



PETERHOUSE



PETERHOUSE IS THE [CAMBRIDGE EXPERIENCE AT ITS BEST](#)  
AND MOST APPROACHABLE – YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER  
PLACE TO CALL HOME FOR THREE YEARS!

Why Peterhouse?	4
Living	6
Working	8
Playing	10
Support	12
Why not you?	14
Your future	16
Contacts	18



IT'S REALLY FRIENDLY – AT PETERHOUSE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO **BE SOMEBODY** IN AN ENVIRONMENT AS COMPETITIVE AS CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

NICK

WELCOME TO PETERHOUSE

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF,  
THERE IS NO 'TYPICAL CAMBRIDGE  
STUDENT' AND THE SAME IS TRUE  
OF PETERHOUSE STUDENTS.

JENNIE

04



### A unique environment

Peterhouse is, above all, an exciting and friendly place to be. As the oldest and smallest of the undergraduate Colleges, it offers a unique environment, close to the main Arts, Engineering and Science faculties and the centre of the city, but just off the tourist trail.

Peterhouse's small size (we admit about 75 Freshers a year) makes for a really friendly atmosphere. Staff are able to offer you individual attention throughout your degree. Peterhouse students come from an enormously wide range of backgrounds, with varied interests and opinions. Many come from overseas. The only things our students all have in common are high academic ability, a commitment to their subject, and the willingness to work hard.

At Peterhouse you can choose what type of Cambridge experience you have – the traditional side of Cambridge life is there for you to enjoy if you choose, but it is by no means stifling. Our support and facilities for both academic work and extra-curricular activities are also superb – second only to the diversity of our students.

Add to that the stunning grounds, a thriving social scene and good-quality accommodation, guaranteed throughout your degree, and we think you'll find that Peterhouse is the perfect choice for your time at Cambridge.

## A day in the life of a first-year: Vidushi – Mathematician

Arriving at Peterhouse was a bit nerve-racking – I'd never lived away from home before and you wonder what people will be like. It really helped that all of the first-years are housed together. There are seven different houses and people are deliberately mixed up so you meet people from different subjects, and from all over the country, even the world. Everyone's keen to make friends so you're all in the same boat. I must have said which A levels I did and where I was from a hundred times!

### EVERYONE'S KEEN TO MAKE FRIENDS SO YOU'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.

This first year has gone really fast. I've enjoyed my course, and my Director of Studies (who I'd already met at my interview) was really helpful. I haven't just worked though. I've got a fair amount of flying in through the Officer Training Corps and, as well as loads of rowing, I'm also now the cox for the men's A boat!



Vidushi

# WHY PETERHOUSE?

# THE GARDENS ARE A FANTASTIC ASPECT OF COLLEGE – IT TAKES THE STRESS OUT OF AN ESSAY WHEN YOU CAN WALK THROUGH THE DEER PARK TO THE LIBRARY.

TIMOTHY

06

## Great, good value accommodation guaranteed

Peterhouse freshers get some of the best rooms in Cambridge and are all housed together so that it's easy to make friends in your first few weeks here. You won't have to worry about finding accommodation in any other year either because we can house you right through your undergraduate years, even for four-year degrees such as Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Peterhouse is strikingly pretty. As the oldest College, founded in 1284, Peterhouse has a real sense of history and students use buildings every day that have been in use for 700 years! But we don't expect you to live in a time-warp - IT facilities are top-rate and every room in College has an Internet connection.



All rooms are fully-furnished, centrally-heated singles with bathroom and kitchen facilities nearby. You have a choice of price band and you only have to pay for the weeks that you spend here. This is just one of the factors that make Cambridge much more affordable than its reputation suggests.

## Meals

'Hall' provides three meals a day and in the evening you can choose between an informal cafeteria meal or 'Formal Hall', a good-value three-course dinner by candlelight. These are neither compulsory nor sombre occasions and are popular amongst students. We happily cater for vegetarians.

Most students eat at least one meal in Hall every day - some rarely cook for themselves at all. Meals are inexpensive and cafeteria meals are paid for by the item. The quality and variety of Peterhouse food is excellent and is controlled by a

**VARSIY RATED  
PETERHOUSE AS  
HAVING THE BEST-  
VALUE ROOMS IN THE  
UNIVERSITY AND THE  
FRIENDLIEST PORTERS!**

# PETERHOUSE IS A GREAT PLACE TO COME HOME TO!

PAUL

committee, which includes student representation. Portion sizes are legendary, even amongst rowers!

Each staircase also has a basic kitchen (called a 'gyp room' in Cambridge), where hot snacks and simple meals can be prepared.

