

Thursday 19 June 2025: College Accommodation Form - Questions

TO: Vice President DUCU

Dear Madalena,

Thank you for bringing to our attention the social media post by a Durham offer holder from Grey College.

We strive to be an inclusive university community and we want all our students to feel welcomed and to belong at Durham, including those that identify as Trans students.

As part of our annual college accommodation allocations we communicate with Durham offer holders and ask a series of questions. This is for the purpose of allocating rooms within our colleges in a way that best accommodates their gender identity and makes effective use of the resources available. It also assists us in ensuring that all students, including Trans students can access their accommodation requirements.

Each of our colleges provides a unique opportunity to engage in our Durham community with specific provision available. Limited single-sex space is one such example, as are shared rooms and bathroom facilities.

The questions included in the College Accommodation form enable us to allocate our college accommodation in a way that is respectful to **all** within our community and in adherence with the Equality Act 2010. They allow us to collect the information necessary to ensure prospective students are most comfortable in the accommodation type they are allocated to. This also means they are not allocated into single sex shared rooms and facilities that are not in keeping with the gender with which they identify.

Under no circumstances shall any student be allocated to single-sex accommodation or facilities that are not in keeping with their gender identity.

The questions on sex and identity are optional. Importantly, not answering the questions does not prevent the student completing the form and applying for accommodation.

The following statement precedes the questions on this form. It is in line with our University [Privacy Notices - Durham University](#). I trust this offers additional reassurance from a data perspective:

Durham University actively cultivates a diverse and inclusive learning community and ensures compliance with the UK legislation, The Equality Act 2010 and the Data

Protection Act 2018. Data collected on this Accommodation Preference form is designed to support your room allocation and will be kept confidential.

So, in summary, the questions included College Accommodation form are optional and serve to assist us to ensure that Trans students can access their accommodation requirements at Durham University.

Since launching the College Accommodation form, 9 June 2025, we have been monitoring the response rate. We have received thousands of completed submissions to date. It is worth noting that a couple of hundred offer holders have chosen to leave some or all of the optional questions unanswered. If it is helpful for prospective students that identify as Trans and have concerns, please do signpost them for a confidential and safe conversation on these matters to the university's EDI Team at EDI.Team@durham.ac.uk.

Kind regards,

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team