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Follow our student blogs to discover what life is like at Durham University
community.dur.ac.uk/blogs

On the Open Day

This Open Day College Guide will provide an introduction to the collegiate system here at Durham University, as well as an overview of each of our undergraduate colleges.

In the same way that each college is different, so are the delivery of college tours during the open day. See individual college entries for further details.

You can also visit the Colleges Hub, a collection of information stalls based in inflatable domes outside of Physics, where you can speak with Representatives to find out more about the collegiate system, or visit the team from John Snow College or South College to find out about our exciting new college developments.

For more information on all activities available during the Open Day, check out the Open Day Guide available at durham.ac.uk/study/ug/visit/preapp/
We are a proudly collegiate university and as a Durham student, you will become a member of a college. Your college will be the hub of your university life and is somewhere that is so much more than just the place where you will live. In each of our colleges, you will find a sense of community that is distinctive to Durham. These communities range in size from around 400 to over 1,000 students.

Your degree programme is not taught in college, but your college does provide an informal learning environment in which to develop beyond your academic course for the whole time you are studying at Durham. Our colleges are made up of both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Please note:
a) Figures are subject to annual change.
b) A higher proportion of single, en-suite bedrooms are reserved for returning third or fourth year students who wish to live in college. Please contact your preferred college for details.

**All colleges have special dinner events throughout the year called ‘Formals’. Some colleges wear gowns at these events. Others are less formal and do not wear gowns to dine in.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our undergraduate Colleges</th>
<th>Catered</th>
<th>No. of students living in</th>
<th>No. of ensuite 1st Year UG rooms</th>
<th>Shared 1st year rooms</th>
<th>Gowned formal dinners**</th>
<th>Shop</th>
<th>Chapel/ multi-faith room</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collingwood</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatfield</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Snow</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephine Butler</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Aidan's</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Chad's</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Cuthbert's</td>
<td>FC/SC</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Hild &amp; St Bede</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John's</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary's</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevelyan</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>FC/SC</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Mildert</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South College (opening 2020)</td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note:
(a) Figures are subject to annual change.
(b) A higher proportion of single, en-suite bedrooms are reserved for returning third or fourth year students who wish to live in college. Please contact your preferred college for details.

FC: Fully catered
SC: Self-catered
^ A 10 meal package is available to SC students at St Cuthbert's

A new college, ‘South College’ will be opening in 2020. You do not have to specify a college preference on your UCAS form, if you prefer not to, by making an open application. Ustinov College is for postgraduates only.
The college experience

One of our greatest assets is our collegiate system. You will become a member of a college, whether you live in or out of University accommodation.

Our residential college communities will be the very core of your life at Durham, providing experiences, challenges and opportunities that make your time here about much more than just a degree.

The Open Day is your chance to explore a selection of colleges and get a feel for where you may like to call home.

17 Colleges, one of which is dedicated to postgraduates

50 music societies in our colleges

6,000 undergraduate students living in our colleges

700 college sports teams across 18 different sports

Follow our student blogs to discover what life is like at Durham University community.dur.ac.uk/blogs
The wider student experience

An essential and highly distinctive part of studying at Durham is the Wider Student Experience, with the residential college communities at its core. A Durham collegiate education means considerably more than a prestigious degree: it means also the development of graduate qualities that are first and foremost the basis of an examined life, as well as a magnet for employers.

Graduate qualities

At Durham, we group these essential graduate qualities under three ‘developmental outcomes’:

• intellectual curiosity
• personal effectiveness
• a sense of belonging and responsibility

Both the discipline of degree studies and your participation in the college community will help to lead you to achieve these goals. Join us and take these vitally-important qualities into life beyond formal education.

The formal statement of the goal of the Wider Student Experience lists some of these essential graduate qualities more specifically: the goal is to ensure that Durham students enjoy an unrivalled ethos and environment in which to pursue the highest quality of education and student experience, through which they will further develop qualities of independence, self-expression, intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, entrepreneurship, teamwork, leadership and a strong sense of social citizenship.

The distinctive way in which we pursue this goal at Durham is through our collegiate system:

‘A College is, at its heart, an association or community of people having a common purpose: and in the University context this common purpose is the pursuit of scholarship and understanding through education and research, at the core of the richest possible development of the whole person.’

