St. Catharine’s College

Alternative Prospectus

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Firstly, a big hello from everyone here at St. Catharine’s and welcome to your Alternative Prospectus! We hope that you enjoy reading through this guide, and we’re really pleased that you want to find out more about what life is really like as a Cambridge Undergraduate. In this entirely student-written guide, you’ll find plenty of evidence for why St. Catharine’s is such a fantastic place, both academically and socially, and we’ll prove to you that Cambridge really does have something to offer everyone.

St. Catharine’s (or Catz, as we are affectionately nicknamed), is one of Cambridge’s more central colleges, tucked in right next to Kings. We were founded in 1473, making us the 10th oldest Cambridge College, but by no means does this reflect the lively, modern and friendly atmosphere for which we are well-known. With around 130 Undergraduates per year, our community spirit is evident wherever we go, and we take much pride in chanting ‘For the Wheel’ (our unofficial college motto) at every given opportunity. You will recognise us by our large front gates, topped with our college symbol, the Catharine Wheel, but we recommend you come inside to see for yourselves just how special Catz really is; our General Open days are held during April, June and July but if you would like to visit at any other time, then please email us and we will be delighted to show you around.

Cambridge is a place for those who love their subject and are excited by the prospect of experiencing a world-class education. No matter where you come from or where your interests lie, there is something for everyone here and we hope that our Alternative Prospectus will at least begin to convince you of this. So, turn over to find out what it’s really like to live and study in Cambridge - all from the point of view of our Catz Undergraduates!

For the Wheel,
Contents

Welcome ........................................ Page 1
Contents ........................................ Page 2
Studying at St. Catharine’s ............... Page 3
    AMES ...................................... Page 4
    ASNC ...................................... Page 5
    Classics ................................... Page 6
    Computer Science ....................... Page 7
    Economics ................................. Page 8
    Engineering ............................... Page 9
    English ..................................... Page 10
    Geography ................................. Page 11
    History ..................................... Page 12
    HSPS ....................................... Page 13
    Land Economy ............................. Page 14
    Law .......................................... Page 15
    Mathematics ............................... Page 16
    Medicine ................................... Page 17
    MML .......................................... Page 18
    Music ....................................... Page 19
    Natural Sciences ......................... Page 20
    PBS .......................................... Page 21
    Philosophy ................................ Page 22
    Theology ................................... Page 23
    Veterinary Medicine ..................... Page 24

College Life .................................... Page 25
Accommodation ............................... Page 26
Facilities ..................................... Page 27
Welfare ........................................ Page 30
Sports & Societies ......................... Page 31
Music & Drama .............................. Page 33
Charities ..................................... Page 34
Who’s Who? .................................. Page 35
I Love Catz! ................................. Page 36
Information for Applicants .......... Page 40
Cambridge is world-renowned for providing the very best education, and whilst lectures create a framework for each subject, it is the supervision system which makes studying here so special. Each college is primarily responsible for organising supervisions for their students, and St. Catharine’s has some of the best supervisors in Cambridge across the subjects; many are actively involved in research, some lecture, and a large number are authors of books on reading lists across the University! So you can begin to see just how special studying at Catz really is.

We have two libraries, which are both open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Sherlock Library (built in 1675-1677) houses books in modern languages, linguistics, English literature, art and architecture, and cinema and theatre studies. The ‘new’ library contains the rest of the library’s collection, providing us with a massive 45,000 volumes in total! The college Librarian is always very happy to receive requests for new books, making us very lucky in comparison to other colleges with smaller libraries. We have access to 2 computer rooms on main site (and another at St. Chad’s – our second year accommodation), with scanners and colour printers installed. All college computers have a wide array of software installed on them, saving you lots of money (and of course, a trip to the department). Our central location also means that you are within walking distance from both departmental libraries and the University Library.

Each student has a Director of Studies (DoS, for short) who is responsible for overseeing your academic performance. Our strong academic reputation is illustrated by our consistently high rankings in the Tompkins Table*. Most subjects have their own student-led societies, which form a great support network within subjects. It’s clear that Catz students love studying here - for more information on studying your chosen subject at Catz, read on to find out what our current students have to say.

*Tompkins Table – an annual list that ranks all Colleges in order of their overall examination performances.
Catz is a great college at which to study Chinese because there are usually at least two of you per year doing the subject (which is substantial when the class is about twenty maximum), and your Director of Studies will be Professor Van de Ven who is a top Chinese Historian, has been involved in the faculty on all levels, and great person to guide you through the course. The library has a pretty good stock of East Asian history books which are entirely yours to use, not all the other colleges have so many and it's much easier having things available in the college library than fighting for the faculty copies. The department is on the Sidgwick site so very close and convenient as well.

As for studying Chinese in general, it's intense but really rewarding. Contact hours are a lot more than the average humanities subject and there is a lot of small, homework style work to do like learning vocabulary and translations rather than big essays most of the time. Sometimes it feels like you're progressing very slowly and there's so much left to do before you can be satisfied, but then it can also be so rewarding to look back on when you started the course and see how much you have actually achieved. Having such a small class does give you a whole other social network outside of college life which is pretty unique to the course because it is so small. Another massive selling point has to be the year abroad, which is just so amazing. Life in Beijing is really incredible and there's so much to do, I can't really convey the awesomeness in such a short paragraph - when you get there you will understand!

Tiananmen Square
ASNC is **brilliant** at Catz; we have some of the **best resources**, our ‘Praelector’ is none other than Dr. Dance, (an important member of the ASNC department), and the size of the college makes it great **socially**, as people will get to know you very quickly.

I think our **library** is **one of the best**. For supervisions I often use the University Library and the English faculty library (where we also have most of our **lectures**), but Catz library is **fantastic**. It has a **superb medieval section**, and usually it’s only us ASNCs using it, so you almost have ‘exclusive rights’! Colin, our librarian, is **excellent** as well, and he goes **above and beyond** to help you out with resources.

Lecture and supervision wise, **Dr. Dance** (aka ‘Disco’) should be your Director of Studies, and he helps you get organised with regards to the academic side. He’s extremely **approachable** and very **encouraging**; especially if it’s **Beowulf** or the **Ancrene Wisse** you’re talking about! We usually have 1 or 2 supervisions a week, and they’re usually **one-on-one** with the supervisor – sounds scary but it’s much the opposite! Most ASNC things are outside college, which is brilliant because you get lots of **chances to see other colleges**. Our supervisors are all people you can have a laugh with, and they’re not there to fail you, much the opposite in fact! They want to **hear what you think**, so a one-on-one supervision is a **brilliant opportunity**.

“Everyone at Catz is **really friendly** and studying a subject like ours makes you certainly **stand out** from the crowd; so you should have a ton of new friends in no time! From what I’ve learnt over the past two years and would say to freshers is: **get involved** in as much as you can, seize **every opportunity** and keep your eyes open. Play hard, but look after yourself and take care with your work, and most importantly, stay true to yourself.”

