If you’ve decided that you want to apply to Cambridge (and even if you’re still a little unsure!), it might be worth spending some time thinking about which College you want to apply to. It may seem like a big decision, but it’s nothing to worry about. All the Colleges offer excellent teaching and facilities and practically everyone is happy with the College they end up at. Having said that, there are over thirty Colleges at Cambridge and it’s unlikely you can visit all of them, so there has to be some way to narrow down the selection! We absolutely love Pembroke and we hope this prospectus will give you an insight into our lives here and encourage you to choose us – because, honestly, we’re pretty great.

If you have any questions that aren’t answered in this booklet, you can email jp-access@pem.cam.ac.uk and our student Access Officers will get back to you as soon they can. Other handy contact details can be found at the back of the booklet.

Further information about Pembroke can be found at http://pemjp.soc.srcf.net/freshers and www.pem.cam.ac.uk/

CUSU (Cambridge University Students Union) also have their own alternative prospectus, available at http://www.applytocambridge.com/
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“Pembroke is such a great College, everyone is so friendly and welcoming. The college itself is beautiful and in a fantastic location right in the centre of town so nothing is more than a 10 minute walk away!”

-Charlotte, 3rd Year Medic

Pembroke is widely renowned in Cambridge for being an incredibly friendly College – many people from other Colleges admit that Pembroke is their second favourite! Students come from all backgrounds and become part of a supportive, tight-knit community for our three (or more) years here. We live, eat, study and socialise with each other, quickly becoming close friends with people from a variety of subjects and year groups. Regardless of who you are and where you come from, Pembroke feels like home as soon as you move in.

We’re situated right in the centre of town, a 10 minute walk from everything you could want – shops, bars, cafes and restaurants – and yet we somehow manage to avoid the huge crowds of tourists that often clog Cambridge. Founded on Christmas Eve, 1347, Pembroke has buildings that span centuries, from Old Court (which includes a chapel designed by Sir Christopher Wren, who went on to design St. Paul’s Cathedral!) to Foundress Court (1997), a modern building complete with a gym, common room, laundry room and computer room.

At the core of the student body is the JPC (Junior Parlour Committee), a group of twenty elected students who act as representatives of the Pembroke student body, presenting their views to College officials, organising events, and promoting welfare (a valuable complement to the College’s Tutors and the College nurse). Each of the members of the JPC occupies a position and has certain roles and responsibilities in College.
Welfare in College

Pembroke has lots of measures in place to make sure you can really enjoy your time here.

Upon their arrival at Pembroke, students are assigned a Tutor, whom they meet with twice a term. Tutors are the go-to figures for any non-academic problems you might have; anything from financial worries to family problems. Additionally, Pembroke’s College Nurse has regular visiting hours for any health concerns, or just for a chat – she can often be found around college walking her dog with a student.

Pembroke also has a dedicated Student Welfare Team, made up of undergraduates from all years. Each member has a unique role, which you can read about below.

The Student Welfare Officer runs drop-in sessions (with lots of tea, and often chocolate) and also has an anonymous email service and a welfare phone number. They are available to chat and give advice about anything, from a difficult assignment to illness to sexual health. They can also deal with College officials on your behalf.

\[ \text{jp-welfare@pem.cam.ac.uk} \]

The Women’s Officers are available to chat to female students in Pembroke about women-specific issues, and also attend meetings with the CUSU Women’s Officer in order to create policy designed to further women’s welfare and women’s rights within the University as a whole.

\[ \text{jp-womenswelfare@pem.ac.uk/jp-womensrep@pem.ac.uk} \]

The Men’s Officer is available to speak to anyone about issues specific to men, and is a champion of men’s health awareness.

\[ \text{jp-mens@pem.cam.ac.uk} \]

The LGBT+ Officer looks after all things related to sexuality and gender. If you have questions about your sexuality and/or gender, the LGBT+ Officer can help. They also run all sorts of LGBT+ social events in College.

\[ \text{jp-lbgt@pem.cam.ac.uk} \]

The Internationals Officer looks out for the welfare of international students, and helps people adjust to living in the UK (and Cambridge).

\[ \text{jp-international@pem.cam.ac.uk} \]

The Ethnic Minorities Officer looks out for the welfare of ethnic minorities in College, and deals with any and all related issues.

\[ \text{jp-ethmin@pem.cam.ac.uk} \]

The Disabled Students Officer provides support for those with any kind of health problem, physical or mental impairment, or learning difficulty. They can help you with talking to your Tutor and supervisors about getting the support you need, learning to handle your condition(s) in a new environment, and applying for Disabled Students’ Allowance.

\[ \text{jp-disabilities@pem.cam.ac.uk} \]
Meet Some of The JPC!