Colleges: university life, on a manageable scale

The college system offers a sense of affinity and identity within which the sharing of common purposes is a matter not of theory but of daily experience, because a college is typically small enough to enable its members to experience university life on a smaller and more human scale – a scale that is both manageable and intimate. The college community’s environment, whether or not fully residential, is one that is safe, supportive and inclusive – and one where its members will enjoy a sense of belonging, and will readily build lifelong affinities and loyalties as well as friendships.

Some key characteristics of Durham Colleges

The College community is led by an academic Head of House whose role it is to lead by example as a distinguished research-active scholar in her or his own right.

The College’s students are drawn from all the disciplines in which the University teaches and researches, so that College life embodies regular social and conversational contact across disciplinary boundaries.

Moreover, the members of a College represent all stages of the scholarly journey, from Freshmen to Professors Emeritus, via all years of undergraduate and postgraduate study and academic careers – and, by association, Alumni of all ages. In this sense Colleges are not only multi-disciplinary, but also multi-generational, scholarly communities.

All student support and wellbeing is accessed through a primary point of contact provided through the student support team, in liaison with Academic Departments and a central team of professional support staff. Students are regularly guided through their university experience by a team of College Mentors, sharing an experience of higher education and the challenges to which it gives rise.

Durham Colleges provide an enhanced range of facilities that not merely supplement but multiply many times the amenities normally found in a university; all Colleges foster an intellectual and cultural environment through a combination of study spaces and facilities for music, the arts, and a variety of sports.

No two Colleges are identical – their physical architecture and settings are as distinctively individual as are their social histories and cultural traditions. Yet all Colleges are alike – in different ways they offer a consistent student experience of support, challenge and opportunity.

All our Colleges are imbued with an awareness of community and a sense of place; together these give rise to students’ having a sense of personal affiliation that is, typically, something they treasure, as Alumni, lifelong.

"For me, the colleges attracted me to Durham. I saw the collegiate system as one that would promote and champion diversity as well as provide opportunities to try new things such as sports. I was able to take part in college rowing, basketball and football which are sports I had never really played before."

Seun Onalaja, Accounting and Finance BA (Hons) student, Stephenson College. #DUinspire
Participation and representation: the Common Rooms
The members of each College are affiliated to self-organising ‘Common Rooms,’ distinct groups that between them represent the different stages of progression through University life.

The majority of a College’s students undertake a first degree and form the undergraduate Junior Common Room. More senior stages are represented by postgraduates through the Middle Common Room; academic staff, College Officers and College Mentors form the Senior Common Room.

In bringing the Common Rooms together, College life makes these different stages visible as part of a single journey, and promotes progression along it.

The Colleges support and advise on the self-organised range of activities undertaken by their Junior and Middle Common Rooms, giving students abundant opportunities to exercise leadership, team-building and personal development and self-discovery.

In turn the students, through their Common Room representatives, have a voice in almost all aspects of the governance and management of their College – providing important opportunities to develop their capacities for critical discussion, teamwork, initiative and responsible engagement, as well as helping shape their College’s community.

Other practical benefits for students include learning to take responsibility for managing their own affairs, as well as seizing hold of the joys of creative leisure and recreation: opportunities to take part in representative sport at all levels of ability, or to engage adventurously in music and the performing arts, or to try out new entertainments, skills and pastimes, or to discover how the world looks to people from significantly different backgrounds from one’s own – and to be able to take refreshment and stimulation from all these experiences, and carry it back into their approaches to study.

Values and virtues: respect, citizenship, leadership
College life brings together in a shared community people of a wide range of backgrounds, heritages, beliefs and values. Living and working together requires tolerance, freedom of thought and a generous spirit – enabling the celebration of diversity, and helping the confidence of those who want to take steps along less ordinary or less familiar paths. In short, living together requires and rewards mutual respect.

College life also encourages clear thinking, a closer understanding of actions and consequences, and a firmer grasp of how to base conclusions upon solid grounds and sound argument. It is built on recognising how our actions affect others, and it prioritises excellence in hard-won achievement, over the inequalities of background and prior opportunity.

Perhaps most importantly – given that roles of responsibility and leadership abound in college life – it can to a modest extent both hone and temper the ambitions of some of those young people who are going to go on to leadership positions in tomorrow’s society.

