

HARVARD COLLEGE
UNDERGRADUATE VIEWBOOK

Harvard is committed to expanding opportunity, nurturing excellence, and pursuing truth. For nearly 400 years, it has represented the forefront of learning, bringing together talented individuals from around the world to push the boundaries of knowledge and to advance human potential. Here, students are challenged not only to achieve their own goals, but also to imagine how they might work to improve our imperfect world.

Larry Bacow

President of Harvard University





↓ RADCLIFFE QUADRANGLE

Home at Harvard



1,665 first-year students from
50 states and
100 countries living in
17 first-year dorms with
120 residential advisers, and enriched by
50 cultural, ethnic, and international
organizations

“The twenty-seven first-years in my entryway hailed from places near and far, from Vermont to Armenia, and studied everything under the sun from English to physics.”

BRADEN '20



“It starts with, ‘Hey, let’s meet every Sunday to solve these problem sets’ and slowly turns to, ‘Let’s meet every day in Annenberg for dinner.’”

MARIA '20

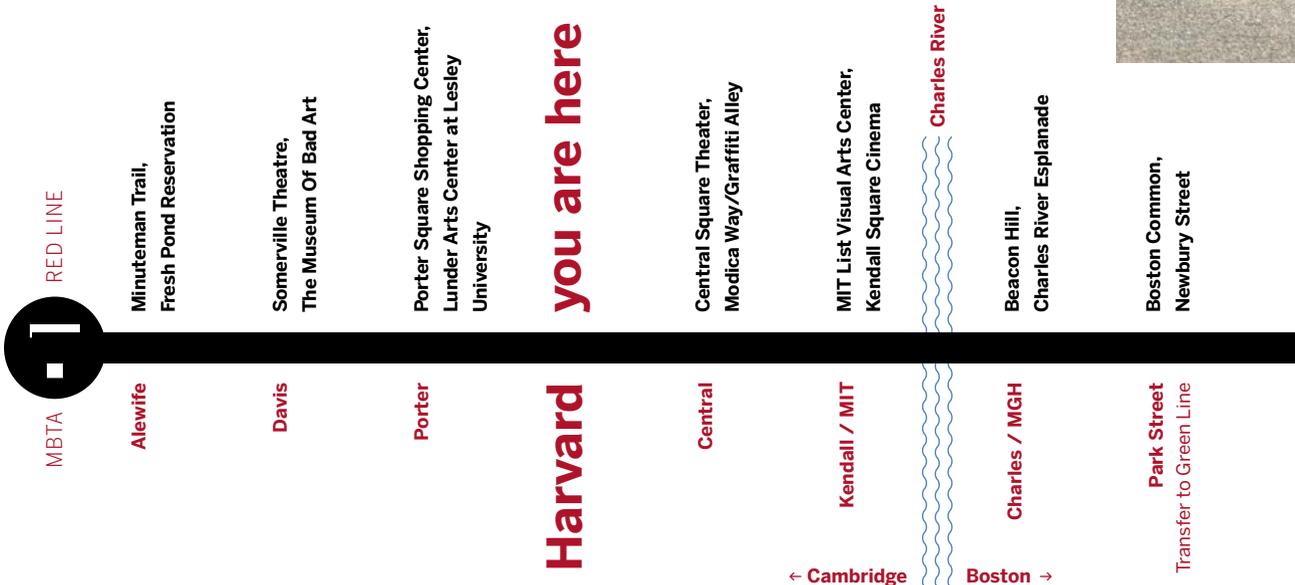
During your first year, historic Harvard Yard will be your home. Surrounded by other first-year students, living together in the heart of campus, you’ll be steps away from the world’s leading university library, state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms, and a renowned faculty dedicated equally to teaching and research.

As a sophomore, you’ll move into a House, and that’s where you’ll stay for the rest of your undergraduate years. These Houses are residential colleges where students live, dine, study, plan events, and play intramural sports. They also offer a tight-knit, supportive community that includes faculty and advisers. For many Harvard students, the Houses represent some of the most rewarding elements of both social and academic life.

