

Embassy Cambridge New Student Arrival Guide



Welcome to Embassy Cambridge

To study at Embassy English in Cambridge is to surround yourself with elegant architecture, profound history, picturesque college gardens and a city that has hosted some of the greatest minds in the world.

Among the historic college buildings, medieval halls and quaint, winding, narrow streets, a new generation has found a way to mesh with this ornate backdrop. Designer boutiques, bustling coffee houses and inviting nightlife venues have invigorated this city, creating an atmosphere that attracts progressive thinkers of today.

Our Centre is located in a modernised Edwardian property on a beautiful, tree-lined street near many of the University Colleges. With talented staff, state-of-the-art classroom technology and Wi-Fi access throughout, learning English here becomes a quality experience that easily competes with some of the best language schools in the world.

There is plenty of space on site for you to relax including a garden, covered courtyard, social areas, computer room, library, and a large cafeteria serving international cuisine, including Halal and vegetarian options.

Please remember to keep this guide handy as it contains a host of information that will be helpful to achieving a successful trip to Embassy English Cambridge.

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Contact

Address:

Embassy Cambridge
8 Grange Road
Cambridge CB3 9DU
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0) 1223 345 650

Fax: +44 (0) 1223 345 651

Emergency phone number:

+44 (0) 7703 436059

Website: www.embassyenglish.com

What to pack

Clothing

Comfortable, casual clothes are recommended for school. We also recommend that you bring proper clothes for evenings out, meals and social events. Consider also bringing more formal attire for nicer occasions. Cambridge weather can be unpredictable along with several rainstorms so rain gear and warm clothing is helpful.

Toiletries

You must bring your own supplies such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner. Of course Cambridge has plenty of stores that carry these types of items if you should need to purchase them while here.

Stationery

Embassy English supplies you with all of the required course materials and books; however it is recommended that you should bring pens, pencils and paper for note taking.

Electrical appliances

The standard voltage in the UK is 240 volts; if you bring appliances such as hair dryers you will need adaptors. Wi-Fi is freely available for students in all Embassy English schools and residences.

Prescription medication

We advise that if you have any prescriptions, make sure you pack a sufficient amount for your stay. It is important to pack your medicine carefully in the original packaging in case you are questioned about these items at Customs. A note from your doctor indicating that these prescriptions are required is recommended.

Emergency information

Always make sure important numbers and contact details are entered into your mobile phone and are kept written down in your purse or wallet. A credit card sized cut out of important numbers can be found below for your use.

Hand luggage

We recommend that you pack the items listed below in your carry-on luggage during your travel to Cambridge as they may be needed during your journey:

- Passport
- Student Visa
- Medical Insurance documents
- Travel Insurance documents
- Money
- School confirmation documents

Emergency numbers

Below are all the useful contact details you will need. We recommend that you provide a copy of this to your parent or guardian, or another contact at home should they need to get in touch with you at the school. You should keep a copy of this page with you at all times. Additional copies will be provided to you upon your arrival at the Centre.

School contact

Address Embassy Cambridge, 8 Grange Road, Cambridge, UK CB3 9DU

Reception +44 (0) 1223 345650

Fax +44 (0) 1223 345651

24 hour Emergency number +44 (0) 7703 436059

Web www.embassyenglish.com/cambridge

Airport numbers

Gatwick +44 (0) 844 892 0322

Heathrow +44 (0) 844 335 1801

Stansted +44 (0) 844 335 1803

Useful telephone numbers

Health Advice: NHS Direct **0845 4647**

All people in England can call NHS Direct to speak with a registered nurse.

This service is operated 24 hours a day.

Post

If you wish to send post, you can use the schools address with the student's name. The school reception desk will ensure they receive post safely.

Cut me out and keep me safe

This card size information sheet is for students to keep in their purse or wallet in case of emergency.

Embassy Cambridge

8 Grange Road, Cambridge, UK CB3 9DU

Reception +44 (0) 1223 345 650

Emergency centre number

+44 (0) 7703 436059

UK Emergency service number

(Police, Fire, Ambulance): 999

Non-emergency Police: 101

Arriving in England

If you have booked a transfer

If you have booked a taxi/airport transfer, your driver will be waiting for you in the airport arrivals hall, carrying a sign with your family name on it. They will take you to the school residence or host family.

