

## Receptionist – Alison Richard Building Estates Division

Closing Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025  
Job Reference: BA45622



**Salary:**

£24,344 - £26,942 pa

**Staff Group:**

Assistant

**Contract:**

Permanent

**Location:**

Cambridge

**Faculty / Department:**

Estates Division

**Working Pattern:**

Full Time

**Purpose of the role**

The role is based at the Alison Richard Building at the West Road gateway to the University's Sidgwick Site, the main base for humanities and social science teaching and research at Cambridge. The building houses the Department of Politics and International Studies as well as African Studies, South Asian Studies, Latin American Studies and Development Studies. The building will also accommodate the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH).

The role-holder manages the reception which is the first main point of contact for visitors and building users as well as the contact point for site issues in support of the Facilities Supervisor.

The building will attract a large number of visitors and delegates. The role holder will deal with around 50 enquiries in person, by telephone and by the Internet each day.

The role holder has budgetary responsibility for stationary and building stores of £5000.

The role holder leads the team which provides reception and information services for the ARB as well as administrative duties supporting the Facilities Supervisor's provision of facilities management services.

This is a key role as Reception is often the first point of contact for visitors and staff and maintaining a good first impression is important to the reputation of the University and the building's occupiers. The role holder is required to demonstrate excellent communication skills to a wide ranging and often demanding group of visitors and staff.

The role-holder assists with the seminar room administration. This involves receiving and acting upon all requests for information verbal, written and electronic, booking rooms, entering details on the database and following up with booking forms and letters, arranging customer visits and "show-rounds" and liaising with the catering contractor.



# Key Responsibilities

## Reception Services

Responsible for providing an effective reception and information service in the ARB. The service includes:

- Receiving all 'central' telephone calls, emails and faxes. The role holder will answer, field & reroute them as appropriate.
- Dealing with in-person enquiries and receiving and booking visitors to the building, providing visitors badges and Health and Safety Information.
- Dealing with difficult people and requests without compromising on standards and service, maintaining the reputation of the building.
- Liaising with the Custodian to assist with the smooth running of the building, including delegation of tasks within the team, e.g. requesting cleaning, rooms to be rearranged etc.
- Providing visitors with maps, directions and local information about the city and the University.
- Researching information for staff and visitors using both internal and external resources.
- Ordering taxis for visitors & senior building occupants, maintaining an accurate record of taxis booked for accounts.
- Receiving and sorting all incoming mail. Liaising with UMS to co-ordinate extra collections. Signing for, and distributing courier delivered goods.
- Responsible for all outgoing post; including organising special deliveries, recorded deliveries, courier collections and international post.
- Responsible for allowing authorised entry to the visitor's car park. Dealing with internal staff parking queries and problems, liaising with external car park users to assist with the smooth running of shared access areas.
- Responsible for maintaining the front reception area, leaflet stands and notice boards checking they are kept clean, tidy and up to date.
- Responsible as first point of contact for anyone who is injured; it is the role holder's responsibility to contact a first aider or the emergency services.
- In the case of a fire alarm the role holder collects the visitor's book and guides people in the surrounding areas to the fire assembly point. Then carry out any additional tasks requested by the Fire Safety Manager.
- Induction of new relief reception staff.

**Administrative duties**

- Circulating and maintaining up to date telephone lists for staff.
- Keeping track of general security in the building.
- Designing and providing signage around the building as appropriate.
- Dealing with invoice queries from customers and from the Facilities Supervisor.
- Orders all stationery required for the FM team, maintaining optimum stock levels whilst preventing excessive stockholding.
- Comparing spend with budget to keep to agreed levels and check best value.
- Responsible for ordering toner & supplies for the photocopiers responsible for either rectifying a fault or reporting them to the Photocopier supplier.
- Responsible for reporting faults, requesting engineers and refunding monies as necessary for the vending machines in the lobby.
- Responsible for reporting faults with the ATM machine.

**Seminar Room Administration**

- Deal with queries by phone, email and post.
- Operate the room booking system.
- Organise events, which includes arranging suitable dates, booking the rooms and equipment and placing event notification.
- Arrange show rounds for event organisers.
- Produce and distribute function sheets and discuss special requests.
- Prepare function information updates as required.
- Finalise details after the event for billing.
- Liaise with catering contractor for the provision of refreshments and meals.
- Regular analysis of information from the room booking system, producing regular reports on room occupancy.
- Issue office keys and access cards to staff and also issues temporary access cards to visitors and event organisers. Resolves access card problems.
- The role-holder trains the relief staff in how to use the room booking system to book seminar space.

# Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualification</b>		
Minimum of A-Level education, preferably including GCSE English & Maths.	✓	
<b>Experience</b>		
Previous general office experience preferably gained in a public facing environment such as a hotel or conference centre.	✓	
<b>Skills</b>		
Computer literate including the use of Microsoft Word & Outlook.	✓	
Excellent organisational skills, ability to prioritise work and time.	✓	
Able to work accurately and efficiently without close supervision.	✓	
Good level of oral and written communication skills.	✓	
Excellent customer service skills.	✓	
Excellent telephone manner.	✓	
The ability to interact positively with a wide range of people in a busy environment	✓	

# Behavioural Attributes

This section summarises the behavioural attributes (or competencies) that we expect the role holder to be able to demonstrate, at what level and whether this is an essential or desirable requirement.

Full definitions are at: <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures/behavioural-attributes>

Please review these and provide specific examples in your application of how you have demonstrated these attributes in your work, education or other experience. It will assist your application if you explain the situation, what you did and what the outcomes were.

