

College Affiliation for Cambridge Postdocs: Information on Current Schemes
Last Updated February 2010

	Position Title(s)	Application Process	How do you assess applications?	Do you cap the number of postdoc College members at College?	Are postdocs working in non university research institutes accepted?	Charge for Membership?	Dining rights	College Teaching offered?	MCR (Middle Common Room) or SCR (Senior Common Room)?	Use of college facilities (e.g. sports, libraries); workshops/seminars etc	Comments from postdocs about their college experience
Christ's College	Membership is offered at the discretion of the Governing Body to research workers recommended for membership by a Fellow of the College.	Each Fellow of the College may nominate one postdoctoral researcher for membership of the College. Postdoctoral researchers cannot apply directly but should approach one of the Fellows, who will contact the Master and Governing Body with a curriculum vitae.	Researchers are expected to be of doctoral standing and to have no existing affiliation to another College. There are no other formal considerations although the Governing Body is likely to take the quality and promise of the applicants' research into account.	There is an annual limit of 10 on the total number of such researchers admitted to membership.	Yes.	No charge.	Membership includes the right to lunch and dine at High Table. The first meal each term is at College's expense and subsequent meals are at the Member's own expense.	This would be for individual decision.	Postdocs are members of the MCR.	As well as the High Table rights already mentioned, the key benefits of membership to the researcher are a Buttery card for use in Upper Hall and the Buttery, access to the College Library and use of other common facilities (such as sports facilities, television room etc.).	
Churchill College	Associate Membership of the SCR.	Fellows of Churchill can introduce current senior members of the University as Associates of the SCR. Fellows should pass any names, with addresses and research topic if applicable, to the Fellows' Steward, for approval by the SCR Committee. Re-approval will take place annually.	The scheme is primarily aimed at postdoctoral research staff working with Fellows of the College but any currently serving member of the University with a particular association with a Fellow is likely to be approved.			Associate Membership of the SCR costs £50 per quarter (i.e. £200 per year) to cover their contribution to the College's fixed costs. This, together with any charges for meals taken, will be collected by quarterly direct debit.	Yes. Associate Members can dine at High Table six nights a week in term-time, five nights a week in vacation (with few exceptions). High Table meals are charged at the Fellows' rate. Postdocs may also eat in College at lunchtime or in the evening on account.	Yes.	SCR.	Yes. They can use College sports facilities and the Combination Room.	
Clare College	College Research Associate (CRA).	Annual recruitment exercise which is advertised in the Reporter and on our College website, usually in March.	Applications are assessed by the Fellowship Committee.	CRAs are appointed according to teaching need so yes, they may be capped. Clare College currently has 29 College Research Associates.	Sometimes, depends upon teaching needs in College.	No.	Yes. Research Associates may dine for free at High Table eight times during Full Term.	Yes, where there is a teaching need, CRAs will be asked to supervise.	SCR.	Access to sports facilities, gardens and occasional use of College public rooms.	I'm currently a College Research Associate at Clare College. I was recommended by my current boss and my PhD supervisor who are both fellows at Clare. I had to apply with a short statement, a CV and a list of courses I'd be willing to supervise for Clare. As a College Research Associate, I'm asked to supervise up to 3 hours a week for Clare, for which I get paid at the normal rate. The benefits are: 8 free meals (formal or non-formal, with or without guests) each term and access to the SCR facilities of Clare (this mainly means sports grounds). Overall, I thought it is worth it, especially given that I would supervise in any case.
Clare Hall	Post-Doctoral Associateship.					Yes: £500 per year.	Yes: 1 free meal per week, 2 free feasts per year. Other meals charged at cost.	No.	Not specified.	Yes.	
