



The **FRESHERS'** Guide to Robinson College

PRODUCED BY THE RCSA





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Welcome to Robinson!

We're the 2023/24 committee of the Robinson College Students Association (RCSA), undergraduate students at Robinson who are elected by the student body to represent student issues on a college level. You can find out more about us on our Instagram @robinsoncollegejcr and website rcsa.co.uk!

We'll be doing our best to help you settle in at Robinson and make your Freshers' Week as enjoyable as it can be!

This guide should provide you with a summary of all the information you might want to know before arriving in October, and during your first few weeks here.

Lots of information can be found on the College website, but this is designed to act as a supplementary resource that should hopefully help to answer any questions you might have.

We look forward to meeting you in October!

The Robinson College Student Association Committee, 2023-2024



Welcome to Robinson!



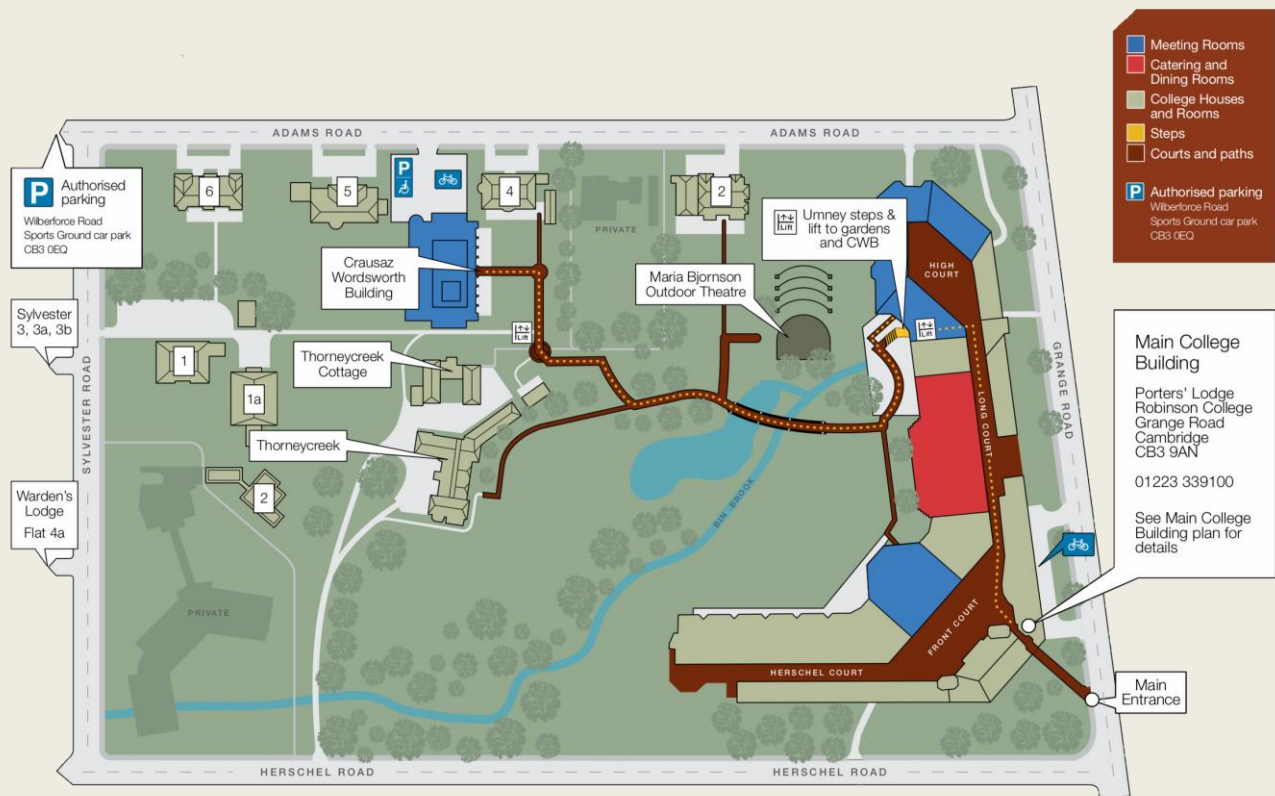
What is Robinson Like?