A chat with some of the members of Pembroke’s elected undergraduate student body

Amy, Welfare Officer (2nd Year NatSci)

‘The welfare team at Pembroke works to keep students feeling happy and healthy. The team is comprised of the Women’s and Men’s Welfare Officers, Disabilities Officer, LGBT+ Officer, International’s Officer, Ethnic Minorities’ Officer and the overall Welfare Officer. They are happy to talk about any problem you might be faced with or just for a general chat (lots of tea and chocolate involved), with a few of the officers running weekly drop-in sessions. They also run welfare events (which normally involve food) and can talk to ‘higher powers’ on your behalf. College families are organised by the Welfare Officer before the start of the year. Your college ‘parents’ are another source of informal support and are happy to give advice about anything! As well as the welfare team, there are a number of people you can talk to concerning welfare. Each student has a personal Tutor who is a Fellow of the College. They are responsible for the welfare of the student and are there to help in any non-academic matter (for academic-related queries, your Director of Studies is the first port of call). The College Nurse runs drop-in sessions and is really great to talk to about any issues. There is also a college counsellor as well as the University Counselling service.’

Leila, Ethnic Minorities Officer (1st Year HSPS)

‘The EMO looks out for the welfare of ethnic minorities in College. They are also proactive in dealing with any related issues that affect students from BAME backgrounds. They work closely with the Women’s Officer on important intersectional issues. For incoming freshers from BAME backgrounds, we are looking to introduce a ‘family’ system, similar to a buddy system, where you will be given siblings (who are also freshers), and parents in older years. This is either going to be at college level, or organised with BAME students across the entire university. There are hopefully going to be loads of events, such as Black History Month celebrations and open talks, on issues relating to ethnic identity, and intersectionality. For any personal issues, there is also an Ethnic Minorities Officer who you can turn to when faced with personal issues. Hope to see you all!’

Molly, LGBT+ Officer (1st Year English)

‘It can be difficult adjusting to new experiences like University and being a member of the LGBT+ community can bring its own complications, but Pembroke (as well as Cambridge more generally) offers a friendly and accepting atmosphere for everyone! Pembroke’s anonymous LGBT+ mailing list, social events both in and outside College, and closely knit LGBT+ family scheme (last year Pembroke, Queens’ and Peterhouse paired LGBT+ freshmen with older LGBT+ undergraduates) mean that you have access to support and opportunities to meet like-minded people! If you ever do experience any problems or feel at all discriminated against or bullied (luckily this is unlikely!), Pembroke’s welfare team are here for you. I know from experience that Pembroke can be a great place to be LGBT+ and to comfortably express who you are.’

Hannah, Internationals Officer (1st Year HSPS)

‘Moving to a new country or place is never going to be easy, but the aim at Pembroke is to make it as simple as possible! There are 90+ international students from all across the world and the college host weekly foreign film nights, themed formals and international tea parties. Far before you even arrive, you’ll be provided with all the information you could possibly want – from what clothes to pack for the English weather, to how to sign up for the NHS – and International Freshers’ week will be spent helping you settle in before the other students arrive, giving you a chance to get more of a feel for Cambridge and the UK. Vacations are made simple; the College not only offers (free) storage for those wanting to leave their belongings in Cambridge, but also reduced rent for those wishing to also stay – if you do, you won’t be alone as many students (international and home) choose to. All through the year, Pembroke is an incredible place for all students; it is welcoming, supporting, thriving and a place where anyone can feel at home’

Kieran, Access Officer (2nd Year Linguistics)

‘There’s a lot to get involved with in Access at Pembroke. Access is the widening participation and outreach programme that aims to encourage and provide support and information to applicants and school students from under-represented backgrounds, giving them the confidence to consider application to Pembroke. There are two of us on the JPC, and we’d love to get as many of you involved in giving College tours, chatting to prospective applicants and sharing your ideas about how Cambridge and Pembroke can improve its Access, at our bi-terminly Access Forums!’ jp-access@pem.cam.ac.uk
Studying

There’s no denying that we all have a lot of work to do here, and it can sometimes seem a bit daunting when you arrive in Cambridge for your first term, but actually it’s an exciting opportunity to learn about your subject with world-leading experts. Pembroke is the ideal place to study and will ensure you get the best experience possible while you’re here.

