



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

2019/20

Undergraduate Prospectus



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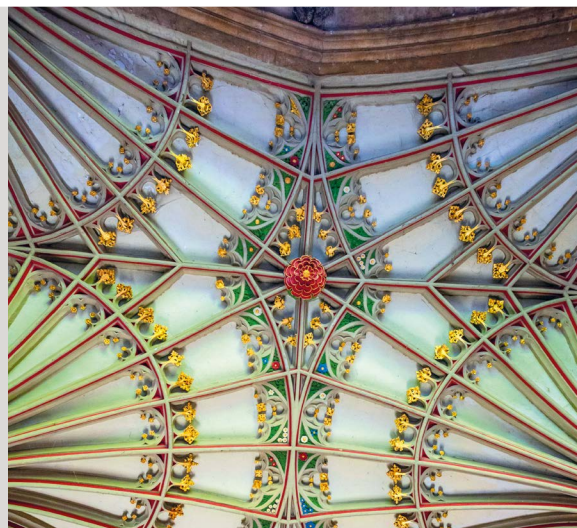
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A thriving community in the heart of Cambridge

Welcome to St John's College! Founded in 1511, St John's combines 500 years of history with pioneering research and award-winning teaching. Located on the River Cam in the heart of Cambridge, we are one of the largest – and definitely the most beautiful – Colleges of the University of Cambridge. St John's provides students with a world-class education in a diverse, friendly and lively environment. We welcome more than 300 new undergraduate students every year from every possible background – there is no typical St John's student and no single St John's experience.



Choosing which one of the University of Cambridge's 31 Colleges to apply to is no easy task. So, how do you make that choice, and where do you start?

The good news is that whichever College you go for, you will still end up on the same course as everyone else. No Colleges are "better" for certain subjects, and the trick is to choose the one that suits you best. If you ask John's students about what inspired them to apply here, many will tell you that it just felt right.

Each College has its own distinctive identity and no two Colleges are exactly the same. You live, sleep, eat, make friends and do a lot of your studying in College, so it is important to know what you are getting.

With more than 300 new students joining us every year from all sorts of schools and backgrounds, we are home to a lively and wide-ranging mix of people from all over the world. During term time there is a buzz and energy about St John's as our students bring our spectacular, centuries-old courts and buildings to life.

Our diverse student body means that no matter where you come from, you will find like-minded people here who you can develop new ideas and forge lifelong friendships with. You will live and work alongside resident postgraduate students and senior academics; many of them are undertaking globally significant research in their field. However small your subject, there is someone at St John's working in your discipline who will encourage and support you.

All of our students are guaranteed accommodation throughout their time here, which helps build the strong sense of community John's is so famous for. You will rarely be able to get from your room to the dining hall, the on-site laundry, gym or bar without running into someone you know. The remarkable range of student-run clubs and societies means there is always lots going on. Terms here are challenging and exhilarating – often they pass by in a flash – but that's because Cambridge offers one of the most transformative learning experiences in the world.

One glance at St John's will tell you that this is also a place steeped in history stretching back more than 500 years, but it is the partnership between our students and our internationally renowned academics which ensures we grow and evolve to reach new milestones. Over the centuries we have taught Nobel Prize winners, medics, engineers, artists, novelists, actors, entrepreneurs, campaigners and prime ministers. Whatever your circumstances, if you think you have what it takes to be part of our community, then we want to hear from you.

Get in touch

The College's admissions team can help arrange visits and welcomes drop-in visitors. Contact them at:

Email: admissions@joh.cam.ac.uk

Tel: 01223 338703

Fax: 01223 766419

Address: Admissions Office, The Old Divinity School, St John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP

Find out more

Web: www.joh.cam.ac.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnscambridge

Twitter: @stjohnscam

Learning at St John's

St John's is home to the very brightest students from every educational and social background and they all come to Cambridge to be taught by world-leading academics. You will have to be prepared to work hard (although you know that already) but thanks to our central location you will always find plenty to do outside of the library or lab.

You can study every subject at St John's and you are likely to be taught by our team of internationally renowned academics who are leaders in their fields. Students are expected to stretch themselves and achieve high intellectual standards, and this can mean that studying in Cambridge is tough, but the beauty of the College system is that you will never have to go it alone. We have nearly 200 senior academic staff – known as Fellows – and our tutorial and pastoral system means you will be supported throughout your time at university with lots of personal attention.

Our students are here because we believe in their ability to make the most of the experience. We're determined to do everything possible to help you fulfil your potential. You will be more than just a student – you will be a valued member of the College community where there will be Fellows and staff who know you personally and are keen to help you develop.

How it all works

A Cambridge course is called a “Tripos” and breaks down into parts, each lasting one or two years. Most students take successive parts in the same subject, although there are opportunities to change. The courses start broad, but later on there is a chance to specialise and explore your interests in depth.

Teaching is organised by both the University and the Colleges. The University arranges lectures, seminars and classes – many of which provide opportunities to hear from leading researchers – plus your end-of-year exams.

The College's job is to enable you to make the most of the course through personal attention and support. We will help you to devise a programme of study that suits your interests and needs, and arrange regular, small-group tuition, usually with one other student, called “supervisions”. In a given year, St John's will provide more than 12,000 supervisions, and each undergraduate will, on average, receive about 50 hours of extra academic support.

Supervisions are a special part of the Cambridge experience that few other universities can match. Your supervisor will be an expert in a particular topic that you have decided to pursue. Because of the size of our Fellowship and research body, they can often be at St John's themselves, and you may well bump into each other between supervisions. This can be very handy if you've got a burning question, or can't find that all-important book!

Typically, you will meet your supervisor once a week (although this varies from course to course) to discuss a particular assignment, such as an essay or problem. It's a unique opportunity for you to deepen your knowledge and understanding, ask questions, pursue new theories, get feedback, and really think for yourself.





Personal support

The people directly responsible for your academic welfare are your Director of Studies and your Tutor. At St John's, both will almost always be based in College, so the likelihood is that you will see them around pretty often.

A specialist in your subject, your Director of Studies will usually be a College Fellow who will help you organise your subject options and guide you through your student career. Normally, they will see you at the start of each term, but they are also available for consultation throughout the year.

Your Tutor will often teach a completely different subject, but their job is to help with both your academic and personal development, and to provide you with any form of practical support that you need. You will have a meeting with your Tutor at both the beginning and end of each term. In addition, each Tutor has weekly "tutorial hours" when you can drop in to discuss any problems.

