What to do if things go wrong

If you are in crisis

If you are in crisis please contact your Tutor or College nurse immediately. They can refer you to one of the University’s Mental Health Advisors (students in crisis are normally seen the next working day). If for some reason you want to speak to someone outside your College (and/or outside normal working hours) there are plenty of places where you can find support - the Students’ Union's Advice Service has a list of listening and phone services.

Summary

We hope that your time in the Department goes smoothly, but there may be occasions when you need additional support. We’ve listed some challenges below which could arise during your time here, together with our recommendations for what to do. They are grouped as follows:

- **academic** (workload, disabilities which affect your ability to study, rearranging coursework and/or applying for allowances, problems with specific modules or staff)
- **health & wellbeing** (physical illness and injury, mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and panic attacks)
- **dignity@study** (bullying & harassment, cultural differences)
- **practical** (lost University card or databook)

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. There is far more detailed information about welfare and wellbeing available on the University's webpages. If your concern is not listed below please contact us or one of the sources of help listed below.

Main sources of help

Remember that there are plenty of people to talk to in Cambridge who can offer help and support:

- your **College** is particularly well geared up to support you as you will have a dedicated Tutor and Director of Studies as well as access to a College nurse and chaplain, plus a JCR/MCR Welfare Officer or equivalent;
- within the **Department** you can come to the Teaching Office or speak to any staff member who you feel comfortable with;
- the University’s **Counselling Service** and **Disability Resource Centre** offer specialist advice and support;
- the **Students’ Union’s Advice Centre** offers free, confidential and impartial support on personal and/or academic matters to all Cambridge University students.

If you are unhappy with the experience you have received from a University department, faculty, service or staff member, the University has a **Student Complaint Procedure** for you to use in order to try and resolve the situation.

### Academic

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>What to do</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am finding it difficult to cope with my workload and to prioritise work</td>
<td>You are not alone in finding workload challenging - the Tripos can help you to prioritise. The Counselling Service has some useful leaflets on concentration, procrastination and perfectionism.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I have a long term disability* which affects my ability to study and/or to get around the Department
(NB this could include mental health conditions, specific learning difficulties and long-term health conditions such as diabetes and chronic fatigue syndrome)
You can disclose your disability at any time during your studies here (if you have not already done so on your UCAS form). We encourage you to disclose your disability as early as possible so that we can make any reasonable adjustments and put measures in place to support you. You can contact the DRC for a confidential chat about disclosing a disability and see the DRC's website for further information. Once you have disclosed a disability the Teaching Office will receive and act upon your student support document.

I need to take compassionate leave during term to attend a funeral
Try to rearrange your coursework in advance. If this is not possible see your Tutor to ask them to support an application for a coursework allowance.

My coursework is scheduled on the day of a religious festival which I observe
Try to rearrange your coursework in advance. If this is not possible see your Tutor to ask them to support an application for a coursework allowance.

I have a conflict between coursework activities and an interview
Try to rearrange the interview. If this proves impossible see through interviews.

I have a conflict between coursework activities and a sporting commitment
If the conflict is with a University sporting competition see the DRC for support. Coursework cannot be rearranged to accommodate College sporting commitments or University training sessions.

I am really unhappy about the pace or style of one of my courses/labs
You can report any concerns (anonymously if you wish) via Fast Feedback. Your comments will go straight to the Director of Undergraduate Education who will ensure that they are followed up with the staff members(s) concerned.

I am really unhappy about one of my supervisors/supervision partners
Please speak to your Director of Studies as soon as possible so that they can take appropriate action. If you are in Part IIA report your concerns to the Teaching Office.

Health and wellbeing
The actions listed below should be followed in the first instance. You should also use the allowance form if appropriate. The allowance form can be used for any illness, mental health problem, physical injury or other grave cause which, in the opinion of both the student's tutor and the Director of Undergraduate Education, prevents the student from completing their scheduled coursework activities on time, or in some cases at all.

**Concern** | **What to do**
---|---
I feel anxious and panicky | The University's Counselling Service has a helpful leaflet on understanding and managing anxiety and panic attacks which gives advice on when and how to seek help.
I feel depressed | The University's Counselling Service has a collection of useful resources online, together with leaflets on recognising and managing depression and loneliness. Both leaflets give advice on when and how to seek help.
I am really stressed and finding it hard to relax | There's a selection of helpful resources listed on the Counselling Service's website. The University also offers free mindfulness classes to all Cambridge University students to support their wellbeing and ability to study. For further information see Mindfulness at Cam.
I am having difficulties with another mental health problem | If you are suffering from another mental health problem please see the Counselling Service's website which has information covering other mental health illnesses (e.g. addictions, disordered eating and body image, self-harm, self esteem).
I've broken my leg (or suffered another temporary disability) | If you suffer an injury which might affect your studies (or ability to access Department facilities) please inform your College & Teaching Office asap. You should also speak to the Department's Safety Officer, Ian Slack, to arrange an access plan.
I've got flu (or another illness) | If you are unwell you are not expected to attend lectures and other scheduled classes. For minor illnesses let your Tutor know. You can also contact your College nurse for support. For acute or longer-lasting illnesses see your GP as well as informing your Tutor.
I am concerned about the wellbeing of another student | If you feel that the student is in danger report your concern immediately to any staff member you feel able to talk to (e.g. your Director of Studies, Tutor or the Director of Undergraduate Education). Otherwise, encourage the student to see their Director of Studies or Tutor as soon as possible.
# Dignity@Study

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<td>Another student or member of staff has made inappropriate comments</td>
<td>You can report any concerns (anonymously if you wish) via Fast Feedback. Your comments will go straight to the Director of Undergraduate Education who will ensure that they are handled sensitively with the students and/or staff concerned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel that I am being bullied and/or harassed by another student or member of staff</td>
<td>I feel that I am being bullied and/or harassed by another student or member of staff. Please speak to either your Tutor, Director of Studies or the Director of Undergraduate Education about your concerns as soon as possible. Also see the University's guidance on reporting harassment &amp; sexual misconduct for further sources of support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The academic and social conventions at Cambridge are very different to those that I'm used to</td>
<td>The academic and social conventions at Cambridge are very different to those that I'm used to. If you are confused or uncertain about any aspect of academic or social conventions in use at Cambridge speak to your Director of Studies or a supervisor.</td>
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## Practical

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<td>I've lost my University card</td>
<td>Report the loss immediately to the Security Office (or email <a href="mailto:security-admin@eng.cam.ac.uk">security-admin@eng.cam.ac.uk</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I've lost a databook</td>
<td>Replacements can be bought from the Teaching Office.</td>
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Source URL (modified on 17-08-18): http://teaching.eng.cam.ac.uk/content/what-do-if-things-go-wrong