



Jesus College

STUDENT UNION

Alternative Prospectus





“ Jesus is a place I long to return to every time I leave, and the experience of living with so many like minded people in a supportive yet challenging environment is one of the most important things I will take away from my time here. I couldn't imagine 'doing' Cambridge any other way.
- Robyn Briggs, Access Officer, JCSU ”

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Welcome to Jesus

Jesus is a vibrant, busy and welcoming College community. It truly is the best of both worlds; we have a large student body, spacious grounds and loads of onsite facilities, all while being super central to the city. This means that we are just enough off the beaten track to miss the hordes of tourists, and a big enough community to get to know everyone without treading on each other's toes. We're a majestic old College to look at, but on the inside we are beautifully refurbished with some of the most up-to-date facilities across Cambridge.

Jesus is known throughout Cambridge for our prime location, beautiful accommodation and laid back student community. Our College bar/cafe is always full to the brim with students, our student union active, and our grounds beautiful- it really is our home away from home.

Picking a College

You may be wondering what on earth a College is. Well, your College is simply your base in Cambridge – where you will eat, sleep, and where your social life might be centred. There are loads of fantastic Colleges to pick between in Cambridge; it may seem like a daunting decision to make – so we've put together this handy guide to help you make your decision.

What are the most important things to consider when choosing a College?

“ There are loads of factors you can consider when choosing a College: geographical location, quality of accommodation (ensuite or not), food, sports and music facilities, size of the cohort of your year and subject, amount of green space, and even whether the laundry is free (tip: it is in Jesus)!

Try listing out all the factors you think are important, then get a list of all the Colleges and eliminate them one by one. Once you have a shortlist, the best thing to do is visit if you can! If you're not sure, though, don't worry because everyone ends up loving their own College the most (even though Jesus is actually the best...)

- Matthew, Economics, Cambridge ”



Why did you pick Jesus College?

“ Perhaps not the most traditional way of choosing a College, but as a cheapskate I was most excited by the fact Jesus provides free laundry facilities! I made a list of Colleges I was interested in and had a brief look at them online before the University open day so I could strike some off my list straight away.

From there I was lucky enough to go and have a look at the Colleges in person; when I wandered around (and particularly saw the library, because WOW I was in heaven) it was obvious straight away that this was where I wanted to spend the next 6 years! There's so much open space, everyone is so friendly, and the accommodation is really lovely but not too expensive, which was a major concern for me.

- Bella, Vet Med, Essex ”

“ I applied to Jesus because it has the right balance of academic strength and opportunities to relax. Whilst students from Jesus do perform well throughout their degree and go on to amazing places afterwards, we're known for having lots of fun too!

Jesus has one of the best College music societies, a comprehensive range of sports available because of its expansive grounds, and the College has loads of other ways to get involved too, such as in the annual Arts Festival or in putting on one of the biggest annual balls in Cambridge. Many students pick up new hobbies here and hearing what others get up to is always a highlight of the week.

- Rohit, Economics with Management, Birmingham ”

Where will I live?

Accommodation is perhaps Jesus College's greatest asset, and it is frequently considered amongst the best in Cambridge.

Our first years live in Chapel Court, or Library Court, where the vast majority of rooms are en-suite. Both are beautiful on the outside, but also really cosy on the inside. North Court is another option for first years, and with slightly longer tenancy it is great for those for whom travel is inconvenient (plus it has lush balconies). After your first year, the ballot system gives you the choice of where to live (and who with). Many students opt to live in one of the many College houses which are just outside of the main College grounds. These are a real asset to Jesus as having so many student houses, so close to campus, is a real rarity in Cambridge and offers more of a 'classic student experience'.

Most importantly students are guaranteed College provided accommodation for the full duration of their degree, so no worrying about student landlords ripping you off on the private market.



Every staircase has a kitchen or two – which is great for socialising and cooking with friends! There are also laundry rooms, and storage rooms for leaving your possessions safely over the holidays if you live further afield. Housekeepers visit the staircase most days to clean the kitchen and your bathroom. College accommodation is similar in price to that of many of the other Colleges, and any other small bills, such as maintenance, are included in the accommodation bill so you don't have to worry about them.



What is the best thing about living at Jesus?

“ The community feel! We're a super friendly College, big enough to have lots going on but small enough to know pretty much everyone in your year (and many outwith). Plus a great location, amazing food and facilities and beautiful, historic buildings - what's not to like!