The College is also home to a friendly Student Services office, which is your first port of call for information on a wide range of matters, including exams, references, tutorials, accommodation, grants and prizes, and more.

Combined with your supervisors, this set-up means that you will rarely be far from someone who can offer you assistance, encouragement, or just a confidential chat about your progress, throughout your time here.

Resources

As well as being a short distance from the University Library and most departments, St John's has one of the largest College libraries in Cambridge – or two, to be precise.

Spread over six floors, the Working Library is open 24 hours a day to members, and houses more than 105,000 borrowable books, as well as periodicals, computer and work facilities, a coffee machine and even a full-size skeleton and model brain! Next door, the Old Library, built in 1624, is one of the most beautiful spaces in Cambridge and home to outstanding collections, manuscripts and rare books.

Modern study means you need to stay connected. St John's provides secure, high-speed network connections to all rooms. There are computer rooms for general use with scanners and printers, and a Help Desk service is offered to all College members by our IT Department so students can access expert on-site computing advice.

We also believe that the very best education involves having the opportunity to explore new ideas, questions and places. Book grants and travel grants, designed to support individual projects that may only be loosely related to your course, are also on offer to give you the chance to discover new interests and make the most of your College experience.





Find out more

Studying at St John's:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/studying-st-johns

Student welfare and academic support:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/welfare

I got a taster of life at Cambridge University when I came on the Sutton Trust Summer School which my friend found and shared with me. We both got accepted onto it and came together. When I got back to school a teacher who had gone to Cambridge encouraged me to apply, she said I had a real chance and ought to give it a go.

I chose St John's not just because it is prestigious and pretty, but because the St John's Studentships were introduced the year I arrived – they are non-repayable grants offered to reduce financial pressure on students from lower-income and middle-income backgrounds.

Getting a studentship made a huge difference to me particularly because my mum died when I was 16 and I am estranged from my dad. The St John's Studentships meant it was possible for me to come to Cambridge. They are offered to all undergraduates at the College who meet the criteria so they have had a big impact.

Some people worried that I wouldn't fit in, but Cambridge has been a new start and applying gave me a goal to aim for and encouraged me to work hard. The financial support I have received has meant I can participate fully and focus on my work. It hasn't always been easy but in a large College there are always friends you can find.

“The St John's Studentships meant it was possible for me to come to Cambridge.”

“The community at St John’s is my favourite thing about my life at Cambridge.”

I didn’t know what I wanted to do when I left school so I went on a gap year. I came to a Subject Open Day for Biological Natural Sciences at St John’s and absolutely fell in love with the College – the weather was gorgeous which definitely helped! I met academics, found out what a supervision was like, and realised that my preconceptions about the kind of person who goes to Cambridge University weren’t true at all.

The course is a lot of work but I find it fascinating, and it is much broader than the ones offered at other universities. I had never rowed before I came to Cambridge, there was a welcome barbecue at the boathouse so I gave it a try and I haven’t looked back. It is the first team sport I have really enjoyed. I train every day, mostly because I like the exercise.

When I applied I didn’t think I would get in, and neither did my teachers! But everyone was so pleased for me when I did. I decided that it would be good interview practice if nothing else. You don’t lose anything by giving it a go.

I’ve been lucky to have been given financial support at John’s when I have needed it most. The community at St John’s is my favourite thing about my life at Cambridge – I have met friends for life from all over the world.





“The engineering community at St John’s is really close – we support each other across the year groups.”

I was good at science and maths at school but I knew I wanted to study something at university that I could directly use after my degree. I came to Cambridge to do an Engineering Masterclass before I applied and it felt like a vocational subject choice that suited my interests. I still wasn’t sure whether to apply to Cambridge because of how competitive it is to get in, but as it is one of the best universities in the world I decided to put myself forward and give it a go.

It was a shock to come to Cambridge and go from being top of a set to not being the cleverest person in the room anymore, but eventually I realised that everyone is feeling exactly the same! Once I worked that out I felt much happier. The engineering community at St John’s is really close, it is a team effort – we revise together, pass on tips and support each other across the year groups. We also have an engineering society for undergraduates and graduate students and I am the current President.

I’ve always been sporty and a collegiate university appealed to me because I wanted to do College sport – I play hockey, tennis and netball. But lots of people on the team hadn’t picked up a hockey stick before they came to Cambridge. We have won the league but we don’t take ourselves too seriously.

My dad brought me and my brother on a trip to the UK for my 16th birthday and we had a day out to Cambridge. We looked around the College and a Porter asked if we were prospective students so we said yes! It was the first time we had even thought about it. I ended up coming back to an Open Day and I met current students who were so passionate about what they were studying it made me want to apply. You don't have to be born a genius to come to Cambridge – it is possible to work hard and get in.

It was exciting to move abroad to study at University in the UK. I go back to Poland every vacation and I joke with my friends that it is cheaper for me to fly home than it is for them to get the train back! St John's is a very international College and I constantly meet people from lots of different subjects which means you get out of the bubble of your own course. I learnt the importance of taking time off and I structure my week to manage my workload – I don't study in the library late into the night. I make sure I have every Sunday off so I can have guilt-free coffee with my friends and I find that I am ready to start work again on Monday.

“I constantly meet people from lots of different subjects which means you get out of the bubble of your own course.”

Living at St John's

It's no exaggeration to say that St John's is one of the most stunning places for students to live and learn anywhere in the world. Spanning seven courts and set on the banks of the River Cam, it's home to breathtaking buildings and beautiful gardens and lawns, making it an amazingly tranquil setting in which to spend your university years.

In fact, it's often easy to forget that St John's is also right in the middle of Cambridge. Most University facilities are virtually on the doorstep, as are the comforts and convenience of city life.

Because we are, in geographical terms, the biggest College, we also provide guaranteed accommodation throughout your time here. Our rooms and food are reckoned to be among the best in Cambridge, while comprehensive on-site facilities mean that every major aspect of your day-to-day life is catered for.



The best of both worlds

Once you step through the Great Gate, the College is a self-contained community, made up of enclosed squares of buildings known as courts, the oldest of which dates back to the 16th century. From here, the College stretches down to and over the River Cam, via its famous Bridge of Sighs, and across the riverside lawns known, along with those of the other Colleges, as “The Backs”. It’s nearly half a mile to the back gate, beyond which lie a further 28 acres of playing fields and sports facilities.

