

Cuth's Postgrad Handbook 2024/25



Introduction & Welcome

Firstly, for those of you who are joining Cuth's this year, massive congratulations and welcome to St. Cuthbert Society, and for those of you

returning, welcome back!

I'm Sarah McAllister, and I am currently the Postgraduate Vice-President and during Freshers' Week I will be the acting

Postgraduate and Mature Students' President.

I first arrived at Cuth's for my undergrad in 2016 and it's safe to say this place quickly became my home. I am currently in the 3rd year of my PhD in English and History.

This handbook will give you an overview of our JCR, college, and generally what Postgrad life is like at Cuth's. I would also encourage you to check out the Freshers' Handbook which will have useful information in for those of you who are new to Durham and will introduce you to the other JCR Officers (volunteers who together run St Cuthbert's Society JCR).

You will soon learn that Durham has its quirks so hopefully this handbook will help to answer some of your questions and of course if there is anything else you can always email me at: pgm-president@cuths.com

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Key Terms

JCR

The Junior Common Room is a charity dedicated to Cuth's students, run by Cuth's students. The JCR includes Cuth's sports, societies, events, outreach and student-led welfare amongst much more.

PGM COMM Postgraduate and Mature Students' Committee oversees events aimed at Postgrad students at Cuth's. You may see that other colleges have a MCR (Middle Common Room). While we do not have a separate MCR for Postgrads at Cuth's, the PGM Committee plays the same role.

JCR LEVY This is the payment you make for your JCR membership. If you have previously studied in Cuth's and this is your 4th year, membership is free. For MA and PhD students the cost of membership is £57.50 which covers the entirety of your degree.

PARSON'S FIELD The larger of the two Cuth's sites which is made up Refounder's House, Brooks House, Fonteyn Court and Parson's Field Court (PFC). The Postgraduate accommodation in Cuth's is located in Brooks House. It is also the location of some of social spaces, gyms and one of the bars.

THE BAILEY The Bailey is located in the center of Durham and the more historic of the two Cuth's sites. It is the location of some of the UG accommodation, college library, dining hall, meeting space and the Bailey Bar.

INTER-MCR You may see events throughout the year run by different colleges under the title of Inter-MCR. This essentially means that its open to all Postgrads from all colleges. Each college will usually host at least one Inter-MCR formal which is great opportunity to see other colleges and meet other Postgrads.

FREPS

Freshers' Reps are known as Freps who will welcome you into college when you move in and will be around for the first week so if you have any questions, they will always be happy to help.

Key Terms

WELFARE

There is a student welfare service that is run by four student officers: Senior Welfare Officer, Female Welfare Officer, Male Welfare Officer & the Welfare Officer.

STUDENT SUPPORT This is the welfare service provided by the college. Annie Robinson leads the student support team and her office is upstairs in House 12 on the Bailey (up the stairs next to the reception). You can also be contact student support at: <u>Cuthberts.studentsupport@durham.ac.uk</u>.

BILLY B

The nickname for the main university library, the Bill Bryson Library which is located on 'the Science Site'

SCIENCE SITE This is name many students will call Lower Mountjoy which has a lot of University buildings including the Bill Bryson Library, the Palatine Centre, the Calman Learning Centre and an array of department buildings.

SCR

The Senior Common Room is made up of staff from across the university, members of the local community and some of the alumni. They organise a range of events throughout the year.

FORMATIVES & SUMMATIVES

At Durham assessments fall into two categories: formative and summative. Formative assessments don't count towards your degree whereas summatives do.

CIS

Computing and Information Services. They run the University IT system so if you have any problems logging in or anything tech related get in touch with them.

DURHAM SU They represent and support students across all colleges. They can be found in Dunelm House on New Elvet, next to Kingsgate Bridge. There is also study space available there during term time.

TPA

You may see for some college events the location is TPA. This refers to the Tom Percival Annexe which is located at Brooks House at Parsons' Field.

