

MPhil in Mathematics (by thesis) Handbook 2026-2027



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Welcome

You have become a part of one of the broadest, largest and most successful Mathematical Sciences Faculties in Europe. The opportunity to learn daily about the breadth of new research from the people who are doing it is a truly stimulating experience.

Beginning research can seem daunting and we are keen to provide encouragement and support from the start. This booklet explains the details – both what we expect from you and what you can expect from us. Read it and keep for future reference.

The Faculty works best if the academic staff, postdocs and postgraduate students appreciate that they are part of one integrated research community and therefore naturally look out for each other. If at any point you have worries – whether mathematical or procedural – please do not hesitate to ask. There will always be someone happy to help.

We hope that you have a rewarding and enjoyable time in Cambridge.

With best wishes,

Professor Nicholas Dorey
DAMTP Head of Department

Professor Ivan Smith
DPMMS Head of Department

1. Introduction

The MPhil in Mathematics is a 12-month full-time research programme and involves minimal formal teaching: students are integrated into the research culture of the Department of Pure Mathematics & Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS), or the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP), as appropriate. They may attend the Departments' programmes of research seminars and other graduate courses, but most research training is overseen by their research supervisor, and where appropriate, within a research group. Examination is by thesis and an oral examination.

This handbook provides administrative and other important information for MPhil students. The information provided in this handbook should be treated as a guide to how we intend to run the course. We will update the handbook if necessary and keep students informed of any necessary changes.

2. Key Contacts 2026-27

Those who will be of chief importance to you in your life in the Department are your supervisor(s), your adviser, as well as your peers and colleagues. Beyond these, there are some who have specific roles.

Directors of Postgraduate Education (DPE)

Each Department has a DPE to oversee research programmes. They are:

DAMTP DPE	Professor Natalia Berloff	graddirector@damtp.cam.ac.uk
DPMMS DPE	Professor Jason Miller	graddirector@dpmms.cam.ac.uk

Academic adviser

Besides your supervisor, you will also be assigned an adviser, who will usually be another member of your research group or a group in a related area. This is someone you can contact for additional support. It is expected that you will see your Academic Adviser on a regular basis.

Research Student Adviser / Postgraduate Welfare Adviser

In addition, each Department has appointed individuals who act as a first point of contact for research student welfare. In DAMTP this is called a Research Student Adviser (RSA) and in DPMMS a Postgraduate Welfare Adviser (PWA). If you have a problem which cannot be resolved by your supervisor or academic adviser, then you can talk to the Director of Postgraduate Education (DPE) or RSA/PWA about it.

DAMTP RSA	Professor Natalia Berloff (MT26 & LT27)	N.G.Berloff@damtp.cam.ac.uk
	Professor Matthew Wingate (ET27)	M.Wingate@damtp.cam.ac.uk
DPMMS PWAs	Professor Holly Krieger	hkrieger@dpmms.cam.ac.uk
	Professor Varun Jog	vj270@dpmms.cam.ac.uk

Faculty Postgraduate Office

The Faculty Postgraduate Office provides a shared administrative service for both Mathematics Departments. It is located in C0.15, just by the Pavilion C common room. A list of the full team and our contact details are [available on our webpage](#), but feel free to contact:

Postgraduate Office Manager	Pilar Alonso	grad-administrator@maths.cam.ac.uk
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Education Operations Manager (EOM)

The Faculty has an Education Operations Manager who oversees the operational delivery of education provision at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. They work closely with the Directors of Education and the senior management in both Departments on matters concerning education policy and practice.

Faculty EOM	Sarah Dodd	deputyda@maths.cam.ac.uk
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Business and Operations Manager (BOM)

Each Department has a Business and Operations Manager. They have administrative oversight of each Department, its finances and strategic planning. They work closely with the Heads of Department, DPE and other senior academic staff. The DAMTP BOM is Secretary to the Faculty Board. The DPMMS BOM is Secretary to the Degree Committee.

