Thanks

This Emmanuel College Alternative Prospectus has been written, edited and produced entirely by Emma undergraduates.

We would like to thank the Master, Fellows and staff of the College, particularly Dr Henderson, Lesley Shaw and the Admissions Office, for their support.

This edition has been reworked, energised and revamped by the following people:

Editor: Emma Bonney [ECSU Access Officer 2012]
Contributors: Emmanuel Access Committee, Ella Raff, Glyn Stevens, Chloe Maine, and Ben Kentish
Photography: Emmanuel College undergraduates – thank you everyone!
Design: Ella Raff, Rivkah Brown, Kate Henney

For more information, check out these websites:

College Website: www.emma.cam.ac.uk
ECSU (Emmanuel College Students’ Union): www.ecsu.org.uk
Cambridge University: www.cam.ac.uk
CUSU (Cambridge University Students’ Union): www.cusu.cam.ac.uk
Cambridge Alternative Prospectus: www.applytocambridge.com

There’s also a video version of this alternative prospectus on the ECSU website:
http://www.ecsu.org.uk/prospective_students/alternative_prospectus

Welcome!

Hi, and welcome to Emmanuel – known as Emma by everyone in Cambridge. This Alternative Prospectus has been produced entirely by undergraduates, so we hope it’ll give you an idea of what it’s actually like to live and study here. Emma is famous for being the friendly college, so we hope after reading this prospectus you’ll want to come and be a part of it!

There’s also a fantastic video alternative prospectus on the ECSU website:
www.ecsu.org.uk/prospective_students/alternative_prospectus

If you want any more information about anything you read in here, you can visit one of the websites below:

College Website: www.emma.cam.ac.uk
ECSU (Emmanuel College Students’ Union): www.ecsu.org.uk
Cambridge University: www.cam.ac.uk
CUSU (Cambridge University Students’ Union): www.cusu.cam.ac.uk
Cambridge Alternative Prospectus: www.applytocambridge.com
All about Emma

Yes, we all love Emma, but what makes it so amazing?

Cambridge’s collegiate system means that, as well as being a member of the University, you also belong to one of the 31 colleges. This is one of the best and most unique features of Cambridge, and your college provides a home-from-home in which to live, eat, work, and socialise. Emma is renowned across the University for being the friendly college and for its laid-back atmosphere; this is strengthened by our amazing student-run bar, the paddock with its duck pond and inhabitants, and our fantastic welfare provision. There are plenty of inter-year friendships at Emma, and the ‘college family’ system ensures everyone feels included in the college community right from day one (see page 7 for more about this).

Emma’s location is ideal as we are in the centre of Cambridge, so we are right next to restaurants, shops and clubs, but we’re not overwhelmed by tourists. Sainsbury’s Local is right next door, and there’s a bigger store just five minutes up the road. Parker’s Piece runs alongside college and is lovely for jogging, picnics and sports — the local sports centre and swimming pool are just on the other side of this too. Many faculties are just across the road as well, allowing for that much-needed extra time in bed.

We think Emma is the perfect size: with 505 undergraduates in total, it’s large enough not to feel claustrophobic, whilst having about 160 students in each year means it’s small enough to bump into people you know at dinner, in the library and in the bar. Emma is also a beautiful college, but not intimidating or packed with tourists. Front Court looks gorgeous all year round, and the gardens are wonderful – as are the ducks! The ‘please walk on our grass’ policy makes the paddock a chilled and social space to go with friends, especially in the summer, when we put up tennis courts, have barbecues and eat outside.

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<tr>
<th>Times to...</th>
<th>Walking</th>
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<tr>
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A day in the life of...

...A SECOND YEAR ARTS STUDENT

Name: Ben Kentish

Subject: PPS (Politics, Psychology and Sociology), now called HSPS

From: North London

Reasons for choosing Emma: Mainly its reputation as the friendly college. I also looked round when I was thinking of applying, and loved it. And the free laundry service is a definite plus!

9.15am: Wake up in time for my lecture—just. Convince myself that learning about political thought during the French Revolution is more productive than staying in bed.

10am: Lecture exceeds expectations! The good thing about PPS is that it’s so varied; one day we’re learning about classical thinkers and the next it’s the current situation in the Middle East.

11am: Hit the Emma library for a couple of hours. Lots of people are around and tea breaks are a regular feature. Begin reading for my next essay.

1pm: Mass exodus from the library to get lunch in Hall. Today is pasta bake with salad, followed by apple crumble. We end up spending ages chatting.

2pm: College football training. Go through a few drills and then play a training match.

4pm: Head back to my room, have a shower and a quick nap and then crack on with a bit more work.

6pm: Stop work and have a break with a bit of Playstation in the common room. We’ve got a bit of a FIFA league going between a few of us this term, which is of course treated with utmost seriousness.

7pm: Dinner. We’ve got a proper oven this year so have gone a bit Nigella and started cooking things that don’t only involve a microwave. It’s my turn to cook for everyone tonight so I’ve gone for a chicken and leek pie.

8pm: Time to head down to the Cambridge Union for the weekly debate. This week’s is on the topic of whether fashion is elitist.

