

DISCOVER YOUR OPPORTUNITIES



**DISCOVER
DOWNING**



**DOWNING
COLLEGE**
CAMBRIDGE



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Discover opportunities at Downing

From studying Medicine to Theology, from experiencing rowing to chess, and from theatre productions to jazz bands, there is space for all interests at Downing.

Downing College offers a unique experience for all students to pursue academic excellence, while exploring new opportunities and interests.

Prior to coming to Downing, I was very apprehensive about what to expect from such a place. Being from an area of low participation to higher education, I was worried that I would feel alone at university. However, Downing has greatly increased my self-confidence and has given me lots of opportunities to meet like-minded people from a much wider background than I ever imagined.

Zak, HSPS



About Downing College

Downing College is a friendly and diverse community, set within 20 acres of grounds in central Cambridge. Situated off Regent Street, the Downing community comprises about 500 undergraduates and 460 postgraduates across a multitude of disciplines.

I've met some amazing and inspirational people, both current students and alumni, and the sense of community is really strong.

Merryn, Geography



Study at Downing

Students at Downing are supported in a variety of ways.

DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Students are allocated a Director of Studies, who are experts in their fields. Each Director of Studies will support, advise and monitor students throughout their course. An essential part of the role is to guide students on their subject options and paper choices.

The support that you get from academics is incredible because the one-on-one learning in supervisions really helps you engage with your course on a deeper level.

Anaya, HSPS

TUTOR

Downing College has a Senior Tutor and a number of Tutors. Every student is assigned a Tutor, whose subject differs from that of their students. Tutors can provide advice and signpost to the most appropriate source of support. It is in each student's best interest to inform their Tutor as soon as any illness or difficulty occurs which is likely to affect attendance, study or examination performance. Tutors are normally available to see their students in



College during the term and are contactable by email. They can also be seen by appointment. It is important that you get to know your Tutor as it is the Tutor's role to make sure, if required, that you are represented in the College and University, and they will write on your behalf (for example for grant or bursary funding, or for exam allowances).

TUTORIAL AND ADMISSIONS OFFICE

The Tutorial and Admissions Office is staffed by an experienced team of professional administrators throughout the week, and is overseen by the Senior Tutor.

The staff support students both prior to admission and throughout their time at Downing. This support starts well before a student applies via Downing's extensive outreach and widening participation programme. The Tutorial and Admissions Office has an extremely broad remit and covers admissions, both for undergraduate and postgraduate study, as well as undertaking a variety of student related administration. Staff are responsible for enrolments, exams, student loans, visa checks, breaks from study, graduation, as well as organising regular study seminars on topics such as essay writing and study skills.



Working closely with Directors of Studies and Tutors, the Tutorial and Admissions Office provides advice and signposting to the most appropriate source of support.

SUPERVISIONS

Alongside lectures and seminars, students regularly meet in College for small group teaching with their supervisors.

STUDENT WELLBEING CENTRE

The centre is a hub for promoting and supporting student health and wellbeing. The service is delivered by a Head of Student Wellbeing, a Student Wellbeing Advisor and two College Nurses. Our staff aim to support, improve and protect students' wellbeing by promoting positive physical, mental and community health. Students are offered physical and mental health advice, guidance and signposting, and invited to regular wellbeing events and activities.



Study spaces

Downing students can enjoy a variety of spaces for study and learning.

LIBRARY

The Maitland Robinson Library is open to all Downing students, with 24-hour access for members, and has core texts for all courses. The Library has an extensive range of seating (both communal group settings and individual desks), as well as computing and printing facilities.

The College's archivist regularly displays exhibitions that illustrate Downing's unique history.

LORD BUTTERFIELD CAFÉ

By day, Downing's Lord Butterfield Cafe and JCR (Junior Common Room) serves as a brilliant place to study and is a favourite among students who prefer a more lively atmosphere.



