

PROSPECTUS



# THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE

WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



## COLLEGE DATA AT A GLANCE



**280** RESIDENT STUDENTS



**50** AFFILIATE STUDENTS



**4500** ACTIVE ALUMNAE



**94** STUDENTS WITH PROFESSIONAL MENTORS



**34** LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



**96** CONVENORSHIPS



**40** MUSICAL PERFORMANCES ANNUALLY



**3+ YEARS** AVERAGE STAY AT WOMEN'S



**51** STUDENTS EMPLOYED AT COLLEGE



**90** TUTORIALS PER YEAR

## OUR PURPOSE

Everything we do is for and about women.

A distinctive model of scholarship, leadership development, networking and opportunity for women that leads to future personal and professional success.

## OUR VISION

The Women's College is a centre of female leadership that drives positive change in society. Its aim is to advance a community of female scholars, leaders and advocates that activates scholarship and leadership opportunities for women as the pathway to an equitable future.

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# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

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Students at Women's College enjoy access to an enviable range of programs and activities, ensuring that their experience of university life is not only greatly memorable, but stimulating and challenging too. When three hundred young women come together with a common purpose of study, companionship and ambition to succeed, a special community is formed which is characterised by a strong sense of belonging and an infectious optimism for the future. I hope this Women's College prospectus gives interested students, parents and educators a good insight into the rich and varied nature of our community.

This prospectus is designed as an introductory guide to life at Women's College. It sets out the advantages of a college experience that is uniquely designed for women, outlining the details of the programs of support and extension beyond the curriculum. It also provides practical information on applications and scholarships. Women's College welcomes residential applications from women students enrolled in or intending to enter any undergraduate or postgraduate degree course at a metropolitan university in Sydney, and encourages affiliate (non-residential) applications from students who feel they would benefit from the College environment, but who may not wish to live in. While most students study at The University of Sydney, a small percentage of students join us from the University of Technology Sydney, the University of New South Wales, Notre Dame and Macquarie University.

The lifetime benefits of studying at Women's College are attested to by our four-thousand strong alumnae community. Women's College alumnae distinguish themselves across all professions, in community organisations, on boards and in public life. Collectively and individually, they form a body of female role models which inspires each successive generation of young women to add their own particular footprint to the roadmap of women's achievements.



Our impressive alumnae are a living part of the College community. They contribute to the College in so many ways as speakers at weekly Formal Dinners, as mentors in our professional mentoring program, as tutors, donors, Council members and employers. Their ongoing connection and commitment to an institution whose history is unique in this country is acknowledgement of the value of shared experience, and living proof of the enriching nature of College life.

Dr Tiffany Donnelly  
Principal

# VICE PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

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**F**or most students, university study poses the greatest intellectual and personal challenge they will encounter in their educational lives. Adjusting to tertiary study away from the supportive environment of school can be difficult, and access to a college education can help students to navigate the path to personal and academic independence more confidently. The academic and pastoral care programs available to students at Women's College ensure that there are structured avenues available to them to maximise their chances of success at university. Information on the College's Resident Assistant, Academic Assistant and tutorial programs is contained in this prospectus.

Formal programs go a long way to assisting students to achieve in their degrees, however the informal support offered by a diverse scholarly community is also highly beneficial. Each year, Women's College has students undertaking some seventy different combinations of degree study, across all year levels, so there are usually a number of people who can help out with advice on study techniques, subject choices or intellectual conundrums. The diversity within the student body also means that students have ample opportunity to make friends with people outside of their immediate degree course – something which can otherwise be surprisingly difficult at university. Staff at the College are available for advice on degree planning and progression, and to assist with discussions surrounding navigating a degree change – a reasonably frequent occurrence for those undergoing tertiary study for the first time. This multi-layered support, together with the collective energy of like-minded colleagues, ensures that students are surrounded with the best possible conditions to succeed.

