



MCR

Queens' College
Cambridge

Freshers' Welcome Pack

2017 - 2018

Welcome to Queens' MCR

Firstly, congratulations on being accepted at Queens' College! We hope the MCR will provide you with some great opportunities. The MCR is the graduate community at Queens', run by a committee voted for by graduate students. We organise events and play a role in college decisions related to the life of graduate students at Queens'.

This document includes some of the most relevant information for new graduates beginning their academic careers at Queens', but it may not answer every potential question that arises. If you have any other important queries, get in touch. Also, check the QMCR website (<http://www.qmcr.org.uk/>), and the Queens' college website (<https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/>) for information on transportation to Cambridge, accommodation, and more. Please read the college student handbook, available at <http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents>, for 2017/18.

We look forward to welcoming you soon as you begin your time with us.

Your Queens' MCR Committee.

Important Information

Mailing List

The mailing list is the primary method used by the MCR committee to send out information about MCR-related activities, or other college notifications. You should be automatically signed up when you arrive in Cambridge, with your Cambridge email address. This process is not instant, so until this happens, everything will also be posted to the QMCR website <http://www.qmcr.org.uk/>. If you have not received an email from the mailing list two weeks after arrival, email mcr-secretary@queens.cam.ac.uk and so that we may add you. Please check the website initially, as changes to timetables may occur.

The **QMCR Newsletter** is sent to the QMCR mailing list on a weekly basis during term time, and also when news appears during the vacation periods, containing notifications about events, studies and competitions. If you need volunteers for experiments, or want to publicise events or opportunities, email information to mcr-secretary@queens.cam.ac.uk so that it can be included.

Food in College

There are a number of different ways of dining at Queens'. Most of these require payment, using a payment system, called UPAY. Setting up UPAY as soon as you arrive is useful. To activate your account, follow these steps:

1. Using the internet, go to <https://www.upaychilli.com/>
2. Click on "register for a UPAY account" in the right hand menu.
3. The client/Company ID for Queens' college is 32.
4. Your user ID is found on the back of your university card in the bottom left hand corner before the forward slash, e.g. xy1234t. Please enter your full Cambridge email address, e.g. abc123@cam.ac.uk.
5. An email will be sent to you (this may take 30 mins to 1 hour, but may be much faster). Once you have received the email go back to the UPAY website and use the "log in" option, entering in the username and password emailed to you.
6. Follow the on-screen instructions to create your account.

Queens' Buttery

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in college during the week, with brunch and dinner available at the weekend. The buttery menu can be viewed in the catering section of the Queens' College Website: <http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/domestic/catering>. Payments in the buttery may be made with your university card, or with cash for guests. Your college card can be linked to your bank account on the UPAY website.

Formal Hall

Formal hall is a served, set menu 3-course meal, which is served from 7:30pm. As a Queens' member, you are required to wear a gown. Formals are booked via the UPAY website, where dietary requirements may be specified; you can invite up to 3 guests in addition to yourself. Formal attire is required for all attending. MCR-only formals are served each week during term time, and alternate between Tuesday and Thursday. These usually sell out quickly, and are great value and lots of fun. The MCR provides a glass of sherry beforehand either in the Woodville Room, or in QBar before the formal, and a glass of port wine after. Other than that, only water is provided during dinner, so it is customary to bring your own wine, with a maximum of one bottle per person.

Guest Nights and Feasts

Guest nights are special occasions where you may invite friends or family to a dinner in the beautiful Old Hall. Feasts are another opportunity to dine in the Old Hall, with a five course menu and wine included. One MCR feast is held each term, and you are guaranteed to attend once during your time at Queens'. Places at guest nights and feasts are allocated by ballot, with those who have not previously attended during the year given priority for places. More information will be provided when the applications for places open.

