



WELCOME GUIDE 2021



MICHAELMAS TERM CARD



ONLINE WELCOME AND Q&A

6th October



DISABLED STUDENTS' SOCIAL

9th October



STUDENT COUNCIL

11th October



POLITICAL FRESHERS' WEEK

11th - 14th October



WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN FORUM

12th October



MICHAELMAS ELECTIONS

1st November



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

6th November

Be sure to visit our events page on www.cambridgesu.co.uk/whatson for information about dates, times, & locations.



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WELCOME

Hello!

We're very excited to be welcoming you to Cambridge as you begin your undergraduate or postgraduate journey!



Your SU Presidents: Anjum & Zak

We're committed to being a powerful and effective voice for all students. It's our role to support you throughout your time here at Cambridge, and to work collaboratively with you on issues that will improve your personal student experience and the University as a whole. Although this year has the potential to be less dramatically marked by COVID-19, we'll continue to work to ensure that the University is providing a fair, accessible and high-quality educational experience for everyone as teaching and research moves to a more hybrid format of in-person and online. We want to push ahead with a bold agenda for transforming Cambridge in order for it to be the best institution

that it can be. We're fired up to work hard on issues that range from improving student mental health, decolonising the curriculum, scrapping the postgraduate application fee, and implementing bold climate action policies. This guide gives you a whistle-stop tour of Cambridge SU, who we are, what we do, and more information on how you can get support from us throughout the year. It'll also outline how you can get involved in campaigning for positive change within the University. We're looking forward to meeting you and lobbying the University on your behalf to make your Cambridge experience as joyful and rewarding as possible!

Anjum & Zak

YOUR CAMBRIDGE SU

Cambridge SU is the representative body for all students at the university. You automatically become a member when you join the university. We are a new organisation, resulting from the merging of the previous SU and Graduate Union, so now represent all undergraduate and postgraduate students under one banner.

Officers are elected from within the student body in Lent Term of every year and begin working full-time in July. We are committed to representing student interests, whether that be on university committees, through our campaigns representing different constituencies, or through our Advice Service.

Getting involved in the SU is easy, and this guide contains information about what we do, the events we run, and how our democracy works.

YOUR SABBATICAL OFFICERS



YOUR SABBATICAL TEAM



AMELIA (she/her)

ACCESS, EDUCATION & PARTICIPATION OFFICER (PG)

My role is to represent, relay concerns, and organise students on the issues of access to postgraduate study across the University. The postgrad experience shouldn't be sidelined, I want to make sure postgrads are able to participate fully in student life. This year I'm campaigning for more/easier to find postgrad funding, improved rights and support for PhD students who supervise and to get rid of the extortionate postgrad application fee. Feel free to come to me with any concerns or suggestions throughout the year!

 /SUAEPPG

 @SU_AEPPG

ZAYNAB (she/her)

ACCESS, EDUCATION & PARTICIPATION OFFICER (UG)

My role has two different, interconnected sides. On the education side, I liaise with Academic Reps to work on important matters across Faculties and Schools. The Access side involves tackling the barriers faced by certain students who are underrepresented at the University. I also run SU access projects, like the Shadowing Scheme for prospective students. I'm excited to work with Access Officers on different J/ MCRs and societies, to ensure the amazing work students do is supported and recognised by the University. This year I'll be fighting for a University that's inclusive and accessible, in both its education and outreach provision.

 /AEPUGSU

 @SU_AEPUG





TARA (she/her)

BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC (BME) OFFICER

As BME Officer, I represent and advocate for students of colour at Cambridge. I do this by working closely with the BME Campaign to ensure ethnic minorities here have a chance to get involved in student activism as part of a welcoming and diverse community. I also sit on committees and take part in working groups so I'm able to lobby for the institutional change needed for this university to be the best place possible for people of colour to thrive in. My main focuses this year are on improving funding for mental health support, pushing for disciplinary procedure reform and increasing BME intake!



/CAMBRIDGESUBME



@SU_BME

ANNA (they/them)

DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

I represent disabled students within the University. My role is multifaceted - I am here to both help in building community for disabled students through the Disabled Students' Campaign (DSC), and also to represent and campaign for the rights of disabled students at a university level. This year I'll be pushing for more accessible online education, working on a scheme to make May week accessible for all, and pushing to overhaul the exam system. Throughout the year I'll also be working with the DSC to run fun social events for our community. Get in touch if you have any questions!



/SUDISABLED



@SU_DISABLED





ANJUM (she/her)

PRESIDENT (PG)

I represent the interests of postgraduate students at University level committees and campaign on issues that affect the postgraduate student experience. My priorities for this year include lobbying the University to scrap the postgraduate application fee, campaigning for improvements to the doctoral supervision system, ensuring that the needs of postgraduate students are addressed by the University's mental health strategy, making certain that the work of the liberation campaigns extends to postgraduate communities, and pushing the University to take meaningful actions towards tackling the climate crisis.



