



THEY DID IT

WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?

When you think of a Cambridge University student, who do you picture? A Black woman from a north London council estate with 41k followers on YouTube? A headscarfed Muslim student from a state school in Bradford? An American Football-playing Sikh engineer? Perhaps not, but all of them recently made the decision to apply to study here, and all of them were successful.

A record 23.5% of this year's new undergraduates are from BME backgrounds - and a great deal of work is under way at the University to attract more.

But we know - from research - that there is still a perception among BME students that Cambridge is 'not for them'.

So our message to any Year 12 or 13 pupil who thinks they might not 'fit in' is quite simple - there are people like you here and you will find them.

There are 500+ clubs and societies currently thriving at the University, including the African Caribbean Society, the Bangla Society, the BME Campaign, the Islamic Society, the Pakistan Society and the Sikh Society. Read on for more info...



GET PAID TO STUDY

Last year, grime artist Stormzy announced The Stormzy Scholarship, a brand new studentship scheme for University of Cambridge students which will see four British black students provided with financial support during their degree courses.

The Stormzy Scholarship covers the full cost of four tuition fees and provides a maintenance grant for up to four years of any undergraduate course. The first two students started their courses last October, and two further students will be selected for 2019 entry.

Stormzy says: "I hope this scholarship serves as a small reminder that if young black students wish to study at one of the best universities in the world, then the opportunity is yours for the taking - and if funding is one of the barriers, then we can work towards breaking that barrier down."

Separately, The Cambridge Bursary - up to £3,500 per year - is available to students from households with an income below £42,620 on a scale linked to their household income.

Some students can access up to £5,600 a year if they are classed as financially independent, which includes care leavers, mature students and independent students.

More information is available at **undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/stormzy-scholarship** and **cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary**

Want to find out about more societies? Check them out here:

cusu.co.uk/communities/clubsandsocs/



AFRICAN CARIBBEAN SOCIETY (ACS)

The ACS is a community open to all students of African and Caribbean descent and more generally, those interested in learning about African and Caribbean culture.

From fantastic social events to exclusive careers and networking opportunities, the ACS definitely has something for everyone. At the heart of its constitution is the 3Es, the values which underpin the various events the Society hosts: to EDUCATE, EMPOWER and ENTERTAIN!

WHAT THEY SAY:

"If you would like to experience African and Caribbean culture and celebrate diversity in Cambridge, then come and be a part of a society which is turning heads and delivering some of the most exciting events the University has to offer!"

DID YOU KNOW?

YouTuber Courtney Daniella – who heads up this year's 'Get In Cambridge' campaign to encourage more BME students to apply to the University – was a former President of the ACS.

cambridgeacs.org/

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BANGLA SOCIETY (BANGLASOC)

BanglaSoc's mission is clear – to encourage more Bengali students to pursue higher education, and in particular to see more Bengali students here at Cambridge.

The Society's access team delivers talks to schools and sixth forms across the UK. And, as Bengali students, Society members raise money for charities which help the less fortunate in Bangladesh.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"We're here to help students, Bengali or not, settle in that tiny bit better and feel more at home away from home. We have a variety of events throughout the year which allow our members to both build and solidify friendships."

DID YOU KNOW?

This year the Society held an event at Clare College in Cambridge to commemorate Ekushey February, and a charity iftar which raised more than £500.

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BME CAMPAIGN (BMEC)

The BME Campaign seeks to ensure racial equality for all students in the University and encourages BME students to play a full part in the community.

The Society supports students when it comes to networking within the University's ethnic community and beyond. It also works to educate the general population about the diversity of BME students at the University, campaigning for cultural and religious needs among other things.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"We seek to improve race relations, fostering understanding and fighting against ignorance and prejudice. Our hope is that all students who define as Black and Minority Ethnic get the most out of their University experience and fulfil their potential."

DID YOU KNOW?

A brand new theatre production 'BAMEBRIDGE' this year celebrated the rollercoaster lives of the BAME community within Cambridge. The variety show – at the city's ADC Theatre - featured stories told through spoken word, poetry, music, dance and theatre.

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ISLAMIC SOCIETY (ISOC)

ISoc was created to serve the social, spiritual and academic needs of Muslim students, and, most importantly, to foster feelings of brotherhood and sisterhood. The result is a vibrant and inclusive society which is based on mutual beliefs and strengthened by friendship.

Events range from charity fasts to study circles, to awareness weeks, to weekly football. Membership is absolutely free of charge and open to everyone.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"Studying at Cambridge is intimidating, demanding, intense, but is more often than not very interesting and maybe also fun! At first, the learning process and exams will seem daunting, but as with all aspects of life here, the ISoc does their best to help! Absolutely everyone is welcome, whether you're Muslim, interested in Islam or simply looking for a friendly face!"

DID YOU KNOW?

ISOC recently relaunched the ISoc blog. It's an opportunity for students to share their own reflections on life at Cambridge, and a platform "to engage with all matters pertaining to 'Cambridge-ing while Muslim'".

isoc.co.uk

Facebook: [cuisoc](#)

Instagram: [cu_isoc](#)



PAKISTAN SOCIETY (PAKSOC)

The Pakistan Society is a dynamic, fun and engaging society, designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in Pakistan and its culture, however big or small!

It hosts a variety of events from regular social meets and academic talks to a magnificent charity ball in February. Past events have included games nights, family meals, a Speaker Series, and ice skating!

WHAT THEY SAY:

"We're a social platform for Pakistani (and plenty of non-Pakistani) students to meet up and have an amazing time."

DID YOU KNOW?

Youtuber Ibz Mo was named PakSoc's Publicity Officer for the academic year 2018/2019. Check out his channel and his Cambridge vlogs.

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Facebook: [Cambridge.PakSoc](https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge.PakSoc)

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Twitter: [@CUPakistanSoc](https://twitter.com/CUPakistanSoc)



SIKH SOCIETY (SIKHSOC)

The Cambridge University Sikh Society aims to bring together Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike to provide an insight into the Sikh religion.

It's a small but budding society which comes together through talks, exhibitions and other events, including Rehraas, Gurpurab and Vaisakhi dinners.

This year, the Society has organised Bollywood film nights, social catch-up dinners, bowling and barbecues.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"We connect Sikhs across the University and Anglia Ruskin University, as well as our alumni. Not all Sikh students know about us so a large part of our role is getting the word out about the Society. We also aim to teach people about Sikhism."

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sikh Society's President Kiran Singh Jolly, pictured above, is a running back with Cambridge University's American Football Club, the Pythons. "I didn't even realise it was a sport played at universities until I saw the Pythons' stall at the Freshers' Fair," he said. "At the taster session I realised I could catch quite well so I decided to stay on."

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