

## Preparing to Apply to Competitive Universities: 'Supra-Curricular' Enrichment Resources Sheet

### Introduction

In light of the extraordinary circumstances stemming from the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, we appreciate that education has been severely disrupted and that many students may be wondering how they might best prepare their applications for competitive universities. We hope that this guide to 'supra-curricular' activity will assist students who are thinking about their progression to university and how they might explore subjects in greater depth.

Most successful applicants to Cambridge and other competitive universities will have spent time exploring their subject, but we also hope this guide will have a wider application. It is hoped that these resources will help students at all levels spend their time in an interesting and rewarding way during this exceptional period and beyond. Although we also make specific reference to the entry requirements of the courses at Cambridge, please do not feel you cannot use this guide if you are unsure about applying to our University.

### What is 'supra-curricular' activity and how is different to my extra-curricular activities?

'Supra-curricular' activity is subject-specific academic exploration that builds on and **goes beyond what you are studying in school or college**. 'Supra-curricular' activity is usually different to extra-curricular activities because it is purely **academic in focus** and **directly relevant to the subject you want to study at university** (as opposed to only being relevant through the transferable skills gained). 'Supra-curricular' activity therefore refers to **anything you do to explore your subject in greater depth in your own time**.

### Why is 'supra-curricular' activity important?

Strong applicants to Cambridge and other competitive universities have often explored their chosen subject in their own time, and discussion of academic enrichment will usually take up the majority of a **competitive personal statement**. Exploring these resources should also help you develop certain **skills and knowledge** which will be beneficial for both applying to and then studying your chosen course.

Academic enrichment should also be an **interesting and rewarding** process for you. There is no set formula nor any 'required reading': it is a chance for you to pick topics that fascinate you and to explore them in a variety of ways. There are also **no exams or deadlines** and you are free to develop your own lines of research. Do not feel pressured to read something that seems 'impressive' or see this as purely an exercise in finding material for your personal statement. Let **your own interests** guide you.

Academic exploration is also a good chance for you to think about what you might like to study at **university**. If you're not enjoying exploring a particular subject, then you might like to consider if it is really right for you.

### Is supra-curricular activity simply reading around your subject?

Reading can certainly be an excellent way of exploring topics that interest you and much supra-curricular study will usually take that form. Bear in mind, however, that there are many other ways to deepen your understanding. Once you are able safely to do so, you could visit your local museums, monuments, galleries or natural features and think critically and analytically about what you see. You may also be able to attend seminars, taster days or other outreach activities run by a university local to you (or any other) or to enter competitions such as an essay prize or maths Olympiad (again, once it is safe to do so).

Whilst you are welcome to read about a topic that interests you, **for STEM subjects** in particular it is also important to find ways to **practice key subject-specific skills**. For example, you might like to work through different problems, consolidate your knowledge of key concepts and practice any material you do not feel as

secure on. For all subjects, you will want to get used to **applying your existing knowledge to new problems** too, which is a skill that will come in useful for any admissions assessments and interviews.

Please do bear in mind too that anything you mention on your personal statement can be asked about at interview, so if you do decide to discuss a particular resource please ensure you have **properly engaged** with it. We would therefore strongly recommend keeping a record of the work you are reading and thinking about, summarising the key arguments and your reflections and opinions. **Depth can often be better than breadth** in a personal statement, so you should aim to be able to talk about particular works or resources in detail.

## How should I get started?

### Quality journalism

Perhaps the most helpful thing you can do when applying to competitive universities is to keep up to date with news and current affairs *that relate to your subject*. Here are some suggestions of quality journalism which you can use to find pertinent articles:

- Broadsheet newspapers: The Guardian, The Times, The Daily Telegraph
- BBC News online: [www.bbc.co.uk/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)
- The News Statesman: <https://www.newstatesman.com/us>
- The Economist: [www.economist.com/](http://www.economist.com/)
- Reuters: <https://uk.reuters.com/> (change edition for international news)
- New Scientist magazine, news section: <https://www.newscientist.com/section/news/>
- Al Jazeera English: [www.aljazeera.com/](http://www.aljazeera.com/)
- CNN: <https://edition.cnn.com/>

Reading quality journalism can also help you to develop the ability to think critically and analytically. You can assess their arguments and weigh their evidence and think about why one media outlet may present news in a different way to the other. Remember that most strong applicants display the ability to think critically when presented with new information and to assess it in the light of their existing knowledge, making connections between the familiar and the unfamiliar and using their existing knowledge to assess the validity of what they have been shown.

### Podcasts

Podcasts are an excellent free way to learn about a topic, and you can listen to them whenever is convenient for you. See below for individual subject suggestions, and here for a general list of useful podcasts:

- Cambridge YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/cambridgeuniversity>
- Cambridge online lectures at the University Streaming Media Service: <https://www.sms.cam.ac.uk/>
- Cambridge resources at TES: <https://www.tes.com/member/UniversityOfCambridge>
- Oxford University podcasts: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/>
- UniTalks podcasts: <https://iai.tv/education/podcast>
- Times Higher Education podcasts: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/academic/opinion/podcasts>
- BBC Radio 4 podcasts: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4>
- The Reith Lectures: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00057m9>
- BBC Radio 4 'The Forum': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011d15g>
- BBC Radio 4 'In Our Time': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/downloads>
- Educational podcast lists: <https://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/50-educational-podcasts-you-should-check-out/> and <https://networks.h-net.org/node/84048/pages/111820/academic-podcast-roundup>

You may also find some useful **videos** at:

- TED talks: <https://www.ted.com/>
- Gresham College online lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch>

### Online courses

Many universities have made some courses free and you can access online lectures, downloadable courses notes and academic discussion groups:

- Cambridge's own HE+ website: <http://www.myheplus.com/>
- The websites of several American universities - see: <https://see.stanford.edu/>;  
<https://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>; <https://online-learning.harvard.edu/>; <http://oyc.yale.edu>;  
[https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/ivy-league-free-online-courses-a0d7ae675869/?fbclid=IwAR0rFx1m66MJSi\\_i9WzHHalgiecoZ5iMKa0oL-nt2eQnzzbXIOWh6z4rrY](https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/ivy-league-free-online-courses-a0d7ae675869/?fbclid=IwAR0rFx1m66MJSi_i9WzHHalgiecoZ5iMKa0oL-nt2eQnzzbXIOWh6z4rrY)
- The Open University's free courses: <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/try>
- Other free online courses: <https://www.futurelearn.com/>; <https://www.khanacademy.org/>;  
<https://www.my-mooc.com/en/>; <https://www.coursera.org/>

There is also a wealth of other material available from the following sites:

- Hay Levels: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HayLevels/featured>
- Villier's Park Extension Activities: <https://www.villierspark.org.uk/online-activities/>

### General resource lists

You might like to consult the following pages for resources and ideas pertaining to a wide variety of subjects:

- University College Staicase12: <https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/staircase12/>
- Oxplore: <https://explore.org/>
- St John's College resource list: <https://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/schools>

### University of Cambridge reading lists

If you're looking for reading lists specific to **the University of Cambridge**, try individual college websites. You can take a look at reading lists for prospective applicants, as well as incoming first years. Please do not feel you need to read everything on a first year reading list; rather it can give you a good sense of where to start and what the course focuses on.

Some examples include:

- King's College reading lists: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists>
- Downing College reading lists: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/join-downing/information-new-students/undergraduates-reading-lists>

You might also like to look at the suggested reading from the **University of Oxford**

- University of Oxford suggested reading:  
<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/suggested-reading-and-resources>

### Further general tips

If you are not sure where to start with a subject, always remember to consult the relevant **course website** carefully for information on the course and resources for further academic exploration. The **resources** tab on Cambridge course websites is always an excellent starting point. For any course that you are applying for, it is very important you spend a good amount of time researching how it works and whether it would align with your particular interest and learning style.

Departments/Faculties also often have a **YouTube** channel which can be used to find out more about the course and to watch talks and lectures.

The [Very Short Introductions](#) can also provide excellent initial grounding in a subject.

## Subject-Specific Resources

### Selecting your course:

We have sorted the below list according to the courses offered at the University of Cambridge, and it may be useful to consult the following link from the University in order to see what courses align with your interests:

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/search>

Owing to the current situation, you now have the luxury of time to really explore your interests, so **be open minded** about the different courses you may wish to look into and be attentive to the **overlaps** between subjects. It is usually sensible to consult the course pages first and then start with broader, more introductory resources like the 'Very Short Introductions', or an accessible magazine. If you're finding yourself truly fascinated, you can then begin to narrow your search to specific topics of interest. Hopefully this will be a really enjoyable process. You may also find that resources for certain other courses will help you with your own subject (see individual subject listings for recommendations). Remember that courses often share **common themes**, so you do not always need to stick rigidly to your own subject list.

### Disclaimer:

The following selection of resources here have been gathered from Cambridge departmental and college website, as well as the websites of other universities and online resources. Please note that they are **not** required reading lists for applicants to Cambridge and you are **not** expected to have read any of the below before applying to the university. Unless otherwise stated, the sources are not endorsed by the University of Cambridge.

Please also remember that you do **not** need to pay for books or online resources. We also strongly discourage you from paying for online material and application support courses. We often find they do not represent value for money and that the equivalent resources can be obtained for free.

If you would like to access certain books or material behind a paywall, you may be able to ask your school or local library to see what they subscribe to and have on loan. If you have university local to you, you might also be able to take advantage of their collections once it is safe to do so, or access some of their digital resources. It is always worth speaking to staff to see how they can help you.