Harvard College is located in Cambridge, one of many vibrant cities that you can explore during your time on campus. A ten-minute subway ride from Harvard Square can take you into the heart of downtown Boston, from which you can visit great museums such as the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Science; see exciting performances from groups like the Boston Symphony Orchestra; catch a local sports game with the Red Sox or the Celtics; or venture out to cozy seaside villages from Cape Cod to Maine, ski slopes, forests, and historic sites.



A College Town— & A College City





CAMBRIDGE AND BOSTON FACTS

- 4.9 million** metro population
- 200,000** undergraduate and graduate student population
- 50+** colleges and universities
- 75+** historical landmarks
- 5** major league sports franchises
- 24** theaters

Chinatown, Theater District

Rose Kennedy Greenway, Financial District

Fort Point, South Boston

Crane Beach, Castle Island

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

Ashmont

Neponset River Reservation, Dorchester Historical Society

Downtown Crossing
Transfer to Orange Line

South Station
Transfer to Commuter Rail & Amtrak

Broadway

Andrew

JFK / UMass

Braintree

Pond Meadow Park, John Adams Birthplace

Kuumba + Community = Kuumunity

My time at Harvard has been greatly influenced by my extracurricular activities. Kuumba Singers, the oldest black organization at Harvard, has touched me in a special way.

Besides giving me the opportunity to perform for the likes of Solange Knowles, Elton John, and LL Cool J, Kuumba has given me a gift of incomparable value: family. I came into college with the intention of joining some sort of singing group because I wanted to do something that I hadn't done in high school. Thankfully, I chose to immerse myself in Kuumba rather than in the world of a cappella (Kuumba's non-audition policy was definitely a big incentive!). The decision to dive into everything that comprises Kuumba has been my best choice to date.

The way that Kuumba consistently offers such a warm and welcoming atmosphere is so astounding and refreshing, and the amount of love, support, acceptance, affirmation, and validation that Kuumba has given me truly liberated me from my own negativity and self-doubt during my first year of college, and my participation now helps me continue to strive to live a life of light and love.

↓

Read more online at

college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/

[kuumba-community-kuumunity](#)



Gabriel Wadford '21

Hometown

St. Stephen, South Carolina

Concentration

History and Literature

Extracurriculars

Kuumba Singers, Institute of Politics, Phillips Brooks House Association

Becoming Bostonian

When I began my college search, I only had a couple criteria: I wanted to go to school far away from home, and I wanted to live on a rural campus.

I grew up in Alaska, and though I was certain I needed a change in scenery, I thought going to a distant college in a big city would be too overwhelming. I was hesitant to leave behind the incredible outdoor opportunities I had in my home state.

Yet, here I am two years later, living and learning at an undeniably urban school—and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Since moving to Harvard's campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Greater Boston area has become my second home. Though Cambridge and Boston are technically two different cities, they are part of the same metropolitan area. Harvard Yard is only 10 minutes from downtown Boston via the subway system, which we refer to as the T.

I've tried to take advantage of Harvard's proximity to Boston by venturing off-campus as much as possible.

Firstly, Boston is buzzing with other students. There are over 50 colleges in the Greater Boston area, and college students make up 20% of the city's population during the academic year. It's nearly impossible to walk the streets without seeing droves of young people decked out in college apparel. There are so many other students to meet and befriend on Harvard's campus and beyond.

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Read more online at

[college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/
becoming-bostonian](https://college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/becoming-bostonian)



Jania Tumey '22

Hometown

Anchorage, Alaska

Concentration

Psychology, secondary
in Economics

Extracurriculars

Rowing, Harvard Outing Club,
Journalism





We want to ensure that we are providing students with a deeply transformative experience—intellectually, socially, and personally—that will prepare them for a life of citizenship and leadership. Harvard College intends to set the standard for liberal arts and sciences education for the next hundred years. This is who we are.