Corpus Christi College	Corpus Christi offers Research Associateships to CU postdocs.	Candidates are recommended by a Fellow to the Master, who consults a small committee.	Criteria are mainly (a) sound research activity, backed by a reference, normally from the head of the research team or another appropriate colleague; (b) a judgement that the candidate will contribute to the collegiate life of our post-graduate community.	Yes - 35.	As far as I know this has not been tested on the Committee.	No (but see next item)	Research Associateships are welcome to lunch in Hall at normal student rates, and to dine at Leckhampton (our post-grad campus) at normal charges.	College teaching is not required, but some of our Research Associates do in practice teach.	I don't think so, but they mix socially with post-grads.	Yes. Use of the facilities at Leckhampton.	
Darwin College	Research Associate membership (only on recommendation).	Fellows of the College may recommend a postdoc with whom they are academically associated and to whom they are personally well-known. Please contact the secretary to the master for further details.		25 in total, 5 from each department.			Meals at the college, guest rate.	There are no supervisions since there are no undergraduates. Postdocs wanting to do supervisions can use college rooms but must find the students themselves.		Use of College facilities, clubs, sports, access to bar.	I'm a research associate at Darwin College. I got it by being sponsored by a faculty member of my department who is also a fellow at the college. Basically I met him, asked to join, he got to know me over lunch at the college and showed me round. The benefits are social, I can eat meals at the college, albeit paying a guest rate rather than student; I have a key to the college and can use its facilities, join its clubs, sports, have access to the bar, take part in all social activities, etc. The college does not provide financial support or accommodation. Because it is a graduate college made of older students, the age group is ideal and I have made many friends there. This also means that there are no supervisions since there are no undergraduates. Postdocs wanting to do supervisions can use college rooms for that but must find the students themselves (presumably through their departments). Overall I have found the atmosphere very warm and welcoming. There is no high table and fellows and students mix much more than at other colleges I've seen. It is really what I was looking for - social activity without the need to pay fees or teaching commitments.
Downing College	Several categories of membership available to postdocs. MCR affiliation; Bye-Fellowships; College Membership for postdocs who supervise for Downing.	We request a CV and a recommendation from a Downing Fellow or an MCR member.	From Fellow/MCR member reference and CV.	25	Yes.	£160 per annum.	Can dine in Hall at own expense, at guest rate.	No.	MCR.	Yes. Use of MCR, College Library, College sports facilities (tennis courts, multi-gym etc), invitations to special MCR dinners, a pigeonhole in the Porters' Lodge.	
Emmanuel College	Postdoc Affiliate of the MCR.	Nomination by an existing member of the College (Fellow or graduate student).	Currently we are able to accept all nominated applicants.	Not so far.	Probably yes. But not an industry employee such as a Microsoft employee working in the Microsoft labs.	£50 joining fee and no annual fee but we are considering changing to a £50 annual fee.	Yes - same as for graduate students at the College (i.e. all meals charged at cost).	Yes.	MCR.	Yes.	My advisor was at Emma and I asked him to nominate me. I personally really like being at a college. Partly because I was used to being associated with a college before my postdoc. I think Emma is welcoming but as I mentioned I have been around for ages, so did not need much welcoming. Excellent for rowing, excellent students, in particular Medics, Natscis and Vets. College associate is really useful for teaching. Otherwise getting students is a bit more tricky! Benefits - for me it is primarily the formal hall dinner. I also got married at my college, which is a really nice perk. For new postdocs arriving in Cambridge, college events are definitely useful for networking. You can book guest rooms which is really handy (and cost friendly) when you have friends and family visiting.
Fitzwilliam College	Only with specific teaching duties. Postdocs offered membership, SCR rights and Bye-Fellowship appointment if (and only if) making a 4-hr/week contribution to teaching under aegis of Director of Studies.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No.	N/A	N/A	Postdocs offered membership, SCR rights and Bye-Fellowship appointment if (and only if) making a 4-hr/week contribution to teaching under aegis of Director of Studies.	SCR.	Membership, SCR rights and Bye-Fellowship appointment.	I have recently become a Bye-fellow at Fitzwilliam College. I was already supervising for the college and asked the DOS whether I could get more involved in College life. He suggested the Bye-fellowship, which has some perks but isn't full fellowship. A bye fellow gets paid more for supervision (4/3 of standard), has access to College rooms for supervision, has access to other college facilities and has some dining rights. They are also committed to 4 hours of teaching per week. It's early days so I'm still finding out what else is involved.

