The New Petrean*

*A Petrean is anybody who is or has been a member of Peterhouse

A GUIDE FOR PETREAN GRADUATE STUDENTS, FROM PETREAN GRADUATE STUDENTS

2017 – 2018
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Intro

Welcome!

Firstly, welcome to Peterhouse, and to the University of Cambridge as a whole. Whether you’re joining the College on a one-year MPhil course or a PhD, we hope that you settle in quickly and feel at home here. Peterhouse is the smallest College within the University of Cambridge, and is currently home to around 150 graduate students and 250 undergraduate students. This means that it has an inclusive, friendly atmosphere, and before long you’ll start to recognise almost everyone at the College.

Despite this, Cambridge can be confusing and rather daunting at times, so we’ve put together this guide to answer some of the questions that you may have when you join the University. From your first few days in the city, through to advice on dress codes for formal events: there’s a wealth of information here to help everything run as smoothly as possible. Of course, it’s impossible to anticipate every situation, and that’s where your MCR Committee comes in. Please feel free to contact any member of the Committee with any issue, large or small, during any point of your time at Peterhouse: we’re here to serve your interests.

The first contact you’ll have with the MCR community at Peterhouse will likely be during the events that are arranged for Freshers’ Week. There’s a whole range of events on offer, and we’d warmly encourage you to get involved as much as possible. The MCR committee, and the entire MCR community at Peterhouse, is very much looking forward to getting to know you.

With our warmest wishes for your impending arrival at Peterhouse,

The 2017-2018 Peterhouse MCR Committee

Eloise Davies, President
Jenni Caisley, Secretary
Iñigo Zubeldia Lafuente, Treasurer

Carolina Orozco, Social Secretary
Michael Ashby, Social Coordinator
Lukas Hergt, Welfare & Equal Opportunities Officer
Jamie McGinn, First Year Representative
The MCR Committee

The MCR Committee is an elected group of student leaders who are responsible for representing postgraduate students and their interests within College. In addition to student advocacy, they are also in charge of organising and planning social events for postgraduates from brunches to superhalls, and for student welfare. Please do feel free to contact them with any questions, comments or concerns you may have. The 2017-2018 Committee are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eloise Davies</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>As President, Eloise is responsible for overseeing the work of the Committee and the general direction of the MCR.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr-pres@pet.cam.ac.uk">mcr-pres@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jenni Caisley</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Our Secretary, Jenni, handles administrative issues and queries, both from within College and externally.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr-sec@pet.cam.ac.uk">mcr-sec@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iñigo Zubeldía Lafuente</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Iñigo is our Treasurer, and he is in charge of any financial matters relating to the MCR.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr-treas@pet.cam.ac.uk">mcr-treas@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carolina Orozco</td>
<td>Social Secretary</td>
<td>Our two Social Secretaries, Carolina and Michael, organise a plethora of social events throughout the whole year, ranging from swaps to film nights. Get in touch if there is a particular event you’d like to see on the calendar!</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr-socsec@pet.cam.ac.uk">mcr-socsec@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Ashby</td>
<td>Social Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr-soccoord@pet.cam.ac.uk">mcr-soccoord@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lukas Hergt</td>
<td>Welfare &amp; Equal Opportunities Officer</td>
<td>Lukas is the MCR Welfare Officer, and he is always reachable should you need to contact him regarding a welfare issue: he can lend a sympathetic ear and point you in the direction of helpful resources.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr-welf@pet.cam.ac.uk">mcr-welf@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamie McGinn</td>
<td>First Year Representative</td>
<td>Our First Year Representative, Jamie, is responsible for organising and running Freshers’ Week and making sure that our new students have as smooth a start as possible when they join Peterhouse.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcr-first@pet.cam.ac.uk">mcr-first@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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<tr>
<th>Photo</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Ms Bridget Kendall" /></td>
<td>Ms Bridget Kendall</td>
<td>Master</td>
<td>The Master is at the helm of the College, and is also an active participant in MCR social events.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajp212@cam.ac.uk">ajp212@cam.ac.uk</a> (the Master’s Secretary, Alison Pritchard-Jones)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Ms Amanda Farnsworth" /></td>
<td>Ms Amanda Farnsworth</td>
<td>Master’s Partner</td>
<td>The Master’s partner is a keen supporter of the MCR and College sport, in particular.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajp212@cam.ac.uk">ajp212@cam.ac.uk</a> (the Master’s Secretary, Alison Pritchard-Jones)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Dr Saskia Murk Jansen" /></td>
<td>Dr Saskia Murk Jansen</td>
<td>Senior Tutor</td>
<td>The Senior Tutor is responsible for overseeing students’ academic and personal welfare during their time at the College.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smj10@cam.ac.uk">smj10@cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Dr Christopher Lester" /></td>
<td>Dr Christopher Lester</td>
<td>Graduate Tutor for the Sciences</td>
<td>The Graduate Tutor for the Sciences is available to assist students with personal, academic and welfare-related issues.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lester@hep.phy.cam.ac.uk">lester@hep.phy.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Professor John Robb" /></td>
<td>Professor John Robb</td>
<td>Graduate Tutor for the Arts</td>
<td>The Graduate Tutor for the Arts is available to assist students with personal, academic and welfare-related issues.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jer39@cam.ac.uk">jer39@cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Mr Gerald Meade" /></td>
<td>Mr Gerald Meade</td>
<td>Head Porter</td>
<td>The Head Porter is responsible for running the Porter’s Lodge and ensuring the general security of the College.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:plodge@pet.cam.ac.uk">plodge@pet.cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Revd. Dr Geoff Dumbreck" /></td>
<td>Revd. Dr Geoff Dumbreck</td>
<td>Acting Dean</td>
<td>As well as overseeing Chapel services in College, the Acting Dean can be approached for any welfare-related issue.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gd254@cam.ac.uk">gd254@cam.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to get here