Established in 1977, Robinson is one of the newest Cambridge colleges. We enjoy the traditions you would expect at a Cambridge college, but within modern buildings made almost entirely of (in case you haven't noticed) bricks.

Robinson is renowned for being a friendly college, and our students come from all over the world. Since all undergraduate students live on the same site, you'll get to know your year group really really well, as well as students in other year groups. There are plenty of ways to get involved in College life and to make the most of the time you'll be spending at Robinson.

Robinson is located less than a ten minute walk (or a three minute cycle) west of the city centre, situated directly behind the University Library. It is very close to both the arts faculties on Sidgwick Site and the science buildings in West Cambridge. The main building is comprised of four courts and behind it you can find the College gardens, where you can spend time outside and are even allowed to walk on the grass - unlike many other colleges!

Finding Your Way Around



Key Staff Members

Sir Richard Heaton

Warden

rnh26@cam.ac.uk



Dr Scott Annett

Senior Tutor

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Revd Dr Simon Perry

Chaplain

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Karen Tate

Head of Welfare and Wellbeing

klt45@robinson.cam.ac.uk



Keisha Sharp

Accommodation Officer

ks610@robinson.cam.ac.uk





Living at Robinson

Undergraduate accommodation runs throughout the whole main College building, which is separated into lettered staircases. On your staircase, there will be a mix of students from all year groups, with a kitchen on the both the top and bottom floors.

There are also College-owned houses on streets that run along the main site, where many students choose to live in their second or third year at Robinson.

There are five types of room at Robinson:

- **Best** rooms are the largest and have ensuite facilities.
- **Standard Plus** rooms are slightly smaller but also ensuite.
- **Standard** rooms are slightly smaller still and share bathroom facilities between two rooms.
- **Standard Shower** rooms are slightly smaller than standard rooms and have an ensuite with a shower.
- **Value** rooms are smallest and share bathroom facilities between three rooms.

TOP TIP:

You can read descriptions and reviews of all the rooms in College on the RCSA Rooms Database: <http://rooms.rcsa.co.uk/#home>

What's in my room?

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓ Bed | ✓ Wardrobe | ✓ General and recycling bins |
| ✓ Desk | ✓ Approx. 6 hangers | ✓ Desk chair and lounge chair |
| ✓ Bedside table | ✓ Desk lamp | ✓ Notice board |
| ✓ Coffee table | ✓ Bedside lamp | ✓ Radiator |
| ✓ Shelves | ✓ Kettle | ✓ Multiple plug sockets |

What is a bedder?

Bedmakers (or 'bedders') are the College housekeeping staff. They work Monday-Friday and in a normal term would change your sheets once a week and empty your bins twice a week, as well as cleaning the kitchens on your staircase every day.

When you arrive on your first day, you will be told which day of the week is your 'Bedder Day' – every week on this day, you'll need to leave your sheets outside of your room before 9am so they can swap them and leave clean sheets outside your door for you to change your bed.

What's in my kitchen?

There is a kitchen at the top and bottom of each staircase. Most are shared between around eight students.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| ✓ Two hobs | ✗ Freezer |
| ✓ Microwave | ✗ Oven |
| ✓ Fridge (with ice box) | ✗ Toaster |
| ✓ Cupboards | ✗ Pots and pans |
| ✓ Washing up liquid, scourer and cloth | ✗ Cutlery and crockery |
| ✓ Tea towels | ✗ Cooking utensils |



Accommodation FAQs

Do I need to bring my own bedsheets?

The college provides two pillows, one single duvet and one mattress protector. You will need to provide your own linen.