PADDOCK

The Paddock is a popular large outdoor space for students to study as well as to play sports and relax. During the warmer months, tables and chairs are provided for students to use.

ROSE GARDEN & WEST LODGE GARDEN

Both the Rose Garden and the West Lodge Garden provide tranquil spaces to study outside.

EASTER TERM STUDY SPACES

In the Easter (exam) Term, College offers additional study spaces.



Social spaces

Downing is a very sociable college and at the heart of this is the Butterfield café. In the evening, it opens as a bar, which runs regular events, such as a weekly pub quiz and jazz nights with live student bands!

Ellie, Law

MUSIC

The College has its own Music Centre with practice rooms that can be booked by students.

Downing has a selection of music opportunities including the Chapel Choir which regularly hosts evensong and is open to all regardless of faith. Another example of Downing's diverse social life is the College jazz band, often to be found performing in the Butterfield Café.

THEATRE

Downing has its own purpose-built theatre which is available for student use. The Howard Theatre is designed in a traditional style, yet boasts top quality stage-lighting and sound equipment. The theatre hosts a variety of productions and events, both student-run and externally-led. Key annual events by the Downing Dramatic Society include the Freshers' Play and the annual 'A Festival of New Writing', showcasing the best one-act plays by student writers.



SPORT

Downing's sporting community thrives within Downing's extensive grounds. The Lt Col Anderson Fitness Room, the College's multi-gym, is located on-site and features a range of fitness equipment.

The Paddock serves as a playing field where sports teams can regularly be found practicing. Downing's own multipurpose courts are on-site for tennis, netball, and basketball.

Additionally, Downing has its own sports pitches that are just a 15 minute cycle away, as well as its own Boat House by the river which is home to the only indoor rowing tank in Cambridge.



Living at Downing

ACCOMMODATION

All students at Downing are guaranteed on-site accommodation for the first three years of their studies, creating an inclusive and welcoming community within the College.

Downing's accommodation is known as being one of the best amongst Cambridge Colleges. The College offers a variety of rooms in modern and more traditional settings, both in the main court and in adjoining College-owned houses. Over half of the rooms are en-suite and no rooms are shared. All rooms have access to shared kitchens giving the option for self-catering, as well as free laundry facilities.

Downing has a transparent pricing structure for accommodation, with all bills included ensuring that living in College is accessible to all students. College has adapted rooms available for students with access needs.

All of the accommodation is comfortable and well-appointed. We're incredibly lucky.

Tara, Music



CATERING

While all rooms have access to shared kitchen facilities, students also have the choice to eat either in the neoclassical Dining Hall or the Lord Butterfield Café at affordable prices. The Dining Hall serves meals daily, including the popular brunch at weekends, and caters for a range of dietary requirements.

Students have the option to attend a three-course meal known as 'Formal Hall'. Formal Hall is a Cambridge tradition, served in the candle-lit dining hall, and is available to students a number of times each week and on special occasions.

Downing food is the best! Whether it's a panini from the cafe or a three course meal at Formal Hall, the food is delicious and reasonably-priced.

Zadie, Classics



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Downing is home to many student-run societies, both academic and non-academic. The societies regularly hold social events and host key speakers. All societies are open to all Downing students. In addition students are encouraged to create their own societies.

The Blake Society, inspired by Downing's alumnus Sir Quentin Blake, is one of the humanities societies. Other academic societies include the Danby Society for STEM (science) subjects, the Cranworth Law Society, and the Whitby Medical Society. There is also the Downing Dramatic Society, the Board Game Society, as well as cultural and faith societies.

College sports clubs include rugby, tennis, rock climbing, rowing and ultimate frisbee. Students are welcomed by all clubs and societies regardless of ability.

Joining the JCR Committee is a brilliant opportunity for students who wish to participate in the running of the College. JCR Committee Officers are actively involved in shaping the undergraduate experience.

We get access to some excellent speakers and the chance to talk to people at length who you would never otherwise get the chance with.