Girton College	Research Associate (RA).					No (except for optional use of Squash Courts, charged at £20 per term).	Yes. Free dining on Thursdays (Graduate Night); 1 extra free dinner per term on Tuesday nights. Other meals (High Table or cafeteria) charged at cost. Members may bring guests (charged at guest prices).	Not specified.	Not specified.	Yes.	
Gonville and Caius College											
Homerton College											
Hughes Hall	Senior Member; Senior Associate; Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA)	To become a PDRA you need to fill in a very simple form and post it to the college, followed by a lunch interview at College.		10 in total.		No.	Yes. Senior Members receive certain dining rights (i.e. certain amount of free meals). Senior Associates may also dine in college but meals are charged at cost. PDRA's get 8 free meals in college per term.	Not specified.	Senior Members and Senior Associates are neither Fellows nor students. However, Senior Members receive privileges more similar to Fellows.	Yes.	I was recently accepted as a PDRA at Hughes Hall. I was made aware of the position through the PdOC emails which linked to the Reporter online. I filled in a very simple form and posted it to the college. Much later I was invited to go to college for a lunch interview. There were about 7 candidates on the day and a number of fellows came to lunch for us to talk to. It was very informal and we had a nice meal with coffee afterwards. They let us know they were holding more interviews later on. It was many months before I heard via letter that I had been accepted as one of the 5 PDRA's for this year. I think the college have 10 PDRA's in total. The position is non-stipendiary for 2 years. I think that our role is to socialise in college and talk to the other students about our work. To help with this we get 8 free meals in college per term. We also have access to all the college facilities so we can book rooms, join societies and use the car park. So far I have been to choir and used the library and car park. I plan to go to a formal dinner soon and will be giving a talk about my work at 'Hat Club' next term. So far I would say I am well pleased with my affiliation; the application process was painless and there have been no great demands on me in return for being given the position. I am a bit daunted at the idea of going to a formal dinner without knowing anyone but I am welcome to take guests so I plan to do that for the first few times!
Jesus College	College Research Associate (CRA).	Annual Competition, advertised in Reporter and College website.	All applications are carefully assessed by a committee and short-listed candidates are invited for interview.	Yes, College Council agreed to a total of 12 CRAs at any one time – CRAs have a 3-year non-renewable tenure.	CRAs must be employed by or otherwise working in the University of Cambridge in a research role.	No.	Yes. CRAs may dine for free at High Table, one lunch or dinner per week. CRAs may also dine at High Table any other night of the week, charged at Fellows' rates. Meals may also be taken in the cafeteria, charged at cost.	Yes. There is no obligation to teach but if any supervisions are carried out for the College these would be paid for at the standard rates plus the same mark-up as is applicable to Fellows of the College.	CRAs have use of the Fellows' Parlour.	Yes. Full use of the Quincentenary Library and its Computer Centre.	
King's College	Post-Doctoral Research Associate; Post-Doctoral Teaching Associate. Suitable postdocs, especially in the sciences, may be offered positions as Teaching Associates or as Trapnell Fellows.	Applications to the Senior Tutor.	In consultation with Directors of Studies in relation to teaching needs.	Not formally, but effectively.	Yes.	No charge	Variable lunching and dining rights for Teaching Associates, depending on quantity of teaching; full dining rights for Trapnell Fellows.	Yes. It is a precondition.	SCR.	Full use for Fellows; by negotiation for TAs.	
Lucy Cavendish College	Postdoctoral membership of the combination room. For women only.	For Post-Doctoral Membership of the Combination Room, candidates are asked to contact the Fellowship Secretary or a Senior Member of Lucy Cavendish College who can support their application.	Members of the Combination Room are on interest in and possible contribution to the College.	10 at any one time.	Yes.	At present, just payment for meals taken at Senior rates.	Members of the Combination Room can go to lunch, supper and formal hall when available and take guests; invitations to other events in college – lectures, seminars, garden party, etc.	No, but may be negotiated.	SCR.	Yes. Use of the library, common rooms and gym. Involvement in the Graduate Student Programme, run by the Graduate Tutor.	
