ST PAUL’S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Because community has never been more important
WELCOME

Firstly, well done on taking the opportunity to find out what St Paul’s College is all about and how you may be able to benefit by becoming a member of this unique community.

There are thousands of graduates of St Paul’s for whom choosing to apply to come here was the beginning of one of the best and most formative experiences of their lives. Having spent most of my adult life associated with collegiate communities, including as an undergraduate at St Paul’s, I can personally attest to how enriching they are and how St Paul’s is an especially transformative college.

In the pages of this prospectus I hope you will get a sense of what we are about and the kind of activities that make becoming a member of St Paul’s such a special experience. It is an environment that will accelerate your academic, social, creative and spiritual endeavours. Furthermore, you will have opportunities to serve and develop as a leader in ways that non-St Paul’s students miss out on. It is a community where students from different faculties, faiths, backgrounds and worldviews share and shape one another in their thinking. All of this takes place in a convivial and enjoyable environment. As you contribute, you benefit.

So, St Paul’s is far more than a place to stay while you are studying at University. It is a vibrant and life-enhancing community where deep and profound friendships are formed as students learn together and from one another. While a prospectus can highlight and describe aspects of St Paul’s community life, there is no substitute for coming and meeting people and seeing the campus. I hope that reading these pages will inspire you to take that next step and I look forward to welcoming you for a visit or an interview as you continue to explore whether you too might become a member of this life transforming community.

The Reverend Dr Ed Loane
Warden
WHO ARE WE?

Today the traditional undergraduate College, comprising approximately 300 students, sits alongside St Paul’s Graduate House which is home to over 100 postgraduates and academics.

With the admission of the first female undergraduates in 2023, St Paul’s became fully co-residential and thus entered a new and exciting chapter in its history. The College is committed to admitting and maintaining equal numbers of male and female undergraduate students going forward.

If you are like most people, you may be unsure exactly what a residential college is. Put briefly and simply, St Paul’s offers the very best full-time, all-round university experience possible: the exhilaration of living and learning together within a supportive and caring community. As the University of Sydney’s population inches towards 75,000, the idea of being part of a college community small enough to give you a real sense of belonging, is attractive to more and more students.

St Paul’s College is an Anglican residential college situated within the University of Sydney. Founded in 1856, it is the oldest college of its kind in Australia.

The benefits of living in close proximity to the University of Sydney campus are obvious, but it would be wrong to think that St Paul’s is merely a convenient place to stay while studying. Many people are surprised to learn that St Paul’s is both a residential and a teaching college, modelled in part on the offerings of the great collegiate universities of the world such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Princeton. Living in college for the duration of your degree enriches not just your academic journey, but your human journey. At St Paul’s you are able to integrate your academic, spiritual, cultural and sporting life along with social activities, leadership opportunities and community service.

At its core though, College is about friendship. Almost without exception Old Paulines (as our alumni are known) look back on their years here as one of the happiest and most formative times in their lives. Invariably the stories they tell are about the joy of shared experiences, their growth as a person and the lifelong friendships formed along the way.

WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?

St Paul’s aims to provide the best possible model of what an academic community of young people can be. We aim to foster intellectual leadership, academic excellence, moral responsibility and civilised values. True to our Christian foundation, we aim to reflect God’s love for us in the love and care we show for one another.

The culture of St Paul’s College is inclusive, respectful, safe and fun. It fosters life-long friendships, leadership skills, team work and academic excellence. It also develops personal character traits of humility, generosity, service and compassion which are shaped by the College’s Anglican identity.
From the moment you enter Paul’s you will be welcomed and cared for, especially by your Peer Support Leaders who will maintain close personal contact with you throughout your first year. It goes without saying that the Residential Life team, headed by the Warden, is dedicated to your academic and pastoral care. They all take a personal interest in each and every Pauline.

Participation, co-operation and responsible servant leadership are fundamental to the ethos and effective operation of the College. All residents are members of the Students’ Club which plays an important role in running social and other activities through its elected Committee. There are plenty of ways for you to get involved, mainly through services to the day-to-day life of the community. You are very strongly encouraged to participate in as many College activities as your interests allow and your studies permit.

