



DOWNING COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

How we use your personal information

-- *Students*

This statement explains how Downing College ("the College", "we" and "our") handles and uses information we collect about those applicants we make an offer of study to, and students once they join the College ("you" and "your"). In broad terms, we use your personal information to manage the ongoing relationship between the College and you as part of our lifelong community of scholars. This includes guiding and supporting your academic studies, maintaining and reviewing your academic progress and pastoral welfare, reviewing your financial commitments to the College and (where you live in College accommodation) managing our relationship with you as a resident.

When changes are made to this statement, we will publish the updated version on our website and notify you by other communications channels as we deem appropriate or necessary.

The controller for your personal information is Downing College, Cambridge, CB2 1DQ. The person responsible for data protection at the time of issue, and the person who is responsible for monitoring compliance with relevant legislation in relation to the protection of personal information, is the Data Protection Officer. Please contact us at data.protection@dow.cam.ac.uk if you have any questions about this statement or how we manage your personal data.

The normal legal basis for processing your personal information is that it is necessary in the performance of one or more contracts with us (including preparing to become a student of the College, the expectations on both sides during your course of studies and any related accommodation contract). We have commitments to other external bodies (particularly the University of Cambridge) as part of those contracts, and we outline below (see "*How we share your personal information*") how and when we ordinarily will share your personal information. For some specific purposes, we may rely on another legal basis, including where we are required for compliance with a legal obligation (e.g. financial records, equal opportunities monitoring), or where we believe it is in our legitimate interest to do so (e.g. to enable your access to external services). You may ask us for further information on these matters at any time if you have specific concerns.

How your information is used by the College

We collect and process your personal information, as specified below, for a number of purposes, including:

- A. Maintaining your personal details, including ensuring effective communications with you;

- B. Maintaining a formal record of your academic progress and achievements at the College, the University of Cambridge and elsewhere;
- C. Maintaining a formal record of your other engagements with and achievements at the College, the University of Cambridge and elsewhere;
- D. Maintaining a record, where appropriate, of any particular personal needs you require to participate fully in College and University life (including any support needs that are, or have been, provided by the College or the University during your course of studies), as well as data about your general health and wellbeing;
- E. Maintaining financial records relating to your studies, your funding and other financial support arrangements;
- F. Provision of references to third parties;
- G. Maintaining a record of your behaviour and in particular where there have been concerns or complaints raised about you;
- H. Maintaining a record of any complaints you make to the College and their outcomes;
- I. Maintaining records of any references received;
- J. Provision of Freshers' preferred email and College room numbers to the JCR/MCR to enable contact to be made in advance of arrival and in accordance with the College parenting system;
- K. Maintaining data to enable the College and the University to produce statistics and research for internal and statutory reporting purposes.

Further details are provided in the Annex. If you have concerns or queries about any of these purposes, please contact us at the address given above, or at data.protection@dow.cam.ac.uk

We operate CCTV on our property, which will capture footage. Our CCTV privacy statement is available at [dps_surveillance_cctv_2021.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

Please note that if you engage with us for any other purpose (e.g. you work for us, or volunteer for us), there are additional data protection statements that you will be provided with for those other purposes, usually at the first point of engagement.

How long we keep your information for

The Annex outlines specific retention periods for certain categories of information: most of these are determined by legal requirements relating to that specific information.

Where no specific retention period is noted, at the point of graduation (or when you go out of residence for the final time), the College reduces your tutorial file to contain a subset of information so that the College can retain a sufficient record of your academic achievements for references and other related purposes, and your time at College. Some of your personal data is kept indefinitely and your tutorial file is transferred to the College Archive, where it may be used in future for research or historical purposes. Your personal data will at all times be held securely and remain confidential during your lifetime.

Records the College retains in the Archive can be found in **Annex B**

Finally, we strongly encourage all of our students to remain in touch with the College after they graduate and, for that reason, **we transfer a subset of this data to the College Alumni and Development Office**. You are encouraged to read our separate data protection statement to cover your ongoing lifelong relationship with the College at <https://www.downingcambridge.com/pages/data-protection-statement>.

