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Welcome to Trinity

Sir Gregory Winter
The Master of Trinity

Sir Gregory Winter CBE FRS is the Master of Trinity and a scientist, inventor and entrepreneur. His career has almost entirely been based in Cambridge at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, where his work involved the development of genetic engineering technologies for making pharmaceutical antibodies. He also founded several successful biotechnology companies developing antibodies and antibody mimics. Such antibodies are used for treatment of cancer and immune disorders, and now comprise many of the world’s top selling pharmaceutical drugs.

Trinity is one of the richest and largest Colleges in Cambridge or Oxford, with about 650 undergraduates and 350 postgraduates. Our wealth provides us with the means to offer students a first-rate education and excellent facilities, to support our Fellows’ research, and to maintain and refurbish our beautiful historic buildings. Our size helps in attracting and accommodating a wide range of students and Fellows from many different backgrounds, from within the UK and around the world. We welcome this diversity and actively seek to promote it. Trinity is probably the most cosmopolitan of the Cambridge colleges, an international melting pot for learning, research and friendship.

Members of Trinity have become world leaders in many fields of human endeavour. The most famous of our members is Sir Isaac Newton who revolutionized physics and mathematics, but there are many other famous figures, including the poets Lord Tennyson and Lord Byron, the physicists James Clerk Maxwell and Lord Rutherford, the physiologists Sir Alan Hodgkin and Sir Andrew Huxley, the mathematicians Charles Babbage and Srinivasa Ramanujan, and the Prime Ministers Stanley Baldwin and Jawaharlal Nehru.

Although Trinity is proud of its past, it is a modern institution that looks forward. Trinity set up Britain’s first container terminal (and now the largest) at Felixstowe docks in 1967, and Britain’s first science park on the outskirts of Cambridge in 1970. Trinity Fellows continue to make world-leading discoveries, and Trinity students excel in University examinations. Trinity offers an unparalleled opportunity to those with the ability and will to succeed.
For students at the University, the College is their home, intellectually and practically. It provides them with a community of scholars to share and challenge their ideas, small enough to identify with but large enough to find kindred spirits. It is a place to learn and to study, a place to relax and to pursue other interests, a place to sleep and eat, and a place of support and mutual benefit.

The cornerstone of a Cambridge University education is the College supervision. The University provides lectures, laboratories and libraries while the College provides directed, personalised teaching with opportunities to interact with, and seek guidance from, supervisors who are active researchers at the forefront of current knowledge. Most supervisions are conducted with two or three students engaged with the supervisor and focus on prepared work (‘homework’ if you will) as a vehicle to hone thinking and as a springboard to new ideas.

Students have many different supervisors during their degree, covering different components of their course. Continuity is provided by the Director of Studies, usually a Fellow of the College, who may supervise the student some of the time but will also meet with students regularly to advise on course choices, arrange supervisions and monitor progress. Through their Director of Studies, students get to know other students in the College doing their subject, including those in other years.

Much of a student’s study is self-directed, and there are many resources to support this. The College has an extensive Lower Library and Reading Room, housing about 80,000 volumes and providing ample space for study. All the student rooms have internet access. There is a separate, well-resourced Library and Reading Room for Law students, and those studying languages have the use of a dedicated teaching room fitted with a range of audio-visual equipment.

Cambridge University students have one of the highest employment rates after graduation in the UK, which reflects the quality of our students and the education they receive but also the quality of the University’s excellent Careers Service.
Education & Welfare

The Careers Service not only provides advice on long-term careers but also on opportunities for internships during the summer vacations. We also have one of the highest rates of continuation to higher degrees and research. To get experience of academic research, the College has a scheme to support undergraduates undertaking research projects in Cambridge during the vacation.

The College recognises that students are not just at the University to study but also to broaden their horizons. We therefore encourage students to take the opportunity to engage in other activities, of which there is almost everything imaginable, from sport to music to stand-up comedy and ballroom dancing. Finding and keeping a balance between different aspects of student life when there are few formal constraints on a student’s time can be difficult, and this is one of the concerns of the personal Tutor. Every student at Trinity has a personal Tutor who is different from the Director of Studies and usually from a different academic discipline. Students meet their Tutors regularly. They provide general advice and help and guidance in applying for anything from travel grants to prizes.

Tutors are good people to turn to in times of personal difficulty. Pastoral care is also provided by the Advisor to Women Students, the College Counsellor and our Chaplains, who are ordained in the Church of England but who minister to those of all faiths and none. There is a medical centre at the College, staffed by the College Nurse. And the University Counselling Service provides a range of confidential support to those who prefer to seek advice outside of the College.

Given the strength of academic and pastoral resources available, Cambridge University and Trinity College provide exceptional support for students pursuing their academic aspirations.
Trinity has long had a strong tradition in the sciences. Famous alumni include Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon, James Clerk Maxwell, Lord Rayleigh and Niels Bohr. Perhaps less well known are the geologist Adam Sedgwick, the nuclear physicist Otto Frisch, and the polymath William Whewell, who not only invented the term ‘scientist’ but is also famous for having been able to jump up the flight of eight steps leading from Great Court into Hall in one bound. You shouldn’t be daunted by the extraordinary list of brilliant (and athletic) scientists that you can find on the Trinity website. Instead, see this as evidence of Trinity’s supportive and welcoming atmosphere, in which you can follow your scientific passion from school or take up the challenge of trying subjects that are completely new to you.