Like any close family, the College comes together at meal times. The most important of these is Formal Dinner (Monday to Thursday at 6.30pm), the dress for which includes an academic gown, recognising our links with the Oxbridge tradition stretching back over 700 years. Formal Dinners are scenes of great conviviality, conversation and good-humoured banter. They are also the best possible way of making friends and finding out what’s going on! Unless you have unavoidable commitments such as late lectures, work or sports training (in which case a Late Dinner is provided) you are expected to attend Formal Dinner.

All other meals are informal, self-service meals. A fully-cooked breakfast is available from 7 to 9.30am; lunch, offering a selection of hot and cold dishes, is served from 12.00 to 1.30pm. Dinner on non-Formal Dinner nights is served at 6 to 6.30pm.

Each year the College calendar is punctuated by key important events: Academic Dinner, ANZAC Commemoration Dinner, Fathers Dinner and Mothers Dinner, Surreal Sounds, Jazz Dinner Dance, Formal, Valedictory Dinner and Rawson, Rosebowl and Palladian Cup Victory Dinners.

Other social, sporting and cultural events, both at St Paul’s and at other colleges, occur throughout each semester which you may choose to attend.

“Participation, co-operation and responsible servant leadership are fundamental to the ethos and effective operation of the College.”
St Paul’s exists primarily as an academic community. Paulines are justifiably proud of the College’s academic record, its many notable alumni and the distinguished contribution they have made to public life. To date St Paul’s has produced 29 Rhodes Scholars, three appointees to the High Court bench and two Prime Ministers: Sir William McMahon GCMG CH and Gough Whitlam AC QC. The College has produced over 100 University Medallists, 20 in the last decade. Each year the Weighted Average Mark (WAM) for the College sits well above that of the University as a whole. Around half our students achieve a Distinction or High Distinction average in their examination results.

Sharing the academic journey

The most obvious academic benefit of living in College is being able to discuss your work with like-minded, academically ambitious fellow students on a day-to-day basis. It is one of the very best ways of clarifying your own understanding of what you are studying. But perhaps the greatest ‘added value’ which Paul’s will offer you in terms of your academic work, is the Tutorial Programme (see following pages). College libraries are additional valuable resources available to residents. The Senior Tutor monitors the academic progress and results of each student and provides mentoring, advice and support when required.

The Grisp Initiative creates avenues for current students, usually in their third year of study, to receive advice and coaching from Old Paulines and their professional colleagues to kick-start and guide a career path.

A liberal education

Essential to the ideal of a liberal education is the pursuit of intellectual enquiry beyond one’s own academic discipline. Guest Speakers distinguished in their field are regularly invited to speak to students after dinner. Faculty Dinners are unique opportunities for you to meet academics from the University. But it’s the chance to converse regularly with fellow students which makes College unique. The unplanned, impromptu conversations at mealtimes, in the Bar, following guest speakers’ talks – or more likely in your room or corridor – form the stuff of everyday College life. There is no better way of formulating your own perspectives on the world and your place within it.

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Since its inception, the College has been and still remains a teaching college. Tutorials are offered in over ninety 1st and 2nd year core units of study at the University of Sydney, together with some more generalist tutorials (see sample list). They provide invaluable opportunities for you to sort out problems and deepen your understanding of the subject in small groups of fellow students. Tutors are senior members of College who have previously achieved a High Distinction in their subject. Organised by the Senior Tutor, the Tutorial programme at Paul’s is the most comprehensive programme of its kind amongst the colleges on campus and, as any current student will tell you, one of the best reasons for wanting to come here.
COMMUNITY LIFE

St Paul’s is renowned for its sporting prowess and for the large attendance and enthusiastic support given by its members at matches. Social matches in these and other sports - including the time-honoured tradition of Touch Football before dinner – also take place.

The Palladian Cup for intercollegiate competition in cultural and artistic pursuits, dates from the 1990s. You are encouraged to audition to represent the College in Oration, Solo Vocal, Solo Instrumental, Solo Drama, Dance, Debating, Vocal Ensemble, Art, Instrumental Ensemble and Drama Ensemble.

Medals are awarded annually by the College for best performances in Oratory (Asimus Medal), Singing (Drury Medal), Instrumental Music (Albert Medal), Debating (Waddy Medal) and Drama (Felix Arnott Medal).

