

St Antony's College student survey 2014/15

What you said – what we're doing

About the respondents

128/474 responses = 27% response rate.

55% female; 38% male; 6% not declared.

39% DPhil; 60% Master's; 1% Visiting Students.

59% started in 2014/15; 23% started in 2013/14; 7% in 2012/13; 5% in 2011/12; 6% in 2010/11 or earlier.

Region of origin: 6% Africa; 17% Asia/Australasia; 35% Europe (incl Russia and Turkey); 7% Latin America; 2% Middle East; 20% North America; 13% UK/Ireland.

Winners of the two £25 Amazon gift vouchers: Andrea Gonzalez Negrón and Ilona de Zamaroczy

Computing facilities

53% agree/strongly agree that access to computers in College is good.

50% agree/strongly agree that College printing, scanning and photocopying facilities are good.

Students reported a good IT service, but had concerns regarding the age and speed of College computers, wireless performance, the difficulty of finding a free computer during peak times (because unattended computers were logged in), and printing costs. Google Chrome was requested.

During the summer, the following work was undertaken:

- The College's wireless access point was updated to address connectivity issues
- The machines in the Computer Room were replaced
- An automatic system was introduced to log off idle computers
- Peripheral equipment in the Computer Room was replaced, reducing noise levels
- Google Chrome was installed on the Computer Room machines

Offering free printing and photocopying is not financially viable, but a check of College and departmental charges shows St Antony's to be competitive.

Students are asked to raise IT issues with the IT Office via email, to enable a speedy diagnosis and fix.

Working space in College (including library reading rooms)

'The College Library is beautiful & it was a privilege to use it.'

65% agree/strongly agree that the College's provision of working space is good.

A bookable room for group work and Skype conversations with colleagues and academics was requested.

Clarification was requested about Library rules (in relation to silence, and food and drink).

24-hour Library opening hours were also requested.

- The Deakin Room is now a bookable study space (via the Accommodation Office) between 5pm–10pm.
- A Pavilion meeting room is bookable (via the Lodge) for Skype interviews. The Accommodation Office may offer assistance if that room is unavailable.
- Library rules may be found on the [College website](#), in the Student Handbook, and on posters in all reading rooms. These rules are upheld to ensure all areas of the College Library (incl. the Gulbenkian Reading Room) remain conducive to study and the collection is protected and shared fairly. Readers are encouraged to contact Library staff (or the porters outside office hours) without delay if the behaviour of others causes disturbance.
- Following a trial during Trinity term 2015, the College Library will introduce 24-hour opening times on a trial basis until the end of Trinity term 2016.

Library Collections & Acquisitions

'The Librarians were great & incredibly helpful when I needed to order new books.'

75% agree / strongly agree that these services are good. Requests for made for particular books could be ordered, especially for courses which are less commonly studied at St Antony's.

- Suggestions for book purchases are welcome! Individual books (or complete reading lists!) may be brought to the attention of the Librarian via the [College website](#), through the Library's suggestions book, or in person.

Social spaces

'The GCR is excellent.'

'Please refurbish the Buttery.'

51% of respondents feel that the College's provision of social spaces is good, but the general repair of the Buttery was a source of dissatisfaction.

- The Buttery furniture has been fully replaced over the summer.

GCR-run gym facilities

'...thanks to the GCR there are many new facilities'

'Asking College members to pay for gym access is a curious policy.'

The GCR charges students for gym membership to assist with maintenance and improvement. The College continues to contribute to the servicing of the facility.

- 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.
- New gym machinery has been added this year, made possible by support from the Antonian Fund.

Environmental awareness

'Encourage recycling practices amongst students!'

'Provide compost bins for food waste.'

'There is already quite a bit of effort to promote eco-friendliness.'

71% of responses related to recycling, which is an ongoing priority and requires a consistent approach from all College members. The potential for pests prevents us composting food waste.

22% of responses suggested more efficient energy usage. This will continue to be monitored with the support of the GCR to help reduce our carbon footprint.

- Recycling information was disseminated at College Induction and is available in College houses.
- Recycling boxes are available in all houses and communal kitchens. The onus is on students to make use of them by separating their recycling and emptying the bins. The College will continue to monitor this.

Accommodation

'My arrival & living experience was great.'

'A laundry room in Founders' Building would have improved my experience.'

