



Accessibility Statement – College Accommodation

St John's College, Durham

St John's College, established in 1909, 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, and narrow entrances**. While these constraints pose challenges for accessibility, we are committed to providing inclusive and supportive accommodation for all guests.

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 – Durham County Council](#)

Please note the following important travel information:

- St John's College does **not** offer **on-site parking**.
- **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

While the historic nature of the college buildings presents challenges, we are continually working to improve accessibility wherever possible. Below is a guide to the accessible features of our accommodation and the support we can provide:

Step-Free and Accessible Rooms

- A limited number of **ground-floor en-suite rooms** with **step-free access** are available in one of our accommodation blocks.
- Two of these rooms are **fully adapted for wheelchair users**, and include:
 - **Wet room bathrooms** with roll-in showers
 - Grab rails and support bars



- Wider doorways
- Fixed-height furniture to support ease of use

Room Features and Layout

- All rooms include **fixed furnishings** (such as desks, wardrobes, and beds).
- Visual fire alarms are available in some rooms for guests with hearing impairments—please request in advance.
- Please contact us if you have any specific needs related to lighting, bedding, or additional accessibility aids.

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**, **steep gradients**, or **narrow walkways**.
- Staff are available during business hours to assist with access, directions, and equipment such as ramps.



Planning Your Visit

To help you plan your stay, we are happy to:

- Provide **photos, videos, or floorplans** of specific rooms or areas upon request.
- Arrange **early check-in** or **late check-out** where feasible to accommodate additional support needs.
- Offer **personal assistance or guided support** for check-in and orientation around the site.

We strongly encourage guests with mobility requirements or any other accessibility concerns to **get in touch with us in advance** so we can ensure a comfortable and welcoming stay.

Contact Us

If you would like more information about accessible accommodation, need support with planning your journey, or have questions about navigating the College, please do not hesitate to contact our team.

We are committed to ensuring that all visitors—whether here for a short stay, a conference, or part of the College community—can enjoy and experience our beautiful, historic environment with dignity and ease.