

Louis Burton – Head of Graduate Admissions – Cambridge  
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Notes:

- approx. 11,500 application for Grad Study
- very important that when applying (especially) on-line use the correct course code
- deadlines are very important (seems they have had some problems with US applicants)
- Generally, looking for 2 academic references and transcript w/ evidence of graduation
- E-applications go to central database and then are sent to the colleges
- Graduate Admissions office looks over application and makes offers with conditions added (if needed)
  - Specifically, they look for:
    - 1) Academic qualification – do you have the scores to be acceptable to the college?
    - 2) Financial ability – do you have the money to pay for your education?
    - 3) College – are you accepted into a college?
- If you have been accepted into a college you are put in “College Pool”
  - the pool is divided up between colleges based upon opening in the colleges
  - all colleges accept any major area of study, but some colleges are famous for certain majors (e.g., Trinity – Math)
    - students should have two college choices one preferred and one pragmatic.
  - It was stressed the importance of reading the published college documents
    - some colleges have high charges, but not hidden costs.
    - others have low charges and lots of hidden costs.
  - college choice not as important for Graduate students as it is for UG
  - college is the center of social life at Cambridge
- In the initial stages of the application scanned/photocopied transcripts are acceptable.
  - Grad Admission will require an official/original transcript later
- Mr. Burton stated the processes can be trying, but followed on saying they are working on making it easier
  - e.g., Financial and Scholarship process in one form (including Gates process)
- He stressed the importance for students to find faculty to work with from Cambridge and have letter from them

560 total applications for Gates/Cambridge Fellowships, 100 awarded, 40 to Americans