



Studying at Fitzwilliam

Undergraduates

The best of the old and the new

This is our College motto and we think it represents Fitzwilliam perfectly. Ours is a thriving and diverse community of academics, staff and students from all over the UK and the world!

We are a famously friendly college, although not without our own quirks and traditions. Our College mascot is the billy goat, and you'll spot him popping up all over campus.

Fitzwilliam was founded in 1869 to broaden access to the University, and we're proud of our history. We admit students from all backgrounds strictly on the basis of academic ability and promise.

Academic standards are high, and Fitzwilliam College provides a stimulating environment in which research and intellectual life are taken very seriously. Our researchers, past and present, have strong international profiles, and the College has no fewer

than six Nobel Prize winners. Our high levels of academic and pastoral support mean that our students can reach their full potential.

Our site, set around the extensive gardens of a Regency estate, is often described as one of Cambridge's hidden gems. Our students comment on the tranquility and the sense of 'coming home' after a day spent studying. Our beautiful gardens are there to be enjoyed – everyone can walk on the grass (and ducks, squirrels, hedgehogs, woodpeckers, a fox and even deer have been known to pay a visit). Whilst we are away from the hustle and bustle of the usual tourist track, we are ideally placed between the two main sites of faculty buildings to exploit all that Cambridge has to offer.

"Fitz dispels every myth you've heard about Cambridge. It's a down-to-earth and welcoming college, full of friendly faces. What makes Fitz special is our sense of community; students have so many opportunities to get involved in College life."
Sophie



Photo: Alan Davidson



Photo: Perry Hastings

"The new accommodation in A block is fantastic. My room is light, modern and spacious, and having an en suite shower makes it even better."

Katie



Living at Fitzwilliam

Accommodation

All Fitzwilliam undergraduates live in College accommodation for the duration of their course. First years are housed on the main College site, seconds away from our academic and recreational facilities and surrounded by our beautiful gardens. Second, third (and fourth) years ballot for rooms. Our second years have the option of balloting for rooms either on our main site or in College houses, a few minutes walk away.

All student rooms have network connections and/or wi-fi; many have showers. Laundry facilities are on site.

Our first-year accommodation has undergone extensive refurbishment, to create a modern apartment feel with a large communal space on each floor. However, most students agree that it's the access to great facilities on the doorstep, the friendly, community feel and the wonderful gardens that make living at Fitzwilliam such a great experience.

Living at Fitzwilliam

Food and Communal Spaces

The College Buttery serves lunch and dinner and is a popular meeting place for students. Alternatively, Formal Hall (think three courses, candles, gowns) takes place twice a week and is popular with students celebrating birthdays, or just wanting to have a special meal with friends. Unusually for Cambridge, our students have access to good kitchen facilities, meaning they are able to prepare their own meals if they wish.

We also have a fantastic café, which caters for all members of the College. The café serves breakfast (which is very popular – you have to be quick to get a sausage or

bacon bap in the morning!), snacks, panini and sandwiches (vegetarian and vegan options always available) at lunch times, and a great selection of home-made cakes, coffee, tea and cold drinks. It also provides a relaxed setting in which some students choose to work and others come to chat with friends. Teaching Fellows and staff use it regularly too, and it provides a setting in which academics and students can (and do) interact in a more relaxed environment.

In the evening, the same space becomes the College Bar. A Junior Common Room and a TV room are also provided as alternative communal spaces for students.



Academic, Pastoral and Financial Support

"My Director of Studies takes an active interest in my studies and is constantly there to guide me. Not only through the academic side of university life, but also with managing time and stress."

Joe

Photo: Alan Davidson

Academic Support

Every student has a Director of Studies, who organizes the small group teaching that is central to Cambridge's system (supervisions) and oversees their progress in their course.

Some supervisions will take place in Fitzwilliam, but Directors of Studies can choose supervisors from other colleges too, and this enables students to access the expertise of scholars in their subject from the whole University.

At Fitzwilliam we pride ourselves on our high levels of academic support and we cater for all subjects. Our Directors of Studies are very dedicated, and we offer support in acquiring study skills throughout the degree. The courses themselves are often supplemented by events, trips, and talks put on by subject societies.



An English supervision.
Photo: Perry Hastings



Pastoral Support

Everyone needs to know that there are people they can go to in confidence to discuss personal difficulties or concerns, and Fitzwilliam has a very strong pastoral team to cater for this. Every student is assigned to a Personal Tutor, who is there to advise and help on a range of matters, whether personal, health-related, financial or academic. But we also have a wider team to help with specific concerns. Our College nurse and College counsellor have years of experience in providing support to our students, and can be consulted in complete confidence. The College Chaplain offers confidential support to people of all faiths and none. The tutor can also refer students to University services or the local GP surgery which is a very short walk from the College's North Lodge.

Financial Support

We are strongly committed to the principle that no student should be deterred from studying with us due to financial hardship. To study at Fitzwilliam is not expensive. The overall cost of living in Cambridge is relatively low. The short Cambridge terms and the fact that we offer College accommodation for the duration of the degree means that it is much cheaper to rent a College room in term time than to have to rent housing for the whole year in the private sector. In addition, we have excellent provision for student support beyond the University bursaries, including College bursaries, Goldman Sachs bursaries, Student Opportunity awards and several subject-related funds for travel, books and maintenance.



