

Oxbridge fosters immense talent, and a passion for lifelong learning, instilling students with the tools and skills for success. Students are prepared for life by helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. They are given the freedom to deeply study areas of interest, helping to discover new abilities and the wider world. The goal of education is not limited to raising bright minds specializing in one field, but to shape the minds of students, and teach them how to learn, and in particular, how to be greater than the best. Oxbridge prepares students to deal with the rigor and persist, making the most of their education, thus instilling a drive for knowledge. While attending HKU, I often get caught up in the moment, in the rigor, and forget the true meaning of achieving a university education. Now after visiting the colleges and experiencing Cambridge life, I am empowered with a desire for knowledge, and passion to reach my full potential.

Students at Cambridge have democracy in their education; they have the freedom to attain much more than their degree. The combination of lectures and tutorials teaches students the philosophy of their subjects. Rather than just learning the content, students are taught how to learn and how to apply what they have learnt to real-world situations. For example, a law student is not taught how to read law, but how to understand the law and why it is the way it is. While the law may change over time, students will still be able to understand why the law is the way it is, even as it evolves.



Cambridge develops the highest level of thinkers by providing students with strong foundations that not only develop scientists, but also develop artists and poets. Interdisciplinary studies are especially crucial in our advancing world where many unprecedented challenges will require interdisciplinary solutions. At Oxbridge, students deeply engage with their subject, but also have the opportunity to engage with other fields and make world connections. This helps facilitate a stronger academic foundation for all students and engage higher order thinking between and within different subjects. For example, Xu Zhimo, was an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century romantic Chinese poet who strove to loosen Chinese poetry from its traditional forms and to reshape it with influences of Western poetry. Although he studied the sciences while at Cambridge, he is also one of China's most-renowned poets.



Oxbridge's education system is also entirely unique of many others. The combination of lectures and tutorials allows students to receive personalized teaching, while helps to strengthen the learning process, as well as foster interdisciplinary connections. Students receive lectures at the university, along with students from other colleges. The lectures are where professors provide theories and big ideas. Students then will consolidate this knowledge in smaller tutorials at their own college. Small groups of two-to-three students ensures personalized education, and a tailored plan for each student. For example, Professor Liang Wei Yao shared that during his tutorials, his students often have a wide range of abilities, but that the small group setting allows him to be flexible with the speed and depth of his tutorials. Not only does this maximize the outcome for each student but can also aid the high achievers in reaching their full potential. The rigor of the tutorials prepares students for the real world, as well as helps them develop an array of important, transferrable skills. Unlike many other universities, students at Oxbridge are required to complete graded written work for each tutorial. This intensity improves their writing and strengthens their connection to the subject.

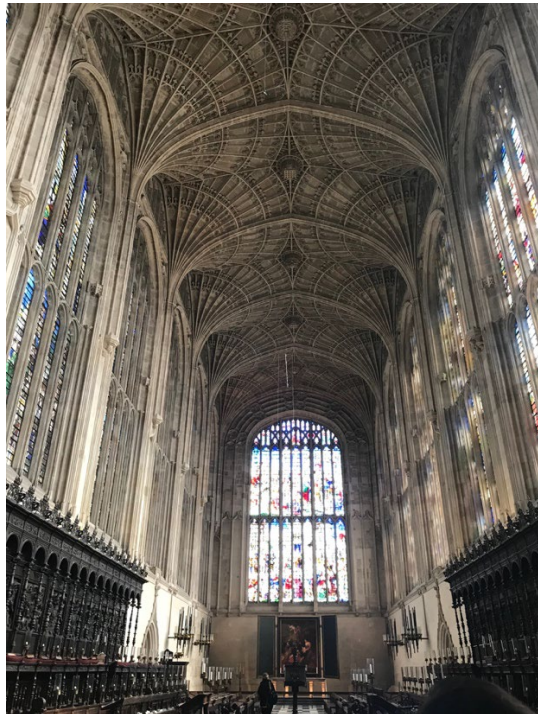


Aside from academics, there are also a number of ways for students to engage in both activities within their college and the university. Choral, Cambridge Union, and High Table are a few of the distinctive features which we observed during our time at Cambridge. Choral evensong is one of Cambridge's richest traditions, in which the 'song' of voices



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sounding together in harmony is heard at the 'even' point between the active day and restful night, allowing listeners time for restful contemplation.



The Cambridge Union is a debating and free speech society in Cambridge. They often bring in a number of high-profile individuals to take part in the debate, and it remains a space for students to engage ideas freely. Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for students to interact aside from studies, but also facilitates intellectual debate, which instills lifelong learning, and a passion for seeking the truth and achieving more than the best.

High Table Dinners at Cambridge also remain an important tradition in which fellows, students, and guest dine in their large dining hall. Similar to our High Table Dinners at St. John's College, these gatherings serve to form a bond between all the members of the college and help create a lasting connecting to the college. Like St. John's College in Hong Kong, Trinity College and Pembroke College have High Table Dinners weekly or even multiple times a week. Other colleges have adopted different traditions bringing in their own unique personality.

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Oxbridge provides students with a world in which they can immerse themselves in a subject of interest without losing touch of the real-world. Students engage profoundly with a subject and continue to strive for more than the best, seeking to understand philosophy of a subject. Cambridge can be considered the best institution for higher education as it cultivates the minds of students and teaches them not what to think, but how to think. This is especially crucial as students are taught how to critically think of methods to solve unprecedented solutions, and how to apply what they have learnt to new contexts. The environment at Cambridge provides students with the freedom to educate and the freedom to learn, something which is so crucial to today's scholars. Students are provided with limitless opportunities for growth, self-discovery and knowledge, something which I can now strive to reach. I am now inspired to strive for more than the best and reach my full potential.