- Ellie, Geography, Scotland

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Where will I eat?

Jesus Caff (our name for College-provided food, many other Colleges use 'Hall' or 'Buttery') really is the social centre of the College. The food is brilliant and the menu really varied. An average caff meal might range from around £3-£5. Dietary requirements are also well catered for and sustainability is of top priority (we shop locally, compost all food waste on site and even have ground source heating in our new kitchen). Caff has meat free menu days and always has fab vegan and vegetarian options available.

Speaking of kitchens, the kitchens in first year accommodation have microwaves and hobs, and sufficient fridge space for everyone. But if you want an oven you'll probably have to wait until your second year and you will need to live in one of the College owned houses.

Like every other College Jesus has Formal Halls, which are basically just cheap three course meals for which you wear your Gown. Ours are a particular highlight since they're so cheap (around £10 for three courses isn't bad) and there is one almost every night. There's a great, relaxed, fun atmosphere and are how most of us celebrate birthdays, Christmas, LGBTQ+ history month, etc (any excuse to celebrate really!)

Finally, our beautiful on-site Cafe, The Roost, is a really popular place to grab inexpensive coffees, smoothies, cakes and sandwiches. There is a real coffee shop culture in Cambridge and the city is filled with perfect places for a casual study date with a friend.

Facilities

Jesus College is known for being a bit of a sporty College (but you don't have to be sporty to study here!), namely because in our gorgeous grounds we have space for our sports pitches including rugby, football, cricket, hockey, tennis and many more which can be booked by students and societies alike. The College also boasts a fantastic cardio and weights gym – both of which are free of charge. In addition to this the College boat house is within a short walking distance for those aspiring boaties (rowers).

If sport is not your thing, then maybe our music facilities will be more in tune with your needs. The Picken Room, one of our many music practice rooms, features a grand piano and is an ideal space for band practice.

All the College facilities are within a short five minute walk from one another which is super handy, even when you live out in one of the College houses. Also, unlike many other places, the College laundry facilities are completely free. All our mail is delivered to our pigeon holes in the porters' lodge (which is situated in the centre of College) making it really easy to keep in touch with home.

Finally, the academic facilities at Jesus, and across Cambridge, are incredible. First, we have a beautiful contemporary library that is light and airy, with loads of study spaces and even cosy blankets and beanbags for a relaxed atmosphere. Plus, in West Court we have our own 'study centre' used for teaching, group and independent study all on your doorstep.



Social spaces

Aside from its exceptional academic facilities, Jesus also caters extensively for students in terms of social spaces.

As mentioned our bar and cafe are real central hubs of the College. It's open all term and serves both alcoholic and soft drinks, including some delicious signature drinks and ale from our in-house brewery. We also have various themed nights, with pop-up stone baked pizza nights, cocktail nights, outdoor BBQs, student performed live music events, the list goes on. With the day time seeing the space used as a cafe for the perfect chilled out space to chat with friends or study.

Our Chapel and beautiful grounds are also fantastic community spaces. The Chapel's exquisite acoustics makes it perfect for student 'Blues and Chill' live concerts that sees the space decked out with beanbags and blankets for a cosy evening, and in the summer term the grounds are busy with picnics and 'study groups' playing croquet on the lawns.

Closer to home, staircases have communal kitchens with dining tables perfect for big staircase cook alongs (with North Court boasting particularly great kitchen diners) and the student houses have gorgeous shared gardens perfect for summer sunbathing and picnics.



Life at College



There is never a boring moment at Jesus College as there is always something to take part in with the many student societies and events on offer.

Jesus College is renowned for being very good at sport, and its teams are accessible to a range of abilities, with teams often having a first, second and sometimes a third team – so if you’ve never played a sport before and fancy giving something new a go, there’s more than ample opportunity.

If you’re looking for something less strenuous Jesus offers a range of musical activities for all tastes and abilities. You can let your hair down at open mic night or whilst listening to one of our talented student bands. Also, the Jesus College Singers (our non-audition Choir) always welcome new members to join in.

There are also regular feminist and LGBTQIA+ discussion societies meetings, art and exercise classes, and film screenings, among our dizzying array of clubs and societies on offer. Not to mention regular ‘bops’, which are themed fancy dress parties which the whole College can attend.

Another key event of note is our annual student-run John Hughes Arts Festival where we get the chance to display our artwork alongside professionals in an exhibition, attend workshops and go to a themed formal hall. The opening night is always a popular event with live music and a casual drinks reception! Along our artistic themes, ‘Film at Jesus’ is our film society showcasing student filmmaking and bringing industry talent into College.

