

Fisher Hall

I lived in Fisher hall (Evelyn Gardens cluster) and I must say, I enjoyed my stay thoroughly. Here's why:

- 1) Hall seniors + sub-wardens were all really friendly. I know at least 5 people who are going to be hall seniors next year and they are really friendly people who would help you if you need it.
- 2) The surroundings around Evelyn Gardens is really good. There's a local Sainsbury (i.e. mini-mart) located just a stone's throw away. There are many pubs and mini-markets along Fulham road & King's Road as well. Gloucester Road tube station, along with fast food chains like KFC, Burger King and Nandos (awesome Portuguese chicken-place) are nearby (8 minutes walk) and along the way to school. There's big Waitrose & Sainsbury (i.e. super marts) within a 15-minute walking distance from Fisher, which is nearer for us than for those staying elsewhere and are almost along the way to school as well. The bulk of your grocery shopping would be done there, as things are cheaper there than the mini-marts. That's a big bonus of staying in Evelyn Gardens! Besides that, Evelyn Gardens is a safe (and very rich) neighborhood so no worries if you're walking home late at night alone! We're a 10 minute walk away from Chelsea FC so the football fans amongst you can all try to catch matches at Stamford Bridge (or at the least brag about how close you live to it). Also, the 24-hour bus service 14 runs right next to our hall and it ferries people to and fro from the heart of London shopping district, i.e Oxford Street and Chinatown! So, for all party-lovers there's always 14 to bring you home!
- 3) Fisher hall is CHEAP! It is the second cheapest hall that Imperial has to offer, the cheapest being Wilson, which is further away from school. I paid around 72 pounds a week for a double room and the triple room is going for 55 pounds a week. Spending so little on accommodation is a big bonus, as I get to spend more on everything else, especially travelling!
- 4) Fisher Hall is the only hall that has the small-kitchen system. Every other hall has kitchens that cater for the entire floor, i.e. a lot of people. Generally, 3-6 students share one kitchen. This has great benefits because you get to know your kitchen mates more intimately and it makes mixing with locals and Europeans much easier. Plus, in smaller kitchens, when you know every kitchen mate well, it is less likely that anyone steals food, unlike in other halls.
- 5) Fisher football team has started a tradition of making it into the semi-finals of inter-halls football league, so all you football fanatics can expect to be part of something big. The Fisher committee is very active in organizing extra-curricular activities. There is football almost every Sunday, occasional events such as "Trip to Paris", "Iron Chef cooking competition", "Baking competition", "Fisher Fulham Dash", etc. You can expect plenty of opportunities to mingle with your hall mates and make friends outside of the Singaporean community.
- 6) We are one of the few halls that have cable TV for our common room. This means you can catch all the live sports matches (especially football) in the comfort of your hall! Unlike elsewhere, where people resort ways and means to watch it (e.g. come

to Fisher). The common room also has a pool table that the committee tries to keep in good shape and a table football setup.

So those are the 6 big reasons why I enjoyed my stay in Fisher. There are many other smaller reasons but you will have to find that out yourself! Now for the negative points:

- 1) Location. Fisher hall is located in Evelyn gardens, which despite being a great neighborhood, is about 15-20 minutes walk away from the South Kensington campus, i.e. college. So, if you hate walking, cannot wake up in time, or just want to stay next to school, Fisher is not for you. Having said that though, the walk is not very long and could take 10 minutes if you walk briskly. Besides, London's weather is much cooler, making it really comfortable and enjoyable to walk to school! Another problem for regular gym-goers is that Ethos, the school's gym, is located right next to campus so going there is slightly more of a hassle for us from Evelyn Gardens.
- 2) Condition. Being a cheap hall, you should not expect fancy furnishing. Rooms are of decent size, perhaps a little on the smaller side (depends on your luck). But this is London and others are paying 30-40 pounds extra per week to have something slightly bigger! The kitchens, however, are very well equipped. Toilets and showers are not en-suite so it might bug some people a little. Showers especially tend to choke sometimes, and although they are usually fixed within a few days, it does bug me a little, having to go to another shower. There's a sink in every room, so you can do your teeth-brushing/shaving there. Carpeting of the floor isn't great, the study desk is average, cupboards are adequate, the study lamp is just about the simplest lamp ever designed, there are notice boards in the rooms for use and there's room cleaning service every 2 weeks. All in, what you get is what you pay for and for those who like everything to be of super standard, then Fisher is not for you. But for you army guys who have been to worse places, this is miles better. In conclusion, if you are not fussy and want to save a lot of money, then Fisher will be a great choice for you!
- 3) Common room. The pool table and table football both require money (like 20pence per play) to play, unlike in some other halls.
- 4) This is perhaps the most perplexing problem in Fisher hall. We are one of only two halls which imposes a 11pm curfew on kitchen usage. After 11pm, no one is allowed to use the kitchen, even if you're not making noise and just making a small midnight snack. No one really keeps a check on it after midnight though, so people still do quietly use the kitchens. The silver lining in this case would be that you are unlikely to be disturbed by drunk students making a ruckus in the kitchen in the middle of the night. Southwell is the other hall which has this curfew but their policy is even more harsh as they **lock** the kitchens after 11. Nevertheless, students in Fisher have objected against this rule, and if you are lucky, it might be scrapped for next academic year!

Yes, so that's all the problems I can think of. Honestly, I enjoyed my stay in Fisher very much, something which I might not have if I had stayed in other halls. All the best in your hunt for a suitable hall!