/SUPRESIDENTPG



@SU-PRESIDENTPG

ZAK (he/him)

PRESIDENT (UG)

I represent undergraduate students' interests on various different University committees, as well as supporting and working with JCRs and student campaigns to help them achieve their objectives. I also chair the SU Exec, which brings together representatives from across Cambridge SU's campaigns and other student representatives. This year, I'm going to be prioritising ensuring that the week 5 reading week is fully implemented by Michaelmas 2022 as well as working towards more ambitious, justice-based climate action policies across the collegiate University.



/SUPRESIDENTUG



@SU-PRESIDENTUG





BEN (they/them)

WELFARE & COMMUNITY OFFICER

In my role, I work to improve welfare provisions at Cambridge, tackle structural issues on which student welfare depends, and support students, staff and community groups with their campaigns and projects. I work closely with J/ MCR Welfare Officers and coordinate welfare training and the Sexual Health Scheme. My priorities are to reduce wait times and working with students from liberation groups to remove barriers to accessing welfare support; reforming the reporting procedures for those who experience racial/sexual harassment or other harms whilst at university; and campaigning for better support for intermitting students.



/BEN.SU.WELFARE



@SU_WELFARE

MILO (they/he)

WOMEN'S OFFICER

I represent students of marginalized genders on University committees, and support the work of the Women's Campaign. The Campaign has weekly forums, which can be for political organising, or providing community space. Some of my focuses are developing the consent workshops, ensuring provision of free period products, and continuing to build an inclusive and welcoming Women's Campaign.



/SUWOMENS



@SU_WOMENS



SU CAMPAIGNS

The SU Campaigns represent and campaign for students' rights on issues that affect their education and welfare. The SU Campaigns also organise their own events throughout the year, from panels and political forums to socials. They are a great way to get involved in political organising, meet others from marginalised backgrounds, and get involved in student activism. The SU Campaigns are:

- Black and Minority Ethnic Students Campaign (BME)
- Class Act Campaign
- Disabled Students' Campaign (DSC)
- Ethical Affairs Campaign
- International Students' Campaign (ISC)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students + Campaign (LGBT+)
- Women's Campaign (WomCam)

“ The Disabled Students' Campaign has been an amazing resource to have and community to be a part of in my first year. They've really helped me feel like I belong here as a disabled student. ”

TOM
Disabled Students' Campaign's
Trans Officer (2021-2022)



Cambridge SU has seven Campaigns; six Representative Campaigns and one Issue Based Campaign.

Representative campaigns exist for specific groups of marginalised or underrepresented students. The Representative Campaigns are accountable to those students through forums. Students that self-identify into the membership of a representative campaign are able to vote in their elections and attend their forums.

Issue Based Campaigns are open to all students, and exist to campaign on a specific set of issues. Issue Based Campaigns are accountable to all students through Student Council and all students can vote in their elections.



SU CAMPAIGNS

REPRESENTATIVE



ISSUE BASED



BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC CAMPAIGN



The BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Campaign is a liberation campaign committed to anti-racist work at the University. We campaign on behalf of students who identify as BME to create safe spaces, lobby the University for institutional change, and provide support. The committee is made up of a team of students who also work with and support the BME Officers at every college. We run socials for BME students to foster a space for celebration, forums to inform and collectivise the work we do, host speakers, and much more! The BME Campaign is a space for celebration, with a team ready to bring change. If you identify as BME, then you can join us at our events, shape the work we do and be involved in creating it: find us on social media or on the SU Website. See you then!



/CambridgeBME



@CambridgeBME



@cambridgeBME

CLASS ACT CAMPAIGN



Cambridge SU Class Act represents and campaigns for any students at the University of Cambridge who self-identify as having experienced social, educational, cultural or economic disadvantage. This could mean lots of different things, like being working-class, low income, first generation, care experienced, estranged and much more. We also act as a network for students with similar experiences who often feel out of place in the wider University. We have lots of Facebook group chats, host lots of events, and have a super welcoming and friendly community!



/CambridgeClassAct



@classactcamb

DISABLED STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN



The Disabled Students' Campaign is a community representing students at the university, both undergrad and postgrad, who identify as disabled. Disabilities which come under the DSC umbrella include but are not limited to, physical disabilities, mental health issues, learning disabilities, neurodivergences, mobility impairments, sensory impairments, and chronic illnesses. We will never ask you to prove your disability, and no diagnoses are required - if you think the Disabled Students' Campaign may be beneficial to you, then you are always welcome! We run socials, online peer support groups and chats, film nights, talks and much more! We also work with Anna, the SU Disabled Students' Officer to campaign on important issues to disabled students and push for reform in the university – Find us on social media and get involved!



