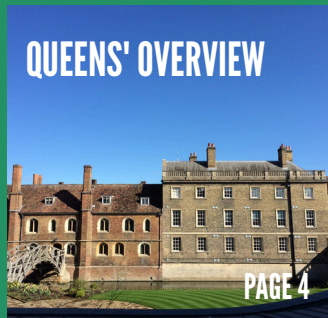


QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS

A STUDENT-MADE GUIDE TO LIFE
AT QUEENS'

2025 VERSION



WELCOME

Hi everyone! We are very excited to welcome you to Queens' this year. We are among the largest and best-located colleges in the city, and definitely the friendliest (if you ask anyone which college they'd have applied to after their own, they always say Queens'...).

Being a large college, there are so many opportunities to get involved in college life, from sport to theatre, music to academic clubs, and even the JCR Committee. I came to Queens' not really sure what I wanted to get involved in apart from a bit of college rugby, but I'm very glad to be doing so many things around college; it will help you make the most out of your time here!

Whilst I've run out of space in this foreword, I highly encourage you to read the rest of this alternative prospectus in order to get the best idea of college life, and to contact college or the JCR Committee if you have any questions (@queensjcr on Instagram)!

Duncan Paterson

English student & Queens' JCR President 2025-26

Queens' College JCR is the undergraduate student body in Queens', represented by the JCR Committee, who produced this guide. For more please check our socials!

Instagram: **@queensjcr**

TikTok: **@queenscollegejcr**

TAKE A TOUR OF QUEENS' COLLEGE

ADMISSIONS

This alternative prospectus will focus on life at Queens', not really admissions. We would encourage all students to consider applying to top universities like Cambridge and know that Queens' warmly welcomes applicants from all backgrounds. There are some links at the end of this document that should explain the admissions process.

TERMINOLOGY

Buttery = The food hall, so the cafeteria basically. It's called 'Hall' in some colleges.

Plodge = Porter's Lodge, the main entrance to a college.

Formal = Three-course formal dinners in the college which students can book onto.

Michaelmas = The first term of the academic year (mainly October & November).

Lent = The second term of the academic year (January-March).

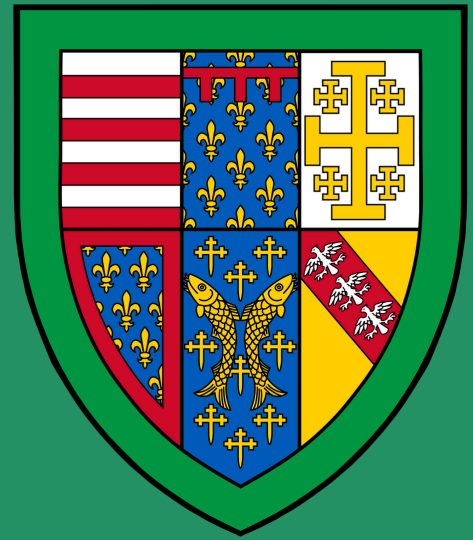
Easter = The third term of the academic year (April-June).

JCR = "Junior Combination Room" = The undergraduate body **or** the JCR Committee, that represents it **or** the JCR Common Room.

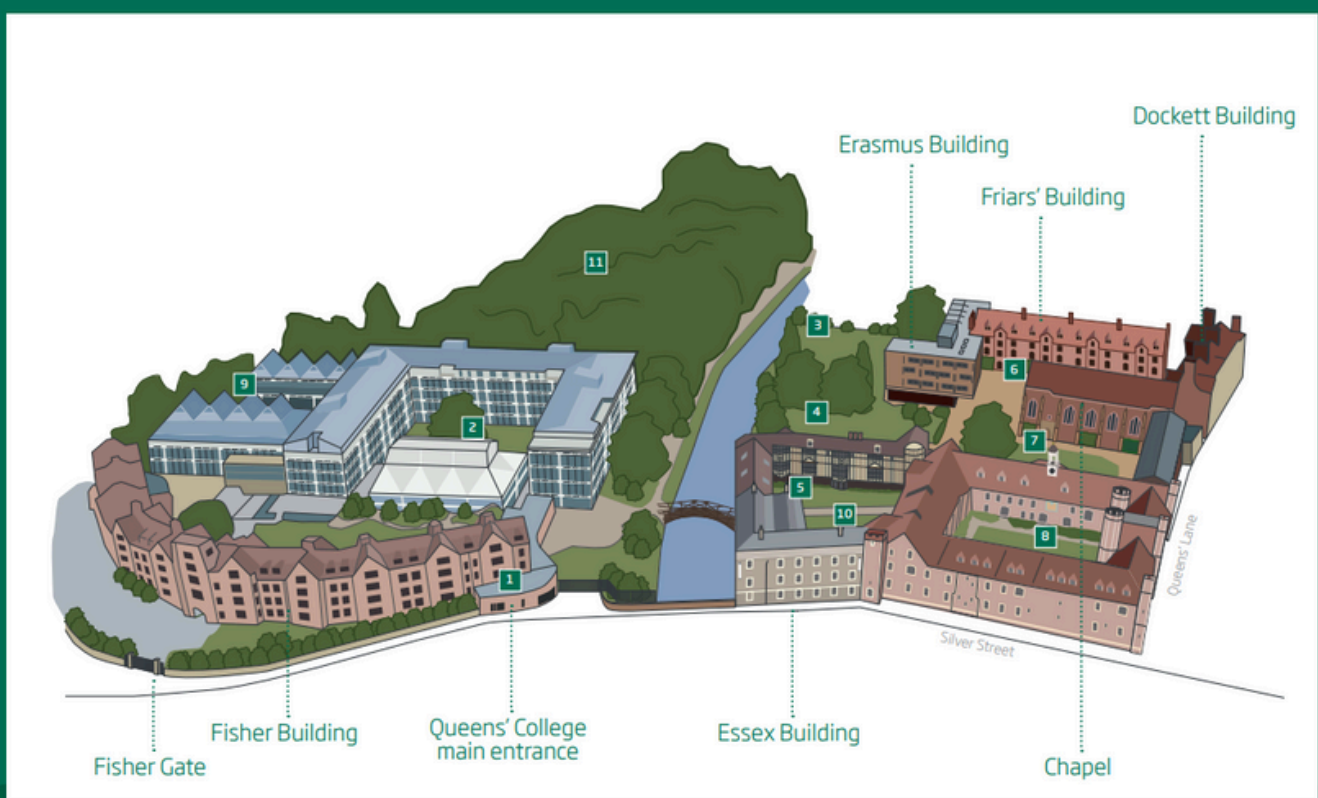
QUEENS' OVERVIEW

Queens' College is a constituent college of the University of Cambridge. It has around 500 undergraduate students (typically 150 a year for years 1-3), as well as nearly as many postgraduates (who live off-site). Queens' offers almost all subjects and consistently performs well academically, without feeling as intense as other colleges.