Music is central to the life of the College. Instrumentalists and singers perform throughout the year at Formal Dinners, in the Palladian Cup competition, and at other major celebrations and events. Keen musicians are encouraged to form groups and ensembles at any time. Student singing at celebratory events is both heartfelt and stirring, and emblematic of the unique Pauline spirit!

St Paul’s participates in the Rawson Cup intercollegiate sporting competition for men and the Rosebowl competition for women.

The Chapel Choir, conducted by the Director of Music and accompanied by the College Organist, performs a traditional and modern repertoire to the highest standards. Its principal role is to sing Choral Evensong each Tuesday evening and at other significant chapel services such as the annual ANZAC service and the Carol Service. Each semester the Choir also presents a choral recital.

Mummers is the St Paul’s College dramatic society. Founded in 1948, it continues to stage productions of high calibre each year.

Debates are organised between current students and neighbouring colleges, alumni or members of Graduate House.

Outreach activities are opportunities for students to give back to the wider community by engaging directly with those in need beyond these walls. A number of Paulines feed and care for the homeless through Newtown Mission and the Cana Foundation, for example.

Entrepreneurship initiatives launched by Paulines in recent years include AIME, a mentoring program for marginalised Indigenous youth; ‘threefourfive’, a pre-tertiary mentoring programme for Year 12 students in remote areas; and ‘FundsFest’ which supports causes such as drought relief through fundraising initiatives.
St Paul’s College was founded in 1856 in the Anglican tradition. The crossed swords on the College coat of arms represent the Apostle Paul, who was beheaded with a sword, and the Maltese cross refers to his shipwreck at Malta before his imprisonment in Rome. The motto, ‘Deo Patriae Tibi’, loosely translates as ‘For God, your homeland, and yourself’.

Today St Paul’s is unique amongst colleges on campus in having a full-time Chaplain in residence. Chapel services are held every weekday to which members of all faiths, or of none, are welcomed.

The major College service each week is Choral Evensong which is sung by the College Chapel Choir and precedes Formal Dinner each Tuesday during semester.

There are also regular Bible Study sessions, and the lively World Views and Ethics discussion group considers and debates important global and local issues each week.

Most importantly, the Chaplain is available to all members of the College community for pastoral care matters.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Monday
8.30am Morning Prayer
9.30pm Bible Study group

Tuesday
8.30am Morning Prayer
5.15pm Choral Evensong
(sung by the College Chapel Choir)

Wednesday
8.30am Morning Prayer

Thursday
8.30am Morning Prayer
9.30pm World Views and Ethics discussion group

Friday
8.30am Morning Prayer
12 noon Holy Communion

Other significant Services include Welcome Week, Commencement, Academic Dinner Evensong, ANZAC Day, Valedictory Evensong and the annual Carol Service.
Generally speaking there are three standards of Undergraduate rooms allocated according to seniority and contribution to College: Fresher rooms in the Arnott/Chapel Court buildings; larger rooms in the heritage buildings; and rooms with ensuite bathrooms and air-conditioning in the Ivan Head Building. Each room is furnished with a bed, desk, desk chair and wardrobe. All rooms have WiFi connectivity. Residence over the mid-year break is included in the fees; residence over the summer break is available upon application.

The magnificent original Dining Hall is the heart of the College. Each day the College community gathers together for meals under its imposing Gothic windows and timbered ceiling. Formal Dinner is held in the Hall as are all major College celebrations.

The College Chapel, with its collegiate seating and stunning east wall of modern French stained glass, is the setting for formal liturgical worship and occasional music recitals. The recently restored two-manual Flentrop pipe organ, is one of the finest of its kind in Australia.

The Senior Common Room is for the exclusive use of Fellows of the College, residential staff, graduates, postgraduates and other members of High Table who gather there before Formal Dinner. It is used at other times for smaller dinners, seminars and meetings.

The Junior Common Room is a sitting room for undergraduates and is also used for meetings, debates, suppers, after-dinner talks, or for simply relaxing between lectures. It is home to a fine 6-foot Yamaha grand piano.