DAMTP BOM	Rachel Plunkett	dampsec@maths.cam.ac.uk
DPMMS BOM	Ben Daft	bom@dpmms.cam.ac.uk

Heads of Department (HoD)

The Heads of Department are:

DAMTP HoD	Professor Nicholas Dorey
DPMMS HoD	Professor Ivan Smith
Director of the StatisLab	Professor Po-Ling Loh

Department Support Staff

If you wish to make an appointment with the Head of Department please contact the relevant PA (hodsec@damtp.cam.ac.uk or hodsec@dpmms.cam.ac.uk). For DAMTP students, there is a Pavilion or Group Secretary who will be able to assist with DAMTP office keys and other logistical matters. DPMMS MPhil students can contact [Julia Blackwell](#) (C1.01), who organises office allocations for DPMMS MPhil students and can be contacted regarding stationery and other logistical matters.

Department Finance Offices

If your funding is managed by the Department, the Finance Office can assist with advice on stipend payments and administration around any travel or conference funds you may have:

DAMTP Finance (B1.25)	Sue Screaton	finance@damtp.cam.ac.uk
DPMMS Finance (C1.19)	Edina Tandari	finance@dpmms.cam.ac.uk

Faculty Undergraduate Office

The Faculty Undergraduate Office (UGO) is in B1.28 and provides a shared administrative service for both Mathematics Departments. They also manage the [Lecture Lists](#). You can contact the team at undergrad-office@maths.cam.ac.uk

Other Useful Contacts

Computing Help	help@maths.cam.ac.uk
Facilities	facilities@maths.cam.ac.uk
Reception	reception@maths.cam.ac.uk

3. General Information

Induction

At the start of the year, you will be invited to attend an Induction in which administrative and other information about the course will be distributed. All students are expected to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend this meeting, you must let the Postgraduate Office know.

Residence

The MPhil is a full-time course which runs from October to the end of September. The last day of the course is formally 30 September.

Full-time students are required to reside within 10 miles of Great St Mary's Church in Cambridge throughout their studies except during periods when they have been granted permission to [work away](#) or to take a [break from study \(intermission\)](#). They must apply for permission if they wish to [reside outside these Precincts](#).

Full-time students must spend three terms resident in Cambridge to be in standing to [submit their thesis](#). To achieve this, they must reside in Cambridge and be actively studying for a certain number of days in each term.

Part-time students have no residence requirements but are required to engage fully with their studies and to attend the University when prescribed by their Department and Degree Committee. We expect them to be in Cambridge for around 45 days per year, spread throughout the year.

See the Postgraduate Research Student Information pages on:

- [Terms of Residence](#)
- [Terms of Research](#)

Student Progress

Students are encouraged to establish contact with their Graduate Tutor at College at the start of the year. Graduate Tutors can assist or act on behalf of postgraduate students, most hold a weekly open tutorial hour, or you can make an appointment to meet with them.

Each student will meet with their supervisor regularly. Refer to Section 5 of this handbook: [Guidelines for students and supervisors](#).

Student Feedback

We encourage feedback from students on all aspects of the course at any time. This helps us assess how well the course is running. Your comments regarding the course will be highly valuable to us in evaluating the content and direction of the course.

Course Administration

The Faculty Postgraduate Office manages the administration of your course (see [Section 2 - Key Contacts](#)) and any general questions you may have about the course should be directed to them in the first instance. Email mphil-admin@maths.cam.ac.uk or drop into the Postgraduate Office in C0.15.

4. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students will have:

- acquired a comprehensive understanding of techniques, and a thorough knowledge of the literature, applicable to their own research;
- demonstrated originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in their field;
- shown abilities in the critical evaluation of current research and research techniques and methodologies;

- demonstrated some self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and acted autonomously in the planning and implementation of research.

5. Guidelines for students and supervisors

Your Principal Supervisor

All research students carry out their work under the direction of a supervisor who is normally a member of your Department's academic staff but may occasionally be a member of the research staff. Most students arrive knowing the identity of their supervisor.

The duty of your supervisor is to guide your research and to monitor progress towards successful completion of your thesis. To achieve this, they will be available to meet you on a regular basis (see next paragraph on meetings and reports).