Its defining features are its centrally-located, compact and architecturally-diverse grounds, straddling the River Cam, with its two sides connected by the 'Mathematical Bridge'. It is also one of the largest colleges by number of students who regards the college to be a sociable and friendly one. Queens' is also known for novel widening participation work (often student-led), its long history (since foundation in 1448) and its famous alumni.



[UNIVERSITY WEBSITE](#)
[QUEENS' WEBSITE](#)
[QUEENS' JCR WEBSITE](#)
[WIKIPEDIA](#)



1. Porters' Lodge
2. Cripps Court
3. Fellow's Garden
4. President's Garden

5. Cloister Court
6. Friars' Court
7. Walnut Tree Court
8. Old Court

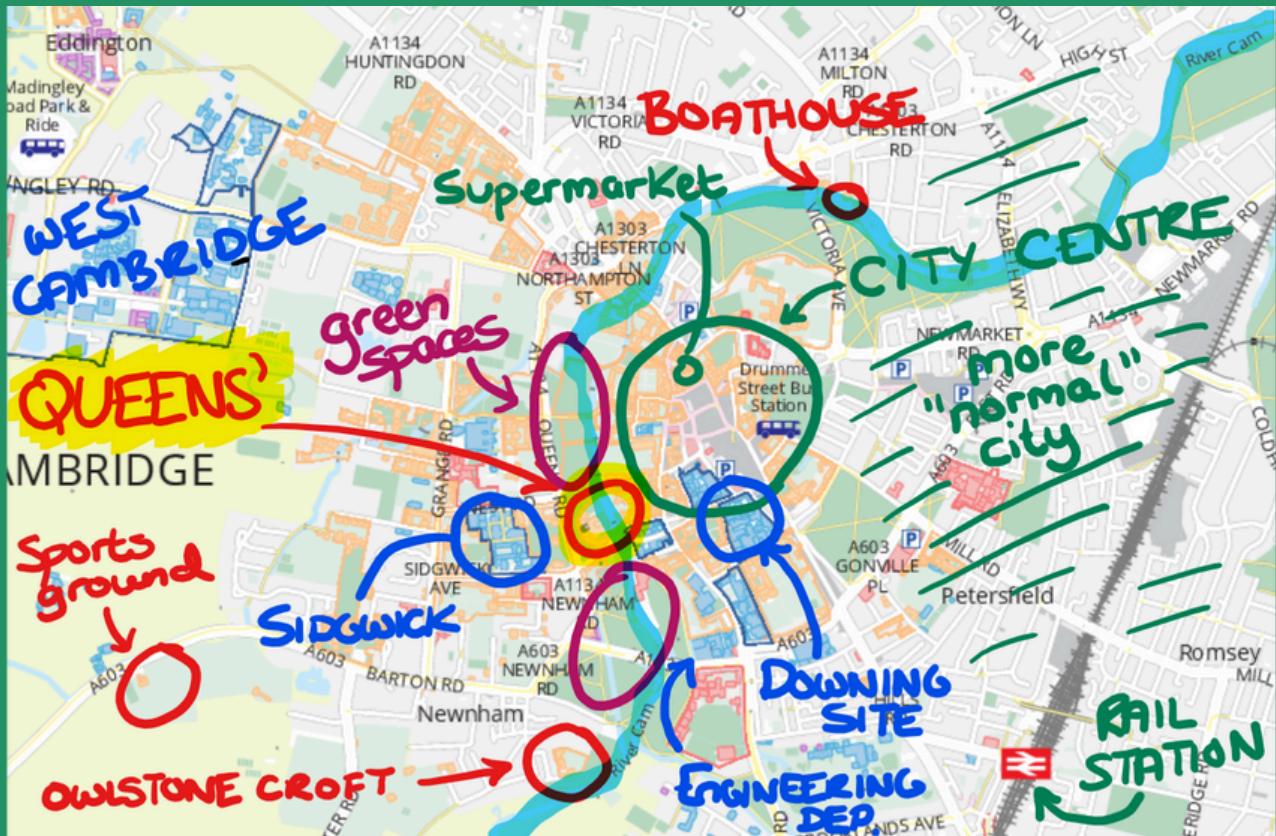
9. Lyon Court
10. Pump Court
11. The Grove

Not shown above: Queens' also operates some off-site facilities, including the Owlstone Croft accommodation block (5-10 minutes' cycle away) for postgraduates and some undergraduates, houses for postgraduates, a boathouse and sports grounds.

QUEENS' IN CAMBRIDGE

Queens' is arguably the best-located college, right on the river and on the edge of the busy centre of town. It's midway between the two main cluster of faculties - the Downing and New Museums Sites, and the Sidgwick Site. Whilst West Cambridge is further it is easily accessible by bike. Queens' students don't tend to go out 'for the day' to their department or faculty, as Queens' is so close you can comfortably go back for a long lunch break!

An annotated map is below. College buildings are in orange and university buildings (such as departments) in blue. You can see the original map at: <https://map.cam.ac.uk/>



How far is Queens' from various places?

Queens' is also on the university bus route that connects West Cambridge to the hospital and train station. It costs a pound for university students.

- Sidgwick Site (humanities/languages faculties) - **500m**
- Engineering Department - **800m**
- Downing Site (sciences faculties - mainly teaching) - **650m**
- Sainsbury's - **800m**

What's Cambridge like as a city?

- Really busy with tourists and day-trippers, especially on weekends and nice days.
- Flat, and probably the most cycle-friendly city in the UK!
- Hotter and drier in the Summer and colder in the Winter than the rest of England.
- Touristic with lots of green space right outside the city.
- University-dominated - coffee shops are full of students chatting and working.