Laundries are located throughout the College. Washing machines are available for use for a small fee; dryers are free.
WHAT PAUL’S MEANS TO ME

REX CRISP
Orange, NSW

For me, St Paul’s College means community. It’s about the friends I’ve made, and the ways the College has been there to support me. Moving to Sydney from rural New South Wales, St Paul’s has given me the opportunities and examples to succeed and make the most of my time at university. The support programs that St Paul’s offers, both formal and informal, are there for you no matter what life throws at you. These supports include the large collegiate tutorial program and the extensive pastoral care network, as well as the friends and people you meet from all walks of life and all different degree courses. This understanding, and this freedom, have been the biggest assistance and difference-maker during my time at St Paul’s so far.

JOSEPH SCOPAS
Auckland, New Zealand

Living at St Paul’s has brought my dream of the student experience to life. Every day at College we learn something new, we build new relationships, we play sport on the oval and we share many hilarious moments. You always have something to look forward to and to keep you busy. College is an absolute blast and offers the perfect balance to the studious aspect of life here at Paul’s.

Above all, St Paul’s is a stimulating environment to study. There is an incredible community of students around you, all striving towards their academic goals and sharing their learning and skills with one another. Everyone at College has something that they are passionate about or talented in and this creates such an interesting and diverse environment.

I am so grateful for the opportunities that I have at Paul’s to draw on others’ talent and in turn, to share my skills in helping others. I recognise countless occasions where I have been stuck on a question and knocked on my buddy’s door to have an answer and understanding five minutes later. Ultimately, we get things done at Paul’s and we do them well.

MARCUS VALASTRO
Darwin, Northern Territory

After growing up and attending a public school for the entirety of my schooling in Darwin, the thought of moving to Sydney and attending a College with many privately-educated students daunted me. I was worried I would feel isolated and alone.

I did not realise how wrong I could be.

Deciding to go to St Paul’s College was the best thing I could have done for my social, academic, and professional development. I have been presented with opportunities at Paul’s I could not have got anywhere else. In my second year at the College, I was selected by the Students’ Club Committee to be part of a group to run and manage the Semi-Formal, a jazz dinner dance. Like everything at Paul’s, we had complete independence in doing this, from arranging the venue spaces and props, organising licenses, and managing finances.

It is opportunities like these and many more like them that makes Paul’s such a unique and great place to be.
HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATIONS

Complete the Application Form found on our website at www.stpauls.edu.au/undergraduateapply/ and pay the Application Fee. You will need to arrange for two references from people who know you well to be sent directly to the College. For school-leavers, at least one reference should be from a senior member of your school staff.

Once we have received your application the Registrar will invite you to attend an interview at the College. A Zoom interview can be arranged for candidates who live outside Sydney or overseas. It is advisable to lodge your application as early as possible during the year preceding entry. Schools Dinners are held each semester and are an ideal opportunity for prospective students and their parents to tour the College and see it in action.

Offers of places are made conditional upon you gaining entry to the desired degree course.

Strong preference is given to students enrolled at the University of Sydney.

FEES

Residential fees include accommodation, 21 meals per week, weekly room cleaning and linen changing, utilities, use of library, oval and gymnasium, student services and support, academic tutorial programme and WiFi. For the current fee schedule, go to www.stpauls.edu.au/undergraduateapply/

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Each year the College awards a significant number of scholarships and bursaries with a range in value. Academic Merit Awards are given purely on the basis of proven academic achievement. Bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need and applicants are required to demonstrate that, without a bursary, they would be unable to afford the fees. (Parents’ capacity to pay is taken into account.) All scholarships and bursaries are awarded for 12 months in the first instance and recipients must reapply each year for renewal, which is subject to good academic progress, satisfactory conduct and contribution to the life of the College.

All scholarship applications must be received by 30 November. Please note: Scholarship applications may be sent either together with the admission application, or separately.
St Paul’s College sits amongst beautiful and extensive grounds and gardens at the heart of the University of Sydney. The neighbouring suburb of Newtown, with its bustling café, bar and restaurant scene, is a short walk from the College, as is Broadway shopping centre. Redfern railway station is just a few blocks away. Buses on City Road travel directly to Central railway station and the CBD with bus, rail and ferry connections to the airport, beaches and other Sydney attractions.

WHERE IS ST PAUL’S?

Address: 9 City Road, Camperdown Australia NSW 2050
02 9550 7444 | www.stpauls.edu.au