Can I stay in my room outside of term time?

Like other Cambridge colleges, Robinson hosts a lot of external conferences, which means that conference guests stay in the rooms during the vacation periods. The termly residence usually runs from the Saturday before term begins until the Saturday after it ends. If you need to stay in your room outside of these dates, you will need to request permission to do so by emailing Mrs Keisha Sharp (ks610@cam.ac.uk).

What is included in the residence charge?

The residence charge includes rent, electricity, water, IT and domestic services. There is no additional kitchen fixed charge or charge for utilities, and there is no charge for normal levels of internet use.

Can I put a fridge in my room?

If you wish to put a fridge in your room, it must be registered with the Housekeeping Department. It should be a small refrigerator (no more than 50 litres) and must be taken home during each vacation.

Can I choose where I live?

In your first year, you are randomly allocated a room in your chosen band. The order for choosing second year rooms is determined by a randomly drawn ballot, the order of which is reversed in third year.



The Garden Restaurant

The Garden Restaurant (GR) is the canteen in Robinson. It is open for three meals a day and brunch on weekends. The food at the GR is some of the best in Cambridge. There are always meat, vegetarian, vegan and halal meals, which can be served with vegetables and sides to create a meal deal.

Opening Hours

Also available are the following:

- a soup of the day
- a pasta, snack/jacket potato bar
- an extensive salad bar
- fresh fruit
- a wide range of hot and cold desserts

Breakfast	<i>Mon-Fri</i>	07:30 - 09:00
Lunch	<i>Mon-Fri</i>	12:20 - 13:40
Brunch	<i>Sat/Sun</i>	12:00 - 13:30
Dinner	<i>Mon-Fri</i>	18:00 - 19:15

Note: There is no GR food on the weekend, but the RBC does serve hot meals at 6pm. Also note that during Freshers' Week the timings will be slightly adjusted in order to suit your activities so make sure you check the timetable!

Paying for food

As well as cash or debit card, you can pay for food in College using your student card. GR purchases are taken off of your online EPOS account. This can be topped up online (<https://meal.robinson.cam.ac.uk>). You will be able to top up your card on the arrival day in October.

Red Brick



The Red Brick Café Bar

Conveniently located in the heart of the College, the RBC is open every day, with a large flat screen TV, daily papers, wifi, comfy sofas and a cosy environment. It's a great place to grab a bite to eat or catch up with friends. The RBCB usually becomes a bar in the evening, with regular karaoke nights, quizzes and screenings of sports matches. It also hosts the Robinson College Annual Beer Festival, which is always hugely popular throughout the university. You can also follow them on Instagram @red_brick_cafe_bar

The café offers hot and cold drinks, as well as a huge range of food options:

- Paninis, wraps, sandwiches and sushi
- Freshly baked pizza from 6pm
- Evening meals on Saturday and Sunday
- Desserts, cakes and sweets
- Yoghurt, smoothies, juice and fresh fruit
- Homemade milkshakes
- Crisps, cereal bars and healthy snacks
- Groceries, such as pasta, milk, bread and cheese

Opening Hours

<i>Mon-Thurs</i>	09:30–23:00
<i>Fri</i>	09:30–23:30
<i>Sat-Sun</i>	11:00–23:00



Other Facilities

Formal Hall

Formals are three-course meals served by waiters, which take place twice a week at Robinson, on Tuesday and Friday evenings. They are more expensive than eating in the GR or RBC (£13.70 for members, £21.40 for guests) but are really enjoyable for special occasions, such as birthdays or when friends or family are visiting. You are allowed a maximum of 3 guests at each formal. Dress code is smart casual (with gowns!). Formals need to be booked online in advance using the following link: <https://meal.robinson.cam.ac.uk>