10pm: Union bar for a few drinks. I pop into the Emma bar on the way back too.

12pm: Quite a few people are still up so we sit around chatting. I finally get to bed around 2am - not ideal when you’ve got a supervision at 10 the next morning!
A day in the life of...

...A SECOND YEAR SCIENCE STUDENT

Name: Chloe Maine
Subject: Biological Natural Sciences
From: Reading
Reasons for choosing Emma: I met someone from Emma and they were lovely and took the time to talk to me about Cambridge—when I looked round, the other Emma students were the same.

9:30am: Roll out of bed, glance at emails and Facebook while I eat breakfast.
10am: Lecture on Cell and Developmental Biology, one of the 3 subjects I’ve chosen for second year. Sit near the back with friends from labs.
11am: Head to the coffee room in the library – sort out netball admin, as I’m the University captain.
12pm: Pathology lecture with all the medics and vets.
1pm: Lunch in hall – a chance to catch up with all my friends.
1:30pm: Meeting with the Dean to discuss student welfare with other members of the ECSU Committee (I’m the Vice President) – we plan an exam myth-busting session for next term.
2pm: Neurobiology lab – spend a few hours investigating the effects of different drugs on frog muscles, and make some notes for when I have a supervision on it.
5pm: Pathology supervision – get my essay back from last week and go through a topic I found a bit confusing in lectures. Get set some work for next week.
6pm: Cycle home to Barnwell (2nd year accommodation) where a friend has made a big pot of pasta – eat in the kitchen with everyone and plan our Bar Extension costumes for Saturday.
6:30pm: Finish a bit of work for a supervision tomorrow.
8pm: Head to University netball training. Exhausting, but it’s good to work some exercise into my day.
10pm: College bar for an hour and then head back home and have a cup of tea with my neighbour before bed.

Facilities

The Old JCR (Junior Common-Room) has plenty of comfy sofas for relaxing, plus a TV, DVD player and a Wii. There’s a big screen in the bar for sports matches as well – the bar is also open as a common room in the day. If music is your thing, the college has plenty of practice rooms for you to play to your heart’s content. The Queen’s building hosts student society events, talks, concerts and CinEmma, the college’s free film nights. Last but certainly not least, Emma is the only college in Cambridge to provide a free laundry service—just drop off your dirty clothes and then pick them up later washed, dried and folded for you. Simple.

The library: Emma library has the perfect combination of individual and group study spaces, from the Edwardian reading room with its large oak tables to the stunning new build, complete with single desks, IT suite and a common room. It has longer borrowing periods than most faculty libraries and is a sociable yet focussed place to work. Of course, like the rest of Emma, it’s connected to the wireless network, and the librarians are always on hand to help you out. Plus, it’s open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you’re never too late to grab that book.

Sports: There are plenty of ways to get your sporting fix at Emma. The sports ground is just a short cycle away, with pitches for football, rugby, hockey and netball, and if you fancy donning your lycra and getting involved in the Cambridge rowing scene then our boathouse is in a fantastic location on the river. We’re well equipped in college too: a table tennis room, two squash courts, an outdoor swimming pool, a brand new gym - and we put tennis courts on the pad-dock in summer. Page 10 has more details.
Accommodation

One of the best things about Emma is that it offers you accommodation for the entirety of your degree. This means cheap rents, ‘bedders’ (the lovely cleaning staff who keep your room tidy), and being close to your friends, college, and the city centre. The rental period is typically 3 blocks of 10 weeks (based around the three 8-week terms), which is great because you only pay while you’re here, unlike many other universities. There are 8 price bands for rooms, based on things like size, facilities and location – you can say where you want to be on this price scale right from the word go. Living alongside all of your friends is one of the best parts of Cambridge life.

First Year

First years live in one of two courts in college, South Court is more modern, contains the bar and is very close to the library, whilst North Court is older and more aesthetically pleasing. They’re only two minutes away from each other, so it’s a great way to be close to everyone in your year, helping you to settle in and meet people quickly.

All rooms have access to a shared bathroom and ‘gyp room’ (a kitchen with basic cooking equipment), and each room is guaranteed to have a bed, desk, mini-fridge and wardrobe. College are also just finishing building a fantastic new block of rooms by South Court, all complete with en-suites!

Second Year

Second Year students are split between college and college-owned houses and hostels. The furthest ones are only a 10-minute walk or 5-minute cycle away, so you’re still close to college and the centre of Cambridge, but the chance to live out, with more cooking facilities, lets you experience more independent student life. Having college as your landlord takes the hassle out of everything from rent to leaky taps – just report it to the porters and someone from the maintenance team is round to fix it right away.

Third Year

The accommodation choices in third year (and beyond) are definitely a case of saving the best until last, as you get first pick out of everyone.

All third years are guaranteed a room in college, including easy access to the library and the much-loved laundry service. Rooms range from spacious, traditional ‘sets’ (like flats) overlooking the paddock, to more modern rooms which have their own en-suites and mini-kitchens.

A day in the life of...

