Founded in 1348
14 Nobel Prize winners
Over 100,000 books and journals in our library
851 students
271 science undergraduates
261 arts undergraduates
319 graduate students and clinical medics
Welcome to Gonville & Caius College! We hope you’ll enjoy reading about our College and especially hearing from our students. We’ve given them a lot of space in this prospectus to speak for themselves, and we hope their stories will inspire you to imagine yourself here too.

Caius (pronounced ‘Keys’) is right at the heart of University life in Cambridge. We’re one of the oldest Colleges, and you’ll find our beautiful Old Courts in the very centre of the town.

We’re relatively large in terms of student numbers, but we have one of the closest and friendliest College ‘families’ anywhere in the University. Everyone here eats together regularly in Hall, which helps create the strong sense of community we value highly.

Caius is home to students from every educational and social background, from all over the UK and around the world. We welcome everyone who is passionate about their studies, and we have the resources to offer substantial financial support for those who need it.

Our students come to us to study with some of the world’s leading academics, and benefit from Cambridge’s unparalleled supervision system of small group teaching. We offer plenty of support too: academic, financial and pastoral.

Students also take advantage of our huge range of social, cultural and sporting activities, making the most of our new boathouse, sports ground, tennis and squash courts, gyms, music rooms and numerous other facilities – all located close to our first class accommodation.

They leave as Caians, having discovered more about themselves and the subjects they study, and having made friendships that will last a lifetime.

We hope very much that you’ll enjoy reading about Caius, and we encourage you to apply.

Dr Pippa Rogerson
Master
Studying at Caius

Every undergraduate course offered by the University is available at Caius. About half of our undergraduates are studying science-based subjects and half are following arts-based courses.

Whichever College you’re at, you’ll have access to the same University-based lectures, practical classes and seminars which form the backbone of our degrees. For many students, however, the most important part of their academic life in Cambridge is their supervisions.

Organised by each College, supervisions are teaching sessions for individual students or small groups with an expert in a relevant subject. This personal tuition is one of the greatest strengths of studying at Cambridge and it’s what makes our degrees really special.

Typically, students have between one and four supervisions a week, each lasting an hour. What happens in a supervision varies from course to course, but usually students are expected to write an essay or work through some problems in advance. This work is then discussed in detail with the supervisor.

Designed to help you develop skills to learn independently, supervisions are a fantastic opportunity to explore course material in greater depth and clarify anything you’re uncertain of. They can also be tailored to your own interests and needs.

Our large number of Fellows (senior members of College who teach and research) means that we can offer many supervisions in College, and you may well be learning one-to-one or in a pair. At Caius, you’ll have a Director of Studies, a subject specialist whose role is to organise your supervisions and to advise you on all aspects of your course. You’ll meet your Director of Studies on a regular basis, and he or she will help and support you if any academic problems arise.

We want to inspire you, and ensure you not only achieve the best results you can but also that you develop academically and pursue your own interests.

- We interview around 80% of applicants
- We warmly welcome applicants from all backgrounds
Medicine is a big subject at Caius with a long history going back to Dr Caius himself. There are a lot of medics so we have a strong sense of community, with plenty of support. You can balance the work with other activities – I play rugby and the College team is one of the best in the University.

James, Medicine
One of the main reasons I applied to Caius was that it’s the largest medical College, taking the most medical students of any College at around 25 per year. Having such a big group of medics is one of the things that makes studying at Caius stand out – not only providing a great amount of support for work, but also cultivating a real sense of community within College. Part of this comes from having second year College ‘parents’ (a kind of buddying system) who are able to help you out enormously, having done it all before themselves.

With such a large number of medical Fellows in College, the supervisions we receive are often from experts in their field and are sometimes even given by the lecturers themselves. This level of support means that we have ample opportunity to get to grips with the course and ask questions about anything we’re having trouble with.

This is complemented by the myriad resources made available to us by the Caius Medical Society, such as the skeletons which you receive in your first year – someone to talk to when everyone else has finished work and is at the pub!

Despite having a busy schedule, we’re not bound to our desks all day, and have time to pursue other interests outside of medicine. I play for the College rugby team, with training and matches every week – we’re doing really well and reached the final of the inter-collegiate ‘Cuppers’ competition. That’s quite a commitment, but there are plenty of other options. Socially, whether it’s heading over to the College bar with friends or a film night, there’s always something going on.

