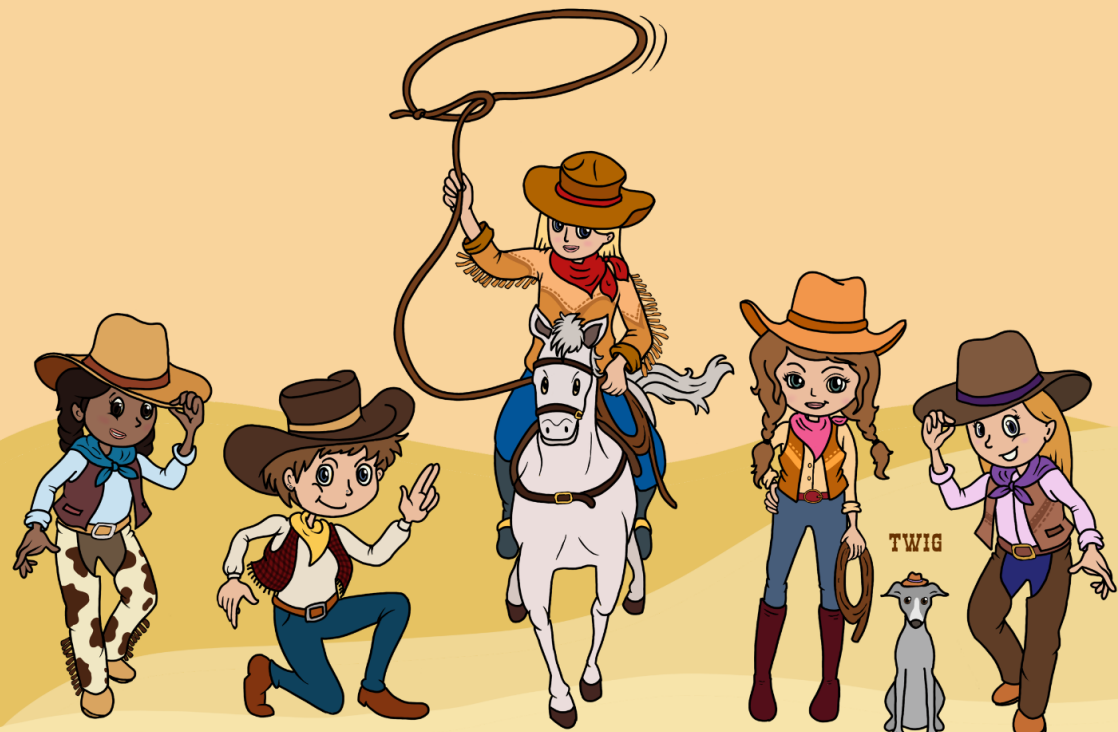


THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE MARY'S



**FRESHERS'
WEEK 2023**



ASANTÉ GANTSHO
INTERNATIONAL FRESHERS REP

JACOB VELLUCCI
SENIOR FRESHERS REP

MADDIE COMBES
JCR PRESIDENT

EMMA CLARKE
SENIOR FRESHERS REP

RANDI HOLWERDA
INTERNATIONAL FRESHERS REP

Welcome and Orientation Week Schedule

International students arrive from Wednesday 20th Sept.

Home Welcome and Orientation Week : Sunday 24th – Saturday 30th Sept.

We have loads of great events lined up for you this Welcome and Orientation Week. However, we want to keep an element of surprise by not giving too much away. There are a couple of nights in Welcome and Orientation Week that involve fancy dress, so these are some things you might want to consider before your arrival in September – be as creative as you wish!

Event	Date	Theme
Broncos Bingo	Wednesday 27th September	The wild west meets the bingo hall! Bring your cowboy attire and saddle up for the ride. YEEHAH!
Glastonmary's	Saturday 31 th September	We're rounding off the week with Glastonmary's! Think festival: wellies, shorts, flower crowns, sparkly clothes and bright colours!

If you haven't already, please join the Freshers' Page on Facebook, where you will find lots more detailed information, meaning you will be able to keep up with all the events and activities that are taking place in your Welcome and Orientation Week!

St Mary's College Durham – Freshers 2023/4

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/835356207601367/?ref=share>

Also please follow our Freshers' Page on Instagram for more updates and a look at the lead up to your Welcome and Orientation Week!

[@stmarysfreshers23](#)



Introduction from your JCR President

Hey everyone! I'm Maddie and I'm so excited to be your JCR President this year. I'm from a little village in Suffolk and graduated in summer 2023 with a degree in English Literature. My time at Durham and, more specifically, Mary's has been incredible, and I could not be more delighted to welcome you to what is a truly special community.

As your JCR President, my top priority is to represent the undergraduate student body to the very best of my ability, whether that be overseeing balls and formals, sports and societies, welfare and more! I will be coordinating and working with this year's brilliant JCR Exec to ensure you all have a successful year. No matter how daunting or unimaginable it might feel at present, your university years will be some of the most memorable of your life and here at Mary's, it's my privilege to play a part in helping to create those memories for you all.

Throughout my time here, I've thrown myself into student life. I've been a member of the incredible Mary's Dance since my first year; this is the college dance troupe that performs at a range of events like fashion shows and balls across both college and the university. It's an amazingly supportive and inclusive group with members who range from total beginners to experienced dancers, so definitely something to give a go! I've also sang with Mary's very own Basement Jazz since



my first year and was also President last year, meaning I got to organise performing at lots of really cool gigs, such as the June Ball (which takes place in the Castle) and Caledonian Society White Tie Ball to name a few. Even so, nothing beats performing to a home crowd and singing in front of my friends at Mary's balls or Mary's day will always remain cherished memories. Alongside these hobbies and many hours in the Billy B (a Durham term for the Bill Bryson library, which I'm sure you'll

all get to know well!) I'm always partial to a Durham coffee or brunch date (there are SO many amazing cafes and restaurants to explore), and also love to walk along the river.



Each year, Mary's recruits a 'Frep' team of student representatives who will work hard to plan, organise and be on hand throughout your arrival and Freshers week, under the guidance of myself and the Senior Freshers' Representatives (who you're about to meet). Your induction week will give you the chance to get to know the college, your department and your student peers through a huge range

of different activities that will be on offer. One thing to remember is that there isn't an expectation for you to take part in every single activity or party every night; take time for yourselves, have a night in if you need it and never feel worried about reaching out to the brilliant support systems we have here in college. Your induction week is only one in a whole year and, beyond that, a whole degree so don't panic about instantly finding your niche or your people. It may take time, so be reassured that things will start to fall into place as you go through the term, even if things may seem daunting at first. I will also be on hand throughout the week and the year, living and working in college,



so don't hesitate to come to me with any questions or concerns you might have (or if you simply want to nerd out about books!).

Finally, don't forget that University is so much more than a degree. It's about the people you meet and the memories you make along the way. Yes, I'll always be proud of the work I've achieved during my undergraduate studies but, more importantly, I've come away with cherished moments and wonderful friends. Durham and Mary's have truly become part of me and I hope that they'll come, in time, to mean the same to you.

Congratulations on working so hard, enjoy your summers and I'll look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Mary's love,

Maddie xx

JCR President 2023/24



Introduction from your Senior Freshers' Representatives

Emma Clarke, Accounting and Finance, 3rd Year

Hi everyone, congratulations on your results and welcome to Durham's friendliest college, Mary's! I am so excited to be one of your Head Freshers Representatives (Freps!) this year and can't wait for a great freshers week.

We have been working hard all summer to come up with events that will hopefully make settling in at Mary's a little bit easier, with plenty of options from club nights, to sports sessions, to mario kart tournaments, we're sure there will be something for everyone. I am so passionate about making sure all of you feel welcome and want to help each of you try and find your place at Marys, I am so jealous of all of you starting your time here and hope you enjoy joining as much as I did.

A bit about me: I'm going into my third year studying Accounting and Finance, a degree which I have loved so far (which may sound surprising!) and am looking forward to completing at the end of this year. I am very involved with college life, which has included me holding 2 exec positions this year - Head Frep and Publicity & Communications Officer.



Alongside this I am a very involved member of SMCNC (Mary's Netball Club), Mary's Dance and Foot of the Hill (Mary's Theatre). As well as this, I have also been involved in lots of other Durham Student Theatre productions as cast and part of the creative team (my favourite role at the moment being choreographer!) - please come and chat to me if you have any questions about any of these interests, I would love to talk to you about them!

I can't wait for you to see what Mary's has to offer and hope all of you enjoy not only freshers week, but all of your time at Mary's. Please feel free to email me, or stop me for a chat if you have any questions/want to say hi.

See you soon!

Emma :)

Jacob (J) Vellucci, Anthropology, 3rd year



Hi Everyone! Welcome to Mary's, I cannot express my excitement to welcome you all to the best college in Durham, you are going to have the best three years of your life here.

Let me introduce myself: my name is Jacob, or J, my pronouns are he/they and I am one of your Head Freps alongside Emma. We have been working all summer to make



sure that your freshers week is one to remember!

A little about me, I am a third year Anthropology student from sunny Surrey, and I have been super involved with all things college in my two years so far! Last year I was the LGBTQ+ Representative for Mary's, planning a pride formal, taking Mary's within the Durham pride parade with our banners and so much more! I was also the Co-President of Foot of the Hill Theatre Company, Mary's own theatre company last year, which I absolutely loved! We put on six shows throughout the year and we encourage Mary's students to get involved. Alongside FHTC, this year I am on the Durham Student Theatre Executive Committee, overseeing all of the theatre companies in Durham. I have also directed, produced and performed throughout my time here, so any questions about theatre, music or performing arts in Mary's or within the wider University please ask me!

We have so much planned for your freshers week, from pub trips, club nights, movie nights, bongos bingo, craft days and so much more! I encourage you all to get involved, I know freshers' week can be daunting and seem a lot, trust me I felt that too when I was joining, but take time and trust the process! Give everything a go, university is the chance to start fresh and try something new and explore your interests, old or new, alongside your degree!

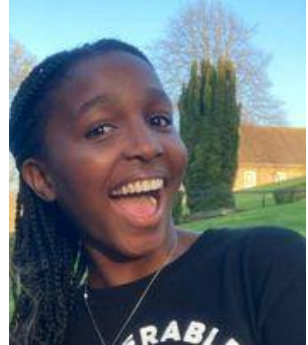
I remember my freshers' week as if it was yesterday, I was nervous, excited and a little scared but I left my first year at Mary's with some of my best friends for life! You will soon realise why we are seen as the friendliest and most welcoming college in the university! Just remember to go at your own pace and if you need some time to yourself do not be afraid to take it! You have all year to be a silly fresh!



Introduction from your Senior International Students' Representatives

**Asanté Gantsho, Mechanical Engineering,
2nd year**

Hello everyone! I'm Asanté, your Senior International Students Representative along with the amazing Randi Holwerda. Together, we are super excited to continue and improve the international community here at Mary's. This year we are introducing English Conversational Classes as a chill opportunity to improve your informal dialogue skills. I am committed to making these classes a safe space where confidence in English speaking makes living in Durham a less daunting and more comfortable experience as well as enabling you to express yourself sociably in English. I am looking most forward to establishing connections with new international students during int fresher's week. I understand how overwhelming it feels to be a student studying abroad so if you are in need of a friendly chat or advice about things like setting up a UK bank account for example, I am always happy to help during and after freshers' week! Feel free to message me on social media or at asante.gantsho@durham.ac.uk



Randi Holwerda, English Literature, 2nd Year



I'm Randi, an international student from Denmark studying English Literature and I'm very excited to be one of your International Students' Representatives this year! I have enjoyed my first year in Durham and at Mary's a lot, feeling especially welcomed when I arrived in International Freshers' Week! This

year, I will be one of the International Head Feps and I am very excited to welcome new international students to Mary's with lots of fun activities! I know that it can be quite intimidating when coming here as an international student. On top of moving further away from home, you are also moving to a whole other country and in many cases having to speak a different language on a daily basis as well as figuring out admin stuff in this foreign country. With Asanté, the other international rep, I will hold admin drop-ins throughout the year to help with any questions international students might have. We are also starting an English conversational group in college, where everyone can come together in a safe environment to practice their language skills by talking and listening. Finally, we want to have fun activities throughout the year, like the international food fair in college and small social gatherings, where everyone is welcome.

Coming to the UK, I thought that I was going to meet mainly British people, but I have actually made friends that are both international and British and am very grateful for this as it has given me a great insight into different cultures as well as my own. Studying here in Durham, at Mary's with friends from all kinds of backgrounds means that I am learning so much more than just my degree and I hope other international students can have similar experiences! Together, Asanté



and I represent different cultures and countries and we can't wait to get to know more! We are both full of ideas, energy and motivation to make sure that everyone is having the best time and we are so so excited to share them with you all!!

Randi and Asanté xx

Senior International Representatives 2023/24



What is the JCR?

The JCR (Junior Common Room) is made up of the undergraduate body of students, who all play a part in making Mary's the place it is. All students are given the choice to pay JCR membership at the start of their time here, which allows them to participate in all college sports and societies, to attend events at a subsidised rate and to run for roles in elections; paying membership is a crucial way to immerse yourself in the community and get the absolute most out of your time here. You will be sent more information via email from the college about membership and how to pay it in the coming weeks, so keep your eyes peeled!

Introduction from your JCR Chair:



Eleanor Betts, French & German, 2nd Year

Hi everyone! I'm Eleanor (she/her) and I am delighted to be your JCR Chair for this year!

In this role, the main things that you'll see me doing are running the JCR Meetings, overseeing elections and procedures and observing interviews. These JCR Meetings happen every few weeks and are key to making sure all things in college run smoothly (our JCR officers organise formals and balls and oversee sports, societies, welfare and more!)

The meetings are compulsory to first-year livers in and don't forget your gowns! We wear our gowns to JCR meetings (the same ones that you'll have for matriculation during Freshers' Week) but you don't have



to worry about wearing anything formal underneath it – normal clothes, sportswear and pyjamas are all fine!

During the meetings, we follow the agenda and motions are presented, candidates run for election, questions of officers are answered, and announcements are made in order to keep the JCR running smoothly.

Important links to follow election updates and general JCR information:

Instagram: @marysjcrchair

Linktree: [Linktr.ee/MarysChair](https://linktr.ee/MarysChair)

If you have any questions about the JCR, its meetings or anything else, drop me an email at st-marys.chair@durham.ac.uk. We will also be running a practice JCR meeting at the end of Freshers' Week so that you know what to expect, so I'll see you there!

[The JCR Website](#)

On the JCR Website, you'll find lots more information that isn't included in this handbook. If you'd like to meet the rest of the Freshers Reps ('Freps'), the JCR Executive Committee or find out more about the JCR in general, please go to:

<https://sites.durham.ac.uk/smcjcr/>.



Welfare Provision at Mary's

Student Support at Mary's

We have a range of people at Mary's who are dedicated to provide welfare provision for you if you have any concerns, whether that is academic, financial or personal. If you have any concerns at all then these are the people to contact. It is important to understand that it is not a sign of weakness if you need to ask for help or if you just need to chat to someone about an issue you might be facing.

Formal Student Support at Mary's is staff led and informal welfare advice can be sought from Welfare at Mary's (WAM) which is student led. See below for information about support options.

Staff led Student Support

The Mary's Student Support team can support you throughout your time at Durham, whether you live in or out. They can advise you on issues affecting your wellbeing and help you access other support services across the University. Your Department also has a Student Support Officer who can support you and help you engage and progress with your studies.

Our brilliant Assistant Principals, Dave Robson and Emma Gray (and her dog Twig!), will be your first port of call for student support within College, whether that be academic or personal. They are both truly wonderful, friendly people; Dave is an avid parkrun fan and Emma has her own smallholding which includes donkeys!

Drop - in sessions will be held this term by Dave and Emma:

Mondays 3 - 5pm (Dave)



Fridays 9 – 11am (Emma)

Please read the screens in the dining room for reminders and location

Our Student Support Administrator Jennifer Moss is also on hand to assist with welfare and financial concerns, working closely with Dave and Emma. All three will be available throughout your Freshers' Week to help you out with any concerns you may have.

To make an appointment or contact student support, please email: stmarys.studentsupport@durham.ac.uk or call 01913345983

College staff will be able to advise if they think you should seek further support, whether that is from the university or from GPs in the case of medical issues. There are also provisions in place from Nightline and the Samaritans if anyone needs any welfare support and does not want to come into College.

The new Durham University Student Support Hub provides additional support provision from across the University: [Student Support Hub](#). In addition, a Student Support Portal is coming soon: you'll be able to use it to request support, book appointments and access resources.

Welfare at Mary's (WAM)

WAM Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/welfare.at.marys/>

WAM Website Page:

<https://sites.durham.ac.uk/smcjcr/current-students/student-support/welfare/wam/>

WAM is our student welfare team and is here to do whatever they can to help anyone who may be struggling at university. Our Senior Welfare



Officers, Pip and Bee, sit on the executive committee, and the three assistant WAM Officers, Niamh, Saachi and Emily, sit on the ex-officio committee. You can meet them all on the website page which is linked above! WAM offers free welfare supplies, such as condoms and pregnancy tests and also runs drop-in sessions, as well as a series of campaigns throughout the year which target a wide range of topics.

WAM will be able to provide guidance on a whole host of matters, from housing, to exam advice, to general wellbeing. You'll also have the opportunity to join the WAM Committee, where you'll have the chance to get involved with various campaigns over the year.

During your Freshers' Week, WAM will be running drop-in sessions and our amazing officers, Bee, Niamh, Saachi and Emily are all on the Frep team, so will be around to help you out at any time. Remember that it is important to take a night off and be mindful of yourself; whilst there will be lots of exciting activities on offer, there is no pressure to join in with absolutely everything or stay up late every night. Listen to your body, your mind and don't hesitate to reach out for support.

Some University support details are as follows:

University Health Centre

0191 381 5081

Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3JX

Durham University Counselling Service

0191 334 2200

www.durham.ac.uk/counselling.service

counsel.service@dur.ac.uk

Palatine Centre, Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3LE



Disability Support

0191 334 8115

www.durham.ac.uk/disability.support

disability.support@durham.ac.uk

Palatine Centre, Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3LE

Students' Union Advice Centre

0191 334 1775 28

advice.centre@durham.ac.uk

Level A, Dunelm House (top floor of the SU)

International Office

0191 334 6328

www.durham.ac.uk/international.office

international.office@durham.ac.uk

Palatine Centre, Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3LE

Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgender (LGBT+) Association

0191 334 1771

www.lgbta.dsu.org.uk

lgbta@dsu.org.uk

DSU General Office, Level A, Dunelm House (top floor of the SU)

Nightline

0191 384 2727

www.samaritans.org

jo@samaritans.org

26 Sutton Street, Durham, DH1 4BW

Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre

0132 536 9933

www.rsacc-thecentre.org.uk

The Meadows/Helen Britton House



The Meadows SARC (Durham)

0191 301 8554

www.themeadowsdurham.org.uk

This is a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) which can offer advice, support, counselling, sexual health screening referrals, confidential forensic medical examination and the support of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA).

JCR Support

You are more than welcome to speak to any Frep or Exec member, but these JCR members in particular are here to address any concerns you may have over your Welcome and Orientation Week:

JCR President – Maddie Combes

St-marys.jcr@durham.ac.uk

0191 334 5933 (or 45940 from an internal phone)

Flat 22, First Floor, West Wing Fergusson Building (follow the signs to the President's Flat)

You'll usually find me in the JCR office during working hours, which is located along the main corridor down towards the dining hall.

JCR Vice President – William Banner

St-marys.jcrvp@durham.ac.uk

Senior Freshers' Reps – J and Emma

katherine.jolly@durham.ac.uk

elizabeth.d.watkiss@durham.ac.uk

louisa.c.wagstaff@durham.ac.uk

Senior International Students' Reps – Asanté and Randi

arshia.bhatnagar@durham.ac.uk

sadhika.gupta@durham.ac.uk

Any of the Welfare Officers - Pip, Bee, Niamh, Saachi and Emily

st-marys.wam@durham.ac.uk



Safety

As part of our **'Safe Mary's'** initiative, your safety is a top priority of college life. During your Induction Week, we'd encourage you to look out for your peers and yourself, and reach out to college support systems if you ever feel you need them.

The 'Safe Mary's' initiative supports:

- Responsible drinking
- Never walking home alone at night
- Always using well-lit routes
- Safe and consensual sex (you will all enrol in 'Consent Matters' training in your Induction Week)
- Not engaging in risky or undesired behaviours due to peer-pressure
- Keeping doors and windows locked.

The following map displays the safest, well-lit ways for you to get home after dark. Durham is a small city and therefore generally feels very safe; however, we'd recommend you take a screenshot of the map and keep it on your phone just in case you should ever need it throughout your time here.



Durham City Safety Group

NIGHT LIGHTS

Lit Night Time Routes

If you're walking home, please follow the lit routes
which are highlighted below in yellow



Marys

Meet the College Staff

You'll get to know the members of staff really well over your time here at Mary's. They are all absolutely lovely and their main priority is ensuring that you settle in well and have the best (and safest!) time here; they genuinely care about the students at Mary's and we are really lucky to have them and their support. Really do chat to them if you see them around college – they're usually busy but are more than happy to say hi!

Principal – Adrian Simpson

adrian.simpson@durham.ac.uk

Adrian Simpson is the Principal of St Mary's and is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the college, its students and its staff; he also teaches in his department. This is his second year as Principal of Mary's, having previously been Principal at Josephine Butler for 16 years!

Vice Principal – Andrew Unwin

andrew.unwin@durham.ac.uk

Andrew joined us early in 2020, having worked in central and departmental administration at Durham since 2001, most recently as Department Manager in Chemistry. Andrew has a lot on his plate as VP (including accommodation allocation and student development), but you'll always be able to find him taking photographs for his pride and joy, the St Mary's College Instagram account. Andrew has two Durham degrees under his belt, a chemistry degree which he completed after he first arrived in Durham in 1997 and more recently a Masters degree in marketing. He loves learning about the world through travel and is also rather fond of his outdoor pizza oven. He will also be overseeing the running of your Welcome and Orientation week.



Student Support Office

The Student Support Office is here to support you with any issues that you have during your time at University, whether academic or personal. The Support Office also works closely with the WAM team in delivering the best possible student welfare services for you.

Assistant Principal – Dr Dave Robson

dave.robson@durham.ac.uk

Dave started working at Mary's in April 2014. He has worked in other colleges here and was a Deputy Head of Faculty in Sciences, where he looked after the Natural Sciences degree for 15 years. He offers regular supervision to the WAM Officers and is a regular at Durham Parkrun, so if you fancy a Saturday morning run, he'll be there!

Assistant Principal – Emma Gray

emma.gray@durham.ac.uk

Emma joined Mary's in 2021, having qualified as a lawyer and previously worked in a young offender institution. Emma and her therapy dog, Twig, love being involved in College life, offering student support, and you will frequently see Twig trotting around Mary's with Emma! Outside of Mary's, Emma has a small holding at home where she has sheep, more dogs, hens and two rescue donkeys.

Student Support Administrator – Jennifer Moss

stmarys.studentsupport@durham.ac.uk or 0191 334 5983

Jennifer can inform your academic department if you are ill and help students with both welfare issues and the financial assistance application process. If you would like to arrange a meeting with Dave or Emma, please contact them via the above email.



College Chaplain – Rev. Peter Kashouris

peter.kashouris@btinternet.com or 0191 334 5960

Peter is here for any worries, needs or faith questions you may have.

College Administration and Operations

College Administration Coordinator - Angela Gurteen

angela.gurteen@durham.ac.uk

Having been at St Mary's since 2021, Angela works closely with the Principal, Vice Principal & Assistant Principals and all members of St Mary's, Operations / Catering / Housekeeping covering all aspects of College Administration. Angela says: "It's a great atmosphere to work in and our staff at St Mary's are simply the best!"

Community Operations Manager – Helen Davies

helen.davies1@durham.ac.uk

Helen is responsible for the day-to-day management of operational services – Reception Helpdesk, Community Operations Team Leader and oversight of RSAs and Housekeeping Teams, working in partnership with the catering team – during undergraduate terms and vacations.

College Operations Team Leader – Steven Moody

steven.moody@durham.ac.uk

Steven looks after the day-to-day maintenance needs in college buildings as well as organising the RSAs and Housekeepers' workloads and Reception Helpdesk Supervision.

Food Services & Beverages Manager – Mustafa Gun

mustafa.gun@durham.ac.uk

Mustafa directs the Dining Hall staff and oversees 'front of house' both during term time and vacation. He also acts as Bar Manager and



will be one of the people interviewing for new members of bar staff. He's often around in the Dining Hall during mealtimes (and can always advise on which main is the tastiest) so make sure you say hi!

Head Chef – John Paul Cummings

john-paul.cummings2@durham.ac.uk

JP joined the team in 2023 with a vast amount of experience. He oversees catering both during term and vacation. If you have any dietary requirements, make sure you contact either JP or Mustafa, as they will be able to sort out necessary meals.

Receptionist

Samantha Brown and Diana Charlton share the job of receptionist. They are very friendly and willing to help.

RSAs (Residential Service Assistants)

The RSAs or Porters provide 24-hour reception and portering cover at Mary's. They are honestly the loveliest people and are always willing to help you out when you need it. They also provide great chat!

College Mentors

All undergraduate students are offered a College Mentor. Mentors are usually university staff, postgraduates or members of the local community and they are here to support you throughout your time at Durham. They are an invaluable source of guidance and support throughout your time at Durham and are here to help you get the most out of your time here.



Life at Mary's

The collegiate system at Durham is one of our main selling points. Living and working in a college community gives you a strong sense of identity, belonging and team spirit, which you wouldn't be able to achieve in a hall of residence. You'll soon find that the college is not the building but, rather, it is the community, no matter where you may be stationed or what year of study you may be in.



Colleges provide a perfect opportunity for meeting like-minded people. Your closest friends might be from within Mary's, as you will see them daily, go out together, play sport, join the same societies and eat together. That being said, you don't need to get massively involved in college life if you don't want to – the beauty of college is the flexibility of being able to pick and choose what you are interested in and how much you want to dedicate yourself to it.

We're also super lucky to have such a great student support team in college. If you have



Marys

any concerns about anything whatsoever, please do go and chat to Dave, Emma, Jennifer or our amazing WAM team – no issue is too big or too small and if it is important to you, it is important to them.

College life and the JCR provide a common bond between members of many different year groups, and it is amazing how quickly people feel that their college is the best.

The history of our college is fascinating. Mary's began as a women's hostel in 1899 at a time when female education was rare and was granted with the status of a 'college' in 1919. Our current college building started being built in 1947 and the foundation stone



was laid by Princess Elizabeth.

Mary's is a traditional college with modern values, meaning we have retained regular gowned formals and black-tie events, but we are more relaxed than some other colleges.

Mary's is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful college in Durham; the vast grounds and the view of the Cathedral from the Terrace are second to none. Coupled with the convenient location right next to the Science Site, Bill Bryson Library, the new Teaching and Learning Centre and an easy walk into town, it is easy to see why

[#theressomethingaboutmarys.](#)



Things you'll soon become familiar with at Mary's

1. Formals

Traditional Dinners held in college 3 or 4 times a term; more on these later in the Events section!

2. Meals

If you are on a fully catered package you will receive 3 meals a day, 7 days a week (2 on Saturdays – brunch and dinner with a much smaller breakfast). If you are on a flexible dining plan you will find out that the food here is really good and there is always a variety of options; we have a couple of meat options and vegetarian/vegan options, sides, a salad bar, soup and fresh fruit available. The catering staff are absolutely lovely and super jokes, so make friends with them and they might even be able to slide you an extra portion or two. Meal times are also a great place to meet people when you first move into college – try and sit with different groups at meal times if you want to meet someone new! You've already met Mustafa and JP in the 'Meet the Staff' section – they are the masterminds behind the kitchens, so chat to them if you have any dietary requirements as everyone can be accommodated for! The dining hall is definitely one of the main social hubs at Mary's and by the end of your first year you might well realise you have clocked up more hours in the Dining Hall than in any other place in Durham!

3. Sports and Societies

There are a huge variety of sports teams here at Mary's, ranging from football to rowing, badminton to croquet! We've really developed from not being a traditionally 'sporty' college to becoming a competitive force to be reckoned with. The brilliant thing about college sport is that you can be a complete beginner and still get involved as well as being committed as you want, if you only have time to go once every couple



of weeks that is okay! Also, please don't feel like it is a necessity to get involved with sport - we also have lots of amazing and wide-ranging societies, spanning from baking to board games to Eurovision! There'll be a list of all the sports and societies later on in this handbook.

4. Arts

Mary's Arts Society (branded as SMCAS) is an umbrella organisation encompassing many different societies such as Basement Jazz, Mary's Mixed Voices (MMV), Mary's Dance, Foot of the Hill Theatre Company and Chapel Choir. SMCAS prides itself on being an open and inclusive society, so even if you've never performed in a show before, picked up a paintbrush or danced in public, you'll still be able to get involved. One of the most fun things to get involved in is the Mary's Panto that takes place in December. The Arts Society also runs an Arts Week in February which culminates in a Masquerade Ball! If you have any arts-related questions, then contact our amazing Arts President Cerys at cerys.chadd@durham.ac.uk.

5. Mary's Bar

Mary's Bar is in the basement in the East Wing of the Fergusson building. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are incredibly cheap. Just outside the bar we have two darts boards, which are free to use. Although we do get a bit of stick sometimes for having one of the smaller bars in the University, it is a really great and relaxed space; it would be a hard task to find another college bar where people feel comfortable going down to hang out in their pyjamas! We also have outdoor picnic tables on the SCR Lawn which makes for a great outside bar when the weather is good as well as the upstairs bar which allows for a greater capacity due to its location in the dining hall. At the bar we tend to host regular pub quizzes in the bar, which are always popular. The bar is at its best after a formal, when everyone heads to the bar and the building is filled with chatter and laughter.



The bar is staffed by students, and we will be on the lookout for new members of staff in the first few weeks of Michaelmas term, so watch out for that email. Working on the bar is great fun, a really good way to meet new people and provides an extra bit of cash – working on the bar in first year is especially good as it can literally be a couple minutes from your room! For any questions about the bar, you can contact Mustafa (who you met earlier) or our Bar Steward, Alex: alex.maidens@durham.ac.uk

6. The Toastie Bar and the Shop

Mary's had the first and original toastie bar in Durham, which offers the perfect late night snack from a menu of classics combinations or you can build your own. Like the bar, the toastie bar is staffed by students and again we will be looking for new members of staff in Michaelmas term. It's a lifesaver when the clock hits 9pm and you had dinner three hours ago! Toasties are either sweet or savoury, and one many would recommend is the S'mores toastie! You can also buy crisps, cans and chocolate. For any Toastie-related queries, contact our Toastie Bar Manager, Victoria: victoria.harvey@durham.ac.uk



Facilities

1. JCRs

As mentioned before, the JCR usually refers to the student body, but we do also have two physical Junior Common Rooms; one in Fergusson and one in Williamson. These are common rooms with TVs and Sofas for you to relax and have a chat in. The Fergusson JCR also has a table, pool table, Xbox 360 and Wii U. You can book out the JCRs for social events, watching films, drama rehearsals (the list goes on!) by contacting the JCR Vice President, Will. The Williamson JCR has recently been refurbished and now includes an air hockey table!

2. The Library and the Reading Room

The Library and Reading Room are open night and day using a key code which will be given to you at the start of Michaelmas term. The library is a place for silent work and is staffed by a team of student volunteers. The Reading Room is more relaxed, where you can do group work and has really nice sofas to relax on.

3. The Chapel

The chapel is found at the top of the North East Wing of the Fergusson building. It is a space for anyone to take time out for peace and quiet for meditation or wellbeing. One of the most beautiful chapels in the entire university, Evensong is sung here every other week by the Chapel Choir, led by the Chaplain Rev. Peter Kashouris. The chapel is not exclusively reserved for religious needs and we encourage those who are in need of a bit of peace and quiet, or just want to get away from everything for a few minutes, to come and enjoy the calm environment the chapel provides.

4. Music Rooms

We have three music rooms in the basement of the Fergusson building equipped with pianos, music stands and one has a drum kit. You can



sign keys out from Reception and play music any time between 9am and 11pm.

5. The Gym

Our gym has enough equipment to keep anyone busy and is being improved constantly by the dedicated Gym Reps. It has treadmills, cross trainers, rowing machines, a variety of resistance machines and a large range of free weights. You can find information about annual membership through the college website; it is one of the most affordable gyms in Durham and a great way to let off steam! All new student gym members will need to attend an induction session before they can use the gym and these will take place at the start of term.

6. Laundry Rooms

There are two main laundry rooms; one in Fergusson, one in Williamson with another in Teikyo. The washers and dryers are very easy to use and are on an automated system; you can download the **Circuit Laundry Plus** App to operate the machines. The washing machines can take huge loads and cost £4 per wash with free tumble drying. As well as washers and dryers, the laundry rooms also provide irons and ironing boards in case you need to iron a shirt for a formal or two! Note that if you need to use your own laundry detergent (rather than the detergent automatically dispensed) , there is one machine available in each laundry for this purpose.

7. Pantries

There is one pantry on every corridor and are kitted out with basic kitchen appliances such as kettles, microwaves, toasters and fridges. Please note that because pantries are stocked with kettles, microwaves and basic appliances, you are not allowed to bring your own for use in your bedroom due to fire regulations. Some may also have hobs and ovens, although, with meals provided during term time, this isn't something to worry about!



8. Multipurpose Court

We added walls around our tennis/netball/basketball court, meaning you can play all those sports as well as five-a-side football on it!

Events at Mary's

College is a key component of your social life at Durham and the social events are always a highlight of the year.

Formals

There are 3 or 4 every term, usually on a Tuesday or Thursday night. They feature a three-course dinner served in the Dining Hall and students follow a dress code, which is lounge suits/cocktail dresses and gowns. The Principal and the Senior Common Room (SCR) sit on the Principal's High Table and everyone must



stand when they come in to start the meal. Formal rules dictate that everyone should refrain from using electronic devices and remain seated throughout the meal, but this rule is more relaxed in practice to allow for people to get up and go to the toilet between courses. Whilst the dinners are quite smart and you are expected to behave sensibly, they are genuinely so much fun and a great way to immerse yourself in the community. Formals are one of the great traditions of Mary's – not all colleges offer the opportunity to wear gowns.



Other Dining Events

In addition to college formals there are also some special themed dining nights throughout the year such as Burns' Night, Halloween and President's Guest Night.

Balls

There are three balls per year, one per term. There is always a drinks reception, a three course dinner and entertainment ('ents') afterwards, which can include anything from inflatable helter skelter rides, photobooths, virtual reality games, and a surf simulator. In the past we've even had roller-skating rinks set up in college! There's also music throughout the night – with previous highlights including a Beyonce or Katy Perry tribute act, and of course the phenomenal Durham student bands.



The first ball of the year is the black tie **Winter Ball**. The first ever Winter Ball was Narnia themed, with the whole college decorated to look like different locations from the much-loved books by C.S. Lewis. The most recent theme was the Winter Frost Fair! The second-term



ball is **Masquerade Ball**, run by SMCAS; previous themes have included Tim Burton, Venetian Masquerade and Myths and Legends. The final ball of the year is Midsummer Ball after exams in third term,



which is the biggest event of the social calendar. Previous themes include A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lord of the Rings and Peter Pan. This runs from 6pm to 6am, with a meal in a marquee and ents running throughout the night, including fairground rides. One of the big traditions takes place at 4am when we all hit Observatory Hill to watch the sunrise, 5am is our hog roast and then at 6am we have the 'Survivors' Photo – it's always fun to see who lasts the whole night!

Mary's Day

Mary's Day is always on the last Sunday of third term and it is like an all-day festival, with music going from midday until 11pm, at which point people head to the last Sunday Night Klute (SNK) of the year. There are inflatables, food vans, the bars are open and we have Pimms, and it is just a really great celebration at the end of the year.



Mary's

Clubs and Societies

Introduction from your Sports & Societies Officer, Phoebe



Hello hello! I'm Phoebe, a South African second year student, and I'll be your sports and societies officer for this year! Last year I played netball and ultimate frisbee for college and frisbee for Durham. I also was a POVd rep and got involved in Revival, the Durham Drama Festival and the Midsummer Ball as well as heading up volunteering at college and taking part in a couple of FHTC shows. My first year at Mary's was made so incredible by all of the sports and societies that

are on offer and were so quick to welcome me in. They say Mary's is the friendliest college and it really does feel like a family by the end of your first year.

Amongst other things, my job is to try to get as many of you as possible involved in life at college so get excited! We have a HUGE range of things to get involved in, whether you're into badminton or frisbee, art, poetry, gaming, journalism, or music, we are sure to have something for you. If you're interested in something that isn't on our list, start it! Come have a chat with me and I'll help you set up your own society. I'll also be telling you all about the opportunities and matches that we have throughout this year so make sure you follow the Instagram pages @experience.marys and team.marys to keep up to



date! You can always feel free to pop me a DM on there or email me at phoebe.kingston@durham.ac.uk

Life at Mary's is always busy and there is always something going on at college. My advice is to dive straight in and embrace the chaos. There's so much to look forward to this year and I hope to be seeing all of you at some point whether it's on a sports pitch, field or court or in the JCR, dining hall or on stage. You'll get to hear about all of the sports and socs at the Freshers' Fair in your first week at college so see you there!

Full list of clubs and societies

Here is a list of the sports clubs and societies we have at Mary's, with the respective captains and presidents. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Phoebe if you have any questions about them!

Clubs

Badminton - Jay Boyd - jay.boyd@durham.ac.uk

Basketball - Janson Cheong - zhen.h.cheong@durham.ac.uk

Boat Club - Megan Oldham & Beth Makowski -
megan.l.oldham@durham.ac.uk & beth.makowski@durham.ac.uk

Climbing - pending

Cricket - Jake Hubbard - jake.m.hubbard@durham.ac.uk

Croquet - Alex Wright - alexander.d.wright@durham.ac.uk

Dance - Emma Lang & Freya Robertson - emma.l.lang@durham.ac.uk
& freya.l.robertson@durham.ac.uk

Darts - Callum Goddard & Eoin Beevers -
callum.goddard@durham.ac.uk & eoin.beevers@durham.ac.uk

Frisbee - Patrick Giblin & Maia Hobbs - patrick.giblin@durham.ac.uk &
maia.hobbs@durham.ac.uk

Futsal - Charles Bishop - charles.bishop@durham.ac.uk



Hockey - Freddie Saint & Zoe Kaye - frederick.saint@durham.ac.uk & zoe.kaye@durham.ac.uk

Lacrosse - Mollie Matthews & Hannah Tunncliffe -
mollie.e.matthews@durham.ac.uk &
hannah.tunncliffe@durham.ac.uk

Men's Football - Joe Birdsall & Gwilym Davies -
joseph.birdsall@durham.ac.uk & gwilym.a.davies@durham.ac.uk

Netball - Beth Sargent & Lily Marsden -
bethany.sargent@durham.ac.uk & lily.g.marsden@durham.ac.uk

Pool - Harry Chantrey - harry.b.chantrey@durham.ac.uk

Rounders - Marcus King - marcus.j.king@durham.ac.uk

Rugby - Callum Goddard & Ronan Mckay -
callum.goddard@durham.ac.uk & ronan.n.mckay@durham.ac.uk

Running - pending

Squash - Jebous Cappendell - christian.f.cappendell@durham.ac.uk

Swimming - Holly Timmis & Jonathan Mullet -
holly.timmis@durham.ac.uk & jonathan.mullet@durham.ac.uk

Table Tennis - Harry Grocott - harry.w.grocott@durham.ac.uk

Tennis - Ellie Ogilvie & Charlotte Hamilton -
eleanor.ogilvie@durham.ac.uk & charlotte.hamilton@durham.ac.uk

Volleyball - Callum Madeley - callum.j.madeley@durham.ac.uk

Women's Football - Dana Al Tajer & Nesrine Maidi -
dana.m.al-tajer@durham.ac.uk & nesrine.maidi@durham.ac.uk

Women's Rugby - pending

Women's Basketball - *note: this is shared with Trevelyan College and their Captain is from Trevs*

Societies

Arts Society - Cerys Chadd - cerys.chadd@durham.ac.uk

Baking Society - Becca Dunstan - rebecca.dunstan@durham.ac.uk

Basement Jazz - Callum Madeley - callum.j.madeley@durham.ac.uk

Biology at Mary's - Anna Gallagher Gill -
anna.s.gallagher-gill@durham.ac.uk



Book Club - Bee Wilkes - rebecca.wilkes@durham.ac.uk
Chapel Choir - Jaz Margalit - jasmine.margalit@durham.ac.uk
Christian Union - Emily Winther & Helen Bate -
emily.s.winther@durham.ac.uk & helen.a.bate@durham.ac.uk
Circus - Jebous Cappendell - christian.f.cappendell@durham.ac.uk
Communities Comm - Ella-Rose Vella - ella-rose.vella@durham.ac.uk
Disabled Students' Association - Dom Johnson -
dominic.johnson@durham.ac.uk
Environment - *pending* (Environment Rep awaiting election)
Ethnic Minorities Association - Alvi Lindborg Koh -
alvi.w.lindbord-koh@durham.ac.uk
Eurovision - Alex Everest House -
alexander.everest-house@durham.ac.uk
Fine Arts & Crafts Society - Anna Gallagher-Gill -
anna.s.gallagher-gill@durham.ac.uk
Feminist Society - *pending*
Foot of the Hill Theatre Company - Shannon Hill & Emily Power -
shannon.f.hill@durham.ac.uk & emily.power@durham.ac.uk
Games Soc - Matthew Richardson -
matthew.j.richardson@durham.ac.uk
International Committee - Randi Holwerda & Asante Gantsho
(randi.holwerda@durham.ac.uk & asante.gantsho@durham.ac.uk)
Journalism - *pending*
LGBTQIA+ Association - Rowan Sutton & Jessica Banfield -
rowan.sutton@durham.ac.uk & jessica.e.banfield@durham.ac.uk
Mario Kart Soc - Lucas Mahal - lucas.mahal@durham.ac.uk
Mary's Mixed Voices - Faith Gorton & Katherine Tyrrell -
faith.gorton@durham.ac.uk & katherine.tyrrell@durham.ac.uk
Orchestral Society - Jem Hodgins - jem.hodgins@durham.ac.uk
Origami - Nadia Hussain - nadia.m.hussain@durham.ac.uk
Pub Quiz Soc - Ethan Rawlins - ethan.a.rawlins@durham.ac.uk
Random Acts of Kindness Soc - Phoebe Cook -
phoebe.cook@durham.ac.uk



Social Committee - Lucas Mahal - lucas.mahal@durham.ac.uk

Welfare Committee - Pip Pearson & Bee Wilkes -
olivia.d.pearson@durham.ac.uk & rebecca.wilkes@durham.ac.uk

Yoga - Annika Borrow - annika.borrow@durham.ac.uk

These societies are not active at the moment, but if you're passionate about restoring them, then come chat to me:

Poetry

Sewing Society

Wine & Cheese

Karaoke

Latino Society

Vegan & Vegetarian Society

Mindfulness Society



Durham Student Union

What is Durham Students' Union?

An introduction from the SU President:

The SU provides services to improve students' experience at Durham:

- Most of these are administrative, financial and structural support for **student groups and societies**. Some examples are Indian Soc, Hummus soc, Hill walking soc and DU Charity Fashion show - the largest of its kind in Europe. To join these or Team Durham, come to our **freshers fair** or use the sign-up forms on the website.
- We also provide spaces - with **study space, and a cafe & bar and TV** in Dunelm House
- We have the only **independent professional advice service** for students in Durham - you can get **pastoral support from your college** student support, but if you need **procedural advice on housing, academic hearings or student work** the SU's advisor can advise you on your rights, and you can find info on our [advice hub](#).

We campaign to tackle issues affecting students:

Through **confident, constructive challenge** we work to change things holding our members back, and we **unapologetically represent student interest at the highest level of the University and in government**. Some recent examples have been: lobbying with other SUs to successfully **change UK Law to ban universities from using Non-Disclosure Agreements** on students;



securing **£6.6m of Durham Grant funding to help with living costs**, and working with the University to design the distribution of this; working to secure an **increase in study space** across Durham. The main priorities for the SU for the next 5 years are to improve **student housing, tackle the cost of learning, and improve induction** for new students at Durham.

Freshers' Fair

All of the student groups, Team Durham, Durham Student Theatre, Music Durham and Student Community Action come together for two days during Freshers Week. The Freshers' Fair takes place at Maiden Castle, giving you the chance to see what activities you want to try your hand at. Different groups will be there on each day so make sure you come along each day to see what we have to offer. If you cannot make it on the day, you can still be able to buy memberships to Union groups online.

How to contact the union:

- Contact reception on 01913 341777 or by emailing info@durhamsu.com
- Pop into Dunelm House
- Social Media
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/durhamsu/>
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/durhamSU>
 - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/durham.su/>
 - Snapchat: @durhamsu
- Through your JCR President or SU Representative.



Essentials – Stuff to Bring

It's hard to know what to pack for what might be your first extended time away from home, so we've put together a list of things we'd recommend bringing up. Don't worry if you forget anything – Durham is host to a fair few supermarkets/stationery shops etc., so you'll be able to buy anything you need up here.

The Official Stuff

- Everything you need for work: paper, pens, books, folders, USB sticks, a laptop etc. – you do **not** need to bring a printer, as we have them in college and there are lots in external University study spaces (although you might find it useful... and you may become everyone on your corridor's best friend if you do bring one).
 - Tuition fees letter.
 - NHS/GHIC card.
- Driving licence, passport, birth certificate – you'll need **at least one of these to register with the university!** A digital copy of your passport would also be useful if you want to get a part-time job while you're here.
- National Insurance Number, p60 and p45 (if you have them). If you're looking to apply for a job, **you will need your passport.**
- Your chequebook. This is not a necessity, but some university clubs and societies will ask you to pay for membership via cheque – most (if not all) accept online transfer or cash now, but it is a good idea to bring one just in case!

Stuff for your room

- Pictures/posters/decorations from home to make your room unique. If you're living in Fergusson or Teikyo, make sure you use white tack as blu tack/sticky tape isn't allowed. If you're



living in Williamson, posters and notices are not allowed on the walls.

- Bed linen – college doesn't officially provide you with bedding, so you'll need your own sheets, pillows, duvet and covers. However, you can order a bedlinen pack if you want one from college.
- Towels.
- Bedside lamp.
- Alarm clock – at least try and make your 9ams!
- Some mugs and basic cutlery.
- An extension lead.
- A clothes horse/hanger/airer – the washing machines do provide free drying, but some people prefer to air dry clothes.
- Laundry basket.
- A bath mat (if you're lucky enough to end up with an en suite).
- Coat hangers.
- A shower caddy to carry shower gel etc to the bathrooms
- Flip flops or sliders to walk to bathrooms
- Slippers or fluffy socks to keep your feet cosy!

Anything else you might want to make your room feel more homely speakers, cushions, blankets etc. – but please note that the burning of incense and candles in rooms is not allowed (it sets off the fire alarm).

*PLEASE NOTE: You cannot bring any kitchen appliances to college, all is provided in your pantries.

Clothing

- White shirt/blouse and black trousers/skirt for college photo, matriculation and other formal events. Those who wish to wear a suit may also want to bring a tie. It is customary to wear a tie with a suit for dining events. Your smart wear will come in



handy, because there are a plethora of events that will be taking place in the first term, that you can wear your best to!

- Ball gowns, dresses and lounge suits for formals and other black-tie events. Dinner jackets and bow ties will also be needed. If you do not own dinner jackets, they can be hired from Woven in the town centre.
- Sports gear.
- Fancy dress (and you'll need a solid stock)
- Wellies – these might seem unnecessary now, but come November a couple of years ago, Durham was completely snowed out and we were ankle-deep in snow. It also gets very, very, very cold up here in winter, so make sure you bring warm clothes.

Additional Essentials for International Students

Alongside the above list of items, international students should also consider bringing:

- A bank draft/cheque (payable in British pounds) from your country to set up a bank account in the UK.
- All immigration and health documents.
- A few passport sized pictures of yourself for your railcard if you choose to get one or if you are interested in obtaining a UK Driving License.
- Food that reminds you of home (don't worry too much about it as there are quite a few specialist supermarkets in Newcastle, and a handful in Durham, but if you do decide to bring food, check first that it's okay to bring into the UK).
- Adapters to convert to a UK three-legged pin.



Things NOT to bring

It's natural to want to be as prepared as you can before coming to university. However, as international students, many of you will be struggling to adhere to the airline weight restrictions. So, we've also given a list of things that you can easily buy in and around Durham once you get here. We'll be taking you for tours around town, as well as on a shopping tour to Newcastle during International Induction.

- Bulky clothes – do bring your favourite clothes, but if you're lacking thick and bulky clothes, you would be glad to know that you can get everything you need in Durham! Durham has a Mountain Warehouse, Superdry and several other shops if you would like to purchase warm clothes suitable for North-East weather. We also have H&M and New Look here for basics. A warm coat, jumpers and good boots are all essentials!
- Toiletries – don't worry about trying to stock up toiletries for the entire term in your suitcase. Durham has Boots, Superdrug and other shops that provide cheap toiletries.
- Stationery – can be bought at local shops like Rymans or WHSmiths.
- Candles/incense – these are not permitted in college. You can, however, buy fairy lights or battery-powered 'fake' candles.
- Crockery – having mugs, cups and cutlery is important but these can be easily found in either Durham or Newcastle.
- Clothing racks/extension cords/bookstands – these can be bought either in the Market Place or around Durham/Newcastle.



The Colleges

The colleges can be split (largely) into Hill colleges and Bailey Colleges.

The Hill

Mary's – the best and friendliest college in Durham. Fact. Mary's was the third college established as part of Durham University and the last college to admit both men and women as students until 2005.

Fun fact: Princess Elizabeth laid the foundation stone of the Fergusson building at the current site for St Mary's College in 1947.

Grey – is one of the larger colleges and is close to Mary's, being situated across South Road.

Fun fact: Grey claim that they have the largest TV across Durham Uni. Legend has it that Hatfield tried to one up them, so they went and bought an even bigger one.

Collingwood – known as the sporty college, Collingwood holds the title of largest college by student body. They have also had their JCR and bar refurbished and it's pretty cool.

Fun fact: CCAFC is the largest amateur football club in Europe (they believe), with 14 men's teams and 2 women's teams.

Trevelyan (a.k.a. Trev's) – our nearest neighbour and local rival, Trev's students live in a maze of identical hexagonal buildings. Keep your eyes out for the annual Mary's vs. Trev's Varsity event in third term.

Fun fact: Trev's was originally an all-female college and was the last all-female college to open in England, however it became fully mixed in 1992.

Van Mildert (a.k.a. Mildert) – Mildert have their own lake (a.k.a. the swamp). *Fun fact: They were the first college with a female Principal, first with a female Senior Tutor, first with a female JCR President and first to become a mixed college.*



St. Aidan's (a.k.a. Aidan's) – Aidan's is up a seemingly endless flight of stairs. Their Summer Fest is always a highlight of third term and is open to anyone. *Fun fact: The Aidan's motto of "upon sure foundations" (translated into English from Latin) is supposedly a dig at Mildert for sinking into their swamp.*

Josephine Butler (a.k.a. Butler) – Butler has lovely accommodation and is fully self-catered. This is our Principal, Adrian's, old college! Butler also sometimes gets called JoBo but don't call it that around Adrian he really doesn't like it!

Fun fact: If you look out of the Cathedral Tower, Butler appears invisible because they tactically put grass on their roof to not ruin the view.

Stephenson (a.k.a. Stevo) – Stevo again offers lovely accommodation and is fully self-catered.

Fun fact: Their college motto translates into English as "one day I shall astonish the world", which George Stephenson (who their college is named after) wrote to a contemporary before he invented the steam engine.

South College (a.k.a South) – The newest college to join the University, it is located at the very top of the hill opposite Butler.

Fun Fact: Before South was officially named, the student newspaper tricked many students into thinking that the new name for this college would be 'Vine' College, after Durham alumni Jeremy Vine. Turns out, it was April Fool's Day.

John Snow (a.k.a Snow) – after being moved (alongside Stevo) to Durham City from Queen's Campus in Stockton-on-Tees, they were temporarily located in the Viaduct and have now moved permanently move to Mount Oswald (near South). *Fun fact: Their mascot used to be a snowman, but he melted on the journey from Stockton, so they changed it to a snow leopard, both called Snowy.*



The Bailey

University College (a.k.a. Castle) – the oldest college in Durham with a fab bar called the Undie. It's literally in the Castle, so it's no wonder that the college is so oversubscribed.

Fun fact: Construction of the Castle began in 1071, making it the oldest building in use at any University in the world. Also, the Undercroft Bar used to be the Castle's wine cellar.

Hatfield – the second oldest college, Hatfield is very close to the Cathedral.

Fun fact: The college's founder, David Melville, pioneered the idea of furnished and catered residences with fees set in advance for students, which would later evolve to the now general practice of student residences.

St. Cuthbert's Society (a.k.a Cuth's) – not technically a college, but there's not really any day-to-day difference. They have two sites, one on the Bailey and one in Parsons Field, with two separate bars at each site.

Fun fact: Cuth's have a JCR position called the Orbiting Professor of Martian Anthropology, whose job it is to circle the battle of the exec (an inflatable battle on the river that's no longer allowed) in a dingey and read Shakespearean sonnets. Traditionally, this position goes straight to the shortest person in the room in the last meeting of the year.

St. Johns (a.k.a. Johns) – has the reputation of being the religious college, largely because John's is owned by the Church.

Fun fact: Their mascot, Olav the alligator, is named after King Olav of Norway, as a group of John's students found a stuffed alligator in the river and took it to see the king when he visited Durham.

St. Chad's (a.k.a. Chad's) – very small in terms of student body, but their bar is surprisingly large and has a sizeable quad with a glass roof conservatory. *Fun fact: Chad's may be the smallest college, but their JCR President claims that they have the cheapest pints across any college.*



And the rest

St. Hild and St. Bede (a.k.a. Hild Bede) – not on the Hill or the Bailey, instead out towards Gilesgate. Hild Bede used to have a fully functioning cinema that sells tickets available to anyone to see the semi-latest big films. A big refurbishment project is happening at Hild Bede for the next few years where the plan is to separate Hild and Bede again (they were once two individual colleges).

Fun fact: Hild Bede houses the only student cinema in Durham, Bede Film Society. The society was started over fifty years ago, showing films on a 16mm projector.

Ustinov – a postgraduate only college situated near Neville's Cross.

Fun fact: Ustinov started as a postgraduate society and then turned out as a college. Their GCR President also claims that they have the smallest mascot in Durham, which is a platypus.



Durham Life

This is a section to introduce you briefly to some aspects of Durham life both in and out of college. We'll start with the glossary of some Durham student slang – though you'll soon pick it up.

Your Durham Dictionary

Billy B – an affectionate term for the Bill Bryson Library, the main university library and just across the road from Mary's.

College Parents – you will each have 'parents' assigned to you from 2nd, 3rd or 4th year. You are matched up with your college parents primarily based on subjects, then secondarily based on interests.

Durham Students' Union (DSU) – you've already read a bit about the services that the SU offers. The most apparent feature of the SU is Dunelm House, in which the SU is based – it's a massive block of concrete by the river. Unbelievably, the architect who designed the Sydney Opera House supervised the team for the building and he himself designed Kingsgate Bridge, which is meant to be in the shape of the shadow of the Cathedral.

Fergusson (Fergie), Williamson (Willie), Teikyo, Northeast, Shepherd's Wing (Shep's) & Boughton – the six areas of accommodation that make up Mary's.

Hill/Bailey – the Hill refers to a college anywhere past the library (on the hill, as the name suggests). Mary's is the closest hill college to town. The Bailey is the old street which stretches from the centre of town, where most other colleges are located. Bailey colleges tend to be older and smaller.

Socials – depending on the club or society, these happen between a few times a term and every week. Each college and university sports team or society will have a designated Social Secretary, whose responsibility it is to organise socials.

Stash – any clothing with a college or university crest on it; usually every college/club/society organises their own personalised stash. Be careful though, purchasing varieties of stash can become addictive!



BNOC – Big Name on Campus. To be taken with a large pinch of salt...

Durham City

Durham is a fantastic city and will be just as important to your time at university as your department and college. To help you settle in, here are a few highlights to look for in Durham. Feel free to speak to any of the Feps or Exec about where they'd recommend – everyone will have somewhere different they prefer to spend their time!

Durham by Day

The Cathedral is magnificent and very much part of your university life – you begin and end your university career here, with matriculation and graduation respectively. There's an amazing view to be had from the tower over the city, however it is seen as bad luck to climb the tower before you've graduated. Also, scenes from Harry Potter were filmed inside the Cathedral.

Market Square is the centre of town and many of the shops and cafés are centred around it. The indoor market is also not to be missed, with stalls stocking a variety of groceries, clothes, stationery and accessories.

Walks – you will never be short of a nice route to walk/jog along; you can walk ten minutes down a public footpath and suddenly feel as if you've left Durham City altogether.

Cafés

Pretty much every other building in Durham seems to be a coffee shop, so you shouldn't have any trouble finding your favourite. As well as the chains, there are some lovely independent cafés, including **Flat White**, **Leonards**, **Riverview Kitchen**, **Treats**, **Cafédral**, **Chapters** and **Vennels**.

Restaurants

In a nutshell, here are some of our favourite Durham restaurants!



- **Italian restaurants:** La Spaghetтата (known as Spags, a Durham staple), Zizzi, Capriccio, Pizza Express, Bistro Italiano.
- **Pub food:** The Bishops Mill (a classic Spoons), Whitechurch (part of the Flat White family).
- **Premium burgers:** Tango and Fat Hippo – everyone has a different opinion on which one of the two they prefer.
- **Tapas:** Gussto, Tapas Factory
- **East Asian food:** Nadon Thai, The Rabbit Hole, Sense, Thai River.
- **South Asian food:** Alishaan's, The Capitol, Spice Lounge, Shaheen's.
- **Fast food:** Subway, Bell's Fish and Chips, Stanton's, Paddy's Pizza (a Mary's staple on the way back from a night out).
- **Middle Eastern food:** Lebaneat (an all-round favourite), Akarsu.
- **Popular chains:** Nando's, Chiquito, Bill's, The Cosy Club, Zapatista Burrito Bar.
- **Places to go when someone else is paying:** Zen, The Cellar Door, Restaurant 17, Marco Pierre White Steakhouse.

Entertainment

We have the recently opened **Odeon Luxe Cinema**, located at the Riverwalk, which shows the biggest blockbusters. Also, every single seat in the cinema can recline and has triple leg room – what a dream. We also have the **Gala Cinema and Theatre**, with two screens showing the latest films at cheap prices.

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre is always showing Durham Student Theatre (DST) plays, operas and musicals. The shows here are of an incredibly high standard, with many productions going to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival every year.

Sports

Maiden Castle is the university sports centre and has been recently refurbished to provide even more facilities for you all. They have everything there, from indoor courts to Astroturf pitches, to a gym and a running track. They have fitness sessions throughout the year that everyone can sign up to. It's also a convenient 15-minute walk from college. Even if you



are not on a university sports team, this is a great place to get fit. There is a free 5km run from Maiden Castle (Parkrun) every Saturday at 9am, which is popular with both Mary's students and staff, in particular you can catch Mary's Running Club and Dave Robson on a Saturday taking part in park run!

The Racecourse is next to the river, opposite Hild Bede, and has two cricket and football pitches, as well as squash courts that are available to book for anyone. It is popular in the summer for picnics due to its picturesque location with a view of the Castle.

Freeman's Quay is Durham's local sports club. The pool tends to be a staple for those interested in swimming and if you take up DU Swimming you get a membership discount to Freeman's Quay! Many students choose to buy swim and gym memberships at Freeman's Quay due to the relatively cheap prices available.

Durham by Night

Pubs and Bars

College Bars are one of the unique features of Durham. Each college has their own bar, with their own drinks and personalities. You'll have to discover them throughout your time here!

You will be spoiled for choice for pubs in Durham! **The Swan and Three Cygnets** (or just 'The Swan') is an iconic institution for students and overspills with them in the summer term. A classic destination once you have finished your exams.

Cocktails are available in **Fabio's** (just above Spags), **The Boat Club** (five steps from Klute), **The Library** (don't worry, there are no books there) and **Revolution** (located on Framwellgate Bridge). **Ebony** is a champagne and cocktail bar and **Whiskey River** is a classic first date location, both of which



are slightly more expensive than the general pub/bar. Newly opened is **The Curious Mr Fox!**

Clubs

Klute is probably the most famous, or infamous, Durham club. It prides itself on its reputation as the worst nightclub in Europe (by default after the worst rated one burnt down) but remains popular with students. Home of cheesy pop, awful dance moves, questionable drinks and poor decisions. Fun fact is Dominic Cummings is still the registered director of Klute!

Jimmy Allen's (or just Jimmy's) features in most nights out and is home to the legendary 'Johnny Woodgate'. Also, entrance is free!

Bohemia (formerly Players) has only been around for a few years but has become one of the most popular clubs in Durham. Their big nights out happen on Mondays (Swingers) and Wednesdays (Players Wednesdays).

Wiff Waff has a big space with two floors and two bars. It offers beer pong, which is always a bonus to the night.

Osbournes, located next to Klute, hosts the most popular LGBT+ night in Durham every Monday. We're talking queues to get in at 6:30pm! Cheesy tunes and drag queens provided.

Babylon is a fairly recent addition to the clubbing scene but often hosts many themed club nights dedicated to certain artists and bands.



The Final Word

We hope you find this handbook useful and that you don't feel overwhelmed with information! It's mainly here to give you an idea of what our JCR is and what joining it will be like, as well as introducing you to the people who you'll be meeting when you come to Mary's and answering some questions you might have. Of course, there's loads more we could have included, so if you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact Maddie or any of the Freps and Exec with any worries, questions, or if you just fancy a chat; we'd all be really pleased to hear from you!

Remember that our website contains lots more detailed information, so do check that out, as well as our various social media platforms.

Website: <https://sites.durham.ac.uk/smcjcr/>

Freshers' Facebook page:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/835356207601367/?ref=share>

Instagrams:

@marys.pres
@stmarysfreshers23
@stmarysjcr
@marysjcrchair
@moneyatmarys
@mouthful.of.marys

This booklet can only serve as a rough guide, and nothing can completely prepare you for the experience itself. But we're pretty sure it's better that way; discovering Durham for yourself and what it has to offer is far more interesting and rewarding than reading it in a handbook. We've all had a great time here thus far and we want to try and make sure you enjoy yourselves as much as we have.



When you get here, you'll receive a full timetable explaining all the events of the week and where you need to be and when. There will always be Freps on hand throughout Induction Week to answer any questions or point you in the right direction (they'll be wearing bright purple t-shirts and jumpers so you can't miss them!).

Congratulations again on all your hard work and enjoy your summer holiday! We absolutely cannot wait to meet you all. We've been preparing for Induction Week throughout summer and have some really fun things planned; all we ask of you is to turn up and enjoy yourselves in whatever way you feel comfortable! We are here to make sure you have a brilliant first week, first term, first year and beyond.

See you soon!