QUOTES FROM QUEENS' STUDENTS

I chose Queens' because I wanted to be in the central of Cambridge but not too far away from West Cambridge. Queens' was the prettiest of these colleges and being somewhere pretty would make me feel better mentally.

Will, Computer Science

The atmosphere and beauty of Queens' really appealed to me when choosing colleges. It seemed to be a friendly and warm community, which I can now say it is exactly! The location too is perfect.

Max, Engineering

I applied to Queens' because (1) river colleges are the best (2) it's a mere five minutes from the law faculty, making it easy to reach my 9 AMs and (3) it's a short walk to clubs, cafes and shops. Friends from other colleges envy how easy my life is.

Lizzie, Law

"Queens' is a really friendly community - staff and students alike! I was worried before I came here that I would not find people like me, and that everyone would spend all their time working. I wish I hadn't worried - I make time to relax and I know I've made friends for life."

Grace, BioNatSci

As someone doing a niche subject, one of the reasons I chose Queens' was the size of its student body. At Queens', I was less likely to be the only linguist in my year, which meant I had someone else to go to lectures and discuss assignments with.

Kat, Linguistics

I chose Queens' because of its brilliant community and all round vibe! As soon as I set foot into college, I felt at home here and incredibly welcomed. The people here are so fantastic and the location doesn't hurt too!

Abby, Classics

I chose Queens' because Computer Science at Queens' has a large cohort and offers a lot of support, making it a brilliant choice for me. It is also located really well in the city, close to almost everything, and also has a very friendly community.

Conall, Computer Science

As someone who thrives on socialising, I wanted to choose a college that had a large student body. Queens' is one of the largest colleges in Cambridge while also being equidistant between the centre of town and my faculty building.

Conal, Linguistics

FOOD & FACILITIES

On the main site, Queens' facilities include:

- 3 modern conference rooms and several older (and grander) meeting rooms
- 2 squash courts (free to use) and a gym (a weights room and a cardio room)
- The Fitzpatrick Hall (and lecture theatre)
- 2 bookable music practice rooms
- 3 punts and some paddleboards for hire in the summer months

Food Options in Queens'

- **The Buttery** - serving 3 meals a day during the week, and brunch and dinner on the weekend. There are 3 or 4 meal options for lunch and dinner, discounting soup and jacket potato, and vegetarian and vegan options are always provided. For breakfasts/brunch there is a wide variety of options from a full english breakfast to continental options. The price of a typical Buttery meal with 1 main and 2 sides is **£3.60**.
- **Self-Catering** - Main site rooms have 'gyp rooms' available to students. The quality varies by building, but all will have fridges, hobs, a toaster, microwave, sink and a kettle. Kitchens off the main site will have ovens and more extensive facilities.
- **Bar/Cafe Food** - Fixed menu of things like pizzas, burgers and wings. This is usually more of a special treat, or when we want food later.

The JCR Room

The JCR Room is a common room for students to hang out in on the third floor of the Cripps Building, looking out over the Mathematical Bridge. Some use the space as a more relaxed place to work, but it's designated as an alternative social space to QBar. There's a Television screen for film night and a Wii console, tables and chairs, bean bags, board games (including Queens' Monopoly), computers and a printer.



Offsite Sporting Facilities

Queens' shares a sports ground with other colleges on Barton Road. This site, a 10 minute cycle away, includes a number of tennis courts, football pitches, rugby pitches, lacrosse pitches, cricket squares and netball courts. The University of Cambridge owns a sports centre and grounds for many sports also. There are public swimming pools and climbing walls in Cambridge.



The Fitzpatrick Hall

The Fitzpatrick Hall is a multipurpose venue in Queens' that acts both as an open hall, and a theatre that seats around 200 people. It's used for badminton, indoor football and dance, and it's been used for ceilidhs, art shows, and student bops (parties). In theatre mode it can be used for lectures, shows, film screenings, and plays.



Green Spaces

Queens' doesn't have vast tidy lawns like in other Cambridge colleges. Instead we have some grass lawns and other secluded green spaces. Among them is the Grove, a forested area on the river in Queens' that members are free to walk through to clear their minds or relax. Opposite the Grove is Erasmus Lawn, a lawn on the river that students flock to during the warmer months to read, relax or socialise.



The Queens' Bar/Cafe (QBar)

QBar is the college bar in Queens'. The opening hours are 19:00-23:00 most nights, with later closing on weekends/Friday. As well as drinks, bar food and desserts are served nightly. The bar can also be used to host events such as karaoke and open meetings. The bar has two pool tables, a darts board and a football table, both of which are free to use. During the day, the space is a cafe serving hot drinks, snacks and paninis. It's a popular working space.



Formals & Dinners

Formal dinners are a tradition of Oxford & Cambridge colleges. Students dress up and wear gowns and receive a three-course meal, at about the same price as a meal out. Students can book on to these as often as they like (there's no obligation to go to one). Birthdays or hosting guests are a common excuse to go! In Queens', as well as formals, there are annual black tie dinners that an entire year group or subject group attend, held in the Old Hall.



ACCOMMODATION

Queens' has a mix of old and new accommodation buildings across the college site. The majority of undergrads are house on-site, and are able to choose from a range of options to fit their budget and preferences - students tend to get the room type they want. The college is one of the only ones to have accommodation on both sides of the river, this leads to a split in architectural styles that we call the 'Dark Side' and the 'Light Side'. The Dark Side contains the original buildings of the college with an older architectural style, whereas the Light Side has two of the newer buildings and the modern porter's lodge, as well as most facilities. Accommodation can vary in the following ways:

- **En-suite** vs **shared bathroom** vs **private bathroom** - there are a range of bathroom options and this is reflected in price. Private bathroom rooms have their own individual associated bathroom, it just is not connected to the room.
- **Sets** or **rooms** - sets are made up of a couple of rooms - typically a bedroom connected to a lounge/study.
- **Size** and **view** - these can vary considerably and this is reflected in room price.

The costs of accomodation for first years are outlined in the Finances section on [page 18](#)

Click on the headings below to see floor plans and 3-D tours!!