## The grounds

Peterhouse is surrounded by four acres of beautiful grounds, including the Deer Park, and, unlike many other College gardens, most of our grass can be walked on. The gardens are a well-kept secret, even in Cambridge, and provide a fantastic, peaceful haven, especially in the summer months.

## Getting around

Peterhouse is very central, so the majority of sites you will need to visit are within a ten-minute walk. Most students use Cambridge's favourite form of transport, the bicycle, when travelling further afield. A subsidised bus service is also available between Peterhouse, the out-of-town science campuses and Addenbrooke's teaching hospital.



## Supporting your studies

Peterhouse has strong traditions in both the Arts and the Sciences. We admit undergraduates in all subjects except Geography, Land Economy, Education and Veterinary Medicine.

While you will attend lectures, take examinations and use facilities at your Department or Faculty, supervisions are arranged by the College. Supervisions are the forum for the distinctive, Cambridge-style of teaching where just one or two students meet on a weekly basis to discuss their work and ideas with a member of academic staff.



Your supervisor will often be a Fellow of the College, while at other times you will go to another College for supervision, just as undergraduates from other colleges will come to be taught at Peterhouse. Peterhouse Fellows offer excellent teaching in their areas of expertise and our links with specialists across the University mean that you can be supervised by the appropriate person, regardless of which direction your degree takes you in.

Peterhouse prides itself on providing interdisciplinary discussion and debate in the form of student-run academic societies. The Perne Club invites speakers from across Cambridge and Britain, such as Tariq Ali, Frank Kermode, Germaine Greer and Tam Dalyell. The History Society attracts very large audiences to hear figures like Tony Benn, David Starkey and Michael Portillo. The Kelvin Club provides discussion of topical subjects in the Sciences, Medicine and Mathematics.

## Facilities

We want you to succeed in your chosen degree so academic support and facilities for your studies are given prime importance. Our library for instance, contains over 80,000 volumes and boasts wireless internet connection, work stations for lap-tops and group study rooms. During term-time it is open until midnight. Well over 1,000 volumes are added every year on the recommendation of undergraduates, graduates and Fellows. The computer room is well equipped and full-time Computer Officers are available to help you with any computing issues.

Finally, generous funds are available from the College for particular purposes, such as study-related travel during vacations. Particularly high-achieving students may also receive funds from one of our academic scholarships.



THE CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY IS GREAT. IF YOU'RE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO LIKES TO KNOW EVERYONE IN YOUR YEAR AND FEEL THAT, WHOEVER YOU TURN TO, YOU'LL BE SUPPORTED, THEN PETERHOUSE IS THE PLACE FOR YOU.

CRAIG

**A day in the life of a second-year:  
Sam – Historian**

I have a great group of friends in College. They're all in different subjects and year groups. I've been heavily involved in student journalism, have chaired the Student Lib Dems group and I've helped organise chapel activities.

I loved my first year but you feel more settled in the second year – I've definitely found my feet and have got into a routine with work, which has helped me balance the rest of life. My supervisors have

**I'VE BEEN CHALLENGED TO GO OUTSIDE MY ACADEMIC COMFORT ZONES BUT, EVEN WHEN I FELT DAUNTED, I'VE BEEN SUPPORTED ALL THE WAY.**

helped me develop effective study skills as well as teaching the course content.

History is one of Peterhouse's fortes so most of my supervision has been 'in house'. I've been challenged to go outside my academic comfort zones but, even when I felt daunted, I've been supported all the way. I'm now really looking forward to my final-year dissertation – I've had College funding to do research for it in Spain this summer.



Sam

# IT'S BRILLIANT BECAUSE BOTH COMPETITIVE AND TOTALLY NON-COMPETITIVE SPORT IS AVAILABLE!

PATRICK

10

Whatever way you want to fill your time outside academic work, whether with acting, sport, writing for a student newspaper or throwing yourself into one of the myriad of societies available here, Peterhouse provides a great springboard. From social action groups to Ultimate Frisbee, our students are involved in a wide range of clubs, societies and activities, both at College and University level.

## Sport

Every year has its top-rate sportspeople, but opportunities also abound for the first-time rower or just a Sunday kickabout. It's easy to try out new activities at a non-competitive level – maybe you will discover a talent you never knew you had! At College level, you will find serious and not-so-serious teams in men's and women's football, rugby, rowing, tennis, cricket and many more. We have a squash court and multi-gym within the College grounds, while the games fields and tennis courts are only ten minutes away.