If you wish to read a science subject, your choices of Tripos are: Natural Sciences; Engineering/Chemical Engineering; Medical Sciences; and Computer Science. While differing significantly, all four disciplines embody the general principle of providing a course that gives you a broad range of general subject knowledge before allowing you to specialise in a particular area.

The Natural Sciences tripos at Cambridge is distinctive in that you take three experimental subjects (plus maths) in the first year. There are...
eight experimental subjects from which to choose, some requiring you to have done the subject already at school (such as Physics and Chemistry), but others are designed for complete beginners (such as Materials Science and Earth Science). In later years you are able to gradually refine your subject choices until you finally focus on a single subject that will generally involve original project work.

As an Engineering student, in the first two years you will follow set courses covering the whole range of disciplines: so even if you have set your heart on being a civil engineer, you will do the same courses as your friends who wish to become electrical engineers. In the third and fourth years you are, as in Natural Sciences, able to specialise and embark upon more specific project work. After one year of a science subject, changing into Chemical Engineering is also an option – the standard routes being from Natural Sciences and Engineering.

Computer Science is the most self-contained of the sciences, but it too offers options within the Natural Sciences/Mathematics triposes.

Trinity College has a long tradition in the Medical Sciences. The first two years provides a strong scientific basis to medicine with opportunity to specialise and conduct a laboratory research project in the third year. For years 4-6 the clinical training is based at Addenbrooke’s Hospital in partnership with other hospitals and GP practices in East Anglia to give a broad experience.

Keeping a broad base early on means not only that you will be able to work at the boundaries between traditional subjects (which is increasingly where the major scientific breakthroughs are being made), but also that you might discover a subject you really love but that you hadn’t ever had a chance to study before. You’ll also find that the relatively late specialisation of the Natural Sciences and Engineering courses is beneficial: we produce graduates whose knowledge of their final-year subject is competitive with that of graduates of other universities who don’t have our broad first- and second-year syllabus.

A science degree from Cambridge will open doors for you and give you a wide range of possible options once you graduate. You could do a further degree, such as a research-based PhD, or gain valuable vocational skills in a taught Masters course. If more time at University doesn’t appeal, then the problem-solving skills you will have learnt, and your broad scientific knowledge, will enable you to enter industry, the financial sector, or public sector work such as teaching.

In keeping with our strong scientific tradition, Trinity has a large and lively community of scientists, engineers and mathematicians, drawn from the UK and overseas. The College has Fellows from all the scientific departments, so your supervisions will be given by specialists with a strong interest in furthering excellence at Trinity. We look forward to welcoming you here.
Mathematics

Mathematics is one of Trinity’s strongest subjects, and certainly the College’s largest. We take about 40 mathematicians per year, which gives rise to a clear and distinctive ‘community spirit’ within the subject. If you peep into Hall at any mealtime you will see two sets of mathematicians. One set is chatting to people from other subjects and sit all over the room. The other set occupy a table (usually the middle one of the three, for no apparent reason) and are fiercely engaged in all kinds of mathematical discussion. Curiously, non-mathematics students seem to give this table a wide berth.

What is especially nice is that a maths student will occupy both groups at different times. Typically they will be part of the general tables, but if they have a burning desire to talk maths then they will join the group doing that. This goes on outside Hall as well – indeed, one of the great joys of Trinity is that if you are stuck on a maths problem at 2am you are sure to find a friend who is awake and interested to discuss it with you.

Students go to lectures in the University with students from all other colleges. This is usually for about two hours per day, in the morning. Then they tackle the homework given out by the lecturers called ‘examples sheets’, and after that they go, two at a time, to supervisions, where they show their work to a supervisor (a member of the maths teaching staff, or a graduate student). New students often imagine that this will be a case of the work being just marked ‘right’ or ‘wrong’, but that is not what happens at all. The supervisor may praise a solution, may say that a solution is correct but show a simpler approach, may correct an error, may quiz the students on part of the course, may explain to the students ‘where the course goes next’, and so on. And the students may initiate a lot of the discussion, by asking the supervisor how to get started on a particular question, or to explain part of the course to them – so it is really a dialogue.

Apart from the lectures and the supervisions (each student typically gets two supervisions per week), your time is your own; so there is a vast amount of free time for you to do as you please. If you want more maths, there is the thriving Trinity College Mathematical Society. There are also many maths-related clubs and groups.