If you have not booked a transfer but would like to, please get in contact with your advisor.

What to do if you cannot find your transfer

It is very unlikely that you will not find the taxi driver, but if this happens go to the airport information desk and ask the staff there to make an announcement. Give your name and the name of the Embassy School. Stay at the information desk so the representative can find you.

If after some time you are still unable to find the representative remain calm and call the 24 hour emergency number at +44 (0) 7774 272 599. Someone at this number will be able to help you.

If you have booked a transfer, the Embassy representative will know the address you are going to and he/she will have been paid in advance. DO NOT get into a taxi with someone who doesn't know where you are going, or asks you for money. If you are uncertain, the helpdesk in the airport will be able to advise you.

If you have not booked a transfer

If you have NOT booked a transfer you can reach the school in the following way:

Train

Connecting from Stansted Airport...

The train to Birmingham New Street stops in Cambridge and will take you just 30 minutes. These trains run once an hour.

Connecting from London airports...

- **London Gatwick:** Take the train from Gatwick Airport to London Victoria. Then, take the Underground 'Victoria' line to Kings Cross Station.
- **London Heathrow:** Take the underground 'Piccadilly' line from Terminals 1, 2, 3 or 4 to Kings Cross Station.
- **From London Kings Cross station:** Take any train to Cambridge: these usually depart from platforms 9 or 10, which are accessed from half way along platform 8. Allow plenty of time to find your platform, if possible, as it can be confusing for the first-time visitor. During peak times trains depart to Cambridge at least three times an hour. Direct trains take approximately 45 minutes and only stop at major stations.
- **From Cambridge station:** 10 minutes by taxi or 25 minutes' walk.

Useful links:

National Rail (mainline trains): www.nationalrail.co.uk

Underground tube map: www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/standard-tube-map.pdf

Coach/Bus nationalexpress.com

Coaches are available with National Express from all major airports and London Victoria train station:

Taxi

The nearest airports to Cambridge are Stansted and Luton. Taxis from Heathrow and Gatwick will be considerably more expensive. Average journey times to Embassy Cambridge are:

- **London Stansted** - 45 minutes
- **London Heathrow** - 2 hours 30 minutes
- **From Luton** - 1 hour
- **London Gatwick** - 3 hours

