LETTER FROM THE MISTRESS

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this position. I write here with some context, and if you like what you see, please get in touch to continue the conversation.

Girton is one of the larger Cambridge Colleges. Established in 1869 as the UK’s first residential institution for the higher education of women, Girton’s unique contribution to the story of widening participation is well-known and much admired.

After ‘going mixed’ in 1979, still embracing its foundational commitment to equality and diversity, Girton soon became an ambassador for inclusive excellence – a principle that remains at the heart of our strategic academic plan.

Like many Cambridge Colleges, Girton is built on philanthropy. Unlike many others, the endowment that generates the investment income so essential for bridging the gap between income from fees and charges, and expenditure on educational excellence, is small relative to student numbers. This is the challenge facing our current fundraising effort.

‘A Great Campaign’, launched publicly in March 2012, is inspired by the words of George Eliot, who wrote that nothing short of ‘A Great Campaign’ would be needed to found and fund a College of the stature and ambition of this one. Nothing short of that campaign is needed to grow our endowment to sustain for the long-term our hard-won position on the world’s educational stage.

So ‘A Great Campaign’ is looking to raise £50m in donations and legacy pledges ideally by September 2021, and we need a determined, ambitious, major gifts interim fundraiser to help achieve that goal. The Development Office at Girton already punches well above its weight and we are three quarters of the way to our current campaign target with £23m having been raised in donations and £20m in future legacy pledges; with your help on this final push, the team can complete that transformative step to help secure the future of the College and support the ambition of the students we serve.

The College has just completed the celebrations of its 150th anniversary, with a programme of regional, international and college-based events and activities. Please see Girton150.com for a College timeline, events programme and online events archive. Almost 20% of all our alumni have attended at least one celebration, and there are significant opportunities for the person appointed to this role to undertake follow-up with potential donors and legators.

As an interim senior fundraiser you will also have a great deal of support from me, as well as from the Development Director, and from an engaged inter-disciplinary Fellowship. Girton is a radical institution whose uncompromising quest for excellence in diversity stands for everything educators should be proud of. Our alumni and supporters are some of the most
Interim Development Manager (Major Gifts) maternity cover - Girton College – March 2020

Further Information

engaged across the University. We now need an exceptional individual in this interim to help us build on these firm foundations and complete A Great Campaign.

Girton is truly inspirational in its ethos and ambition; I hope you will consider becoming part of its great story.

With best wishes,

Susan J. Smith
Mistress

THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Cambridge is a collegiate research university located in Cambridge, England. Founded in 1209, it is the second-oldest university in the English-speaking world and the world's fourth-oldest surviving university. Today it comprises 19,578 students from all walks of life and all corners of the world, nearly 9,000 staff, 31 Colleges and 150 Departments, Faculties, Schools and other institutions. For the past several years, The University of Cambridge has come in the top five of the Times and Financial Times' annual university league tables and in the QS World University Rankings, proving its place as the nation's premier university.

Girton College

Founded in 1869 by Emily Davies and Barbara Bodichon, Girton was Britain's first residential institution for the higher education of women. The College has therefore always set the pace on matters of equality and inclusion and continues to prioritise widening participation, alongside academic achievement and all-round personal development for students and staff alike. Girton’s reputation for excellence in all these areas contributes to the international standing of the University as a whole.

One of the larger Cambridge Colleges, Girton admits students to both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in almost every subject available within the University. There are currently about 550 undergraduates and 250 postgraduates, with plans to expand the graduate school. To govern the College and support its educational goals, Girton has around 60 Fellows (as well as an engaged life fellowship of retired members), who are supported by about 150 professionals and other service providers. The Development Director is a member of the Fellowship and the senior management team.
Further Information

As well as recruiting and admitting students, the College is responsible for directing studies, providing small group teaching, developing learning resources and offering high quality pastoral care. Most students are accommodated on-site, where they have access to a library and archive, benefit from some of the best sporting facilities in Cambridge (including tennis courts and the only indoor heated swimming pool), and enjoy some of the most extensive gardens and grounds, together with some of the most engaging musical and artistic opportunities, in the University.

A Great Campaign

In March 2012, Girton launched a new and ambitious fundraising campaign to encompass the 150th anniversary of the Foundation of the College in 2019. The Campaign target of £50m will be achieved through a mixture of donations and legacy pledges.

During the first phase of the Campaign, some funds were raised for a new wing at Ash Court (which opened in 2013), but most effort was put into fundraising for the permanent endowment, to secure financial sustainability and underpin scholarly excellence. This latter included successfully raising funds to endow six Fellowships to underpin teaching and research in the arts, humanities, mathematics and social sciences. Following the launch of the second phase of A Great Campaign in 2016, there is a renewed focus on supporting “Girton People” by raising funds to endow undergraduate bursaries, graduate scholarships and teaching Fellowships in the physical and biological sciences and medicine. We are on track to meet these targets by the end of the Campaign ideally by September 2021. The College Campaign runs alongside the University’s “Dear World” Campaign.

The interim Development Manager (Major Gifts) role offers a really outstanding opportunity for a skilled, visionary professional to join a high-performing office and a strategically-led, forward thinking College with a reputation for inclusivity and openness.

For further information visit the Girton College and Girton150.com websites.