How we share your personal information

Within the College

We share the following information with relevant people within the College including your name, CRSID,

College address, preferred contact details, and your photograph. This is considered necessary for the College to operate smoothly, but if you have any particular concerns you can contact the Data Protection Officer at data.protection@dow.cam.ac.uk.

The College also takes photographs of its students, either individually and/or as a group in a matriculation and graduation photographs. These are widely used within the College and may be on public display.

Otherwise, the College restricts the sharing of your personal information within the College in line with its Data Protection Policy: [data protection policy 2.1.pdf \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

With the University

By being a member of a College and registering for a course of study, you are automatically a member of the University of Cambridge. The academic and student support arrangements between the College and the University of Cambridge are complex and varied depending on your course and level of study. Information relating to you (and particularly your academic studies) is shared routinely and often with the University, and the University and its partners (including the College) have a data sharing agreement to govern such interactions and data transfers in both directions, as well as a shared student record system and database.

The personal information shared with the University will include only that which is necessary for you to undertake and complete your studies and your examinations, and in addition will include any information necessary for the College to fulfill its obligations and agreements with the University about the shared University community (including sufficient information for the University to record and collate instances of student behaviour or complaints across all of the Colleges and the University). Where possible, the College will notify you of its intention to share such data in advance.

The University is a separate legal entity to the College and has its own statement about your personal information and its procedures, which you can view at:

<https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/applicant-data>. It in turn shares data with the affiliated student unions and a number of other bodies for statutory and other purposes.

With other organisations

The College shares information with and receives data routinely from, where appropriate:

- Cambridge City Council and other local authorities (to provide evidence of any rights to or exemptions from local services and taxes, including electoral registration and council tax);
- your funding providers or sponsors, as agreed with them and/or you, including the Student Loans Company;
- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (in relation to your application, offer and requirements to meet any offer of study);
- Downing College Alumni Association (unless you have opted out via your CamSIS self-service pages) including information concerning College clubs and societies; awards for Blues, Half-Blues and Colours; your admissions including previous educational institutions; degrees conferred and awards; scholarships, prizes and awards;
- Downing College Amalgamation Club in order to fulfil MCR and JCR electoral and room balloting duties and for new admissions;
- The Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited (HESA) is the body responsible for collecting and disseminating information about higher education in the UK. Please note the following link to the HESA Student Collection Notices, which explains how and why they process your data, the legal bases for this processing, and your rights under data protection legislation:
<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection/notices>

We may also be subject to a legal requirement (with or without your consent) to share your personal information with some government agencies under special circumstances (e.g. relating to crime or health

and safety), such as the police or security services or other statutory authorities with investigatory powers. Where possible, the College will notify you of its intention to share such information in advance.

We will normally provide confirmation of your qualifications and other academic references to a prospective employer or financial sponsor if it is reasonably clear that it would be in your interests to do so, and we have made reasonable checks to ensure the information is being requested for that purpose.

We may also provide personal information to agencies and trusted advisers in order to receive professional advice or guidance in relation to a number of matters (examples of such advice include legal and audit services, fee status verification services, intercollegiate agreement services, IT development projects) or to provide services to you through a third party on our behalf. In such circumstances, data sharing agreements are in place to ensure your personal information is not retained by them for longer than necessary or otherwise shared more widely.

The College may share information with organisations overseas as part of arrangements related to your membership of the College (e.g. field trip, student exchange programme, an overseas funding provider). In most cases, this will be related to the operation of a contract.

When it is in **your vital interest** we may disclose personal information to relevant contacts and services in an emergency situation to prevent serious harm to the physical or mental wellbeing of a student, or to protect a life. Examples of serious circumstances in which this might apply include:

- A student has attended or been admitted to hospital in an emergency.
- A student has suffered a serious physical injury, including self-harm.
- A student ceases to engage with their studies and the Welfare Team has been unable to contact them.
- A student has not recently been seen in College and the Welfare Team has been unable to contact them.
- The College has been advised that a student may be unwell or suicidal and the Welfare Team has been unable to contact them.
- A student has an ongoing illness and they appear to be deteriorating.
- A student is experiencing a mental health crisis.
- You would normally be consulted about who we disclose information to unless it is not possible to do so or to do so would cause a dangerous delay.