Your supervisor will suggest preliminary reading and possible research projects, help you to get started, and be on hand to provide assistance and advice. Some students may work collaboratively with their supervisors on certain projects, while others may work more independently, though still relying on their supervisor for overall guidance. When the time comes to draft your thesis for examination, you should expect your supervisor to read and comment on what you produce. They will guide you on matters of good conduct and integrity in research and on the academic conventions for acknowledging the work of others. Over the course of your MPhil, your supervisor will also advise you about attendance at courses and relevant seminars or reading groups. They can also give valuable advice on the next stage of your career, after your MPhil.

Supervision: Meetings and Reports

Good communication is essential for a fruitful working relationship with your supervisor, and it is most important that you keep in close contact. Supervisors are often very busy, so you must be proactive in your approach, especially if you are stuck or need help with a problem. Don't hesitate to send an e-mail to request a meeting if you find it difficult to track down your supervisor in person.

Individual supervisors will vary considerably in the detailed arrangements they make for seeing their students, but there are some general guidelines. You should expect to meet your supervisor at least once a week, on average, to review and discuss your progress at regular intervals. At some stages you may also find it beneficial to have regular informal conversations (over coffee or after seminars, for instance) rather than a more formal meeting.

Your supervisor may keep records of meetings and progress throughout your MPhil and they will write termly reports on the Postgraduate Feedback & Reporting System (PFRS). You will be able to read these reports on [CamSIS](#) and you should comment on them or discuss further with your supervisor as necessary. Reports are disclosed to the Department, Degree Committee, Student Registry and your College. If you have difficulty finding your reports, you should contact the Faculty Postgraduate Office. Please note that the reports are not meant to be the primary means of communication between supervisor and student.

You will also receive an email invitation from the University to complete a self-evaluation report in Michaelmas term. Submission of this report is voluntary, but it provides a good opportunity for you to take stock of your own progress and to highlight any concerns that you have. The report you submit will be sent to your supervisor for comment, and you may wish to arrange to discuss it with them. If you do choose to submit a self-evaluation, your supervisor will write a response which will become your supervision report.

Your Academic Adviser

Besides your supervisor, you will also be assigned an adviser, who will usually be another member of your research group or a group in a related area. This is someone you can contact for additional help and support. It is expected that you will see your Academic Adviser on a regular basis. Provided their engagement with your research has not become so involved as to cause a potential conflict of interest they may, with the Degree Committee's agreement, act as the internal examiner for your MPhil. If you are unsure who your adviser is, ask your supervisor in the first instance, or the Postgraduate Office.

Postgraduate Education Committees

The DAMTP Postgraduate Education Committee (PEC) oversees all aspects of research education in the Department, including admissions, progression and training. The PEC is chaired by the Director of Postgraduate Education. Other members of the Committee have specific responsibilities for researcher development and postgraduate admissions. The Committee has a research student representative who can be contacted on: pgradcom-rep@damtp.cam.ac.uk. The DPMMS PEC, which includes the Head of Department and Director of Postgraduate Education, primarily oversees research degree admissions.

Attendance in the Department

Experience has shown that coming to the Department on a regular basis is extremely beneficial for the progress of a student's research. Accordingly, you are expected to keep regular hours, and to be present in the Department for a substantial part of each weekday, for example 09.00 to 17.30 or 10.00 to 18.30. Wherever possible you will be assigned a desk in a shared office.

You must keep your supervisor informed if you are going to be away, for whatever reason. Any planned absence must be discussed with your supervisor in advance, and also with your College Tutor if necessary. In addition, you need to consider the impact of your absence on your residency requirement and, if appropriate, on your funding and/or Student visa.

Absences (e.g., working away from Cambridge, intermission, other leave) require formal permission from the University. You can find further details of this process at [Changes to Circumstances](#).

Code of Practice for Research Students

The University issues a [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research students](#) which you must read. The Code of Practice sets out the formalities of life as a research student in terms which are broad enough to apply to all postgraduate research students in the University, whereas this handbook explains how the principles in the Code of Practice are implemented within your Department.