Professor Imre Leader

I am a mathematician working mainly in Combinatorics, which is a very attractive and down-to-earth part of pure mathematics. At any one time, there are various things that I am trying to prove – usually I am convinced that they are true, but the actual proofs can be incredibly elusive. I lecture various courses. Recently, I have taught Numbers and Sets, which is a first-year first-term course introducing pure mathematics and the mathematical way of thinking. In College, I am a Director of Studies, and I supervise students for a range of papers. I am also involved with the Mathematics Olympiad movement. I was the UK Leader for three years (1999-2001) and still participate in team training. I am the unofficial ‘link’ between the Olympiads and Trinity.
The size of Trinity allows for diversity – in the range of subjects, in Fellows, and in our student body. That diversity creates a rich, energised, intellectually-challenging environment for the study of the humanities. The humanities are, as the name suggests, subjects that engage directly with what it means to be human – studying the languages, histories, ideas and cultures of human societies through time, and across the world. Trinity has been a home of world-leading research in these subjects for hundreds of years – nurturing a succession of remarkable writers, philosophers and scholars. This legacy is evident in the extraordinary collections of the Wren Library, which provide a unique resource for our undergraduates: as a student of English, for example, you might be taken to examine Shakespeare’s ‘First Folio’ close up. Theology students might study rare manuscripts. The continuity of culture from past to present feels very much alive in Trinity. This should not suggest that we are preoccupied by history, indeed, our legacy is one of innovation and invention. Today, we pride ourselves on our forward-looking approach to teaching and research. We encourage our students to develop their studies, and their interests, offering funding for travel and projects.

We have Fellows, and student communities, in most of even the smallest of subjects. The range of Fellows means that you will receive much of your teaching within the College – and you will benefit from the kind of informal contact with Fellows that distinguishes the Cambridge system, with regular supervisions with leading experts. Supervisions – and supervisors – vary in style and atmosphere, but they all seek the same thing: to stimulate critical debate; to ask you to think beyond your common assumptions; and to make you defend your ideas. Often we are concerned to show you that there may not be a ‘right’ answer; you may not be able to know something for certain.
Arts & Humanities

But learning to ask the right questions is at the heart of an education in the humanities.

And of course, learning is not limited to lectures and supervisions. Students of literature – indeed all budding writers – can benefit from regular writing workshops, and readings by world-class poets and novelists from around the world. Cinephiles can enjoy one-off practical film-making courses offered by invited directors, everyone can listen to eminent visiting speakers, and participate in all manner of societies and debates. Our students work hard – they regularly produce extended pieces of writing; they are often learning new languages, exploring entirely new fields. The best of them do this work because their enthusiasm for their subject extends beyond the parameters of any ‘course’. Developing a new interest, pursuing an esoteric idea: it is often in this way that future passions – and future careers – are born.

‘The elegant statue on the far right of the Wren Library, designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the seventeenth century, symbolises our studies at Trinity. She represents the Bachelor of Arts degree. On her fingers she is counting out arguments - the fundamental skill of the humanities and social sciences. And at her feet is a celestial globe, representing astronomy - and by extension all the different forms of natural science that we also pursue in the College of Isaac Newton.’

Dr Richard Serjeantson, Fellow in History
Whatever degree programme you choose, becoming part of Trinity College means joining and participating in a thriving scholarly community. It’s a community that is highly conscious of its past members, in their unrivalled eminence and global influence. It is also one that retains their intellectual ambition, both as innovative thinkers and keen educators.

Although there is no distinctive ‘Trinity approach’ to the social sciences, many of its most famous members have had both a close critical engagement with concepts and theories, and a keen interest in and engagement with real-world problems. It is those attributes that the study of the social sciences at Trinity seeks to foster, across fields such as Economics, Politics, Law, and Anthropology. These are subjects that invite a balance between problem-solving and reflective approaches, that draw upon a wide range of sources and ideas, and which keep those studying them always curious about how better to understand a complex world.

The College has many strengths when it comes to the social sciences, including its Fellows, who are world-leading experts in their fields, and its excellent facilities, which include the best-stocked College library in Cambridge, as well as a dedicated law reading room that is available around the clock. It is also generous at providing its students with the financial resources needed to conduct their own research, which for subjects such as Archaeology, Economics, Politics and Social Anthropology is often the highlight of the degree programme.

We draw students from around the world and from all backgrounds, resulting in diverse perspectives and lively debates. Supervisions organised by the College stimulate critical reasoning, but students typically do not stop thinking and arguing once the formal teaching is over. There are active Trinity student societies in Law, Politics and Economics, which act as venues for continuing discussions, developing viewpoints, and for hosting invited speakers. Across the social sciences, extra-curricular activities can form almost as much of the learning experience as the formal process of lectures and supervisions.

The College has active associations of alumni in many of the social sciences. These are former students at Trinity who lend a hand in helping the current generation of students to understand and succeed in the world once they graduate. The range of careers open to those trained in the social sciences is very broad; the advice and involvement of alumni has often been crucial in enabling students to turn their interests and educational experiences into fulfilling careers.
Life in College
Life in College

Trinity is more than a centre of academic excellence. The College plays host to a rich and varied selection of extra-curricular events and activities and is a hub of social activity.

You should expect to dedicate about 40 hours a week to your academic studies. This time will be divided between lectures, seminars, supervisions and, for scientists, practical experiments.

Outside of these structured hours, you will work on problem sheets or essays in preparation for supervisions. You can choose to carry out your work in the well-stocked College library, in one of the many departmental libraries or the University Library, or in your own room.