**Adam**
Catz is perfectly placed between the centre of town and the Classics faculty, where lectures are held. Being a Catz student means that you also have language classes there with Charlie Weiss - three a week including Greek and Latin composition, which are extremely helpful as well as being really fun. Supervisions, for which you write an essay each week and then discuss the topic for an hour with someone who may have studied that subject for many years, tend to happen in many different colleges, which provides a great opportunity for seeing some hidden parts of Cambridge! It’s invaluable to discuss your thoughts and opinions with your supervisors, whose books are often on every Classics reading list in the country.

If you’re starting the four year course, having done no Greek or Latin before, you can begin to try out other aspects such as Ancient History or Philosophy as well as learning the languages. It’s great to be able to look at subjects you may not have experienced before, such as Philology, and to study such a wide range of texts including verse about Physics and Plato’s philosophical dialogues. At Catz there is always a Classics representative (a current Classics student) whose job it is to make sure studying Classics at Catz is an excellent experience; in fact, because there are only 2 or 3 Classics students in each year, you can get to know the Classicists in older years really well!

“Studying Classics at Catz is great because we’re a small, friendly group, and we have access to the best teaching in the University. The college library is kept up to date with all the most useful books, including a great Archaeology section, and the Librarian is always keen to hear suggestions for new Classics books. I’ve really enjoyed my first year doing Classics at Catz, and I couldn’t imagine myself doing any other subject here, or being as happy at any other college.”

Kayte
Catz is the best place you’ll find to do Computer Science at Cambridge and here’s why: When you start your course in first year, you’ll be studying Maths and 2 other Natural Sciences modules in a lecture theatre that is 30 seconds from your doorstep, and you’ll be needing that extra sleep as we are also 30 seconds cycle from the centre of town – with restaurants, pubs, clubs and cinema – and living with the most diverse and friendly range of undergrads means that you’re going to have plenty to do in the evenings.”

Hugh

Our college library stocks most of the recommended reading for lecture courses (and you can request new books for free!), or doing supervision work for one of your four weekly supervisions. Each assignment usually takes 2-5 hours to complete. You’ll have all your Compsci supervisions with a couple of Churchill undergrads under Churchill PhD students and fellows, which means you’ll have access to some of the most reputable support for your studies in Cambridge, without having to live a mile out of town!

The Computer Science lab is around 10-15 minutes cycle from college or a 20 minute walk, though in second year (when you live out at St. Chad’s) you’ll be in one of the closest residences to the lab. While a lot of the course is theoretical, there are also some practical up shots; you’ll get a Raspberry Pi to play with in first year and in second year you’ll be programming on large FPGAs, while learning C, Java, ML and forming a group project for an industry leader who will supervise you. In the third year, you’ll round off your degree with your own personal dissertation on a subject of your choosing, and work closely with a research fellow in the computer labs. You can then go on to study a fourth year, if you so wish.

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Economics

Economics is a really broad subject, ranging from technical mathematical models to courses in politics and economic history which you wouldn’t be able to find at other Universities. You have about 12 lectures a week in first year, and supervisions, for which you prepare an essay or a problem set and then spend an hour with an academic working out what you did wrong in a group of between two and four. Catz is lucky enough to have really good supervisors, and you may even be taught by the person who lectured the course. If there’s not a specialist at Catz in the subject, you’ll be taught by an academic from another college, which is a really good excuse to have a nose around other colleges... Supervisions are definitely the best thing about studying Economics here, and I always leave feeling like I’ve learned a lot.

You can find any textbooks you need in the college library, which is really well-resourced, and if there’s anything more specific you need, you can go to the Marshall library in the faculty building. If you have any trouble, you can email your Director of Studies, who’s in charge of your academic progress, or you can talk to one of the other Economists. The Economists also socialise together – we often go out for meals as a group, and there are talks and social events organised by the University Economics society (also named after Alfred Marshall).

“Catz is a really good place to study Economics – our supervisors are really dedicated, the college is well-resourced and students who study here do well. While the idea of applying to Cambridge can be a bit intimidating, you’ll definitely enjoy your time studying Economics, and Catz is the best place for it.”

Luke

Arun Jayapaul (Graduate)
EM Rates Trader, HSBC

Catz Economists at the Marshall Society Ball
There are many great reasons to study Engineering at Catz, not only that the department is just a short walk away, although that is handy for those inevitable 9am lectures and for catching lunch in College before afternoon labs! 

**Supervisions** (1-to-2 or 1-to-3 tutorials) at Catz are really good as the college boasts three Engineering Fellows, who you will likely encounter in your first and second year lectures, who really know their stuff and will ensure that you get something out of every lesson. Unlike other colleges, supervisions are regular (3 or so a week), and are arranged by your Dos (Director of Studies), which will make sure you keep up with the course!

You’ll get an examples paper a few weeks before each supervision and work through any problems and some extra material during the supervision. The papers often take a while, so the workload can be pretty heavy, with several papers, lectures or labs from 9am until 3 or 4pm, and the occasional lab report thrown in for good measure. However, supervisions are very flexible if you have a busy week, which helps.

Catz is one of the few colleges with its own Engineering Society. Highlights of the Engineering social calendar include the freshers’ week curry, black-tie dinner and Summer BBQ!

“One positive of being an Engineer at Catz is our proximity to the Department – it takes less than 10 minutes to walk there, meaning you get extra sleep, and can go back to college during lunch breaks. Furthermore, as Catz is a relatively small (yet unbelievably friendly) college, you will quickly get to know the other Engineers in each year very well. Basically, Catz Engineering provides the perfect environment to work and play hard!”

Andy
As an English Student, despite the best of intentions, you probably won’t go to many lectures. Most of them happen very early in the morning and there are inevitably better things to be doing. As such your college is very important; pretty much all of your work will be working towards two or three small group (usually 2-to-1), college based, weekly supervisions with one or two weekly essays.

English at Catz allows a huge amount of intellectual freedom and students are given a lot of room to explore their own interests. Unlike many other colleges, whether you are studying Shakespeare or the 18th Century Novel, you can choose your own approaches and essay titles, and often your own texts, allowing you to really get to grips with what fascinates you about the works you are studying.

But it’s not all work and with the oldest literary society in Cambridge, the Shirley Society, Catz students can share ideas and writing in a relaxed social setting, listen to guest speakers, or just drink free wine. Add this to the fact that no other college or subject can boast Jeremy Paxman and Sir Ian McKellen as alumni, it seems as if the decision is already made.

Get involved in acting, singing and even directing!

