



Murray Edwards
College
University of Cambridge

MURRAY EDWARDS COLLEGE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-24

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Welcome to Murray Edwards College

This handbook provides you with some important information about the College and University. Its aim is to explain how the College works, introduce you to key services and departments in the College, and help you to get the most out of College while you are here. More detailed information is available on the [College](#) and [University](#) websites and this handbook will refer you to relevant pages where necessary.

Please read the handbook carefully, and keep it for future reference. We hope it will answer a lot of questions you may have, especially in the first few weeks and months of your time here.

About Murray Edwards College

Murray Edwards College was founded as New Hall in 1954, as the third College for women at the University of Cambridge. It was set up shortly after women were first admitted as members of the University in 1949, recognising the need for a College that would welcome outstanding young women from any background, and offer them the best of Cambridge. We remain strongly committed to the principle of enabling young women from all backgrounds to excel in their chosen fields and are very proud of all our students and their achievements.

Our values

We are a diverse community of students, staff, Fellows and Bye-Fellows. In order to offer an environment where everyone can thrive and do their best, we ask that all individuals (regardless of their role in the College) be treated with dignity, fairness and respect. We have a zero-tolerance policy on bullying, exploitation, harassment or intimidation. We encourage freedom of speech and want you to feel comfortable expressing your views while respecting those of others.

COLLEGE GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governing Body

The College Governing Body, which consists of all Fellows (academic staff), is responsible for the overall governance and management of the College and meets termly. Governing Body has delegated the more day-to-day management and oversight to the College Council, which meets monthly.

College Council

College Council oversees the routine management of College business. It consists of the President, Bursar, Senior Tutor, Vice President, and seven fellows elected from the Governing Body for a period of three years. Students are represented by the presidents of the JCR and MCR and there are also two staff observers. Murray Edwards College is a Charity, and members of Council are also trustees of the College.

Council appoints Committees to deal with specific aspects of College affairs (such as Academic Policy, Finance, and Undergraduate Liaison). Student representatives from the JCR and MCR sit on these Committees. You can find out more about student representation on College Committees on the College Moodle site for undergraduates.

College Officers

The President, Ms Dorothy Byrne, has overall responsibility for the running of the College and its external relations.

The Bursar, Rob Hopwood, administers the College staff, finances, buildings and assets.

The Senior Tutor, Dr Andrew Rudd, has primary responsibility for academic provision and student welfare.

College policies and procedures

The College's constitution and governance are laid out in the College [Statutes and Ordinances](#), which are available on our website. Policies which relate to academic and student life are listed on the student Moodle pages for easy access. However, students are also encouraged to look at the wider College [principal policies](#), which are available on the College website.

The Student Body

The JCR. There are approximately 350 undergraduate students at Murray Edwards. There is a JCR Committee, elected every February, whose members represent undergraduate students to College Council and a number of key College Committees, including the Undergraduate Liaison Committee. The JCR Committee also organises social events, student welfare, student societies and many aspects of student life in College. They are very important in extending a warm welcome to our new students

during Freshers' Week, and organise the system of College parents. They have their own [website](#).

The MCR. We have approximately 240 postgraduate students. They also have an elected MCR Committee, which represents the interests of graduate students to the College Council and other Committees, including the Graduate Liaison Committee, and organises social and welfare matters for graduate students.

Student engagement. We strongly encourage all students to engage with College life – you can make suggestions and raise any concerns about the College through your JCR representatives. Your Tutor will also be able to provide information about how the College is run, so that your suggestions can be well targeted.

The Fellowship

We have approximately 60 Fellows. The Fellows of a Cambridge College are, in most cases, academics pursuing research and teaching in University Departments, although some are employed directly by the College to oversee supervision and direction of studies. All Fellows undertake to promote the College as a place of education, learning and research, and play a role in determining its policies and actions, as outlined above.

ACADEMIC LIFE

All undergraduate students are supported by a College Tutor and a Director of Studies; the provision of separate tutors for pastoral and academic matters is a key part of the educational provision in all Cambridge Colleges. The Senior Tutor has overall responsibility for Tutors and Directors of Studies, and for academic matters within the College.

TUTORS

All students are allocated a College Tutor, who provides pastoral support and guidance to students throughout their time in the College. College Tutors have a number of areas of responsibility:

Pastoral support – Your Tutor is the first port of call for any help or advice you need with personal problems, such as settling in to College, accommodation problems, financial worries, health or disability-related issues, and concerns over anxiety, depression or other mental health problems. Tutors are not trained counsellors, but they know how the College and University work, and will be able to point you to appropriate sources of help and support if they are unable to provide it themselves. Discussions with your Tutor are confidential and information is not normally shared beyond the Tutor without the consent of students – for more details, see our [confidentiality statement](#) on the College website.

Financial and administrative support – Your Tutor helps you to liaise with key internal and external bodies in the University. For example:

- **Financial support** – your Tutor can advise you on sources of financial support in College and the wider University, and will discuss and support any applications you may need to make, including for travel funding and Gateway Challenges funding.
- **Change of course** – Tutors can advise on matters relating to changing courses.
- **Exams** – Tutors can advise and support you on issues relating to exams, especially if your exam performance was affected by ill health or other extenuating circumstances.

Academic progress – Tutors can offer support and guidance on study skills, help with diagnoses for learning disabilities, and the need for supported study, as well as any reasonable adjustments that you may require for exams or in your studies. Often Tutors advise on career choices and may write you a reference.