...A FIRST YEAR ARTS STUDENT

Name: Ella Raff
Subject: English
From: Oxford
Reasons for choosing Emma: I loved the beautiful buildings and the big open spaces. Emma is right in the centre of Cambridge but it’s so peaceful within the grounds.

8:30am: Wake up the morning after a night out. I might go and eat breakfast with a few friends, talk about what we got up to, and laugh at the inevitably hysterical pictures. A slow start, but now feeling ready to face the day.

10am: Head to a lecture. Tired, but it’s really interesting – all about the role of laughter in Medieval plays. Pop to the English Faculty library afterwards to get a few books for my weekly essay and bump into friends from other colleges, so stop to have a coffee with them.

12:15pm: Lunch back in college. Everyone eats lunch together in hall and the food today is lifesaving – chips! It’s nice to have a chance to catch up with everyone.

1:15pm: Head back to my room. I’m on the committee for the June Event this year, which happens after exams, so I sort through some emails and get things organised for the next meeting, then chill for a bit with people on my staircase.

2pm: Go to a supervision with my friend. It’s a pleasant surprise – both of our essays were good, and we have an interesting discussion about misogyny in Paradise Lost.

3:30pm: Head to the college library and crack on with the reading for my next essay, making notes as I go. Loads of my friends are in the library so I tend to get a little distracted. Eventually I finish the book. Ideal.

6pm: Food! Excellent. I stay sitting in hall for ages to put off my return to the library.

7pm: I have a productive couple of hours preparing a presentation on Medieval Latin, which is more interesting than it sounds.

10pm: Head to the college bar to see who is there. Everyone! Catch up with people there and then a group of us go to someone’s room to watch a film.

1am: Back in bed. No early lectures tomorrow so lie-in definitely required!
8:15am: Wake up, eat a huge bowl of cereal to try and get out of bed; have a bleary-eyed shower, whack on some music to get me in the mood for the day ahead.

9:00am: First lecture: electromagnetics. All 237 Engineers pile into Lecture Theatre 0. Try to get my usual spot in the 2nd row from the back (quick escape at the end to get a free cup of tea from the engineering canteen before the next lecture).

10:00am: Ah my favourite lecturer—he has at least one demonstration every lecture, and today he is making a beach ball hover over the front rows using a leaf blower. We then learn the theory behind this.

11:00am: Lab time! We’re looking at how steel and copper behave at -216 degrees, which means using liquid nitrogen – turns out biros will still work afterwards! Get set a report to write about the lab - a bit of a drag but that can be worried about later.

1:00pm: No afternoon labs today so lectures over for the day! Go back to college and have peanut butter and jam on toast (the best food in the world) and sneak a few Oreos. Chill for a bit, chat with my neighbour.

2:00pm: Better crack on with some work for a while. Doing a thermo fluids examples paper for a bit but then hit a brick wall so resolve to come back to it another time and move onto the lab report.

5:15pm: Structures supervision: we go over the past two weeks work.

6:15pm: Quick email check, then finally crack that thermo fluids question – very happy!

7:00pm: Get ready for formal. Today it’s for a friend’s birthday and the food is great.

9:00pm: Head to the bar for a few cheap pints and a quick game of pool before going to Cindies, the cheesiest club in Cambridge.

1:30am: BED TIME! Thank God, it’s been a hectic day.
ECSU and Welfare

Emma is known throughout Cambridge for its friendly and laid-back atmosphere - a big part of this is our fantastic, year-round welfare provision. As well as a team of dedicated college staff, students play a crucial role in helping their peers. ECSU – the Emmanuel College Students’ Union – is a team of undergraduates fulfilling a range of roles in college life. For example, our Catering Officer ensures the food available matches the needs of all our students, and our Entertainments Officer provides a range of events in the college bar.

Anyone can run to be on the ECSU committee, with elections being held at the end of Michaelmas term every year. Chris Humpleby, ECSU President 2012, had this to say:

“It’s been a real privilege to be involved with ECSU this year, Emma is a wonderful place to live and study, and it’s great to help out in maintaining the amazing atmosphere that runs throughout the college. If you like what you see in this prospectus, we would strongly encourage you to apply. It would be great to see you soon.”

College Families and Subject Parents

All Freshers (incoming first year students), alongside four of their peers, are assigned ‘college parents’ – two third-year students who help their college family to settle in during the first few weeks. They meet you when you arrive in college, help you collect your key and find your room, and even with taking all that luggage from the car, train station or airport. They’re around throughout the year as well and there’s a family reunion every term.

Second-year ‘subject parents’ are also around to ease the academic transition from school to University, answering questions and offering advice about work, both before and after you arrive in Cambridge.

The Interview

The Cambridge interview process is surrounded by myths – ‘this girl I knew had to recite Shakespeare from memory whilst grooming a llama’ and so on. This simply isn’t the case; your interviewers will be looking for your reasons for choosing the course, your passion for the subject, and trying to see how you think. This often means taking knowledge you already have and applying it to new scenarios; it’s not just about getting the answer right, it’s about talking it through out loud. Sometimes you will be asked questions that you can’t answer fully, but that’s absolutely fine. Your interviewers want the best out of you, so llama tasks are no good to them. They will not trap you or trick you into making a mistake. We know it’s easy for us to say this, having gone through it all already, but it really is more of an academic discussion than an interview. Also, it’s important to stress that your interview is not the only element that is taken into consideration when your application is reviewed – it is considered alongside all the other factors detailed on the opposite page.

