



Selwyn College
Cambridge

SELWYN COLLEGE





Welcome to *Selwyn*

Selwyn is a special place. It provides a supportive, exciting community in which students excel academically and personally, and make the very best of their time in Cambridge. Located at the heart of the University and housing all our students on a single site, the College helps our students to enjoy learning whilst sharing in the richness of a full and varied communal life. Studying at Selwyn is fascinating, challenging and intellectually fulfilling. If you are ambitious and relish such a prospect, Selwyn provides the ideal environment in which you can achieve your goals to the utmost. Our distinctive academic community has produced leaders in many fields. We hope you will join us.

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As soon as I started here I soon realised there's no such thing as a 'typical' student. Every day you're surrounded by exciting, interesting and unique people all pursuing their various passions. The academic workload is hard, but there is so much more than just studying with so many interesting societies and exciting opportunities to get involved.

Matt

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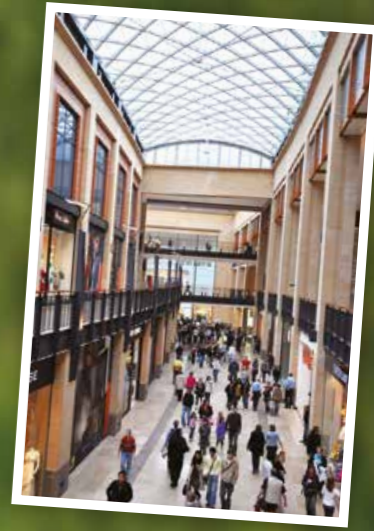




Selwyn at the heart of Cambridge



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Nowhere in Cambridge is further than a 20 minute cycle, with the centre of town a 10 minute walk away, and yet living here surrounded by greenery you would have no idea you're so close!
Holly
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Admissions at *Selwyn*

Selwyn admits those students who are most likely to thrive on the kind of education offered at Cambridge. Further details of the admissions process and information about particular subjects can be found at www.sel.cam.ac.uk or by contacting the admissions team on admissions@sel.cam.ac.uk.

We are looking for people who have achieved outstandingly in their academic studies, and have the potential to succeed here and to flourish on our courses. Enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the subject you intend to study is crucial, often demonstrated by understanding gained through reading around your subject.

We welcome excellent applicants from all social and educational backgrounds and are committed to fairness in all our processes. We want to admit students from all types of schools or colleges, regardless of whether they have a tradition of sending students to Cambridge or not. Academic excellence, strong subject commitment and the ability to do well in the intended course of study are the only criteria for admission.

In assessing potential students we seek to build as complete a picture as possible of their academic abilities and potential. We look carefully at each student's record in examinations, always set in the context of their academic background and opportunities.

We aim to invite the vast majority of applicants to interview. This gives us the opportunity to meet the students who satisfy our requirements. Interviews are academically searching and provide us with important additional information but we do not select people only by interview – it is one part of the process. Overall we spend a considerable amount of time on each candidate, assessing their strengths and weaknesses. The whole process is tailored to assessing the suitability for their chosen course of each student individually.

If you are the sort of person who relishes the prospect of studying in an intellectually challenging environment, and who is willing to put in the time and effort needed to be successful in your studies, then we believe that you will be very much at home at Selwyn.

Study at Selwyn

Selwyn College is located around ten minutes' walk from the city centre. This setting appeals to students who want to live in the city without crowds of tourists and traffic. Our spacious site includes beautiful gardens. The secluded areas create a calm and relaxing environment for the benefit of all members of the College.

The University's Sidgwick Site, home to most Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculties, borders our gardens. The University Library is also on an adjacent site. The development of the West Cambridge site, which now includes a number of Science departments within easy reach, has placed Selwyn at the heart of Cambridge's academic facilities.

All Cambridge students attend the same lectures, seminars and classes provided by their faculty or department. The College additionally provides the small-group tutorial teaching, known as 'supervisions', which is such a special and exceptionally important feature of study at Cambridge.

“

My supervisor has the perfect balance, encouraging me that I am making progress, thus giving me the confidence to contribute to the discussion, but also questioning me so that I reach my academic potential.

