



Goodenough
College

LONDON'S FINEST POSTGRADUATE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

Our mission

To create a stimulating, inclusive and mutually supportive residential community in the heart of London where outstanding postgraduate students exchange ideas, openly debate values and form lasting friendships.

Our motto

Unitas in sapientia: nemo separabit
Unity in wisdom: none shall separate





Introduction from Alice Walpole, Director

A very warm welcome to Goodenough College,
London's finest halls of residence.

Established over 90 years ago, the College is an educational charity serving the Commonwealth and the wider world. Each year we provide a home to over 700 outstanding students (we call them Members) and their families from around 80 countries. We draw together Members of all ages, who are studying a range of academic disciplines at more than 40 institutions in and around London. We encourage them to question and to challenge; to be willing to entertain new or different ideas and values and to cultivate the habits of an open mind.

Living at Goodenough gives our Members the opportunity to build global contacts and understanding, to share unique cultural and social experiences, and to benefit from the strength found in mutual support. We are proud to be a community where every voice is heard and every contribution is valued.



Creating a community

We are delighted that so many students apply to live at Goodenough each year and we are proud of the resulting diversity.

Our Members study subjects ranging from bioengineering to opera performance and bring a host of talent, interest and experience to College life. Creating the right blend of Members is important and we take great care to offer places to the students who have the most to give to the life of the College.

While the College is not itself a teaching institution, it provides a superb learning environment, where our Members are encouraged to share their talents, knowledge and experience, and benefit from the ideas and advice of our informal College Fellowship of distinguished public figures.

The College has a long history of Royal patronage, starting with a visit by Her Majesty Queen Mary in 1937, during which she opened the College's first small building (the beginnings of London House). Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been the College's Patron since 1953, visiting us no fewer than ten times and taking an active interest in College affairs. We are deeply honoured by the Royal Family's continued interest and engagement.





Living at Goodenough




Our accommodation ranges from single rooms with shared facilities to three-bedroom family flats, providing plenty of options for couples and families as well as single students. These are complemented by some splendid communal areas, including our historic Great Hall, gracious libraries, elegant common rooms, music and art rooms, a chapel, a vibrant all-day café and some wonderful outdoor green spaces.

Our Members benefit from a lively programme (devised and delivered by both staff and Members) of intellectual, social and cultural events and activities; access to pastoral support when they need it; and subsidised catering in superb dining facilities that encourage Members to convene and eat together.

“The perks of being at Goodenough College are endless and for me, living with such an intellectual community with highly talented people from around the world, is a precious experience itself. This place is also very child-friendly where my children are very happy with the facilities in the beautifully decorated playrooms and the well-stocked children’s library.”

Mahfida, education,
gender and international
development student,
Bangladesh



A large, well-lit library with high ceilings and wooden bookshelves filled with books. Several students are working at long wooden tables equipped with green desk lamps. A woman is standing in the background, and a man is sitting at a table in the middle ground. The atmosphere is quiet and studious.

“The time I spent at Goodenough is my best ever memory in life. I love our 24-hour open College library as it’s my paradise for reading and thinking; I love the very vibrant and inclusive environment that makes you safe to learn new ideas and express opinions. I will always cherish it.”

Hailun, history student, China



Social, cultural and intellectual pursuits

Each year the College hosts an outstanding programme of seminars, conferences, after-dinner talks and visits designed to inspire Members and challenge their thinking on a wide range of subjects. This programme is delivered with the support of the College's elected Fellows, eminent academics and experts from a wide range of fields who give their time freely to support and encourage the Members. The Fellows help to create the unique intellectual environment for which the College is renowned and allow the College to offer Members a range of unique experiences.

The College's educational programme includes a lively introduction to the United Kingdom, including visits to key towns and cities to explore different aspects of UK life, history and cultural values; and a programme to assist Members in expanding their understanding of the religions of the world.