THE SMALL SIZE OF THE COLLEGE ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE SKILLS OUTSIDE ACADEMIA. DAISUKE

## Theatre and Music

The 180-seat Peterhouse Theatre has excellent acoustics and high-standard audio-visual equipment. The Heywood Society puts on plays every year, often using the College gardens in summer (for example, *The Merchant of Venice*, pictured on the opposite page), as do other drama groups. The theatre also hosts concerts, films and lectures.

The Peterhouse Music Society holds a regular series of well-attended recitals as well as a number of larger scale concerts. We have a grand piano, and recital and practice facilities, which are soon to be extended.

## Other interests

The Chapel Choir is enthusiastically supported by the College, and choristers receive singing tuition at College expense. We offer several choral scholarships each year – information about the awards scheme can be found on our website. The Chapel has one of the finest baroque organs in Cambridge, and there are two organ scholars in residence at any one time.

Our website has information about many of the other interests we cater for. The Photographic Society, Film Society and Amnesty International provide some current examples. And if Peterhouse doesn't have the society for you, you can go to the University-wide 'Freshers' Fair' in your first week to join clubs devoted to almost every conceivable interest and a few more besides!

If, after a long day studying, all of this seems like far too much effort, then the College bar offers a welcoming place to meet up with friends and the Entertainment Committee put on regular parties, theme nights and events for every taste.



# PETERHOUSE HAS AN OPEN-MINDED AND STIMULATING INTELLECTUAL ATMOSPHERE.

OLIVER

12

## Individual attention

While supervisions provide an opportunity to look at your chosen topics in depth, your overall guide on academic matters will be your Director of Studies (DOS) who, in all but the smallest subjects, will always be a Fellow of Peterhouse. He or she will often teach some of your papers, but the chief function of the DOS is to discuss with you the particular shape your course should take, organise supervision, give advice about lectures and reading, and generally help you to understand the wider context of your subject. Your DOS will offer you individual attention, helping you to choose the courses that will most appeal to you and that will build towards a degree tailored to your particular interests.



IT JUST FEELS REALLY PERSONAL – FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN I NEEDED FUNDING FOR FIELD WORK OVER THE SUMMER I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO THE SENIOR TUTOR AND THE COLLEGE WAS REALLY HELPFUL. KATE

Your Tutor is responsible for your pastoral care and will usually be the same Fellow for all three/four years. He or she will be from another subject, which makes it easier for him or her to represent you should you be facing academic difficulties. You are welcome to discuss personal, financial or academic issues with your Tutor. The Peterhouse Porters, the College nurse, student representatives and your fellow students will also be part of your support structure if life's challenges sometimes seem a little overwhelming at points during your time here.

Finally, the Chaplain and Dean are both happy to lend a listening ear to anyone in the College whether or not about spiritual matters. You are also always welcome in the Chapel: it provides a place of prayer, enquiry, creativity and community for people from all sorts of spiritual backgrounds and traditions.

### A day in the life of an overseas student: Natalia – Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

Coming here was pretty scary – not only had I never lived away from my parents but I'd never lived in England before! I'm from Moscow and was at school in Japan. I chose Cambridge because it offered a unique course (Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic) in a unique environment. I also really liked the idea of the very personalised supervision system.

WHEN I CAME TO INTERVIEW, THE COLLEGE ARRANGED ACCOMMODATION AND WERE REALLY SUPPORTIVE. THE INTERVIEW WAS CHALLENGING, BUT I QUITE ENJOYED IT!

I submitted an Open application and I'm really pleased I ended up at Peterhouse. Being in a small, friendly College definitely made the transition to Cambridge much easier. I'd describe it as really homely and welcoming.

When I came to interview, the College arranged accommodation and were really supportive. The interview was challenging, but I quite enjoyed it!

Now I'm here, I see my Tutor and Director of Studies regularly and they've been really helpful even though I'm in a small subject. Now I'm applying for a Masters here!



Natalia

# SUPPORT

OUR ADMISSIONS POLICY IS STRAIGHTFORWARD:  
WE ADMIT STUDENTS SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF ACADEMIC  
ABILITY AND POTENTIAL AND **WE ARE COMMITTED TO  
OFFERING PLACES TO THE MOST ABLE**, REGARDLESS OF  
SCHOOL OR BACKGROUND.

14



### **Our philosophy and approach**

Because we are a small College, we are able to take great care over every application. Although we try to achieve a 50:50 balance between Arts and Sciences, we have no fixed quotas in any subject except Medicine (where the quota agreed with the University is seven). Subject-specific information is available on our website. We continue to interview the vast majority of applicants in Cambridge. For some of our Overseas candidates, interviews may be available in the Far East instead.

