
Summer 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to write as Managing Director and thank you for choosing to send your child to Reach Cambridge this summer. This year is the 20th anniversary of running academic summer programs, and we are really looking forward to welcoming a new group of incredible students to Cambridge and getting to know them this summer.

I fully understand that this is a big step for many students who travel long distances to join us each year and, for some, it may also be their first time away from home. As such, it is entirely understandable that you may have some questions and concerns about the program. With this in mind, in the document below we have compiled a list of the most commonly asked questions and concerns that parents and guardians have. I strongly urge you to read these points prior to your child's departure for Cambridge and familiarise yourself with the key details.

The information below should help address any general, non-urgent enquiries that may otherwise arise during the first few days of the program. As you can imagine, the first week is always very busy and particularly intense for the students as they settle into their college, make new friends and start classes. As such, we will be investing all our time and energy into helping them adjust to their new surroundings.

One key point we would like to convey in the FAQs is that Reach Cambridge is a program designed to prepare our students for life as an adult, at university and beyond. For this reason, we strongly encourage students to bring any questions or concerns they might have during the program directly to Reach Cambridge staff, rather than communicating via their parents. This is an important step in our students learning how to be independent learners and adults in the outside world.

I hope that the information provided here helps to alleviate any concerns and answers any queries you may have. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to refer to the FAQs section of our website or email admissions@reachcambridge.com.

Thank you again for choosing Reach Cambridge & we look forward to meeting your child soon!

Yours Sincerely,

Jenny Evans
Managing Director

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Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the overall structure of the program?**

A Reach Cambridge program is action-packed and exciting. Generally, academic courses run every weekday morning and students will be given appropriate breaks during this time. There is then free time for lunch followed by fun and inclusive organised activities in the afternoon and/or taster courses should your child have selected any for their program. Dinner is normally in the college dining hall, followed by an inspiring evening lecture as well as more fun activities before curfew on their corridor with their supervisor.

All students join together for excursions, which are often on the weekends. There are two excursions during every 2-week program and this is a great chance to develop friendships, complement the academic teaching and to see some more of the amazing sites and attractions within the UK.

- **What is the overall structure of the course teaching during the program?**

The course teaching normally takes place on weekday mornings, and the subject classes will be complemented by interdisciplinary sessions and an academic excursion. There will also be some evening workshops and lectures for the whole student community.

Each subject has been crafted in collaboration between our teachers, coordinators and our Director of Curriculum. Many teachers return each year based on positive feedback from students, parents and staff.

Most courses have more than one teacher to ensure the students are constantly engaged by different experts in the field with varied teaching styles and modes of delivery. In order to prepare the students for university, there will be a combination of teaching style and delivery throughout the program – lectures, workshops, group discussion and presentations will all be incorporated into many of the lessons. In addition, there will be plenty of opportunity for interdisciplinary learning, helping students to understand how different subjects interact with one another and the value of an interdisciplinary approach.

Students will be mixed with other ages and nationalities in the classroom in order to provide a dynamic and enriching course experience. There will be an excellent teacher-to-student ratio in order to give more attention to students who may be more advanced or need extra help during teaching time or particular topics. Please encourage your child to approach the teachers for help if they are unsure or have further questions about the academic content of the course.

- **What should I do if my child has any concerns or questions regarding the teaching or their course?**

If your child ever has any concerns with the teaching or course, they should speak directly to their course teacher, the Director of Curriculum or to our Program Director(s) who will be available and on-site daily. This will allow us to deal with anything directly, and more quickly and efficiently than via email or phone from abroad.

- **What is the set-up of rooming and colleges?**

The accommodation experience is designed to emulate life as a university student in Cambridge. Students will be staying in the centre of Cambridge in college accommodation and will be informed which college they will be staying in prior to the summer. The course classrooms are typically in colleges and university department teaching spaces. Students may have a short walk between college and class each morning.

Students will be staying in single or shared rooms on a corridor with shared bathroom facilities. Students will be accommodated with other students of the same gender and of a similar age. In order to truly benefit from the international nature of the programs, there will be a mix of nationalities. Each corridor is assigned a corridor supervisor who will reside overnight with the students and is the first port of call for any questions or concerns.

Many factors are taken into consideration when assigning rooms and colleges to each student. Due to this, I am afraid we cannot facilitate room swaps. Any shared rooming requests must have been submitted online prior to arrival in Cambridge and although not guaranteed, we will do our best to enable these requests. **Please note** – in the event of limited access to twin rooms, we will try to place the students together in rooms side-by-side or on the same corridor.

- **What if my child has any general concerns during their time at Reach?**

Our programs are designed to help prepare students for university and to grow in confidence and independence during their time with us in a safe and structured environment. We encourage them to ask questions and to seek answers both in and outside of the classroom; our approachable and experienced staff team are always on hand to help students in any way possible.