“Good conversation is what I value most in life: this is how I learn, and in turn, grow. My short time at the College has been saturated by interactions of this nature; I thank you for this and look forward to more in the future.”

Tess, philosophy and artificial intelligence student, Canada



“Goodenough College organises so many activities and events that it is impossible to feel alone. Also, if you have an idea to organise something different, this is the place to do it!”

Micaela, musical composition / conducting student Argentina



In addition, the College has dozens of Member-run clubs and societies delivering something for everyone, from cooking to creative writing to calligraphy to board games, together with a range of sports teams and religious groups. Concerts, recitals and informal music events are also a key part of College life and, with many music postgraduates living in the College, there are ample opportunities to hear our talented musicians perform.

Goodenough College also owns an estate called The Burn on the eastern edge of the Cairngorms National Park in Scotland. The property comprises a mansion house, built in 1791, and almost 200 acres of gardens, parkland and ancient woodland. Since 1950, The Burn has been operating as an academic retreat for Goodenough's Members (sometimes with a particular theme or academic focus), as well as for study groups and societies from Scottish universities.

College Members are also welcome to organise their own group visits, or private visits with friends and family.



Providing financial support

The College's Scholarship programme offers students with limited means the opportunity to become part of the Goodenough community. Funded by our Alumni, long-standing partners and the College itself, the programme includes residential Scholarships, which fund accommodation, and community Scholarships which contribute to meals and participation in College activities, including visits.

For Members who find themselves in unexpected difficulty during their time at the College, our emergency fund (the Mecklenburgh Fund) can ease immediate financial pressures, allowing them to focus on getting the most out of their studies and College life.

We are fortunate to be able to offer several Scholarships provided through partnerships with other academic bodies and institutions. For example, we are the first choice for many scholars from international schemes, including Chevening, Marshall, Fulbright, Commonwealth and Rotary Scholars. Other important partners include SOAS, Windle Trust, Cara and the London Goodenough Association of Canada (LGAC), our Canadian Alumni association.



“My Scholarship from Goodenough College has helped me in diverse ways, from making it possible for me to live so centrally, to contributing to making schooling abroad less stressful. I am very grateful to everyone who made my stay here at the College become a reality and to the Scholarship panel for believing that I am ‘goodenough’ for the Scholarship.”

Daniel, computer science student, Ghana



Investing wisely to support Members

Each year we invest around £11 million in the life of the College to ensure each Member has the best possible experience whilst living here.

Effective stewardship of our resources and relationships is key in delivering our charitable purposes. Rents paid by College Members, commercial income from the College's hotel, The Goodenough on Mecklenburgh Square, and our events and venue hire business are all important elements in securing the College's financial position. These income streams usually provide an annual operating surplus, which (along with the good fortune of owning the freehold of the College estate) enables us to provide Members with a quite extraordinary experience while they study in London.

“For every £1 invested into the Goodenough College programme and facilities, £2.04 is returned in social value created. This indicates that the College is creating substantial impact for its stakeholders.”

Goodenough College: A Predictive Impact Analysis. Moore Kingston Smith, 2021





Building relationships with Alumni and supporters

From its modest beginnings in 1930 with four students to its current role as an established institution at the heart of London's 'Knowledge Quarter', Goodenough College has consistently promoted multilateral understanding and collaboration through the power of education. Our Alumni include political and social leaders, distinguished scientists and high achievers in many fields of endeavour, who retain close links with, and affection for, this little garden square in Bloomsbury.

Supported by our dedicated Alumni associations, we offer a programme of events and activities designed to help our Alumni remain involved with the College. Our Alumni Ambassadors organise events in their own countries; and provide invaluable support in promoting the College to potential Members. Many of our Alumni generously offer financial support to the College, including funding for the Scholarship programme, the Mecklenburgh Fund, Member activities and the institution itself through capital projects.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in joining the Goodenough community or would like to know more about the College please do get in touch.

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GoodenoughCollege



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