Our normal conditional offer will be AAA at A2 and we sometimes make use of AEA awards or STEP Mathematics (in Mathematics, Engineering and Natural Sciences). However, we treat each application individually. Offers are designed to be realistic, taking into account individual circumstances, including potential and likely level of achievement. So the majority of those who receive offers will attain the grades required. For further details about the typical offer in each subject or the level of offers in IB or other qualifications, consult our website.

We fully support the Cambridge Special Access Scheme and encourage you to apply even if your school has little or no experience of the Cambridge system. Our Admissions Office is happy to help either individuals or teachers who need advice on individual applications and we will gladly talk teachers new to Cambridge applications through the necessary procedures, either by telephone or here in Cambridge. We strongly recommend the University website ([www.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cam.ac.uk)) which gives an enormous amount of useful advice on the Admissions process, interviews and schools events.

**WE WOULD  
ENCOURAGE YOU  
TO CONSULT THE  
COLLEGE AND THE  
UNIVERSITY WEBSITES  
FOR THE MOST  
UP-TO-DATE ADVICE  
ON THE ADMISSIONS  
PROCESS.**



WHY NOT YOU?

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT PETERHOUSE WILL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE THE NOBEL PRIZE-WINNERS, INVENTORS AND OSCAR NOMINEES OF THE FUTURE, AS WELL AS THE DOCTORS, LAWYERS, TEACHERS AND SCIENTISTS.

**THE QUESTION IS, COULD THEY BE YOU?**

16

Peterhouse has always been an environment in which a wide range of talent can flourish. Many of our more well-known graduates demonstrate this ethos: the Nobel Prize-winner Max Perutz, who arrived as a refugee from Nazi-occupied Austria in the 1930s, the Oscar-winning film director, Sam Mendes, and the bass guitarist of the band Radiohead, Colin Greenwood, all came to Peterhouse. Lord Kelvin,



Frank Whittle, the inventor of the jet engine, the poet Thomas Gray, and Christopher Cockerell, the inventor of the hovercraft, are some of the other famous names to have called Peterhouse home in former centuries. Two recent Directors of Studies in Natural Sciences, John Kendrew and Aaron Klug, were awarded Nobel Prizes while they were still teaching Peterhouse undergraduates.



## A day in the life of a finalist: Pete – Engineer

I can't believe how fast my four years at Peterhouse have gone! The engineering course has been awesome and I'm going straight into an engineering job with a company I did work experience with.

Work-wise, I enjoyed the structural design project best (designing, building and testing a cantilever arm until it broke!) but it's all been good. There's support here for you to study to the highest level but nobody is expecting you to be superhuman!

**WOULD I CHOOSE PETERHOUSE AGAIN? ABSOLUTELY! TOP LOCATION, GREAT PEOPLE, EXCELLENT FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION. WHO WOULDN'T?**

I've made so many friends here. I'd never rowed before and ended up president of the College boat club. I also did lots of technical work in the theatre and was privileged to go on tour to France with a production of Richard III. Even when you're having fun, you're developing real-life skills relevant to work.

Would I choose Peterhouse again? Absolutely! Top location, great people, excellent food and accommodation. Who wouldn't?



Pete

YOUR FUTURE

ACADEMIC FLEXIBILITY, GOOD PASTORAL CARE, **GREAT PEOPLE**, WONDERFUL ENVIRONMENT.

ALEX

18



**FUNDING**  
THE SITUATION REGARDING FUNDING IS CHANGING RAPIDLY AND SIGNIFICANTLY AT BOTH NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL. THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE AND UNIVERSITY WEB-SITE ARE GOOD SOURCES OF ADVICE ON CURRENT FUNDING STRUCTURES AND BURSARIES. PETERHOUSE ALSO HAS SPECIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT NO-ONE HAS TO LEAVE THEIR COURSE DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

### **What can I do next?**

If you are predicted high grades at A-Level or their equivalent, we would be delighted to meet you. Potential applicants can:

- Come to one of our Open Days in May (Mathematics), June or July. Here you will meet our undergraduates, see around the College, and meet the Admissions Tutors and teaching staff. See our website at [www.pet.cam.ac.uk](http://www.pet.cam.ac.uk) for details.
- Check our website for detailed information and advice on individual subjects or phone or email our Admissions Office to clarify individual queries.
- Contact the Tutors for Admissions who will be happy to give you advice, even if you have not yet made your final choice of subject or College. You may wish to arrange an appointment to visit them at College. Meetings with teaching staff can also be arranged.

