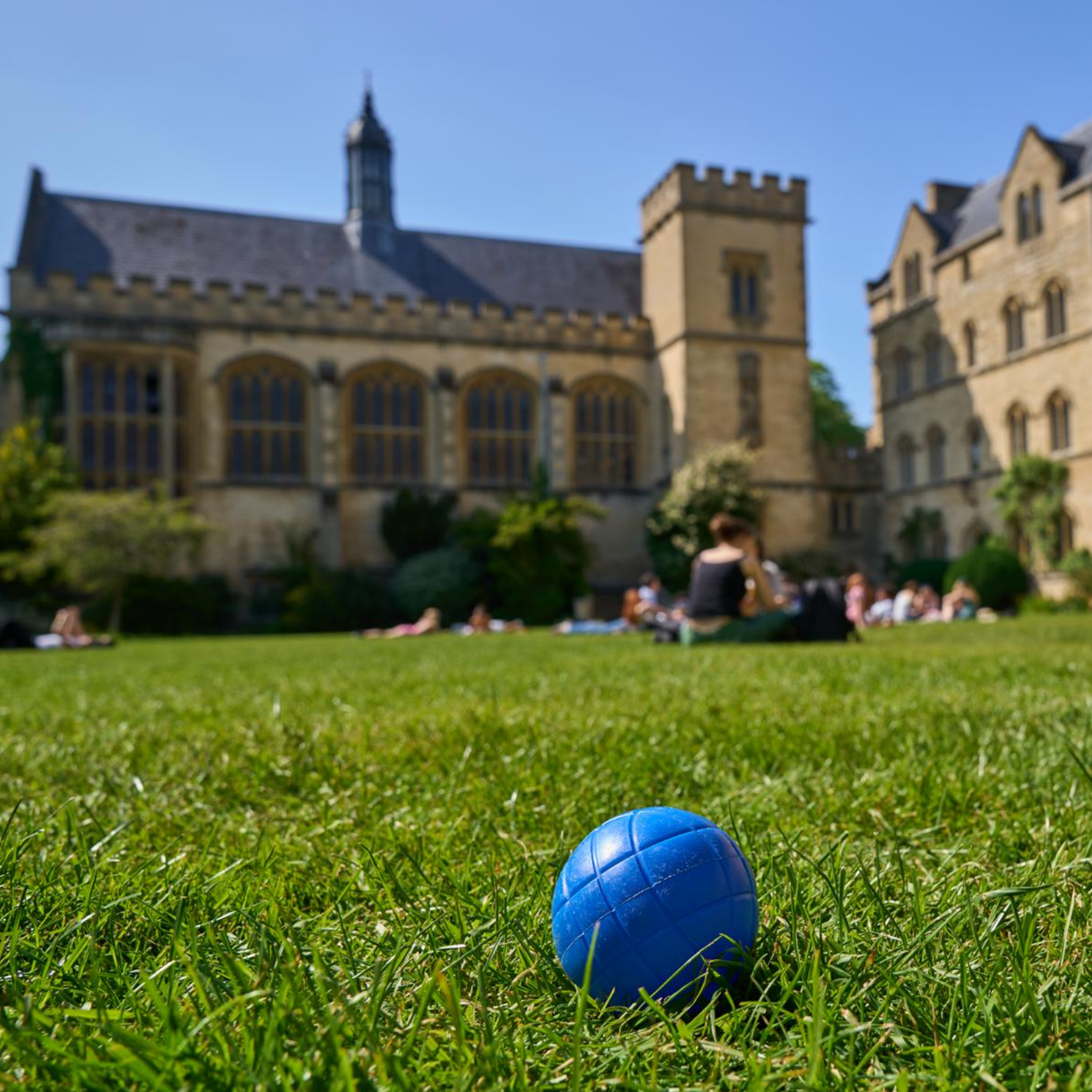




PEMBROKE
COLLEGE OXFORD

Pembroke College

Undergraduate Prospectus



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Welcome to Pembroke

Pembroke College has been one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford for more than 400 years.

Our aim is to equip and support the most talented students of each generation as they learn to meet and overcome the challenges of their time.

Over our history, former students have published some of the most influential texts ever written, become leaders in science, industry, sport, politics and the arts, and laid the foundations for the global community we are today.

Pembroke is an interdisciplinary community of scholars at all stages of their academic careers and from all around the world, studying subjects ranging from medieval English literature to the most abstract and mathematical fringes of science.

We value this diversity and know that we are strongest when we work together. Our deepest understanding comes when we not only immerse ourselves in our own subjects, but creatively apply insights from other disciplines.

If you are excited and curious about your subject, prepared to challenge and be challenged, and eager to learn from others alongside you and who have gone before you, we would love to meet you.



If you would like to be a part of a global scholarly community with global impact, we hope that you will apply to study with us.



“ We look for individuals who are excited about their subject, passionate about learning and want to make the most of the opportunities we offer.

The Rt Hon Sir Ernest Ryder
Master of College

”

Why Choose Pembroke?

We are a community that will encourage you to experiment, to think beyond your own experience, to collaborate, to explore new interests, and to nurture ambitions.

Oxford colleges have a lot in common: all deliver degrees for the University of Oxford, have high academic standards, and provide accommodation, catering and extra-curricular activities. It's up to you which of Oxford's 30+ colleges you want to apply to.

We'd like to help you decide whether Pembroke is the place for you - so here's what we think makes our college special.



“Pembroke is a community that values and celebrates achievements in all aspects of life, be it academics, sports, or social.”

Jen - Psychology

Interdisciplinary Impact

Our academics and students are committed to working closely together through unique initiatives and interdisciplinary projects. Weekly informal talks give opportunities for undergraduates, graduates and academics to present and discuss their research with each other.