Laundry

There are two launderettes in College – the main one beneath the Porters' Lodge (basement level on Teaching Room staircase) and the second one adjacent to 4 Adams Road. Both have washing machines and driers operated through an app system by our laundry contractor WashStation. To use WashStation, download the Washnet app then create an account. Load the washer or drier which you are using, then select the corresponding machine on the app. Select the correct cycle based on your clothes' care labels, proceed with the payment, and start the machine

Wifi

There is free wifi throughout College, which you can access as a Robinson student using your CRSid, as well as through Eduroam. See for instructions on connecting to eduroam: <https://help.uis.cam.ac.uk/service/wifi/connect-to-eduroam>

Libraries



The **Robinson Library** is situated in Front Court. The library is open 24 hours and contains all the main books you will need for your course, which you can borrow throughout your time at Robinson. They are organised by subject matter across the three floors. There are also plenty of workspaces, with rows of desks, individual rooms and relaxed seating areas – there will be limits on capacity due to COVID-19 but our librarian Judith will give you all the information you need about this upon arrival.

You can check whether a particular book is available in the library by looking it up in the library catalogue, which can be found here:
<https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/Heritage/>

All the information about the library can be found here:
<https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/college-life/library>

As a Cambridge student you also have access to all of the **department libraries**, as well as the **University Library**. The UL is right across the road from Robinson – it's a copyright library, which means it has a copy of every book that is published in the UK.

You can borrow books from any of the libraries – just register your card at the desk. All of the libraries have different feels to them and you should try out try out different ones to work out which you prefer working in. You can find out about all the different workspaces and cafés in Cambridge on a website called **Spacefinder**, which allows you to search and filter locations by a variety of criteria (e.g. noise level, natural light, layout). Check it out at <https://spacefinder.lib.cam.ac.uk>.



Extracurricular Activities

College Societies

Societies are an important part of life at Robinson and there is a huge range of societies that you can get involved in.

Whatever you enjoy – whether it's film or hockey; gardening or choir; video games or croquet – you'll be able to find a society you'll want to join! If you wish there was a particular society that doesn't already exist, you can easily set up your own society by speaking to the RCSA Sports and Societies Officer.

If you're someone who enjoys sport, joining a sports society is a great way to keep fit and have fun in a more relaxed environment than university-wide sports teams. If you represent Robinson at a sport, you'll get to play against other Colleges – it's also a great way to meet students in different years.

To see all of the sports and societies currently available at Robinson, follow this link: www.rcsa.co.uk/societies.



University Societies

There are over **500 clubs and societies** that you can join at any point during your time at Cambridge, including 52 university-wide sports clubs.

During Freshers' Week there will be a virtual **Freshers' Fair**, where you can meet representatives from each society and sign up if you're interested.

Members of the RCSA will show you how to access the Freshers' Fair website at cambridgesu.co.uk

Robinson doesn't have a gym, but the **University Sports Centre** in West Cambridge offers discounts for Robinson students on their pay-as-you-go, termly & annual memberships. Just show your CamCard when you sign up.

A list of all University societies can be found here:

www.societies.cam.ac.uk

A group of about ten young adults, mostly students, are posing for a photo at what appears to be a social event. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with some blue and purple stage lighting. A semi-transparent white box with the word 'Social' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Social

Robinson is famous having the best bops in Cambridge!! A bop is like a club night but takes place in the college's Bop Room, and the RCSA runs one every Friday night! The drinks are very cheap (remember to bring cash!) and all bartenders, DJs and stewards are Robinson students. They are great fun and very popular. You can see the lovely (but often embarrassing) photos on the Robinson Ents Facebook group.

The JCR

The JCR (Junior Combination Room) is a social space which is next to the bar and open to all undergraduates at Robinson. There are lots of new, comfy sofas and chairs, as well as a big flatscreen TV, a huge range of board games and a pool table.

The JCR is free for anyone to use at any time, and is a very popular space when Eurovision, Love Island and football matches are on!