Joe
Catz is the best college to study Geography in! The academic support in college is really good; there are currently 3 Geography fellows, one of which will be your Director of Studies, working with you throughout the year to make sure your academic progress is going according to plan and help you in case of any difficulties. It is also highly probable that you will be taught in supervisions by the Geography fellows at Catz, and if they don’t have enough experience teaching a certain topic they will put you in contact with a supervisor from another college who is best suited to the job.

The Geography course requires a substantial amount of reading, which means it’s important to have a good access to library books. The library in Catz is very well stocked for Geography so will usually have the books you need and it is easy to swap books with others.

Catz is also lucky enough to have its own society specifically for Geographers in the college. This is the Steers Society which organises social events such as meals out, bowling nights, Geography related talks and a fantastic annual dinner! It is a great way of getting to know and spending time with your fellow Geographers!

“I chose to study Geography at Catz because... of many things!

1) Catz takes quite a few geographers which helps create a Catz geography community. Perfect for sharing ideas, swapping books and helping each other decode bizarre essay titles (over tea and cake, naturally!)

2) It’s a 7 minute walk to the Geography Department from Catz: we timed it. A geographical reason to choose Catz!

3) Our library has a good selection of geography books which makes life much easier!”

Isabel

“I chose to study Geography at Catz because of its good reputation and large intake of Geographers. I also chose it because it was advertised as the friendliest college, which I fully agree with! With a large intake compared to other colleges and its reputation for high achievement, it creates a great environment to study in. As a result of having a large number of geographers, we are well known for our ability to work as a big team; helping each other by comparing notes, discussing essay questions and forming study groups”

Rebecca
Cambridge is a **fantastic** place to study History, not least because of the **standard of teaching** and **great facilities**. The course is designed to give you **freedom** in what areas of history you study, so whether it’s medieval or modern history you enjoy, you’ll be able to **dedicate** yourself to **what you love**.

There can be **less contact time** than some of the other subjects meaning that on the whole you can **choose your own hours**, as long as you make sure that you get all your work done! This allows you to explore the other **opportunities** that Cambridge has to offer. The time you do have however is quite **intense**, usually **one-on-one supervisions**, discussing your weekly essay. These supervisions can be with some of the **top historical minds** in the world, so you can be sure that you’ll be made to work during these hour-long sessions!

For me, Catz was always my first choice college at which to study History. Not only are the Fellows **leading experts** in their field, the college is a ten-minute walk (or five-minute cycle) from the History Faculty, which contains the **Seeley Library**, and it is also near the University Library. However, what’s even better is that our college library is very **well-stocked** for History **from all time periods**, so often you don’t even have to leave the college campus for the book you need. That’s particularly ideal when it’s just too early (or probably too late) to venture out to the other libraries.

“I **can't imagine** doing History at any other college than Catz. It sounds like a cliché, but we have some of the **best teaching** the University has to offer, and the college **library** also offers a wide range of books. More than that, the relatively small number of History students mean that it’s a **close-knit, friendly group**, and there’s always someone around to help if the weekly essay is looking a bit stressful! The hours also mean that for the most part I can **choose when I work**, and so have been able to throw myself into all the other activities **Catz has to offer**.”

*Sarah*
HSPS (Human, Social and Political Sciences) is a **brand new Tripos** for 2013, created from the existing **PPS** and **Archaeology & Anthropology** departments, encompassing subjects such as politics, sociology, social anthropology, biological anthropology and archaeology.

Studying HSPS involves being part of a real community. At Catz all the years integrate very well so there is always someone to turn to when you need advice. HSPS in the first year gives you a massive appreciation of the range of ideas in the social sciences and how they relate to each other across the subjects you take.

What you notice immediately about the weekly supervisions is the level of depth to which issues are debated and your essays analysed to. Discussing a topic in a small group gives you new and varying perspectives on how to approach it in ways you may not have previously thought of. Away from studying, the HSPS group in Catz does a lot, from evenings out to going to subject formals at other colleges.

“Among the many great things about Catz, (including the legendary Sunday brunch) what I find most unique is the **warm welcome** that you receive from day one. The mood in Catz is always **light-hearted, fun** and **friendly** which ensures that it takes no time to settle in. So definitely study HSPS at Catz!”

*Saskia (Archaeology)*

“Catz is a **great** college for studying Archaeology – it’s really near the department, so it’s convenient to use the library there, and go to lectures and supervisions. The **resources** at the college are really good, too – the library is pretty **well stocked**, and the **specialist computing software** you need in second and third year is installed on all the college computers (fairly **uniquely**!). Also, the college is amazing at giving **travel grants** for fieldwork abroad – I got one in both my first and second years to go on an excavation in **Italy**!”

*Max*
Land Economy is a rather unique degree at Cambridge due to its multi-disciplinary nature. Covering the principles of law, economics and property rights, it teaches you to think about problems in a multi-dimensional manner. Once you pool these disciplines, they can be applied to modern issues in a variety of different ways, which leads to the most wonderful range of discussions in supervisions! The subject is constantly changing and growing in light of recent current affairs on a range of different scales - it is this scope and flexibility that makes Land Economy so hard to define.

With a group of 4 or 5 in each College year, there is real friendliness and spirit between all Land Economists. Of course, being a rather small subject, having 50-60 students in each year, you will easily make friends outside College as well and get involved in a variety of social events. Land Economy at Catz is a truly wonderful and rewarding subject to study and I am sure you will enjoy it as much as I have. It is a real-world degree that prepares you for the workplace and this is reflected in its excellent near-100% graduate employment rate in sectors ranging from finance to law, planning to conservation.

“The best aspect of Land Economy is its huge breadth allowing you to take the subject in a variety of different directions. Whilst at times this breadth can get a little overwhelming, you could not be at a better college to study Land Economy than Catz. Supervisions are organised by the department, meaning you often get the lecturer for each paper as your supervisor. Both lectures and the departmental library are only in the next street...which makes life particularly convenient!”

Mike
Studying Law can seem really intimidating at first; the reading lists can seem big and trying to navigate your way through websites to find cases can seem impossible! But the lawyers at Catz are friendly and approachable and make settling in to studying law a million times easier.

You have a supervision every 2 weeks for each subject and will usually get a piece of written work every other supervision. Although this means that the work load is pretty intense, working together makes it seem much easier and as your supervisor will quite often be the person who wrote your textbook, anything you don’t understand can usually be cleared up by them, and you also have the opportunity to have some really interesting discussions. Catz is situated really close to the law faculty (only about a 10 minute walk) and the second year accommodation is on the same road which makes 9 o’clock lectures slightly more bearable.

The law library is massive and has every book you could ever need, but there is also a law section in the Catz library which is well stocked and usually has at least one (if not two!) copies of the core texts, and the librarian is always more than happy to get any of the books that you think you need for supervisions. The law society at Catz is also one of the more active ones; it organises events including talks on topics which are often relevant to subjects studied and a trip at the end of Michaelmas to a law firm and somewhere like the Houses of Parliament. It also organises social events such as a law dinner and a garden party and as the lawyers very quickly become some of your best friends these events are always fun.