Contact with your Tutor – It is a good idea to get to know your Tutor as soon as possible so that when you need advice or support, you already know one another. All students will meet with their Tutor at the start and end of each Term, and can contact them by email for a meeting at any other time. Your Tutor will advise you of the best way to make contact.

It is always a good idea to let your Tutor know sooner rather than later of any concerns you might have, whether they are academic, health, social or finance related. The role of the Tutor is to help you resolve any problems that might affect your experience and your academic performance.

DIRECTORS OF STUDIES

Each student is allocated a Director of Studies (DoS) in their subject. Your Director of Studies oversees admissions in your subject and had a role in selecting you for the College. They remain the primary point of contact with your Faculty or Department, and their role is to guide you through your academic career at Cambridge. As such, they will:

- advise you on the specifics of your course requirements;
- find you appropriate supervisors and help set up your supervisions;
- advise you on exam entry and regulations;
- offer guidance on subject specific study skills, including how to prepare for supervisions, coursework or essay writing, work load and exam preparation;
- offer advice and guidance if you have any subject-specific academic concerns; and
- discuss your academic performance and progress, especially with regard to your CamCORS supervision reports and exam results. (CamCORS is explained below.)

Contact with your DoS – You will have a meeting with your Director of Studies at the beginning and end of each term, and you should keep in regular contact with them. As with your Tutor, it is a good idea to let your DoS know sooner rather than later if you have any worries or concerns relating to your course. If you have difficulty getting in touch with your DoS, please speak to the Senior Tutor or your Tutor.

SUPERVISIONS

The supervision system is at the heart of the education provided by the College. Supervisions are the medium through which you learn to work independently: by doing the preparatory work and discussing it, you learn how to argue and handle problems, to learn with and from others, to question your assumptions, and (very importantly) to meet deadlines. Supervisions rely on mutual respect between supervisors and students.

All subjects and Faculties organise supervisions differently, depending on the kind of learning appropriate to your subject. Your Director of Studies will help set up your supervisions and advise you about how best to approach them.

You can expect the following of your supervisions:

- To be given work to prepare in advance of the supervisions, which will form the basis of the learning you do in the supervision.
- If you hand your work in on time, it should be marked in time for the supervision, and you should receive constructive feedback on the work.
- You should also have a chance to ask questions and seek clarification in your supervision.

In order to get the most out of supervisions you must:

- Prepare thoroughly for your supervision and submit the requested work on time.
- Participate fully in the supervision and make appropriate contributions; engage fully with the discussion and try to answer the questions asked.
- Show consideration and respect for the opinions of both your supervisor and the other participants.
- Attend supervisions promptly and inform your supervisor as soon as possible if for any reason (i.e. illness) you will be unable to attend a supervision.

For further information on supervisions in the 2023-24 academic year, please refer to the 'Living in College' document.

Feedback – As long as it is handed in on time, you can expect feedback on your supervision work, but it may come in different forms – some supervisors give you written feedback, some prefer to discuss it (there is some evidence that the latter is more effective). Often you won't be given a formal mark for the work you do as feedback is intended for guidance and development, not formal assessment. You should take notes during your supervision (and go over your notes as soon as possible afterwards).

CAMCORS – At the end of each term you will receive a supervision report from your supervisor[s] through an online reporting system called **CamCORS**. Your Director of Studies will see your CamCORS reports and discuss them with you at the end of term meeting. You will be able to refer to your CamCORS reports throughout your time here.

Concerns – If you have any concerns about your supervisor or the supervisions, you should discuss this with your Director of Studies, or with the Senior Tutor. The College also asks you to complete a feedback form so we can monitor our teaching provision.

EXAMINATIONS

All students are required to sit and pass Tripos (i.e. University) examinations appropriate to the course they are studying. Most formal assessment is done through unseen written examination but there are other forms of project work, long essays and dissertations. This will be explained on your Faculty website and your Director of Studies will advise you. Many subjects hold mock exams in College in early January so you can hone your exam technique.

Please be aware that there is no provision at Cambridge for re-sitting Tripos exams, nor for requesting a script to be remarked. It is very rare to fail an exam, but if you do, it usually means that you cannot progress to the next stage of your degree.

If you are ill during the exams, or if your exams are adversely affected by an unavoidable difficulty, there are special procedures in place to allow you to apply to proceed to the next stage of your course. These are normally handled by your Tutor. If for any reason you are ill during the exam period, or if an exam is badly disrupted, you must notify your Tutor (or the Tutorial Office) as soon as possible and they will advise you.

Enrolling for your exams

Most students are expected to enrol for their exams via CamSIS in Michaelmas Term. You will be notified about this in plenty of time by the Tutorial Office. If you are unsure, please seek advice from your Director of Studies. It is very important that you meet this deadline.

Specific learning disabilities and special arrangements

If you have a SpLD (specific learning disability) that means you may have special requirements for your exams (e.g. extra time or needing to use a computer) you will need to notify your Tutor and the Tutorial Office so we can put the appropriate arrangements for examinations in place. The Tutorial Office will notify you of the deadline for this, but it is a good idea to mention it to your Tutor as soon as possible.

If you think you may have a learning difficulty, but have not yet had a diagnosis, you should discuss this with your Tutor. It is possible to obtain a diagnosis through the University's [Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre](#), and the College can help with funding for assessments. Please discuss this with your Tutor as soon as possible in the academic year so we can put the necessary support in place and make appropriate arrangements in time for your exams.

THE TUTORIAL OFFICE

The Tutorial Office is responsible for academic administration. It is located in the main Administration Corridor, in Rooms AA3 and AA5.