Basically there is always loads going on and something for everyone!



Life in the city

Cambridge is a small city, but it is packed full of things to do. There are two large shopping centres in Cambridge, The Grafton and the Grand Arcade with Jesus located pretty much halfway between the two. Pubs are also plentiful, favourites include The Maypole which is right on our doorstep and thus very popular with Jesusans, The Cambridge Blue which is always packed with students on a Friday night, and let's not forget the biggest Wetherspoons in Europe, The Regal.

Whilst clubbing will not always give you the variety of a larger city, rest assured you'll still manage to have a good time. There is a healthy helping of classic pop, midweek cheese, indie nights and a well established LGBTQIA+ scene, and all mercifully within immediate walking distance so no expensive taxis every night!



There are also a host of music venues from the Corn Exchange to Cambridge Junction, and a range of theatres including the student run ADC Theatre – home to the world famous Footlights.

Cambridge is also full of green spaces, especially the parks surrounding Jesus, where you can find the freshers' fair, and bonfire night, and general sunbathing and picnicking. There's also loads of events around the city, with vintage fairs, the city market, art festivals, loads of student theatre, the list is endless.

Learning at Jesus

At Cambridge, most of your teaching is organised by your faculty so you will attend lectures, seminars and lab work etc with students from other Colleges.

However, supervisions (small teaching classes) will normally take place in your own College with a very small teaching group. If Jesus doesn't have a fellow specialising in your subject area, don't worry they will make arrangements for you to see a supervisor at a different College. Each student also has a Director of Studies (DoS) who is there to monitor and help you with your academic progress. A DoS is normally only responsible for a handful of students meaning that you get to know one another quite well. This comes in very handy if you ever need to speak to them about a problem, academic or otherwise.

Studying at Cambridge is a lot of fun, but also requires some hard graft, meaning you will spend at least some of your time in the library. Which is great news because at Jesus we have one of the best! Although we are an old College, our library was only built in the 1990s meaning it is light, spacious and has everything you need, from open plan booths, to a dedicated computer room, to private study rooms. You'll also find the majority of the books required for your course and if there is something missing, you can request it and our lovely librarians will order it for you.



Support and welfare

Students at Jesus are represented by the elected Jesus College Students Union (JCSU). The role of the JCSU is to organise events and services for students at Jesus and also to represent our views back to College and other groups within the university. There are many different roles on the committee, from Events to Green Officer, and a number of representational roles including Women's, LGBTQ+, Mental Health and Disabilities and BME Officers. Students at Cambridge can access a variety of different forms of support and resources from the University.

There is a counselling service, telephone lines and support networks and the Disability Resource Centre to name but a few. However College also has many different welfare provisions. The JCSU put on welfare events like drop-ins each week where you can privately talk to a member of the JCSU welfare team, and a weekly welfare cake when everyone gets together in the common room to eat free snacks and cake! There is also a College Nurse, a physiotherapist and counselors from the central University counselling service in College every week who can provide support and our College dean who welcomes people of all faiths.





Finances

As well as the standard loans for tuition fees and maintenance you can get from the government, there are a whole host of different grants available from College and the university for those in financial need.

The University wide Cambridge Bursary Scheme provides grants of up to £3,500 a year (or potentially more if you're a mature student or a care leaver) to students from low income backgrounds (I recommend checking the Uni website for more info).

College also awards grants for travelling and studying, music, sport and since Cambridge terms are only 8 weeks long, students here don't really have part-time jobs. There are a few opportunities to make some spare cash, like selling event tickets or working at open days but most concentrate on studying or just enjoying themselves instead.

Many students also get jobs over the vacation or take part in internships as our holidays are so long.

Potential estimated costs:

- Rent starts from around £100 per week.
- A meal in the caff might cost you £3 upwards, but lots of people self cater.
- Entertaining yourself is also pretty cheap: pints in the College bar are around £3, in local pubs £4-5, going to a nightclub around £5, whilst a theatre trip will set you back £5 or more.
- Transport is pretty much free as most students walk or cycle everywhere.
- Books are also free, as College and department libraries will have every book you need!