As part of our informal talks programme, Physics student, Lizzie, presented her research on dark matter and primordial black holes to fellow students and academics from a range of disciplines and subject areas.

Collaboration Outside the Classroom

We encourage students to engage with the world outside of Oxford. From tackling the climate crisis to researching cutting-edge AI technology, our students prepare for the future in partnership with their tutors.



Our Biology students and tutor collaborated with the Institute of Research in Schools on a new project, Wild Things, which seeks to turn the tide on biodiversity loss by engaging young people in UK state schools.

Confronting Challenges

We have led the University in our development of new welfare support systems and our outreach to diverse communities, and our work is far from over.

We are also mindful of our responsibility to future generations and determined to reduce our impact on the planet. For us this involves creating an environment where sustainable choices are the norm and investing in decarbonised, future-proof infrastructure.

“Enjoy preparing students for a fast-paced technological future.”

Ana Namburete
Fellow and Tutor in Computer Science



© Paul Wilkinson Photography

Professor Ana Namburete giving the Royal Society Christmas Lecture on her research into AI and fetal brain development.



Supporting Your Studies

Alongside formal academic work, we encourage all students to find their own niche in sport, music, or any number of other College societies. There are also opportunities to get involved in our unique JCR Art Gallery, or to contribute to our research groups and centres.

You are guaranteed a room at Pembroke for all three years of your undergraduate degree. Whether you want an older, traditional Oxford-style room, or one of our newer, more modern accommodation options, you'll have the freedom to pick what works for you.

To help you along, you'll have access to personalised academic, welfare and careers support from our dedicated study skills tutor, our welfare team and our generous funding and travel awards.

Studying Here

At Pembroke you will learn alongside students from all around the world and come to know academics from the most junior to the most senior in the University.

Research-Led Tutorial Teaching

Oxford's unique tutorial teaching system, delivered by the colleges, is an opportunity for students to discuss their own work, either one-to-one or in small groups. Our tutors will encourage you to think critically about your subject, and about how you can advance the frontiers of knowledge. These are the skills that set our students apart when they leave Pembroke.

World-Class Resources on Your Doorstep

At Pembroke you will have access to resources here in College – most notably our people – as well as those of the wider University. Our students benefit from being in the heart of the city and close to some of the best resources available to students anywhere in the world.



“Degree courses at Oxford explore the foundations of knowledge. It is up to you to choose to apply that knowledge: from working to solve global problems to developing the next generation of computers.”

Dr Nicholas Cole
Academic Director

Tutorials are a space for communication and engagement between you, your tutor and other students - giving you the opportunity to take intellectual risks.



Study Skills Tutors

Pembroke was one of the first colleges to have a dedicated study skills team. Our Study Skills Tutors offer lectures, workshops, and one-to-one mentoring on the skills needed for a successful time at Pembroke and beyond.



McGowin Library and Study Rooms

Open 24/7, our on-site library and study spaces are available to Pembroke students. As well as key textbooks, the library offers a wealth of further reading for all our courses.

Our Librarian supports students as they learn to conduct independent research, guiding them through College and University resources.

Students are also welcome to explore our archives which hold treasures telling stories of Pembroke past and the changes in the world around us over our 400-year history.

“Library staff are here to help you with everything from learning about rare books to referencing an ebook.”

Laura Cracknell
Librarian

Diversity & Belonging

Pembroke's most valuable resource is its people, and we are proud to be home to students, academics and staff with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

Enriched by Difference

We know that we all benefit from being part of a diverse community of people who complement, challenge and inspire one another.

We work hard to make sure that Pembroke is a place where everyone is welcomed and supported to thrive, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds.



Access and Outreach

As the first Oxford college to appoint an Access Fellow, Pembroke has over 15 years' experience pioneering successful approaches to Access and Outreach. Through the OxNet and Pembroke Scholars programmes, we work with over 170 schools and approximately 400 pupils annually.

We engage with parents, carers and teachers, collaborate with industry and higher education partners, and provide academic opportunities which are designed to build academic resilience, curiosity and independence.



Our multi-faith prayer room is available to all students, while our Chapel welcomes speakers from a host of traditions.



Every summer a group of Year 12 pupils experience 'a week in the life of a Pembroke student'.



We partner with ThinkingBlack, an organisation founded by a Pembroke alumna to engage, equip and empower young Black voices.

“

The OxNet programme made me, a state-school student, feel like applying and getting into Oxford was totally achievable, something I hadn't thought possible previously.

Lennon - History

”





“

If you need support, there is always someone you can talk to and the conversation can be as formal or as informal and as you like!

Rebekah White, Student Support and Wellbeing Tutor

”

Student Support

At Pembroke we provide tailored support to help our students thrive academically and personally.

Welfare and Wellbeing

Welfare and wellbeing support is provided by our welfare team, committed to nurturing a safe, inclusive environment that promotes academic success and personal wellbeing. This begins at your transition to university and continues throughout your time here. From yoga to meadow walks, and painting to taekwondo, there are always new activities to try!

Disability

No disability or long-term health condition should be a barrier to studying at Oxford. We provide support across all areas of student life, from accommodation to exam adjustments. Whatever you need, all you need to do is ask.



Financial Support

We don't want any student to worry about money whilst at Pembroke. Generous support funds are available to ensure that every student can engage fully in all aspects of university life. Our staff provide expert, judgement-free guidance on making applications for financial support, navigating Student Finance, or managing budgets.

Study Skills and Mentoring

Our Study Skills Tutors and mentors offer one-on-one targeted support and guidance for students in all subject areas, from streamlining your notetaking to mastering procrastination or perfecting your academic writing.

Opportunities & Funding

Your Ideas Matter

Pembroke is at the forefront of international and interdisciplinary research, and our undergraduates are no exception.