“The bursaries I have received have been more than just monetary gifts; it’s knowing that someone else is recognising the difficult places you’ve come from to get to Cambridge.”

Savannah



Facilities

The Olisa Library and IT Centre

Fitzwilliam has one of Cambridge's newest college libraries, open 24 hours a day to all resident members of the College, with over 45,000 books, excellent IT facilities and plenty of study space. The collection is specifically geared to the needs of our students, and the librarians keep up with the faculty book lists in all the subjects. Students are also encouraged to request additional books they need.

The top of the tower is one of the highest points in Cambridge, and we are justly proud of both the building, which is lovely to work in – with stunning views – and our librarians, who are friendly and caring (to the point of providing biscuit breaks for students in exam term!).



Photo: Gillian Skeritt



The Auditorium transforms into a badminton court.
Photo: John Cleaver

Sports Facilities

Fitzwilliam has a strong reputation for sport, with recent triumphs including wins in Cuppers (intercollegiate) cricket and football. Some of our students also compete at the highest level in sports as diverse as rowing and modern pentathlon. But most just enjoy a friendly kick-about, or a less competitive game of mixed netball, and whatever your level, the sporting community is welcoming. We have our own sports ground (only 5 minutes away from the main site) on which are found football, rugby and cricket pitches and tennis courts. A brand new gym and squash courts are on site, and badminton may be played in the Auditorium.



Photo George Salmon

Football Cuppers winners 2018



Photo Richard Heathcote, Getty Images



Preparing artwork for the Winter Ball
Photo: Alison Carter

Music, Drama and Art Facilities

The College is home to numerous musical ensembles, including a swing band, the longest-established female a cappella group in Cambridge (Fitz Sirens), a men's barbershop (Fitz Barbershop) and the Chapel Choir. Our music and drama student societies are very active, and we have good facilities for both. Many students have music scholarships of some sort, ranging from individual instrumental and choral awards to musical scholarships and conducting. Music practice rooms are on site,

and the Auditorium and Chapel are good venues for the frequent concerts given both by our students and by visiting professional musicians. The Fitzwilliam Drama Society also puts on regular productions in the Auditorium, which makes a superb theatre venue.

Our Fine Art Society is also very active. The society has annual competitions and student's art work are hung in the Fitz café during term time. There is an art studio on site for use by resident students.

“As musical director of the female a cappella group Fitz Sirens, it has been my pleasure to lead the group in one of its most successful years to date. The pinnacle of this was our tour to the Edinburgh Fringe with the Fitz Barbershop.”

Anna



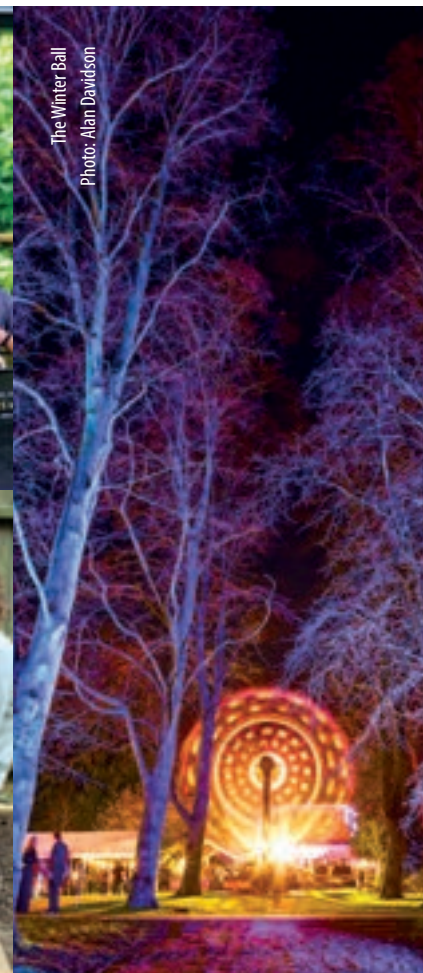
Travel and Other Opportunities

Fitzwilliam students are encouraged to explore the world around them, and many of our students choose to spend time studying or volunteering overseas during their vacations. Generous travel grants are available to enable them to do this, with grants also available for those who wish to pursue music, languages or sport.

Fitzwilliam hosts the radio studio for CamFM, and many of our students participate in radio programmes for this student station. There are also opportunities to get involved in student politics (on the JCR

Committee) and in student journalism (for example on the Fitzwilliam publication 'The Goat Post'), debating (in the very active debating society) or even to be on the organizing committee of our Winter Ball.

There are a huge number of student societies and activities at Fitzwilliam – we even have allotments for the green-fingered! There is a wide range of student-run academic subject societies. Other activities here range from Amnesty to zumba, and there are many more on offer across the University.



The Winter Ball
Photo: Alan Davidson

Applying to Fitzwilliam

The closing date for applications is 15th October (earlier if applying from overseas). For details on how to apply, see the Fitzwilliam College and Cambridge University websites.

At Fitzwilliam, we assess every application individually and holistically. We take into account all the information we have, academic and contextual, and aim to assess your potential to flourish under our teaching system.

We are very happy to answer any questions you might have about Fitzwilliam and the application process. Contact us to arrange a visit so that you can ask questions face to face, or email us any questions or concerns.

Contact us

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Admissions Tutor (Arts)

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FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Photo: Gillian Skerritt.
Cover photo: Pia Spy-Marqués