The University requires all registered students to behave in accordance with University regulations and rules. Where it appears that a student may not have behaved as required

this will be investigated and where a breach of the rules has occurred penalties or sanctions may be imposed. The [Rules of Behaviour and disciplinary procedures](#) can be accessed online.

You should also consult and familiarise yourself with the [University web pages on research integrity](#) and consider participating in the [training provided](#).

6. Seminars and General Interest Lectures

You are welcome at any lecture course or seminar organised by the departments. Indeed, you are welcome at most lectures and seminars organised throughout the University provided there is capacity.

All lectures in the University are listed at timetable.cam.ac.uk. Notices announcing seminars in DAMTP and DPMMS will be available on talks.cam.ac.uk, via the [departmental websites](#), and may be placed on central noticeboards and information screens at the CMS. It is possible to subscribe to talk information for individual seminar series using ical/vcal on talks.cam.ac.uk, or sign up to email reminders.

7. Researcher Development

The purpose of postgraduate study is not just to develop into a skilled mathematician, but also to learn the skills which will help you to have a successful career, whether in research and teaching, or beyond academia, for example in industry. Researcher Development (RD) is therefore an essential part of any research degree.

Your effectiveness as a mathematician or physicist will depend on many skills: these include the ability to give good talks, write clear papers, negotiate with other department members, teach, run a research project, interact with and encourage others. We have a responsibility to provide opportunities for you to develop these skills.

University Researcher Development Programme

The [Researcher Development Programme](#) are the central providers of researcher development support and training for postgraduate students in the University. They have developed the [Cambridge Researcher Development Framework](#) (CamRDF), designed to help structure RD and facilitate your development into a professional researcher. Please bear in mind the programme is designed specifically for PhD students, but it contains videos and workshops which you can see and attend and that might be of help. It is important to realise that the skills of a professional researcher will be helpful to you during your studies and beyond. The CamRDF helps you to prepare yourself in fifteen competencies that will be valued by both academic and non-academic employers in an increasingly interdisciplinary and international context. The work required to complete your research and write your MPhil thesis is one part of that process, but you will also be able to learn through formal training and by applying your skills in non-research situations. From live events, on demand training and podcasts to LinkedIn learning and one-to-one coaching, there are plenty of opportunities to suit all learning styles.

You may find it helpful to undertake the introductory courses and videos available from the [Postgraduate Researcher Development 'Getting Started' webpage](#).

Careers Service

The Careers Service provides support and resources for postgraduate students to maximise your employability during your studies - whether in academic research or beyond. From 1-to-1 guidance consultations to information on prospective employers, the Careers Service is there to help and advise. Check out [/Handshake/](#), the innovative career development platform through which you can make use of the Careers Service and develop your career and network.

We encourage you to use your initiative and be proactive in developing your skills; if you have a new idea for training or would like information on funding for researcher development, then we would like to hear from you.

8. Examination

The Faculty Degree Committee is responsible for overseeing MPhil examinations, and the administration is undertaken by the Postgraduate Office. If you have questions, you can contact the office at degree-committee@maths.cam.ac.uk.

The Degree Committee provides [guidance to students and their supervisors via a dedicated webpage](#). It is important to note that for the MPhil degree there is a hard deadline for submission, and this year is 12noon on the 12th of August 2027 for any MT26 starters.

Please ensure that you read the [University statement on plagiarism and academic misconduct](#). Students should be aware that under University Policy any work submitted for assessment purposes may be submitted to [Turnitin UK \(text-matching software\)](#) for screening.

You will be enrolled on the [Moodle submission page](#) sometime before your submission deadline. Please note your examiners are expected to liaise with you to arrive at a viva date. The viva normally takes place shortly after submission.

Graduation, Degree Certificates and Official University transcripts

Colleges are responsible for organising [graduation](#) and the Department has no role to play – candidates should contact their College Tutorial Office to make the necessary arrangements. The [Student Registry](#) is responsible for the production of formal University transcripts and Degree Certificates.