In your spare time, you can take part in all sorts of sports and societies – musical, theatrical, academic and entrepreneurial. The Trinity College Music Society (TCMS) offers a range of opportunities for student singers and instrumentalists to perform. Societies exist for most major academic disciplines, including the Trinity College Mathematical Society (TMS), Science Society (TCSS) and Literary Society. There are also societies for drama (the Dryden Society), debating, politics, yoga, charity fundraising and a College magazine, Travisty, to name but a few of the other activities on offer.

Sport has had a celebrated history at Trinity with a number of students going on to compete at University level. There are teams for all major sports including football, rugby, athletics, netball and tennis. Trinity has a gym at its main sports facility on Grange Road and the College boathouse on the Cam is a five minute cycle away – new students frequently try their hand at rowing. Opportunities are available for players of all levels, whether beginner or semi-professional, and students can try out sports such as ultimate frisbee, water polo and volleyball.

Every student at Trinity College is automatically a member of the Trinity College Students’ Union (TCSU), which is led by an executive body of 11 elected students. TCSU organises regular social events, takes a leading role in Freshers’ Week each year, and is actively involved in access initiatives. The TCSU Committee is the primary point of contact for those wishing to confide in a fellow student, or to share feedback on the facilities and staffing at College. After exams during May Week – which is actually in June – there are numerous garden parties and the famous First and Third Trinity May Ball.
I came to the College in 2017 following 28 years in the British Army, the majority of it operational across the globe, but also in posts at the political-strategic level in Whitehall. As Junior Bursar, I am responsible for most aspects of the day-to-day non-academic operational management of the College. As the point of contact between the College’s many departments, I manage aspects such as the domestic accounts, accommodation, buildings, maintenance, housekeeping and safety and security. I also have overall responsibility for all of the non-academic staff.

All Trinity students are provided with rooms for the duration of their undergraduate degrees. In your first year you will have a private room but in subsequent years you are given the opportunity to share a set of rooms with a friend. Students live in staircase set-ups, with modest kitchen facilities, so that there will always be neighbours to meet and at Trinity, friendships form quickly in a sociable and energetic environment.

Students can opt to eat in Hall with catered meals three times a day. Food choices are varied and nutritious with a menu spanning traditional British favourites on ‘Fish and Chip Friday’ and ‘Sunday Carvery’ to international dishes from across the world, freshly prepared by catering staff. The regular formal dinners are popular occasions for birthdays and other celebrations and places can be booked in advance at the College Bar. The Bar and ‘Combination’ rooms provide centralised social spaces.
Stephen Layton is Trinity’s Director of Music. He is Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the City of London Sinfonia, founder and Director of Polyphony, and Music Director of Holst Singers. He also guest-conducts internationally, recently appearing with the Philadelphia, Minnesota, Philharmonia and London Philharmonic orchestras, as well as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Academy of Ancient Music and Britten Sinfonia. His eclectic discography of over fifty recordings on the Hyperion label encompasses a wide range of repertoire. He has won many recording awards throughout the world including two Gramophone Awards and the Diapason D’Or and the Echo Klassik.

Trinity College Music Society is one of the largest societies in the University, putting on up to 30 musical events each term, ranging from full-scale choral and orchestral concerts in the Chapel or Wren Library, to chamber and song recitals performed in the Master’s Lodge or Old Combination Room. It has staged a number of operas and the annual May Week Concert in Hall has become a highlight of Cambridge musical life. It also runs regular jazz-in-the-bar nights. There is a series of chamber music concerts given by eminent professional musicians which takes place in the Master’s Lodge twice a term, free of charge to Trinity members, and the Chapel is also frequently used by outside arts organisations to put on concerts.

Trinity has excellent music facilities. There are nine music practice rooms around the College, each with a piano and one with a harpsichord, open for use by any student. In the Chapel there is a Steinway D piano and a harpsichord, and a further six grand pianos are available in College for pianists. The Chapel has built-in professional recording facilities available to College musicians and all choral services are webcast live on the internet.

Many of the College’s musicians go on to pursue successful professional careers as singers, instrumentalists and conductors. However, whatever your level of skill, you will be able to enjoy making music of all kinds with others at Trinity.

The College’s long and distinguished choral tradition dates back to the fourteenth century. Today, Trinity College Choir has established itself as one of the leading choirs in the world – voted fifth best in Gramophone magazine’s ‘20 Greatest Choirs’.

The Choir’s main focus during term is the singing of the liturgy in the College Chapel. Outside term, the Choir performs in concert halls around the UK, including regular performances with orchestras such as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and live BBC broadcasts.

The Choir tours internationally to destinations including the USA, Canada, Australia and Europe, and records for Hyperion Records. Recent recordings have won the Gramophone Award in the UK, the Limelight Recording of the Year in Australia, and been nominated for a US Grammy Award.

All services from Trinity College Chapel are webcast live and available to listen again on the Choir website: www.trinitycollegechoir.com

A searchable archive of over 4,000 musical tracks recorded live in services over the last few years is available on the website.
Trinity College Chapel is at the heart of College life: physically, a grand building located prominently in Great Court, and spiritually, with its services and many other activities for students, Fellows and staff of any faith or none.

