



VENUE HIRE INFORMATION PACK



Artwork credit: Rosetta Westbrook (Get The Zest Studio) for Exeter City of Literature

The Devon and Exeter Institution is a thriving independent library and educational charity in the heart of the city of Exeter.

OUR SPACES

A major restoration programme has recently been completed at the Devon and Exeter Institution and it now boasts a range of stylish rooms, rich in historic character and charm, which are available for hire. At the heart of the building is a magnificent galleried Georgian library which has been used on numerous occasions as a film, television and photo shoot location. Private rooms of varying sizes offer flexible spaces for corporate, academic or cultural events, or smaller, more intimate meetings. Every booking is handled with sensitivity and care to meet your particular requirements, and our room hire pricing structure reflects this.



THE BLUE ROOM

This stunning South-West facing room overlooks Exeter Cathedral and is believed to have been used by the 9th Earl of Devon, William Courtenay, for his high society parties. Now restored to its Georgian splendour, the Blue Room is airy and elegant, with a distinctive barrelled ceiling and cupola lantern light, and original period features. This versatile space, on the first floor, can host up to fifty people seated and provides an inspiring venue for everything from business meetings and conferences to creative workshops, yoga, and afternoon tea parties.



gallery



gallery



THE GREEN ROOM

With space for up to eight people seated, this charming room was used at one point as the librarian's office. It is full of original features including the 9th Earl's pink Italian marble fireplace. The room is on the ground floor and overlooks the cathedral through its elegant Georgian window. It is suitable for small meetings, writing retreats, or workshops, or can be used as part of a larger booking alongside other rooms in the building.



gallery



THE PARLOUR

Situated on the ground floor, this room is the former parlour of the 9th Earl of Devon and retains his Italian marble fireplace dating from 1805 as well as other period features, including some Art Deco additions from the 1930s. The Parlour is the smallest of the rooms available for hire and has a beautiful view of the cathedral. It has space for up to four people seated, and is perfect for cosy meetings, seminar groups or interviews.



gallery



THE PARLOUR

THE GARDEN ROOM

We have turned some previously unused outdoor space into a smart new extension which can be used as a breakout area. The room can also be hired separately for small gatherings, such as craft activities or an evening drinks event. This glass-fronted Garden Room has doors that open onto a cosy courtyard garden and provides an additional space for relaxing and conversation.



HIRE OPTIONS

FUNCTION ROOMS	The Blue Room	The Green Room	The Parlour	Garden Room
SIZE	57.6 sqm 16 x 3.6m	18.5 sqm 5 x 3.7m	12.1 sqm 3.1 x 4m	12.2 sqm 4.7 x 2.6m
CAPACITY	Up to 50 seated	Up to 8 seated	Up to 4 seated	Up to 10 standing
COST	£100 per hour £600 full day £120 per hour evenings or out of hours	£50 per hour £340 full day	£45 per hour £300 full day	£50 per hour £340 full day
AVAILABILITY	Tuesday to Saturday 9.30 am - 5 pm Saturday 10 am - 4 pm Please ask us if you require an earlier start time or want to hire a room on a Sunday or Monday Minimum hire period is 2 hours We do not charge VAT			Booking times must include any time you need for initial setting up and packing up afterwards
ROOM LAYOUT STYLE	Theatre-style: Chairs in rows facing one end of the room	Boardroom: One large table with chairs set around it	Café-style: Individual tables with chair set around them	Seminar: Chairs arranged in U-shape

OUR LIBRARY



THE LIBRARY

Our impressive galleried library is virtually unchanged since its creation in 1813. The Inner Library and Outer Library are home to a unique collection of books, maps, prints, drawings and decorative art. The Outer Library is available for evening hire for lectures, cultural events and awards. We advise a site visit to the library before booking to discuss your project.

Our room hire bookings can also include a **bespoke library tour** and, where appropriate, a display of books.

To discuss hiring our library, please send an email to:
venue@devonandexeterinstitution.org



gallery



THE LIBRARY

gallery

Our library provides an atmospheric venue for cultural and artistic events, whether you are looking for a setting that is inspiring and uplifting, or peaceful and romantic.



