



Accessibility Statement — College Accommodation

Our Commitment to Accessibility

St John's College is committed to providing an inclusive, welcoming, and accessible environment for all guests. While our historic buildings present some accessibility challenges, we continually seek ways to improve access and provide reasonable adjustments wherever possible.

Established in 1909, St John's College is located on the historic Durham Peninsula within a series of Grade II listed buildings. As part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the College occupies a uniquely beautiful but historically protected location. This heritage status places necessary restrictions on the types of alterations that can be made to buildings, pathways, and external infrastructure, including cobbled streets, uneven surfaces, steep gradients, and narrow entrances.

While these constraints can present accessibility challenges, we are committed to providing inclusive and supportive accommodation for all guests and will work with individuals to meet their needs wherever possible.

Getting Here by Car

St John's College is situated within a vehicular access restriction zone enforced by Durham County Council. A congestion charge applies daily between 10:00am and 2:00am (except on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day). This charge must be paid online, either in advance or within 24 hours of entering the zone. To check the latest information or to pay the charge, please visit: [Durham Road User Charge Zone](#).

Please note the following important travel information:

- St John's College does not offer on-site parking as parking in the Durham Peninsula area is extremely limited.
- We recommend using public transport, taxis, or drop-off arrangements where possible.
- Taxi drop-off access can be arranged in advance.

Accommodation Accessibility

Step-Free and Accessible Rooms

While the historic nature of the college buildings presents challenges, we are continually working to improve accessibility wherever possible. A limited number of ground-floor en-suite rooms with step-free access are available within one of our accommodation blocks. Step-free access is available from the building entrance to the bedroom and bathroom.

Two of these rooms are accessible rooms designed for wheelchair users and include:

- Wet-room bathrooms with roll-in showers
- Grab rails and support bars
- Wider doorways
- Fixed-height furniture designed to support ease of use

Room Features and Layout

- All rooms contain fixed furnishings, including beds, desks, and wardrobes.
- Visual fire alarm devices may be available for guests with hearing impairments. Please request these in advance where possible.



- Guests requiring adjustments relating to lighting, bedding, furniture arrangements, or additional accessibility equipment are encouraged to contact us prior to their stay

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome throughout the College and accommodation buildings

Emergency Evacuation

Guests who may require assistance during an emergency evacuation are encouraged to contact us before arrival so that appropriate arrangements can be discussed and planned where possible.

Navigating the College Site

Due to the nature of our historic setting many buildings have entrances with steps, though portable ramps can be provided upon request.

Some parts of the College, including function rooms, common areas, and the dining hall, may only be accessible by exiting and re-entering different buildings. External pathways may include cobbled streets, uneven surfaces, steep gradients, or narrow walkways.

College staff are available during normal business hours to assist with access arrangements, directions, and equipment such as portable ramps where available.

Planning Your Visit

To help make your stay as comfortable as possible, we are happy to:

- Provide photographs, videos, or floor plans of specific rooms, routes, or facilities upon request.
- Discuss accessibility requirements before arrival.
- Arrange early check-in or late check-out where feasible and subject to availability.
- Offer personal assistance and guidance during check-in and orientation around the College site.
- Provide information about accessible routes and facilities within the College.

We encourage all guests who may require adjustments or additional support to contact us before their stay so that we can discuss their requirements and make appropriate arrangements wherever possible.

Contact Us

If you would like more information about accessible accommodation, need support with planning your journey, or have questions about navigating the College, we will be happy to help. You can reach us by email (johns.conferences@durham.ac.uk), or by phone 0191 334 3500).

We are committed to ensuring that all visitors, whether staying for a short visit, attending a conference, or participating in College life, can enjoy and experience our beautiful historic environment with dignity, comfort, and confidence.