As you will see from the student handbook, which will be shared closer to the summer, there are many staff on-site dedicated to the welfare of the students and we are always available should they have any concerns. In the welcome talk, we will strongly encourage students to come to us directly with any concerns or questions and it is here that we will introduce them to the senior staff team and their corridor supervisor. There is also a Designated Safeguarding Lead for the program.

- **What if I have any concerns or wish to speak to a staff member?**

All staff will be working hard throughout the day and night to ensure all students are safe, healthy and are having a memorable and enriching experience with us. As such, the best way of contacting Reach Cambridge staff for general questions and enquiries is via our email address summer@reachcambridge.com or via the Reach phone +44 870 803 1732 during office hours of 9am – 6pm BST (please note the time difference between your country and the UK prior to calling).

You will be given contact details for specific senior staff nearer the summer in case of an emergency concerning your child.

- **What if my child needs emergency assistance?**

Students will be given an emergency card which they should keep on their person at all times during their stay with us. This will have the college address, national emergency number and phone numbers of all senior staff on the program. Staff are on-call 24 hours a day for students. If they are ever in an emergency or feel unwell, they should call one of the senior staff immediately at any time of day or night – this will be communicated to them during the welcome talk.

Our senior staff and supervisors are first aid trained and Cambridge itself has excellent medical provisions. There are many doctors' surgeries near the colleges as well as a large research hospital.

- **What are the key program Rules & Regulations my child and I should be reminded of prior to the program?**

One of the aims of a Reach Cambridge program is to encourage independence. There are not very many rules, but the ones we do have are strictly enforced. Students and parents have all signed up to the rules and regulations on application, and as a reminder, the main rules are as follows:

- The Reach Cambridge community is founded on mutual respect. All students are expected to respect the rights of all members of the community. This includes other Reach Cambridge students and staff, the staff of the College and University and the wider Cambridge community as a whole, as well as the College, University and Reach Cambridge buildings and facilities.
- Students must attend all classes, evening lectures and any mandatory activities or workshops.
- You must report to your supervisor at curfew and you cannot leave your dormitory after curfew or before breakfast time the next morning.
- We have a zero-tolerance policy with regards to the use of alcohol or drugs. The following actions are likely to result in the student (regardless of age) being sent home

without a refund: the drinking, consumption or possession of alcohol; the purchase of alcohol or distribution or attempted distribution or sale of alcohol; having bottles containing alcohol or which have contained alcohol in their possession, not limited to the individual's person, their bag or dorm. The same applies to the possession, distribution, sale or attempted distribution or sale of drugs or substances including psychoactive substances.

- In the UK, cigarettes or vaping products cannot be sold to young people under the age of 18. Smoking or vaping is prohibited anywhere on campus except in specified areas and it is absolutely prohibited on program vehicles. For anywhere else off campus, be considerate and remember that smoking inside public places is against the law. Students who have not indicated on their application that they are a smoker will have their parents informed if they are found to be smoking or vaping, in possession of cigarettes or e-cigarettes, or attempting to obtain cigarettes or e-cigarettes.

The consequences for breaking one of the rules vary depending on the circumstances. However, particularly in the case of alcohol or drug related misconduct, the penalty can be severe: should a student violate any of the rules and regulations of the program, Reach Cambridge have the right to dismiss and repatriate them at their own expense without refund of the program fee (see our full [Terms & Conditions](#) for more information).

- **Are the students supervised? Will they have free time? Will they be safe?**

There are Reach Cambridge staff on-call and on-site 24 hours a day.

Outside of class time, students will be offered the chance to take part in activities during the afternoons and evenings. These will be organised and run by our supervisory team. Attendance is compulsory for some activities and highly encouraged for all others – we work hard to run activities students will be interested in and hope that they all attend; we hope that you will encourage them to do so.

If students wish to spend time in groups in town to get food, shop etc, they must sign-out of college and stay within the city centre, have their emergency cards at all times and be in a minimum of pairs – no-one should leave college on their own.

Students will be registered in class each morning, at evening lectures and at curfew on their corridor. They may also be registered for any large group excursions and activities.

Cambridge is a very safe city, and the colleges are locked at night and monitored by CCTV at all times. The college Porters are there to monitor everyone who enters and leaves the college.

- **Will I be able to contact my child/children during their stay?**

Yes, of course. Having said this, based on past feedback from students and parents, we strongly recommend that you refrain from contacting them too often, especially during their first few days when it is crucial that they join in fully with all activities, excursions and experience in order to get to know other students and fully settle into the program. This would be the same advice given when beginning University for the first time.

On a practical note, we will be showing students where they can buy international SIM cards during their stay if they have not purchased one already. We also have facilities available if students wish to use Zoom and don't have Internet access or a computer with them.

For other questions please don't hesitate to refer to the [Useful Info section](#) of our website or email: admissions@reachcambridge.com.