



St Catharine's College
Cambridge

Certificate Programmes
at St Catharine's College, Cambridge
- Intensive Residential Study Abroad Programme for
University Students -

Academic Programme Outline

Open-enrolment programmes

Course Overview

Summer 2026



1. Introduction

The *Certificate Programme at St Catharine's College, Cambridge* for university students is an academic study abroad programme that offers cutting-edge subjects designed to complement a student's existing studies, providing them with methodologies and case studies that will enrich and enhance the curriculum offered by their home university and inspire new academic interests.

Students participate in academic courses on various subjects and experience teaching in an authentic Cambridge college setting. This will be done according to the Cambridge teaching model: small- and medium-sized interactive classes with individualised feedback and class participation. All instructors that teach the courses will be academics with recent experience of supervising undergraduates or graduates at the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford.

Participants will live in Cambridge college dormitories and dine in Cambridge dining halls. All teaching will happen in small to medium groups within St Catharine's College or Cambridge university premises. Though this programme will give you the experience of living and studying in a college of the University of Cambridge, attendance on the programme will not directly benefit attendees in any application to the University of Cambridge.

In support of the academic content, the programme offers a wide range of activities. These include visits to the main university sites, cultural events and excursions further afield.

2. St Catharine's College, Cambridge

St Catharine's College is a constituent college of the University of Cambridge. Founded in 1473 as Katharine Hall, it adopted its current name in 1860. The college is nicknamed "Catz". The college is located in the historic city-centre of Cambridge. St Catharine's is notable for its open court (rather than closed quadrangle) that faces towards Trumpington Street.

3. Programme Dates

- **Session I** **19 July – 1 August 2026 (Politics and International Relations)**
- **Session II** **2 August – 15 August 2026 (Economics and Artificial Intelligence)**



4. Overview of all Courses

Session I (Week 1)	Session I (Week 2)	Session II (Week 1)	Session II (Week 2)
Politics / Modern British Politics	Politics / Institutional Development and Political Economy	Artificial Intelligence / Mastering Large Language Models (LLMs) in Python A	Artificial Intelligence / Mastering Large Language Models (LLMs) in Python B
International Relations / Western political theory in the face of the future	International Relations / South-east Asia	Economics / Game Theory	Economics / Financial Economics

5. Academic Course Offerings

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence / Mastering Large Language Models (LLMs) in Python; A & B

Instructor: Dr Vincent Harinam

This course provides a hands-on, practitioner-focused introduction to Large Language Models (LLMs) using Python, equipping participants with the skills needed to design, build, and deploy real-world LLM-powered systems. Moving beyond surface-level usage, the course dives into the underlying mechanisms that power leading platforms such as ChatGPT, Grok, and other state-of-the-art models, demystifying how these systems are architected, trained, optimized, and served at scale. Learners will work directly with both open-source and proprietary LLMs, exploring core concepts alongside advanced techniques such as prompt engineering, fine-tuning, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), quantization, and LLMOps workflows. Through practical labs, code-driven examples, and industry-inspired case studies, participants will gain a clear understanding of how modern AI companies operationalize LLMs, enabling them to confidently build performant, production-ready applications and lead AI initiatives grounded in real-world constraints and opportunities.



Economics

Economics / Game Theory

Instructor: Dr Charles Roddie, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

Participants will study the main concepts of game theory and in-depth applications. Simultaneous and dynamic games will be covered, including the theoretical study of Nash equilibria of various forms, and experimental findings. Auctions in theory and practice will demonstrate how economists use game theory to study market pressures and devise optimal strategies. Using these structures, we will analyze the options 'players' consider, and why they have the incentive to choose a particular option, and then we will assess how this methodology played out in real life case studies.

Economics / Financial Economics

Instructor: Dr Charles Roddie, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

This course will familiarise participants with current trends and look deeper at individual practices, methods and financial instruments within the finance sector. Students will develop an understanding of today's markets and the forces influencing growth and recession. By looking at case studies, students will be able to identify market trends and analyse problems emerging in the economy as a whole.

International Relations

International Relations / Western political theory in the face of the future

Instructor: Prof John Dunn, King's College, Cambridge

This course will both introduce the structures by which western states and their politics operate by, whilst also interpreting current trends and comparison with other systems, especially in Asia. The course will begin with an overview analysis of the modern Western state and politics within it, and especially how these states are organised. From this foundation, students will comprehend the extent to which western states are accountable to their citizens and each other within supranational structures. The course will then compare this state organisation and context with the varying trends and political systems in Asia, including Japan, South Korea and the People's Republic of China.