Cripps Court

The most recent addition to Queens', Cripps is home to nearly 200 rooms, many college facilities, and a majority of first year students. All rooms in Cripps have either an en-suite or a private bathroom, and there's a few 'penthouse' rooms. Cripps is the most accessible of all of the buildings, with ramps to access ground floor rooms, and two lifts. The lighting in Cripps is also significantly brighter than the lighting in the older buildings.



Friars Building

Friars holds some of the cheapest on-site accommodation, and its on the main site. The building dates to the 1800s and is on the Dark Side. Though the rooms aren't too small, each staircase shares a few bathrooms (1 on the top floor and two on the ground floor). There are sinks in every room and a small gyp room on every one of the four floors. Top floor Friars rooms are sets. Friars is the cheapest option for freshers.



Offsite Accommodation

Owlstone Croft (not pictured) was Queens' main block of offsite accommodation and was used to hold postgraduate and second year students. However, as of 2025 it will be **under redevelopment** for up to three years. During this period students will be in houses on Panton Street, Norwich street and at the Grange Road site (pictured) which has its own small library and garden. These are all ~10-20mins walk from the main site and the JCR will work to foster communities at the external sites



Dokett Building

Dokett is the most confusing building in Queens'. Traditionally, third years occupy its mix of big, comfortable en-suites and smaller rooms with bathrooms shared between 2. While the rooms vary massively in size and view, its more modern gyp rooms and cozy and carpeted interior make it quite different from neighbouring Friars, even though they do look quite similar from the outside!



Erasmus Building

Considered by some to be the ugliest building in Cambridge but loved by others, Erasmus residents benefit from modern gyp rooms and views of the river (and prettier buildings). Built in the 50s and newly rennovated in 2025, all of the rooms in Erasmus are en-suite study bedrooms. The rooms in Erasmus are regarded as "like Cripps but a little better", and are usually taken by second and third year students.



Fisher Building

The first building to be built on the light side, Fisher is made up of large sets that are on the more expensive side of Queens' accommodation, as they used to be shared rooms. The first three floors of each staircase are made up of en-suite sets, with the attic sets sharing a separate shower room and toilet between the four rooms on the floor. These rooms are occupied by mostly second year students.



THE SOCIAL LIFE AT QUEENS'

Queens' regards itself to be a sociable college with many activities ran by the JCR, societies and students with a range of social spaces and facilities. The collegiate experience enables endless opportunities for organic conversation and the hallways will frequently be alive with conversation. Since most first years are in a single building (Cripps) and all are onsite it is very easy to make friends in freshers week with people that both are and are not your direct neighbours.

What are typical evening activities and events students attend?

- College 'bops' (parties, usually themed)
- Society, subject or sports team social events
- Socialising in a friend's room and going out clubbing
- Formals (formal dinners), both in Queens' and at other colleges
- Attending talks, debates and panels held by societies such as the Cambridge Union
- Enjoying a drink and playing pool in QBar in the evening
- Playing board games or on the Wii in the JCR Room
- Bringing food out to eat on the riverside during the summer months
- Cozying under a blanket in a friend's room for a film night
- Playing table tennis or squash on the squash courts
- Lazy punting on the river Cam

What are the highlights of the year?

The **Queens' May Ball** is a biennial black tie event (in June, confusingly) where the college is transformed into a party lasting until 5 or 6 a.m. the next morning. There will typically be fairground rides, a range of foods and drink, headline acts and varied activities.

Every year after exams the JCR events team (QEnts) host **Bounce**, a garden party with food and drink on the college's riverside Erasmus Lawn. There's food, drinks and musical acts, but the highlight is all the bouncy castles and obstacle courses.

What's Cambridge like for shops, venues and clubbing?

Cambridge is a city and has everything you would expect: cinemas, a bowling alley, musical venues and all typical restaurant chains and high street shops. It isn't well known for its clubs. Still, there are four nightclubs in Cambridge, and other venues also host regular nights out. Plenty of students are into their clubbing and will go multiple times a week.



SPORTS & SOCIETIES IN QUEENS'

Cambridge should never just be about the workload, and one of the best things about Queens' is the close to 40 student-run sports and societies across the college. As well as being a great opportunity to get active and have fun, it's a fantastic way to meet people from around Queens'. All our sports and societies are beginner-friendly and welcoming, and with sports ranging from Football and Rowing to Paddleboarding and Ultimate Frisbee, societies like Film, Feminism or Chess, as well as a wide range of subject societies, there's something for everyone to get involved in!

For more information, check out the Sports and Societies section on the QJCR website or the Instagram @queens_societies – DMs are always open for any questions!

Freddie Reid, QJCR Sports & Societies Officer 2025-26

Rowing

In Cambridge, rowing is probably the most popular sport. Most rowers have never rowed before starting at Cambridge. The Queens' College Boat Club (QCBC) works out of the Queens' boathouse. As well as training and participating in races, they organise indoor competitions and social events. A highlight is the Bonfire Night BBQ at the boathouse, open to all and with great views of the city of Cambridge's fireworks, as well as the boat club dinners!



Music & Drama

Queens' has a lively music scene. Its music society, 'MagSoc' organises concerts, rehearsals and musical prizes and even casual musicians get involved! Queens' also has a college choir who sing in our beautiful chapel. BATS is Queens' renowned theatre society whose alumni include Stephen Fry and Simon Bird! BATS host socials, organise theatre trips and put on shows in our very own Fitzpatrick Hall throughout the year.





QUEENS' QUIRKS

SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT QUEENS'



Queens' alumni include Stephen Fry, the Scholar Erasmus, journalist Emily Maitlis, Nobel Prize winner and DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis and many more...

Squirrels and ducks are common in Queens'.
Badgers, foxes, kingfishers and water voles live in the local area.

Among the famous alumni of Queens' is the astronaut Michael Foale. A flag that flew on the space shuttle can be found in the bar in Queens'!



Queens' has a secluded rooftop garden complete with a student herb garden!

The most commonly-clicked link on the Queens' and JCR website is the link for the buttery menu...

During the 2020 pandemic, Queens' students parodied Billy Joel's *We Didn't Start the Fire* with a Queens' version of the song.