The Tutorial Office can advise you on a number of things, for example:

- Registration details on CamSiS, such as change of address
- Exam registration, timetabling and regulations
- Special conditions for exams (such as extra time or using a computer)
- Applications for support funds, travel funds and other scholarships
- Applications to the Disability Resource Centre
- Official exam transcripts

Contact

Head of Tutorial Office, Bethan Lewis

Tutorial Administrator, Martina Viglione

Tutorial Administrator, Kathy White

Tel: 01223 762203 tutorial@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

THE GATEWAY PROGRAMME

The Gateway Programme at Murray Edwards College is a personal, career, and academic development programme which runs on Wednesday evenings during term time. The aim of the programme is to deliver skills sessions to help you make the transition *to* university life; make the most out of your time *at* the university and prepare you for the world *after* your studies. The first-year studies skills programme (divided into an Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences stream and a Science and Technology Studies stream) will give you the opportunity to work alongside subject advisors who will offer support and advice on how to approach

your studies with the wisdom of those who have just gone through the very same courses that you'll be taking this year.

The full suite of Gateway sessions and opportunities linked to the Gateway Programme, including funding for personal projects and travel, internship opportunities and more, can be found on the Gateway Moodle page which is regularly updated. Opportunities and updates will also be emailed to you via the Gateway administration email address (gateway@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk), so keep an eye on your emails to stay up to date.

Contact

Director of Student Development, Dr Gavin Stevenson

(gavin.stevenson@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk)

Student Development Administrator (gateway@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk)

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Your Tutor can advise on any matter relating to health or welfare, but there are a number of other sources of help and support listed here. There is also a Welfare and Wellbeing notice board on the main walkway, which is kept up to date with information and advice.

Registering with a doctor

The University requires all students to register with a Cambridge doctor. If you are a Home student (i.e. from the UK), please bring your NHS medical card with you. If you are an overseas student, please bring your passport with you. Most students register with the [Huntingdon Road surgery](#) (tel. 01223 364127), which is across the road from the College.

For further information on doctors, dentists and other health matters, including a list of useful contacts, please see the [Student Wellbeing](#) pages of the College website.

College Nurse

The [College Nurse](#) is available to discuss, in confidence, any health issues related to physical or mental health. She will be available for remote appointments during Full Term and you will receive details about her availability (via email) in due course.

College Counsellor

The College has a [counsellor](#) who is available twice a week to see students confidentially in College. You should email for an appointment. Sometimes your Tutor might recommend this to you, but you can contact her directly.

Contact: counsellor@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

Head of Wellbeing

College's Head of Wellbeing, Dr Susan Imrie, is available to meet to talk with you about your wellbeing and can offer 1-to-1 support. She can also advise and help you access further support, if needed, in college or the wider university. Her office is in the Wellbeing Centre on the lower ground floor of Fountain Court. You can drop-in for a chat, or email to make an appointment.

Contact: susan.imrie@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

First aid / emergency

In an emergency, you should contact the Porter on duty (01223 762100), who will summon an ambulance, a doctor or the College Nurse as appropriate. The Porters are also trained first-aiders. If you find it necessary to contact an emergency service directly yourself (by calling 999 in an emergency), you should also inform the Porters' Lodge as soon as you can so that the service can be directed appropriately on arrival, and so that anyone else appropriate can be informed.

Medical Taxi Scheme

The College operates a Medical Taxi Scheme [Medical Taxi Scheme](#), which is funded in part by student contributions added to your College bill. The Medical Taxi Scheme aims to meet the costs of travelling to and from hospital, medical appointments or lectures when you are temporarily unable to walk or you are unwell. A medical taxi should be authorised by the Nurse, your Tutor or the Senior Tutor, or in an emergency the Porters.

WELFARE SUPPORT OUTSIDE COLLEGE

The [University Counselling Service](#) offers a range of services, including one-to-one counselling, group counselling and workshops; they also have a very helpful range of [self-help leaflets](#) aimed to support Cambridge undergraduates. Students can refer themselves to the University Counselling Service; but you may want to discuss any issues with your Tutor first.

Contact: 01223 332865 or reception@studentsupport.cam.ac.uk

The [Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre](#) has advisors who can help with support for any disability, including Specific Learning Difficulties [SpLDs] and mental health problems. You can contact them directly or discuss any issues with your Tutor first.

Contact: 01223 332301 or disability@admin.cam.ac.uk.

[Cambridge SU](#) (Cambridge Students' Union) also provides a wide range of help and advice, through the [Student Advice Service](#).

Contact: 01223 746999 or advice@studentadvice.cam.ac.uk

STUDENT FINANCE AND FINANCIAL WELLBEING

Finances can make a big difference to your time and wellbeing at University, so it is important that you plan your finances and review these regularly throughout your degree.

In terms of your income, if you have a UK government Student Loan and/or are entitled to a Cambridge Bursary, this income will reach your account in relatively large lump sums once a term. You will also receive a 'College bill' once a term, covering the rent for the term as well as some smaller charges (see below). In terms of other income, University regulations do not allow undergraduates at Cambridge to do paid work during term time, though it is of course possible to take on paid work during vacations.

Given all this, it will be important to budget carefully to ensure that you have sufficient funds to support yourself throughout the term. Keeping track of your finances will also help you to work out whether you need, and/or are eligible to apply for additional funding from the College or University (see below). It will also help with funding applications that usually require a student to provide quite detailed information about their expenditure and budget.