This beautiful setting makes for one of the most serene environments in Cambridge. Yet St John’s is also in the heart of the city, so you’ll never be more than a short walk or cycle from numerous pubs, clubs, restaurants, cafes, theatres, cinemas, bars and shops. With students accounting for about a fifth of the local population there is always plenty going on.

Your room

The College provides students with accommodation throughout their time at Cambridge, and your room is at your disposal from October until June. Even if you don’t fancy living in St John’s during the vacations, this has its advantages – it means that you can leave your stuff here, rather than transporting it to and from home each term!

There are more than 500 rooms on the main site, and many are the envy of other Cambridge students. If you’re really lucky you might even find yourself living somewhere previously occupied by one of our famous alumni, such as the poet William Wordsworth, writer Douglas Adams, feminist campaigner Laura Bates, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Paul Dirac, or *The Crown* actor Emma Corrin.

As a first year you will probably start off in Cripps Court, where most Freshers are housed. This means that you will get to know other people in your year and settle in quickly. The rooms were recently refurbished, some have an en-suite, and other rooms share a bathroom and a small kitchen with three other people.

In the years that follow, you’ll be able to opt for a single room, share a set of rooms with a friend, or live with a group of students in one of the College-owned Victorian houses nearby. All rooms have high-speed internet connections, telephone points, and access to a kitchen.

The College is also committed to supporting disabled students, so if you have a disability or medical condition we will do everything we can to provide accommodation that suits your needs.



Food and drink

If you don't fancy cooking for yourself, the Buttery is a self-service restaurant that provides three meals a day at subsidised prices, and caters for most dietary needs, including vegetarian, vegan, halal and kosher. We pride ourselves on our selection of free-range, Fair Trade, organic and locally-sourced products. It's one of the most popular spaces in College, where you can meet friends, enjoy good food, and in sunny weather settle down in the adjacent courtyard or take your meal onto the Backs.

For something really special, students can enjoy formal dinner in Hall with friends or guests. This is one of the great Cambridge traditions, and involves a three-course silver-service meal for which gowns are worn. There are 160 tickets available every evening during term and they are heavily subsidised to ensure everyone can have the opportunity to enjoy the experience – John's students currently pay just £6.50 per three-course meal.

The College Bar provides a space in which students can relax and socialise over a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks as well as light meals and snacks. There are snug booths, long tables with power points for laptops, and regular events during term – including quiz nights, music events, food and beer tastings, and games evenings.

Day-to-day living

Pretty much everything you need is somewhere on site. There are laundry facilities in College and all St John's properties, and rooms are cleaned by College staff known as "Bedders".

Every student has their own "pigeonhole" in the College's mail room, next to the Great Gate Porters' Lodge, where you can pick up parcels and personal messages. You will also be given a University email account when you arrive.

If you are into keeping fit, there's an on-site fitness centre with a range of cardiovascular and individual resistance equipment, as well as a free weights area. There are also music rooms, an art room, punts to take on the river and exceptional sports facilities.

Looking after our students

We know that being able to thrive at university is determined as much by your wellbeing as it is by your academic ability. For many students, coming to St John's will be your first experience of living away from home and we are committed to ensuring that you remain well looked after.

The tutorial system at Cambridge means every student is allocated a College Tutor whose role is to provide pastoral support, information, advice and guidance to undergraduates. Tutors can be approached for help with problems about study, finance, illness, friends and family or other personal circumstances. They hold regular drop-in sessions and they are able to refer or direct you to other services, both within collegiate Cambridge and externally if required.

We have an on-site Health Centre which is staffed by two registered nurses who run clinics and drop-in sessions. And we have a College Counsellor who provides a free and confidential counselling service for St John's students. The College Counselling Service is an additional service to the University Counselling Service, which all students can also self-refer to.

Although originally a Christian foundation, St John's has for generations welcomed people of all religions and none. Nowadays, our Chaplain offers everyone confidential support and is on hand to listen to your concerns and to offer advice regardless of your beliefs.

All members of College are also members of the Junior Combination Room (JCR), which is the name for the physical common room itself and the group of undergraduates which represents the student community. The JCR committee plays a key role in looking after all members of the student body and has its own Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer who organises entertainment in Freshers' Week to settle new members into life at St John's, and other activities such as free yoga sessions during exam term.



Find out more

Accommodation:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/living-st-johns

College meals:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/living-st-johns

Student welfare and services:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/welfare

“Being guaranteed accommodation is great, everyone is together and it made settling in much easier.”



I grew up with lots of pets – we had dogs, guinea pigs, and budgies, and from a very young age I knew I wanted to be a vet.

My secondary school was not used to students applying to Cambridge but I realised that it could be an option if I kept working hard. I just missed my Cambridge offer from the College I originally applied to and I was put in the 'summer pool'. The summer pool is part of the admissions process at Cambridge where if you are considered to be a strong candidate but aren't accepted by the College you originally apply to then other Colleges can consider whether to offer you a place. I had a nerve-wracking day and a half waiting for a phone call which eventually came from John's telling me I could come here to study – I couldn't believe I had got in!

The course is very challenging but we support each other. To relax I play sport and I have captained the College football team. One of the great things about St John's is that we are very lucky and have our sports fields on site. Being guaranteed accommodation is great, everyone is together and it made settling in much easier.

Anusha, Durham Mathematics

I learnt my times tables when I was six because I liked numbers. I would sit and do maths in my room because I thought maths was fun, it was never a chore. My teacher at secondary school had done her degree at Cambridge and gave me extra problem solving work to stretch me and I wanted to solve them in the best way possible, not just the easy way. It was when I went on a summer camp for maths students that I realised I wanted to apply to study mathematics at uni – I loved talking about maths with people who were as passionate as me about the subject.

I fell in love with John's when I visited, it is large, beautiful and friendly – everything my teacher had told me it was! I spent a lot of time practising past STEP papers – the Mathematics admissions test used by Cambridge – because I knew it was the major obstacle in my way, but I found a lot of useful online resources that John's pointed me towards.

I'm lucky to study a subject I love. There are 20 mathematicians in my year group at John's which means there is always someone to talk maths with. I was excited about studying in Cambridge because I knew people would be better than me at maths and I could learn from them. Maths is a lot more collaborative than people think.

"I fell in love with John's when I visited, it is large, beautiful and friendly."





Finance, support and the St John's Studentships

For more than five centuries we have helped brilliant students fulfil their potential. At St John's, we strongly believe that cost shouldn't be a barrier and we are constantly striving to make higher education accessible to all.

