



WHAT TO BRING TO CAMBRIDGE

We have put together a rough guide of what we think you should bring to university with you as a fresher. Hopefully this list will help to get you prepared and thinking about what you want to bring. Keep in mind that a lot of this is suggestion and it really depends on you and what you want to/need to bring.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Paperwork

Make sure to bring all the correspondence sent to you by your college in advance, as well as your Student Finance letters, NHS details, and some form of ID.

Clothes

Make sure to bring something warm, the temperatures in Cambridge drop faster than you'd think. A good pair of walking shoes/trainers are a must, especially with the pandemic walks with friends, which have become very popular. If you have them, you may also want to bring some formal clothes - think a nice dress, a suit, or a shirt and smart trousers: you'll probably be attending at least one fancy dinner during your first term. For your matriculation ceremony, most colleges will require you to wear a black suit, a white shirt and black skirt or a black dress, plus black tights and formal shoes. Check with your college for the exact rules, but if you can bring any of these items it could save you a last minute shopping trip.

Bedding

If you're moving into college accommodation, your room will have a bed with a mattress, but you may need to bring your own pillow and bedding. Your college should let you whether bedding is included.

Crockery, cutlery, mugs

Although the type of kitchen you will have varies across colleges and accommodation sites, you'll probably need at least some basic crockery and cutlery. It's a good idea to bring distinctive crockery and cutlery as things tend to get mixed up over the course of the year, so anything that stands out as obviously yours is best. A good selection of mugs for spontaneous tea-gatherings is also a great way to make friends.

Laptop

Though all colleges have well-equipped computer rooms for you to use, your own laptop will make your life a lot easier. If you are worried about affording one, your college will have hardship funding available for academic related costs, so you can consider applying for this.

Extension leads

Your college won't provide these so you might want to bring your own.

Decorations for your room

You'll be living in your room for a whole year; do bring anything that makes you feel more at home. Photos, cushions, posters, you name it! We recommend bringing command strips rather than blu tack for posters, pictures and wall hangings.

Clothes hangers

Unless your room's previous occupant left some behind for you, there won't be hangers in your wardrobe.

Stationery

You'll definitely need some stationery, but if you can't fit everything in your luggage don't worry! There's plenty of stationary shops in Cambridge.

WHAT YOU DON'T NEED

Gown

Most colleges will require you to wear a gown which you'll wear for matriculation, graduation and for some formal occasions. You can buy your gown once you get here, either from one of the two outfitters in town or from your college (first & second hand). Postgraduate students can purchase or hire a gown from Cambridge SU directly and all funds raised go back to supporting the student community.

Furniture

Your college room will have everything you need - or at the very least, a bed, chair, desk and storage space. If you do need anything like extra lamps, you're better off getting it in Cambridge rather than bringing it with you. Remember, everything you own will have to leave with you when you move out.

Books

Textbooks are often very expensive, and Cambridge has countless libraries where you can find everything you need - especially for your first year - so we wouldn't recommend buying books in advance unless you're specifically told to do so. Even then, you can probably find second hand copies online or asking people in the years above if they'd want to sell theirs on.

Microsoft office and other software

If you don't have a Microsoft Office package, don't bother getting one before you arrive. Your university account will be able to claim Office 365 ProPlus for free. If you need any specialist software for your degree, the University will have a free subscription for it, so check before you end up buying your own expensive software.

A car

Students are not allowed to bring cars to Cambridge without applying for a licence from the University, which can be done here: www.proctors.cam.ac.uk/motor-control

Pre-bought freshers' event tickets

You'll see a lot of companies, particularly clubs, trying to sell you Freshers' Week passes before you arrive. Check with your college freshers' coordinators before you buy anything as they will probably have their own plans for nights out and activities you won't want to miss out on! Also look out for the [Official Cambridge SU Offer Holders' group](#) on Facebook as other unofficial imposter pages crop up which can cause confusion!

WAIT AND SEE

Kettle, toaster, sandwich maker...

Even if your college doesn't supply these you'll probably end up with about five of each in your staircase kitchen because everyone else has brought their own. Wait until you know what you need or to coordinate with your neighbours.

Bike

Many students have a bike to cycle to lectures and supervisions, but many don't find it necessary. If you're at a central college, you're unlikely to have to go anywhere for university that's further than a 15 minute walk. Wait and see if you need a bike when you get here, and consider getting a second hand one! There's always hire bikes around as well if you want to use one to see the sights around Cambridge.

Printer

Some people find having their own printer useful for those last minute essay or coursework deadlines, but your college's public printing facilities