



Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge 2016 Visit: Cian Patel



Cambridge was a wonderful experience in my eyes. The food there was delicious, the advice the professors and other staff gave was phenomenal, the hospitality and accommodation was flawless and the area was very pristine.

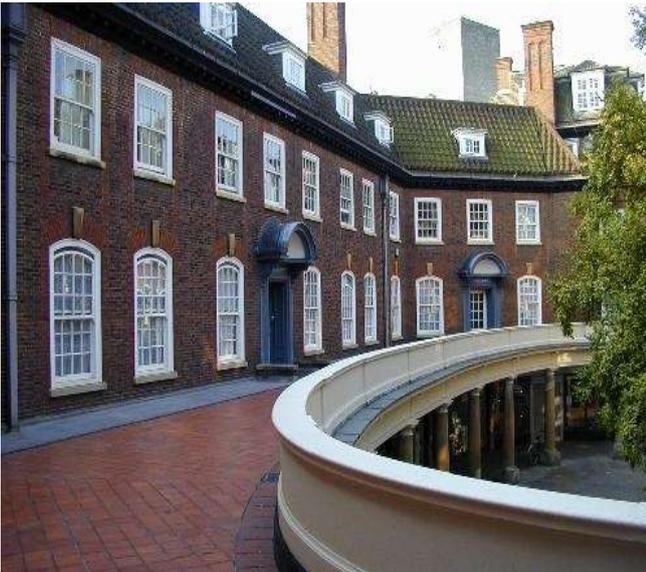
When I arrived at Sidney Sussex College, we had a pleasant welcome by some of the staff and we were taken into our rooms. They provided an en suite bathroom, some toiletries and also a bed.



After that, I attended a lecture conducted by the Director of Admissions at Sidney Sussex, Dr Kirsten Dickers, about what Cambridge offers. I learnt that Cambridge was a student-dominated town, it is split into 31 different colleges across the town (29 of which admit undergraduates) and the subjects it offers are mainly traditional subjects (with one very notable exception being Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Studies). This is beneficial for me as I would like to embark on a career in either Biology or Physics, so the Natural Sciences Tripos would be ideal. One other fact that I was quite shocked about is how going to Cambridge is in fact cheaper than most other universities in the UK. One of the undergraduate tour guides explained how it not only costs less but that there were bursaries on offer for students from less privileged backgrounds. Also, I learnt that Cambridge and Oxford both do interviews which involve considering and answering challenging questions. Admission is not on academic achievement solely, but considers other factors and activities undertaken.

Later in the day we went punting. It was a fantastic experience as I got to see the various different colleges of Cambridge, and how monumentally large they really were. I also learnt some history of the University, which was founded in 1209 and the town, which was granted its charter in the 12th Century.

We also had a quiz that night. That was primarily about Cambridge and its history, and I believed it was very insightful as I learnt a lot about Sidney Sussex College (founded in 1596 by Lady Frances Sidney, Countess of Sussex) and how unique Cambridge is compared to any other university.



The next day, I attended two lectures on Law. Despite not being interested on embarking on a career in Law, I was fascinated by how it is linked to history and philosophy. The subject in my eyes has brought to light how much it impacts on the world, and how much the world needs to be mended from injustice and the lecturer who spoke to us developed this idea professionally.

The free time we had was dedicated to visiting around Cambridge and I enjoyed every moment of it, as I knew this was an amazing opportunity.

To conclude, I would like to say that I enjoyed Cambridge and am considering it as an option for university. I believe its lecture and supervision based education would be beneficial for me in the future.

