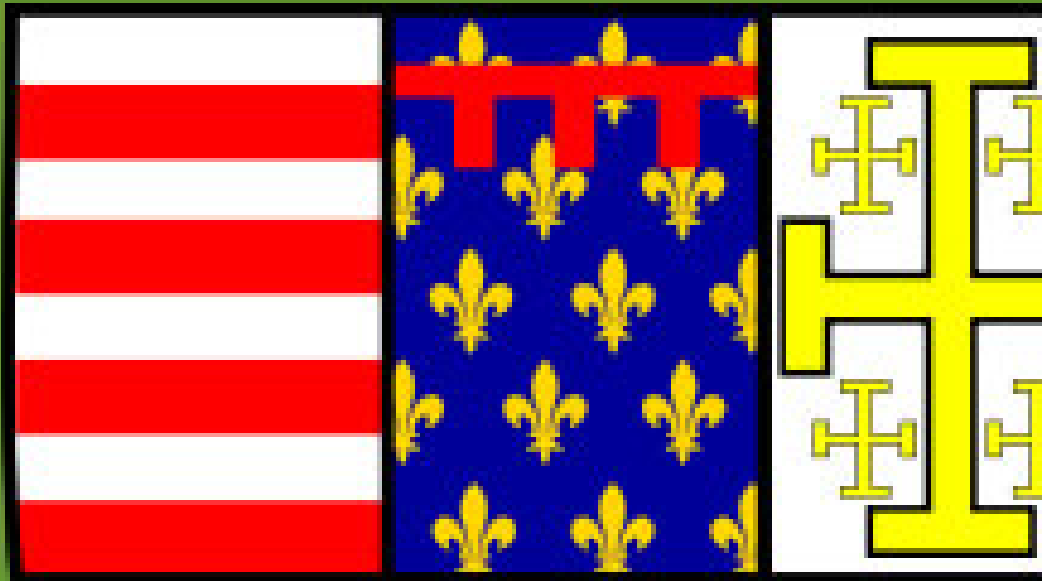


Alternative Prospectus

QUEENS' COLLEGE



Welcome to Queens'

Welcome to Queens' undergraduate Alternative Prospectus, written by current students to tell you the real story behind life at the best college at Cambridge. There are so many unbelievable opportunities to take advantage of here at Queens', it's impossible to give you the full picture – but I hope that these few pages will give you a decent insight into how fantastic student life can be. Whether you are into your theatre or art, your sport or music, your computer programming or your salsa dancing, you will find a multitude of people with interests which match yours – and you will meet people that will challenge, excite and inspire you to reach new heights.

One of the defining characteristics of Cambridge is its college system – and the people who make up the colleges are the friends and tutors that you will remember most for years to come. Cambridge offers you the chance to learn from and amongst some of the best minds in the world – leaders in their field – and the supervision system, learning in a group of two or three with a specialist, is the envy of many of the world's universities.

Queens' is among the friendliest and most diverse Cambridge colleges – where people care about who you are and what you can offer, not where you're from. In today's financial climate, the reality is that university needs to be affordable, and we are lucky with Cambridge having one of the most generous and student-centred support systems of all universities worldwide. Coming here to Queens', you become part of an open, accepting, environmentally-aware, people-centred community that is the envy of many students at Cambridge. Whatever you end up doing after you graduate, you will look back on your university days as the best in your life – and by spending them at Queens', you will be making the very best of them. I really hope you can join us.

