



# GCR WELCOME PACK

Welcome to Durham and to Ustinov from all of us in the Ustinov Graduate Common Room (GCR) team! Congratulations on making it into Durham, it's a beautiful city and a fantastic place to study. Outside of your academic commitments, Ustinov GCR runs the social side of the college with countless parties, formals, trips and many more events throughout the year.

Ustinov GCR is a registered charity, independent from both the college and the university, we are financed by postgraduates for the benefit of postgraduates and entirely run by volunteers! The GCR levy is the sole reason we can hold events throughout the year (the more students who join the GCR, the more events and the bigger and better our events will be). It is also the cheapest levy in the university at £50 (most colleges charge £100+ for membership), membership gives you access to all this:

- **Early bird booking access** to all our formals and big events (for example formals like Castle typically sell out on the day they open, without a GCR membership you can be left disappointed and miss some of the biggest social events of the year!)
- **Reduced price tickets for events and trips:** GCR members pay less for our formals and Summer Ball (for example the Summer Ball ticket is cheaper for GCR members)
- **Reduced gym price:** the gym is £40 for GCR members, £70 for non-GCR members
- **Exclusive GCR member trips** (such as Raby Castle) and other perks throughout the year
- Access to games consoles, board games and other fantastic things the GCR has invested in
- Access to our Music Room and instruments
- Being able to run for GCR positions and make a real difference to college life (GCR Elections are being held at the first GCR meeting on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October)

Each year there are elections to find new people to join the committee and help run the GCR for the benefit of everyone in Ustinov. I'd be delighted for you to join the team so watch out for our updates and see the list of available positions below to run for when you arrive. Finally, we wish you every success for your time in Durham and hope to see you at many of our events throughout the year!

**GCR Membership 2023/24 Link:**

**Price: £50**

[Event Booking Details \(durham.ac.uk\)](https://pay.durham.ac.uk/optional-college-payments/ustinov-gcr-member-gym-pass-202324)

**GCR Gym Membership 2023/24 Link:**

**Price: £40**

<https://pay.durham.ac.uk/optional-college-payments/ustinov-gcr-member-gym-pass-202324>

**Non-GCR Member Gym Membership 2023/24 Link:**

**Price: £70**

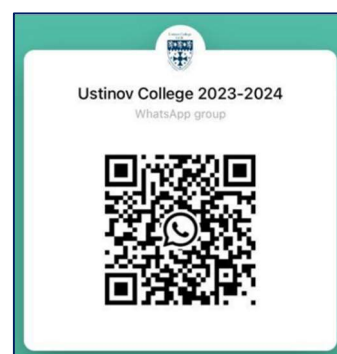
<https://pay.durham.ac.uk/optional-college-payments/ustinov-non-gcr-member-gym-pass-202324>

# GROUP CHAT LINKS

## USTINOV COLLEGE

Any relevant information for big events throughout the year will be posted on this Ustinov College WhatsApp Group Chat which can be joined with this QR code. This chat is for both livers in and livers out. Please don't spam this group with stuff relating to livers in – a group chat for livers-in is below.

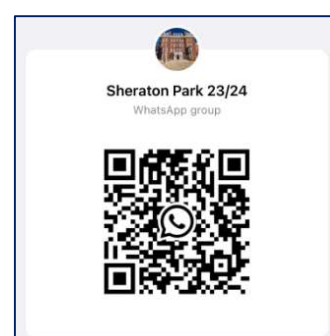
Link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/D2iIFgvNtKhEbjq7KpuAfs>



## SHERATON PARK GROUP CHAT

A general group chat for people who are living in Ustinov accommodation at Sheraton Park, this will include any relevant information for livers-in.

Link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KgusPp7SeJeAjzL54HXQt7>



## KEENAN HOUSE GROUP CHAT

A group chat for Keenan House that will include any important information for events throughout the year, particularly things happening at Keenan House.

Link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/K2EcySTRWlf793g0JQ2iml>





# GCR TEAM

The GCR is run by volunteers elected from the student body at Ustinov. If you have any questions about life at Ustinov don't be afraid to ask, we are here to help, especially during the first few weeks as you settle into Ustinov and on move-in days, all of the team are really friendly and helpful so do say hello when you see us!



**Anthony | President**

[ustinov.president@durham.ac.uk](mailto:ustinov.president@durham.ac.uk)



**Jamie | Vice-President**

[vp.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk](mailto:vp.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk)



**Shaf | International Students Officer**

[iso.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk](mailto:iso.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk)



**Artie | LGBT+ Representative**

[welfare.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk](mailto:welfare.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk)



**Alexander | Tech Officer**



# WHAT IS THE GCR?

The GCR exists to:

- Represent students in college. This may include raising issues about accommodation, study space, the bar/café, and welfare.
- Increase the social activities and sense of community within the College, with Induction Week events, formal dinners, day trips, parties and other events open to all GCR members.
- Support clubs and societies and provide them with funding.
- Provide regular entertainment for students. We run scheduled nights such as Ustinov Live, Karaoke Night Wand quiz nights.
- Many, many more things that you'll experience throughout the year.

