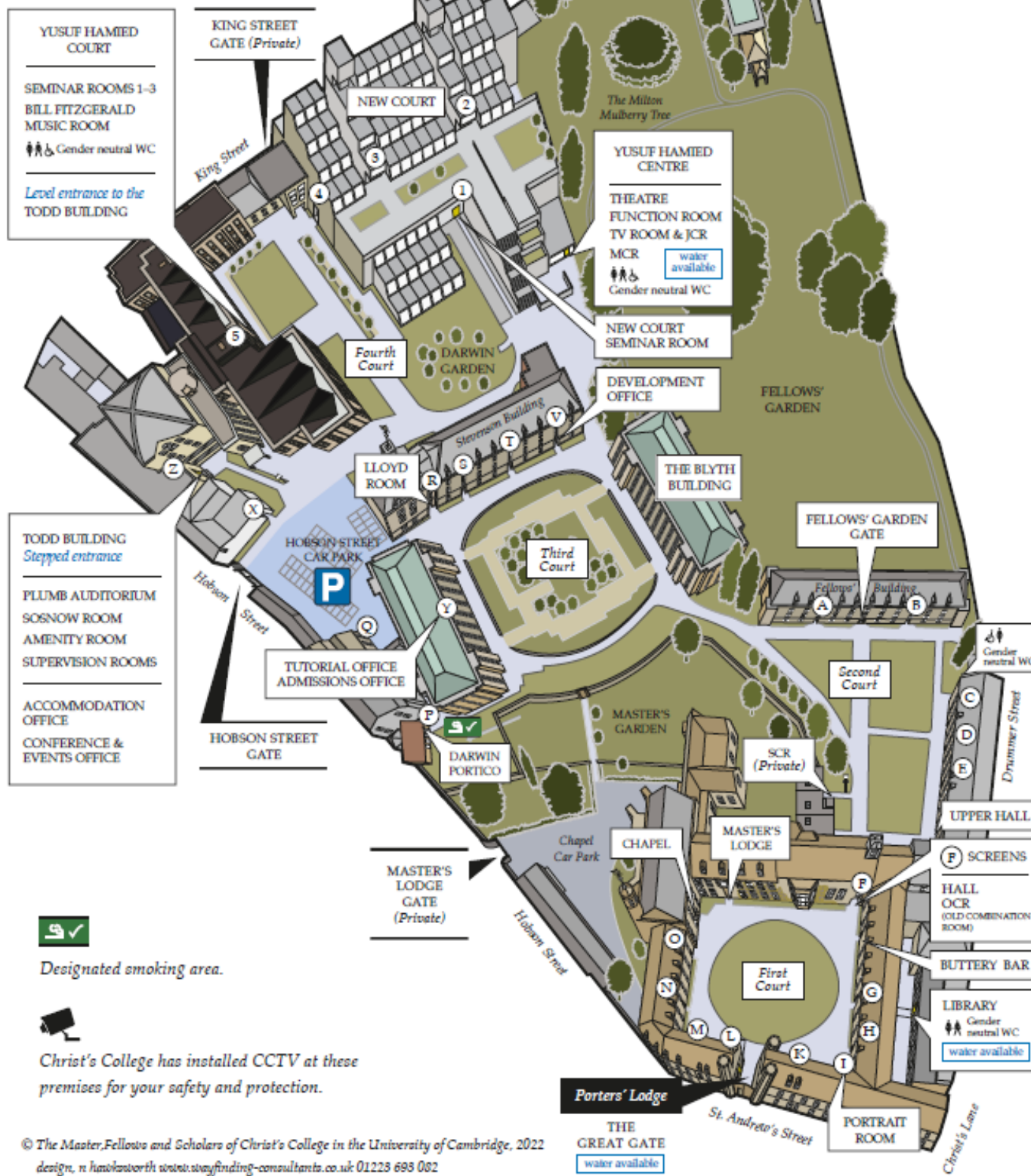
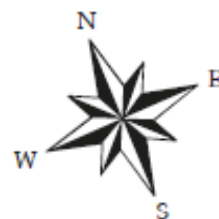


Self-Guided Tour for Prospective Undergraduates - Christ's College

You are very welcome to walk around the grounds following this guide during opening hours. Just follow the map below and the explanations for each part, and please do not enter any buildings. Thank you!