The leaders whom we increasingly need will be tolerant, kindly, rigorous, steadfast and intellectually-liberal.
College costs – 2019/20

Costs are subject to an annual increase. Costs for academic year 2020/21 will be published once finalised. Accommodation for the academic year, to include induction week. Not all types of let are available in all Colleges. Please contact the individual College for further information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Types</th>
<th>Residence with Catering</th>
<th>Residence with Self-catering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Standard Rooms (shared bathroom facilities)</td>
<td>£7,672</td>
<td>£5,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single En-suite Rooms*</td>
<td>£8,149</td>
<td>£5,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Induction Supplement for Additional Accommodation</td>
<td>+£175</td>
<td>+£109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 or double bed</td>
<td>+£243</td>
<td>+£243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discounts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared room</td>
<td>-£450</td>
<td>-£450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Room - Paired bathroom (Shared between two rooms)</td>
<td>-£225</td>
<td>-£225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No sink</td>
<td>-£234</td>
<td>-£234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*En-suite rooms

A student who requires an en-suite room as a result of a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010 and that this requirement for en-suite is supported by appropriate medical or diagnostic evidence, will not be charged the supplements for these facilities where both standard and en-suite facilities exist in their allocated College.

If you would like to find out about the financial support that may be available to you, please visit our student financial support pages.

Residence including catering

Catering is provided from the Sunday dinner prior to induction week for all new first year students with the exception of new international students arriving for international induction when the catering provision starts from the Wednesday dinner prior to induction week. For returning students catering is provided from the Saturday dinner before Michaelmas term commences.

The catering provided will be breakfast (including cooked breakfast option), lunch and dinner every day, Monday-Sunday, for the duration of the undergraduate terms. Term dates are published dur.ac.uk/dates. Students remaining in residence during undergraduate vacation periods will be able to purchase additional meal tickets. Students may be required to obtain meals from a different college during vacation periods. Students should always regularly check times with their college as changes to service may occur from time to time.
Student pledge

Durham University asks all its student members for their personal commitment to a set of values that underpin life and study here. The commitment is set out on the Student Pledge, shown below. This Pledge is not part of the University’s formal rules, but we see it as vital to supporting a climate of fairness, cooperation, and respectful behaviour within the University, its colleges, and the wider community.

My pledge to myself

I undertake to:
• hold myself to the highest possible standards;
• conduct myself with integrity and dignity, in all matters;
• demonstrate high standards of personal conduct in my interactions with the University and the wider Durham community.

My pledge to others

I undertake to:
• celebrate diversity and promote equal opportunity for all;
• treat other students, staff and members of the wider community with respect and tolerance, irrespective of their race, colour, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, nationality or disability;
• promote a culture in which incidents of sexual violence and misconduct are not tolerated;
• be a good and considerate neighbour while living in College or within the wider Durham community.

My pledge to my educational experience

I undertake to:
• engage with my academic studies to the very best of my abilities both as an independent learner and as part of the community of practice within my academic department(s);
• conduct myself with honesty and integrity in pursuit of my education, respecting the University’s rules on plagiarism, research misconduct, and the use of IT and Library facilities;
• promote and defend the right to freedom of expression within the law.
Our College is situated in a beautiful, landscaped setting close to the main Mountjoy Science Site, just a short walk from the City Centre. Grey is a fully catered College, with a range of fantastic facilities to support student life. A library, with a large dedicated study-space and book collection; a recently refurbished gym; Fountains Hall, containing music practise rooms, an arts studio and a chapel; a large, comfy Common Room; and an excellent bar, the Greyhound! Grey combines the best aspects of tradition with a modern student life, epitomised by our formal dinners.

Grey is a place where all can come and excel, both within their chosen subject and outside. Our Student Experience Officer helps to enable a wealth of opportunities for Grey students to make the most of their creativity. The Grey Opportunities programme offers a range of initiatives allowing students to develop their curiosity away from their subject. It includes careers events, often hosted by alumni and a series of lectures by world experts. Grey College Trust makes grants to students to undertake activities to enable them to unlock their broader potential and effectiveness.

