

ELECTION OF THE NEXT MASTER

1. Darwin College is seeking to elect a new Master to succeed Professor William Brown on his retirement on 30 September 2012. Darwin College was founded in 1964, partly on funds provided by three of the older undergraduate Colleges, Trinity, St John's and Gonville and Caius Colleges, in order to provide a College dedicated primarily to providing facilities for postgraduate students. The College has always been focused around the two main buildings, Newnham Grange and The Hermitage, at the southern end of the Backs, but there are a number of other College buildings in the vicinity which range from the early 18th century to the late 20th century. Being a relatively "new" College, Darwin does not have a significant amount of purpose-built student accommodation and the College makes the most of every opportunity to increase its accommodation holding since one of its priorities is to provide every new student with College accommodation, at least for their first year.

2. The College comprises the Master, and some 70 Fellows within the Official, Professorial and Research categories, together with a strong cohort of Emeritus Fellows, visiting associates and senior members of the College. The College is proud of the distinctions achieved by so many of its Fellows, former Fellows and alumni/ae within scholarship, research and public life and it is particularly worthy of note that, although the College is not yet 50 years old, five of its members have been Nobel Prize winners, the most recent in 2009.

3. Darwin provides a friendly and stimulating environment for over 600 students, almost entirely graduates registered for Masters' or PhD degrees. The student body is perhaps one of the most diverse within the University and at present comprises representatives from nearly 70 countries, split about 50:50 male/female.

4. Ultimate authority in the College is vested in the Governing Body (Official, Professorial and Research Fellows) with responsibility for everyday administration and business being vested in the College Council, the Fellows of which are the charity trustees in accordance with the new Charities Act. Business is enacted in the main through a series of committees, each of these comprising elected Fellows, student representatives, and the relevant College officers. Within the College offices, the Bursar holds a full-time position but the other offices are filled on a part-time basis by senior academic or academic-related University staff.

5. The duties of the Master, as set out in the College Statutes are as follows:

"Exercising a general superintendence over the affairs and management of the College;

Ensuring that the provisions of the College Statutes are observed;

Presiding, when present, at all meetings of the Governing Body and of the Council and at all meetings of other bodies or committees of which he is a member; and

Making any provisions that he may deem necessary, in any emergency, to ensure the good management of the College, pending a meeting of the Governing Body or the Council to be called with all convenient speed to deal with the matter."

6. The role of the Master is assessed as being 40% of a full-time senior University post and the stipend is accordingly set at 40% of the basic University Professorial scale of stipends with the exact amount being determined by negotiation, subject to ratification by The College's Finance Committee. There is also the possibility of membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme if required. There is a modest entertainment allowance, presently £500, attached to the post and the Master is provided with an office in College together with full secretarial support for College aspects of his rôle. There is no accommodation available with the Mastership although a guest room in College can be made available on an occasional basis if needed.

7. The tenure of the Master is determined by College Statutes which currently accord with University Statutes in requiring College Officers to retire at the end of the academical year (30 September) in which they have attained 67 years of age. If, however, the Master is at least 62 years of age on the date of entering office, College Statutes make provision for the elected candidate to remain in post until the end of the academical year in which s/he attains 70 years of age.

8. Although it has generally been the custom for the Master to hold office jointly with a senior University appointment, this is not a prerequisite for appointment. In these challenging times, however, a keen and current understanding of the issues facing higher education, particularly graduate education for a strongly international membership, would be a distinct advantage. The successful candidate will be expected to provide academic and strategic leadership and to engage fully in the strategic management of The College. S/he will also need to possess the appropriate communications skills that will enable a full participation in the academic and social life of The College and the confidence and personality to act as an ambassador for The College both within Cambridge and externally. These aspects of the role will be especially important given the College's imminent 50th anniversary in 2014-15 and the opportunity that this will provide for undertaking major fund-raising initiatives.

9. Personal applications (marked confidential) and including a curriculum vitae and covering letter should be sent to Dr Margaret Cone, Darwin College, Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EU, by 1 March 2011. Informal enquiries, or recommendation of candidates, may also be made directly to Dr Cone at Cambridge (01223) 335133, or by e-mail to mc10004@cam.ac.uk. Further information about the College is available at <http://www.darwin.cam.ac.uk>. It is hoped that short-listed candidates will be invited to meet the Fellows, both formally and informally, during May 2011.

10. The College encourages applications from men and women equally and is committed to diversity and equality.