Publication of your personal information

We would not normally make your personal information publicly available without your consent.

We would encourage you to be careful when sharing personal information about other students in public social media sites and other similar environments.

Please also note the University's people search function may also be widened to be accessible to the general public by changing the settings at <http://www.lookup.cam.ac.uk/self>: its default setting is otherwise access to all members of the University and all Colleges: we share this because we believe it helps significantly in building community relations and networks and helps others get in touch with you easily.

Your rights

You have the right: to ask us for access to, rectification or erasure of your personal information; to restrict processing (pending correction or deletion); to object to communications; and to ask for the transfer of your personal information electronically to a third party (data portability).

Some of these rights are not automatic, and we reserve the right to discuss with you why we might not comply with a request from you to exercise them.

If you have questions or concerns about your personal information, or how it used, please speak to the relevant College staff in the first instance. If you need further guidance, please contact the Data Protection Officer using the details given above.

If you remain unhappy with the way your information is being handled, or with the response received from us, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Annex

We collect and process your personal information, as specified below, for a number of purposes, including:

A. Maintaining your personal details, including ensuring effective communications with you:

We retain personal information (provided by you or by the University of Cambridge, or created by us), including:

- i) your current name and any previous names you have had;
- ii) unique personal identifiers (e.g. student number, CRSID, date of birth, photograph);
- iii) your current and previous contact details;
- iv) next-of-kin or emergency contacts.

We will assume that you have obtained permission from your next-of-kin or emergency contact for us to hold their information for that purpose.

B. Maintaining a formal record of your academic progress and achievements at the College, the University of Cambridge and elsewhere:

We retain personal information (provided by you or by the University of Cambridge, or created by us), including:

- i) your application details (including any references received), our assessment of your application and the details of any offer(s) of study we have made;
- ii) records of your academic provision from the College (including supervisions, College examinations and other academic support);
- iii) matriculation and graduation details and records of your academic qualifications (including those prior to becoming a member of the College);
- iv) other details of your academic progress or achievements (e.g. College or University awards or prizes).

Where an award or prize is provided by an external sponsor, we will normally share details about you and your academic performance with them.

Records the College retains in the Archive includes your

- Application form
- References received and given
- Interview records
- Offer letters including funding offers
- Copies of all references written (even if duplicated)
- Supervision records
- Academic records
- Medical information (only kept if pertinent to a cause of death)
- Information related to student leaving prematurely
- Major disciplinary matters (e.g. dishonesty, harassment, non-attendance)
- Results
- Records of merit-based awards or special prizes.

- Correspondence (i.e. emails and paperwork intrinsic to the above) including biographical details, including details of addresses and career after the student has left the College.
- College Photograph

C. Maintaining a formal record of your other engagements with and achievements at the College, the University of Cambridge and elsewhere:

We retain personal data (provided by you or by the University of Cambridge, or created by us), including:

- i) records of your membership of College committees, the Junior Common Room (JCR), Middle Common Room (MCR) and College clubs and societies;
- ii) awards, prizes and achievements in College or University-related activities (e.g. music, arts, sports etc.).

D. Maintaining a record, where appropriate, of any particular personal needs you require to participate fully in College and University life (including any support needs that are, or have been, provided by the College or the University during your course of studies), as well as data about your general health and wellbeing:

We retain personal information (provided by you or by the University of Cambridge, or created by us), including:

- i) details of any disability, illness, and any consequent learning support, social support or other support needs;
- ii) details of any serious risks affecting you (e.g. severe allergies);
- iii) information regarding your use of College and University facilities (e.g. computing services, sports facilities, libraries, accommodation, learning spaces), including any special requirements that may be linked to your health or religious beliefs;
- iv) other information to support your health, safety and wellbeing.

We may also retain copies of statements from professional medical advisers, provided either by you or directly to us.

All personal information will be managed in line with our confidentiality policy. We recognise that much of the personal information outlined above is of a sensitive nature and requires a high level of discretion. Wherever possible, we will discuss and agree with you in advance with whom and when we share this information, but reserve the right to disclose information to others in matters relating to significant risks to your health and safety or the health and safety of others. This information is normally retained until **three years** after you complete your studies.

