WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2023
Congratulations on your acceptance to Harvard College! In your application, you demonstrated your passion, your character, and the impact you’ve had on your community. We think you’d be a great match for Harvard—and we hope to see you here!

William R. Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid
YOUR HARVARD, YOUR JOURNEY
Through these gates you will discover...

- A liberal arts and sciences education that provides intellectual inspiration and freedom to explore your interests
- Access to unparalleled resources and facilities
- Renowned faculty eager to get to know you and teach you
- A welcoming, open-minded, and collaborative community
- A four-year, community-based residential experience in the dormitories and Houses
- Centuries of tradition, and the opportunity to shape the future of Harvard
- Need-based financial aid that gives you the flexibility to fully explore your academic options and the ability to graduate debt-free
- Extracurricular and social opportunities to pursue your interests and explore new ones
- A network that lasts long after commencement, with more than 300,000 alumni in more than 200 countries
- Living and learning in Cambridge and Boston—a hub for higher education and multiple industries, from healthcare to finance to biotechnology

Harvard College seeks to provide you with a deeply transformative experience—intellectually, socially, and personally—to prepare you for a life of citizenship and leadership. This is who we are and we hope you see yourself here!

Rakesh Khurana, Danoff Dean of Harvard College
YOUR FIRST YEAR IN HARVARD YARD

Get to know your roommates

During your first year, you will live in a first-year-only dorm in Harvard Yard—right in the center of campus life. Your roommates and suite assignment will be hand-picked by a Resident Dean based on your Housing Questionnaire information. Your suite will bring together people with a wide variety of perspectives, interests, and experiences. Your roommate could be an archaeology student from Missouri, a future engineer from Kenya, or a breakdancer from California. Many first-year roommates form strong friendships, and go on to live together in the Houses during the next three years.
Your classmates will come from across the country and around the world—all sharing a home in the University’s epicenter of residential and intellectual life, storied Harvard Yard. From the moment you arrive on campus this fall, you will begin to make lifelong friends—in your suite, in your entryway, in the freshman dining hall, and in classes.

Your dorm community
In addition to your suite assignment, you will live in an ‘entryway’: twenty to forty students who live in the same area of a dorm. As you cheer each other on at dance performances or sporting events, work on problem sets together, or enjoy weekly study breaks, your entryway will start to feel like your home away from home.

Explore the Yard and beyond
You will constantly find new opportunities to engage in the Harvard community. Your unlimited meal plan in the first-year-only dining hall, Annenberg, will allow you to meet new friends over chicken parmesan, late-night cookies, or a Veritaffle. You may choose to don your dorm jersey and befriend your fellow teammates in intramural basketball or volleyball. You may get a taste of all that Boston offers by participating in one of the many outings designed specifically for first-years. Whether in organized events or informal social gatherings, you will continually broaden your circle of friendship and connection.

Beginning your personal journey
Harvard is deeply committed to helping you make the most of your first year—intellectually, socially, and personally. Through all of its offerings, the College seeks to build a strong community whose members embody integrity, respect, energy, and compassion.
Discovering your House
Toward the end of your first year, you will experience a great Harvard tradition: Housing Day, one of the most festive days of the year. Spirited upperclassmen gather in Harvard Yard to deliver your Housing assignment to you and your blocking group. Immediately after receiving your House assignment, you will be welcomed into your new home through tours, your first House dinner, and House-themed gear. This is the day when you begin to look ahead to your coming years in your House.

Unique traditions & character
Each House has its own personality and cultivates its own traditions. Each provides a wealth of opportunities: lively discussions in the dining hall and House seminars with professors; organized events like House formals and weekly social hours; and above all, the comfortable and dynamic environment that is a key feature of the Harvard House system. After just one year in the House, you’ll feel the energy on Housing Day as you welcome the newest class of students into your home.

A welcoming, tight-knit community
Throughout your three years in the House, you will develop close and supportive relationships with many people. Even in the first few weeks, you’ll regularly see familiar faces in the dining hall and the student-run House Committee will organize social events to engage everyone. You will also get to know your faculty deans (leaders of the House), resident academic dean, and residential advising staff, all of whom are critical members of this close-knit community. Your time at Harvard will come to a close in your House courtyard, where you’ll receive your diploma amidst friends and family.
As a sophomore, you’ll move into one of the 12 upperclass Houses with up to seven of your friends, your “blocking group.” Your House is a residential community in which you will live, dine, study, plan events, and play intramural sports. **Housing is guaranteed all four years, and more than 97% of students live on campus throughout their time at Harvard.** You will spend the next three years living in your House, and it won’t take long before your House becomes the center of your Harvard experience.
Explore the liberal arts
At Harvard, you will dig deep into your current interests—and discover unexpected ones—as you forge your own academic path. Our General Education Program will not only introduce you to faculty from across the University, but also connect what you learn in the classroom to life beyond your college years. A Harvard education will prepare you for a life of civic and ethical engagement in this changing world and help you understand the deep, and sometimes surprising, importance of scholarly work to the outside world.

