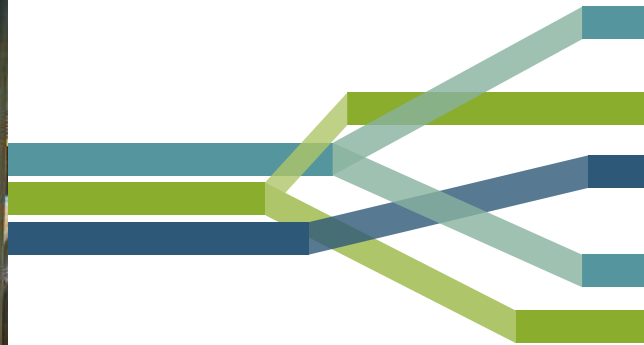


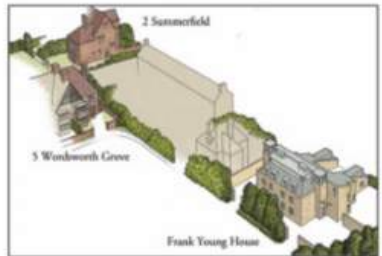
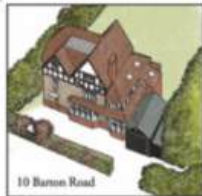
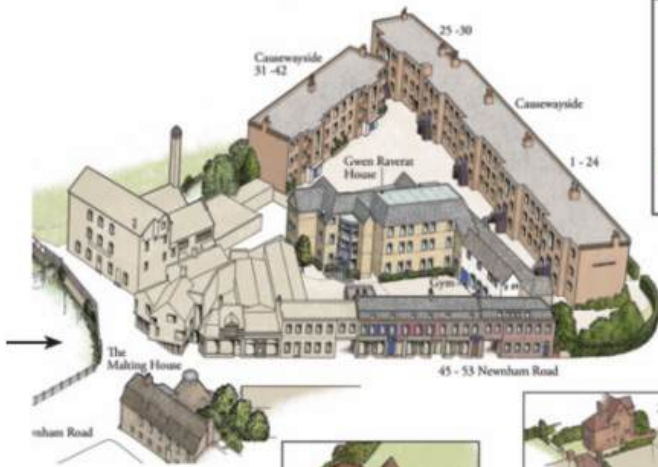
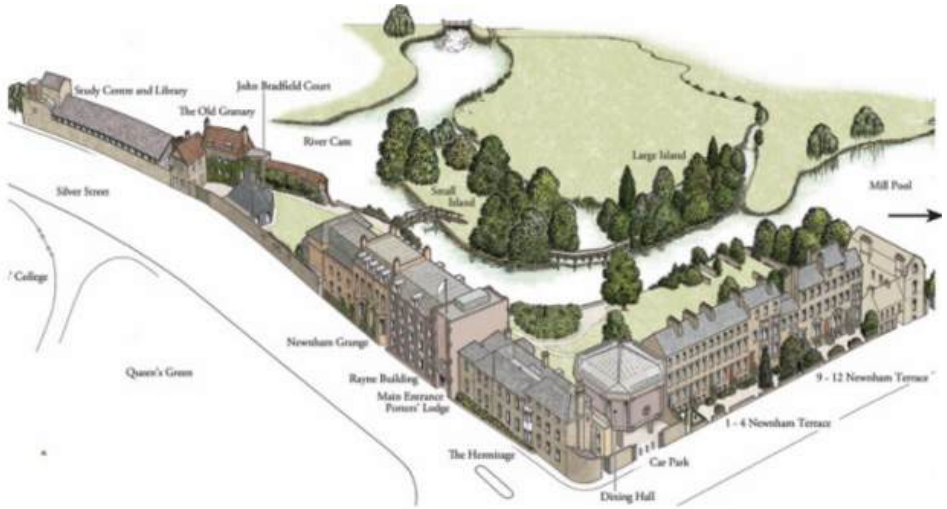


The Darwin College Students' Association Welcome Guide 2025



linktr.ee/dcsa.com

Darwin Map



Welcome to Darwin College

Dear New Darwinians,

Welcome to Darwin and congratulations on making it to the University of Cambridge! You are now a part of the Darwin (and wider Cambridge) community, made up of incredible students and researchers. I hope you have a fantastic time here, and encourage you to get involved with some of what Darwin has to offer.

In my (very fair and not at all biased) opinion, Darwin College is the best college for postgraduate students in Cambridge. With roughly 300 new starters this year, Darwin offers you a home away from home, something which I am sure many will appreciate during those times where Cambridge feels overwhelming and family isn't on your doorstep. You may come to find that our grounds and facilities are a haven from the outside world, and if you get the chance I recommend you take a moment to get lost in our wonderful gardens. But the heart of Darwin is our vibrant community of postgraduates, staff and alumni which I hope you will become an integral member of!

There are so many opportunities to get involved, and no matter what your interests are, I sincerely hope that you will find something you can enjoy, from our many college sports teams and societies, green and sustainability initiatives, a packed schedule of social events, the punt club, family picnics, welfare events, and of course the best college bar in town (DarBar)! While it is important to work hard, I hope you will also take the time to get involved in what Darwin has to offer and to make the most of college life: for many of us, our best memories of Cambridge were made

right here at Darwin.

This booklet aims to make things a little easier as you start your Cambridge and Darwin journey. Inside you'll find everything from a survival guide for settling in to a description of all the college clubs and societies you can get involved with. We have also organised a packed calendar to introduce you to life at Darwin and provide plenty of opportunities to meet your fellow Darwinians!

By "we", I should clarify that I am speaking on behalf of the Darwin College Student Association executive committee (DCSA EC), a group of volunteer students elected to represent you, to run events and support initiatives, and help you get the most out of your time here. You can find our introductions and contact details in this booklet, and we'll all be around throughout Freshers - please come say hi!

The Cambridge experience is exciting, but it can also be daunting at times. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or you simply just want someone to talk to whilst you're finding your feet here in Cambridge, you are more than welcome to reach out to me or any member of the DCSA EC. We're a friendly bunch (I promise)! As many of us can attest to, Cambridge can be at once exhilarating and draining, so we're here to support you along the way!

Once again, welcome to Darwin - I'm looking forward to meeting you!

Best Wishes,
Katie Taylor
DCSA President 2025 - 2026

Survival Guide

Porter's Lodge and Mail

The Porters' Lodge is the first point of call for general enquiries or emergencies. It is where you'll find your pigeonholes for post. We recommend you use your college address whenever possible:

Darwin College, Silver St
Cambridge, CB3 9EU

A porter is on duty **24 hours every day**. You can call them at +44 1223 335660 or email porters@darwin.cam.ac.uk.

Maintenance & Laundry

If something is wrong with any of the furniture or fittings in your room, there are maintenance forms at the Porters' Lodge. Alternatively, you can send an email to: maintenance@darwin.cam.ac.uk. There are washers and dryers on the ground floor of the college main site, available for free to all members, and at Frank Young, Gwen Raverat House, and in many of the other accommodations.

Facilities

Darwin has a range of facilities, including music practice rooms, showers, lockers, meeting rooms, private study rooms, the punt house, sports equipment, and the gym located by Gwen Raverat. To use the gym you must first complete an induction with the sports officers. Meeting or study rooms may be booked through the college bursary (bursary@darwin.cam.ac.uk). Read more at www.dcsa.darwin.cam.ac.uk/facilities/.

Banks

For ethical banking we recommend Monzo, The Co-operative Bank, Triodos, or Nationwide (which has a high street branch in Cambridge). You may need a letter from the Deanery (deanery@darwin.cam.ac.uk) confirming your address at Darwin.

Bikes

Most people travel around Cambridge by bike. Don't over-invest though, as Cambridge is notorious for bike thefts, so get a good lock. Bike shops are marked on the map on the back cover. You will need a Darwin bike tag to keep your bike on Darwin premises – you can get one at the welcome desk, or ask the porters.

Phone/Data

If you've brought your own mobile/cell phone, you can get a new SIM card from most networks, or you can get a new phone with a contract. It is worth asking around which provider has good coverage where you live.

Doctors

You need to register with a local doctor (GP) as soon as possible. The closest to Darwin is Newnham Walk Surgery. For emergencies, dial 999. Porters and other staff are first aid trained and a number of them are Mental Health First Aid trained so please do contact the Porters if you need assistance.

Survival Guide - Welfare

Counseling Services

In the 2021/22 academic year, we were delighted to welcome Beau Roberts to the College as our new Welfare Advisor. Beau is based in the Deputy Dean's office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and is available to offer therapeutic wellbeing support to those who need it either in person or online. The aim of this service is to ensure that students have a specific space within College which is safe and confidential for those who feel they need extra support. Beau can be reached at wellbeing@darwin.cam.ac.uk. The University Counselling Service also provides student counselling, <https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk/>, and the Cambridge Samaritans offer free confidential support by calling 116 123.

Spirituality

While we don't have a chapel, Darwin students are welcome at Queens' College chapel. For queries regarding chapel events please contact the Reverend Max Bayliss (mtb52@cam.ac.uk)

Graduate Tutor

Your Postgraduate Tutor is a College Fellow who can offer confidential advice and support on non-academic problems. If your work is disrupted and you need to take time off, your Tutor will help you ensure that your application is presented properly to the relevant university bodies. There is a message

from your Postgraduate Tutor in your Welcome Pack and you will also have received an email from them. You can also find out who your Graduate Tutor is anytime on the 'Academic' section via CamSIS: www.camsis.cam.ac.uk

Mental Health Support

For university student wellbeing advice, head here: <https://www.studentwellbeing.admin.cam.ac.uk/where-go-accessing-support>. Student Minds Cambridge is the Cambridge branch of Student Minds, the UK's student mental health charity. You can find useful information about their events support here: www.studentmindscambridge.wordpress.com

Menstrual Products and Contraception

Free menstrual products are provided in the study centre and main building bathrooms for emergency use. You can also find free emergency pregnancy tests and condoms in the main building bathrooms. Please contact the Welfare Officers if you see stocks running low!

