

Emmanuel College, The University of Cambridge Exchange Program

with

S.H. Ho College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Exchange Guidebook

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1. ACADEMICS

1a) Courses Offered By Emmanuel College

One distinctive feature of Cambridge is that not every college will offer every single course that the university offers. Only certain colleges accept students for particular subjects.

As the exchange program with S.H.Ho is particularly with Emmanuel College, the only courses you may select on exchange are those that Emmanuel offer. Fortunately, Emmanuel offers a wide range of courses as follows:

- Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic
- Architecture
- Asian & Middle Eastern Studies
- Computer Science
- Classics
- Economics
- Education*
- Engineering*
- English*
- Geography
- History*
- History of Art
- Human, Social, and Political Sciences
- Law*
- Linguistics
- Mathematics*
- Medicine*
- Modern and Medieval Languages
- Music
- Natural Sciences (Biological or Physical)
- Philosophy
- Theology and Religious Studies
- Veterinary Medicine*

* Courses noted with a star are courses that are NOT on offer to exchange students.

The only course that is offered by the university that is not on offer by Emmanuel College is the Land Economy Tripos.



1b) Cambridge Grading System

Cambridge grades in a honors system, where either reaching a certain percentage grade awards a particular class, or with a bell-curve system that allows for a certain percent of students to gain each particular class. There are three main honors classes: a Class I (or “first class honors”), a Class II (or “second class honors”), and a Class III (or “third class honors”).

Class II is split, occasionally, into two sub-classes known as a 2.i or a 2.ii, or an “upper second class” and a “lower second class” respectively. If any candidates fail to achieve a Class III, they will have failed their examinations.

Conventionally, the percentage scores to attain each particular honors classification is as follows:

Classification	Percentage Grade
Class I	70+%
Class II (Upper)	60-70%
Class II (Lower)	50-60%
Class III	40-50%
Fail	< 40%

These percentage scores are adhered to, for the most part, in arts/humanities subjects. In science subjects, it is more likely that a bell-curve system will be in effect, awarding a certain percentage of students a particular class (e.g. the top 10% get awarded a Class I).

In rare occasions, a Class I With Distinction can be awarded to students who have performed exceptionally well in their exams, but this only occurs in certain subjects, and at the complete discretion of the examiners. This is also referred to as a “starred first”.

NOTE TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS: as a student on exchange, your examination results will be given as a raw percentage score, but you will **NOT** be awarded an honors classification. This is because students on exchange take exams “Not For Honors (NFH)”, which simply means that their grades are not issued a particular honors classification. The official transcripts will show whether or not the examiners were “satisfied” with your paper (meaning that you’ve achieved a good grade).

1c) The Lecture/Supervision System

One of the distinctive features of Cambridge and Oxford is that they both offer “Supervisions” in lieu of what are normally viewed as tutorial sessions in other universities.

The difference between a tutorial and a supervision is that a supervision consists of a supervisor with a very small number of students (anywhere from 1-4), allowing for maximum interaction between the supervisor and the students, while tutorials are often held with a tutorial leader and several students (usually around 10 or more).



With this system, you will be expected to attend lectures for your selected courses, and prepare additional material for your supervisions.

Science students are required to attend upwards from **12-16 hours of lectures** per week, while arts/humanities students are required to attend anywhere from **6-10 hours a week**.

Supervision work is an extension from lecture materials, and requires additional reading and thought to achieve good results. **Supervision work does not count toward your final grade in the paper**, but is graded by your supervisors who issue a supervision report (shown on the left) to your Director of Studies, who will monitor your progress throughout the year.

Lloyd Fan-Yi Meng (lfym2), L 2012		XRNLI-2012-1299937																
Politics, Psychology, and Sociology Tripos, Part I		Emmanuel																
Analysis of politics I (Section A)		DOS: dc403																
Supervised by Miss S. Tomaselli (ST240)		Tutor: rmh1003																
<i>Industry:</i>	Not specified	Mr Meng wrote an excellent essay on representative gov't, drawing on a good range of sources.																
<i>Progress:</i>	Not specified																	
<i>Interest:</i>	Not specified																	
<i>Estimate of term's work:</i>	Not specified																	
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As a **science student**, you can expect problem sheets or past exam papers for supervision work. Or, if the course is essay-based, expect multiple essay topics to write essays or essay plans based on topics covered in lectures. It is likely that you will have **one supervision per week for every paper you take**, though this is subject to change based on the course. Science students additionally may be required to attend **lab sessions** on top of their lectures and supervisions, but this pertains only to experimental subjects (e.g. as a Biological Natural Sciences student, you would be expected to do labs in Chemistry, an experimental course, but not in Evolution and Behavior, an essay based course).