Rakesh Khurana

Danoff Dean of Harvard College

Academics



SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULE *Sydney '21, Lowell House*

9:00 AM BREAKFAST AT LOWELL HOUSE

12:00 PM CLASS: AMERICAN CYBER POLITICS

1:15 PM LUNCH WITH FRIENDS AT LOWELL HOUSE

3:00 PM CLASS: STORIES FROM THE END OF THE WORLD

4:15 PM STUDY IN LIBRARY

6:00 PM DINNER WITH RADCLIFFE PITCHES (A CAPPELLA GROUP) IN KIRKLAND DINING HALL

7:00 PM REHEARSAL WITH PITCHES

10:30 PM HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS IN MY COMMON ROOM

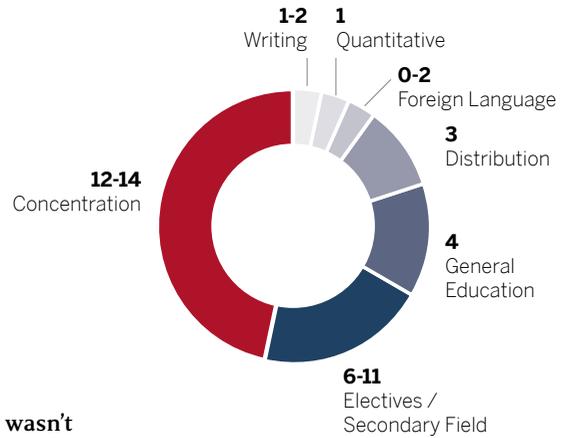
11:30 PM BED

“Almost as soon as I got on campus, I was committed to pursuing math. But I was also introduced to an amazing arts community at Harvard.”

ALIAN '21

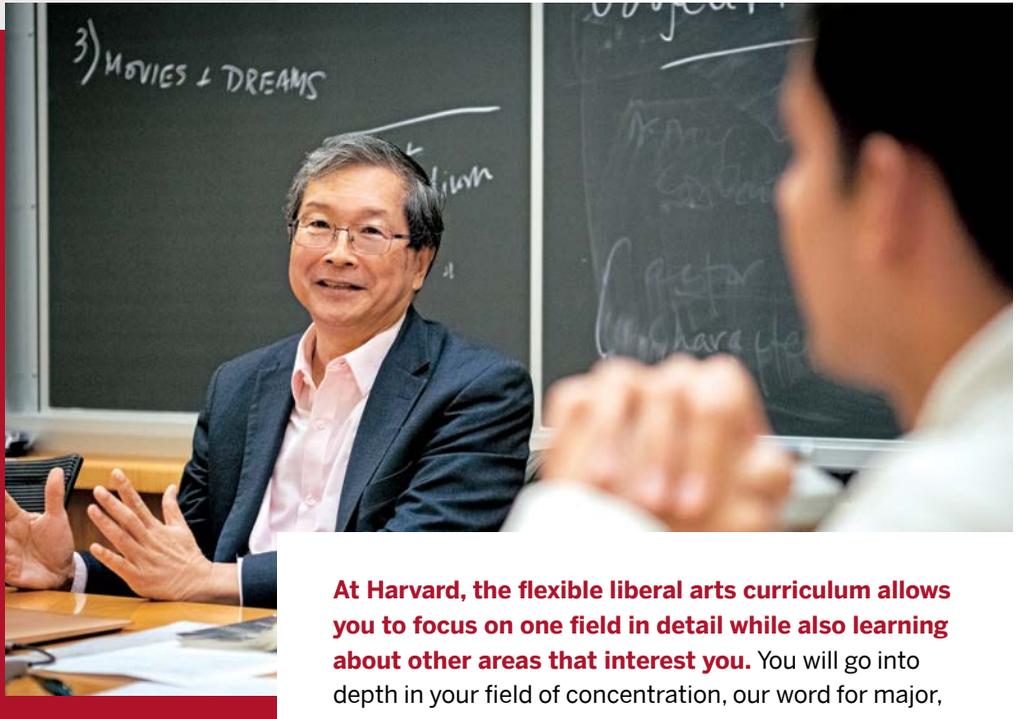
FOUR-YEAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

32 COURSES



“There have been times when I wasn’t in a course, but the topic related to something else I was working on so I emailed the professor. They’re always excited to help if they can!”

