Trinity Hall
Open Day
Welcome!

1. Trinity Hall
2. Accommodation
3. Choosing a Course
4. Personal Statements
5. Interviews
6. Admissions at Trinity Hall
7. Financial Support

Information given on 2 July 2020
A few facts:

• founded in 1350 (5th oldest college in Cambridge)
• c.380 undergraduates
• c.230 postgraduates
• c.60 academic fellows
• c.130 staff
• c.8,000 alumni, including:
  Marshall McLuhan, Stephen Hawking, Andrew Marr, Rachel Weisz

Trinity Hall has three sites in the centre of Cambridge…
Trinity Hall

BBC = Bishop Bateman Court
Trinity Hall

A mixture of old BBC & WYNG Gardens and new…

Information given on 2 July 2020
Accommodation

The College has many different kinds of accommodation:

- c.£150 per week
- c.£194 per week
- c.£170 per week
- c.£170 per week

Information given on 2 July 2020
A few questions answered:

Q: Can I live at home while I’m a student at Cambridge?
A: No! All students must live in Cambridge during Term while they are students.

Q: Does the quality of your room depend on your academic performance?
A: Not at Trinity Hall! Rooms are allocated fairly in a ballot each year.
Choosing a Course

A few words of advice:

• think about which aspects of your subjects you enjoy most

• read the Faculty / Department webpages

• explore ALL the relevant courses, including ones you may not have heard of before
  • e.g., Land Economy, History and Politics

• find out if your course shares papers with other courses

• find out the exam / coursework ratio (e.g., 80% / 20%)
Personal Statements

A few words of advice:

• write about your academic / super-curricular interests
  • include a short final section about your extra-curricular activities

• be selective, not exhaustive:
  • don’t list everything you’ve read / studied
  • choose the most relevant things and write about them briefly

• show don’t tell:
  • give specific examples; don’t make general assertions about your interests
  • ‘I have always had a passion for History’ ✗
  • ‘I find the power politics of Elizabethan England fascinating’ ✓
A few questions answered:

Q: Do you grade the Personal Statements (PSs)?
A: No! We simply use them to find out more about your academic interests.

Q: Should I make my PS Cambridge-specific?
A: No! The UCAS PS goes to all the universities you apply to, so it should be fairly general. But, you can write an *optional* Cambridge-specific PS when you complete the SAQ.
Interviews

A few words of advice:

• the interviews recreate a small-group teaching environment
• practice talking about your academic subject in advance
• it doesn’t matter what you wear!
• reread your personal statement
• expect to encounter new ideas
• think carefully before answering
• if you don’t understand something, just say so!

Information given on 2 July 2020
Interviews

A few questions answered:

Q: Are the interviews the most important part of the Admissions process?
A: No! We consider all available indicators (e.g., predicted grades, performance in the Admissions Assessment).

Q: Do I need lots of interview practice in advance?
A: No! We don’t expect applicants to have any prior interview experience. Applicants who are over-prepared for the interviews often underperform in them.
A few numbers (for the 2019 intake):

- number of students: 110
- maintained sector: 70.2%
- gender balance:
  - 53% male
  - 47% female
- subject balance:
  - 46% Arts
  - 54% Sciences
A few questions answered:

Q: Do I need to have 10 A*s, or 10 9s, at GCSE?

A: No! We know GCSEs are not a strong predictor of good performance in our University exams.

Q: Are you biased against Maintained Sector schools?

A: No! We’re looking for those applicants who have the best academic ability and potential.

Q: Are you biased against Independent Sector schools?

A: No! We’re looking for those applicants who have the best academic ability and potential.
Financial Support

Main costs:
- **living costs**: approx £9,670 p.a.
- **tuition fees**: £9,250 p.a.

Main types of financial support:
- **Government Tuition Fee Loan**: up to £9,250 p.a.; repaid after graduation when salary > £25K
- **Government Maintenance Loan**: up to £12,010 p.a.; repaid after graduation when salary > £25K
- **Cambridge Bursary**: means tested; up to £3,500 p.a.
- **Cambridge Stormzy Scholarship for Black UK students**: £18,000 p.a. (no need to repay)
- **Financial Support from Trinity Hall**:  
  - **The Enhanced Bursary**: to support students from middle-income families  
  - **The Ben Bursary**: to help with unexpected financial hardship

Information given on 2 July 2020
Useful websites:

https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

https://www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/study-with-us
Any Questions?