Sexual Health Support and Testing

The NHS offers a sexual health service called iCaSH in Cambridgeshire. You can order a free, confidential and discreet routine STI testing kit through them. They also offer advice and material on contraception, treatment for sexually transmitted infections, as well as HIV care and treatment. Visit icash.nhs.uk.

Survival Guide

Consent

At Darwin College all students should have their bodily autonomy respected. Our core values of respect and support are encouraged from the start of your time here with consent and bystander activism workshops. These workshops aim to increase awareness around sexual consent to help our community understand and respect personal boundaries to prevent unwanted sexual advances or assault. A bystander activism introduction will also help establish a community where we can support our peers and have the confidence to speak out when something doesn't feel like appropriate behaviour. *Please fill in the consent workshop form to let us know which consent workshop you'll attend!*

Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre (ADRC)

The Disability Resource Centre can help you access specialised support and adjustments once you have disclosed your disability, impairment or medical condition to the University. You may have done this in your application but you can also disclose at any time. Use this form to register for support - www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/student-information-form. If you don't have an official diagnosis, you can begin the process of finding support by contacting disability@admin.cam.ac.uk. You get to decide who sees the information, and it will only ever be used to help you. Contact your disabilities

officer for further confidential advice.

Who to Contact - Welfare

If you need to talk to someone about a welfare-related issue, please reach out to your Graduate Tutor for support and advice in the first instance. They will be able to help with the next steps of any University processes related to welfare, e.g harassment reporting, DRC communications or hardship funding. The DCSA Welfare Officers and the Wellbeing Advisor can also help signpost, share information, and support you during your time at Darwin. If you are part of or see any incident happening in College please report these directly to the Porter's Lodge as soon as possible.

Covid-19 and illness

If you develop any Covid symptoms, or are generally ill, we encourage you to follow government guidance, **avoid major college events**, and let your flatmates know. Additionally, please get in touch with the Porters Lodge (porters@darwin.cam.ac.uk) and let them know if you require any support. More information on communicable diseases can be found at <https://www.studentsupport.cam.ac.uk/communicable-diseases>.

Getting Connected

WhatsUp Email Newsletter

Every week, the DCSA Communications Officer sends emails providing information on both Darwin and University-wide events. We use the newsletter to announce college and social events, as well as official announcements from the DCSA. All new students should be automatically added to the list, so look out for it in your Cambridge inbox two times a week during term, and more regularly over Freshers. If you would like to communicate something through the newsletter, or need to sign up manually, please email the DCSA Communications Officer at dcsa_coms@darwin.cam.ac.uk.

We are currently looking for a new DCSA Communications Officer, so emails may be slightly less frequent until we have an officer in post. If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact dcsa_president@darwin.cam.ac.uk or dcsa_secretary@darwin.cam.ac.uk.

DCSA Website

Another great source of information for students is the DCSA website www.dcsa.darwin.cam.ac.uk. There is information about the members of the DCSA executive committee, DCSA governance, and our Sports and Societies as well as information for new students. The welfare page also contains useful information on welfare-related resources here at Darwin and Cambridge.

WhatsApp Community

Darwin College has an official WhatsApp Community, which combines various student and society group chats into one central apparatus. Most clubs and societies now use the community to communicate with students, so make sure to sign up! There are also group chats for Darwinians who may be slightly outside of the traditional college sphere, such as part-time students or those living in Mount Pleasant Halls.

Instagram

Another way to find out what's going on in college is the new DCSA instagram page at www.instagram.com/dcsa_darwin_college, which will advertise events and key information throughout the year. Make sure to also follow our other instagram accounts such as for DarBar, sports and societies, gardening society, the boat and punt clubs and others!

Noticeboards

The notice boards near the Porters Lodge are used to advertise upcoming events around the College. Check them out for any upcoming events!

How would you like to hear from us?

Have an idea for how we can let you know about college news and events? Reach out to dcsa_coms@darwin.cam.ac.uk!

Darwin Kitchens

Darwin College has one of the cheapest, best loved, best sourced, and sustainably committed catering departments in the University. We have the Platinum Award from the Green Impact Awards and our chefs and front of house team have won many medals for their cooking and service achievements.

Lunch and dinner are available on weekdays and brunch on weekends. Drinks and confectionery are available during the day through the Café located in the Common Room. Menus are available on the college web site and through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (@darwinkitchens). At the servery, simply choose your options, present your college card to the staff and the charge goes onto your monthly bill. You can keep track of your spending via Upay. You can bring guests who can pay by using their debit cards (because food is subsidised for Darwinians, a surcharge of 30% applies to non-members).

Lunch

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm (Mon – Fri)

Dinner

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm (Mon – Sun)

6pm – 7:00 pm (Wed/Fri for Formal Hall)

Brunch

10.00 am – 2:00 pm (Sat & Sun)

The weekly menu can be found online on the college website along with allergen information. Vegetarian/vegan options are always available.

You can pay with your college card and the charge should go onto your monthly bill. Guests can pay using their debit cards.

Formal Halls

Held on Wednesdays and Fridays, Formal Halls are three course dinners. You will need to be registered for UpayChilli (upay.co.uk/app) to book your meal tickets, wine and or soft drinks options. You can book a place for yourself and up to three guests on the college website and the charge goes on your monthly bill.

There is a dress code at all formal dinners defined without reference to gender identity or expression. At Formal Halls and Supervisors' Evenings this is a lounge suit/jacket with a tie or appropriate equivalent attire. College members, and guests who are members of the university, are encouraged to wear gowns. Persons wearing a shirt without a jacket and tie, or appearing in jeans, training shoes, beach footwear, and/or hats or caps, will be refused entry. If you are unsure of the requirements, please consult the Catering Manager before the event.

Welcome Dinners

As new members you are invited to

register for one of the Welcome Dinners the College provides in October. Bookings are made through Upay. Welcome Dinner's provide an opportunity to meet other new Darwinians, members of the DCSA, college staff, and your graduate tutor.

Private Dining

Darwin Members are allowed to book events at Darwin College through the Catering Department.

We can host birthday celebrations, weddings, garden parties, departmental dinners for you and your guests. Please get in contact with us for more details at events@darwin.cam.ac.uk.

Sustainability and Ethical Policy

We pride ourselves @Darwinkitchens in ensuring that the food you eat is well sourced and minimises negative environmental impact whilst providing a decent choice for all diners. Please see our web page for more details on our Sustainable & Ethical statement.

Cooking in Darwin Accommodation

All college accommodation comes with access to a small kitchen with a hob, oven, microwave, toaster, kettle, and fridge/freezer space. The first island in the Darwin gardens is bookable for BBQs during summer through the bursary.

Local Food options

If the dining hall is closed other colleges such as Newnham (Iris Cafe), Queens', Pembroke, or St. Catharine's are good alternatives. There are some restaurants right on your doorstep such as Millworks, Sala Thong and Rice Boat at the corner of Newnham road. Darwin's closest pubs are the Granta, the Anchor, and the Mill (all of which offer student discounts). For late night cravings, Tek's Grill is a kebab truck that parks near Lammas Land, open every night except Monday from 5pm - midnight. You'll also find more options in the city centre like Trailer of Life, Aromi, and Ittou.

Food Stores

The closest store selling basic groceries and alcohol is the Co-operative shop in Newnham village, open until 10pm every day. For larger stores there is a Sainsbury's (Mainsbury's) on Sidney Street across from Sidney Sussex College, a Marks & Spencer Food Hall on Market Square and a Tesco on Petty Cury outside the Lion's Head shopping centre. The food stalls at Market Square are also an excellent place to shop for local produce and international meals, with some offering

Food & Drink

Government



a student discount. For international food shops (and restaurants!), Mill Rd is the best place to go. Further afield there is a big Sainsbury's (Far-awainsbury's) in Eddington and a Tesco superstore just past the Grafton shopping centre. The nearest cash-point is at the Shell petrol station on Newnham Road, just south of Darwin, and another is at the local Marks & Spencers.

Food Delivery

Some of the larger grocery stores such as Sainsbury's and Asda offer a delivery service for groceries on their websites. You will need to register, select your items, choose a delivery slot for a fee and then be available for the selected time to collect your delivery. Delivery takeaway meals can be ordered on various platforms including Deliveroo, Uber Eats and Just Eat. Some of these delivery services will also have a selected range of groceries through smaller stores with faster delivery times. If you would rather order from local businesses check out www.clickitlocal.co.uk.

Voter Registration

Any citizen of the UK or Ireland as well as most Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK can register to vote in UK Parliament elections. EU citizens living in the UK are also allowed to vote in certain elections. Visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote to check your eligibility and register.

Local Government

Cambridge is governed locally by the Cambridge City Council. Darwin (and most College accommodation) is part of the Newnham Ward, which is represented by three councillors - Jean Glasberg (jean.glasberg@cambridge.gov.uk), Hugh Clough (hugh.clough@cambridge.gov.uk) and Cameron Holloway (cameron.holloway@cambridge.gov.uk). Newnham is also represented on the Cambridgeshire County Council by Peter Rees (Peter.Rees@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

National Government

The current Member of Parliament (MP) for Cambridge is Daniel Zeichner of the Labour Party, who has been in office since May 2015. You can contact his office by emailing daniel@danielzeichner.co.uk or by telephone at 020 7219 8462.



Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

President

dcsa_president@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hi, I'm Katie, a Linguistics PhD student specialising in Forensic Phonetics and Queer Linguistics. I've moved around for much of my life (so from nowhere in particular) but I currently live in Windsor. When I'm not working on my PhD or doing DCSA related things, you can usually find me singing, listening to music or enjoying a drink with my friends at DarBar. If you've got any questions about the DCSA or college, feel free to pop me an email or come and say hi! The President is the representative of the DCSA to College and University, voicing student views to all College members. They coordinate and support the DCSA committee by chairing meetings and working closely with individual EC members. The President sits on the College Council as a student representative and attends fortnightly Cambridge Students' Union meetings. and sits on numerous College committees (including Strategic Planning, PREVENT, Health & Safety, and Wine).