We encourage students to think beyond what their tutorials teach them. With generous financial and practical support from Pembroke, students take on academic internships, organise conferences and undertake research around the globe.

What We Offer

- Financial backing for individual **student projects**, field trips and research.
- Funding for students to run **academic events and lectures**.
- **Generous book grants** for all students, so you never have to worry about the cost of a textbook.
- Funding towards the cost of **language courses** at the Oxford Language Centre.
- **Technos International Week**: a fully funded, two-week cultural exchange between Pembroke and Technos International College in Tokyo, Japan.



English student Lucien used our Tutorials Plus grant to visit the National Archives of Ireland to research for his dissertation about narrative forms and photography in the context of late 19th/early 20th century imperialism. The archives contained important diaries and letters of Roger Casement who was a consul in the Congo at the time.

Travel Prizes

A range of travel prizes allow Pembroke students to undertake travel, research and internships abroad during vacation periods.

From literary translation in Morocco, to conservation in Kenya, monastery libraries in Adalusia, and seahorse populations in Portugal, our students apply their academic interests in all sorts of industries and cultures around the world.



Maya spent two weeks at a field station in Borneo studying tropical forest ecology. She collected data, visited research sites, and carried out her own research project on the relationship between species of tropical plants and insects.

“The funding allowed me to engage with China on a scale I had not thought possible, and experience more than I could ever have alone.”

Marigold
Stanley Ho Travel Fund



Joshua travelled to Togo for a summer work placement with a newspaper in Lomé, writing summaries and critical analyses about Togolese books. He also attended a journalist convention, and in his free time he travelled, met locals and got to know the country and its culture.

Rokos Programmes

Rokos Awards

Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded for academic performance while at Pembroke. Each Scholar and Exhibitioner receives a prize of £700 - 1,000, a scholars' gown, an invitation to the Scholars' Dinner and public recognition in College.

Rokos STEM Internships

These offer Pembroke students the unique opportunity to take part in the latest scientific research through summer internships. Funds cover accommodation, academic and living expenses, with a generous stipend.



“I learned so much in a short space of time and got a taste of what real scientific research is like. I feel as though I have contributed (in a tiny way) to the advancement of research into AM symbiosis, which is extremely rewarding.”

Rhiannon
Rokos Award Recipient

Accommodation

We think that you'll thrive here when you feel at home and part of a community, but we know that everyone has different priorities when it comes to living spaces.

More Than Just a Room

At Pembroke, you can opt to live in College accommodation throughout your degree. This comes with a choice of various room sizes, contract lengths, catering set-ups, locations, prices and building styles – our accommodation is not one-size-fits-all!

As our friendly accommodation team get to know you over your time here, they'll work with you to meet your housing needs and preferences, even as these change.

It is important to us that all students have a comfortable space in which to live and study, so that they can focus on achieving their best.



Room types

- Standard with basin
- Double with basin
- En Suite
- Large En Suite
- Double En suite
- DDA En Suite
(Accessible Access)

Building style and location

- Newly refurbished
17th-century houses
- Historic quads
- Modern accommodation
buildings on our main site
- Shared flats at our riverside
accommodation annexe,
10 minutes from main site

Contract length

- Term-time only*
- 37 weeks
(October – June)
- 38/39 weeks
(September – June)

*All first-year undergraduates are on term-time contracts



A 24/7 Community

Living in College, you'll get to know not only those in your staircase or on your floor, but others from across your cohort and from different years - some of whom may just become friends for life.

We are a community of people who care for one another. From the scout who cleans your room, to the maintenance officer who sorts your dripping tap, or the Lodge porter on-duty when you forget your key; there is always someone nearby who cares.

Fit for the Future

We've invested in renovations around College which will ensure our site supports our community now and in the future. We're taking expert advice to ensure that our accommodation buildings are well-preserved, run sustainably, and provide a comfortable living environment for students.

So while our older buildings are a little quirky and unique, our bedrooms are nonetheless warm, comfortable and furnished to high modern standards.



Founded in Tradition

We are tucked in the historic heart of Oxford, just minutes from shops, libraries and green spaces. But, just off the beaten track in our quiet corner of Pembroke Square, visitors are often surprised by our spacious and peaceful quads.

On our main site, our five quads span as many centuries, bridging fifteenth-century architecture with modern facilities.

A short walk along the river will take you to our Sir Geoffrey Arthur Building (GAB) accommodation annexe, where many of our students choose to live in later years. A little further down the road is our sportsground and orchard, 'Pembfields', sitting among open fields and meadows.



Chapel Quad, Main Site



North Quad first-year accommodation, Main Site



The GAB accommodation annexe



Rokos Quad, Main Site

Reimagined for the Future

Our commitment to sustainability and accessibility shapes how we live and grow.

A Space for All

As we rework and reimagine our site as a twenty-first-century hub, we are making changes to ensure that everyone can benefit equally from our spaces and facilities, now and in the future. All main undergraduate spaces have step-free access; there are induction loops in key rooms; and DDA compliant accessible bedrooms are available.

Investment in Infrastructure

Our historic Dining Hall, GAB1 buildings, and Rokos Quad have all been decarbonised in recent years and are now warmed by Air Source Heat Pumps. Over half of the College estate now has decarbonised heating, including over 180 undergraduate bedrooms.

We've added secondary glazing in our listed buildings and carried out major renovations to ensure they can be used efficiently and comfortably.

Everyday Actions

Sustainability is embedded in everything we do. From the catering team monitoring and reducing food waste, promoting vegetarian options and creating seasonal menus, to our café team ditching disposable cups, and our gardener planting wildflowers to boost biodiversity; everyone at Pembroke plays a part in reducing our impact on the planet.

Pembfields

At our nearby sportsground, our JCR-led Biodiversity Project aims to protect and enhance biodiversity on Pembroke College land. Students carry out surveys, restore habitats, and invite the community to outreach events.