“One of the best things about studying law at Catz is the other lawyers. There are around 8 of us in each year and as you have your supervisions with each other as well as lectures you will become close to the lawyers within your year pretty quickly. The last few years of lawyers have developed a system of holding “mini-supervisions” together before the actual supervisions which is a really useful way of picking up bits of information from each other and also makes the supervision much less intimidating. It’s also really nice to be able to spend time with the lawyers doing more sociable things like trips to London, the law dinner and more informal meals out with all 3 years – it’s no wonder there is so much ‘Lawyer Love’ here at Catz!”

Liz
Undergraduate Mathematics at Cambridge is taught through lectures, organised by the department, and supervisions, organised by the Director of Studies (DoS) at your college. For Maths at Catz, unlike for many subjects and colleges, you'll probably have the same DoS for all three years, who will also supervise you for a number of courses. Knowing you so well academically and with a wealth of experience, they're well-placed to give advice and support.

The course's workload is high, with each week typically involving about 12 hours of lectures, plus over a dozen hours' preparation for each of two one-hour supervisions. This preparation is challenging, consisting mostly of solving problems from an 'example sheet' based on recent lecture material. On the other hand, few things are as rewarding as completing an elegant set of proofs and grasping some new concept in supervisions, and the support from fellow mathematicians is fantastic. Also, first year lectures are at most five minutes' walk away and most supervisions are in college, so you spend little time commuting and can enjoy the other stuff Catz has to offer.

"I applied to Catz because of its convenient location and nice atmosphere, so it was great to discover the same atmosphere amongst the people here. Also, within maths, the social society for mathematicians means you get to know everyone really well, which comes in handy during shared deadline crises!"

Matthew
Catz is a fantastic place to study Medicine for a number of reasons. Students are very close between years providing an invaluable source of advice on top of that from supervisors, some of whom help to run various aspects of the course itself. This provides useful insight to some of the finer points and they will often go above and beyond the call of duty to help out. Extra seminars, for example, are organised solely to enhance the students' understanding and to go into greater detail than the lectures alone provide. The college library is also excellent in supplying all the books you need and may be able to order in books they do not have if necessary.

We have a student-run Medicine society (MedSoc) dedicated to ensuring the needs and wants of the medical students are taken care of; it runs a website offering further teaching resources and it organises various events during the year. One of these is the annual MedSoc dinner which includes talks from a couple of guest speakers from the professional world. There is also a medical resources room, a room providing an ideal location for group work or just a quiet place for medics to study, as well as containing a number of teaching aids such as models and textbooks.

Andy

“Studying Medicine at Catz is great because of the support network amongst the students. Guidance from the older students, especially college parents and within the Catz MedSoc society really helps!”

- Cat

“The medics at Catz are a close-knit group and are some of the best friends you'll make. The friendships I've made have definitely helped me not only enjoy Uni but be successful and productive in my studies.”

- Yasmin

Cat Medics at the ‘Medsoc’ Ball

Modern and Medieval Languages (MML) at Cambridge is a great course for anyone who loves variety. In addition to practical language classes, the course has papers on literature, history, and cinema amongst others. The third year of the course - your year abroad - means that you have the chance to travel mid-degree; from the Caribbean to Vladivostok, the opportunities really are insane! Linguists at Cambridge are also able to choose modules in other languages such as Catalan, Ukrainian and Dutch to name but a few - so you'll never be short of new things to learn or vocab to master!

Everyone knows that linguists are the best kind of people, after all, we do chat for a living, so where better to choose than Catz: Cambridge’s friendliest and most fun college. The supervisors at Catz are all great fun to work with, we’ve even got an expert on medieval werewolves and snake women – I bet no other college has that!

“Joining Catz as an MML student means getting the best of both worlds; a great subject, that allows you to work hard and travel to amazing places, and a great college – where you will undoubtedly have loads of fun and make some fantastic friends.”

Alice (French and Russian)
St. Catharine’s is a **fantastic** college in which to study Music. As well as an **extensive collection** of reference books, scores, and CDs in the college library, the college provides an impressive level of **financial support** to cover the purchase of music and books, and to contribute towards lessons. The college has a **unique Kellaway instrumental award scheme**, funded by the bequest of an alumnus which, if you become an instrumental scholar, can provide a **substantial grant** towards music lessons with a teacher of your choice.

All students reading Music at Catz get a **piano in their room** (not something common to all colleges), and also have access to two grand pianos (a Schimmel and a model B Steinway), two **practice rooms**, and an extensive collection of CDs in the library. The college’s **Music Society** provides opportunities to play in concerts each term, and ‘Scatz’, the college’s non-audition choir, draws in a large number of students from across the subjects. The **new college centre**, with its underground bar, will be hosting **regular live music nights**, and there are also opportunities to get involved in organising musical entertainment for our annual **summer ball**. All music students have their supervisions at the Music faculty, rather than in college.

“The amount of **support** I’ve received at Catz has been more than I ever expected. The college has not only contributed towards the cost of my lessons, but has also **subsidised the cost of buying music and books** necessary for the course. If there’s something not already in the library which would be useful, our college librarian buys it in, and the college’s collection of CDs often saves the trek up to the faculty. Unlike some colleges, Catz supports us in whichever direction we want to take – if I wanted to suddenly take up improvisation lessons with a particular teacher, they would support it. **Not all colleges** do that. The **termly concerts** run by the **music society** are a good laugh, and because there are not that many music students per year at Catz (usually only 2 of us!), **we’re all very close and get on incredibly well.”

**Alex**

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Seminars . Sport . Tripos .
Bursaries . Exams .
St. Catharine’s has a relatively large intake of Natural Scientists, with around 30 students in total per year. Studying Natural Sciences involves three things: lectures, practicals and supervisions. The main role played by college is in providing supervisions in the first and second years (at least!). We are well-known for having some of the best supervisors in the Natural Sciences at Catz – many of them also lecture the course! It’s no wonder then that supervisions at Catz really are some of the best, and supervisors are always willing to give extra help if you need it, which makes studying at Catz really special.

St. Catharine’s has a reputation for being particularly strong for the sciences, so it’s no wonder that we love it! We even have our own society – the John Ray Society – which is run by current students and organises several talks throughout the year, as well as our annual dinner and garden party! Thanks to our location, most lectures are within easily cycling or walking distance – particularly for biologists, as both the Downing and New Museums sites are about a five-minute walk away.

As a Natural Scientist at Catz, you tend to use the New Library (Catz have 2 libraries in total!), which stocks all the key course textbooks. Both libraries stay open during the night – saving a last-minute essay. Not that that ever happens. Much.

