



Be welcome.

Be you.

**Your Guide to Colleges
for Prospective Students**





One of the things I worried most about when coming to university as an international student was finding my people in a completely new country. Thankfully, the collegiate system was extremely beneficial because it meant I was automatically a member of a community where I belonged. This helped me bond quickly and find my friends!

Chiara Schuster
Law, John Snow College





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Be you.



Our extraordinary colleges

Our collegiate system makes Durham exceptional. Here, every student is a proud member of a college, and every college has its own character, spirit and traditions. Each is an inspiring and supportive community.

College life

The colleges are the heart of our extraordinary wider student experience. In fact, we provide a guaranteed offer of accommodation to all first year undergraduates who apply for it by a specified deadline date, because colleges are where Durham's outstanding student experience begins.

You will feel at home from the moment you step through the door. Colleges are like extended families: safe, supportive, and inclusive. In your college, you'll be surrounded by friendly faces and you'll have the chance to get to know all sorts of extraordinary people.

What is college accommodation like?

The rooms and bathrooms will differ depending on the college, but all of our bedrooms are equipped with:

- A bed with a mattress, desk, chair, wardrobe and drawers
- WiFi access with the ability to create a local wireless network for your devices
- Full catering, or self-catering facilities like a shared pantry or kitchen
- En-suite or shared bathroom facilities.

The college experience

In your college, you can take part in sport, music, theatre or volunteering. You can join clubs and societies, enjoy social events and dinners, and make friends for life. Your college will be your home from home, the centre of your life at Durham and a constant source of opportunities, challenges and lasting memories.

Every college provides:

- A character and spirit all of its own
- Sports, clubs, societies and associations
- Events and activities
- Student Common Rooms
- Staff and support close at hand if you need it
- Accommodation within Durham City, either catered or self-catered



- Colleges offer facilities such as shops, cafés, bars, libraries, social and study areas, music and performance spaces, laundrettes, gyms and outdoor sports areas depending on college.

Discover new ideas

A Durham education doesn't stop with your degree subject. There are opportunities across the University to engage with ideas and learn from others. For example, in your college you might discuss the most pressing global issues with inspiring visiting speakers; you might go along to a dissertation 'open mic' night where your fellow students share their research; or you might edit a student scholarly journal.

The University's award-winning museums offer awe-inspiring exhibitions, ranging from Ancient Egypt through medieval Durham to modern art; and its departments and research institutes host public lectures on cutting-edge research.



Durham's college system is unmatched, it gave me the opportunity to make meaningful relationships and build a community with my peers, whether that was through communal dining, college sports or student leadership!

Shoab Islam
Biosciences,
University College



Student leadership

Every college has a representative body with membership open to all undergraduate students – this is usually called the Junior Common Room (JCR). As a member, you can take part in elected student leadership, organise student-led events and engage in local, regional and global issues.

An inspiring place to live and learn

In your college, you'll be surrounded by all sorts of different people, studying a wide range of subjects. So you'll meet people who share your interests, and others who'll inspire you to develop new ones.

Each college includes students from all levels of study, from newly arrived undergraduates to Master's and PhD students. They're strong, supportive, multi-generational communities.

There are 17 colleges in total, including Ustinov, our postgraduate only college. Each offers a wide range of facilities for your University life.

No two colleges are the same – their architecture and settings are as distinct as their histories and traditions. One thing every college has in common, however, is its commitment to offering support, challenge, participation, teamwork, and leadership opportunities. All of our colleges embrace the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Your college has its own Student Support Office, acting as a point of contact for any welfare and pastoral support you might need during your time here.

A lifelong connection

College membership doesn't end at graduation. Our students often tell us that their college experience was one of the most important parts of their time at Durham. Friendships made at college often last a lifetime. Many of our alumni return to share their skills and experience long after they have left. Colleges frequently arrange for current students to benefit from the support of alumni through things like careers advice, scholarships, mentoring and internships.

College locations

Our colleges are located throughout Durham City, close to the main Mountjoy site and the city centre. We sometimes refer to certain colleges as 'Hill colleges', a group of colleges just to the south of Durham City and 5-10 minutes walk from the main Mountjoy site, the Bill Bryson Library and the Teaching and Learning Centre. The Hill colleges are around a 15-30 minute walk to the city centre.

Or we have our 'Bailey colleges', which are located in the historic city centre of Durham, around the River Wear peninsula called the Bailey. Bailey colleges are close to the Elvet Riverside lecture theatres, Students' Union, Palace Green and Durham Cathedral. The main Mountjoy site is a 10-15 minute walk away.