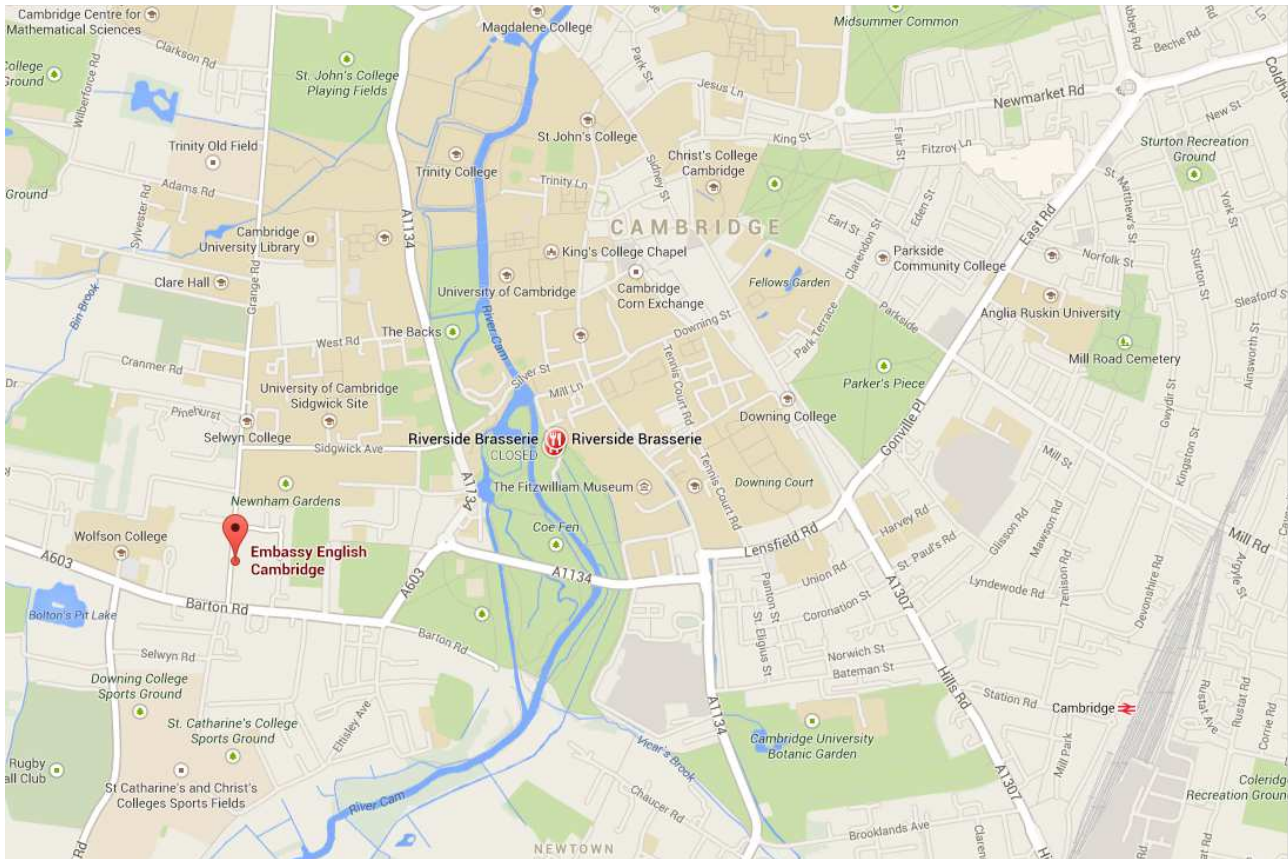
Travel in Cambridge

In Cambridge it is easy to get around on foot and bicycles are a popular way to explore the city. You can also find timetables on the following websites:

Buses: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/buses

Trains: www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/CBG/details.aspx

Map



Directions to the Cambridge

From the train station: Walk down Station Road, to the end and turn right onto Hills Road. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and turn left onto Bateman Street. Walk to the end of Bateman Street and then turn right onto Trumpington Road. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and continue walking in the same direction down Trumpington Road. At the roundabout turn left onto Lensfield Road and keep walking. At the roundabout turn right onto Newnham Road, follow the road to the right onto Barton Road, and take the third right onto Grange Road. The school is clearly signed on the right hand side of the road.

Got a smartphone?

Just scan this QR code to see this Google map on your phone



Your first day

What to expect from your first day at school

Your first day will start at 9am, please try to arrive between 8:30 and 8:45. After we have welcomed you to the school and you have met the other new students, you will take our placement test. This will ensure you study in a class with other students who have a similar level of English. After the test, you will meet our staff, who will provide you with all the information you need about the school and life in the town or city.

Topics covered include:

- Medical, dental and other support services
- Who to see if you have questions or need help
- Advice on opening bank accounts
- School facilities and school rules
- The social programme and getting to know fellow students
- Wi Fi passwords
- Bicycle renting

In the afternoon you will break for lunch with the other students. If the weather is nice, you will also be taken on a local tour, showing you restaurants and other areas of interest.

Police registration

For some students, when they enter the UK their visa is stamped with the words "Register with the UK police on arrival". If this appears on your visa, you must register within a few days of arriving. Staff at all Embassy schools will help you with this. They will direct you to the nearest police station and advise you which documents you need to take with you, or may give you the documents in the college and present them to the police on your behalf. You will need your passport and a sum of money. Currently police registration is £35. You will be given a Police Registration Certificate that you must keep safe. You will need this for all new visa extensions. Further information on the police registration will be explained at the induction.

Your course

Orientation usually takes place on Monday and your classes start on Tuesday morning.

Learning plans devised by our professionally trained English instructors are given to you week-to-week along with course books and other learning materials (both paper-based and digital).

Progress tests will be given in class every few weeks and you will receive a report on your development. This will record and assess how you are advancing. In addition you will have tutorials with your teacher or academic director to discuss your course and achievements.