# GET INVOLVED IN THE GCR!

The GCR has a varied set of committee roles to be filled by keen volunteers like YOU! If you want the chance to help improve the lives of other students, consider running for a committee position. If you don't have so much time to spare, you can also volunteer to help run our children's parties, perform at formals and other events and attend GCR meetings to pass budgets for all of these and much more besides.

We will be having a General Meeting on Sunday 8th Oct at 7 pm, as part of our Induction schedule. This will give you the opportunity to run for any open committee positions as well as hearing our exec telling you all they've been doing to run Ustinov events and make our college better. We are still looking for a few more people to join our executive (and other committees). See all the info on available positions at the end of this handbook!

# GCR FACILITIES AT SHERATON PARK

The GCR has a range of facilities at Sheraton Park, for use by GCR members. Our gym is located just after the Porter's reception desk and can be accessed by your flat key card (once you have purchased a gym membership – link at the start of this pack). We also have a music room 5 minutes' walk away at the Observatory. The Music Room is at the very back of the building. It contains various GCR-owned musical instruments such as pianos, guitars, and a drum kit. You can also bring your own instruments to practice! More information on our facilities can be found at:

<https://ustinovgcr.com/sheraton-park/>



# GCR CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Ustinov GCR has many active clubs and societies for you to join. They are a great way to meet new people, make friends, represent Ustinov, and have fun! All the societies are listed on our website: <https://ustinovgcr.com/clubs-and-societies/>

Our clubs and societies are inclusive of everyone regardless of experience and provide a friendly atmosphere and a welcome break from your studies throughout the year. This is your chance to come along and try something new!

Feeling competitive? Our sports teams participate in various inter-college leagues throughout the year. Join them and help Ustinov to reach a good position in the ranking! Want to start a new society? It's easy! Email [vp.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk](mailto:vp.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk) and we will provide you with more information. Make sure to attend the Clubs & Societies Fair on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September** between 1-4 pm.

## GCR EVENTS

Ustinov GCR hosts many exciting events throughout the year, in college, in Durham City, and even further afield. The Formal Dinners provide an air of sophistication, while the themed parties let you dance the night away! Probably the biggest GCR event of the year is Ustinov Day. We also have the annual Ustinov Summer Ball to round off the exam season.

### QUIZ NIGHTS!

Every Thursday night, the bar hosts a weekly pub quiz. Teams of up to 6, £1 buy-in (cash only) and the winning team gets the pot! For those not familiar with the British Pub Quiz, this is a traditional entertainment designed to be more fun than competitive!

### USTINOV LIVE/KARAOKE NIGHT!

A couple of times per term, the Ustinov Bar holds an open mic/karaoke night. If you play an instrument, have a band or want to read poetry (or even stand-up) then these are the events for you! If you want to perform, email [vp.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk](mailto:vp.ustinovgcr@durham.ac.uk) to arrange a timeslot and discuss tech needs.

### TRIPS OUT!

The GCR International Students Officer is responsible for organising regular trips to local attractions. Previous locations have included Beamish Museum, Bamburgh Castle and York. The shared transport means these are cheap days out and the GCR has a national trust membership to save you even more money (free entry to NT properties)!

### GENERAL MEETINGS!

The GCR is run by students, for students and for important changes and decisions, we need to let YOU, our members know and let everyone have their say. GMs are where the Executive tell you what they've been doing. They are also where new positions get elected, this can make a huge difference to your student life. Every GM is accompanied by pizzas.



# AVAILABLE GCR POSITIONS

The first General Meeting of the year will be on: Sunday 8th October 2023

To run for a position simply submit a manifesto before the deadline (23:59 on Wednesday 4th of October 2023) at <https://ustinovgcr.com/election-info/>

Job descriptions for all the roles can also be found at: <https://ustinovgcr.com/officer-roles/>

## ROLES UP FOR ELECTION

### EXEC COMMITTEE:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Bar Steward
- Clubs and Societies Officer
- Durham SU Liaison
- Communications Officer
- Induction Officer
- Social Secretary
- Welfare Officer

### COMMS COMMITTEE:

- Webmaster
- Press Secretary
- GCP Liaison Officer

### OTHER COMMITTEES:

- Female/Male Sports Representatives
- Assistant Treasurer

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

- Deputy Social Secretary
- Formal Secretary
- Ball Secretary
- Video Master
- Ents Officer
- DUCK Liaison Officer
- Deputy Induction Officer

### STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Election Officers

### WELFARE COMMITTEE:

- Women's and Men's Welfare Representatives
- Disability Representative
- BAME Representative

### FACILITIES COMMITTEE:

- Sheraton Park Representatives
- Dryburn Representatives
- Ecology Representative
- Livers Out Representative