



# Applying to Oxbridge

# The Emmanuel Outreach Team



**TOM**

- Schools Liaison Officer
- BA Modern & Medieval Languages
- Trinity College



**FRAN**

- Outreach & WP Coordinator
  - BA English Literature
  - Emmanuel College



# Competitive Universities



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



UCAS

RUSSELL  
GROUP



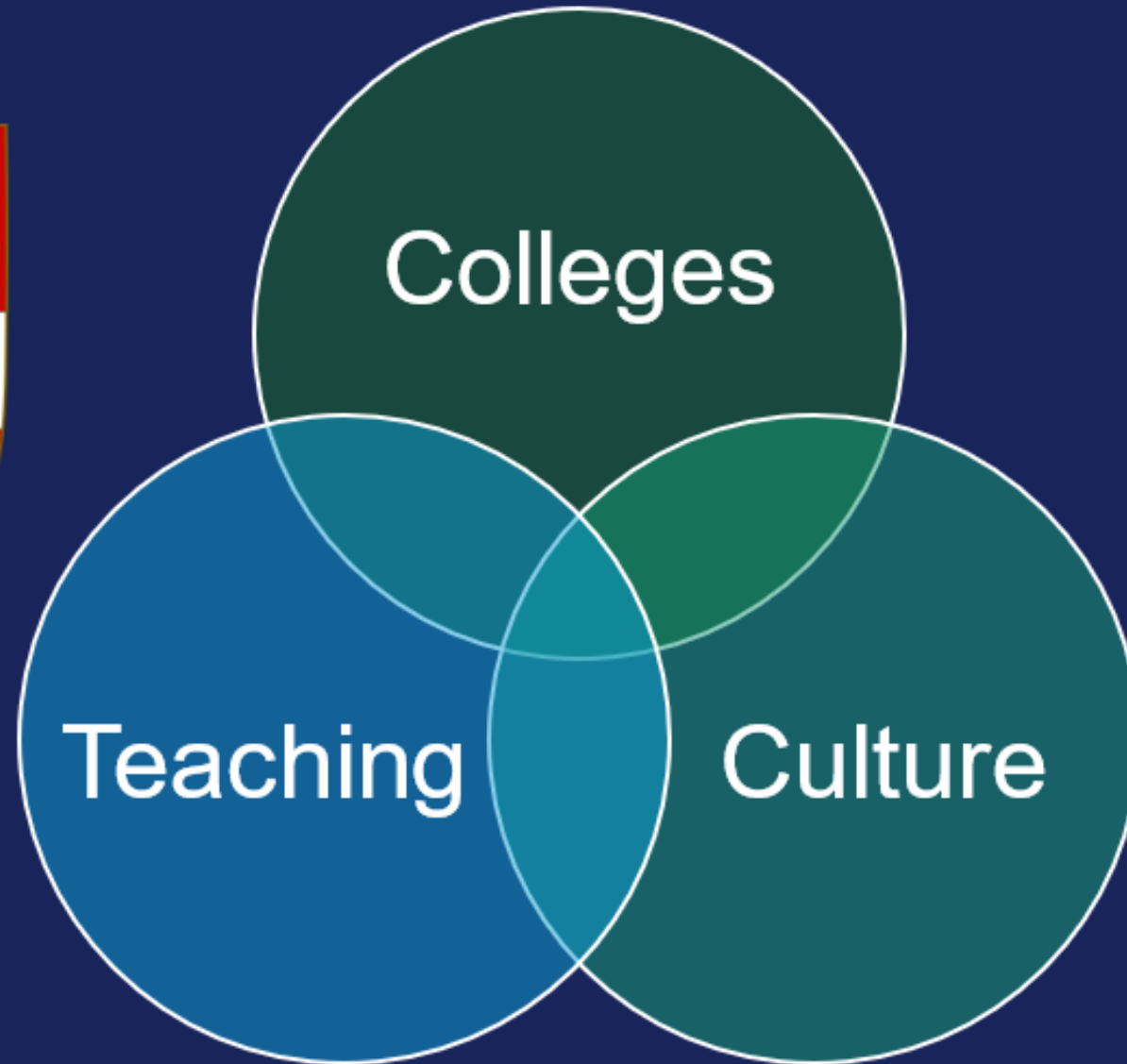
Email Us: [outreach@emma.cam.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@emma.cam.ac.uk)  
Follow us: [@emmanuelcollegeoutreach](https://www.instagram.com/emmanuelcollegeoutreach)





Why Oxbridge?

