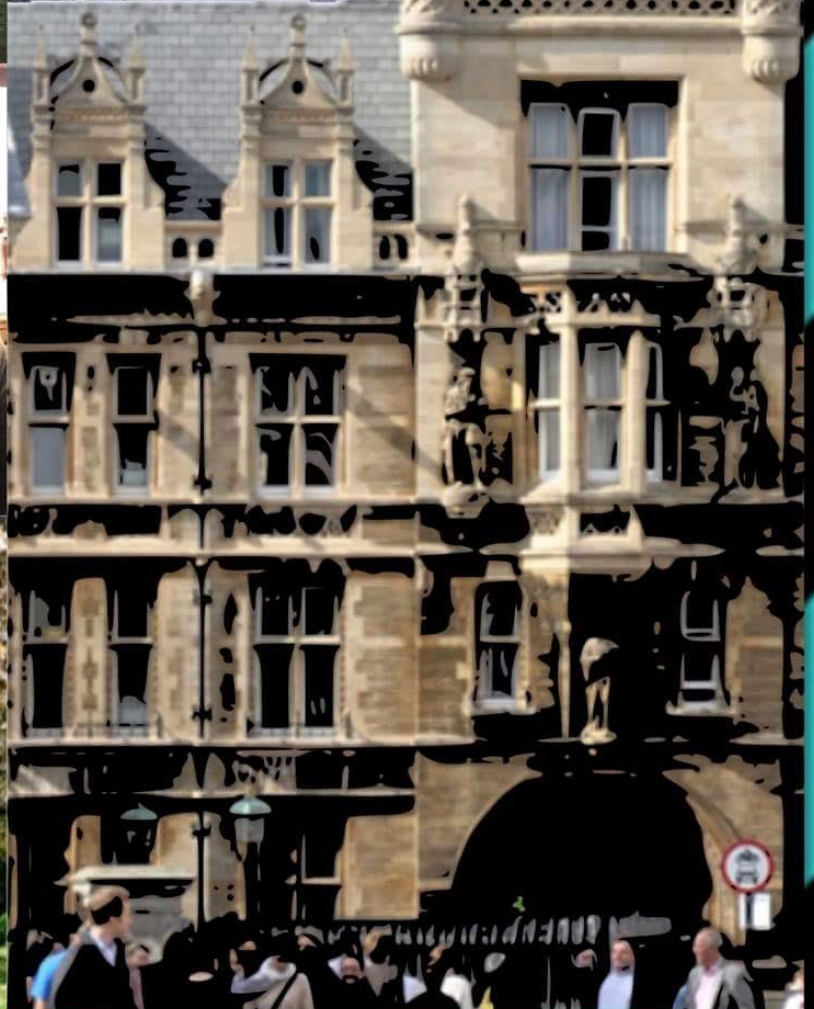


Gonville & Caius

ALTERNATIVE

PROSPECTUS



Welcome!



This is a student-written guide to life at Caius – we hope you find it helpful!

There is no ‘bad’ college choice – in fact, they’re all really great. This can make your decision even more difficult, so we’ve provided a few simple reasons why Caius might be for you:

The ‘quick sell’

Community	All colleges have a good sense of community, but Caius’ is especially strong because the freshers all live together in Harvey Court and Stephen Hawking Building. Additionally, students eat dinner in college more frequently than students at other colleges.
Location	Caius is right in the centre of town.
Size	Caius is the third-largest college (measured by undergraduate population). Each year has roughly 160 students, so you’ll know most people’s names while still having a wide range of potential friends.
Accommodation	Caius’ accommodation is in the top end in comparison with other colleges (especially our freshers’ accommodation which is all en-suite).
Sport/Music	We have a good reputation for sport, with bursaries available. Likewise, our choir is one of the world’s finest mixed collegiate choirs. We have choral and organ scholarships available.
Library	Voted the best library in Oxford and Cambridge.

We are really proud of our college; if you choose Caius you won’t regret it! Have fun reading!

Fast facts:

Pronunciation: ‘Caius’ sounds like ‘keys’

College colours: blue and black

Best known for: having Stephen Hawking as a ‘Fellow’

Founded: 1348 (re-founded in 1557)

Number of undergrads: approx. 550

Email us at:

jcraccess@cai.cam.ac.uk

Find out more:

www.cai.cam.ac.uk

www.caiusjcr.org.uk

See what we Caians get up to:

Facebook: ‘The Keys to Caius’

Instagram: ‘@caiusjcr’

Snapchat: ‘thekeystocaius’



Food

In College

Breakfast is served every weekday in the bar - it's a perfect way to grab a coffee and bacon butty before lectures begin.