Natalie Smith  
Vice Principal







# BUILDING ON HISTORY

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## HISTORY OF WOMEN'S COLLEGE

The Women's College opened with four students in March 1892, eleven years after the Senate of The University of Sydney had resolved to admit women on an equal basis to men. Unlike many of their contemporaries overseas who were allowed to attend lectures but were not granted degrees, Australian women were able to graduate with the same qualifications as men. Women's College was founded as a secular, safe haven for women students wishing to undertake higher education. Its early graduates expanded the boundaries of professional life for women in Australia, and many continue to do so to the present day.

The College's first home was a rented house in Glebe. It moved to its own building within the University grounds in May 1894. Designed by the architectural firm of Sulman & Power, the College's first permanent home still forms the heart of the present building complex and is heritage listed. In 2018 the College opened its newest building, the Sibyl Centre, enhancing its facilities for students with additional tutorial rooms, music practice rooms, open learning and performance spaces. The College campus and buildings form a gracious home ideally suited to scholarly and community life.

The College has maintained its commitment to furthering the educational and professional opportunities for women, with a range of contemporary programs designed to achieve this goal. Women's College now accommodates approximately 280 undergraduate and postgraduate women and 50 affiliate students. Together they form a vibrant and aspirational community of scholars, poised to take their place as the next generation of women leaders.

## THE WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE

Women's College offers a highly conducive environment for a smooth transition to university and beyond. The College has developed a culture to meet the unique needs of women who seek excellence in academic life, leadership, personal wellbeing and career development. Women's provides pastoral care programs, student leadership, co-curricular engagement and career pathway programs which translate into career opportunities. The College has engaged in research, philanthropy and advocacy to shape community attitudes on gender equality, female leadership and diversity.

Building authentic connections with alumnae, sponsors, donors and partners assists us in continuing to ensure the future development and life at the College as a centre of female leadership and change.

## THE WOMEN'S ADVANTAGE

There are many aspects of College life that provide significant opportunities and benefits for students to develop a well-rounded education while studying for their degrees. These include tutorial programs that respond to the individual academic needs of our students, an unrivalled one-on-one professional mentoring program for our older undergraduates and postgraduates, leadership opportunities within the House Committee and Students' Club, skill training sessions and corporate career development activities, internships and employment within and external to the College, and access to leadership programs in Australia and overseas. Additionally, there is an extensive extra-curricular program which helps students balance out their study routines.

College life also promotes another critical component of learning beyond the lecture-hall: that of community service. Students at Women's College are encouraged to involve themselves in a range of community projects and raise funds annually for charities promoting the wellbeing of women and children.







# ACADEMIC ADVANTAGE

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**W**omen's College has a reputation for academic excellence which is well deserved. The College supports the academic life of its students through a variety of programs and the shared motivation naturally fostered within its community of high-achieving women. Over the last decade, more than one third of students at Women's have consistently completed each university year with a Distinction average (75%) or higher across all of their university results. More than one hundred students receive academic prizes and merit awards annually.

A number of factors influence these consistently impressive results:

- A strong culture of academic peer mentoring
- An extensive tutorial program to assist students in all faculty and degree areas
- Dedicated study spaces for students
- Guidance provided by Resident Assistants and Academic Assistants ensures that students are well supported
- Living on campus in close proximity to University facilities

## ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Every first-year student at Women's College is assigned an Academic Assistant to help them navigate their university studies. Academic Assistants are resident postgraduates and senior undergraduates who mentor the first-year students at College studying in their discipline, and assist them with the tools needed to manage the transition from school to university. They meet with students regularly and offer advice on time management, exam preparation, study methods and degree planning as well as giving personal encouragement and general academic support.



## TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Each semester the College runs tutorials in more than fifty subjects, spanning the range of academic disciplines. These adjunct tutorials help students to master the rigorous academic content of their degrees, and are an excellent extra layer of support for university study at which students can work through complex content and hone their understanding. Most tutors are senior or postgraduate students or University staff with expertise in their fields.

## STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Women's College allows scope for students to experience a semester away from their university to undertake studies at partner universities around the world, and to return to College when completed. Similarly, the College welcomes students from universities overseas who join Women's during their time at university in Sydney. The vibrant community at Women's has enhanced many international exchange students' experience of life in Australia, and given them enduring friendships and connections.





# CAREER ADVANTAGE

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The College offers a number of professional development programs for students throughout the year which are open to all students. Students are invited to connect with alumnae at Formal Dinners and other forums as part of the College's 'Career Conversations' program. Other offerings include Leadership, Internships and Mentoring programs.

## LEARNING LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

Learning Leadership sessions are designed to teach students the foundations of leadership that will support them in their working, academic and personal lives. Leadership sessions or workshops take students through topics such as an introduction to leadership, women's leadership in Australia, personal leadership and leadership styles. Giving students the opportunity to reflect on their own leadership capacity and to learn the qualities of a successful leader assists them in preparing for the graduate career market.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Women's College has partnered with a number of organisations to offer students the opportunity to experience a professional internship to assist with their career development, and to familiarise themselves with the process involved in applying and being interviewed for a professional role. Currently the College has internship opportunities with a number of corporate and smaller organisations, and within the College itself. All of these opportunities are available to Women's College students only.

## MENTORING PROGRAM

Each year Women's College students in third year and above are invited to participate in a specially tailored professional mentoring program which matches students with mentors from a range of industries sourced from both the College alumnae community and contacts external to College. Through the mentoring program, students are able to explore their desired career area

closely by meeting with a working professional to learn about their field first-hand. Nearly one hundred students take advantage of this benchmark program each year. Students consistently report feeling more confident in their future direction by obtaining an understanding of the professional role they will play in an organisation, as well as gaining insight into work culture and experiencing valuable networking opportunities.

Several mentoring events are held each year in addition to personal meetings and informal contact via email. Many alumnae of the mentoring program credit the launch of their careers to the invaluable insights they gained from their mentor.

## EMPLOYMENT AT COLLEGE

Women's College employs students each year in a variety of roles. As well as developing leadership and professional skills, these positions help students supplement their fees, and have the convenience of being right on site. Roles include:

- Resident Assistants: providing pastoral care to the College community
- Teaching Fellows: senior academic tutors
- Academic Assistants: assisting first-year students with their transition to university
- Academic tutors: casual tutoring in a wide range of subjects
- Graduate Librarian: assisting with acquisitions and borrowing
- Events Assistant: events management, particularly for Formal Dinners
- Receptionist: in-semester and conference period
- Photographer: documenting events and activities at College
- Housekeeping Assistant: weekend housekeeping support
- Wait staff: for Formal Dinners and other events

These roles are advertised from time to time on the College website.





# COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

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Perhaps one of the greatest advantages of being at College is the access it gives to a smaller, cohesive community within the larger world of the University and the city. Women's College is an enormously positive, supportive and friendly community with a culture of mutual respect and achievement. The House Committee, Resident Assistants, Academic Assistants and the staff work hard to make College a comfortable and happy place to live. Most students remain at College for three years or more, and leave the College knowing they have forged friendships for life.

The House Committee is the student-elected leadership group at College. Led by the annually elected Senior Student, the House Committee helps to organise an extensive program of activities at College during the semesters. There are music and drama activities, intercollegiate sporting competitions, and a range of social events.

## RESIDENT ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The Women's College appoints a dynamic team of thirteen Resident Assistants (RAs) each year. They provide pastoral care and general support to all students at College, resident and affiliate. RAs are students in their senior years of university who, having already negotiated the transition to university and living away from home, are well-equipped to support others.

