The Development of Trinity Hall

Trinity Hall is situated about 5km from the main College campus. In 1908 the University acquired the house and the gardens now known as Trinity Hall. The adjoining house and gardens were purchased in 1910 by John Purser Griffith and Mrs Griffith, and presented to the University in memory of Frederick Purser. A further five acres were acquired in 1966 when the Dublin University Botanic Gardens were transferred to part of the grounds of Trinity Hall. New accommodation blocks completed in 2005 mean that Hall now offers accommodation to just over 1,000 students.

Aims of Trinity Hall

College accommodation aims to provide an environment conducive to academic and personal development. The Hall is a suitable place for people to work and study but equally it aims to provide an atmosphere that people enjoy living in. Trinity Hall exemplifies the life of a university and one of a community of scholars. Here people of all backgrounds, academic and social interests, and life stages come together. The Warden and Assistant Wardens (or Senior Common Room (SCR)), their spouses and partners, and other Hall staff are very much part of the Trinity Hall community and come together to form a group whose overall aims are to develop life-skills, understanding and character. To an extent these aims are achieved in many groups within College but probably never more so than in College accommodation. Life in Trinity Hall is an enormously rewarding experience, but it can succeed only when everyone accepts involvement and a commitment to contribute. A lot of what happens in Trinity Hall will depend very much on the students’ input, as they are responsible for running many aspects of Hall life. The role of Assistant Warden is to support and encourage student initiatives. The key premise underpinning the approach at Trinity Hall is sustained and realistic support for the student in an increasingly difficult and rapidly changing social and economic environment.

The Assistant Wardens support the Warden in student welfare and discipline. Assistant Wardens form a major interface between the academic and social sides of College life and provide vitally important pastoral care at times and in places where students are often most vulnerable. One of the most important responsibilities of an Assistant Warden is the part they can play in helping students to make a successful transition into higher education.

Time Commitment

Assistant Wardens will hold other appointments in the University and are generally unavailable for Hall responsibilities during the normal working day. An Assistant Warden’s responsibility to their School or Department will naturally take priority over their Hall responsibilities, however Assistant Wardens must be available to their students in Hall on at least some evenings and weekends. Assistant Wardens are also asked to offer their services to the Psychological Response team under the college Major Emergency plan.

Training

Initial training will be provided to all Assistant Wardens and they will be actively encouraged to commit to on-going training and personal development provided by such groups as the Staff Office, the Student Counselling Service and College Health Service. Basic First Aid courses and courses such as conflict resolution, crisis management, fire safety, and initial counselling skills would all be beneficial. Assistant Wardens must be familiar with College structures and know where to refer students for specialist help, professional advice, etc.

Duty of Care

The Warden and Assistant Wardens constitute the Trinity Hall Senior Common Room (SCR) and assist in the running of Trinity Hall as a community, having particular responsibilities for welfare and discipline. There is a general duty of care in addition to the specific responsibilities identified below.
Residence
Assistant Wardens are normally required to be in residence throughout each term and during Freshers’ Induction Weekend in September. Overnight absences of more than 3 nights must be notified to the Warden in writing. Assistant Wardens fulfil a less formal role during the summer vacation period.

General Conduct
Assistant Wardens make an important contribution to the welfare and discipline of the Trinity Hall community simply by being present and visible to students on site, at functions and so forth. The example that Assistant Wardens set by their own conduct is also very important. Assistant Wardens must themselves comply with Trinity Hall and University Rules and Codes of Practice in relation for example, to general behaviour, sexual harassment, race and sexual discrimination.

Discipline Procedures
Assistant Wardens support the Warden in upholding discipline within Trinity Hall in accordance with the Trinity Hall and University Rules and Codes of Practice.

Duty Nights
Two, to three, Assistant Wardens are on duty every night during the term, and must be available in Trinity Hall to deal with any personal problems or Hall emergencies that may occur. As a broad guideline, Assistant Wardens can expect to be on duty once a week and every fourth or fifth weekend.

Duty Wardens are responsible for enforcing quiet throughout the Hall. All Assistant Wardens, whether on or off duty, are expected to exercise local control on their block or floor.

Responsibilities
1. Assistant Wardens have a group of (~80) students assigned to them and live in reasonably close proximity to their allocated students. This helps to foster a greater sense of pastoral support and community life in Hall, assists in the maintenance of good order and discipline, and helps in the provision of a conducive atmosphere to study when appropriate.

   It is required that Assistant Wardens make personal contact with each of their students in small groups at the beginning of each academic year and should indicate that they will be accessible to anyone who might want to discuss problems, disagreements with room-mates, difficulties with neighbours, etc.

2. Assistant Wardens should bring to the attention of the Warden any concerns over the conduct, safety or welfare of their students.

Administration
Attendance at regular SCR meetings is expected. All Assistant Wardens are normally required to take on some limited administrative responsibilities for the SCR.

Trinity Hall Events
Assistant Wardens are encouraged to attend in-house events and other organised formal Hall events, such as the Hall Ball, the Sports Day etc. They are normally expected to be available during other major functions to assist the Duty Warden(s).

Remuneration
The accommodation normally provided for Assistant Wardens is in the form of single occupancy apartments with a very limited number of double apartments available. Accommodation is provided free
of charge to those discharging the duties of Assistant Warden. Assistant Wardens pay their own utilities bills.

**Eligibility and Duration**
The role of Assistant Warden is filled by members of College Staff and Postgraduate Students (by research). Assistant Wardens are normally full-time members of college. The appointment of Assistant Wardens is normally ratified by Board. The tenure of the appointment is normally for three years.

Continuation in the role is at all times subject to satisfactory performance as assessed by the Warden of Trinity Hall.