All sorts of initiatives exist – nationally, individually and at individual Colleges – to ensure that if you need financial support, it's available. If you have got what it takes to make the most of life at St John's, we want to hear from you.

St John's Studentships

The St John's College Studentship Scheme offers financial support to **all** our undergraduate students whose household income is less than £42,620.

Studentships are non-repayable grants of up to £7,100 per year.

If you are an undergraduate at St John's, qualify for Home or EU fees, and your household income is up to £42,620, you will be considered for additional financial support directly from the College. This, combined with the Cambridge Bursary Scheme run by the University, will entitle you to a non-repayable sum of up to £10,600 per year.

All students with a household income of up to £25,000 will be eligible for the full Studentship of £7,100 and the full Cambridge Bursary of £3,500. All students with a household income between £25,001 and £42,620 will be eligible for a partial Studentship and a partial Cambridge Bursary.

At St John's we want all our undergraduate students to have access to our academic and educational opportunities regardless of their social or financial background. And our former students agree – the studentships are funded by our alumni who know how life-changing studying at St John's can be.

The Studentships have been created as part of the College's ongoing efforts to raise money to invest in education and research, but they are not the only financial support available.

Pre-admissions prizes

Every year the College also awards pre-admissions prizes which are worth £5,000 each and help successful applicants to kick-start their future with the College.

Every student who is offered a place is automatically eligible. The College's decision about who receives the prizes is also based on more than track record – we take into account your progress and potential, and look out for people who would benefit from some extra money as they start their College career.

Summer bursaries

The Cambridge summer vacation is a long one – but it's hard to make the most of all that time if you also need to get a summer job to help to pay for your education. At St John's undergraduates can apply for summer bursaries to help them to undertake educational activities and pursue career opportunities during the long vacation.

The scheme is open to all home or EU undergraduates of St John's with a household income of less than £66,154, and you could receive a bursary of up to £2,070.

Book grants and more

Every student at St John's can access a grant to help them with the must-haves for their course, such as books, periodicals and computer software. In addition, travel and research grants are awarded every year, designed to help you broaden your horizons and experiences.

Hardship funds and other support

Not all financial problems can be anticipated – sometimes students unexpectedly run into trouble with their tuition and living expenses. If this happens your Tutor is here to help, both by offering advice and, if necessary, pointing you in the direction of College and University hardship funds.

Crucially, any such funding is designed to help you to do more than "get by"; the aim is to ensure that you can get the most out of your Cambridge experience free from financial worries.

Prizes and awards

The College is immensely proud of its students, and every year we make a number of prizes and scholarships available to people who have reached the very highest standards both academically and in their wider contributions to College life and society as a whole.

There are also all sorts of College prizes and competitions throughout the year. These are great opportunities to expand your interests and educational experience, and there is usually some sort of cash reward if you win. There are prizes for research projects, academic work, photography, music, art, and even writing comedy.

Support from the University

The University offers extensive financial support to all Cambridge students. In particular, the Cambridge Bursary Scheme enables any student to meet the cost of his or her education, regardless of circumstances.

Bursaries are available to UK and EU students studying for their first undergraduate degree. The bursaries are worth up to £3,500 per year and are assessed based on household income. There is no limit, so every eligible student can receive one.

Find out more

University-wide support:

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/finance

Extra support at St John's:

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/finance-and-support

David, Amersham Medicine

It was towards the end of Year 12 that I decided that I wanted to apply to study Medicine at University. I did a taster day at St John's and had mock lectures and supervisions which made me realise combining my love of the sciences and applying to be a medic was the route I wanted to take. My mum loves coming to visit me and my dad does too – they are both very proud of me.

I'm quite a competitive person and being at Cambridge really works for me because it gives me the extra drive I need to perform well. We may dress up and wear gowns when we go to Formal Hall dinners in College but usually we are walking around in shorts and flip flops – the traditions are only a small part of student life.

Being in a larger College means you will definitely find people to gel with even though there are still people in my year group I haven't even met yet! The first-year accommodation is all in one block and it is very sociable – I am always visiting friends who live in other staircases. I absolutely love the variety of opportunities on offer – I play rugby, I work on equal opportunities projects for John's students and I'm in the medical society too. When I looked at other Colleges they all seemed very nice but John's felt like the right fit for me.



“We may dress up and wear gowns when we go to Formal Hall dinners but the traditions are only a small part of student life.”

I always loved Lego as a child and we had a young engineers club at my state school and that helped me explore what engineering actually is. I had always enjoyed maths and physics and using them to solve problems really appealed to me which is why I applied to study Engineering. I was terrified on the day of my interview but the academics really try to get the best out of you so there is no need to be scared, just try your best.

John's stood out to me as having a really strong community – walking around everyone is always friendly and approachable. It still feels crazy to me that I am basically living in a castle but at the end of the day it is just student accommodation, and John's manages to be both beautiful and homely. I genuinely believe that John's is the best College – there is always something to get involved in.

Cambridge has a lot of traditions and it would be a shame to lose that, but it is not stuffy – we are just a bunch of students like you get at any other university.

“It still feels crazy to me that I’m basically living in a castle – but it is just student accommodation at the end of the day.”

Leisure at St John's

Although studying is a big part of life at Cambridge, it should only ever be one aspect of your educational experience – what you do in your spare time is just as important. At St John's you'll be right in the heart of an international and diverse community where there's always plenty going on.

Our famous alumni include poets, photographers, writers, actors, musicians, journalists, sportspeople and social rights campaigners – and many of them started to pursue those interests while they were here. Today, the College has more than 40 clubs and societies, all run by students, and if you can't find something that suits you, we'll help you to set another one up. It's a great way to meet amazing people and make lifelong friends.





Sport

Gold medal-winning Olympic athletes, England cricket captains and international rugby players have all contributed to our famous sporting history – a John's student even devised the modern rules of football during his time in Cambridge. Our teams regularly compete in the top rank of intercollegiate contests and are a source of great pride for the College.

One of the benefits of being a member of a large College is that there are often multiple teams per sport so you don't have to be an Olympic-standard athlete to take part. Students often try sports they had never considered before.

St John's is unusual because we have our extensive sports grounds just across the road and there is space for football, hockey, athletics, lacrosse, cricket and rounders. There are also netball, tennis, badminton, squash and basketball courts as well as our on-site gym which is free to use.