Our Junior Common Room, of which almost all students are members, functions as an independent charity, running more than 40 sports teams and 20 societies. These allow student participation at all levels, providing countless leadership opportunities for our students in second and subsequent years. Grey is proud of our second-to-none sporting participation, which helps make the College a lively and energetic place throughout the year. Our summer mixed Rugby Sevens tournament, for example, has had over 1,000 Grey students playing in the last four years, raising over £5,000 for charity. Grey in the Community helps the young, elderly and disabled of County Durham; we are proud to have been the first University group in the UK to host tea parties with the national charity Contact the Elderly. We also have a diverse range of musical and artistic groups.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/grey.college

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For more information, see durham.ac.uk/hatfield.college
John Snow College is on an exciting journey and we would like you to be part of it. From summer 2020, we will be permanently located in our brand new, purpose-built premises at Mount Oswald, Durham City. Our new facilities include a fitness suite, a dance studio, music practice rooms, an exercise/yoga studio, a faith room, an events hall, a launderette and a floodlit outdoor multi-use games area.

As a self-catered College, with formal dining events throughout the year, we have something for everyone. Whether your extra-curricular interests are sporting, artistic or academic, we will enable you to fulfill your potential. As a modern, formal, gowned College with traditional values, we constantly look for new ways to provide the best opportunities to our students. Our Student Development Programme offers an extensive range of activities to respond to the intellectual and cultural appetite of our student community and our Student Development Fund financially assists students to volunteer or work on projects in this country or across the world.

Being a member of the Junior Common Room enables you to explore new interests and strengthen your current skills, so at Graduation, you leave Durham University with more than a degree, you are equipped with the essential graduate qualities that employers seek.

John Snow invites the ambitious and academically curious to shape our future.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/johnsnow.college
Welcome to St Aidan’s, the ‘Rainbow College’. Join our community to engage with the world. From the creative arts to community engagement projects, peer mentoring and Pathways to Enterprise, our energy, enthusiasm and diversity encourages everyone to flourish.

A modern college, we are continually evolving as we explore new possibilities with our local and international partners. You can develop your talents or discover new ones, in a caring and supportive environment. Our creative writing course is unique, our intercultural and interfaith exchanges are thriving, and our college spaces can host anything from meditation groups to ‘Live Lounge’ and ‘Open mic’ evenings.

With the emphasis on participation, we have a great tradition of both informal and committed sporting activity, from mixed frisbee to women’s rugby and hosted classes in yoga, tango, salsa and classical Indian dance.

We are proud co-founders and hosts of Durham Pride and Durham City of Sanctuary and of two research centres with community impact at their heart and growing global relationships. Through celebrations like Chinese New Year and international film nights, through our Banipal Middle Eastern Writer in Residence Fellowship and hosting JSoC’s Shabbat celebrations, we work towards active citizenship to challenge a fractured world.

Situated at the top of Windmill Hill, if you take a moment of calm near our haunting sculpture by Fenwick Lawson, the view of Durham Cathedral and the dramatic landscape of the city will always inspire you. In the same way, our modernity embraces sensitivity and respect for the other living histories and struggles of this complex region where natural beauty and industrial resilience coexist.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/st-aidans.college

St Chad’s is the smallest college of Durham University, situated just metres away from Durham Cathedral and the UNESCO World Heritage Site on the beautiful and historic North Bailey. We take pride in our traditions but are thoroughly forward-thinking in our outlook. Though we are a small community with a real family atmosphere, we encourage all of our members to dare to dream big, to aim high, and to think globally – whether it’s in terms of their academic work, their extra-curricular activities, their career aspirations and employability, or their plans to change our world for the better.

Our intellectually curious and highly motivated members participate in wide range of College-based events and activities including our inter-Common Room discussion forum PERSPECTIVES, our regional internship programme Intern:NE, regular community volunteering opportunities around the North East, the governance of the Junior Common Room, our theatre company Green Door, our friendly and inclusive sports teams, our student-run College bar, our twice-weekly gowned ‘Formals’, and our lively arts and music programme.

The College is particularly committed to nurturing a diverse and international community of students and staff, co-sponsoring the Ruth First Scholarship, which brings a postgraduate from southern Africa to study at Durham University for a year. Our International Students Organising Committee arranges an exciting extra-curricular programme of trips around the North East, study skills sessions, and social events throughout the year.

If you aspire to be part of a scholarly and social community that will challenge and support you in equal measure, encouraging and empowering you to make the most of every opportunity while at Durham University, then we would love to welcome you to St Chad’s.

