
Charter and Supplemental Charter

Introduction for Charter and Statutes

1. The Charter was granted to the College on 12 April 1917. As printed in this edition it incorporates alterations made
 - (i) by Special Statutes passed by the Governing Body on 26 January 1979 and allowed by the Counsellors of State in Council on 26 July 1979
 - (ii) by a Special Statute passed by the Governing Body on 31 March 1981 and allowed by Her Majesty in Council on 31 July 1981.
 - (iii) by a Special Statute passed by the Governing Body on 14 June 2019 and allowed by Her Majesty in Council on 11 March 2020.
 - (iv) by a Special Statute passed by the Governing Body on 29 February 2024 and allowed by His Majesty in Council on 12 March 2025.

2. The Supplemental Charter was passed by the Governing Body on 29 November 1957 and sealed by warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual on 24 April 1958. As printed in this edition it incorporates an amendment made by the Special Statutes (1(i)) above.

3. A Special Statute to alter the Charter passed by the Governing Body on 19 June 1951 and allowed by Her Majesty in Council on 22nd February 1952 was revoked by the Special Statutes (1(i)) above.

4. The Original Statutes were approved by His Majesty in Council on 12 April 1917 and were successively altered by resolutions of the Governing Body passed on:

	Date of Resolution	Date of Approval by His / Her Majesty in Council
(i)	14 June 1940	29 July 1940
(ii)	19 June 1951	22 February 1952
(iii)	29 November 1957	3 April 1958
(iv)	5 March 1971	28 July 1971
(v)	6 March 1981	31 July 1981
(vi)	29 November 1991	4 June 1992
(vii)	26 November 1993	26 July 1995
(viii)	6 October 1995	24 April 1996
(ix)	29 February 2024	12 March 2025

The Statutes as printed in this edition are the Statutes which were substituted for the Original Statutes (as amended) by resolution of the Governing Body passed on

26 January 1979, and approved by the Counsellors of State in Council on 26 July 1979 and they incorporate the amendments subsequently made by resolution of the Governing Body and approved by Her Majesty in Council and by His Majesty in Council.

5. The Scheme made under the [Universities and Colleges \(Trusts\) Act, 1943](#), was approved by His Majesty in Council on 19 December 1947, and an amendment was approved by His Majesty in Council on 2 June 1948. The Scheme, as printed in this edition includes this amendment.

Charter

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith. To ALL to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS a Petition has been presented to US, by ELEANOR MILDRED SIDGWICK, Widow, the President and Chairman of the Council and Treasurer of Newnham College, Cambridge, JOHN NEVILLE KEYNES, Esq, ScD, the Vice-President of the said College, BLANCHE ATHENA CLOUGH, Spinster, the Secretary of the Council of the said College, and KATHARINE STEPHEN, Spinster, the Principal of the said College.

Praying US to grant a Charter of Incorporation for the purpose of constituting them and their successors and such other persons as to US might seem fitting a Corporation with the object among others of acquiring and taking over the property and liabilities of the Association known as Newnham College, now occupying certain houses and buildings in Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, and of carrying on and developing its work under such regulations and with such powers as to US might appear meet and expedient.

AND WHEREAS WE have taken the said Petition in Our Royal Consideration, and are minded to accede thereto:

Now, therefore, know ye that WE, by virtue of Our Royal Prerogative in that behalf, and of all other powers enabling US so to do, of Our special grace certain knowledge and mere

motion by these Presents do for US, Our Heirs and Successors, grant, will, direct and ordain as follows:-

1. 'The persons whose names are set forth in the First Schedule hereto, and all such persons as may hereafter become members of the Governing Body of the Body Corporate hereby constituted pursuant to the provisions of these Presents or the powers hereby granted, shall forever hereafter be one Body politic and corporate by the name and style of "the Principal and Fellows of Newnham College" (hereinafter referred to as "The College"), and by the same name shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with power to break, alter, and make anew the said Seal from time to time at their will and pleasure and by the same name shall and may sue and be sued in all Courts and before all Justices of US, Our Heirs and Successors.

2. By the same name they shall have full power and capacity to accept, acquire, and hold any personal property whatsoever, and shall also without further authority by virtue of this Our Charter have full power and capacity (notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain and Charitable Uses and freed from the restrictions thereof) to accept, acquire, and hold not only all such lands, houses, and buildings in Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, in the County of Cambridge, as are referred to in the Petition, but also any other lands and hereditaments situate in Great Britain or Ireland not exceeding in the whole (exclusive of the said property in Sidgwick Avenue), the annual value of £10,000, such annual value to be calculated and ascertained at the period of respectively acquiring the same: and they shall have full power to dispose of either by way of sale or lease, to exchange, mortgage, charge, improve, manage, develop, turn to account, or otherwise deal with all or any part of such property, real or personal, belonging to the College upon such terms and in such manner as they shall see fit, and also to do all other matters incidental or appertaining to a Body Corporate. Provided always that nothing in this Article shall be deemed to empower the College to dispose of or deal with its property in manner above mentioned without first obtaining such consent as would otherwise be required by Law.

3. The College is hereby incorporated and shall be conducted with the following objects:
 - (a) To further public benefit by providing a liberal education and promoting learning and research through the provision of a college for women within the University of Cambridge.

 - (b) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to advancing education and learning among women in Cambridge and elsewhere.

