

= University College , Durham =

University College , informally known as Castle , is a college of the University of Durham in England . Centred on Durham Castle on Palace Green , it was founded in 1832 and is the oldest of Durham 's colleges . As a constituent college of Durham University , it is listed as a higher education institution under section 216 of the Education Reform Act 1988 . Almost all academic activities , such as research and tutoring , occur at a university level .

University College moved into its current location in 1837 . Around 150 students are accommodated within Durham Castle . Other college buildings , including converted 18th century houses and purpose @-@ built accommodation from the 1950s , 1970s and 1980s , are within five minutes ' walk of the castle . The college has 700 undergraduates and is currently the most over @-@ subscribed college of the University . In 1987 it admitted women undergraduates for the first time , having previously had an all @-@ male student body .

As of January 2012 the Master of the college is political theorist David Held .

= = History = =

= = = Early years = = =

University College was formed upon the creation of University of Durham in 1832 . It was the first college of the university , and is therefore known as the " foundation college " , but the university was founded explicitly on the Oxbridge model , and the intention was already for the university to develop along collegiate lines in the manner of Oxford and Cambridge , as indeed it has . Durham Castle had been the home of the Prince Bishops of Durham , and William van Mildert , one of the founders of the university , had intended for the castle to be given to the college . Temporary accommodation for students was provided at the Archdeacon 's Inn (part of Cosin 's Hall) on Palace Green until University College moved into its permanent home . Castle moved to its current location at Durham Castle in 1837 after van Mildert 's successor , Edward Maltby , completed renovations of the building . The castle 's keep , formerly a ruin , was redeveloped for student accommodation ; in particular , the college 's chapels and Great Hall have been restored . Since then high levels of maintenance have been , and still are , necessary to preserve the buildings of the castle .

The university 's second college , Hatfield Hall , was formed in 1846 as a response to the high costs of maintaining Castle . These costs arose from the students ' expectations of being provided with servants and room furnishings . The university struggled for the rest of the 19th century , held back by a lack of prestige and a distance from the centres of power in the UK . By 1882 , Castle contained some 79 undergraduates out of 205 at the university as a whole . Despite the university largely failing to gain recognition and prestige , a number of other colleges had opened by the end of the nineteenth century . Of these , Cosin 's Hall failed to become financially viable and was absorbed into University College in 1864 . Enrolment numbers continued to fluctuate .

= = = 1919 ? 38 = = =

The inter @-@ war years were transformative for Castle . The college was the smallest in Durham university , with just 34 undergraduates in 1928 , and was struggling to meet maintenance costs . The Castle , situated on the banks of " The Peninsula " , was in danger of collapsing into the River Wear and many of its internal structures were weak . The combination of high costs and low undergraduate numbers meant that the college was often threatened with closure or merger with Hatfield . Castle was saved largely through charitable donations . A visit in the 1920s from Edward , Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) , helped increase the profile of the cause . In the 1920s , the castle 's foundations were secured through reinforcement with concrete . Following these and other extensive building refurbishments of the 1920s and 1930s the college was now able to expand .

= = = Post @-@ war = = =

One of its most successful periods followed during the Second World War when personnel of the Durham University Air Squadron were posted in the castle , doing short courses before joining the Royal Air Force . Those from the college who died during World War II were commemorated by the redevelopment of the Norman Gallery area of the Castle in the 1950s . This period also saw the launch of Castellum , an annual journal of the Castle Society , created to keep former students in touch with college life . In order to continue this expansion , the college purchased Lumley Castle in 1946 to house students , and by 1948 seventy five students were housed there . This section of the college developed a spirit of its own and is still remembered today through activities such as the Lumley Run .

During the 1950s and 1960s the college expanded through developments at Owengate and Bailey Court , both around Palace Green . In the 1970s , the college sold Lumley Castle . The proceeds were used to fund the development of Moatside Court , and meant that all the college 's students were now housed within five minutes of the main castle . During this period there was rapid change in the size and structure of the college , which expanded to over 300 undergraduates by 1979 .