The University estimates that students will need a minimum of £ 104/week (excluding rent) for living costs while in residence at the University; however, costs will vary depending on your individual needs and activities. It would be a good idea to establish a realistic weekly budget that balances your finances and your personal needs, and stick with this as far as possible (though of course there may be weeks where your costs are higher (e.g. Freshers' week, or when you are furnishing your room).

There are apps and online resources available to help you budget and organise your finances, such as this resource:

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-budgeting-planner/>

The College also has a budget form (normally used for funding applications) which could help you itemise your costs. The form can be found on the College website, on this page: <https://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/my-medwards/finance-and-funding/college-funding-and-awards>

(under 'Rosemary Murray Fund for Financial Hardship', undergraduate application form)

Fees, Charges and Rent

Please refer to the [Finance](#) section of the website for information on fees, rents and other College charges, and paying your bills.

Accommodation and College Room Rents and Charges

For information on College Room Rents and Charges, please click [here](#).

College Bill

Room rents and other smaller charges will be included in your College bill. This is sent to you from the Accounts department near the start of each term, with a deadline for payment. If you are unable to pay by the deadline (e.g. because of a delay in receiving your Student Loan instalment), or if you have any queries about your College bill, please contact the College Accountant, Daniel Caulkett (student.accounts@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk). Depending on the query or the reason for the delay, Daniel may refer you to your Tutor for a confidential discussion of your circumstances and for advice and support in addressing the situation.

Student Loans

If you have a UK Student Loan from Student Finance England, this is paid to you in three instalments, one in each term (the amount in each is roughly one third of the overall amount you are entitled to). The term's instalment should normally reach your personal bank account within two weeks of the start of each term. If this does not happen, please check with SFE using their portal; if you need help or advice about this or about your Student Loan, please contact the College Accountant, Daniel Caulkett (student.accounts@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk). Please note that if you are eligible for a UK Student Loan, you will normally have to have taken out a Loan in order to be eligible for University hardship funding (see below).

Student Financial Support

Cambridge Bursaries

Some UK students are eligible for a Cambridge Bursary. Eligibility and amount are based on the household income declared on your Student Loan application. If you are eligible, you will automatically receive the funding, in three instalments (one per term). You will be notified of this during your first term.

Additional Funding

If you find yourself in financial difficulties, or need additional funding to cover essential academic-related costs that are beyond your budget (e.g. essential special equipment not funded by your Department or Faculty, dissertation research, testing for learning disabilities) please consult your Tutor or the Tutorial Office for advice. There are funds available from the College for both academic needs and to help students in financial difficulties, and larger amounts from the University to help with financial difficulties and with some other costs (e.g. medical costs for treatment not covered by the NHS).

Some students may be eligible for University funding to cover their costs outside of term time, depending on their personal and financial circumstances. If you need advice about this, please contact your Tutor in the first instance.

More information on College Funding is found in the [Student Support](#) section of the website.

Information on University funding is found here:

<https://www.studentsupport.cam.ac.uk/financial-support>

For information and advice about funding and finances for students classed as 'independent', see: <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridge-bursary/independent-students-and-care-leavers>

The Student Advice Service can also give you free, impartial and confidential advice on funding, and can help with navigating funding applications at the University:

<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/advice/student-advice-service/>

Funding Relating to Disabilities

Students entitled to the UK government Disability Student Allowance should contact the University's Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre for advice and help in applying for the funding, ideally before arriving at University, so as to ensure that the funding is in place for the start of their degree. Info and contact: <https://www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/information-incoming-students>

The ADRC also offers preliminary screening for Autism, ADHD and other learning disabilities. To access this please email the ADRC (disability@admin.cam.ac.uk) or ask your Tutor to refer you to the ADRC. For students requiring a diagnostic assessment for specific learning disabilities (SpLDs), the College will fund 50% of the cost; for other types of diagnostic assessment (for Autism, or psychiatric assessments for ADHD), students may be eligible to apply to a dedicated University fund (the Crane's Fund) to cover the cost of assessment through a private provider. Your Tutor can advise you about this.

College Awards

Murray Edwards College awards Rosemary Murray scholarships of £400 to all undergraduates getting first-class examination results.

Travel awards from between £50-£300 are offered in the Easter Term each year to assist students in travel over the summer. There are also funds to help with academic project work, research projects and internship placements over the vacation.

Gateway Challenges Funding is also available to students who have achieved the required number of credits in the Gateway programme. For further information, application forms, and a list of other University travel funds, please see the [Funding](#) web pages.

Music Awards

Murray Edwards College participates in the inter-collegiate [Instrumental Awards Scheme](#).

Sports Awards

Students are eligible for £75 Blues training awards, £150 for a Half-Blue award and £200 if awarded a Full Blue (up to £200 in an academic year).

Language Awards

Students in good academic standing may apply for up to 50% of the fee for language courses taught by CULP, the Cambridge University Language Programme, via a web form [Language course funding application | Murray Edwards College - University of Cambridge](#)

DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOUR

The College is a diverse community in which people live and work alongside each other: it is your home, as well as a place of work and study. We expect all members of College to treat each other with dignity, fairness and respect, and ask you to seek help and advice if you are affected by the behaviour of others. If you have any concerns, you should approach your Tutor or the Dean.

The Dean – Dr Luana Bulat

The College Dean has general responsibility for matters of discipline in College.

One of the main roles of the Dean is to help students resolve problems relating to things like noise or other disruption to College residents. Much of this resolution can often be done through negotiation or a simple email notification of the issue. You can discuss any problems you cannot resolve by yourself with your Tutor first, or contact the Dean directly (dean@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk).