Matthew, Engineering



DOWNING'S COMMUNITY

Downing prides itself on the people and networks that are readily available for supporting students.

College families are a student-run mentoring scheme. All new students are placed within a College family where students in the year above support them in their first year at Downing.

The College family system has been by far my most helpful support network. I'm so grateful for all the help and support my College parents gave me when I started at Downing.

Lara, English



Costs and financial support

Cambridge University provides financial support to make the institution more accessible. From the Cambridge Bursary Scheme (for families with a low income) to the Cambridge Trust who look to bridge the funding gap between home and international students.

Financial support is available from Cambridge University, the Department and the College. The College subsidises a number of costs including College food and laundry. In addition, Downing provides a range of bursaries which can provide funding for books, travel, and language courses, as well as assisting in the event of any unexpected costs. Students are also awarded scholarships and prizes for academic excellence.



Applying to Downing

ADMISSIONS QUICK FACTS: 2023

Subjects – **all on offer**

Interview format – **online**

Number of undergraduate places offered – **approximately 130**

Number of Foundation Year places offered – **5**

UCAS DEADLINES

Undergraduates – **16 October 2023**

My Cambridge Application (additional application information) – **23 October 2023**

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/mycamapp>

Foundation Year – **15 January 2024**

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Our selection process is designed to identify candidates with not only a strong academic potential but also the ability to think critically and independently. We seek candidates who possess a genuine passion for their subject and a deep-seated motivation to excel.



HOW WE SELECT

Downing assesses applications by considering all information available. No part of the application is considered in isolation. We take into account the following:

- Academic record
- Personal statement
- School or College reference
- Written work submitted (if required)
- Admissions assessment performance (if required)
- Interview performance
- Extenuating circumstances

Downing admits according to the University's standard offers (typically A*AA or A*A* A at A level or equivalent). For Law Downing admits at A*A*A

Once you realise that all the interviewers want to know is how you think and process problems/new information, the interview will be a lot more enjoyable! It's not a test, all they are looking for is potential. In fact, looking back the interview is very much like the supervisions you have once you are an undergrad.

Sophie, Natural Sciences



Downing College open days and virtual events

UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS 2023

6 and 7 July • 15 September

<https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/outreach/open-days-2023>

APPLICATION SUPPORT WEBINAR

The webinar involves a variety of sessions that will help students prepare for the application process including: an admissions overview, personal statement workshop, and interview advice.

The webinar will be run by members of the admissions team and current undergraduate students, who will provide advice and answer questions.

<https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/outreach/year-12-application-support-webinar>



To find out more head over to our Outreach pages where you will find a number of upcoming in-person and online events, as well as resources to help prepare a competitive application.

<https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/outreach>

In addition, current student are available to chat through the Downing website

<https://dow.cam.ac.uk/>

The Downing Residential was instrumental for me in deciding to apply to Downing. The opportunity to get first-hand advice on applying was incredibly helpful and helped me to realise that getting an offer was possible. It made Cambridge seem like an achievable goal. The students spoke highly about the community atmosphere of the College and the array of societies and sports clubs available, so I knew it was a place that I'd be able to enjoy both work and play.

David, Medicine

College Domus map



DOWNING
COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

- 1 B staircase Offices
Tutorial and Admissions
Bursary and College Accountant
IT
Catering
Internal events booking
Information &
Communications