We were the first College to have a boat club in Cambridge, and our boathouse is a only a short cycle ride away and has lots of space for indoor training as well as state-of-the-art boats for both the men's and women's crews.

Music

St John's has a reputation for being a musical College, and there are opportunities to get involved in music whatever your taste. Our Choir is one of the best collegiate choirs in the world, with an audience of millions following its concerts, tours and broadcasts.

There are plenty of less formal opportunities to make music and stretch your vocal chords too. We have a mixed-voice choir, an all-female a cappella group, a thriving jazz club and plenty of practice rooms for student bands. Classical musicians may want to get involved with the Music Society, which runs the College orchestra and arranges recitals and concerts. The St John's Music Festival features several world premieres of new music.



Clubs and societies

The clubs and societies at St John's change from one year to the next based on the interests of our students. One of our most popular venues is the recently refurbished Old Divinity School which has become a major hub in Cambridge for theatre, music and the arts. Our students organise everything from film nights to drama practice and book readings.

You will find societies covering art, chess, architecture, photography, mountaineering and so much more. There are lots of academic societies which run events and bring in top speakers from around the world, so there is always something new to learn and enjoy. If you can't find a society that you are interested in, you can start one!

St John's May Ball – the seventh best party in the world

May Balls are a great Cambridge tradition of spectacular all-night parties that mark the end of exams and the academic year. Even by Cambridge standards, however, the St John's May Ball is pretty special. *Time Magazine* once called it the seventh best party in the world – not bad when you consider all those Oscars aftershows!

For one night only the May Ball sees the College transformed into a massive party venue. Recent acts have included Sigala and Katy B. Previous Balls have hosted the likes of Rudimental, AlunaGeorge, Bombay Bicycle Club, Big Boi, Ellie Goulding and plenty of others. Envied by the other Colleges, it's always the hottest ticket in town, and our students and members get priority.



*“I was awarded a bursary
and I receive £5000 a year
to help cover my costs.”*

I had only been to London once before I applied to study in Cambridge – it was a big step but it was my dream. My interview was much more relaxed than I was expecting. I was very nervous but it felt more like a discussion than an interview – the academics were friendly which helped to put me at ease.

I started on a Law degree but I decided it wasn't for me and I asked to change to HSPS. If I had known HSPS was a thing I would have applied for it straight away! Now it feels like I have found the right fit. I am very fortunate that I was awarded The Salim and Umeeda Nathoo Bursary and I receive £5000 a year for every year that I am in Cambridge to help cover my costs – it has taken a huge burden off my shoulders.

There is a large EU community in Cambridge and my closest friends are Italian, I play the drums in a student band and we are hoping to do some gigs soon. Once a week I visit a high-security prison to learn alongside the prisoners with other Cambridge students and academics – it has challenged my views and preconceptions of people and the world.

"I love playing lacrosse, doing the Bar Quiz, and I go and watch a lot of student theatre and music too."

I fell in love with St John's when I visited – the College is really big and pretty and the facilities are second to none. Everyone was really friendly and welcoming on the Open Day, there is a lot of College spirit. Because John's is a large College we have the numbers needed to have societies for every sport which means there really is something for everyone. I really enjoyed doing A-level Economics and I felt an Economics degree would enable me to use my maths skills in an applied context.

I spent a year as the President of The Marshall Society, the Economics Society of the University of Cambridge, and I am on the Junior Combination Room (JCR) committee and I tried rowing for the first time here too. I live in a double set with a friend who is a Geographer, our rooms are connected and we share a bathroom and a kitchenette between us. It is really nice to go back after a day of lectures and hang out with someone who isn't on my course.

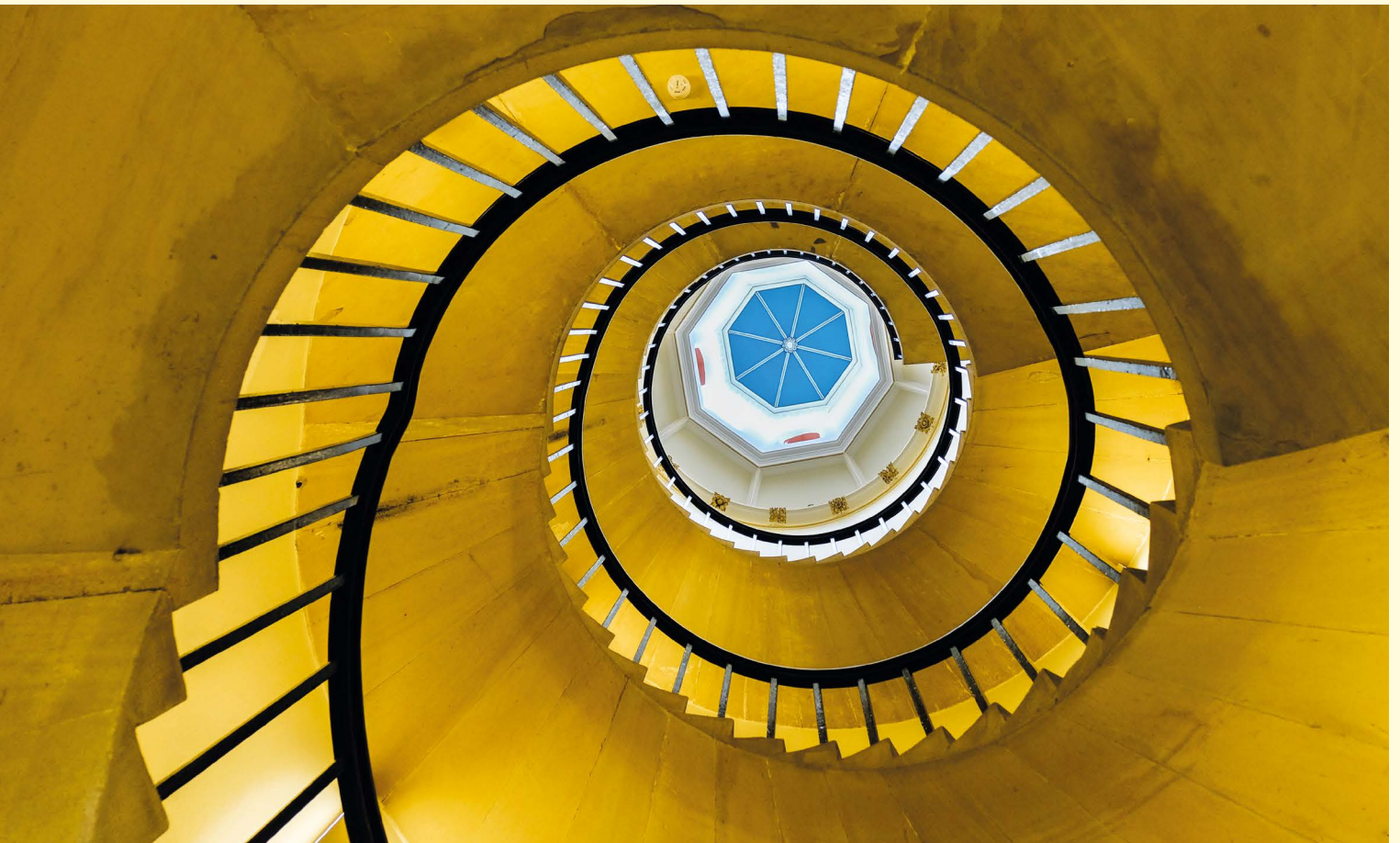
I love playing lacrosse, doing the Bar Quiz, and I go and watch a lot of student theatre and music too. John's has its own punts and when the weather is nice we hire them and punt along the river with a picnic. Cambridge is a lot of work but it is what you make of it.