Example questions given as supervision essay titles are as follows:

- *Explain how the interactions of adjacent atoms in NMR spectroscopy affect the signals observed in ^{19}F and ^{13}C spectra for the molecule HCF_3 . As part of your answer define the terms local magnetic field, coupling constant and signal multiplicity.*
 - Taken from "Chemistry", part of the Natural Sciences Tripos.
- *'Human evolution stopped with the origin of anatomically modern humans.' Discuss.*
 - Taken from "Evolution and Behavior", part of the Natural Sciences Tripos.
- *Compare and contrast how light is detected and used in plants.*
 - Taken from "Physiology of Organisms", part of the Natural Sciences Tripos

If you are an **arts/humanities student**, you can expect to be given essay titles for your supervisions. These titles are based on topics that are covered in lectures, but require a lot of further reading to supplement the material. You can expect to have anywhere between **three to four supervisions per term for every paper you take**, totaling 12-16 supervisions in total.

Example questions given as supervision essay titles are as follows:

- *"The Person-Situation debate is an empty exercise" (Hogan, 2009). Discuss.*
 - Taken from Introduction to "Society, Interaction and the Individual", part of the Archeological and Anthropological Tripos and the Human, Social, and Political Sciences Tripos.
- *According to Weber, what is the role of the Predestination doctrine in the development of early capitalism? Do you agree?*
 - Taken from "Modern Societies", part of the Archeological and Anthropological Tripos and the Human, Social, and Political Sciences Tripos.
- *What are the political implications of the "Death of God"?*
 - Taken from "Analysis of Politics I", part of the Human, Social, and Political Sciences Tripos.



Essays for science students are centered more around fact, but still require reading to be done on top of lecture materials to get a wide scope of the materials covered, while also introducing original scientific arguments that come from texts outside of the lectures. These essays vary in length, but are usually anywhere from around two sheets of paper (two sides) to upwards of two/three thousand words.

By contrast, students in the arts/humanities are required to read in much greater detail than what is covered in lectures, as the essays require elaboration into very specific, particular areas covered in the lectures. Essays are generally expected to be at least two to three thousand words long, but this varies based on the supervisor's preferences.

2. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2a) Sports at Emmanuel College

ROWING

At Emma, most popular sports are on offer for students to play at the college level. The most prominent of sports in college is Rowing, followed closely by Rugby and Football.



Emma has one of the best (arguably THE best) boathouses of the river cam (pictured to the left). In Michaelmas term, the boat club arranges for novice rowers who have never tried rowing before to give rowing a try, and, if novices are interested in doing so, trialling for boats that compete against other colleges.

Rowing is a very competitive sport, but novices are given an opportunity to practice their abilities and improve their fitness through morning outings in boats with other novices and competing in races specifically for novices. In Lent and Easter terms, novices still interested in rowing can trial for college representative boats, where rowers are assigned a boat based on their skill level and strength, and will compete against other colleges in rowing competitions. There are even more races in Lent and Easter to compete in, most notably Bumps, where boats line up back to back and attempt to bump the boat behind them before they're bumped by the boat in front of them. The closeness that rowers develop with each other is a great experience, and while the rowing itself is extremely hard work, the races are very rewarding and really good fun.



Additionally, many of the college boat clubs along the cam hold many social events for rowers after races and at the end of terms, so it's definitely worth looking into participating in rowing during your time at Emma!

RUGBY

Emma has a well-established and consistently successful Rugby team that performs very well against other colleges both in inter-collegiate competitions and with other rugby clubs outside of Cambridge, notably against Emma's sister college at the University of Oxford, Exeter College.

As with most sports at Emma, there are initiations. Rugby has one of the most notorious initiation processes, known for severely hazing fresher students that wish to join the team, but it's a small price to pay if you enjoy playing the sport. The culture is strong, and there are many competent teams that Emma plays against.