This is also the site of our Wellbeing Eco-Centre, where a new orchard, planted and maintained by students and staff, provides a quiet space with easy access to nature, as well as enhanced habitat and food sources for wildlife. In time we will be able to pick our own fruit!



We are working together to ensure that Pembroke continues to serve future generations without harming our planet.

Food & Drink

Our dining hall and on-site café are the heart of College life, bringing the whole community together over shared meals.

Our approach to food and drink emphasises inclusivity, diversity, creativity and sustainability. The catering team work hard to cater to all dietary requirements and preferences, providing a wide range of fresh and nutritious meal options every day. This means there is always something for everyone to enjoy, together.

Dining Hall

- Lunch and dinner served throughout the week
- Formal Hall dinners up to three times per week
- Themed dinners and guest nights throughout the year
- Varied menus and lots of choice
- Weekly Eco days with vegetarian-only meals



Farthings Café and Bar

- On-site and open 7 days a week
- A hub of College life
- Serves a range of hot and cold food and drink at subsidised prices
- Equally popular for studying, post-rowing breakfasts, and catching up with friends
- Open as a social space and hosts student events
- Serves a range of soft drinks and local ales
- Partnered with nearby Chadlington Brewery who focus on renewable technology and natural ingredients



Students work with the catering team to put on special dinners celebrating Lunar New Year, Eid, Diwali, Christmas, and more!

Behind the Scenes

Catering is provided by a large but close-knit team of chefs and hospitality staff who are committed to serving Pembroke and the wider community.

- Food is always fresh, and menus are shaped around seasonal produce
- The team work to limit food miles and use several local suppliers
- Skilled chefs with over 20 years' experience work with budding new talent on our renowned apprenticeship scheme
- We continually adapt to feedback, passed on through an anonymous form as well as weekly meetings between the JCR and the catering team



Student Life

Pursuing existing hobbies and stepping outside your comfort zone with new activities are important ways to have fun, feel at home and develop skills for the future.

Sports

Our students proudly represent Pembroke in sports at college and university level. Our own sportsground nearby has pitches, courts and a pavilion, while our successful rowing club train 10 minutes away at the boat house.

Our friendly atmosphere welcomes newcomers and experienced sportspeople alike. If we don't have a team that you're interested in, you can start your own!



Music and the Performing Arts

Our auditorium plays host to weekly music recitals, concerts, and the highlight of the year, our College musical.

Our Music Director works with students to run and grow our Chapel Choir, orchestra, jazz band and more, and we are part of the University's Choral Award and Organ Scholarship scheme.



Art Gallery

The Pembroke College Emery Gallery is our onsite art gallery run by a student committee. The JCR manages its own art collection, including pieces from many notable artists, and puts on regular public exhibitions with visiting artists. As well as getting involved with the gallery, students can borrow artwork to display in their rooms.



Social Responsibility

From Peminists, our intersectional feminist society, to the JCR Biodiversity Project, which aims to protect and restore biodiversity on Pembroke land, we encourage students to engage with and think critically about the world around them.



Representing Pembroke

Many students are actively involved in University societies, representing Pembroke and pursuing talents and interests in sports, social action, cultural and faith groups, music, the arts, journalism, and more.



When Sam was in Year 13, he took part in outreach events organised by the African and Caribbean Society (ACS). Two years later he was ACS President, a role he describes as “a lot of work” but “a privilege”.



We regularly cheer on students who row in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, including Annie who was also Women's President of the Oxford University Boat Club.



Beyond Pembroke

Whatever you choose to study at Pembroke, we'll help you to explore a wide variety of career paths.

A degree from the University of Oxford is highly valued by employers. But your employability also depends on you developing a range of skills and having opportunities to pursue interests outside your course.



History and Italian student Henry has long had an interest in filmmaking. He spent his year abroad at a film school in Rome, and recently produced a full-length documentary about Ukraine which was screened at a local cinema.



Pembroke's Preeti Simpson Medical Society brings Medicine students and alumni together for networking and mentorship opportunities. A recent event involved a talk with an anaesthetist working with Médecins Sans Frontières.

Our Alumni Community

Pembrokians form a strong and diverse global network of over 10,000 alumni. We can connect you with alumni in careers or organisations that interest you, offering a unique opportunity to pursue your goals.

From film and television, to business and technology, our students go on to a wide range of careers. We are proud that that Pembroke is a global community with global impact.



Beth Kume-Holland (History, 2013) works with businesses, governments and changemakers to promote accessibility and disability inclusion. She is founder and CEO of Patchwork Hub, a disabled-led social enterprise and accessible employment platform.



Freddy Oropeza (Chemistry, 2008) works on research and design of advanced materials for solar energy conversion at the IMDEA Energy Institute in Madrid.

Joint Courses*

* 'Joint courses', 'joint honours', 'joint schools' and 'joint degrees' all refer to studying more than one subject together!

The majority of our students study single subjects, but Pembroke is distinctive in admitting large numbers of students for joint honours courses.

Is a Joint Course Right for You?

Joint honours courses are not just about learning a wider range of material. Taught by two different faculties, they help you explore how different disciplines challenge and complement each other.

Studying a joint honours course is rewarding and challenging. You'll develop a broad range of skills and be able to pick from a wide selection of papers in both subjects.

Joint courses at Pembroke are often taught by tutors who in their own research are interested in combining the methodologies and skills of different subjects. Our tutors understand how to help you get the most out of studying joint courses and are committed to helping you succeed and manage your workload.

“Joint honours provide the rare opportunity to study two very different subjects in an integrated way, without losing the depth of either subject.”
— Hona



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Robo-dogs were used to gather data about species diversity.