Attribute	Level
Valuing Diversity	A
Achieving Results	D
Communication	D
Innovation and Change	D
Negotiating and Influencing	D
People Development	D
Relationship Building	D
Strategic Focus	D

## Professional Services Values

Developed by professional services staff, our values underpin everything we do. By living the values in the work we do, we hope to foster an environment where staff feel empowered. The values encourage us to work together and share skills to create a sense of community, act with integrity, take an inclusive approach and develop honest and open relationships that are underpinned by our shared values. We encourage applicants to consider these values within their application.





# Estates Division

The Estates Division at the University of Cambridge is a multi-disciplinary organisation responsible for the development, management and maintenance of the University estate, along with the provision of a variety of related services.

Our current operational estate (buildings used for teaching, research and administrative activities) is currently valued at £3 billion (Insurance Replacement Cost) and its broad and complex nature presents many demanding challenges, for example some buildings are 800 years old, Grade I Listed and protected by English Heritage, whilst others are new with highly sustainable building fabrics and buildings management systems.

Key areas we are responsible for include:

- Planning and managing the University's estate development programme.
- Project managing new build construction and the refurbishment/alteration of existing stock.
- Managing and maintaining the estate including residential accommodation and investment properties.
- Delivering a comprehensive facilities management service to the University.
- Managing catering outlets across the estate.
- Managing the operational and research facilities at the [University Farm](#).
- Promoting the University's environmental sustainability initiative, particularly with regard to reducing carbon emissions.



# Terms of Appointment

## Tenure and probation

The appointment will be made on a permanent basis. Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion 3 month probationary period.

## Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The full time hours of work are 36.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday.

## Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of CPS (Contributory Pension Scheme) – a defined benefit and defined contribution pension scheme. For further information please visit: [www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk](http://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk)

## Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 36 days inclusive of public holidays. For part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

## General information

### Pre-employment checks Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

### Health declaration

Once an offer of employment has been made the successful

candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

## Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

## References

Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

## Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate

your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please email Estates Division HR on [EDR@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:EDR@admin.cam.ac.uk)



# The University

**The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.**

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of world leading teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people.

Our capital investment projects include academic and commercial growth at both the West Cambridge Innovation District, and the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. Eddington, in North West Cambridge, is a mixed-use development including key worker housing for staff, a community centre and a new primary school, managed by the University. Through these projects, the University is deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.



# About Us

**The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.**

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit undergraduate students, provide student accommodation and pastoral support and

deliver small group teaching for undergraduates.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

“Cambridge graduates and researchers have made – and continue to make – a colossal contribution to human knowledge and the understanding of the world around us. Their work touches on the lives and livelihoods of everyone from patients diagnosed with life-threatening diseases, to residents of areas critically affected by climate change, to children growing up in conflict zones. It has a lasting impact on our society, our economy and our culture: the world is truly a better place thanks to their efforts.”

*Stephen Toope, Vice Chancellor 2019*





# Working at the University

**Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 23,000 students and over 16,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.**

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.



## Equality & diversity

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity groups, including the Women's Staff Network, Race Equality Network and LGBT+ Staff Network. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's silver Athena swan award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting gender equality.

# Living in Cambridge

**Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.**

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances at the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the [Visit Cambridge](#) website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45 minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

## Relocation Support

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/RelocationService/>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge. For staff who require a Skilled Worker Visa, Global Talent Visa or Settlement (known as indefinite leave to remain) to take up employment with the University, we offer an interest free [visa loan scheme](#) for current and prospective staff (and their dependants), to help meeting the cost of obtaining a visa.

## Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>





# What Cambridge can offer

**We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.**

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a [career break scheme](#) for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

## Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings.



## CAMbens employee benefits

The University offers employees a wide range of competitive benefits, known as CAMbens. CAMbens offers something for everyone across a range of categories, including:

- Financial Benefits, including shopping discounts (both local and national) and a Payroll Giving scheme;
- Relocation and Accommodation Benefits, including relocation assistance and interest-free Rental Deposit Loans;
- Travel Benefits, including Cycle to Work, discounts on train season tickets and interest-free Travel to Work loans;
- Family Friendly and Lifestyle Benefits, including support with childcare and family friendly policies;
- Health and Wellbeing Benefits, including a University Staff Counselling Service, discounts at the University Sports Centre, and other local gyms, and healthcare schemes.



# What Cambridge can offer

## Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay, and paid emergency leave for parents and carers.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high quality holiday Playscheme may be available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here:

<https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Postdoc Academy supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available

here:

<https://www.postdocacademy.cam.ac.uk/>

## Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. The University delivers The Festival of Wellbeing annually, which is a programme of stimulating talks and activities, which aim to promote wellbeing and good mental and physical health. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Festival](#), which is a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

## Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities as well as supporting their professional and career development on an ongoing basis. Our Personal and Professional Development (PPD) team provide development opportunities for all University employees, including face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. All employees also have unlimited access to LinkedIn Learning to support their development. Both new and existing employees can undertake funded Apprenticeships, which lead to a range of vocational and professional qualifications. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. A range of University training providers also offer specialist learning and development in their own areas e.g. teaching and learning, digital literacy, finance, health and wellbeing, safety.





# How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page [www.jobs.cam.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk) by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

The University of Cambridge is committed to supporting our staff to thrive both professionally and personally. We aim to support a good work/life balance, whilst retaining the positive aspects of our unique in-person environment and culture. Elements of this role are suitable for hybrid working, where staff can split their time between in-person collaboration and remote working. The frequency of the remote elements of the role can be discussed with the recruiting manager.

Conversations about flexible working are encouraged at the University of Cambridge. Please feel free to discuss flexibility prior to applying (using the contact information below) or at interview if your application is successful.

If you have any queries regarding the application process please email Estates Division HR on [EDR@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:EDR@admin.cam.ac.uk).

The closing date for applications is: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025