Dear New Graduate Student,

Welcome to Cambridge! Welcome to Robinson! And a very warm welcome to the Robinson Middle Combination Room!

The Middle Combination Room, more commonly known as the MCR, is the college’s graduate student body (and also a physical room in college) of which you are now a member. We hope you will join our lively and friendly community for a string of activities, which usually ranges from regular dinners, film nights, networking events with senior members of college (the ‘SCR’) and pub nights through to larger scale events such as free formal halls, traditional Cambridge garden parties, and our popular termly fancy dress Saturday Hall followed by the infamous ‘bop’ (a good chance to show off your dance moves, or lack thereof). This is in addition to a variety of sports, formal hall ‘swaps’ with other colleges, and other events that happen throughout the year: a list far too extensive to include here! The MCR Committee will try their hardest to create the friendly atmosphere Robinson is known for.

If you also just want a calm place to sit down and relax after a long day in the lab, office or library, you are welcome to visit the MCR at any time, where you will find a selection of board games, table football, a widescreen TV, PS4, internet terminals, an eclectic DVD library, kitchen and, invariably, someone to chat to over a cup of tea and a biscuit. The MCR is located up the stairs next to the Chapel and can be accessed using your university card after activating it at the Library entrance.

The first two weeks of your time as a Graduate Student (known as Fresher’s Week) will run from the 1st to the 15th of October. Please find attached a provisional schedule for Fresher’s Week. It’s a great chance to meet other grads and find your way around college and town, but more than anything else to have fun, make new friends and establish yourself in the college community that you will be a part of for the rest of your time in Cambridge and beyond. We try to organise a range of events that cater to all. So, come along and join in with as many events as you like, whether you live in or out of college!
There are three important websites where information will be centralised. Please read them and regularly check them throughout the year.

- **The MCR website:** [http://mcr.robinson.cam.ac.uk](http://mcr.robinson.cam.ac.uk).
  This is your point of contact for all things related to the MCR and graduate life: from signing up to formals or social events to looking up the details of the graduate tutors to finding out where to buy a gown.

- **College Induction Information:** [http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/graduates2021](http://www.robinson.cam.ac.uk/graduates2021)
  Here you will find a copy of the Junior Member’s Handbook (which covers pretty much everything you need to know about college, worth a read!) and information on how to register with a GP, the college library, the data policy…all the small print.

- **COVID-19 College Rules and Special Arrangements:**
  *(you will need a Raven log in for this)*
  Public health policy can still change, and college’s response will always be published here as well as in emails. If you have questions regarding the situation surrounding COVID-19 then this is the place to look.

Finally, we hold our Committee Elections towards the end of October. Your current committee and positions available can be found on the website ([https://mcr.robinson.cam.ac.uk/mcr/committee.php](https://mcr.robinson.cam.ac.uk/mcr/committee.php)). We are responsible for organising social events, providing welfare advice, liaising with the college council on issues affecting graduates and representing Robinson MCR at university-wide councils. Joining the committee is an excellent way to get fully involved in college life and is a great extra-curricular experience!

If you have any specific questions or are simply overloaded by the host of available information, do not hesitate to email the MCR President (mcr-president@robinson.cam.ac.uk) or anyone else on committee.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you soon!

On behalf of the MCR Committee,

Thomas Burger
Robinson MCR President 2020-2021