Overall, we would really encourage you to apply. There’s lots of information out there about every stage of the application process, so check out the websites on the first page of this prospectus to find out more.

Finances

The costs associated with University are understandably a big worry for most prospective students. But the key point to remember about Emma, as well as Cambridge in general, is that finance is not a barrier for students, both when they apply and whilst they are here. Emma is interested in attracting the brightest and the best; your financial background has nothing to do with it.

Students have two basic costs at university. The first is tuition fees, and the second is living costs, but these will obviously vary depending on your lifestyle.

Emmanuel also offers financial help to its students, including:

- Scholarships: for academic achievement, both before and during your degree
- Travel grants: financial support for trips abroad associated with study
- Sports grants: help with funding the costs of playing high-level sport
- Book grants: help with purchasing core texts for a specific course

There’s plenty more information about all of this online – have a look at the websites on page 2 - and on the student finance website, here: https://www.gov.uk/student-finance
Admissions

What you’ve seen so far is all about Emma. This section applies to all colleges, but we’ve included it because we know that it can seem a daunting process and we want to guide you through it from a student perspective.

Step 1: Fill in your UCAS form. Put Cambridge on your list of choices and specify the college you want to go to. If you don’t want to choose a college (ahem) then you can submit an open application—the University will then choose for you using a computer program. Don’t forget you’ll need your personal statement ready for this as well. The UCAS form has to be entered a little earlier if you’re applying to Cambridge (15th October), to leave plenty of time for them to gather a bit more information about you as a candidate.

Step 2: After the University have received your application, they will ask you to fill out the SAQ, the Supplementary Application Questionnaire. This is where you’ll put in your module scores from AS Levels or equivalent qualifications, and be asked a few questions about why you chose the Cambridge course specifically, as this isn’t something you can put in a personal statement you’re potentially sending elsewhere too. It’s all online and won’t take too long.

Step 3: This step varies by subject and college, but the admissions department will keep you informed at every stage. For example, for arts subjects, you might be asked to submit some essays you’re particularly proud of, or for science subjects, to sit a subject specific test, such as the BMAT for medicine. You can find out exactly what you’ll need for each course on the University’s website.

Step 4: The college will then assess your application taking in a wide variety of factors from your GCSEs, A levels or equivalent qualifications, personal statement, school and teacher references, and the aforementioned essays or tests. Cambridge make an effort to get to know you as a person, which they can’t really do from paper alone, so they will also invite most applicants (just below 90%) to an interview...

ECSU and Welfare

ECSU Welfare

Fantastic, ongoing welfare provision is something that really sets Emma apart from other colleges. Moving away from home can be difficult, but there are plenty of people around college to help with this transition, both when you arrive as a Fresher and throughout your entire time at Emma. The Female and Male Welfare Officers are two crucial members of the ECSU Committee. They are elected on the basis of their approachability, listening skills and the standard of their hugs, and around throughout the year for general help and advice.

During term, they organise free tea and cake sessions in the bar - a favourite with many undergraduates - and make up ‘goodie bags’ for all students which appear miraculously in your pigeon hole overnight: chocolate and sweets are fantastic motivators.

During Easter Term, when revision and exams are on-going, welfare provision increases. Students can often be found jumping around on bouncy castle at lunchtime, enjoying barbecues on the paddock with friends and consuming endless amounts of tea and cake. The Welfare Officers also organise a selection of sports tournaments, group jogging outings, yoga sessions and aerobics classes to keep those endorphins pumping. They run revision advice workshops in the college bar and, in a joint project with the ECSU Education Officer, produce a handy exam guide for every undergraduate student.

All in all, the Welfare Officers - and the ECSU Committee as a whole - make sure that the famous Emma atmosphere continues in full force, and are there to offer a friendly smile and a helping hand with any problems you may face.
Bar and Social Life

Whether you’re in the bar, heading out to one of the local clubs or just chilling with friends around college, Emma is a really sociable place to be.

The Bar

Emma Bar has just been voted the best college bar in Cambridge. Spacious and cheap, it provides the perfect setting for students to chill out and take a break from their studies. It’s also student-run: any student in Emma can work up to a bar shift a week as a social way to earn a bit of extra cash. Ideal for a post-formal tipple or a pre-night-out gathering, or just for a casual chat with some friends over a drink, the bar is a lively hub of college social life. There is no pressure to drink, of course – the Bar provides pool and table football, or a cup of tea or coffee during the day when it is open as a common room area.

Bar Extension

Bar Extension is one of the highlights of the Emma social calendar. Expect a themed party, with Emma student DJs and an extended license until 2am. Wild and whacky costumes for fancy dress, themed cocktails, and a night of music, dancing and general shenanigans with the whole Emma crowd.