During opening hours, visitors are welcome to walk through the Courts and Grounds of the College but are requested NOT to enter any staircase and NOT to walk on the lawns.



Christ's looks small on the outside, but as you can see, we are a wedge shape, and bigger on the inside than you may first think. In student numbers we're medium-sized, with about 420 undergraduates (some 120 per year), we offer all of the Cambridge undergraduate courses except Veterinary Medicine, and it's bizarre how we're right in the centre of Cambridge, yet somehow escape the noise of traffic and the attention of tourists. As you walk through today, we hope you'll enjoy the journey from Court to Court, from medieval Cambridge, through the landscaped splendours of the seventeenth-, eighteenth- and nineteenth- centuries, to the futuristic concrete of the 1970s 'Typewriter' building. We're a friendly, international community, and the College has been home to pioneers of all descriptions, from ground-breaking naturalist Charles Darwin to radical poet John Milton. Welcome! And thank you for visiting!

First Court

As you enter the College you'll first see the porters' lodge is on your left. Porters are normally the first port of call for practical things, and there's a porter in the lodge 24/7, which is incredibly useful when you're a student. You'll also see Darwin on the wall on your left, one of a number of references to him that you'll come across in the College.

Then the court opens up and you see what is the only completely circular lawn in Cambridge or Oxford! Dating from 1505, First Court is the oldest part of College. We have an interesting history though - did you know that Christ's has moved? We were first established as 'God's House' in 1437 by William Byngham, but the site was needed to build King's College, so God's House moved to where you're standing now in 1448, and the College was 're-founded' as Christ's College by King Henry VII's mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort.

Lady Margaret Beaufort was the richest woman in English Medieval history, and she used her wealth to finance a variety of educational, charitable and religious projects. She had a ground-breaking role as a woman in education and founded University Lectureships at both Oxford and Cambridge. She lived in the Masters' Lodge, that you can see marked on the map.

You'll see from the map that First Court includes the Buttery Bar – this is the main social area for students, and as well as the bar in the evenings, it gives you somewhere to meet friends throughout the day, with sofas, TV etc. and you can get a proper coffee (at a discounted price) from our in-house barista. A good place to go if you need a break from your equations or essay!

The entrance to the Working Library is also here – with a lot more independent work you'll have here than you are used to at school, it's useful to have the Library as a place for study, though you can also work in your room, of course. All students have their own bedroom.

To get through to Second Court go to F on the map – there's a passageway through. Look out for the goat-like Yales on the arch, and the dragon on the other side!

Second Court

There's a good range of accommodation in Christ's, including rooms in First Court, Second Court, Third Court, New Court and Z staircase. Students can also choose to live in a College-owned house just behind Christ's. We are lucky that all of the undergraduate accommodation is very close together so that nobody has far to go for anything, which helps us build a strong College community.

A and B staircases in Second Court are in the Fellows' Building – depending on your subject, you may have supervisions in here as a number of academics have their rooms in this building. Supervisions are the College level of teaching at Cambridge and they are incredibly important and valuable, as you meet with an academic in your subject in a group of 1,2, or three students to discuss the work that you've been doing, whether it is an Engineering problem sheet or a History essay. This means that you can get detailed and tailored feedback on your ideas, you can ask questions on things that you are particularly interested in (or worried about!), and you have somebody taking the time to make sure that you have everything you need to make good progress in your academic work.

Otherwise, you'll see Upper Hall labelled on the map – this is where the College canteen is. It's a self-service canteen and you can go for breakfast lunch and an evening meal during the week or for 'brunch' and an evening meal at the weekend.

Do look out for the College cats, who are most often in Second Court or Third Court when they are out. Their names are Finch (the tabby cat) and Baines (the black cat). <https://tinyurl.com/christs-cats>

If it's between 9am and 4pm on a weekday, walk straight up the middle path in Second Court and through the arch in the Fellows Building to visit the Fellows' Garden. If it's the weekend unfortunately it will not be possible to visit the Fellows' Garden. Please instead take the path that curves to your left towards Third Court.

Fellows' Garden

Despite the name, this garden is open to students throughout the year. It is especially popular in the summer both with students looking for a quiet place to read or draw, and for those meeting friends for a break. The College gardeners work very hard to keep it looking good all year around, and you'll often see birds and squirrels scurrying around, as well as foxes or deer at times.

