

Dear Architects!!!



First of all congratulations on getting into Cambridge. It's a great place and really is worth all the effort that you probably put into applying and getting the grades you needed! My name is Percy and I'm the Subject Representative for architecture at Pembroke this year. If this letter and the countless others you're getting don't quite explain everything well enough for you then feel free to email me ([andyp21@hotmail.com](mailto:andyp21@hotmail.com)) with any questions.

Lots of the stuff you get in the Freshers' Pack will probably talk about how much solid work and reading you will need to do both in preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> year and throughout it. I know it's quite scary, in particular looking over that reading list, but basically the thing to bear in mind is that many of the other architects won't do much of the work talked about in the pack. It's great if you get a bit of time to do some of the reading before you arrive, but it is even more helpful to find time every now and again to do more throughout the rest of the year as this will be a huge help when it comes to the exams. This is something I got wrong; you really don't want to end up trying to read 5 or 6 books in the couple of days between portfolio submission and the beginning of exams at the end of the year!

If you're wondering about the workload and have heard lots of rumours about how much architecture students across the country have to work then I'm sorry to have to tell you that it is largely true. However this does not mean that there will be no time to do other things. They may well try to scare you in Freshers' Week by telling you not to engage in many (if any!) co-curricular activities but so long as you organise your time well, which is a vital part of being a student at Cambridge, then you should have enough time to relax, play sport, go out or do whatever takes your fancy. Also, make sure that you don't try and please all of the tutors you get and especially don't try to do absolutely everything they tell you. It is far better to do a few things to a high standard than to try and do everything, but not particularly well.

Basically yes, it is hard work if you want to do well and make the most of your architecture degree but it is well worth it. But there is also time to relax, chill and live out your student life as if you were studying another Degree at another University and the key thing is just to try not to panic too much!

I hope you enjoy the rest of your holidays and look forward to meeting you in October!

Percy