MCR Grad Talks

The Grad talks offer a great opportunity to learn more about the academic careers of other students at Queens'. Graduate students of the college and college fellows can give a short presentation (~20 minutes) on their topic to a supportive audience of members of the MCR and senior common room. It is great practice, and lots of fun. If you are keen to do this, please email mcr-academic@queens.cam.ac.uk with your degree subject and a prospective title. The talks are an opportunity for academic enrichment outside your subject area, and are often followed by a dinner in Cripps Hall with fellows and other members of the MCR. Great conversations and collaborations sometimes follow, and you can find out more about college academic life.

Clubs & Societies

There are plenty of opportunities to join a variety of clubs at Cambridge, both in college and in the wider university (the latter is fairly all-encompassing). Some of the graduate societies at Queens' include:

- Graduate Choir: a friendly, relaxed and welcoming (audition-free) music group.
- MCR Football: all abilities encouraged.
- MCR Squash: from beginners to county level. Courts can be booked in advance in the Porter's Lodge, where keys are kept. Playing the college ladder is encouraged!
- Queens' College Boat Club (QCBC): The largest club at Queens'. Over 40% of students row during their time in Cambridge. Beginner graduate students should start rowing in October;

positions also available for coxes, who steer the boats. All college crews take part in the famous 'Bumps races' on the river Cam.

- MCR Cricket: laid back, and great fun in the summer. All skills welcome.
- Queens' Skiing & Snowboarding: A ski trip is usually held to a great skiing destination.
- LGBT at Queens': one of the most vibrant in Cambridge! CUSU also run an LGBT parenting scheme for freshers, which is a great way to make friends and meet people to answer your questions. Visit <http://www.lgbt.cusu.cam.ac.uk/freshers/> to find out more information on LGBT events/support, and sign up.

The MCR Committee

President: Alex Wakelam

mcr-president@queens.cam.ac.uk

I liaise with the college, university officials and governance bodies, representing the interests of the MCR and negotiating issues affecting Queens' graduate students. I also chair the MCR committee, and help out wherever needed.

Secretary: Joe Stallard

mcr-secretary@queens.cam.ac.uk

I pass on information to Queens' graduate students via the mailing lists, administer the website, and write the weekly newsletter. I help out wherever needed.

Treasurer: Rebecca Hartwell

mcr-treasurer@queens.cam.ac.uk

I'm in charge of the MCR accounts, and keep track of all the financial matters relating to MCR business.

Ents: Margherita Protasoni, Agavi Stavropoulou, Luz Alonso

mcr-ents@queens.cam.ac.uk

Luz Alonso

We coordinate and organise events – everything from wine and cheese events in the Old Hall to the annual exchange with our sister college, Pembroke in Oxford. Our main aim is to build the QMCR community within the college and beyond. We hope that your time at events at Queens' will be memorable!

First Year Rep: TBC

mcr-firstyear@queens.cam.ac.uk

I am in charge of representing first year students, helping when needed and making sure that the interests of those on one-year courses are taken into account.

Woodville Steward: Dom Thomas-James

mcr-room-steward@queens.cam.ac.uk

I serve drinks before formals, and make sure that the Woodville Room is a tidy and welcoming place. If you have ideas about how we could improve the room, or any concerns, please email me. I also manage the college punts, and obtain port wine and sherry on the MCR's behalf.

Steward: Aracely Castillo

mcr-steward@queens.cam.ac.uk

I organise formals, guest nights and feasts on behalf of the MCR, working with the catering department in college. If you wish to organise a formal for a larger group of friends, please contact me, otherwise I urge you to attend as many MCR formals as you can!

Welfare: Marilou Boddé

mcr-welfare@queens.cam.ac.uk

I am here to help, advise and listen to you whenever a problem comes up. You can contact me about stress issues, emotional problems, sexual health, and more, and will be treated with strict confidentiality. Please contact me about anything during the year, whether academic or personal.

Women's Officer: Liming Limcr-welfare@queens.cam.ac.uk

I take care of women's issues within the MCR community: please get in touch with me if you have any issues or concerns!