Continuation to the PhD

It is not possible to provide formal confirmation of your degree result prior to the [Degree Committee meeting](#). If you have been made an offer to continue to undertake a PhD at Cambridge either in the Department or elsewhere, your offer will, as a minimum, require evidence of completion of the MPhil degree. It is the responsibility of the Degree Committee

for the PhD programme you will be commencing to liaise with the Mathematics Degree Committee and the Postgraduate Admissions Office to confirm fulfilment of your academic condition. Please speak to the Course Administrator for the programme you are being admitted to for further advice.

9. Resolving difficulties

Occasionally students may experience problems or difficulties during the course of the MPhil. Such difficulties can take very different forms. The guidance below is provided to help you to identify available support, and advice should you encounter difficulties. Students are encouraged to raise any difficulties that they may have at the earliest opportunity. The sooner that we know about problems, the sooner they can be addressed.

Problems with the course in general

Sometimes a student may find that the course is not right for them. If you are at all concerned that this is the case, you should consult your supervisor at the earliest opportunity. You may also wish to consult your College Tutor or Graduate Tutor at this time. It is important to note that you will become liable for payment of fees from day 21 of every term, even if you withdraw before the end of term.

The role of the Colleges

Students from outside Cambridge tend to underestimate the interest their College takes in them and the help and advice that their College can supply. If you need an advocate with the University or the Faculty, your College will provide one. You should consult your College Tutor or Graduate Tutor for advice. Your College aims to provide you with the best support available. Any decision you make with the help and advice of your College is likely to be better than one you make by yourself. However difficult your situation seems to you, it is very likely that your College has had experience in dealing with similar problems and can offer helpful advice and support. Colleges are used to negotiating with the University bureaucracy and with grant-giving bodies. You can find information on the width of support available in the [Student Get Support pages](#), but please contact the College Tutorial Office if unsure on how they can support you.

Personal difficulties

Occasionally students encounter personal difficulties (e.g. medical or financial) during the course of their studies. If you encounter such personal difficulties, you should inform your College Tutor as soon as possible. They can advise you on your options and on any formal processes or procedures that may apply. Your College may also be able to provide you with other support (e.g. access to counselling services) and will have experience of dealing with many different issues. In addition, you should keep the Course Director informed. The University [Student Support pages](#) have links to many useful resources.

If you need financial support for research related travelling or an emergency contribution towards the purchase of equipment due to hardship, please speak to your supervisor.

Medical problems and disabilities

Students with medical problems or disabilities are strongly advised to discuss such problems with their College, who will offer advice and support for medical problems and disabilities. Please contact the University's [Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre](#).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Faculty of Mathematics, like the wider University, is committed to a pro-active and inclusive approach to equality, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture, and values diversity. We recognise that diversity promotes innovation and creativity, and provides exposure to a wider range of ideas, skills and experiences which we can all benefit from, as well as helping us to attract and retain the best talent from around the world.

The Faculty expects all staff and students to be equally valued and treated with respect, courtesy and consideration, irrespective of, for example, race, disability, faith, gender or sexual orientation. As a member of our community, you have a personal responsibility to behave professionally, and you have the right to expect professional behaviour from others. We would recommend you undertake the online [Equality and Diversity Essentials](#) training.

The Faculty has a zero-tolerance approach to harassment and bullying and supports the University's [Breaking the Silence](#) campaign, which provides support and guidance to members of the University affected by sexual misconduct.

If you have concerns about any such matter, you are encouraged to approach, in confidence, your College Tutor, or either one of the Faculty Equality and Diversity contacts, Dr Zoe Wyatt zw253@cam.ac.uk, EDI.champion@maths.cam.ac.uk (E2.20), or Dr Sergio Bacallado sb2116@dpmms.cam.ac.uk (D1.10).

The Faculty has a Bronze Athena SWAN award. More information on equality, diversity and inclusion can be found on the Faculty's [Equality Diversity & Inclusion webpage](#). The Faculty's [Women in Maths](#) pages contain a wealth of information about and for female mathematicians at Cambridge. The [Emmy Noether Society](#), a student society, aims to promote women studying mathematical sciences and hosts talks from female mathematicians and informal events between students and academics, from both Cambridge and other universities.

