



CLARE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

[National Health Service \(NHS\)](#) Information for International Students

NHS Entitlement

If your course is full-time and lasts more than 6 months you are entitled to free NHS care and treatment whilst in the UK. Entitlement also applies to your family. To be eligible, your family should be living with you for the duration of your course (although settling in time is permitted before you send for them) and to have the correct UK visas. You are also entitled to specialist care from the NHS, as long as it is for the treatment of a condition that is not pre-existing, i.e. not a condition that existed before your entry to the UK.

General Practitioner (GP = Family Doctor)

You should register with a GP as soon as you arrive in Cambridge, even if you do not expect to need it, please note registration cannot be backdated. You can locate a list of local surgeries by typing your postcode into NHS Choices at www.nhs.uk. Any practice listed will be able to provide you with the relevant registration forms to complete.

Long Term Health Conditions

Bring with you documentary evidence from your doctor (in English) as confirmation for any existing long term health conditions. If you have any long term health conditions, once you are registered with a GP, you should ask for an appointment to discuss your needs. The GP will give you relevant information about clinics, vaccines or prescriptions.

Ongoing Medication

If you are receiving medical treatment or taking medication, bring with you a doctor's certificate (in English) confirming the treatment and / or any medication you are receiving. Ask the receptionist to explain how the surgery organises repeat prescriptions. It can take up to 48hrs to obtain a repeat prescription so please bear this in mind when you are running low in medication.

GPs reserve the right not to prescribe certain medication and not all medication from outside the UK is available on the NHS. Your GP will sometimes be unable to prescribe the medication you are taking, because it is not used here or because of NHS prescribing restrictions. If you have specialised medication or you are in any doubt, you are advised to bring a supply with you.

Specialist NHS Treatment

Once registered with at a GP surgery, specialist NHS care is then arranged through your GP. If attending hospital, you will need to take your passport, visa and College letter of acceptance with you.

Out of Hours & Emergency NHS Treatment

When your GP Surgery is shut Urgent Care Cambridgeshire provide the Out of Hours' GP Service and can be contacted on 0330 123 9131 [begin_of_the_skype_highlighting](#) or via your GP's number. They are based at Chesterton Hospital, Union Lane. **Please remember that this service is for urgent conditions which can't wait until your GP practice is open. All other illnesses and injuries are dealt with by GPs or NHS Direct (www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk).**

It is important to only use the Accident and Emergency department (A&E / ER / Casualty) of a hospital for the treatment of life-threatening or limb-threatening conditions. In the event of an emergency, the UK number for the Emergency Services is 999.

Dental Care

Registration with a Dentist is not required. However, Dentists keep lists of regular patients to enable them to provide ongoing treatment and care. The University has its own dental service which is located at:

University Dental Service
3 Trumpington Street
Cambridge
CB2 1QA
Tel: 01223 332860
www.dental.cam.ac.uk

NHS Costs and Charges

NHS care and treatment is not entirely free, although children 16 and under, or 18 and under and in full-time education, are exempt from the following treatment charges:

- Dental care is heavily subsidised and all dentists have to agree a price with you before beginning treatment. A routine checkup is currently £16.50.
- Eye care is subsidised.
- NHS prescription charges are currently set at £7.40 for each item printed on the prescription. This charge is paid to the Pharmacist when you go to the Chemist to collect your medication.

If you require regular prescriptions for medication, prescription prepayment certificates (PPC) are available and may save you money. You can order a PPC online at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC is valid in all European Economic Area (EEA) countries, including Switzerland. It enables you to access state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers you for treatment of pre-existing medical conditions. For more information and to apply for an EHIC please go to www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx

Private Medical Insurance

Addenbrooke's payment office advises all overseas students to take out private health insurance before coming to the UK to cover the following potential health-related costs: Loss of fees if you are unable to complete your course

- Additional treatment and medical expenses not covered by the National Health Service
- Costs of returning home if a relative is taken ill
- Costs of a relative visiting you in the UK if you fall ill
- Returning to your home country for treatment