Travel
If flying to the UK, it may be most convenient to fly to London airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted etc.) for ease of transport to Cambridge. A recommended site for finding affordable flights is https://www.skyscanner.net/. After arriving at the airport, you have several options for onward travel including train, tube, coach and taxi. The best route of travel will vary depending on the airport you choose.

If travelling on the tube, we recommend the use of the Transport for London website and the CityMapper App.

If travelling by train, a useful website for checking train times and booking tickets is http://nationalrail.co.uk/. Once you have reached Cambridge Station, you can either walk or take a bus or taxi to Peterhouse.

If you intend to travel by train quite frequently, it might be wise to purchase a Railcard. There are several options for discount cards including a Young Persons card for anyone aged 16 to 25. This card costs £30 for the year and offers a 1/3 off ticket prices. 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.

If travelling by coach, National Express coaches or Megabus services are available from most airports and cities. Please bear in mind that luggage restrictions apply on some journeys. You can book coach travel in advance via the National Express (http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx) or Megabus websites (https://uk.megabus.com/).

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.

If travelling by taxi, two Cambridge based taxi companies to help you once you arrive in Cambridge are Panther Taxis (01223 715715, www.panthertaxis.co.uk) and CamCab (01223 704704, www.camcab.co.uk). Both of the above companies can also be booked in advance to collect you from any of the London airports via their websites.

If travelling by bus, the Cambridge bus service is also an option for transport once you arrive in Cambridge. Details of bus routes and times can be found online at https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/buses/bus-timetables/.
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. This map is included below and is also available via the following link: https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/map-college.
To do in the first days

Upon your arrival in Cambridge

Your first task is to visit the Porters’ Lodge. If you are arriving by car, please note that there is no parking directly outside college; therefore, you are asked to park outside the William Stone building.

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 also to the MCR, along with your University ID card. The University ID card can be used for, among many things, to obtain meals and unlock various doors in College. This time in the Porters’ Lodge is also a fantastic opportunity to get to know our lovely Porters and enquire about the purchase of second hand gowns should you be interested.

After collecting your keys, pay a visit to the MCR. The MCR is located off Old Court as indicated on the College map. 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

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.
Once settled into your accommodation

Shopping
A range of useful shops are listed in our Shopping section to help you with buying food/bedding and other amenities.

You might also consider purchasing a gown; this is required for your Matriculation and will also be worn at formal dinners throughout your time in Cambridge (see Cambridge Crash Course). More details on what type of gown to buy can be found in our Gowns and Dress Codes section.