Careers and events

At Jesus we work hard towards building a platform for careers and networking for our current students and alumni. In fact, it is a particular passion of our Master Sonita Alleyne. As part of this focus, we have regular networking events and 'In The Business Of' talks that bring in various expert contacts from a variety of specific industries, and allow students to learn from those 'on the inside'. Invited speakers come from a range of personal and professional backgrounds, and focus on the various pathways into these industries and the associated lifestyles.

Since this scheme has been launched, we've enjoyed discussions focusing on everything from women in STEM, the film and media industry, legal training contracts and pathways into the NGO sector. Furthermore, we have recently launched the Jesus Connect online platform that links current students, alumni and industry contacts. It's our schemes like these that really centre Jesus as a hub for growing opportunities and success even after graduation .

As a College we also boast our Intellectual Forum, an internal College organisation, that again centres Jesus as a space for intellectual stimulation and challenging new ideas. The Intellectual Forum holds speaker events, film screenings, debates, and even it's very own internship. Recently, we've had the pleasure of hosting world expert speakers discussing everything from 'Are British politics in turmoil?', 'COVID-19 mutations: what do they mean for vaccine science?', and 'Is technology making you miserable?'



Individual subject departments run termly events too, often inviting alumni to help students understand their opportunities and forge important connections for life after undergrad.

Finally, Jesus sees successful student-led discussion events such as a recent Jesus College Student Union discussion with famed entrepreneur and social media influencer Grace Beverly which was a real highlight.

Ask a student

In what ways does Jesus College help you to live sustainably?

“ Caff (our cafeteria where you can eat as often or rarely as you like) do great veggie and vegan options which has helped me try new things and move towards a flexitarian diet. There is a really active student sustainability movement, whether it's providing sustainable period supplies, organising talks and events, putting on clothes swaps or getting involved in student campaigns. Jesus also recently introduced the most advanced sustainable investments policy of any College and is working on a whole host of projects - if you're interested go check out their sustainability strategy online!

- Ellie, Geography, Scotland

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What is Freshers' Week like?

“ Freshers' week was really fun. There was such a range of things to do. You can try out a new sport, exploring the city, punting, clubbing, and finding a favourite pub. The JCSU also has a plan for the week that you can do all of or pick and choose what appeals to you. There's no pressure from the College or the JCSU to do anything but start to be yourself in Cambridge!

- Isaac, English, Oxfordshire

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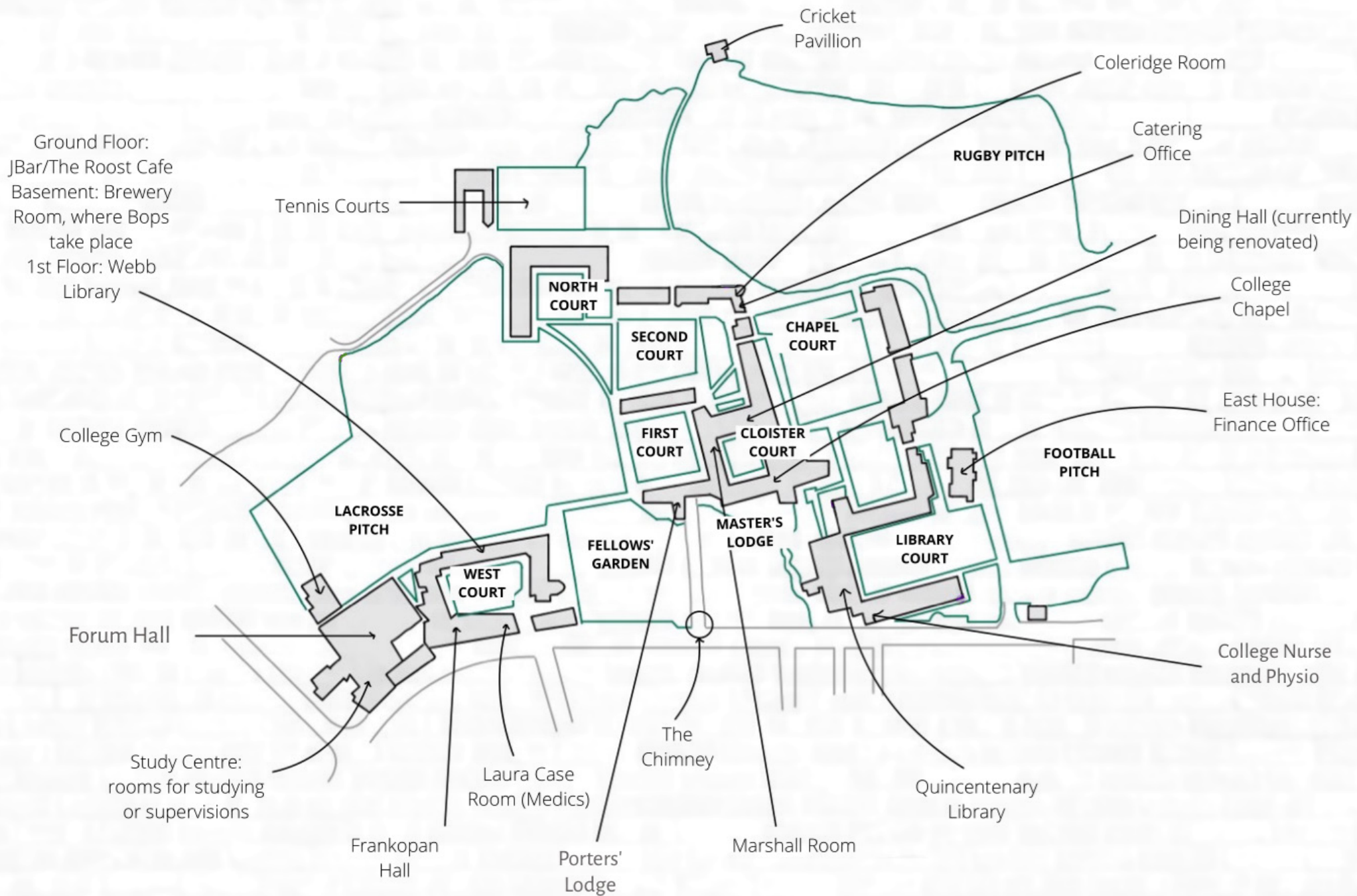
What kind of opportunities does studying at Jesus allow you?