Navigate to your course below:

[Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Archaeology](#)

[English](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Architecture](#)

[Geography](#)

[Modern Languages](#)

[Asian and Middle Eastern  
Studies](#)

[History and History Joint  
Degrees](#)

[Music](#)

[Chemical Engineering](#)

[History of Art](#)

[Natural Sciences](#)

[Classics](#)

[Human, Social and Political  
Sciences](#)

[Philosophy](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Land Economy](#)

[Psychological and Behavioural  
Sciences](#)

[Economics](#)

[Law](#)

[Theology, Religion and  
Philosophy of Religion](#)

[Education](#)

[Linguistics](#)

[Veterinary Medicine](#)

## Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic

### Introduction:

Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (ASNAC) allows you to discover the early medieval world in Britain, Ireland and Scandinavia. The course is therefore truly **inter-disciplinary** in that it spans the areas of **literature, languages and history**. There is also a lot of flexibility in terms how you might specialise, but in general students often take a mix of historical and literary options. You may therefore like to get a sense of the history of the Early Middle Ages and think about the historical context of any literature you encounter. Sampling the different languages of this period will be useful as you will be looking at literature in its original languages.

### General resources:

- Step-by-step guide to preparing and applying: <https://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/sbsguide/index.htm>
- Links to resources: <http://www.ravensgard.org/gerekr/anglo.html>

### Reading suggestions:

- Preparatory reading ideas: <http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/currentstudents/undergraduates/reading-lists/intro-reading.htm>

### Websites:

- Experience the languages: <http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/spokenword/>
- English Heritage Introduction to Early Medieval British History: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/early-medieval/>
- 'Beowulf' online with commentary: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/16328/16328-h/16328-h.htm#XXVII>
- Anglo-Saxon history blog: <http://asengland.blogspot.co.uk/>
- Anglo-Saxon archaeology blog: <http://anglo-saxon-archaeology-blog.blogspot.co.uk/>

### Videos:

- Cambridge Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Society YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AsnacSociety>

### You may also be interested in:

[English](#)

[History](#)

[Modern Languages](#)

## Archaeology

### Introduction:

This broad course contains topics that span the humanities, social sciences and the sciences. In the first year, students take seven core **archaeology**, **language** and **biological anthropology** papers, but after that you are able to specialise in one or more of **archaeology**, **Assyriology**, **biological anthropology** and **Egyptology**. It is therefore worth spending time researching the different areas available and thinking about how you might eventually like to specialise. If you are interested in Assyriology or Egyptology in particular, you may like to look into the relevant languages and see if you might enjoy the challenge of learning them from scratch.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduates>
- What is Archaeology? <https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/about-us/archaeology>
- What is Biological Anthropology?  
[https://www.bioanth.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/copy\\_of\\_what-is-biological-anthropology](https://www.bioanth.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/copy_of_what-is-biological-anthropology)
- What is Egyptology? <https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/about-us/egyptology>
- What is Assyriology? <https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/about-us/mesopotamia>

### Journals and magazines:

- 'Archaeological Review' journal: <http://arc.soc.srcf.net/>
- Current Archaeology Magazine: [www.archaeology.co.uk/](http://www.archaeology.co.uk/)

### Websites:

- Day of Archaeology website: <http://www.dayofarchaeology.com/>
- Young Archaeologists' Club: [www.yac-uk.org/](http://www.yac-uk.org/)

### Videos:

- The Faculty YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvviHvQuXoNXcK5bxA-Es9A>
- Gresham lectures on Archaeology:  
<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/?subject=&subcat=&files=&year=&search=archaeology>

### Podcasts:

- Naked Scientist Archaeology podcasts:  
<http://www.thenakedscientists.com/HTML/podcasts/archive/archaeology/>

### You may also be interested in:

[Classics](#)

[History](#)

[Geography](#)

[Human, Social and Political Sciences](#)

## Architecture

### Introduction:

Architecture spans both the **arts** and **sciences**, and it is often worth brushing up your **Maths** and **Physics** skills to at least GCSE level. For more detail on the particular topics on which to focus, [consult the following website](#).

**Studio** work forms the core of your studies at Cambridge, and in order to develop your own **design skills** you should be trying to look at and then **think critically** about all kinds of architecture you see around you. You might like to begin a sketchbook where you can record all the different kinds of designs you have been examining.

You can also learn about and critique the work of high profile designs and architects, using some of the resources below to get you started.

You will need to bring a **portfolio** of work to you at interview in Cambridge, so your supra-curricular work might help you to compile this. For more information about the portfolio requirements, see the [course website](#).

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying>
- General guidance and reading ideas: [www.clare.cam.ac.uk/data/uploads/Architecture.pdf](http://www.clare.cam.ac.uk/data/uploads/Architecture.pdf)

### Reading suggestions:

- Reading list suggestion: [www.archi-ninja.com/list-of-architecture-books-for-student-architects/](http://www.archi-ninja.com/list-of-architecture-books-for-student-architects/)
- King's College Architecture reading list: <http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/architecture.html>

### Journals and magazines:

- Cambridge Scroope Journal: <https://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/aboutthedepartment/scroope-journal>

### Websites:

- Young architect blog: <https://youngarchitect.com/>
- Dezeen: <https://www.dezeen.com/>
- Cambridge Architecture Society, see in particular their annual show in London: <https://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/arcsof>
- RIBA Learning Programme: <https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/learning>
- Tinkercad for 3D design, electronics and coding: <http://www.tinkercad.com>

### Videos:

- Department YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzP7zdsq01R4\\_PoUZTr1-IQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzP7zdsq01R4_PoUZTr1-IQ)
- Dezeen magazine videos and documentaries: <https://www.dezeen.com/2020/03/23/architecture-design-documentaries-round-up-self-isolation/>

### You may also be interested in:

[History of Art](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Engineering](#)

## Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

### Introduction:

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) provides an exciting opportunity to **pair language learning** with **cultural study**, taking in fields such as **literature, history** and **politics**. You may like to explore the culture and history of relevant countries/societies widely and see if there are any particular topics that particularly fascinate you. Although you will be taught your language(s) from scratch, it is also helpful to do some **basic study** yourself, so you understand (and hopefully look forward to!) the challenge ahead. Do remember that any reading you do needs to be thought about carefully and analytically, so, when you begin to specialise your research into a particular topic, depth is often better than breadth.

### General resources:

- See the course website (resources tab) for subject-specific guidance based on your interests: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/asian-and-middle-eastern-studies>
- Arabic learning resources: <https://arabic.desert-sky.net/>
- Persian learning resources: <https://englisifarsi.com/pages/persian-learning-resources>
- Hebrew learning resources: <http://gratisglobal.com/learn-hebrew-free/#video-lessons>
- Japanese learning resources: <https://teamjapanese.com/learn-japanese-online-free/>
- Chinese learning resources: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/resources/chinese>

### Reading suggestions:

- Arabic preparatory reading list: <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/preparatory-reading-arabic>
- Persian preparatory reading: <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/preparatory-reading-persian>
- Hebrew preparatory reading: <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/preparatory-reading-hebrew>
- Chinese preparatory reading: <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/preparatory-reading-chinese>
- Japanese preparatory reading: <https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/preparatory-reading-japanese>

### Videos:

Downing College Meet the Interviewers: Asian and Middle Eastern Studies:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BUJI-BdSg>

### Other activities:

- SOAS Summer Schools (London): <https://www.soas.ac.uk/widening-participation/outreach/sixth-form/summer-schools/> (You may also be interested in: their other free events)

### You may also be interested in:

[Modern and Medieval Languages](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

## Chemical Engineering

### Introduction:

Chemical Engineers apply for either Engineering or Natural Sciences, and then specialise from the second year into Chemical Engineering. Please see also the resources for both courses below as these will help with further subject exploration.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/chemical-engineering>
- Chemical Engineering Resources and web forum: [www.cheresources.com/content/articles/](http://www.cheresources.com/content/articles/)
- Stanford suggested resources: <http://library.stanford.edu/guides/chemical-engineering-resources-students>
- HE+ Engineering: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/engineering>
- HE+ Chemistry: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/chemistry>
- NRICH Maths: <https://nrich.maths.org/>
- NRICH Maths for Science: <https://nrich.maths.org/6467>

### Suggested reading:

- <https://www.ceb.cam.ac.uk/undergraduates/prospective-students/1a-information/reading-list>

### Websites:

- <http://www.whynotchemeng.com/>

See also the information below for [engineering](#) and [natural sciences \(chemistry\)](#).

## Classics

### Introduction:

The study of **Latin** and **Ancient Greek** is central to the Classics course, whether it be in our three year degree for those with A-level Latin (or equivalent) or in our four year degree for those without advanced Latin or Greek. If you already have A-level Latin, it may be useful to ensure your language skills are as strong as possible as these will likely be assessed at interview at Cambridge through a translation exercise. If you are more of a beginner then you may wish to sample the fundamentals of the language to see whether you will enjoy intensive language learning, and bear in mind that you will likely have a language aptitude component at interview.