Katie Taylor



she/her

Secretary

dcsa_secretary@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hi, I'm David, and I'm a Physics PhD student from Essex working on defect centres in diamonds - in short, I get to shoot lasers at diamonds. When I'm not stuck in a windowless lab I'm usually playing bass, reading books, or building Lego.

The Secretary is the administrator of the committee and the Vice President (chair meetings and run the committee in the absence of the President). They run DCSA elections, take meeting minutes, and ensure that up-to-date records of the DCSA's affairs are maintained, including policy documents and the DCSA Constitution, Schedule, & Regulations.

David O'Shea



they/them

Treasurer

dcsa_treasurer@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hey all! I'm Kerem, a second-year PhD student in materials science, working on the synthesis and characterisation of artificial skin. Outside of work, you might find me working at the Darbar, punting around with friends chasing the swans or training for the Cambridge marathon.

The Treasurer is responsible for managing the finances of the DCSA, including drafting the budget, publishing reports, and assessing the financial feasibility of projects. They are responsible for ensuring timely reimbursements and payments of invoices and for maintaining accurate financial records.

Kerem Citak



he/him

Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

Liz Pflugbeil



she/her

Dominic Leach



Martin Wiltshire



Welfare Officers

dcsa_welfare@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hi, I'm Liz, in my second year of my PhD at the Department of Land Economy studying how energy policy influences the innovation of renewable energy technology. I love dancing, hiking, traveling and trying out new things - for example, I took up Archery in my first year in Cambridge. Chances are you will often see me around Darwin, be it in the dining hall, the garden or taking out one of the punts or kayaks. I'm always happy to chat so please don't hesitate to reach out or say hello if you see me around!

Hey, I'm Dom, I am currently in my 2nd year of my PhD studying plant science at the Sainsbury Lab in the botanic garden. My research explores the mechanical stress responses of plants and explore how they are able to detect touch and push back against it. While not in the lab I love to run and hike, anything outdoors basically and am recently getting into reading so I'm taking book suggestions. Here to talk over whatever drink takes your fancy, love a good natter so feel free to approach me around the college:)

The Welfare Officers are the student contact for students who are in need of help or advice. The two can advise you how to deal with any issues you face and who you should contact to get the help you need. Together, they organise welfare events throughout the year, such as Welfare Teas and Welfare Walks. Drop us an email or come find us around college, if you need anything or just want to have a chat!

Admiral of the Punts

dcsa_punts@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hi there! In my third year of doctoral studies on the undeciphered writing of the Bronze Age in Greece, I am usually to be found working about the parlour or gardens unless I am out on the Cam. An excellent punter, a tolerable student and a dismal musician, beyond enjoying the outdoors I have pretensions at assorted literary and artistic pursuits and am always up for a chat about anything.

The Admiral of the Punts is responsible for all the vessels the punt club owns, including the punts, kayaks, canoe, paddle boards, and associated equipment. They manage Punt Club membership and admin and they work with several trusted Captains to ensure the vessels are maintained and to organize social events throughout the year. Have a look at our website if you'd like to learn more about the Darwin Punt Club.

Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

BAME Officer

dcsa_bame@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA is currently looking for an EEA officer- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The Black Asian Minority Ethnic Officer works with college to further the needs of 'Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour' (BIPOC) students. They aim to create a space that allows BIPOC students to reach their full potential, and better the everyday experience of life in Cambridge, as well as figure out ways to tackle structural racism and increasing access.

Vacant



Communications Officer

dcsa_coms@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA is currently looking for a Comms officer- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The Comms Officer is responsible for sending out the WhatsUp email blasts, maintaining the website, and otherwise attending to DCSA communication needs such as sitting on the college Information Services Committee. Please get in touch if you'd like to share something in WhatsUp or for any other communication-related needs.

Vacant



Disabilities Officer

dcsa_disabilities@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hi, I'm Seema, a PhD student in Medical Sciences at the CRUK CI, originally from the beautiful island of Mauritius. When I'm not busy with my PhD, I love curling up with a good book, baking, or tending to my ever-growing plant collection (I'm a proud plant hoarder who refuses to let the occasional plant mishap stop me!). If you have a disability—whether diagnosed or not, visible or non-visible—and would like to discuss about available resources, support, or navigating life as a student with a disability, or chat about anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd be happy to assist in any way I can!

The Disabilities Officer is a position to support other DCSA officers and the college to improve accessibility for, and inclusivity of, students with any disability or long-term health condition.

**Seema Chandana
Bachoo**



Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

Vacant x2



Entertainment Officers

dcsa_ents@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA is currently looking for two Ents officers- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The Ents Officers coordinate, organise, and promote the Darwin BOPs. They are responsible for the music, decorations, security, and finances. Darwin BOPs are known for their vibrant atmosphere and original themes and they have the most popular Cambridge bands performing. Think live music, themes, drinks, djs, raffles, good vibes and dancing until the early morning... The Ents Officers also work with the Events Officer to host other events throughout the year. Reach out to them if you have any ideas! One officer is elected in November, and the other is elected in June.

Kilian Bartsch



EEA Officer

dcsa_green@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The Environmental & Ethical Affairs Officer is responsible for the coordination of measures to address environmental and ethical issues, and organises events promoting awareness of these issues. Please get in touch and share an issue that you feel passionate about, so we can support you in sharing it with the Darwin community.

Vacant



Events Officer

dcsa_events@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA is currently looking for an Events officers- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The Events Officer coordinates, organises, and promotes social and entertainment activities in college, such as special formals, BBQ's, live music nights in the gardens and other smaller events throughout the year.

Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

External Officer

dcsa_external@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA is currently looking for an External officers- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The External Officer is responsible for organising formal swaps with other Colleges, and for hosting other Colleges when they visit Darwin for formal swaps. They also represent the DCSA at Cambridge Students' Union meetings.

Vacant



Families Officer

dcsa_families@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA is currently looking for a Families officer- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The Families Officer is responsible for representing and furthering the needs of students with families - those with partners and/or children of all ages. They work to involve students with families in college events and organise events aimed at these students.

Vacant



International Officer

dcsa_international@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA are currently looking for an International officer - if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The International Officer is responsible for representing the needs of international students, providing welfare support and organising events for fellow Darwinians which highlight cultural diversity. They also serve as a chair on the international crisis committee wherein international students speak about pertinent world affairs.

Vacant



Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

Vacant



Laura Magnani



Vacant



Q+ Officer

dcsa_lgbtq@darwin.cam.ac.uk

The DCSA is currently looking for a Q+ officer- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The role of the Q+ Officer is to act as a representative for the interests of LGBTQ+ students at the college level, as well as to organise social events, mixers and workshops. Should any student have the slightest concern about their ability to express their gender or sexual identity in college, the Q+ Officer is always there to chat, advise and help out where possible.

Sports and Societies Officers **dcsa_sports@darwin.cam.ac.uk**

Hi all! I am Laura, an enthusiastic and curious PhD student in Stem Cell Biology. I have always been fascinated by the only fluid tissue of our body, the blood. My PhD aims at understanding the mechanisms governing human blood stem cell differentiation into mature blood cells. Whenever the cells I study allow me, I spend my free time playing volleyball and hiking. And when I get even luckier, enjoy having tea with friends while knitting...

The DCSA is currently looking for a Sports and Societies officer- if you're interested in joining, please contact the Secretary or President.

The Sports and Societies Officers are responsible for maintaining the gym and for overseeing Darwin's sports and societies. They are also responsible for organising the Darwin-Wolfson Sports Day, a day of friendly competition against our sister college at Oxford, held every March. One officer is elected in November, and the other is elected in June.

Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

Women's Officer

dcsa_women@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hi all! My name is Sofia, I'm a final year Zoology PhD student studying bumblebees. I run Darwin's Beekeeping Society, as well as the Wine and Cheese Society. In my free time, I enjoy going for walks, salsa dancing, and exploring the new Jack's gelato flavours. Feel free to reach out if you ever want to chat.

The Women's Officer represents and furthers the needs of students who identify as women/non-binary and promote issues of gender, inclusivity, and accessibility. The Women's Officer works with the welfare officers to ensure that students' bodily autonomy is respected relevant to their sexual and reproductive health, tackling sexual violence and harassment in education. The Office ensures that Darwin is effective in its representation of the community sensitive to these students' needs and issues.

Sofia Dartnell



Bar Committee Chair

dcsa_bar@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Hey hey, I'm Aidan! I'm a third-year PhD student in Computer Science, researching the mathematical foundations of computer science ("P vs NP" stuff for those familiar). I grew up in the US and spend much of my free time traveling and trying out new hobbies. Among many others, I'm highly involved in the university's gymnastics club and yacht sailing club. You'll likely find me chilling in DarBar with friends so if you have any bar- or adventure-related questions, feel free to come say hi!

DarBar is the college bar and is totally run and staffed by Darwin students. The Bar Chair presides over the Bar Committee ("BarComm") and the large group of bartenders. They with the help of the rest of BarComm manage the finances and administration of the bar in addition to organizing events for the Darwin community, and make sure everyone can enjoy the bar, while keeping a safe and welcoming space both for customers and staff. If you have any questions or ideas for making DarBar even better please get in contact with the email above. The Bar Chair is elected by the Bar Committee annually.

Aidan Evans



Meet the DCSA Executive Committee

Joshua Bickler



College Council Reps dcsa_council_reps@darwin.cam.ac.uk

Kia ora! I'm Joshua, from Aotearoa/New Zealand, and I'm a physics PhD student specialising in fusion modelling. You'll catch me in the music room or at the bar - come say hi!

Hello everybody! I am Soggi. I have been a member of Darwin for the last two years, studying the pursuit of a more sustainable food system. I am originally from Iceland, but have lived in the UK for most of my adult life, first in London and then for nearly 17 years here in Cambridge. I have a background in medicine and law, but now devote most of my time and energy towards climate and social justice. Outside of that I can be found running around Cambridge for extensive periods of time for no obvious reason, and also if it is sunny cycling aimlessly around the surrounding countryside. I also regularly attempt something that could generously be described as singing with the Darwin choir.

