



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



JCR ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS

CORPUS IS COMMUNITY



Corpus is on the small side, so it really does feel like one large college family. This probably sounds like a cliché, but it's true! And it's not just with other students; due to the high Fellow-to-student ratio at Corpus there is a real sense of community with academic staff, through regular subject dinners and other social events like meet-the-DoS (Director of Studies) nights.

Like in most colleges, there is a system where Freshers are given college 'parents', who are studying the same or similar subjects. At Corpus students really take their 'children' under their wing and it is usual for parents to meet their offspring on their first day to help them find their room and move in. It is also common to hear of parents cooking meals for their kids, putting on extended 'family teas' (with lots of biscuits and cake) and for many excited third years to come out on Matriculation Day to search among the new first years for their college grandchildren.

Corpus' small size means our social lives are all the more exciting. We get to know people in other years within the college and also people from different colleges, especially those who study the same subject. Many Corpuscles also play key roles in University sports teams, and University-wide societies such as the Cambridge Union and the ADC theatre.

Whilst at Corpus you become part of a great support structure that helps you get through the busy terms. There is a whole host of people you can go to if you're having problems of any kind – your DoS, your Tutor, or the Dean of Chapel. The JCR also has three elected student welfare officers. At Corpus, you feel looked after, and part of a strong, dynamic and supportive community.

“Whilst at Corpus you become part of a great support structure that helps you get through the busy terms”



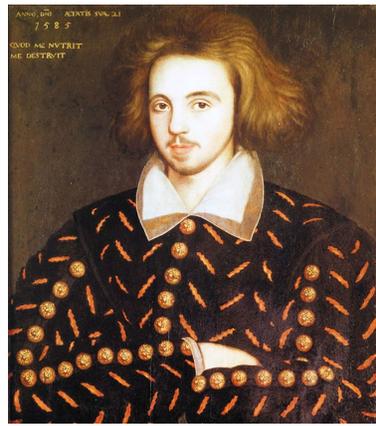
CLAIMS TO FAME



Corpus was founded in 1352, making it the sixth oldest Cambridge college. It holds the distinction of being the only college formed by the townspeople of Cambridge and not by a monarch or other wealthy patron. It was set up by two guilds – the guilds of Corpus Christi and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our crest incorporates their two emblems, the pelican that represents the body of Christ, and the white lilies of the Virgin Mary. Given our college's old age, it has a treasure trove of quirky stories and intriguing artifacts, many of which are sources of college pride for students.

Christopher Marlowe

The celebrated Elizabethan playwright was a student at Corpus. A contemporary of Shakespeare, his most famous work was "The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus." His old room, located in Old Court, is the biggest student room in college.



The Eagle Pub

This Corpus pub is famous for being the place where Crick and Watson took breaks from their research into the structure of DNA. It was here that they first announced they had "discovered the secret of life" after coming up with the double helix.



Old Court

Our aptly named Old Court is in fact the oldest enclosed courtyard of any Oxbridge college, having been built in the 1350s. This also makes it possibly the oldest continually inhabited university accommodation in the world!



Downton Abbey

A more recent claim to fame is our past alumnus Hugh Bonneville, who played Lord Grantham in the popular ITV period drama. Hugh began his acting career with student theatre here at Corpus.



The Parker Library

This is the College's world-renowned rare book and manuscript library, which has a significant proportion of all known surviving Anglo-Saxon texts, including the earliest copy of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (c.890) and the St Augustine Gospels (c.600), the oldest book in England and used for the enthronement ceremony of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Other items include letters from Anne Boleyn and Erasmus, one of the earliest examples of music written on a stave, and the earliest known picture of an elephant in Europe.



WORK (AND PLAY) AT CORPUS



It would be a lie to say that Corpuscles don't spend a lot of time and effort on their work! But there is more to student life than essays and reading lists - it's all about finding that elusive work-life balance. When students do need to hit the books the Corpus Taylor Library is the perfect place. Built only eight years ago, it's one of the newest college libraries in Cambridge. It is located behind the Corpus Clock with large windows overlooking King's Parade, but they are cleverly designed to be offset from street level so that people can't look in.