“Being a Natural Scientist at Catz is great because there are so many of us! Supervisions can be terrifying at times (particularly if you’ve been dozing off in lectures again) and they can be fantastic, but they’ll always make you step up your game and push you towards being a better scientist and getting a better degree, and they’ll never be boring. The work itself is challenging (almost always in a good way) and will take up a fair bit of time - there are always people around who’re going through exactly the same thing as you. It’s a good support network – and it doesn’t hurt that most of the lecture buildings are pretty close as well...”

Helen
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
(New for 2013)

Psychological and Behavioural Sciences is an exciting new course which gives students excellent opportunities to explore all areas of Psychology, and Catz truly helps to bring this course to life. As an undergraduate Psychology student, you will automatically become a member of the Catz John Ray Society, which gives you the opportunity to go to extra talks by experts in order to go beyond lecture material and further your interest in the subject. The PBS tripos is fairly small, and so there are only a couple of students a year doing PBS at Catz, making you truly special.

The best thing about being a PBS student at St Catharine’s is its proximity to lecture theatres and practical labs. Lectures are almost exclusively at Mill Lane meaning a mere 5 minute walk from bed to lecture chair, while practical labs are only 10 minutes away. Supervisions are a really useful and fun part of the course. They are great for clarification of the course material but also are essential for extending your knowledge beyond this. As PBS is such a small tripos, it is likely that you will have supervisions with students with other colleges, which is a great opportunity to make friends with people from other colleges.

“Within the core Psychology modules, there are exciting opportunities to get involved in the more practical side of the subject, which is something that I really love. For example, we were able to look at a wide range of brain scans and even had the opportunity to handle a human brain! PBS at Catz is a winning combination; not only does it mean that you are within 10 minutes of everything Psychology related, it also means you are at a college that provides anything that you may need for the course. It is truly a wonderful course at the best college.”

Georgina 21 year doing PBS at Catz, making you truly special.
Defining Philosophy makes for a great debate in itself, but studying it at Catz is a sure way to begin getting your head round it as you get stuck in to doing Philosophy from the start. You’ll be looking at fascinating questions about the nature of reality and knowledge, and one-to-one supervisions really allow you to enter into dialogue with the greats – be it wrestling with Hume in your weekly essay, or discussing your latest thoughts with your supervisor over a coffee! As there are only a couple of Philosophers per college year, teaching is personal and challenging, ensuring you will get skilled at creative enquiry and detailed criticism.

Being quite a small subject group, cross-college friendships are a given and there are lots of opportunities to meet up, whether socially, at the two Philosophy societies, or at faculty-run classes. Here at Catz, we organise informal inter-year get-togethers, so there are plenty of relaxed occasions for idea-sharing and advice (when those logic worksheets get a bit tricky!). In all, you’ll find a perfect environment for developing analytical skills, which are useful for further studies but also open the doors to a variety of careers.

“Catz is just right for Philosophy. I loved the supportive atmosphere the other Philosophers at Catz provided when I started as a fresher. The bonus is that the weekly book hunt is so easy because I pretty much have all of the well-stocked Philosophy section of the college library to myself, and the faculty at Sidgwick is very close by. The course is rigorous, you get linked up with fantastic supervisors, and there are so many chances to learn more – there’s really never a dull moment!”

Rachel
Choosing to study Theology at Cambridge is a great decision. But choosing to study Theology at St. Catharine’s is an even better one! The department is extremely friendly and understanding which allows everyone to feel welcome and comfortable right from the word go.

In terms of intake, Catz is a mid-sized college for Theology students, typically with two or three Theologians per year. Relative to other subjects within the college, Theology is fairly small. This means that everyone gets to know each other extremely quickly and the Theology Director of Studies is exceptionally attentive to the individual needs of each student. The Theology faculty is roughly a 10-minute walk away or a 5-minute cycle ride away. In second year Catz students live away from the Island Site, which is great for Theologians because the second year accommodation is on the same road as the Theology faculty – you can get from your bed to your lectures in less than 3-minutes!

Depending on which modules you choose to study (you get a completely free choice in both second and third year), you will either be supervised by yourself, with someone else from your college, or with someone doing the same module from a different college. There are never more than three supervisees per supervision.

The faculty itself is very modern with a warm and inviting atmosphere – helped by the free coffee which is often available in the foyer. The library is extremely well-stocked and the librarians are kind and helpful, always willing to help you look for books that you need. If you can’t find the book you need in the faculty library itself, you’re sure to be able to find it in either the University Library or Catz college library. Catz libraries are extremely well stocked - if there is a book which you need but cannot find then the librarian is more than happy to source it for you!

One of the things that most incoming freshers worry about is the workload. However, this is not something that should be worried about. Supervisions are generally organized so that students have one essay a week to do and just so long as you organize your time well this is entirely manageable! Furthermore, unlike the scientists, Theologians and other arts students have very few contact hours meaning that you can do your work whenever it is best for you. All in all, Catz honestly is a truly great place to study Theology and it would be hard to find someone who disagreed!”

Miranda
There are many aspects of Catz that make it an exceptional place to study Veterinary Medicine. The college is lucky enough to have the organiser of the pre-clinical veterinary course and clinical veterinary anatomist Dr Bainbridge as the Director of Studies and supervisor in a number of subjects for all Veterinary students at Catz, so you can be assured the teaching, as in all supervision subjects, is first class.

Another asset is the college library, which stocks all books that you will need for the pre-clinical course close at hand (and a lot of clinical books too), and if any are missing they can be requested. As well as the library the college houses a medical resources room which provides a place for medical and veterinary students to work silently or in discussion in a more relaxed environment. The college also has an active medical society, which holds an annual dinner with guest speakers, termly parties, and advice evenings which allow both medical and veterinary students to socialise, relax and stay involved until they graduate, and for younger years to get valuable advice. The medical society is also responsible for the MedSoc website, giving exclusive access to revision notes, past papers and other useful information.

“Choosing Catz for Veterinary Medicine has proved to be one of the best decisions I’ve made; it takes the second largest number of vet students per year, which means there are always people around to support you, and being so close to lectures in the first three years is a bonus. The teaching in supervisions is excellent, and being taught with the medics gives sense of community. The MedSoc website is unique to Catz and has proved invaluable during exams, and if you’re worried about work, advice is close at hand; the college truly cares about your welfare.”

Jemima Hands-On... the life of a Cambridge Vet...
Not only is Catz a great place to study, it is also a lovely place to live. Despite being one of the smaller colleges in Cambridge, you’ll find everything you need here on site (or in the case of our sports facilities, just a short bike ride away!). All students are guaranteed accommodation for the first 3 years of their degree, with our first and third years living on main site (as you’ll see, second year students move to college-owned accommodation, St. Chad’s). With a gym, laundry room, numerous computer rooms and 2 libraries on-site, as well as kitchens and a Chapel, everything is conveniently at your doorstep. Our location also means that we’re in close reach from most things, such as supermarkets, banks, museums, parks, pubs and clubs, as well as most subject departments. We pride ourselves with our friendly and welcoming atmosphere, something we guarantee you’ll experience when you visit during one of our Open Days.