'The online form for maintenance requests didn't work.'

'Laundry machines are expensive.'

'I'd have liked a better College map.'

'General cleanliness and upkeep should be improved.'

'Room prices are very high.'

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

55% said their experience of living in College accommodation was good/excellent.

The cost of accommodation is reviewed annually with the GCR Executive to ensure an acceptable balance between affordability and cost inflation. 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.

- Laundry costs are in line with other Colleges, and more machines are provided than the standard ratio. The College will monitor the situation and is investigating the possibility of Founders' laundry facilities. This is contingent on the retention other facilities (such as the gym showers & WC).
- Tighter cleaning controls and pre-arrival inspections have been implemented.
- Kitchen audits have been implemented to ensure adequate stock of utensils with published lists.
- A 3D College map has been commissioned for the Lodge to assist with initial orientation.
- 23–26 Winchester Road and 3 Church Walk were redecorated during the summer.
- A new online maintenance form has been added to the [College website](#), and tweets can be sent to [@FixitStAntonys](#).

College services

'The porters are wonderful – they are a great presence and add a level of security.'

'My maintenance concerns were always replied to promptly and they did a wonderful job.'

'Our scout was brilliant and dedicated.'

'Porters' names should be posted somewhere with a picture so we can talk to them by name.'

'The mattress deposit is a bit steep.'

'Make sure the Hall staff know what allergens are in each food item!'

'Excellent food and friendly atmosphere in Hall.'

The Porters' Lodge is manned 24 hours a day, except for short occasions when the porter is patrolling the site.

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

- The mattress deposit is fully refunded if the mattress is returned as per the arrangements.
- Food quality has been reviewed and is checked consistently during the year.
- A full list of allergens is provided for all meals in Hall.

Welfare support

'Peer supporters were fantastic – there when I needed them.'

76% agreed/strongly agreed that they were satisfied with welfare/peer support from GCR.

Some students noted difficulty contacting their College Advisers or confusion regarding their role.

- In 2014-15, the GCR organised a variety of new welfare initiatives. They will continue to seek coordination between the College and Peer Support

team in order to manage more welfare issues, and are working with College to organise a Consent Workshop.

- Students receive a termly email from the Registry with their College Adviser's contact details. Students should take the initiative to contact their Advisers, but if they have difficulties the Registry can help organise Adviser/student meetings beyond the initial lunch/dinner. The Registry continues to monitor and review the information disseminated to students and advisers.

Academic environment

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

'I did not feel that I was given an opportunity to meet Governing Body Fellows...' '... a drinks reception would be effective.'

- The new Careers & Wellbeing Programme is to be advertised via email and the College website. We continue to collaborate with the University Careers Service.
- Students are now invited to attend the Termly Drinks Receptions for Senior Members.
- The new College website and Weekly Bulletin promote the many seminars and activities available to students to meet Fellows and researchers.

Support for DPhil students

'Funding / award opportunities are limited.'

'I was grateful to receive a Writing-Up bursary and Carr and Stahl grant to fund my studies.'

'I would like more opportunity to meet DPhil students...'

Funding for STAR grants is supplemented by the Antonian Fund. In Trinity 2015, the average award size (across all students) was £272 (a 13% increase on 2014).

- One new fully-funded DPhil scholarship was awarded for 2015/16 entry, and two further new scholarships will be awarded for 2016/17 entry.

GCR

72% are aware/mostly aware of elected positions on GCR Executive.

- The GCR continues to promote the Executive via a variety of platforms, aided by the new GCR website.

61% rated GCR social events as excellent / good.

'Make an effort to become involved with College life, because it will immeasurably improve your experience.'

- Last year the GCR planned almost 6 events per week, coordinating Welfare and Academic teams. They continue to plan diverse social events.

70% rated GCR academic events as excellent / good.

52% rated GCR welfare as excellent / good.

- 'Jolly Good Fellows' events, advertised on the GCR website, take place four times a term.
- The recently-founded GCR-run St. Antony's DPhil Students' Society (SADSS) provides a social forum for DPhil students.
- A projector (procured with Antonian Fund support) will soon be installed in the Buttery, allowing film nights to be added to the schedule.
- The College and Peer Support team continue to work together, and the welfare team are working with College to hold a consent workshop next term.

'GCR functions have defined [my St Antony's experience].'