Classics at Cambridge involves not only a strong emphasis on Latin and Greek, but also the **interdisciplinary study** of areas such as history, philosophy, archaeology and literature. You may wish to sample these different areas and see if there are specific topics you find particularly fascinating. *Classics: A Very Short Introduction*, provides a good starting point.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/classics>
- Classics at Cambridge website: <https://www.greeksromansus.classics.cam.ac.uk/>
- General useful resources: <https://classicsresources.info/>

### Suggested reading:

- King's College reading list: [www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/classics.html](http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/classics.html)
- Classical texts in translation: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>
- Green Mythology resources: <https://www.theoi.com/>

### Journals and magazines:

- Omnibus Magazine: <https://archive.org/details/omnibusmagazine>

### Websites:

- Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents: <https://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/home>
- The Roman Society: [www.romansociety.org/](http://www.romansociety.org/)
- The Hellenic Society: [www.hellenicsociety.org.uk/](http://www.hellenicsociety.org.uk/)

### Podcasts:

- Radio 4 'In our time': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dh5yg>
- BBC Radio 4 'Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics' (when available): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b077x8pc>

### Videos:

- Gresham Art and Literature lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=art-and-literature>  
<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/computer-science>

You may also be interested in:

[English](#)  
[Philosophy](#)

[History of Art](#)  
[Archaeology](#)

## Computer Science

### Introduction:

Practicing your **mathematical thinking and reasoning skills** is vital as mathematics provides the essential underpinning to our course, and these skills will be assessed in the pre-interview Cambridge Test of Mathematics for University Admission (CTMUA) (see our [course page](#) for more information) as well as at the interview itself. You are also very strongly encouraged to take A-level Further Mathematics (or equivalent) if possible.

Whilst you are welcome to do some reading around the course (especially if Computer Science is an entirely new discipline for you), the important thing is to practice your mathematical, logical thinking skills in a hands on way and demonstrate a **real passion** for the subject through practical exercises such as learning a programming language, designing a phone app, or even building a robot.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/computer-science>
- Computer Science at Cambridge FAQs: <https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/faqs>
- Preparing to study Computer Science: <https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/freshers>
- University of Oxford list of resources: [https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/why\\_oxford/background\\_reading.html](https://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/why_oxford/background_reading.html)

### Websites:

- Christ Church Oxford Python Challenges: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/admissions/python-challenges-page>
- Isaac Computer Science: <https://isaacomputerscience.org/>
- GeomLab- Exploring Computer Science: <http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/geomlab/>
- Art of Problem Solving: <https://artofproblemsolving.com/resources>
- Coding websites: <https://www.codecademy.com/>; <https://github.com/>
- Project Euler mathematical/computer programming programmes: <https://projecteuler.net/>
- Raspberry Pi: <https://www.raspberrypi.org/>
- Khan Academy Pixar site: <https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/pixar>
- Cyber Security online extracurricular programme: <https://joincyberdiscovery.com/>
- Tinkercad for 3D design, electronics and coding: [www.tinkercad.com](http://www.tinkercad.com)
- Blender (free and open-source 3D creation suite): <https://www.blender.org/>

### Videos:

- Cambridge Computer Science Lab YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CambridgeComputerLab>
- Sample Computer Science interview at Cambridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7XwKVCBPfM>

### Competitions:

- Micromouse Competition: [https://ukmars.org/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://ukmars.org/index.php/Main_Page)
- The British Informatics Olympiad: <https://www.olympiad.org.uk/>
- National Cipher Challenge: [www.cipher.maths.soton.ac.uk/](http://www.cipher.maths.soton.ac.uk/)

### You may also be interested in:

[Mathematics](#)

[Natural Sciences](#)

[Engineering](#)

## Economics

### Introduction:

The economics course at Cambridge has a very strong **mathematical element**, as well as covering related areas such as economic theory, history and politics, meaning students also write essays. It is important therefore to practice your **mathematical** and **logical and analytical thinking skills**, as well as your ability to **write clearly and analytically**. These are skills tested in the pre-interview assessment (see the [course page](#) for more details) and you may also encounter mathematical exercises at interview. Accordingly, A-level Further Mathematics (or equivalent) is strongly advised for economics applicants.

You may also wish to familiarise yourself with some of the basic terms and theories in introductory works such as those suggested by the Faculty (see below). You can also use these resources to not only get a broad introduction, but also discover topics you find particularly interesting and may want to specialise in. Always remember to think **critically** and **analytically** about any new ideas and arguments that you come across.

### General resources:

- Course page: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/economics>
- Guide for prospective applicants: <http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/ba/guide.pdf>
- Study tips for this subject: <http://www.studyingeconomics.ac.uk/tips-for-working-efficiently/>
- He+ Economics: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/economics>
- NRICH Maths for Economists: <https://nrich.maths.org/7321>

### Suggested reading:

- Suggested preliminary reading list from the Faculty: <http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/ba/PrelimReadingList.pdf>

### Journals and magazines:

- The Economist magazine: [www.economist.com/](http://www.economist.com/)

### Websites:

- Economics Online: <https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/>
- <http://whystudyeconomics.ac.uk/> (see especially the student views 'guide to my 18 year old self')
- *Undercover Economist* website, newspaper column and book: <http://timharford.com/>
- LSE (London) outreach programmes: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Undergraduate/widening-participation/Sixth-form-college>
- Institute for Economic Affairs: [www.iea.org.uk/](http://www.iea.org.uk/)
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research: <https://www.niesr.ac.uk/>
- Freakonomics: <http://freakonomics.com/>

### Videos:

The Faculty YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxfJKJnKtssIVGRCfqbWIPw>

- TED talks on Economics: <https://www.ted.com/topics/economics>
- Gresham College Business lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/?subject=business>

### Podcasts:

- Radio 4 programme 'More or Less' : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qshd>

### You may also be interested in:

[Mathematics](#)

[Land Economy](#)

## Education

### Introduction:

Education at Cambridge provides you with the opportunity to go down **three distinct 'tracks'** (routes): Education, Psychology and Learning, Education, Policy and International Development and Education, English, Drama and the Arts. As well as keeping up to date with current developments in UK/International Education through quality journalism and publications such as the *Times Education Supplement*, it is worth reading each 'track' page carefully (see below) to see which may interest you and then reading both broadly and more specifically once you have found a topic that interests you. Remember too to think **analytically** and **critically** about any new ideas or arguments you are presented with. If you are intending to go down the English and Drama track, it is also helpful to read a range of dramatic literature. Once it safe to do so, it is a good idea to watch some live theatre too, and see below for theatre you can watch online from home.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/education>
- Education, Psychology and Learning track: <https://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/courses/undergrad/psychology/>
- Education, Policy and International Development track: <https://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/courses/undergrad/development/>
- Education, English, Drama and the Arts track: <https://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/courses/undergrad/englishdrama/>
- Education at Cambridge FAQs: <https://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/courses/undergrad/apply/>
- The Department for Education website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

### Theatre online:

- Theatrical performances you can stream online: [https://www.culturewhisper.com/r/theatre/theatre\\_online\\_streaming/15292](https://www.culturewhisper.com/r/theatre/theatre_online_streaming/15292)

### Suggested reading:

- Downing College reading list: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/join-downing/information-new-students/undergraduates-reading-lists/education>

### Journals and magazines:

- Times Educational Supplement: <https://www.tes.com/news>

### Websites:

- Educational Psychology Links: [www.edpsycinteractive.org/materials/internet.html](http://www.edpsycinteractive.org/materials/internet.html)
- Educational Psychology interactive: <http://www.edpsycinteractive.org/>

### Podcasts:

- University of Oxford Department for Education Public Seminars: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/department-education-public-seminars>

### Videos:

- Faculty YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XXliM9PW8E&t=2s> (see for example this lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XXliM9PW8E&t=2s>)

### You may also be interested in:

[English](#)

[Psychological and Behavioural Sciences](#)

[Human, Social and Political Sciences](#)

## Engineering

### Introduction:

Engineers at Cambridge begin with two broad foundational years designed to give a very firm grounding in the basic principles of the subject, before specialisation begins in the third year. It is very important to strengthen your knowledge and understanding of **Mathematics** and **Physics**, and applicants are also strongly to take A-level Further Mathematics if possible. All candidates will sit a pre-interview assessment focusing on advanced Maths and Physics (see the [course page](#) for more information, and these skills will also be tested at interview. Whilst further reading can be helpful for introducing you to interesting concepts and ideas, the key thing is to immerse yourself in the subject in a hands on way by practicing your mathematical, problem solving skills and trying out some Engineering activities for yourself.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/engineering>
- Engineering at Cambridge FAQs: <https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/faqs>
- Information on Maths for Engineers: <https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/information/maths-advice>
- Mathematics enrichment with engineering focus: <https://nrich.maths.org/6466>
- Isaac Physics: <https://isaacphysics.org/>
- Advanced maths support programme: <https://amsp.org.uk/>
- HE+ Engineering: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/engineering>

### Suggested reading:

- Suggested preparatory reading: <https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/information/reading>

### Websites:

- 'Underground Mathematics' website: <https://undergroundmathematics.org/>
- Most comprehensive enrichment website for the subject: <http://i-want-to-study-engineering.org/>
- Online library and Engineering web forum: [www.engineering.com/](http://www.engineering.com/)
- Project Drawdown: <https://www.drawdown.org/>
- NASA Engineering activities: <https://www.nasa.gov/education/materials>
- Tinkercad for 3D design, electronics and coding: <https://www.tinkercad.com/>
- James Dyson Foundation resources: <https://www.jamesdysonfoundation.com/resources.html>
- Blender (free and open-source 3D creation suite): <https://www.blender.org/>

### Videos:

- Videos of public interest talks by faculty staff: <https://www.admissions.eng.cam.ac.uk/information/video>
- Department YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EngineeringCambridge/videos>
- Sample Engineering interview at Cambridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3lYdO0XYL4&t=1219s>

### Other activities:

- UK Mathematics Trust challenges: <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/>
- Arkwright Engineering Scholarships: <https://www.arkwright.org.uk/>

### You may also be interested in:

[Mathematics](#)

[Natural Sciences](#)

## English

### Introduction:

English at Cambridge is a wide ranging course that allows you to discover texts from the Middle Ages to the present. Unsurprisingly, it is very helpful to **read** as much as you can, in a way that you find fascinating and **enjoyable** rather than purely for the purposes of an application. Read **primary texts** but also some related **secondary texts**, such as criticism, history or theory and think carefully and critically about the arguments presented. If you are reading a particular work it can also be helpful to **contextualise** it in light of the author's other work and consider how it may or may not differ.

