

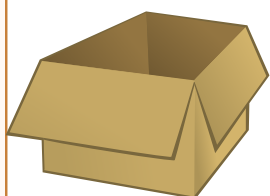
Freshers' Packing Guide

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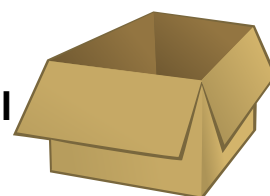
Moving to university is a really exciting time! But it can also be really stressful when you just don't know what to bring with you! This guide is here to give you a little bit of help with that! Bear in mind that everyone's time at uni is very different; this list is by no means exhaustive, nor is everything on it essential, so you may need more or less than what's here, but hopefully it's a good start!

Some of this stuff you'll want to get before you come to Cambridge. IKEA, charity shops and supermarkets can be good places to find things, and you may find that you already own some things you can bring with you (e.g. bedsheets, stationery, clothes - it's not at all necessary to get new things for uni if you already have them!). However, there are also lots of great shops in Cambridge that you can buy things from, so it's not the end of the world if you get to uni and realise there's other things you need! You may also find it easier (if you're a UK student) to get some stuff once the first instalment of your student loan has come through, which shouldn't be too long after you move in - that's completely fine, you don't need to arrive in Cambridge with all these things, and you may find you don't need some of them at all.

In town, there is a Sainsbury's (Mainsbury's) to buy your groceries, a Ryman's for stationery, a Wilko, a Boots and Superdrug (both with pharmacies) and many other shops. Not too far from the centre are other supermarkets like Aldi, Lidl and Tesco, and there's a small co-op very close to Newnham if you need to get anything quickly. There is also a Sainsbury's Superstore on Eddington Avenue (about a 2 mile drive from Newnham, or you can get there on the U Bus) with an attached Argos; this might be useful for buying things like cooking equipment and kitchen appliances.

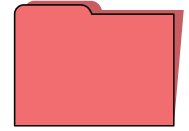


If you'd like a little more help or have any questions about what's here, feel free to email jcr.freshers@newn.cam.ac.uk





Important Documents



- ID – a driving licence (provisional licence is fine) is probably the easiest form of ID you can bring with you, but there are some other proof of age cards you can get such as the PASS card from the national Proof of Age Standards Scheme
 - You will be issued with a Cam Card (Cambridge student ID) when you arrive, and while this can usually be used to prove you're a student, it won't be accepted in most circumstances where you are required to prove your age e.g. for club entry or buying 18+ items in a supermarket
 - In short, just any card with your photo, name and DoB WON'T be accepted in most circumstances where you are required to prove your age - you'll need a valid passport, photo driving licence (provisional licences are fine) or a proof of age card such as the PASS card from the national Proof of Age Standards Scheme
 - See this [link](#) for more details
- It may also be a good idea to bring your passport and/or copies of your birth certificate, as well as bank statements – if you get involved in any volunteering roles in Cambridge you may be asked for these documents
- NHS Card/Number (UK Students) – you'll need this to register for the GP.
- Student and College finance paperwork. If you open a student bank account in Cambridge, they'll probably ask for proof that you're a student, so bringing along something like your acceptance letter is a good idea (it is often possible to open a student bank account online before you come though!)
- Exam certificates and UCAS number
- Bank account information and paperwork – if you can, you might find it useful to set up online banking to track your income and spending more easily
- Something to store all this in! Some kind of physical folder may be helpful

You don't always need a physical document to find/show your NHS number - here's a link you can use to get your NHS number sent to you:
<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/find-nhs-number/>

Bedroom

The rooms at Newnham are nice on their own, and the college provides a lot of stuff so you don't have to. This list mostly consists of extras that you might want to bring to make your room feel more homely and your life a little more convenient.



Bedding



- Bedding and bed linen – Newnham provides a duvet and pillows so you will need to bring the duvet cover, sheets and pillow covers etc.
- Most rooms have single beds, except those in the Dorothy Garrod Building which are predominantly doubles (except for a handful of accessible rooms which have single beds). The Rosalind Franklin Building (RFB) has a mix of both
- You may wish to bring your own blanket(s), as some rooms can get quite cold!

Other Bedroom Things

- Any electrical items you like using e.g. hairdryer, straighteners
- Decorations – whatever makes your room feel more personal! Some popular items include photos, fairy lights and house plants! Bear in mind that many of the college buildings are listed, which means that you can't use Blu-Tack or tape on the walls, and candles are strictly prohibited
- To hang stuff on the walls, most rooms have a picture rail and college provides hooks for these. The picture rails can be quite high, so you might need some string, and you may also want more hooks depending on how much you're hanging up
- Every room should also have a noticeboard, which a lot of people use to personalise their rooms; there's no guarantee how many pushpins you'll have for this board so you might want to buy or bring some
- Extension lead(s) – some of the sockets in your room can be in a weird place and/or scarce!
- Basic first aid kit – plasters, painkillers, cough sweets etc. – it's better to have these in case you fall ill and can't go out to get some



Clothes



This probably seems like an obvious one but make sure you bring enough weather-appropriate clothing; it gets cold in Michaelmas!