MARIA '20



At Harvard, the flexible liberal arts curriculum allows you to focus on one field in detail while also learning about other areas that interest you. You will go into depth in your field of concentration, our word for major, which you will declare in November of your sophomore year. The General Education curriculum will expose you to a variety of other fields, and you’ll have plenty of room for electives, too.

Academic Resources



70+ libraries

17,000,000 volumes in
our libraries

1 Tony Award-winning theater

24 buildings devoted to science
and research

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH OUR RESOURCES?

- Learn about a variety of career paths and gain experience through internships with the Office of Career Services.
- Conduct cancer research with a renowned physician at Massachusetts General Hospital.
- Study ecology and enjoy nature at Harvard's own forest.
- Page through an original edition of Shakespeare's sonnets in Houghton, the rare books library.
- Learn about autonomous robots at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.
- Check out the Harvard Film Archive for a weekend study break.





“High ceilings and big windows, Impressionist art and marble sculptures, a cafe and a pigment lab: these are some of the perks that lured me to the Harvard Art Museum as soon as I set foot on campus.”

ALIAN '21

Our resources allow students to expand upon what they are learning in the classroom and gain new skills through extracurricular opportunities. At Harvard, you will have access to professors at the forefront of their fields, state-of-the-art research facilities, and a broad array of other resources.



GLASS FLOWER AT THE HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



RARE BOOKS AT HOUGHTON LIBRARY



PLANTS AT THE HARVARD FOREST



\$5 million awarded annually to students for research project funding

60% of students study abroad

12 museums on and around campus

80+ languages available for students to study

1,476 meals shared between students and faculty through the “Classroom to Table” program





Seven Countries. Ten Months. Thank You, Harvard.

By the end of this month I will have traveled to seven new countries in the past ten months. How? All thanks to Harvard.



Carolina Jimenez '21

Hometown

Boca Raton, Florida

Concentration

Government, Sociology

Extracurriculars

Ethnic Groups

In high school, I always said that I wanted to study abroad in college. This past summer I was fortunate enough to finally have that dream come true. I studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal for eight weeks with Harvard Summer School. These eight weeks were absolutely unforgettable. I forged incredible friendships, ate delicious food, and visited some of the most beautiful cities. The best part was that my entire study abroad experience was funded by Harvard.

Studying abroad in Dakar also made another dream possible — visiting Europe. In addition to traveling to Dakar, I was also able to explore Portugal, Spain, and Italy for the first time. The list doesn't stop there though — that's only four countries.

There are a million other ways to travel internationally at Harvard outside of studying abroad. The first organization that I joined when I arrived at Harvard was the International Relations Council (IRC). The IRC hosts two Model United Nations (MUN) conferences in Boston — one for high schoolers and one for college students. The IRC, however, also hosts international MUN conferences in Latin America, India, and China. When I first found out about this, I was extremely excited. I knew that I wanted to travel as much as possible during my time at Harvard, and that this was a possible way to do that. So, when the applications came out to direct at these conferences, I applied, and was lucky enough to be selected.

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Read more online at

college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/seven-countries-ten-months-thank-you-harvard

Staying Connected to Family in College

I started my fourth and final year at Harvard a few months ago, and, in that time, I've done a lot of reflection on my college experience.

Specifically, I've thought a lot about what I expected my experience to be and how my actual experience has differed from my expectations.

To be fair, a lot of my expectations of college were true: I met new people and friends, I learned Boston can be extraordinarily cold, and I immersed myself in the on-campus Indigenous community. However, many of my expectations proved to be different. For instance, I applied to Harvard as a prospective Chemistry concentrator, and today, I study a joint concentration of Government and the Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. I also thought I was going to continue my involvement in my high school clubs, but rather, I joined entirely new organizations. And perhaps most notably, I thought coming to Harvard was going to be lonely and isolating being away from my family for the first time. Yet, while I do miss my family, I've learned ways to stay connected to my family even being hundreds of miles away.