The Library is open 24/7 so occasionally students can be spotted working in their pyjamas. It's really cosy with over 60 desk spaces all with their own lighting, plugs and internet connection along with the library Wi-Fi. The three floors of books are arranged by subject, and if you can't find a book our friendly librarian will track it down or you can request for a copy to be ordered and the college will buy it for you.

Many students like to work in the library because it gets them away from distractions. It strikes a good balance between allowing some whispering while keeping things quiet for when you need to concentrate on work. If you do have group work there are discussion rooms that can be booked, and also a computer room for printing and/or Facebook breaks. Seeing other people in the library is also a reminder that everyone else is in the same boat.

Photo credits: Songyuan Zhao

During exam term the librarian puts on library teas with hot drinks, biscuits and cake (sometimes homemade).

The handy location of the bar next to the library is great for taking well-earned coffee breaks, spending time catching up with friends and maybe grabbing a snack.

If you feel like working elsewhere in college, all student rooms have high-speed internet connections and Wi-Fi, along with most of the rest of college. During some weeks of the summer term, you can revise on the college lawns in the sun.



“When students do need to hit the books the Corpus Taylor Library is the perfect place.”



Nightlife in Cambridge is heavily geared towards students, with Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays being particularly good student nights out. Despite being a small city, Cambridge has a number of night-clubs catering for a variety of tastes.

There are lots of promotions for queue-jump entry and often the college JCR Ents Officer (in charge of events) will be able to get these in conjunction with one of the college 'slacks' - these are essentially themed discos with optional fancy dress, held in the college bar on three Friday nights each term. They're really good fun, with themes including the annual Back-to-School Freshers' slack, as well as UV/ glow-in-the-dark, Halloween and more. We've also held 'Bop Swaps', when we team up with another college and rent out a main Cambridge club for the night, and have it all to ourselves.

If clubbing isn't your thing, there are tonnes of really good pubs in Cambridge, as well as lots of nice restaurants which are great for going out with friends for dinner or getting take away food on a Saturday night. There are also several cinemas in the city and lots of student drama and musical events. It should also be remembered that London is only fifty

minutes away on the train so it's not unheard of for students to travel down for concerts or shows (but not every weekend)!

If you're not into going out, then fear not. Catching up on TV, watching a film or simply chatting in a friend's room are all perfectly commonplace. Term time can be stressful, and so there are elected student welfare officers who run weekly activities to try and give you time to relax. This includes stuff like crafting, yoga and our infamous 'ParTeas', which are always well-stocked with chocolate, sweets, tea, fruit and lots of other free snacks (including an occasional chocolate fountain).

"Don't worry, Cambridge is not always about work. Corpus Ents puts on events every term, which are a great opportunity to blow off some steam and have fun with your friends."



Isabella Hadjisavvas, JCR Ents Officer

CORPUS IS SPORTY



Sport plays a massive role in college life at Corpus and we really punch above our weight, often beating bigger colleges at both individual and team sports. Our fantastic facilities at Leckhampton (our post graduate site next to Selwyn College) are only a ten minute cycle away from the main college. There are football, cricket and rugby pitches, clay and grass tennis courts, a squash court, netball courts, ergs and a gym. There is also an outdoor swimming pool - unheated, but still popular in summer.

College teams cover sports as diverse as lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee, and include the alliterative CCCCCC (Corpus Christi College Cambridge Cross-Country Club). Many of the clubs have a casual atmosphere, where students can have relaxed fun. We also have a college boathouse on the river, about a 15 minute cycle away, and many Corpuscles give rowing a go at some stage during their degree (it is the stereotype after all).