Studying Medicine is quite demanding with a high workload and a large number of contact hours, but the medics at Caius are a very tight-knit group, and, if you manage your time well, you have plenty of time left to enjoy yourself.

James, Medicine

Library

Our library is often said to be the best College library in Cambridge and Oxford. As well as housing over 100,000 books and journals, the library, with its high windows that flood the room with light, is a beautiful space for independent research and communal study. We regularly review our book stocks to make sure we’re up-to-date with the latest teaching and research publications. Students are also invited to request books for order, and our Librarians are always available to help and advise. The library is open seven days a week, from 7am to 1am.

In addition to the College library, students have access to their departmental libraries and to the University Library which is just across the road from our West Road site.

Computing Facilities

All student rooms are networked so you can connect to the internet and university network. Wifi is available throughout the College, and computers, printers, photocopiers and scanners can be found in the College library and our various well-equipped computer rooms.

Caius has a friendly and efficient IT team who are ready to help if you have technical problems.

All in all, both in terms of expert academic staff and facilities, our students have access to some of the best provision in Cambridge.
Caius has a large and thriving community of around 300 graduate students and clinical medics.

We’re always delighted when our own undergraduates stay on to do further study with us, but most of our postgraduates come to us from other universities, including a large number from overseas. We really value the contribution they all make to the academic and social life of the College. We consider candidates for all graduate courses offered by the University except for the Graduate Course in Medicine.

We provide rooms in College houses for all graduate students for up to three years, and we have accommodation suitable for couples and families, including beautifully refurbished apartments beside the river.

Our postgraduate students play a full and active part in College and University life. They have their own Tutors and a common room, the Middle Common Room (MCR). The MCR Committee runs a full programme of academic and social activities. Special dinners are arranged regularly for postgraduates and their guests in the College Hall, together with exchange dinners with other Colleges, speaker meetings and music and arts events.

The College is pleased to offer a number of scholarships and studentships for postgraduate study. Details are available on our website.

“I’m French and Swedish in nationality, but I moved away from France when I was 18 for my undergraduate degree. After three years of Biology at Imperial College, and another at UCL, I was offered a stipend to start a PhD in Cancer Biology at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

I’m now a PhD student at Caius. I’m studying a paediatric cancer in the hope of finding ways to tell the aggressive tumours from the more benign ones.

Caius has one of the most close-knit grad communities of all the Colleges. We all live together around Harvey Road right in the heart of town in shared Victorian houses (the College guarantees up to three years of accommodation). We basically all know each other, and at Caius we regularly eat together in the College Hall so we’ll catch up over a meal at least twice a week. For PhD students, the easy option of socialising with fellow Caians is of tremendous help – it creates the environment which allows me to help friends feeling down when my PhD is looking up, and vice versa. Not only that, but it gives me the chance to talk to people outside of my Biology bubble.

The MCR is a thriving committee, which organises a wide range of events for Caius graduates. We have low-key port nights, movie nights, garden parties and barbecues in the Summer – as well as more formal dinners, and exchanges with other Colleges at both Cambridge and Oxford.

We also have a dedicated sports officer who can inform you about all the many opportunities to be part of a strong Caius sports team – or one of our less committed hobby sports teams. Finally, we have a Freshers’ fortnight, during which we work hard to create events that cater for everyone, and help all new Caians feel at ease, and at home, at our College!

Hugo, PhD candidate

www.cai.cam.ac.uk | 7
My state secondary school was in one of Caius’ outreach boroughs so I had the chance to attend a social sciences taster day, involving a few lectures and a Q&A session with current students. One of my greatest fears about applying to Cambridge was that there wouldn’t be people ‘like me’, but when I met the students I realised that I didn’t have anything to worry about because they were so open, friendly and down to earth. Reassuringly, they mentioned having exactly the same fear when they had applied, but had quickly settled in and felt at home at Caius.

