



CLARE HALL
ALTERNATIVE STUDENT HANDBOOK
2016/2017

Welcome to Clare Hall!

Clare Hall is a very special place. We are a small yet very international college that strives to make hierarchical distinctions and formalities as small as possible. Throughout the year, you will have the possibility of sharing meals and events with all college members – students, fellows, and staff alike. These spaces provide the perfect context for exchanging life experiences and knowledge. We strongly encourage you to take these opportunities for exchange because they will certainly enrich your Cambridge experience.

As a student member of Clare Hall, you are automatically a member of the Clare Hall Graduate Student Body (GSB), of which we are the current representatives. The GSB committee, elected in full at the beginning of the Michaelmas term by the students, will be in charge of organizing student events and activities during this academic year. We will also represent your interests in college and university-wide committees. Being part of the GSB committee is a fun and fulfilling experience, one that we hope some of you will be interested in sharing with us.

If you have Facebook, you can join the group “Clare Hall Students” to be updated on all matters related to students, including parties and activities. We will also send you a weekly e-mail to keep you informed about what is going on in college and in Cambridge. In the Clare Hall Students website you will find information about the current GSB members and their activities, as well as the student handbook, the college handbook, the GSB committee handbook, the GSB constitution and the minutes from the GSB Committee meetings when they occur. Events will also be posted on the website.

In this booklet, we have compiled some information about Cambridge and Clare Hall that we thought would be useful. Please, let us know if there is anything else we can do for you.

We are looking forward to meeting you all!

Carla Pastorino Campos
2015-2016 President

Stephen Walsh
2015-2016 Treasurer

Caterina Pellò
2015-2016 Secretary

Fiona Calvert and Sophie Allcock
2015-2016 Social Officers

Before you arrive

We have all been there: coming to Cambridge for the first time can be an overwhelming experience at times. Here are some tips that may make your life easier:

Getting to Cambridge to You can get to Cambridge by plane, train, bus or car. If you are arriving from outside the UK, you are likely to use one of the London airports. In all cases, you need to take either a bus or a train to get to Cambridge from the airport. You can find information about train prices and schedules on the National Rail website (<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>) and about the buses on the National Express website (<http://www.nationalexpress.com/>).

Getting to Clare Hall to Bear in mind that Clare Hall accommodation is not near the Cambridge bus or train station and it is particularly inconvenient if you are carrying heavy luggage. Taxis from either station to Clare Hall Main Site are around £8, and they are **cash only**. Make sure you mention Clare HALL, on Herschel Road, as there may be some confusion between Clare and Clare Hall.

CH Room If you are in student accommodation and have requested linens to be bought for you, you should not worry. Otherwise, make sure you bring linens. Remember that you need to bring all of your toiletries with you, as there are no shops nearby the college, particularly if you arrive at night or late afternoon or on Sunday. The houses kitchens will be furnished with everything you need, minus the actual food.

Emergencies In the UK, dial 999 for medical emergencies and 112 in other cases. If the situation is not life threatening, contact the Porters.

Porter's Lodge The Porters will be your point of contact for a lot of your day-to-day activities, including mail, room booking, and overall problem solving. The Porter's Lodge is open every day from 8:30 to 22:00.

Bank account Getting a UK bank account should be one of your first priorities upon arrival, as you need it to do most other things you'll have to do. Make an appointment early, as there will be loads of students setting up their accounts during the first week. You will need to provide some form of identification as well as a letter of introduction provided by the college.

Cell phones You can choose from several providers, some of them will allow you to buy a phone with your plan while others require you to buy your phone elsewhere. Reception seems to be good with Vodafone and O2, not so good with 3-Mobile.

Doctor registration The health system in the UK requires you to register with a GP (General Practitioner) in your area. You should do this as soon as possible. The college will provide you with an introductory letter for the GP and some suggestions on nearby surgeries.

Groceries Sainbury's (42 Sidney Street) is the closest grocery store from Clare Hall, but you might also want to check Marks and Spencer, Aldi, ASDA and the Co-op. Near Barton Road accommodation, you can also find a small Co-op. Most shops, including grocery stores, close early on Sundays (around 5pm). If you prefer, you can also do your shopping online and get it delivered to your house.

Bicycles Bikes are the preferred mode of transportation for students in Cambridge. The price range varies widely depending on the type of bike you prefer (mountain, city or road), but you should be able to get one starting in the £50-80 price range. Baskets are usually handy, and lights (front and rear) are mandatory, so make sure you have at least a pair. Some of the most popular bike stores are "Cycle King" on Mill Road, "The Bike Man" in Market Square, "Cambridge Cycle Centre" on Botolph Lane and "King Street Cycles" on King Street. These shops usually have both new and second-hand bikes.