Every year we compete in the 'Corpus Challenge', a unique sports (and more) day against our sister college Corpus Christi College Oxford. The event is a great day in the student calendar, being held each year at Cambridge and Oxford alternately. After an epic battle, in events ranging from hockey and rugby

Photo credits: (Top) Simon Lock (Middle, Bottom) Songyuan Zhao

to table tennis, darts and quizzing, both sides celebrate together with a formal meal in the college and a night out.



CORPUS IS SOCIAL



There are so many societies in Cambridge, both at a university and college level. Being involved in these is a real highlight for many students, helping them develop their interests and meet new people. Some of the most popular societies at Corpus include:

- Amnesty International
- Robotics Society (RoboSoc)
- Bene't Club (music)
- Board Games Society
- Pelican Poets and Writers
- Finance and Investing Society
- RAG Society (charity fundraising)
- Corpus Films
- Feminist & BME Discussion Groups

Corpus is unique among colleges in having its own theatre - the Corpus Playroom – situated just off King's Parade. Along with the ADC, it is a key venue for student drama in Cambridge. The Fletcher

Players, which is Corpus' drama society, are the resident theatre troupe. They produce around six shows each term, including the annual Freshers' Play which is written, produced and acted by Corpus Freshers! There is also Smorgasbord, a festival of new writing which is co-produced with the Gonville and Caius College drama society, Shadwell. Work from this has gone on to play at the Edinburgh Festival and win national prizes for writing. There are plenty of chances to get involved, whether as an actor, director, technician or stage producer.

Corpus also boasts one of the most beautiful Chapels in Cambridge, home to a lively and inclusive Christian community and an exceptionally talented choir. We have three choral services a week and two short services each day, to which everyone is welcome. Alongside this, we have a regular pattern of events and talks, recently including trips to Istanbul and South East Turkey (2014) and Israel/Palestine (2015), talks by people such as Jonathan Rugman (Channel 4 Foreign Affairs Correspondent) and a whole host of day-trips and other events.

“Here at Corpus we have over thirty different sports teams and societies so there is something for everyone.”



Emma Russell, 3rd year Mathematician



CORPUS IS HOME (ACCOMMODATION)

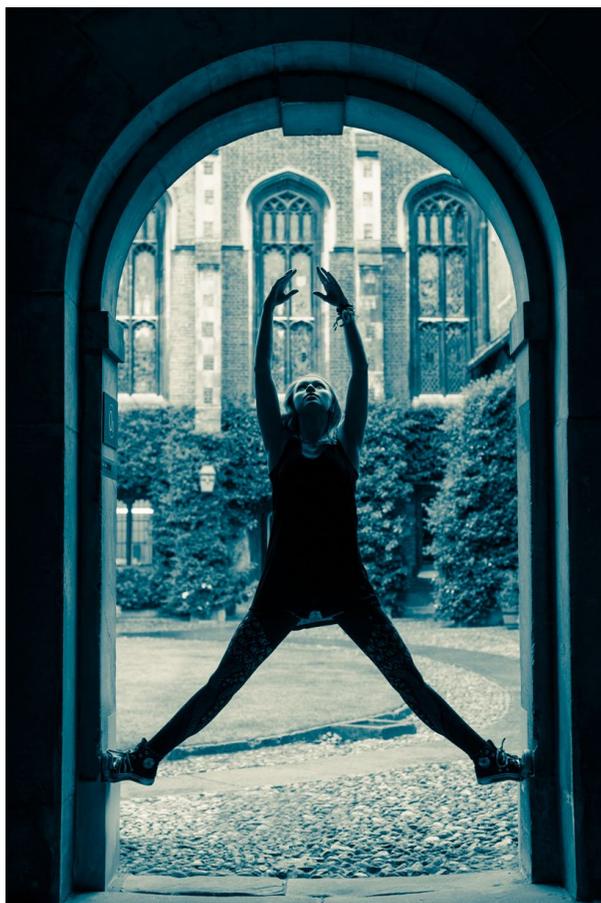


Students are guaranteed college accommodation for the length of their undergraduate courses, either three or four years. All first-year students live on or right next to the main college site. In second year, a lot of people live in the two accommodation houses set about eight minutes' walk from the main site. Living in the college with all your friends is both great fun and financially beneficial (you only pay rent for part of the year). On top of this, we are lucky enough to have 'bedders' who give our rooms a fortnightly clean, and also clean communal areas like bathrooms and showers every week. It is not their job, however, to tidy up our mess - we've got to do that ourselves! They are also good for a chat in the corridor as you take a break from working in your room.