/CambridgeDSC



@CambridgeDSC



@CambridgeDSC

ETHICAL AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN



This year, our Campaign will be orientated towards the themes of Land, Physical and Activism Spaces. Focusing on:

- Climate justice. Ensuring the implementation of the University's decision to divest from the fossil fuel industry, and encouraging all colleges to follow this lead.
- Land ownership. Recognising colleges and the University as major landowners, developing a map of land ownership across Cambridge.
- Justice 4 Workers
- Prioritising care in activism spaces
- Develop a community forum by Spring 2022, to engage groups and campaigns across the city.

Stay tuned in for our Political Freshers' Week. Drop by our weekly open meetings, and look out for events and direct action on our social media!



/EthicalAffairs



@ethicalaffairs



@ethicalaffairs

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN



The International Students' Campaign (ISC) represents, campaigns for and runs events for the international community at the University of Cambridge, advocating for the interests of international students and serving as a central body for all international societies and affairs. To celebrate our vibrant community, our events - such as International Freshers Week, International Food Festival, International Formals and more - are designed to help you meet new friends from across the globe. In addition, ISC campaigns for international students on access, anti-discrimination and health issues at Cambridge. Feel free to reach out to us via our Instagram or Facebook page!

 /internationalstudentcampaign

 @isc_cambridge

LGBT+ CAMPAIGN



We are the Cambridge SU LGBT+ campaign. We aim to campaign for LGBT+ rights and liberation, look after the welfare of LGBT+ students, organise social and academic events, and represent the LGBT+ community of Cambridge. Throughout the year we will be running events, from casual catch-ups; to campaigning workshops; to welfare drop-ins; to events that cater to specific parts of the community. We also run an online zine, Get Real., which exists to platform LGBT+ voices and issues. The campaign is overseen by an elected committee who manage the campaign and represent all parts of the LGBT+ community. If you're interested in getting involved, make sure to check out our social media and come to our events, and feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or queries. We look forward to meeting you!

 /cambridgesulgbt

 @cambridgesulgbt

 @cambridgesulgbt

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN



WOMEN'S
CAMPAIGN

The Women's Campaign is a space for students who identify as women and/or have gender identities which include "woman". We do feminist organising and political work, but also provide community and run social events. Every week we have the WomCam Forum, which anyone identifying with the campaign can come to and get involved, regardless of experience! Campaign activities are led by our full time Women's Officer and an elected student committee. If you are interested in feminist organising then make sure you come to our Fresher's events - we love to see new faces and hear your ideas!



/CambridgeSUWomen



@cambridgewomcam

“ I'm so glad I got involved in womcam during my time at cambridge - it's been so great getting involved with such a friendly and welcoming campaign and i'd recommend to anyone looking to discuss and tackle issues related to feminism in cambridge or just to meet like-minded people! ”

KATIE THACKER

Women's Campaign Secretary
(2021-2022)



PORTFOLIO OFFICERS

Alongside your full-time sabbatical officer team and the SU Campaigns, the SU Executive Committee also has four “portfolio officers”, who are elected to represent specific groups of students to the SU and University, and lead campaigns on issues affecting those students. We'll be running elections in Michaelmas for our other portfolio officers, which are:

Part-Time Students' Officer

This officer role represents students who are studying courses at the University part-time.

Double-Time Officer

Double-time is where students study an undergraduate course over an extended period of time for health reasons.

Mature Students Officer

Mature students at Cambridge are undergraduates who were 22 or older at the beginning of their course, or postgraduates who started at the university when they were 25 or older.

Student Families Officer

This officer role represents students who are responsible for children as a parent or as a guardian during their time at university.

Could any of these roles be you? We'll be running elections for the portfolio officers this Michaelmas term and we'd love to hear from you. If you'd be interested in representing these groups of students and their issues, or getting involved with the SU, get in touch with Matt, our Democracy and Representation Manager for the SU:

matt.kite@cambridgesu.co.uk



HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT LIFE AT CAMBRIDGE?

THE STUDENT ADVICE SERVICE OFFERS FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND INDEPENDENT ADVICE, INFO, SUPPORT, AND REPRESENTATION TO ALL CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

Our friendly, professionally trained team of advisors is here to chat about any concerns you might have during your time at Cambridge - from academic issues and taking time out of your studies, to personal issues and resolving disputes, and everything in between! They'll help you explore your options, support you in resolving problems, and can also represent you within your College or the University. They can advise you by email, phone, or video call appointment. The Student Advice Service is open 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday, year round.



www.cambridgesu.co.uk/advice

advice@cambridgesu.co.uk

01223 746999



STUDENT
ADVICE SERVICE



SPORTS CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Cambridge has close to 1,000 student-run clubs and societies, both university-wide and within colleges. This means that there is a chance for you to get involved at whatever level suits you.