Each wing has its own RA who helps students settle into College when they first arrive, and who plays a supportive "big-sister" role throughout the year. They host wing functions, promote College activities such as sport or cultural events (and are enthusiastic participants) and are available for consultation on just about anything from personal to university related matters. The RAs are present with staff and House Committee at events and College initiatives and are a point of contact for all students. RAs also assist with the safety and security of the College and its students after hours.

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Students who are interested in developing their leadership skills have the opportunity to participate in a structured in-house leadership program designed to help students feel equipped to take on a College leadership role either on House Committee or as a Resident Assistant, Academic Assistant or Convenor of one of the many co-curricular initiatives at College. With over 60 leadership roles available at College in any given year, this hands-on leadership experience develops skills which translate directly to career readiness. The role modelling of good leadership within the College gives students the confidence and preparedness to aspire to lead in their future communities and workplaces.

## FORMAL DINNERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Every Monday evening during the semester, students at Women's College don their academic gowns and attend Formal Dinner in the College's traditional Dining Hall. They are the one night of the week when the whole College comes together as a community to dine together. Formal Dinners follow a time-honoured format of pre-dinner refreshments, followed by the procession of high table, a short musical performance, and a plattered family style meal service with an invited weekly speaker. Formal Dinner speakers are drawn from a range of professions and backgrounds and provide a talking point for lively discussion around the tables each Monday evening.

Other special events at Women's College include the annual Chancellor's Dinner at which academic prizes and scholarships are acknowledged, the Mother and Daughter and Father and Daughter dinners, Grandparents' High Tea, Open Day and Alumnae Formal Dinners, as well as a range of musical concerts and performances.





# CO-CURRICULUM ADVANTAGE

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Students at Women's College quickly discover that one of the great advantages of living within the University grounds is that they are right on the spot for participating in an almost limitless range of sporting, cultural and social activities. Many students continue school sports they enjoy, and some take the chance to try things they've never had time to, or never thought of doing before: photography or rock-climbing, spending crisp early mornings out on the water rowing, or exercising with yoga or Tae Kwon Do. And if the College doesn't offer the activity students want, the University and local clubs almost certainly will.

## COLLEGE SPORT

The intercollegiate Rosebowl competition provides a tradition of intercollegiate rivalry. Hotly contested events include rowing, netball, tennis, athletics, swimming, hockey, soccer and basketball. Each match adds points which are tallied towards establishing an annual Rosebowl victor.

Social sport is also offered at College through The University of Sydney's Intramural Cup. Offering a range of sports, some traditional and some non-traditional, the Intramural Cup is contested by all of The University of Sydney student accommodation. Whatever the sporting stakes, the Women's cheer squad is always on the sidelines in their blue and white jerseys.

All Women's College students receive a Gold entry pass to Sydney University Sport and Fitness. The University Sports & Aquatic Centre is a five minute walk from the College. The Arena Sports Centre is even closer and between the two centres there are excellent facilities, a full timetable of fitness classes, and access to a wide range of sports clubs and activities. There's literally something for everyone.



## DRAMA

You don't have to be a professional actor to be involved in theatrical events at College. Drama performances and musicals are staged throughout semester. Enthusiasts are encouraged to get involved in acting, singing or dancing in the chorus, working backstage on lighting or make-up, or playing in the orchestra. Each semester the College puts forward two performances to compete in the intercollegiate cultural competition, the Palladian Cup.

Drama is a great way to make friends at College and to meet people at neighbouring colleges. The Women's College drama group, the Phoenix Players, stages two plays a year and students can participate in intercollegiate plays and musicals, and in SUDS (Sydney Uni Drama Society) productions. Whether you're interested in serious drama or comedy, there are plenty of opportunities to express yourself theatrically.





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## MUSIC

Music is a special part of life at the Women's College and is enjoyed and appreciated by the students and staff alike. College offers many opportunities for the musically able or musically interested to express their abilities and explore their talents. There's the annual College Cabaret, the College choir and a capella group, and the Intercol Orchestra. Every year our music and drama students showcase their talents in the Palladian Cup competitions.