The Faculty has a number of mailing lists for information and news about regular social events. If you would like to sign up, they are as follows:

[maths-women-masters](#) List - maths-women-masters

[soc-maths-lgbt](#) List - LGBT+ Mathmos

[maths-nonbinary-masters](#) List - Maths Non-binary Masters students

Women and non-binary students can also use the Mary Cartwright Room which is in the basement of Pavilion E. This room is used for events, study or relaxing. Access to the room is via a door code which is available from reception.

The majority of toilets on site are gender neutral with one set of gendered toilets on the ground floor of every Pavilion and at the bottom of the stairs in the core. The Faculty has a

quiet room available for reflection or prayer in Pavilion F (contact dampsec@maths.cam.ac.uk). More information on equality, diversity and inclusion can be found on the [University of Cambridge EDI webpages](#).

Wellbeing

Looking after your wellbeing is always important. There are lots of sources of support within the Faculty and across the University. Please see the [Faculty Wellbeing webpages](#) and the [University student wellbeing pages](#) for further information.

Informal advice

If at any stage you are uncertain of the best approach to dealing with problems, please do approach the Education Operations Manager (deputyda@maths.cam.ac.uk) or the Faculty's Postgraduate Office Manager (grad-administrator@maths.cam.ac.uk) on an informal basis.

University procedures

Where local resolution is not possible, the University has procedures for managing a range of student complaints (<https://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/>).

10. Centre for Mathematical Sciences

Health and Safety at CMS

Students are expected to comply with all local, University and government guidance, as appropriate.

Please note that some individuals may choose to wear face coverings in the CMS, including in lecture theatres. ***Please show consideration for those who make this choice.***

Access and Security at the CMS

Your College is responsible for providing you with a University Card, but it will need activating to work at the CMS and will give you 24/7 access. Ask at Reception for activation of your card. For access to the Betty and Gordon Moore Library, see below – [Library](#).

The main doors into Central Core are normally unlocked on weekdays between 8.00am-5.30pm, and on Saturdays from 8.30am-5.00pm in term time. Magnetically locked doors should not be propped open, or the alarm will sound. You need a University Card to unlock exterior doors and interior doors outside core hours. ***Keep your card on you at all times.***

Do not let strangers without keys or entry cards into the buildings and do not move computers without contacting the Computer Officers. Close manual windows and lock manual doors if you are the last to leave.

The University is not insured for theft of, or damage to, your personal property while you are on University premises, so if you bring a computer with you, you should take out insurance for it. The University is insured for accidental personal injury to staff, students and visitors while they are on University premises, but only where the accident was due to fault on the University's part.

Electrical equipment

No portable electrical equipment should not be brought into the Department apart from laptops and phone chargers and they must be in good working order and safe to use. If in doubt it should be checked by the CMS Facilities Team technicians. Please email facilities@maths.cam.ac.uk. If required, lamps and supplementary heaters can be provided by the Facilities Team. Electrical Equipment Testing (EET) is carried out across the department on a rolling basis. Any redundant electrical items or batteries should be disposed of in the dedicated waste streams for such items. If you have any damaged Lithium Ion batteries, please contact Reception to arrange disposal and do not place them in the battery bins.

Disabled Students

The building was designed for universal access but please contact the CMS Facilities Manager (CMSFacMg@maths.cam.ac.uk /66915) for advice on access to and egress from the buildings and any special requirements that may need to be considered.

General Safety

It is important that all members of the Department staff observe safe working practices and inform the appropriate Site Safety Officer if they see anything giving cause for concern. The [CMS safety policy](#) is available online.

All accidents or near misses should be reported, whether or not they involve personal injury. Accident report forms are available from Reception. Completed forms should be submitted to the Department Site Safety officer as appropriate.

Site Safety Officers are:

- For the Laboratory: 37841, GKBlabmanager@damtp.ac.uk (name TBC)
- For the rest of the site: James Wilcock, Facilities Manager (66915, CMSFacMg@maths.cam.ac.uk)

First Aid

First Aiders may be summoned via Reception (65000). First Aid boxes are held in each common room in one of the cupboards and a First Aid room is located on the lower ground floor of Pavilion F. There is an automated external defibrillator (AED) sited on the buttress adjacent to reception leading to the entrance to Pavilion G common room.