Magdalene College	Research Associate.	Nomination from Fellows with personal knowledge of accomplished postdocs. Fellows are invited to put names and brief CVs forward to Stuart Martin (Senior Tutor) for consideration by the Academic Committee at its June meeting. Fellows should, if necessary, advertise the scheme to appropriate postdocs in the areas of their teaching need. A brief statement indicating what teaching, if any, is being offered should also be included with the CVs.	The selection of such researchers is an annual exercise and is governed primarily (but not exclusively) by what teaching could be offered to complement existing strengths.	Magdalene has a scheme to elect up to six Research Associates from amongst postdoctoral researchers (we have 6 in any one year).		Not specified.	Yes. An allowance of eight dinners (4+4) per term (excluding Feasts, Sundays, Thursdays); this allowance to be taken either on High Table or with the MCR.	Yes. A condition of accepting affiliation would be to provide up to three hours' supervision per week, to be remunerated at the standard rate and on the understanding that appointment is for one academic year, with possible renewal for a further year again being considered by the Academic Committee.	SCR.	Yes. Use of public rooms and sports facilities on the same basis as Fellows. Membership of the MCR (if they wish, and subject to MCR agreement) with dues paid by the College.	
Murray Edwards College											
Newnham College	Newnham offers a number of possibilities to postdoctoral staff: a) If there is a teaching need we may advertise an Associate Lectureship b) If there is a teaching need, we may appoint a postdoc as Special Supervisor c) On occasion we may elect a postdoc to a Bye-Fellowship.	If any postdoc was interested in teaching for a College, the Senior Tutor would be happy to hear from them. Special Supervisors are normally recommended by the Director of Studies in the subject concerned. Bye-Fellowship: for this they would need to be recommended by a Senior Member of the College, and there would be an expectation that they would be doing something particular for Newnham.			Working in a non-university research centre in the Cambridge area would not be a bar to their joining the College, so far as I am aware.		Associate Lecturers are full members of the SCR and have dining privileges of seven meals per week at College expense. Special Supervisors are full members of the SCR and have dining privileges of three meals per week at College expense. Bye-Fellows are full members of the SCR and have dining privileges of seven meals per week at College expense.	Yes.	SCR.		

Pembroke College	Academic Associate.	The route is normally that postdocs are recommended as Academic Associates by Directors of Studies or other Pembroke fellows who know about their teaching for us.	Decisions about affiliation are made by a committee, in consultation with the Graduate Tutors.		We would consider non-University research institute postdocs as academic associates if there was a teaching need in their area.	The Graduate Parlour (MCR) have occasionally invited postdocs to be affiliated members of the Graduate Parlour at £50 per year.	Yes: 1 free lunch or dinner per week. We offer weekly dining rights (on High Table/Senior Parlour).	Yes. Post is designed for postdocs who can supervise for Pembroke.	SCR. Pembroke Graduate Parlour is also considering their own affiliated membership scheme.	Yes. Involvement in some other College activities.	
Peterhouse											
Queen's College	No, only Annual Research Fellowships Competition offered.										
Robinson College	Robinson does offer SCR membership to postdocs at an annual competition in Michaelmas.	They have to be sponsored by a Robinson fellow (i.e. the fellow applies, not the postdoc), they have to be physically in Cambridge and they have to already have completed their PhD.				No charge.		No college teaching is offered automatically, but some have been involved in teaching.	SCR.		
St Catharine's College	Postdoctoral Associateship. Appointment will be for one year, but annually renewable for up to two further years; the appointment must be held co-terminously with postdoctoral employment within the University.	Recommendation by a Fellow.	Assessed on merit.		It hasn't arisen yet so don't know the answer.	Nothing.	1 free lunch or dinner per week and unlimited dinners at the associate's own expense in University Term. The meal allowance is intended for the Associate only; no guests are allowed.	Yes. Those appointed will be expected to be willing to undertake teaching within their area of expertise, if so invited by the College, and will be remunerated at the usual rate, but there will be no fixed minimum number of hours designated.	SCR. The appointment will carry with it the right to membership of the SCR, including use of the Armitage Room but only when a Fellow is present.	Membership of the Amalgamated Clubs and Societies with any associated costs borne by the College.	
St Edmund's College	Associate Membership.	The presentation of a covering letter, CV and two academic references, addressed to the Master. Applications can be emailed to masters.office@st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk	Applications go to the nominations committee for consideration and recommendation and then on to the governing body who approves and appoints associate members for up to 3 years at a time.	No we haven't found it necessary yet as postdocs tend to move on.	Yes.	£50 one off membership fee.	Yes. You may dine (and bring your spouse/partner/guest if you wish) on any occasions other than those nights when special dinners/ feasts are held, but for some of these meals a reserve list will be available for any vacancies. You may take breakfast or lunch on any occasion you wish. Meals will be itemised and charged to your meal card (available from the College office).	No this is not expected as the College assumes that they need their time for their research, however some associate members have offered to assist with teaching.	No.	In addition to the usual meals offered by the college kitchen, they can attend formal halls and guest night dinners. They are added to the email lists for notifying of lectures/social events etc in College. They are given a copy of College calendar and the blue book, notes to members. They can attend the annual college garden party. When they are appointed they are invited to attend an inaugural ceremony to be formally welcomed into the college by the master and fellows.	
St John's College	They run two schemes aimed specifically at postdocs who are not already members of St John's. The College Research Associate scheme and The College Post-Doctoral Researcher.	The College Research Associate scheme is aimed at those who have won early-career post-doctoral awards in national and international competition. The College Post-Doctoral Researcher scheme depends on nomination from a Fellow and is open only to those who have no Cambridge College affiliation.		The College Research Associate scheme - they currently have twelve on the list and appoint between two and six each year in an annual competition. The College Post-Doctoral Researcher scheme - they aim for around twenty on the list at any one time.		No charge.	Yes, see use of college facilities for more details.	The College Research Associate scheme - there is no stipend, and no guarantee of teaching, though many of our CRAs do help the College in this way.		Benefits extended to College Research Associates will include: Membership of the College; Membership of the Combination Room and the privilege of being able to dine and lunch at the Fellows' Table as often as desired, two meals a week (either lunch or dinner) being at College expense. A guest may also be brought to dinner or lunch at the College Research Associate's expense; Use of the College Library, with associated borrowing privileges; Use of the informal Buttery Dining Room; Invitations to various College entertainments; Use of the College Bar; Use of the College sporting facilities and the Fitness Centre (on payment of the Clubs and Societies fee); Car parking in the Cripps or Forecourt car parks when supervising in College; Possibility of renting College-owned accommodation, if available; and Nomination to the College Nursery. Benefits for College Post-Doctoral Researcher scheme - dinner once a week at College expense, but not on Saturdays or Sundays, and lunch once a week at their own expense, again on weekdays only. In addition they will be permitted to: use the Library; use the Bar; dine at the BA Table at their own expense on any night of the week; use the BDR, on payment of a Kitchen Fixed Charge at the rate for married students; and book College catering facilities, at the external rate; invited to the annual Garden Party for Graduate Students and Families in the summer. However they will not normally be granted membership of the College.	I'm a college research associate at St John's College. It's an honorary position, with no official responsibilities but with opportunities to engage in undergraduate tutoring. It has some attractive benefits (e.g. access to formal dinners and other College events), and has been a wonderful way to meet academics from different disciplines. I've enjoyed it immensely. I found out about the position via a colleague, who saw it completely by accident on the College's website. The application process was quite straightforward and the interview was pleasant. The CRA system is an excellent way for postdocs to be able to experience the traditions of college life - I would highly recommend it.
