

Student charges for Accommodation, Heat, Light and Utilities, and the Kitchen Fixed Charge

This page explains charges for Undergraduates. Charges for Graduates are set in similar ways but are explained at:

<http://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/students/graduate-resources/finance>

Undergraduate rooms are on two sites, the main Trumpington Road site known as the Island Site, and the St Chad's buildings that are about 15 minutes walk away.

Student Bills include charges for the facilities you enjoy in the College, as follows:

Accommodation charges. From October 2016 this will include the cost of the room and utilities i.e. Electricity, Gas (for heating), Water and Broadband connection, including where available the costs of Wi-Fi. Rooms have been divided into eight price bands on the Island Site and two bands at St Chad's for charging purposes. The JCR Committee and the Bursar review the allocation of rooms to bands every few years, so if you have any comments about the banding of your room please contact the JCR Accommodation Officer (jcr.accommodation@caths.cam.ac.uk). The most expensive undergraduate rooms are priced approximately 50% higher than the cheapest ones both to reflect differences between rooms and to offer students breadth of choice.

Unfortunately Water, Gas and Electric meters are not ideally placed to measure usage in specific areas of College e.g. by staircases. Therefore, costs are averaged across the Island rooms and separately across St Chad's rooms. The College purchases its energy in a consortium with other Colleges, generally at costs significantly below domestic prices.

As well as an accommodation charge for each ten week Period of Residence (overlapping the eight week Terms), there are options to reserve in advance accommodation for your second and third years, which can be occupied over the Christmas and Easter vacations. This can be valuable as it saves the need to move rooms in order to stay in College over parts or all of those vacations. More details of these options are provided when room choices are made for the following Academic Year, as discussed below.

Rooms are allocated as follows:

- Freshers are allocated the rooms on the Island Site not previously chosen by those students who will form the third year (see below). There is an option in August (we contact Freshers when we have received their public examination results, about this and many other matters) to specify whether or not you have a preference for a cheaper room, but the choice is more limited for Freshers.
- In the middle of your first year, there is a random ballot to rank students who then choose in rank order rooms in the St Chad's site, which is where second year students live. Rooms at St Chad's are grouped into flats, which each comprise 4-5 study bedrooms with shared bathrooms and gyp rooms. Often students group together and choose whole flats.
- In the middle of your second year, there are two random ballots, one for Scholars (i.e. those achieving first class marks in their first year examinations), which ranks the Scholars, and the Scholars then pick from the Island Site rooms for the third year in that ranked order. The second ballot is for all other second year students, and they pick from the remaining Island

Site rooms for their third year. Linguists going abroad for their third year pick the rooms they will occupy in their fourth year at this point in time.

- Although it is impossible to provide a 100% guarantee, the College expects to be able to provide accommodation in their fourth year for all undergraduates on a planned four year course, provided that they register and confirm interest in college accommodation by the deadlines set and circulated annually.

The College Dean has the right to override room allocations for disciplinary reasons. Such cases, while rare, are likely to place a student in a room of a lower band than the original room choice, and no refunds or reductions are available in such cases.

Kitchen Fixed Charge (KFC). An important part of the Collegial nature of the student experience in Cambridge is eating together, which has been a facet of College life since the foundation of the University. The College maintains a year-round catering operation in Hall and the Coffee Shop with a high level of fixed costs such as wages, equipment maintenance and replacement. In addition the College provides modest cooking facilities in student accommodation, known as gyp rooms, and operates a College Bar/ Coffee Shop with prices a little below those in the town. The costs of providing meals and facilities for students are recovered in three ways:

1. A fixed termly charge, the KFC, which covers part of the fixed costs explained above. The KFC varies between the Island and St Chad's, primarily because Hall and the Bar/ Coffee Shop are on the Island Site, and hence more accessible to those living on the Island Site.
2. Charges for each meal, in cafeteria, coffee shop and formal hall, and for drinks in the Bar
3. Primarily in the Vacations, the College (like all other Colleges) allows external conferences and meetings to use its meeting rooms and catering facilities. These customers pay significantly more than students for meals etc. This activity effectively subsidises the term-time student catering, including enabling us to provide some major functions free to students (including the Matriculation and Graduation Dinners).

The JCR Officers and the Bursar in Lent term negotiate changes to Accommodation Charges and KFC each year, for the following year.

Bursar