Most food halls in Cambridge require you to keep your tray on a rack after eating. Queens' is special and has a conveyor belt!

Queens' was founded twice by a queen of England (Margaret of Anjou in 1448, and again by Elizabeth Woodville in 1465) hence Queens' and not Queens or Queen's.

Queens' is well-known for its brunch, a cheap meal on weekend mornings with all the breakfast classics. "Two hash browns is one item" is the Queens' motto!

Queens', like many colleges, has a TV and Wii in its JCR common room. What's unique in the Queens' JCR Room is 6-metres of cactus garden with over 80 plants!

Buttery and most formals occur in the large, modern Cripps Hall. Queens' also has Old Hall, a grand hall with painted ceilings that once featured in a Bastille music video.

Nobody is allowed to walk on most of the grass in Queens', though in the Summer you can relax, sunbathe and eat on the riverside. There's even an annual bouncy castle party after exams on them!

Check out our Humans of Queens' - @queensjcr

WELFARE

The transition to university can be a difficult and trying time for all students but this can be especially concerning for students coming to Cambridge with its reputation for intense workloads. However, there are multiple avenues of welfare support from the college, university and JCR:

- **Welfare Team** - Queens' has a dedicated team of welfare advisers and mental health specialists on hand to support students - both in terms of responding to student concerns and incidents, and pro-actively ensuring students' conditions are catered for in aspects of college life. Head of Welfare: **Rev. Tim Harding**.
- **College Nurse** - Queens' has a registered nurse who can treat minor injuries and advise on physical wellbeing generally.
- **Tutors** - tutors are fellows (academics) of the college who are a contact for your non- academic wellbeing. They support students experiencing financial hardship, support applications and support or who are having difficulty studying.
- **The Chaplain** - the college chaplain is available to advise students on welfare and spiritual issues - and not just if you're a christian!
- **University Counselling Service** - a service available to all Cambridge students.
- **Porters** - the porters are available 24/7 to provide support with wellbeing concerns.
- **Animals!** - we have a variety of furry friends around college, including Tally, our official welfare dog (second left)!

JCR Welfare Officers and Representatives

Queens' Welfare Officers organise events for students to provide supportive and calming places to relax, do arts and crafts work, enjoy tea and cakes, or even spend time with dog Tally! Have a look at @queensjcr_welfare on Instagram to explore Queens' welfare activities. Queens' has a dedicated welfare officer for different groups and identities and their names and contacts are on the JCR website:

- Female and Non-Binary Welfare Officer
- Women's Welfare Officer
- Male and Non-Binary Welfare Officer
- Trans and Non-Binary Welfare Officer
- LGBTQ+ Welfare and Representative Officer
- Disabilities Officer
- PoC Representative Officer
- Class Act Officer

Free sanitary and sexual health products are provided by the JCR in toilets and laundry rooms and welfare talks are held in freshers week



DISABILITIES SUPPORT AND EXAM ADJUSTMENTS

Disabilities include mental health conditions, autism spectrum conditions, specific learning difficulties, physical impairments and long-standing conditions. Disabilities can make Uni life more challenging and you are entitled to reasonable adjustments and support from both Queens' and Cambridge University. There are a range of options to access support and get exam adjustments below.

CUSU Disabled Students Campaign

Exists to represents and campaign for the rights of disabled students at Cambridge. There are also various Facebook groups for those with different conditions at Cambridge to build communities.

AccessAble

Provides guides on the accessibility of individual buildings on each site.

THE ADRC

The Access and Disability Resource Centre is the main port of call for most Disabled students. They offer advice (such as around navigating your studies and funding), support and ensure legal requirements for disabled students are met. The ADRC make SSDs and recommendations for EEAs. The ADRC is also there for students who might be facing new difficulties during their studies, they also provide a neurodiversity screening service.

What is an EEA?

Exam Access Arrangements are another term for exam support which can include various adjustments such as rest breaks, use of a computer and assistive technology. They can be applied for on the ADRC website and are included in SSDs.

What is an SSD?

Student Support Documents are a summary of recommendations on supporting and teaching a disabled student. They are mainly used when a students reasonable adjustments are required in multiple areas. They are specific to Cambridge for communicating reasonable adjustments and are personalised for each student within their college and subject. SSDs are sent to college and it is their responsibility to distribute recommendations to relevant college staff and faculty. They can be applied for through the ADRC who will assess needs and evidence, building recommendations off them.

Here is a [link](#) to the ADRC website for more information!

India Cowdy, JCR Disabilities Officer 2025-26

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Queens' has a varied crowd of students coming from more than 20 countries! If you come from abroad and think of applying to Cambridge, Queens' is a place where you will find a large community of lovely, welcoming, and open-minded people. It can be scary to move to another country on your own, but that is why the college system is so great! It gives you a chance to know everyone better, as you all live together, and get to meet people with shared interests and experiences that will become your lifelong friends.

There are a variety of things that Queens' provides for internationals:

- A JCR Internationals' officer, in charge of helping all international students from an administrative and social point of view:
 - international formal swap, potlucks, and collaborations with other international socs uni-wide
 - Events for special national holidays like Chinese New Year, Diwali, Thanksgiving, and more!
 - Organization of the college storage room where you can leave your belongings during the holidays to facilitate your return back home.
 - An international freshers' guide to tell you all you need to know and prepare for before coming to Cambridge (and England in general)
- A great support team with people to talk to if you feel homesick, and that will really help facilitate your transition to living abroad
- Communication with different international societies that you can get involved with to keep your cultural ties (<https://www.societies.cam.ac.uk/>)

All and all, if you are an international student who wants to have a great university experience, come enrich our international community at Queens'!

Carissa Wong, JCR International's officer 2025-26

Statements from International Students

As an international student who had never lived in a foreign country before, I was a bit nervous before moving in to Queens'... After two years I know that I really shouldn't have! Queens' is a very welcoming place, with all my friends being interested in my background and still learning how to pronounce 'szczęście' (happiness in Polish). You'll definitely make good friends with people from all corners of the world.

- Julia Sokolska from Poland

As an international student, I don't often find myself noticing it in my day-to-day life at Queens' since I feel like the community fits together very nicely and I never really feel different from domestic students. Plus it also helps that Cambridge life has enough unique quirks that it feels different for everyone, not just international students, so chances are when something is new to you it's probably new to everyone else as well!