If you prefer to rent a bike, you can contact "Station Cycles". They rent bikes for anything from hours to a whole academic year, and they offer discounts for students.

Clare Hall Facilities

As a student at Clare Hall you may make use of all college facilities. In order to gain access to some of these rooms you may either have to use a code or reserve the room in advance and collect the key from the Porter's Lodge. Here we will give you some information about the main buildings and rooms you can use.

Houses

There are several houses in the main site and in nearby sites. In the main site you will find Elmside, Michael Stocker Building, Brian Pippard Building, and the Leslie Barnett House. Further down Herschel Road, in West Court, there is 9 Herschel Road, Salje Building, and Robert Honeycombe Building. Slightly further from the main site, near Wolfson College, there is Barton Road 102/102A. Elmside, Leslie Barnett, 9 Herschel Road, Barton Road 102/102A and Robert Honeycombe Building are refurbished family houses, and are therefore older but more picturesque. Salje, Brian Pippard and Michael Stocker Buildings are newer houses, built with the purpose of being student accommodation. All houses have common spaces (some bathrooms, the kitchens, and the common rooms). All kitchens are fully furnished with appliances as well as cooking and dining utensils (pans, pots, plates, cutlery). The majority of the houses also have a certain amount of rooms with private bathrooms.

Anthony Low Building (ALB)

The ALB is the place where most of the student activity happens. You may use this building at any time, you only need the code to access it (codes available at the Porter's Lodge). There are three main areas in the ALB:

- The music room (downstairs). Having been completely refurbished in 2013, the music room has a variety of instruments that you may use at any time. This room doesn't have a code, but you need to reserve it in advance and retrieve the key at the Porter's Lodge in order to use it.
- The computer / printing room (downstairs). In this room, you will find three computers and printers for you to use at any time. Printing is free but you will have to provide your own printing paper (it can be bought from the Porter's Lodge). There is also a scanner and a photocopier in this room. The access code is C245X.
- The common room / bar (upstairs). This common room is available for all students at any time. Here, you will find comfortable couches, a TV, a pool and foosball table and speakers to play your music if you like. Recently we have also added a bookcase to the ALB so please feel free to take book or leave behind any you have finished with! The college bar opens every night during term. You can purchase drinks from the bar at very competitive prices with cash or with your

student card. Most of the parties and events organized by the GSB Committee will take place in this area.

On the ground floor there is also a vending machine stocked with drinks and confectionery (candy, chocolate, crisps). This building is wheelchair accessible.

Ashby Library

The Ashby Library, located in-between the ALB and Elmside, is the main study space for college members. You may use any of the available spaces at any time, day or night. If you prefer to have your own study room, you can let one of the private study spaces available from the college. You may obtain the entrance code from the Porter's Lodge.

Gym and Pool

In West Court, past Robert Honeycombe, you will find the Clare Hall gym. Recently refurbished in 2013, the gym has a variety of equipment for you to set up your workout routine, including several weightlifting machines, a treadmill, and two rowing machines. Access to the gym can be purchased from the Porter's Lodge on a termly or yearly basis. By paying the gym fee you also gain access to the indoor, heated pool, located right next to the gym.

Meeting rooms

There are several rooms that you can reserve to use for work or social events.

- The Richard Eden Suite: this room is located in West Court, in between Salje and Robert Honeycombe. There are several interconnected room that you may use for events that require plenty of space.

There is a hidden room in the Richard Eden Suite... can you find it?

- Doshisha Room: this smaller but cosier room is also located in West Court, across the Richard Eden Suite. It is very well lit and aired, and a very nice study space, but it can also be used for other types of smaller meetings.
- Meeting room: the meeting room is located on the main site, near the Porter's Lodge. Like the name suggests, it is particularly suited for small meetings of less than 20 people.

On the shelves of the meeting room there are plenty of books that are available to all members of the college. These books are usually not subject-related, they are normally light reading, novels and such. Feel free to take one or many, as long as you bring them back.

Life at Clare Hall

Clare Hall prides itself in having an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. We are, after all, the smallest college in Cambridge, and one of the least traditional ones. Although meeting absolutely everyone might be too ambitious a goal, you still may get acquainted with the majority of college members, including other students, fellows and staff. In fact, it is quite easy to make friends in college, particularly if you like to participate in the activities available for you. Throughout the year, both the college and the GSB Committee will organize social, sports and academic events, but you may also want to partake in more regular, everyday activities, such as meals or sports.