Lectures and practicals (for scientists) are organised by the department and given there, not at College. Pembroke is a two-minute walk from the main lecture sites in town, such as the Downing Site, New Museums Site and Mill Lane. The main site for Arts subjects, the Sidgwick Site, is only a ten-minute walk, and the West Cambridge Site is a 15 minute cycle away. All of this means that you don’t have to get out of bed too early for 9 am lectures, and you can pop back to College during gaps in your timetable.

The College is responsible for organising your supervisions. These are hour-long sessions with an expert in your subject where you discuss lectures, essays you’ve written, solutions to problem sheets and various other materials to ensure that you understand...
what you’re being taught. They usually take place in College and you’ll be in small groups, usually of 2-3 people, which means the supervisor can dedicate plenty of time to each person. Depending on your subject, you’ll have between one and five supervisions a week.

“Supervisions are such a great opportunity for me to ask any questions I have after my lectures, and the supervisors at Pembroke always go out of their way to help me.”

- Vikash, 2nd Year Engineer

Pembroke will also assign you a Director of Studies (DoS) when you arrive. Your DoS is usually a Fellow (lecturer) in your subject and is responsible for guiding you through your course. You meet with your DoS twice a term, so you’ll get to know each other quite well – and they’re only an email away if you have any problems with your work.

If you don’t want to do your work in your room, there are plenty of places in College for you to study. Our beautiful library has around 37,000 books and plenty of space for you to use. If it doesn’t have the book you’re looking for, you can request it and the librarian will often be able to buy it in for you. In addition to that, each student is entitled to a book grant so you can get your own textbooks if you want to. The library is open 16 hours a day, but if you’re a night owl then there’s also the computer suite, which is open 24 hours a day and provides a more relaxed environment, or if you’d like a cup of tea while you work then there’s Café Pembroke. During exams, a few other rooms around College also open up as study spaces so you don’t get bored of sitting in the same place all the time! Finally, during summer when the sun comes out, many Pembroke students take to the grounds and sit around the gardens with their books and notes.
Our reputation for friendliness is well deserved. From the moment you arrive here, we do everything we can to help you meet people and get involved in College life. You’ll be given a College family, with ‘parents’ from the years above to help guide you through the transition and ‘siblings’ from your year to make sure you know people from Day One. Many people remain very close friends with their College families throughout their time here. When you reach second year, you can sign up to have kids of your own!

The hub of social life in College is the JP (the Junior Parlour) – a café by day and bar by night. With its squishy sofas, pool table, and ever-popular jukebox, the JP offers the perfect place to relax and catch up with friends in the evening. If you’re in the mood for a night out, there are always people in the JP heading into town – we’re conveniently located a short walk from Cambridge’s clubs! The JP is host to various events throughout term, such as pub quizzes and music nights, which showcase the musical talent of Pembroke students. It’s also a fab place for a quiet night in, with an adjacent TV room, complete with games consoles!

“College families are sorted by interests and hobbies, so your College parents can help you to get involved in Pembroke life, and you have some familiar faces around College in Freshers’ week!”

-James, 3rd Year Medic
The ultimate College party, however, is the bi-termsly BOP. This is held in the JP at the start and end of each term and attracts almost all Pembroke students. BOP is a themed fancy dress party, with recent themes including “Disney”, “Welcome to the Jungle” and “Back to the Future”, and it offers the perfect opportunity to either catch up with everyone after a holiday, or to say goodbye before one! It traditionally ends with the Pembroke anthem “Angels”, in which everyone comes together and replaces the lyric ‘Angels’ with ‘Pembroke’.