Charlotte

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Supervisions allow me to support my students in a way that revolves around their individual needs. Discussions shed new light on topics, and I share their excitement at finding new ways of understanding my subject.

Stuart

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“

I come away from supervisions with greater interest in the topic than before as a result of thought-provoking discussion.

Teresa

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In a supervision, a small group of students – usually between two and four, sometimes one – meet for an hour or more with an academic who specialises in the specific part of the subject they are currently studying. Above all, this is a time for the joint exploration of the subject. The small group nature of the supervision provides the opportunity for you to ask questions and to seek clarification and receive lots of feedback on the work prepared in advance of the supervision and marked by the supervisor. Supervisors help extend students' understanding of topics and also ask students questions and probe their knowledge.

This style of teaching hones important skills of presenting ideas both on paper and orally. Supervisions are undoubtedly challenging and require preparation, but they provide a unique opportunity for exploring your chosen subject in depth and under the guidance of a real expert.

Selwyn's strong commitment to the supervision system means that we devote considerable resources, time and energy to providing the best possible supervision for every student. This is usually provided by members of the College's academic staff, known as Fellows, or by academics who have a close association with us. As the topics become more specialised further into courses, teaching is provided by the most appropriate people across the University, as is the case in all Cambridge Colleges.

Each student has a Director of Studies, whose role is to guide and support their academic work: arranging supervisions, giving study skills advice, advising on choice of options, or on career paths. Directors of Studies are experienced in dealing with the academic problems their students might meet, and are well placed to offer support and practical advice. Students can expect to build up a personal relationship with their Director of Studies. Since each Director of Studies oversees only a small number of students, they will develop a good knowledge of each student's particular strengths and interests, and take a real personal interest in their progress.

“

Selwyn provides good accommodation, has lovely gardens and is conveniently located near to the University Library and many Faculty Buildings. Selwyn's supportive community, has helped me to achieve highly.

Gillian

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“ I have found the support systems in place at Selwyn to be superb – whether it is turning to student mentors, neighbours, your personal Tutor or Director of Studies, there is always somebody willing and able to help.

Alex

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Studying at University is very rewarding but can be a challenge at times. Selwyn's close-knit community creates a supportive atmosphere. This goes a long way to easing any difficulties our students come across.

Each student has a Tutor, a Fellow whose role is to offer pastoral care, advice and assistance and deliberately chosen outside your subject, and thus somewhat separate from the academic concerns of your Director of Studies. Selwyn values the benefits of this system, and the Selwyn Tutors are experienced in helping out with the sorts of difficulties students may encounter. Your Tutor and others will take a real and sustained interest in all that you do in Cambridge, from the day you join the College to the day you graduate and beyond. All of the College staff are concerned about your welfare and are ready to help.

Fitting in at Selwyn

We admit around 120 undergraduates each year – so nobody gets lost in the crowd and there is a very strong sense of community. Our students do a great deal to support one another. Current students provide support with the initial transition into student life and beyond. They offer advice to newcomers and student Welfare Officers liaise closely with the Tutors on many pastoral issues.



Accommodation at *Selwyn*

A key part of the Cambridge experience is living in your College alongside your fellow students. **All our accommodation** is on a single site. We guarantee accommodation on that site to all students for the three or four years of their undergraduate course. This fosters a cohesive and integrated community among our diverse student body.

The majority of our accommodation is arranged in three traditional 'courts' the oldest of which dates from the 1880s to our newest addition, completed in 2009. The older courts have been completely refurbished over recent years and some two thirds of our accommodation includes en-suite facilities. Around the College site there are a number of large Victorian houses converted into students' accommodation.

Everyone has their own room (no rooms are shared). First-year students are allocated a room, but in subsequent

years students choose where they live. We have a range of different types of rooms, the rents for which reflect their size, facilities and location. All our accommodation is provided with high-speed internet connection.

All rooms for first year students are en-suite, and have shared kitchenette facilities for snacks. Most second, third and fourth years choose to live in College accommodation. A ballot allows these students to choose their preferred accommodation.

A significant feature of living in College is that you only pay rent for the time that you are in residence (usually around 7 to 8 months). Room rents include all utilities and maintenance charges, and maintenance is carried out by College staff. Costs are therefore strikingly low when compared to market rates or even those expected at other universities. Nor do our students have to worry about this aspect of university life from year to year. They can, instead, concentrate on success in their studies.