Find your academic path
With an open mind, a willingness to explore, and supportive advisers, you will have three semesters to choose your concentration, which is what we call a major, from among fifty fields of study. If your interests cross academic boundaries, you may combine fields through a joint concentration—or create your own special concentration to pursue a specific interest in depth. A secondary field, our name for a minor, could offer you a chance for focused coursework outside your concentration. Regardless of your concentration choice, you will develop the ability to think critically, ask questions, and make discoveries that will shape your future and the world around you.

Discover new intellectual interests
With more than 3,700 undergraduate courses from which to choose, your academic experience at Harvard can be customized to fit your interests and goals. Every semester, you will spend the first week exploring a range of classes. This course selection period, called “Shopping Week,” allows you to choose your courses with confidence and direction. You can further customize your academic experience by taking courses at Harvard’s graduate and professional schools or at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, just two subway stops away from Harvard Square.

Innovate in engineering & applied science
Equipped with cutting-edge facilities and a spirit of innovation, Harvard College will give you the technical background necessary to develop and critically evaluate engineering innovations, and to apply them to important problems. The School of Engineering and Applied Sciences provides tremendous resources, esteemed faculty members, and a highly collaborative environment.

Engage with the arts & humanities
From one of Harvard’s newest concentrations (Theater, Dance, and Media) to its oldest (History and Literature), the division’s thirty-three departments in the Arts and Humanities are dedicated to the interpretation of every aspect of human culture. With the support of our leading faculty of critical thinkers, you can explore all the ways in which people have sought to express and understand themselves and the world.
A Harvard education will prepare you for a life of civic and ethical engagement in our changing world.
Your advising network
Throughout your four years at Harvard, you will develop meaningful and lasting relationships with your advisers: academic advisers (members of the faculty or staff), residential advisers (graduate students or administrators), and peer advisers. While these mentors will help guide your academic exploration, they are equally dedicated to supporting your social and personal growth.

Conduct research in the lab & in the field
Harvard College may be a liberal arts and sciences institution, but the research opportunities are virtually endless. You can pursue undergraduate research in a number of ways: at the College or at Harvard's graduate and professional schools; for academic credit or for pay; and during the school year or the summer. Last year, Harvard undergraduates participating in research received more than $5,000,000 in project funding.
Harvard provides you with opportunities to conduct research alongside world-renowned faculty in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. **Your network of advisers helps guide your academic exploration.**

**Resources at your fingertips**
Harvard’s resources stretch far beyond the course catalog and faculty. We are fortunate to hold the world’s largest university library system, with seventy individual libraries; twelve teaching museums whose entire collections are open to undergraduates; twenty-four campus buildings devoted to science and research; a Tony Award-winning theater; and myriad performance spaces. You might seek career advice at the Office of Career Services or through the Harvard Alumni Association, find a peer tutor at the Bureau of Study Counsel, collaborate with peers, alumni, and faculty at the Innovation Lab, or cross-register at Harvard’s graduate and professional schools.

**A global classroom**
You will receive a global education at Harvard, and your classroom might not always be in Cambridge. Perhaps you will be one of the 60% of students who enjoy an international experience during their time at Harvard. No matter your field of study, you can study in classrooms abroad, take part in field-based cultural immersion programs, conduct research at foreign universities, or take language-intensive courses. With financial aid available for semesters abroad and grants to cover summer opportunities, the only choice to make is when and where.
FINDING YOUR COMMUNITY

Athletics for all
Harvard hosts the nation’s largest Division I athletic program, with forty-two sports and nearly 1,300 athletes. But you don’t have to be a varsity athlete to get involved; our teams range from varsity and junior varsity to club, intramural, and recreational. You might fight fiercely for the Harvard Crimson, chase the Yard Cup in first-year intramurals, compete for the glory of your residential House, or cheer on the sidelines for your friends and classmates.