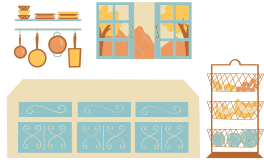
- There are a few events during Freshers' Week (such as Matriculation and the Welcome Feast) when you'll be expected to wear your gown and formal clothing; this can be a dress, a nice shirt and trousers... whatever you feel most comfortable in! You might want to bring a few outfits like these that you can wear if you decide to go to Formal Hall throughout the year. You can buy your gown in advance or when you get to Newnham (college will organise a gown sale). If you're buying in advance, make sure you get a Newnham gown because colleges have different gowns!
- You'll probably also need to buy or bring some hangers for your wardrobe. There should be some in your room when you arrive but it's likely you'll need more!
- Don't forget a coat! Something waterproof is a good idea but a warm coat and an umbrella can also work
- You might want a pair of slippers, sliders, crocs or something else that's comfortable to walk around college in e.g. to go to your kitchen, or the Buttery (if you're in Old Hall, you'll have to go outside to get there)
- You might also want a pair of flip flops for when you use the bathroom/showers



Stationery/Work Materials



- Laptop/tablet – most students will bring a portable device for assignments or to type lecture notes but it's not at all essential! Newnham always has a free computer in either the computer suite or library, as do most of Cambridge's libraries
- Folder(s) – you may get a lot of lecture handouts, so it's good to have something to store them in, as well as any handwritten notes or work if you like doing things on paper
- The basics – pens, pencils, highlighter, rubber, ruler, sharpener
- Paper/notebook – it's always handy to have something to write on
- Calendar/planner/diary – a lot of people have something physical to organise their schedule, but you may prefer to do this digitally!



Kitchen



Even if you don't plan on cooking much, it's useful to have some of these things!

- Basic crockery and cutlery – plates, bowls, cups/glasses, mugs. Make sure you have enough for you plus a few spares in case you don't feel like/don't have time to wash up one day. It can also be helpful to have spares in case you have people over for meals or a cup of tea (but you can always ask friends to bring their own if you're doing this!)
- Make sure you can identify your cutlery so that it doesn't get mixed up with the other people in your kitchen! You could buy distinctive cutlery or put nail polish on the tip of a metal set
- Toaster – college doesn't provide these. You might find someone who has one and is willing to share, or you might decide to buy and share one with the people in your kitchen. Just remember, you can't use toasters in your bedroom – you don't want to be that person who sets off the fire alarm at 7am and wakes everyone up!
- I'd advise against getting a toaster before you move in - there may already be one in your shared kitchen whose owner doesn't mind sharing, or if not, you may end up deciding to split the cost of one with people sharing your kitchen
- Kettle – a lot of people keep these in their rooms, but you might want to find someone to share with!
- Knife/Knives and chopping board(s)
- Pot/pan – pasta is a student staple!
- Oven tray – you will have access to an oven in college, so this is a good thing to have for chips, pizza etc.
- Frying pan
- Plastic containers - good for leftovers!
- Tin opener



Kitchen (continued)



- Grater
- Colander
- Wooden spoon(s)
- Washing up bowl (definitely not an essential but it can be used to carry washing up from your room to the kitchen and for keeping your dirty dishes separate from other people's)
- Washing up stuff - most Newnham kitchens have washing up liquid in them anyway but you may want to bring sponges and/or a dishmatic (a very helpful kitchen gadget that you can usually get quite cheap in places like Wilko)

You may want to bring some staples for your cupboard e.g. pasta, tins, any food items that you may struggle to find in Cambridge, but in general Cambridge has a lot of supermarkets and food shops so you should be fine for grocery shopping when you're there :)



Bathroom/Cleaning Items



- Toiletries – obviously you can buy these in town but if you have specific products you like you may want to stock up on them before you get here
- Towels! And flannels/a shower puff or something
- It might also be a good idea to bring a small bag/basket/caddy so that you can take them to and from the shower/bathroom more easily
- Washing detergent for clothes – the washing machines at Newnham only take liquid detergent!
- Drying rack – the college dryers were free 2021-22, and hopefully still will be 2022-23, but you may wish to dry your clothes on a rack anyway, especially if you have items that may shrink in a drying machine
- Kitchen roll and/or wipes – it's always good to have some on hand in case of accidental spills!

Checklist of Suggestions

- ID
- (Copy of) Passport
- NHS Card/Number
- Finance paperwork
- Exam certificates
- Bank account info
- (Copy of) Birth certificate
- Folder to store this all in
- Formal outfits
- Hangers
- Coat
- Slippers/flip flops
- Bedding and linen
- Throw or blanket
- Towels
- Hairdryer
- Decorations
- String and hooks
- Pins
- Extension lead
- Basic first aid kit
- Laptop/tablet
- The stationery basics
- Planner
- Basic crockery/cutlery
- Knife and cutting board
- Pots, pans and oven tray
- Plastic container
- Tin opener
- Grater and colander
- Wooden spoons
- Toiletries
- Kitchen roll/wipes
- Bag/Caddy
- Liquid detergent
- Drying rack



Suggestions from the Freshers' Committee!

These are by no means essentials, just things that members of the Freshers' Committee are glad they brought or wish they'd brought!

'pins for the pin board'

'all of your clothes'*

'an air mattress - useful to have guests and plus people are always looking for them and will often pay you in chocolate'

'an over door hanger - great for storing a coat, dressing gown etc!'

'foam roller'

'a pack of cards and/or board games you might want to play with your new friends'

**depends how many clothes you have but you probably don't need all of them as long as you have suitable items for the weather and enough underwear to avoid doing laundry every day*

As always, feel free to get in touch with the Freshers' Committee in the facebook group, or email jcr.freshers@newn.cam.ac.uk if you have any questions!