Interdisciplinary Research

Many of our tutors are engaged in their own interdisciplinary work. Our Ecology Fellow, Professor Rob Salguero-Gómez, and our Engineering Fellow, Professor Nick Hawes, recently collaborated on a project which used robots and AI to monitor biodiversity!

Our Courses

At Pembroke, we offer a wide variety of single and joint courses. Below is a full list of the courses we offer. For each course, see the relevant page in the next section for more information, or head to pmb.ox.ac.uk/our-courses.

Arabic (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Biochemistry

Biology

Chemistry

Chinese (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Computer Science

Economics and Management

Engineering

English Language and Literature

English and Modern Languages

European and Middle Eastern Languages

Experimental Psychology

History

History and Economics

History and English

History and Modern Languages

History and Politics

Japanese (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Law

Law with Law Studies in Europe

Mathematics

Mathematics and Computer Science

Mathematics and Philosophy

Mathematics and Statistics

Medicine

Modern Languages

Modern Languages and Linguistics

Music

Philosophy and Modern Languages

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Philosophy and Theology

Physics

Physics and Philosophy

Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics (PPL)

Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Theology and Religion

Arabic



Professor Nicolai Sinai

Nicolai has published extensively on the Qur'an, such as its literary features and its relationship to earlier traditions, and on Muslim scriptural exegesis. He also has a strong interest in the history of philosophical and theological thought in the Islamic world.



Professor Fitzroy Morrissey

Fitzroy is a historian of Islamic thought, specializing in Sufism and Islamic law. He has written on the Sufi metaphysics of the Ibn 'Arabi tradition and Islamic reformist thought in the modern period, and is currently working on the treatment of music in Islamic legal literature.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have a robust work ethic.** Acquiring a good command of Arabic or another Middle Eastern language is rewarding, but it takes many hours of revision and memorisation!
- **Are careful writers.** The best way to work out your interpretation of a primary text or your view on a major academic controversy is through clear, argumentative, and well-supported prose.
- **Have curiosity and a broad mind.** The Middle East is a fascinating meeting ground of different communities, languages and religions. We want to see you develop your own interests and expertise and make full use of everything that Oxford and the year abroad have to offer.

“The teaching style, as well as being surrounded by world-class academics and others who care deeply about their research, creates such a motivating atmosphere.”

- Iona

Biochemistry



Professor André Furger

André is a molecular biologist whose research seeks to understand how eukaryotic cells adapt their gene expression in response to stress, such as cold temperatures, and during disease progression.



Dr Kirsty McHugh

Kirsty's research centres around the treatment and prevention of blood-stage malaria using monoclonal antibodies (mAbs). She is focussed on the discovery of novel mAbs and their use as therapeutic intervention and in vaccine development.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Are inquisitive, with a genuine enthusiasm for biochemistry.** Biochemistry is all about making connections between aspects of chemistry, physics and biology and applying this to the study of living organisms.
- **Actively engage in discussions.** You'll thrive here if you're willing to ask questions, listen to others, and share your thoughts to dive deeper into biochemistry topics.
- **Have an aptitude for problem-solving and data handling,** as well as a critical mindset when evaluating new information.

“My passion for biochemistry has been allowed to flourish here. It is wonderful to hear everyone talk about their subjects with such excitement and vigour. It creates an inspiring and motivating atmosphere to work in.”

- Rhiannon

Biology



Professor Rob Salguero-Gómez

Rob's research is focused on evolutionary ecology, including the evolution of ageing, life history theory, population forecast, and functional trait ecology. His research group uses interdisciplinary approaches to identify global rules of ecology and evolution.



Professor Rebecca Mosher

Rebecca's research investigates gene silencing and how epigenetic information such as DNA methylation is passed from parent to offspring. Her research group combines classical genetics and with modern genomics to study plant systems.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have a strong curiosity for the field of biology.** We want to see that you proactively follow your own interests outside of the curriculum.
- Are **studying a combination of quantitative topics** helpful for the study of biology. This might include Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Statistics or Programming.
- Could have previous experience in **biology projects** of their own, but this is by no means mandatory.

“In allowing myself to fully engage in the topic, including meeting with some of the leading researchers in the field, I found the sense of work greatly diminished.”

- Ruth

Chemistry



Professor Andy Baldwin

Andy's research uses biomolecular NMR techniques to study the function and malfunction of proteins in health and disease. Combining advanced NMR spectroscopy with interdisciplinary methods, he studies the structure and dynamics of proteins and their behaviour in the cell.



Professor Yimon Aye

Yimon's multidisciplinary research seeks to understand reactive small-molecule-driven cellular communication processes. Her work combines organic chemistry, biochemistry, chemical, cell and molecular biology and genetics to develop new therapeutic and technological treatments in human health.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have an exceptionally inquisitive mind.** You'll be keen to ask all sorts of questions and investigate problems boldly.
- **Are actively engaged in their lessons.** You will be asked to contribute to every tutorial and class.
- **Have thoroughly built their foundations for chemistry.** Working hard at school on Maths, Chemistry and other sciences will lay the groundwork for success.

“As I've immersed myself in topics and met leading researchers in the field, I have found that my studies have felt less and less like work.”

- Tatiana

Chinese



Professor Henrietta Harrison

Henrietta is a historian of modern China, specialising in social and cultural history. Her current research focusses on what it was like to live through China's Communist Revolution in 1949. She was shortlisted for the 2023 Wolfson History Prize for her book *The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire*.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Enjoy learning languages.** You don't need to have studied Chinese, but we do want you to have studied a foreign language and know what that is like.
- **Are interested in China.** That might mean that you like reading books about ancient China or watching Chinese films or following the news about China today.
- **Are well-organised and hard-working.** The Chinese degree is a very busy one with lots of language classes and homework as well as essay writing and tutorials so you need to be able to keep on top of all this.