The focus of the weekly services during term is Choral Evensong on Sunday evenings, with music led by the College’s world-famous Choir. Visiting preachers speak on a wide range of topics – and include not only eminent clergy such as the current and recent Archbishops of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, but also politicians, writers and distinguished academics – such as A N Wilson, Jonathan Aitken, and Amartya Sen. Choral Evensong also takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with more informal services on other days during the week.

The Chapel is used for various formal ceremonies in the life of the College (such as the admission of a new Master), as well as for concerts, poetry readings and exhibitions. It is visited by many thousands of tourists during the year and contains Roubiliac’s famous statue of Trinity’s (currently) most famous undergraduate, Isaac Newton.

Dr Michael Banner is Dean of the Chapel, and previously a Professor in the Universities of Edinburgh and London. His most recent book is entitled *Everyday Ethics: Moral Theology, Social Anthropology and the Imagination of the Human*. An earlier work, *Christian Ethics: A Brief History*, probably sounds a bit less daunting. He has served on very many committees across Whitehall and the City of London, from the Department of Health to the Ministry of Defence, from Shell to F&C Asset Management. He is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4’s *Thought for the Day* on the *Today* programme.

Trinity has two Chaplains in residence and in addition to leading the services in Chapel they play an important part in the pastoral care of all members of the College. They organise weekly events during term, some with a Christian perspective, but also film nights, poetry evenings and social events such as the annual pancake party. The Chaplains meet all students at the beginning of their time at Trinity and can be contacted at any time to discuss matters of concern or simply for a chat.
Sport

Trinity values the sporting achievements of its students and strives to provide excellent sports facilities that complement those of the University. The Trinity sports community is a thriving body comprising men’s and women’s teams in most mainstream sports and in a number of more unusual ones! There is regular inter-college competition as well as frequent vacation trips to tournaments. Our main sports facility, Trinity Old Field, is situated on Grange Road close to the College’s Burrell’s Field accommodation, and a five-minute walk from the main College site. Here are the grass playing fields, which see cricket in summer, football and rugby in winter, plus various sorts of outdoor training all year round.

The site also has six all-weather tennis courts, though some of these generally double as netball courts during the season and are often used for netball and basketball training. Five-aside football, five-aside hockey and croquet are other activities that are frequently seen on Old Field. The site has a Pavilion (with bar and kitchen area), home and away men’s and women’s changing rooms, three squash courts, a badminton court, two table-tennis tables and a gym.

The gym is on two floors. The bottom floor contains: lifting racks and benches with sets of weights; a large lifting platform with Olympic bars and rubber bumper plates; a full set of dumbbells; glute-ham raise, leg-press and lat pull-down machines; swiss balls and stretching mats. The upper floor contains mainly aerobic equipment: ergometers, treadmills, cross-trainers, exercise bikes and a multi-gym (mainly upper body). Access to all Trinity sports facilities is free for College members, but the gym has a nominal charge per term. All members wishing to join the gym must sign up for an induction with Cam Sports Performance which looks after the gym.

The Field Club, a body which oversees Sport in College, comprises the captains of the College teams and meets once per term. The Club is a vibrant and active organisation that runs sports days with our sister Oxford college, Christchurch, as well as with various alumni groups. It also awards Club Colours for outstanding sporting achievement at the College level.

One of the most popular sports at Trinity is rowing: during their time in College, around one in three students will take to the water. Trinity’s Boathouse is on the river Cam, a five-minute cycle ride from the College. The College competes under the name of First & Third Trinity Boat Club and fields up to ten men’s and women’s eights in the Lent and May Bumps races each year – there is even a Fellows’ crew! It is one of the biggest (and most successful) boat clubs in the University. There is no need to have a rowing background to take part, as most rowers and coxes are taught from scratch by First & Third coaches.

I lecture in the Department of Engineering and am one of the College’s Directors of Studies in Engineering. I am Secretary of the Sports Facilities Committee in Trinity and am heavily involved in University Sport. The roles of President of the Cambridge University Hare & Hounds (Cross Country) and Senior Member of the Cambridge University Women’s Boat Club keep me busy when I am not trying to run myself.

Dr Joan Lasenby
Fellow in Engineering

I lecture in the Department of Engineering and am one of the College’s Directors of Studies in Engineering. I am Secretary of the Sports Facilities Committee in Trinity and am heavily involved in University Sport. The roles of President of the Cambridge University Hare & Hounds (Cross Country) and Senior Member of the Cambridge University Women’s Boat Club keep me busy when I am not trying to run myself.
Sarah Lusack

I knew very little about Trinity College prior to applying to Cambridge. After some research, I learnt that Trinity had a strong reputation in Philosophy and I decided to apply. Had I known that Trinity is considered to be one of the best colleges in Cambridge, I would have been too intimidated and probably not have applied! Luckily, I got a place to read Philosophy and I started my course in 2012. I decided to change to Human, Social and Political Science at the end of my first year and I graduated with a degree in Politics and International Relations in June 2016.

