

International Fresher's Week 2015

Let me first of all congratulate you on your admission to Cambridge and to Fitzwilliam College: this is of course a great academic success but it is also the start of a wonderful experience which I am sure you will enjoy a lot.

I believe that for many of us, starting university has meant the start of a new, more independent life and a great and exciting milestone. For us international students, starting a degree in Cambridge also means moving to a new country, and discovering its culture and way of life. For this reason I think that you should be really looking forward to your first year — and even your first few days here, because moving to a foreign country is a fantastic experience that can enrich every aspect of your life.

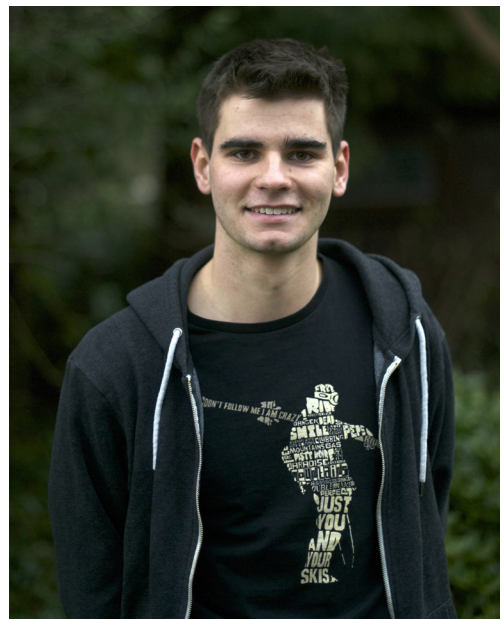
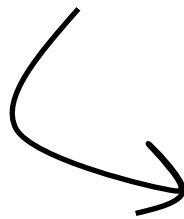
My name is Sebastian, Seb for short, a second year computer science student, and your international officer this year. I was born in Leiden, in the Netherlands, from a German mother and a Swiss father. I moved three times to another country. I moved to Switzerland when I was only seven. Eight years later I moved to Italy, where I lived over four years, learning Italian and studying for my Swiss maturity. In October last year, I moved here (to Fitz). I therefore know how hard it can be to start over in a different country and the different difficulties that are attached to it.

To help you start your new life in Cambridge you are invited to arrive on Wednesday September 30th (students from the UK normally arrive on the Saturday). From Wednesday to Saturday I have organised, together with the rest of the JCR (the student representatives), a few events for you in order to make the transition to Cambridge easier and more fun. Saturday the official freshers week will start and the ents team will take over.

I am available at any time to help you with both academic and personal issues. If you have questions about moving to the UK or living in Cambridge/Fitzwilliam, for example what to bring, etc., just send me a quick email (spb61@cam.ac.uk) or send me a message on Facebook. Please feel free to contact me.

Yours,

Sebastian Borgeaud



Fitzwilliam College International Fresher's Week Timetable

Wednesday 30th September

First day of arrival. After you have signed in at the Porter's Lodge (on the Storey's Way entrance) a [member](#) of the Fitzwilliam JCR will show you to your room and will be available to answer (hopefully) any of your questions.

After you have unpacked and if you feel like it, you can come to the JCR room where you can meet other students for the first time. There will be a second/third year student there so again feel free to ask anything.

At [17:00](#) I will take you around college for a quick and informal tour, before we all have dinner in the buttry.

After dinner there will be a movie night in the TV room or board games, so please bring a game with you (as long as it is a fun game, no pressure there).

Thursday 1st October

We will start the day with a welcome tea at 10:30 in the Stretton Room (O Block).

After the welcome tea I will walk into town with you to show you a few useful places, such as where to get a bike, where the shops are etc. and so that you can get to know Cambridge better. This will also be the occasion to show you where the different lecture theatres and the different departments are located.

At 5:00 pm the Master, Mrs. Padfield, and the Senior Tutor, Dr. Chirico, will hold an official welcome talk in the Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre.

In the evening you can get excited for a pizza party in Murray Edwards, the neighbouring college of Fitz. There will be international students from Fitzwilliam, Murray Edwards and Churchill so that you can make new friends from different colleges.

If you aren't yet tired of other people, we could all go to town for a small pub crawl.

Friday 2nd October

On Friday afternoon we will go punting on the Cam.

In the evening I will take you to your first [Formal](#) Dinner (a 3 course meal) in Cambridge. We will go to Churchill College around 7 to have a drink in the bar before dinner. The Formal is in Churchill so you don't need a gown but a suit or a (smart) formal dress is required. The costs are about £10 per person which will be collected before the dinner. I have to know how many of us will be there so please drop me a quick email if you would like to come.

Saturday 3rd October

On Saturday all students will be arriving and international freshers are invited to follow the fresher's week timetable from then on. The sole exception is a special brunch at the buttry at 12:00.

Condensed timetable

	Wednesday 30th	Thursday 1st	Friday 2nd	Saturday 3rd
10:00	Reception at porter's lodge and showing to the rooms. At least one JCR member will be available in the JCR for questions / board games	Welcome Brunch in the Stretton Room		
11:00				
12:00				Brunch in the buttery
13:00				
14:00				
15:00				
16:00		City tour	Punting (organised by iCusu)	
17:00	Informal college tour	Official welcome talk by the Master and Senior Tutor		
18:00				
19:00	Dinner in the buttery			
20:00		Pizza Night in Murray Edwards College	International formal in Churchill College. (Please confirm by email)	
21:00	Film night / Board games (Please bring your own board games)	Quiz game / Pub crawl	Pub crawl (organised by iCusu)	



Some useful links

<http://fitzjcr.com> is the website made by and for the undergraduate students of Fitz. This is a great place to look if you want to find out more about Fitzwilliam, the JCR or college life.

<http://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk> for practical and useful informations about our college and your student life.

The University website for International Students is <http://www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk>

Visit <http://www.educationuk.org/global> for practical advice about your stay in the UK.

Finally, there is no better way to get introduced to Cambridge's student life than reading its student newspapers. We have 'The Tab' <http://cambridge.tab.co.uk>, 'The Cambridge Student' <http://www.tcs.cam.ac.uk> and 'Varsity' www.varsity.com

For any further questions, please feel free join the unofficial Facebook group "Fitzwilliam College International Community" or email me directly at spb61@cam.ac.uk.