

FAQs

What's the difference between the Open Days and Offer Holder days?

An Open Day is the opportunity to have a general overview of the University and visit the city. A Post-offer Visit Day is your chance to experience an in depth session with your department and visit your preliminary college. During an Post-offer Day, you will spend 3 hours in your chosen academic session where as on an Open Day you have more flexibility to join a variety of sessions and talks which will each be 1 hour long. This allows you to be able to structure your day to aid your preferences and decisions about which college and department you want to apply for.

What should I do if I can not attend any of the Open Days but I am very interested in the University?

We suggest still registering for a ticket, as this way you will get access to all of the recordings from each session for you to watch back. Our website also contains in depth information about each college and department for you to research. We have also created our own app called 'Discover Durham Tours' where you can walk around virtually to see each department and find out more information.

What is a college?

Every Durham student belongs to a college. Your college is where you can live, socialise and personally develop, ensuring you graduate with much more than a degree. University accommodation is based within our colleges. All colleges provide a gym, a library or study space, social space, and a bar and/or café. Your research will help you decide which colleges to visit and lists information such as whether they are catered or self-catered, shared or en-suite. Every college has its own character defined by its people, traditions and buildings.

How can you maximise fitting everything into 1 day?

We would recommend looking at the list of college's which suit your preferences and choosing 3 or 4 to visit. If your unsure what you are looking for from your college, we suggest visiting 1 fully cated and 1 self catering, 1 modern college on the Hill and 1 more historic college on the Bailey in order to see the contrast. Then focus on the academic element, department buildings and key areas you want to visit (ie, libraries or study spaces), look at grouping points of interest together and plan your route to maximise your time.

Which colleges are better for sports?

All of our colleges have a wide ranges of sports teams and activities. However, if this is something you are keen to get involved in, then the larger colleges (those on the Hill) naturally have more to offer due to more people being a part of the college. However, the colleges on the Bailey do still have a range of sports to offer so don't rule these out! Our college's have a range of professional teams as well as teams for those who want to play as a hobby.

Are we able to see what the accommodation looks like?

All college's are open and you are able to walk around to see the facilities. We do request for a bedroom to be able to be viewed however these are our students homes so it will depend on a case by case basis. If a college is unable to show you a room, they will be able to show your photos or videos of what they do look like. Each college will also have student ambassadors who are eagerly waiting to chat to you about their experience being a part of each college.



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How do I know which colleges are best suited to me?

Start with whether you want a catered or a self-catered college. This will probably have the biggest impact on your college lifestyle. Also think about if you want to be in a larger more modern college, or if you fancy something smaller, more historic. Next think about location, 'Bailey Colleges' can be found in the city centre, close to the shops and nightlife. 'Hill Colleges' are further from town, but very handy for the main campus known as the science site, this is where the Bill Bryson Library & Teaching & Learning Centre are located. Check out the colleges' social media pages to see what they are getting up to and if that fits with your interests!

Will I struggle to find accommodation if I do not live in College?

Durham City offers a range of private accommodation options, including flats, houses, and rooms in shared houses. Many agents and online platforms advertise student accommodation, so research is key. The University's Housing Hub provides resources and advice for finding private accommodation. The student housing market can be competitive however there is a wide range of options in and around the City.

What is student life like at Durham?

With historical sites to explore, stunning countryside nearby and some brilliant nightlife, there's plenty to do here, there is something for everyone at Durham. There's different societies at both college and university level. The college system itself is a great starting point for socialisation as everyone tends to become good friends with a group of people in their college, but sports and societies are also a great way to make friends too. Nightlife is busy and vibrant for students, with Newcastle only a short train ride away for those who are looking for something busier.

How diverse is the University?

The University has people from all different backgrounds and walks of life from race, religion and ethnicity. There is also a large proportion of international students who study here. We are continuously trying to improve the diversity where we've got a range of initiatives to aid this and it's something that we're always working on. We would suggest you come along you can speak to the students and see what their perspective is where you'll see that they're all from different backgrounds and walks of life.

How often are shuttle busses running?

We have shuttle busses running at regular intervals between the times of 8.30-4.30pm, ideally every 15 minutes however this does depend on how congested the traffic is in and around the city centre. We would recommend checking the walking distance time before waiting for a bus as sometimes it can be quicker to walk to your chosen destination if possible.

How do we get in touch if we have more questions?

If you have a question about the upcoming event, you can email us on our dedicated email address 'Open.Days@durham.ac.uk' where we will respond to you as soon as possible. During busy periods this may take a few days before we are able to respond. If you have a general question about the University, you can also use the 'Ask Us' page on our website: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/study/ask-us/>



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