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. Each branch provides slightly different benefits and drawbacks so please use some of the following links to help you compare and make your choice. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

**Bank: Santander**
Branches in Cambridge: 1
Website: [http://www.santander.co.uk/uk/current-accounts/student-graduate-current-accounts/international-student-current-account](http://www.santander.co.uk/uk/current-accounts/student-graduate-current-accounts/international-student-current-account)

**Bank: Lloyds**
Branches in Cambridge: 2
Website: [https://www.lloydsbank.com/current-accounts/all-accounts/student-account.asp#collapse2-1499456163436](https://www.lloydsbank.com/current-accounts/all-accounts/student-account.asp#collapse2-1499456163436)

**Bank: Barclays**
Branches in Cambridge: 1
Website: [http://www.barclays.co.uk/current-accounts/international-student-bank-account/](http://www.barclays.co.uk/current-accounts/international-student-bank-account/)

**Bank: The Royal Bank of Scotland**
Branches in Cambridge: 1
Website: [http://personal.rbs.co.uk/personal/current-accounts/compare-current-accounts/student-account/student-account-international-students.html](http://personal.rbs.co.uk/personal/current-accounts/compare-current-accounts/student-account/student-account-international-students.html)

**Bank: HSBC**
Branches in Cambridge: 2
Website: [https://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/international-services](https://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/international-services)
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, called Hermes (https://webmail.hermes.cam.ac.uk/), 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; this WiFi is accessible across College and in some accommodation. Many of the graduate accommodation options also provide their own WiFi.

Your CRSID will allow you access to Eduroam that will allow you to access the internet via laptop or smartphone 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 note your Network Access Token at https://tokens.csx.cam.ac.uk/.

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

MCR mailing list. To keep up to date with MCR events (including Freshers’ week), meetings and other items of interest, we recommend that you join the MCR mailing list. To do this please visit the MCR website and follow the instructions. Details of events and other MCR happenings will also be shared on the various MCR social media accounts listed in the MCR section.

University mailing lists. Once your computer account and Raven password is set up, please visit http://lists.cam.ac.uk to subscribe to any mailing lists that may interest you. Some recommendations include: pet-mcr, pet-junior, pet-pg and pet-all.

UPayChilli account. The College uses the app UPayChilli to sign-up for events and for food and bar charges. To register for your account please download the UPayChilli app from the App Store, Google Play or Windows Phone Store or visit the website via desktop and 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 UPayChilli website and the committee are also happy to help.

To do in the first week

Induction events

During your first week at Cambridge there will be a range of Welcome and Induction events for you to attend both within College and your department. To ensure you do not miss out College events, be sure to check your pigeon hole and to register with the appropriate mailing lists. The first week of term is also Freshers’ Week. This provides a range of great events to help you to get stuck in to life at Peterhouse and meet your fellow students. A Freshers’ Week Schedule is released in the weeks prior and can be found on the MCR website.

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

The Cambridge University Freshers’ Fair.
This event run by the Cambridge University Students’ Union is a chance to meet the University’s societies and clubs and to sign up as a member. Most sports clubs, academic-related societies and other inventive societies will have stalls set up to entice you. There will be an MCR trip to the fair during Freshers’ Week and further details can be found online at https://www.cusu.co.uk/.

The Graduate Union.
The Graduate Union also host regular year-round events, many of which are family friendly, alongside offering a range of support services. More information can be found online at https://www.gradunion.cam.ac.uk/.

Registering with a doctor’s 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. You are free to register in any other medical practitioner you like and 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 in person. Be aware that once you’ve registered, it can be difficult and time-consuming to change to a different doctor’s surgery.

The consultations with a GP are free, and prescription medication, which you can buy at Boots or any pharmacy, costs £8.60 per item with the rest of the price covered by the NHS.

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
For library usage and guidance 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.

Insure your belongings
It is strongly recommended that you insure your belongings, particularly if you own a computer or any valuable item. A number of insurers (e.g. Endsleigh Insurance, Campus Insurance/Student World) advertise at the Freshers’ Fair - you should expect to pay between £40 and £80 per year, so shopping around is advisable. Don’t forget to keep your room locked when you leave it - Cambridge is not free of thieves. Also check out the Immobilise website to register your laptop, bike and other valuables on a secure database: https://www.immobilise.com/.

Getting around Cambridge
For longer journeys please see our Travel section for details on rail, coach and taxi services. 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 for your time in Cambridge you can consider second-hand or buying new. Remember to also equip yourself with both front and back lights, and a substantial bike lock (‘D’ style lock is recommended). Helmets are also recommended, but are not compulsory. These items are also available from cycle shops and online. Please be aware that cycling in the dark without lights can result in a £50 police fine, and cycle-theft in Cambridge is unfortunately common.
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 and colleges.