Pembroke also hosts a May Ball or June Event during May Week, which happens once exams are over. These are absolutely indescribable parties organised by a Pembroke Committee. From 9pm until 6am, the Pembroke grounds are turned into a playground of fairground events, food stalls, cocktails, live music, comedy, and loads of other attractions all based around a theme. Pembroke’s Balls consistently get excellent reviews and are the highlight of the year’s social events.

“Pembroke May Ball is described as the most atmospheric of all balls, because everyone is so friendly that you might be dancing with your best friend, College parents, supervisor or that person whose name you never remember – and you will still be having the best night of your life!”

- Sarah, 3rd Year English
Everyone from other colleges knows that food at Pembroke is amongst the best in Cambridge, and we frequently play host to friends who want to come and try it out.

On a day-to-day basis, most people use a mixture of kitchens, ‘trough’ and Café Pembroke to feed themselves. College kitchens, more commonly known as Gyp Rooms (no one is really sure why), are basic and are suitable for preparing light snacks and simple meals. Most kitchens have a microwave, hotplates, a fridge and a freezer. Some people, depending on where the accommodation is, also have an oven. Gyps are usually shared between four or five students, making them good social spaces.

“With our Pembroke cards, we get big discounts on a range of global and local foods in the canteen. A highlight is the legendary brunch served on weekend mornings, which people from Colleges far and wide come to experience.”

- Georgie, 3rd Year Vet

Trough, our affectionate name for the College canteen, serves breakfast, lunch and dinner on weekdays and brunch and dinner at the weekend – all in our Harry Potter-esque hall. The menu is published online every day (have a look on the college website for the link!) and there are always multiple options, including vegetarian dishes. Our brunch is the stuff of Cambridge legend, with everything you
Pembroke Formal is arguably the best formal in Cambridge, and really good value!

-Will, 3rd Year HSPS

If you have a special occasion, such as a birthday, or just fancy something special for dinner, Pembroke also has ‘formals’ every night of the week. These are waiter-served three- or four-course meals cooked by our fantastic chef. They are incredible value for money and a great way to have a nice meal with friends at a fraction of what it would cost you at a restaurant (just remember to wear your gown and bring your own bottle if you want to have some wine with dinner).

“Pembroke Formal is arguably the best formal in Cambridge, and really good value!”

If you could possibly want on a Saturday or Sunday morning: sausages, bacon, fried egg, scrambled egg, mushrooms, tomatoes and loads more, plus waffles and pancakes with various sauces! To top it all off, everything served in trough is cheap and affordable.

If you fancy a simple lunch, drink or snack during the day, Café Pembroke (conveniently located in the JP) serves various food items, such as paninis, pizzas and salads, along with a variety of hot and cold drinks. The staff are super-friendly and learn everyone’s names within a couple of weeks of them arriving – they’ll soon know your favourite order better than you do!
Accommodation

Pembroke provides accommodation for undergraduates during all three or four years of their course. This includes rooms within the College grounds, and rooms in College-owned houses surrounding Pembroke.

First years are guaranteed accommodation on the College site in one of the multiple buildings – once your place is confirmed, you receive an email asking your preference of whether you’d like an older or newer-style room. The oldest buildings, Old Court and Red Buildings, have the lowest rent due to their age, but offer gorgeous views of the chapel and library. New Court and Orchard Building have amazing views of the College grounds, with light, spacious rooms. There are also more than forty rooms for freshers in Foundress Court, our newest building (1997), which offers the most modern rooms and facilities, and has the highest rent to reflect this. However, regardless of where you live, Pembroke has fantastic value accommodation.

In second year, a ballot system is in place to decide the order in which rooms are chosen. You can ballot in groups of up to four so that you end up living with your friends.

“Rooms in College and College owned houses vary in size from decent to absolutely massive so you're never going to be stuck with a horrible room!”

-Seren, 3rd Year NatSci
Second years often live in College-owned houses (called “Hostels”) with between 2 and 33 rooms, but you can still live in College if there’s space. All hostels are no more than a 20 minute walk from college. People who get the highest exam results at the end of first year are offered the larger “Scholars’ Rooms”, some of which have their own sitting room! In third year, the ballot is reversed so that people who chose last in second year get to choose first.