I chose Human, Social and Political Sciences (HSPS) because I couldn’t really narrow down to one subject. At various points at school I had considered studying Law, Economics, English, History or French, so I thought it would be best to find a broad course. The careers advisor at school suggested that I look at the Oxford PPE course, but I didn’t like the reputation of it and HSPS struck me as much more innovative and exciting. The interview, whilst challenging, confirmed how much I wanted to study at Caius.

I’ve had the opportunity to do so much more than just my degree. I have been involved in the student union here (the GCSU): I have been the Freshers’ Rep, and in 2017 I was President. I am currently on the Joyce Frankland Society, which organises events and discussions about topics relating to gender and sexuality. I studied Arabic at the Language Centre and have also started ballroom and Latin dance with the Cambridge University Dancesport Team. There is truly never a dull moment here!

Nathalie, HSPS
I liked how cosy Caius seemed: it was beautiful but not so grand as to be intimidating. I did a bit of research and found that it ticked other boxes, including good quality and well-located accommodation, a fantastic library, and a large undergraduate population.

Nathalie, HSPS
When I was first told the amount of reading for my History course I genuinely thought I wouldn’t be able to keep up. But you soon realise there really is nothing to worry about – within the first few weeks you find a routine which works well for you and you’re able to get everything done, no problem. What I love most about History here is the broad range of periods and specific topics you are able to study in depth, so you can choose the direction of study you want to take.

If there’s one thing I can’t stress enough about studying at Cambridge, it’s to ignore the stereotypes. Coming from a Lancashire state school, although everyone was delighted I’d been offered a place, the first thing people said to me was to enjoy spending three years without a social life! My biggest worry before arriving was the types of people I would meet. All I can say is I am yet to meet anyone I really don’t like, and I have made friends for life at Caius, coming from backgrounds both similar to my own and far from it. There is absolutely no truth in the claim that everyone who goes to Cambridge is going to be of a certain status and behave in a certain way, and no-one should be put off applying, as I nearly was.

My friends here are a hugely important part of my life. We typically go out around twice a week (not true that everyone stays in here), and they’re who I really rely on if things do get a bit stressful. The Freshers’ accommodation at Caius is another real positive – it’s in the perfect location if you’re a humanities student as the lecture rooms are next door. The Stephen Hawking Building is one of the most modern in Cambridge, with light and spacious rooms laid out so you get to know everyone on your floor. I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else than Caius. The experience of Cambridge itself is one like no other and the rewards make the hard work more than worth it.

Ellie, History
Accommodation

Rooms at Caius range from modern ensuite study bedrooms, which every first year undergraduate benefits from, to historic ‘sets’, with a separate living room and bedroom. Rents vary accordingly, from around £140 – £180 per week for undergraduates and around £120 – £170 per week for graduates, including heating, cleaning, electricity and internet. Undergraduates only pay rent when they’re in residence, and our relatively short terms and not-for-profit approach mean that accommodation costs are significantly lower than at most other universities.

All rooms are fully furnished and free laundry facilities are available on site. We have purpose-designed rooms for disabled students, and all main buildings are wheelchair accessible.

All first year undergraduates live together on the West Road site, which makes it easier to get to know people in the first few weeks at University. Across the River Cam and just a few minutes’ walk from the Old Courts, this site is right next to the University Library and the main arts faculties and Law buildings – literally a couple of minutes from lectures. Students are allocated ensuite rooms in either Harvey Court, which boasts huge balconies and garden views and has recently been refurbished, or the ultra-modern Stephen Hawking Building (Professor Hawking was a Fellow of Gonville & Caius for over 50 years).

After undergraduates’ first year, rooms are allocated through a ballot system. It’s possible to ballot as a group, so students can choose to live with friends. Typically, second years live in one of our College-owned houses which are all about ten minutes from the Old Courts by bike, or in rooms on picturesque Rose Crescent and Green Street close to College in the city centre.

The College’s main site, the Old Courts, lies at the very heart of the city. These five beautiful, historic courtyards are a hidden gem housing many of our third year students. Rooms are arranged on staircases, and many offer great views across the courts or over the city. You may find yourself waking up each morning to a genuine postcard view!
I came to Cambridge from a state school and then sixth form college in Newham. I’m studying English. My course has opened me up to a range of literature that I thought I’d never get to encounter, which has been as refreshing as it has been informative. Since being here, I have got involved in College life and have been on the GCSU as the Freshers’ Rep and President, through which I organised events for students, including the first ever Diversity Day at Caius. I am also an active member of the Pakistani Society, a cultural society that has allowed me to meet plenty of people outside of Caius and attend a range of exciting events, including the PakSoc Ball.