Do walk over the grass to the other end of the garden. Look out for the beehives, the swimming pool (the map will help, it's well hidden), and Milton's Mulberry tree (propped up with posts), which was supposedly planted in the year of the famous poet's birth. Like so many students today, Milton clearly enjoyed working and reading in the garden - he reportedly composed *Lycidas* here.

Head back towards Second Court – for a change you could take the path through the trees on the eastern side of the garden. He's not always there, but look out for the fox as it's a favourite spot! Once you go through the arch into Second Court, turn right and follow the path to Third Court.

Third Court

Third Court is mainly made up of accommodation, though there are also some administrative offices. You'll see that the sunken garden in the middle has little lawns, which are a popular place for students to hang out on nicer days (they sit on the grass here) and when the weather permitted we held outdoor supervisions at the picnic tables during the pandemic! Look out for the pond too.

A bit of exploring - if you head towards the area labelled the Darwin Portico on the map, you'll find a display on Darwin there. Darwin's time at Christ's was very important for him. He met Henslow and Sedgwick here, two great scientists, who saw the potential in the young beetle collector and encouraged him to pursue his passion for natural history. Of course, since Darwin's time, Christ's has changed a lot, but we still foster great young scientists!

Behind Third Court you'll also see a part boarded off across the car park in the western corner of College. Please stay away – we have a construction company beaver away on our new accommodation building over there (along with a new music room and more teaching rooms). To get to New Court, instead walk back through Third Court to the corner where V staircase is marked on the map. As you walk through you'll see a statue of another Christ's scientist, Jagadis Chandra Bose.

New Court

There's quite a change in the architecture here! New Court accommodation has the more modern rooms, organised by corridor rather than the traditional College 'staircase', and it suits students who are looking for a more modern feel than the accommodation in First, Second and Third Court. What's more, the rooms here are comparatively cheap for ensuite rooms – not too expensive because not too big, but extremely practical to live in.

What do you think New Court looks like? It gets called the typewriter, and if you look carefully, it resembles a ship as well...

Although it's not possible to go inside the Yusuf Hamied Centre, you'll see it labelled and do notice where it is as it's an incredibly convenient location for the college gym, theatre, squash court, a number of common rooms, a music room and the Function Room with its second bar. It's named after Yusuf Hamied, who studied Natural Sciences at Christ's. His company, CIPLA brought down the cost of medicines for diseases such as AIDS, so that they could be available to all.

In front of New Court you'll see the small Darwin Garden (labelled on the map)

Darwin Garden

Make sure you visit the Darwin Garden (marked on the map), where you'll find our sculpture of the Young Darwin. The garden was made to mark Darwin's remarkable life, and the plants that you can see are mostly plants which recall his travels. The sculpture is made of bronze and was crafted by a former Christ's student, Anthony Smith. It depicts Darwin as a student at Christ's before he set off on the Beagle.

Yusuf Hamied Court

You'll also see that we have a new building next to New Court. We're excited to have a new Music performance space in here, more teaching rooms and postgraduate accommodation.

As you walk back through College to the main gate (we actually have a gate on every side, which has a lot of advantages, but visitors have to use the main one), have a think about whether Christ's could feel like home, whether you can imagine yourself walking up and down these paths for a few years, whether it's the right size and whether the range of buildings and spaces suits you. Of course, you'll have to find out more about the community and facilities here online, but we hope that this visit has got you thinking.

To follow-up on your visit

Website <https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions-0>

- Crucial to read the relevant subject page
- Many pages on grounds and facilities, including lots of pictures
- Detailed student profiles
- UK application support pages / International application support pages

Regular webinars <https://tinyurl.com/regular-webinars>

- Christ's: A look at the grounds and facilities
- Preparing for application & the personal statement
- Cambridge for Beginners
- Subjects Matters: The importance of Post-16 subject choices

Christ's Admissions Team <https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/contact-us-1>

Please email your questions to Kristy, Jan and Ellie at admissions@christs.cam.ac.uk

Ongoing support emails <https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/ongoing-support>

Sign up to receive info about events and resources in the run-up to application

Christ's Cats (Finch and Baines) https://www.instagram.com/finch_and_baines