Cuth's JCR

Cuth's JCR (Junior Common Room) is the student body of Cuth's. The JCR runs, and is responsible for, our social events, sports, societies, welfare support, volunteering opportunities, facilities and representing the views of Cuth's Students. The JCR has an Executive Committee which has the PGM President as the representative for Postgrads and Mature Students. The Exec is led by our President and has a range of representatives from across the JCR. We also have a wide array of committees and positions available for students to get involved in, ranging from Welfare Committee to Governance Committee.

There's plenty of opportunities to get involved with something you're passionate about (I'll talk about our committees, sports and societies later in the handbook). If you want to get involved a great way to see what Cuth's is about is our JCR Meetings. They happen at least three times a term in either of our bars or the dining hall on the bailey. In the meetings any member of the JCR can run motions, which may involve the creation of new societies, new positions or changing something about how the JCR currently operates. Meetings also involve hustings for the JCR positions open for election.



Cuth's JCR & College

Cuth's JCR, unlike some of the other JCRs at Durham, is an independent charity which means we are completely run by students. The college part of Cuth's however is made up of staff including our Principal, Vice Principal, Student Support, porters, cleaners, secretaries and catering staff. The JCR and college work together to make Cuth's what it is, but have distinctive roles.

It can be confusing to know who to email about certain things. If you have queries about accommodation, academic matters, student support, etc please get in touch in with a member of college staff. With matters regarding events, welfare, sports & socs, gyms, library it tends to be best to get in touch with a representative of the JCR. Of course, if you have any issues and don't know who the right person is to contact feel free to email me and I can direct you.

Often people new to Durham will ask why Cuth's is a society rather than a college. In our history Cuth's was established in 1888 by people who did not want the same college life as the other existing colleges (Castle and Hatfield). The college consisted of people who lived out and were often mature. Today, we operate in the same way as the other colleges but remain proud of our history and like to pride ourselves of our independence.



College Officers

Principal - Karen Langdon (she/her)



Karen is our Principal which means she oversees the leadership and management of St Cuthbert Society, as well as representing the interest of Cuth's across the University. Karen is our Interim Principal until early 2025, when Professor Tammi Walker will return from research leave.

cuthberts.reception@durham.ac.uk

Vice-Principal - Dr Jon Warren

As Vice-Principal, Jon's role focuses on the personal development of students and the development of the college community. Alongside being our Vice-Principal, Jon is a social scientist.



cuthberts.vp@durham.ac.uk

Assistant Principal - Annie Robinson



Annie is our Assistant Principal while Dr Lydia Harris is on maternity leave until early 2025. The Assistant Principal's role is to lead Student Support in Cuth's. If you're having any issues with illness, concern about deadlines, or you just need someone to talk to you can email student support to speak to Annie or one of the other members of the student support team.

cuthberts.studentsupport@durham.ac.uk

*When Tammi and Lydia return in early 2025 you can contact them on the same emails listed above.

The Postgraduate and Mature Students' Committee (PGM Comm) organises events and ensures that the voice of Postgraduate and Mature Students are heard in the JCR. In Cuth's it operates as the equivalent of an MCR which exist in most of the other colleges in Durham. PGM Comm will organise events which are aimed at you specifically as Postgrad and Mature Students, however by having a joint common all the events, sports, societies, and opportunities that the wider JCR organise are also open to you. It's completely up to you about how much or how little you get involved, but I would encourage you to have a look at everything that is on offer for you.

For this incoming year we have three positions on the committee which are already filled myself (Sarah) as the PGM Vice-President (currently acting PGM President), Dan Mercer as the JCR President and Caleb Ross as the JCR Vice-President.







Sarah McAllister (she/her)

PGM Vice-President

Dan Mercer (he/him)

President of the Society

Caleb Ross (he/they)

JCR Vice-President



At the beginning of the academic year, we will be looking to elect the incoming PGM President alongside the rest of the committee positions which will either be available to apply for or you can run for them in an election. Getting involved is a great way to get involved in the Cuth's community and have a leading role in PG Community. We have a large range of positions so check out the following list and see if there's anything that catches your eye. If you have any questions about any of them please feel free to pop me a message!

