

In January 2017, Trinity College Cambridge set up its Postdoctoral Society. Its purpose is to offer a collegiate environment in which postdoctoral researchers from different disciplines can meet and conduct intellectual, cultural and social activities.

The Postdoctoral Society has its own Constitution, its own Executive Committee elected from its members, and its own regular Formal Hall. In addition to organizing events such as talks and seminars with invited speakers (for which the College Council has allocated a grant), it is hoped that the Society will engage with the wider college community. Privileges of individual members include the ability to purchase food and drink at the College bar and cafeteria and to hire a College punt at the Old Members' rate. For the range of privileges currently offered to members, please see the list at the end of this document. There is an annual administration fee, which for 2023 is £75.

This is an opportunity for those who wish to meet postdoctoral researchers outside their immediate research environment and to work together to enhance their social and intellectual experience at Cambridge in new and exciting ways. The Society is not intended to duplicate what the University already provides (e.g. career development, housing, sports centre, counselling, etc.), nor is it a scheme for those who are looking for college accommodation, or participation in College governance. Membership of the Society is by nomination by a Trinity Fellow, who can act as a familiar face for those new to Cambridge or the College. The Society may also advertise for new members from time to time.

The Presiding Fellow of the Society is Professor Jerome Neufeld, who is also the College officer responsible for postdoctoral affairs.

The current Executive Committee is formed by some of the members of the Society. The Committee members are happy to answer queries.

- President: Kenneth Li pd.president@trin.cam.ac.uk
- Secretary: Kasturi Shah pd.secretary@trin.cam.ac.uk
- Treasurer: Laura Oxley pd.treasurer@trin.cam.ac.uk
- Events Officers: pd.events@trin.cam.ac.uk
 - Academic Events: Soumya Sarkar, Robert Dudas
 - Social Events: Ermanno Miele
 - Social Media: Pei Qin (Sabrina) Ng, Abhi Upadhyay
 - Family Events: Jonas Zaugg
- Junior Research Fellows' Representative: Kamil Majcherek

Basic structure and features of the Postdoctoral Society

The following is a rough description of the Society. Some of the details are deliberately under-described, as these will depend on how the Society shapes itself. Besides, the list of Privileges records what is usually available: i.e. what was available before the pandemic and will, we of course hope, be available again.

Purpose of the Society: To provide a forum of intellectual, social and cultural activities for postdoctoral researchers outside their immediate research environment, and to foster inter-disciplinary contacts.

Membership:

- The Presiding Fellow.
- Invited postdoctoral researchers in the University of Cambridge who do not have an affiliation with another College, who will annually elect members of its Executive Committee.
- Trinity Fellows who opt in as honorary members.

Annual budget: There is an annual budget set by Council for the purpose of inviting speakers and other costs for events.

Membership fee: Annual administration charge of £75.

Eligibility: Any postdoctoral researcher employed in the University of Cambridge who is not a current associate or affiliate of another Cambridge college.¹

Tenure: Annual Membership runs from January to December (i.e. calendar year). Tenure will be for up to three years, subject to annual confirmation of continuing employment as a postdoc by the department/laboratory and clearing all bills.

Status: Members of the Society will be “College Affiliated Postdocs” rather than 'Members' of the College.

Privileges:

- Free welcome dinner.
- Regular, dedicated dinners in Hall, to which up to two guests may be invited.
- Individual members may purchase cafeteria meals and bar items at graduate-student rates at any time when the service is available.
- Use of public rooms when booked for the society (by the society executive committee, at the internal rate).
- Talks and seminars organized by the Society.
- Access to activities organized by the College Chapel.
- College Punts at Old College Members' rate.
- Participation in some of the College Societies and Clubs, subject to the payment of any further joining fee payable separately to that Society (i.e. the membership fee for the Postdoctoral Society does not cover such fees).
- Certain borrowing rights at the College Library. Some desk-space may also be available during the Long Vacation (but not during Term). The usual external readership regulations apply for accessing special collection items from the Wren.
- Other social events (e.g. family picnic) outside Term.
- A dedicated room, centrally located, with free tea/coffee facilities.

Facilities that are *not* available

- Booking of Guest Rooms (neither Fellows' nor students').
- College Accommodation.
- Booking of meeting rooms or spaces (however, members of the committee may make bookings for society events)
- Voting in the elections of the Trinity College Student Union and Trinity College BA Society, nor in such other elections as may be organised by the Master and Fellows. (The Postdoctoral Society *will*, however, run elections to form its own committee)
- Computing (note that Eduroam is available in the College's public areas).
- Membership of the Government Body
- High Table privileges.
- Parking on College Premises.

Current rates* (*Charges subject to change)

- Postdoctoral Society Formal Hall (three courses): £18 (£21 for guests)
- Food items are currently charged individually at cafeteria.
- Members of the Postdoctoral Society will pay the current B.A. rate (under review):
 - Breakfast: c. £4.50
 - Two-course lunch: c. £6.40
 - Supper: c. £6.40
- Drinks and snacks at the Bar (flat rate)
- College punt (Old Members' rate): £10.00 per hour
- Internal rate for the use of the College's Public Rooms: currently *free*

¹ Former Trinity students who are postdoctoral researchers in the University and do not have a current college affiliation are eligible.