

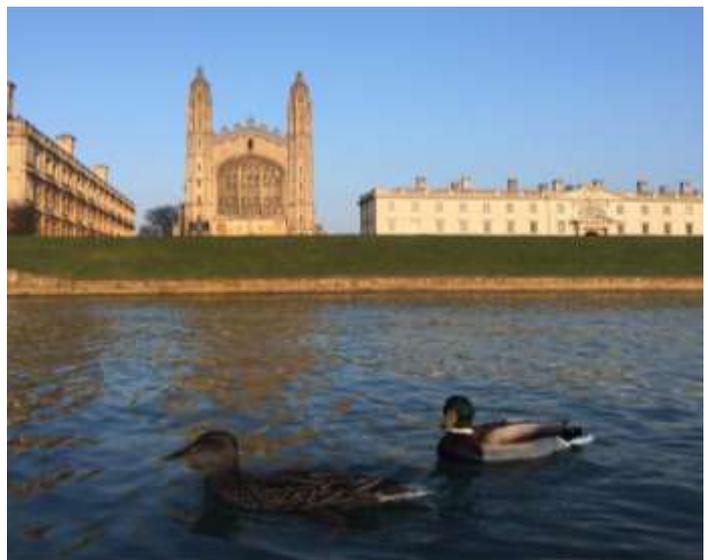
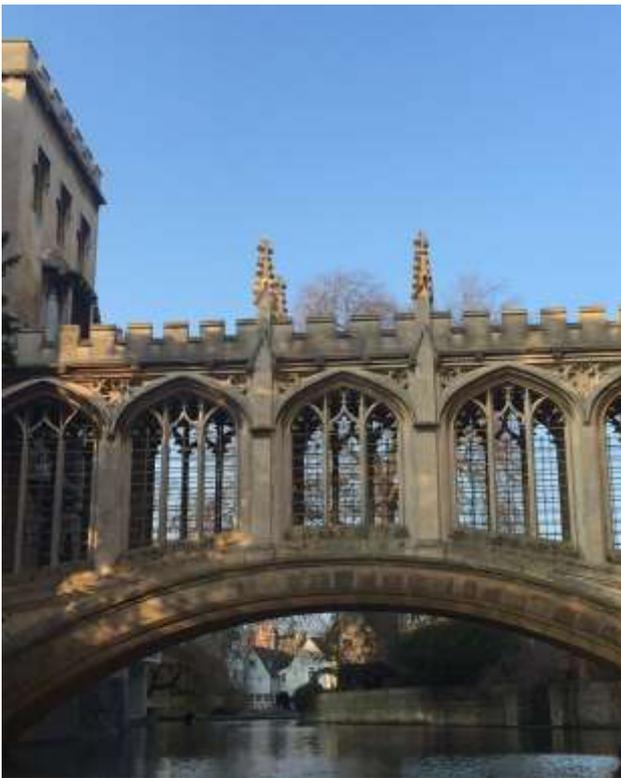
## Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge 2016 Visit: Matthew Smith

My first impressions of Sydney Sussex College were that its grounds were breath-taking. Although it is a distant reality from what I'm used to, I still felt at home. The students of the College were incredibly friendly, talkative and down-to-earth. I was beginning to imagine myself as one of them – realising the reality of their success is not as far from mine as it may seem, with determination of course.

My impressions have not changed following the visit, as I never really had a confirmed idea of what being a Cambridge student was like. I have however had my blurry eyes opened to what university life, in general, is like. Having our own rooms and being responsible for ourselves, without being constantly monitored, allowed for everyone to gather a sense of independence that we've always had but rarely get to use to its full extent.

Over the two days we had two Law lectures – one about the Global Financial Crisis and legal implications and the second about life as a Law student at Cambridge. We also visited the Whipple Museum of the History of Science where we dived into the past to uncover how we used to operate and learn about our anatomy, the planets and numerous other topics.

Individuality – that's the advice that has been most memorable for me regarding my visit to Cambridge. Admissions are based not just on your subjects but on what makes you stand out from everyone else: volunteer work, published articles relevant to your chosen course and prior knowledge of your course's content. You need to think with a mind sharper than any weapon, speak more eloquently about yourself than anyone else, and above all ... you need be passionate.





Personally, my highlight of the trip was the punting experience. After our day's work it was a welcome break to enjoy Cambridge's historic buildings and stories, as well as chatting with my peers. Overall, I couldn't have asked for better to people to experience Cambridge with: we are similar – yes – but yet very different, which made intellectual conversation and career aspirations very interesting to uncover from one another.

The experience has been more than worthwhile, sure catching up on missed school work has been time consuming, but not once during any activity in Cambridge did I check my watch to see how long until the lecture was over, or dinner was being served. Nothing could snatch my concentrated mind from learning. Everything I saw. Everything I heard. Everything I thought. Motivating. Enthralling. Captivating.