Though Trinity is one of the largest colleges in Cambridge, I felt that I had a small community of people that supported me throughout my degree. This support network ranged from my supervisors to the close friends I made (and continue to stay in touch with). As a result, I found a home at Trinity and settled down quite quickly. The College is often perceived to be rather old-fashioned and posh. However, during my time at Trinity a number of progressive milestones were made. Most notably, we celebrated 40 years since women were first admitted to Trinity. The College also supported me in successfully running Cambridge’s first Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Conference for prospective Year 12 students, which I am both proud of and grateful for.

In addition, Trinity gave me the opportunity to get involved in sport, journalism and the College’s Students’ Union. I was given funding to study Arabic at the University’s Language Centre and to travel to Brazil and Rome. And, I cannot fail to mention attending the amazing Trinity May Ball – one of the most sought after events in the University calendar!

As I pursue a career in social and public policy, working life has given me the opportunity to reflect on my time at Trinity. I appreciate the privilege of studying at such a prestigious institution now, more than during my degree. Although the intensity of Cambridge can be challenging at times, it really is a wonderful place to study. The enrichment of the experience extends beyond the academic aspects as you are exposed to a vast range of other opportunities. I am glad that I spent my time at Cambridge at Trinity College. I am, and always will be, a proud member of the College.

Kathryn Savage

With Trinity being the largest Cambridge college it’s hard to just stumble upon it, but that’s what happened in my case. I was at another college’s open day and during the lunch break went wandering through town. I’d been told by some students I’d met that “you just know” when you walk into the right college, and that was what happened. I had no idea of Trinity’s incredible academic reputation; I just knew that it had the most students and was next to the river.

Being at Trinity taught me that you really need to enjoy whatever you spend the majority of your time doing. For anyone at Cambridge that is, inherently, studying, and I certainly enjoyed my Modern Languages degree. There was a great mix of college supervisions, university-wide lectures and small faculty-based language classes, with the latter the perfect opportunity to meet people from other colleges.

There are a lot of people at Cambridge and Trinity itself who arguably fit a certain stereotype that can put some people off applying to such a university. But there are many others who definitely don’t and I made some amazing friends during my time at the College. Trinity is so big and dynamic that there are inevitably many interesting people to meet, sports teams to join and social events to attend. Contrary to popular belief, Cambridge doesn’t have to be all about the work. I played College and University football and was on the May Ball Committee – the ball really is as incredible as it looks!

After graduating, I was very fortunate to receive a grant from Trinity for a volunteer project in Uganda, which has since turned into a full-time job. I work for a small NGO on a project that aims to improve the delivery of public health services, and increase the number of patients who make use of them, by strengthening the leadership skills of health workers. It’s obviously very different here compared to the grand surroundings of Trinity but, despite the limited resources, the people are equally dedicated to what they do. I’d like to think that since leaving I’ve come to appreciate the privilege of studying at Trinity, in what I learnt, those I met, the experiences I had, and also the way in which it’s set me up for the unknown that is to come.
Access and Outreach, also called Widening Participation, involves challenging inequalities in education and encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to aim high when applying to university. Trinity is keen for students from every kind of background to apply here, and we particularly welcome applicants with little school or family history of going to university.

Trinity College is an excellent choice for students interested in widening participation, with endless opportunities to get involved. You can join our ‘Access Team’ to receive training and resources, and volunteer on events such as residential, Open Days, school visits and Access Tours. We’ll also support you in your own outreach initiatives, offering advice, funding, resources and administrative support. Among many other things, our undergraduates give tours of Trinity, deliver outreach talks to school students, and have even given mock supervisions to sixth formers.

Terri-Leigh Riley, Schools Liaison Officer

I’m from Jarrow, near Newcastle, and I completed my secondary education at my local comprehensive. After finishing my A-Levels at St Joseph’s Sixth Form in Hebburn, I went on to read Theology at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge. As the first in my family to do A-Levels or go to university, I was very nervous about beginning my studies at Cambridge - but I have loved being a part of the University ever since I arrived. I began working as Trinity’s Schools Liaison Officer in 2014, just after graduating, and it’s been incredible to see how our work has developed and expanded. I have recently become a part-time MPhil student at Trinity, studying at the College as a graduate while continuing in schools liaison work.
Trinity’s Fellows are active in access and outreach, sharing their passion for their subject through lectures and classes, both as part of school visits to the College and by going out to schools to teach. The College has recently appointed a Fellow for Widening Participation, in addition to our three Admissions Tutors who are involved in outreach. Trinity employs two Schools Liaison Officers to run our access and outreach programme, while Open Days are coordinated by our Admissions Secretary.

Every year, Trinity runs five subject-specific residential for high achieving Year 12 students from less advantaged backgrounds. They stay in student accommodation at Trinity, have their meals in our Hall, and attend lectures and classes relevant to their interests. We also run five Teaching Tours per year, where we offer lectures and sample supervisions to schools in our University Link Areas, which include Hampshire, Milton Keynes, West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham and the Isle of Wight. Trinity has also embarked on a new partnership with Villiers Park Educational Trust, a charity that aims to raise the attainment of students from less advantaged backgrounds.