- Kevin Liu from Canada

FINANCE AND COST OF LIVING

Whilst the financial burden of university (especially for Oxbridge) is a major concern on prospective students' minds there is a very significant amount of financial support available from Queens' and Cambridge University as they have significant financial resources to spend on students compared to other institutions.

UK students can apply for a student maintenance loan to cover living costs, with more money available for students on lower household income. Almost all UK Queens' students will have student loans.

Queens' students are eligible to automatically receive the '**Cambridge Bursary**', which offers £3500/year to students in households earning £25,000 or less, with a linear tail-off to zero at around £62,000 [as of 2025-26]. An enhanced bursary rising to £5600 in total is offered to students qualifying for Cambridge Bursary and classified as "independent" by the SLC (such as estranged students or those exiting care) as well as to students on year 4, 5 and 6 of Medicine or Vet Med courses. On top of this an additional £1000 per year is offered to students on free school meals through the "Education Premium". Queens' students can also receive funds to deal with financial hardship through their tutor.

Cambridge does not recommend students hold jobs during term time and your DoS or Tutor may not permit you to work during term time and this is part of the reason why the Cambridge Bursary scheme is provided. However, students should note that Cambridge terms only last for 8 weeks compared to 10-12 at other universities reducing the total cost of studying and providing ample opportunity to work in vacations. There will also still be opportunities to do some paid work for the university such as working as a Queens' student ambassador or working for other outreach schemes organised by departments. Lastly, some students are still able to work in jobs like tutoring with permission from their DoS/Tutor.

Cambridge Bursary Website for more information.

ADDITIONAL GRANTS

Queens' also has a variety of grants and bursaries to aid students in pursuing extra-curriculars. This can include for playing sports, musical instrument hire and lessons, and, perhaps most excitingly, travel. These grants and bursaries aren't usually means tested which means that they are available to all students that want them, and they refresh every year, meaning that you can access these funds every year of your degree if you so choose. Individual faculties in college and across the university also tend to have grants and bursaries for things like books or course materials.

ACCOMODATION COSTS

Finding accommodation for university is a major concern for most students, luckily, Cambridge students are **guaranteed accomodation** for the **first three years** of study which is usually the entire undergraduate degree.

In terms of yearly contracts Queens' accommodation is on a "quarterly scheme" where we pay for accommodation for 3 continuous quarters - the 9 month academic year. This means we pay for rooms (and can live in Queens') over the Christmas and Easter vacations, and a few weeks after term. A table with the quarterly accomodation costs for Queens' 2025-26 freshers is provided below. Utilities costs vary as they are metered and subject to market fluctuations however over 2024-25 for a typical Cripps room combined electric and gas costs were around ~£120 for Michaelmas term. Food is typically the biggest other expense with the budget depending on the balance of self-catering, eating in the buttery, and amount of takeaway/formals. Lastly, circuit laundry, bi-weekly housekeeping, and gym use is free at Queens' [as of 2025].

As aforementioned Queens' does not distinguish between catered and self catered with all rooms having a gyp space as well as the option to purchase meals individually from the buttery.

<u>Building</u>	<u>Room Type</u>	<u>Quarterly Cost</u>	<u>No. of Rooms Available</u>
Cripps	En-suite, top floor	£3282	9
Cripps	En-suite	£2748	83
Cripps	Private bathroom	£2274	32
Fisher	En-suite set	£3282	10
Friars	Shared bathroom, top floor	£2274	4
Friars	Shared bathroom, Court View	£1812	12
Friars	Shared bathroom, King's View	£1572	10

Accomodation costs for Queens' 2025-26 Freshers

Incoming freshers will recieve an email following A level results day regarding ranking room preferences and will then recieve an offer of accomodation based on these preferences. As aforementioned students are entitled to three years of guaranteed accomodation and Queens' students do not need to worry about balloting for rooms for the next year until after exams when information will be shared by the JCR regarding the ballot.

[Link to full details](#) of accomodation costs and cost of living guidance for incoming freshers courtesy of the JCR.

ACADEMICS

As in other colleges, Queens' appoints a **Director of Studies** (DoS) for each subject. This is a fellow of the college (an academic member of Queens') who is responsible for the academic development of students in their subject. They will meet with students a couple of times of term for meetings and organise supervisions for students, even if they do not directly teach students through the course. If you get the chance on an open day, talk to a DoS to get the opportunity to understand what studying a certain subject is like in Queens', or any other college.

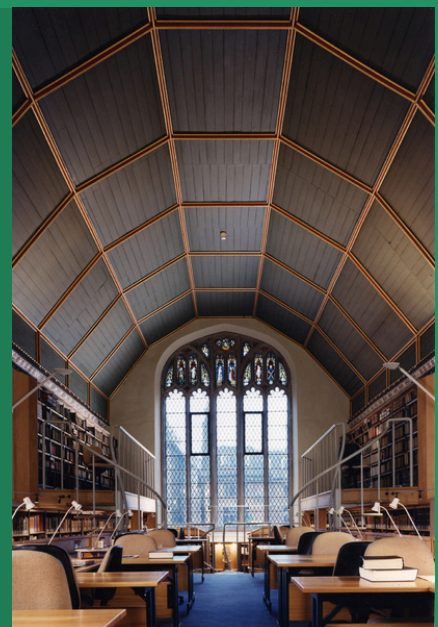
Your DoS is a key first point of call for any concerns regarding work, coursework, exams or any academic related problems you may encounter. Your DoS wants to help you to succeed and will be there to support you through the challenges that come with the transition to university learning.

QUEENS' LIBRARIES

Queens' has a variety of study spaces spread out across the college to support students academically. This includes a library, study rooms, computer rooms, and a several other spaces!

WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The War Memorial Library is Queens' main library for students. The original chapel, it has three floors, each with a different vibe to fit your mood and all the books you will need during your time as an undergraduate here! The library is open from 7am until 2am, with opening hours extending to 3am during Easter exam term. The War Memorial Library has over 30,000 books and are willing to order any book you need for your course, so our collection is constantly growing! The library also stocks a General Reading section, board games, and DVDs (with a borrowable plug-in DVD player) to help you relax away from your work.