Since coming to college, keeping in touch with my family has proven to not be hard at all. All it takes is actively making the time. For instance, I call my parents when I'm walking in between classes, when I'm eating a quick dinner, or even when I want a break from my homework. On the other side of things, my parents know my schedule and call or text me when they know I'm free. As a result, I never feel like I'm truly away from them; in fact, when I'm on the phone with them, I forget we're in different states. Sometimes, it feels like they're sitting in my dorm room with me, simply having a conversation — I feel that connected.

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Read more online at

college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/staying-connected-family-college



Noah Cominsky '20

Hometown

North Olmsted, Ohio

Concentration

Government

Extracurriculars

Rowing, Harvard Outing Club,
Journalism



There is a richness and vitality to the Harvard community that inspires and nourishes all of its members. Together, we aspire to excellence in teaching, research, and creative expression; to an environment in which every member of our community can do their best work and achieve their full potential; and to preparing our students for lives of leadership and service to the world.

Claudine Gay

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences



SOME OF THE RESOURCES
AT HARVARD

*Accessible Education
Office*

*Office of BGLTQ
Student Life*

Office of Career Services

The Harvard Chaplains

*The Harvard Foundation
for Intercultural and
Race Relations*



Resources for Support

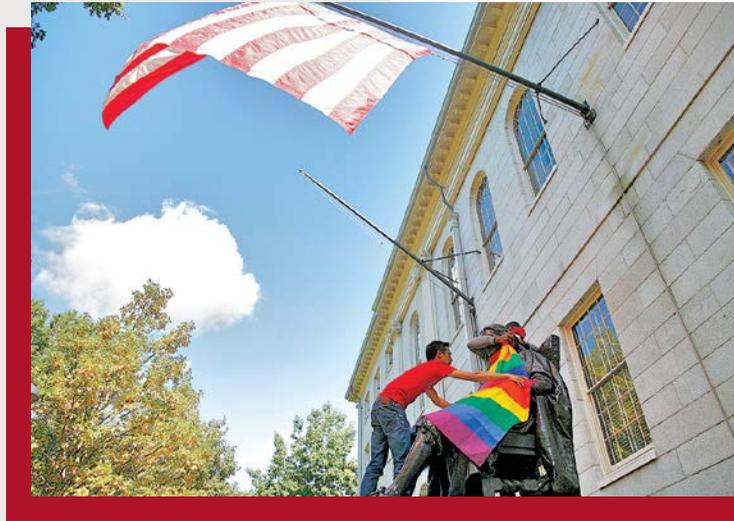
Harvard provides students with support for the academic, social, and spiritual aspects of their lives, as well as plenty of resources for their mental and physical well-being.

As you move through your four years at Harvard, you'll have plenty of people to go to for advice. Your peers will be the social fabric of your experience, but can also serve as tutors through the Academic Resource Center. Advisers in your House and department can provide guidance on your course of study and career plans. Harvard University Dining Services will keep you well nourished, and religious leaders of all faiths can provide spiritual guidance, should you desire it. On top of all this, Counseling and Mental Health Services, in addition to several peer advising groups and the Center for Wellness and Health Promotion, is always available to help you manage your mental and emotional health.

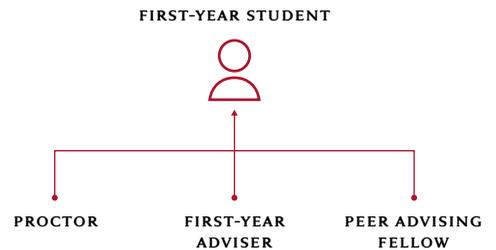


"I personally have found the Harvard Veterans associations, particularly the undergraduate club, very supportive."

