Election of the next Master

Information for Candidates: March 2019
Darwin College is seeking to elect a new Master to succeed Professor Mary Fowler on 1 October 2020.

Darwin is one of the thirty-one Colleges of the University of Cambridge. Founded in 1964 as the first college exclusively for graduate students, it was also the first mixed college at the University. The College comprises a Master, 50 Official and Professorial Fellows, 20 Research Fellows, some 30 Research Affiliates and Associates, some 700 graduate students and 50 support staff; it now has more graduate students than any other Cambridge College. The Fellows, who are members of the University and associated Research Institutes, and students study the whole range of disciplines within the University, while the alumni, now over 8,000 in number, are drawn from and now spread over 100 countries or more.

The College, named after the Darwin family, is centred on the family home of Sir George Darwin, mathematician and astronomer, and one of Charles Darwin’s sons. The main College site is in central Cambridge, on the banks of the River Cam at the southern end of ‘The Backs’, with additional residential property nearby. About one third of the students live in College property close to the main site.

Among the Fellows, former Fellows and graduates are many individuals who have achieved eminence in research, scholarship and public life, including several Nobel Prize winners. This friendly academic community of excellence, in its beautiful home, has a quietly informal spirit and a strongly international focus. Authority in the College is vested in the Governing Body, of which all Official, Professorial and Research Fellows are members. The College is a Registered Charity; the Master and Fellows on the College Council are the Charity Trustees. Oversight of the College’s activities is the responsibility of the College Council and is exercised through a number of committees, each comprising a mix of Fellows, staff members and elected student representatives, with the appropriate College Officers. The business of the College is supported by a strong administrative team. The main College Offices are filled by Fellows and, with the exception of the Bursar and the Development Director, are part-time appointments. There are currently two Vice-Masters.
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 [the Master] is a member; and
Making any provisions that [the Master] 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."

The Fellows aim to make an appointment of at least five years in the first instance. The College seeks candidates who are academically distinguished or otherwise recognised as scholarly. The College and the University are committed to the pursuit of academic excellence, to equality of opportunity and to a pro-active and inclusive approach to equality, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture, and values diversity.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide academic and strategic leadership and to engage fully in the activities of the College. Although the Master has often held office jointly with a senior University appointment, this is not necessary, indeed it is not currently the case. 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 Master will possess the appropriate communication skills to enable 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. The College has increased its fundraising ambitions in recent years and the successful candidate will engage closely with this function, which will include building and maintaining relationships and some overseas travel.

The role of the Master is assessed as being 40% to 60% of a full-time senior University post and the stipend is set with regard to the basic Professorial salary on the University Single Salary Spine, the exact amount being determined by negotiation subject to ratification by the College's Finance Committee. There is the possibility of membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme. There is also an entertainment allowance and the Master is provided with an office in College together with secretarial support. The College has not in the past provided accommodation for its Master, but it has recently taken steps to make provision possible, and this can be discussed with candidates at an appropriate point.
The tenure of the Master is determined by College Statutes which 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, provision is made for the elected candidate to remain in post until the end of the academical year in which they attain 70 years of age.

Personal applications (marked confidential) and including a curriculum vitae and covering letter should be sent as PDF to mastership@darwin.cam.ac.uk by 26 April 2019. Informal enquiries, or recommendation of candidates, may also be made directly to Professor Anne-Ferguson Smith, Chair of the Search Committee, or Julian Evans, College Secretary, Darwin College, Cambridge, CB3 9EU, via the email address above or ‘phone 01223-764651.