- (c) For the purposes above to receive and apply donations from persons desiring to promote the objects of the College.
 - (d) To invest the moneys of the College not immediately required in any securities or investments which may from time to time be authorised for the purpose by the Council.
4. The Governing Body shall consist of:
- (a) The Principal
 - (b) The Official Fellows as defined by the Statutes
 - (c) Research Fellows as defined by the Statutes
 - (d) Professorial Fellows as defined by the Statutes
 - (e) Unofficial Fellows as defined by the Statutes
 - (f) A number to be fixed by the Statutes elected by the Governing Body from those Associates or ex-Associates who shall have been duly nominated by the Associates in accordance with the Statutes
 - (g) A number to be fixed by the Statutes and to be elected as prescribed by the Statutes from among the junior members of the College who are registered students as defined by the Statutes.
 - (h) Such other persons as may be determined by the Statutes.
5. The Members of the Governing Body other than the Principal shall have the title of Fellows, except those elected under (g) of the preceding Article, who shall have the title of Junior Members of the Governing Body.
6. There shall be held in every academic year an annual meeting of the Governing Body at such time and place as the Council (subject to any resolution of the Governing Body on that behalf) may appoint. The above General Meeting shall be called the Annual General Meeting. All other meetings shall be called Ordinary General Meetings.

Other matters relating to the Meetings of the Governing Body and the exercise of their powers shall be provided for in the Statutes.

7. The powers of the Governing Body shall extend (subject to the provisions of this Charter) to all questions affecting the good Government of the College, the promotion of the interests thereof, and the maintenance and improvement of the discipline and studies of the students, and (so far as is necessary to the above purposes but no further) to the administration of the property and income of the College: and a resolution passed at a Meeting of the Governing Body in accordance with the provisions prescribed by the Statutes shall be binding notwithstanding that the same may deal with a matter within the ordinary jurisdiction of the Council: provided that the Meeting of the Governing Body have no power to interfere with any particular case of discipline of the students.
8. The Governing Body shall have power to make alterations in the Statutes subject to the approval of Us in Council (of which approval a certificate of the Clerk of Our Privy Council shall be conclusive evidence) or to suspend the same and the meetings of the Governing Body for that purpose shall be summoned forthwith by the Principal or in her absence by the Vice-Principal whenever six or more members of the Governing Body prefer to hear a request to that effect. At any such meetings a resolution proposing an alteration or suspension of the Statutes whereof due notice has been given may be put to the vote and if such an alteration or suspension be approved by not less than two-thirds of those present and voting, provided a quorum be voting, it shall be the duty of the Council to cause the Common Seal to be affixed to an instrument making such Statute.
9. The first Statutes of the College shall be those contained in the Third Schedule hereto which shall remain in force unless and until they shall have been altered in the manner hereinbefore prescribed.
10. The Governing Body may from time to time alter, amend, or add to these Presents by a Special Statute in that behalf, and such alteration, amendment, or addition shall, when allowed by Us, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, become effectual so that these Presents shall thenceforward continue and operate as though they had been originally granted and made as so altered, amended, or added to. This Article shall apply to this Charter as altered, amended, or added to, in manner aforesaid.

A Special Statute is a Statute passed at one Meeting of the Governing Body, and confirmed at a subsequent Meeting held not less than one calendar month nor more than three calendar months after the former, provided that the statute aforesaid be passed at each Meeting by a majority of not less than three fourths of the Members of the Governing Body present and voting, provided a quorum be voting.

11. There shall be a Council of the College which shall consist of:-
 - (a) The Principal and such other ex-officio members as shall be prescribed by the Statutes.
 - (b) A number to be prescribed by the Statutes elected by the Governing Body from among their number as prescribed by the Statutes.
 - (c) A number to be prescribed by the Statutes and to be elected as prescribed by the Statutes from among the junior members of the College who are registered students as defined by the Statutes.
 - (d) A number not exceeding four of other persons if so prescribed by the Statutes.

The members of the Council shall be styled Senior Members of the Council save those elected under (c) above who shall be styled Junior Members of the Council.

The procedure and functions of the Council and other matters relating thereto so far as the same are not by this Charter expressly provided for shall from time to time be prescribed and regulated by the Statutes.

12. The Council shall have the management of the College the administration of all the property and income thereof (subject to Article 7) and exercise a general superintendence over the education and discipline in the College except where the Statutes may generally or specifically otherwise enact.
13. The College shall have a Visitor in accordance with the Statutes.
14. There shall be a body of Associates to be defined by the Statutes.
15. No religious test shall be imposed upon any officer or teacher or any student of the College.
16. The income and property of the College whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the College as set forth in these Presents and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend or bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the persons

who at any time are or have been Members of the Governing Body or Council or to any of them or to any person claiming through them or any of them, Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officer or servant of the College or to any Member of the Governing Body or Council or other person in return for services actually rendered or to be rendered to the College; nor shall anything herein prevent any person holding any bona fide scholarship or fellowship established or paid out of the funds of the College from being a Member of the Governing Body or Council.

17. There shall be an audit of the accounts of the College, with a report as to its financial position, made every year by an auditor to be appointed by the Governing Body at its Annual General Meeting in each year. If more Auditors than one be appointed, the continuing Auditor or Auditors shall have power to act, notwithstanding any casual vacancy, but if at any time by reason of any casual vacancy there be no Auditor, the Council shall temporarily appoint one or more Auditors to fill such vacancy.