For more information, see stchads.ac.uk
St Cuthbert’s Society is one of the largest and oldest student communities in Durham. Cuth’s occupies two sites, with rooms on the historic Bailey and self-catered, modern flats across the River Wear at Parson’s Field. We provide a flexible range of accommodation and catering options for our diverse student body.

We have over 40 societies and sports teams, and new ones are created every year; recent additions include karaoke, swimming, and women’s rugby (undefeated last year). Our community engagement includes drama classes in a local school and our choir performing in Durham prison. Bursaries are available for personal development and to support the performing arts. Every year a writer, artist or musician is in residence for six months to work with students - this year an award-winning American investigative journalist.

Students and senior members of the college meet at many social and scholarly events, including the Difficult Dialogues series (open discussion of topics such as racism and the politics of food), ale and wine tastings, informal talks by students and staff about their research, and regular formal dinners such as Halloween, Burns Night and Dining in the Dark. The students organise three major black-tie events a year. The student body, a registered charity, is energetic, enterprising and eclectic.

Our students say... ‘Cuth’s has provided opportunities I never considered a possibility and do things I never thought I would ever do!’ Josefin Rosman, St Cuthbert’s Society, Philosophy and Psychology.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/st-cuthberts.society

Stephenson, affectionately known as Stevo, is a modern college with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. At Stephenson, we have students from all walks of life and from all over the world. We are a diverse community that celebrates all cultures.

A self-catered college, students nevertheless dine together regularly, both informally and formally; with regular ‘Locomotion Dinners’ and larger and grander ‘Formals’. At ‘Locomotion Dinners’ guest speakers provoke curiosity, discussion and debate with three-minute topical talks, whereas formal dinners and College balls are usually black tie and enjoy after dinner music and entertainment.

Students are empowered to pursue joint and individual interests, supported by College bursaries, facilities and resources. In 2018-19, for example, current students set up a self-organised Debating Society, an Advocacy Society and a Craft Society producing chocolates, soaps and all the decorations for Stephenson’s Black Tie Winter Ball.

Stephenson students have a strong interest in social justice issues and sustain close links with the local branch of Foundation, a project addressing homelessness. The College held its first art exhibition of works by Foundation service users and students in 2019.

The College mines students’ wealth of skills and experience for the benefit of the wider community, using its student-run ‘Match Up Hubs’. Matching the skills of our students with the particular needs of local organisations enables our students to offer support on a one-off or regular basis, whilst gaining and developing relevant experience and valuable transferable skills.

Stephenson is ambitious for its students, paying attention to their employability as global leaders.
Heritage, community, sport, theatre, sociability

Originally two Church of England teacher-training colleges, Hild Bede has enjoyed a long association with the University and the Durham community. The first three women to graduate from Durham in 1898 were all members of St Hild’s, and we have our own war memorial commemorating the sacrifice of the Bede Pals’ contingent in 1915. We are proud to build on this heritage and today’s Hild Bede is a rich, diverse and vibrant community, offering a great balance between academic endeavour, sporting and artistic achievement, and sociability.

We have a single student body representing undergraduates and postgraduates – the Student Representative Council. This is headed by a sabbatical officer and run by 12 individuals, each responsible for an area of College life (e.g. charities, the environment, clubs and societies, welfare). The SRC organises social events and supports over 30 clubs and societies. We’re proud of our students’ sporting prowess. For example, Hild Bede Boat Club qualified for Henley five times in the last ten years, and our 1st XI men’s hockey team plays in the North East Hockey League. College sport allows people to join in whatever their ability, and we are delighted at our excellent participation levels.

We are equally proud of our achievements in music and the performing arts. Our Chapel Choir tours nationally and internationally; Hild Bede students have won awards at the National Student Drama Festival; Bede Film Soc offers a regular programme of newly-released feature films; and our annual musical has been named best Durham musical for over a decade. Hild Bede Theatre also runs a community outreach programme, working with young people at the Pelaw View Community Centre. This year, we have also been supporting the charity RT Projects; our students volunteer at St Hild’s School; support local foodbanks and are involved with the Citizens UK campaign around mental health.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/hild-bede

Times: 9.00am-4.00pm
Tour format: Pre-booked sessions only. Brief welcome and Q&A session with college staff and students followed by student-led tours.
Tour duration: Full session lasts 45 minutes to an hour.
What to expect: Tour the building, facilities and grounds.