QUEENS' OLD LIBRARY

The Old Library is the original Queens' library from the college's foundation in 1448 with bookcases made from medieval lecterns. Although none of the original collection remains, the library holds a hugely significant collection of over 30,000 early printed books and manuscripts dating from the 12th to 19th century. The Old Library isn't open for students to study in, but it is open for exhibitions and booked visits to view certain manuscripts

LIBRARY SERVICES

ONLINE LIBRARY SERVICES

The university has an online library catalogue that allows you to view all of the books, journals, and articles available across the university, both physically and online. If you want access to an e-book, the Queens' library is able to facilitate this! They can also scan books from their collections if you are at home and want access to a book over the holidays

LIBRARY EVENTS

The library runs a variety of events throughout the year. This includes referencing and research workshops for students every term, free tea, coffee, and biscuits every other day during exam term, and Old Library workshops

OTHER STUDY SPACES AROUND COLLEGE

There are permanent study spaces for students around college. These include a variety of loud and quiet study spaces of varying sizes. This includes a computer study room, bookable conference rooms, the Q Cafe and a loud study space next to our Fitzpatrick Hall that backs onto our rooftop garden! During Easter Exam term, plenty of study spaces open up across both sides of college; this includes our dining hall, various meeting spaces across college, and the lawn outside of plodge!

WHAT DO STUDENTS THINK?

According to the entirely student-run Big QJCR Survey 2025 (29% turnout), which you can find at qjcr.org.uk:

97% of students agree or strongly agree that "Queens' is a good college"

98% of students agree or strongly agree that "Queens' is a welcoming college"

8.3/10 was the average student rating of the atmosphere at Queens'

94% of students felt at home in their room in Queens'

What are the best and worst things?

- Queens' is almost perfectly located on the edge of the city centre, close to the shops, but also to departments, faculties, and green spaces
- **Queens' library space is smaller and older than other colleges' libraries**
- Queens' has a dedicated professional welfare team
- **Queens' students don't have regular catch-ups with tutors (i.e. fellows of other subjects) as is commonplace in other colleges**
- Queens' is among the most picturesque and beautiful colleges
- **Queens' sports ground is too far to walk (you have to cycle)**
- Queens' has among the best college bars in Cambridge (we think!)
- **Queens' main site gyp rooms don't have ovens, and few have freezers**
- Queens' has one of the biggest and best value food halls in Cambridge, and students come from other colleges to taste our brunch
- **Queens' students pay for their rooms for 9 months, so we pay more than colleges on termly rent schemes but can stay over in the vacation**
- Queens' is a river college, with riverside lawns and punts for hire
- **Queens' is not one of the few colleges with a swimming pool**
- Queens' squash courts are free to use, and the gym is very cheap and has been recently expanded

Want to find out more about different subjects?

Check out Queens' subject videos here!!

Example timetable: sociable first year history student (night owl & rower)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09:00	LECTURE	(Rowing before 9)	HAP reading	Sleep	LECTURE	Sleep	Sleep
10:00	Supervision reading	LECTURE		Essay writing	Supervision prep		Rowing outing
11:00	LECTURE	LECTURE	Themes and Sources class		SUPERVISION		
12:00	Lunch - Sidge	Lunch - Sidge		Lunch	Lunch	Brunch	
13:00	LECTURE	Supervision reading	Lunch	Essay writing	Pick up new books from library	Tidy room	Brunch
14:00	Nap		LECTURE		Food shop/errands	Coffee with a friend	Supervision reading
15:00	Laundry/errands		Netflix		HAP reading		
16:00	Supervision reading		Essay planning		HAP seminar	Gym	
17:00				Essay deadline			
18:00	Dinner - Buttery	Dinner - Buttery	Swap/social	Dinner	Dinner	Cambridge Union talk	Dinner
19:00	Chill in QBar	Food shop		Relaxing with friends/social	Themes and Sources reading		Supervision reading
20:00	Supervision reading	Supervision reading				Dinner	
21:00					Social/going out	Pub (Dangerspoons)	Film night
22:00		Pool in Qbar	Cindie's				

Example timetable: year 1/2 geography student & rower

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09:00	Supervision reading	Sleeping in	(pre-9am) early morning rowing outing		(pre-9am) early morning rowing outing	Essay writing	Sleeping in
10:00				Supervision reading	Weekly shop		
11:00		Essay planning	Essay writing		Essay planning		Brunch
12:00		LECTURE	LECTURE		LECTURE	Rowing outing	Chill
13:00	LECTURES	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
14:00						Lunch	Rowing outing
15:00	Lunch	Essay writing	Essay writing	Supervision reading	LAB SESSION (practical, GIS or statistics)	Chill	
16:00	Supervision		Coffee catch-up			JCR committee meeting	Supervision reading
17:00	Relax with friends	Erg session and weights	Supervision reading	Erg session and weights	Supervision		
18:00					Essay writing	Essay writing	
19:00	Dinner	Cook with friends	Formal dinner	Cook with friends			Dinner
20:00					Dinner	Dinner in town	Laundry
21:00	Supervision reading	Essay writing	Pre-drinks	Relax with friends	Social	Relax with friends	Relax with friends
22:00			Cindie's		Van of Life		

Example timetable: year 1/2 computer science student and university rugby player

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09:00	pre-9am rugby	Lecture	sleep in	Lecture	sleep in	9am rugby	sleep in
10:00	Lecture	Group project	Lecture	Group project	Lecture	Food Shop	Breakfast
11:00	Lecture	Group project	Lecture	Group project	Lecture	Food Shop	Breakfast
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Supo work
13:00	Supo work	Supo work	Rugby Match	Supo Work	Labs	Chill	Supo work
14:00	Supo	Supo		Supo		Supo Work	Laundry
15:00	Chill	Chill		Supo Work			Chill
16:00	Rugby	Rugby		Supo	Rugby		Supo work
17:00	Make/Eat Tea	Make/Eat Tea	CompSci meet	Food Shop	Meal at Rugby	Pizza & Board games w/ friends	Make/Eat Tea
18:00	Chill	Chill	Formal	Chill			Supo work
19:00	Sleep	Sleep	Bar	Sleep			Film
20:00							
21:00							
22:00							