Cambridge SU runs a directory where clubs and societies can have a page advertising what they do and publish their events. You can find all of this via the directory on our website:

www.cambridgesu.co.uk/societies

Students often say that it was being a part of a club or society that really made their time at university. There are groups to suit all interests. If you think something is missing, you can start your own!

This year, the SU has added new support for clubs and societies, with dedicated staff support and a new website that allows clubs and societies to add videos, photo galleries, news and events calendars to their directory listing.



“Getting involved in University level sports was an amazing opportunity to meet people from outside of my college and course. The chance to engage in social events, team training and inter-University competitions allowed me to cultivate a space separate from my academics and keep a healthy work-life balance!”

MILO EYRE-MORGAN
Cambridge SU Women's Officer
Member of the CU Women's Basketball Club

“ Being part of the Physics Society committee has been a wonderful opportunity to make friends across year groups, and get to know some of the academics working at the Cavendish. I’ve organised events like pub quizzes, careers panels, and even intersociety events such as Varsity Sci, held in collaboration with other Oxbridge science societies. Weekly talks given by prestigious guest speakers from all over the world have also been a great way to hear about new and exciting developments in the field, and broaden my knowledge beyond Tripos! ”



ALMA
3rd year Physicist
Member of the Physics Society

CU AMERICAN FOOTBALL & WOMEN'S RUGBY CLUBS





GETTING AROUND

CYCLING

Cycling is a great way to get around Cambridge quickly, and you can get a cheap bike second hand. Make sure you have a helmet, lights if you're cycling after dark, and a bike lock. Before a ride you should check your tire pressure (your tires should feel firm with a very small amount of give) and that your brakes are working. You should also do regular maintenance checks to make sure your bike is safe to use, such as cleaning and oiling your bike chain and checking the frame for wear and tear.

BUSES

Buses in Cambridge are regular and accessible, and are a great way to get to the less central areas of the city, such as the West Cambridge site, the University Sports Centre, or Addenbrookes hospital. Timetables are viewable online, and via the app "MyBusTrip" which is useful for journey planning. The cheapest way to travel by bus is usually by purchasing a day ticket, which is around £5 on Stagecoach buses, and £3 on the Universal bus. The Universal also offers £1 single tickets for uni students. The SU is campaigning to improve the Universal bus route to allow it to better serve colleges like Homerton and Girton. More info on Cambridge buses is available here: <https://bit.ly/cambridgebuses>

TAXI'S

Whilst they're not the cheapest option, taxis can be a lifesaver! With multiple local taxi companies and Uber in Cambridge, it's a good idea to make sure you have the number/app for at least one of the companies on your phone. Here are a couple of companies you could use:

Panther Cabs: 01223 715 715 and via their app

Camcab: 01223 704 704 and via their app

AI Cabs: 01223 313 131 and via their app

If you're a disabled student who needs taxis to get to class, you might be able to get funding for this via applying for Disabled Students Allowance.

GUIDE TO CAMBRIDGE

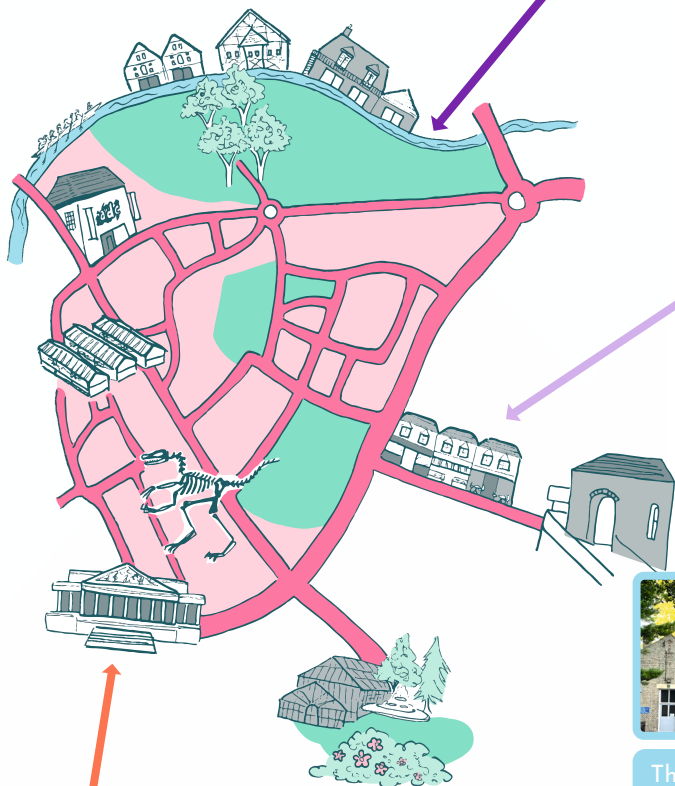
Cambridge can be a confusing town to navigate. Here are some tips and tricks from to help you make the most out of your time here!