“Studying Chinese at Pembroke has been an amazing experience! Although I originally interviewed at another college, I ended up being offered a place at Pembroke which I am extremely glad about.”

– Carla

Computer Science

Available as
a joint course



Professor Ana Namburete

Ana is a biomedical engineer turned computer scientist specialising in AI for medical imaging. She develops sustainable, data-efficient ultrasound algorithms to study early brain development, with real-world applications in global health. She featured in the 2023 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, just after publishing the first atlas of fetal brain growth. Ana passionately supports public engagement and inclusive mentoring.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Enjoy working with mathematics.** You don't need prior experience with computers, but you should feel confident manipulating mathematical ideas and applying familiar techniques to solve problems independently.
- **Are curious about how things work.** Whether you like experimenting and tinkering or prefer a systematic, structured approach, what matters is a desire to get to the underlying principles.
- **Think clearly, logically and creatively.** The course demands precise reasoning, the ability to develop and adapt ideas, and the enthusiasm to take on new concepts and challenges.
- **Stay organised.** Each week you'll tackle multiple problem sheets, so keeping on top of your work is essential to making the most of the course!

We also offer Computer Science as a joint course with:

- Mathematics

"I really like studying Computer Science at Pembroke - because we're a small college, Pembroke Computer Scientists get a tight-knit community where everyone knows everyone else and is always ready to help."

- Mikhail

Economics and Management



Dr Brian A'Hearn

Brian is an economic historian with a research focus on modern Italy and Europe. He studies technology, economic geography, institutions, human capital, and living standards.



Professor Pramila Krishnan

Pramila applies microeconomic and statistical methods to study diverse economic issues in developing countries.



Dr Eamonn Molloy

Eamonn is an expert in complex organisation design and the role of technology in professional and organisational change.



Dr Craig Holmes

Craig researches labour economics, with a focus on earnings inequality, the economics of education, skills policy and youth unemployment.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Can apply logic in creative ways.** We want to see that you can use basic economic logic to gain insight into human behaviour and the world's problems.
- **Have a broad intellectual interest.** You'll be intellectually curious, interested in current affairs, and keen to think beyond narrow fields or techniques.
- **Think critically and practically.** Economics at Pembroke is taught with an emphasis on policy-relevant questions, taking a critical approach to economic theory.

“As one of the largest E&M cohorts of all the colleges, the community here is especially strong and extends beyond academic relationships. It also means we have opportunities to work closely with tutors, who are on hand to support us.”

- Megan

Engineering



Professor Nick Hawes

Nick specialises in the development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques to enable autonomous, goal-driven behaviour in robots. He focusses on problems of sequential decision-making under uncertainty and is interested in how decision-making processes and model learning can improve real robot deployments. He is the Director of the Oxford Robotics Institute.



Professor Antonio Forte

Antonio's research sits at the intersection of mechanics, materials and robotics, where he studies how adaptive systems can sense, move and reconfigure themselves – what he likes to call 'robotic matter'. He is the founder of the Reconfigurable and Adaptive Designs Laboratory (RADlab). Anto sees engineering as a science and an art; a way to reveal and reimagine the hidden intelligence of the physical world.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have a deep, motivating interest in a particular area of engineering.** The Engineering degree will give you broad foundations across the subject, but you'll also need to be driven to develop specialised knowledge which will set you up as a successful engineer.
- **Think beyond the theory.** We want to see that you can creatively apply mathematical models to real-world problems. You'll be encouraged to obtain industrial experience to complement your academic studies.
- **Have good communication and collaborative skills.** A willingness to work with others to solve problems is a key part of engineering!

“Our tutors are friendly and helpful and explain the material in a way that we can all understand. The size of our cohort means we get to know each other well and help each other out.”

- Lara

English

Available as
a joint course



Professor Lynda Mugglestone

Lynda works on the social and cultural history of language. She is particularly interested in language change and standardisation, looking at spoken language, representation, race and gender, and the work of Pembroke's famous dictionary-writing alumnus, Samuel Johnson.



Professor Ushashi Dasgupta

Ushashi's research centres around nineteenth-century fiction, especially Dickens. She is interested in the relationship between literature, space, place, and architecture, as well as the nature of the novel and the global histories of reading.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Read widely.** We'd love to see that you read and enjoy reading a variety of texts, beyond your school syllabus if possible.
- **Think deeply and precisely about texts.** Studying English is about digging into the texts that capture your attention, engaging with their literary qualities and the ways in which they use language.

We also offer English as a joint course with:

- History
- Modern Languages

“The tutors at Pembroke are so friendly and supportive as well as incredibly knowledgeable about every aspect of your degree; having that one-on-one time with experts every week is invaluable.”

- Tabitha

History

Available as
a joint course



Professor Adrian Gregory

Adrian is a historian of twentieth-century Britain and Europe, with a particular interest in the First World War and its aftermath. He has written on the public's reaction to the war, the experience of the home front, and the change in historians' perspectives on war.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Can demonstrate that they are interested in understanding the past.** We want to hear you talk about what you have read, and why have you been drawn to study particular episodes in history.
- **Read evidence sensitively and analytically.** Studying History involves thinking about what different sources tell us about the past and what new questions they raise.
- **Enjoy evaluating different explanations of historical events.** You'll need to be able to make a case for why some explanations are more or less persuasive than others.

We also offer History as a joint course with:

- Economics
- English
- Modern Languages
- Politics

“A favourite memory from Pembroke is the ‘Belonging’ seminars for first year Historians. I think they helped us to realise how much our studies shape the way we look at the world, and encouraged us to take ourselves more seriously just as we were starting out at Oxford.”