When we’re not busy in the library studying, there are plenty of opportunities in college and around Cambridge to get involved in. As you’ll see, we have almost every sports team going and with a wide variety of societies on offer, we really are spoilt for choice! The encouragement gained from the college community here is infectious, and most of us find ourselves trying something new at least once. Our freshers’ reps are responsible for overseeing freshers’ week, meaning everyone is able to settle in quickly and that there is always someone who can help if you need anything. The Porters are members of college staff who run the ‘front of house’ in college, meeting everyone who comes in as well as getting to know students, which is especially handy (the porters seem to know everything!). They’re great to chat to, especially when in need of some wisdom.

In June 2013 we opened our brand new college building, The McGrath Centre. This includes a brand new underground bar, JCR common room, auditorium, conference rooms and extra places for study if the library is not your thing. Our bar has already been put to good use, being utilised for JCR events such as karaoke nights, charity events and acoustic sets. This is a very exciting addition which greatly enhances what Catz already has to offer. So read on to find out more about what it’s like to live at St. Catharine’s!
Unlike most other Universities in the UK, all Catz students are guaranteed college accommodation for the first 3 years of their Undergraduate degree. First and third years are housed on the Island Site where there are a variety of rooms available, ranging from those with an en-suite to larger, more traditional ones. Those living in non-ensuite rooms typically share a bathroom with around 6-8 people, and these rooms are also equipped with a large basin and mirror. Kitchens (or ‘gyp rooms’ as we like to call them) are also shared between the same number of people, containing a microwave, hob, kettle, toaster and fridges, in addition to cupboard space (although some gyp rooms are of better quality of others... it’s sometimes just the luck of the draw!). All college rooms come well-furnished with a bed, desk, lamp, chairs, wardrobe, shelving and/or drawer space. Heating and lighting are provided.

Second year students live off-site, a mere 5-minutes away at St. Chad’s. Here, students choose to live in flats of 4 or 5 with a group of friends (flats are allocated to each group via a random ballot). Each flat comes with 2 bathrooms and a kitchen, and some of the larger flats also have wider corridors which can be made into a dining space. All rooms are octagonal in shape (to fit with our ‘wheel’ theme!) and are large in size. The renovation of some of these flats has begun recently, with all new rooms being very well-furnished and modern. There are plans to continue these refurbishments over the next few years.

We are pretty unique amongst the Cambridge colleges in that we have an elected position on the JCR committee responsible for organising the room ballots each year - our Accommodation Officer. This makes the process of choosing rooms in 2nd, 3rd and 4th year very fair, and although there are 140 or so other people in each year, there is such a variety of rooms to choose from that no-one ends up disappointed. As our University terms only last 8 weeks, you don’t have to pay for accommodation over the holiday (although it can be a little tedious to have to properly move out at the end of each term) - we get used to it.

The University is very generous in the bursaries they offer students for help towards living costs (e.g. rent). For more information please see http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/cambridgebursary/2012/index.html
Facilities

Food & Dining

At Catz we have the best of both worlds when it comes to your preferred culinary choices. With a great dining hall serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, meals cost on average £2.00 - £4.50, and are a great option if you want to catch up with friends over food or if you just don’t want to cook for yourself! Additionally, on every corridor in college there are ‘gyp rooms’ (small kitchens containing a microwave, hob, fridges, kettle and toaster). Each gyp room is shared between 6–8 people, so the space can be a little bit limited storage-wise, but you’ll find this isn’t too much of a problem when you’re cooking as a corridor anyway! At St. Chad’s, each flat contains its own kitchen, with the additional luxury of ovens for those who are into baking. Recently there have been renovations to some of the flats in St. Chad’s, with the kitchens getting a well-deserved makeover, and of course this means brand new appliances. There are plans to continue renovating flats over the next few years, which will make a significant improvement to our current kitchen facilities. For special occasions there is also formal hall, which is available 3 times a week if you choose to go, costing £8.85 – a great price, since we are the only college with a cheese course!

Utilities

On main site we have a laundry room containing 6 large washing machines and 4 tumble driers. All machines are coin-operated, meaning 20-pence pieces soon become very valuable amongst students! Our washing facilities are fairly good value for money compared with other colleges, although it does pay to find out quickly which tumble drier isn’t quite as good as the others... At St. Chad’s there is a laundry room on site – which really is convenient! Depending on the type of room you have, the bathroom facilities vary throughout college. There are around 100 en-suite rooms, which each have their own shower, sink and toilet. For those rooms without en-suites, you can expect to share a bathroom with 6–8 other people. These rooms without their own individual bathroom facilities are also provided with a sink and mirror. All rooms have radiators, though being an older college you may find that you still need to don an extra jumper in winter depending on the type of room you have (they didn’t have double glazing back in 1473, surprisingly).
Facilities

Gym & Sports

Unlike most other Universities, we have our very own gym on site which is free of charge to all college members (after a £5 induction fee!). The gym is a decent size, containing plenty of weights, rowing machines and exercise bikes. For second years living at St. Chad’s, the gym is only a 5-minute cycle away, so it really is a convenient, cheap way of keeping fit. For a fairly small college, we also have an excellent range of sports facilities, ranging from our indoor Badminton and Squash courts to our Astroturf, Sports pitches, Netball courts and Boathouse. We have an elected JCR Sports & Societies Representative, a current student who ensures that our gym and sports facilities are up to date, and who organises gym induction sessions. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of college alumni, there are bursaries available to both undergraduates and graduates to assist with extra costs of competing in sports at a high college or University level, be it for travel expenses or accommodation for training camps. Here at Catz, we’re really very lucky to have such a great range of support available for those with sporting goals. It’s no wonder we’re so successful in the inter-collegiate leagues!

Library & Computing

Here at Catz we are very lucky to have 2 libraries on site which are both open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Sherlock Library houses books for subjects such as MML, English Literature, and Art & Architecture. It is the older of the two libraries, being built around 1675-1677. In 1947, the library was re-equipped with new chairs and tables, on which the names of men who had died in the war were carved. The ‘New’ Library was opened in 1986, and contains books for all other disciplines including medicine, natural sciences, law, mathematics and engineering.
Facilities

With around **70,000 volumes in total**, we certainly have some of the more **impressive** libraries amongst the Cambridge colleges! Of course, even with such an impressive collection it is impossible to hold every book in the world, but our **Librarian** does an **excellent** job in trying to fulfil book requests. Recently we had a new **photocopier** and **printer** installed into the New Library, which has really **enhanced** the facilities available. Additionally, we have **3 computer rooms** on main site, each with printers and scanners. All college members have access to these computers, and there is a wealthy range of **software** installed, saving students from having to purchase their own software for project work etc. Conveniently, at St. Chad’s there is a large computer room for second year students. Each term college gives us a small amount of **individual printing credit** each, which certainly comes in useful! We also have our very own **computing office**, so that if something goes wrong with a college computer or even with your own personal computer (if you have one!), there are **experts** available to help.

