Sciences Study Skills
(and one or two other useful sites)

University map: http://map.cam.ac.uk/
General advice on transition to University: http://skills.caret.cam.ac.uk/studgen/sci/tran/

STUDY SKILLS WEBSITES

There are many websites offering advice about study skills. Some are more helpful than others! This list for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas provides links to various useful sites, mainly ones providing advice tailored to studying in Cambridge; some are general, others are for specific subject areas.

Reports and essays in the sciences and engineering - select “Faculty guidelines” from the lhs column on the opening page of: http://skills.caret.cam.ac.uk/studgen/sci/aw/

Biologists see also http://skills.caret.cam.ac.uk/bioacwr/index.html
Engineers see also http://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/information/skills/part-ia/content

Interpretation of key words in Essay titles/questions - use “Click here for glossary” on: http://skills.caret.cam.ac.uk/bioacwr/key_words.html but note that one or two interpretations are arguably over-simplified!

Advice about spelling, punctuation and grammar see “essay writing guidelines” under Department of Engineering at: http://skills.caret.cam.ac.uk/studgen/sci/aw/faculty_guidelines.html

Cambridge Online Study Skills
http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/skills/index.html
CUSU http://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/academic/study/
CU "Skills Portal": http://www.skills.cam.ac.uk/

These serve several functions, providing links to immediately useful advice about studying as well as to information about skills you may well wish to develop during your undergraduate course. Some of the links may prove useful as you start your course; others may become helpful as the year progresses, e.g. as a way of quickly finding past Tripos papers. Of course some simply link to other sites in this list!

Use of Feedback in supervisions
http://skills.caret.cam.ac.uk/studgen/sci/fdbk/
Faculties and Departments
Some Faculties and Departments provide their own pages with information specific to their subjects.

Computer Science
http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/preparation/#study_skills

Engineering
http://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/information/skills/part-ia/content

Mathematics
http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/studyskills/
The leaflet Study Skills in Mathematics, which can be downloaded as a pdf, contains advice that is also potentially helpful for Engineers and Physical and Computer Scientists.

Natural Sciences
http://www.cam.ac.uk/about/natscitripos/students/advice.html

Getting started with MATHEMATICS in STEM subjects
These nRICH sites can be useful as you embark on a Maths course in Cambridge:

Applied mathematics [useful for Physical Scientists, Computer Scientists and Engineers as well as Mathematicians]
http://nrich.maths.org/uniapplied

Engineering
http://nrich.maths.org/unieng

Physical Natural Sciences
http://nrich.maths.org/uniphys
http://nrich.maths.org/unichem

Biological Natural Sciences
http://nrich.maths.org/unibio

Difficulties with studying
Finally, if you experience difficulties in studying, for example you find yourself procrastinating all too often, don’t panic but do seek help face-to-face and/or on-line. The advice on the “Strategies for effective learning” sites at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in the USA is particularly helpful: See: http://alac.rpi.edu/update.do?catcenterkey=12