# Key Differences



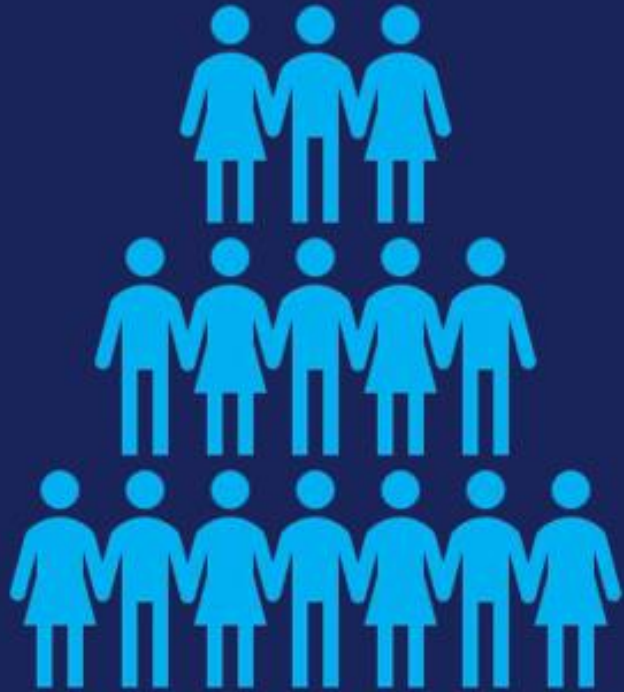
The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular crest of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The crest is centered and consists of a lion rampant holding a wreath in its mouth. The words "EMMANUEL" and "COLLEGE" are arched across the top, and "CAMBRIDGE" is arched across the bottom, separated by dots.

# Teaching at Oxbridge



Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, Archaeology Architecture  
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Chemical Engineering  
and Biotechnology Classics Computer Science Economics  
Education Engineering English Foundation Year in Arts,  
Humanities and Social Sciences Geography History History  
and Modern Languages History and Politics History of Art  
Human, Social, and Political Sciences Land Economy Law  
Linguistics Mathematics Medicine Modern and Medieval  
Languages Music Natural Sciences Philosophy

# Supervision/Tutorial System



Lecture



Seminar/  
Practical



Supervision



The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular crest of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The crest is centered and consists of a lion rampant holding a wreath in its right paw. The words "EMMANUEL • COLLEGE" are arched across the top, and "CAMBRIDGE" is arched across the bottom, separated by a small dot.

# Collegiate Structure

# Colleges

- 31 colleges in Cambridge
- 29 undergraduate colleges
- 2 female-only (Newnham & Murray Edwards)
- 80 – 200 students per year