A block of bathrooms is shared between around eight students, and you rarely have to wait for the showers because everyone runs on different schedules. Pembroke offer one en-suite room (if required), but many have wash basins. There are laundry facilities in College and many of the hostels. The College also employs ‘bedders’ – cleaners who can hoover your room at an agreed time, empty your bins, and clean your bathroom and kitchen – so you don’t have to worry about any of that.

“The bedders are absolute life savers, and are always up for a friendly chat in the mornings.”

-Jon, 2nd Year Historian
There are so many clubs and societies to get involved in that no one here uses all of their time for study!

“There are so many different sports clubs at Pembroke and there’s loads of opportunities to try something new. I started playing rugby here and now I’m on the university team.”

-Ciara, 3rd Year PBS

Sports

The sports scene at Pembroke is thriving, and you’re sure to be able to find something fun to get involved in, whether you’re a beginner or a pro. There are teams for rugby, men’s football, badminton, women’s football, mixed netball, men’s and women’s hockey, cricket, and loads more. There are also popular sporting events scattered through the year, including “The Pembroke Mile”, which is a fun run to raise money for charity, and includes a free brunch for participants! The Pembroke sports pitches are a 10-minute cycle from College, so you’ll never have to go far for training or matches.

Rowing is amazingly popular throughout Cambridge, for both undergraduates and graduate students, and Pembroke is no exception. The Pembroke boathouse is also a 10-minute cycle from College. There are usually four men’s and four women’s boats, meaning that if you’re a novice or a pro, or even if you fancy coxing, there’s an opportunity for you at the boathouse.
Arts

Budding thespians can follow in the footsteps of Eric Idle, Naomi Harris and Joe Thomas by joining the Pembroke Players, who regularly stage plays, from Shakespeare to new student writing, as well as hosting stand-up comedy nights, which are called “Smokers”. Every summer, the Players take a Shakespeare play on tour around Japan! Even those students with little (or no!) acting talent can take part in the Pembroke Freshers’ Panto, a fun end to your first term.

Writers can contribute to “Pembroke Street”, our termly College magazine that showcases the talent of our students. College also regularly organises writing masterclasses and holds writing competitions with cash prizes.

We have a Chapel Choir, which performs every Sunday at evensong in the College’s chapel and on international tours in the summer. Alternatively, “The Lovely Choir” or “AcaPembroke” offer a more relaxed environment for singers, regardless of previous experience. There are also plenty of musical groups to get involved in, including Pembroke College Musical Society (PCMS), which organises weekly shows in College.
Feeling intellectual? Pembroke’s very own “Stokes Society”, named after Sir George Gabriel Stokes, former Master of the College, is one of the largest student-run science societies in Cambridge and hosts weekly talks on a range of interesting topics. There are loads of other societies, including the recently-founded “Pembroke College Society”, where people from all years get together for some “chilled vibes”.

Plus, there are loads of volunteering opportunities. Pembroke hosts charity events and many students volunteer their time to a variety of good causes, such as Pembroke House, the community charity Pembroke students set up in London over 100 years ago.

You can also get involved in chapel life (the chapel is open to all faiths), and there are dozens of other discussion and interest groups, societies and committees around College (too many to name them all here!). Alternatively, you can stand for election to the JPC, or help the Access Team by helping at open days and giving tours to prospective students.

Not seen what you’re looking for?

Of course, we haven’t listed anywhere near the full number of sports and societies available at Pembroke and you’d be hard pressed to think of one that doesn’t already exist. However, if you do find that you’re interested in something for which there isn’t already a group, the College encourages students to set up their own societies. If you can gather a bit of interest, the JPC can help with funding and you’ll be away in no time.

If you’re interested in getting involved in something at a university level, the full list of Cambridge societies (it’s a long one) can be found at www.societies.cam.ac.uk.
As mentioned above, Pembroke offers cheap accommodation in Cambridge. Plus, you only pay rent for nine or ten weeks a term. You don’t have to pay rent throughout the holidays when you’re not here, which really saves you money. Electricity and Wi-Fi are also included in your rent.

Other costs, such as the Kitchen Facilities Charge (KFC for short – this is charged by most Colleges and means the prices of food in “trough” are lower than they would otherwise be) are added onto College bills each term.