– Hailey

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Japanese



Professor Linda Flores

Linda's research areas include Japanese women writers, gender theory, trauma fiction, proletarian literature, and contemporary Japanese literature. Her publications have addressed topics such as the intersection of class and gender as well as motherhood and the family.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have 'done their homework'.** We don't expect candidates to have studied Japanese before, but you should have a clear concept of what it will entail. Some research into the Japanese language as well as history, literature, and/or culture will help you determine whether this is the right course for you.
- **Come as they are.** There is no singular model of an ideal Oxford student. At interview, we want to see you, your particular talents, interests, and academic abilities – be yourself!
- **Stay calm.** An admissions interview is not us waiting for you to trip up. We want you to be at ease (as much as possible) so that we can fully understand your potential for the course.

“Everyone shares a common passion for Japanese and Japan, but all have their own interests, both within the subject and extra-curricular. This makes for a diverse and fun subject group at Pembroke.”

- Jonathan

Law

Available as
a joint course



Professor Rebecca Williams

Rebecca's background is in public law and criminal law. Her work increasingly focuses on the relationship of law and technology, particularly in relation to Algorithmic Decision Making.



Dr Or Brook

Or's work focuses on competition law and its operation across the UK and EU. She has a particular interest in applying empirical methods to examine how legal rules and policies function in practice.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have a genuine interest in law and legal thinking.** We encourage students not just to learn what the law is, but to think about what it should be.
- **Enjoy reading!** The course involves reading, digesting and commenting on large amounts of material.
- **Can think analytically and critically.** We're looking to see that you spot small points of difference between texts or fact situations and understand the logical implications of what can seem like quite a small detail.

We also offer Law as a joint course with:

- Law Studies in Europe

“What sets apart Pembroke Law is the constant attention and help provided by our amazing tutors.”

- Daniel



Mathematics

Available as
a joint course



Professor Damian Rössler

Damian is interested in algebraic geometry and number theory, especially Arakelov theory and function field arithmetic. He has recently shifted focus to the history and philosophy of mathematics, particularly early twentieth-century British mathematics.



Professor Raphael Hauser

Raphael's research interests lie in data science, numerical optimisation, medical imaging, distributed computing, and in applied probability and statistics. He enjoys the challenge of designing mathematical models applicable to real-world problems.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Are prepared to consider and absorb new concepts.** You'll also need to show intellectual curiosity in these concepts.
- **Show interest in studying mathematics as a subject,** not only as a step to a career.
- **Are prepared to work hard.** The Mathematics course is challenging but rewarding!

We also offer Mathematics as a joint course with:

- Philosophy
- Statistics
- Computer Science

I applied to study Mathematics because I love solving puzzles and working through a problem by applying logic. I have loved my time at Pembroke and have been able to immerse myself in both my Mathematics degree and the friendly and supportive community.

- George

Medicine



Professor Fredrik Karpe

Fredrik is a physician-scientist whose research focuses on human adipose tissue function and the metabolic consequences of obesity. His research group studies the links between human fat distribution and diabetes and cardiovascular disease.



Professor Megan Carey

Megan is a neuroscientist whose research combines quantitative behavioural analysis, genetics and physiology to understand how the brain controls learned and coordinated movement.



Dr Lois Brand

Lois is Associate Director of Oxford's Clinical Course and leads on pastoral care in the school. Her background is in emergency medicine and elderly emergency care. She advises nationally on medical career management.



Dr Richard Harrington

Richard is the Associate Director of the Graduate Entry Medicine course at Oxford. He was a GP locally from 1990 to 2022 and continues to work clinically as a locum GP.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Are more than academically strong.** During the interview we want to see that a candidate really understands what a career in medicine is all about.
- **Have a love of learning.** Students should be able to think on their feet and have good communication skills.
- **Have the qualities that we want in a colleague.** Someone that I would want to be my doctor when I'm old and frail!

“One of the great things about Medicine is the breadth of career options it presents, offering the opportunity to craft a career which makes full use of your talent.”

- Dr Lois Brand

Modern Languages

Available as
a joint course



Dr Tim Farrant

Tim's main research areas are nineteenth-century French prose fiction and literature and the visual arts. He has also explored processes of composition, press, publishing, translation and cultural exchange.



Professor Guido Bonsaver

Guido's research interests include twentieth-century Italian culture and the relationship between political history and narrative. He has recently written on fascist censorship, migration and Italy/USA relations.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have a genuine interest in the language.** We want to see that a baseline good linguistic knowledge is accompanied by an already cultivated interest in the language you're applying for.
- **Enjoy reading, watching and listening to work on and about the language.** This might include novels, history books and films. We want to hear about your interests and to know how you have expanded and nurtured them.

We offer all Modern Languages courses except for: Czech (with Slovak), Polish and Russian.

We also offer Modern Languages as a joint course with:

- English
- History
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- European and Middle Eastern Languages

"I feel so lucky to have inspiring tutors who have developed my love of my degree. And to be surrounded by other students who have as much passion as me for learning about languages and cultures!"

- Mairead

Music



Dr Alexander Binns

Alex is interested in late nineteenth and twentieth-century music. His research focuses on music in film; music in Japanese culture; opera; musical modernism, and music as an interdisciplinary phenomenon and its relationship with space and geography.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have a broad interest in music and its place in culture and society.** You might also be a composer or performer, as well as having an interest in music history and in how the use of music outside of the music hall shapes society.
- **Think about music as a global phenomenon.** We're looking for candidates whose interests extend beyond standard repertory and styles, including world music, electronic music and popular music, among many others.
- **Consider how their listening practice is shaped by assumptions and context.** You'll ask critical questions about the effects of the ideas we hold about music, the different ways we listen to or hear music in different places, and how music can have political and economic effects.

Studying Music at Pembroke is so rewarding because of the diversity of the course and our active musical community.

There is something for everybody!