If an accident occurs outside normal office hours, telephone Security on 31818. The emergency number for FIRE, POLICE or AMBULANCE is **via Security on 101, or 1999 on any network phone**.

All incidents must be reported to Reception, and a report form completed. Completed forms should be submitted to the Department Safety Officer as appropriate.

Fire Safety

Familiarise yourself with entrances, emergency exits and fire-alarm assembly points. In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building by the nearest exit. **Do not re-enter the building, even if the alarm has been silenced, until advised to do so.**

The external doors do not unlock automatically for security reasons; exit in the normal way. Assembly points are shown on posted site plans and Fire Wardens will direct you. Do not attempt to enter another building if the alarm is sounding there also.

In an emergency, and in the unlikely event of doors failing to open, break the glass in the **green** “break glass” boxes located alongside each door. Please report this to Reception/Security, as the doors will remain unlocked until the break glass is replaced.

Fire alarms are tested in each building every Wednesday morning between 08.30 and 09.00. The alarm will sound for only a few seconds and for this brief period only it can be ignored; if the alarm continues to sound, please evacuate the building. An organised Fire Drill will be carried out in Michaelmas Term.

Smoking

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, there will be no smoking allowed anywhere in the main courtyard area at the front of Reception/Library/INI or near building entrances. Ashtrays will be located in the cycle sheds around the perimeter of site.

Post

Student post should be directed to your College address. Ask at Reception for help with outgoing post.

Recycling

CMS has one of the best recycling rates within the University with approximately 2/3 of waste recycled; please help us maintain and better this by thinking carefully about how you should dispose of waste and select the correct waste stream. There are **four** waste streams: Non-recycling, Paper and Cardboard, Food and Metal/Glass/Plastic. Minimising our impact on the environment is increasingly important and it costs the University twice as much to dispose of general waste as it does for mixed recyclables waste.

Catering Facilities and Common Rooms

The central dining facility is open Monday–Friday from 8.30 to 15.00 for snacks, sandwiches, and coffee and tea. Please ensure you return your trays to the collection points and place all unwanted items in the appropriate bin. There are vending machines in the Central Core and in the Betty & Gordon Moore Library.

There are coffee machines in the common room in each pavilion. Each pavilion has its own common room with fridge, kettle/water boiler, and microwave. Wash and clear away any crockery and cutlery after use. The refrigerators should not be used for long-term storage of food as space is limited.

Library

Located on the CMS site, the Moore Library (full name- [Betty and Gordon Moore Library](#)) is the principal STEM library of the University holding collections across the whole of STEM (with the exception of Clinical Sciences, which are held at the Medical Library). In particular,

the library houses extensive collections in Mathematics and the Physical Sciences. Students are pre-registered for borrowing on the library management system as part of their general enrolment to the University.

There are many specialist print and online resources to support mathematical sciences in Cambridge, which are detailed in the [Maths LibGuide](#). Other libraries in Cambridge may be relevant to postgraduate students. For example, the University Library in West Road holds a large collection of older mathematical material.

The library discovery system is [iDiscover](#), which allows users to search the University's print and online collections. Users are also able to manage their loans using iDiscover, to check their loans and other important information.

You may find that you have to search existing academic literature for your work. The Moore Library's Research Support team will be happy to help you do this. Please [email them with any enquiries](#). The team can help you with research and study enquiries, or direct you to expert help where needed.

The complete range of texts supporting the Mathematical Tripos are listed through our [Leganto pages](#).

For current library hours, please refer to the [Moore library opening hours](#).

Identifying study spaces

The CMS common rooms and the central core are sometimes used as informal study spaces. There are study spaces in most Colleges and Libraries: <https://spacefinder.lib.cam.ac.uk/>. The Betty and Gordon Moore library offers common areas for quiet study, bookable spaces for groups of up to 6, study pods for up to 4 people, a large open group-work area, and even an Acoustic Booth to hold online meetings.