Sigurdur Martinsson



The College Council Reps are elected by the students to represent them in College Council meetings and other college committees. They also report the business of College Council to the DCSA, and provide feedback to college on student interests. One rep is elected in November, and the other is elected in May.

Want to join the DCSA Executive Committee (EC)?

The DCSA elects half of its EC in Michaelmas and half in Easter term. If you are interested in joining the EC, there will be at least **eleven positions** available this term: *BAME Officer, Disabilities Officer, Events Officer, Ents Officer, Families Officer, Sports & Societies Officer, International Officer, External Officer, College Council Rep, Q+ Officer.*

DCSA Meetings

EC meetings happen once a fortnight with agendas and meeting minutes publicly available via the DCSA website. Each meeting has an "Open Forum", where Darwin members can attend and raise a discussion point by notifying the President in advance. General meetings happen once a term and all Darwin members are encouraged to attend! If you have a question about an event, or would just like a chat, you are welcome to get in touch anytime, or to come find us around college outside of study spaces :) Please keep in mind we are all students like yourselves!



Who's Who at Darwin

In addition to nearly 800 students, Darwin has around 50 Professorial Fellows, 20 Research Fellows, Associate Members and Research Associates. There are also many non-academic staff members, such as Housekeeping, Maintenance and Catering. Here are some of the key faces you'll see around, and an introduction to the college structure.

Dr Mike Rands - Master Prof. Fiona Karet & Prof. Angela Wood - Vice Masters



Mike is the Master of Darwin College and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. The Master is elected by the Fellows, and is the highest representative of the college where he chairs many committees. He represents the college in Cambridge and beyond, while also engaging with alumni all over the world. Our two Vice-Masters, also elected by the Fellows, are Profs. Fiona (Dept. of Medical Genetics) and Angela (Department of Public Health and Primary Care). They support the Master and also lead on a variety of internal matters including Diversity and Inclusion and staff and fellow induction.

Dr Duncan Needham - Dean



Duncan is the Dean and Senior Tutor of Darwin College, and the Director of the Centre for Financial History. The Dean is the College's senior academic officer with overall responsibility for Darwin students from admission, oversight of academic performance, welfare and pastoral support. He is supported by two Deputy Deans, Dr Matthew Jones and Dr Simone Weyand, and the College Tutors.

John Dix & Giles Greenfield - Bursars



John (Bursar) and Giles (Second Bursar) are responsible for the financial affairs and business administration of the College, day-to-day student support for matters around college facilities/finances, the maintenance, security, and operation of College buildings, grounds, and services, as well as the general supervision of College staff.

Who's Who at Darwin

College Council

The College Council is formed of the College senior officers (Master, Vice-Masters, Dean and Bursar), four elected fellows, the DCSA President, and two elected student members. Various sub-committees, on which there is student representation, report to Council, including Buildings and Grounds, Meals, Health and Safety, Education and Research, Estate Planning, Development, IT, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). In this way, the DCSA can bring important student matters to a forum of college fellows, officials and student reps. College Council meetings are held twice per term, all members (including students) have full voting rights on any decisions, and reports from Council are made to the full college fellowship at Governing Body.

Fellows

Our Fellows range from senior academics to junior research fellows across many different fields. A full directory is online: www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/fellows/research.

Governing Body

The Governing Body is the ultimate authority in the college. It meets twice per term, and consists of the Master and Fellows. While there is no student representation in the Governing Body, we can raise matter through the individual committees and College Council.

Who else?

There are many other college officials and staff from catering and housekeeping to porters and maintenance who are essential to day to day life around Darwin. You can find an overview of College staff and contacts on the website (www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/college-directory) or with pictures in the hallway next to the Porter's Lodge, and will likely get to know many of them over your time at Darwin!

Have any questions about how college works behind the scenes? Get in touch with your college council reps!



Darwin Bar



Without doubt the best college bar in Cambridge (maybe even bar, period!), the student-run and operated DarBar offers a space every night to unwind after a busy day or to celebrate the end of the week. It offers a wide selection of drinks, catering for every taste, as well as a range of non-alcoholic beverages, and a pool table and foosball table you can use any time of day.

Keeping prices low is the priority for the DarBar team, and regular promotions operate throughout the year. Recession Session runs every Monday, offering discounted deals despite growing inflation. Also popular are the regular themed whisky tastings, where DarBar invites an expert to guide us through the quagmire that is whisky. Watch out for other special occasions such as Oktoberfest (complete with Oktoberfest beers, food, and music!) and the infamous GayDar nights for the postgraduate LGBTQ+ community

During Freshers' Fortnight, the bar will be hosting special events, including a Gin Night, Pub Crawl, Cider Night, and more!

The bar relies on the student body to open every night. Bartending for us is very low-commitment and highly flexible, with no prior experience needed! If you would like to be part of helping run one of the best parts of Darwin College student life, please email our efficient Bar Secretary, Callum Malcolm (cm2162@cam.ac.uk).



If you have any questions about the bar, please email the Bar Chair, Aidan Evans (ate26@cam.ac.uk). Make sure you stay in the loop with the latest updates by following us on Instagram ([@darwincollegebar](https://www.instagram.com/darwincollegebar)), and check out our website: <https://bar.dar.cam.ac.uk/?info>

Additional DarBar Information

DarBar operates a number of policies which are important for making it a comfortable and welcoming space for everyone:

- Glasses are not to be taken from the bar area. You can be provided with paper/ recyclable glasses to drink in the garden. Please pick up your litter.
- DarBar runs as a members club for Darwin College students, but College members can bring three guests, whom you need to sign-in at the bar, so you can share the bar with your friends beyond the Darwin community.
- The bar has a zero-tolerance policy towards harassment of any kind. If you feel uncomfortable at any point, speak to the bar staff or porters. You are entirely responsible for anyone you sign-in. The bar staff have the right to refuse service to anyone on the night.
- Bar work is paid, and the bar is always looking for staff!
- Darbar is open every evening, 9 to midnight on Wednesday through Saturday, 8 to 11 on Sunday through Tuesday.



University Careers Service

The Careers Service helps you to prepare for your future. Whether you are a masters student, PhD student, or a postdoc, our experienced and impartial team is here to support you at Cambridge and beyond.

They work with you from day one to explore options, connect with employers, and navigate the complex job market, regardless of what stage you are at: one-to-one guidance consultations; 14 major careers events each year; an extensive programme of briefings and skill sessions; coordinated employer presentations; CVs and Applications support; and a database of graduate-level job vacancies in Handshake. You can find out more at www.careers.cam.ac.uk and look out for emails from the Careers lead for Darwin, Adrienne Jolly.

Environmental Sustainability

The DCSA acknowledges the extent of the climate breakdown and recognises the impact of its activities on the environment. The DCSA is committed to developing best environmental practices, and encourages all students to integrate these into their day to day lives both in and out of college.

Get in touch with your Environmental and Ethical Affairs (EEA) Officer at dcsa_green@darwin.cam.ac.uk or join the Darwin Climate Society Whatsapp Group if you have a project in mind or would like to volunteer to make Darwin greener!

Get Involved! The University's Environmental Sustainability, Vision, and Strategy can be found here: www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/. If you want to get involved with student campaigns in the wider university the Cambridge Climate Society (<https://www.cambridgeclimatesociety.com/>) and the Cambridge Zero Postgraduate Academy are a good place to start.

At Darwin, you can join many societies including Gardening, Beekeeping, or **Climate Society**. We also run Project Second Life, a program to collect and rehome donated clothes and items from college members through the summer. You can join through the WhatsApp community or contact your EEA officer at dcsa_green@darwin.cam.ac.uk!

Food & Drink

Darwin Kitchens use well-sourced ingredients minimising environmental impact, including plantbased, low-carbon or fairtrade options. We launched the Darwin Community Fridge during Green Week 2021 (see below),



where leftover food from the servery is free to Darwin Students (found in study centre foyer). Free drinking water stations are also located throughout college. Seasonal vegetables, fruits and herbs are also available from the student garden. The historic market square in the city centre is a great spot for plastic-free fruit and vegetables and local farm produce. More info here: cambridge.gov.uk/markets. Local shops stocking ethical and zero waste items include Full Circle and Arjuna Wholefoods.

Reuse & Rehome

Darwin College offers subsidised Keepcups and BlueTap water bottles to

Environmental Sustainability

members of Darwin College.

One way to avoid supporting unnecessary product production (and to grab yourself a bargain) is by supporting the fantastic charity shops in Cambridge. There will also be a **Project Second Life Trash to Treasure sale** for items Darwinians have donated household items when leaving during summer 2024. Items include home furnishings, blankets, art supplies and kitchen utensils- don't miss out!

Recycle

Darwin recycles traditional clean and dry mixed materials and organic waste in student kitchens, as well as hosting several large bins under the dining hall for recycling old batteries and donating clothes and household items (via the British Heart Foundation's Pack for Good Campaign). Visit [recyclenow.com](https://www.recyclenow.com) for more information on what can be recycled in Cambridge, and where to recycle items that aren't taken in standard collections such as makeup



containers. Making sure your recycling is not contaminated with food, liquids or non-recyclable items has a significant impact on the success of recycling.

All of Darwin Kitchens' disposable packaging (Vegware) can be put in the compostable packaging waste bins.

Organic Food Waste Scheme

Darwin also has an organic waste bin scheme for all student kitchens, where food scraps can be placed. Please note that there are separate bins for food waste and compostable packaging. Extra caddy liners can be requested from the porters. Feel free to ask your EEA Officer if you have any questions about recycling or composting at Darwin!

Transport

Cycling is both the most practical and environmentally-friendly way to get around in Cambridge, and Darwin offers several facilities for cyclists. Secure bicycle racks are available at off-site student accommodation and on the main college site. There is a bike repair station available for use behind 1 Newnham Terrace, and the Darwin College Cycling Society has a tool box available for use. The Porters also have pumps for flat tyres.

More information on transport in Cambridge (including the subsidised £1 'Universal' bus) can be found here: www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/travel.