Next steps

Graduation may seem a long way off right now, but your student years are really just the next step on a much bigger journey. Life at St John's is intense, exciting and inspiring, and when you look back in years to come it may well feel like the time flew by. Our job is to make sure that you get the most from it, by bringing out the best in you.

When you are ready to move on, you'll find that the University and College are here to help. Whatever you end up doing, being at St John's makes you part of a centuries-old tradition and a global community of distinguished alumni. We're always keen to hear about how our graduates are getting on, and you will always be very welcome at College.



What do graduates do next?

Cambridge graduates are some of the most employable in the world and – however competitive the jobs market – always in demand. The University frequently ranks towards the top of league tables that order institutions by graduate employability. Six months after graduation, 54.9% of Cambridge students are in employment, 36% in further study or training, and of the remainder more than half are travelling or taking a year off.

One of the reasons for this success rate is that we don't just train you to work hard, we also teach you to think hard. Add to that the benefits of being part of our clubs and societies, as well as a diverse, stimulating wider College life, and it's no surprise that our students have such good prospects. You'll emerge from St John's able to innovate, analyse, solve problems, learn quickly, organise yourself, create, communicate, and express your ideas with confidence. These are skills high on most employers' wish-lists.

There is, however, no such thing as a "typical" Johnian, and our graduates go on to pursue all manner of careers, at home and abroad. Some will fulfil a childhood dream by working in medicine, technology or the media. Others won't be sure about what they want to do next, and may spend the years straight after their degree travelling, working abroad, or building up experience for a future career.

Many undergraduates also find that their first degree whets their appetite for further study. Every year about a third of our students go on to take a higher degree, or some form of professional or vocational qualification.

Helping you with your next move

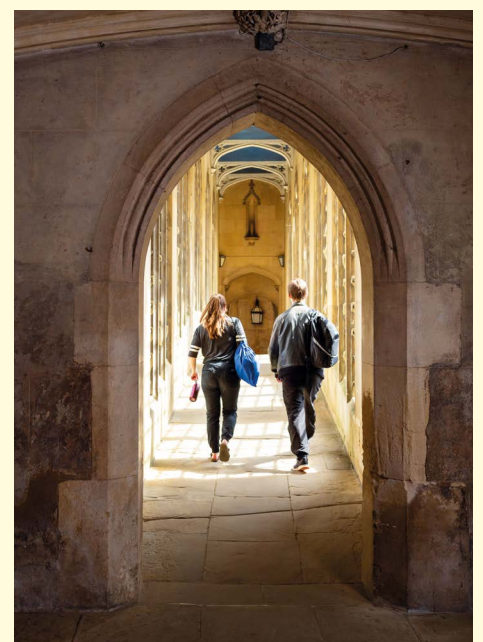
Whether or not you know what you want to do, being at Cambridge means that you'll have access to a fantastic University Careers Service. The Service advertises thousands of vacancies each term, and will help you to prepare a CV, hone your presentation and interview skills, and identify possible careers. There are also opportunities to meet prospective employers.

Within College, you'll have personal support from your Tutor, Director of Studies and Supervisors, all of whom will advise you, discuss options and provide you with those all-important references as you embark on the next stage of your career.

The Johnian family

Becoming a student at St John's means that you also become a lifelong member of the College and take your place as part of a tradition that stretches back more than 500 years. We'll keep in touch with digital and print newsletters, as well as the College's annual record, *The Eagle*. We are also always keen to hear about your achievements and what you are up to.

Johnians are welcome to visit the College free of charge, book rooms, dine in College, use the library, borrow a punt and attend services in Chapel. There are plenty of other benefits, too, which you can find on our alumni website.



What do Johnians do next?

Over the centuries, St John's has produced Nobel Laureates, Prime Ministers, authors, actors, code-breakers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, astronomers, statisticians, medics and more.

There are far too many success stories to list here. Some of the most famous include Sir John Cockroft, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist who split the atom; Sir Fred Hoyle, the pioneering cosmologist who coined the term "Big Bang"; feminist writer Laura Bates, the campaigner who founded the Everyday Sexism Project; the poet William Wordsworth; and Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*.

Today, St John's still prides itself on enabling students to exceed their expectations, and our graduates go on to achieve remarkable things that touch and transform lives all over the world. Here are a few recent examples:

Nadine McCarthy Kahane



(BA 2005, Natural Sciences)

Founder and CEO of Stone and Strand

After graduating, Nadine worked as a strategy consultant at the Monitor Group in London, focused on corporate and marketing strategy. She then completed an MBA at Wharton Business School in the US before setting up her own company, Stone & Strand. Stone & Strand is today one of the leading fine jewellery e-commerce retailers globally and has been featured in the Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Ian Pong



(PhD 2009, Materials Science)

Scientist

Originally from Hong Kong, Ian came to St John's to study for a PhD in Materials Science, specialising in applied superconductivity. He then won post-doctoral Fellowships to work at CERN and ITER. He is currently a project scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, studying superconducting wire and cable properties. Ian has won several high-profile scientific awards, including "Best Materials Student", "Best Work by a Young Scientist", and "Best PhD Thesis in Condensed Matter and Materials Physics".