Selwyn College	I am afraid we only offer Research Fellowships.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Sidney Sussex College	College Research Associates.	Nomination by Sidney Fellows, or through application in answer to an annual advertisement during Easter Term.	By reference to their ability to contribute to the intellectual, educational and social life of the College.	No cap at present on CRAs nominated by Fellows. A maximum of 6 appointments by application at any one time.	Yes	£100 for Honorary Membership of the MCR. Those appointed after application are expected to participate, whereas those nominated are encouraged to do so.	High table rights: five lunches per week with four at own cost; two dinners per week with one at own cost. Wine will be charged for. May bring guests to dinner, at own cost.	Not at present.	Honorary members of the MCR – annual fee £100.	None specified.	
Trinity College	The only affiliation offered is to give graduate dining rights to postdocs working with Trinity fellows.	Fellows are invited to nominate postdocs annually.									

Trinity Hall	Associate Membership. College Research Associate.		Normally all applicants are invited for interview.	We take in 10 postdocs each year, to start in October.		£50 per term.	Meals offered at same charge as for other MCR members.	Yes. If anyone wants to teach, we will be pleased, but it's not a condition.	MCR.	Yes.	I am associated with Trinity Hall, since start of this academic year. There was a formal admissions process, so the college held interviews for selection of a number of postdocs. My formal title is College research associate and I am part of the college MCR. I found the college very welcoming, and the associateship very beneficial so far. It gives me a chance to discuss research with people from other disciplines, and socialise. The college is keen for associates to get involved in college activities as much as possible. There is a term fee of 50 pounds. I would recommend Trinity Hall very highly to anyone else who wishes to hold an associateship.
Wolfson College	Senior Membership.	Application to the President with CV and reference.	Assessed by the President.	No.	Yes.	No.	Yes. Full access. All meals charged at cost. Members may bring guests (charged at cost).	No.	N/A	All.	Being a Senior Member (SM) at Wolfson doesn't give you any financial privileges (you get a small amount of money if you're a Junior Fellow). You pay full price for your meals and you don't get any free meals once a week or once a term. But I don't really care. It makes me feel part of the University, and that's what I'm after. I like taking part in their activities, going to formals and to the various events organised. Even if you're not a member of the college, you can go to such events if you know someone, but it's nice to feel part of a college, to encourage your college at the May Bumps, not just a friend's college. It's nice to invite friends to your college, not always be invited (and you get to wear a gown at formals!). As a postdoc, Wolfson is definitely a great college. I meet people who are at the same point in their career as me. We can have 'proper' discussions about our research, about being a postdoc, about science in general and about many other things. They give you tips, ideas to think about... Joining a college is also useful to make contacts who can help you in your career, and when you're a postdoc, you want to meet other postdocs, lecturers or scientists, not undergrads.

Additional Information:

1. Please note that this list does not represent all Cambridge Colleges. PdOC sent a letter to all Colleges requesting information on individual College policies for postdoc affiliation for the 2004-2005 academic year and the University of Cambridge Careers Service asked for more information in 2009-2010. This list is compiled from the responses we received from the PdOC and Careers Service requests.

2. This list does NOT as a rule include Research Fellowships and Junior Research Fellowships (or JRFs), which are also offered by every College. Adding Research Fellowships and Junior Research Fellowships into the equation builds a richer picture of the Cambridge Colleges' overall support for postdocs. Detailed information on these schemes is available elsewhere. Postdocs are generally eligible to apply for these schemes, although restrictions on the amount of experience you have sometimes apply. Research Fellowships and Junior Research Fellowships are generally advertised on an annual basis, via open competition. Admission to these Fellowships carries prestige, but the process is intensely competitive: it is not uncommon for Colleges to receive 300 or 400 applications for each available post. Fellowships that are advertised as "Non-Stipendiary" (i.e. they carry no salary or stipend) are often best-suited to postdocs, particularly those who have independent funding for their research. Information on Research Fellowships and Junior Research Fellowships may be found in the Cambridge Reporter, on individual College websites, and occasionally in the wider press including the Times Higher Educational Supplement, the Guardian Education Section, and the Jobs.ac.uk website.