There are lots of green spaces in central Cambridge (e.g. Jesus Green, Christs' Pieces and Midsummer Common) or further afield (e.g. Fen Ditton and Grantchester Meadows).



Aside from Sainsbury's and the Grand Arcade in the centre of town, there's plenty of places to shop for food and other essentials - many are cheaper or offer different ranges of products. Check out the Grafton Centre (good for thrift shopping!), or you could walk down Mill Road, which has lots of international supermarkets.



The University has museums with free entry for students. Look out for exhibitions and events throughout the year at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard, Sedgwick Museum, or stroll around the Botanic Gardens on a sunny day.



The Lime Tree Clinic on Mill Road offers sexual health advice and services including contraception and STI and HIV testing and treatment. There are GP practices in central Cambridge that cater to students and you can register with the one you prefer.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Life as a Cambridge student is full of exciting opportunities, but it can also be intense and it's easy to get overwhelmed. Make sure you put your wellbeing first: rest when you need to and make time to enjoy yourself.

There are lots of ways to make student life more manageable, so seek out the resources, learning adjustments and financial support available to you, and remember that no deadline is more important than your mental health. If you're struggling with anything, let somebody know! This could be your tutor, DoS, college nurse, someone in your faculty, a counsellor, one of the Student Advice Service advisors, a J/MCR Welfare Officer, or whoever you feel most comfortable talking to.

CAMBRIDGE SU STUDENT ADVICE SERVICE

The Student Advice Service (advice@cambridgesu.co.uk) provides free, confidential, and impartial advice and support for all Cambridge University students - from academic-related issues and mental health issues to dispute resolution and University/College regulations.

THE DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Disability Resource Centre (DRC) provides everything from guidance on assessments and reasonable adjustments to study skills, mentors and much more. You can get in touch with them at any point during your time at Cambridge, and they can help you get a diagnosis or disclose a condition if you haven't already.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELLING SERVICE

The University Counselling Service (UCS) provides students with free counselling, workshops, and group sessions. There is also a specialist Sexual Assault and Harassment Advisor based within the service who provides support for survivors of sexual violence.

NIGHTLINE

If you need to talk to someone at night, Nightline (**01223 744444**) is a student-run anonymous listening line that runs from 7 pm to 7 am during full term.

SEXUAL HEALTH

Cambridge SU provides free sexual health products (from condoms and dental dams to pregnancy tests) that you can access anonymously via your college Welfare Officer.

BLACK ADVISORY HUB

The Black Advisory Hub (**contact@blackadvisory.hub.cam.ac.uk**) is a new service within the university offering information about welfare, academic, financial and careers support to Black students at Cambridge.

CHILDCARE

The Childcare Office (**childcare@admin.cam.ac.uk**) provides support for students and staff with children. Cambridge SU runs a Parent and Toddler Group every Friday during term time, 10am-12 noon.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ACCOMODATION SERVICES

If you are having any accomodation issues, The Cambridge University Accommodation Service (**universityresidences@admin.cam.ac.uk**) provides free accommodation advice for anyone coming to the University as visiting scholars, members of staff, and anyone studying full time here.



COVID-19 GUIDANCE



It's going to be a very different year to the last, but it's understandable to be worried about COVID-19 and staying safe.

GUIDELINES

The minimum guidelines are as set out by Public Health England. The University also has its own guidelines, to be followed by all members, which can be found on its website. Your college may also have specific rules or guidelines - contact your J/MCR to find out more about these.

HOW TO GET A TEST

If you have symptoms, been in contact with someone who's tested positive, had an unclear test or need to confirm a positive result, or have been told to get a PCR test by a doctor, you can order a free PCR test on the government website or via the University. Most students are eligible to participate in the University's Asymptomatic Screening Programme for weekly PCR tests, and you can also order free lateral flow tests through the NHS.

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Different people are going to have different comfort levels as restrictions lift. It's important to talk to the people you live with and share spaces with, about what they are comfortable with. Some people might want to continue to wear masks in communal areas, have people test before coming over, or maintain some social distancing indoors. This should be discussed clearly and people's boundaries should be respected. All of us are going to be getting used to large groups of people again. It's normal for this to be overwhelming at first, and it's fine if you need to take things slowly.





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WHAT YOUR SU HAS ACHIEVED

Over the years, the SU and its predecessor organisations (CUSU/GU) have campaigned to ensure students at Cambridge receive the best University experience. Here are some of our biggest achievements in the last year:

READING WEEK

Our campaign for the introduction of a Reading Week, following wide consultation with faculty reps, J/MCRs and the general student body, led the university to establish a Reading Week Working Group to produce a practical proposal for implementation. There is still a lot of work to be done, but the Reading Week looks closer to becoming reality than ever before!