Faculty - The University is made up of various faculties (e.g. the History Faculty, the Engineering Faculty, etc). Faculties oversee the academic side of your life in Cambridge, for example the allocation of a supervisor.

College - The University is made up of 31 colleges. Your college (Peterhouse) provides teaching, accommodation, welfare and financial support to its students. On site facilities in Peterhouse include a library, bar, common room and theatre.

A Brief History of Peterhouse

Peterhouse is a college of superlatives - oldest, smallest, best. It was founded by 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 Parliamentarian 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 faked a 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. More recently, the 1980s saw the College gain notoriety as a hotbed of both Thatcherism and homosexuality (counterintuitive combination as that may seem). In 1984 Peterhouse became the penultimate college in Cambridge to admit women. Today eccentricities live on in more benign form, with the College providing an outlet for the individuality of all members of its diverse student body: male, female or transgender, straight or gay, left or right wing, etc. 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 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. As Peterhouse is small college, there is a lot of scope for mingling with undergraduates too if you should wish.

What the MCR does

The MCR is here to support and entertain you during your time in Cambridge. We aim to provide social events that appeal to the whole spectrum of the graduate population and 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/.

What you can find in the MCR

- Notice boards with upcoming events
- Your pigeonhole
- Tea, coffee, hot chocolate
- Newspapers and magazines
- A television, DVD player and games consoles
- A selection of books, board games and sporting equipment
- Comfortable seats
- First aid kit
- Fetching William Morris wallpaper

Don’t forget to return anything that you borrow, and wash up your mugs.

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).

N.B. Terms are NOT known as Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity. Don’t endorse the language of our enemies in Oxford.
The long summer break (June - October) is called, rather unimaginatively, the Long Vacation.

**Matriculation**

Matriculation is held on the Monday of Freshers’ Week and marks the moment you officially become a member of the University. The ceremony is a longstanding Cambridge tradition and involves wearing a gown while swearing to abide by College rules. More details will be provided nearer the time by the Senior Tutor.

Matriculation is compulsory and should be prioritised over any welcome events with which it may clash.

**Tutors, supervisors, advisors**

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

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

**Peterhouse Facilities**

Guest rooms. Three single rooms, with shared bathrooms, in College are available to rent for £23.50 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.

Chapel. The College has a particularly vibrant and inclusive Anglican chapel. Services are well-attended by those of all faiths and none, as well as the Christian faithful. 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.
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. You may also have a washing machine in your flat of house.

Discounted punt hire. The MCR has a subscription to a punt which you may book and take out for free (it also works for a kayak or a canoe following the terms and conditions of the company) from Scudamore’s. Contact the MCR Secretary for details.

You may also want to consider joining the ‘Granta Rats’, the University punting society. Membership entitles you to free punting for the rest of the academic year and costs only £20 - less than the normal cost of renting a punt once. See their website for details.

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 swipe 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. All users must have taken a gym induction before using the facilities. You will get more details in Freshers’ Week.

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. No need to book, just borrow equipment from the MCR and head on over.

College sports ground. Shared with Pembroke College and are located approximately one mile southwest of Peterhouse, towards Grantchester.

Boat House. On the river, for rowing types.

Pool table. Located in the JCR above the Bar. Free to use.
Sports Clubs and Societies

In Cambridge you can play sport at a number of levels.

Serious about sport?

Trial 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 Cross 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 (we’ll take you there in Freshers’ week).

Looking for something more relaxed?

Peterhouse also has a wealth of college sports teams. As we are a small college, standards vary, 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.

If you are interested in College sports, 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 lavish annual dinners. Societies include:

- **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.

- **The History Society.** Similar to the Politics Society but with historians.
- **The Perne Club.** Similar to the two previous, but hosts speakers on more general arts themes, such as literature, music and philosophy.

- **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 (ask the College Chaplain on arrival if interested).

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

- **Peterhouse Wine Society.** The oldest undergraduate society in the University (allegedly), Peterhouse Wine Society holds regular, inexpensive tastings. Thanks to the College’s outstanding cellars, high quality wine is assured.

- **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.

In addition to this, the MCR offers regular Discussion Suppers every term, during which graduate students meet for dinner and discuss a predetermined topic with an expert Fellow.

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 have to meet a minimum spend of about £85 per term on meals in Hall (that is, from the College and excluding special dinners). If you don’t spend this, you’ll be charged it anyway, so may as well.

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 (it is quite a stunning place to eat).

