



Murray Edwards College

University of Cambridge



... for women who expect to lead the way

www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

Welcome to Murray Edwards College



Our College President: Dame Barbara Stocking

Barbara Stocking was appointed President in 2013. She is a former College undergraduate, having studied Natural Sciences. She was awarded a DBE in 2008 for her services to humanitarian causes as CEO of Oxfam. More recently she chaired the panel assessing the WHO response to the ebola outbreak in Africa. She remains a passionate advocate of opportunities for women of all backgrounds.

Senior Tutor: Dr Juliet Foster

Juliet Foster is Senior Tutor and a University Lecturer in Social Psychology in the Department of Psychology. Her research focuses on understandings of health and illness, and the development of shared knowledge. Her academic expertise complements her interests in college where she focuses on developments in student welfare and in effective learning environments for young women.



“As Senior Tutor for Murray Edwards it is a great pleasure to welcome all the outstanding young women who choose to study here. The College encourages students to aim high both while they are studying with us and in their future careers. However, we also recognise that each student is an individual bringing her own experiences and aspirations to enrich our college and university community. Your undergraduate years are very special and transformative; we do everything we can to help you to fulfil your potential and to enjoy them.”

Living and Studying at Murray Edwards College

Architecturally light and modern the College is set within informal gardens. It is adjacent to Fitzwilliam and St Edmund's Colleges and close to Churchill College, the Maths Faculty, Cavendish Laboratory and Vet School. The bustling City centre is just a 3-minute bike ride downhill.

With a reputation for being open, friendly, lively and innovative we offer a warm welcome to outstanding young women from all backgrounds and nationalities. We can provide excellent facilities including a striking College Library (holding 60,000 books and open 24 hours a day) and modern living and dining areas. Almost all our undergraduate students are accommodated in College throughout their studies in rooms with central heating, wifi access and shared kitchens. Most rooms have a wash basin and 40% are ensuite.

Meals are available in our light and spacious dining hall, enhanced by a display of contemporary art and distinguished by our iconic domed ceiling. Food at the College has a very good reputation with Saturday brunch and the daily salad bar particular favourites. In addition our gardeners grow a wide selection of herbs and some vegetables which they encourage students to pick and use whenever they wish.

We offer a range of social and leisure facilities including a gym, tennis court, squash court, bar and TV room. Benefiting from keen and talented musicians, the College Music Society holds regular recitals and concerts in conjunction with neighbouring colleges. We have many College societies and our sports teams compete in various league and cup competitions. Our Boat Club has enjoyed considerable success in recent years.



As a Cambridge college we provide not only the living environment but also, and crucially, the foundation for academic study. Our community includes undergraduates, postgraduates, researchers and lecturers from a wide range of academic fields. Discussion is lively and informed and our alumnae community includes a growing number of those who have achieved at the highest academic level nationally and internationally.

We want you to succeed in your own academic endeavours. We aim to provide you with very strong teaching and support both within the College and from across the University. Our mixed Fellowship (our academic teachers and researchers) are highly committed with considerable expertise and will guide you through your studies as you learn on a daily basis through all the facilities that this University and its departments and colleges together provide. Study here is exciting, demanding and rewarding.

Students who visit Murray Edwards College often remark on its very special and distinctive character..... the next page highlights some of these features, but we hope you will come and see for yourself.



Murray Edwards makes

The Gateway Programme

Unique to Murray Edwards College this programme provides enhanced opportunities for those who study here. It includes workshops, work placement opportunities and funding options.

Academic workshops – These are interdisciplinary, incorporating small group discussion and subject-specific advice through our highly regarded student peer advisers. Topics include making the most of supervisions, effective note-taking, problem-solving and exam preparation.

Career and personal development workshops – These are led by experienced consultants and include topics from knowing your strengths and learning how to network, to preparing CVs and practising job interviews.

Work placement opportunities – Our students are often keen to explore roles beyond the major graduate employers. To help we have wide ranging work-shadowing and internship schemes. As well as being informative and enjoyable, research shows that this makes a real difference to future job prospects.

Funding – We encourage students to broaden their experience, develop their leadership skills and pursue excellence. Through the Gateway Programme students can apply for funding to undertake an exciting and enriching activity of their choice.



“ A really fantastic [internship] opportunity which forced me to prepare my CV properly for the first time and gave me a much better understanding of the publishing industry. ”

Ru (History)

Travelling with Gateway Funding

“ I was determined to apply for Gateway funding to do something active.... I wanted to cycle up a mountain. A proper one. And what better place to cycle than in France? ”



I had never been to France, I can't speak French, and I didn't know the last thing about the Tour de France. Receiving Gateway funding was motivation to tackle all these points, as well as gain demonstrable skills in independent planning, organisation, problem solving and to experience new and challenging environments. ”

Holly (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

Benefitting from an internship

“ The scientists at the institute conduct distinct studies in several research areas e.g. crime prevention, child and juvenile delinquency, prison research and victimization. I became part of the research group 'Internet and Video Game Addiction'..... I evaluated psychological tests, analyzed the self-perception of computer game addicts in comparison to non-

addicts, carried out several statistical tests and in the end reported my findings in a short result section.



Gateway did not only support me in gathering important experiences and suggestions for my current studies, but it helped me get a clear view on my intended career. ”

Janina (Politics, Psychology and Sociology)

“ The Gateway programme has been such a positive part of college life for me so far. ”

Magdalen (English)

a difference through...

Welcoming students

At Murray Edwards it is a cherished tradition to welcome all offerholding students to a night in College (in March) for our 'Offerholders' Overnight Stay'. It is popular, fun and a great way to get to know more about the College community and student life 'from the inside'.

