

St Antony's College student survey 2013/14

What you said – what we're doing

About the respondents

129/467 responses = 28% response rate.

51% female; 44% male; 5% not declared.

46% DPhil; 53% Master's; 1% Visiting Students.

62% started in 2013/14; 16% in 2012/13; 10% in 2011/12; 11% in 2010/11 or earlier.

Region of origin: 4% Africa; 20% Asia/Australasia; 33% Europe (incl Russia and Turkey); 5% Latin America; 4% Middle East; 20% North America; 14% UK/Ireland.

Winners of the two £25 Amazon gift vouchers: Jonathan Furas and Nelson Oppong.

College Libraries

"Beautiful and quiet Main [College] Library."

54% agreed/strongly agreed that College libraries are good.

Over the last 6 months the College Library has received more than 150 donations, has ordered texts for more than 20 Master's courses, and ordered more than 30 titles suggested by College members. Students are welcome to [request books for purchase](#). There will be a review of study space in the College Library during 2014/15. The new Middle East Centre Library, due for completion in 2015, will have state of the art facilities.

Computing facilities

59% agree/strongly agree that access to computers in College is good.

61% agree/strongly agree that access to the University network in College is good.

Some concerns raised about reliability of eduroam wireless network. **There were a number of serious issues at the University end last year, which may in part explain this. Whilst eduroam is not under the College's control, the IT Manager has formally written to the University's Chief Information Officer with the backing of all colleges asking for improvements to be prioritised. There appears to be a particular issue with the use of Apple devices in some buildings, and this is also experienced in other colleges. We do not have a solution to this at the moment, but are continuing to investigate it.**

"Great that there's free scanning."

46% agree/strongly agree that College printing/photocopying facilities are good.

Social spaces

40% agree/strongly agree that social spaces in College are good. Some comments received on furniture and fittings in those spaces.

The furniture in the Hilde Besse Building is currently being reviewed with the first phase including the replacement of the window cushions in Hall and the re-covering of all the chairs in Hall. Once this has been completed we will look at other options for social spaces such as the Buttery.

"The summer months can be very lonely for DPhils and... we have no place of our own to socialise."

We are looking to make a social space available for all students who are here during the Long Vacation so that they have a quiet venue away from our summer conference residents.

Sports facilities

"...investing in the gym would be a wise decision as it is a major pulling factor for applicants"

For the first time this year the GCR are charging students for gym membership to assist with the maintenance and improvement of the GCR-run gym facility. The College continues to contribute to the servicing of the facility, for example by installing an air conditioning unit and making the gym secure through card access early in 2015. The Domestic Bursar welcomes additional suggestions and will work with the Sports Officer on improvement strategies.

As well as the annual funding the GCR receives from College, applications can also be made directly to the [Antonian Fund](#) for financial support for a wide array of initiatives including sports clubs.

Accommodation

"Arrival went very smoothly, living experience was generally very positive."

67% said their experience of arrival in College accommodation was good/excellent.

57% said their experience of living in College accommodation was good/excellent.

74% said their experience of applying to stay in College accommodation over the summer was good/excellent.

The cost of accommodation is reviewed annually with the GCR Executive to ensure that the balance between affordability and cost inflation is deemed acceptable to all parties involved. All bedrooms in College are graded by the GCR on their useable floor space and adjoining facilities; more than half of the rooms are en-suite with accordingly higher rent levels.

The kitchen cleanliness and allocation of utensils and basic cookware has been under review this year in order to improve both of these areas. There is also a new inventory check in place so that levels are topped up every term.

Environmental awareness

"Encourage students to recycle (or learn how to recycle)..."

73% of responses related to recycling.

Recycling is an ongoing priority at St Antony's and we will ensure that this is covered during new student induction as there are recycling boxes in all houses and communal kitchens further to requests for this facility. The success of the recycling relies on a consistent approach from all members of College.

Unfortunately the potential pest issue means that it will not be possible to compost food waste.

25% of responses suggested more efficient energy usage.

The improvement of energy efficiency is an ongoing priority and concern which will be tackled with the support of the GCR this year to help reduce our carbon footprint.

College services

"Lovely, friendly Porters always willing to help."

"Our Scout was wonderful."

"Great service from the administrative core."

Positive feedback has been passed on to individual teams in recognition of their support for students.

The recent appointment of a Maintenance Manager is already leading to improved efficiency in the maintenance department.

Welfare support

"Peer support is one of the best things about St Antony's."

46% agreed/strongly agreed that they were satisfied with welfare/peer support from GCR.

The College will continue to fund GCR peer supporters. The GCR Welfare team will host a range of support events in 2014/15 to consolidate on core activities.

Uncertainty expressed about the role of College Advisers and responsibility of students to contact Adviser.

Guidance for new students has been improved. Registry continues to email all students at the start of every term with a reminder of their Adviser's details and role.

Academic environment

"I found the [Doing a DPhil at St Antony's] session very informative and thought provoking."

Around 40% of the student body attended an event in the [Careers & Wellbeing Programme](#) in 2013/14. The Programme in 2014/15 contains both new and existing events, including the popular *Doing a DPhil at St Antony's* seminar. The Career Path Conference will run

on 28 February 2015 and is being organised by the College with a student-led steering group to ensure content is relevant and useful for current students.

"Apart from meeting the Warden, students are not aware of who the Fellows are"

We will use the new website to help students understand the many avenues already available to meet with Fellows and visiting researchers. We will continue to seek opportunities for College members to interact.

Support for DPhil students

A new question for 2013/14, included to address some perceptions that the College is more focussed on Master's students – in fact, the student body is nearly evenly split between Master's students and DPhils.

More than half of responses were about ways to increase funding for research students.

Funding for STAR grants is now being supplemented by the [Antonian Fund](#). In Trinity 2014, the average award size (across all students) was £240. A new [fully funded DPhil scholarship](#) will be awarded for 2015/16 entry.

30% of responses were suggestions for social and academic events.

The student-run DPhil Students' Society is being created and has successfully bid for funding from the Antonian Fund. We will consider ways to incorporate DPhil specific careers support into the [Careers & Wellbeing Programme](#).

GCR

65% are aware/mostly aware of elected positions on GCR Executive. Introduction of online voting is popular.

"I found the careers talk I attended through the (GCR-run) Jolly Good Fellows programme extremely helpful."

47% agreed/strongly agreed that GCR functions (e.g. organising social/academic events, welfare support) enriched their experience at St Antony's in 2013/14.

"The café was excellent and I would have used it more if I lived nearer College."

GCR-run café/Late Bar used at least sometimes by around 50% of respondents.

Value as member of the College community

"I do feel valued as a member of the College community."

64% agreed/strongly agreed that they felt valued as a member of the College community, compared to 42% in 2012/13.

We're really pleased that there has been such a big increase this year in the number of students who feel valued as part of the College community. Taking steps like this survey enables us to continue to improve our service and offerings to students.