Getting used to encountering unfamiliar material and considering the language therein carefully and analytically will also be useful for the English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT) as well as the interview. For more information on the ELAT, see our [course page](#).

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/english>
- More information on applying to Cambridge: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/english>
- Converse' collection of free resources: <https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/converse/>
- English Faculty resources for potential applicants: <https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/students.htm>
- Oxford resources on English-speaking writers and their themes: <http://writersinspire.org/>
- HE+ English: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/english>

### Suggested reading:

- Downing College's suggested reading: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/join-downing/information-new-students/undergraduates-reading-lists/english>

### Journals and magazines:

- Times Literary Supplement: [www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/](http://www.the-tls.co.uk/tls/)
- The London Review of Books: <https://www.lrb.co.uk/>
- Literary Review: [www.literaryreview.co.uk/](http://www.literaryreview.co.uk/)
- The Paris Review: <https://www.theparisreview.org/>

### Websites:

- 'Taster' virtual classroom: <http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/classroom/index.htm>
- Cambridge authors project: <http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/cambridgeauthors/>
- 'Darkness visible' John Milton website: <http://darknessvisible.christs.cam.ac.uk/>
- Poetry Society: [www.poetrysociety.org.uk/](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/)
- An interactive timeline which allows you to place texts studied in the Cambridge English course into their historical context: [http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/75515/Cambridge-Literature-Timeline#vars!date=1571-01-18\\_08:12:41](http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/75515/Cambridge-Literature-Timeline#vars!date=1571-01-18_08:12:41)
- British Library: Discovering Literature: <https://www.bl.uk/discovering-literature>
- Peripeteia discussion forum for A-level and undergraduate students of English: <https://peripeteia.webs.com/>

**Podcasts:**

- The London Review of Books podcasts: <https://www.lrb.co.uk/podcasts-and-videos/podcasts/close-readings>
- Oxford 'Approaching Shakespeare' podcasts: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/approaching-shakespeare>
- BBC Radio 4 'Open Book' and 'A Good Read' podcasts: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrsfl/episodes/downloads>
- BBC Radio 4 'In Our Time': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/downloads>

**Video:**

- Gresham Art and Literature lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/?subject=art-and-literature>
- Downing College Meet the Interviewers: English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAmA3MhZv4>

**Other activities:**

- Christ's College annual Milton-themed Taster Day: <https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/admissions/open-days-prospective-applicants/english-taster-day>

**You may also be interested in:**

[Education \(Education, English, Drama and the Arts track\)](#)

[Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic](#)

[Classics](#)

[Philosophy](#)

[Linguistics](#)

## Geography

### Introduction:

Geography at Cambridge allows students in the first year to study **both** Human and Physical Geography, and as you progress through the course you can specialise in a particular field of interest or retain more of a balance between the two areas. In the first year, all students take a human geography and a physical geography paper so you will be working on both your writing and your numeracy skills.

It is helpful to keep up to date with relevant current affairs thorough quality journalism, as well as reading periodicals such as Geographical. You can narrow your exploration to a particular area of interest, whilst also being open to discovering new topics. If you do read, listen, or watch something then ensure you are always thinking critically and analytically about the arguments presented.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/geography>
- Open University resources: <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/society/politics-policy-people/geography>
- HE+ Geography: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/english>

### Suggested reading:

- Department of Geography suggested reading guide: <https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/reading/>
- King's College reading list: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/geography-reading-list>

### Journals and magazines:

- National Geographic: [www.nationalgeographic.com/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/)
- Geographical: <https://geographical.co.uk/>
- The Economist: <https://www.economist.com/>
- New Scientist: <https://www.newscientist.com/>

### Websites:

- Geographical Association: <http://geography.org.uk/>
- Royal Geographical Society: <https://www.rgs.org/>
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>
- Geological Society: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/index.html](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/index.html)
- British Geological Survey: [www.bgs.ac.uk/](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/)
- Time for Geography: <https://timeforgeography.co.uk/>
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges: <https://21stcenturychallenges.org/>
- Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/>

### Videos:

- Videos from the Royal Geographical Association, including lectures: <https://vimeo.com/geographicalassociation>
- Archive films from the Royal Geographical Society: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/collection/royal-geographical-society>
- Radio 4 programme 'Costing the Earth': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn>

### You may also be interested in:

[Human, Social and Political Sciences](#)

[Land Economy](#)

[Natural Sciences](#)

## History and History joint degrees

### Introduction:

Historians at Cambridge will do a great deal of reading as part of their degree and therefore they need to learn how to synthesise large amounts of information quickly, as well as thinking about ideas and arguments they encounter in a highly analytical, critical way. Doing plenty of **reading** into topics of particular interest to you is therefore very useful preparation for the degree. Remember that you should always be reading in an active, analytical way. For more information on this, see the very useful [guidance from the Faculty](#).

If you are studying History alongside Politics or Modern Languages it can be very useful to find **areas of crossover**. Not only is this a rewarding academic exercise, but it also means that your personal statement will likely strike a good balance between the two distinct yet linked subjects.

### General resources:

#### Course websites:

- History: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/history>
- History and Modern Languages: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/history-and-modern-languages>
- History and Politics: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/history-and-politics>
- History virtual classroom activities: <https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/prospective-undergrads/virtual-classroom> (see for source exercises, secondary literature exercises, and online lectures)
- HE+ History: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/history>
- HE+ Politics: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/politics>

### Suggested reading:

- Suggested reading guidance: <https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/prospective-undergrads/virtual-classroom/suggested-reading>
- King's College History reading list: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/history-reading-list>
- Internet Medieval Sourcebook - hundreds of primary texts available online: [www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook2.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook2.asp)

### Journals and magazines:

- History Today: <https://www.historytoday.com/>
- History Extra: <https://www.historyextra.com/>

### Websites:

- Chatham House: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/>
- Explore History through Google: <https://artsandculture.google.com/explore?hl=en>
- Black cultural archives: <https://artsandculture.google.com/project/black-cultural-archives>
- Internet Modern Sourcebook – thousands of primary sources, secondary sources and texts on historiography: [www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.asp)
- The Historical Association: <https://www.history.org.uk/student> (You may also be interested in: their podcasts <https://www.history.org.uk/podcasts/timeline#/e/402>)

- Political Studies Association: <https://www.psa.ac.uk/>
- Reviews in History: [www.history.ac.uk/reviews/](http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/)
- The National Archives online resources: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>
- United Nations: <https://www.un.org/en/>
- Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>
- UK Parliament: <https://www.parliament.uk/>

**Video:**

- The Faculty YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6TzmDK1G1bsCtdyTUxwZCA>
- Gresham College History lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=history>
- Gresham College Politics lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=politics>

**Podcasts:**

- Radio 4 'In Our Time' series: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006gykl>
- Historical Association podcasts: <https://www.history.org.uk/podcasts/timeline#/e/402>
- Dan Snow's 'History Hit': <https://www.historyhit.com/podcasts/dan-snows-history-hit/>

**You may also be interested in:**

[Economics](#)

[Human, Social and Political Sciences](#)

[History and Modern Languages](#)

[Archaeology](#)

[Classics](#)

[Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic](#)

## History of Art

### Introduction:

You do **not** need to have studied History of Art before to begin the course at Cambridge, or indeed at most other universities. You should have a real interest about a wide range of art, and you will also need to develop a **good visual memory** and hone your critical thinking skills. Once it is safe to do so, it is very helpful if you can visit museums, exhibitions and buildings of architectural note (see below for some online suggestions too), and take sketches, photographs and descriptive notes of what you observe. Don't worry if you are not used to doing a lot of drawing, as many people are very pleasantly surprised by how quickly their skills improve! For more on this, [see the guidance from the Faculty](#).

Essay writing is an important component of the course so developing your ability to write clearly is useful. We strongly recommend you take an essay-based subject at A-level or equivalent in preparation for this aspect of the course.

It is also helpful to gain some basic knowledge of **classical mythology** and **the Bible** as this will help you to better understand the meaning of certain art. See the [Department page](#) for reading suggestions, as well as the reading lists suggested below.