PGM PRESIDENT

The Postgraduate and Mature Students' President role is essentially the equivalent of an MCR President in the other colleges. This means you organise events for the Postgraduate and Mature Student community in Cuth's as well as represent them in a number of spaces including the JCR, College and the wider University. It is a truly varied position as one week you may be researching speakers for a research event, and the next you might be facilitating a day trip to Beamish, and then you may be starting to plan our biggest event of year, our Inter-MCR Murder Mystery Formal. This may seem overwhelming, however the PGM President is well supported by the President, PGM Comm, the Exec and CommsComm which makes it a really exciting role as it is truly what you make of it.

As someone who has had a number of positions in the JCR including being PGM President last year, I have found the position to be one of the most rewarding. If you are at all

interested in being our next President you can email me at pgm-president@cuths.com for information on the role, or Ruairidh Forbes, our SRO (sro@cuths.com) for information on how to run.



Below is a list of the open positions on PGM Committee, all of them don't require any previous experience.

PGM TREASURER

The Treasurers' role is to oversee the budget for the committee. This position is elected.

PGM SOCIAL SECRETARY

This role involves working with the rest of PGM Comm to run the social calendar for Cuth's Postgrad and Mature Students. This position is available via application.

PGM ACADEMIC REP

The Academic Rep organises our Research Slams and Research Forums. This means working with college to arrange dates for talks and working with the committee to find speakers. This position is available via application.

MATURE STUDENTS' REP

They work with PGM Comm to represent Mature Students and organise events specifically for Mature Students. This position is available via application.

PG REP

They work with the rest of PGM comm in the organisation of events and represent Postgrad students. This position is available via application.



PGM
INTERNATIONAL
REP

They represent the views of International Students to the committee, as well as representing Postgrads on International Committee. This position is available via application

FOURTH YEAR REP They work with PGM comm in the organisation of events and represent Fourth Year students. This position is available via application.

PG WELFARE REP The PG Welfare Rep is in charge of sign posting Welfare Support available for Postgrad Students' and raising any issues or campaign ideas to Welfare. This position is elected.

PGCE REP

They work with the rest of PGM Comm to represent the views of PGCE students and ensure PGCE students remain informed of what is happening within college. This position is available via application.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER X 2 This role is flexible in what it does so if you have any ideas which PGM Comm currently does not have a rep for (ie. Postgrad PoC Rep, Postgrad Students' with Disabilities Rep) or you have a particular strength (ie. publicity and social media) this role could be perfect for you. This position is available via application.

The SCR

The SCR is our Senior Common Room. The SCR is a voluntary organisation composed of members from the University and the wider community who are interested in supporting the college. Their members include academic staff at the university, local alumni and some members of the local community in Durham. The Senior Common Room, like the Junior Common Room, works with College staff in order to maintain the college community. Members of the Senior Common Room contribute to Cuth's in a variety of ways: many of them serve as College mentors, give talks about their research or other activities, or run Student Development and Employability events.

The SCR put on a number of events throughout the year to help enrich experiences in Cuth's, and almost all of these events are open to students. They also fund a grant for performing arts for students and award a prize for voluntary and charitable work.

SCR President - Mark Miller

Mark is an Associate Professor in the Chemistry department and has been SCR President for quite a few years now. s SCR President, Mark runs SCR Committee which has a number of positions occupied by SCR Members as well as College Staff attending as ex-officio members.



Arriving at Cuth's - Checklist

PG Freshers' Week

- Check out our events schedule in the following pages (events start on **Wednesday 25th September**.
- O Sign up for the **Welcome Formal** (Friday 27th September) You will receive an email from college about this.

Getting Involved in Cuth's

- Pay the JCR Levy. The levy allows you to use our facilities (eg. the gym), discount on events, join sports & socs, have a JCR position, etc. For Postgraduates, the JCR levy costs £57.50 which covers the entirety of your degree.
- O Decide if you want to purchase a **Freshers' Week** wristbands. For some events from the 28th September onwards, including going to the college bar or to clubs, you will need a Wristband. There are two options £23 without club entry and £34 including club entry. You can also pay to go to the bar each night individually.
- Sign up for **PG College Families**. College families are a tradition in Durham which introduces students to people with similar interests in their college: https://forms.gle/TNAWhvSGfD4oB1Sr8

Social Media

- O Join our **Facebook Group** 'St Cuthbert's Society Postgraduates and Mature Students': www.facebook.com/groups/694627940612389
- Follow ecuthspg on Instagram
- O Join the PGM Whatsapp Group Link can be found here: https://chat.whatsapp.com/E9PeltA2VJi4H2bLeuq2oO

Postgraduate Freshers' Week

Wednesday 25th - Saturday 28th September

WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

During the Day Move-Ins

Brooks House

7.30pm

Pub Quiz for PGs &

Bailey Bar

International Students

THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

During the Day Move-Ins

Brooks House

2.30pm

'Big Tescos' Shopping Trip

Meet at Brooks

8pm Games Night

Brooks Bar

FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

2pm Induction Talk Tom Percival

3pm PG Consent Workshop Annexe

6.30pm for 7pm Postgraduate Welcome Dining Hall

Formal

Evening Bar Open after the Formal Bailey Bar

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

11am Newcastle Trip Meet at Brooks

Evening Brooks Bar Open Brooks Bar

No wristband is required for any of these events (except Brooks Bar being open on Saturday)

Freshers' Week

Sunday 29th September - Sunday 3rd October



SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

12.30pm PG Picnic (Cafe Crawl if bad Meet at Brooks

weather)*

7.30pm Tiny Desk Open Mic Brooks Bar

7.30pm Bleed Green Night Bailey Bar

10.30pm Fowlers (Club) Fowlers

MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

11am Working Class Students' Event* tbc

2pm International Student Games* tbc

7.30pm Bongos Bingo Brooks Bar

7.30pm Sound of the Underground Karoake Bailey Bar

10.30pm Loft Loft



TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER

11am Event tbc* tbc

2pm Students with Disabilities Event* tbc

2pm-5pm Petting Zoo Parsons Field

8pm Inter-MCR Pub Quiz* Durham SU

10.30pm Jimmy's Jimmy's

Freshers' Week

Sunday 29th September - Sunday 6th October



2pm Mature Students' Event* Brooks Bar

7.30pm Sports Night Brooks

10.30pm Babylon Babylon

THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER

9am Photo and Matricuation* Palace Green

11am PG Matriculation Celebration Library Bar

Brunch*

1pm LGBT+ Painting Event* tbc

7.30pm Movie Night Brooks

7.30pm Pub Quiz Bailey

10.30pm Jimmy's Jimmy's

FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER

7pm-1am End of Freshers' Week Event Bailey

SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Afternoon Sports and Socs Fair* Dining Hall

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

7pm JCR Meeting* Dining Hall

To attend Freshers' Week events you need to purchase a wristband Any event marked with an * does not require a wristband

Events organised by PGM Comm

Social Events

Postgrad Committee organises a number of casual social events throughout the year. These include meals out, nights in brooks bar, bar crawls, quizzes and going out for coffee.

Academic Events

Our Academic Rep will organise a couple of Research Forums each term. At these events a couple of people will speak about their research



interests. This usually involves an array of people across the Cuth's Community including students and staff. We also have Research Slams which are an informal research forum which allows people who haven't finished their research to get casual feedback on their work.

Inter-MCR Formals

MCR Formals occur across Durham colleges and are open to anyone from another MCR, or equivalent, so for Cuth's this any Postgrad, Mature Student or a Fourth Year Student. Most of formals will have a theme; we've had a murder mystery formal for the last couple of years which has proven to be very popular.





Wider JCR Events

Formals

Formals are held in Cuth's Dining Hall and often have a theme (ie. Burns Night). The dress code will either be Lounge Suit or Black Tie. Lounge suit means a regular suit and tie, a jacket, smart shirt and tie, a dress or most outfits as long as they're smart are fine. Black tie is a bit fancier – some people will wear Dinner Jackets, dress shirt and a bow tie, cocktail dresses or trousers and a blouse. Variations on this are welcome.