There's always music at College on special occasions. Performance opportunities include Formal and Academic Dinners and special events with alumnae and guests. The College has several soundproof practice rooms with pianos in the new Sibyl Centre, and there is a grand piano in the gracious Main Common Room. Its excellent acoustics make it a favourite practice and performance space for musicians.

The Women's College offers a residential scholarship for talented musicians attending the Conservatorium of Music or undertaking a major in music at the University of Sydney. As well as the plethora of performance opportunities during the College calendar, Conservatorium students at the College also perform in an annual musical concert for the alumnae community and friends of the College.

## DANCE

On one night each year, the intercollegiate dance competition is contested in a special performance space. Each college enters two dance pieces, and the result is always a colourful extravaganza. The technical proficiency of our Women's dance troupe is pictured left.



## DEBATING AND ORATION

Our champion debating team displays its sharp wit and analytical prowess in intercollegiate debating competitions. Debaters and supporters from each college gather over the annual competition weekend to tease out the pros and cons of their allotted subject, with adjudicators from the world-class Sydney University debating society calling the debates.

The atmosphere is formal but friendly; debaters wear academic dress and speak from a lectern. The topic might be anything from politics to pop stars. Debating is another great way to meet and compete with people at neighbouring colleges, and to be entertained and informed by the tactical wit of college friends.

Another important speaking event in the College calendar is the intercollegiate Oration. Each year a representative from each college competes with a prepared ten-minute speech for the Oration Cup. Speeches are judged on oratorical skills, content, and the cogency of the argument. Oration themes range widely, but the presentation is always lively, challenging and topical.





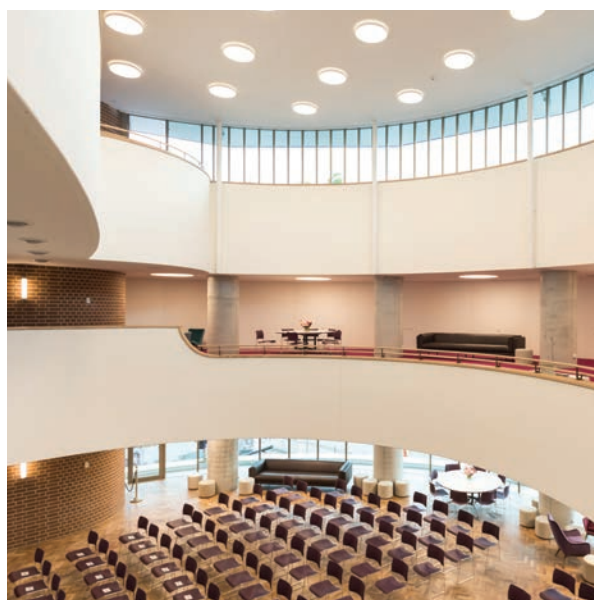
# FACILITIES AND LOCATION


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**L**ocated on Carillon Avenue, Newtown, within the University of Sydney, the College buildings were constructed between 1892 and 2018. Set within gracious landscaped gardens, Women's College is a significant landmark in the University grounds and comprises an enviable set of facilities purpose-built for student life.

The College has five residential wings with rooms for 285 students in residence. Most students have their own rooms but there is a small capacity for shared rooms also. A number of senior staff live on site. The College houses an extensive library and archives as well as spaces for quiet study, a Senior Common Room for postgraduate students and three bespoke music rooms for instrumental and vocal practice. Pictured left, The Sibyl Centre is a beautiful new state-of-the-art building with a range of flexible facilities created for use by students. The Menzies Common Room provides an additional space where students gather for movie nights and other social events and the traditional Dining Hall is the social heart of the College, well-known amongst students as serving the best food on campus.