### General guidance:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/history-of-art>

### Suggested reading:

- Department of History of Art suggestions: <https://www.hoart.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate-study-1/the-course-1/preparatory-reading>
- The Met Museums' list of publications (many free!): <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications>

### Journals and magazines:

- Art History Journal: <https://arthistoryjournal.org.uk/>
- Explore Art through Google: <https://artsandculture.google.com/explore?hl=en>
- Black cultural archives: <https://artsandculture.google.com/project/black-cultural-archives>

### Websites:

- 12 Museums you can visit virtually: <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>
- Online Museum Collections: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>
- Royal Academy: [www.royalacademy.org.uk/](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/)
- Fitzwilliam Museum: [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/onlineresources/](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/onlineresources/)
- Kettle's Yard resources: <http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk/learn/>
- Ashmolean Museum: [www.ashmolean.org/collections/](http://www.ashmolean.org/collections/)
- Association for Art History: <https://www.forarthistory.org.uk/>
- Art UK: <https://artuk.org/>

- Grove Art Online (scholarly art encyclopaedia): <https://www.oxfordartonline.com/groveart>
- Explore Art and Culture through Google: <https://artsandculture.google.com/explore?hl=en>
- Black cultural archives: <https://artsandculture.google.com/project/black-cultural-archives>
- The Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History: <https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>
- Open University Course on Art History: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/art-and-visual-culture-medieval-modern/content-section-1.1.6>

**Videos:**

- Studying History of Art at Cambridge: <https://www.hoart.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate-study-1>

**Other activities:**

- ARTiculation prize: <http://rohecourteducationaltrust.co.uk/articulation-prize/>

**You may also be interested in:**

[Architecture](#)

[Classics](#)

[History](#)

## Human, Social and Political Sciences

### Introduction:

In the first year of study Human, Social and Political Sciences (HSPS) involves **three core disciplines**: Politics and International Relations, Social Anthropology and Sociology. From the second year onwards students can either specialise in one of these three areas or combine two within a dual 'track' (see our [course page](#) for more details on this). It is therefore very helpful to read the course pages thoroughly so you understand how the degree is structured and how you might potentially like to specialise.

Many students will be completely new to the core disciplines, so it may be useful to read some introductory works (The Oxford *Very Short Introductions* are usually an excellent starting point) before then pursuing your own more specific lines of enquiry. You will be doing a great deal of reading on this course, so getting used to extensive reading and then being able to synthesise and analyse the information you are presented with is useful preparation. Remember that any new reading you have done should be thought about carefully and analytically.

### General resources:

- See the course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/human-social-and-political-sciences>
- Politics and International Relations website: <https://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/subjects/polis>
- Social Anthropology website: <https://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/subjects/social-anthropology>
- Sociology website: <https://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/subjects/sociology>
- HE+ Politics: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/politics>
- HE+ Sociology: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/sociology>

### Suggested reading:

- Preparatory reading guide: <https://www.hsps.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/subjects/HSPSSuggestedReadingfor2019Entry.pdf>
- King's College reading list: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/human-social-and-political-sciences-reading-list>

### Journals and magazines:

- The Economist: <https://www.economist.com/>
- *Medium* articles: <https://medium.com/this-cambridge-life/the-anthropologist-exploring-ethical-questions-about-humans-and-horses-255f6b89623f>
- British Journal of Sociology: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/BJS/home.aspx>

### Websites:

- Oxford Politics microsite: <https://blog.politics.ox.ac.uk/>
- Discover Anthropology: <https://www.discoveranthropology.org.uk/>
- Political Studies Association: [www.psa.ac.uk/](http://www.psa.ac.uk/)
- Social Science Space website: <https://www.socialsciencespace.com/#>
- The Royal Anthropological Institute: <https://therai.org.uk/>

- Chatham House: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/>
- The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK & Commonwealth: <https://theasa.org/>
- United Nations: <https://www.un.org/en/>
- Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>
- UK Parliament: <https://www.parliament.uk/>

**Videos:**

- Gresham College politics lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=politics>
- Downing College Meet the Interviewers: HSPS:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxmTN60oCio>

**Podcasts:**

- Sociology BBC Radio 4 series 'Thinking Allowed': [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05)
- Talking Politics podcast: <https://www.talkingpoliticspodcast.com/>
- Cambridge Anthropology Podcast: <https://www.socanth.cam.ac.uk/media/listen-and-view/camthropod>

**You may also be interested in:**

[Economics](#)

[History](#)

[Psychological and Behavioural Sciences](#)

## Land Economy

### Introduction:

A truly **interdisciplinary course**, Land Economy is principally concerned with **Law, Economics and the Environment**. As the course is unique to Cambridge, start by reading the course page thoroughly in order to see how the degree might fit with your particular interests. If you are unsure where to start, consult an introductory guide to the different areas of the course and see if there any topics that particularly fascinate you. Remember to always reflect critically and analytically on what you have read and bear in mind depth is often better than breadth in a personal statement.

You may also wish to brush up your **maths skills** in preparation for the focus on economics. Your logical thinking skills (as well as your critical thinking skills) will also be tested in the pre-interview Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA). For more information, consult the [course page](#).

Please also **do not** be concerned if you do not embark on any work experience prior to application. Whilst it can be useful for applicants, it is not a required part of the application and you will not be penalised for not having done any.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/land-economy>
- 'Medium' website article on where to start: <https://medium.com/discover-land-economy/supercurricular-activities-where-to-start-72274f850f3a>
- Economics in the Land Economy course explained: <https://medium.com/discover-land-economy/what-to-expect-economics-in-land-economy-e77beca08759>
- Tackling a personal statement for Land Economy: <https://medium.com/discover-land-economy/your-ucas-personal-statement-how-to-tackle-land-economy-ac1716b5d758>

### Suggested reading:

- Preparatory reading guide: <https://www.landecon.cam.ac.uk/Undergraduate-study/suggested-reading>

### Websites:

- Institute for Economic Affairs: [www.iea.org.uk/](http://www.iea.org.uk/)
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>

### Videos:

- Hear from a current Land Economy student on applying to Cambridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFINxQyPwp8>
- UCL Urban Lab Films: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/urban-lab/news/2020/mar/watch-urban-lab-films-available-stream-home>

### You may also be interested in:

[Economics](#)  
[Geography](#)  
[Law](#)

## Law

### Introduction:

As Law is often an entirely new discipline for prospective students, it can be helpful to read some introductory works in order to get a sense for the different strands of Law you will be covering (see the suggested reading below). Aside from gaining a broad understanding of the Law, keep up to date with relevant news stories and reflect on them **critically**. It can also be helpful to base your exploration in terms of a legal question you find fascinating. Investigating this question through various sources such as books, blogs, podcasts and legislation will be excellent training in **independent legal research**. For more on this, see the [recommended personal statement article](#).

Please also **do not** be concerned if you do not embark on any work experience prior to application. Whilst it can be useful for applicants, it is not a required part of the application and you will not be penalised for not having done any. If you do embark on any, the important thing is to be active and engaged and ask plenty of questions, and then to reflect on the experience carefully in the personal statement. Has it changed how you thought about the profession and any particular legal matters, and what did it lead you to think about or do next?

### General resources:

- Course website: <http://ba.law.cam.ac.uk/>
- A guide for prospective students, including suggested reading: [https://issuu.com/uni\\_cambridge/docs/law\\_guide\\_for\\_students\\_single\\_page](https://issuu.com/uni_cambridge/docs/law_guide_for_students_single_page)
- *Medium* guide to Law at Cambridge: <https://medium.com/think-cambridge-law>
- HE+ Law: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/law>
- Tackling a personal statement for Law: <https://medium.com/think-cambridge-law/tackling-your-law-personal-statement-b53ca78c790a>

### Suggested reading:

- King's College Cambridge suggested reading: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/law-reading-list>

### Journals and magazines:

- Legislation database: [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)
- Counsel Magazine: [www.counselmagazine.co.uk/](http://www.counselmagazine.co.uk/)
- Guardian Law pages: [www.guardian.co.uk/law](http://www.guardian.co.uk/law)
- The Youth Law Journal: <https://www.theylj.co.uk/>

### Websites:

- Department for Justice: <https://www.justice.gov.uk/>
- Legislation.gov: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>
- Courts and Tribunals Judiciary: <https://www.judiciary.uk/>
- Cambridge law students' blog: <https://medium.com/think-cambridge-law>
- Keep Calm Talk Law website: <http://www.keepcalmtalklaw.co.uk/>
- Professor Mark Elliot's 'Public Law for Everyone': <https://publiclawforeveryone.com/>
- Department of Justice: [www.justice.gov.uk/](http://www.justice.gov.uk/)

**Podcasts:**

- BBC Law in Action: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tgy1](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tgy1)

**Videos:**

- The Faculty YouTube channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKpz\\_4qERjwMB7oFMW1RmHw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKpz_4qERjwMB7oFMW1RmHw)
- Sample Law interview at Cambridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npEcenV-Y08&t=113s>
- Harvard lectures on Justice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBdfcR-8hEY&list=PL30C13C91CFFFEA6>
- Gresham College Law lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=politics>

**Other activities:**

- Visiting the Supreme Court: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/visiting/index.html>

**You may also be interested in:**

[History](#)

[Economics](#)

[Human, Social and Political Sciences](#)

## Linguistics

### Introduction:

Linguistics concerns how human language works. It is a course suited to those who enjoy **both the humanities and the sciences**, and draws on disciplines such as philosophy, psychology and even physics and engineering. English Language, Maths, any science and any foreign language are all helpful preparation for the course.