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The SU and student campaigners worked to secure £1 million extension funding for self-funded doctoral students whose research was delayed by the pandemic. We secured a safety net in Easter 2020 for finalists, and have supported academic reps to negotiate alternative examination methods, mitigations and adjustments throughout 2020-21. We lobbied the university to expand its asymptomatic testing scheme which was crucial in preventing larger outbreaks.

NSS BOYCOTT

Our ongoing boycott of the National Student Survey is now in its fifth year. Our members have repeatedly voted to boycott the NSS because its data is used to justify tuition fee increases, it promotes superficial rather than structural changes and is shown to disadvantage BME and women academics.

ACCESS & WIDENING PARTICIPATION

We successfully negotiated for the university to establish a BPA (Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Arab) Access and Participation Working Group, with seats for current students. This July the University held its first open day for disabled students, thanks to the work of our Disabled Students' Officer and members of the SU Disabled Students' Campaign.



WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON THIS YEAR

As sabbatical officers, we all have our own individual goals for the year, but we'll also be collaborating on various projects as a team. Some of our shared priorities this year include:

- Tackling the student mental health crisis by reducing wait times for services and ensuring that they are well-funded, while also addressing structural factors that cause or exacerbate welfare issues, such as high workloads, high rents and institutional racism.
- Seeing through last year's proposal to introduce a Reading Week in the middle of term with no set work, to give students an opportunity to rest and prioritise their wellbeing and catch up on missed work earlier in the year.
- Campaigning for urgent action on the climate crisis within the University, including moving net zero targets forward to 2030 and ending wider links with the fossil fuel industry.
- Improving the doctoral supervision system by introducing more support for supervisors and their PhD students.
- Introducing compulsory anti-racism training for pastoral and teaching staff across the collegiate University.
- Reforming disciplinary procedures to ensure instances of racism, sexual violence and all forms of harassment and misconduct are taken seriously.

If you're feeling inspired to get involved, you can get in touch with any of the officers on Facebook or by email!

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR DEGREE

Academic Reps are the voice of students in faculties, departments and schools.

You have the opportunity to run as a Rep or elect one in your subject and department.

This is an exciting opportunity to actively shape the educational experience that Cambridge offers its students!



ACADEMIC
REPS

Reps take students' ideas and concerns to faculty and department meetings, advocating on behalf of students, and organising with their peers to foster a subject community. Often individual Reps will also engage with the broader network of academic reps across the university, as well as with the SU, to share knowledge and work collaboratively for change.

OTHER ACADEMIC REPS & THE SU

STUDENT SUBJECT
BODY

.... ACADEMIC REP

FACULTY, DEPARTMENT
& SCHOOL BOARDS



“Being a student representative was a fantastic opportunity to engage with my cohort and faculty and ensure an open dialogue was maintained and needs and interests were met, whether logistical, socio-political, or wellbeing.”

EDOARDO CHIDICHIMO
Music UG Rep (2020-2021)

“As School Rep, I love being in touch with the student voice, gaining leverage to liaise with officials and being at the heart of the Student Union to ultimately influence the trajectory of our Cambridge experience!”

ABIOLA OGBARA
School of Social Sciences UG Rep
(2020-2021)



The Academic Rep role will be more important this year than ever, as the pandemic has resulted in significant alterations to teaching and learning. In positive terms, this means that there is more online and blended learning across Cambridge. This means there will be more options, and lectures and classes will be more accessible. Reps want to hear about your academic concerns and ideas so they can make the most of them. You can identify them easily by logging into the Cambridge SU website.

Interested in becoming an Academic Rep yourself? Elections will take place in November 2021 for this academic year. Once elected, you'll receive training from the SU and continued support from staff, who will help guide you in your Student Rep journey. You can find more information on our website:

www.cambridgesu.co.uk/academicreps

If you're interested in becoming an Academic Rep, or learning more about what our Reps do, get in touch with Kate, our Student Rep Coordinator for the SU:

kate.mcintosh@cambridgesu.co.uk

ACCESS WORK AT CAMBRIDGE

As a student at Cambridge you'll have plenty of opportunities to take part in access projects and initiatives that support fair access to Cambridge. Your SU supports students to run access projects, and student societies and JCRs also do lots of work to make Cambridge accessible to all. The SU also empowers students to contribute to the University's long term goals for improving access by working with student societies and campaigns.

