

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РФ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ
ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«ВОРОНЕЖСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

STUDENTS' LIFE IN THE MODERN WORLD

PART 2. SOCIAL LIFE

Учебно-методическое пособие

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Harvard guarantees College housing to every student for four years, and 98% of all students choose to live on campus throughout their undergraduate careers. At the end of the first year, students form their own groups from among their friends to go into the lottery for a suite at one of the 12 upperclass Houses. Each House has its own dining hall, common rooms and facilities for academic, recreational and cultural activities. A broad mix of students and faculty makes each house a microcosm of the College.

2. Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular opportunities at Harvard are virtually limitless. Students become involved in activities early on, and often make good friends through these links.

With 42 top level athletic teams and over 400 official student organizations, the societies cater for anything from casual beginners to accomplished masters. Typically, students spend half to two-thirds of their time on academic matters and the rest on social and extracurricular activities.

Below is a small sample of some of the student organizations, ranging from pure fun to serious political and social work.

- Harvard Anime Society
- Global Health & AIDS Coalition
- Society of Arab Students
- Bach Society Orchestra
- Harvard Ballroom Dance Team
- Lowell House Society of Russian Bell Ringers
- Chinatown Big Sibling Program
- Cambridge Microfinance Initiative
- Early Music Society
- Society for Creativity and Innovation

- Gilbert & Sullivan Players
- Institute of Politics
- Harvard Magic Society
- Harvard Rugby Club
- British Undergraduate Club

What is a typical week at Harvard like?

Most students will take four courses with 3 hours of class per week, plus possibly a lab or discussion section. This means only about 16 hours per week in class. A typical class schedule might be Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 10-12 and Tuesday/Thursday from 1 – 4, leaving most of MWF afternoons and TTh mornings, plus the whole weekend, for other activities. Academic activities naturally include reading assignments, work on papers and problem sets, meeting with faculty members and advisers, study group meetings plus time for language lab or library research.

Non-academic activities might include daily workouts or practice with an athletic team, rehearsal for a musical or dramatic performance, attendance at a public lecture or seminar, serving meals at a local homeless shelter, paid work in a campus office, plus time for dining, catching a film, sharing news via e-mail, Skype, Facebook or phone with family and friends and yes, time for sleep! Each student decides how much time to spend on studying, socializing, and other activities, and that balance is likely to change over the course of the four years as academic and extracurricular interests change.

Comprehension

C. Read the article more carefully. Which of these statements are true?

Correct the false statements.

1. All first-year students live fare Harvard Yard, the University's historic central quad, where newly renovated classrooms and dormitories sit in a space reminiscent of a large British garden square.
2. Harvard guarantees College housing to every student for four years.
3. At the end of the second year, students form their own groups from among their friends to go into the lottery for a suite at one of the 12 upperclass Houses.
4. Extracurricular opportunities at Harvard are limited.

Writing

C. Using the information from the text write a paragraph about your extracurricular opportunities at university.

Unit 2

Starting up

A. Discuss the following:

1. What student traditions are there at your university?
2. Is it important for students to socialize with other students? Why?

Reading

B. Read the article about student traditions at Cambridge. Are there any similar traditions at your university?

University student traditions

1. What tradition is popular among the students at Cambridge? In two weeks I shall finish my first year at Cambridge. Let me tell you something about students' life and my impressions of it.

The students are mainly English, but there are many others, particularly so in the block of rooms in which I live, for my neighbors include a Chinese studying law, an Indian studying English, a Canadian studying history and a Frenchman studying science.

The rooms have a pleasant outlook over the College gardens. There is a very small gas-stove on which we make coffee or tea. It is a popular tradition here to invite friends in the afternoon for tea and hot buttered toast and jam. To each room there is a man-servant who with a woman-servant, known as a "bedder", keep it clean.

2. What are students "sconced" for?

In the old days when Colleges were religious institutions the students were clergymen, and their life was much more strict and disciplined than now. Friendship with young ladies was not allowed and the only women inside the college were washerwomen. The legend is that these had to be "old and ugly".

The students eat their meals in the College dining-hall. At some Colleges there is an interesting tradition. It is known as "sconcing". If a student comes late to dinner or he is not correctly dressed, or if he breaks one of the laws of behavior, then the senior student orders him to be "sconced".

A large silver cup, known as "sconce cup", filled with beer is brought and placed in front of him and he must drink it in one attempt without taking the cup from his lips (it holds two and a half pints, or 1.5 litres). If he can do it, then the

senior student pays for it, if not, the cup is passed round and the student who has been "sconced" must pay for it. In general the discipline is not strict.

3. What do the so-called "Bulldogs" do if a student whom they come up to runs away?

The students can stay out till twelve o'clock. Each evening a Proctor with two assistants, called "Bulldogs", walks about the town keeping an eye on the students' behaviour. If he sees a student breaking a rule he will come up to him and say, "Are you a member of the University, sir?", and if a student runs away, then the "Bulldogs" run after him, and if they catch him (they are chosen, it is said, because they are good runners), fine him.

Apart from fines a student may be dismissed from the University for one term.

4. What students' societies are there at Cambridge and which is the most popular one?

We attend our lectures in the morning and in the afternoon we are free. I usually work in my room or play some sport.

There are over a hundred societies and clubs. There are religious societies and a society for those who don't believe, political, sporting and dramatic societies. There is even one for people with beards. Perhaps the most popular is the Debating Society at which students debate political and other questions with famous politicians and writers.

The walks into the country, the talks, the games and the work, the traditions and the customs — all are part of the students' life which would be poorer if any of them was lost.

Writing