Late October/Early November**



# Pre-interview assessment registration

- ▶ Purpose? To supplement information in your application and provide a gauge of your abilities
- ▶ Type? There will be two forms of admissions assessment, one taken before the interview stage and one taken at the interview stage
- ▶ Use? These assessments are not pass/fail tests - important to stress that your performance in any required written assessment won't be considered in isolation.

## Courses with pre-interview assessments

ASNaC  
AMES  
Chemical Engineering  
Economics  
Engineering  
English  
Geography  
History  
History and Modern Languages  
History and Politics  
HSPS  
Medicine  
Natural Sciences  
PBS  
Veterinary Medicine

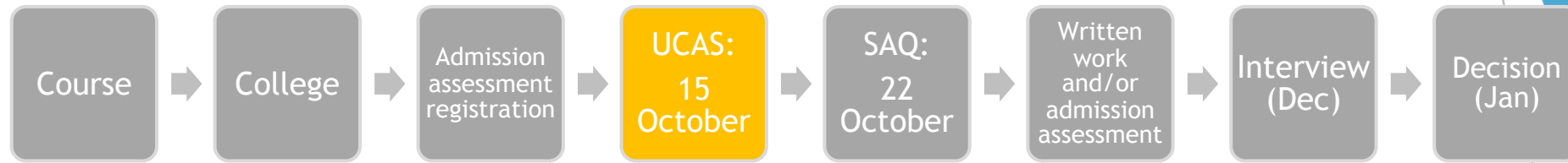
## Courses with at-interview written assessments

Archaeology  
Architecture  
Classics  
Computer Science  
Education  
History and Modern Languages  
History of Art  
Land Economy  
Law  
Linguistics  
Modern and Medieval Languages  
Philosophy  
Theology

# Structure

- ▶ Reading comprehension (60 minutes), critical response to text(s) (60 minutes)
- ▶ Problem solving and Maths for Economics (80 mins), Essay on a topic of economic interest
- ▶ Maths/ physics (80mins), structured sets of multiple choice maths and physics questions (40mins)
- ▶ Thinking skills Assessment and Reading Comprehension (80mins), Interpretation of graphical data (40mins)

# UCAS application



Completed online - application deadline 15 October

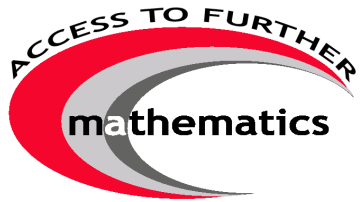
## Personal statement

- ▶ Be honest and write with integrity
- ▶ Cover your interest in your course, relevant subjects you have studied, super-curricular exploration
- ▶ Extra-curricular activities not relevant to the course applied for aren't taken into account in our considerations

# How do I demonstrate an interest in my subject?

- ▶ Reading books, journals, magazines, and online articles
- ▶ Watching documentaries and online talks, lectures or seminars (TED talks)
- ▶ Keeping u to date with the latest developments in your subject
- ▶ Watching/ listening to/ reading any other media related to your subject
- ▶ Going to museums/ galleries
- ▶ Taking part in trips, expeditiions, competitions, conferences, etc.
- ▶ Getting relevant work experience (only relevant to vocational subjects like medicine/veterinary medicine)
- ▶ Doing extra work using libraries and online resources
- ▶ Talking about your subject with your teachers, peers, families etc.

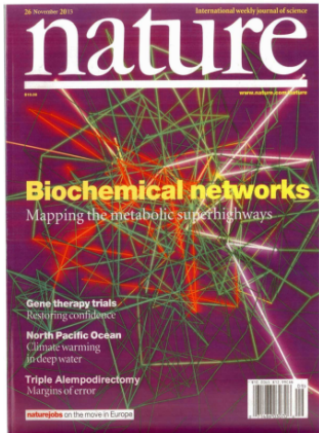
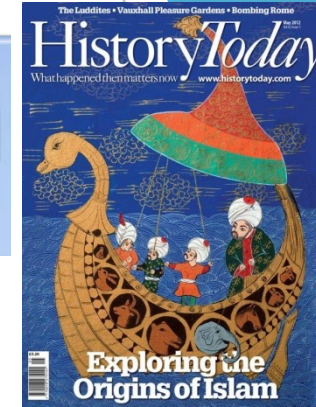
# Where to start?... Wider Exploration