Emma typically has one men's team and a women's team that plays mostly touch rugby with taster sessions for women new to the sport who wish to give it a try. There are various levels of rugby played at the university level as well, allowing very competent players to represent Cambridge in the annual Varsity match against Oxford.



FOOTBALL

Football is undeniably one of the more popular sports at Emma, having up to three or four men's teams at any given time, and a strong women's team that is competitive against other colleges. Trialling is held in Michaelmas term for players interested in joining any of the teams, and those interested are placed into teams according to their skill and experience.

Similarly to rugby, college football players compete against other colleges, and also other teams from outside of college. The Emma Men's 1st Football Team, the most competitive team from the college, plays against Exeter College, The University of Oxford either in Oxford or at Cambridge.



OTHER SPORTS

There are a number of other sports teams that exist in Emma, as the sporting culture is very strong and supportive of students interested in sports.

In addition to the sports listed above, Emma also offers the following sports:

- Tennis
- Badminton
- Netball (mixed sex team)
- Basketball
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Field Hockey
- Squash (Emma have their own squash courts within the college)



Additionally the University offers, in addition to all the sports listed above, many sports at the varsity level including:

- Athletics
- Lacrosse
- Rock Climbing
- Cycling
- Boxing
- Sailing
- Fencing
- and many many more.

For additional information on sports at Emma and at Cambridge, visit the following link:

<http://www.sport.cam.ac.uk>

3. LIFE AT EMMANUEL

3a) Fresher's Week

Fresher's Week at Emma, as the name suggests, is a week of activities for freshers (and returning students alike) that begins slightly before Michaelmas term classes begin, and ends slightly into term. Activities such as pub quizzes, folk music dances and the Fresher's



Fair, where student societies set up stalls showcasing their activities to freshers, all take place within this week. It's a great opportunity to get to know the college and to meet and greet future friends!

Many of the events have optional drinking, such as nights out, pub crawls, and other such activities. It is important to note, however, that no one is ever pressured into drinking to have a good time. The nights out are just as much fun

sober as they are when you've had a couple of drinks before going out! Many of the students at Cambridge don't drink for a number of reasons, such as religion, health problems, or simply because they don't want to! So if you don't feel the need to drink, then there's absolutely no reason to do so during fresher's week.

For those who do enjoy a few drinks now and then, many students get together before nights out for pre-drinking activities, and pub crawls are centered largely around sampling the local beers, ales and specialty pours from the local pubs! Drinks are relatively cheap in Cambridge nightclubs, as they cater mostly to students, and there will be tickets on sale for inaugural nights out to see each of the main student nightclubs during fresher's week.

One of the main events at Emma during fresher's week is the annual ponding, where three freshers are selected to be thrown into Emma's duck pond. As a long lasting tradition with unknown origin, it's meant to be fun and enjoyable, and a large crowd always gathers!



3b) Student Accommodation

Student accommodation at Emma is exceptional. The rooms are very reasonably priced (ranging from around £70 a week up to around £100 a week), with increases in room prices corresponding to the **grade** of the room.

Rooms are graded on a scale of 1-8, with the nicer rooms being given a higher number grade. As an exchange student, you'll have no preference on the grade of room that you desire, but will likely be given a very spacious and comfortable grade 3-4 room, which is standard for fresher students.



3c) Hall and Formal Hall

Hall at Emma is very good. Three meals are served a day with specific times where food is allowed to be purchased. There is also a very diverse selection ranging from hot breakfast buffet items to cold cereals and fruits in the morning, and from hot (meat and veg) options at lunch and dinner to cold cuts and sandwiches along with a wide selection of desserts at lunch and dinner. Emma is renowned for its desserts, and its chefs have won many awards for their excellent puddings! Meals are charged onto individual student cards, which then are paid off on the college bills issued at the end of each term.



Formal Hall (similar to a high table dinner, where a formal meal is enjoyed in gowns with the presence of fellows at the high table) can be booked at any time by students whenever they wish to enjoy a proper sit down meal or when they wish to celebrate an occasion such as a birthday. Formal hall is offered every day of the week during term except Wednesdays, and includes an appetizer, a main course, a dessert, and tea and coffee to finish.