Environmental Sustainability

Country-wide coach information (including airport transfers) can be found here: www.nationalexpress.com.

Energy

The College's energy use produces an equivalent carbon footprint of around 400 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. We can all contribute to reducing this through simple steps such as switching off lights, and turning down radiators upon leaving our rooms, and by unplugging electrical equipment when it is not in use.

Biodiversity & Green Spaces

We are very lucky to have beautiful and accessible gardens for all Darwin members to enjoy, densely packed with a variety of interesting plants. The gardens are looked after by our Head

Gardener, Derrienne, and Garden Fellow, Torsten. The garden is often visited by kingfishers, herons, water voles and bats; the second island is also home to our Darwin honey bees!

The last of the Newnham Terrace gardens is home to the Student Garden. Volunteers are always needed, so please get in touch!

There are also lots of nature reserves in the surrounding area. Sheep's Green, Coe Fen and Paradise LNR are just a short walk away from Darwin. The full list of Council-run Local Nature Reserves can be found here: lnr.cambridge.gov.uk/visit-the-cambridge-nature-reserves/.

The Wildlife Trust also has a few reserves within cycling distance, and we get FREE ENTRY to the Botanical Gardens - just take your student card!



The Study Centre and Library

The Study Centre and Library building is located on the far left of the College and is only open to Darwin College members. To access the Study Centre and Library, you'll need a University Card. The doors are manually operated, and there are step-free study spaces on the ground floor along with an accessible bathroom.

The Study Centre

Inside the Study Centre, you'll find around 50 study spaces for quiet studying. Remember to keep your phones on silent and avoid making or taking calls. You can bring hot or cold drinks in closed containers, but please refrain from eating food in the study spaces. If you need to print, photocopy, or scan, head to the printing room on the ground floor at the back of the Study Centre. Instructions can be found there or on our website at <https://www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/printing>.

The Library

We have a collection of around 10 000 books aimed at stimulating your curiosity and encouraging wide reading. If you need specialised research materials, the University Library and Faculty Libraries are there to help. To search for books, use iDiscover at <https://discover.lib.cam.ac.uk>. Books on the shelves are organised using the Dewey Decimal system. You can borrow a book using the self-checkout desk or a check-out slip, and returns can be made through the slot in the book returns cupboard.

The Staff

The Study Centre and Library is managed by two student librarians and a staff librarian who all work part-time. Our office is located in the passage within the centre, but if we're not there, please email us at librarian@darwin.cam.ac.uk - we'd love to hear from you! You can also email us to arrange a tour of the Study Centre and Library, or visit our webpage: <https://www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/library-information-pages>.

Academic Skills Support

If you're looking for academic skills support, take a look at the CamGuides, the university's essential guide to academic, research and digital practices: <https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/camguides/index>. You can also email the Darwin College library staff for more information.



Sports and Societies

The DCSA have a whole host of different Sports and Societies for you to enjoy. Each one is run by fellow students, and we provide funding for respective activities. In this section, they all introduce themselves! A summary of the many facebook/whatsapp groups and further details on each society can be found on our website: <https://www.dcsa.darwin.cam.ac.uk/sports-societies/>

Come along to the Sports and Societies fair in Freshers week to sign up, join a society Whatsapp group or get in touch with the society contacts to join!

Badminton

Our club welcomes players of all standards, from complete beginners to experienced. No commitment, no membership fees, and courts are paid for by Darwin. We also provide rackets and shuttlecocks. All we want is for you to enjoy badminton.

For the competitive ones amongst you, we have a college team that competes in the intercollegiate league, so stay tuned for trials throughout the year!



We usually play on Thursdays (6.30-

8.15PM) and Sundays (3-5PM) at the Leys Leisure Sports Complex. There may be occasional changes to our sessions so please check your emails and join our Facebook group for updates

Contact: Kaizhong (kx232)

Basketball (Womens)

The Darwin Women's Basketball Club is the college's most successful sports team, and THE most successful women's basketball team in the university, having won the college league most years since its formation in May 2000. We are fortunate enough to have a dedicated basketball coach, Dan, who runs our training all year round so we can improve our skills and truly enjoy the game of basketball. We practice with friendly games, often joined by members of the university 1st and 2nd teams! No matter what your skill level, beginner or player



for many years, you are welcome on our team!

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Contact: Whatsapp Community

Basketball (Mens)

Darwin College has a proud and successful basketball tradition! Every year, we compete in two of Cambridge University's intercollegiate competitions: Division 1 of the college league (Michaelmas and Lent terms) and the Cuppers tournament (Easter term). We were crowned champions in 2023–24 and are eager to regain the crown this season!

The season officially runs from late October to April, but our commitment to basketball doesn't stop there. We continue to train once a week and play throughout the summer.



We are a friendly and active bunch and always welcome new players. Come join us, make new friends, and help us keep the winning tradition alive!

Contact: Xander (xprp2)

Beekeeping

Having BEEN lured in by the sweet idea of collecting our very own honey, the Darwin College Beekeeping Association started our very own DarHives in the Darwin Garden. We learn about and discuss all aspects of beekeeping, but promise not to drone on about it, and welcome new members at any experience level as long as you have a high threshold for bee puns. So, if you are an eco-warrior keen to join the fight against our declining pollinators or just looking for an exciting new hobby, email or join us on a hive visit to find out what all the buzz is about!

Contact: Sofia (skpd2) & Jacob (jgp34)

Board Game Society

Hi Darwinians! We run weekly board game evenings in college - come along with friends or on your own and we'll set you up with something to play! We have a big selection from party games to heavy strategy, all of which are also available to play week-round from the bar or the reading room.

Contact: Bea (tah56) or Jacob (jgp34)

Sports & Societies

Boat Club

Darwin College Boat Club (DCBC) is the largest society in Darwin, dedicated to all things rowing! We are one of the most successful graduate boat clubs in Cambridge - just check out the blades in the bar for our previous accomplishments! We are, above all, a friendly, social, and welcoming family. Rowing is a Cambridge tradition, and it is almost impossible to avoid at least one conversation about it during your time here. At DCBC, we believe that everyone



should have a go, and encourage anyone to come try out, at least so you can decipher the jargon of the sport! We train year-round (winter and summer) and participate in numerous races both in Cambridge and outside of Cambridge.

In August 2024, Darwin was invited to compete at an international Regatta in South Korea alongside world leading rowing teams. The main events in our calendar include Lent (in March) and May (in June - don't ask) Bumps. May Bumps is one of the highest-profile events in the Cambridge calendar, with

thousands of people lining the banks over 4 afternoons to watch boats speed down the Cam, attempting to physically crash into one another (a Bump), while avoiding being hit by the crew behind (getting bumped). If you're not in a boat, you can get the second most enjoyment out of the days by sitting on the banks with your refreshments of choice, and cheering Darwin to victory!

We are fortunate enough to enter multiple boats into each Bumps race, so join up to experience the carnage first-hand! We welcome all levels of rowing - from those who don't know what a boat looks like or have never used a rowing machine (erg), to future Olympic hopefuls, and anything in between. We hold taster sessions for both rowers and coxes (person in the front of the boat making the rowing calls and steering



the boat). Whichever you feel suits you, you'll get full coaching and training by our senior club members and experienced coaches.

Try a few water sessions (outings) at the beginning of Michaelmas, and

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with the other novice rowers, you'll slowly become unstoppable forces of nature, ready to slay the competition out on the river. There are plenty of opportunities for novices to take part in racing in Michaelmas term where you will have the chance to dress-up and race against other colleges. Novice races are fun and light-hearted, culminating the term with the not-to-be-missed Boat Club Dinner, a chance to regale the Club with your war stories from the term, and just blow off some steam. Rowing is teamwork at its peak. From our strong tan lines in the summer, our matching kit (free speed), the laughs, the sweat, and the shared exquisite pain, you will come away with some of the closest Darwin friendships and bonds that will be everlasting.

Come and chat to us to find out more at the Fresher's Sports and Societies Fair, and even get started and have a go on the erg!

Both Captains: darwin.captain@cucbc.org

Samantha: darwin.women@cucbc.org

Ben: darwin.men@cucbc.org

Instagram: [@darwincollegeboatclub](https://www.instagram.com/darwincollegeboatclub)

Facebook: [DarwinCollegeBoatClub](https://www.facebook.com/DarwinCollegeBoatClub)

Choir

Darwin has the friendliest and most fun choir in Cambridge. If you enjoy singing come and join us for our weekly rehearsals, under the expert guidance of our choirmaster Pierre. We meet in

the Old Library on Tuesdays at 7:30pm. No prior choir singing experience is required. We sing a repertoire that is a mix of modern and classic music.

Contact: Siggie (sm2237)

Climate Society

Concerned about climate change? Darwin Climate Society exists to promote awareness of the climate breakdown amongst the members of Darwin, and the wider population, and to promote urgent action to combat the climate breakdown, its causes, and impacts. The society meets regularly for discussions, climate boardgames and meals in the dining hall as well as organising a variety of events in pursuit of its cause and objectives including but not limited to:

- Lectures and presentations.
- Workshops.
- Direct activism.
- Collaboration with other climate societies, and clubs and societies with aligning objectives.

The society also provides support to the EEA Officer, the College Sustainability Project Manager, and others in pursuing environmental sustainability objectives. The society also provides a forum for the dissemination of climate-related information and constructive discussion about all climate-related matters.

Contact: Liz (lp675) or Mika (mvk26)

Climate SynBio Society

Interested in synthetic bio and biotech

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research to address climate change? We're creating a space for people who are interested in applying biosciences (and other sciences) to the climate challenge. This could be all the way from designing enzymatic carbon capture, to engineering cops with better drought resistance, to hydrogen-producing bacteria and beyond. Anything that can either reduce climate impacts of help us live with the consequences. We organise



seminars with guest speakers to share their research with us, and of course have fun socials too.

Contact: Bharath (bn312)

Climbing

We are a group of climbers that simply just want to go climbing. Since there aren't many rocks around we usually meet for an indoor bouldering session at one of the two gyms in town - Rainbow Rocket (RR) or Kelsey Kerridge (KK).

