

Experiencing Cambridge Summer School 2015

Student Testimonials...

Peter Ward

On the 29th of June myself, my mum, and two other boys from the CBS went off from Derry airport to London Gatwick. We then travelled by train to Cambridge Station. After a half hour trip we were there, we hailed in a taxi which took us to the town and from there we walked to Corpus Christi College.

It was an incredibly hot four days with temperatures over 30^oC . A guest speaker from Costa Rica even commented that it was hotter in Cambridge than where he was from! We were shown to our rooms in the Ben'et Street accommodation; mine was spacious and overlooked the Corpus Christi Locust clock and was opposite King's College - so I had a great view. We then had a short tour of the city centre before returning to our rooms where we got ready for the Welcome by the Admissions Tutor at the McCrum Lecture Hall. We then had a dinner at the Hall, which was very fancy. After dinner, there was a quiz; our team calling ourselves Angus' Angels after the undergraduate student touring us about. We were then brought to the McCrum theatre to watch a film, there was supposed to be a vote but 'The Theory of Everything' seemed to have been selected undemocratically.

In the morning we had breakfast in the Great Hall, which was large continental style. At about 9am we meet up by the Porter's Lodge where we went with our subject group, mine being the Physical Sciences. We then went on a walk to the Engineering Department where we were shown around while it was going under some renovations and extensions. It all looked very impressive and I would think if I was doing an Engineering degree would be very happy to be there. After lunch in the Hall we had some free time, so decided to go kayaking.

After returning I had a lecture on Quantum Mechanics in the Parker room with Dr C Cawthorn. After that we all got together again for an Admissions Session and an Undergraduate Q&A. After a bit of free time we went back to the lecture theatre for a very interesting talk by Prof McGrew, an American primatologist who received his degree or PhD from Cambridge, and who'd just flown in from Costa Rica from his latest studies.

That evening I got unnecessarily dressed up in a suit for 'formal dinner'. We were served a three course. It was all very high class with goat's cheese and stuff, very impressive and tasted better than anticipated!

The next morning we went punting after breakfast on the River Cam, in the scorching sun. The punter told us about the history of the places we passed.

We then went back for some refreshments and a final lecture on Engineering; the innovations in renewable energy in particular. Then we had a picnic in the Master's Lodge Garden before finally heading off on the bus for Oxford.

My experiences of Cambridge were highly positive and I found the people very friendly.

We got to Oxford nearly four hours later. We had dinner then we went out and got pizza and took it back to Paul's room. The rooms at New College, where we were staying were great as they were en-suite and had a mini-fridge. The college was lovely with some of the city's old walls in it and a giant mound which we were told to get off!

The next day was an Open-day and after breakfast I was able to get a personal tour with loads of free water, in the morning before the crowds came. Then I had a maths talk, which turned out to be in a small room, over four storeys up showing how old and large the college is. Then a talk on admissions was given in the dinner hall. I went to see another college, St. Clare's before we had to go on a bus back Heathrow and on home.