Student medical records are managed in line with the Royal College of Nursing recommendation for the retention of nursing records, currently for a minimum of **eight years**. Any information disclosed, even if aggregated and anonymised, will only be used for the purposes listed in this Appendix unless your further consent has been obtained.

Please note that where you are referred to services not offered directly by the College (e.g. the University Counselling Centre and the University's Disability Resource Centre), these support services will have their own data protection statement (or privacy notice) and we advise you pay close attention to these.

E. Maintaining financial records relating to your studies, your funding and other financial support arrangements:

We retain personal information (provided by you or by the University of Cambridge, or created by us), including:

- i) records of your sources of funding support and tuition fee liabilities and, where relevant, records of your accommodation liabilities and other related charges as well as what monies are to be, and have been, collected by the College on behalf of itself and the University;
- ii) records of any financial support agreed by the University and/or the College (including Cambridge Bursaries, other studentships or awards, additional discretionary funding, benefits or waivers approved by the College);

- iii) where you reside in accommodation owned or managed by the College, copies of any accommodation contract(s);
- iv) where appropriate, your banking details in order to conduct financial transactions, and records of such transactions, and using your personal details (name, address, DoB) to verify it is your bank account;
- v) records of your College financial account, including balance and transactions;
- vi) copies of any correspondence with you about any of the above matters.

Where this information includes the personal information of others (e.g. parental income evidence), we will assume that you have their permission to provide it to us for our purposes. This information is normally retained for **seven** years after you complete your studies.

F. Provision of references to third parties:

In addition to the information above (and particularly your achievements in B and C above), we retain personal information (provided by you or created by us), including:

- i) records of your advisers, including where relevant your Tutor, Director of Studies and other nominated College personnel who provided you with personal support.

G. Maintaining a record of your behaviour and in particular where they have been concerns or complaints raised about you:

We retain personal information (provided by you or by others, or created by us), including:

- i) details of any investigations undertaken by the College into your conduct or behaviour (e.g. disciplinary investigations, fitness to study investigations, complaints made against you);
- ii) a record, including the final outcome, of any investigation of the University into your conduct or behaviour.

The College has several complaints procedures, relating to different matters, which you are expected to familiarise yourself with and, in all cases, personal information will be managed in line with our confidentiality policy. We recognise that investigations may include information or statements of either a sensitive or disputed nature, and that such records require a high level of confidentiality. Wherever possible, we will discuss and agree with you in advance with whom and when we share this information, but reserve the right to disclose information to others in matters relating to significant risks to your health and safety or the health and safety of others.

We will also share the outcome of any complaint's procedure with the complainant. Information relating to any sanctions, or other information held relating to the complaint, may be shared with the complainant where it is proportionate and there is a lawful basis to do so.

This information is normally retained until **one year** after you complete your studies.

H. Maintaining a record of any complaints you make to the College and their outcomes:

We retain personal information (provided by you or by others, or created by us), including:

- i) details of any complaints you have made to the College and their outcomes, where these have been taken through the College complaints procedure.

This information is normally retained until **three years** after you complete your studies.

I. Maintaining records of any references received including from your school /college or from other third parties.

- J. Provision of Freshers' preferred email and College room numbers to the JCR/MCR to enable contact to be made in advance of arrival and in accordance with the College parenting system.
- K. Maintaining data to enable the College and the University to produce statistics and research for internal and statutory reporting purposes:

It is difficult to provide a comprehensive list, but we retain personal information (provided by you), including:

- i) information relating to "equal opportunities" (e.g. nationality, race, religious and other beliefs, gender, sexuality, age) in order to fulfill legal requirements of the College or the University;
- ii) information relating to known relationships with other members (past or present) of the University of Cambridge or any of the Colleges;
- iii) information relating to your rights to live, work and study in the United Kingdom;
- iv) any criminal record that may affect your status as a student of the University or the College.

If you have concerns or queries about any of these purposes, please contact the Data Protection Officer, Downing College, Cambridge, CB2 1DQ or at data.protection@dow.cam.ac.uk

Version control

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Downing College Data Protection Team