St John’s College enjoys stunning views of Durham Cathedral and gardens stretching down to the River Wear. We are one of the smallest colleges, renowned for our lively and welcoming atmosphere.

St John’s fosters intellectual curiosity beyond students’ degree subjects. Our events are interdisciplinary and invite students to engage with different perspectives and ways of thinking. A flagship event is the high-profile annual Borderlands lecture in Michaelmas term, featuring leading thinkers, scientists and public figures. At Tutor’s Tea, you may hear from an interesting guest speaker, take part in a workshop, or watch a film followed by discussion in groups. Students themselves organise a range of academic projects and events in College: from the St John’s Common Room Academic Journal, which lets students showcase academic work they are proud of, to a Café Scientifique and the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Easter term.

John’s Eagles career network is made up of recruited friends and alumni of the College, who are happy to give advice to current students about their career and life experience, and help build their personal effectiveness. They can provide career advice and the necessary skills for students to more fully understand the sectors they have an interest in.

St John’s Leadership Programme offers skills development and mentoring in a relaxed format. The programme is aimed at students in a range of leadership roles – you may be on the SJCR Exec, captain of a sports team, on the committee of a student society, or simply wish to gain leadership skills for the future. Sessions range from interactive workshops with staff members and tutors, to more high profile lectures. Another exciting College project is John’s Chronicle, our student-led online magazine which ‘brings together all things Johnian’ and includes everything from opinion pieces on world politics to reflections on life in St John’s.
St Mary's is one of Durham's oldest colleges and occupies beautiful buildings set in extensive grounds in an ideal central location.

Founded in 1899 as a pioneering all-women's college before becoming fully mixed in 2005, we retain our founding ethos of a commitment to social justice, equality and opportunity for all. Our friendly and dynamic Common Rooms work with dedicated staff within the College to provide a platform for our students to participate in sport, art, music and drama, and lead on a wide range of activities and events.

Encouragement to get involved, try new things and develop skills you perhaps never knew you had, is a key aspect of life at Mary's: be it organising our international food festival, being responsible for the JCR budget or publicity, joining the Midsummer Ball decoration team, ensuring the tech works for JCR events, performing at a termly Live Lounge or drama production, volunteering in the College library, working with the community outreach team, running a welfare campaign, or simply cheering as part of the Mary's crowd at a hockey match – there really is something for everyone.

At Mary's, supporting an individual's personal and academic growth is key. Our first-year students are encouraged and helped by our enthusiastic second, third and fourth year students. College Mentors support our students to capture all that they do, reflect on all that they have achieved, identify strengths, weaknesses, and new opportunities. Alumni offer their support to current students through our Careers Alumni Network. As a community we collaborate to provide you with the opportunity to contribute, make a positive difference, and to make the most of yourself. It's this positive experience that provides a sense of belonging and leads our students to retain a lifelong affiliation with St Mary's.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/st-marys.college

Open Day College Guide

Times: 9.00am-4.00pm (closed for lunch 12.30pm-1.00pm)
Tour format: Student-led tours with a chance to meet staff informally.
Tour duration: 30 minutes but it's not a problem if you need to leave early.
What to expect: You will see our Junior Common Room, dining hall, reading room, library, gym, bar, music rooms and at least one bedroom.
Please note: The college does get busy and, because of the layout of our buildings, group sizes need to be capped for the comfort and safety of our visitors. Guided tours run every 15 minutes (except when we are closed for lunch) but please be aware that during very busy times there may be a wait for a tour. Refreshments are available and staff will be on hand to talk to you whilst you wait.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/st-marys.college

The hexagonal home of opportunities

As a scholarly community, the College has a vested interest in its students' academic and intellectual success. We have an outstanding Library and study spaces, a series of scholarly events in all disciplines ranging from Dissertation Evenings, Research Buffets led by our postgraduates, to public lectures from leading academics, some of whom are resident as part of our community.

With its relatively small number of students, there are boundless opportunities for personal development, leadership and participation within the huge range of societies and committees from being a member of one of the many sports teams to President of the student Common Room. In addition, we have a programme of development, wellbeing workshops and careers seminars, so that you can maximise your time and personal effectiveness, while at University. Our alumni also retain an active role in this respect, mentoring current students through the ConnHexions programme.