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), 2 “carb” options (potatoes, rice, pasta, etc.) and 2 vegetable options. There is a salad bar and, sometimes, 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. 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. As a hint, many people find that lunch is better than dinner and that brunch is the best meal of the week.

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 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 £6.30. The food is of the same quality as regular dinner, but it’s a lovely occasion, especially as the main source of lighting is candlelight and the Hall is so beautiful. There is also a grace read in Latin. 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 a suit or equivalent (see below for dress codes).

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 or you may bring your own bottle. If you do that, you have to pay corkage on it in the bar (£1.50) 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 full stop, but will be 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 £10.

The MCR also organises special dinners. These don’t count towards the minimum canteen spend. We have two Grad Halls and one Super Hall per term. Grad Halls are either in Upper Hall or the Combination Room and Super Halls in the main Hall. Grad Halls are smaller, in terms of the number of attendees, and a little more expensive than Super Halls but they are generally of a higher quality. Super Halls are, as the name suggests, of a higher quality than that served in regular dinner/Formal. Super Halls and Grad Halls are three-course dinners, served to your table. There is often a fourth course at a Super Hall. You pay for your food (£18 for a Super Hall and £23.50 for a Grad Hall) and the MCR pays for the wine, pre-drinks and post-drinks. They are a very good deal and they are the highlights of the social calendar for the term. Guest ticket allowances vary, but this is communicated by email beforehand.

**Gowns**

Cambridge offers you the chance to feel like you’re at Hogwarts in many ways, especially when wearing your gown. Your gown is required for formal academic events, such as Matriculation, 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 without a Cambridge degree wear an MA status gown (MA gown with the ribbons tucked in). You will be told if you hold MA status.

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 Praelector¹ 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.

¹ The Praelector is the College officer who deals with the ceremonial side of life in Peterhouse. Their contact details will be on the College website, and on the “Key College Contacts” page of this guide.
The Porters have a small number of second-hand gowns available for sale, as does the Graduate Union. Ryder and Amies, opposite the Senate House, sells both new and used gowns and Ede and Ravenscroft sells new gowns. Prices vary by gown type, but a second-hand BA gown will cost £45-£55. These can then be sold back to the Porters at the end of your time in Cambridge for about £15-£20. You may also hire an academic gown from the Graduate Union for £10 per week.

**Dress codes**

Some events in Cambridge have a dress code. While this may sound a little daunting, it’s more of a fun excuse to don your finery. A brief guide is below, and the definitive guide can be found at [http://www.debretts.com/expertise/etiquette/dress-codes/](http://www.debretts.com/expertise/etiquette/dress-codes/). Debrett’s is also the definitive guide for etiquette questions. Note that our guide below refers to what these dress codes mean in practice in Cambridge. If you are going to the Ritz or Buckingham Palace, have a look at Debrett’s. 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.

**Lounge suit**

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. Preferably black shoes. For Matriculation, you will need to wear a dark suit, dark tie, white shirt and black shoes. These are the most versatile lounge suit options and are always useful. Of course, lighter suits, brighter ties and funkier shirts are acceptable unless stated otherwise (so not at matriculation!). For those not wearing a suit, a semi-formal dress or skirt, slightly smarter than smart casual, is recommended.

**Black tie**

This is the most common Cambridge dress code and the one used for nice dinners. This requires, as a minimum, a bow tie (self-tie or pre-tied) and a white collared shirt (a wing collar or regular collar is fine). You should really wear a dinner jacket (aka a tuxedo) too, but it’s not the end of the world if you don’t. The bow tie and dinner jacket need not be black, but these are the most common colours and the safest options. 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. You can buy dress shoes, which are shinier than regular shoes, but these are not compulsory. If you don’t yet own black tie, M&S and Next sell them relatively cheaply, and have luxury ranges too. John Lewis, TM Lewin and Charles Tyrwitt (all in the Grand Arcade) also sell dinner suits, but are more expensive. If you want to learn how to tie a self-tie bow tie, this [video](#) is
excellent. The equivalent female attire for black tie is an approximately knee-length dress (often called a cocktail dress). You may wish to wear a jacket or bolero to formal dinners.

**Smart casual**
The greyest of grey areas. There is some debate as to the acceptability of jeans and what colours are acceptable. Certainly no ripped jeans, jeggings or anything of the sort. But, otherwise, unless jeans are specifically prohibited, they’re probably fine. The minimum here would be a collared shirt and shoes that aren’t trainers. Equivalently, an office-appropriate dress or smart top and skirt/trousers would work. There’s no need for a jacket or heels.