Lunch is a cafeteria-style meal in Hall available on weekdays. Always a good place to bump into friends.

Brunch substitutes for both breakfast and lunch over the weekend, and is the sole explanation for sightings of Caians out of bed before midday! Whether you're hankering for a full fry-up or a fruit and muesli selection, Caius brunch caters for all.

Dinner is a three course meal (costing £4.20) served in Hall every night of the week. Caius' food is generally really great, and themed dinners (e.g. the ever-popular Mexican night) create a bit of fun! Menus are uploaded a week in advance, bookings for hall are made online, and many dietary requirements can be catered for, including vegetarian, vegan, halal and kosher.



Going at it alone

Though eating 'in Hall' (our Hogwarts-esque dining hall) is by far the most popular option, Caians can get inventive in their 'gyms' (kitchens). Cambridge also offers a wide range of places to eat out for a special occasion or if you're being lazy and haven't remembered to book hall.

Hall

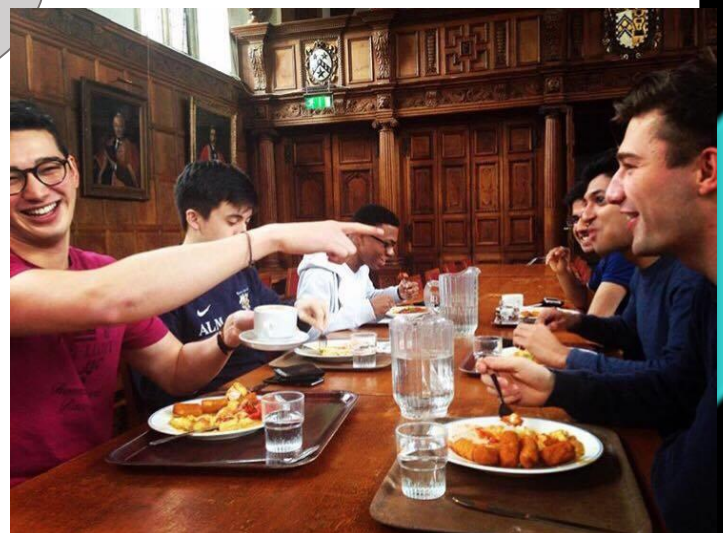
Hall – how it works

Minimum Dining Requirement (MDR) – all students at Caius pre-pay for a minimum of 36 dinners a term. This makes going to Hall a very sociable affair, bustling with well over 100 students per sitting - many Caians attribute the strong community spirit to this system.

First v Formal – six nights a week, there are two consecutive sittings of dinner. Both are identical, with food served to the table in our beautiful hall. However, ‘formal Hall’ is carried out in candlelight and students are required to wear our college gown (though anything can be worn underneath).

Cafeteria hall – on a Saturday night, hall is served cafeteria-style for a more relaxed evening (with ice creams for pudding!)

Occasions – once a term Caius has ‘Superhall’ which is a fancy four-course dinner costing just over £20 (bargain!) and there are other nice dinners throughout the year! These are a great reward for all the hard work you’ve been putting in – and a chance to wear that eye-catching suit/dress you brought with you!



Provisional Menu

Tomato & Mascarpone Soup
Or
Prawn Cocktail
*
Grilled Gammon & Chargrilled Pineapple

Sweet Potato Fries
Petit Pois

Mixed Salad
*
Toffee Dime Bar Pie

Vegetarian:
Open Vegetable Tart

Accommodation

First years

Caius' first year accommodation is probably the best student accommodation you'll find anywhere in Cambridge. Depending on the price band you choose, you will be randomly allocated a room in the Stephen Hawking Building (SHB) or Harvey Court (HC), but the two are right next to each other so you'll never live more than 30 seconds away from a fellow first year. Not only are all the rooms newly renovated or newly built, but they're also pretty spacious and all en-suite.

In terms of location, the walk to Old Courts and Caius Library is about 7 minutes, but the University Library and Sidgwick Site (for most arts students) are both right next door - you can easily roll out of bed at 8:59 for a 9am lecture. HC has the added benefit of linking balconies, which are a great place for socialising and hanging out in the summer.