We also make the occasional outdoor trip further north or abroad when the weather/season permits. We organise everything over Whatsapp or over a pint at DarBar or check out what we are up to

on Facebook "Darwin College Climbing Club". We have bouldering mats, a trad rack, lots of quickdraws, a few spare harnesses, ropes, and belay devices which you can borrow for trips (indoor or outdoor).

Contact: Kevin (kchl2), Jack (jwa40)

Coffee Society

Calling all coffeeholics and enthusiasts! We are an open, welcoming community for people to enjoy and learn more about coffee. Throughout the year, we organise a number of coffee-related events, such as coffee workshops (learn to brew better coffee at home!), coffee circles (come explore different Cambridge cafés together with other coffee lovers!), coffee runs & bike trips (get fit and caffeinated!) and so much more. It doesn't really matter if you are a coffee nerd making their own water for a pressure-profiled Decent shot over ice-cooled steel balls... or just enjoy your daily cuppa: We would love to have you join!

Contact: Jonas (js2576), Magda (mn561) or Marianna (mes86)

Cricket Club

Darwin College Cricket Club (DCCC) is a friendly and welcoming sports club, focused on making cricket accessible to all members of the Darwin College community.

We train throughout the year, with nets at Fenners in MT and LT, and outdoor sessions at our home ground – St Catherine's College Sports Ground – from ET onwards. In the summer, we

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play both friendly and competitive matches and the Club, which is as old as the College, has a history of performing well in the University's leagues.

Players of all abilities are welcome. Join our WhatsApp group to stay updated on training and playing opportunities.

Contact: George (grs53) or Bharath (bn312)

Instagram: @darwin_college_cricket_club



Cuban Salsa

Hello Darwinians! We are the Cuban Salsa Society and we meet once per week to practise, socialise, meet new people and have fun! Our class is adapted to suit all levels – from complete beginners to advanced dancers, so don't hesitate to join us, even if you have never tried dancing before! We promise to make you fall in love with Cuban Salsa!

Make sure to follow us on facebook for more info about the classes.

Contact: Yasmeen (ycsb2) or Richard (rsb63)

Instagram: @darwin_cuban_salsa



Darwin Society for Research into Democracy, Politics and Populism (DarDePoP)

DarDePoP is the place to hear about and present research into topics concerning Democracy, Politics, and Populism.

Contact: Andreas (ak2500) or Liz (lp675)

Drink and Draw

Drink and Draw is a casual arts and crafts society. We meet in DarBar at 9pm on Wednesdays to doodle and gossip together, but we also organise occasional daytime workshops. Everyone is welcome irrespective of artistic talent! The point is to enjoy the process and do something with our hands after stressful days at labs/libraries/behind monitors. Each week we pick a new theme or style to try, such as still life, pot painting, clay sculpting, marbling and many more. The club is free to attend, requires no ongoing commitment, and you can join at any point in the evening. Guests are also welcome.

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Contact: Beccy (rm994)



Football (Mens)

Welcome to Darwin College Men's FC, your new home of football! The college has one men's team, playing in the Cambridge University JCR league, and we also enter into one of the world's oldest cup competitions. Come join us in our second season in the top division of college football!

We welcome everyone regardless of playing ability; whether you are a seasoned veteran, an occasional player looking to rekindle your career, or a total rookie, Darwin College FC is the place for you! Sign up at the freshers' fair or get in touch via WhatsApp or email, and be on the lookout for details of training, matches and most importantly, socials, starting in October.

Contact: Pjotr (plv21) or Jon (jiw29)



Football (Womens & NB)

Welcome to Darwin's Women and NB football society!

Come along for a fun taster football training session with the Darwin-Eddies-Wolfson Football team. We will do a few drills and football games, followed by a brief kickabout, to simulate our weekly training sessions (Mondays, 18:00-19:30). All abilities welcome!

We are a social and friendly team, doing a lot of socials (pub after matches, GayDar, swaps with other sports societies). Join our WhatsApp Group for more info, visit us at Fresher's Fair or come along to our taster session. We're looking forward to seeing you on the pitch!

If you're interested in joining the team, please feel free to join our Whatsapp Community, where you'll find regular updates on training, matches and socials.

Contact: Sophie (scp64) or Blanca (bp451)



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Gardening Society

Darwin college members, usually meeting every Sunday at 4pm. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a complete beginner, you're welcome to join us in cultivating flowers, vegetables, herbs, and fruit! But DarGar is not just about growing - it's about eating too! In the summer months, you'll be able to pick your favourites or try new fruit / veg. In October we collect the apples and pears from the Darwin trees to make juices and chutneys. Over the winter we still meet up, often to make delicious dishes from food bought at the local farmers' market.

Contact: Jana (js711)



LGBTQ+

Darwin's LGBTQ+ community has regular meet-ups where we do an assortment of activities like arts & crafts, book clubs but most often just a simple chat with your friends with drinks and snacks provided. The 'Darwin community only' events are intercalated with social swaps with communities from nearby colleges (bar nights, BBQs). February is LGBTQ+ history month, with plenty of talks and events (like formal halls, bar crawls and

club nights) organised by the Cambridge University Students' Union (join their mailing list on <https://lists.cam.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/cusu-lgbt-listings>) or the communities from various colleges.

The DCSA is still looking to appoint an LGBTQ+ Officer. Please contact dcsa_president@darwin.cam.ac.uk or dcsa_secretary@darwin.cam.ac.uk if you are interested in applying.

Music

The purpose of Darwin College Music Society (DCMS) is to foster music practice, performance and appreciation at Darwin. We organise music-related events at Darwin, maintain the music practice room, and are generally a social place for anyone interested in music. We host low-pressure weekly jam sessions where musicians of all backgrounds can meet and play together.

We also put on events like open mics, karaoke nights, band showcases as well as set up music equipment for BOPs and Balls. Several bands have formed out of the DCMS have gone on to gig at May Balls, venues around town, and beyond.



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Whether you're looking to start a band, practice by yourself or just receive updates about music events at Darwin, we invite you to sign up and keep in touch!

Contact: Ella (ehjm2) or David (do374)

Project Second Life

Project Second Life is a student-led scheme in the college, where we collect donated items at the end of one year and sell them to new Darwinians at the beginning of the next. Donations include kitchenware, crockery, homewares, bed linen, clothes and bikes.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Becca (rm994).



Punt Club

With a long tradition in Cambridge, punting is among the highlights of life at our riverside college. Annual membership of the Darwin College Punt Club will let you enjoy unlimited access to all the club's punts, kayaks, paddleboards and canoe at less than the price of a single trip with one of the commercial punting companies.

Beyond allowing you to take your friends and family punting whenever they visit,

membership will also give you the opportunity to sign up to special events such as our Halloween night punting and May Week events including the Trinity and St John's May Ball fireworks and King's and Trinity choirs singing on the river. If you are interested, please have a look at www.dcsa.darwin.cam.ac.uk/punts.

Contact: Martin (dcsa_punts@darwin.cam.ac.uk)



Quiz

A group for organizing Darwin's quizzing activities, from the termly DarQuiz to the University Challenge team.

Contact: Jon (jiw29)



Rugby

The All Greys are the inter-Collegiate rugby union team, representing the mature Colleges: Darwin, Wolfson, St. Edmund's and Hughes Hall. We compete in both the League and Cuppers, train

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once a week, with an active social calendar for the squad and friends.

Contact: Laurence (lb958) or Tom (tbw50)



Running Club

The Darwin College Running Club (DCRC) is a great community of people looking to enjoy the sights in and around Cambridge while enjoying fresh air and good company! We like to get out a few times a week for casual runs and tailor our regular sessions depending on the desires of the group. We encourage participation by runners of all abilities and often offer lead route variations to accommodate a variety of distances/paces. Please get in contact with us if you would like to know more about our regular schedule and try out a run!

Members of our club often decide to try out one of the many annual races in Cambridge such as the Town & Gown 10K, Cambridge Half Marathon, the Boundary Run Half/Full Marathon, or the Chariots of Fire Relay. In the past we have also represented at races in London and beyond. As a club, we set up sessions so that we can train together towards these ambitious goals.

Contact: Sigi (sm2237)

Squash Club

Whether you are someone who's always wanted to try squash but never had the time/place or a seasoned player looking for competition, Darwin Squash is the place for you. We run taster sessions during the early part of Michaelmas, have weekly coached sessions during term time, and participate in the college leagues (Michaelmas and Lent) and Cuppers (Lent). And of course if you just want to play for fun, there's loads of club mates who are up for friendly games during the week. Come say hello and find out how to book courts and borrow equipment.

Contact: WhatsApp Community

Swimming Club

DarFins, (o-fish-ally) Darwin Swimming Club, is a fin-tastic group of students all swimming levels. We go regularly to the indoor pool at Parkside, the Jesus Green Lido and Milton Country Park Lake for wild swimming, at least when we're not tide down with work. We have a whale of a time with our group swims once or twice a week but you can also swim alone if you wanna break away from the shoal and the majority of the cost of sessions is covered by the club. We also have fun post-swim socials, mostly to cafes for a hot drink after the lido, it does get pretty chilly. For the last couple of years we've done swimmingly in the inter-college Cuppers Races and we hope to do the same again this year. Anyone of any level is welcome to join us regularly, or as a one off but make shore

Sports & Societies

to dive into the WhatsApp group to keep up with current events.

Sea you in the water, Jacob

Contact: Jacob (jgp34)

Volleyball

Our volleyball club is all about having fun and enjoying the game in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, everyone is welcome to join in and share our love for the sport. We organise weekly sessions and take part in the friendly local volleyball league as well in Cuppers (intercollegiate sports competitions).

Contact: WhatsApp Community

Wine & Cheese Society

Care to know your Camembert from your Castigliano? Your Burgundy from your Beaujolais? Fancy yourself as an Oenologist, a Sommelier or cheese fancier? The DCW&CS is here to introduce your taste buds to a world of winery and creamery delights. We hold wine tasting events throughout the year, and our alcohol-free Cheese & Chats. Be sure to join our WhatsApp group to learn more!