**Formal/jacket and tie**
These are quite rare, but just in case! This will be trousers which aren’t jeans, a collared shirt and shoes that aren’t trainers. For “jacket and tie”, you must also wear a jacket and tie, as the name suggests. The jacket need not be a suit jacket, e.g. it could be a blazer or tweed. You can of course wear a suit for this sort of dress code. The equivalent female attire would be as per lounge suit.

**White tie**
Some May Balls have a “white tie preferred” dress code (see below for “preferred”). White tie is something that most people would hire, as it’s so rarely worn. It involves a tail coat, vest (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 female equivalent for white tie is a full-length dress. Evening bags are small and elbow-length gloves are traditionally worn, but not essential.

**“Optional” and “preferred”**
The word “optional” is rather misleading here. 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 matriculation), jacket and tie/formal, smart casual.
Around Cambridge

Food

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:**
- *Sainsbury’s Local*
  1) 52-54 St Andrew’s Street
  2) 78/80 Mill Rd
- *Tesco Express*
  Hills Rd
- *Little Waitrose*
  6-8 Fitzroy St

**Superstores:**
- *Sainsbury’s*
  42-45 Sidney St
- *Tesco*
  Cheddars Ln, Newmarket Rd
- *ASDA*
  Beehive Centre, Coldhams Ln
- *Marks and Spencer*
  5 Market Hill

If you are looking for more specialist ingredients, please visit the independent stores found along Mill Lane and the stands at Market Square. Cambridge also has a large number of restaurants worth a visit, we recommend using TripAdvisor to help find what you are looking for.

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 Andrew's St
  2) The Grafton Centre

**Marks and Spencer**
  6-11 Sidney St

**Topshop**
  The Grand Arcade

**John Lewis**
  The Grand Arcade

**Zara**
  66 St Andrew's St

**Tk Maxx**
  12-13 Market St

**Monsoon**
  59 Sidney St

**Next**
  1) 13-15 Sidney St
  2) The Grafton Centre
Books and stationery

For options beyond the library for obtaining books, we recommend the use of Amazon for book and stationary needs. Should you wish to shop in person, there are a range of suitable stores listed below:

**Books:**
- *Heffers*
  - 20 Trinity St
- *Waterstones*
  - 22 Sidney St
- *WHSmith*
  - 14-15 Market St
- *Oxfam*
  - 28 Sidney St
- *The Works*
  - 31-33 Fitzroy St

**Stationery:**
- *Tiger*
  - Lion Yard Shopping Centre
- *Paperchase*
  - 20 Market Hill
- *WHSmith*
  - 14-15 Market St

Medicines and toiletries

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

**Medicines:**
- *Boots*
  - 1) The Lion Yard
  - 2) The Grafton centre
- *Superdrug*
  - 1) 59 Sidney St
  - 2) 38 Fitzroy St
- *Fitzwilliam Pharmacy*
  - 28-30 Trumpington St

**Toiletries:**
- *Boots*
  - 1) The Lion Yard
  - 2) The Grafton centre
- *Superdrug*
  - 1) 59 Sidney St
  - 2) 38 Fitzroy St
- *Wilkinsons*
  - 17 Fitzroy St
Electricals

There are a range of stores for different types of electronics in Cambridge, below we have listed a few, but please try to research online before choosing where to purchase.

**Wilkinson**
17 Fitzroy St

**Maplin**
1) 46-48 St Andrew's St
2) The Beehive Centre

**John Lewis**
The Grand Arcade

**Argos**
2-14 Fitzroy St
Cambridge Retail Park

**Amazon**

**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.

**Wilkinson**
17 Fitzroy St

**Poundland**
19-25 Fitzroy St

**John Lewis**
The Grand Arcade

**Tiger**
Lion Yard Shopping Centre

**Argos**
1) 2-14 Fitzroy St
2) Cambridge Retail Park

**Tesco**
Cheddars Ln, Newmarket Rd

**B&M**
The Beehive Centre

**ASDA**
Beehive Centre, Coldhams Ln

**Next**
1) The Grafton Centre
2) The Beehive Centre
3) 13-15 Sidney St

**Lakeland**
52 Sidney St

**TK Maxx**
1) 12-13 Market St
2) The Beehive Centre
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 St
- **Cambridge Cycle Centre**
  - Botolph Lane
- **Kingsway Cycles**
  - City Road
- **University Cycles**
  - Bridge St
- **Lensfield Cycles**
  - Lensfield Rd
- **Halfords**
  - Newmarket Rd
- **Primo Cycles**
  - Mill Rd
- **The Bike Shed**
  - Mill Rd
- **Rutland Cycles**
  - The Grand Arcade

Entertainment

There is 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.

