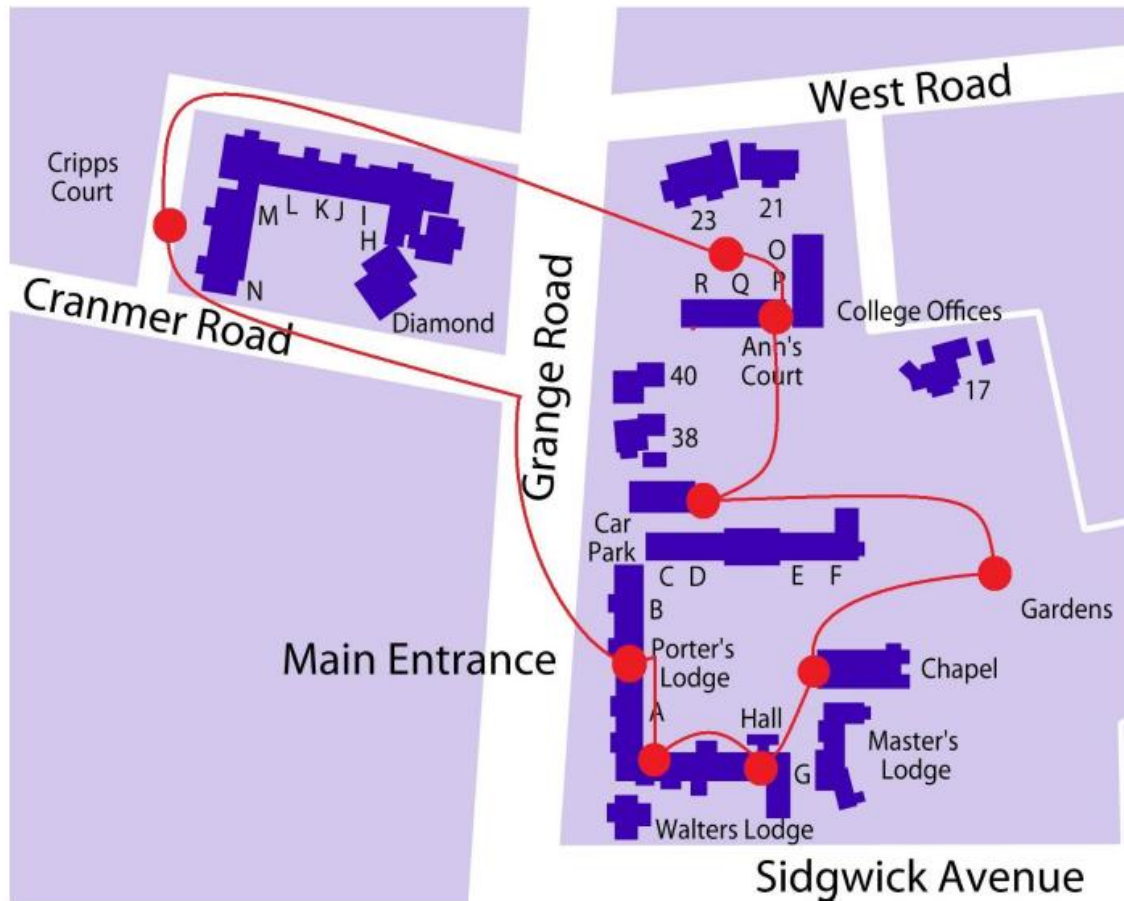


Self-Guided Tour around Selwyn College

For Students and Visitors



- **Start at Porters' Lodge Gate (Main Entrance)**

The Porter's Lodge is the main entrance to the College. From here, you enter Old Court, which as its name suggests, is the oldest part of the College. Selwyn was founded in 1882 so relatively modern for a Cambridge college, but still retains an older style of architecture.

The Porter's Lodge is similar to a reception at a school. The Porters work here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so they are always on hand if you need anything. They handle the post, patrol the grounds and are all first aid trained. The Porters are usually the first person you go to if you need any help with anything whilst you're a student here.

Old Court (designated by the letters A – G) is one of 3 main accommodation blocks at Selwyn, so most of the rooms around you are either student bedrooms or offices. Accommodation is guaranteed for all years of your undergraduate degree so there is no need to move out to find private accommodation after the first year like most universities.

Although the exterior may look old, the rooms in this court have been refurbished many times so they are modern and well equipped on the inside. In this block, students do have to share a bathroom with 3 – 5 other people on their corridor. There are also small student kitchens called 'gyps' on each floor though notably these kitchens lack an oven so are designed more for small snacks. However some students can be very creative with just a hob and toaster!

- **With the entrance at your back and Old Court in front of you, turn right and walk down the path to the corner.**

In front of you is the student bar, which provides cheap and subsidised food and beverage in the evenings. It is a social space for anyone to use and is often a meeting point for different clubs and societies. There are regular pub quiz nights, comedy nights and other social events in the bar.

- **Turn left and continue walking along the path until you reach the large double staircase labelled Hall. Go up the stairs into Hall though please note it may be closed between services for cleaning.**

Up the staircase is the Hall, which is where students can get breakfast, lunch and dinner. At Selwyn, you don't have to choose if you are catered or self-catered, you can decide as you go. Some people may choose to have every meal in Hall and others will prefer to cook food for themselves in kitchens (or 'gyps') located near all the bedrooms. At Selwyn, you pay for food on your student card and then are billed once a term.