Contact: Sofia (skpd2) or Rivkah (rb2130)

Yoga

Darwin does Yoga!

We offer Iyengar yoga classes twice



a week with one of Cambridge's most sought-after teachers, Shaili Shafai. All levels are welcome! We run classes twice a week during the whole year: Online on Wednesdays 6-7:15 pm and in-person Saturdays 2:00-3:15 pm in the Bradfield room. You can join our online classes by subscribing to our "Darwin College Yoga" mailing list to receive the class access details, and just turn up for the in-person ones!

We offer all the equipment needed, so if you would like to access some of it to join our online yoga classes, get in touch. We also offer more advanced workshop and social events once a term!

Contact: Lucy (lab203) or Eleanor (eo400)



Sports & Societies

Get Involved

If there's a sport/society not listed here, not to worry - you can start it! To establish a new sport/society you need to have a President and a Treasurer, and 15 Darwin students need to sign up. Then, you can apply for funding from the DCSA Treasurer.

There are many societies we've had at Darwin before (and therefore likely already have equipment for!) whose leaders have since left. If you're interested in restarting one of these clubs or starting a completely new one, come to the Sports & Societies Fair to pick up the necessary paperwork or email Kerem (dcsa_treasurer@darwin.cam.ac.uk) and Laura (dcsa_sports@darwin.cam.ac.uk)

Past societies include: *Aerial Arts, Lawn Games, Chess, Film Club, Mind Matters, Debate, Science Society, Tennis, Table Tennis, Minecraft, Photography, Robotics, Spikeball, Waterpolo, Zumba (and more!)*

Alumni Relations

Your Lifetime membership of Darwin College

When you join Darwin as a student, you become a member of Darwin College for life. When you complete your studies here, you join a community of almost 10,000 alumni spread around the world. Beyond this you will also be a member of a network of more than 300,000 Cambridge alumni - a network ready to support you professionally and personally for your future.

Networks

Alumni are always ready to help students. In March, we run a Careers Network event, connecting students with alumni to find out about careers and career paths. Alumni are also involved with the Entrepreneurship Society, sharing their experience and support. If there is a particular industry or sector you're interested in, please let us know and we can find an alumnus willing to be in touch with you directly. We are keen to involve more alumni directly with student activities and want to hear your ideas and interests so please do tell us.

Events and Communications - Keep in touch!

The Alumni & Development Office in College organises events and, with the Head of Communications, shares information for alumni on the College website, social media channels, and in the Darwinian, which is published

twice a year. We hold events for Darwin alumni in College, elsewhere in the UK, and internationally (in recent years including New York, Toronto, San Francisco, Washington DC, Düsseldorf, Venice, Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo). Students are welcome at most events - watch for your invitations.

Funding the Future

The Alumni and Development team also manage fundraising to support the College; particularly raising substantial amounts of money for scholarships and studentships. We can also work with student societies to help them fundraise. We employ students at some points in the year to help with specific fundraising activities such as the telephone campaign to ask alumni to pledge support. Please watch for the notices about these opportunities.

The Darwin College Society

The Darwin College Society is the official association of Darwin alumni and it works closely with the Alumni & Development Office, as well as with the DCSA on the Careers Network events. The committee organises regular social events in and around Cambridge – often with a local heritage theme, and the College organises dinners during the year for the Alumni and DCS to meet.

Alumni Relations



Benefits

You can find out more about alumni benefits on the College and University websites. These include access to the University Library, as well as discounts and special offers in shops, sports activities, punting, short term College accommodation and access to special events.

Ask us to help you!

Whatever your question or idea, we are ready to work with you so please drop us a line:

Hannah Milne (Alumni Relations Associate, alumni@darwin.cam.ac.uk)

Fiona Duffy (Development Director, development.director@darwin.cam.ac.uk)



Events



BOPs at Darwin!

A "BOP" is a Big Organised Party which is organised by the DCSA's Entertainments Officers. As the name suggests, it's a BIG PARTY which usually involves live bands, DJs, and generally great and memorable times. Sometimes we'll even have extra entertainment like ceilidhs and karaoke. Highlights of the BOP calendar include:

- The Fresher's BOP, where we welcome all of the new Darwinians at the start of the year.
- The themed BOPs, such as Halloween, where everyone is encouraged to costume up and dance the spooky night away
- The May Ball launch BOP, where we reveal the May Ball theme for the year. This is considered to be the biggest BOP of the year, involves lots of decorations, a wide range of drinks and a ton of great music entertainment.

There are a limited number of tickets available and each college member can only bring a restricted number of guests.

Formal Swaps

Do you fancy going for a nice formal dinner in another College in Cambridge? Have you ever wondered what the inside of King's, Trinity or St John's dining hall looks like and how their food compares to Darwin? Then stay on the lookout for Formal Swap sign-ups!

Organised by the DCSA's External Officer and advertised via the DCSA's WhatsUp newsletter, these are Formal Halls at other Colleges which your students' association managed to get a limited number of tickets to.

The dress code is normally similar to Darwin College's (see page X of this booklet) but will depend on the college you are visiting. Sometimes these formals will also have a special theme.



Events

GayDar

Conceived in 2022, GayDar is Cambridge's flagship Queer Graduate night. The event is hosted bi-terminally in DarBar and is co-organised by the DCSA's Q+ Officer and invites guests from across UoC's queer graduate community. GayDar is bold, bolshy and (a little) boozy and each iteration has a more inventive theme. GayDar is a queer space, but opens its doors to everyone who likes to have a gay old time!

Darwin x Wolfson (Oxford) Sports & Societies Day

Every year we have a fun and friendly swap with our sister college Wolfson College, Oxford. The day is filled with sports, sightseeing and social events and ends with a formal dinner and a special BOP.



Lunchtime Seminars

All members of Darwin are encouraged to present their research at informal seminars held on Tuesdays (Humanities) and Thursdays (Natural Sciences). Everyone is welcome, whatever your degree or discipline. Normally, lunch can be picked up from 12:00 and taken to the Richard King Room (on the left at the top of the stairs leading to the dining hall) or 1 Newnham Terrace (straight through at the far end of the dining hall). Wine is served. Non-Darwin members are welcome to attend, although lunch is only available to guests of members.

The talk usually begins at 13:10 and lasts



for about 20 minutes. It is followed by a discussion over coffee. The seminar finishes around 14:00 at the latest.

Events

Charity & Awareness Events

Over the last few years, we have been hosting a number of events to raise awareness for causes the Darwin community is passionate about. These events bring together all members of the college: staff, fellows, and students, and have also been able to raise money for various charities thanks to the generosity of the Darwin community. A few highlights of last year's calendar included Pink Week and Green Week, in line with university wide initiatives!



2022 was the first year we had a college-wide **Pink Week** in Lent term to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer charities. There were an exciting range of events, from a pink week formal, to DarBar pink nights, and "pink-ified" society events throughout the week.

Green week has now become a permanent feature of the college calendar after a successful launch in 2021. Last years events included sustainable beers at Darbar, a locally sourced menu

in Darwin Kitchens, a Hedgehog themed formal, a clothes swap, and much more!



Green Week and Pink week are collectively organised by the Darwin community so if you have an idea for an event - you can make it happen!

With all these amazing events and more, make sure you lookout for the Darwin WhatsUp Newsletter to keep up-to-date with what's happening in Darwin! Oh, and Join our Facebook group too!



Darwin Lecture Series

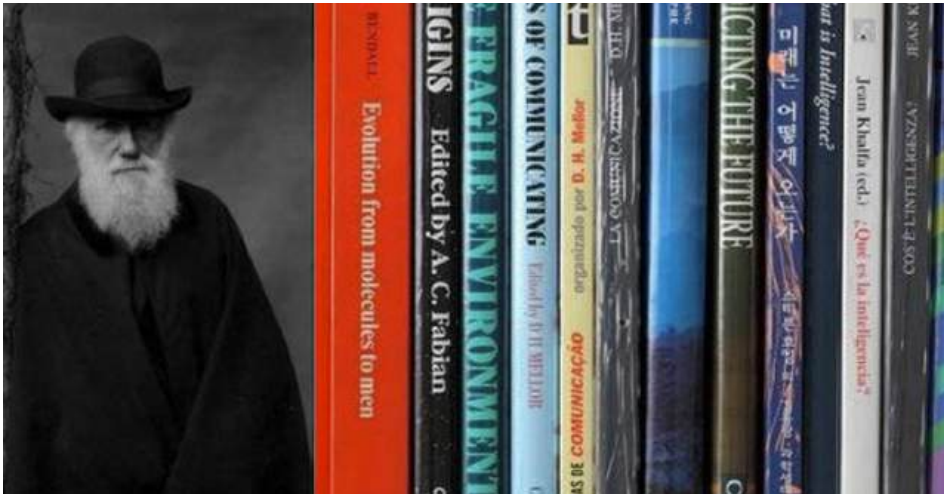
Darwin Lecture Series

The Darwin College lecture series is an established and high-profile feature of the University of Cambridge calendar. The lectures typically attract an audience of over six hundred people, drawn from both the University and the city. The series is the largest College organised public event in Cambridge. The 2026 lectures, which will be the 41st year of the series, will be on the theme of **Song**. Some of this years' speakers include

For the last three years lectures have also been made available afterwards via youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DarwinCollegeLectureSeries>. Previous lectures are available on iTunes and are published by Cambridge University Press.

The full list of talks is available here: <http://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/5358>

The Darwin College Lecture Series takes place on Fridays during Lent term (January to March). The lectures are given at 5.30 p.m. in The Lady Mitchell Hall, Sidgwick Avenue.



Darwin May Ball



Cambridge's famous 'MayWeek' is a week-long series of events held in mid June (yes, June), celebrating the end of the academic year. Most colleges organise some form of event, from garden parties and 'June Events' to the larger 'May Balls'. Running from the evening to the early hours, Darwin's annual May Ball offers a variety of food, drink and entertainment. The College is redecorated according to a central theme, with guests typically dressing in black tie.

