

From:

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Director of Studies in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology

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Dear Student

Firstly congratulations upon getting the grades that you need to to read Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

I will be your Director of Studies – the person responsible for arranging supervisions and monitoring your academic progress. You will see a fair amount of me, both in Department lectures and in College supervisions. You may remember me from your admissions interviews.

During your first year, termed Part IA, you will study:

- Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology topics
- Chemistry – which you take with those doing Part IA Natural Sciences
- Either Mathematics A or Mathematics B – which you take with those doing Part IA Natural Sciences

Mathematics A and B cover the same core material and have the same examination papers at the end of the year. Course B is taught at a faster pace and goes into greater depth. For that reason, Course B is recommended for students who have an intrinsic interest in mathematics and have achieved high A* grades in both Maths and Further Maths at A-level (or equivalent). Course A is recommended for students without A-level Further Maths and for those who did Further Maths but feel less comfortable with a fast-moving mathematics course. The Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology has no preference between the two courses.

All Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology students across the University are being enrolled on an online course named STEMbridge. This is designed to help science and engineering students manage the transition between school and University. This course enables you to revise and practise maths, chemistry and physics/biology problems (depending on your school subjects). The online course also helps explain “Cambridge” and gives an opportunity for you to get to know some peers. The course is designed to be undertaken over 4 weeks (9-10 hours each week) but it can be done over a shorter duration if you want. The course is available from 24 August until the end of September, so you can choose which weeks you work in.

We strongly recommend that you complete the STEMbridge course before you arrive in Cambridge. You are advised to keep your notes, particularly written solutions of the questions and problems, as it is possible supervisors may want to discuss them with you.

- To access STEMbridge you need to have a CRSid (mine is “pjb10”) which will be your identifier to access electronic resources (including email) throughout your time in Cambridge.
- To get your CRSid, go to <https://jackdaw.cam.ac.uk/signup/> and enter your surname, date of birth, and your 10-digit UCAS personal number.
- Once you have your CRSid and initial password, visit <https://password.raven.cam.ac.uk/> to change your password.
- STEMbridge for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology students can then be accessed (from August 24) at <https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=252252>

Other information on electronic resources (e.g. downloading software to personal devices, accessing cloud-based storage) can be found at <https://help.uis.cam.ac.uk/new-starters/it-for-students/getting-started>

I look forward to seeing you in person when you arrive at Emmanuel in October. Details of meetings will be sent to you by email near the start of term. You are welcome to contact me by email before then if you have any particular queries – either about STEMbridge or the course more generally.

With best wishes



Patrick Barrie
(Director of Studies)