

Churchill College Room Ballot for postgraduate accommodation 2023-24

According to our records, you are expected to be a Churchill Postgraduate Student next term. You are, therefore, entitled to enter the Rooms Ballot for the academic year 2023-24. However, please note the priority lists below. If you do not enter the Ballot, it will be assumed that you do not want to live in a College room next year. Room agreements are signed for the period ending 30th June 2024 as a minimum.

This information, as well as an online entry form for the Group and Individual Ballots, can be found on the Room Ballot 2023 page of the MCR website:

<http://mcr.chu.cam.ac.uk>

Reminders will be sent via email when the ballots open.

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Summary and Deadlines

SINGLE ROOMS (see section A.2)			
Terms in Postgraduate Accommodation (as of October 2023)	Priority Category (see Section B.1)	Group Ballot (see Section B.2)	Individual Ballot (see Section B.3)
0	Category 1	<u>Opens on Monday 17th April at 08.30 and closes on Wednesday 19th April at 16.00.</u>	<u>Opens on Monday 24th April at 08.30 and closes on Wednesday 26th April at 16.00.</u>
≤ 3	Category 2		
≤ 6	Category 3		
≤ 9	Category 4	<u>NA</u>	
Couples and Families Accommodation (see Section A.1)	Deadline is Monday 10 th April 2023. Apply with this form: https://forms.gle/KCHwewX8yJ5vevF5A		
Applications for Extenuating Circumstances (see Section B.1.1)	Deadline is Monday 10 th April 2023. Apply with this form: https://forms.gle/g4ceZHeUkiu2x1r96		

A Available Rooms

The postgraduate accommodation at Churchill consists of single rooms (both en-suite and non-ensuite), flats primarily designed for couples and two-bedroom maisonettes for families with children. All postgraduate rooms in Churchill are priced according to the band system shown below.

Group	Band	Price per week
Single Rooms – non en-suite (Section A.2)	AA	£104
	AB	£131
	AC	£147
	AD	£164
Single Rooms – en-suite and large non en-suite (Section A.2)	AE	£196
	AF	£209
Flats (Section A.1)	AG	£232
2-bed Maisonettes (Section A.1)	AH	£303

The prices set for the 2023-2024 academic year reflect the increase in costs as a result of inflation. Whilst previous increases have been set at RPI + 1%, this year the MCR executive were consulted by the finance committee to increase the rent by 7% (to the nearest whole pound). This proposal was adopted by the College council. To provide context, RPI was 10.5% for the year 2022. Gas prices have also increased by 80%. Furthermore, the finance committee have agreed to establish a fund equivalent to 1% of the increase to provide a non-means tested bursary to those who college, in conjunction with the MCR committee, identify

are most in need of support to cover this increase. The exact details of this are under discussion, but it is expected that we can roll this out at the start of the next academic year. Whilst electricity costs incurred by the college are expected to increase by 500% this year, Churchill, unlike some other colleges, are able to mitigate this impact on students. Electricity costs will, however, be increased by 100% compared to the previous year.

A.1 Couples and Families Accommodation

In Churchill there are 25 flats designed for couples and 20 two-bedroom maisonettes designed for families with children. The majority of this accommodation is in the Wolfson Flats and Maisonettes complex. In addition to these there are a small number of one-bedroom flats in the new build properties. Families with children already occupying a Wolfson Maisonette may be permitted to renew the lease for the year 2023-24. (Leases for studio flats can only be renewed under exceptional circumstances.) **Anyone wishing to apply for a flat is out of the Rooms Ballot.** Please note rent is payable monthly in advance for these housing options.

If you would like to occupy one of these properties next year, you should fill in this form detailing why you would like to get one (**before 10th April**):

<https://forms.gle/KCHwewX8yJ5vevF5A>

While we expect the majority of the flats and maisonettes to be occupied by couples and families, we acknowledge that there are other reasons as to why students living alone may need to occupy them (e.g. for medical reasons). Students in this situation should use the same form as above.

Please note that the rents for Wolfson maisonettes are accordingly set anticipating that residents will ordinarily have a partner who contributes towards the rent. The College understands that, where a single parent is residing with children in a Wolfson maisonette, the rent for the maisonette might prove more stretching, depending upon the student's circumstances. Postgraduate single parents who are finding the rent for a Wolfson maisonette financially difficult should talk to their Tutor about applying for a hardship grant from the College to help alleviate any financial pressure. All applications will be considered individually, and there is no absolute scale of proposed assistance, though the College anticipates, where appropriate, making hardship grants to cover 25%-50% of the rent concerned.

A.2 Single Rooms

There are approximately 185 rooms for 2023-2024 (excluding the Wolfson Flats) available for Postgraduate Students, of which around 75 are to be allocated in the Ballot. The remainder of the rooms will be reserved for new Postgraduate Students in line with the College's intention to provide a housing option for all new students.

Full details of each available room are available in a separate table (see attached "Room Rents 2023-24 for ballot.xlsx"), and sample pictures of rooms and common areas are available on the Churchill website:

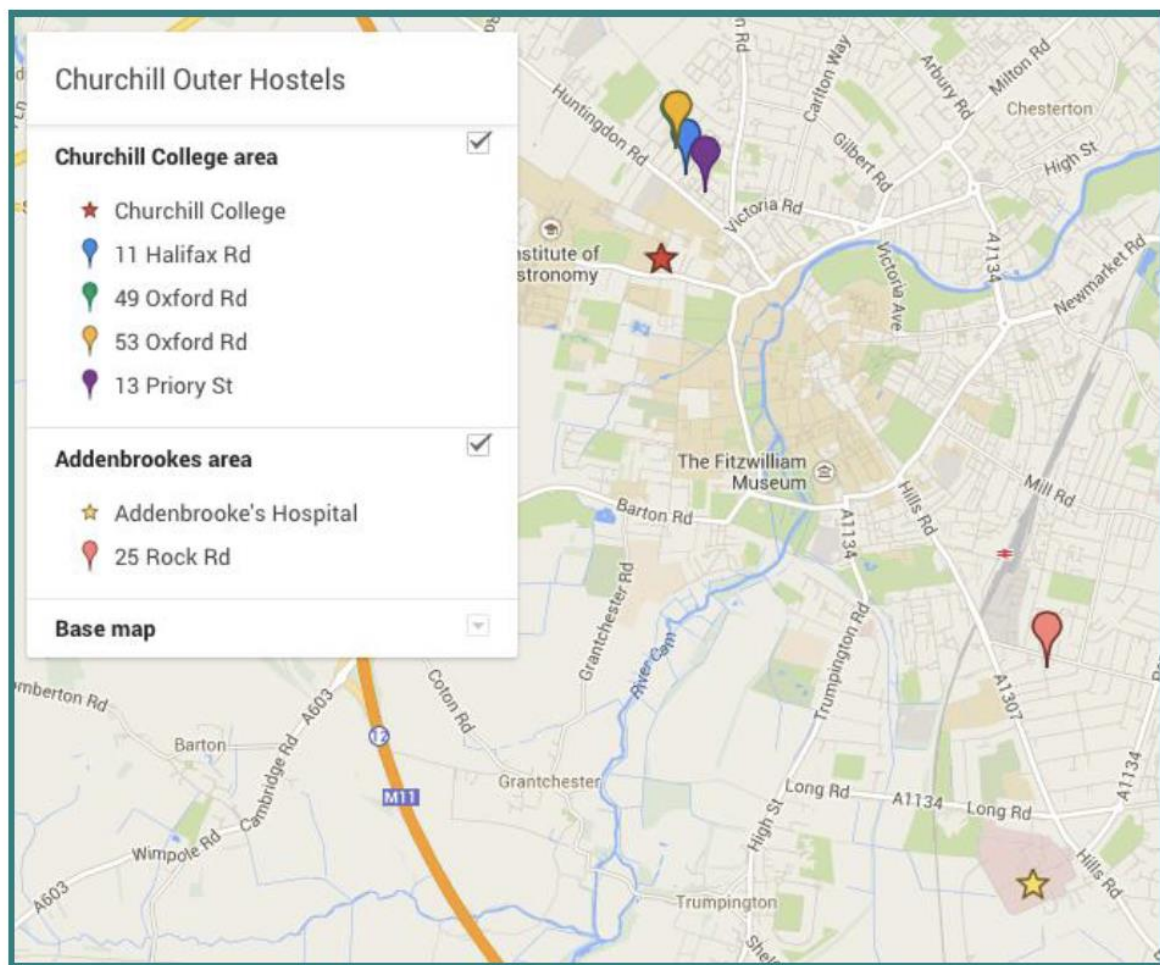
<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/study-us/postgraduates/life-at-churchill/accommodation/>

Unfortunately, some properties do not currently have photos and others are out-of-date.

Occupants are responsible for keeping their own rooms and the common areas clean. If you would like a double bed, please make sure you bid for a room already housing a double bed. See the room rents table for details. Double beds will not be provided in other bedrooms.

The single rooms are split between properties on the main College site (Section A.2.2) and the Outer Hostels (Section A.2.1).

A.2.1 Offsite Accommodation



Offsite houses which are a short walk from college, just off Huntingdon Road are:

- 11 Halifax Road
- 49 Oxford Road
- 53 Oxford Road - residents here may have to vacate in June 2024 for renovation work. Alternative accommodation will be offered, if needed.
- 13 Priory Street

The offsite houses located just off Hills Road about halfway between the city centre and Addenbrooke's site is:

- 25 Rock Road (Only available from September 2023 due to summer renovations)

This is convenient for medical students and anyone working near Addenbrooke's or The Faculty of Education.

For those of you who have College and University permission to have a car in Cambridge, there is permit parking at all our offsite accommodation. [Cambridge Resident Parking Schemes - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

A.2.2 Rooms on College Site

The rooms on the main college site are split among:

- The staircases (in college amongst the undergraduate accommodation):
 - Staircase 3
 - Staircase 34
 - Staircase 49
- The 'Pepper Pots' (three houses near the Wolfson Flats with ensuites):
 - Broers Houses (40A Storey's Way)
 - Bondi House (40B Storey's Way)
 - Hawthorne House (40C Storey's Way)
- The new builds (three houses near the Wolfson Flats with ensuites):
 - Wallace House
 - Boyd House
 - 36C Storey's Way
- The Sheppard Flats (near the Wolfson Flats):
 - 4 flats, 3 rooms each
- Onsite shared houses (generally non-ensuites):
 - 36 A and B Storey's Way
 - Whittingehame Lodge
 - Whittingehame Cottage
 - 64 Storey's Way (Pinchin Riley House)
 - 70 Storey's Way
 - 72 Storey's Way

B How to Enter the Ballot

B.1 Priority List

The Priority List for the Postgraduate Students has been drawn up from the following categories (As of October 2022).

Category	Description
MCR Committee Roles and Extenuating Circumstances (Category 0)	One each of the MCR: President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Men's Welfare Officer, Women's Welfare Officer, Families' Representative, LGBT+ Officer and Bar Treasurer.
Category 1	Anyone who is new to Postgraduate accommodation. This will include Ex-Churchill BAs, ex-Part IIIs and those in the 1 st year of the PhD part of a 1+3 MRes + PhD programme.
Category 2	Anyone with no more than 3 terms in postgraduate accommodation, generally applicable to those beginning their 2 nd year of postgraduate studies.
Category 3	Anyone with no more than 6 terms in postgraduate accommodation, generally applicable to those beginning their 3 rd year of postgraduate studies.
Category 4	Anyone with no more than 9 terms in postgraduate accommodation, generally applicable to those beginning their 4 th year of postgraduate studies.

Note: Students approaching their 3rd year or higher of a PhD (Category 3+) are unlikely to be allocated a room and are encouraged to look into alternative accommodation options. It is in these students' best interest to live out of college given the general likelihood that their PhD studies may overrun - as such, a periodic tenancy may be desirable while writing up. For further discussion please contact the Postgraduate Office.

B.1.1 Extenuating Circumstances

Students may be given a college room irrespective of their categories if they have extenuating circumstances. Such students need to apply for special consideration using the following form (**before 10th April**):

<https://forms.gle/g4ceZHeUkiu2x1r96>

Suitable reasons for special consideration would include (but are not limited to) medical grounds, 5th and 6th year clinical medics, or a student who is away in Easter term on Leave to Work Away.

In some extenuating circumstances (for welfare reasons) an individual may be asked to swap rooms, this will be done with their permission, and they will be offered an equivalent room in the same rent band.

B.2 Group Ballot

A Group Ballot will take place for people to bid for the whole of an offsite shared house. It is hoped that individuals choosing to live together will have fewer difficulties. **The Groups Ballot is limited to those in the first three (0,1,2,3) priority categories listed in section B.1.**

The Group Ballot will be **open on Monday 17th April at 08:30** and will **close on Wednesday 19th April at 16:00**. The link to the Group Ballot form will be placed on the accommodation page of the MCR website when the ballot opens and emailed to all students at the same time.

All those who wish to enter the Groups Ballot may do so by **providing the following information:**

1. The **names of the individuals** who wish to bid for a whole offsite shared house and how many academic terms each has lived in College accommodation (this will be checked).
2. A list of **ALL** houses for which the group is bidding, in a prioritised list. Groups may bid for all hostels that have the same number of rooms as individuals in the group.
3. A group contact person (who can speak for the whole group) with phone number, and email.

After the close of the Ballot, groups will be considered for the hostels according to the following:

- Each group will be considered in order of their 'average priority'.
- If two groups wish to have the same hostel/flat and are of the same priority, the hostel will be assigned by random draw.
- A group which is assigned a hostel will have its individuals withdrawn from the Individual Ballot.
- If no hostel for which the group bids is available, the individuals are then eligible to enter the Individual Ballot (see Section B.3).

B.3 Individual Ballot

The Individual Ballot will allocate the majority of the rooms available. The Individual Ballot will be **open on Monday 24th April at 08:30** and will **close on Wednesday 26th April at 16:00**. The link to the Individual Ballot form will be placed on the accommodation page of the MCR website when the ballot opens and emailed to all students at the same time.

Before the Individual Ballot, the three executive officers of the MCR Committee: the President, General Secretary, and Treasurer are allowed a first pick of the available rooms. This is done as a reward for the work these officers put in and to encourage them to live on-site.

A revised list of the rooms available in the Ballot (after the Group Ballot, extenuating circumstances and MCR Executive Committee choices have been applied) will be sent to all students before the ballot and updated on the MCR website. It is important to check that the rooms you are interested in are actually being put in the Ballot.

In order to enter the Individual Ballot, students must **provide the following information:**

1. Their name and the number of academic terms they have lived in College accommodation (this will be checked).
2. A prioritised list of **TEN** rooms which the individual is applying for.
 - a. For anyone in Priority Category 2, 3 or 4 this must include at least **FOUR** offsite rooms. Anyone not fulfilling this requirement will not be able to submit the form.
 - b. This requirement is not in place for those in Category 1 as they are encouraged to live on-site for the first year of their graduate studies.
 - c. This requirement is also not in place for those in Category 0 (certain MCR Committee Positions) as it is important they are on site to carry out the duties and responsibilities.

The ballot will close promptly on **Wednesday 26th April at 16:00**. After this deadline, the choices will be entered into the room allocation code which runs as follows:

1. All entrants are ranked in order of their Priority Category. The first N students in this list are selected for the ballot where N is the number of rooms available for allocation. In the case that only some students in a Priority Category can be selected, the allocation code decides randomly which students in that Category are selected. All students who are not selected are kept on a reserve list in case rooms become available later.
2. All selected students and their choices are entered into the optimisation code which maximises the happiness of the group (e.g. two students getting their 2nd choice is preferred over one getting their 1st and the other their 8th). No preference is given to students of a higher Priority Category at this stage.
3. The optimisation code ensures that all offsite rooms are filled to allow all new students to live on-site. Students in Category 2+ should bear this in mind when choosing their rooms.
4. In the unlikely event that the code cannot find a suitable allocation, one or more selected students may not be allocated a room. (This can happen if 11 students all chose the same 10 rooms). In the case, the student in question is still guaranteed a room, and will be allowed a free choice from any remaining available rooms.

Students will be informed of the results of the ballot as soon as possible.

C Additional Notes and Further Questions

Anyone who ceases to pay full fees may only live in College accommodation at the discretion of the Postgraduate Officer and only if rooms are available.

Room rents include background heating, but electricity is charged separately (metered in staircase rooms and flats, fixed charge or share of actual cost in hostels). Some hostels are serviced by bedders, and rents reflect this fact. Prices on the rooms list are given per week.

Anyone moving into college, having lived out previously, will be required to pay a 4-week rent deposit, together with the first month's rent in advance. Students moving out of college will need to keep the £250 membership bond on their student account.

Anyone accepting accommodation from College will have to initially sign a contract ending June 30, July 31 or August 31, unless they are given Leave to Work Away for a term. We can, however, be flexible with your preferred leaving dates – you will be asked to confirm in May 2024.

People are placed in the highest category to which they might belong.

The Postgrad Office will also be open during normal office hours if you need any assistance.

Any further questions should be directed to Dr Mairi Kilkenny, Rebecca Sawalmeh (postgrad@chu.cam.ac.uk), or Reece McCoy (mcr-president@chu.cam.ac.uk).