Emma Ents

Emmanuel Entertainments (Emma Ents for short) takes place on a Wednesday night in the bar, is run by Emma students, and has showcased some of the best musical talent in Cambridge, from student DJs to up-and-coming bands. Emma Ents also attracts big-name acts to the college – previous guest DJs have included dubstep superstar Skream, drum & bass producer Logistics, Breakage, Redlight and exciting new indie bands such as Speklor.

Clubs and Societies

One of the best things about Cambridge is the huge number of opportunities on offer other than just your course. Emma is no exception and the number of clubs, societies and sports teams is impressive. Whether you’re into rugby or photography, politics or jazz music, you’re guaranteed to find what you want at Emma. College societies and teams are also great because you rarely need any experience to get involved – and they’re mostly free! Nearly all societies are casual and student run, and you can make however much commitment you want to all the things you’re interested in.

To name but a few:

- Football
- Rugby
- Mixed Lacrosse
- Netball
- Hockey
- Rowing
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Water Polo
- Chapel Choir
- Orchestra
- Flute Choir
- Jazz Band
- REDS (Drama)
- Politics Society
- Debating Society
- Christian Union
- ECSU Committee
- Photography
- Creative Writing
- ERICS (Ice Cream)

Sport in Cambridge works on two levels – if you’re a great sportsperson you can try out for the University teams, but if you’re not up for that much training, or haven’t played a sport before, don’t worry - college sports teams cater to all abilities. It doesn’t matter whether you’ve played football since you were 5, or never sat in a rowing boat in your life, you can play any sport at any level at Emma. For example, the girls’ football team – the Pink Panthers - are one of the most successful teams in college, and the Mixed Netball team play other colleges on a Sunday morning before heading for a cooked breakfast in hall.
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During term, they organise free tea and cake sessions in the bar - a favourite with many undergraduates - and make up ‘goodie bags’ for all students which appear miraculously in your pigeon-hole overnight: chocolate and sweets are fantastic motivators.
ECSU and Welfare

ECSU - Emmanuel College Students’ Union - is a team of undergraduates fulfilling a range of roles in college life. For example, our Catering Officer ensures the food available matches the needs of all our students, and our Entertainments Officer provides a range of events in the college bar.

Anyone can run to be on the ECSU committee, with elections being held at the end of Michaelmas term every year. Chris Humpleby, ECSU President 2012, had this to say:

“It’s been a real privilege to be involved with ECSU this year. Emma is a wonderful place to live and study, and it’s great to help out in maintaining the amazing atmosphere that runs throughout the college. If you like what you see in this prospectus, we would strongly encourage you to apply. It would be great to see you soon.”

College Families and Subject Parents

All Freshers (incoming first year students), alongside four of their peers, are assigned ‘college parents’ – two third-year students who help their college family to settle in during the first few weeks. They meet you when you arrive in college, help you collect your key and find your room, and even with taking all that luggage from the car, train station or airport. They’re around throughout the year as well and there’s a family reunion every term.

Second-year ‘subject parents’ are also around to ease the academic transition from school to University, answering questions and offering advice about work, both before and after you arrive in Cambridge.

College families

The Interview: The Cambridge interview process is surrounded by myths – ‘this girl I knew had to recite Shakespeare from memory whilst grooming a llama’ and so on. This simply isn’t the case; your interviewers will be looking for your reasons for choosing the course, your passion for the subject, and trying to see how you think. This often means taking knowledge you already have and applying it to new scenarios; it’s not just about getting the answer right, it’s about talking it through out loud. Sometimes you will be asked questions that you can’t answer fully, but that’s absolutely fine. Your interviewers want the best out of you, so llama tasks are no good to them. They will not trap you or trick you into making a mistake. We know it’s easy for us to say this, having gone through it all already, but it really is more of an academic discussion than an interview. Also, it’s important to stress that your interview is not the only element that is taken into consideration when your application is reviewed – it is considered alongside all the other factors detailed on the opposite page.

Overall, we would really encourage you to apply. There’s lots of information out there about every stage of the application process, so check out the websites on the first page of this prospectus to find out more.

Finances

The costs associated with University are understandably a big worry for most prospective students. But the key point to remember about Emma, as well as Cambridge in general, is that finance is not a barrier for students, both when they apply and whilst they are here. Emma is interested in attracting the brightest and the best; your financial background has nothing to do with it.

Students have two basic costs at University. The first is tuition fees, and the second is living costs, but these will obviously vary depending on your lifestyle.

Emmanuel also offers financial help to its students, including:

- Scholarships: for academic achievement, both before and during your degree
- Travel grants: financial support for trips abroad associated with study
- Sports grants: help with funding the costs of playing high-level sport
- Book grants: help with purchasing core texts for a specific course

There’s plenty more information about all of this online – have a look at the websites on page 2 - and on the student finance website, here: https://www.gov.uk/student-finance
8:15am: Wake up, eat a huge bowl of cereal to try and get out of bed; have a bleary-eyed shower, whack on some music to get me in the mood for the day ahead.

9:00am: First lecture: electromagnetics. All 237 Engineers pile into Lecture Theatre 0. Try to get my usual spot in the 2nd row from the back (quick escape at the end to get a free cup of tea from the engineering canteen before the next lecture).

