



## Finding your way to Cambridge

The information in this guide provides an overview of how to get to Cambridge from the main London airports usually used by students at the University when travelling to the UK. It is intended as a guide to help inform you about the options available for travel from Heathrow, Gatwick, and Stansted. It is possible to travel via other international airports in the UK and the modes of transport available to get to Cambridge are likely to be similar.

### General Information:

- Your flight details will confirm which terminal you will arrive into at the airport.
- The time it can take to go through Border Control and collect your luggage at the airport can vary, especially in peak periods. You may wish to take this into consideration when planning your onward travel.
- An interactive map of the local Cambridge area can be found [here](#) which includes the location of the train station and coach stop as well as the Colleges and other University sites.
- You may wish to use local taxi services to travel to your final destination after arriving in Cambridge if you travel by train or coach, depending on where you are staying. There are usually taxis available at the train station or coach stop.
- If booking onward travel in advance, you may wish to consider a flexible ticket in case of any travel delays, disruptions, or cancellations.
- All prices mentioned in this guide are indicative and may increase the closer you book to the date of travel.
- Consider how you will pay for transport arrangements on arrival in the UK as applicable. The following may be relevant:
  - If you plan to use a bank card from your country of residence, it is advisable to inform your bank of your plans to move to the UK and enquire whether they have any instructions for ensuring ease of use for your card overseas.
  - Carrying some UK currency with you, although some ticket machines are cashless
  - Consider if getting a pre-paid currency card is an option.
- Wi-fi connections, if available, can be unreliable so consider your travel plans on arrival with this in mind. Ensure you know your route from the station/bus stop to your accommodation and have the address and postcode of your destination easily at hand in case it is required.
- The information may be subject to change and the University is not responsible for services provided by external transport providers.

# Coach

The coach stop in Cambridge is located at Parkside in the city centre, which can be found on [the map](#).

It is advisable to check the times and availability of coaches and [book online with National Express](#) in advance. You can also purchase a ticket at the airport on arrival, subject to availability, at the coach stations, at National Express Ticket offices or at some ticket machines.

## FROM HEATHROW AIRPORT

Catch the National Express Coach from the central bus station.

### How to get to the central bus station:

**Terminal 2 and 3:** follow the signs to the central bus station which is a short walk from the terminals.

**Terminal 5:** follow the signs for the free shuttle train between Terminal 5 and Heathrow Central Station (Terminal 2 and 3). To travel on the shuttle trains, you can get a free Inter-Terminal Transfer ticket from the machines in the station. You can also use a [Transport for London Oyster card](#) or a [contactless payment card](#) if you have one of these and will not be charged when travelling between terminals.

*You can also catch the coach from outside arrivals at Terminal 4 and 5. Please follow the signs to the bus stops.*

*However, you may find more frequent services available from the central bus station at Terminal 2 and 3.*

**Journey time:** The fastest trip takes around 2hr 25 mins, depending on traffic.

**Price:** The price of a single ticket starts at around £30.

## FROM GATWICK AIRPORT

Catch the National Express Coach from outside the North or South Terminal. Ensure you check which terminal you have booked your coach to depart from.

**North Terminal:** follow the signs to the bus stop. It is located on the lower level outside international arrivals.

**South Terminal:** follow the signs to the bus stop. Services depart from the lower forecourt at stops one to five.

**Journey time:** The fastest trip takes around 4hr 25 mins, depending on traffic.

**Price:** The price of a single ticket starts at around £56.

## FROM STANSTED AIRPORT

Catch the National Express Coach from the central coach station.

### How to get to the coach station:

Follow signs to the coach station which is a 2-minute walk from the airport terminal. The coach station is opposite the main terminal entrance.

**Journey time:** The fastest trip takes around 50 mins, depending on traffic.

**Price:** The price of a single ticket starts from around £8.

# Train

The Cambridge train station can be found on the [interactive map](#). Ensure you get off the train at Cambridge Station rather than Cambridge North Station.

*\*Consider the logistics of traveling with a large amount of luggage if using the train. If you choose this option, it will be helpful to note which terminal the train leaves from in relation to which terminal you will arrive in, and have a plan for how to travel between the two if required.*

## FROM HEATHROW AIRPORT

There are no direct trains from Heathrow to Cambridge so there will be two parts to the journey: travel into central London, and then a train to Cambridge.

### Part One: From Heathrow Airport into central London:

There are three options:

**Option 1 - Using the Heathrow Express and the London Underground to King's Cross St Pancras:** Follow the signs to the trains/Heathrow Express at the airport. Take the Heathrow Express to Paddington Station, a journey time of 15 minutes. You can book online in advance on the [Heathrow Express website](#) or on arrival at the station. Prices are subject to change and tend to increase the closer you book to the date of travel.