Music Practise Room & Chapel

For those interested in music, we have an **underground practise room** which stores equipment such as **speakers, amps, microphones** and music stands, and serves as a place to practise away from your room. All **Choral scholars** and music students can request a piano or keyboard to practise with in their rooms (though if you fit neither of these categories and still enjoy playing, you can request to have one for the duration of the term, if there’s one available!).

To the right side of main court, you will see our college **Chapel** – the **college choir** practises here daily, and services are held regularly. However, the Chapel is also a place to go if you just want to sit quietly, **regardless of faith**. The **College Music Society** uses the Chapel as the location for concerts throughout the year, and for ‘**Chill in the Chapel**’, a music event run fortnightly where students can perform by candlelight (with hot chocolate and biscuits afterwards!).
Catz is a very **friendly** college and people really **enjoy** their time here. However that doesn’t mean that things can’t go wrong sometimes. Some people find it hard to settle in a new environment, some encounter problems with work or with personal situations. At Catz there is an **excellent Welfare team** and **support network** available to ensure that if any problems arise, you can be provided with the services needed or pointed in the **right direction**.

On the JCR committee there are 2 **elected Welfare Officers** – one male, one female - whose role it is to look out for the students on the JCR and to **provide support** where necessary. They are able to provide students with contraception and pregnancy tests on a **confidential** basis. They are also available to approach about anything in confidentiality, whether it be just to get something off your chest, or to ask for **guidance** as to where to go next to deal with a particular problem. Welfare Officers will **listen without judgment** and will be able to point you in the right direction of one of the many **support services available in Cambridge**.

In College, you are also able to approach a **wide range** of people, depending on the situation and who you feel most **comfortable** talking to. The college nurse, chaplain, your tutor, your Director of Studies, or the Senior Tutor are all available for you to talk to about any issues you may be having and of course you can talk to your **friends**, too!

Cambridge itself has a **great Welfare system** with lots of services providing **support** and **advice** available to all students. One thing you can be sure of at Catz is that you will **never have to be alone** and everyone can have a **fantastic** time here.

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**Jill, JCR Female Welfare Officer**
Catz has an amazing reputation across the University where Sports and Societies are concerned. By fielding teams for every college sport - Rugby, Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Athletics, Water Polo, Squash, Rowing, Badminton, Netball and Tennis (to name but a few!), we are ever present in the college sports leagues (inter-college divisions played at the weekends) and tend to enjoy winning division titles and the ultimate inter-college knock out tournaments, ‘Cuppers’. Alongside our motto ‘For the Wheel’ we also like the phrase ‘Why Not?’, and as a member of Catz, if you show any interest in a sport at all you can expect to be dragged into at least 8 new ones throughout your time here! We have a strong reputation for our Hockey successes (at one point we’d played 53 games unbeaten!) and, despite a recent dip in form, we also have a strong Rugby team.

Athletics ‘Cuppers’ – Champions!

St. Catharine’s sports facilities are just fantastic. We have two squash courts, a basketball court, two badminton courts, a netball court, a football pitch, an Astroturf pitch, a newly extended Boathouse and access to the University Athletics ground and swimming pool. We also have a College Gym, which is free of charge after a £5.00 induction, and is fixed up with weights, exercise bikes and rowing machines. The annual sports calendar in Catz comes to an end in April with Acheson-Gray Day. Every year, a number of alumni return to take on the current Catz teams at sports including Rugby, Cricket, Netball, Football and Hockey, with the day ending in a formal dinner in college. Essentially, if you’re looking to play sport at University, Catz is the perfect environment, whether you’d consider yourself to be a professional or equally if you’ve never played before!
There is also great financial support available in the form of generous bursaries for our keen sportsmen and women, which helps towards the cost of equipment and sports kit.

As for Societies, we really are a plentiful college! There will never be a time when you aren’t tempted to buy Fairtrade cakes outside hall at lunch, when you don’t fancy a cup of tea with the Tea Society or when you feel like watching a film with the film society one evening. Our societies range from our own internal Amnesty International group to our Careers Society, meaning you can get involved with just about anything, and with societies available for our chess players, scientists, young entrepreneurs, charity workers and, of course, musicians, we really are a unique place in which you can try something new in addition to your studies.

Additionally, our college Society’s Fund means that if you have your own idea for a new Society, then the chances are you will be able to fund it! As a society member you can expect to attend talks from well known academics, dinners with subject experts and the chance to spend time with people with similar interests.

Where Sports and Societies are concerned, Catz really does provide it all.

Elly,
JCR Sports & Societies Officer
Catz Music Society is one of the most active in Cambridge and we can offer many musical opportunities to all members of the college (of any musical ability). So whether you play a musical instrument, sing, compose or just enjoy listening to music, the Society has something to offer you.

**Catz Orchestra** is open to all players of any standard from the JCR and the MCR and performs each term. The highlight of each year is the **May Week Concert**, which is held outside. The audience gets the opportunity to sit on the grass of Main Court, eating strawberries and cream and drinking Pimms! The orchestra is a chance to have a bit of fun playing music, without the seriousness or dedication required of the main University Orchestras.

**Singing opportunities** in Catz are provided mainly by the **Chapel Choir**. The Choir sings two services a week and has one extra rehearsal on top of that. In recent years the choir has been on tour to Japan, Denmark, China, Czech Republic, Paris and the USA – this year we went to Ireland! **SCATZ** is a newly formed choir for those who enjoy singing, but do not want a massive commitment.

**Chill in the Chapel** is for those who enjoy listening to music or just want the opportunity to get away from work for a bit! Chill in the Chapel is a recital series that is always fun and informal, and anyone can sign up to perform. We welcome all genres of Music - last year the programme ranged from a Mozart aria to Amy Winehouse! You relax on beanbags and cushions in the chapel and there is hot chocolate, marshmallows and biscuits served afterwards.

Finally the music society can help to provide the money and resources for many special performances. So far, we’ve helped composers put on their own operas, musicals and contemporary music concerts, as well as funding concerts held outside Catz, such as a small Baroque recital we put on at a nearby Church in June. We also put on the Kellaway Recital Series which welcomes professional musicians to Catz to perform and give master classes.

**Julia,**
Music Society President
Charities

Charity is a big part of the lives of many Catz students, with countless ways to get involved. Within college there is the role of Charities Officer, an elected position on the JCR committee. They head up the Charities Committee who organise college-based events throughout term.