Looking after you

All Embassy English Centres have dedicated Student Services support staff available to provide you with any needed assistance during your time session.

- Travel details and planning
- Opening a bank account
- Local services
- Visas and immigration regulations
- Accommodation matters
- Counselling for personal problems
- Academic counselling
- Post and email facilities
- Emergencies

Meet the team



Katherine Palmer
Centre Director



Michael Ward
Academic Manager

Living in England

Getting used to life in England

Life in England is living among some of the most polite, classy people you will ever want to meet. There are many exciting, interesting and educational sights to see along with various communities that offer many different foods, arts and so much more. Difficulty with language and unique cultures may seem like a challenge at first, but if you keep an open mind and your sense of humour throughout it all you will be just fine.

Many of you will be away from home for the first time and it is not uncommon to miss your family and friends. Our team at Embassy English is here to help and provide you comfort and support beyond learning the language and our Student Services are always happy to help you with any challenges you may have.

Doctors and Dentists

Student Services will be able to help you to register with local doctors. Details of how to access this information will be given at your induction.

Drinking

You must be at least 18 years old to drink in England. If you are under 18, you are not allowed to purchase alcohol or enter a bar or nightclub unless you are with a parent or guardian. Photo identification which shows your age is often requested before you are allowed to enter a bar or club. This photo ID must be one of the following:

- Passport
- Driver's license
- Official 18+ card

Smoking

Cigarettes are available to anyone aged over 18, however in some ways smoking is less acceptable than drinking, and since September 2007 smoking has been banned in all pubs, clubs and restaurants in England. Smoking is illegal in many public places including buses and the London Underground. If you smoke in these places you will have to pay a fine. Some non-smokers find smoke unpleasant and uncomfortable. If you are eating or drinking with friends, especially at someone else's house, it is polite to ask before you light up your cigarette. If you are staying with a host family make sure you ask where you can and can't smoke.

City information

The City

Described as “the loveliest city in England,” Cambridge brings history and future progress together with class, style and intellect. It is a pedestrian-friendly city with many traffic-free zones making for safe bicycling throughout which is a common mode of transport in good weather. It is about 1 hour and 15 minutes from London by car and possibly shorter by train.

Amidst all of its centuries old history, Cambridge is also at the heart of the high-technology centre known as Silicon Fen (a play on the U.S. Silicon Valley and the fens [low, marshy, flooded land] surrounding the city). With magnificent courtyards, ornate bridges, the River Cam (the main river that flows through Cambridge) and, above all, the variety of architectural styles, this is a city full of splendour and charm.

Life in Cambridge revolves around its famous Cambridge University which has consistently been ranked as one of the top ten universities in the world. The magnificent college buildings and their gardens, students on bicycles, punts (flat bottom boats) on the river and huge book shops create a unique, educational and enchanting atmosphere.

Population

Approximately 120,000

Climate

Hottest month (average): August 24°C Coldest month (average): January 5°C

Major local events

Cambridge Science Festival: A free festival held every March (10 - 23 March 2014) hosted in working University departments and run by staff and University student volunteers. It continues to be the largest free Science Festival in the UK and attracts a wide audience of all ages from the local area and beyond, including many international visitors, to its lectures and engaging demonstrations of science in action.
<http://comms.group.cam.ac.uk/sciencefestival/>

Strawberry Fair: A major free musical festival in June, with bands on many stages, beer tents, circus performers, scores of specialist food stalls and a market.

Cambridge Midsummer Fair: The Cambridge Midsummer Fair has been held on Midsummer Common since the early 13th century. Starting with a Mayor's Procession, the fair features the usual rides, a comedy marquee and live music as well as a number of market stalls. August there is a day of music

Cambridge Folk Festival: Held every July in the grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall, the Cambridge Folk Festival is one of the most famous in the world. Listen to the best traditional UK folk to North American country, blues, roots and jazz on three stages.

Shakespeare Festival: This festival is dedicated to all things Shakespeare. Taking place every summer, it celebrates the Bard's brilliance with performances of some of his most famous works.

Dragon Boat Festival: Dragon-boat racing is an ancient Chinese tradition, where large teams of rowers compete on vessels each with its own drummers - a fun, friendly event in September.