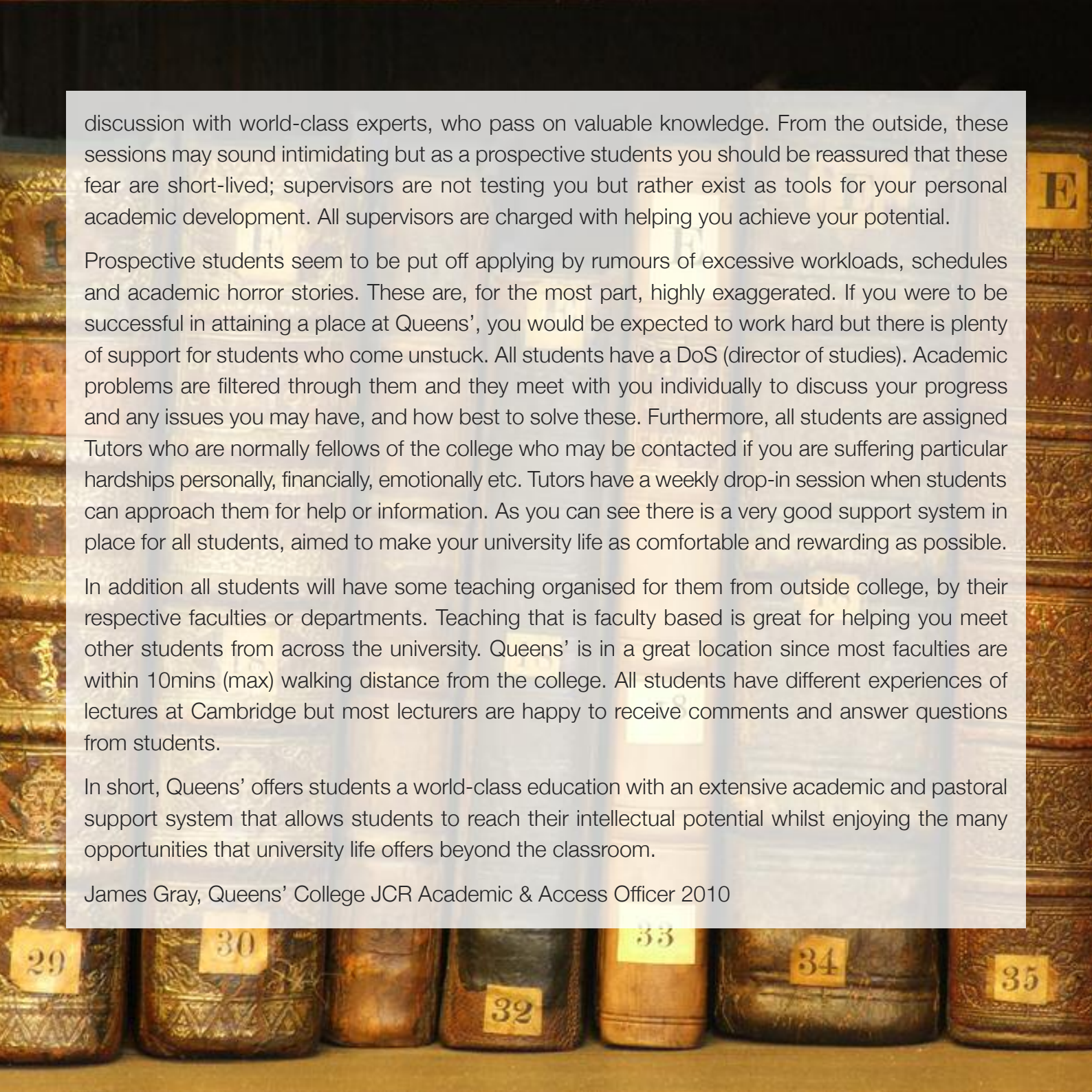
Charlie Bell, Queens' College JCR President 2010

Studying at Queens'

The transition from Sixth Form to University is a large one, but positive. For the most part, university gives students greater academic independence and personal responsibility, and at Queens', like all the colleges that make up the University of Cambridge, this is true. What marks Cambridge out above other universities is the contact time that students are offered with leading academics and experts both within the college and across the university but it is important to bare in mind that the educational experience of Cambridge students varies depending on the subject being studied and the options chosen by a given students.

What however separates Cambridge from many other universities is the provision of supervisions, which are normally college-organized learning sessions between small groups and an academic. Supervision sizes vary from 1-to-1 to 4-to-1 and these are an important part of the Oxbridge experience. Supervisions are one of the best parts of the Cambridge experience since you are in



The background of the slide is a photograph of a library. It shows several rows of bookshelves filled with books. The spines of the books are visible, and some have yellow labels with numbers like 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the book covers and the wood of the shelves.

discussion with world-class experts, who pass on valuable knowledge. From the outside, these sessions may sound intimidating but as a prospective students you should be reassured that these fear are short-lived; supervisors are not testing you but rather exist as tools for your personal academic development. All supervisors are charged with helping you achieve your potential.

Prospective students seem to be put off applying by rumours of excessive workloads, schedules and academic horror stories. These are, for the most part, highly exaggerated. If you were to be successful in attaining a place at Queens', you would be expected to work hard but there is plenty of support for students who come unstuck. All students have a DoS (director of studies). Academic problems are filtered through them and they meet with you individually to discuss your progress and any issues you may have, and how best to solve these. Furthermore, all students are assigned Tutors who are normally fellows of the college who may be contacted if you are suffering particular hardships personally, financially, emotionally etc. Tutors have a weekly drop-in session when students can approach them for help or information. As you can see there is a very good support system in place for all students, aimed to make your university life as comfortable and rewarding as possible.