Caitlin de Jode, Schools Liaison Officer

I grew up in Ballymoney, a small town on the north coast of Northern Ireland. In 2013, I arrived at Trinity as a first year Human, Social and Political Sciences student, after falling in love with the College at the University Open Day. As a student, I spent a lot of my free time volunteering on access and outreach events like the CUSU Shadowing Scheme and Trinity’s residential, and after graduation I began working as Trinity’s second Schools Liaison Officer. Trinity was my home for three years as a student, and I couldn’t think of a better place to work – it’s amazing to watch young people you’ve worked with on an event arrive as students in the College the following year!
The cost of studying at university in the UK is an issue that concerns many students and the University of Cambridge is competitive in this regard with other leading higher education institutions.

Trinity aims to keep the costs of living reasonable and additional support is available for those from lower-income families. For ‘home’ students – those who have lived in the UK for three years before the start of your course and have indefinite leave to remain – the standard arrangement of loans and grants applies.

You can take out a student loan to cover fees, and both home and EU students are eligible for another loan to help with living costs. These loans are repayable over an extended period once you have graduated and your income exceeds a certain threshold. The scheme applies to all UK universities, with different processes for students from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. For more information: https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance

The Cambridge Bursary helps home and EU undergraduate students from low-income backgrounds: http://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary

In the event of an emergency or an unforeseen problem, Trinity can provide financial assistance for students who would otherwise suffer hardship. The College also manages funds that have been donated or bequeathed to Trinity for the benefit of students generally, for those in particular subjects, or to encourage particular sorts of activity, whether that is learning a language, pursuing a sport, buying books, developing musical talents or volunteering. There are also prizes and scholarships for those who perform well in their end of year exams.

Each year Trinity welcomes new students from all over the world and as far as possible uses grants and scholarships to enable the best students to study at Cambridge regardless of financial circumstances. For more information about financial support available to overseas students: https://www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/applying/fees-and-financial-support
Trinity College was founded by King Henry VIII in 1546. It grew principally from two former colleges, King’s Hall (founded 1317) and Michaelhouse (founded 1324). Thus its history dates back to the reign of Edward II. To this, Henry VIII added lands in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere which formed the original endowment for the support of about 60 Fellows and scholars. From the sixteenth century onwards, it was at the centre of national affairs. John Whitgift, Master in 1567-77, was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1583. Edward Coke became Chief Justice. Francis Bacon became Lord Chancellor. Under Thomas Nevile, who became Master of Trinity in 1593 and also Dean of Canterbury in 1597, the College’s medieval appearance was transformed. Nevile conceived Great Court, skilfully adapting old buildings where possible and adding new ones as necessary. This included the great Hall, still in daily use and built in the first decade of the new century. Then, to help meet increasing needs of students and Fellows, he built Nevile’s Court. The Wren Library was completed in 1695, to house growing numbers of books and a new diversity of interests. It reflects the new-found confidence in the University as a whole in the years following the restoration of Charles II in 1660.

While Sir Isaac Newton (Fellow from 1667) is almost universally remembered, in the seventeenth century the College was also home to poets including George Herbert, Andrew Marvell.
Abraham Cowley and John Dryden, to naturalists including John Ray and to John Wilkins, first Secretary of the Royal Society. Under Richard Bentley (Master 1700-42) studies were further extended. Bentley’s fame rests on his work as a classical scholar, but he also encouraged the chemist John Francis Vigani, establishing for him a new laboratory. An astronomical observatory was built on the top of Great Gate; and the Vice-Master Richard Walker provided a botanic garden for the University in 1762. The sixteenth-century chapel was extensively refurbished in 1706-17, taking on more or less its present appearance.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century there were about 200 students. New Court was built in 1823-25 to help fast-increasing numbers, though many were still in lodgings round the town (‘digs’), and were to remain so for another century. Studies were focused mostly on Mathematics, Classics and Theology, but William Whewell, Master from 1841 to 1866, was a polymath, as engaged with the sciences as with the humanities. He provided the money to build Whewell’s Court in the 1860s, and left money to found a chair in international law in 1867. The court was the first to be erected outside the College precincts between Trinity Street and the river. During the second part of the century new triposes were established, including Natural Sciences, History, Law and Mechanical Engineering. The modern languages tripos was established in 1886, and that in oriental languages in 1895. Increasingly the College looked overseas, its graduates spreading across the world and new students arriving from south and east Asia.

In subject after subject, the College was leading the way. Its members included Byron, Tennyson and Thackeray in literature and Macaulay, Acton and Maitland in history. The University’s new Cavendish Laboratory, founded in 1874 was headed in its first years by successive Fellows of Trinity, James Clerk Maxwell, Lord Rayleigh and Sir J J Thomson. Sir Michael Foster established a long college tradition in physiology whose later leaders included Lord Adrian, Sir Alan Hodgkin and Sir Andrew Huxley. In philosophy, G E Moore became a Fellow in 1898, later to be joined by Bertrand Russell and (in 1929) by Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Trinity’s finances were transformed with a bequest, the largest since its foundation, from Sir William George Pearce in 1909. In 1933 it bought a large area of mostly agricultural land near Felixstowe, and the small port there has since been developed into one of the largest container ports in the country. In the 1970s land owned to the north of Cambridge became the site for the College to found the first science park in Britain. These investments enabled the substantial enlargement of the College, and major support of the University more generally. New residential buildings and teaching facilities were created in the centre of the city and at Burrell’s Field, to the west.
Trinity’s library is the largest among the college libraries in Cambridge. It contains about 300,000 volumes, and is stocked with most of the books you will need for your courses. It consists of three parts. The Reading Room (open until 1am in term-time) contains recent books, most of which may be borrowed by members of the college. The Law Library (open 24 hours a day) is primarily for those reading law. The Wren Library, designed by Christopher Wren in the seventeenth century and one of the finest buildings in Cambridge, houses the older collections.