In the dining hall, you will notice paintings on the wall. These are portraits of former Masters of the college. At the far end, there is High Table which is where Fellows (professors) and their guests can sit.

Formal dinners are a Cambridge tradition which are also held in the Hall. These happen twice a week after normal dinner service and involve wearing gowns, dressing up, and having a formal 3-course sit down meal. These are entirely optional but many students like to occasionally go to Formal Hall for special occasions, such as on birthdays or when family members are visiting.

- **Go back down the stairs/carry on around the courtyard. On the other side of the stairs, there is the Master's Lodge.**

The Master is like a headteacher of a school. He meets all the students when they arrive and then participates in lots of different functions throughout the year. For example, he sometimes invites students around for tea or holds garden parties in the summer.

The current Master of Selwyn is Roger Mosey. He used to work for the BBC, including as the Director for the 2012 Olympics in London. He is also famous for persuading the University to allow him to keep his basset hound (dog) YoYo after convincing them it was just a 'very large

cat'. Although the rules don't let masters keep dogs, it was allowed and minuted in a College Council meeting: "i. College Animal - Noting precedent under the mastership of Professor Chadwick, Council approved the Master's request to adopt a Very Large Cat in the Master's Lodge."

- **Continue around the courtyard and enter the Chapel through one of the side doors (twist the handle to enter). Feel free to look around if there is no service happening.**

Most Cambridge colleges have chapels as a result of being founded a long time ago when the country was more actively Christian and Universities only admitted Christian people. In fact Selwyn College was founded originally as a college to train missionaries and ministers, with a focus on making it affordable for people.

Nowadays, of course, Cambridge is open to students of all faiths and religions as well as no faith. The Chapel therefore functions as a multi-faith space which anyone can use. There are still weekly services such as a Sunday service and a few in the week as well called 'Evensong'. But the space is also used as a place of quiet reflection and during exam time, there is often tea and cakes offered to students to help relax before exams.

At the top of the chapel is a large organ. Selwyn's chapel is particularly well known for its excellent acoustics, and as such, many music societies practice and record in the chapel. Selwyn also has an active choir which is open to all and often go on tours to different countries as well as record charity singles each year.

- **Leave the Chapel and continue around the courtyard. On the right hand side is the Selwyn Gardens which are open in the summer. Feel free to go through the black gate and down the stairs into the garden if the weather is nice!**

The beautiful Selwyn gardens are planted with flowers, flora and fauna designed to reflect those found in the Pacific Rim (around Australia and New Zealand). This is because George Selwyn who the College was named after served as the first Bishop of New Zealand and was also a keen botanist who brought back many samples and drawings of exotic plants. The gardens are open for anyone to use. In the summer, many students can be found here revising eating lunch or just hanging out with friends.

- **If in the gardens, follow the path to the left until you reach the paved path. If by the gate, follow the fence around to the right and down the side of the courtyard. Walk left towards the small building.**

This is the Selwyn library. You can see through the glass some of the work spaces and library shelves. Every College has a library which stocks the core textbooks for each course and enough copies for everyone on the course at your college. The library is open from 7am – midnight most days and until 2am during exam time.

In addition to the College library, students can also borrow books from their department library which may hold more specialist items. There is also the University Library which is known as a 'copyright library' because it is legally entitled to have a copy of every English-language book that has ever been published. This library gets around 200 new books each day including everything from baby books to extremely niche academic journals.

- **Walk back to the main path and follow it forward towards the orange/red brick buildings. Go through the covered walkway to the other side.**

This building and courtyard is known as Ann's Court. Here there are some offices such as the Bursary (finance), Tutorial (who sort out matters dealing with undergraduates) and Admissions as well as IT, HR etc.

This is the 2nd main accommodation block in Selwyn. This block is much more modern and all of the rooms are very spacious with ensuite bathrooms. In front of you there are some houses which is also student accommodation. Often taken by 4th years or graduate students, these houses known as 'hostels' offer more 'adult' living with fully equipped kitchens.

- **Walk through the gate and cross the road.**
- **Note: the gate here is often closed so please walk behind the buildings labelled 21 and 23 on the map along West Road to rejoin the tour path.**

Cripps Court is the 3rd main accommodation block. This is where all the 1st years live by default, as it is the most modern of the blocks and has more social space so new students can get to know each other.

Accommodation at Selwyn after the 1st year works via a ballot. Everyone's name is entered into a random order in the ballot and the first person on the list gets to pick from any of the rooms in College and can pick on behalf of a small group of friends as well (so you can ballot with people you know and all live close together). In the 3rd year, the ballot is reversed to make it fair for everyone.

Accommodation prices vary but range from £120 - £160, with the majority of rooms being around £140. Students only pay whilst they are in residence (e.g. not during holidays) so generally pay around 30 weeks of rent a year (which saves a lot of money compared to privately renting for a whole year!)

If you walk around the back of Cripps Court, you will also find a gym and lots of bike storage around the back of Cripps Court. The gym is free for all students to use after completing an induction.

You have now finished the self-guided of Selwyn. If you have any questions or would like to pick up a prospectus, you can ask our Porters at the Porter's Lodge.