Rent works out at around £130 per week, but varies on a points-based system according to room size, location and facilities. If you want to keep your room over the holidays, you can opt for a 39-week lease. If you want to save money, you can opt for a shorter 30-week lease. There is Wi-Fi in most areas of the main college buildings, and high-speed wired internet is available in all bedrooms.

Communal kitchens are available in some areas of the college, for instance in Newnham House, so that students can make meals together.





A DAY IN THE LIFE

DANIEL FERNANDO - 2ND YEAR MEDIC



7:30 am – Alarm goes off. Press snooze and then try to steal a few extra minutes sleep.

8:00 am – Grab a bowl of cereal and fuel up whilst pre-reading for the day's lectures and practicals.

8:45 am – Cycle to my first lecture (often on the Sidgwick or Downing sites, both within a ten minute walk of Corpus).

10:00 am – Cycle to the anatomy building and the dissection room (DR). Get into my labcoat and join my dissection group. NB: By this point, the preservatives of the DR will make you start craving meat!

12:00 noon – Cycle down to Lady Mitchell Hall or the Chemistry lecture theatre for my second lecture.

1:00 pm – Go to hall for lunch and catch up with friends from other courses. If you're lucky, you may get curly fries!

2:00 pm-4:00 pm – You will either have a biochemistry or pharmacology practical or head back to your room/the library to review the day's lectures.

5:00 pm – Go to supervisions in college. This is a great opportunity to go over key concepts and make sure you understand the lecture/practical material.

6:00 pm – Head to Hall for dinner. Afterwards, go to the bar to play a game of pool or table football and catch up with friends.

7:30-9:00 pm – Try to do a bit more work, maybe an essay for a supervision or revision of some previous content. The key to medicine is to pace yourself and do a sustained amount of work throughout the year.

9:30 pm and after – Finish work for the day. Meet up with friends in the bar, join a group and go out for a night in the city or catch up on a few more hours of sleep and have an early night.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE: Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

Corpus has one of the largest communities of ASNaCs in Cambridge. It's a great place to study Anglo-Saxon literature and history because the Parker Library has the third largest collection of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts in the world, but whatever your interests, you're likely to enjoy your time here. Corpus is also next door to St Bene't's church, the oldest building in Cambridge, with a fully intact Anglo-Saxon square tower.



Bret Cameron, 3rd Year ASNaC student

CORPUS IS TASTY



Obviously food is extremely important for students - there needs to be some fuel for all that reading and essay-writing. Corpus has a really good reputation for food among the colleges, and Hall serves lunch and dinner every day except Saturdays (when there is brunch instead, a real student favourite).

There is a wide variety of food, including hot meals and desserts, as well as soup and salads. Hall is not just a great place to get tasty food but is practically a social event in itself, giving students a chance to take time out from a busy day to catch up with friends.

In addition to normal meals in Hall, on Friday and Sunday evenings there is 'Formal Hall'. This Cambridge tradition is basically a fancy sit-down three-course meal with friends in Hall, the only difference being that it's by candlelight, you dress up and wear your gown, and that the grace is recited in Latin (sounds very strange but you get used to it). At only £10 it can be a cheaper alternative to going out for dinner, and many people enjoy doing 'formal swaps' with friends from other colleges; some people try to go to formal at all 31 colleges! Formal Hall is also completely optional, and at least once a year, students get to have a free formal or 'feast'

Photo credits: Songyuan Zhao

(four courses) with their year group. Corpus was also recently reviewed as having the best formal in Cambridge for its food and atmosphere.