“ Life at Jesus is so much more than just your degree! I've sat on the Jesus College Student Union (JCSU) committee as the Treasurer and learnt loads of transferable skills as well as making new friends through the committee. I am also a member of the choir and involved in the Jesus College Music Society (JCMS), as well as playing on the mixed netball team! There are so many extra-curricular activities in Jesus to get involved in which make the workload of the degree much more manageable.

- Matthew, Economics, Cambridge

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Ask a student

Do you feel that Jesus College is supportive of yourself as a student with specific accessibility needs (such as a disability) ?

“ I have an invisible disability and have been really well supported throughout my degree. Whether it was exam adjustments, help with term-time workload or just someone to talk to about managing the hectic pace of life here, my Director of Studies in particular has been fantastic.

Mental health support is something I was nervous about before coming because Cambridge doesn't necessarily have the best rep, but I've found at Jesus the higher expectations of students are 100% matched by higher levels of support whenever you need it.

- Ellie, Geography, Scotland

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What would I change about Jesus?

“ I would increase the opportunities available to students to interact with students from other Colleges. On occasion, societies hold joint event with other College societies, but I would love it if inter-College interactions were more central to College life. Cambridge is a genuinely diverse place to study and part of its beauty comes from the opportunity to meet so many new people!

- Rohit, Economics with Management, Birmingham

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How can I tell if Oxbridge is right for me?

“ Go and see it! That's the best way to get a feel for the cities and the people that live/study there. If you can, go to both an open day (where people will be expecting you and showing you the best parts of the unis) and also a non open day (where you can see the unis in their normal flow and pick which parts you want to see). Speak to students who go here for a proper insight into daily life. If you don't know any now, then look into our ambassador schemes.

Also, research your course at these unis; courses vary a lot from uni to uni so you don't want to come here for the sake of it being Oxbridge - you want to come because the course is right for you. Also, email some of the lecturers - they can give you more info and answer your specific questions.

- Issy, Linguistics, Lincolnshire

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Decoding Cambridge jargon

Cambridge is often known for basically having its own language, while it may seem complicated at first it is actually just a bunch of abbreviations for places and things.

This section gives you a pretty comprehensive overview of the most common ones, you can refer back to this as you read about Cambridge or when you visit us if you hear any of the nicknames we give things and need clarification.

Bop: A college event organised by the JCSU held a couple of times a term in the Brewery Room, involving cheesy music, drinking and fancy dress!

Caff: Short for cafeteria, it is the Dining Hall where we serve meals and formals.

College: These are the central hub of your student life. This is where your halls of residence usually are and your academic base. There are 31 Colleges in total in Cambridge spread out right across the city.