Example timetable: year 1/2 maths and rowing student

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09:00	Sleep	Sleep	pre-9am rowing	Sleep	pre-9am rowing	Sleep	Sleep in
10:00	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Brunch
11:00	Go over lecture notes	Go over lecture notes	Go over lecture notes	Go over lecture notes	Go over lecture notes	Rowing	Laundry
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Rowing	Rowing
13:00	Example class	Example class	Food shop	Supo work	Supo work	Lunch	Supo work
14:00	Supo work	Errands	Supo	Erg session & weights	Supo	Supo work	Supo work
15:00		Erg session & weights	Supo work	Erg session & weights	Supo	Supo work	Supo work
16:00		Dinner - buttery	Maths Society talk	Cooking/dinner	Chill	Cook with friends	Buttery
17:00	Cooking/dinner	Supo work	Formal	Relax with friends	Bar food	Film night	Supo work
18:00	Relax with friends	Supo work	Bar/cindies		Qbar/bop		Relax with friends
19:00							
20:00							
21:00							
22:00							

Example timetable: sociable year 1/2 engineering student

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09:00	Study for supervisions	LECTURES	LECTURES	LECTURES	LAB SESSION	Sleeping in	Study for supervisions
10:00	LECTURES	LAB SESSION		Meeting friends for coffee	LECTURES	Brunch	Brunch
11:00	LECTURES	LAB SESSION	LECTURE	Meeting friends for coffee	LECTURES	Brunch	Brunch
12:00	Lunch - Buttery or similar?					Study for supervisions	Sports
13:00	Study for supervisions	Study for supervisions	Chilled group study	Study for supervisions	LAB SESSION	Shopping	Work on a lab report
14:00	Study for supervisions	Supervision	Playing squash	Supervision	Walk or cycle ride	Study for supervisions	Work on a lab report
15:00	Examples Class	Shopping & errands	Buttery	Buttery	Cooking with friends	Buttery	Formal
16:00	Buttery	Cooking	University society event	Computing work	College 'Bop' party		Formal
17:00	Study for supervisions	Queens' Bar Quiz??		Film night			QBar
18:00	Playing sqash						
19:00							
20:00							
21:00							
22:00							

Example timetable: first year law student

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
09:00	Supervision work	Supervision work	Supervision work	Supervision work	LECTURES	Sleeping in	
10:00	LECTURE	LECTURES					
11:00	Supervision work		LECTURE	Supervision work	Brunch		
12:00	LECTURE	Lunch - Faculty					LECTURE
13:00	Lunch - Buttery	LECTURE	Lunch - Buttery				
14:00	Supervision work	Supervision work	Supervision work	Supervision work	Supervision work	Netflix/Reading for fun	Supervision work
15:00		SUPERVISION					
16:00		Supervision work		Squash/Sport	Squash/Sport	Supervision work	
17:00		Squash/Sport					
18:00							
19:00	Supervision work	Laundry/errands	Language Class (I'm learning Italian!)	Reading for fun		Supervision work	Supervision work
20:00	Society Event	JCR Bar Quiz	Cambridge Union Debate	Law Society Social Event	Chilling with friends or going out		
21:00	Chill in Qbar		Chill in QBar			Chill in QBar	
22:00	Netflix before bed					ADC Lateshow	

Example timetable: year 1 medicine student (and rower)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
pre 09		Rowing		Rowing		Sleep	Sleep
09:00	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture		
10:00	Practical/Dissection	Going over lecture notes	Practical/Dissection	Going over lecture notes	Going over lecture notes		
11:00						Rowing	Brunch
12:00		Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture		
13:00	Lunch/Cooking	Lunch/Cooking	Lunch/Cooking	Lunch/Cooking	Lunch/Cooking	Brunch	
14:00	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Practical/Dissection	Relaxing		
15:00	Supo Prep	Supo Prep	Lecture		Supo Prep	Supo Prep/ Essay Writing	Rowing
16:00			Supo Prep	Supo Prep			Supo Prep/ Essay Writing
17:00		Erg session					
18:00	Supervision		Supervision		Supervision		
19:00	Cooking/Buttery Tea	Cooking/Buttery Tea	Cooking/Buttery Tea	Cooking/Buttery Tea	Cooking/Buttery Tea	Cooking/Buttery Tea	Cooking/Buttery Tea
20:00				Erg Session		Chill Time	Chill Time
21:00							
22:00							



Please note: these are example timetables. They reflect individuals who have specific interests and societies. Some students, even within the same subjects, have very different timetables reflecting their own habits, work ethic/ability, and activities.

USEFUL LINKS

If you're interested in learning more about studying at the University of Cambridge, we recommend that you check out the University of Cambridge undergraduate study page (<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/>) for access to:

- The University of Cambridge Prospectus
- Subject lists and detailed entry requirements
- Open day information

You can find out more about life at Queens' on the [**Queens' website**](#), and there's tons of useful videos on the [**Queens' YouTube channel**](#).

You can find out more about Queens' life by watching videos made by Queens' students:

- Zebulon Goriely - [YouTube channel - videos](#)
- Holly Gabrielle - [YouTube channel](#)
- Seth Daood - [YouTube channel](#)
- Jake Wright - [YouTube channel](#)
- [QJCR YouTube] - [YouTube channel](#)

Other useful links:

- [Cambridge Student's Union's 'Apply to Cambridge' website](#)
- [Suggestions for 'super-curricular activities'](#)
- [Discover Downing Cambridge resources](#)
- [\[Resources for students from Wales\]](#)

Twitter accounts to follow:

- Queens' admissions: @QAdmissions
- Queens' College: @QueensCam
- Cambridge admissions: @BeCambridge

Contacts:

- Queens' Schools Liaison Officer: slo@queens.cam.ac.uk
- Queens' JCR Access Officer: jcr-access@queens.cam.ac.uk
- Queens' Admissions: admissions@queens.cam.ac.uk

This alternative prospectus was produced in August 2025. Some information may have changed since then so please check the QJCR website or the Queens' website for the most up to date information.

We hope this was a helpful guide! Good luck in your applications and we hope that any incoming freshers have an amazing time at Queens'

Lucas van Heuven, JCR Access officer 2025-26