You may find it helpful to begin with some introductory works, as well as consulting the reading lists below. The [Cambridge preliminary reading list](#) is based on the topics studied by all first year Linguistics students, and therefore gives a good sense of the different core areas you might like to investigate.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/linguistics>
- iLoveLanguages online resources listing: <http://www.ilovelanguages.com/index.php?category=Languages%7CLinguistics>

### Suggested reading:

- Suggested preparatory reading from the Department: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/dtal/undergraduates/preliminary-reading>
- King's College suggested reading: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/linguistics-reading-list>
- Downing College suggested reading list: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/join-downing/information-new-students/undergraduates-reading-lists/linguistics>

### Journals and magazines:

- The Linguistics Journal: <https://www.linguistics-journal.com/>
- Polyglossia Magazine: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/polyglossia>

### Websites:

- All Things Linguistic: <https://allthingslinguistic.com/jobs>

### Podcasts:

- University of Oxford Linguistics: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/keywords/linguistics>
- Lingthusiasm: <https://lingthusiasm.com/>

### Other activities:

- Babel Magazine Young Writers' Competition: <https://babelzine.co.uk/the-babel-young-writers-competition-2/>

### You may also be interested in:

[Modern and Medieval Languages](#)

[Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#)

[Psychological and Behavioural Sciences](#)

## Mathematics

### Introduction:

Mathematics at Cambridge is an exciting, uniquely demanding course. The most important thing is to immerse yourself in the subject and practice your **mathematical, logical thinking and problem solving skills** as often as you can in a hands on way. A crucial skill is the ability to applying existing knowledge to unfamiliar problems.

You can work through problems available on various websites such as the ones below (HE+ is usually a good starting point) and enter different Maths competitions if you can. Whilst you can read around the subject, it is crucial that you **gain practice** yourself in tackling complex problems. This kind of practice is useful not only for STEP (see more below) but also for your interview when you'll likely be presented with new material to work though.

Mathematics offer holders at Cambridge also sit the **Sixth Term Exam Paper (STEP)**, usually in June before their course starts. STEP uses material from A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics but increases the difficulty. Preparing for STEP is a very important part of the applications process, and support resources can be found below.

### General resources and STEP support programmes:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/mathematics>
- STEP information: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/entrance-requirements/step>
- Faculty study skills guide: <http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/studyskills>
- Further Maths support programme: <http://furthermaths.org.uk/index.php>
- Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- NRICH Maths: <https://nrich.maths.org/>
- STEP support programme: <https://maths.org/step/>
- Advanced Problems in Mathematics by Professor Stephen Siklos, free PDF: <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product.php/342/advanced-problems-in-mathematics--%20preparing-for-university?342/advanced-problems-in-mathematics--%20preparing-for-university>
- HE+ Mathematics: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/mathematics>

### Journals and magazines:

- Plus Maths magazine: <https://plus.maths.org/content/>
- New Scientist: <https://www.newscientist.com/>

### Websites:

- Millennium Maths Project: <https://maths.org/>
- Underground Mathematics: <https://undergroundmathematics.org/>
- Dr Mitchell's website: <http://meikleriggs.org.uk/>
- Tom Rocks Maths: <https://tomrocksmaths.com/>
- Isaac Newton Institute: <https://www.newton.ac.uk/>
- Online graphing: <https://www.desmos.com/>

- Royal Institution Masterclasses: <https://www.rigb.org/education/masterclasses>
- Bletchley Park resources: <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/learn/resources/external-resources>
- Millennium Maths Project: <https://maths.org/>
- Mr Barton's Maths: <http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/students/>
- Women in STEM - Women & girls in science, tech, engineering and maths: <https://www.womeninstem.co.uk/>

#### Videos:

- Maths at Cambridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMRsc5vQw7g>
- Maths Olympiad 2017 questions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQFogfGuJA>
- Maths TED talks: [https://www.ted.com/playlists/189/math\\_talks\\_to\\_blow\\_your\\_mind](https://www.ted.com/playlists/189/math_talks_to_blow_your_mind)
- University of Oxford Maths lectures: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLnGGRG\\_uGSPLBLzyhg8dQ/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLnGGRG_uGSPLBLzyhg8dQ/playlists)
- London Mathematical Society: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvp7jsbXjx2k8sGEkdtWCAw>
- Numberphile: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoxcjq-8xIDTYp3uz647V5A>
- Gresham College Mathematics lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=mathematics>

#### Podcasts:

- BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gyd7i>
- The NCETM Maths podcast: <https://player.fm/series/the-ncetm-maths-podcast-2361943>
- Oxford University Maths Podcasts: The Secrets of Mathematics: <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/secrets-mathematics>

#### Competitions:

- UK Mathematics Trust competitions: <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/> ; <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions/solo> (Solo competitions)
- International Mathematical Olympiad: <https://www.imo-official.org/>
- UK Mathematics Trust: <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/>

#### Other activities:

- PROMYS Europe | PROMYS-Europe: Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists: <https://promys-europe.org/>
- University of Birmingham Popular Maths lecture: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/mathematics/news-and-events/birmingham-popular-maths-lecture.aspx>

#### You may also be interested in:

[Computer Sciences](#)

[Natural Sciences](#)

[Engineering](#)

## Medicine

### Introduction:

The six year Medicine course at Cambridge is divided into two three year parts. The first three 'pre-clinical' years are a **rigorously scientific, theoretical grounding** in Medicine before the emphasis shifts to learning in clinical settings in the final three 'clinical' years. The demanding nature of such a highly scientific course means that you must be studying A-level Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Physics and Mathematics. In reality, 95% of applicants offered three or more science/maths A-levels. You should therefore be working hard on **both your scientific and mathematical ability**, and sites like NRICH Chemistry and NRICH Biology (see below) are therefore worth consulting. You may also wish to look at the preparatory guidance on scientific concepts sent by Cambridge to incoming first years to get a sense of the key areas you will need to consolidate.

Aside from learning from and reflecting on any volunteering and work experience you may undertake (see the [course page](#) and [Cambridge Medical Society guide](#) for more on this), it is advisable to ensure your wider academic exploration has a **strong scientific basis** given the theoretical nature of the pre-clinical years and you should also be keeping up with relevant current affairs. You can consult journals like the British Medical Journal, magazines like the New Scientist and books mentioned in the reading lists below. You can also use any work experience or volunteering you do as a springboard for wider study. Was there something you observed that you want to learn more about?

Applicants for Cambridge are also required to sit the BMAT. For more information, see the resources below.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/medicine>
- Basic science concepts preparatory reading: <https://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/mvst/prospective-students/basic-science-concepts>
- Medical students handbook: <https://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/mvst/prospective>
- <http://www.myheplus.com/subjects/medicine>
- Cambridge Medical Society guide for prospective applicants: <https://cambridgemedsoc.com/prospective-students/>
- Cambridge Clinical Society Access page: <https://www.clinsoc.co.uk/access/>
- HE+ Medicine: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/medicine>
- NRICH Chemistry: <https://nrich.maths.org/chemistry>
- NRICH Biology: <https://nrich.maths.org/biology>
- NRICH Maths: <https://nrich.maths.org/>

### BMAT resources:

- Cambridge ClinSoc and MedSoc guide to entrance examinations: [https://issuu.com/clinsocaccess/docs/entrance\\_exams?fbclid=IwAR0wSj02gef8\\_6NZCN2x\\_C29GmcvsFW1iDM-22P9mauySF19VLcf-ees2k](https://issuu.com/clinsocaccess/docs/entrance_exams?fbclid=IwAR0wSj02gef8_6NZCN2x_C29GmcvsFW1iDM-22P9mauySF19VLcf-ees2k)
- BMAT preparation guide: <https://www.admissionstesting.org/Images/238518-bmat-preparation-guide.pdf>

**Work experience guide:**

- NHS 'smart guide' to getting work experience: <https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/work-experience/smart-guide>; You may also be interested in: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/improving-your-chances/gaining-experience>

**Suggested reading:**

- King's College suggested reading: <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/reading-lists/medicine-reading-list>

**Journals and magazines:**

- The British Medical Journal: <https://www.bmj.com/>
- The Lancet: <https://www.thelancet.com/>
- New Scientist: <https://www.newscientist.com/>

**Websites:**

- British Medical Association: <http://bma.org.uk/>
- Royal Society of Medicine: <https://www.rsm.ac.uk/>
- Wellcome Trust: [www.wellcome.ac.uk/](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/)
- Human Genome Project: <http://genome.wellcome.ac.uk/>
- Oxford Medical School Gazette: [www.omsg-online.com/](http://www.omsg-online.com/)
- Institute of Biomedical Science: [www.ibms.org/](http://www.ibms.org/)
- Physiological Society: [www.physoc.org/](http://www.physoc.org/)
- BBC Health: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health>

**Videos:**

- Gresham College Medical Science lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=medical-science>
- Sample Medicine interviews at Cambridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaGnIJzpW0Q>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l44rE02W0m0>

**Podcasts:**

- Radio programmes on medical ethics: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007xbtd](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007xbtd)

**You may also be interested in:**

[Natural Sciences](#)

[Psychological and Behavioural Sciences](#)

## Modern and Medieval Languages

### Introduction:

The study of Languages usually requires not only a sound grounding in **vocabulary and grammar**, but also the ability to critically engage with areas such as history, film, thought and culture. At Cambridge, as at other competitive universities, you will eventually need to become confident reading a **wide range of literary texts** in the original language and so any practice you can do of reading in your chosen language(s) is helpful. Do not feel you need to read whole novels in the original; shorter, more accessible texts such as newspaper and magazine articles are valuable. Indeed, you can certainly talk about literary works in your personal statement even if you read them largely or wholly in translation. Alongside this, listen to the radio and watch TV programmes and films to develop your **comprehension skills**. Try to make a habit of noting down words and phrases that you are not familiar with. There is now a wide variety of foreign language content on streaming services such as Netflix.

If you are taking your language from scratch (ab initio), please be aware that it will benefit you enormously if you have covered much of the basic grammar and vocabulary yourself over the summer before you start your course.