At London Paddington follow the signs to the London Underground. Take the London Underground from London Paddington to King's Cross St Pancras using the Hammersmith and City line, or the Circle line. You can add your ticket to your Heathrow Express booking for an additional cost, or purchase a London Underground ticket.

**Option 2 - Using only the London Underground to King's Cross St Pancras:** Use the London Underground to travel from Heathrow Airport to King's Cross St Pancras on the Piccadilly line. At the airport, follow the signs to the London Underground. It takes about 30 minutes longer than using the Heathrow Express but is more cost effective.

**Option 3—Using the Elizabeth Line on the London Underground to either Liverpool Street or Farringdon:** Use the London Underground to travel from Heathrow Airport to either Liverpool Street station or Farringdon station. At the airport, follow the signs to the London Underground. It takes around 40 minutes to either station.

Information about buying London Underground tickets and cost is provided on the [Transport for London website](#).

### Part Two: From Central London to Cambridge

From London King's Cross/Farringdon/London Liverpool Street take the train to Cambridge. The platform number will be shown on the departure boards. Ticket prices can vary depending on when you book but start from around £30 from King's Cross and Farringdon, or £20 from London Liverpool Street. The journey takes approximately 50 minutes to 1 hr 30 depending on how many stops the train makes and the departure station.

**Booking:** There are three ways to purchase your ticket:

1. In advance using [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) \* or from the [National Rail Website](#)

*Direct and indirect options will appear so check your selection carefully when booking your ticket.*

2. Using the self-service ticket machine at London King's Cross/Farringdon/London Liverpool Street.
3. From the ticket office at London King's Cross/Farringdon/London Liverpool Street.

## FROM GATWICK AIRPORT

Take the train direct from London Gatwick to Cambridge using the Thameslink. Ticket prices start from approximately £20.

**Where:** The railway station is located at the South Terminal, just a short walk from both departures and arrivals. The station is easily accessible from the North Terminal by a free shuttle which runs every few minutes.

**Booking:** There are three ways to purchase your ticket:

1. In advance using [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or from the [National Rail Website](#)

*Direct and indirect options will appear so check your selection carefully when booking your ticket.*

2. At the station using self-service ticket machine.
3. If your flight arrives at the South Terminal, from the rail ticket desk in the 'Onward Travel' area.

**Journey time:** Approximately 1 hr 55 mins.

## FROM STANSTED AIRPORT

Information about travelling to Cambridge is available on the [Stansted Airport website](#).

Direct trains are available between London Stansted and Cambridge. Tickets start from approximately £7, but prices can vary and tend to increase the closer you book to the date of travel.

**Where:** On arrival, follow the signs to the train station. The train station is a two-minute walk from the terminal.

**Booking:** There are three ways to purchase your ticket:

1. In advance using [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or from the [National Rail Website](#)

*Direct and indirect options will appear so check your selection carefully when booking your ticket.*

2. At the train station using self-service ticket machines.
3. From the rail information desk at the train station.

*Please note that the ticket offices may not be open at the time you arrive.*

**Journey time:** Approximately 30 minutes.

\*Trainline: Whether booking fees apply depends on your chosen journey, ticket price, when you are booking and whether you book on our website or on our app.

# Taxi

Taxi services are available on arrival at the airport, or can be booked in advance. Local taxi services will usually be more cost-effective than using taxis based at the airport. There are a number of taxi services local to Cambridge that offer airport pick-ups, including:

- ⇒ CamCab Ltd - [www.camcab.co.uk](http://www.camcab.co.uk)
- ⇒ A1 Cabco Taxis - [www.a1cabco.co.uk](http://www.a1cabco.co.uk)
- ⇒ Panther Taxis - [www.panthertaxis.co.uk](http://www.panthertaxis.co.uk)

**Where:** If you pre-book a taxi, a representative from the company will usually be waiting for you at arrivals, or at a pre-determined meeting place.

## **Prices using services local to Cambridge:**

Heathrow—prices start from around £120

Gatwick—prices start from around £136

Stansted—price start from around £68

*Please note that there may be additional charges for car parking fees, additional waiting time and, from Gatwick, toll fees. Fees vary depending on the size of the vehicle you book. The above price estimates are based on standard fees from [www.camcab.co.uk](http://www.camcab.co.uk).*

**Booking:** You can book in advance online. Payment options may vary.

*If you wish to pay by cash, check with the taxi company whether they are accepting cash payments. You may have to phone or email to confirm.*

## **Please ensure you provide the taxi company with the following details:**

- Flight number and flight arrival time
- Number of suitcases
- Number of passengers

## **Airport Taxi ranks or Taxi apps:**

There are usually taxi services based at the airport. These normally charge considerably more than local taxi companies.

There is also the option of using an app such as Uber or Lyft but services will be subject to availability on arrival. Depending on demand of these services at the time of travel, these services can vary greatly in price. As these services rely on having a strong data or internet connection, you may need to consider whether you will have access to either of these upon arrival.