10:00am: Ah my favourite lecturer—he has at least one demonstration every lecture, and today he is making a beach ball hover over the front rows using a leaf blower. We then learn the theory behind this.

11:00am: Lab time! We're looking at how steel and copper behave at -216 degrees, which means using liquid nitrogen – turns out biros will still work afterwards! Get set a report to write about the lab - a bit of a drag but that can be worried about later.

1:00pm: No afternoon labs today so lectures over for the day! Go back to college and have peanut butter and jam on toast (the best food in the world) and sneak a few Oreos. Chill for a bit, chat with my neighbour.

2:00pm: Better crack on with some work for a while. Doing a thermo fluids examples paper for a bit but then hit a brick wall so resolve to come back to it another time and move onto the lab report.

5:15pm: Structures supervision: we go over the past two weeks work.

6:15pm: Quick email check, then finally crack that thermo fluids question – very happy!

7:00pm: Get ready for formal. Today it's for a friend's birthday and the food is great.

9:00pm: Head to the bar for a few cheap pints and a quick game of pool before going to Cindies, the cheesiest club in Cambridge.

1:30am: BED TIME! Thank God, it’s been a hectic day.

...A FIRST YEAR SCIENCE STUDENT

Name: Glyn Stevens
Subject: Engineering
From: Anglesey, North Wales

Reasons for choosing Emma: It's close to my department, very friendly, has lovely grounds and it's not too filled with tourists. You can walk on the grass, and they do your laundry for you for free.

Food

Eating your meals in Emma’s beautiful dining hall is definitely one of the best things about college life. The canteen is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Monday-Saturday, and brunch and dinner on Sundays. There’s plenty to choose from: hot meals (with both meat and vegetarian options), soups, salads, sandwiches, fruit, and hot and cold desserts. The food is subsidised by college, and should cost you about £2-3. Eating in hall is a great way to catch up with friends. In summer term we can even take our food outside and eat on the paddock, which is lovely if you can fend off the hungry ducks!

Formal Hall

On most evenings, you also have the option of booking into Formal Hall – everyone gets dressed up and dons their gown for a three-course dinner in the candlelit dining room. Although it only costs around £7 – probably the cheapest three-course meal you’ll ever have – it’s waiter-served and you can bring your own wine. This is a really fun Cambridge tradition, and many people book into Formal with friends to celebrate birthdays, or as part of a sports team or society get-together.

Self-catering

Most people eat in Hall at Emma, so in first year the cooking facilities are limited to a microwave combi-oven, kettle and toaster per floor—although it really is astonishing what some students make using just these! Lots of people bring toastie makers and rice cookers too, and in some places there are hobs and ovens. Emma’s location also comes in handy if you fancy eating out – Nando’s, Wagamama’s, Weatherpoon’s, Pizza Express, Giraffe, Costa and Eat, plus many more, are just a stone’s throw away.
Accommodation

One of the best things about Emma is that it offers you accommodation for the entirety of your degree. This means cheap rents, ‘bedders’ (the lovely cleaning staff who keep your room tidy), and being close to your friends, college, and the city centre. The rental period is typically 3 blocks of 10 weeks (based around the three 8-week terms), which is great because you only pay while you’re here, unlike many other universities. There are 8 price bands for rooms, based on things like size, facilities and location – you can say where you want to be on this price scale right from the word go. Living alongside all of your friends is one of the best parts of Cambridge life.

First Year

First years live in one of two courts in college. South Court is more modern, contains the bar and is very close to the library, whilst North Court is older and more aesthetically pleasing. They’re only two minutes away from each other, so it’s a great way to be close to everyone in your year, helping you to settle in and meet people quickly.

All rooms have access to a shared bathroom and ‘gyp room’ (a kitchen with basic cooking equipment), and each room is guaranteed to have a bed, desk, mini fridge and wardrobe. College are also just finishing building a fantastic new block of rooms by South Court, all complete with en-suites!

Second Year

Second Year students are split between college and college-owned houses and hostels. The furthest ones are only a 10-minute walk or 5-minute cycle away, so you’re still close to college and the centre of Cambridge, but the chance to live out, with more cooking facilities, lets you experience more independent student life. Having college as your landlord takes the hassle out of everything from rent to leaky taps – just report it to the porters and someone from the maintenance team is round to fix it right away.

Third Year

The accommodation choices in third year (and beyond) are definitely a case of saving the best until last, as you get first pick out of everyone.

All third years are guaranteed a room in college, including easy access to the library and the much-loved laundry service. Rooms range from spacious, traditional ‘sets’ (like flats) overlooking the paddock, to more modern rooms which have their own en-suites and mini-kitchens.

A day in the life of...

...A FIRST YEAR ARTS STUDENT

Name: Ella Raff
Subject: English
From: Oxford

Reasons for choosing Emma: I loved the beautiful buildings and the big open spaces. Emma is right in the centre of Cambridge but it’s so peaceful within the grounds.

8:30am: Wake up the morning after a night out. I might go and eat breakfast with a few friends, talk about what we got up to, and laugh at the inevitably hysterical pictures. A slow start, but now feeling ready to face the day.