“ I have come away from the Overnight Stay with a bunch of new friends and a sense of confidence which seems to be one of the most important gifts that Murray Edwards gives to its students. For us, the universally daunting prospect of an unfamiliar environment full of strangers will no longer be a worry when we return in October – on the contrary, I can't wait to start! ”

Catherine (Classics)

Promoting the work of women artists

We host the largest collection of art by women in Europe. It is contemporary, imaginative and thought-provoking and displayed throughout the College. It includes a sculpture in the gardens by Dame Barbara Hepworth and a recent new work by Dame Paula Rego in the Dome to mark the college's 60th Anniversary. Three dung beetles by Wendy Turk lurk expectantly in the gloom beneath the spiral staircase.

“ Tracey Emin on the walls is inspiring. Fantastic not to be surrounded by portraits of old men. ”

Amy (Linguistics)

Creating a colourful and relaxing environment

Our informal gardens are admired and enjoyed. There are flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables for students to pick and the gardeners run impromptu events such as apple-picking and marshmallow-toasting over a wood fire. You can walk on the grass and there's even a hammock for relaxing.

Engaging students in college policy-making

Students are engaged in all the key policy making committees in the College. They take a very active role in shaping how the College looks, feels and functions. As a result, the College benefits from a very open and responsive atmosphere, much valued by staff and students alike.

“ It is great to be able to work closely with College staff to ensure that student opinions are taken into account in all decisions. ”

Beth (JCR President)

Contributing to academic initiatives for women

The College is increasingly invited to contribute to initiatives within the wider university aimed at understanding and addressing gender issues in higher education. These include inequalities in participation in some subjects and in achievement in others.

“ Murray Edwards is one of the few colleges that really prepares women for their future... ”

Kate (Natural Sciences)





Celebrating Results

Our Finalists overall
92% achieved a 1st or 2:1

1st class Honours 29 students (nearly 1 in 4)

“ Murray Edwards has always been incredibly supportive...and I honestly am not sure that I would have done the fourth year let alone achieve a first, without this help.

Christina (Natural Sciences Geology – 1st)

(Summer 2015)

Pearl House

Applicant Offers

Student backgrounds

UK: 81% (72% state, 28% independent)

Europe: 11%

Overseas: 8%

GCSE record

Eight or more A*s at GCSE: 71%

Four or fewer A*s at GCSE: 12%

AS record

Scored an average of at least 92% over 3

best AS subjects: 73%

Scored an average of 88% or less over 3

best AS subjects: 6%

Qualification system

Other than A level: 20%

(Winter 2014/15)



Money Issues

Ensuite room rent

£1200-£1400 per term

Lunch/dinner

£4-£6

Travel awards

81 awards of up to £300

Gateway Challenges Funding

54 awards of up to £500

(Summer 2015)



Who lives and works at Murray Edwards?

350 undergraduates

100 postgraduates

50 academic fellows

100 staff

My 'most memorable moment' at Murray Edwards



“The garden party in the sun after exams when everyone is happy!”

Lily (Theology)



“Formals! Either the bar rising out the floor to the sound of Phantom of the Opera during Halloween Formal, or the chef running with the flaming Christmas pudding during Christmas formal!”

Emma (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

[‘Formals’ are served dinners.]



“Chatting to all of the other freshers in the Dome on my first day at Medwards; in the beautiful hall, surrounded by such down-to-earth people, I realised that I really was at home here.”

Eleanor (Human, Social and Political Sciences)



“Sitting on the grass after exams just enjoying being with friends.”

Rebecca (Psychological and Behavioural Sciences)

“Gaining blades in May bumps.”

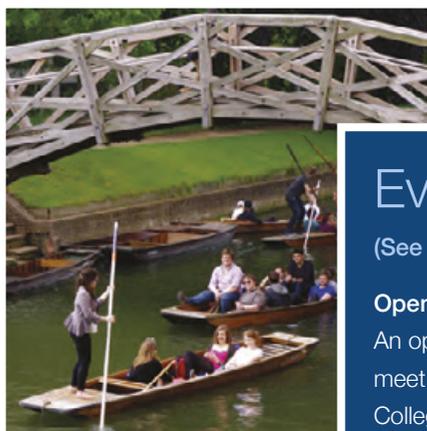
Christina (Natural Sciences)

[‘Bumps’ are rowing races, ‘blades’ are for winning.]



“Matriculation dinner – it was our first experience of true Cambridge life and we were welcomed and treated by these incredible fellows like equals.”

Nadia (Natural Sciences)



Events and visits

(See website for full details and booking)

Open Days (July and September)

An opportunity to learn about applying to Cambridge, to meet academic fellows, talk to students and to take a College tour.

Pathways to Success Conference (July)

An overnight conference for sixth formers celebrating achievement and exploring next steps. We invite interest from schools. It's popular so we try to engage a different range of schools each year.

Offerholders' Overnight Stay (March)

A unique opportunity for offerholders to join us and stay with current students for 24 hours to experience a 'real' taste of University life before their final school exams.

She Talks Science: Aiming High Conference (April)

A new Saturday conference for young women interested in advanced studies and careers in science.

Application Days (During school year)

A popular one-day programme about university applications for schools and individuals. The programme includes discussions with academic tutors and current students.

Aspiration Days (During school year)

A morning programme for visiting schools who would like to introduce younger students (usually year 10 and 11) to aiming high and university entrance.

Visits

Our Schools' Liaison Officer is pleased to arrange individual visits for schools and/or students unable to attend scheduled events.



Murray Edwards
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www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk admissions@murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk

Tel: 44(0)1223 762229 (Admissions) 44(0)1223 769020 (Visits)

Sat-nav post code CB3 0DR/number 61

We look forward to welcoming you to our College