As well as sitting down for food in Hall, the College bar also serves hot and cold breakfast in the morning and sells sandwiches and toasties throughout the day. The bar is more of a café during the day-time, with coffee, snacks and even pick-and-mix! Most students go to Hall at least once a day, but there are also small kitchens known as 'gyp rooms' adjacent to student rooms, with a microwave/oven combo, fridge and sometimes a full oven and hobs, depending on location.





CORPUS IS MUSICAL

There is a strong musical community at Corpus. Members of college can audition for the College Choir, which performs at many college events and goes away on tour during the summer. We also have an active college music society called the Bene't Society, which holds regular informal concerts at lunchtimes or at the weekend, in the Chapel or in the Master's Lodge. There are also acoustic open-mic nights each term in the college bar which are really enjoyable. The college also has several soundproof music rehearsal rooms which any student can book to practise their instrument or singing, and there is a piano in Chapel which is available for all students to use.

CORPUS IS DIVERSE

The JCR LGBT+, Ethnic Minorities, Gender Equalities and International Officers represent groups that make up part of the diverse student body in Corpus. Throughout the year, they arrange discussion groups and teas, and liaise with larger university bodies on behalf of Corpus students.

CORPUS IS DEMOCRATIC (THE JCR)

Each year a group of students is elected to the 'JCR' (Junior Common Room) Committee to represent the undergraduate body to the college. The committee plays an active role in college life, making sure that the views and opinions of students are made known to the people in charge, and helping to make life for all Corpuscles as happy and as fun as possible. There are 16 positions on the committee, devoted to working on everything from Student Welfare to Entertainment. To find out more and see the profiles of the current committee, visit the JCR website (the address is on the back page). The committee organises Freshers' Week and are some of the first friendly faces that new students will see upon arrival (normally followed by phoning your college parents to tell them that their child has arrived). Members of the committee also organise and help with many other things throughout the year.





www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/jcr

JCR Access Officer: jcr-academicandaccess@corpus.cam.ac.uk

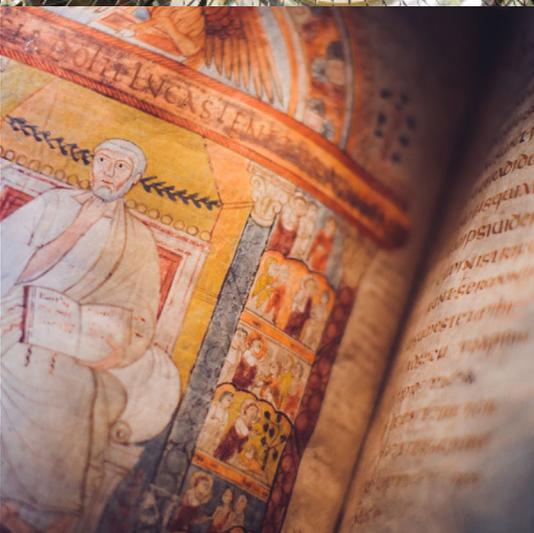
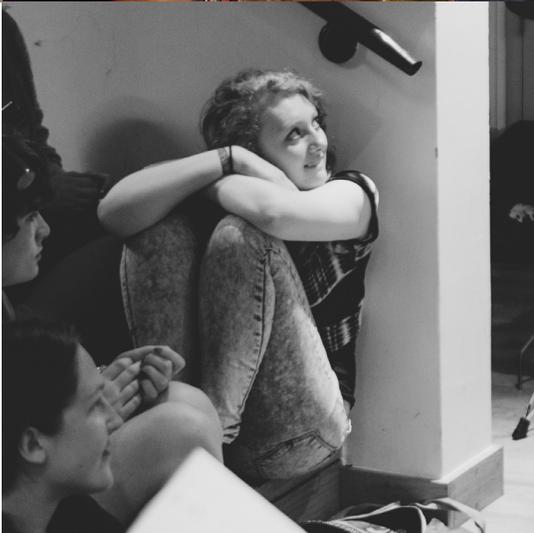
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