Freshers' Week

Freshers' Week is essentially an opportunity for you to meet other Freshers and settle into life at Robinson before term starts. There are a mix of compulsory and non-compulsory activities, and members of the RCSA Committee will be around throughout the week, so if you have any questions at all, please just ask!

Arrival Day

When you arrive in College you will be greeted by members of the RCSA who will be around all day to help you. When you arrive, you can expect to do the following things:

- 1) Collect the key for your room from the Porters' Lodge.
- 2) Sign in by showing some form of ID & receive your University Card.
- 3) Move into your room. There will be members of the RCSA in Front Court who will be able to show you to your room!
- 4) Once everyone has arrived there will be activities so you can meet other students and start settling into life at Robinson.

The schedule of the week will be waiting in your room when you arrive, but it will involve a range of activities, including:

- **Matriculation** (Photos, Buffet & Matriculation Events)
- Ice breaker activities
- Talks on the RCSA, managing finances and welfare
- A quiz, karaoke, film night and bar crawl
- Events organised by the LGBT+, BME, Women's & Men's Officers
- Tours of Robinson College and the city of Cambridge.
- Two Robinson bops!

The City of Cambridge



Cambridge is a beautiful and vibrant city with a huge student population. You'll be able to go on tours of the centre during Freshers' week, but here is a snapshot of what Cambridge has to offer. The city centre is less than a 10 minute walk from Robinson, or only a couple minutes if you cycle.

Living Supplies

- *Grand Arcade*
 - John Lewis
 - Tiger
- *Grafton Centre*
 - Poundland
 - Primark
 - Wilko
- *Sidney Street*
 - Lakeland
 - Ryman
 - Sainsbury's

Cafés

- Fitzbillies – *Trumpington St, Bridge St*
- Michaelhouse Café – *Trinity Street*
- Hot Numbers – *Trumpington Street*
- Indigo Café – *St Edwards Passage*
- Stir – *Chesterton Road*
- The Rainbow Café – *King's Parade*
- The Old Bicycle Shop – *Regent Street*
- Waterstone's Café – *Sidney Street*
 - *Espresso Lane, Botolph Lane*

Drugstores & Cosmetics

- Boots - *Sidney Street*
- Superdrug - *Sidney St, Grafton Centre*

Grocery stores

- Sainsbury's – *42-45 Sidney Street*
- Marks and Spencer – *Market Square*
- Tesco Superstore – *Newmarket Road*
- Aldi – *Histon Road*

There are **two large shopping centres** in Cambridge: Grand Arcade (in the centre) and Grafton Centre (on the other side of town).

It is easy to have packages shipped to College – just put the delivery address as Robinson College, and your letters and parcels will be left either in your pigeon hole in the Porters' Lodge, or with the Porters themselves.

General FAQs

Do I need to bring/buy a bike?

Robinson is very close to both West Cambridge and the city centre. Whichever subject you do, a bike is useful but not essential at all! If you are looking for one, get a cheap bike with a good quality lock from one of the many second hand bike shops in the city.

Are there bursaries and support funds outside of the student loan?

Yes! Here is the RCSA guide on all the support that is available:

<http://www.rcsa.co.uk/files/documents/RCSA-Funding-Guide.pdf>

Do I need to register with a GP in Cambridge?

Yes. The College Nurse will help you register you with a GP. However, if for whatever reason you wish to visit a GP on your own, Newnham Walk Surgery is the closest to Robinson College. Bring your ID when you go, know your current GP name and address, and other relevant details such as your NI/EHIC number.

How do I obtain a proof of address for a student bank account?

Ask Ms Jane Hall at jh814@cam.ac.uk.

Can I store items in college during holidays?

There are lockable overhead cupboards in lots of rooms. This and the lockable kitchen cupboards are good places to store items over the Christmas and Easter break, but must be cleared out for the summer. The Trunk Room can be used for storage over summer and is operated by the Porters. Local students are permitted one item, whereas international students and those requiring a long journey can store three.