- Alastair

Philosophy



Professor Guy Kahane

Guy's research focuses on questions in ethics. He is interested in what makes lives good or meaningful, and in questions about the value and significance of the world as a whole.



Professor James Read

James' research is in the philosophy of physics, which is the interrogation of theories of physics and what they say about the nature of reality - from Newtonian mechanics to general relativity, quantum mechanics, and beyond.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Can think critically but fairly.** It's important that you can think not only about your own view but about those of others, and that you can articulate your thoughts in a clear and organised way.
- **Enjoy abstract problems for their own sake!**
- **Can reason their way through complicated problems.** While it is good if you are already interested in philosophy, we do not expect candidates to arrive with any background in the area.

Philosophy is only available as a joint course with:

- Maths
- Modern Languages
- Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Physics
- Psychology and Linguistics (PPL)
- Theology

“We have an expert group of tutors with a variety of specialisations and a tight-knit community in both subjects. Regular reading groups and talks provide fun opportunities to explore a variety of philosophical areas.”

- Dylan

Physics

Available as
a joint course



Professor Tim Woollings

Tim's work focusses on the physics of atmospheric circulation and how this shapes weather and climate patterns around the world. He works closely with the Met Office on today's pressing weather and climate issues.



Professor Morgan Wascko

Morgan's research is in the vibrant field of neutrino physics, a branch of high energy particle physics. He builds experiments to study neutrino flavour oscillation, exploring how neutrinos change as they propagate through space.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Keep questioning and are inquisitive.** We are all sometimes guilty of pretending we understand something when, in reality, we could go deeper.
- **Have the ability to take on new information and then run with it.** We look for students who persevere through problems and see how much further a new idea can take them.

We also offer Physics as a joint course with:

- Philosophy

“Working together is encouraged in Physics at Pembroke, so you'll often find a group of Physicists (including joint courses!) in a study room working through a problem sheet together.”

- Abby

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)



Professor Stephen Whitefield

Stephen specialises in post-communist politics and society, researching how emotions drive support for anti-democratic and illiberal politics.



Professor Pramila Krishnan

Pramila applies microeconomic and statistical methods to study diverse economic issues in developing countries.



Professor Guy Kahane

Guy is interested in questions in ethics, particularly what makes lives good or meaningful.



Dr Brian A'Hearn

Brian is an economic historian with a research focus on modern Italian economics.



Professor James Read

James researches the philosophy of physics, exploring what physics theories say about the nature of reality.



Dr Craig Holmes

Craig researches labour economics, with a focus on earnings inequality, education, skills policy and youth unemployment.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Can apply logic in creative ways.** You'll be keen to use basic economic logic to gain insight into human behaviour and the world's problems.
- **Have a broad intellectual and current affairs interest.** We want to see that you'll think beyond narrow fields or techniques and have a strong moral compass.
- **Are interested in the big political questions facing the world.** Studying here involves asking how academic study might help resolve these problems.

“The community is close-knit and you develop a really strong network of relationships with others alongside you which continues throughout your time here!”

- Sara

Psychology (Experimental)

Available as
a joint course



Professor Hannah Smithson

Hannah's research focuses on the neural mechanisms that underlie perception. She is fascinated by how the eye and brain process visual information and addresses this question primarily through psychophysical experiments.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Find joy in finding out new things!** We like to see some spark and a buzz when ideas are connected.
- **Can manage the demands of the course.** We look for students who are able to think logically, can evaluate empirical evidence and consider issues from different perspectives.
- **Are interested in psychology as a scientific discipline.** The course at Oxford involves a substantial amount of practical work and experimentation, concentrating on biological, human experimental, cognitive, social and developmental psychology.

We also offer Psychology as a joint course with:

- Philosophy and Linguistics

“The Psychology community at Pembroke is strongly integrated between year groups, allowing older Psychologists to share their experiences and advice.”

- Lexi

Theology and Religion

Available as
a joint course



Professor Justin Jones

Justin is a historian of religion in the modern world, specialising in Islam and the region of South Asia (the Indian subcontinent). His research focuses on religious revitalisation and the remaking of religious authority within Islam.



The Reverend Dr Andrew Teal

Andrew is the College Chaplain as well as a tutor. His research areas include Christology, art and theology, and Patristic theology. He is also interested in dialogue and theology.

Our tutors are looking for students who:

- **Have a genuine interest in the subject.** It's important that you can approach your studies with an open mind, regardless of your own beliefs.
- **Are curious about a wide range of topics.** Theology is a diverse degree, and you can take courses which would fit into Philosophy, Classics, History, Languages, Asian/Middle Eastern Studies, Literature or Anthropology, among others.
- **Are resilient and find strategies to remain motivated.** You'll need commitment to work at different topics at the same time, and topics which are not your favourite.

We also offer Theology as a joint course with:

- Philosophy
- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

“One week I would be writing an essay about the formation of the Hebrew Bible; the next, about the presentation of the Christ-like figure Aslan in The Chronicles of Narnia.”

– Chimdinma



What Next?

We hope that you've had a chance to explore whether Pembroke might be for you, but there are lots of other ways you can find out more about us.

Visit Us at an Open Day

From tours of College with Student Ambassadors, to drop-in sessions with subject tutors, Open Days are a great way to find out more about life at Pembroke. These take place every year in late June or early July, and in mid-September.

Still Have Questions?

Our Admissions Team are on hand to answer any questions about studying here and the admissions process. You can email them anytime on admissions@pmb.ox.ac.uk.



Apply

Perhaps you've seen enough, and you've decided to apply to Pembroke. If that's the case, we look forward to hearing from you! To learn more about the application process, head to www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate.

Stay in Touch with the Pembroke Community

You can visit our website or follow us on social media to see more about life at Pembroke and the research and achievements of our students and tutors.

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