Female students were admitted to the college for the first time in 1987 ; until then it had been single sex . Since this time the college has become fully mixed , with undergraduate numbers expanding to nearly seven hundred . Expansion caused a strain on college numbers , however , and in 2004 the college was unable to provide accommodation for all of its fresher students for the first time in its history . Following the foundation of Josephine Butler , Durham 's first new college to be opened since 1972 , pressure from the university to take on additional students has lessened , and undergraduate numbers have been intentionally reduced in recent years .

= = Buildings and architecture = =

Construction of Durham Castle began in 1072 , which makes it the oldest building in use at any University in the world . The castle retains much of its original design and structure , and is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site with Durham Cathedral .

The castle 's northern wing originally contained a dining hall , but this was later divided up to make more luxurious quarters for the Prince Bishop . This area is also home to the two chapels of the college . The Norman Chapel dates from the 11th century and is the oldest accessible part of the castle , and retains its original Saxon architectural style . The Tunstal Chapel is the larger of the two ; it dates from the 15th century and is named after Cuthbert Tunstal . Both chapels are used for worship within the college .

To the east of the courtyard lies the Keep . It was re @-@ built in the 1830s , having previously lain in ruins . This area has the largest concentration of students living in the castle . To the south of the courtyard is the Gatehouse , built originally by Hugh de Puiset in the 12th century and re @-@ developed in the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries . Around this are the college 's more modern offices .

The college 's other buildings are at Moatside Court , Owengate and Bailey Court . The developments at Moatside Court and Bailey Court date from the 1960s and 1970s , whilst Owengate was formed from a series of old houses in the 1950s . Of these , Moatside Court 's rooms were of a notoriously poor quality , but have recently been renovated at the cost of over £ 1 million .

= = = Great Hall = = =

To the west of the courtyard is the medieval Great Hall , still used as a dining room by students and staff . It was built during the time of Anthony Bek in the 13th century . For two hundred years this was the largest Great Hall in Great Britain ; however , it was shortened by Richard Foxe . It still stands some 14 m (46 ft) high and 30 m (98 ft) long . The black staircase that leads from the Great Hall to the Senior Common Room dates from 1662 , and is another of the older sections of

the college still in use . Underneath the Hall is the college bar , located in an 11th @-@ century undercroft . Around these are student accommodation , the Lowe Library , and kitchens .

= = = Lowe Library = = =

The Lowe Library is the college 's library . It was formed from a bequest from Colonel W.D.Lowe , an officer of the Durham University Officers ' Training Corps . He later became a Classics tutor at the university and rowing coach for University College , staying until his death in 1921 . The library was opened in 1925 , extended into the college 's wine cellar in 1997 , and now contains over 10 @,@ 000 books . It acts as a support to the central university library , providing access to core textbooks .

= = Role and activities = =

University College is the most over @-@ subscribed college at the university ; for entry in 2006 , there were 2 @,@ 858 applications for just 170 places (approximately 17 applicants for every place) . As with all colleges at Durham , students study for degrees with Durham University , not their college , and teaching takes place in academic departments . University College is a " listed body " under the Education Reform Act (1988) .

Although colleges are largely concerned with welfare , leisure and accommodation , University College has been running the ' Durham Castle Lecture Series ' since 2012 . Past and forthcoming speakers include Saskia Sassen , Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak , Rowan Williams , Anthony Giddens , Justin Welby and Martin Wolf .

Within Durham 's colleges , there is a strong competitive rivalry . Castle 's main rival is Hatfield College , which is Durham 's second oldest college , having separated from Castle in the 1850s . The rivalry is maintained by student pranks and tricks and in various intercollegiate sporting events .

The college has a commercial arm , taking advantage of the attractive nature of the college 's buildings . It hosts corporate events , conferences and weddings during the university vacations .

The Castle is open to tourists only via guided tours . These occur daily outside of term time , but are more restricted during the term due to potential conflicts with the running of the college . Furthermore , events in the university timetable may result in their cancellation . Tourists are not otherwise permitted entry to the college or any common areas . There is relatively little conflict between students and tourists , with many of the guided tours done by students themselves .

= = Student body = =

Some 700 undergraduates attend Castle , making it slightly smaller than the average Durham college . Of these students , around 100 live in the castle itself , while another 250 are housed in the college 's surrounding buildings . It remains the most popular college in Durham for applications , with around 23 students applying for every available place .

The undergraduate student body (Junior Common Room or JCR) is governed by an elected Executive Committee headed by the Senior Man (even when a female student holds the role) and supported by several other officers . Regular JCR meetings are held to discuss and vote on important issues . There are several other elected non @-@ executive officers such as Returning Officer , Fresher Rep and Sports Captain who organise other important college functions . The Senior Man meets regularly with college and university authorities to represent the JCR .

The JCR runs three balls every year for its students , with one held during each term . The largest is the end of year June Ball , which is the social highlight of the academic year . Tradition dictates that its theme remains closely hidden until the doors to the Castle open .

The graduate community at Castle forms the Middle Common Room (MCR) , which is based in the Maurice Tucker (previously William de St @-@ Calais) Room . However , due to size restrictions , no members of the MCR are currently able to live in the college grounds . The MCR , like the JCR , organises a number of social events and activities , such as the college 's entry into the inter @-@

collegiate University Challenge competition , which acts as trials for the University 's team . The Senior Common Room (SCR) , is an organisation of academics and tutors connected to the college . The SCR also organises formal meals with guest speakers .

The student bar of University College is called the Undercroft Bar (known colloquially as The Undie) , due to its location in an 11th @-@ century Undercroft . It developed from the original Junior Common Room , which opened in the early 1950s . It is currently run by the Food and Beverage Services Manager (Jamie Short) with the help of the JCR Bar Chairman (Matthew Kemp) and the Vice Bar Chairman (Barnaby Hodgkins) .

= = = Societies = = =

University College JCR also supports many societies run exclusively for Castle students . The most popular societies include University College Boat Club (UCBC) , Castle Theatre Company , Castle Football Club and Castle Hockey Club .

There are a number of arts societies within the college . Most notable is Castle Theatre Company , which produces a play each term . These plays are usually performed on the college 's grounds , although they sometimes tour nationally . They have also appeared at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe .

= = Castle Society = =

The Castle Society was formed in 1947 by Castle Alumni . It was originally named the Durham Castleman 's Society . Membership is open to anyone with academic ties to the college , and its aim is create a wider Castle community beyond its immediate students . The society makes regular donations to the college library , chapel , student bursaries , and various college societies . It has helped fund a number of projects in the college , including the accommodation at Moatside Court and Fellows Garden , as well as the West Courtyard Common Room . The Castle Society produces the annual journal " Castellum " , which chronicles life at the Castle and reports on activities of Castle alumni . Since 1990 , it has contributed towards the University College Durham Trust , the college 's charitable fund .

= = Notable alumni = =

Castle alumni are active through organisations and events such as the two annual reunion dinners , which cater for the more than 7 @,@ 000 living alumni . A number of Castle alumni have made significant contributions in the fields of government , law , science , academia , business , arts , journalism , and athletics , among others .

= = = List of masters = = =

The college is run by a " Master " , the most senior position in the SCR . As the first master of University College , Archdeacon Charles Thorp , also held the post of university warden . Following Thorp 's death in 1862 the mastership was created as a separate position , and has been held by thirteen people :

Charles Thorp 1832 ? 1862

Joseph Waite 1865 ? 1873

Herbert Booth 1873 ? 1875

Alfred Plummer 1875 ? 1902

Henry Gee 1902 ? 1919

Henry Ellershaw 1919 ? 1930

J. H. How 1930 ? 1939

Angus Macfarlane @-@ Grieve 1939 ? 1954

Len Slater 1954 ? 1973

D. W. McDowall 1973 ? 1978

Edward Salthouse 1979 ? 1998

Maurice Tucker 1998 ? 2011

Eva Schumacher @-@ Reid 2011 (Acting Master)

David Held 2012 ? present