CHRIS '21



FIRST-YEAR ADVISING STRUCTURE



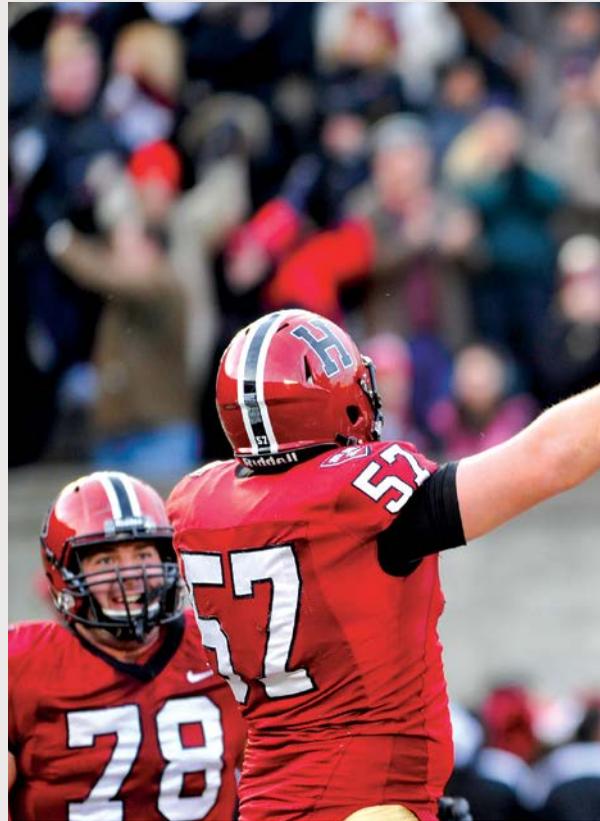
"My concentration adviser consistently encourages my involvement in STEM and art and has helped me figure out my place in both departments."

ALEXIS '21

Extracurriculars and Athletics

“What do Lorde, Shrek, and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston have in common? They’re all subjects I’ve written about for the Arts section of the *Harvard Crimson!*”

ALLISON '20



“I never realized the importance of having a cultural community until I came to a place as diverse as Harvard.”

CAYLA '21



WHAT TO LOOK FOR AT
THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES FAIR

- *Asian American Association*
- *Ballet Company*
- *Bioethics Society*
- *Black Students Association*
- *Contact Peer Counseling*
- *Fuerza Latina*
- *Model United Nations*
- *Women in Business*
- *Woodbridge International Society*



At Harvard, you will be able to find virtually any activity you might want to explore, and you can participate at a range of levels. Extracurriculars are an important part of the Harvard experience because for most students, they form the basis of their social life. Outside the classroom, you can explore new interests or pursue a lifelong passion. Student groups focusing on service, arts, cultural heritage, athletics, research, politics, and much more will all be available to you, and will connect you with like-minded peers. Curious about a particular career path? Extracurricular groups can also provide you with experience in fields ranging from management to medicine.



HARVARD HAS...

Won **147** national or NCAA championships

Won a combined **430** Ivy League championships

Been represented at **every** modern Olympic Games







The Harvard Tradition

When you go to Harvard, you get to take part in traditions that have existed for centuries. You also become part of an alumni network that lasts for the rest of your life. Over the course of your four years on campus, you will participate in many great Harvard traditions: from the first-year musical to the faculty deans' study breaks and all the way to the stately commencement ceremony at the end of your senior year. And once you graduate, you'll become part of an alumni community that offers lifelong friendship, intellectual engagement, and networks of support.





“Eliot House has so many activities throughout the week, ranging from career advice to dance workshops.”

EVELYN '22



“Strangely, the coldest season of the year seems to bring about the warmest energy. After that first snowfall, Harvard looked a little brighter and felt a little more like home.”

JANIA '22

Transitioning to House Life

My blockmates (a group of up to eight people who are guaranteed to be placed into the same house) and I had been waiting for over thirty minutes on Housing Day.

Housing Day is an annual celebration when first-year students find out which of the twelve upper-level student Houses they will be a part of for their next three years on campus. We then heard a mob of footsteps heading in our direction, chanting words that we could not completely make out. Moments later, the mob burst through our door chanting, “LOWELL! LOWELL! LOWELL! LOWELL! LOWELL!”

Lowell House was the most hoped for by the class of 2022 because it is the latest House to be renovated, meaning all the facilities and amenities of Lowell House are brand new.

Fast forward five months to a week before sophomore year starts. I’m walking through the front gate of newly renovated Lowell. I was met with the breathtaking courtyard and the wonderful scenery within it.

