International University Karate Meeting 2026 Report

On the 6th and 7th of March 2026 students from Universities of Bath, Dublin (University College Dublin), Exeter, London (Queen Mary), and Oxford as well students and Sensei from the Japan University Karate Federation (JUKF) joined with CUKC for a weekend of joint training and sight seeing across Cambridge.

On Saturday we started strong, beginning with some basics, focusing on strong stances and transferal of power during techniques. We then immersed ourselves in the motions of Kumite as well as how to deny attacks before the attack happens. Everyone was challenged to be mindful of their centre line as they advanced with intent. After training, Cambridge students showed our visitors around the Cambridge colleges - special mention to Alex Vouno, Alex Lo, Angela and Taaliya! Meanwhile Lukas, Dani, and Finley showed the JUKF Sensei Cambridge by punting them across the river, getting them to see the backs of our colleges. Afterwards a large portion of IUKM attendants met up at Mill Works for dinner, followed up by a round at the pub.

On Sunday we continued our good training and witnessed kata demonstrations presented by students from JUKF, the UK and Ireland across all the major Karate styles. It was truly a pleasure to see everyone come together and train together. In all partner exercises students from Japan paired up with those from the UK and Ireland, which allowed everyone to make new connections.

Across the weekend the spirit of IUKM, of building bridges through Karate, was on full display. Members made friendships across universities and countries, furthermore we had the privilege to learn from world class Sensei from all Karate styles. We heartly thank all those that made the effort to come, share our halls with us and be part of the success of this weekend!

We thank the Perse School and Cambridge Regional College for allowing us to use their halls for this event and thank Blitz for making sure CUKC members look their best during it! Special mention goes to Johanna Hoffmann, Lead IUKM Organiser, for working with us closely in making our hosting of IUKM 2026 possible! We are incredibly grateful to Senseis Uchida, Nakagawa, Hasegawa, Kobayashi, Yada, Tanizaki, Uno, Sato, and Murase for sharing their expertise on the weekend. We are especially grateful to Senseis Watanabe (JUKF Chairperson), Tanizaki (JUKF Executive Director), Murase (JUKF Executive Director), Hashimoto (JUKF Executive Director), and Osada (JUKF President) for supporting IUKM 2026 and making this event possible. Finally, we would like to thank our very own Chief Instructor, Sensei Kenjiro Hori, for all his help in teaching, translating and generally supporting CUKC in the organisation of IUKM 2026!