LGBT+ Officer: Jonathan Tsangjmft2@cam.ac.uk

I take care of LGBT+ issues within the MCR, organising some low key LGBT+ events for the community to join together and hang out. Come and join for a great chat about all things LGBT+

Formal Exchanges: Johnny Kim, Chelsea Michta mcr-exchanges@queens.cam.ac.uk

We organise formal hall exchanges with other colleges during the year. These are a great chance to meet students at other colleges, as well as exploring Cambridge's diverse college cultures and cuisines.

Academic Officer: Lakshana Moheemcr-academic@queens.cam.ac.uk

I organise the MCR graduate talks series, and other MCR events related to academic life whilst in college. Get in touch if you want to give a talk, or find out more!

International Rep: Juan Canaveramcr-international@queens.cam.ac.uk

I am here to represent international students and help them with internationally-related matters. Please contact me if you have any ideas about how we can celebrate other cultures!

Owlstone Rep: TBCmcr-owlstone-rep@queens.cam.ac.uk

I represent the members of the MCR who reside in Owlstone Croft: if you have any concerns about your accommodation, or ideas about how it can be changed to suit your needs, please get in touch with me.

External Officer: Quentin Petermcr-external@queens.cam.ac.uk

I am the Queens' MCR representative to the graduate union, and deal with external matters in the university that concern Queens' graduate students.

Queens' MCR Support

We hope you feel welcome here during your time at Cambridge, and Queens' MCR is here to provide information, welfare, support and representation for every college member. Please contact our welfare officer, Marilou, or any other committee member if you experience any form of discrimination, harassment, or abuse at the university or in the local community: we can provide non-judgemental and nondirective support.

What we can do for you:

- If you are experiencing a problem related to your supervision, accommodation, administration etc., we can assist you in taking your concerns to the relevant people.
- We can sign-post you to the many resources available for women students and researchers, via our Women's Officer, Liming Li. These include the Cambridge Feminists Society, CUSU women's campaign, the Emmy Noether Society (women in mathematics), Women in Philosophy, PTIH Women's lunch, Women@CL, Women in Finance, etc.
- We can introduce you to additional related resources if you are a parent.
- We can provide pregnancy tests in your pigeon (in an unmarked envelope), and free condoms, tea, coffee, and biscuits via the welfare cupboard. Get in touch with our welfare officer, Marilou.
- We can guide you to relevant resources, social scenes, and events for LGBT+ students at Cambridge, including via our own LGBT+ community, administered by Jonathan.

Some Helpful Links:

- <http://www.lgbt.cusu.cam.ac.uk/> LGBT+ campaign at CUSU
- <http://www.womens.cusu.cam.ac.uk/> Women's campaign at CUSU
- <http://www.tgcambridge.org.uk/> Cambridge diamonds
- <http://cambridgefeministsociety.weebly.com/> Cambridge Feminists Society
- <http://www.cusu.co.uk/what-we-do/sexual-health-welfare/> Cheap condoms/dams/lubricants
- <http://cambridgerapecrisis.co.uk/> Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre

Some Facebook Groups

- LGBT staff network, University of Cambridge
- Spectrum: CUSU LGBT Club Night Cambridge
- Cambridge Gay Scene (LGBT)
- Cambridge lesbian and bisexual feminist group (CWRC)
- CUSU women's campaign
- CUSU women's campaign discussion group
- CUSU LGBT
- CUSU LGBT+ magazine

Things to do before you arrive...

... or in the first few weeks of term...