Trevelyan College, uniquely identified by its architecture, lends itself to hexagonal landings, quickly creating micro communities within the larger college community. Almost everything is housed under one roof, creating that important community identity and real sense of belonging. The Bar area, the hub of College, is used both for fun social events, as a relaxed study space in the daytime with a coffee bar, and for academic, personal development and wellbeing events in the evening.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/trevelyan.college

Times: 9.00am-4.00pm
Tour format: Guided tours with ambassadors.
Tour duration: 15-20 minutes.
Self-guided tour: Allow 10 minutes.
What to expect: You'll be able to see the accommodation areas, social spaces, library and, on request, the gym and music room.
University College, better known simply as ‘Castle’, is an academic community that prides itself on its open spirit. Our official motto, ‘Non nobis solum’, or ‘Not for ourselves alone’, sums up our emphasis on working together and looking outwards.

We are hugely lucky to be based in and around Durham Castle, the oldest part of which dates from 1072. Some aspects of our College life are traditional – including our popular twice-weekly formal dinners – but we wear our traditions lightly and look firmly towards the future.

Castle provides a myriad of opportunities to get involved, and we are home to a range of sports teams and societies which excel at what they do. From theatre to rowing, mixed lacrosse to big band, there is something for you here! We also have a vibrant and growing outreach programme – Castle Community Action – that is student-run and which does great work in the local community.

Castle offers its students an intellectually challenging experience, with the Durham Castle Lecture Series bringing world-class speakers to College. We also offer a range of seminars, training sessions, and networking events to help students develop their employability skills.

We hope you will choose to join us.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/university.college

Van Mildert College
Durham University

Van Mildert is a fully catered college centred around a beautiful lake. All of our accommodation is single occupancy and is located just a short walk from the City Centre. Our spacious estate offers plenty of opportunities for lively and ambitious events, while also providing a peaceful place for study and relaxation. Onsite facilities include music practice rooms and a recording studio, a recently refurbished bar and shop, excellent study space availability in our two libraries and nearby computer suite, a student-run gym, and the largest dining hall in the University.

It is our ambition that every Mildertian contributes to College life in at least one area (across the arts, music, sport and outreach and volunteering) and takes time to reflect on their participation. The diverse range of over 65 sports teams, clubs, committees and societies at Mildert ensures that there are opportunities for all. Our distinctive Dimensions programme offers opportunities for personal development around three themes - Find your Future, Engage and Inspire, and Wellbeing – supported by the expertise of our global alumni community. College life at Mildert means getting involved regardless of your experience or skill – our ‘give it a go’ approach means that enthusiasm is all you need to try something new!

Mildert has the strongest track-record of all the colleges in outreach and volunteering, and is one of the few colleges with a dedicated student Outreach Officer. Our 20 years’ of experience has resulted in a strong College ethos echoing our College motto, ‘Sic vos non vobis’ – ‘Not for yourselves’. Our six student-led projects work across County Durham and our students complete 6,500 hours of volunteering per year. Mildert’s outreach programmes have been recognised with awards regionally, nationally and internationally including the UK and Ireland, and International Green Gown Awards.

For more information, see durham.ac.uk/van-mildert.college
South College will open at Mount Oswald for the 2020 academic year. The first new college at Durham for over ten years, it will have 500 student beds, will be self-catered, and will have a modern feel.

Although it will be new, the College will have the attributes of other colleges. Its administrative and social activities, including the Junior Common Room (JCR), will have dedicated space within the College. As elsewhere, the JCR will be the driving force of the undergraduate community, organising social events, running College sports and societies, providing peer support and ensuring a strong student presence in the evolution of the College.

In addition, there will be a University Hub, shared with neighbouring John Snow College, providing space for formal dining and large-scale social events and including a gym for the use of both colleges. Construction at the Mount Oswald site began in August 2018, and is due for completion in the summer of 2020.

By joining South College, you will have the chance to shape a new community, starting traditions that other students will follow for years to come. If you like to lead, this is a great opportunity to be part of something new.

“Colleges are very different from what you might expect. You’re not just living with 4 or 5 other people, you’re part of a community of hundreds, so there is always someone with similar interests to you. I can’t stress enough how uniquely brilliant an experience it is”

Reece Roberts, St Aidan’s Student