### **Teachers**

- For specific enquiries, please call or email the Admissions Office. Many queries can be dealt with immediately.
- The Admissions Tutors are happy to meet with teachers in Cambridge or to discuss the latest developments in the applications process over the telephone.
- Peterhouse arranges a number of schools visits each year to encourage high-achieving students to apply to Oxbridge. If you would like either an Admissions Tutor or the Admissions Coordinator to come to your school, do make contact with the Admissions Office.



## Contact details

Peterhouse Undergraduate  
Admissions Office  
Peterhouse  
Trumpington Street  
Cambridge  
CB2 1RD

Tel: 00 44 (0)1223 338 223  
admissions@pet.cam.ac.uk  
www.pet.cam.ac.uk

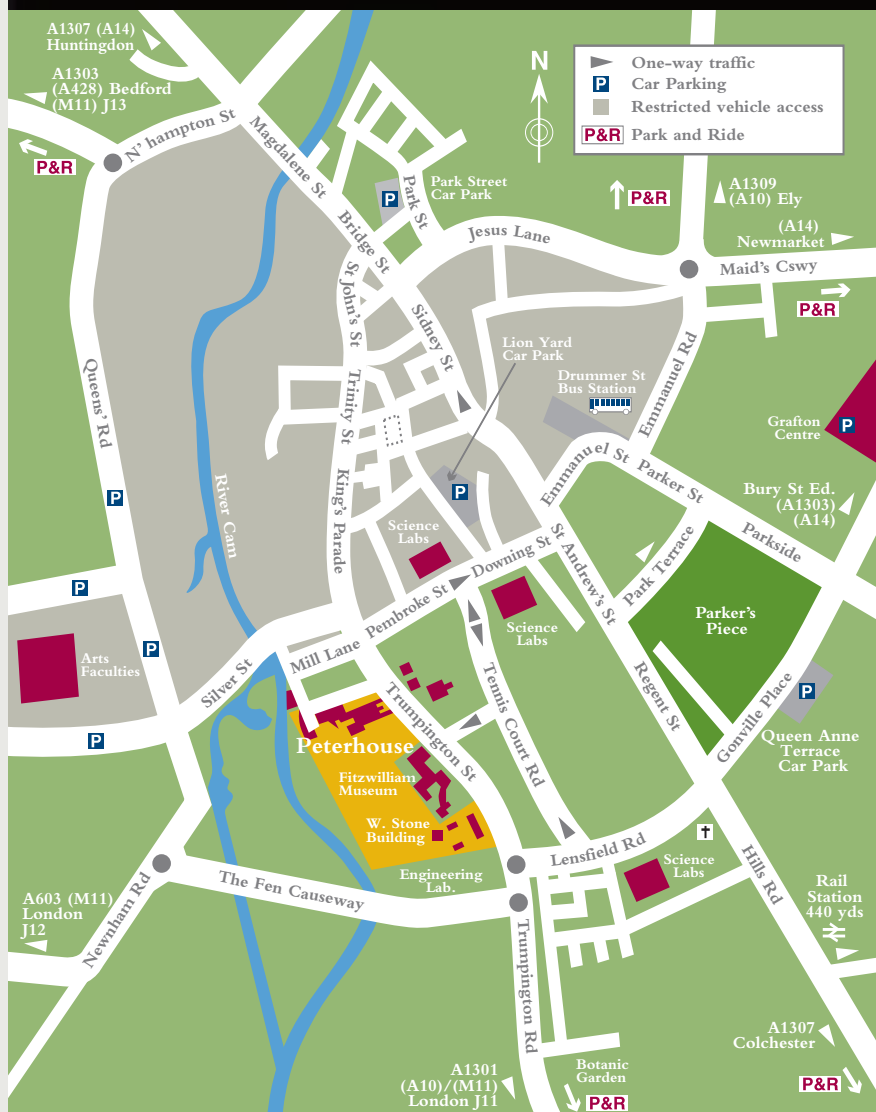
For Graduate Admissions,  
please contact the Senior Tutor at:  
tutorial@pet.cam.ac.uk

Designed and produced by:  
Network Design 01223 441441  
Photography: David Rose

Paper Spec:

Printed on 9lives Silk stock.

This paper is produced with 55% recycled fibre from both pre and post consumer sources, together with 45% virgin ECF fibre comprising a carefully selected combination of FSC, PEFC and SFI fibre. It is supplied by an ISO14001 credited printer.



# CONTACTS

# PETERHOUSE

Trumpington Street | Cambridge CB2 1RD  
Tel: 00 44 (0)1223 338223

Email: [admissions@pet.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@pet.cam.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.pet.cam.ac.uk](http://www.pet.cam.ac.uk)