### General resources:

- The course page: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/modern-and-medieval-languages> (see the resources tab for individual language suggestions)
- The MML Faculty's own language training website: <http://multikultura.usertest.mws3.csx.cam.ac.uk/>
- General resources and links: <https://mfl.jimdo.com/links/>
- HE+ Modern Languages: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/modern-languages>
- Downing College advice for incoming students: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/join-downing/information-new-students/undergraduates-reading-lists/modern-and-medieval-languages>

### French:

- General resources: [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/french/courses/ugrad/advice.html](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/french/courses/ugrad/advice.html);  
<https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/french/online-resources>
- Larousse online dictionary, conjugator and encyclopaedia: <https://www.larousse.fr/>

### German and Dutch:

- General resources: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/german/resources>
- Deutsche Welle language learning resources: <https://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/s-2469>
- Goethe Institut language learning resources: <https://www.goethe.de/en/spr.html>

### Italian:

- General resources: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/italian/resources>

**Portuguese:**

- General resources: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/spanish/resources/portuguese>
- Portuguese literature: [www.thingsmeanalot.com/2009/10/sunday-salon-portuguese-literature.html](http://www.thingsmeanalot.com/2009/10/sunday-salon-portuguese-literature.html)

**Russian:**

- General resources: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/slavonic/resources/online-resources/russian>
- Russian literature: <http://lizoksbooks.blogspot.co.uk/2008/11/top-10-fiction-hits-of-russian.html> (Russian literature)

**Spanish:**

- General resources: <https://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/spanish/online-resources>

**Newspapers and current affairs:**

- Le Monde: [www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)
- Le Nouvel Observateur: <https://www.nouvelobs.com/>
- Sueddeutsche Zeitung: [www.sueddeutsche.de](http://www.sueddeutsche.de)
- Der Spiegel: <https://www.spiegel.de/>
- El Pais: [www.elpais.com](http://www.elpais.com)
- Corriere Della Sera: [www.corriere.it](http://www.corriere.it)
  
- Diario de Noticias: [www.dn.pt](http://www.dn.pt)
- France 24 news: <https://www.france24.com/fr/direct>
- News in slow French: <https://www.newsinslowfrench.com/french-podcast>
- Tagesschau news: <https://www.tagesschau.de/>
- News in slow German: <https://www.newsinslowgerman.com/>
- News in slow Spanish: <https://www.newsinslowspanish.com/>

**You may also be interested in:**

[History and Modern Languages](#)

[English](#)

[Human, Social and Political Sciences](#)

[Philosophy](#)

[Linguistics](#)

[Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#)

[Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic](#)

## Music

### Introduction:

Cambridge's music course is **really broad**, with papers such as Early Music, Miles Davis, Music and Science and Music and Globalization (amongst all the traditional stuff you might expect!).

Performance is a relatively small element of the first year course and a lot of time is spent in the library or at a piano composing. Familiarising yourself with **score reading** is important - [IMSLP](#) has all of the scores out of publication for free.

Unsurprisingly, listening to music as much as possible will be excellent preparation, as will some further reading and study done in a careful, analytical way. For specific pointers on areas to focus on, please see the [guidance from the Faculty](#)

### General resources:

- Course page: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/music>
- Suggested resources from the Faculty: <https://www.mus.cam.ac.uk/applicants/undergraduate/student-resources>
- MyHE+ Music: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/music>

### Suggested reading:

- King's College reading list: <http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/music.html>

### Websites:

- Royal Academy of music: [www.ram.ac.uk/](http://www.ram.ac.uk/)
- Open Music Library: <https://openmusiclibrary.org/>
- Cambridge Music Education Outreach - opportunities to visit the University and sample the faculty teaching and resources: <https://outreach.mus.cam.ac.uk/>

### Video:

- Gresham Music lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=music>
- Faculty YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOiKZ8U3pCkvZOaOOEHSjNw>

### Podcasts:

- BBC Radio 3 podcasts: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio3>

### You may also be interested in:

[History](#)

## Natural Sciences

### Introduction:

Rather than discrete scientific degrees, Cambridge has a **wide-ranging and flexible** Natural Sciences course. The first year provides students with a broad-based scientific foundation, with increasing specialisation available in the subsequent years. Largely speaking, students choose either a physical sciences (NatSci P) route or a biological sciences (NatSci B) route. This choice is indicated on the [Supplementary Application Questionnaire](#) (SAQ), a Cambridge specific application form usually submitted by the 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Indicating this choice in advance is important as your interview will be tailored to your route. Do bear in mind, however, that the course is flexible and it is certainly possible to combine topics from both broad areas.

Whether you are intending to go down either a biological or physical sciences route, ensuring your **mathematical skills** are strong is essential, particularly as these will be tested in the pre-interview Natural Sciences assessment (see the [course page](#) for more details on this). If you are intending to specialise in physics in particular, being able to also link Physics and Mathematical knowledge is crucial for degree study. For more on this, see the 'Reading, Resources and Events' section of the [Natural Sciences at King's College Cambridge](#) page.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/natural-sciences>
- NRIC Mathematics: <https://nrich.maths.org/>
- NRIC Mathematics for scientific studies: <https://nrich.maths.org/6467>
- Downing College Meet the Interviewers: Physical Natural Sciences: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7C9KoodGZC7AF6kHISHMLg>

### Suggested Reading:

- General reading list: [www.cam.ac.uk/about/natscitripos/prospectus/reading.html](http://www.cam.ac.uk/about/natscitripos/prospectus/reading.html)
- <https://www.materials.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/booklist.html> (Materials Science)
- <https://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/recommended-reading-list> (Biochemistry)
- [https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media\\_wysiwyg/Introductory\\_Reading\\_for\\_Biomedical\\_Sciences1.pdf](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/Introductory_Reading_for_Biomedical_Sciences1.pdf) (Biomedical)
- [https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media\\_wysiwyg/Introductory\\_reading\\_for\\_Chemistry.pdf](https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/media_wysiwyg/Introductory_reading_for_Chemistry.pdf) (Chemistry)
- <https://www.dur.ac.uk/natural.sciences/freshers/rlists/es/> (Earth Sciences)

### Journals and magazines

- New Scientist Magazine: [www.newscientist.com/](http://www.newscientist.com/)
- Scientific American Magazine: [www.scientificamerican.com/](http://www.scientificamerican.com/)
- The Atlantic Magazine, science section: <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/>

### Websites:

- The Naked Scientists podcast and website: <https://www.thenakedscientists.com/>
- Zooniverse: <https://www.zooniverse.org/>
- Oxfordsparks: <https://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/>

### Podcasts:

- Cambridge Science Podcasts: [www.thenakedscientists.com/HTML/podcasts/](http://www.thenakedscientists.com/HTML/podcasts/)
- Oxford Science Podcasts: <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/units/mathematical-physical-life-sciences-division>
- Oxford Science Blog: [www.ox.ac.uk/media/science\\_blog/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/media/science_blog/)
- BBC Radio 4 'The Life Scientific podcast': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b015sqc7>

### Biological, Biomedical and Life Sciences and Zoology:

#### Websites

- NRICB Biology: <https://nrich.maths.org/biology>
- IntoBiology website: <http://intobiology.org.uk/>
- Wellcome Trust: [www.wellcome.ac.uk/](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/)
- The Royal Society of Biology: <https://www.rsb.org.uk/students>
- Human Genome Project: <http://genome.wellcome.ac.uk/>
- Educational resources at the Natural History Museum: [www.nhm.ac.uk/education/index.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/education/index.html)
- Institute of Zoology: [www.zsl.org/science](http://www.zsl.org/science)
- Botanical Sciences at Kew: [www.kew.org/](http://www.kew.org/)
- Explore evolution through Google: <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/past-present-and-future-the-marvels-of-evolution/sQKCHNbzoDYULw?hl=en>
- HE+ Biology: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/biology>

#### Videos:

- BBC Science and Nature programmes: [www.bbc.co.uk/sn/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/)
- Gresham college Medical Science lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=medical-science>
- Gresham College Science lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=science>

### Chemistry:

#### Journals and magazines

- RSC Journals: <http://pubs.rsc.org/en/Journals?key=Title&value=Current>

#### Websites:

- Chemistry NRICB: <https://nrich.maths.org/chemistry>
- Isaac Chemistry: <https://isaacphysics.org/chemistry>
- Mathematical chemistry at university preparation: <https://nrich.maths.org/unichem>
- Cambridge Chemistry Challenge: <http://www.c3i6.org/>
- Chemistry World Online: [www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/](http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/)
- RSC membership: [www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/chemnet/](http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/chemnet/)
- Synthesis Explorer: <http://www.synthesisexplorer.co.uk/>
- HE+ Chemistry: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/chemistry>

#### Videos:

- Wothers videos: <http://www.wothers.com/>
- Gresham College Science lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=science>

**Competitions:**

- RSC Chemistry Olympiad: <https://edu.rsc.org/enrichment/uk-chemistry-olympiad>

**Physics:****Websites:**

- Physics NRICH: <https://nrich.maths.org/6465>
- Isaac Physics: <https://isaacphysics.org/>
- Institute of Physics (including free membership for 16-19 year-olds): [www.physics.org/](http://www.physics.org/)
- Oxford Astronomy site: [www.galaxyzoo.org/](http://www.galaxyzoo.org/)
- Physics Lab: <http://www.physicslab.org>
- CERN resources:  
[https://home.cern/resources?topic=1113&title=&type=All&audience=All&field\\_p\\_resource\\_display\\_tags\\_target\\_id&date\\_from=&date\\_to=&page=0](https://home.cern/resources?topic=1113&title=&type=All&audience=All&field_p_resource_display_tags_target_id&date_from=&date_to=&page=0)
- Online graphing: <https://www.desmos.com/>
- HE+ Physics: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/physics>