Emmanuel College  
Cambridge



Fitzwilliam  
College  
Cambridge



King's College  
Cambridge



St John's College  
Cambridge

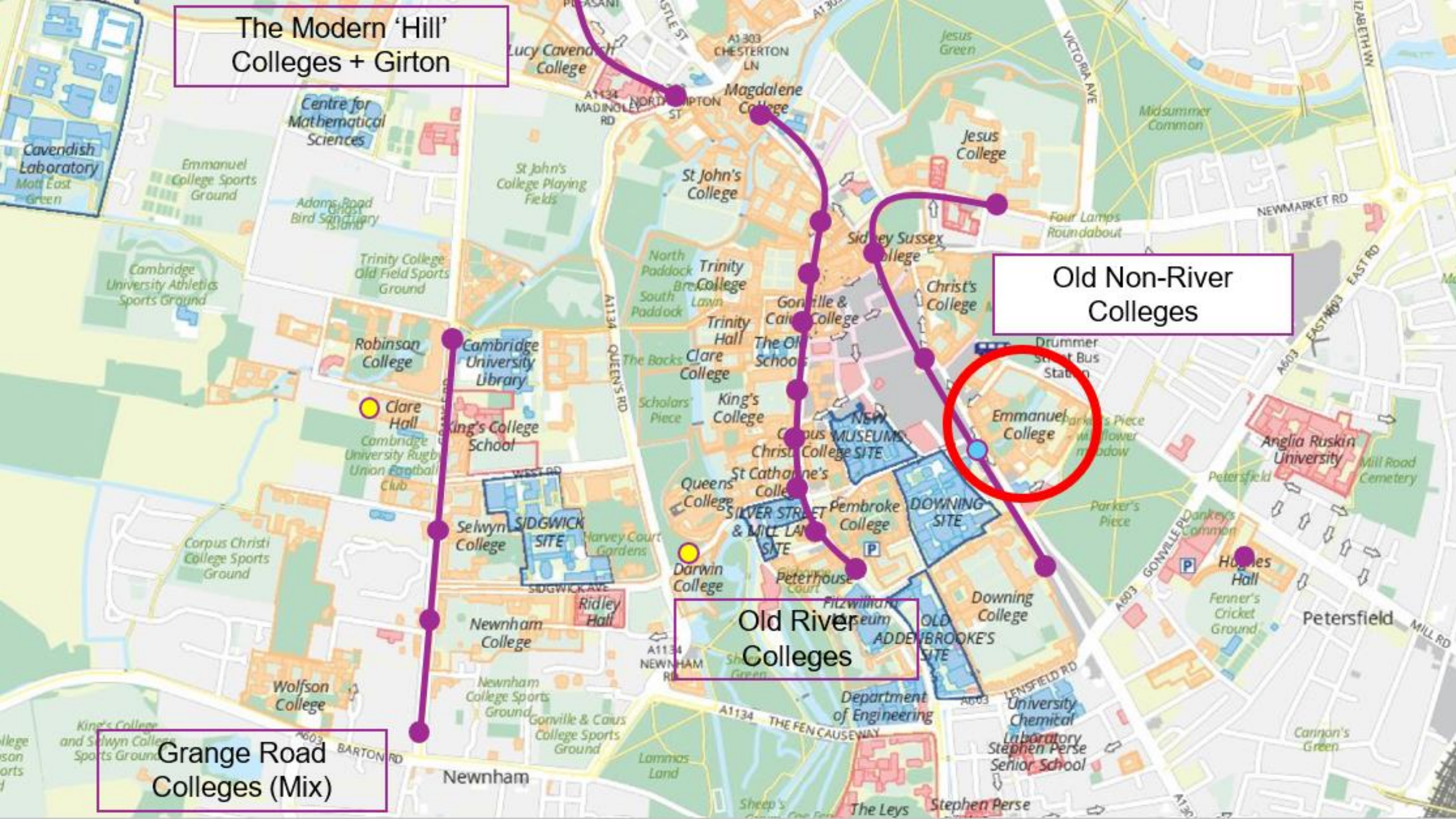


The Modern 'Hill'  
Colleges + Girton

Old Non-River  
Colleges

Old River  
Colleges


Grange Road  
Colleges (Mix)





# But who do I apply to?

## Your choices

 **Your confirmed place**

University of Oxford 033

Mathematics

**Campus:** I

**Start date:** 1 Oct 2021

**Start from:** Year On

Congratulations! Your place at University of Oxford to study Mathematics is confirmed.

(Unconditional offer (firmly accepted))

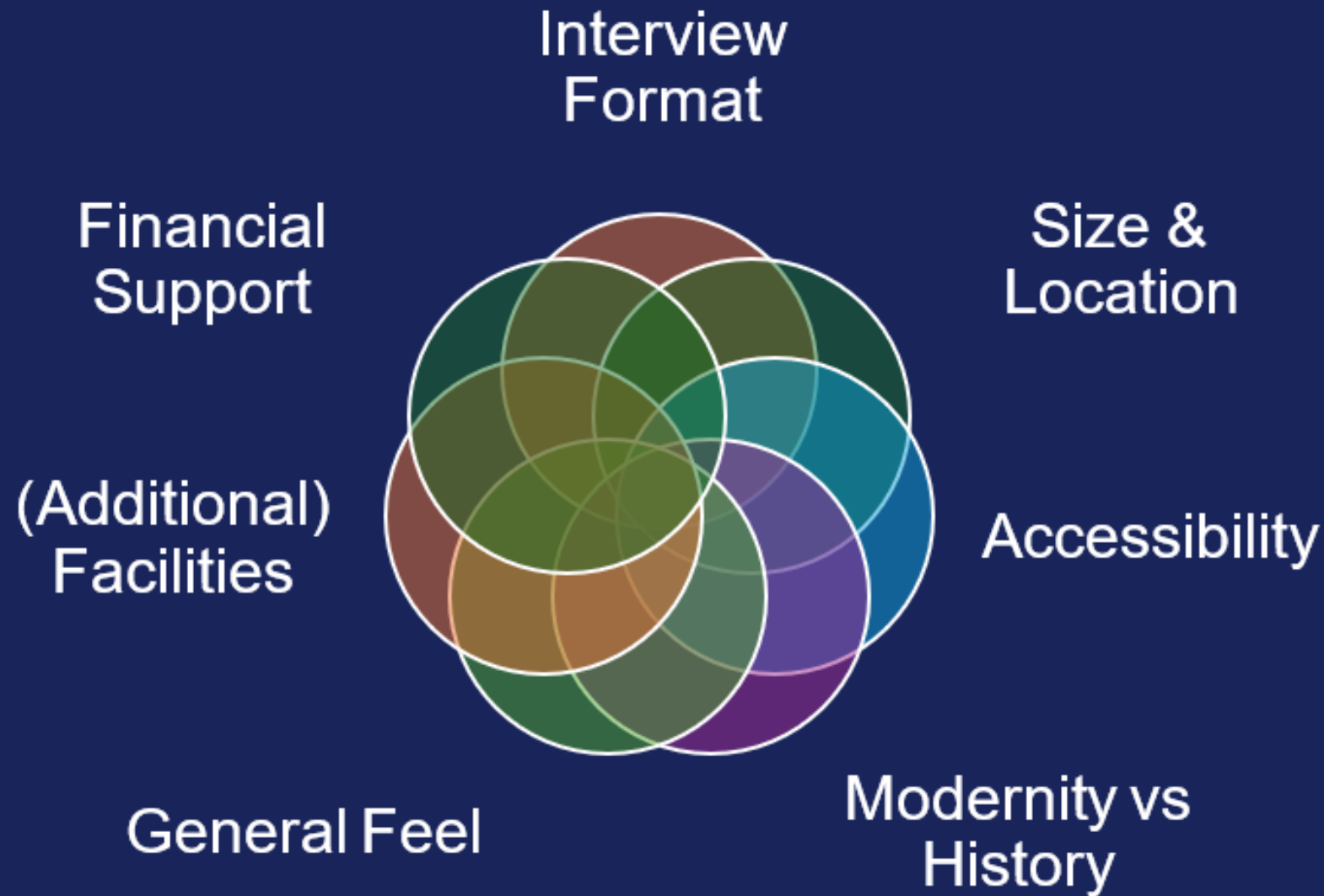
Last updated  
23 Feb 2021

View >

Campus Code = College



# Choosing a College



The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular crest of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The crest is centered and consists of a lion rampant holding a wreath in its right paw. The words "EMMANUEL • COLLEGE" are arched across the top, and "CAMBRIDGE" is arched across the bottom, separated by a small dot.

# Cambridge Culture











The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular crest of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The crest is centered and consists of a lion rampant holding a wreath in its mouth. The words "EMMANUEL • COLLEGE" are arched across the top, and "• CAMBRIDGE" is arched across the bottom.

# The Application Process

1 Choose course



2 Choose college or make open application



3 Check admission assessment arrangements



4 Submit UCAS application



5 Additional Information (only for Cambridge)



6 Submit written work/take test



7 Interview in December



8 Decision in January



# Admissions Tests

Pre-registered tests (Cambridge):

- TMUA assessment, but this will
- ESAT be administered
- LNAT internally
- UCAT

\*Some courses require  
you to sit a  
College-registered

(Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Computer Science, Economics,  
Engineering, Law, Medicine, Natural Sciences, Veterinary Medicine)

# Admissions Tests

Pre-registered tests (Oxford ):

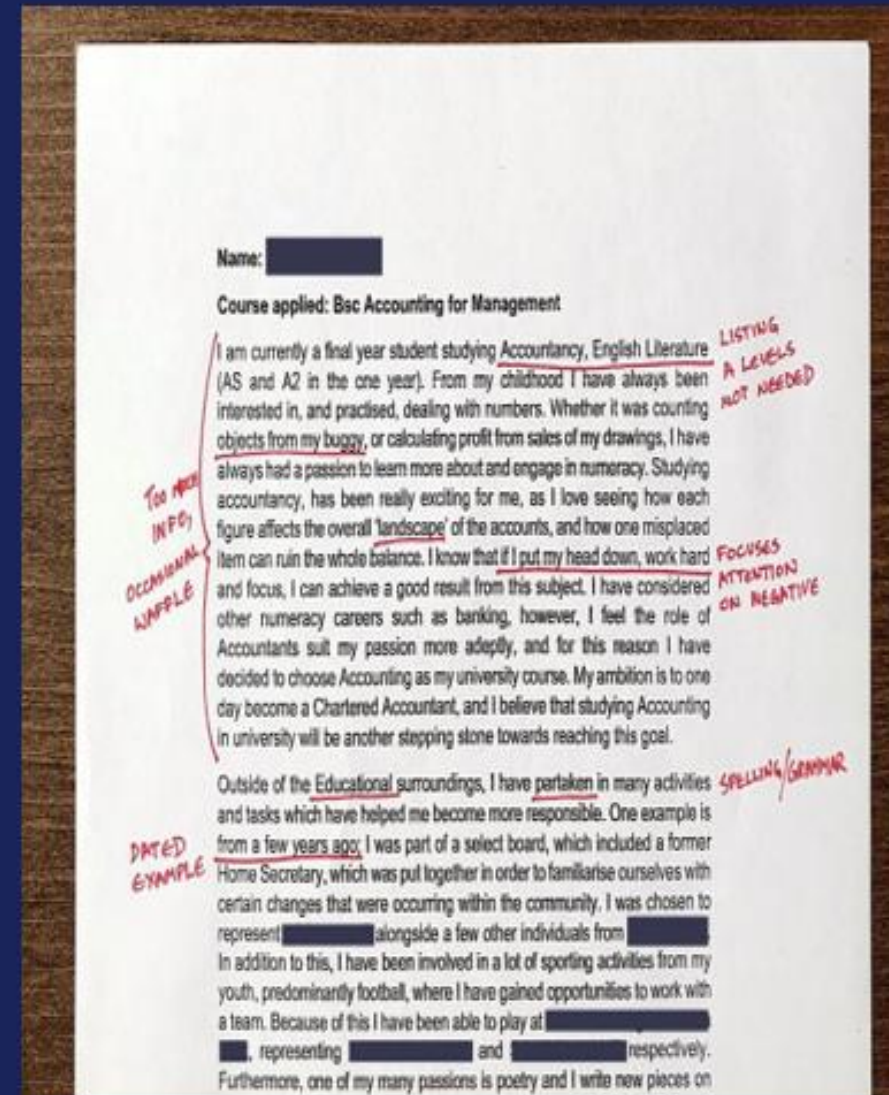
- AHCAAT
- PAT
- BMSAT
- PhilAT
- CAT
- TSA
- MAT
- LNAT
- MLAT
- UCAT

(Archaeology, Biomedical Sciences, Classics, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Physics, Philosophy, Economics, Psychology, Human Sciences, PPL, Law, Medicine)



# Personal Statements

- Give anonymous data a personality
  - Convey your motivation and enthusiasm
  - Explain your commitment to the subject
  - Provide a potential starting point for interviews
- ...is just one part of the whole process



# New Structure

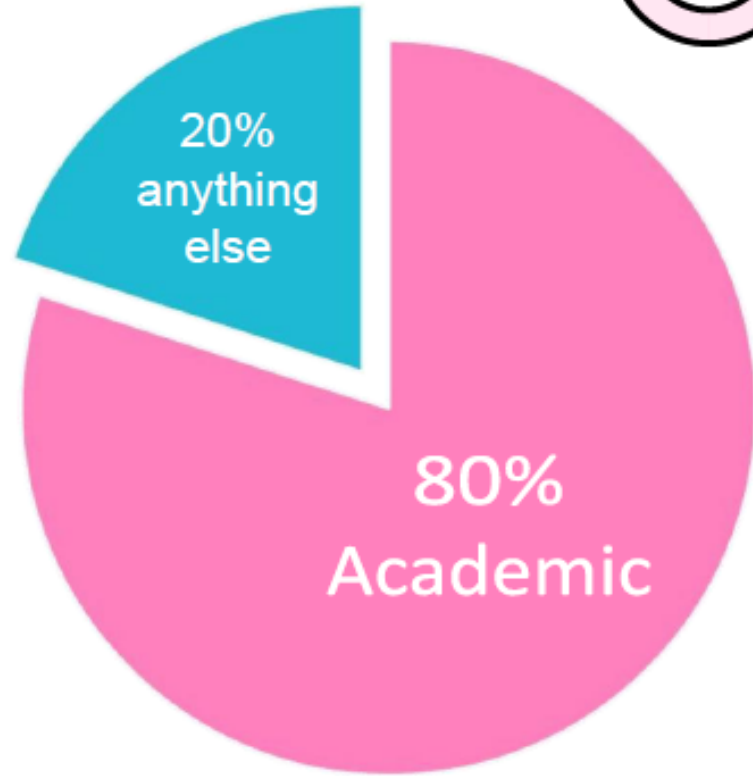
Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Q2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

# To quote UCAS...

“Students shouldn't agonise over which section to include information in; the important thing is that it's included as the statement will be reviewed as a whole.”



## Top Tips

### **PLANNING IS KEY**

- Make a plan and check the basics

### **USE YOUR OWN WORDS**

- Don't strain to be distinctive

### **CENTER YOUR INTERESTS**

- Focus on your own interests, which bits of your subject do you particularly like?

### **SHOW, DON'T TELL**

- Show us, don't just tell us - this is what your super-curriculars do!





# DEMONSTRATING YOUR ENTHUSIASM, MOTIVATION AND COMMITMENT

- Academic books, journals and articles
- Lectures, podcasts and documentaries
- Museums and exhibitions
- Academic competitions
- Clubs, societies and work experience



## ONLINE RESOURCES

Firstsite



codecademy



Ri The Royal Institution  
Science Lives Here

THE  
ROYAL  
SOCIETY



IOP Institute of Physics



LONDON  
MATHEMATICAL  
SOCIETY  
EST. 1865



LEARNED SOCIETIES

## LECTURES & PODCASTS



Essex  
Library  
Services



COMPETITIONS



STEM



## LOCAL/NATIONAL MUSEUMS



Google Arts & Culture

Firstsite



The British Museum



**RA** Royal Academy of Arts



Political Studies Association



The Royal Society of Literature



## LEARNED SOCIETIES



## LECTURES & PODCASTS



The British Academy



## ARTS & HUMANITIES

London Review OF BOOKS

TLS

Essex Library Services

WIDER READING

aeon



# Example 1: Medicine

“Visiting the Cambridge Cancer Research labs confirmed that I wanted to study Medicine. This conviction was reinforced during my one-week placement at Peterborough City Hospital where I shadowed the multidisciplinary team on a respiratory ward, including a junior doctor. Observing the junior doctor calmly handle a frustrated patient helped me appreciate that empathy is key, as she managed to reach an outcome that both doctor and patient were satisfied with. I not only witnessed first-hand some of the obstacles that the NHS face daily, such as intense bed shortages and long hours, but also the joys and rewards that accompany their work.”