Big Events

Social Comm organise a number of big events throughout the year. This includes Balls held at external venues where there will be a three-course meal followed by entertainment for the rest of the evening which may include food vans, fairground rides, mini golf, etc.

The Feast of St Cuthbert happens every epiphany term and is held in college. It involves a three course meal followed by entertainment and culminates in a silent disco in our dining hall.

The final big event of the year is Cuth's Day where there is live music throughout the day in Cuth's gardens alongside a variety of other activities.

There are also a plethora of smaller scale events which are hosted by all the different committees alongside our sports and societies, so there is plenty to get involved in!





JCR Facilities

Cuth's Library

Cuth's Library is located in House 8 on the Bailey; it is easily identifiable with its lion head door knocker. The library is a great place to work, if the Bill Bryson Library isn't your cup of tea. Speaking of, the library has tea,



coffee and biscuits readily available for those of who work there. You can also order any book you want to Cuth's library, so if there is something you would like to read, either something for academic purposes or a novel, keep an eye for book orders at the beginning of the term. You can also volunteer to work at the library so keep an eye out for more information if you're interested.

Bailey and Brooks Bar

At Cuth's we like to pride ourselves in our unique qualities, and one of them is that we have two bars. The Bailey Bar is located in House 12 and Brooks Bar is located Brooks House on the Parsons Field site. Throughout the year social events will be hosted at both bars including Karaoke nights, acoustic nights, and JCR meetings.

The Bailey Bar is one of the social centres of Cuth's and has a great atmosphere to hang out in and for socials. It definitely has the traditional pub feel about it, especially on a busy night.



Brooks Bar is a more of a casual place to hang out. It's a great place for some drinks with groups of friends, and for those of you who are living in Brooks, very convenient as it's only a walk down stairs for you. Brooks is also a good place to work during the day.

JCR Facilities

Gyms

We have a cardio gym and weights in gym both at the Parson's Field. In order to use either of the gyms you need to do a gym induction which will be advertised at the start of term. Gym membership is included in the JCR Levy.

Junior Common Rooms

As well as the 'JCR' referring to the student body of Cuth's, there are also two social spaces with one on the Bailey and one at Parson's field where you can hang out with fellow students. They also have spaces for study.

Kyle-Langley Music Room

Cuth's music room is located in Fonteyn Court at Parson's Field. It is sound proof and has a number of musical instruments and equipment in the room. The room can be booked out for practice.

Computer Rooms

There are also computer rooms so you can access any subject specific software that you will need for your course or work in college without lugging round your laptop



Sports & Societies

We have a large range of Sports and Societies ranging from Football to Crochet. We have a Sports and Societies Chair who oversees them all so to keep up to date with them make sure you follow @TeamCuths on Instagram. The JCR levy allows the JCR to subsidies subs (essentially the membership) which means it is cheaper for you to join.

If you're passionate about something we don't currently have a society for, you can make one. Get in touch with Ben our Sports and Socs Chair and he can help you set it up. You'll need to get 15 people to say there are interested and take it to a JCR meeting.

There is a Sports & Socs Fair on the afternoon of Saturday 5th October which will be held on the Bailey. I would recommend going to have a look around and seeing what is on offer.

Saturday

5th
October

Save the date!

JCR Committees

Alongside our Sports and Societies we also have a number of different JCR committees which may be of interest of you. If you're interested in any of them feel free to get in touch with the chair (you can see a full list of JCR contacts at the end of this handbook) or if you're not sure who to ask you can always email me and I'll direct you.

- EXEC COMMITTEE
- · PGM COMMITTEE
- GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
- FINANCE COMMITTEE
- COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
- OUTREACH COMMITTEE
- · SOCIAL COMMITTEE
- LIBRARY COMMITTEE
- WELFARE COMMITTEE
- WELFARE CAMPAIGNS
 COMMITTEE
- SPORTS AND SOCS COMMITTEE
- · SU COMMITTEE
- FACILITIES COMMITTEE
- · INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
- · FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE
- · MUSIC COMMITTEE
- ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cuth's JCR Contact List

Role	• Name	Email
President of the Society	Dan Mercer	president@cuths.com
Vice President	Caleb Ross	vice-president@cuths.com
Treasurer	Saf Ghafoor	fco@cuths.com
Senior Welfare Officer	Louise Newberry	senior-welfare@cuths.com
PGM President	*OPEN*	pgm-president@cuths.com
Sports & Societies Chair	Oscar Watson	sports-and-socs@cuths.com
Publicity Officer	Thea Cave	publicity@cuths.com
Social Chair	Victoria Conran	events@cuths.com
Outreach Chair	Evie Bage	outreach@cuths.com
JCR Chair	Louise Giles	chair@cuths.com
Students' Union Rep	Luke Birch	su-rep@cuths.com
Development Officer	*OPEN*	development@cuths.com
Communities Chair	Lukie Jew	communities-chair@cuths.com
Facilities Manager	*OPEN*	facilities@cuths.com
▲ ibrarian	James Bamford	librarian@cuths.com
International Rep	Harry Tang	international@cuths.com
Head Frep	Matilda Bates	headfrep@cuths.com
Senior Returning Officer	Ruairidh Forbes	sro@cuths.com
Student Trustee	Jack Simmmonds	jack.simmonds@cuths.com
Student Trustee	JP Payne	-
Male Welfare Officer	Ferdinand Ameyaw	male-welfare@cuths.com
Female Welfare Officer	Naomi Porat	female-werfare@cuths.com
Welfare Officer	Cara Cahill	welfare-officer@cuths.com
LGBTQ+ Rep	Sara Tocci	lgbt-rep@cuths.com
PoC Rep	*OPEN*	em-rep@cuths.com
Student with Disabilities (SwD) Rep	Charli James	swd-rep@cuths.com
Working Class Students' Rep	Ralfs Clarke	wcs-rep@cuths.com
Local Students' Rep	Mary McNeill	local.students,rep@cuths.com
PG Vice-President	Sarah McAllister	pgm-vice-president@cuths.com
Gym Manager	George Gibbons	cuthsberts.gym@cuths.com
PG Rep	*Open*	postgraduate-rep@cuths.com
PGM International Rep	*Open*	pgm-international@cuths.com
Academic Rep	*Open*	academic-rep@cuths.com

Open

mature-students-rep

@cuthscom

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Mature Students' Rep

Cuth's Social Media



Postgrad and Mature Students



St Cuthbert's Society Postgraduates and Mature Students https://www.facebook.com/groups/694627940612389/



ecuthspg



Use this link or scan the QR code to join our PG Whatsapp Group https://chat.whatsapp.com/E9PeltA2VJi4H2bLeuq2oO



Cuth's Facebook Pages

St Cuthbert's Society JCR - Updates from across the JCR

Cuth's JCR Elections – All information about JCR Meetings and Elections will be posted on this page

Cuth's Welfare - All information from the JCR Welfare Team

Cuth's Instagram

ecuthsjcr Updates from Across the JCR

@cuths_jcr_elections
JCR Meetings & Elections

eteamcuths Cuth's Sports & Socs

ecuthsevents Updates about the big events at Cuth's (eg. Balls and Cuth's Day)

ecuths.outreach Volunteering opportunities and fundraising events

ecuths.presUpdates from the President of the Society

ecuths_library Cuth's Library

ecuths_welfare Info about Cuth's welfare services and campaigns

ecuthsbar Updates from the bar

ecuths.su.rep Updates from our SU Rep

ecuths.developmentUpdates from our Development Officerecuths.localstudentsUpdates from the Local Students' Rep

ecuths.poc Updates from the PoC Rep

elgbtq.cuthsUpdates from the LGBTQ+ RepecuthsinternationalUpdates from the International Rep

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ecuthsswd Updates from our SwD (Students' with Disabilities) Rep

eworking_class_cuthsUpdates from our Working Class Students' RepecuthsenvironmentUpdates from the Environment committee

There are also accounts run by our sports and societies which you can follow