THE LIBRARY

gallery



THE LIBRARY

FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Our library is also available as a filming location. It has featured in many films, documentaries, and TV programmes, including the BBC's *Empire* and 'Who Do You Think You Are?' The Institution also makes an atmospheric venue for photo shoots. Please see our separate **Filming Information Pack** for further information.



Historian David Olusoga filming at the Devon and Exeter Institution for BBC TV's *Empire* series, 2025



Above: Filming - Wandering Tiger Productions
Left: Photo shoot - Life's Little Adventures Photography

LIBRARY HIRE OPTIONS

	SIZE	CAPACITY	AVAILABILITY	COST
Outer Library minimum hire period 2 hours	96 sqm 12 x 8 m	Up to 40 people seated or 50 standing	Daytime filming hire (Tuesday - Friday) Evening hire and out of hours (Sunday and Monday) Hire of whole building	£150 per hour £200 per hour Please enquire for prices



COMMENTS FROM OUR VENUE HIRE VISITORS

Blue Room – Afternoon 88th birthday tea party

“The room looked so elegant but also friendly and welcoming, and you'd clearly put a lot of thought and effort into the set-up. The guests were all full of praise for the beauty of the room and were delighted to have the extra bonus of a peep at the library during the party.” July 2026.

Blue Room – Drinks event for European lawyers

“Thank you so much for everything last weekend – the venue worked so well... You were a pleasure to work with in the run up and so generous in allowing us to have the food delivered ahead of our booking. We will be recommending you to our colleagues.” Devon and Somerset Law Society. June 2026.

Blue Room – Academic research day

“I would like to thank you and your lovely team for the excellent Research Day we had at the DEI. Everything was perfect, and the colleagues really enjoyed the surroundings and the facilities.” University of Exeter Languages, Cultures, and Visual Studies Department. June 2026.

Blue Room – Bookbinding workshop

“I have been delighted to run my workshops in the Blue Room. The beautiful surroundings are an inspiration and much enjoyed by the workshop attendees. The staff could not be more helpful and professional, making the booking and setting up process easy and straightforward.” Celandine Books. May 2026.

Outer Library - Photoshoot

“Everything was perfect for my photoshoot. We were welcomed on time, and you helped us organise the space for what we needed. The library was the perfect backdrop for author headshots. I can highly recommend The Devon and Exeter Institute.” Writer Miranda Barlow. April 2026.

Bespoke tour and cake

"Many thanks for a wonderful tour of The Devon and Exeter Institution. All our group said how much they enjoyed it and one person said it was our best outing ever! The delicious cakes and tea perfectly rounded off an interesting and enjoyable afternoon." Culm Valley U3a History Group. March 2026.

Outer Library and Blue Room – Silent Book Club

"I wanted to say a massive thank you for hosting the Silent Book Club Valentine's event and for all your support in helping make it happen. It really was such a lovely atmosphere on the night." Exeter City of Literature. February 2026.

Green Room – Business drinks

"Many thanks for your warm welcome to the DEI on Friday! Thanks for showing us around the stunning refurbished premises - it looks fantastic, especially all so lovely decorated for Christmas! Thanks again for all your help - you were so very accommodating and welcoming." Exeter Fifty business group. December 2025.

Blue Room and bespoke library display

"I just wanted to thank you for all you did for our event on Saturday. You enabled it to run so smoothly and we were extremely grateful for your help. The DEI was looking fabulous and many of our members were quite amazed at the interior. An unsung Exeter treasure indeed!" Exeter Philharmonic Choir. November 2025.

Outer Library - tour and bespoke book display

"A quick note to say thanks for hosting us on Saturday. Everyone had a great day. Please pass on my thanks to our guides for the tour, John and Shane. It's a wonderful place; we appreciate them showing us round. Also thanks to Sonia (librarian) for setting up the astronomical exhibits for us; again, greatly appreciated." British Astronomical Association. June 2025.

BOOK NOW

Please fill out a booking form on our website and one of our team members will get in touch soon.

Or send an email to:
venue@devonandexeterinstitution.org