The Dean is also responsible for the management of larger-scale student parties and events, and may restrict events if there is a risk of noise or nuisance to College residents.

Any serious breach of College regulations is dealt with according to the [Statutes and Ordinances](#) of the College, which outline our disciplinary procedure. Sanctions for a breach of University or College regulations range from fines and prohibitions to temporary or permanent removal from the College and from Cambridge (possible, but rare).

Harassment and Discrimination Contact – Dr Andrew Rudd

The College is committed to fostering a culture of dignity, respect and fairness for all. We have a zero-tolerance policy on bullying and harassment. Details of our [harassment policy](#) are on the College website (under Policies and Procedures).

The role of the Discrimination and Harassment Contact is to hear any concerns about discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct and point you towards appropriate sources of support or intervention, including advising on reporting processes. For more information, see the University website's [Breaking the Silence](#).

Andrew is very keen to hear from any student with concerns about any form of harassment or discrimination: if affected, please email: senior.tutor@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

Complaints procedure

If you feel you have cause for complaint about some aspect of College life and have first tried, if appropriate, to see if you can resolve the issue yourself, please follow the policy and procedure on [complaints](#). You should feel free to seek support in doing this from your Tutor or a member of the JCR committees.

University Harassment and Violence Support Service (HVSS)

The University's Harassment and Violence Support Service (HVSS) can support students who have been subjected to any form of sexual harassment or violence and/or intimate partner abuse, and those who have been impacted by racial harassment, discrimination, or violence.

To arrange an appointment, either complete the form on their website [Harassment and violence support | Student Support \(cam.ac.uk\)](#) or email the service: HVSS@studentsupport.cam.ac.uk

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

RESIDENCY

Cambridge University has residency requirements, which are set out on the [University website](#).

Keeping Term – Students are required to be in Cambridge for 60 days (or 59 nights) in Michaelmas (Oct-Dec) and Lent (Jan-Mar) Terms, and 52 nights in Easter (Apr-Jun) Term, and all students are required to be in residence at the beginning and end of Full Term. This is known as Keeping Term. You must keep nine terms by residence (six terms for an Affiliated Student) in order to qualify for the BA degree. If you spend too many nights away from Cambridge during Full Term, you will need to make them up from nights kept either before the beginning or after the end of Full Term. Special arrangements can be made in the case of illness or other serious issue, and your Tutor can advise you on this.

Signing in and out – On arrival and departure at the start and end of term you must always sign in or out. A list is kept at the Porters' Lodge. The Porters also keep an **Exeat Book**, and students are asked to sign in or out if you go away for a weekend. This is very important for health and safety as we need to know who is in residence.

Term dates – Rather confusingly Cambridge University has two sets of term dates: Term Dates, and Full Term Dates.

Term Dates cover a fixed period of 80 or 70 days, and are for a fixed period every year. They are almost always as follows:

Michaelmas Term	1 October to 19 December	(80 days)
Lent Term	5 January to 25 March	(80 days)
Easter Term	10 April to 18 June	(70 days)

Full Term Dates cover the shorter period of term in which lectures and supervisions are scheduled, and for which students need to be in residence. Please note that Full Term always starts on a **Tuesday**, and lectures always start on the first **Thursday** of term, so the weekly cycle of lectures runs from Thursday morning to Wednesday afternoon.

For the coming academic years, Full Term Dates are as follows:

	Michaelmas Term	Lent Term	Easter Term
2023-24	3 Oct – 1 Dec 2023	16 Jan – 15 Mar 2024	23 Apr – 14 Jun 2024
2024-25	8 Oct – 6 Dec 2024	21 Jan – 21 Mar 2025	29 Apr – 20 Jun 2025
2025-26	7 Oct – 5 Dec 2025	20 Jan – 20 Mar 2026	28 Apr – 19 Jun 2026

See the University's list of [Term Dates](#) for more information.

UNIVERSITY CARDS

All students are issued with a University Card on arrival at College. This acts as ID across the University and as a swipe card for access to buildings within the College, the University Library, and (once enabled) to University departments and faculty buildings.

If you have any problems with your card, please speak to the Porters. Likewise, if your card goes missing, please report it to the Porters immediately – this is important for maintaining security. The card remains the property of the University and is only to be used by the current holder. Misuse may lead to disciplinary proceedings. There is a charge for replacing a lost card.

ACADEMIC DRESS (GOWNS)

Students are required to wear academic gowns at various formal occasions including matriculation, matriculation dinner and graduation. Gowns are also normally worn at Formal Halls (dinners) both at this College and any others you might visit. Gowns are also worn by the student representatives on the College Council and by those invited to the College Feast.

Since gowns are unlikely to go out of fashion any time soon, it is worth buying one for use while you're a student here, and then selling it on second-hand when you leave. As well as buying second-hand from departing students, gowns can be bought or hired from Ede and Ravenscroft and Ryder and Amies. You can also hire gowns from the [Cambridge SU](#).

MATRICULATION

As a member of the College, you are also a member of the University. There is a formal ceremony, known as the Matriculation Ceremony, by which you become a member of both the College and the University. This will take place in the College on Monday 5 October. As part of the ceremony, you sign the following declaration, which commits you to act in accordance with the College and University regulations.

I promise to observe the Statutes and Ordinances of the University as far as they concern me, and to pay due respect and obedience to the Chancellor and officers of the University and this College.