92-95 FM



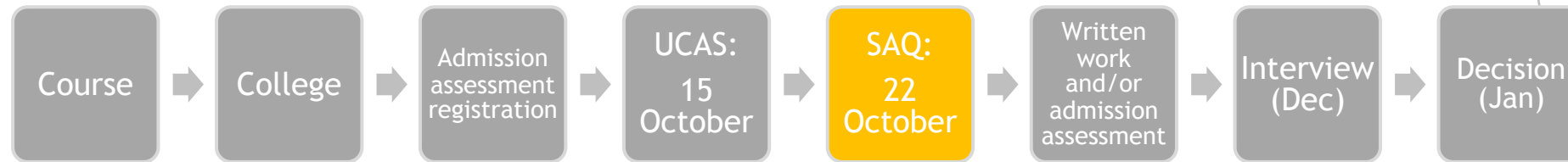
In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg



Inside the Ethics Committee



# Supplementary Application Questionnaire (Cambridge Only)



- ▶ Used to collect information not in the UCAS application but useful when assessing applicants, including:

- ▶ topics covered in AS/A Level (or equivalent) courses
- ▶ optional Cambridge-specific personal statement

- ▶ Ensures consistent information about all our applicants
- ▶ Completed online, in multiple sessions if you want

1 Photograph ✓ 2 Application type ✓ 3 Personal details 4 Course details 5 Education 6 Qualifications 7 Additional information 8 Submit Log out

Personal Details (2 of 2)

\* 3.3 Please list your Country or Countries of Ordinary Residence since 1 September 2006.

UK

\* 3.4 If you are living outside Europe will you be available for an interview in Cambridge? Yes No N/A

3.5 If there are any dates during the interview period in which it will be very difficult for you to attend an interview, please explain when and why. (Answer max. 300 characters including spaces)

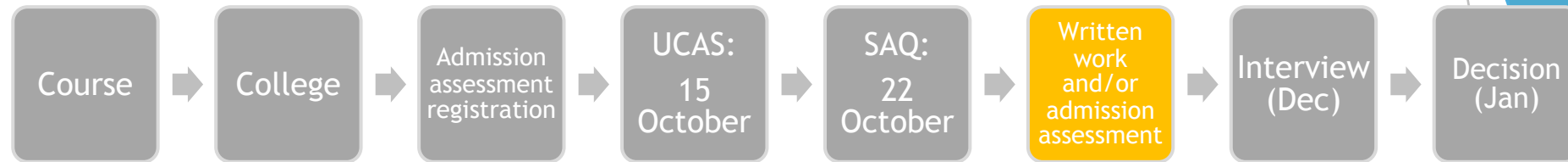
Count 4 Characters

None

\* Indicates a compulsory question Section completed?

Previous Page Next Page Save Review My Answers Help text (PDF)

## Written work and at-interview assessments



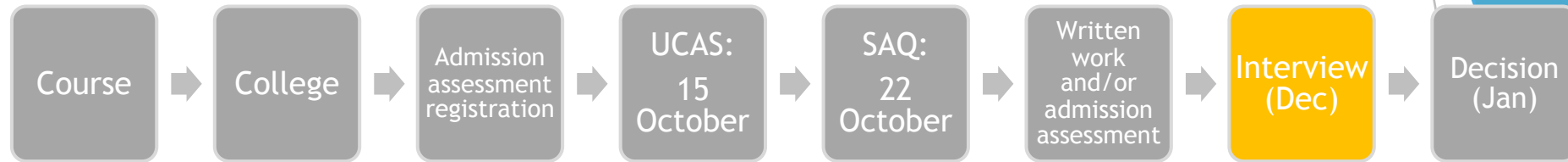
### ▶ **At-interview written assessments:**

- no need to register in advance
- taken when you're in Cambridge for interview (if interviewed)

### ▶ **Written work:**

- for a number of our courses you may be asked to submit one or two examples of your written work from a relevant A Level/IB (or equivalent) course