Within the University there are also an incredible number of different charitable organisations. RAG raises money for 10 different charities each year, through University-wide events including RAG Blind Date, Jailbreak and our weekly ‘raids’ (bucket collections often done in fancy dress). There are also other charitable organisations such as Student Community Action and the Hub, which offer volunteering opportunities. With so many ways to spend your time helping good causes there’s something for everyone, whether you want a role with responsibility or just want to get involved once in a while.

Yasmin,
JCR Charities Officer

Events in the past have included formal dinners, pub quizzes and our annual male beauty pageant. Anyone can get involved, either helping with events or organising your own. There are also societies for specific charities that also organise their own events for you to get involved in, including Amnesty International and our very own CatzSAFE (Catz Southern Africa Fund Education).

‘Miss Catz’, our annual male beauty pageant!

RAG Jailbreak

Amnesty International

LOST
Who's Who?

There are many people in college you will encounter during your time at Catz, each with their own specific roles. Here are some of the important ones!

**The Master**
Essentially the ‘Head of College’ responsible for promoting our educational, developmental and financial priorities. The current Master is Professor Dame Jean Thomas.

**The Dean**
Responsible for discipline. Most of us never have to meet formally with the Dean in our time here – as long as you’re polite, don’t do anything illegal or anything which might disadvantage any other member of college.

**Admissions Tutors**
Dr Philip Oliver (Sciences) and Dr David Bainbridge (Arts). They’re here if you have any questions about applying to Catz or alternatively you can meet them on our Open Days. (undergraduate.admissions@caths.cam.ac.uk)

**Director of Studies (DoS)**
An academic in your chosen subject responsible for overseeing your academic progress. We have a strong field of committed Directors of Studies, who are often involved in the interview process and organise supervisions once you begin your course. You can find a list of all Directors of Studies on our college website.

**JCR Committee**
Elected body of students within Catz responsible for collectively representing undergraduate students’ interests within college and in Cambridge University Students’ Union (CUSU). Roles cover welfare (male and female), access & admissions, treasurer, sports & societies and environment to name but a few. We have fortnightly committee meetings.

**Tutors**
Responsible for ensuring your pastoral welfare, as well as dealing with minor academic issues (your Director of Studies is the main academic contact). You’re able to meet at any time with your tutor, but usually you’d only do that a few times a year. It’s quite informal!

**Porters**
Members of college staff who run the ‘front of house’, meeting everyone who comes in as well as getting to know students. They deal with mail, keys and security and are generally a first port of call if you need to know anything (they’re very knowledgeable).
“...it always has the biggest turnout at sports matches!” – Leila, 3rd Year (Economics)

“...it’s right in the centre of Cambridge but everyone makes it feel like home!” – Isabel, 3rd Year (Geography)

“...of the friendly atmosphere around college; you can’t cross main court without bumping into someone!” – Peter, 4th Year (Natural Sciences)

“... everyone gets involved in everything” – Elly, 3rd Year (Land Economy)

“...there’s a real sense of community here – if you need a hand with something, there’s always someone willing to help” – Sara, 3rd Year (Natural Sciences)

“...it has a cheese course” – Emmanuela, 3rd Year (MML)

“...of the people, closely followed by the ducks. Plus Chill in the Chapel” – Faith, 2nd Year (AMES)

“...of Sunday brunch. Gorgeous” – Elan, 2nd Year (MML)
“...you can never walk across main court without bumping into someone for a good natter” – Becky, 4th Year (Medicine)

“...you always bump into at least 5 people when you’re going anywhere, you could never be lonely here.” – Maddie, 1st Year (Natural Sciences)

“...it’s nice and central but you don’t have to fight your way through crowds of tourists to get to lectures every morning.” – Ian, 1st Year (Engineering)

“...of the people! I’ve never met a finer bunch of individuals in any institution, even in other colleges” – Jake, 2nd Year (Geography)

“...we’re officially a Pointless college. Not that we’re useless – far from it – but none of the one hundred people on the quiz show knew we existed when they were asked about Cambridge colleges” – Luke, 3rd Year (Economics)

“...of the people, the laughs, and the fact that you can always find someone (usually a large group of people) who are up for doing whatever ridiculous thing you feel like doing at any time of day or night!” – Genna, 2nd Year (Law)
“...we finally get ovens in second year!” – Beau, 3rd Year (MML)

“...you can't walk across Main Court without meeting and chatting with someone you know – meaning you have to leave a few extra minutes to get to lectures!” – Laura, 1st Year (History)

“...it’s the only college with a cheese course!” – Ben, 2nd Year (Theology)

“...people are up for a laugh and it’s great fun” – Andy, 3rd Year (Engineering)

“...it’s so easy to get involved in college sport – even if you’re a complete beginner.” – James, 2nd Year (Natural Sciences)

“...of the inclusive atmosphere and amazing sports teams, and of course BRUNCH!” – Scott, 1st Year (Law)

“...of the college community. There’s always someone around to chat to when you’re trying to avoid work” – Luke, 3rd Year (Economics)
I Love Catz because...

"...you pretty much know everyone (or at least recognise them!)." – Emma, 1st Year (Veterinary Medicine)

"...it’s beautiful, right in the centre of town, and doesn’t attract loads of tourists like King’s" – Sally, 3rd Year (Music)

"...it’s situated perfectly between Sainsbury’s and lectures” – Julia, 3rd Year (Natural Sciences)

"...of its homely and cozy atmosphere in an otherwise vast and impersonal city.” – Roy, Erasmus Student (Law)

"...it really is one big family and I know from personal experience that everyone around is there for you whenever you need help with anything, reassuring you and making you feel welcome and at home.” – Emilia, 1st Year (ASNC)

"...there’s so much support from and within college for those with sporting goals.” – Oscar, 2nd Year (Land Economy)
Is applying to Cambridge something you are thinking about? Have you already made your mind up or are you still unsure of whether it’s for you? We really hope that our Alternative Prospectus has been useful in helping to persuade you that Cambridge has something for everyone, no matter where your interests lie or where you come from. Despite some misconceptions surrounding Cambridge, the only real elitism you will find here is in the quality of teaching itself. It really is somewhere to seriously consider if you love your subject and are excited by the prospect of studying at one of the best Universities in the World! If you would like any more information on any of the courses, colleges or even if you want to know more about general life as a Cambridge Undergraduate, then head to the links above to find the answers to any questions you may still have. Always remember that whilst Cambridge is hard-work, there is also a lot more to offer here which really makes it such a special place to live and study. If you would like to know more about St. Catharine’s in particular, then please visit the website below, or email us and we’ll be happy to get back to you!
With thanks to the members of St. Catharine’s College for their valuable contributions.

A Catz JCR Production