In addition all students will have some teaching organised for them from outside college, by their respective faculties or departments. Teaching that is faculty based is great for helping you meet other students from across the university. Queens' is in a great location since most faculties are within 10mins (max) walking distance from the college. All students have different experiences of lectures at Cambridge but most lecturers are happy to receive comments and answer questions from students.

In short, Queens' offers students a world-class education with an extensive academic and pastoral support system that allows students to reach their intellectual potential whilst enjoying the many opportunities that university life offers beyond the classroom.

James Gray, Queens' College JCR Academic & Access Officer 2010

Living at Queens'

Queens' is a great place to live - all undergraduates are guaranteed accommodation for three years on-site, meaning you're never too far from your friends and the bar!

Some accommodation (including all rooms given to first years) are single rooms but others are 'sets' two or more rooms shared between two people. Most second years choose to live in sets. Rooms are chosen through ballots - you're given a position in the ballot and then get to choose what room you want (along with a group of your friends).

First Year rooms are randomly assigned by the college, and random ballots for rooms in second and third year take place in the Easter Term.

Rooms vary in both size and price - from the expensive palace to the cheaper cupboard. Some rooms are ensuite, some have private bathrooms in the same corridor and other have shared bathrooms elsewhere in the building. Some buildings are old (Old Court dates back to 1448) and some are really new - the top floor of Cripps was built in the 2000s.

We have kitchens shared between a few rooms for cooking light meals, we have hobs & microwaves but no ovens, however it's quite possible to cook decent meals in them.

We also have accommodation off campus for Graduates (which have full kitchens for self-catering) and a few Graduates are able to live on-site each year.

If anything ever goes wrong, we've got Housekeeping and Maintenance on-site to help so everyone should have a fantastic time living in Queens'!

Will Scott, Queens' College JCR Accommodation Officer 2010

Getting involved at Queens'

Contrary to popular belief, free time does exist at Cambridge, and it's up to you how you fill it! Queens' has a vast range of ways to take a well earned break from studying. Whether you're interested in sport, drama, art, music or charity work and volunteering, Queens' will have a society eager for you to get involved.

University is the perfect place to try something that you've never done before or to continue a sport you already play. The collegiate system means that there's space for everyone to take part whatever their ability. So if you whether or not you'd recognise a lacrosse stick if it hit you in the face, give it a try! All it that's required is a little enthusiasm.

All the college sports teams run open and friendly clubs, with teams for beginners, and for those who play to a high level. We are consistently one of the most successful colleges for netball, rugby, badminton and football: most teams play weekly matches against other colleges. And most teams win! Rowing is, of course, big business in Cambridge and Queens' College boat club is one of the best on the river, but most of its members start as beginners. Michaelmas term is 'Novice Term', introducing new rowers to the river with fancy dress racing, overenthusiastic coaching and lots of fun. Sport at Queens' is a brilliant way to get to know people from other years, but you don't have to commit to a team to stay active: you can keep fit in the college gym, or book a squash court for a quick game with a friend.

Queens' has a proud reputation across the University for its artistic



culture, and it's easy to be a part of it. In Spring 2011, Queens' will be holding an Arts Festival, showcasing the best of Queens' talent including exhibitions from the Art and Photographic Societies. For actors and directors, BATS is the Queens' dramatic society which puts on range of plays, from Shakespeare, to The Vagina Monologues. BATS also welcomes those who want to try their hand at writing, often staging new plays written by students. For the poetic, Queens' based The Dial magazine features the writing of people across the university and is great to be involved with, either as part of the editorial team, or as a contributing poet.

Music is also a major part of life at Queens' and there are music rooms in college for anyone to practise in. As well as the chapel choir, who sing evensong twice a week, there are jazz ensembles and informal orchestras. MagSoc is the Queens' Music society and its orchestra, non-audition chorus and smaller ensembles stage large scale termly concerts as well as smaller weekly recitals. Performing with or listening to MagSoc is a real treat!

Queens' is also famous for hosting its QEnts 'Bop' nights. Six Friday nights a term, Queens' Bar and Fitzpatrick Hall are transformed into the ultimate student party, giving you the chance to let your hair down - Cambridge style! Each Bop has a theme and fancy dress is strongly encouraged!

I hope this gives you a little taste of life outside academia. Students at Queens' are great at finding the balance between studying hard, getting involved, and having fun.