including medieval manuscripts, Sir Isaac Newton’s own copy of the first edition of his *Principia Mathematica* (1687) and the original manuscript of A.A. Milne’s *Winnie-the-Pooh*. Students who wish to use books in the Wren are welcome to do so, and in some subjects classes are taught there, using manuscripts and early printed books from the selves. This gives students a chance to handle old books for themselves. The Wren is also open to visitors, and changing exhibitions mean that everyone can see some of the library’s many treasures.

Large numbers of new books are added to the Reading Room and Law Library each year, many of them recommended by students; in general, the library reckons to buy more or less everything on subject reading lists. As methods of study change, ever more dependent on online access, more and more resources are becoming available to download and as e-publications. The library works constantly to meet fast-changing needs, and to ensure that as much as possible is available for people also to work in their rooms or elsewhere if they wish. Collaboration with the University Library means that there is an immense amount available, from periodicals to databases, beyond what is found on the shelves. Wi-fi is available throughout the library.

The library also contains a substantial collection of CDs, and hundreds of films, most of them relating to courses but some also for recreation. All these are borrowable.

Isaac Newton (1642-1727) entered the College from Lincolnshire in 1661, and gained a scholarship the following year. He became Lucasian Professor of Mathematics in 1669. He used this tiny notebook for Latin exercises at school, and then for his accounts in his first days at Cambridge. Among other things to fit out his room, he needed a carpet, a chess board, ink and a chamber pot.
Applying to Trinity

Dr Glen Rangwala

Dr Glen Rangwala is Director of Admissions at Trinity and Director of Studies in Human, Social and Political Sciences. He works in the Middle East and he explores how people argue with each other about politics, looking at how political viewpoints are formed and how they are presented. In recent years, his work has taken him to Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Saudia Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Iran.

Trinity’s admissions processes are designed to select the applicants with the greatest potential, regardless of background or family income. Our aim is to maintain a diverse community of students who are intellectually and professionally motivated, who are open to and curious about new ideas and subjects, and who will benefit most from the in-depth teaching offered by the College and the University.

All colleges in Cambridge interview the majority of their applicants, usually in person in Cambridge in December. It’s an important stage of that process, but not the only – or even the most
Applying to Trinity

important – part. We also look in detail at the full range of your marks in public examinations and further information provided typically by your school, any other academic activities you have taken part in outside of school, and the relevance of the subjects you’ve studied before for your chosen degree programme. For many subjects, there are specific assessments that we ask applicants to take before their interview, and this also forms part of our evaluation.

We look both for evidence of achievement and potential for development, but don’t expect any of our applicants to have a wholly unblemished record. It’s not uncommon for us to make an offer to someone who didn’t receive all the top grades in their GCSEs, but who has flourished academically while studying for A-level. And, equally, we appreciate that sometimes applicants are nervous at interview and their exam record is a better indicator of their true ability than what comes out in the discussion.

The application process to study for an undergraduate degree at Trinity may seem a bit complicated at first, but the key things to be aware of are outlined below. The College website explains these issues in more detail, so it is worth checking there if you are uncertain about anything.

It’s important to remember that the deadline for applications is earlier than for most universities. For most applicants, the deadline will be 15 October, but it may be earlier if you are applying to be interviewed overseas, or for an organ scholarship. Alongside your application, you may need to register separately to sit a written assessment, depending on the subject: for some subjects this needs to be taken shortly after you apply. It is important to check carefully if you need to register for this before the deadline. Applicants in Medicine, for example, have to register for the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) by the start of October. If you’re not at a school in the UK or EU, you also need to fill in the Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA) which can be accessed from the College website.

After you apply, we will be in touch to ensure you send us relevant further information. The Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ), to be submitted later in October, gives you the opportunity to tell us anything about yourself or your application that you weren’t able to include in the main application. For some subjects, predominantly in the Arts & Humanities, you may also be asked to submit examples of school work, such as essays you have written recently.

Applicants who have a realistic chance of being made an offer are invited to interview. Each interview is a discussion with one or two academics in the subject area for which you have applied. You can expect the interview to focus on substantive issues in your future studies. We recognise that for most applicants the academic interview is a new experience. We aim to make it intellectually challenging and you are encouraged to talk about your interests. In general, the interview aims to assess not how much information you know, but how you think and reason when presented with new material, ideas or concepts.

You may find it useful to come to one of our Open Days before you apply: these are advertised on the College website, and usually require booking. You are also welcome to contact the College Admissions Office, who will do their best to answer any specific queries that you may have, and which are not covered on the College website.