SHADOWING SCHEME

The Cambridge SU Shadowing Scheme is one of the UK's biggest residential access schemes, and offers current Year 12 and mature students the chance to come to Cambridge and 'shadow' a current undergrad. The purpose of the scheme is to share an honest, student-centered view of Cambridge in the hopes that as a result students from backgrounds underrepresented in Higher Education will be more likely to make successful applications to Cambridge. Being a mentor is a fantastic way to share your knowledge and be part of a community of volunteers who are changing Cambridge for the better. Sign up to be a mentor here:

www.cambridgesu.co.uk/shadowingscheme



POSTGRADUATE ACCESS

Postgraduate access is a relatively new issue the University has turned its attention to, and we're excited to be involved in this work this year. If you are interested in postgraduate access to Cambridge, join the conversation in the PG Access Facebook group (<https://bit.ly/pgaccessgroup>) and be sure to contact Amelia, your PG AEP Officer.

THE CAMBRIDGE ACCESS MOVEMENT

Originating as CambTweet, a scheme where students doing a range of different subjects tweeted about their daily life, this project has expanded into an online movement aiming to demystify Cambridge by sharing the real life experiences of students. You can find them on social media, on the #CambTweet hashtag and you can register an interest to get involved here: forms.gle/1YihUTAemzANvVUT9

CAMBASSADORS

CAMBassadors are student volunteers who collaborate with the Cambridge Admissions Office to run events designed for prospective students. As a volunteer you receive training and will then be called upon to participate in access events, from panel discussions to tours, which you can get involved in on a flexible basis.

INSIDEUNI

This project is designed to demystify the Oxbridge application process by providing extensive and widely accessible information online - everything from interview testimonials to webinars. If you'd like to help students navigate the admissions process, you could get involved in InsideUni, who aim to make admissions more accessible by sharing extensive information about the process online.

COLLEGE OUTREACH

There are also a huge range of access schemes and initiatives run by colleges, and you can get involved by speaking to your college Access Officer!





STUDENT DEMOCRACY

Cambridge SU along with every other Students' Union in the country is run by you, its members! Our role is to protect the interests of students at Cambridge, by representing students on university committees and campaigning for changes to be made to make Cambridge a better place for all of us. We play an important role in shaping how the University looks and ensuring that it works in the interests of students. To help us do this we rely massively on student input. We want to make sure that students are right at the heart of Cambridge SU's work. As such, there are a variety of different channels through which you are represented at Cambridge SU, from the college to faculty to university level.

IT'S YOUR SU

First and foremost, the SU exists for students. Any student can get involved and has an equal say in what the SU does. Our sabbatical officers (sabbs) are elected democratically so that what you want and need guides what we do. We want to make Cambridge work better for students.

SU POLICY

Students have full control over the policies the SU advocates for. There are a range of democratic mechanisms through which students can mandate the SU to take action on issues important to them, whether that's change within the SU, the University or officers lobbying on a local or national level. In the last year students have written policies about sexual health, supporting student movements, PhD funding, and more!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is where policy is proposed and voted on, and sabbatical officers are held accountable to delivering on the manifestos that got them elected. Council happens every two weeks during term, and has votes from postgraduate and undergraduate representatives of each college, the SU Executive (see below), and academic schools representatives. Any student can attend council, participate in discussion, and propose motions. To find out when the next council is and how to attend, visit the SU Website.

WHO ARE THE SU EXECUTIVE?

The SU Executive oversees the SU's political work and makes decisions about who carries out SU policy. All members of the Exec are democratically elected. The SU Exec consists of the sabbatical officers, representatives from each of the SU campaigns, and portfolio officers, who represent particular student constituencies.

SU ELECTIONS

SU elections happen in every term. Academic reps, SU Campaign officers, NUS delegates, and the full-time sabbatical officers are all elected through SU elections. Any of these roles are a great way to get involved in making change in the University and ensuring student voice is strong. You can find out which positions are being elected next and how to run on the Cambridge SU website!



JCRS/MCRS

Your JCR/MCR is the representative body for students in your college. They come under different names depending on the college, but you should have met them or been in contact with them during college induction events!

They are elected student committees who represent the students of your college and organise events. JCR stands for Junior Combination Room and represents undergraduates, while MCR stands for Middle Combination room and represents postgraduates.

The SU works closely with JCRs and MCRs, helping them share good strategies for making changes across colleges, providing them with resources, and training elected representatives.

At least twice a term we host College Forum, where the co-Presidents of the SU bring together JCR and MCR representatives to discuss common issues and strategies for solving them. JCR and MCR committees vary, but will normally have an elected president, welfare officers, liberation officers and 'ents' officers.

Elections take place every year and being on a committee is a great way to make changes in your college while supporting fellow students. Every JCR and MCR has the right to send a member to SU Council and vote on behalf of their students.

In addition to your JCR/MCR, you will have an MCR and JCR representative to your College's College Council, which is its overarching governing body. Running for this role is another great way to get involved in making change within your College!