Reiss, English
“Coming to Cambridge from my state school in East Ham has been an exciting journey so far. Caius is incredibly friendly, caring and has been comfortable to settle into, which has been a huge relief given that I was coming into the College with no-one that I knew.

Reiss, English
Free time

Whether pursuing an interest you love or trying something new, you’ll benefit from our excellent facilities. Caius has a strong sporting tradition, routinely performing very well in inter-collegiate competitions and regularly providing representatives to University teams. There are numerous societies at Caius, from music and drama to politics and journalism. You’ll never be short of ways to fill any spare time and meet new friends.

“I have always been incredibly passionate about studying to be a vet, but I wanted to retain the diversity of being surrounded by students with different interests. So I applied to Caius, a College with a roughly 50:50 split between the sciences and arts. I lived near lawyers and became friends with engineers and geographers, and managed to successfully separate my work life and my social life – not just through my diverse friendship group, but also by taking the opportunities offered. Sport within Caius is very active and open to all – the hockey club even provides hockey sticks, so all you need to bring is enthusiasm.

The College is also a hub for incredibly talented sportsmen and women who represent the University at a national level. They are able to provide a link between College and University sport, not just running coaching sessions for College teams, but ensuring that Caians are the first to know about any open University trials or coaching sessions that may allow the pursuit of sport at the higher level. I took a break from really competitive football in my first year but continued with the fun of college football. In my second year, I trialled, as I had intended to in my first, and got into the University 1st XI Blues team. My workload skyrocketed in the second year – notoriously the hardest year for a vet – but the three weekly training sessions, plus away days to Cardiff just made me more efficient with my work. The lectures I had to miss I caught up on easily with the aid of my classmates – a testament to how close we were as a year group. Everyone willingly offered to share notes and essay plans. Importantly, it also forced me to switch off from the course and enjoy Cambridge without the stress and pressure. More than anything, I started making strong friendships outside of Caius, and through this was able to explore other opportunities Cambridge had to offer.

Gerda, Veterinary Science
“The student body at Caius is like ‘a big family’ – the speed with which you’re welcomed into College societies is incredible, and allowed me to pursue hockey, netball, football and the student committee. These societies convene loudly and frequently, whether on the netball courts or the hockey pitches, but in a way that makes every Caian aware they can leave their rooms on a Saturday and spend a few hours earning Caius some points in the College leagues.

Gerda, Veterinary Science
“The chance to compete for Cambridge against athletics teams from four prestigious US universities was a fantastic sporting, social and cultural experience. The tour was probably the best two weeks of my life.

Hephzibah, Law
I did not apply to Caius – I got my offer through the Pool system – but in hindsight it was the best decision that has ever been made for me. I chose Law because I was interested in various subjects such as Politics, Sociology and Philosophy. I thought Law offered a great fusion of my interests and would give me the opportunity to explore legal concepts such as the rule of law which I was unfamiliar with.

I love athletics because I enjoy sprinting. It offers a safe space away from work and, as I compete for the University, it’s a great way to meet people from other Colleges. I love the history of the Cambridge University Athletics Club: as members, we get to take part in the oldest athletics competition in the world – the annual Varsity Match against Oxford. Similarly, we go on warm weather training every year to Tenerife and I got to take part in the prestigious US tour, touring Harvard, Yale, UPenn and Cornell and competed against their teams – again the oldest remaining international athletics competition. I also play College netball because it’s fun and relaxed. We have a good team and it’s a good way to meet people from different year groups and exert College pride – #yeahCaius!

During my time at Caius, I was Access Officer and I’m so grateful to have had the opportunity to inspire and encourage students from under-represented backgrounds to apply to Cambridge. I did this by organising school tours, visiting schools, and running my own access-based Instagram account called ‘TheCambridgeBubble’.

