



Murray Edwards College

University of Cambridge

About Murray Edwards College

Murray Edwards College is a college for women at the University of Cambridge. We were founded in 1954 to welcome outstanding young women of potential to Cambridge, no matter what their background, and to provide the best education for female students possible. More than 60 years later, this mission remains at the heart of our existence.



MARTIN BOND

As a woman at Murray Edwards, you get the best of both worlds – working in a world-class co-educational University, but living in an environment tailored to women’s needs and ambitions. We have a vibrant young Fellowship of both men and women who are as dedicated to encouraging and challenging you as they are to producing world-class research of their own. And we’re proud to say that this approach works: over 93% of our finalists graduate with a 1st or 2:1, well above the University average.

A number of our Fellows are also committed to improving the recruitment and teaching of women at a subject-level across the University, particularly in the Sciences, Maths, and Engineering. This puts Murray Edwards at the cutting edge of innovation in these subjects. Although we only make up around 2% of undergraduate students at the University of Cambridge, around 10% of all female Science undergraduates study with us.

Our buildings and grounds are light and airy, inspiring not intimidating, and we are able to house all undergraduates on site or very close by, with many en-suite rooms, which helps to strengthen the powerful sense of community here.

Whatever you wish to study, we hope you will find a home at Murray Edwards.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Charlotte's day



I am a first year Music student here at Murray Edwards. I grew up in London, and took A Levels in Music, History and English, as well as attending the Junior Trinity Conservatoire Programme. I initially considered taking performance at conservatoire, before realizing that the comprehensive Music course at Cambridge was perfect for me as it fulfilled all my academic interests but would still allow me to explore my passion.



CHARLOTTE CONNAL,
FIRST YEAR MUSIC STUDENT

I initially applied to Clare College, and was pooled to Murray Edwards. At first I was apprehensive about studying in an all-girls environment as I had always attended unisex schools, however after visiting college for the Offer Holders' stay I completely fell in love with Medwards (as students affectionately refer to the College) and knew that I had to come here!

The Cambridge course covers pretty much everything in first year - we don't all have the same musical backgrounds, so the focus is on ensuring that everyone has the same basic knowledge of analysis, history and harmony from the start. You can choose to specialize in composition or performance, or write an extended essay - I'm writing an essay where I compare Paganini to rock musicians, combining my two favourite genres of music. In the second and third year, you get even more choice, and you can look at some really specific, fascinating topics - there's an entire paper just on Bizet's *Carmen*, for example!

A typical day for me might include a 9:30-11am lecture (followed by free coffee and biscuits in the Music Faculty if it's a Thursday!). I usually have lunch with my Music friends, then, I might study in the Faculty Library or have a supervision. I usually go back to College in the afternoon, where I'll do a short practice and eat dinner with my College friends. Most nights, I have a rehearsal from 7:30-10:30pm. There is an incredible amount of music-making going on in Cambridge, and I've played violin and viola in a variety of ensembles - from the Cambridge University Orchestra and Sinfonia to student-run ensembles, including a performance of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto no. 3* with a world-renowned soloist! When I get back to College after rehearsal, I might have a film night with my friends, go clubbing, or ring up one of my friends from back home.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Amy's day



'Dome is home' is a phrase that will surely greet you at your arrival to Murray Edwards. Dome, of course, has to be one of everyone's favourite parts of Medwards; I love coming back after a long day of labs and lectures and seeing the iconic hive we live in!

Meals, formals, bops - Dome brings us together. It holds so many happy memories, right from my Offer Holder's stay, to hosting my own Offer Holder recently.

Another one of my favourite parts of Medwards is the lovely gardens and the gardeners that tend to them - their quirky installations, inspirational quotes and highly aesthetic Instagrams never fail to put a smile on my face. It's amazing to be able to walk (on the grass) around the grounds; there are so many pockets of beauty waiting to be appreciated.

My typical day as a NatSci begins with two hours of lectures in the morning, six days a week. On three days a week I also have a

lab of some sort; these can vary in length from five hours to just a couple of hours. I also have supervisions four times a week, any time which I arrange with my supervisors.

College also hosts huge numbers of extracurricular clubs. This term I've been involved in 'House Hall Fitz,' a mixed lacrosse team joint with Peterhouse and Fitzwilliam colleges, and it's such a great chance to relax and have fun while representing Medwards.

Medwards makes up such a safe haven for students: open and welcoming, for support, fun, inspiration... pretty much everything you could ever need!

Amy is pictured second from right in the middle row with her lacrosse team.



AMY BOWEN,
FIRST YEAR NATURAL
SCIENCES STUDENT

Gateway

Our exciting Gateway programme complements the academic support you receive through your Directors of Study and Tutors, encouraging you to understand how you best learn, explore where you want to be in the future and providing the expert guidance to help you get there.



WINSTON SANDERS



Gateway is an amazing opportunity to meet new people and talk to professionals. The programme is unique to Medwards, and one of my favourite things about the College!

PAULA STRUTHOFF, SECOND YEAR GEOGRAPHY STUDENT

In your first year, Gateway focuses on helping you to adjust to life at Cambridge, exploring the practical skills that you need to ‘work smarter not harder’ – for example, tips to help you get the most from a supervision. In your second and third years, the programme shifts towards helping you understand yourself and where you want to be in the future and provides the practical guidance that will help you achieve these ambitions – from connecting you to internship and work shadowing opportunities, to running sessions on what makes a good CV and facilitating interview practice via live online tools.

At the heart of Gateway is student-to-student support. The programme pairs first year students with a second or third year who is studying the same subject as them and can act as a ‘student advisor’, bringing to life the skills taught in each Gateway session by sharing their own real life examples, as well as being another friendly face to look out for you around College.

The modern architecture of our buildings, set amidst our beautiful gardens, offers a unique space in which our students live and work.

Food

You have the option to cook your own meals in shared kitchens, or you can choose to eat in our light and spacious dining hall, enhanced by a display of contemporary art and distinguished by our iconic dome ceiling. There is always a full, affordable and varied menu, with vegan and vegetarian options for every meal. The quality of our food is well-known throughout Cambridge and our Saturday brunch is famous among students from all Colleges!



WINSTON SANDERS



LAURA PANNACK/CAM

Accommodation

Our spacious site close to the centre of Cambridge allows us to provide affordable accommodation on site or very nearby for the duration of your degree. Because of this, there is a strong sense of community among our students. All first years live together in

Pearl House, located in the heart of our gardens, and in your later years you can choose to live in other accommodation on site or in one of our nearby houses. Wherever you choose, your room will have central heating, wifi and access to shared kitchens.

FRONT AND BACK
COVER IMAGES:
MARTIN BOND AND
WINSTON SANDERS



One thing that struck me when I came on an Open Day to Murray Edwards in year 12 was how much of an empowering environment it was here and how they really encourage you to get involved in things beyond your degree to really follow your passion and do the things you're interested in.



MIRIAM QUINN,
HUMAN, SOCIAL,
AND POLITICAL
SCIENCE (HSPS)



HEATHER SMITH,
SECOND YEAR
BIOLOGICAL NATURAL
SCIENCES



The past two years have been some of the most transformative of my life here at Murray Edwards College. I've tried rowing, I've become Access Officer for the JCR and have helped organise a new lecture series on climate change. I've never had so many new opportunities.





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