Make a difference with public service
Since 1636, Harvard’s mission has been to educate the citizens and citizen-leaders who will leave their mark on our society. You might choose to join the many Harvard students who serve the greater Boston area each semester through the Phillips Brooks House Association, the leading on-campus service organization for the past hundred years, or dedicate their spring break and summer vacation to service work across the country and abroad. You could even serve your country and gain valuable leadership experience through the U.S. Reserve Officer Training Corps.
Develop your talents and explore new passions.
With more than 450 student organizations, you have every opportunity to make new friends and enhance your learning outside the classroom.

A community of artists & creative thinkers
The arts abound at Harvard, where students perform, choreograph, film, create, and share their work with their classmates. While you might study Theater, Dance and Media or Visual and Environmental Studies in the classroom, all students are able to participate in Harvard’s vibrant artistic community regardless of their concentration. You might write and direct your own play, learn to throw ceramics, experiment with figure drawing, join an a cappella group, dance in a masterclass with visiting faculty, or intern at our Tony Award-winning theater. Regardless of concentration, everyone has a home in the arts at Harvard.

Embrace your identity, culture, and faith
At Harvard you can explore religious, BGLTQ+, and cultural groups and find fellow students who share your interests and want to learn more of your story. Harvard sponsors more than fifty cultural, ethnic, and affinity groups representing nearly every religion and background. One of the most eagerly anticipated events each year is Cultural Rhythms, a festival showcasing student performances and ethnic food from more than thirty clubs and organizations.

Engage in politics, media, and more
While you will study the liberal arts and sciences at Harvard College, extracurricular life will offer you many opportunities to hone skills not found on a course syllabus. You might choose to write for the Harvard Lampoon or the Crimson, two entirely student-run publications whose alumni have gone on to win Pulitzer Prizes. You could spend time at the Harvard Institute of Politics, a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy ’40, a premier forum for political speech and debate, and the sponsor of hundreds of internships each summer.
EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Cambridge and Boston are a departure point from which you can explore the rest of what New England has to offer.
Harvard Square and Cambridge
Just outside the gates of the Yard, you can explore the legendary Harvard Square. Take in all the benefits of a city, as well as the feeling of a small college town, separate from the hustle and bustle of Boston. Cambridge offers one-of-a-kind shops, international restaurants, cafes, theaters, and, of course, bookstores. Have a picnic along the Charles River, catch a concert, or watch one of the many street performers in the Square.

Cosmopolitan culture in a college town
When you are ready to leave the Harvard bubble, there’s the excitement of Boston, “America’s college town.” A ten-minute subway ride from Harvard Square takes you into the heart of downtown Boston, where you can enjoy the area’s dynamic mix of universities and businesses. Visit one of the great museums (the JFK Presidential Library, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science, and many others); see exciting performances by the Boston Symphony Orchestra or the Boston Ballet; cheer on the home teams like the Red Sox and the Bruins; explore the lively Boston waterfront, home to the Boston Tea Party as well as a world-famous aquarium; and see the beauty of the Boston Common through all four seasons. You’ll be at the center of intellectual inquiry and have the opportunity to engage with the world.

Enjoy New England charm
Within easy reach of Harvard’s campus are Atlantic beaches, cozy seaside villages from Cape Cod to Maine, ski slopes, forests, and historic sites. Visiting friends at other colleges along the eastern seaboard is easy via bus or train. Head to New Haven to watch The Game, New York City for a weekend to take in a Broadway show, Maine for a fresh lobster roll, or the hills of western Massachusetts at the peak beauty of the fall foliage.
Although every student experience is different, most would agree that their four years in Cambridge pass by way too quickly. **Fortunately, your Harvard experience will continue long after you’ve graduated.** A Harvard education will prepare you to make a positive impact in your field of choice, and offer you ways to stay connected to the place you called home during your undergraduate years.

**Staying connected to the Harvard community**
Wherever your path takes you, you’ll find ways to stay connected to your alma mater. The Harvard Alumni Association will inform you of various events, such as lectures and social opportunities, taking place across the country and around the world. You’ll have the opportunity to join one of the 200+ Harvard clubs, participate in class reunions every five years, and root for Harvard at the Harvard-Yale football game. And best of all, you will enjoy staying connected to the friends you made in your classes, House, and extracurricular activities.

**A strong alumni network**
When you graduate from Harvard, you will join hundreds of thousands of proud alumni. You will find Harvard alumni working in every industry—healthcare, technology, politics, law, education, entertainment, business, and many more. You can tap into this vast alumni network to connect professionally or socially; you’re sure to find many people eager to connect with you and share their own Harvard stories.
Harvard College Admissions & Financial Aid
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