Second and third years

Second and third year rooms are allocated by ballot, so you can pick your room and which friends you want to live with. The choice of rooms available to pick will depend on your randomly-allocated ballot position - if you have a low ballot position in second year, it's not too bad because the ballot positions are reversed for third year so you'll be nearer the top.

Second years mostly live in college-owned houses around Cambridge, either in Green Street and Rose Crescent opposite Old Courts in the centre of town or in the massive rooms in Mortimer Road next to Parker's Piece. Third years (and fourth years) either live in Old Courts (any of Gonville Court, Caius Court and Tree Court) or across the road in St Michael's Court and St Mary's Court - some of these rooms are "sets" (come with bedroom and living room).

Washing/Cleaning

"Bedders" clean your rooms and empty your bins throughout the week, wherever you end up living.

Washing machines are available across all accommodation sites - free of charge which is (we think) unique to Caius.



Kitchen facilities

Students have "gyp rooms" between an average of six to eight students, and all have fridges, toasters, microwaves, kettles and sinks. Most gyp rooms have hobs and some even have ovens. Often we dine in Hall, but who doesn't love a cheeky macaroni and cheese - which can easily be made in a microwave.



Free time

There is so much more to being a student at Cambridge than the academic side of things, and outside of work Caius has a lot to offer!

JCR

The JCR is the “Junior Combination Room” at Caius. It refers to two things: the Caius undergraduate body represented by the GCSU (Gonville & Caius Students’ Union), and an actual common room. There are two JCR common rooms in Caius, one in Old Courts and one in Harvey Court. They are really nice communal areas you can use at any time of day to meet friends in college, play a round of snooker/table tennis, or just chill on the sofas.



College Bar

A Cambridge student newspaper named Caius’ bar as the prettiest in Cambridge and it’s hard to disagree! The drinks are far cheaper than your average Cambridge pub, and a variety of food is served throughout the day: breakfast on weekdays and a great value meal deal at lunchtimes. Students hang out in the bar mostly after dinner, and also when there’s something big being shown on the bar’s TV, whether it’s a major football game or the Great British Bake Off!



Bops

Caius has its own “bops” which are parties organised by students on the GCSU ents team. Although some colleges have big university-wide events, Caius bops are more in-college affairs and are a great way to socialise with other students at the College. Tickets and drinks are cheaper than in the big clubs and there is usually a fancy dress theme (open to wide interpretation) along with more cheesy music than you could possibly imagine!



College facilities

Sports facilities at Barton Road: Caius has football pitches, rugby pitches, squash courts, basketball courts and all-weather netball/tennis courts – all free to use and close by.

Gym: located in Harvey Court- membership is just £10 a year.

Punting: the college has its own punt, perfect for renting out on a sunny day.

Caius boathouse: the best equipped boathouse on the Cam (newly rebuilt!) for the most successful boat club in Cambridge.

Music facilities: we have several music rooms and not to mention the world’s most famous collegiate mixed choir who go on tour every year.

Work

Working at Caius

Your primary reason for applying to Cambridge will be the chance to study your favourite subject at a high level, but your choice of college won't have too big an impact on your academic life. This is because most of your teaching will be organised and delivered by your faculty with the rest of your peers (e.g. lectures, labs and seminars). Supervisions will also be organised with the most suitable academics, so you will often find yourself seeing someone at another college.

At Caius, working life is made much more enjoyable due to our community spirit and the fantastic individual support provided by college staff (such as your tutor and Director of Studies).



Library

With its huge windows, arches and balconies, Caius has one of the prettiest and best-stocked libraries in Cambridge, with over 65,000 books. Located next to College in the town centre, the library is always full of familiar faces. Caius doesn't want life to be all work, which is why the library is open from 7am to 1am (not like some super-intense 24 hour libraries at other colleges). Downstairs is a cosy seating area at the entrance for downtime with friends (or the occasional nap) and a computer room with printing and photocopying facilities.

The librarian and computer officers are always happy to help find a book or fix a broken laptop! At Cambridge, you will also have access to your faculty library and the University Library; however, Caius' library is always open to book requests and purchases around 1000 books each year.



Finances

Income

Caius grants and bursaries: Cambridge University offers many generous bursaries, but there are also Caius-specific ones. Get up-to-date information at <https://www.cai.cam.ac.uk/>. All Caians, even if they don't qualify for a grant, are eligible to apply for a travel grant (money to put towards any trip you're planning over the summer) and a book grant to put toward educational purchases. The friendly Caius Bursar is always available to sort out loan issues and offer budgeting advice. There is also a sports grant available for sportspeople. Likewise, there are bursaries and scholarships available for musicians.