**Bars and Pubs:**

- **The Mill**
  - 14 Mill Lane
- **The Granta**
  - 14 Newnham Rd
- **The University Centre**
  - Granta Place
- **The Eagle**
  - 8 Bennett St
- **The Pint Shop**
  - 10 Peas Hill
- **The Free Press**
  - Prospect Row
- **The Grain and Hopstore**
  - 69-76 Regent St
- **Cambridge Wine Merchants**
  - 1) Bridge St
  - 2) Mill Rd
**Trouble-shooting**

Brief links to support options in Cambridge:

- MCR Welfare: [https://www.peterhousemcr.co.uk/welfare](https://www.peterhousemcr.co.uk/welfare)
- Peterhouse Health and Welfare: [https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/health-and-welfare](https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/health-and-welfare)
- Cambridge University Counselling service: [https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk](https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk)
- Cambridge University Students’ Union Life & Welfare: [http://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/welfare](http://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/welfare)

**Financial**

If you are struggling financially, there are multiple options you can consider. Firstly, you can ask for an interest-free overdraft at your bank; this is granted almost automatically to most graduate students. You might also consider earning some extra cash by becoming an undergraduate supervisor. If in genuine need, see your Tutor or the Senior Tutor Dr Saskia Murk Jansen as they may be able to help. There are a surprising number of additional sources of income around that are open to applications from graduate students, including hardship funds, College and University scholarships, prizes, and Crane’s Charity (assistance with medical costs). Due to the fractured nature of the University 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

Academic
There are a lot of academic issues that can crop up unexpectedly during graduate study, including competition within a research group, ownership of intellectual property, or discovering that someone else has already written your thesis. Ideally, your supervisor would 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 can be of a lot of help, in particular your Tutor. Your Tutor is there to help you resolve both administrative and academic issues you might be facing while undertaking your degree. If your grievance is serious and you are thinking of taking action, your Tutor (whom you should really contact before the situation becomes that serious) 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 policies that cover racial and sexual harassment and bullying. Take comfort from the thought that, at a cynical level, it is very much in the interests of the University to ensure that the maximum number of graduates enrolled actually complete their degrees.

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, it is easiest to contact the Porters.
Whereas the undergrads 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 email/talk 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.

**Personal**

Stress is ever-present in the lives of many graduate students, and sometimes even the most exam-experienced or thesis veteran may need help. In addition, student parents, mature students, and students from minority groups may have problems that are specific to their own situation.

In College, the Committee, your Tutor, and the Dean can always offer a listening ear or help when it is needed. We have a dedicated Welfare Officer ([mcr-welf@pet.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcr-welf@pet.cam.ac.uk)). The Acting Dean, Revd. Dr Geoff Dumbreck, can be turned to for pastoral care. The College Nurse ([nurse@pet.cam.ac.uk](mailto:nurse@pet.cam.ac.uk), 338222) is also an excellent listener. We also have a College-based Counselling Service at 1 St Peters Terrace (room 4). Please note that this is not a drop-in service, and sessions must be booked with the counsellor in advance. The College counsellor for 2017/18 is yet to be appointed, but College will circulate his/her contact details in due course.

Outside College, there is the [University Counselling Service](https://www.cam.ac.uk/services/health/counselling) (332865). 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 and can be visited without appointment at their office near the Bus Station at 4 Emmanuel Road. You can also consult the [Graduate Union](https://www.pet.cam.ac.uk/graduateunion) for help in any problems you may encounter.
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If you have any comments or suggestions regarding The New Petrean please email MCR-Pres@pet.cam.ac.uk.

Disclaimer

Any information provided in this document is correct only to the best of our knowledge and must be used only as guidance only - this guidance is no substitute for advice from official sources. Neither the Peterhouse Graduate Society, Peterhouse, nor any of its members will accept liability for any guidance followed in this guide. Whilst we have provided information on documents and procedures required for entering and remaining in Cambridge, cycling and banking amongst other things, you must check with the appropriate authority. The information provided in this guide is not endorsed by Peterhouse, any of its staff or fellows.