I understand that in becoming a member of Murray Edwards College, I accept the responsibility of membership of the College community and agree to abide by its statutes, rules and regulations, and to do nothing that is harmful to its work.

GRADUATION

At the end of your degree course, after successfully completing your final exams, you will be presented for your degree by the College. All undergraduate courses lead to the University's BA (Honours) degree; those on four-year science courses have the MEng. or MSci. degree conferred together with the BA.

The degree ceremony takes place in Senate House in the University. Most undergraduate students choose to graduate in June (the main graduation ceremony, known as General Admission), but there are other graduation ceremonies throughout the year. Details of arrangements for Degree Days can be found on the [Graduation](#) pages. You can also find updates on the [University website](#).

Degree certificates and transcripts

One copy of your original degree certificate is issued without charge in the August following General Admission. They will be sent out via Colleges, so please ensure that contact details in CamSIS are kept up-to-date. For further details about ordering additional transcripts and degree certificates, please see the University website [website](#).

The MA

All those who receive a BA are automatically able to return six years after matriculating to receive the MA degree. Originally, this arrangement marked the end of the seven year apprenticeship to the Medieval Guild of Scholars which made up Cambridge University. Effectively it recognises seniority, but provides an excellent occasion to come back to College to meet old friends, your Directors of Studies and your Tutor.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES

THE ROSEMARY MURRAY LIBRARY

The [Rosemary Murray Library](#) in Murray Edwards College is a well-stocked, primarily undergraduate library. The Librarian, Kirstie Preest, can give advice and help on books, using electronic resources and study skills. The Assistant Librarian, Valerie Shaindlin, is in charge of lending and can also give advice on study skills. Helena Raywood is the Library Assistant. All can be contacted by email – library@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk.

New undergraduate students are offered a tour of the library in the first week of term and are shown how to use the online catalogue. Please sign up for this.

Information on library inductions and how to use the library can be found on the [library web pages](#).

Accessibility provision within the Library

We provide support and equipment to make the library more accessible. Library staff can provide a click and collect, and scan and deliver service. The book fetching service for the upper floors is now part of the click and collect service. A University Managed Desktop machine is available on the ground floor of the library.

The library has the following accessible equipment: coloured overlays, coloured paper for printing, magnifiers, an ergonomic keyboard and mouse, lightboxes, lumbar supports, wrist rests, padded foot rests, ear defenders, whiteboards (including coloured whiteboards) and pens, laptop stands/rests, lapdesks and book rests. If you would like to borrow any equipment, please contact library@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

Library staff can work with you to discuss any specific needs or requirements you might have. If you need assistance or advice, please [email us](#) at or speak to a member of the library staff.

Welfare and wellbeing provision in the Library

The library offers monthly craft hours and yoga sessions during term.

During Easter Term, tea and coffee are provided every weekday at 11:00. There are also weekly craft hours, yoga and wellbeing walks organised in collaboration with the Gardens team.

In addition, the library has a large collection of wellbeing and skills books, which you can borrow. There are also colouring books, DVDs and games (such as Dobble, Fake News and Scrabble) for relaxing.

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Most undergraduates will also use a Departmental or Faculty library appropriate to their subject(s); each of these has its own regulations for borrowing. Your University Card will give you access to the University Library (the UL), which is a copyright library, meaning that it holds a copy of every book published in the UK. Check its [website](#) for further details on borrowing rights. You can book a tour of the UL and your Faculty library at the start of Term; your DoS will advise further on this.

COMPUTING FACILITIES

The [IT Resource Centre](#) (ITRC), located at the basement entrance of the library, contains facilities for printing, photocopying and scanning (for which there is a charge). Three shared UMD (University Managed Desktop) machines are available in the ITRC which are available on a first come, first served basis. There is also an accessible UMD machine on the ground floor on the library.

Before arrival in Cambridge, all students are issued with a user-identifier (*CRSid*) for general use throughout Cambridge, an email address in the form *crsid@cam.ac.uk*, and a password for the UMD, **Raven** (an authentication service). The Raven password allows access to many services, including the University's Moodle site (virtual learning environment) where you will find many resources for your courses as well as other important College information.

The [IT Service Desk](#) is located in the IT Resource Centre. Appointments are generally available from 09:00-17:00, Monday to Friday (closed for lunch between 12:30 and 13:30). Please open a [new ticket](#) to make an appointment, as IT Staff may be out on user support elsewhere in the College.

The cost of internet use in the College's public computer rooms is met by the College and the University; you accept various conditions on your usage when you collect your user id and passwords, and may be disconnected if you breach these in any way.

The [University Information Service](#) provides many short training courses, a Helpdesk open to all members of the University, and central shared computers in public work areas, which supplement College facilities. Enquiries about these facilities can be made at the Computing Service Reception Desk at the West Cambridge site, 7 JJ Thomson Avenue.

A wireless network service is available in College, and all on-site College rooms have access to this service, which is incorporated into your accommodation charges. We strongly recommend you bring your own computer. Advice, help and information about setting up your network connection are available by opening a [new ticket](#).

LIFE IN COLLEGE

FOOD AND DINING

Canteen meals

Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are served in the Dome. Opening times of the Dome are on the [website](#) and are also advertised on the Catering Notice Board in the main walkway. Murray Edwards Saturday brunch is a highlight of College life and is very popular.

There is an electronic payment system and you will be able to top up your card via the College website. The meals are relatively inexpensive; most of the cost of their preparation is met by the Overhead Charge, which is already paid as part of the College bill. Vegetarian food is always available, and there is also a salad bar. If you have any special dietary needs or questions, please consult the Catering Department (catering@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk): they are always happy to help.