Darwin May Ball transforms our beautiful college grounds, and is open to past and present Darwin members, their guests and other University members. In 2022, May Week returned in its full glory following two years of cancelled/scaled



down outdoor events during lockdown. The Darwin May Ball was a highlight for many, this year being themed around a "Carnival of Venice" theme. In 2026 we're hoping to continue to impress and organise a night to remember.



Join the 2025 Darwin May Ball Committee!

The Darwin May Ball is entirely student-organised! Organising a Ball of this size is a unique experience, and there are a variety of roles available on the Committee, from Decorations and Food to Treasurer and even President! In exchange for running the Ball, Committee members get free tickets and other perks such as Ball swaps. Most importantly though, throwing a party for so many people is a lot of fun and a great way to make friends. The Committee is formed in Michaelmas term, so look out soon for more information on how to apply on the Darwin College Students Facebook page and in the Darwin WhatsUp email. Expressions of interest and any queries can be directed towards mayball-president@darwin.cam.ac.uk.

Freshers' Event Descriptions

BOP

This is the biggest event of Freshers' Fortnight! See page 39 for more details. Ticket purchase information will be released soon.

PhD Panel and Social

Join us for a panel where current PhD students will share their experiences, followed by a social to connect with other new PhD students!

Ceilidh

Come and dance the night away with funky folk tunes from the Darwin Ceilidh band Mango Trout!

College History Tour

Learn all about the history of Darwin College from our Dean, Duncan Needham.

Walk to Grantchester

Join the DCSA as we stroll through the famous Grantchester Meadows.

Welfare Crafts

Join us for a relaxed afternoon of crafts and snacks!

Feast of Strangers

Go beyond the usual Freshers week chat! You will be partnered up randomly and provided with a conversation menu of questions. May the conversation begin over some snacks!

Welcome Drinks with DCSA

Come and meet DCSA EC officers and other college members! There will be free drinks. I repeat, free drinks.

Freshers BBQ Picnic on the Island

A casual picnic on our very own island to meet your fellow Darwinians over some tasty food!

Où et le Poulet

Team up to hunt down the chicken drinking your money away!

Project Second Life

Find a hidden gem in the extensive collection of homewares to clothes which past Darwinians have donated!

Night Punting

Come along for a night time punt down the river. Sign up online to secure a place.

Stargazing Walk

Prof. Andy Fabian, OBE, FRS, ex-Vice Master of Darwin College and ex-President of the Royal Astronomical Society will be leading walks into Grantchester Meadows to watch the sky.

Punt Lessons

Assisted punting lessons for beginners. You can't leave Cambridge before trying it.

Recession Session

A weekly Darbar tradition, we make up for the falling value of the £GBP by slashing drink prices every Monday night.

Sports & Societies Fair

Various college and University organizations will have booths for you to explore. Find yourself a hobby for the next year!

Check the WhatsApp, Emails and Instagram for more information and updates on all events!

College Main Site Rooms

Common Room

Located in the Hermitage underneath the Servery at the Northwest corner of college, the Common Room contains the café, pool and foosball tables.

Bar and Lounge Space

Beside the Common Room is the bar space, where you can find DarBar open from 9-12pm every night, and the adjoining lounge space.

Parlour

The Parlour, adjoined to the Common Room, is a social space for chatting or light work. No food is allowed and no phone calls should be taken in this room.

Servery and Dining Hall

The stairs outside the Parlour lead to the Servery, where members can get lunch and dinner on weekdays and brunch on weekends. The Servery leads on to the large Dining Hall, which in summer can also be accessed via the spiral staircase outside.

Richard King Room

On the left as you exit the staircase, and above the Parlour, is the Richard King room, primarily used for special dining events and the lunchtime seminars.

Newnham Terrace 1 Meeting Room (NT1)

On the far side of the Dining Hall from its entrance lies the NT1 Meeting Room. This room can be booked at the Porters Lodge for use by Darwinians only.

Newnham Terrace Seminar Rooms

Above the NT1 Meeting Room are two seminar spaces for use including supervisions or private study. These can also be booked at the Porters Lodge.

Old Library

On the North face of Newnham Grange is the Old Library, used for functions, dinners and meetings. This room can be booked for use of the piano at the Porters.

Reading Room

Opposite from the Old Library is the Reading Room, which in the day can be used for reading or silent study. During the evenings this room can be used for board games or as a lounge space. No alcohol is allowed in the Reading Room.

Music Room

Down the stairs from the Old Library and opposite the Bursary is the Music Room, run by the DCMS. Inductions to use this room can be done by contacting the DCMS President.

Laundry Room

At the far East end of Newnham Grange, the Laundry Room can be used by college members free of charge.

Bradfield Court

Between Newnham Grange and the library, Bradfield Court is a multipurpose space. Darwinians can book this room at the Porters for college-only use, and the room can be booked for use of the piano.

New Student Checklist

We know that moving to Cambridge and starting in a College can be quite overwhelming, with so many things to organise and lots of new things to try out! Hopefully this booklet has helped you get a better picture of all things Darwin. To now set you on your way, we wanted to make it that little bit easier to get started by putting together a checklist of things to do before your course begins!

General

- Set up your Eduroam access tokens to get access to the internet
- Set up your Upay Account
- Collect a bike tag from the porters

Welfare

- Make sure you know who your Graduate Tutor is - drop them an email to find a time to meet
- Do you have a long-term health condition, disability or impairment (mental or physical)? If so, consider registering with the Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre (DRC) to have easy access to support when you might need it in future: www.disability.admin.cam.ac.uk/student-information-form.
- Sign up for a **consent workshop**.

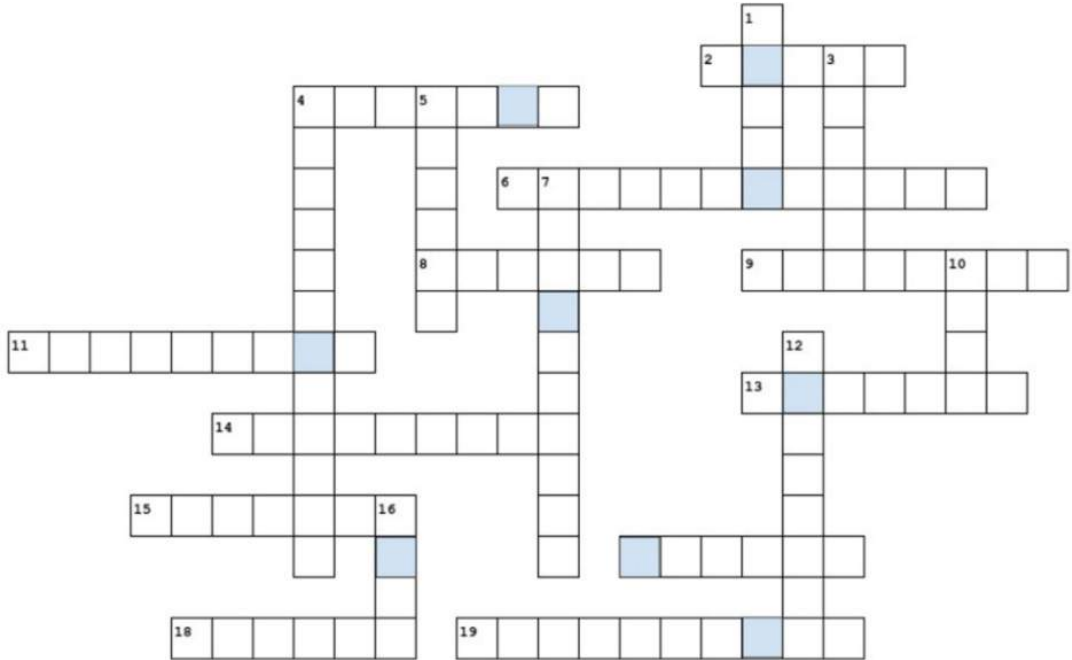
- Register with a GP surgery (GP = General Practitioner/Doctor)
- Register for a local UK bank account
- Get a local sim card
- Get your @cam email set up on all your devices to check regularly!

Freshers Fortnight

- Add the Darwin College Students Calendar to your personal calendar to keep track of events
- Attend the Welfare tea and Sports and Societies Fairs to sign-up for different Darwin College societies meet the Welfare representatives
- Check the time and date of your Welcome Dinner
- Check the events sign up sheet if any of the events you'd like to attend require you to sign up beforehand!



Darwin Freshers' Crossword



Across

2. One of the Punt Club's vessels, which you can paddle forwards and backwards?
4. Darwin's biggest annual party and, in 2023, the first one in Cambridge history to be vegan
6. Prime Minister at the time of Darwin College's founding
8. How to find the best night for Darwin's LGBTQ+ community?
9. Country of which Darwin alumnus Sir Elliott Belgrave served as governor-general, was declared a republic in 2021
11. Building where DarBar, the cafe, and the parlour can be found
13. Charles Darwin's granddaughter and former resident of Newnham Grange, now found much closer to the gym?
14. The theme of 2023's Darwin College Lecture Series
15. ___ College, Oxford is Darwin's sister college at that unnamable institution
17. A dark beer that can always help you around college?

18. The highest-numbered Newnham Terrace, or the time that DarBar closes most nights
19. Enzyme whose discovery earned Darwin alumna Elizabeth Blackburn a Nobel Prize

Down

1. Mike ____, current Master of Darwin College
3. A nearby pub whose prices can really drag you down?
4. Student accommodation which processes the products of 7 Down?
5. A big part of your university — and how to get to the barbecue?
7. Student accommodation which produces material for 4 Down?
10. The best Darwin organisation to get involved in — don't worry, you're already a member!
12. Name of Hermes's staff, which can be seen featured on Darwin's crest
16. Number of undergraduates currently enrolled at Darwin College (pewh!)

Notes

Get Connected: Useful Links

DCSA Linktree



linktr.ee/dcsa.com

DCSA Instagram



@DCSA_DARWIN_COLLEGE

Join the WhatsApp by scanning the QR Code at the Porters Lodge!