10am: Head to a lecture. Tired, but it’s really interesting – all about the role of laughter in Medieval plays. Pop to the English Faculty library afterwards to get a few books for my weekly essay and bump into friends from other colleges, so stop to have a coffee with them.

12:15pm: Lunch back in college. Everyone eats lunch together in hall and the food today is lifesaving – chips! It’s nice to have a chance to catch up with everyone.

1:15pm: Head back to my room. I’m on the committee for the June Event this year, which happens after exams, so I sort through some emails and get things organised for the next meeting, then chill for a bit with people on my staircase.

2pm: Go to a supervision with my friend. It’s a pleasant surprise – both of our essays were good, and we have an interesting discussion about misogyny in Paradise Lost.

3:30pm: Head to the college library and crack on with the reading for my next essay, making notes as I go. Loads of my friends are in the library so I tend to get a little distracted. Eventually I finish the book. Ideal.

6pm: Food! Excellent. I stay sitting in hall for ages to put off my return to the library.

7pm: I have a productive couple of hours preparing a presentation on Medieval Latin, which is more interesting than it sounds.

10pm: Head to the college bar to see who is there. Everyone! Catch up with people there and then a group of us go to someone’s room to watch a film.

1am: Back in bed. No early lectures tomorrow so lie-in definitely required!
A day in the life of...

...A SECOND YEAR SCIENCE STUDENT

Name: Chloe Maine
Subject: Biological Natural Sciences
From: Reading

Reasons for choosing Emma: I met someone from Emma and they were lovely and took the time to talk to me about Cambridge—when I looked round, the other Emma students were the same.

9:30am: Roll out of bed, glance at emails and Facebook while I eat breakfast.

10am: Lecture on Cell and Developmental Biology, one of the 3 subjects I’ve chosen for second year. Sit near the back with friends from labs.

11am: Head to the coffee room in the library – sort out netball admin, as I’m the University captain.

12pm: Pathology lecture with all the medics and vets.

1pm: Lunch in hall – a chance to catch up with all my friends.

1:30pm: Meeting with the Dean to discuss student welfare with other members of the ECSU Committee (I’m the Vice President) – we plan an exam myth-busting session for next term.

2pm: Neurobiology lab – spend a few hours investigating the effects of different drugs on frog muscles, and make some notes for when I have a supervision on it.

5pm: Pathology supervision – get my essay back from last week and go through a topic I found a bit confusing in lectures. Get set some work for next week.

6pm: Cycle home to Barnwell (2nd year accommodation) where a friend has made a big pot of pasta – eat in the kitchen with everyone and plan our Bar Extension costumes for Saturday.

6:30pm: Finish a bit of work for a supervision tomorrow.

8pm: Head to University netball training. Exhausting, but it’s good to work some exercise into my day.

10pm: College bar for an hour and then head back home and have a cup of tea with my neighbour before bed.

Facilities

The Old JCR (Junior Common-Room) has plenty of comfy sofas for relaxing, plus a TV, DVD player and a Wii. There’s a big screen in the bar for sports matches as well – the bar is also open as a common room in the day. If music is your thing, the college has plenty of practice rooms for you to play to your heart’s content. The Queen’s building hosts student society events, talks, concerts and CinEmma, the college’s free film nights. Last but certainly not least, Emma is the only college in Cambridge to provide a free laundry service – just drop off your dirty clothes and then pick them up later washed, dried and folded for you. Simple.

The library: Emma library has the perfect combination of individual and group study spaces, from the Edwardian reading room with its large oak tables to the stunning new build, complete with single desks, IT suite and a common room. It has longer borrowing periods than most faculty libraries and is a sociable yet focused place to work. Of course, like the rest of Emma, it’s connected to the wireless network, and the librarians are always on hand to help you out. Plus, it’s open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you’re never too late to grab that book.

Sports: There are plenty of ways to get your sporting fix at Emma. The sports ground is just a short cycle away, with pitches for football, rugby, hockey and netball, and if you fancy donning your lycra and getting involved in the Cambridge rowing scene then our boathouse is in a fantastic location on the river. We’re well equipped in college too: a table tennis room, two squash courts, an outdoor swimming pool, a brand new gym - and we put tennis courts on the paddock in summer. Page 10 has more details.
All about Emma

Yes, we all love Emma, but what makes it so amazing?

Cambridge’s collegiate system means that, as well as being a member of the University, you also belong to one of the 31 colleges. This is one of the best and most unique features of Cambridge, and your college provides a home-from-home in which to live, eat, work, and socialise. Emma is renowned across the University for being the friendly college and for its laid-back atmosphere; this is strengthened by our amazing student-run bar, the paddock with its duck pond and inhabitants, and our fantastic welfare provision. There are plenty of inter-year friendships at Emma, and the ‘college family’ system ensures everyone feels included in the college community right from day one (see page 7 for more about this).