In terms of location, Newtown's trendy King Street, with its restaurant strip, cinema and indie fashion houses, is a short walk away from the College. Broadway Shopping Centre is also nearby along with the adjacent suburb of Glebe, with more cafés and restaurants, excellent Saturday markets and bookshops. Sydney city centre is 10–15 minutes by frequent public transport. The University's five other residential Colleges are all close neighbours. The College sits on the edge of the main University of Sydney campus with its heritage buildings and vast array of facilities including sporting fields, libraries and learning labs, and the celebrated new Chau Chak Wing Museum, housing the University's extensive collection of antiquities, artworks, ethnographic and natural history specimens.





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# ADMISSIONS

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**T**he Women's College welcomes applications from female students who are enrolled (or intending to enrol) in full-time undergraduate or postgraduate courses at any metropolitan university in Sydney.

## HOW TO APPLY

Submit an online application via the College website and provide the following supporting documentation:

- Referee report
- Full birth certificate
- Latest school report or university academic transcript
- ATAR or equivalent (when available)
- University offer (when available)

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to attend an interview with the Principal or Vice Principal, either in person or via Skype.

Applications may be submitted from May in the year prior to entry. Early application is recommended as places fill quickly. Applicants do not need to wait to apply to College until they receive a university offer.

## AFFILIATE PROGRAM

The Women's College offers a unique Affiliate Student Program for non-residents. Affiliates enjoy direct access to the College's academic, cultural and social programs, and most come to the College daily to utilise the facilities as well as attend events and meals in the Dining Hall. Affiliate students are able to benefit from all of the College's tailored leadership programs and professional development opportunities. They compete in the Palladian Cup and are able to engage in social sport in addition to enjoying membership of Sydney University Sport and Fitness as part of their affiliation. The Affiliate Program is ideal for students who wish to remain living at home or in shared accommodation, but seek the advantage of being part of a leading collegiate experience while studying at university. Women's College takes up to fifty Affiliate students annually.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Women's College also offers a number of scholarships for resident students. These are offered largely on the basis of merit and financial need. Scholarships are available, for example, to students from government schools, rural areas, Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, postgraduate students undertaking medicine or scientific research and students studying performance at the Conservatorium of Music.

The Grace Frazer Award is an academic entrance prize given to the student or students who enter the College in their first year of tertiary study directly from school with the highest ATAR in their College fresher cohort. No application is required for this Award. Proof of ATAR along with evidence of Australian citizenship or a Commonwealth Supported Place at The University of Sydney is required.

The Women's College does not award scholarships at mid-year (Semester 2) entry.

Scholarship applications open in May in the year prior to anticipated entry and close in October. Applicants seeking consideration for a residential scholarship must first complete the on-line residency application.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their scholarship applications in December just prior to the year of anticipated entry.







# THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE

WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

The College Arms was adopted in 1894 by the first College Council and its design entrusted to Miss Louisa Macdonald and a small committee. The minutes of the College Council meeting of 4 March 1894 describe it as follows:

For the arms, we have a chevron on an azure shield, between an open book (on which is superimposed a pair of dividers), and the Southern Cross in chief, with a galley in base argent.

The book is taken from the arms of Oxford University, and represents knowledge, and, together with the dividers, the twin branches of the Arts and Sciences are implied. Thus the Southern Cross and the book of knowledge express the same sentiments as are embodied in the motto of The University of Sydney.

The galley represents the challenge of working together in harmony.

The motto, 'Together', is taken from Tennyson's *Princess*. The poem about a hypothetical college for women had become identified symbolically with 'the cause' (of women's emancipation).

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<i>Chevron</i>	represents the roof of a house and signifies protection, faithful service.
<i>Azure</i>	represents strength, loyalty. It is the colour most associated with Oxford University.
<i>Chief</i>	refers to the bar across the top of the shield and indicates domain, authority, wisdom, achievement in battle.
<i>Base argent</i>	Silver indicating sincerity, peace, the moon.

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## CONTACTS

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*“Everything we do is for and about women”*

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