- Attend the Tutors' welcome lunch and events in college, on the first weekend.
- College your university card from Robbie Kneale at the Tutors' welcome meeting, unless you are an MBA student, in which case your card will be distributed to you via the Judge Business School. If you are unable to go to the Tutors' welcome meeting, you can collect your card from Robbie later in her office (Essex Building 5).
- Activate your Hermes Webmail, PWF and Raven computer accounts. Your Raven password, assigned to you during this process, will allow you access to the internet through the university wireless network at various places throughout the university, and is necessary to register you for internet access in college accommodation. There are three ways to do this:
 - If you are living in Queens', you can plug your computer into an Ethernet socket, and open a new browser window. This will direct you to the Queens' network registration page, where you can follow the "Students and other college members" link, and then click on "collect your passwords".
 - Visit <http://jackdaw.cam.ac.uk/signup/> if you have internet access somewhere else.
 - There are computer rooms in college (Essex building), as well as in Owlstone Croft where you can register. Use the login "singup" with no password – this will allow you to access the "jackdaw" webpage as above.
- Bookmark the MCR website, <http://qmcr.org.uk/>. This contains reference information for graduate students, as well as a calendar of upcoming events.
- Sign up for the cashless payment system, which is how you will pay for food in the college cafeteria, as well as book for formal halls. To activate your account, follow the instructions listed earlier, under "Food in College".

- Locate your pigeon hole, or “pidge” – your mailbox in college. You will have one in the porter’s lodge, and another in your place of residence if it is a college property (Owlstone ones are on the ground floor, on the way to the common room). Check this early and often, as much important information will come through it in the first couple of weeks.
- Get a gown. A limited number of gowns are available from the MCR at a price of £35, and Ryder & Amies are the best alternative, selling ex-rental gowns. Gowns are required for the matriculation photograph and dinner, as well as for Formal Halls, and other college activities. If you are under the age of 24, you will need a “BA Gown”, whilst if you are over the age of 24, you will need an “MA Gown”. If you turn 24 during the academic year, the college does not mind which you wear. You can pre-order a gown at Ryder and Amies online: <https://www.ryderamies.co.uk/>.
- Register with a medical surgery. A list of local surgeries can be found on the Queens’ website in your Graduate Fresher Information Pack: http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/files/downloads/gp_surgeries_cambridge_2016.pdf#overlay-context=apply-to-queens/graduates/graduate-fresher-information-pack
- With your university card in hand, you should register with the University Library. You will also need your final letter of acceptance from the Board of Graduate Studies (keep a copy of this at all times: it is your proof of student status!). This may be done automatically for you.
- Register your bicycle with the Porter’s Lodge: they will give you a unique ID number for your bicycle, on a nice green sticker, which must be placed on the bicycle if you want to park it in college. This is very helpful in the event of theft, as the police can contact you via the porters if your bicycle is recovered, and will prevent your bicycle being cleared out by the porters along with other unclaimed bicycles.

International Students:

- Get a British bank account. When you open a bank account, the bank will expect to see a letter proving that you are at a college. You can request a bank letter electronically by completing the online request form on the college website: <http://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/documents-policy/forms/bank-letter-to-open-a-uk-bank-account>. You can expect the letter to arrive about a week or so after you return the form (bear in mind there will be 200 letters for Robbie to write, so please be patient).
- Register with the police at the Parkside Police Station, if you have been told that you should.

Planning your journey to Cambridge:

It is inadvisable to walk straight out of an airport and catch a Taxi to Queens’ - it will be very expensive. Far better is to travel by train: please see <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/> for details of times and costs. Cambridge rail station is a 30-minute walk from Queens’, a taxi rank is positioned directly outside the station if you are with luggage. Keys can be collected from the Porter’s Lodge in college. If you are traveling by car, please obey the traffic restriction in Silver Street, and telephone the Porter’s Lodge in advance to arrange temporary parking whilst you unload, on 01223 335511.

And finally...

We hope that you settle in and feel welcome at Queens’. Please do not hesitate to speak to a committee member if you need help, or contact the MCR secretary for any urgent queries. Our faces and contact details can be found on the QMCR website.

We look forward to meeting you soon in Cambridge,

Your Queens’ MCR Committee.