# Interviews

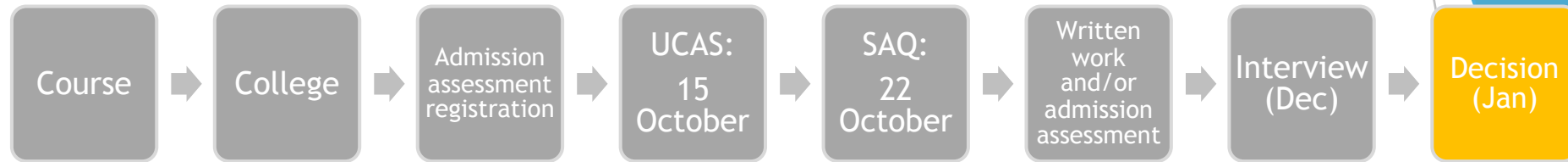


- ▶ Usually first three weeks of December
- ▶ One, two or three interviews
- ▶ Each 20-45 minutes
- ▶ Conducted by lecturers
- ▶ Predominantly academic and subject-focused



**No trick questions and not the ‘final hurdle’**

# Application outcome



The Colleges are responsible for all undergraduate admissions decisions, and notify students of the outcome of their application in January

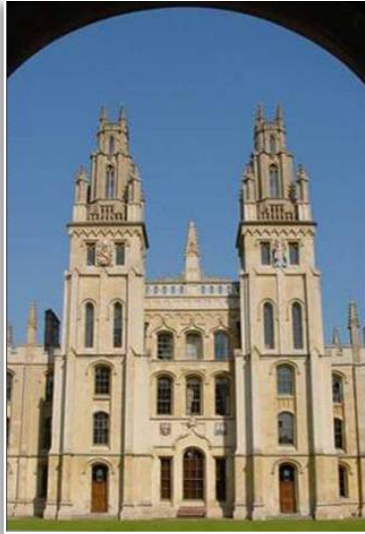
## 1. You may be made an offer

- May be from the College you applied/was allocated to, or from a different College as a result of your application being 'pooled'
- Conditional/unconditional

## 2. You may be unsuccessful

- Don't be deterred from applying by the prospect of not being successful – we can only offer places to those who apply!

# Frequently asked questions



Can I apply to both Oxford and Cambridge?

Which subjects do I need?

Is there a minimum GCSE requirement?

What's the most important part of an application?

Which Colleges are better for which subjects?

Are some Colleges easier to get into than others?

What extra-curricular activities will help my chances of admission?

# Finding out more

- ▶ Ask questions today!
- ▶ Undergraduate Prospectus
- ▶ Undergraduate Study website
- ▶ Contact the Cambridge Admissions Office or any College admissions office

For the most up-to-date information and advice about anything covered in the presentation, please refer to our website



# Where can I find out more?

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/>

All the information you could need about the university's courses, including guidance on subjects you should take at A-Level.

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/subjectmatters>

The University's subject guidance page, where you can download our guidance booklet and see events we run.

[slo@robinson.cam.ac.uk](mailto:slo@robinson.cam.ac.uk)

My email - I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

[www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk)

[slo@robinson.cam.ac.uk](mailto:slo@robinson.cam.ac.uk)

# Any Questions???

Is there a minimum GCSE requirement?

What's the most important part of an application?

Which Colleges are better for which subjects?

Are some Colleges easier to get into than others?

What extra-curricular activities will help my chances of admission?



# Making a competitive application: What is Cambridge looking for?

**Independent  
thought**

**Academic  
potential**

**Academic  
ability**

**Interest  
in your  
subject**

**Commitment  
to study**

# Finding out more

- ▶ Ask questions today!
- ▶ Undergraduate Prospectus
- ▶ Alternative Prospectus
  - ▶ [www.applytocambridge.com](http://www.applytocambridge.com)
- ▶ Undergraduate Study website
  - ▶ [www.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cam.ac.uk)
  - ▶ [www.becambridge.com](http://www.becambridge.com)
- ▶ Contact the Cambridge Admissions Office or any College admissions office



**Open Days & Events**  
**University Admissions Office**  
[admissions@cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@cam.ac.uk)