Can I practise music in my free time?

Robinson College Music Society is very active and runs the music room booking system together with the Porters. You can check the timetable at the Porters' Lodge and select the time you would like to use the music room. The Chapel can also be used whenever it is free. Music practice in your room is discouraged after 10pm and in exam term.

Cambridge Lingo

When you arrive in Cambridge, you'll find that there are a lot of strange abbreviations and names given to things that you'll encounter. No need to memorise them, as once you're here you'll get to grips with them really quickly – but it might be worth taking a look !

In College

Bedder – Your bedmaker. Bedders are housekeeping staff who come into students' rooms once a week in the morning and clear out the bins, make your bed, vacuum the room and clean the bathroom.

Bop – Basically like a school disco with student DJs, cheap drinks and fun themes. At Robinson, these take place every Friday in the Party Room and are organised by the Ents (Entertainment) Officers.

College parents – Students in the year above, who will help welcome you to the College and answer any questions you may have.

DOS – Your Director of Studies, who oversees everyone in your course and acts as your point of contact for any academic plans or concerns. You will meet with them at least twice a term to check up on progress.

Fellow – A member of academic staff in College.

Formal – A formal dinner held in College, where you wear gowns.

JCR – Junior Combination Room, where undergrads can relax and socialise. The JCR can also mean the organisation that represents undergrads in College – at Robinson, this is the RCSA.

MCR – Middle Combination Room: the same as JCR, but for graduate students.

Pidge – Pigeon Hole. A space in the Plodge (see below) that acts as your letter box during your time in Cambridge. They are shared between five to six students.

Plodge – Porters' Lodge at the entrance of each College.

Porter – College staff based in the Porters' Lodge who are a good point of contact for any queries, issues and emergencies.

Tutor – The Fellow (see above) responsible for your personal and pastoral welfare during your time at Cambridge. This is the person to contact if you have any concerns to do with your well-being.

Warden – The head of our College (usually the Master at other colleges).

The University

Alumnus – A former student of the University.

Tripes – This is the name of a university examination, but essentially describes the subject you are studying. For example, if you are a Maths student, you will be sitting the Mathematical Tripos.

Cantab – Another name for Cambridge. Students from The Other Place (see below) call Cambridge students ‘tabs’.

Caesarian Sunday – A Sunday before exams start when everyone at the University goes to Jesus Green for a day of fun in the sun.

Faculty – The name for a department of the university.

Freshers – First year students.

Matriculation – A ceremony in College during Freshers’ Week where students are formally admitted to College.

May Ball – The balls held by many Colleges in May Week, at the end of the academic year. They are basically an all-night party with unlimited food, drinks and entertainment.

May Week – The week of relaxation after exams when most May Balls, June Events, Garden Parties take place.

Punt – The long, flat-bottomed boats that go up and down the River Cam. They are used for guided tours down the river or self-hire.

Supo – A unique component of the Cambridge teaching system (called ‘tutorials’ at The Other Place). They’re generally where most of your learning takes place, in small groups with an academic.

The Other Place – Our long-time rival, Oxf*rd.



Extracurricular

ADC – The Amateur Dramatic Club, the leading University-wide drama society and the main source of Cambridge student theatre.

Blue – Sporting colours awarded by certain University clubs after an annual ‘Varsity Match’ against Oxford.

Blues – The University’s first team for any sport. For example, if you are in the ‘Hockey Blues,’ you play for the first team and will compete in Varsity.

Boat Race – The annual Varsity rowing competition between Oxford and Cambridge. The crews race down the Thames and it is broadcast on the BBC. It is hugely popular with students, alumni and the public.

Bumps – The inter-college rowing race that takes place in Lent and Easter terms. All crews start at the same time with a length and a half of clear water between each boat. A boat wins by ‘bumping’ the boat in front.

Cuppers – Inter-college knock out competitions in different sports.