Hephzibah, Law

Sport

The College has excellent sporting facilities which are available to all members for free. The sports ground at Barton Road, a few minutes’ walk from the West Road site, has a pavilion, cricket pitch, two hard and six grass tennis courts, two squash courts, and an all-weather synthetic grass court which is used for tennis and basketball.

We also have our own boathouse, opened in 2016, with state-of-the-art boats and training facilities. Our gym on the West Road site has cardiovascular machines, weights machines and a collection of free weights. It’s open daily from 6am-11pm and membership costs around £10.

There are College clubs for many sports including football, rugby, hockey, athletics, cross-country, rowing, badminton, cricket, tennis, squash and ultimate frisbee. Most are free to join and open to students at any level of ability. The College runs the Bell-Wade Bursary Scheme which supports excellence in sport.
I’m studying Music and I’m also an alto choral scholar. I chose Caius because I’d heard of the good reputation of the Choir. In my opinion, our Choir is one of the best in Cambridge for women, being mixed and also singing evensong/eucharist three times a week. We sing a large range of styles of music, and there is plenty of opportunity for solos. It does require commitment, but that was something I was looking for. Caius Choir in particular is known for its development of professional singers, as we have a fairly operatic sound, so if professional singing is something you’re interested in, I would highly recommend taking a look at Caius! We also do several external concerts a term, and are extremely lucky in our tours. We’ve been to Dorset, Spain and the Far East.

The Choir (and Caius more generally) has such a great family atmosphere, and there is a lot of bonding between all the years. This is something that I feel is unique to Caius. The College has a particularly lively music scene, and our College music society gives termly concerts, as well as running both informal and formal concert series, and staging a May Week Show. There are lots of opportunities for musicians of varying levels, and the atmosphere is very inclusive.

The first year of the Music course here is very broad, which gave me the chance to explore lots of diverse aspects of music. I usually have one or two lectures in the morning, followed by one or two supervisions. My evenings are filled with Choir, Formal Hall and socialising (and of course work!).

Fiammetta, Music
Cambridge is such a wonderful environment. It really challenges you, forcing you to think laterally and to look at things from different perspectives. Everyone is so enthusiastic and passionate here, students and supervisors alike, and it breeds a great atmosphere of dedication.

Fiammetta, Music
I’m half Danish and half French-Algerian and I grew up in Copenhagen. I decided to apply to read English, because, as a non-native speaker, I was completely obsessed with English language and literature. However, although we all prioritise our degrees, I feel that it is the things I do outside of my degree that have truly enriched my time here so far.

I am currently on the committee of the University’s Women’s Campaign as Zine Officer, which means I’m responsible for editing, publishing and launching a zine about gender and feminism every term. I get to assemble an editorial team, pick the art and poetry that is published and generally direct production. I’d never had any experience with editing or publishing before coming here, and my only qualification was a love of poetry, art and gender theory. Cambridge offers a ton of zines, magazines, newspapers and other journals you can submit to or get involved with; there’s no shortage of writing opportunities. Caius even has a creative writing society, in which you can share and discuss your writing and the craft with other fellow-minded students.

I have also been involved with the welfare team at College, as LGBT+ Rep. This role involves organising bar nights and events for the LGBT+ community at Caius and provides inclusive welfare and sexual health information and support. The welfare team in general organises welfare teas and art therapy events, as well as providing support and information concerning mental and sexual health. We are a point of contact for students to come to if they need it, and we can redirect them to the resources they need.

Nadia, English
Support

Caius offers a very supportive environment. We work hard to ensure that all of our students are happy, healthy and successful.

Every student has a Tutor whose responsibility is to offer pastoral support and confidential advice on any aspect of student life. Tutors can help with financial issues, practical difficulties and personal problems. If you have an academic worry or problem, your supervisor and Director of Studies are there to offer advice and help sort it out.

We want you to be well and happy during your time at Caius, from your first weeks getting used to the system to your final exams. Caius has a nurse based in College at our on-site health centre and you can book online for appointments and acute clinics. We also offer support with mental health difficulties and other personal matters.

The Caius Student Union also works hard to support student welfare. Two elected student Welfare Officers, an LGBT+ Officer and others are trained to offer peer support. As a new first year, you’ll be assigned second year College ‘parents’ who can offer friendly advice to help you settle in.