# Example 2: English

“I relish challenge when studying, so this summer I familiarised myself with Middle English by reading Chaucer and pre-16th century poetry, as well as a variety of prose, including Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*. This novel was intriguing due to its complex layers of meaning, shifting the reader's perception continually until the denouement. Gothic literature such as this especially enchants me due to its exploration of the repressed aspects of the human psyche - what's thrilling is how the genre is an extension of Romanticism, yet lying at its core is terror and despair. This is compelling because it reflects how the Gothic concepts of both love and death, such opposing phenomena, are intrinsically related.”

# Example 3: Physics

“Reading ‘Quantum’ by Jim Al-Khalili introduced me to the strange phenomena we observe whilst studying elementary particles. I am especially interested in quantum entanglement and how it seems to violate a key principle displayed in Einstein’s theory of special relativity. The author’s ability to explain concepts like non-locality and decoherence, these theories describing behaviour I cannot observe, using clear reasoning with mathematical origins is inspiring. I am reassured of the integrity of probabilistic physics by the symmetry and empiricism of the Standard Model.

To supplement my reading, I completed a FutureLearn course concerning ‘The Discovery of the Higgs Boson’. This course provided me with an intellectual challenge and an introduction to QED, QCD and the importance of the Higgs Field. This course was intensive and left me with lots of burning questions so to consolidate my learning, I contacted a professor researching flavour physics and CP violation.”



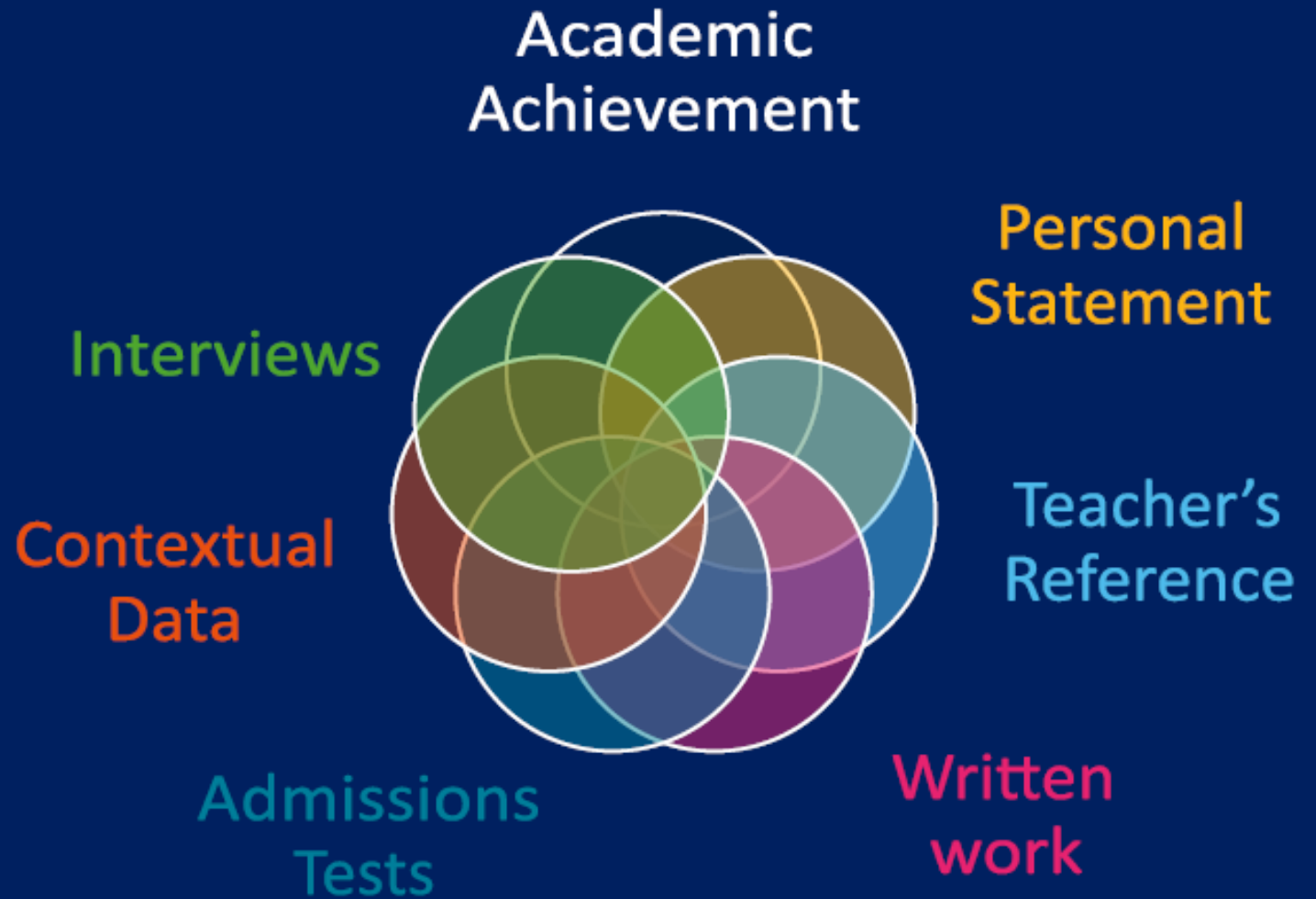
The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular crest of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The crest includes a lion rampant holding a cross, surrounded by a wreath, with the text "EMMANUEL COLLEGE" at the top and "CAMBRIDGE" at the bottom.

