



**Be extraordinary.
Be you.**

**Your Guide to Colleges
for Postgraduates**





Be inspired



I love the college system we have here at Durham. You have supportive staff members and students with varying interests. Despite these differences, all students are lovely and I consider a lot of them friends for life!"

James Mcleod

MRes Sport and Exercise Sciences,
Grey College



Contents

- 04 Our extraordinary colleges**
The college experience

- 06 College locations**
In the heart of a vibrant city

- 08 Catered colleges**
Collingwood College
St John's College
Trevelyan College
Van Mildert College

- 10 Self-catered colleges**
John Snow College
Josephine Butler College
South College
St Cuthbert's Society
College of St Hild and St Bede
Stephenson College
University College (Castle)
Ustinov College
(Postgraduate only)

- 14 Mixed-catered colleges**
Grey College
Hatfield College
St Aidan's College
St Chad's College
St Mary's College

- 16 Accommodation charges**
Costs for 2025/26

- 16 How to apply**
Understanding the process

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. Every student at Durham is a member of a College, and colleges provide students with the tools and opportunities to engage in a unique university experience like no other.

In all of our colleges you will find a sense of community and belonging that is distinctive to Durham, which stays with you throughout your time as a student and beyond.

In your college, you can take part in sport, music, theatre or volunteering. You can join multiple 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 unique character and spirit
- 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
- Facilities such as shops, cafés, bars, libraries, social and study areas, music and performance spaces, laundrettes, gyms and outdoor sports areas depending on college.

College accommodation

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 such as shared pantry or kitchen
- En-suite or shared bathroom facilities.



An inspiring place to live and learn

Each college has a strong, supportive, multi-generational community. You will meet students from all levels of study from newly arrived undergraduates to Master's and PhD students.

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

There are 17 colleges in total, including Ustinov, our postgraduate only college. Each offers a wide range of facilities to help you make the most out of your university experience.

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.

Student leadership

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

Discover new ideas

A Durham education doesn't stop with your degree subject. Your college will provide you with opportunities to engage in new ideas and learn from others from across the University. 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.

A lifelong connection

College membership doesn't end at graduation. Our students often tell us that their college

 Colleges are close-knit and supportive communities, with plenty of great events to attend and societies to be a part of!

Anitej Banerjee
Mathematics



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, the River Wear and the city centre. We sometimes refer to certain colleges as "Hill colleges", a group of colleges just 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.

We also 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 and the Durham University Business School Waterside site. The main Mountjoy site is a 10-15 minute walk away. Ustinov, our postgraduate only college, is located at Sheraton Park close to Nevilles Cross, around a 19 minute walk to both the city centre and to the main Mountjoy site, whereas the Dryburn Court site is closer to the city centre.

Durham is a relatively small and compact city. Each college is within walking distance of the city centre, with restaurants, bars and supermarkets as well as close to academic departments, research institutes and University facilities.



Scan the QR code to find out more about our colleges

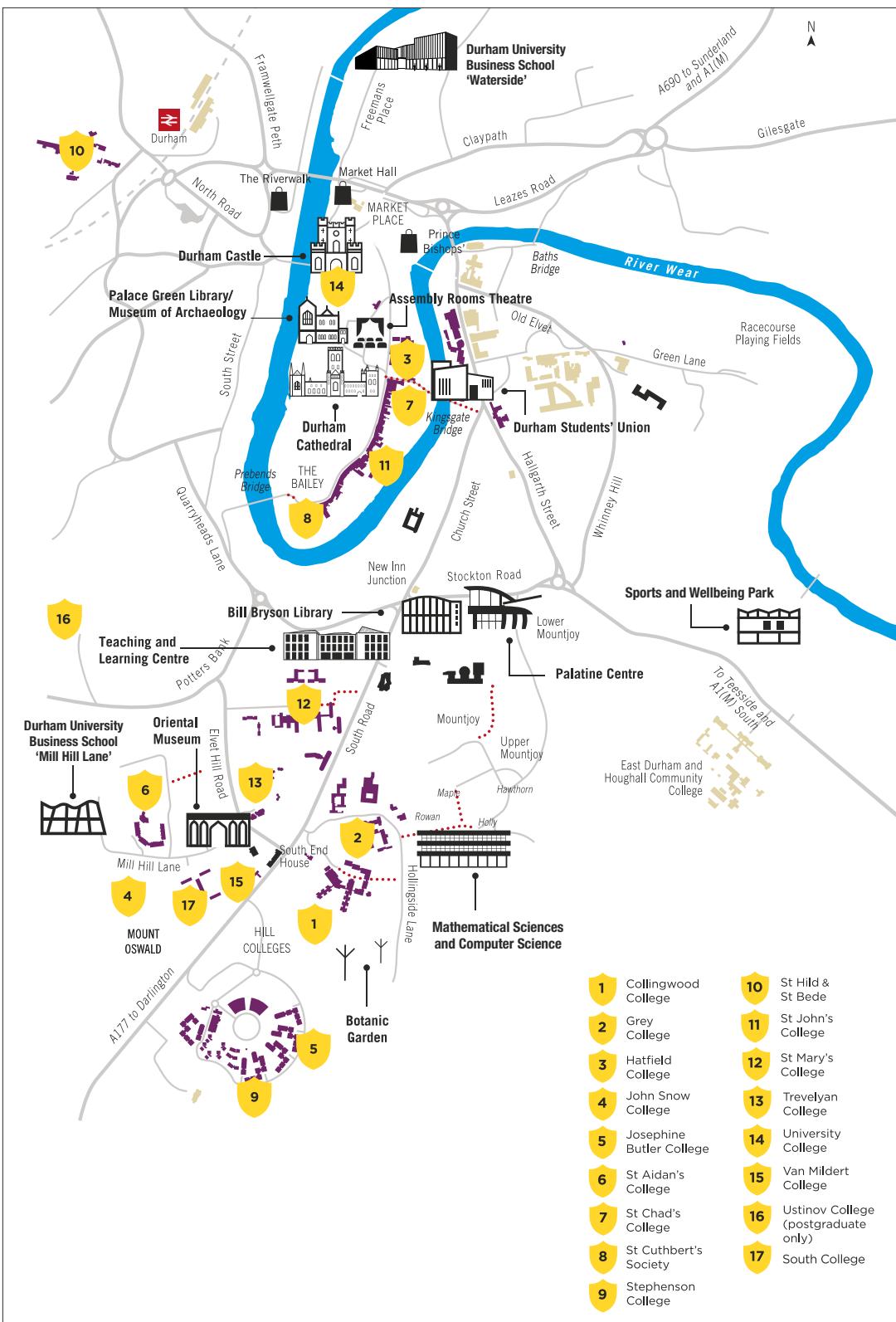
Colleges at a glance

	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 Hild & St Bede	St John's College	St Mary's College	Stephenson College	Trevyan College	University College	Van Mildert College	Ustinov College (PG only)
Year of foundation	1972	1959	1846	2001	2006	2020	1947	1904	1858 /88	1839	1909	1899	2001	1966	1832	1965	1965
Self-catered (S) Catered (C) (Undergraduate) (Postgraduate)	C	C	C	S	S	S	C	C	CS	S	C	C	S	C	CS	C	X
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)	555	463	400	496	546	496	384	249	468	426	251	395	433	359	538	376	495
Total number of 1st year undergraduate rooms	431	318	272	350	376	317	245	134	301	341**	165	213	312	238	260	9	n/a
Total number of postgraduate rooms	42	83	60	92	90	92	93	44	72	80**	40	68	78	48	120	61	382
Total number of full-time student members	1,826	1,385	1,416	1,432	1,522	1,312	1,069	709	1,423	1,426	733	1,147	1,312	1,017	1,635	1,576	1,143
Chapel/Multifaith room	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

Please note:

These figures are correct for 2024; however they will be subject to annual change.

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



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** 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, including a large grassy area called "The Meadow". Collingwood offers both standard bedrooms with shared bathrooms, and en-suite bedrooms. Collingwood has a wide range of facilities, for those with an interest in sports, music, the arts and media, including a theatre, media suite, gym and outdoor sports facilities. Collingwood also has a bar, coffee shop and toastie bar.

Hill
Total number of students: 1826

[Scan here to find out more](#)

St John's College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.1km (13 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 13 minute walk from lectures or the Bill Bryson Library. Accommodation comprises standard, en-suite and shared bedrooms. Facilities offered include a library, music room, 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: 733

[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)

Trevelyan College 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: 1017

[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 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, theatre, music rooms and bar.

Hill
Total number of students: 1576

[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** in the **Bailey/City**, the **City** and in **Nevilles Cross** to the south of the City.



John Snow College

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

John Snow College is located at Mount Oswald, as one of the Hill colleges, and just a short walk from many of the academic departments, the Durham University Business School Mill Hill Lane site and the Bill Bryson Library. The Teaching and Learning Centre and Botanic Garden are also nearby. Accommodation comprises standard and en-suite rooms. As well as the usual facilities including a bar and café, John Snow also has a gym, yoga studio, performance space and an outdoor multi use games area.



Hill

Total number of students:
1432



[Scan here to find out more](#)



South College

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

South College is located close to the Durham University Business School Mill Hill Lane site and the many departments located on the Mountjoy site. South College is only a short walk from the Botanic Garden, the Bill Bryson Library and the Teaching and Learning Centre. Postgraduates tend to stay in our Town Houses which each hold twelve students across three floors with a bathroom between every two rooms. On the ground floor of each Town House is a large kitchen and dining area with lockable cupboards, ovens, hob, and fridge/freezers. South College also has a gym, multi use games area, a yoga and dance studio, café bar and drama studio.



Hill

Total number of students:
1312



[Scan here to find out more](#)

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, Oriental Museum and the Durham University Business School Mill Hill Lane site. 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:
1522



[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 occupies two sites, with rooms and gardens on the historic Bailey in the heart of Durham, close to the city centre and Durham's famous Cathedral, and self-catered, modern flats across the river at Parsons Field. St Cuthbert's offers a choice of fully-catered, self-catered and part-catered options, including pay-as-you-go and a meals package, depending on accommodation chosen. Accommodation comprises standard, shared and en-suite rooms. Facilities include a library and music room, two bars, two gyms, a boathouse and outdoor sports area.



Bailey/City

Total number of students:
1423



[Scan here to find out more](#)

Self-catered colleges continued



College of St Hild and St Bede

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

The College of St Hild and St Bede has temporarily relocated to Rushford Court in the city centre, to allow for the redevelopment and refurbishment of the College's historic home over the next few years. Rushford Court offers beautiful purpose-built student accommodation with en-suite rooms on a self-catered basis. It's walking distance of the city centre and Durham Train Station. A range of college facilities are currently under development on site including a café-bar, common room, gym, music room and study spaces.



City
Total number of students: 1426



[Scan here to find out more](#)

Stephenson College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 1.1km (13 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 2.3km (28 mins walk)

Stephenson College'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, college shop, social space, music room, gym and outdoor sports area.



Hill
Total number of students: 1312



[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)

Based in our magnificent Castle building, and in an excellent city centre location on Palace Green, opposite Durham's famous Cathedral, University College is only a minutes walk away from the city's shops and restaurants and a short walk to departments and lecture venues. University College offers catered and self-catered accommodation for undergraduates, dependent on location and self-catered accommodation for postgraduates. Accommodation comprises standard, shared or en-suite rooms. Facilities include a library, music rooms, a gym and the Undercroft bar.



Bailey/City
Total number of students: 1635



[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 contains self-contained studios and one, two, and three-bedroom flats for couples and for families with children.

Facilities across the sites include a café, bar, study spaces, a gym and outdoor playground.



City/Nevilles Cross
Total number of students: 1143



[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 **Hill**, on the **Bailey** and in the **Bailey/City**



Grey College

Distance to Mountjoy site: 0.5km (6 mins walk)
Distance to city centre: 1.8km (22 mins walk)

Grey is situated right next to the main Mountjoy site in a beautiful landscaped setting. At Grey there are a number of en-suite rooms, standard rooms and also shared bedrooms. Set across four accommodation blocks Grey offers facilities such as a bar, toastie bar and college shop, along with a multi-purpose hall and tennis court.



Hill

Total number of students:
1385



[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:
1416



[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. The College is well located for all departments and is especially close to the Oriental Museum, Botanic Garden and the Durham University Business School Mill Hill Lane site. 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:
1069



[Scan here to find out more](#)

St Chad's College

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

One of the smallest colleges, St Chad's has a wide range of accommodation, all located in the historic Bailey area and close to Durham city centre and Durham's famous Cathedral. Accommodation comprises standard, en-suite and shared bedrooms. St Chad's offers facilities such as libraries, gym and large garden.



Bailey

Total number of students:
709



[Scan here to find out more](#)

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:
1147



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



How to apply

How do I become a member of a college?

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

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



Find out more about how to apply

Durham University
The Palatine Centre
Stockton Road
Durham DH1 3LE
UK

Enquiries

T: +44 (0)191 334 1000

W: durham.ac.uk/study/askus

Main switchboard

T: +44 (0)191 334 2000

durham.ac.uk

Durham University and Durham University logo are registered Trade Marks of the University of Durham™. Unless otherwise stated, all material in this Guide is copyright of the University of Durham. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information contained here is accurate. The College Guide is intended as a general guide to the University of Durham's facilities and forms no part of any contract between you and the University. The Guide is prepared in advance of the academic year to which it relates. Please note that the University's website is the most up-to-date source of information and we strongly recommend that you always visit the website before making any commitments.

Thank you to all staff and students involved in the production of this Guide and to John Donoghue for photography.