



DOWNING COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Weddings at Downing College: Frequently Asked Questions

When is the College available for Weddings?

The College and its grounds are available during the summer holidays in July and August.

Do you have minimum numbers of guests for weddings?

The minimum number of guests for weddings is 100 adult guests.

Can we get married in the College Chapel?

Only members of Downing College can be married in the Chapel. Alumni enquiring about a ceremony in the Chapel should contact the Chaplain after consulting with the Wedding Coordinator in the first instance.

Can we book our civil ceremony at Downing College?

The College holds a civil ceremony licence for three indoor event venues but we are unable to offer ceremonies in the college gardens.

Do we have to pay a deposit?

A non-refundable deposit of 25% of the estimated total value of the event will be requested by invoice on receipt of the completed Booking Form. The balance payment is required 60 days prior to the wedding.

Are children allowed?

We are delighted to welcome children for weddings held in the College though they must be supervised at all times. We can serve a half-portion meal for children under 12 or a children menu if preferred (prices on application). The College can supply highchairs but does not have baby changing facilities.

Can confetti be used on the premises?

Confetti, including rice or flower petals, is not allowed to be used on the College grounds. Bubbles can be used in the grounds but not inside any of the function rooms.

Can we release Chinese lanterns, balloons or fireworks?

Chinese lanterns, balloons and fireworks cannot be released within the College grounds.

Can we provide our own food?

We do not allow food not purchased at the college to be brought on-site, or external caterers with the exception of your wedding cake. If you wish to take away any remaining wedding cake with you, containers must be supplied in advance to the catering team.

Do you allow corkage?

We do not offer a corkage service as we provide an extensive wine list. If there is a wine you would like that does not feature on our wine list then please contact the Wedding Organiser to discuss further.

Do you offer a menu tasting?

We have an excellent reputation for private dining and our Wedding Coordinator is happy to talk through menu selections with you. However, if you would like to arrange a menu tasting, we offer 2 x starter, 2 x main course, 2 x dessert including a glass of College Own Label wine for £180 based on 2 people. Additional wines can also be sampled at the bottle price and can be taken away.

Do you have bar facilities?

We offer two fully stocked bars, in the Hall or Howard Building Drawing Room, and are pleased to offer either a cash or account bar. If you are having an account bar we will ask you to set a limit in advance. Prior



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to this being reached, you will be asked if you wish to extend it or not. The minimum spend in either venue is £250.00.

Can you cater for allergies and specific dietary requirements?

Our chefs are extremely adept at catering for guests with allergies and specific dietary requirements. All dietary requirements must be advised together with your final guest numbers a minimum of 10 days prior to your wedding and a minimum of 3 weeks' notice is required for kosher meals.

Can we amend the wedding package?

We would be pleased to discuss upgrades to the wedding package, however if elements are removed we are not able to reduce the price.

Is car parking available at Downing College?

We can offer up to a maximum of 10 car parking spaces subject to availability.

Can coaches access Downing College grounds?

There is a Coach pick up point on Park Terrace Road, off Regent Street, 100m from Downing College.

Is Downing College wheelchair accessible?

The majority of Downing College function rooms are fully accessible with lift access to rooms on the first floor with the exception of the Tim Cadbury and Music Rooms in the West Lodge. We can offer a limited number of wheelchair accessible bedrooms and recommend these are booked as soon as possible.

Can we book accommodation for guests?

The College offers a variety of Superior Single, Double and Twin en-suite bedrooms. We can set-up a unique code on our web-site with preferential rates allowing guests to book and pay on-line. The code will be advised once the deposit has been paid. Please note that the college is unable to accept bookings for children under the age of 16 years.

When can we have access to the rooms to decorate?

Access will be available from 10.30am on the morning of your wedding day. A suitable overnight storage room may be provided if you wish to drop off items the day before.

Are there any restrictions to decorations, when can the florist set-up?

You are welcome to place favours, balloons, cameras and other accessories on the dining tables with the prior approval from the Wedding Co-ordinator. Only the candelabras provided by the college are permitted to be used for the Wedding breakfast. Florists can normally access the rooms from 10.30am on the day of the Wedding and are responsible for placing arrangements onto the tables. The florist or the wedding party are responsible for moving flowers from venue to venue and collecting any remaining flowers after the wedding.

Can we provide games?

Lawn games such as Giant Connect 4, Giant Jenga and Pentague are permitted on the Fellows' Garden. Ball games, such as football or cricket, are not permitted. You will be responsible for setting up all garden games.

Can we have live music or a DJ and dancing in the Dining Hall?

Music and dancing is permitted in the Hall and Howard Assembly Room. All entertainers must provide proof of public liability insurance and relevant PAT Test certificates. The following entertainers are also allowed to perform under the terms of the College's insurance: harpists, pianists, pipers, string quartets and choirs.



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Is smoking permitted?

Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is prohibited on College grounds with the exception of the designated smoking areas. A map can be provided to indicate these areas.

Are animals allowed in College?

We regret that animals are not allowed in the College with the exception of guide dogs.

Can we invite evening guests?

Evening guests are most welcome. There is no supplementary charge for guests attending the evening reception and we would be pleased to quote for an evening buffet on a per head basis.