

# **GIRTON INTERNATIONAL FRESHERS 2023-2024**



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# Welcome

**Hi everyone,**

First of all, congratulations on making it this far! Cambridge is an amazing university, and Girton is the best college of them all.

I, Stine, am writing to you as the JCR International officer. That means that I am in charge of the issues on the JCR that revolve around life as an international student, whether that be sorting out over summer storage or a welfare chat if you ever feel lost or homesick.

It also means I have the pleasure of organising the international freshers days, which are from the 25th to the 27th of September. The point of the international freshers days is to make the moving-from-home-overseas-part a bit less overwhelming. Our goal is to make sure that you get settled into the basics before the other freshers arrive and get some familiar faces- oh, and then we are going to have loads of fun doing that. We will tour college as many times as we need, go get bikes and explore the joys of British cuisine (that I have yet to get fully used to after a year) together.

The other point of the international freshers days is to get to know each other. Girton in general is a very inclusive community, and the internationals are no different. We are here to help you through the first weeks, that I remember as being confusing and overwhelming myself.

With me, I have a brilliant group of Girton students that together form the international freshers days committee. Our introductions and email-addresses are on the last couple of pages, so please check those out if you want to get to know us.

This is a formal looking information pack, but I may very well have forgotten something, or some of the information may be confusing. If you are ever unsure about something, please feel free to ask! Important information cannot be repeated or explained enough, and we are here to help- there are no stupid questions, and my inbox is always open!

Cant wait to see you :)

- Stine

# Important information

Your inbox is probably filling up with practical information right now, some of it confusing and some of it may even seem contradictory. The information in there is the key, and if you can keep track of anything that is important from there, you will be all set. For the purpose of the international freshers days, the most important thing is that they are arranged between the **25th and the 27th of september**.

It is useful to be aware that there is a uni-wide [international freshers week](#) going on. I have had questions about which events to prioritise etc, and it is really up to you. It is absolutely possible to try a bit of both. However, in general, I believe the events we have planned are more lowkey, while the uni-wide ones are with more people and a larger community. Depends what you are most comfortable with!

When it comes to sorting out travel etc., I recommend checking out the international freshers guide for the entire uni (called the cambridge international freshers guide) and the main freshers guide. If you have additional questions or find any of that unclear, however, please reach out.

To know who you are and when you are arriving (so we can welcome you), please fill out this form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvj45KJmoFBWao19v3jTDCvLhei\\_wlINalycmhjj5AQV61VQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvj45KJmoFBWao19v3jTDCvLhei_wlINalycmhjj5AQV61VQ/viewform?usp=sf_link) .

Please join this Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253902590851458> where there will be updates of practical information and coordination. It is also a brilliant opportunity to maybe get in touch with some of the other international freshers at Girton 😊

There are also several useful social media-channels to follow (with info that is nice to know, but not necessary). I would recommend following the ISC (International Students Campaign) on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) . They also have [Whatsapp](#) group chats that you may find useful.

# Plan for the international freshers days

This is a brief outline of the international freshers days:

International Freshers' Week 2023			
	Monday, 25th	Tuesday, 26th	Wednesday 27th
10-11am	Morning swim	Morning swim	Morning swim
11-12pm			
12-1pm	Lunch	Lunch	Picnic with other colleges / freshers bbq in college
1-2pm		Town shopping trip	
2-3pm			
3-4pm			Merge into the other freshers
4-5pm	Welcome talk and college tour		
5-6pm			
6-7pm	Hall dinner	Sainsbury's trip	
7-8pm	Games/movie in Schlub	Drinks reception with Mistress (TBC)	
8-9pm			
9-10pm		Games/movie in Schlub	

There are a few things to note here

First of all, this is a flexible plan. That means it might change ever so slightly, but also that it is adaptable to your wishes and needs. Please do not stress about not arriving on time and missing something important! We will repeat the practicals, like tours of college, as many times as you need until you can do it yourself.

Secondly, even when there is no activity in the plan, there will be someone around from the committee to support you. No matter when you arrive, there will be someone to come and greet you and welcome you. We will also be ready for a chat or a round of board games if you feel lonely or need someone to talk to.

Thirdly, we understand that the prospect of a "drinks reception with the Mistress" may sound scary and formal. It is not supposed to be, but rather a way to meet in a bit of a different setting, and have the chance to talk to her with the rest of the international freshers. The dress code will be similar to other freshers events, so there is no need for panic buying an outfit!

Fourthly, even though we will at some point merge with the other freshers on Wednesday, the committee will still be here if you have any concerns we may help with. Hopefully, you will also have some familiar faces you know. In that way, the international freshers days do not really end, but the supportive community will be there all through the year.

# Committee introductions

## Stine Bentzen



Hei, I'm Stine, and I'm Norwegian and Swiss. I will start my 2nd year at Girton. Studying Land Economy. When I am not busy studying, or trying to explain what my subject actually entails, I like to read, run or row (fell for the stereotype). However, nothing makes me homesick like seeing the first ski track being prepped back home in Oslo. If you ever have a question, feel free to email me at: [sb2600@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sb2600@cam.ac.uk).

## Evan Lehane



Hi, I'm Evan, and I'm British. I will be starting my second year at Girton as a computer science student. When I'm not avoiding social contact or going nuts over some coding project, I like to game, cook and climb. I put myself forward for the international freshers committee because I would love to meet you guys and help you settle in as best as possible. Any questions, please feel free to email me at [el571@cam.ac.uk](mailto:el571@cam.ac.uk)



## Aadir Mathur



Hey I'm Aadir. I'm a 2nd year law student from New Delhi. I enjoy playing football, eating good Indian food and watching the boys on Amazon prime when I'm not studying for my course or debating with the Union. I'm very happy to serve on your international freshers committee feel free to reach out to me with any questions or if you just want to chat

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## Niamh Coyle



Dia Daoibh! I'm Niamh and I'm from Ireland. I will be a second year studying Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Girton. When I'm not studying you can probably find me at the ASNaC Society on any given day, or playing lacrosse with the Cloud Leopards. If you have any questions at all, about Girton, ASNaC or anything really, feel free to email me at [nc608@cam.ac.uk](mailto:nc608@cam.ac.uk)

## Jack Hitchcock



Hi, I'm Jack, and I'm English. I'm going into my second year at Girton studying Classics. In my off time I do a fair bit of writing, working with the Girton drama society (GADS), and just spending time with friends. Coming from the North of England I felt at times almost a little like an international, so I'm hoping to share what I've learnt about Cambridge culture to help you all get used to the place. You can email me at [jh2403@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jh2403@cam.ac.uk).