International Relations / Southeast Asia: Burma/Myanmar and Siam/Thailand in comparative perspective

Instructor: Prof Tomas Larsson, St John's College, Cambridge

This course will move between the sweeping theoretical vistas of comparative political debates on topics such as state formation, nationalism, economic development, and regimes and regime change (democratization, autocratization) and then the particularities of politics in Burma and Thailand. The former will address important concepts in comparative politics (state capacity, democracy, development, etc), operationalization (measurement of such concepts), and different explanations for variation across the world (theories). The latter will familiarize students with the historical, cultural and political context of two important states in mainland Southeast Asia and provide fodder for the students' critical reflection on the utility of the general theories, concepts, and methods to which they have been introduced. For the assessed presentations on the last day, students will be invited to pull together a comparative case study (the bread and butter of scholars of comparative politics) that seeks to account for differences (and similarities) in some important outcome (such as national integration, poverty reduction, regime stability).

Politics

Politics / Modern British Politics

Instructor: Dr Jose Tomas Labarca, St Edmund's College, Cambridge

This course will provide an introduction to government and politics in late twentieth- and twenty-first-century Britain. The lecture series will explore the UK constitution, patterns of electoral behaviour and party competition, and the development of the British state under Labour and Conservative governments. We will also look at UK foreign policy and reflect on the strategic dilemmas that Keir Starmer's government now faces.

Politics / Institutional Development and Political Economy

Instructor: Dr Jose Tomas Labarca, St Edmund's College, Cambridge

Following on from the British case study in the first week, this week covers major political challenges and ideas that have emerged in the twenty-first-century, and it will apply them to Britain in comparison with other nations and international organisations. Challenges such as financial crises, immigration, wars and pandemics have been dealt with by different governments in vastly different ways, and so this second week will examine counter-intuitive insights that complicate existing models of broad-ranging political-economy changes, neoliberalism, and austerity politics in the UK and beyond.



6. Academic Workload

Academic workload per week (in total 60 academic hours):

- 16 academic hours: 4 hours of teaching on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week
- 4 academic hours: review, assessment preparation and assessment on Friday of each week
- 14 academic hours: independent study, including assessment preparation
- 6 academic hours: 3 evening seminars and workshops per week
- 20 academic hours: cultural immersion activities
- Total: the workload of each week is equivalent to 3 ECTS credits

7. Extracurricular Activities and Farewell Dinner

Extracurricular activities

The tuition fee for each two-week programme includes the following Cambridge and English cultural activities:

- College Tour with visit to college library and chapel
- Cambridge City walking tour
- Visit to the other colleges of Cambridge University
- Visit to Cambridge Museums (Fitzwilliam, etc)
- Punting on the River Cam
- Cambridge Botanic Garden
- A one day-excursion - e.g. Stratford upon Avon or Oxford City and University
- More activities tbc

Farewell dinner

The tuition fee includes a farewell dinner or lunch.

8. Assessment

As part of each course, an assessment will be offered by the teaching academic.

9. Certification

Certificate of Attendance and Achievement

Students will receive a Certificate of Attendance and Achievement issued by St Catharine's College, Cambridge.



Academic transcript

Students who successfully finish the programme will receive an academic transcript with a summary of the programme content and academic performance issued by St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

10. Participants

St Catharine's College invites undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in the offered courses to apply for participation in the *Certificate Programme at St Catharine's College, Cambridge*.

Target Participants: university students aged 18+
Maximum number of students per course: 30-40

11. Financials

Tuition Fees are calculated per student, per session (each student would be charged for each subscribed course).

Tuition, Room and Breakfast (twin room occupancy) 13 nights	4,330 GBP
Tuition, Room and Breakfast (single room occupancy) 13 nights – Partner University Rate	4,430 GBP

St Catharine's College is offering students from partner universities a scholarship of 500 GBP.

12. How to Apply

To apply, simply follow these steps:

1. Send an email to certificate.programmes@caths.cam.ac.uk and indicate your interest to enrol in the Certificate Programme at St Catharine's College offered for university students in 2026;
2. The Certificate Programmes team of St Catharine's College will respond with any further details we need from you;
3. After your application has been fully added to the system of St Catharine's College, you can arrange payment, and then we will keep you fully updated on everything you need to know with a series of onboarding emails as the programme approaches.