# The Cambridge Interview

# What Do We Take Into Account?

We use all the information we have gathered about you to make a balanced and highly informed decision about whether to offer you a place.

We always have far more talented candidates than places available. Interviews form one part of the selection process.





# Arts & Humanities

“If two objects look identical, is it important (to archaeologists or to people at the time) whether they came from the same or different places?”

“What happens to the meaning of a text, if anything, when we translate it into another language?”

“Are ‘legal’ and ‘right’ the same thing?”

“What does this text tell us about the person who wrote it/the society it was written for?”

“Why do we study the past?”



“What can these two paintings of Diana & Venus tell us about attitudes towards the Classical world during the Italian Renaissance?”





# Social Sciences

## EU Referendum results

Winners in each area

Leave: 51.9%

Remain: 48.1%



Gibraltar also voted to Remain

Source: Electoral Commission

RBC

“What does this chart show?”



“To what extent is the path to criminality solely down to the moral failings of an individual?”

“What factors might lead to educational inequality?”

“To what extent do we really live in a postcolonial world?”

“Do you think Western Democracy has failed?”

“What does this front page tell us about sexism in modern British politics?”

# Physical & Mathematical Sciences

Find the value of

$$\int_1^4 \frac{3-2x}{x\sqrt{x}} dx$$

“Sketch the following function...”

“What is the change in momentum of the helicopter as it takes off?”

1. Simplify

$$\cos^2(2^4 + 3^9) + \sin^2(2^4 + 3^9) = ?$$

“You’re on the beach and someone in the water needs saving. What would be the fastest route to getting to them?”





# Understanding Decision Outcomes



## Direct Offer

- The College you applied to has given you a place

## Pool Offer

- A different College from the one you've applied to has given you an offer

## Rejection

- Oxbridge is highly competitive



Emmanuel College Cambridge

# EMMpower Residential

Oxbridge Application Summer Programme  
for Link Area schools in Sheffield & Essex



For  
Yr12s

7th-10th  
July

FREE

Apply

More Info



Apply

More Info





**Q&A**

**Thank you  
for listening**

Email Us: [outreach@emma.cam.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@emma.cam.ac.uk)

Follow us:

@emmanuelcollegeoutreach