It’s important to budget carefully for everything you’ll need – things such as laundry, nights out, and essentials from the supermarket such as tea and coffee for that much needed caffeine boost! You may also need to spend money on course-related costs, but this will vary depending on subject, and there are often bursaries or grants available.

There are lots of things about Cambridge that’ll help to save some money during your time here. For example, unlike in larger cities, everything in Cambridge is accessible by foot or bike, so you don’t need to spend money on transport during your time here. Being at Pembroke makes this even easier – the central location means you’ll rarely need to go further than a 10-minute cycle! Also, because of the abundance of libraries, there is rarely any need to buy textbooks for your course.

“Almost everyone in Cambridge has a bike and cycles everywhere, and Pembroke is basically right in the centre, so I haven’t ever had to get a bus.”

-Maia, 1st Year English
Loans and Grants

Undergraduate tuition fees at Cambridge for EU and International students can be found on the University website. Government loans cover this for all UK and EU students and may also cover a certain amount of your living costs, depending on household income. More information about the money you’re entitled to can be found on the Student Finance website. You won’t have to pay back any of these loans until you’re in a well-paid job.

“In Pembroke have made gaining access to financial support so easy and stress-free for me, they offer fantastic rent rebates and fee reductions dependent on household incomes, on top of the Cambridge bursary.”

- Errin, 3rd Year NatSci

In addition, Pembroke and the University of Cambridge both offer very generous grants, dependent on your household income. Funding is also often available for extra-curricular activities such as language studies or course-related travel, and Pembroke offers monetary prizes for all sorts of competitions or academic achievements. For information on finance, visit: http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduates/living-expenses-fees-and-financial-support/

“There are loads of grants and bursaries available at Pembroke to help cover the cost of living, and there are also some available centrally from the university, so money is rarely an issue here.”

- Adam, 3rd Year Medic
Pembroke Dictionary

Pembroke (and Cambridge in general) has some strange terms that you may come across, so we’ve translated some of them for you here

**ADC** Amateur Dramatics Club (can refer to both the society and their theatre)

**ASNaC** Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (a subject)

**Ballot** The system by which rooms are allocated after first year

**Bedder** Lovely person who empties your bin and hoovers your room

**Blue** A sporting achievement awarded to someone who has competed against Oxford in a sport at university level

**Boatie** Someone who rows

**Bop** Twice-termly college fancy dress party

**Bumps** An inter-collegiate rowing competition

**Cantab** Anyone who is a student at, or graduate of, the University of Cambridge

**CompSci** Someone who studies Computer Science

**Cuppers** Inter-collegiate competitions in various sports

**CUSU** The Cambridge University Student Union

**DoS** Director of Studies

**Easter Term** The third term of the year

**Ents** Entertainments; at Pembroke, these are organised by the legendary PemEnts

**Fellow** An academic at a College

**Gyp** College kitchen, mainly used for preparing light snacks

**Hostel** A house owned by College and occupied by students. A number of Pembroke students choose to move out of college and into a hostel in their second or third year

**HSPS** Human, Social and Political Sciences (a subject)

**JP** The Junior Parlour, the social hub of college for undergraduates

**Lent term** The second term of the year

**Mathmo** Someone who studies Mathematics

**Matriculation** The process by which a person becomes a member of the university

**May Week** An amazing and quite surreal week of sunshine, garden parties, balls and fun to celebrate the end of exams and the end of the academic year (Bizarrely occurs in June)

**Michaelmas Term** The first term of the year

**MML** Modern and Medieval Languages

**NatSci** Someone who studies Natural Sciences (Comes in two varieties – Bio (Biological) and Phys (Physical))

**PBS** Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

**Plodge** The Porters’ Lodge

**Pidge** Pigeon hole, where all your post is sent

**Porter** A member of College staff without whom the College would descend into chaos

**Squash** An event at which societies recruit new members

**Thesp** Someone who is involved in theatre

**Tripos** The university exams you need to take in order to get a degree from Cambridge

**Trough** The canteen

**Tutor** A senior member of College assigned to each undergraduate to look after their pastoral care

**UL** The University Library

**Undergraduate** A member of the university who does not yet have a degree