Students who wish to drink wine with their meal can either bring their own bottle, or purchase a bottle in Hall before formal hall begins. Upon registering for formal hall, the price of the meal is charged directly to the students' college bill.

In addition to normal Formal Hall bookings, there are special formal hall events that students can either be automatically registered for, or must register for themselves. The Matriculation dinner, which takes place on the evening of Matriculation, is one of the finest formal hall meals cooked at Emma. Students are automatically signed in for Matriculation dinner. Christmas Formal, a truly grand event at Emma, is one that is required to be registered for by students, but offers a very beautifully decorated hall and a superb Christmas roast dinner. Following dinner, Christmas Formal is also accompanied with carol singing. Rowers are invited at the end of each term to attend the Boat Club Dinners, which are held in hall. Additionally, throughout the term there are "Special



Formals" that can be booked regularly, but include a fancier meal and/or an extra course of cheese and port at the end.



The hall itself is a very spacious and quaint traditional style hall that has an upper section along with an upper balcony. It is one of the highlights of living at Emma. Formal hall meals are usually candle-lit (apart from in Easter term, when it stays sunny until very late). Students also choose to eat their meals outside on the grass if the weather is nice.



3d) The College Library



The College Library is one of the most important landmarks at Emma. It contains both an old, traditional style wing, and a relatively newly-made addition that has more shelves and seating areas for students.

Most of the readings that students generally have to go through can be found in Emma library, but if not there are libraries for every faculty in the University that are scattered throughout town that have a more specific set of books.

3e) The College Bar

Emma's college bar is one of the best within the colleges at Cambridge in terms of price and selection. It's host to many events throughout the year such as bar extensions (where the bar stays open very late and turns into a semi-nightclub with a dress theme only for Emma students) and Emma Ents (every Wednesday night, featuring music or entertainment). On normal nights, the bar is a great place to grab a drink after formal, shoot some pool, or just hang out with your friends.



Students are also allowed to be trained to work in the bar. The training itself is a simple process, and anyone interested is eligible to work behind the bar for some extra spending money (or for the £5 bar tab given to each bartender)!

3f) Easter Term Facilities

In Easter Term, to deal with the high levels of stress Emma students tend to face with exams, the college organizes extra facilities and activities for students to enjoy.

These include a bouncy castle (which comes twice in the term), garden parties hosted by fellows, the opening of the college swimming pool, croquet, and the setting up of lawn tennis courts for students to enjoy.



3g) Other College Facilities

Aside from the facilities already mentioned, Emma also offers these facilities for college students to enjoy:

- The Junior Common Room (JCR)

A common room area where undergraduate students can relax and watch TV, or gather for events and study.

- Laundry Service

Emma is the only college in either Cambridge or Oxford to offer a laundry service; you simply drop your bag of laundry at the laundry room and collect it a couple of days later washed and folded!

- College Gym
- Computer Rooms with PC and Mac
- Music Practice Rooms
- Theatre/Auditorium
- Table Tennis Room
- Squash Courts

3h) May Balls

Most of the colleges that make up the University of Cambridge each hold events at the end of Easter Term called May Balls. These are long, extravagant themed or black-tie events that run from the evening one night until the morning of the next. They include carnival rides such as bumper cars, food stalls that have anything from ice creams to falafel and on-the-spot fried doughnuts.



Emmanuel alternate between doing May Balls and June Events each year, June Events being smaller versions of May Balls that are cheaper, run for a smaller amount of time (ie usually from the evening of one night until very late the same night or very early the next day) but still have the same attractions and events. Tickets can be pricey for the more popular events (such as the May Ball at Trinity College and St. Johns College, who are notorious for having the best May Balls), but are worth every penny for the numerous attractions they offer. Being a Cambridge student means you absolutely must attend May Balls, so make sure you get booking your tickets early when the Balls are announced to avoid disappointment!



4. CONCLUSION

Going to exchange at Emmanuel College has been one of the greatest experiences I've ever had, and I feel like I've been immensely privileged to have received the opportunity to do so. I really strongly hope that anyone who follows in my footsteps has as great a time as I've had, and takes as much as I did from the entire experience :) Being at the "Best College in the Best University in the World" (as Emma is occasionally referred to as) is not something to be taken lightly, so try new things, explore, and make the most of your year studying abroad!