Throughout the week, I took time to explore all that Lowell had to offer. I started with the amenities that I had heard so much about: there’s a movie screening room, a lounge area, a game area with pool and ping pong tables, a gym, a squash court, a maker space with equipment such as 3D printers, a dance studio, and an art studio. I even had the opportunity to go up to Lowell House’s bell tower and saw the beautiful view from the top.

↓

Read more online at

[college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/
transitioning-house-life](https://college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/transitioning-house-life)



Harpreet Singh '22

Hometown

Brandon, Mississippi

Concentration

Government and Computer Science

Extracurriculars

Harvard Primus, Institute of Politics,
Effective Altruism, Peer Advising
Fellow

Finding Fun and Friends through Extracurriculars: The Harvard Noteables

Worried that I haven't left the library in a week, my friends and family at home often ask, "What do Harvard students do for fun?"

I tell them that so much of Harvard's vibrant social life is driven by the hundreds of student-run extracurricular organizations on campus. I tried out a bunch of extracurriculars my first year (as many first-years tend to do), but came into sophomore year knowing I wanted to find one that was purely just for fun.

I love to sing, so I asked around and through a friend of a friend of a friend found out about the Harvard Noteables! Noteables is a non-audition show choir — anyone is welcome to join, no matter their experience. As someone who is pretty terrified of auditioning, this was a check for me. Noteables sing mostly Broadway and Disney songs — another check! Finally, the people in the Noteables were so incredibly kind. They clearly cared about making the group fun for everyone who joined and super inclusive — big check. I joined and have loved it ever since!

↓

Read more online at

college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/

[finding-fun-and-friends-through-extracurriculars-harvard-noteables](https://college.harvard.edu/life-at-harvard/student-stories/finding-fun-and-friends-through-extracurriculars-harvard-noteables)



Claire Sukumar '20

Hometown

Ossining, New York

Concentration

Government with a secondary in Mind, Brain, and Behavior

Extracurriculars

Vocal Music, Institute of Politics

Admissions and Financial Aid

Deadlines	Early Action	Regular Decision
Common Application, Universal College Application, or Coalition Application	<i>November 1</i>	<i>January 1</i>
Secondary School Report and two letters of recommendation	<i>November 1</i>	<i>January 1</i>
Initial components of the financial aid application	<i>November 1</i>	<i>January 1</i>
All remaining financial aid application materials	<i>November 15</i>	<i>February 1</i>
Notification date for applicants	<i>Mid-December</i>	<i>Late March</i>

Get an estimate of your financial aid on our Net Price Calculator (también en español).

college.harvard.edu/npc

college.harvard.edu/npc-espanol

“Coming from a lower socioeconomic background, financial aid was the most important factor in my deciding which school to attend. Of all the schools I applied to, Harvard provided the best aid by far.”

FRANCK '22

At Harvard, we seek to enroll students of all backgrounds who will educate each other within a variety of campus settings—academic, extracurricular, and social. Our financial aid program is among the most generous in the world, and ensures that all admitted students can afford their Harvard education.



50% of Harvard students receive need-based scholarships

1 in 5 students pays nothing to attend Harvard

\$55,700 average annual need-based scholarship our students receive to attend Harvard

Our financial aid policy is the same regardless of nationality or citizenship status.

A photograph of a Harvard University gate. The gate is made of black wrought-iron with a brick pillar on the left. A tree with yellow and orange autumn leaves stands in front of the gate. A building with a brown facade is visible in the background. The ground is covered with fallen autumn leaves.

I'm profoundly grateful that Harvard has afforded me lifelong friendships and support, meaningful intellectual engagement, and ongoing professional development since I graduated. As a high school senior, I never could have guessed that the next four years would so deeply impact the rest of my life!

Nina Srivastava, Class of '18



SCIENCE CENTER PLAZA

HARVARD COLLEGE

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND
FINANCIAL AID
GRIFFIN FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

86 BRATTLE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
02138

P: **617-495-1551**

E: **college@fas.harvard.edu**

W: **college.harvard.edu**



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