Formal Hall

As well as regular canteen meals, there is a Formal Hall once or twice per week during term time – usually on Tuesdays and some Fridays. Formal Hall is a high quality dinner with waiter service, and is an occasion that many students like to invite friends to. You can sign up for tickets online (by midnight on Sunday for Tuesday Hall, and midnight on Wednesday for Friday Hall). The cost of Formal Hall tickets will be deducted from your College card at the time of booking.

Cooking facilities

All rooms have access to kitchen areas where snacks and small meals may be prepared, and often students like to take their prepared food to eat in the Dome with their friends. Cooking is not permitted in study-bedrooms anywhere in College. The cost of maintaining the kitchen facilities is met by the Overhead Charge.

Fridges

Students are allowed a personal fridge in their room; more details about the arrangements for this can be found [on the website](#). If you have specific medical requirements related to cooking facilities, please speak to your Tutor, or, if possible, to the Tutorial Office in advance of arrival. All fridges need to be agreed in advance with the Accommodation Manager, Pauline Walker and will need to be PAT tested at the student's cost. **Contact:** accommodation.enquiries@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk.

SPACES FOR STUDENTS

JCR

The JCR (between Orchard Court and Pearl House) serves as an Undergraduate Common Rooms with newspapers and TV/video.

The Art Café/College Bar is open most evenings and some of the weekend. Sandwiches and light snacks are available. The Bar opens out onto Fountain Court. The broad walkway through the College also offers places to sit or gather, and you may use all the gardens freely except for the Fellows' Garden (signposted clearly) – there is no 'keep off the grass' rule at Murray Edwards College!

The Coach House is a space for student to create their own art. This is an adaptable space suitable for many purposes. Please obtain a code from the porters to use these rooms.

Parties

You may not hold a party (defined as a gathering with more than five guests) in your own room, nor in any of the College houses. However, various rooms and gardens (including the Bar) are available for meetings, dinners and parties, and can be booked through the Events Office (events@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk). Parties require permission from the Events Office, Dean and Head Porter: the Events Office will give you a permission form for completion and a sheet setting out what is permitted in each of the possible venues. The College Dean will help advise on larger functions.

Noise

Colleges are densely occupied spaces where people live, work and study alongside each other. Unless everyone endeavours to prevent noise there is no peace and quiet for study and sleep, and you may need to modify your own behaviour accordingly. Playing music, and noisy movement or conversation either in rooms or in corridors, can be very disturbing to others; if you want to listen to music entirely freely, we strongly urge you to bring headphones! Please try to be patient about what is unavoidable. If you are disturbed by your neighbours, you should explain your needs to them and try to find an acceptable compromise; in difficulty, ask the JCR, the Dean, or your Tutor for help.

Smoking

The College has a non-smoking policy. Any smoking should be out of doors in designated areas only; sheltered areas are provided in the car park in case of bad weather.

OTHER PROVISION AND SERVICES

Art Collection, Art Room

A large, important and valuable collection of contemporary works by women artists is displayed throughout the College, including the student living areas; please treat them

appropriately. Regular exhibitions are held in one of the Fountain Court corridors. More information about the [Women's Art Collection](#) and forthcoming events can be found on the College website.

There are student art facilities in the Coach House and you can speak to the JCR Art rep to find out more about these.

Gym

There is a [College gym](#) at the lower level of Fountain Court near FC1, open to all members of the College; a small charge is made termly for its use. Before you are allowed to use it, you must be given an induction – more information is available on the website.

Laundry

There are laundry rooms for **undergraduates**, with washing machines, tumble dryers and ironing boards, in Buckingham House, and in the basement of Pearl House.

Music

There are pianos and keyboards available for practise by all students in the Music and Video Rooms.

Good pianists (typically Grade 8 upwards) are welcome to use the Steinway grand piano in the Fellows' Drawing Room, please write to the Director of Music to be added to the list of approved users with some indication of your playing interests and experience. All these rooms may be used at any time when they are not otherwise booked, but bookings can be made (with at least 24 hours' notice) by emailing the Events department.

Except for those students reading Music, it is not usually possible to have a piano in a College room. For everyone else, musical instruments and singing should be practised in a music room and not in study-bedrooms.

Our Director of Music, Ewan Campbell (eahc2@cam.ac.uk), oversees a variety of musical activities in College, including the Inter Alios choir, a series of weekly recitals after Tuesday Formal Hall and Orchestra on the Hill, which is a collaboration with the nearby Colleges. These are all [detailed on the website](#). Anyone interested in participating should sign up to the email list on the website, join the Murray Edwards Music Society and/or write to the Director of Music

Religion

Unlike most Cambridge Colleges, Murray Edwards College is not a religious foundation in any sense. We do, however, have a multi-faith spiritual room in the Wellbeing Centre on the lower ground floor of Fountain Court. .

The city (and the University) have communities of most faiths and you will have a chance to find University faith groups during Freshers' Week. Please speak to your Tutor, or

contact the Tutorial Office, if you have any concerns about adjustments that may be required relating to your religious observance, especially any that may impact on your attendance at lectures or examinations.

Security and the Porters' Lodge

Our Porters have won awards for their friendliness, and often become a very important point of contact for all students. The Porters' Lodge is staffed 24 hours a day (though some services are suspended 23.00-8.00 and the porter on duty may occasionally be called away). Most of the College's external gates and doors are controlled by locks operated by the University Card.