Earning: It is not recommended that Cambridge students work during term time due to the high workload. However, there are other opportunities to earn. Many students take jobs during the holidays, such as summer internships. These job opportunities are advertised by the central careers service and subject departments. Alternatively, there are opportunities to earn throughout the year doing jobs like helping at interviews or working at a May Ball.



Expenditure

Rent: almost everyone lives in college housing while in Cambridge, which means that utilities are paid for. Caius' accommodation ranges in cost, so expenditure can be limited by a wise choice in the room ballot. Insurance for your possessions only costs £10 a year.

Food: eating in hall most nights means that only essentials need to be bought. Factor in £30 a week for food unless you eat in a lot.

Academic costs: this can vary across subjects, but will be no more than the cost at other universities. Well-stocked libraries and book grants can really help to keep the cost down. However, for many subjects you don't need to purchase any books.



Applying to Cambridge

Step 1: The Paperwork

October – the deadline for UCAS forms is 15 October each year. You will be asked to fill in a Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ) for Cambridge to give more specific academic details, such as which modules you're sitting and the topics you are learning. Some subjects require either submitted written work and/or admission tests.

Step 1.5: Admissions Test.

Some subjects will require you to complete an admissions test before your interview. Check the college's website for more information about this and for the registration deadline.



1. Direct Offer

Conditional offer: this means you have been offered a place at Caius and you are guaranteed that place subject to the conditions on your acceptance letter. Most conditional offers include grade requirements which is typically A*A*A for science subjects and economics and A*AA for arts subjects.

Step 2: The Interview

December – Interviews take place in December. You will be emailed the details of your interview in advance and you will be notified about any preparations you need to make if necessary. The best way to prepare is to know your Personal Statement and course content as well as possible. Interviewers do not expect you to know everything but they want to see that you have read around your subject and are willing to learn. Some subjects will require you to take an admissions test on your interview day.

1.5. Pooled then offer

It is often the case that there are simply not enough spaces in a given college for very strong candidates. Such applicants are pooled to be considered by other colleges who may have more intake space. Candidates who are have been successfully fished out of the pool will be given an offer by the fishing college.

2. Unsuccessful

Whatever the outcome, preparing for a Cambridge interview encourages you to think in new ways about your subject and why it interests you. You get to spend a night in college which includes free breakfast, lunch and dinner, meet academics and current students. You can learn a lot from the experience.

UCAS

Still worried about interview?

If you want more specific advice on how to prepare for interviews in your subject, you can 'Ask a Student' via the GCSU website or contact us through any of our social media pages.

Welfare at Caius

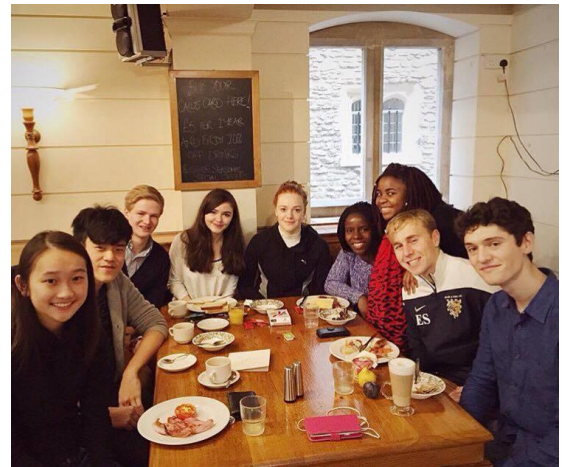
Caius has fantastic support networks:

GCSU Welfare Team: we have specific members of our Students' Union who try to ensure that the welfare of students is the first priority of the college.

Tutors – each student is assigned an academic for pastoral support. If you have any problems they will be happy to help.

College Nurse – our friendly nurse has her clinic on-site and provides health, sexual and pastoral advice.

College “parents” – each fresher is assigned second year “parents” who can share their experiences on everything from books to club nights!



If you or your school/college would like to get in touch with Caius,

- Feel free to email us at jcraccess@cai.cam.ac.uk
- Check out the main college website (<https://www.cai.cam.ac.uk>)
- Check the University site for more information.

If you can visit Cambridge, get in contact with us on one of our social media pages to arrange a quick tour of the college.