College Families: The JCR organises a parenting system so that each first year student is allocated to two second year students who are 'college married' meaning they are friends who decided to pair up. College parents usually have a couple of 'children', and families commonly all do similar subjects. It works as an easy way to make some friends and settle in with a support system ready.

CSU: Cambridge University Students' Union, the university wide representative body for students at the University of Cambridge.

Department: Also referred to as Faculty or Fac, this is part of the university dedicated to one subject, both in terms of a physical building as well as the students, lecturers and staff involved.

DoS: Director of Studies - A fellow, normally within your college, who is in charge of your studies. They organise all of your supervisions, and can be your first port of call for any difficulties you have regarding your subject.

Fellow: An academic affiliated with a College (as opposed to the university) usually to do teaching or research.

FNJ: Friday Night Jesus, this is the Ents (or entertainment officers) events such as Bops that happen on Fridays in the Brewery Room.

Formal: A more 'formal' three course, candlelit dinner, costing around £7. Students buy tickets online and attend in gowns with friends in tow. They are surprisingly casual despite the name and people tend to go to celebrate special occasions such as Black History Month, birthdays or just finishing an essay.

Plodge: Short for Porter's Lodge. This is the main entrance to College, it is where we collect our mail and is staffed 24/7 by our wonderful Porters who are our first port-of-call in an emergency.

Roost: Short for The Roost Cafe.

Sidge: Short for Sidgwick Site. The location of most of the faculties for arts subjects, including English, History, Economics, Languages, and Law. Lots of lectures take place here, and there are cafes and libraries for students to study in.

Staircase: These are the 'flats' we have at Jesus. Most often housing First and Second years, you all live in vertical staircases as opposed to horizontal flats, sort of like terraced houses with individual en suite bedrooms and a communal kitchen.

Supervision: Key to what makes Cambridge unique and likely the main way you will be taught here. This is where students are taught by a Supervisor either one-to-one or in small groups of 2-4 students. Work, such as essays or problem sheets are often submitted beforehand and then discussed in the supervision.

Tripus: The formal university examinations in which undergraduates are required to obtain honours in order to qualify for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

UL: University Library - One of the biggest libraries in the country, the UL is a copyright library, meaning they are entitled to a copy of any book published in England! You will normally never need to buy a book in Cambridge, because if your college doesn't have it, the UL is guaranteed to.

Gyp: Your kitchen area. There is at least one in every staircase and house that housemates share.

JBar: Short for Jesus College Bar. Example; "Hey, you coming to JBar tonight?"

JCSU: Committee of undergraduate students that represents undergrads, runs 'ents' events, welfare provision and much more. Also the Junior Common Room, which is the common area for students to relax and socialise in, filled with sofas, TVs, etc.

Matriculation: A simple and informal signing ceremony held early on in your first term (often on the day you arrive) where you are officially admitted as a member of the College and wider University.

May Week: Actually in June, it is the week after all exams are done that is characterised by parties and celebrations often called 'Balls'.

Michaelmas, Lent and Easter Term: 1st, 2nd and 3rd term respectively

Pidge: Short for pigeon hole, the space in the plodge (see below) where all your mail is sent to.

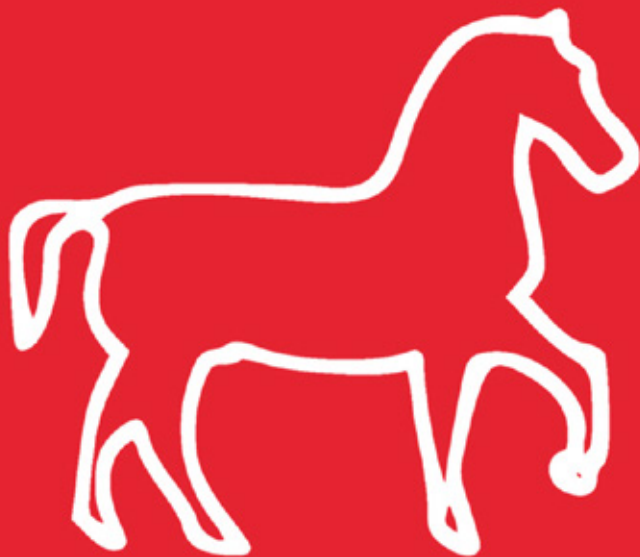
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made by current students to give you
an insight into our Jesus College

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