Meals in college

Food is served in the Dining Hall from Monday to Friday, at noon (1pm to 2pm) and in the evening (6pm to 7:30pm). You will have to use your student card to pay for these meals. You can top-up your card through the U-pay system (<http://www.upay.co.uk/>).

Clare Hall has a Formal Hall every Wednesday, both within and outside term time. We do not have a high table (Fellows and Students share the space and the same meals) and gowns are not required, although formal attire is. Formal Halls are billed directly to your student account, and will appear in your invoice at the end of the month. You may bring as many guests as you want for normal dinners, but for Formals that number is restricted to 3.

Students in Clare Hall are entitled to 8 free dinners per term. These meals may be redeemed on Thursdays. You may exchange two of these free meals for a Formal Hall, simply specify that this is what you want to do when you make your reservation for the Formal Hall.

Student events at Clare Hall

The GSB committee will be in charge of organizing social activities for students during the academic year. The choice of activities depends very much on the preferences of the student body of each year, but here are some examples of events organized in the past:

- Themed parties at the ALB (Halloween, Valentine's Day, Christmas, 90's, Speakeasy)
- Jazz formals
- Open mic nights
- Movie nights
- Quiz nights

The GSB External Officers will also organize Formal Swaps, during which a group of Clare Hall students will attend Formal Hall at a different college. These events will be particularly interesting for those who would like to have the 'Harry Potter experience' by dining in some of the older, more traditional colleges.

You can also go to the ALB Bar on any term-time night. It is a nice, cosy space to relax with friends while having a (very affordable) drink or playing pool or foosball. There is also a projector and a television if you'd like to watch TV or movies, and a sound system if you'd like to play music. The Bar will be open every night from 9pm to 11pm, and longer on weekends. The Bar is run by students, and we are always looking for people interested in managing the bar or bartending. Please, contact us if you would like to be a Bartender.

This year, we would also like to give you the opportunity of exploring not only Cambridge itself but also the area around it, and even London, through some GSB-organized outings, like trips to the opera or to some of the famous British stately homes. You will receive more details about this soon, but we will be happy to hear if you are interested in a particular activity or location.

Sports at Clare Hall

Clare Hall has a stock of sporting equipment that you can borrow and use at any time, including badminton, tennis and squash racquets, cricket gear, a croquet set and several different types of balls (football, rugby). It is possible to use Clare College Squash Court with previous activation of your student card through the Clare College Porters. A badminton court at the University's Sport Centre has also been put aside for Clare Hall students. The times in which these facilities may be used will be announced during term time.

Clare Hall has a Football Club that will be participating in a between-colleges competition this year and we also have a cricket club for the summer months! Please, do not hesitate in contacting the Sports Officer if you would like to participate in the Club.

Traditionally, rowing was the quintessential sport of Cambridge. If you are interested, you can have this very unique Cambridge experience by joining Clare Hall Boat Club (CHBC). The CHBC will have an induction at the beginning of the year where you can learn about all aspects of rowing, meet the previous crews, and get a taste of what rowing feels like. The Club welcomes both novices and experienced rowers. Rowing is loads of fun, and it is also a place where you can meet people and make lasting friendships. If you already know you would be interested in rowing in Cambridge, please contact Helena (hp366@cam.ac.uk), who can give you some information about the possibilities.

The Graduate Student Body Committee

What better way to get involved in student life than participating in the GSB Committee? The Committee is a great way to make new friends while at the same time contributing to the well-being and enjoyment of your fellow students. There are many positions available: whatever your particular interest may be, it is possible that we have a place for you. The GSB Committee meets fortnightly to discuss student matters and has regular social meetings on the side.

The following positions will be open for nominations right before the beginning of the Michaelmas term:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Welfare Officer(s)
- Social Officer(s)
- Sports Officer(s)
- External Officer(s)
- Fellows-Students Interaction Officer(s)
- Green Officer(s)
- Equalities Officer(s)
- Arts and Music Officer(s)
- Information Technology Officer(s)

You can find a description of each of these positions, as well as first-hand tips from previous officers, in the Clare Hall GSB Committee Handbook, available from the Clare Hall Students website. Please, contact Fiona (fec29@cam.ac.uk) or Stephen (sw715@cam.ac.uk) if you think you would be interested in any position in particular.