



## Spring, Fall and Combined Semester Programmes 2019-20

### Brief introduction

The Spring and Fall Semester Programmes offer an exceptional opportunity to experience life as an undergraduate in one of the most distinguished university cities in the world. Each year Pembroke College accepts less than 30 students in the Fall and around 40 in the Spring.

These prestigious programmes require students to meet the same high standards as those applying for an undergraduate degree at Cambridge. By matriculating, students become a full member of the University and Pembroke College, and thus take the same lectures and participate in the same extracurricular activities as Cambridge students. Semester students also live in College hostel accommodation.

Many students use their time on the programme to prepare for an honours thesis or to open up new areas of independent study. Some are so inspired by their experience that they return to Cambridge for graduate degrees.

### Teaching and Learning on the Semester Programmes

The **supervision** system is one of the distinctive features of the Cambridge undergraduate teaching system. Cambridge students attend lectures and seminars offered by the University but also typically attend a one-hour weekly supervision, either individually or in small groups, with an expert in the course, or Paper, they are taking. The supervisor will set weekly essays based upon lengthy reading lists and material from relevant lecture and seminar courses. The emphasis is not on 'contact hours' but on closely guided, research-based essay writing and problem-solving.

All students are assigned a **Director of Studies** to look after their academic welfare. The Director of Studies is involved in the admissions process and prepares incoming students for the courses, organises supervisions, monitors progress and deals with any academic problems that might arise.

Semester students are also assigned to a personal **Tutor**, who takes a close interest in the progress of their studies and also in their other interests and activities. Beside an interest in a student's academic work, he or she is also there to help in matters of general welfare and to give guidance, advice and help when this is wanted; and to help students get the most out of being in Cambridge and Pembroke.

## Choice of courses

The subjects that we offer are:

- Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
- Archaeology
- Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
- Classics
- Economics
- Education
- English
- History
- History of Art
- Human, Social, and Political Science
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion.

Within all faculties though there will be papers that are unavailable to take. This will be discussed with you on a case-by-case basis during the application process. We support those in Group 1: <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/fees>.

Cambridge students choose courses, or **papers** as they are called here, according to the part of the Tripos they are studying. As a semester student you have a wider choice than regular undergraduates, in that you can generally choose papers from any Part of the Tripos. The reason for this greater latitude is that semester students do not take the regular University exams; instead they take College based exams which are equivalent to University exams, but which are designed to reflect what they have studied during their time at Cambridge.

When choosing papers you should choose those which are relevant to your major, unless previously discussed with the IP Director during the application process. In most subjects it will be appropriate to work on two papers per semester. The exact arrangements for your papers and supervisions will vary depending on your subject, paper choices and whether you are spending the Fall semester, Spring semester or full year at Pembroke.

## Contact hours, workload, assessment and credits

Students on the Semester programme take two papers per semester. If choosing to combine the two semesters and spend a full academic year at Pembroke, students would take a total of four papers.

The amount of prescribed contact hours at Cambridge is lower than at many other institutions, but much more individualised and tailored to each student. As described above, rather than high numbers of lectures or large classes, the focus is on very small-group supervisions (no more than four students at most – often just one or two), in which students explore the topic at hand under the guidance of their supervisor.

Semester students usually have a weekly one-hour supervision, for which they should expect to do a substantial amount of preparation in terms of reading, research and preparing a piece of written work to be submitted in advance. This will then serve as the starting point for an in-depth discussion during the supervision.

Supervisors will advise which lectures are most useful, but attendance at lectures is not monitored. It is up to the individual student to decide how to spend and structure the rest of their time, although the student's Tutor, Director of Studies and supervisor will always be happy to provide advice and guidance.

Assessment normally takes the form an exam for each Paper, either at the end of the relevant Cambridge term or at the end of the semester. Semester students do not take the regular University exams, known as Tripos exams, but instead take College exams designed to reflect what they have studied during the programme. The assessment for grading purposes is made on the basis of these exams and on the work that the student has submitted throughout the term.

It is also sometimes possible, to submit a dissertation (normally of 6,000 to 8,000 words) instead of sitting an exam. This must first be discussed with the student's Director of Studies, who will liaise with the supervisor to establish if a particular Paper would lend itself to assessment by dissertation. This is a particularly popular option with students attending the Spring Semester Programme who need to leave the programme early in order to undertake an internship in the US.

Students usually receive 12 US credits per paper, although the final decision as to the amount of credit allocated rests with the student's home institution.

## Fees

Please see the relevant sections of our website for a full breakdown of what is included in the programme costs.

	Fall Semester Programme 2019	Spring Semester Programme 2020	Combined Semester Programme 2019-20
University fee:	£6,719	£13,438	£20,157
Programme fee:	£13,608	£13,608	£27,216
Housing fee:	£3231	£4,616	£8,771
Total:	£21,942	£31,662	£56,144

Once a student has been offered and accepted a place on one of the programmes, a deposit of 15% of the total fees is required to secure their place. If the student is in receipt of financial aid and can provide proof of this, they will pay a flat deposit of £1500 (for the Fall or Spring Semester programme) or £3000 (for the Combined Programme).

## Application process

You will need to have completed at least two years of study at your home university before beginning your semester at Cambridge, and you should normally possess a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75. If you have a lower GPA but have been adversely affected by special circumstances then your application may be considered, and if this is the case you should send a supporting statement with the application explaining your situation.

Applications must be submitted using an online application system, via our website. As part of your application you will be asked to upload two essays written during your course of study that have been graded by your instructors. Ideally you should submit essays which have the lecturers' comments and grade written on the essays but this may be difficult if an essay has been marked and then the comments given electronically. Therefore if an essay does not have a lecturer's annotation and a grade shown on it a copy of the lecturer's comments and grade must be submitted with the essay. If you have any difficulty uploading these documents, it is possible to submit your application without them, and then email them directly to [semester@pem.cam.ac.uk](mailto:semester@pem.cam.ac.uk).

We also require an academic transcript, or similar document indicating your academic performance at your university, and two academic references written by faculty at your home university who are familiar with your work. These must be sent directly by a representative of your institution or the individual referees, and can be sent to us by post or email.

Applications are considered on a rolling basis and, given the intense competition for places, you should apply early. We aim to communicate our decision within three weeks of receiving a complete application.

The closing dates for applications are as follows:

**Fall Semester 2019:** 1 May 2019

**Spring Semester 2020:** 27 September 2019

**Combined Semester Programme 2019-20:** 1 May 2019