Durham is a relatively small and compact city. Each college is within walking distance of the city centre, academic departments, research institutes and University facilities.



Scan the QR code to find out more about our colleges

Colleges at a glance

	Collingwood College	Grey College	Hatfield College	John Snow College	Josephine Butler College	South College	St Aidan's College	St Chad's College	St Cuthbert's Society	St Hilid & St Bede	St John's College	St Mary's College	Stephenson College	Trevelyan College	University College	Van Mildert College	Ustinov College (PG only)
Year of foundation	1972	1959	1846	2001	2006	2020	1947	1904	1858/88	1939	1909	1899	2001	1966	1832	1965	1965
Self-catered (S) Catered (C), (Undergraduate)	C	C	C	S	S	S	C	C/S	C/S	S	C	C	S	C	C/S	C	N/A
(Postgraduate)	C	C/S	C/S	S	S	S	C/S	C/S	S	S	C	C	S	C	S	C	S
Gowned formal dinners*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Total number of students living in (UG & PG)	557	461	400	492	556	494	389	245	468	356	265	360	433	363	508	472	332
Number of Single En-Suite or Studio Rooms	194	103	138	351	556	363	129	18	196	356	42	67	281	50	257	137	251
Number of students occupying shared rooms	32	26	96	0	0	0	100	120	60	0	62	0	0	22	58	0	N/A
Total number of full-time student members	1797	1408	1265	1596	1476	1506	1185	659	1341	1213	794	1086	1204	1023	1547	1427	886
Chapel/ Multifaith room	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

Please note: These figures are correct for 2026; however, they will be subject to annual change.

*All colleges have special dinner events throughout the year called 'Formals'. Some colleges practise the long-established tradition of wearing gowns at these events. Others are less formal and do not wear gowns to dine in.

Map of colleges



Use AccessAble to find wheelchair friendly venues or check out disabled access and facilities.

Catered colleges

Durham has a number of colleges where catering is provided to all students during undergraduate term time.

On a full catering package you will get breakfast, lunch and dinner provided seven days per week during term time. We provide students with multiple options and can accommodate a wide range of dietary requirements.

Our catered colleges are located on the **Bailey/City** and on the **Hill**.



Collingwood College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.8km (10 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 1.9km (23 mins walk)

Close to Durham's Botanic Garden, Collingwood is a large site with lots of outdoor space to enjoy. Collingwood offers both standard bedrooms with shared bathrooms, and en-suite bedrooms. Collingwood has a wide range of facilities to support student interests, including a theatre, media suite, gym, dance studio, outdoor sports facilities, and a music recording studio. Collingwood also has a large bar with an outdoor terrace.



Hill

Total number of students:
1797



Scan here to find out more

Grey College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.5km (6 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 1.8km (22 mins walk)

Grey is situated next to the main Mountjoy site in a beautiful landscaped setting. It has en-suite rooms and shared bedrooms, with the majority being standard singles. There are four accommodation blocks for first year undergraduates, and some rooms for returners and postgrads. Facilities include the Greyhound bar, JCR toastie bar and college shop, along with a multi-purpose hall and a new multi-use games area. There is also a spacious library, chapel, music practise rooms, art room, and JCR common room.



Hill

Total number of students:
1408



Scan here to find out more

Hatfield College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.9km (11 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 0.5km (6 mins walk)

Hatfield is located close to the city centre and all that it has to offer. Some of Hatfield's buildings are historic, listed buildings, right on the Bailey with splendid views of the Cathedral while others are more modern and purpose-built. Accommodation comprises standard, en-suite and shared bedrooms. Facilities include a library, music room, a multi-purpose social space/bar/café, and meeting rooms. Hatfield also has its own chapel, sports court, gym and boathouse for keen rowers to use.



Bailey/City

Total number of students:
1265



Scan here to find out more

St Aidan's College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.1km (13 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 1.9km (23 mins walk)

St Aidan's enjoys stunning views over historic Durham City. It is well located for all departments and is especially close to the Oriental Museum and the Botanic Garden. St Aidan's has spacious gardens and landscaped grounds. Accommodation comprises standard bedrooms with shared bathroom and shared bedrooms. Facilities include a library, music room, shop, gym, bar, and multi-use games area.



Hill

Total number of students:
1185



Scan here to find out more

St John's College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.1km (20 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 0.6km (7 mins walk)

St John's is situated within a row of Georgian townhouses on the Bailey, close to the city centre, overlooked by the famous Durham Cathedral and no more than a 20-minute walk from most lectures or the Bill Bryson Library. Accommodation comprises standard, en-suite and shared bedrooms. Facilities offered include a three storey library, music rooms, gym and bar. Secluded gardens and lawns stretch down to the River Wear, where St John's has its own boathouse.



Bailey

Total number of students:
794



Scan here to find out more

Catered colleges continued

St Mary's College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.6km (7 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 1.6km (19 mins walk)

St Mary's is situated in a great location, right next to the Mountjoy site, many academic departments, the Teaching and Learning Centre and the Bill Bryson Library. Accommodation comprises standard and en-suite bedrooms. Facilities include library, gym, outdoor sports facilities, music rooms, bar, shop and toastie bar. St Mary's has extensive grounds and provides a beautiful environment in which to live and study.



Hill

Total number of students:
1086



Scan here to find out more

Trevelyan College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.6km (7 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 1.8km (22 mins walk)

Close to the Botanic Garden and the Oriental Museum, Trevelyan is a 7-minute walk from the Mountjoy site, the Bill Bryson Library and the Teaching and Learning Centre. Accommodation comprises standard and shared bedrooms. Set in beautiful grounds Trevelyan has various gardens and green spaces, as well as an outdoor all-weather sports court. Trevelyan has a bar and its own shop The Buttery which also offers toasties. Other facilities include a library, fitness suite, theatre and rehearsal areas.



Hill

Total number of students:
1023



Scan here to find out more

Van Mildert College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.6km (7 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 1.9km (23 mins walk)

Van Mildert is close to the Botanic Garden and the Oriental Museum as well as the Mountjoy site and the Bill Bryson Library, Teaching and Learning Centre and many academic departments. Centred around a lake in spacious, leafy grounds, Van Mildert College offers a beautiful setting in which to live and study. Accommodation comprises standard and en-suite bedrooms. Facilities include a library, gym, music rooms and bar.



Hill

Total number of students:
1427



Scan here to find out more

Self-catered colleges

Explore our self-catered colleges.

In our self-catered colleges - you can cook for yourself. You'll have access to a shared kitchen and dining area with storage space for food. If you are allocated to a studio flat you will have your own private kitchen in your room.

Our self-catered colleges are located on the **Hill** and in **Neville's Cross** (Ustinov College only) to the south of the City.



College of St Hild and St Bede

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.7km (25 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 850m (12 mins walk)

Located in the heart of the City, Hild Bede offers fully en-suite accommodation on a self-catered basis. The accommodation is located around the brand new Common Room, cafe/bar, gym and study spaces - the beating heart of College life. Led by the Student Representative Council, Hild Bede perfects the mix of history and modernity in its facilities and is renowned for its friendly, family feel.



City

Total number of students:
1213



Scan here to find out more

John Snow College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.4km (17 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 2.6km (31 mins walk)

Located at Mount Oswald, as one of the Hill colleges, and within walking distance of the Botanic Garden, the Oriental Museum, the city centre and teaching departments, John Snow balances pride in their Durham traditions with being modern and forward looking. At the heart of John Snow life are sports for every skill level, over 30 societies ranging from the serious to pure fun, a theatre company and a range of brilliant events, from balls and gowned formal dinners to relaxed Sunday brunches. Accommodation comprises standard and en-suite rooms.



Hill

Total number of students:
1596



Scan here to find out more

Self-catered colleges continued



Josephine Butler College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.1km (13 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 2.2km (26 mins walk)

Situated at the top of the hill, Josephine Butler is close to the Botanic Garden and the Oriental Museum. It is also close to the Mountjoy site, with many academic departments, the Bill Bryson Library and Teaching and Learning Centre located there. All of Josephine Butler's accommodation is en-suite, with a shower, sink and toilet provided. Facilities at Josephine Butler include a bar, gym, music and art rooms as well as outdoor sports facilities.



Hill

Total number of students:
1476



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South College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.4km (17 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 2.6km (31 mins walk)

South, Durham's newest college, has excellent modern facilities and a tremendous range of clubs, teams and societies. Located close to many academic departments on the Mountjoy site, South is only a short walk from the Botanic Garden, Oriental Museum, the Bill Bryson Library and the Teaching and Learning Centre. Accommodation comprises standard and en-suite rooms. As well as the usual facilities South has a gym, multi-use games area, a yoga and dance studio, theatre, bar and drama studio.



Hill

Total number of students:
1506



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Stephenson College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.1km (13 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 2.3km (28 mins walk)

Stephenson's location on the former Howlands Farm site offers a relaxing place to enjoy green surroundings yet is close to the main Mountjoy site, academic departments, the Bill Bryson Library and Teaching and Learning Centre. Accommodation comprises standard rooms, en-suite rooms and paired rooms where two bedrooms share one bathroom. Facilities include a café-bar, college shop, comfortable social spaces, dedicated study spaces, a music room, art studio, two gyms and an outdoor sports area.



Hill

Total number of students:
1204



Scan here to find out more

Ustinov College (Postgraduate only)

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.6km (19 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 1.6km (19 mins walk)

Sheraton Park and Dryburn Court are the two Ustinov College sites, solely for postgraduates. Sheraton Park is located on the west side of Durham City, approximately 1.6km from the city centre and a 19-minute walk from University facilities. Accommodation comprises single en-suite rooms with a shared kitchen, studios with a private kitchen designed for couples and premium paired rooms, where two private single rooms share a small kitchenette and en-suite. Dryburn Court is closer to the city centre and offers a mix of accommodation, including one, two, and three-bedroom flats suitable for individuals, couples, and families with children. At Ustinov, the College, and Graduate Common Room work hand in hand to create a vibrant and welcoming postgraduate community. Ustinov also benefits from a recently refurbished bar, gym, study spaces and seminar room, access to Observatory Hill, and a memorable formal programme. Uniquely, Ustinov hosts a formal in Durham Cathedral.



Neville's Cross

Total number of students:
886



Scan here to find out more

Mixed-catered colleges

Some of our colleges offer a self-catered, catered or part-catered option, dependent on which accommodation you choose to live in.

Our colleges with mixed catering options are located on the **Bailey/City**.



St Chad's College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.9km (11 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 0.5km (6 mins walk)

St Chad's is the smallest of the Durham Colleges and occupies a beautiful Bailey site, opposite Durham Cathedral. With an ethos centred around the College motto *Non vestra sed vos* - Not what you have but who you are, the College benefits from a close-knit community. It also offers a range of scholarships. Catered and self-catered accommodation options are available and those expressing a preference for St Chad's should be comfortable with sharing a room as a first year undergraduate. Other College facilities include extensive library facilities and gardens, a gym and bar along with the much-loved Quad and Chapel.



Bailey

Total number of students:
659



Scan here to find out more

St Cuthbert's Society

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1km (12 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 0.8km (10 mins walk)

St Cuthbert's is a vibrant, inclusive community that blends academic excellence with friendliness, fostering student-led initiatives through the Junior Common Room. Accommodation spans two sites - the historic Bailey and modern Parson's Field - offering flexible catering options. Facilities include a library, boathouse, music room, outdoor sports area, gyms, and bars on both sites. Traditionally untraditional, St Cuthbert's provides great development opportunities and a unique collegiate experience.



Bailey/City

Total number of students:
1341



Scan here to find out more



University College (Castle)

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.1km (13 mins walk)

Distance to city centre: 0.3km (4 mins walk)

University College gives you the chance to live and study in the heart of history: our home is Durham Castle. With a thriving Junior Common Room, more than 40 sports clubs, groups, and societies, it's easy to settle in and feel part of a close-knit community. Castle Community Action also offers meaningful ways to volunteer and connect with the wider city.

Castle's unique setting is enriched by its facilities, including a large library, music rooms, a modest gym, two chapels, the Undercroft bar, and an outdoor performance space in Fellows' Garden. Meals and events take place in the Great Hall. Accommodation ranges from catered shared, single, and limited en-suite rooms in and around the Castle to self-catered studios and shared flats at New Kepier Court, a 15-minute walk away.



Bailey/City

Total number of students:
1547



Scan here to find out more

Accommodation charges

Accommodation charges vary depending on a number of factors such as type of room, catering options and length of let.



Find out more about
accommodation costs

College allocation

As a Durham University student, you automatically become a member of a college.

For undergraduates, you will be able to rank our colleges in order of preference once you have been made an offer.

For postgraduates, you will be contacted directly by The College Membership and Accommodation Office to express college preferences once you accept your postgraduate offer.



Find out more about
how to apply

College visits

Most of our colleges are open and available during events but please look at the specific event information for further details.

On arrival you will find out how you can explore each college, whether as part of a guided tour, or on a self-guided basis.



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