Useful city links

Official Tourist information page: www.visitcambridge.org

Local site, great for local events: www.explorermagazine.co.uk

Local site, great for restaurants and special offers: www.localsecrets.com/cambridge.cfm

Shopping in Cambridge: www.visitcambridge.org/shopping and www.grandarcade.co.uk

Social activities

Embassy activities are a terrific way to make lifelong friends and discover the city around you! During term time, there's a choice of things to do in the evenings and weekends. England is home to many sights and plenty of activities that will keep you busy and happy during your stay.

In all our schools we have weekly events for students to be involved in. There is always something to do! The best way to find out is to contact your social activities manager. These activities can include:

- Sports such as football, volleyball or basketball
- Dance and fitness classes
- Cinema visits
- Trips to places of local interest
- Pub evenings

Please note that some activities are free, while others require a payment.

Since all our schools in the UK are within an easy range of London, there are many trips to the capital that take place. London is a fantastic city and has so much to offer, from famous sights like Buckingham Palace to the London Eye (giant Ferris wheel) offering remarkable views over central London.

Attractions and excursions

At Embassy we also offer a selection of longer trips over the weekends, visiting other parts of the UK or travelling to Europe. They are optional to attend and usually are at discounted group prices, making them cheaper than if you arrange travel by yourself.

You can ask the activities managers about these trips when you arrive at the school. Also make sure that if you would like to travel outside of the UK you have applied for the correct visa before you leave your own country; there is more information about these visas on the following page.

Useful websites

If you would like to learn more about life at Embassy, the local area, transport and other information, be sure to browse the following websites.

Embassy website www.embassyenglish.com

Official Cambridge Visitors site: www.visitcambridge.org

Visit Britain: www.visitbritain.com

Facebook

Embassy is on Facebook! You can look at our photos, ask us questions and leave messages. You could even find the students you will be studying with and make friends before you even arrive.

Find us here:

Embassy English: www.facebook.com/EmbassyEnglish

Embassy English: www.facebook.com/EmbassyCambridge

Schengen visa

The Schengen visa scheme allows non-Europeans access to travel to countries within the European Economic Area. If you are non-European and you plan to travel to Europe, you may need to apply for a Schengen Visa as some of the trips and excursions we run at Embassy are weekend visits to places outside of the UK such as France, Belgium and Spain.

If you need a Schengen visa

- Arranging a Schengen visa can be much cheaper and quicker if arranged in your country of origin before you arrive in the UK
- It may take up to 6 weeks to get an appointment and receive your visa
- To apply, contact the Embassy of the British government in your country before you travel

If you expect to travel to any of the following countries, you WILL need a Schengen visa in advance

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| • Austria | • Germany | • Luxembourg | • Slovenia |
| • Belgium | • Greece | • Malta | • Spain |
| • Czech Republic | • Hungary | • Netherlands | • Sweden |
| • Denmark | • Iceland | • Norway | • Switzerland |
| • Estonia | • Italy | • Poland | |
| • Finland | • Latvia | • Portugal | |
| • France | • Lithuania | • Slovakia | |

If you are a resident of any of the countries shown below then you do not need a Schengen visa

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| • Albania | • Canada | • Japan | • San Marino |
| • Andorra | • Chile | • Malaysia | • Singapore |
| • Antigua & Barbuda | • Costa Rica | • Mexico | • South Korea |
| • Argentina | • Croatia | • Monaco | • Taiwan |
| • Australia | • El Salvador | • Montenegro | • United States |
| • Bahamas | • FYR of Macedonia | • New Zealand | • Uruguay |
| • Barbados | • Guatemala | • Nicaragua | • Venezuela |
| • Bosnia Herzegovina | • Honduras | • Panama | |
| • Brazil | • Hong Kong | • Paraguay | |
| • Brunei | • Israel | • Romania | |

- Special Administrative Regions Of The People's Republic Of China
- Hong Kong S.A.R. Note 1 - The Visa Exemption Applies Only To Holders Of A "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" Passport.
 - Macao S.A.R. (Note 2) The Visa Exemption Applies Only To Holders Of A "Região Administrativa Especial De Macau" Passport.