Kate Palmer



(MPhil 2014, Political Thought and History)

Journalist

Kate edited the student newspaper of Trinity College Dublin, before studying as a History graduate at St John's. She has worked for the *Daily Mail*, the *Irish Daily Star* and *Forbes*. Kate is currently a reporter at *The Daily Telegraph*, where she covers business, money and consumer affairs.

Suzanne Szczetnikowicz



(BA 2005, Land Economy and Modern Languages)

Senior Associate at Shearman and Sterling (London) LLP and co-founder of Women In Law London

After graduating, Suzanne spent a year supervising a third year Land Economy paper at the University and then completed her law studies before building a successful career as a project finance lawyer in London. Having spent time working in Abu Dhabi and on secondment, she has also worked on several first-of-their-kind, complex and award-winning project finance transactions including in Egypt, the Middle East and Asia.

She is one of five co-founders of Women in Law London (WILL), which is an independent network for qualified female solicitors launched in October 2014. WILL aims to promote and engage the next generation of women leaders in law, through a programme of large- and small-scale events. Leaders of the network develop mentoring relationships and organise training sessions for members. It has already gained more than 1500 members and Champions from around 350 firms and businesses in London.

Susannah Hardyman



(BA 2007, Theology)

Founder and Director of Action Tutoring

Susannah is the founder and director of Action Tutoring, an educational charity that works in partnership with inner-city schools across England. Susannah set up Action Tutoring in 2011 to provide volunteer tutors to work with pupils preparing for their GCSEs, especially in English and Maths. The organisation now operates in 8 cities across England, supporting nearly 2,000 pupils a year.

Tom Mustill



(BA 2005, Natural Sciences)

Wildlife filmmaker

After graduating, Tom became one of the UK's most prolific wildlife filmmakers, producing and directing documentaries including the BBC's Natural World special *Kangaroo Dundee* and Channel 4's *Inside Nature's Giants*. Tom has worked with Sir David Attenborough and has won multiple awards.

Applying to St John's

The best way to make a decision about applying is to come and see St John's for yourself. Every year we run Open Days, as well as subject "taster days", where you can meet Directors of Studies and current undergraduates. Details about forthcoming events can be found on the College website. You can also visit or contact the College's admissions team at any time.

Applying can seem like a daunting experience, but the process is actually more straightforward than you might think. It is outlined below, and there is much more information on our website.

Requirements

When assessing applicants, we look at both the individual subjects that they are studying and the combination of these. Some courses require qualifications in certain subjects, so check the course requirements before you apply.

Typically, our minimum conditional offer is A*AA at A2 (excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking) for arts subjects, and A*A*A at A2 for sciences. There are, however, no set rules, and we will take individual circumstances into account. If you feel that you have what it takes and are uncertain about your subject choices or predicted grades, contact the admissions team for advice.

If you are doing something other than A-Levels, don't worry. We regularly make offers based on other qualifications, such as Scottish Advanced Highers and the International Baccalaureate.

How it works

Your UCAS form should be submitted by 15 October for entry in October of the next year, or for deferred entry the following year.

You'll then be asked to supply extra information through a Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ), which ensures that we have complete and consistent information about all our applicants.

Everyone with a realistic chance of being offered a place is invited to interview in December. There is lots of information about interviews on our website so that you know what to expect.

Our final decision will be based on the interview, your academic record, the reference provided by your school and your performance in any admissions tests. We'll tell you our decision before the end of January. There are three possible outcomes:

1. Your application is successful and you receive a conditional offer to study at St John's.
2. Your application is "pooled". This means that we feel that you are suitable for a place at Cambridge, but cannot offer you a place at St John's. If this happens, you might be asked to interview at another College, or be offered a place there without being interviewed at all.
3. Your offer is unsuccessful.

Don't let the fear of being unsuccessful put you off – we can't offer you a place if you don't apply!



Applicants living outside the EU

As well as a UCAS application, applicants living outside the EU will need to submit a Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA).

Once you have submitted your application, you will be contacted via email with a request to complete the SAQ as well, and you will need your COPA reference number to do this.

Getting in touch with the admissions team

St John's has its own dedicated Admissions Office, which exists to help those applicants most capable of benefiting from a College education regardless of their circumstances or background.

Prospective students are welcome to drop in during office hours, Monday to Friday. We will do our best to answer any questions that you may have.

Alternatively, just get in touch:

Email: admissions@joh.cam.ac.uk

Tel: 01223 338703

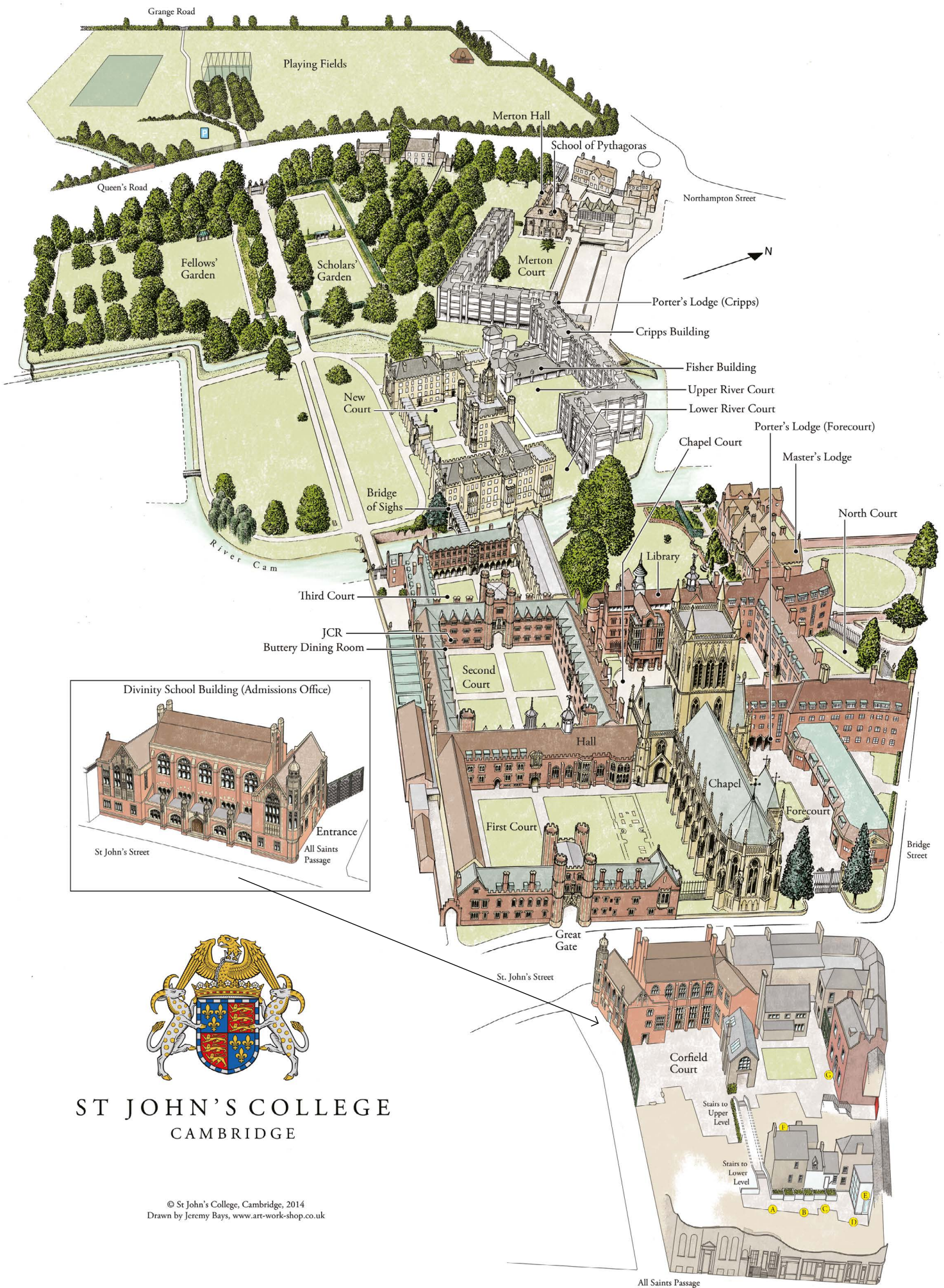
Fax: 01223 766419

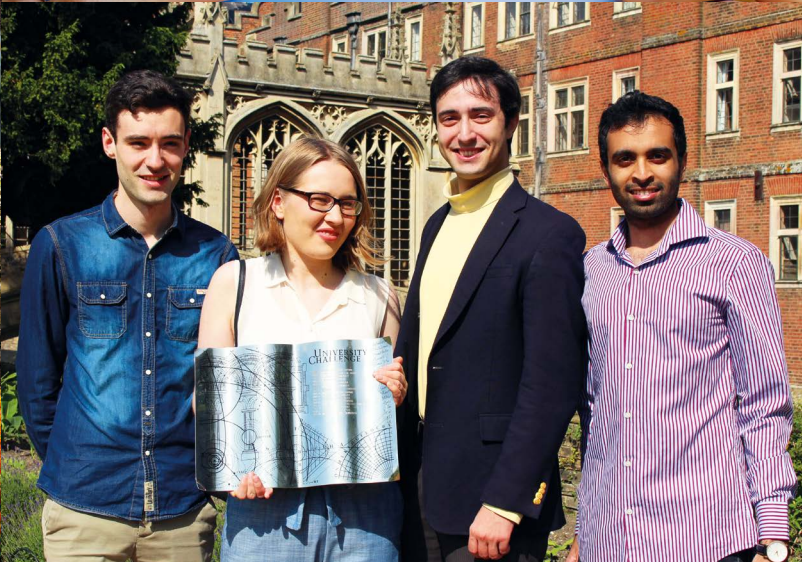
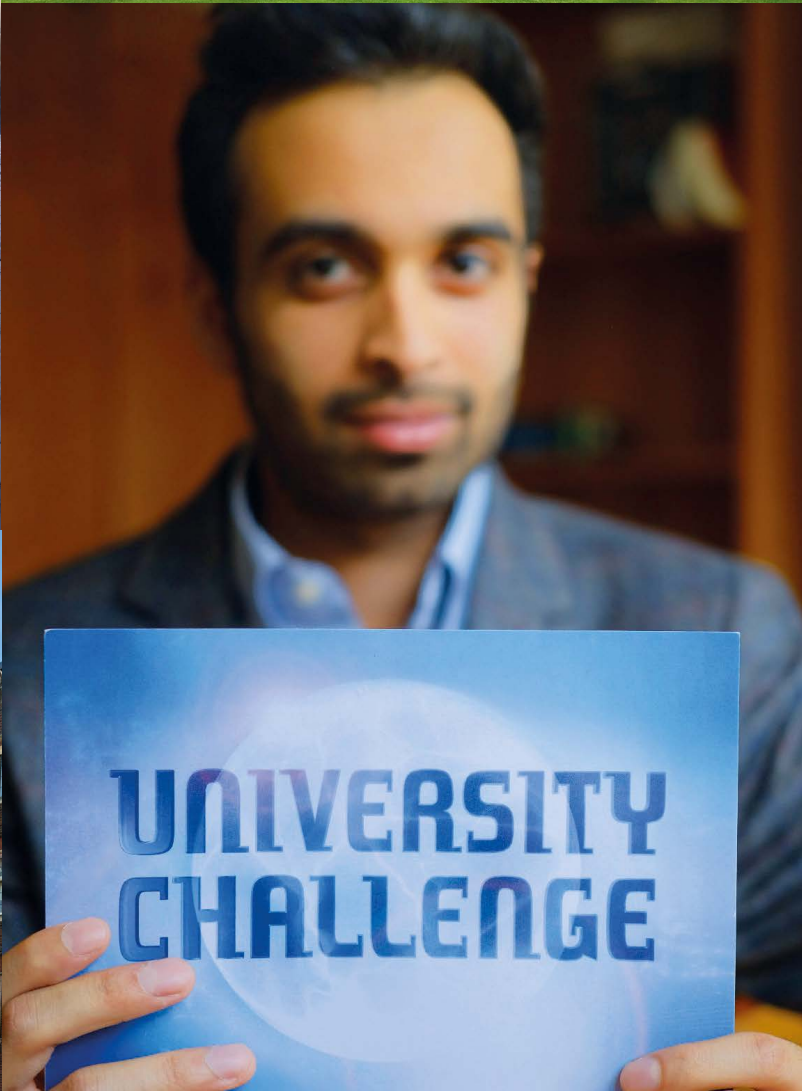
Address:

Admissions Office, Old Divinity School
St John's College
Cambridge
CB2 1TP

Find out more

Complete information about applying to St John's, with full details about the application process, what to expect at interview, and more, can be found at: www.joh.cam.ac.uk/applying-year





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