Lydia Gayle, QJCR Sports and Societies Rep 2010



Eating at Queens'

With all its different activities, life at Queens' can be pretty draining. Luckily, there's no shortage of food to refuel with. The college cafeteria (or Buttery, as it is known) is open every weekday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and serves brunch and dinner at the weekends. Prices are pretty reasonable - you can get a full meal plus a pudding for about £4, and there are plenty of even cheaper options, like soups, salads and jacket potatoes. If you're a big breakfast eater, you can get a full English for just over £2, which is very welcome if you've just been rowing or are facing a morning's worth of lectures!

As well as 'normal' meals, on four nights a week there is what's called Formal Hall. This is a sit-down three course dinner to which you can bring wine. Everyone gets dressed up in their smart clothes and gowns, and it's a brilliant way to celebrate a birthday or just kick off an evening out - at just over £8 it's far cheaper than going to a restaurant. A couple of times a term, there are also Guest Nights in Old Hall (a beautiful 15th century hall). These are very popular black tie dinners with fantastic food, to which people bring their family and friends to give them a taste of the 'Cambridge experience'. These are a bit more expensive at about £20 a person, but are again great value for the food you get.

In short, whatever else you might get up to at Queens' (and the choices are almost endless), going hungry isn't very likely.

Paul Merchant, QJCR Food Steward 2010



QBar, Queens' social hub

Queens' College Bar (QBar) is the social hub of college for the entire undergraduate body. It's a great place to meet new people and catch up with old friends, conveniently placed in Cripps Court where most Freshers spend their first year. QBar is a great launch pad for a night at one of Cambridge's classic student club nights, or equally a pleasant location for a chilled midweek drink with mates. A wide range of bar snacks and soft drinks – plus a friendly atmosphere – mean drinking isn't mandatory for a good night at Queens'. Reasonably priced, QBar remembers your needs are those of a student, and any complaints or comments can be given to the friendly college Bar Rep who will always be willing to fight your corner.

One of the largest college bars, there is room for everyone at QBar! We have two pool tables, table football, a dartboard, quiz machine and adequate cushy seating. Any sports fixtures you want to watch on our big screen can be shown – all you need do is send a quick email to the Bar Rep. We also host numerous bar events. Every other week a free bar quiz will be hosted, while larger events are spread throughout the year. Recent favourites include karaoke night, cocktails and our termly open mic night "Candle Club".

In the day QBar is transformed into Queens' Coffee Shop. Tasty, well-priced food and beverages (sandwiches, wraps, paninis, cakes, coffee, snacks) offer a lighter alternative to lunch at the Buttery. This is a great place to have a break with mates and catch up on world news (a variety of papers are delivered daily).

Queens' College is an extremely welcoming place to live and work – and nowhere more so than QBar!

Luke Lythgoe, QJCR Bar Rep 2010



Welfare at Queens'

Queens' has a great welfare team consisting of a women's officer, welfare officer, an LGBT representative (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) and an international representative. Every one of them is available if any student has any issues or queries or simply needs a cup of tea and a chat. The men's, women's and LGBT reps also have a handy supply of goodies including condoms, pregnancy tests and STI testing kits which are free for Queens' students.

As well as being there all year round, the welfare team will occasionally pop up running STI testing sessions or running the free tea and cake hours that make exam term just that bit more bearable. We are here to help and to make your Cambridge life as fun and manageable as it should be.

QJCR Welfare Team 2010



A high-angle photograph of a woman with long brown hair lying on her stomach on a lush green lawn. She is wearing a blue t-shirt and blue jeans. She is looking down at an open book she is holding in her hands, with her right index finger pointing to a page. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Women at Queens'

The Women's Officer role has a political agenda and so if you want to get involved in any of the politics in Cambridge, but especially the welfare and gender drives, she's the one you want to talk to. She'll keep you up to date on the happenings in Cambridge and will also organise an annual Women's Dinner with a prestigious speaker.

This year Queens' is celebrating 30 years of women and there have been a number of events to mark this milestone. From inviting the first year of female undergraduates back, to the 30 year Women's Dinner, to the sponsored 30 minute challenge, Queens' is dedicated to celebrating the contribution that we have made to this college. After all, it was founded by 2 women: Margaret of Anjou and Elizabeth Woodville.

Lucy Jefferson, QJCR Women's Officer 2010

Text content by QJCR 2010

Photography by various including Tom Medley, Will White & Matt Dingley