**Videos:**

- Feynman lecture series: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/project/tuva-richard-feynman/?from=http%3A%2F%2Fresearch.microsoft.com%2Fapps%2Ftools%2Ftuva%2Findex.html>
- Gresham College Science lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=science>

**Competitions:**

- British Physics Olympiad: [www.physics.ox.ac.uk/olympiad/](http://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/olympiad/)

**Geological and Materials Sciences:****Websites:**

- Geological Society: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/index.html](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/index.html)
- British Geological Survey: [www.bgs.ac.uk/](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/)
- Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining: [www.iom3.org/](http://www.iom3.org/)
- UK Centre for Materials Education: <http://materials.ac.uk/>

**Videos**

- Gresham College Science lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=science>

**You may also be interested in:**

[Chemical Engineering](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Veterinary Medicine](#)

## Philosophy

### Introduction:

Philosophy is often a completely new discipline for students at Cambridge as indeed at many other universities. You are therefore strongly advised to do some reading about the subject so you understand what it would be like to study it at a high level (see the [course page](#) and the reading suggestions below). You may like to start with some broader introductory works and resources before narrowing down into a particular area that you find interesting. Remember that is important to think **carefully** and **analytically** about the material that you encounter, and going into depth is often more useful than aiming to read a vast amount of potentially challenging material requiring careful thought.

Ultimately, you should be developing your ability to think **clearly and logically**, as well as in a more abstract way. **Formal logic** is a required component of the course, and it can be helpful to get to grips with the basics of both formal and informal logic, as well as critical thinking. For suggested introductory works, see the [Faculty's FAQ's](#).

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/philosophy>
- Open Learn free course 'Introducing Philosophy': <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/philosophy/introducing-philosophy/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

### Suggestions reading:

- Preparatory reading: <https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/prosp-students/prosp-ugrad-readlinglist>
- King's College reading list: <http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/philosophy.html>
- Downing College reading list: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/join-downing/information-new-students/undergraduates-reading-lists/philosophy>

### Websites:

- Philosophical Society: [www.philosophicalsociety.com/](http://www.philosophicalsociety.com/)
- Stamford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

### Journals and magazines:

- Aeon Magazine, philosophy section: <https://aeon.co/philosophy>
- Medium Magazine: <https://medium.com/>

### Videos:

- The School of Life Western Philosophy series: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDiyQub6vpw&list=PLwxNMb28XmpeypJMHfNbj4RAFRt\\_mAN3P](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDiyQub6vpw&list=PLwxNMb28XmpeypJMHfNbj4RAFRt_mAN3P)
- Gresham College Religion lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/?subject=religion&page=1>

**Podcasts:**

- 'In Our Time' series, Philosophy episodes:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01f0vzr/episodes/downloads>
- Marianne Talbot's Philosophy for Beginners podcasts:  
<https://mariannetalbot.co.uk/about/podcasts/philosophy-for-beginners/>
- Cambridge Philosophy Podcasts: <https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/podcasts-link/podcasts-philosophy>

**Other activities:**

- Philosophy game: <https://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/598731>

**You may also be interested in:**

[Classics](#)

[History](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion](#)

## Psychological and Behavioural Sciences

### Introduction:

Psychology and Behavioural Sciences (PBS) is concerned with cognitive, social, developmental and biological psychology within the broader context of the behavioural sciences. There is also overlap with many other disciplines such as anthropology, linguistics, neuroscience and sociology. An essay-based subject is useful at A-level, whilst Mathematics and Biology also provide helpful preparation. Bear in mind that this is primarily a scientific course, as opposed to a social science one.

Many students will never have done any formal study of psychology before, so you may wish to start with some introductory works to get a sense of the discipline as a whole before beginning to specialise into topics that you find particularly interesting. Remember that it is important to think **carefully and analytically** about the material that you encounter, whilst going into depth is often more useful than aiming to read a vast amount of potentially challenging material requiring careful thought.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/psychological-and-behavioural-sciences>
- Course FAQs: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/psychological-and-behavioural-sciences>
- HE+ Psychology: <https://www.myheplus.com/post-16/subjects/psychology>

### Suggested reading:

- Faculty preparatory reading guide: <https://www.pbs.tripos.cam.ac.uk/prospective/faq#section-8>
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### Journals and articles:

- The Psychologist Journal: [www.thepsychologist.org.uk/](http://www.thepsychologist.org.uk/)
- PsychMag website and Twitter (@PsychMag): [www.psychmag.com](http://www.psychmag.com)

### Websites:

- British Psychological Society: [www.bps.org.uk/](http://www.bps.org.uk/)
- Psychology A-Z: [https://www.psychol.cam.ac.uk/study/psychology\\_a-z](https://www.psychol.cam.ac.uk/study/psychology_a-z)

### Videos:

- Gresham College lectures on psychology:  
<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/?subcat=psychology>

### Podcasts:

- BBC Radio 4 'All in the Mind': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9/episodes/player>

### You may also be interested in:

[Human, Social and Political Sciences](#)

[Natural Sciences Linguistics](#)

## Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion

### Introduction:

Theology and Philosophy of Religion is **an interdisciplinary course** which covers key areas of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. You will learn to think about important issues via a range of traditions and philosophical standpoints and there is the freedom to specialise in areas that particularly interest you.

In the first year you are required to learn a **scriptural language** (either Hebrew, New Testament Greek, Sanskrit or Qur'anic Arabic), and it is therefore worth consulting the [Faculty page](#) to see if this is something that might interest you. If you have not yet got a topic within this field that you'd like to explore then make use of some broader introductory resources before narrowing your research. Do bear in mind that the important thing is often depth over breadth, and you will need to think **critically and analytically** about the material you encounter.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/theology>
- Cambridge Theology Online Open Day (lots of useful resources!): <https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here>
- Information on learning a scriptural language from scratch: <https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate/study/learninglanguage>
- An Introduction to New Testament Greek: <https://www.greek.divinity.cam.ac.uk/>
- HE+ Religious Studies: <http://www.myheplus.com/subjects/religious-studies>

### Suggested reading:

- Introductory reading guide: <https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/currentstudents/ba/introductory-reading>
- King's College reading list: <http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/theology.html>

### Websites:

- Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion: [www.ianramseycentre.info/](http://www.ianramseycentre.info/)
- 50 Religious Treasures of Cambridge: <https://www.50treasures.divinity.cam.ac.uk/treasure/>

### Videos:

- Gresham College Religion lectures: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures/?subject=religion>

### Podcasts:

- BBC Radio 4 'Beyond Belief' : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s6p6>

### You may also be interested in:

[English](#)

[Philosophy](#)

[Classics](#)

[Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#)

## Veterinary Medicine

### Introduction:

The six year Medicine course at Cambridge is divided into two three year parts. The first three 'pre-clinical' years are **a rigorously scientific, theoretical grounding** in veterinary medicine before the emphasis shifts to

learning in clinical settings in the final three 'clinical' years. The demanding nature of such a highly scientific course means that you must be studying A-level Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Physics and Mathematics. Most applicants tend to offer three or more science/maths A-levels. You should therefore be working hard on both your **scientific and mathematical ability**, and sites like NRICH Chemistry and NRICH Biology (see below) are therefore worth consulting. You may also wish to consult the preparatory guidance on scientific concepts sent by Cambridge to incoming first years to get a sense of the key areas.

Working on your mathematical and scientific ability is important not only in the longer term, but also for the natural sciences pre-interview assessment all prospective Cambridge veterinary medicine students sit. For more on this, please consult the [course page](#). Getting used to working through scientific and mathematical problems will also be useful for the scientific part of your interview.

Aside from learning from and reflecting on any volunteering and work experience you may undertake, Veterinary Medicine applicants should try to go beyond their school curriculum, usually by reading about scientific/clinical topics which interest them. This wider exploration can be in *any* biological science, physical science, mathematical or clinical topic and it can take many different forms including journals, articles and online courses. The key thing is that it is of genuine interest to applicants! It is also helpful to keep up to date with current affairs that relate to the profession.

### General resources:

- Course website: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/veterinary-medicine>
- Guidance on how to apply from the Cambridge School of Veterinary Medicine: <https://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/study/vet/howtoapply>
- Basic Science concepts for Medicine/Veterinary Science students: <https://www.biology.cam.ac.uk/undergrads/VetST/Current/Freshers/basic-science-concepts>
- General guide to the profession: <https://animalowners.rcvs.org.uk/veterinary-careers/i-want-to-be-a-vet/>

### Guides to work experience:

- <https://www.vetrecordjobs.com/myvetfuture/article/how-do-i-get-veterinary-work-experience-/>

### Suggested reading:

- Churchill College introductory resources and reading: <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/study-us/undergraduates/offer-holders/subject-reading-lists/veterinary-medicine/>
- Downing College introductory reading: <http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/join-downing/information-new-students/undergraduates-reading-lists/veterinary-medicine>

**Websites:**

- British Veterinary Association: [www.bva.co.uk/](http://www.bva.co.uk/)
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/home/>

**Journals and magazines:**

- *Medium* articles: <https://medium.com/this-cambridge-life/the-anthropologist-exploring-ethical-questions-about-humans-and-horses-255f6b89623f>

**Podcasts:**

- Ologies: <https://www.alieward.com/ologies>

**You may also be interested in:**

[Medicine](#)

[Natural Sciences](#)