- 2 Level entrance to
A, B and C staircases

- 3 Human Resources

- 4 Wellbeing Centre

- 5 College Office

- 6 Conferences & Events

- 7 Development &
Alumni Relations

- 8 Computer Room

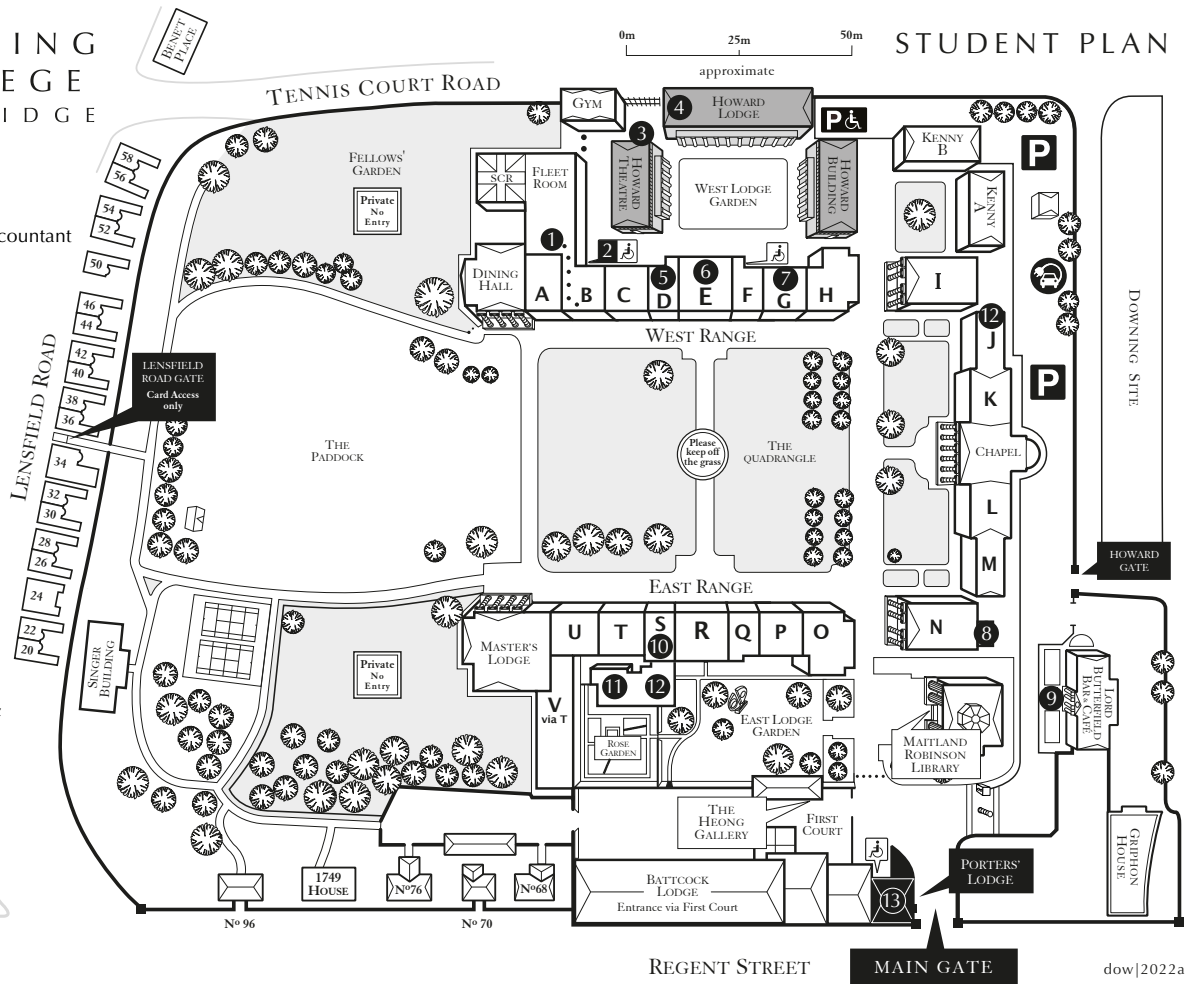
- 9 Lord Butterfield Café &
JCR Bar

- 10 MCR / Common Room
TV Room

- 11 Music Centre

- 12 Laundries

- 13 Porters' Lodge
Head Porter
Accommodation
Housekeeping
Maintenance



<https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/contact>