

## **Experiencing Cambridge Summer School 2015**

### **Student Testimonials...**

#### **Niall Murray**

Once we arrived at the college we went to the Porter's Lodge and they allowed us to leave our bags in a room so we could collect them later. This gave us an opportunity to take a better look around the city. We later returned to the college and collected our bags; we were given our key and preceded to our room. The rooms were all very spacious and included a bed, desk, wardrobe and sink. Wi-Fi was also available in all rooms!

We were soon welcomed to the college by the Admissions Tutor in the McCrum lecture Theatre. We then went to the Hall where we received our dinner, which was also free. After dinner, we were mixed into groups and took part in a quiz. This allowed us to get to know the other students taking part in the summer school. We then returned to the McCrum Theatre to watch "The Theory of Everything".

The next morning breakfast was served at 8 o'clock. We then attended a Physics Lecture with Dr Michael Sutherland. There were 3 choices of lectures, one for Arts and Humanities, one for Biological Sciences and one for Physical Sciences. After the lecture we took a tour of the Engineering Department. It was good to get a look around the department that we would spend a lot of time in if we were to attend the university. We were shown various activities available to engineers including 'Formulae Student'. The facilities were very impressive and would provide various opportunities. After lunch we were given another lecture by Dr C Cawthorn. But not all our time was taken up by tours and lectures, we were allowed free time after this lecture. We definitely made the best use of this by taking a ride in the kayaks which was very close to the college. This was another good experience and allowed us another chance to take a look at the city. That night we attended a "Formal" dinner in the hall. These are held a few times a week for students at the college.

On the last day we were again served breakfast at 8 o'clock and then went "Punting". This was very relaxing and allowed us to learn more about the various colleges in Cambridge. Once this was completed we returned to be given refreshments and then attended our final lecture given by Dr R McMahan. Finally we were provided with a picnic lunch in the "Master's Garden" before departing from the University.

Now that we had completed the Summer School we travelled to Oxford to attend the Open day. We were allowed to view the different colleges at Oxford. We were given various prospectuses' to inform us about more on the courses we were interested in. We also attended a tutorial with Professor Martin Williams; this gave us an opportunity to see how we would learn at this type of university. This involved a talk with the professor and 3 other students. He gave us examples of what we could

expect in a typical interview for this university. We were also able to attend the departments we wished to see.

The experience as a whole was a great opportunity; it gave me an insight to both the university and allowed me to decide which would best suit my needs. To top it all off the only thing that we were required to pay for was the flights, this was well worth it and I would definitely recommend younger students to make the best use of this opportunity.