The Dean, who officiates over the College Chapel, is available to support all students, irrespective of faith.

Finance

Financial worries should not discourage any UK student from applying to Cambridge. The cost of studying here is comparable to that of many other UK universities, and in many cases it’s cheaper. College accommodation, meals, libraries and sports facilities all keep costs low, and living in the city centre cuts out travel costs.

The University of Cambridge offers generous means-tested bursaries over and above any governmental support you may also qualify for – check the University website for latest details. On top of that, Caius has a whole range of grants to assist all students, and particularly anyone facing financial problems.

In addition to generous College scholarships, we offer financial support in the form of grants to help with the cost of books, travel, sports and music, and to support cases of unexpected hardship. More scholarships are awarded to students already at Caius who do well in University exams. For more details of our available financial support, see: www.cai.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/financialhelp.

We don’t want anyone to decide against applying to Cambridge because of concerns over money. Please contact our Admissions team if you have any questions: admissions@cai.cam.ac.uk.
How to apply

We do all we can to make applying to Caius as straightforward as possible. Everything we do is focused on our core aim: to welcome academically able and committed students, no matter what their background, and support them to flourish and be happy.

If you want to find out more about Caius and courses at Cambridge, do visit our website (www.cai.cam.ac.uk), where as well as lots of information you’ll find useful short videos about the College and some of the subjects taught here. The best way to have all of your questions answered is to come along to an admissions Open Day – check the website for dates.

Once you’ve chosen your course and College (or decided to make an open application), the application process works like this:

1. Apply to UCAS in the usual way – but remember the deadline is earlier (15 October). The institution code for Cambridge is CAM C05, and the campus code for Gonville & Caius College is ‘Y’.

2. We’ll email you a questionnaire (the Supplementary Application Questionnaire) asking a few extra questions.

3. Most applicants are required to take a written admission assessment, either pre-interview or at interview if we invite you. We may ask you to send us some written work from school or college.

4. We’ll decide whether to invite you to interview. Interviews take place in the first half of December, and around three quarters of applicants get invited each year. Interviews work differently according to subject, but the aim is always to try and bring out what you can do, not what you don’t know. We focus on your academic strengths and interests, and we’re more interested in getting to know you and how you think and respond than in you getting all the answers right.

5. We’ll tell you whether or not you’ve been offered a place in January. If we don’t have room for you but think you are good enough to come to Cambridge, we may pool your application for other Colleges to consider.

Please do read our online application guidelines carefully: www.cai.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/how-to-apply
"Caius is one of the biggest but also one of the most sociable Colleges. The first year accommodation really brings the year group together, and eating together in College every week means you’re always seeing other people.

Mark, Philosophy
Caius – in the heart of Cambridge
At Caius, you’re never more than a short bike ride from anywhere you need to be.

Our map shows our sites in relation to University departments, the University Library, sports facilities and other key locations. Shops, entertainment and transport are also close by.

College sites
1 Old Courts
2 West Road Site
3 College Sports Ground
4 Harvey Road Graduate Campus
5 College Boathouse
6 Alice Cheng House – Graduate apartments

University Sites – see www.map.cam.ac.uk for faculties and departments

A West Cambridge and Madingley Road Sites
B Centre for Mathematical Sciences
C University Library
D Sidgwick Site
E Silver Street/Mill Lane Sites
F The Fitzwilliam Museum
G Downing Site
H New Museums Site
I ADC Theatre
J Cambridge Union

Map drawn by Jeremy Bays, www.art-work-shop.co.uk
Photography by Keith Heppell, Dan White, Ed Brambley
West Road Site
A Porters’ Lodge
B Stephen Hawking Building
C Harvey Court
D ‘K’ Block
E Newnham Cottage
F Iain Macpherson Building
G Finella
H Springfield
I Cavonius Centre

West Road Site

Gonville & Caius
University of Cambridge
Old Courts

1. Porters’ Lodge (Gate of Humility)
2. Gate of Virtue
3. Gate of Honour
4. Great Gate
5. Tree Court
6. Caius Court
7. Gonville Court
8. Hall
9. Chapel
10. Bateman Auditorium
11. Master’s Lodge
12. Cockerell Building – Library
13. St Michael’s Court
14. St Mary’s Court