After the main doors are locked, please make sure that you escort any guests around the College, and do not allow strangers to 'tailgate' you, entering doors immediately after you.

Please report any concerns about security immediately to the porters.

Contact: porters@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk; tel. 01223 762100. You can add this to your contacts.

Email and post

Most people in the College and University (staff and students alike) will assume that email sent to your University email address (crsid@cam.ac.uk) will reach you, so you **must** check it regularly. Most students make this their standard address while at Cambridge; if for any reason you do not want to do so, you **must** make arrangements for your mail to be forwarded appropriately. You can find addresses for College staff in the Murray Edwards College [Directory](#), and for most members of the University (including students) via the [University website](#).

Incoming mail is put in individual, numbered pigeon-holes by the Porters – the one **below** your number. Registered letters and parcels can be collected from the Porters' Lodge. There is a post box for outgoing mail near the Lodge which is cleared by the Royal Mail at 16.00 on weekdays and 15:55 on Saturdays; there is also a Royal Mail post box on Huntingdon Road which is cleared each morning. During Full Term there is also a free inter-collegiate mail service for students, with a post box near the pigeonholes.

Safety

All students are required to comply with any instructions from College staff with respect to health and safety requirements. A [College Policy Statement](#) on this may be found on the Policies web page. For everyone's safety, you **must** report any accidents, maintenance problems or fire/security problems you come across to **the Porters**.

Notices about fire precautions and what to do in the event of a fire are displayed in every student's room. Please acquaint yourselves thoroughly with these instructions, and make yourselves aware of fire exits. Fire practices are held once per term per building and the

alarm bells are tested regularly on Wednesdays. The Head Porter is the College's Security, Fire Officer and Safety Officer and is happy to be consulted for advice.

GETTING AROUND

Bicycles

A bicycle makes nowhere in Cambridge more than a few minutes away ([Cambridge Cycle Map](#)), so do bring one if you can. It is quite possible to walk everywhere, and many students do, but this inevitably takes longer. There are plenty of bike shops in Cambridge where you can purchase a bike once you get here (or get yours repaired when things go wrong).

The University requires all cycles to be clearly marked. At our College we use Cammbikes ([BYKE SUPPORT](#)) where you can register your bike and receive a coloured tag from the Porters' Lodge dependant on the year of graduation. This is then placed on the seat post of your bicycle. A good cycle lock is essential, and it is advisable to know the frame number for the information of the police if it is stolen. Make sure that you and your bicycle are visible when you are riding at night, with good front and rear lights. Wear a cycling helmet and consider high-visibility clothing as well. The JCR often has helmets and bike lights for sale in the first few days of term, but these are also easily bought in town.

It is important that all students using bicycles should familiarise themselves with the rules contained in [The Highway Code](#), **especially those coming from countries where traffic keeps to the right or where priorities for road users may be different from those in the UK**. Cyclists are expected to obey all the regulations relating to traffic signals, one-way streets and pedestrian crossings that apply to drivers of motor vehicles. In particular, there is a one-way system around the (car-free) centre of town for cyclists which you should observe, and do watch out for pedestrians who do not always look for bikes before stepping off the pavement.

Cycles must only be left in the cycle racks provided around the and not on paths or driveways. The cycle racks under the Long Room and Canning & Eliza are covered by CCTV. The riding of bicycles is not permitted on College grounds and bikes are not allowed in College buildings. Please walk your cycle from Storey's Way to Huntingdon Road via the Paula Browne House car park as it is dangerous for those walking and visibility within the car park is poor.

Cars and motorcycles

Undergraduates may not use or keep a car or motorcycle in Cambridge without a valid reason; this is a University regulation the enforced and monitored carefully by the City Council. You should email the Senior Tutor/Head Porter if you want to make a case for yourself; the Senior Tutor can provide you with the relevant permission and you can then present this along with other relevant documentation to the Motor Proctor. A separate

permit for the College car park is also required, which can be issued by the Head Porter on production of the Motor Proctor's Licence.

Buses

Cambridge is not a large city and you are unlikely to need to use buses very frequently. However, there are regular buses from the city centre towards the railway station (around a 25 minute walk otherwise). The U service runs at a University-subsidised bus between Eddington and Addenbrooke's Hospital, via the railway station. The route passes along Madingley Road, not far from the rear entrance of College. University Card holders pay a reduced fare for any single journey along this route.

QUICK CONTACTS

A full list of contacts is available on the College website at:

<https://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/contact/contact-us>

President	Ms Dorothy Byrne	president@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Bursar	Rob Hopwood	bursar@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Senior Tutor	Dr Andrew Rudd	senior.tutor@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Deputy Senior Tutor	Dr Paola Filippucci	paola.filippucci@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Admissions Tutor	Dr Andrew Bond and Dr Stuart Palmer	admissions@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Director of Student Development (Gateway)	Dr Gavin Stevenson	gateway@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Dean	Dr Luana Balat	dean@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Librarian	Kirstie Preest	library@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Head of Communications	Lucy Ward	lucy.ward@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Head of Tutorial	Bethan Lewis	Tutorial@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Head of Wellbeing	Dr Susan Imrie	Susan.imrie@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Accommodation Enquiries	Pauline Walker	Accommodation.enquiries@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Events Enquiries		Events@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
IT enquiries		Support@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Head Porter	Danny Kelly	head.porter@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
Porters		porters@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
PA to the President	Lisa Brent	lisa.brent@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk
College Administrator	Sarah Greaves	Sarah.greaves@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk