

Grey College

New Postgraduate Student Welcome Handbook 2026-27

Welcome to Grey!



Welcome to Grey College, a place you are going to come to know and love, and call home for the next three or four years. We look forward to welcoming you to our College



“Staff and current students at Grey College are looking forward to welcoming you to our college community this coming September. This handbook has been designed to have all the necessary information you need and enable you to complete all the pre-arrival activity and tasks. I am looking forward to welcoming you to Grey College.”

Rhian Davies, Vice-Principal

“Throughout your time at Grey I hope you make good use of the Middle Common Room (MCR) – we are the college’s postgraduate community and will be hosting events during Freshers’ Week and the rest of the year, follow @greycollegemcr on Instagram for more information. I hope you are all excited to join the Grey College family, it really does feel like a home away from home and I wish you all the very best in your time here! See you soon!”

Ed Cecil, MCR Vice-President



“I hope you all have the most magical years here at Durham and at Grey. Make the most of everything Durham has to offer and take the opportunity to try new things, it is a chance to take full control of what you wish to do. Beyond Freshers’ Week there are so many fun events to attend and interesting people to meet, the community here is truly amazing. We all look forward to your arrivals and welcoming you into Grey, it is going to be an incredible time! “

Ishwari Ramsaha, JCR President

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PRE –ARRIVAL CHECKLIST!

Task	Deadline for Completion
If relevant, secure your college accommodation by accepting accommodation offer issued by the stated deadline. If you do not accept by the deadline, the accommodation offer will be withdrawn and the room reallocated.	Accept within stated deadline on your Accommodation Offer
Complete the University Enrolment & Registration Process (including Right to Study if you are not British or Irish) - Becoming a Durham Student - Durham University	As soon as you get your username and password!
Complete Medical Registration— Medical Registration and Advice - Durham University	Prior to arrival at Durham
Complete the College Online Registration Form (link will be emailed).	18th September 2026
Read and Sign College Social Code (link will be emailed).	25th September 2026
Complete College Optional Online charges e.g. JCR/MCR membership, Welcome Week, Gowns etc.	25th September 2026
Complete the MANDATORY online Consent Matters Course, and complete the Respect, Values and Behaviours module	25th September 2026
Attend in person with physical ID to complete your student verification at Grey College on Friday 25 September	On 25th September 2026

DEFINITIONS

College — The physical site located on South Road, outlying buildings, grounds and shared communal spaces, and all members of the College, both students and staff.

College Officers — The College Officers are the Principal, Vice-Principal and Assistant Principal.

Members — Undergraduates and Postgraduates who are members of the College.

Resident — A student Member living in College accommodation.

Our students pride themselves on their Grey Spirit: creativity and a strong sense of belonging to an inclusive community, with passion for making the most of the opportunities that College life brings!

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS & MATRICULATION

Matriculation is a ceremony held in Durham Cathedral to admit new members of the University. At the Matriculation Ceremony, one undergraduate Member of the College and one postgraduate Member of the College sign the Matriculation Book on behalf of all new Members entering the College and University. By this act, and by registering with the University, each Member makes the following declaration:

I agree to be bound by all University Statutes, Regulations and Rules (available at [Governance Documentation - Durham University](#)), as amended by the University from time to time. This includes the [Student Pledge - Durham University](#).

- **Before Matriculation**, all Members are required to complete the MANDATORY **Consent Matters: Boundaries, Respect and Positive Intervention module** on Blackboard, see link here — [EDI hub - Home](#)
- The University's Statutes, Regulations, and Rules are set out in General Regulation IV ([Governance - Durham University](#)). The University's Policies may be found on the Policy Zone SharePoint and the Student Support and Wellbeing SharePoint.
- The Principal of the College (or her delegate) is an Authorised University Officer (AUO) and will investigate reported breaches of University policies under the University's Discipline Regulations ([Non-Academic Misconduct and Discipline - Durham University](#))

UNIVERSITY ON-LINE ENROLMENT & REGISTRATION TASKS TO DO

To become a fully registered Durham student, you'll need to complete our Enrolment and Registration process. There are three elements to Enrolment and Registration:

- 1 Enrol with the University:** as soon as you receive the username and password for your IT account, log into Banner Self Service and complete Enrolment. Read more about Enrolment in our [Enrolling with the University](#) section.
- 2 Select your optional modules:** after the 1st of September, and once you've read the information from your Department in the Learn Ultra Induction site, you can select your optional modules. You can read more about Module Selection in our [Selecting for Optional Modules](#) section.
- 3 Verify your identity:** once you've arrived in Durham, you'll need to take your ID to your College. You can read more about Verification in our [Verifying your Identity](#) section.

Please update or confirm your personal information and accept the University's regulations above. It's really important that you complete this before arriving in Durham (in particular your personal details and tuition fee information) otherwise it may delay getting your campus card etc. **ALL information can be found at this link** [Checklist for New Students - Durham University](#).

Please check your Junk/Spam folders so you don't miss them!

If you don't receive the emails, or are experiencing any issues with enrolment and registration, our Smart Service Gateway can help. Please visit here—[Smart Service Gateway - Durham University](#)

ARRIVAL AT GREY COLLEGE

The University Welcome and Orientation period for new students (known as Freshers' Week) starts on Saturday 26th September 2026 for a week. For Postgrads at Grey we start on Friday 25th September, with welcome & induction activities/events. If you are an international student you can arrive from 23rd September. Please see below for arrival dates to Grey College.

Students with a residential contract with Grey in College

All postgraduate students who have signed licence agreements for accommodation within Grey College should arrive at the College on Wednesday 23rd or Thursday 24th September. Upon arrival, at Grey College please report to Reception. You will be given your room key, and notified of your room number/accommodation block and shown there. During the day, students will be around to meet you, but if you arrive out of hours, we'll provide information on what to do.

All new Postgraduates, regardless of where they choose to live should arrive in Durham in time to participate in all the college orientation activities. Remember, we are all members of Grey College Community!

Please note that all postgraduate students must have arrived in Durham by 9am on Friday 25th September to enable them to attend the mandatory College Registration & Verification event, Welcome Induction talks & events, to be fully inducted into the life of both the College and their academic department.

Students who are not UK residents

Students coming from outside the UK are asked to indicate their planned arrival day and time to the College on the registration form to help our planning, and make sure we are able to welcome you.



Students coming from overseas may wish to use the **University's free Meet and Greet** (welcome) Service available on **23rd & 24th September 2026** for those who arrive at Newcastle Airport, details of which can be found at www.durham.ac.uk/study/international/arrivals/

Early Arrivals

Any student who wishes to arrive at Grey College earlier than the commencement of their Licence Agreement should email grey.pgadmissions@durham.ac.uk to check availability and book this, for which there will be a charge.

Non-Resident Students

Postgraduates who will be "living out" are encouraged to arrive in Durham in time to participate in all the college orientation activities. Please note that all postgraduate students must have arrived in Durham by 9am Friday 25th September to enable them to attend the College Registration and Welcome events at 10am and be inducted into the life of both the College and their academic department.

VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY

This is completed at College on Friday 25th September 10am-12noon at our 'Registration & Verification' event. More details will be in college emails. Don't forget to bring your Passport or UK Photo Driving Licence with you to Durham for verification collect your campus card.

COLLEGE PRE-ARRIVAL TASKS

The tasks below can all be completed online. Relevant links to some of them will be circulated in further communications over the coming weeks.

1) COMPLETE COLLEGE REGISTRATION FORM (Deadline 09:00 BST Fri 18th Sep).

This will be emailed to you and covers the following:

- Arrival information – Method of transport (UK students) and date/time of arrival (Students coming from overseas only);
- Dietary Requirements for welcome formals & freshers events
- Consents for contact details to be passed to official photographers for matriculation photographs and Junior / Middle Common rooms for their communications to new students.

2) MODULE SELECTION

It is essential you don't begin selecting optional modules until after 1st September, and after your Department has been in touch to offer you guidance, so you can make informed choices about your module choices.

- Postgraduate taught students need to be registered for 180 credits of modules, and many programmes have "core" modules, which must be studied by all students on that programme. Programme regulations are available at this link—[Programme and Module Handbook: Postgraduate Programme and Module Handbook 2026-2027](#)
- **Most postgraduate research students do not have to choose any modules**, but if this section of the form is showing as incomplete, please contact your department to advise you on the

most appropriate choice of “optional” modules. Further details about this process can be found as follows:

- [Postgraduate Taught Students;](#)
- [Postgraduate Research Students.](#)

3) MIDDLE COMMON ROOM (MCR) WELCOME

Please make sure you’ve read the welcome letters from:

- Middle Common Room (MCR) President Parth Khana [MCR_Pres_-Welcome-Letter-2026.pdf](#)
- Junior Common Room (JCR) President Ishwari [JCR-President-Welcome-Letter.pdf](#)

Further information can be found at [Grey JCR](#) . Further information is also on the college website pages [College PG Welcome Information - Durham University](#) More details about the MCR on pg 10!

4) COLLEGE SOCIAL CODE

This has been developed by the College and JCR (our student body) in partnership to ensure that the social life of College, clubs, societies and committees adds to the wider College Community. The link will be emailed to you and should be **completed by ALL new students by 25th September!**

5) PAYMENT OF OPTIONAL CHARGES

There are a variety of optional fees that students can opt-in to pay from early September e.g. welcome week wristband, gowns. Some of these can be paid in advance of arrival by accessing the appropriate web link from our arrival information. Further details about these charges on **page 10!**

6) MEDICAL REGISTRATION AND VACCINATIONS

Its important that all students coming to Durham register so that they are able to access health care in Durham when they need it, and is especially important if you have an ongoing health condition. More information can be found at [Medical Registration and Advice](#). Most students choose the [Clay-path and University Medical Group](#). Pre-registration is by an online process, which can be done before you arrive in Durham.

As part of the registration, you will be asked whether you have an NHS number or not. You will only have a number if you have previously registered with a doctor in the UK, but you can still complete this online registration if you are an overseas student and don’t already have an NHS number. All students are advised to check required vaccinations are up to date— [Vaccinations - Durham University](#)

7) STUDENT COMMUNITY INDUCTION

At Durham, we are committed to creating a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive community where every individual feels valued and supported. Durham University has a package of training and resources for our students to help us achieve this.

This package is called the **Student Community Induction** and includes:

- **CONSENT MATTERS COURSE** - This is **COMPULSORY** for all new starters, including UG, PGT and PGR students. All new students will be automatically assigned to the course which in-

cludes 3 modules and 1 quiz. This needs to be completed by 25 September 2026.

- **TACKLING HARRASSMENT AND SEXUAL CONDUCT COURSE** — This course is recommended for all new starters, including UG, PGT and PGR students. We encourage our students to complete this optional course which includes 4 modules and 1 quiz.
- **RESPECT, VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS COURSE** - has been developed for staff and students to provide the knowledge and skills to create a respectful environment across the university community.

All new students are therefore required to **complete the compulsory ‘consent matters’ online course** (ABOVE) as a minimum, before participation in any College-based clubs, societies or committees, or activities with Experience Durham. All new students will be automatically assigned to compulsory courses. We hope that all students will find the courses interesting and commit to maintaining our valued culture of respect at Durham University. For more information, visit [EDI hub - Home](#)

During the College Registration & Verification, staff at Grey College will require you to confirm that you have, or will, complete the MANDATORY course and



signed our college social code.

8) POLICE, FIRE AND HEALTH & SAFETY

All students will need to be aware of Police and Fire Safety, and complete our Health and Safety modules prior to arrival.

- **Fire Safety:** Being aware of fire safety advice is extremely important. All students are requested to watch this [video](#) in advance of their arrival at Durham.
- **Police Liaison:** The University enjoys a positive working relationship with Durham Constabulary, including making sure all new students have the best and safest experience possible in the City. All new students should access information & watch a video by Ashleigh White, Community Safety and Engagement Officer. The video offers advice on staying safe while living in Durham can be accessed [here](#).
- **Health and Safety for Students:** There are a number of things all our students should be aware of before arriving in Durham. See further information here: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/colleges-and-student-experience/student-support-and-wellbeing/student-safety/> and download our campus SafeZone app [here](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Important financial information and resources for new students, including details of costs and financial support options, can be found at this [webpage](#).

TUITION FEES

Students confirm how these are being paid as part of the online registration process.

RESIDENCE INVOICES

All sums due to the College, are assembled on a single invoice which will be e-mailed to your Durham e-mail account. The advanced rent payment for accommodation will be taken off the total costs.

Payment is then requested in three equal instalments over the course of the year. Most students opt to set-up a Direct Debit to pay this invoice, which is the University's preferred method of payment. In this case, payments are taken on 1st December, 1st February and 1st June. If you don't set-up a Direct Debit you are responsible for paying the fees on time, on the dates given on your invoice (before the Direct Debit dates).

The residence charge itself will depend on the type of room allocated. In addition, the international early arrival charge will also be added where applicable. It is anticipated that the invoice will be raised and emailed to your Durham email address early in the academic year.

ADDITIONAL COLLEGE CHARGES (NOT PART OF RESIDENCE INVOICE)

College life at Grey is exciting and varied. There are a few optional charges that will allow you to get fully involved in College life. It is important to note that you must opt in to pay common room membership and other charges. If you choose not to opt in, some services and facilities at your college, as well as those provided by the common rooms, may not be available to you, and you will not be able to participate in common room elections.

All the optional charges can be paid in advance of arrival by accessing the appropriate web links from the college emails available early September when further information is circulated. Some are payable via the University 'e-commerce' system, which is also used for payment at attendance at events through the year **and should be signed-up to using your Durham email address**.

STUDENT COMMON ROOM CHARGE (£60 for one year inc. VAT)

The University and College assume that the majority of our students wish to fully participate in the life of the JCR (Junior Common Room) and Middle Common Room (MCR) to benefit from what they offer. The JCR is the main study body of which the MCR is part of, and its run by two full time paid sabbatical officers with elected student representatives.

Students who choose to opt-in, are encouraged to pay for their JCR /MCR levy membership in advance of arrival at Durham. Details of which will be circulated to students in College emails. Make sure to follow @grey_sabbs on Instagram for the latest news!

Grey College JCR/MCR is run by students, for students. The JCR/MCR provide extracurricular opportunities for students throughout their time here, running large-scale events, organising sports teams and societies, encouraging student development and providing support services to students. On joining the JCR/MCR, you'll be part of a community of over 1200 students and will benefit from being amener of both common rooms.

MCR Member Benefits: The MCR membership fee is £60 per year, and upon joining you'll become a member of a community of over 150 students and automatic membership of the undergraduate Junior Common Room, the JCR, who run many other sports and societies, and has over 1200 members. The MCR is run by students for students, Membership fees go towards subsidising the running of the MCR and its activities. Membership of both Common rooms allows MCR members to:

- Participation in over 50 different JCR-run sports, societies and committees (apart from our Rowing Club)
- Join practices, performances (or equivalent) and meetings of college societies and clubs, including the right to stand for office of the society/club. Non-members can only participate if they pay a yearly joining fee for each club/society they wish to be part of.
- Vote at MCR (and JCR) meetings and stand for elected office.
- Represent the MCR on college committees, through taking on unelected roles supporting and organising MCR activity;
- Priority booking period along with the payment of preferential members' rates to events organised by the Common Rooms (including Balls, Formal Dinners etc.).
- Access the use of MCR and JCR equipment (musical instruments, sports, tech).
- Discounted price for access to our on-site Gym

Opting-out of the MCR If you are thinking of not joining the MCR we would encourage you to first contact the MCR or JCR for more information, you can contact:

Ed Cecil, MCR Vice-president - greymcr.vicepresident@durham.ac.uk

Ishwari Ramsaha, JCR President—grey.president@durham.ac.uk,

Lucy Smith (FACSO) - treasurer@greyjcr.co.uk if you would like to apply for support with paying for the Membership Fee. Please check out our website [here](#) if you would like any further information about the JCR and MCR.





WELCOME WEEK CHARGE (£29 inc. VAT)

Grey College Junior Common Room (JCR) with the MCR organises a variety of events during the Welcome and Orientation Period. These are designed to help all our new students get to know each other and settle into College life including social events, talks, tours and society fairs. The cost of participating is £29 and includes a T-shirt. Welcome week must be paid for via the payment platform that will be circulated to students early September in advance of participation and refunds are not possible past arrival at Grey College. Students are therefore encouraged to access the payment system when it becomes available in advance of their arrival to save issues at the Grey College Registration.

There will be a whole range of activities to undertake during Welcome and Orientation (Freshers) Week to welcome you to Durham. These will include events run by both Grey College, Grey Junior Common Room (JCR) and your Department. In college, the following (and more) activities will run:

- Welcome events and ice-breakers;
- Identity verification, Campus Card collection and gown collection;
- Mandatory College Talks on Wider Student Collegiate Life, Consent and Community;
- Health and Safety talks;
- Grey College Matriculation day & ceremony; the official welcome to the University;
- Social activities;
- Freshers Fair.

GOWN (£50)

The wearing of a gown is compulsory at Grey College when attending Matriculation and Formal Meals during term time. Gown purchase is optional before arriving and during the College registration process, when you will be able to collect, sign and pay, via debit or credit card, for a new gown for £50.

We have a limited supply of second hand (laundered) gowns, available priced at £25. If you would like to be considered for a second hand gown, please email grey.pgadmissions@durham.ac.uk with your height, and we will check availability, on a first come first served basis.

LINEN PACKS (OVERSEAS/ISLANDS STUDENTS ONLY)

Students arriving from Overseas and the Islands, who are resident in the College can order and pay for a Linen Pack including duvet and cover, pillow and pillow case and one sheet (singles cost £35, doubles cost £53) and payment made in advance of their arrival. These will be in your room ready for your arrival. Payment should be made via a link in a college email circulated early September.



WELCOME AND ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

Postgraduate Welcome and Orientation Week contains a range of activities. Some are compulsory, and you need to attend them to be properly inducted into your College and Department. We also have a wide range of fun social events to help you to settle in and to get to know your fellow postgraduate students - we encourage you to attend as many of these as possible.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT INDUCTION

Induction activities take place in departments and your department will contact you directly with details of these activities. You can also find them using the online [Induction Planner](#).

Taught programme teaching begins on or after Monday 2nd October. Your academic departments will provide you with all necessary details of teaching times for your programme of study.

ID VERIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

College Registration will be held on the morning of **Friday 25th September 10am—12noon** in Fountains Hall. You will need to bring your Passport or UK Photo Driving License with you. Once we have verified your identity you can collect your campus card. You can also collect your gown if purchased.

COLLEGE WELCOME AND ORIENTATION TALKS

The mandatory **College Orientation and Welcome college talks** for our new postgraduate students takes place at **15:15hrs on Friday 25th September**, in Holgate House, Grey College. This is compulsory for all new postgraduate student members of the College. At this, you will meet College staff, find out about the facilities and support mechanisms available at the College, and be introduced to postgraduate life at Grey with the JCR/MCR.

The orientation talks will be followed by a drinks reception at 17:00hrs then a dinner through the servery in dining hall, the College bar will be open following this, when you can meet other new postgraduate students. All students are asked to indicate their attendance through the College registration form which we will send you to complete via email to aid our planning.

PG FORMAL WELCOME DINNER

The first formal dinner of the academic year, which is free to attend for all new postgraduate students, will be held on **Thursday 8th October 2026**. This forms an important part of your College welcome and your attendance is encouraged. Please let us know whether you will be attending and confirm dietary requirements, by completing the relevant section on the College Online Registration form.

The dress code is smart dress (jacket and tie, or equivalent) and academic gowns. Further information will be circulated to attendees at the end of Welcome Week.

OTHER ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

The Middle Common Room (MCR) and PG Mentors/Freps will organise a variety of social activities for new postgraduates, including film nights, tours, and talks. These are not compulsory, but we encourage you to make the most of this experience and attend as many events as possible.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS—SPECIFIC INFORMATION

TRAVELLING TO DURHAM

To help with your travel plans, please see [Location - Durham University](#) and a useful internal arrivals checklist - [Arrivals landing page - Durham University](#)

‘MEET AND GREET’ PROGRAM

NEW International students who arrive at Newcastle Airport on 23rd & 24th September can book our FREE Meet and Greet Service. More information can be found at this [website](#)., including the booking form which need to be completed only when your accommodation is secured and by 16 September.

LETTER REQUESTS

International students occasionally require letters of introduction. If you require these, you can contact the [Smart Service Gateway - Durham University](#), and a ticket can be raised.

RIGHT TO STUDY CHECK

If you're not British or Irish (or from the Channel Islands or Isle of Man), you're required to complete a Right to Study when you arrive in the UK and before starting your course, and after any changes to your permission to live in the UK and study at Durham. The check is required by the UK Government and is part of your University registration process. If you don't complete it, you won't be registered on your course, and you'll lose access to IT and other facilities.

The Student Immigration Service will contact you if you're required to complete a Right to Study check. If you need more information, please visit the [Student Immigration Service - Durham University](#) and you can also seek advice via the [Smart Service Gateway - Durham University](#)

NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

In accepting an offer of a place at the University students agree to be bound by the University's regulations, which include Section IV Discipline. Students are expected to adhere to the University's regulations on conduct; failure to do so can result in disciplinary action.

Students are expected to treat all members of the community with respect including their peers, staff, and visitors to the University and members of the local community, as outlined in the **Student Pledge**. This is confirmed in the College matriculation Ceremony at the Cathedral.

Students are expected to behave in a way that does not interfere with or cause disruption to the normal operations of the University and community. Where there is reason to believe that rules and regulations have been broken, and/or when the behaviour of a student falls below the expected standards, these Disciplinary Procedures will be used. More information can be found from the student conduct office web page—[Non-Academic Misconduct and Discipline - Durham University](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS



Where you live is probably the most important part of your university or college experience, especially in your first year. So it's reassuring to know that when you move away from home for the first time, The Student Accommodation Code is there to protect your rights to a safe, good quality place to live.

The Student Accommodation Code has been developed by Universities UK & GuildHE to make sure you get the best out of your time living in university or college accommodation.

GREY COLLEGE ACCOMODATION

Grey College is a fully catered college providing three meals per day during the periods of undergraduate terms. All grey students who live out of college can purchase meals to eat in the dining hall. We mostly have fresher UG rooms (catered), we have a small number of rooms for returning students and new postgrads on College site., some of which are self-catered. Some students may choose to live in private accommodation or at home. Remember, it doesn't matter where you live—we are all members of Grey College!

ACCOMODATION AT GREY COLLEGE

Most students at Grey live in standard rooms having what we term 'shared' bathroom facilities. Each corridor, or section of a block, has a number of private shower cubicles and toilets. We have laundry rooms, and pantries to make snacks which all have a kettle, toaster, microwave and fridge. We have limited amount of self-catered rooms, these have access to a kitchen with oven and hob.

All undergraduate and postgraduate offer holders would have received an email inviting you to complete the Disability Disclosure Form if you would like to do so. This form gives you the opportunity to: tell us about your disability / medical condition; the support you think you'll need, and any support you've had in place before. More information can be accessed here— [How to arrange support - Durham University](#)

SECURING ACCOMODATION

Students who have met the Accommodation Guarantee from the University will receive a Licence Agreement and 'Particulars of Offer' letter via email within a week of receiving their confirmed allocation to Grey College. You must agree within the stated deadline to secure your room in College—**Your accommodation is not guaranteed until this is done!**



BICYCLES AT GREY

Students who bring bicycles to Durham should ensure that they are stored in the College bicycle shed. To opt-in to do this, please pay a **£30 deposit for a bike shed key to the JCR upon your arrival at Grey College**. Your deposit will be returned at the end of the year when you return the key.

Bicycles should not be taken inside University buildings, including student bedrooms. Students who are found to have brought a cycle into their bedroom will be sanctioned. Considerable damage has been caused to College property in previous years by cycles being brought into buildings.

Students are advised to ensure that appropriate insurance is taken out against loss or theft of cycles. For more details, please email Lucy (JCR sabb officer) at grey.treasurer@durham.ac.uk.

CATERING AT GREY

College provides three meals a day, seven days per week during periods of Undergraduate Term. All dietary requirements can be catered for, **please indicate these in our College Registration Form**. If your dietary requirements are complex, you will be contacted or you can see Nicola Gittins, Food & Beveridge manager on arrival. Every corridor has a pantry to make snacks in between meals, which includes a kettle, fridge, microwave and toaster.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

As a member of Grey College and Durham University you are part of a community which is proud to be committed to environmental sustainability. Greenspace is the name for Durham University's environment team, who coordinate environmental initiatives across the University focusing on: energy, including the carbon management plan; waste; water; travel; and biodiversity ([Greenspace Movement - Durham University](#)) We also have our "Grey goes Green" biodiversity project, which two grey student biodiversity interns run, see our college Instagram!

LAUNDRY Our washing and drying facilities are all card operated. The majority of our washing machines come pre-loaded with detergent and conditioner, but there are a few machines that will let you use your own detergent.

You must not dry laundry in your bedroom as this will cause mould. All laundry rooms have clothes-horses to dry items that cannot be tumble dried—as such, please do not bring your own clothes-horse to College. To use the washing machines in College you will need to download the *Circuit Plus App* and set-up an account. More details on this will be in your arrival pack.

LINEN

All mainland UK-based students must bring their own bed linen (sheets, duvet, duvet cover, pillow, and pillow case). We'd recommend bringing a double flat sheet and double duvet as these can be folded to any size bed.

Overseas students (including students from Ireland/Channel Islands) can order and pay for a linen pack if desired as described earlier. Linen Packs which have been purchased will be ready in student bedrooms upon arrival and include: 1 Duvet, 1 Duvet Cover, 1 Pillow, 1 Pillowcase and 1 Sheet.

TV LICENCE

There's nothing like that last minute goal, the nail-biting season finale or your favourite Friday night sitcom to bring students together, laughing, crying and cheering over a laptop in College!

If you plan on watching live TV, watching or streaming programmes live on an online TV service, or downloading, using BBC iPlayer, you will need a TV Licence. The College's license won't cover you and you may not be covered by your parents' license. You can check your eligibility and purchase a licence if needed [online](#).

PORTABLE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

The University has a legal duty to ensure that all electrical equipment used on its premises are safe. There will be a list of prohibited items on the website from September, please do not bring any of these items to College with you. For certain other items, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) will be available in the College during Welcome Week. Some items are only allowed in the kitchenettes in each block.

There are some simple precautions you can take to prevent danger from portable electrical equipment in low-risk environments, such as University residential accommodation:

Extension leads and Bar Adaptors

- To avoid overloading sockets and risk of fire, please check the current rating of the extension lead before plugging appliances into it. Most are rated at 13 A, but some are rated at only 10 A or less - the rating should be clearly marked on the back or underside of the extension lead. If not, refer to the manufacturer's instructions. Never overload an extension lead by plugging in appliances that together will exceed the maximum current rating stated for the extension lead. This could cause the plug in the wall socket to overheat and possibly cause a fire.
- Only use one socket extension lead per socket and never plug an extension lead into another extension lead.
- Use a multi-way bar extension lead rather than a block adaptor as this will put less strain on the wall socket. Some block adaptors do not have a fuse, which increases the risk of overloading and fire. The use of block adaptors which do not incorporate a fuse is not permitted in University premises.

Using electrical products from other Countries

Using international appliances in UK sockets is dangerous if their plugs have not been converted for UK use, and it could result in a fire or electric shock. Travel adaptors are not appropriate long-term solutions as they are not a suitable nor safe alternative for continuous use.

Do not put yourself or others at risk by using international plugs in UK sockets!!

You can use a conversion plug to improve the safety of your international appliances. Please note that travel adaptors are not the same as conversion plugs. Conversion plugs have several benefits:

- They can be fitted easily, quickly and safely;
- They will make the electrical appliance safe for UK sockets;
- They will reduce the risk of fire;
- They will reduce the risk of electric shock.

We recommend you replace the appliance with a UK standard electrical product if the plug is not suitable for conversion.

List of Prohibited Items in study bedrooms, pantries and kitchens

To keep everyone safe, Durham University has identified that certain items are prohibited in bedrooms, pantries and kitchens. College officer may remove other items not on the list if they are considered to be a danger, if in doubt please contact the College Operations manager, Jo Bell. Please read the list before arriving in college which will be put on the website.

Fire Safety

If the fire alarm rings continually you must evacuate the building as quickly as possible using the nearest fire exit, if on site in College the fire assembly point is at car park in front of Fountains Hall. Please do not try to re-enter any building until told by staff its safe to do so, this is for your own safety and the safety of others. Tampering with fire alarms is a disciplinary offence and will not be tolerated.

Reception and Mail

Reception is open Monday to Friday between 0800—1600hrs. Staff can be contacted at grey. Reception@durham.ac.uk

Please put your full name, room number, block and Grey College, South Road, Durham DH1 3LG on any mail you arrange. Parcels will be delivered to and stored securely at reception and can be collected daily between the hours of 13.30—17.00 hrs and 1900hrs and 2000hrs Monday to Friday, and between 11—12 noon and 1600 and 1700 hrs on Saturday and Sunday. Please bring photographic ID in the form of your campus card to collect parcels and sign for them. Staff will email you if a letter is delivered.

When you move out of College you must notify all your correspondents of your new address immediately, including any companies you order goods from. You must also notify College staff and update your address on all University information platforms. College is unable to forward any post to your new address and the College will not accept parcels/mail once you are no longer resident.

TRANSPORT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Extra cars put real strain on the environment and can create tension between Durham permanent residents and the University. Combined with city's narrow historic streets and very limited parking, these pressures are why the University strongly discourages students from bringing cars. Permits are needed to park on site, see the [University's Car Parking Policy](#) for details. You can find more guidance on student car use on the [Cars](#) page of the Good Neighbour Agreement.

Fortunately, Durham is easy to get around without a car. You can find out more about public transport, walking and cycling routes, travel discounts and other sustainable travel options visit the [University's Public Transport webpages](#), or [Wheels2Work](#) scheme which offers low cost bike, e bike and scooter loans.

PORTERS / RSA's PORTERS / RSA's

Our Porters are also known as Residential Services Assistants (RSA's). Please get to know them as they are here to help you and their role is to keep both you and the College safe. They carry out day-to-day maintenance and ensure that safety equipment is in working order. In the event of emergency, please contact them immediately on 0191 33 45900 or 07715 771447. Save this number to your phone as you never know when you might need it. The porters are on duty 24/7 and are fully first aid trained and they will ensure that College staff are informed of any incidents.

Repairs

If you require any repairs to be carried out, please complete the college maintenance QR code which you will see on posters in your accommodation block. We encourage you to report any urgent maintenance issue directly to reception or porter if out of hours, as soon as possible to ensure a prompt response and prevent any further damage.

We aim to carry out your repair as soon as we possibly can but during busy periods it can take us a little longer than usual. We work through repairs in priority order and will attend to things such as leaks, electricity issues and large appliance failures first and will then action non priority. It may be necessary for the porter to refer the task to our central university trades team depending on the complexity of the repair.

The Porter and/or University contractors will need to enter your room and kitchen once a month to conduct a water temperature test. If you notice insects in your room or communal areas, please notify the Porter as soon as possible by emailing jbc.porter@durham.ac.uk A repair cannot be carried out if the Porter is not informed of the need for the repair so please ensure you take the time to report all problems.

CLEANING

You are responsible for cleaning your own bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. All must also be kept in a sufficiently tidy state. Room checks will be conducted throughout the academic year, to ensure that your living spaces are kept clean and tidy. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. Cleaning includes the washing of your mattress protector and shower curtain; both can be put into the washing machines and tumble dryers and must be properly cared for during your stay. Cleaning your bathroom includes cleaning the shower trap – the plug hole where the water drains. and hair from building up and clogging the pipes

SIGNING OUT OF COLLEGE

Should you leave College for periods of two or more days, we recommend that you sign your keys back in at reception. This means that you do not have to worry about leaving your key at home after a short visit, and you can collect them at any time when you return as our reception operates 24/7. If signing out of your accommodation permanently, ensure you inform the College and reception, that you are leaving and not returning. Once signed out you must completely clear your room.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Our non-resident students are vital members of our community. We encourage all students who "live out" to maintain contact with Grey by participating in events, organised by both the MCR and college, and by making use of the available facilities on site. We hope you will make the most of the many opportunities that postgraduate membership of Grey College brings.

Grey isn't just a focus for your social life and a place to collect your mail, it is also an important point of contact with the University. We offer a range of student services, including wellbeing support. These services are open to all Grey students, both resident and non-resident.

We must be able to get a message to you in an emergency, so it is essential that you keep the University informed of your correct term-time address and telephone numbers via the Banner Self-Service system.

Please familiarise yourself with the University's code of conduct for students who live out at [Codes of Practice - Durham University](#).

TERM DATES 2026/27

Welcome & Orientation Week: 28th September 2026 - 4th October 2026

All resident students are expected to be back in college residence the evening before the first day of each term

Term	Start	End
Welcome Week	28 September 2026	4 October 2026
Michaelmas term	5 October 2026	11 December 2026
Christmas vacation	12 December 2026	10 January 2027
Epiphany term	11 January 2027	19 March 2027
Easter vacation	20 March 2027	25 April 2027
Easter term	26 April 2027	25 June 2027
Summer vacation	26 June 2027	26 September 2027

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Grey College
South Road
Durham
DH1 3LG

Email: grey.pgadmissions@durham.ac.uk

Phone: 0191 334 5900

Website:

www.durham.ac.uk/colleges-and-student-experience/colleges/grey/pgwelcome/