CUMS – The Cambridge Uni Music Society, which runs various ensembles.

Footlights – The student comedy society.

RAG – Raising And Giving, a uni-wide charity organisation with reps in every college who organise events throughout the year.

Tab – An online student magazine.

Thesp – Slang term for an actor.

Varsity – Sporting (and other) contests between Cambridge and Oxford. It is also the name of the University of Cambridge's student newspaper.

The City

ARU – Anglia Ruskin University: another university in central Cambridge.

Addenbrooke's – Cambridge’s hospital.

Backs – The area of Cambridge that backs onto the river. It is named for the backs of the Colleges which run along the river (Queens’, King’s, Clare, Trinity Hall, Trinity and John’s).

Cindies – Actually called Ballare, this is one of the Cambridge nightclubs.

The Vans – The Trailer of Life (a.k.a. **Van of Life**) and Uncle Franks (a.k.a. **Van of Death**). These are the two food trucks on Market Square, which are a compulsory stop for cheesy chips on the way back from a night out (unless you go to the Gardenia (a.k.a. **Gardies** instead).

Looking Ahead



Before Freshers' Week

- Read this guide and all information sent to you by college!
- Set up your raven account.
- Set up your email (you will start getting important emails!).
- **Talk to your college parents** when they have been allocated.
- Save the phone number of the Porters' Lodge: 01223 339100.
- Get a Nectar Card, Unidays or any student discounts you'll use.
- Make a facebook account – simply because it's how most events are publicised. Do also join the Robinson College Freshers 2024 and Robinson College Students Facebook groups.
- Set up a student bank account.
- Follow RCSA on Instagram: @robinsoncollegejcr
- Ask us anything you're unsure about! If you have any questions regarding Freshers' Week, you can email freshers@rcsa.co.uk

Some useful things people sometimes forget:

Towels, a laptop, cooking equipment, cutlery, crockery, documentation, laundry bag, sports equipment or kit, cash, decorations, formal clothes...

if there are kitchen items left over that previous students haven't claimed then Housekeeping will give you a chance to take anything that you need. There are also lots of shops in Cambridge so don't worry if you forget something.

Relax and enjoy these few weeks –
we can't wait for you to join us!



University

Cambridge SU – for information about societies, support and events: <https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/>

CamSIS – to register for your papers and exams <https://www.camsis.cam.ac.uk/>

CamCORS – where you receive your supervision reports <https://www.camcors.cam.ac.uk/>

Moodle – lecture notes and resources <https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/>

DS-Print eCredit Top Up <https://ecredit.ds.cam.ac.uk/>

iDiscover – the database of books in all libraries <https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk/>

Spacefinder - a tool that lets you search for libraries in Cambridge by a range of different criteria <https://spacefinder.lib.cam.ac.uk>

Raven setup <https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/studentregistry/current/yourinfo/studentregistration/index.html>

Email access <https://help.uis.cam.ac.uk/service/email/email-introduction/>

Free Microsoft Office <https://help.uis.cam.ac.uk/service/collaboration/365>

Eduroam <https://help.uis.cam.ac.uk/devices-networks-printing/network-services/wireless/eduroam/>

College

Robinson College <https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/>

RCSA <http://www.rcsa.co.uk/>

Garden Restaurant Menu <https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/college-life/garden-restaurant-menu>

Formal Hall Booking System/Food Purse Top Up <https://meal.robinson.cam.ac.uk/>

RCSA Rooms Database <http://rcsarooms.soc.srcf.net/>

Washstation Laundry set up and top up <http://www.washstationstudent.co.uk/>

Heritage - Robinson Library catalogue <https://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/Heritage/>

Welfare

Resources for international students www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/tier-4-responsibilities/
www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/collecting-your-visa-brp/

Nightline <https://cambridge.nightline.ac.uk/>

SU Advice Service <https://studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/>

Uni Counselling <https://counselling.cam.ac.uk/>

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