JARGON BUSTER

Blue

A sporting award given to students who compete against Oxford at University-level sports.

Bop

Short for 'big organised party' usually put on by college entertainment officers.

Cuppers

Intercollegiate sports tournaments which occur at least once a year.

DoS

(Director of Studies)

Usually a Fellow who oversees your academic studies.

Fellow

An academic affiliated to a college.

Formal/Formal Hall

A traditional dinner held in your college's dining hall - you may be expected to wear a gown & formalwear.

Gown

Academic dress worn at Cambridge.

Intermission

Pause academic studies for a period of time for personal reasons.

JCR

(Junior Combination Room)

College-level student union representing the undergrad student body.

May Week

Confusingly refers to a week in June full of balls to celebrate the end of exams (it used to be in May!)

MCR

(Middle Combination Room)

College-level student union representing the postgrad student body.

Pidge

Your college pigeon hole.

Plodge

Your college Porters' Lodge.

Stash

Clothing associated with a club or society.

Swap

Social event held by two societies in order to meet new people outside of your circle.

The Union

Debating society which charges membership fees, not to be confused with the Students' Union (Cambridge SU), which is free!



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FIND US



Our address is:



**17 Mill Lane
Cambridge
CB2 1RX**

Due to the pandemic, our offices are unlikely to be fully open to students for at least Michaelmas Term. Once our building reopens, you can find our reception, where you can access our services, and the Student Advice Service, on the first floor.

In the meantime, we offer a range of support and opportunities for you to get involved with on our website so make sure you check it out!

FOLLOW US



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www. www.cambridgesu.co.uk



SERVICES

The SU offers a wealth of services to support you in your studies.

E-SHOP

To keep our services accessible during the pandemic, the SU launched an online shop. In Michaelmas your SU e-shop will provide a range of essential services, via click and collect for contactless sales.



GOWN SALES

A competitively priced range of BA & MA gowns are available for purchase from the Cambridge SU e-shop and for collection from our office at 17 Mill Lane.



SU PRINT SHOP

The SU Print Shop provides low cost, quality printing for thesis, dissertations, posters, flyers and zines. Our shop offers printing and soft binding. The service is operating on a click and collect basis, more information can be found on our website.



SEXUAL HEALTH SUPPLIES

J/MCR Officers are able to collect sexual health supply packages, and individual students will also be able to collect sexual health supplies on a click and collect basis.



For more information on the range of services your SU provides, visit:
www.cambridgesu.co.uk/services

CAMBRIDGE BUCKETLIST

GET INVOLVED WITH CAMBRIDGE SU

- ☐ Follow Cambridge SU and the 8 sabbatical officers on social media (you could win a prize!)
- ☐ Visit the Freshers' Fair (online or in person) on 5th & 6th October/Attend an SU event (see termcard for more details)
- ☐ Sign up to the mailing list of a society at the Fresher's Fair

GET TO KNOW CAMBRIDGE

- ☐ Visit another college (as a student you have free access to all colleges!)
- ☐ Go punting
- ☐ Visit the Cambridge Central Mosque on Mill Road or attend Evensong at a college chapel
- ☐ Have a wander around Market Square
- ☐ Visit one of the University of Cambridge Museums or the Botanic Garden (free entry for current students!)
- ☐ Explore beyond the town centre - head to Mill road, Fen Ditton, or Grantchester Meadows
- ☐ Watch some student theatre at the ADC or another venue



BECOME A SHADOWING SCHEME MENTOR!

The Cambridge SU Shadowing Scheme brings around 250 prospective students to Cambridge for three days in January and February. It's aimed at students from backgrounds that are underrepresented in Higher Education, and who would otherwise not have the opportunity to visit Cambridge and get to know current students.

We're looking for students to volunteer to be mentors. During the three day scheme you'll be shadowed by your mentee, take them to lectures, show them Cambridge, and answer their questions about University life.

As a mentor you'll make a huge difference to your shadow, and you'll be part of a team that's changing Cambridge for the better.

Find out more and apply by 24th October at:
www.cambridgesu.co.uk/shadowingscheme



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CAMBRIDGE
— CLUB —



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For details on membership or a tour of the Club house on Pall Mall, scan the QR code, visit www.oxfordandcambridgeclub.co.uk or call 020 7321 5198

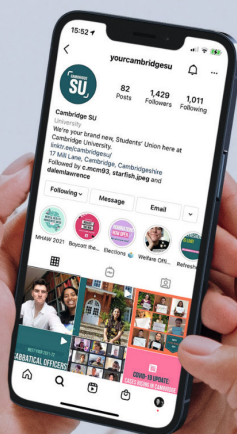
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FOLLOW YOUR SU ON INSTAGRAM!

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