Emma’s location is ideal as we are in the centre of Cambridge, so we are right next to restaurants, shops and clubs, but we’re not overwhelmed by tourists. Sainsbury’s Local is right next door, and there’s a bigger store just five minutes up the road. Parker’s Piece runs alongside college and is lovely for jogging, picnics and sports — the local sports centre and swimming pool are just on the other side of this too. Many faculties are just across the road as well, allowing for that much-needed extra time in bed.

We think Emma is the perfect size: with 505 undergraduates in total, it’s large enough not to feel claustrophobic, whilst having about 160 students in each year means it’s small enough to bump into people you know at dinner, in the library and in the bar. Emma is also a beautiful college, but not intimidating or packed with tourists. Front Court looks gorgeous all year round, and the gardens are wonderful – as are the ducks! The ‘please walk on our grass’ policy makes the paddock a chilled and social space to go with friends, especially in the summer, when we put up tennis courts, have barbecues and eat outside.

Times to...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Walking</th>
<th>Cycling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sainsbury’s</td>
<td>6 mins</td>
<td>2 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Library</td>
<td>18 mins</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADC Theatre</td>
<td>9 mins</td>
<td>3 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor’s</td>
<td>7 mins</td>
<td>2 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Sports ground</td>
<td>25 mins</td>
<td>13 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubs</td>
<td>4 mins</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A day in the life of...

...A SECOND YEAR ARTS STUDENT

Name: Ben Kentish
Subject: PPS (Politics, Psychology and Sociology), now called HSPS
From: North London

Reasons for choosing Emma: Mainly its reputation as the friendly college. I also looked round when I was thinking of applying, and loved it. And the free laundry service is a definite plus!

9.15am: Wake up in time for my lecture—just. Convince myself that learning about political thought during the French Revolution is more productive than staying in bed.

10am: Lecture exceeds expectations! The good thing about PPS is that it’s so varied; one day we’re learning about classical thinkers and the next it’s the current situation in the Middle East.

11am: Hit the Emma library for a couple of hours. Lots of people are around and tea breaks are a regular feature. Begin reading for my next essay.

1pm: Mass exodus from the library to get lunch in Hall. Today is pasta bake with salad, followed by apple crumble. We end up spending ages chatting.

2pm: College football training. Go through a few drills and then play a training match.

4pm: Head back to my room, have a shower and a quick nap and then crack on with a bit more work.

6pm: Stop work and have a break with a bit of Playstation in the common room. We’ve got a bit of a FIFA league going between a few of us this term, which is of course treated with utmost seriousness.

7pm: Dinner. We’ve got a proper oven this year so have gone a bit Nigella and started cooking things that don’t only involve a microwave. It’s my turn to cook for everyone tonight so I’ve gone for a chicken and leek pie.

8pm: Time to head down to the Cambridge Union for the weekly debate. This week’s is on the topic of whether fashion is elitist.

10pm: Union bar for a few drinks. I pop into the Emma bar on the way back too.

12pm: Quite a few people are still up so we sit around chatting. I finally get to bed around 2am - not ideal when you’ve got a supervision at 10 the next morning!
Thanks

This Emmanuel College Alternative Prospectus has been written, edited and produced entirely by Emma undergraduates.

We would like to thank the Master, Fellows and staff of the College, particularly Dr Henderson, Lesley Shaw and the Admissions Office, for their support.

This edition has been reworked, energised and revamped by the following people:

Editor: Emma Bonney [ECSU Access Officer 2012]
Contributors: Emmanuel Access Committee, Ella Raff, Glyn Stevens, Chloe Maine, and Ben Kentish
Photography: Emmanuel College undergraduates – thank you everyone!
Design: Ella Raff, Rivkah Brown, Kate Henney

For more information, check out these websites:
College Website: www.emma.cam.ac.uk
ECSU (Emmanuel College Students’ Union): www.ecsu.org.uk
Cambridge University: www.cam.ac.uk
CUSU (Cambridge University Students’ Union): www.cusu.cam.ac.uk
Cambridge Alternative Prospectus: www.applytocambridge.com

There’s also a video version of this alternative prospectus on the ECSU website, just here: http://www.ecsu.org.uk/prospective_students/alternative_prospectus

Welcome!

Hi, and welcome to Emmanuel – known as Emma by everyone in Cambridge. This Alternative Prospectus has been produced entirely by undergraduates, so we hope it’ll give you an idea of what it’s actually like to live and study here. Emma is famous for being the friendly college, so we hope after reading this prospectus you’ll want to come and be a part of it!

There’s also a fantastic video alternative prospectus on the ECSU website: www.ecsu.org.uk/prospective_students/alternative_prospectus

If you want any more information about anything you read in here, you can visit one of the websites below:
College Website: www.emma.cam.ac.uk
ECSU (Emmanuel College Students’ Union): www.ecsu.org.uk
Cambridge University: www.cam.ac.uk
CUSU (Cambridge University Students’ Union): www.cusu.cam.ac.uk
Cambridge Alternative Prospectus: www.applytocambridge.com
Parker’s Piece
Pond, complete with ducks
North Court
The Paddock
Swimming Pool
Front Court
Hall
South Court (and the bar)
The Library
Parker’s Piece

EMMA
THE EMMANUEL COLLEGE
ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS