

Lecture 3 (Part I)

Anna Yunatskaya

UNIVERSITY AND CULTURAL LIFE IN ENGLAND. INSTITUTIONAL TERMS



Academic Year

I. Michaelmas Term

II. Lent Term / Hilary term

III. Easter Term / Trinity Term

1st-8th Week: Full Term



Michaelmas Term:

The first term of the academic year, runs from early October to mid December.



Lent Term:

The second term of the academic year, runs from mid January to mid March.



Easter Term:

The last term of the academic year, also known as the exam term. Runs from mid April to the end of June. Ends with May Week.



September:

Research Period



University (Faculties and
Departments)

College (Cambridge: 31,
Oxford: 38)

School



CUSU:

Cambridge University Students' Union.
Affiliate of the National Union of Students
(NUS).

Ents:

The Cambridge term for "entertainments".
Refers to the event being organised, such as
Bops. Also refers to the entertainment
officers (ents officers) on the JCRc or MCRc.

Bop:

Equivalent of school discos at a Cambridge
College.

Drinking Societies: Most colleges of Cambridge have at least one drinking society.

Formal Swap: A great social event and especially active between sports societies and drinking societies.

High Table: a table for the use of fellows (members of the Senior Common Room) and their guests.

Exeter College
(Oxford).



SCR: *The Senior Combination*

(Common) Room. A public

lounge/common room for the senior members and the teaching staff of a Cambridge/Oxford college.

Undergraduates are members of the Junior Combination Room (JCR), whilst graduate students are members of the Middle Combination Room (MCR) + there is the SCR (Senior Combination Room).



Formal Hall:

A formal dinner held at least a week in most colleges of the University.

Gown:

Every college has its own type of gowns. Must be worn on formal occasions such as the formal hall in some more traditional colleges; everyone has to wear them for matriculation except at King's, and graduation.

Kitchen Fixed Charge, or KFC:

Most colleges (at Undergraduate level at least) charge a Kitchen Fixed Charge. This goes towards the subsidised college canteen and kitchen facilities and utilities.

Porters:

Multi-functional college staff who act as receptionists, administrators (to an extent), mailmen, and sometimes porters. Generally known as the "grumpy old men" in Cambridge – however there are occasionally nice ones and female ones (i. e. in **Selwyn College**) in a few colleges.

Porters Lodge:

Generally located at the front gate of a college which houses the porters. The place to go if you have any queries, and people also usually meet outside it. Usually shortened to "plodge".



Tripos:

The Cambridge degree exam system. Divides an undergraduate degree into blocks of one or two years called Parts, and examinations are held at the end of each part. Transfer between subjects is possible after completion of earlier parts.

Pigeon Hole:

A space in the plodge or College mailroom, generally the "letter box" during one's time at Cambridge. Check it several times a day at the beginning of Term, especially in Michaelmas, and daily during the rest of term. There is usually one per student, but can be shared between up to 3 students in some colleges. Usually shortened to "pidge" or "p hole".



May Week:

The week of relaxation, generally in mid June at the end of Easter Term, when most May Balls, June Events, and garden parties are held, just after all undergraduate exams are finished. So called because it used to be in May before exams started.

Matriculation:

A College ceremony attended by freshers, normally conducted by the College's Prelector (a figurehead of the College), to signify the official admission of the students as a member of the College and thus of the University of Cambridge.

Living Out Not living in college. Usually due to not being able to get a room in college.

Master:

The name for official responsible for discipline in some colleges.

Personal Tutor:

The Fellow responsible for your personal and pastoral welfare during your time at the University of Cambridge.

Senior Tutor:

The head of academic affairs in a college.

Alumni:

Plural for alumnus/alumna: Former students, many of whom are famous and distinguished.



Bank Holidays: Public holidays not enjoyed by Cambridge students.

Bedders: The cleaning and maintenance staff in some colleges.

Bursar: Person responsible for a college's finances.

Bursary: Means-tested financial aid offered by all colleges and the University to reduce the burden of tuition fees or living costs. Cambridge has a policy of not letting anyone leave due to financial need or difficulty.



Buttery=University Canteen

DoS or DOS Director of Studies: the person in charge of your academic welfare in your subject.

LGBT, or LesGayBiTrans

Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender/Transexual

society: A community openly accepted at Cambridge. There is a JCR post available in most colleges which represents and looks after the welfare of this community.

Principal = College Director

Suicide Sunday: The Sunday before May Week. Usually the day after the last day of exams for the year.

UL: The University Library. A Copyright Library (which means that publishers must by law send it a copy of every book and magazine they publish in the UK) with an extensive collection of books from around the world.



Supervisions:

Sometimes referred to as "supers". A unique teaching system where students are taught in small groups (generally two to four students).



Travel Grants:

Help with the cost of foreign travel. Usually a trip report is expected when you return.



Book Grants:

Many colleges give grants towards the cost of your textbooks.



Finals:

The degree-awarding examinations at the end of the degree course.

Punting:

A punt is a flat-bottomed boat, typically used in small rivers and canals. It is propelled by pushing the riverbed with a long pole.





Thank you!