

Room Ballot

The room ballot shall be the mechanism by which rooms for the following academic year are chosen (with the exceptions of those allocated by college).

Any allocation by college will supersede the room ballot.

There shall be 3 Ballots that take place throughout the academic year as defined by this active policy, which are:

- [The Main Room Ballot](#)
- [The S-Set Ballot](#)
- [The Fourth Year Ballot](#)

This policy also covers [Opting Out of the Ballot](#), those [Leaving College for a Year](#), [Intermitting Students](#) and the [Fourth Year Ballot](#).

Main Room Ballot

The JCR Vice-President shall oversee the Main Room Ballot in collaboration with the Accommodation Office and the JCR Computing Officer.

If rooms available in Main Room Ballot differ from the previous year, the Accommodation Office will discuss this with the JCR President and Vice-President in good time ahead of the Main Room Ballot.

Before the Main Room Ballot takes place, the Tutorial Office and at least two JCR officers shall randomly draw the ballot order for the second year¹ ballot. The third year² ballot shall be the reverse order of the previous year's ballot. The ballot order will be third year followed by second year.

Based on the ballot order, every balloting student is given a time slot, by the end of which they should have made their room choice. If any person hasn't made a choice by the end of their slot, the next person will be allowed to choose.

If anyone misses their slot, they can still choose a room anytime afterwards, but they cannot choose a room that has already been chosen. If somebody chooses before their slot ends, the ballot can immediately move on and the next person can choose, meaning the Main Room Ballot can run ahead of time. Even if the ballot is running ahead of time, the slot will not end until the scheduled time.

¹Second year - students currently undertaking their first year of study who will be taking residence in the room selected in their second year.

²Third year - students currently undertaking their second year of study who will be taking residence in the room selected in their third year (or fourth year if they are going on a year abroad).

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Students must choose their rooms themselves and the Vice-President cannot accept a room choice from anyone else but the person balloting.

The JCR President shall not usually be included in ballot as they are usually allocated a room by College.

The S-Set Ballot

There are 2 sets on S staircase, S1/2 and S6/7, which are occupied by two people each. They consist of a living room and 2 bedrooms. These rooms will not be available in the main ballot and a separate S-Set Ballot shall take place. Those allocated the S-Sets will retain their place, if applicable, in the main ballot the following year. The S-Set Ballot application deadline must be after the 2nd year ballot order is drawn and released but before the Main Room Ballot.

Pairs should apply for the sets by emailing the JCR Vice-President. Fourth years³ will only be eligible for the S-Set if these rooms are not chosen by second or third years.

An S-Set Ballot will then be run by the JCR Vice-President in collaboration with the Accommodation Office as follows:

A Ballot order is produced based on the main ballot. The positions in the main ballot (both years combined) of each member of the pair are summed. The pair with the lowest sum will have the choice of either set. The pair with the second lowest sum will be allocated the other set. All other pairs will take their position in the main ballot.

Within the pairing, the first alphabetically by surname will be allocated S1 or S6 and the second alphabetically will be allocated S2 or S7.

Those successful in applying to live in the S-sets will not take part in the main Room Ballot.

Each member of each successful pair must choose the same lease length.

³ Fourth years - Anyone who is in the fourth year ballot

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Opting Out of the Ballot

Students may be removed from the room ballot for valid personal or medical reasons. Students must notify the Accommodation Office and their Tutor, stating their reasons clearly after the initial email regarding this which shall be sent by the Accommodation Office. Students should be prepared to submit medical evidence to support their request. Students must notify the Accommodation Office by the deadline set by the Accommodation Office.

Anyone wanting to live out of College will need the Senior Tutor's permission – residences must be within 3 miles of Great St Mary's Church in order to meet the residence requirement.

If anyone, for whatever reason, chooses to return to live in college for that year (between the room ballot and the start of the following academic year) their room will be allocated at the same time as the 4th year ballot.

If applicable, students who have 'lived out' may take their position in the ballot the following year.

Leaving College for a year

Those who are abroad for their third year (such as MML students) and anybody else who is out of college for a full academic year (e.g. on an Erasmus exchange) shall choose the room which they will occupy on their return as part of the main ballot. These students shall be called YA students.

This means that in theory YA students would have full choice over the rooms, even if they are at the bottom of the ballot. Therefore, in order to maintain fairness, these students will not be allowed to select rooms that have already been selected by people above them in the ballot.

However, since the room selected will not be occupied in the coming year, those below the YA student will be able to select the room, unless they are a YA student too.

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Rooms selected by YA Students shall be removed from the following year's Main Room Ballot respectively.

Intermitting students

Students who intermit will take residence the following academic year in the room selected in that year's ballot, unless it is necessary for an allocation to occur for tutorial reasons. If intermission takes place before the Main Room Ballot has occurred then the student may still take part in that ballot.

E.g. if intermission were to occur during Easter term of second year, they would take residence in the room they balloted for in third year ballot for their third academic year since matriculation.

The following procedure describes how intermitting student will select their room for the academic year following the year that was repeated.

A student who intermits in their first year and as a result is repeating part, or all, of a first year of a Tripos will be given the option to:

- keep their current ballot position and maintain their position in the third year ballot
- Or
- re-ballot and be given a new position within the second-year ballot

If they choose to keep their ballot position and enter the third-year ballot, they will be treated as a fourth year the following year for the purpose of allocating them a room. If they choose to enter the second year ballot, they will then enter the third year ballot the following year like any other student in that ballot.

Any student who intermits in their second year will be entered the in the fourth-year ballot to allocate them a room for their 4th academic year since matriculation.

Any student who intermits in their third or fourth year will be entered into the 4th year ballot to allocate them a room for the following academic year.

Fourth Year Ballot

A fourth-year student for the purposes of the room ballot, can be defined as anyone who is:

- Undertaking a fourth year of a Tripos at Corpus Christi, with the exception of those returning from a YA
- Any student who has previously participated in the third-year ballot

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College will guarantee accommodation to all 4th years. Fourth years requesting accommodation will complete a room ranking form produced by the Accommodation Office and then the Accommodation Office will use the Hungarian Algorithm to allocate rooms. This is a mathematical way of maximizing utility, such that as many students as possible will receive a room as high on their ranking as possible.

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