Facilities at *Selwyn*

Within Selwyn all students belong to the Junior Combination Room (JCR for short), which is their own student union. Members of the JCR's elected Committee sit on the College's Governing Body and other Committees, providing a direct voice for students in College affairs from Catering to Accommodation, the Library, IT, and much else.

“

It is the atmosphere at Selwyn that sets the College apart. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to live and study in such a beautiful setting. It makes the harder days that much easier, and the gardens at Selwyn are the perfect place to relax with friends. If I had to choose my college again I would pick Selwyn every time!

Holly

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Selwyn is proud of having a history of good relations between its Fellows and the student body. This is due to the active and significant role played by the JCR and the real desire for a cohesive academic community. The postgraduate students are also represented in these ways and are well integrated with the undergraduates, forming part of the College's rich sense of community.

The JCR has its own space including a meeting room, games room, TV room with film and gaming facilities and a small shop. The JCR also puts on entertainments and social events (including the famous Selwyn Snow Ball), as well as providing a range of welfare services.

There is a recently completed purpose built gym on site, freely available to all students.

Along with the extensive collection of academic titles, the Library serves as a hub for a wide selection of resources.

As all students have the opportunity to live on the main site, the College Hall is the centre of our community. Meals are served in the Hall every day on a cafeteria basis.

Twice a week we have 'formal hall', an opportunity for a three-course dinner served at the table. To keep the occasions special, they are one of the very few situations in which students and Fellows alike wear academic gowns. Formal halls are not compulsory. They are very popular with our students; often they are used as occasions to celebrate a birthday, or to invite friends from other Colleges, or to host visitors from outside Cambridge.

As well as providing on-site computing support, the College has both fixed and wireless connectivity which provides an excellent service at very low cost.



Leisure at Selwyn

The ethos of the College is that academic work forms the core of everyone's experience. Selwyn students still find time to participate in and enjoy the great diversity of extracurricular activities in both the College and the University.

At Cambridge, such activities occur at both College and University level. Selwyn has its own teams in many sports where the emphasis is on representing the College and having fun – you don't have to be a top-rate player, or indeed a player with any experience, in order to join one of the teams. Those with more serious sporting ambitions, or interest in a less common sport, find it easy to get involved in University sports clubs.

Selwyn's sports field, shared with Queens', Robinson and King's Colleges, is located less than a mile from the College.

Music making and drama are also popular at Selwyn. The Chapel Choir, under its professional director,

sings services three times per week, as well as giving concert performances, recording CDs and going on tour. The Music Society, instrumental groups covering everything from chamber music to jazz, and a variety of bands which come and go as the student population changes, all contribute to a rich musical life. The College dramatic society puts on a range of productions that has often included material written by Selwyn students themselves. Summer productions in the gardens, especially of Shakespeare plays, are both traditional and popular.

Our students become involved in a huge range of activities. At Selwyn we feel that offering all undergraduate students accommodation on a single site helps everyone find a niche.

“

I'm so glad I came to Selwyn, it's such an exciting place to be. There's always so much going on and you can pick and choose whatever takes your fancy!

Laura

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Life after Selwyn

Selwyn prides itself on enabling students from all backgrounds to exceed their expectations, and our graduates go on to achieve remarkable things that touch and transform lives all over the world. Selwyn students have developed illustrious careers in academia, publishing, the arts, politics, economics, industry and many other fields. They keep in touch with us and we enjoy our ongoing relationship with former students who always remain members of the College.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading about Selwyn, and that you have begun to see how welcoming and supportive a place it is. If you would like to visit the College, we would be delighted to see you at one of our Open Days, details of which can be found on our website.

Prospective applicants are always welcome to walk around the College. Should you have any questions about any aspect of studying at Selwyn, or our admissions process, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are always pleased to hear from prospective applicants.





Selwyn College

Cambridge

The College's Admissions team can arrange visits and help with enquiries.

Admissions Office

Selwyn College
Cambridge
CB3 9DQ

T: +44(0)1223 335896

F: +44(0)1223 331720

E: admissions@sel.cam.ac.uk

www.sel.cam.ac.uk

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