Hotdesking spaces in the [West Hub](#), such as the top floor of the Maxwell Centre, are open to students during office hours, but are not accessible out of hours to students outside the Department.

Seminars

Notices announcing seminars in DAMTP and DPMMS will be available on talks.cam.ac.uk, via the Departments websites ([DAMTP](#) and [DPMMS](#)) and may be placed on central noticeboards and information screens at the CMS.

Laboratory

The GK Batchelor Laboratory occupies the basement of Pavilions A, C and H. Members who wish to carry out experimental work there should contact the Laboratory Director Prof. Ray Goldstein (37908, R.E.Goldstein@damtp.cam.ac.uk). New arrivals should always make themselves known to the Laboratory Safety Officer, 37841 (*name and email TBC, in the meantime emails can be sent to the labmanager@damtp.cam.ac.uk*), who will provide a laboratory induction and Risk Assessment advice, and authorise their access card to be programmed for lab access.

12. IT and Computing

Computing information for new research students

Please check the Faculty [Computing New Research students page](#), for University and Faculty information for new research students.

Email and Computing Accounts

Students will be issued with a [University email account](#) and a Desktop Services computing account by the University Information Services (UIS). Students who are new to Cambridge are able [to retrieve passwords for these accounts in advance of arrival in Cambridge](#) as part of the University's Student Registration process. Students returning to Cambridge should be able to access their previous account. Accounts that have been closed down during the summer vacation by UIS can be re-activated upon request.

Students are advised that a personal laptop will be required for independent work and within classes, with the following recommendations:

- Under 2kg weight in order to be portable (netbooks are often down to 1kg)
- Screen size 14 or 15 inches is "normal" (12 inches is often "ultra-portable" and anything below 8 inches is too tiny)
- CPU, memory, disk
- Network connections: wireless, wired/cable, 3G
- Other connections such as USB, firewire, eSata, memory card, audio
- OS: Windows, OSX, Linux, combinations
- Expected useful lifetime 3 to 5 years

Cohort Mailing Lists

The Faculty uses student mailing lists for issuing important information to the entire student body, or specific student groups. You will be added to the mailing list for research students (DAMTP/DPMMS as applicable). Lists are moderated to prevent students receiving unofficial email and/or junk email. Most students will have no need to send email to these lists, and should do so only if information is of genuine academic interest to all students.

Noticeboard Mailing Lists

The Faculty also operates email lists for students who wish to receive information about careers, courses or jobs via a system called 'noticeboard'. All new students are added to this mailing list at the start of their course. If you wish to opt out of the 'noticeboard' you are free to do so.

Wi-Fi (Eduroam)

You can connect your personal devices to the Internet using Wi-Fi on most of the University sites. Further information on wireless services, including instructions for how to connect to eduroam with your device, are available on [UIS Wifi Services](#) page.

Computing Courses

The UIS offers a [wide range of training courses](#) which are open to members of the University. Please see [UIS online training timetable](#) and booking facility for details. UIS online training could be found here: [Online training courses | IT Help and Support](#)

Computing Rules

Users of Faculty computing facilities are subject to some rules which are published by [UIS](#). In particular your attention is drawn to the following:

- Computer accounts are issued for use by a single individual. You must not log in using another person's login name or allow any other person to access facilities using your login name.
- Computer hardware should be used carefully and left in a condition fit for others to use.
- Information belonging to other users is confidential. You must not read, access, or modify any file not owned by you without the explicit permission of the owner. When a file is not protected (i.e. read or write access by others is allowed), it should not be assumed that permission to copy or modify the file is granted.
- Proprietary software must be used correctly in accordance with licensing conditions and must not be copied or modified. If you install any proprietary software, including shareware, on Part III computers, you must hold a valid licence.
- Users must not access any material on the Internet or other facility which:
 - a. is libellous, racist, obscene or indecent;
 - b. is likely or designed to cause offence, inconvenience or anxiety to others;
 - c. infringes copyright law or any other law (images and sound particularly);
 - d. is of a character likely to bring the University or Faculty of Mathematics into disrepute.
- If you encounter such material by accident you are advised to stop viewing immediately and avoid accessing it again.