



LONDON

Although the primary focus of your time at UCL will be your studies, sometimes it can be good to do something for its own sake. Why not go for a ride on the London Eye, go ice skating at Somerset House or put your sonic skills to the test in the Whispering Gallery at St Paul's Cathedral? When you've done those, how about a walk under the River Thames through one of the foot tunnels, a visit to the famous Selfridges food hall, followed by free attendance at the recording of a radio or TV show?



Parks and gardens

Despite being one of the world's largest cities, London boasts a surprising amount of green space. Regent's Park, within walking distance of UCL, houses ZSL London Zoo, an open-air theatre and various sporting facilities. Also nearby is Hyde Park, where you can row on the Serpentine lake, visit the Serpentine Gallery or take a tour of Kensington Palace. Slightly further away is Kew Gardens, a world-famous centre of botanical research where you'll find some stunning glasshouses and horticultural displays – or if you prefer to stay local you can always read or eat lunch in Gordon Square Gardens, just next door to the UCL campus.

Eating out

London is home to an enormous variety of cultures and religions – which means that you're never at a loss for interesting and diverse cuisine. Many restaurants are inexpensive and offer excellent value for the occasional celebration or for meeting up with friends. Choose from Italian, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Thai, Korean, French, English, Polish or countless others.

Events and celebrations

With so many ages, cultures and interests represented in London, there's a huge variety of special events and celebrations – some relating to religious or cultural holidays, others catering for specialist interests. From the London Mela to Chinese New Year, the Notting Hill Carnival to Christmas carols in Trafalgar Square, from the Thames Festival to the City Showcase for music and London Fashion Week, there's always something to celebrate with your fellow citizens.



Left to right: By Tower Bridge; studying on Primrose Hill.

History and tradition

In London the modern and the historic stand side-by-side, and both offer much to enjoy. Explore Royal tradition and pageantry with a visit to Buckingham Palace or the Tower of London; learn about London's history from prehistoric times to the present at the Museum of London; join a walking tour of Dickens' London; visit any number of historic public buildings – or hit the tourist trail and go on a sightseeing tour in an open-top bus!



TRAVEL

London is well served by transport links, with many major infrastructure improvements currently being implemented for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Getting around the city is easy, as is travelling to and from the rest of the UK, Europe and the wider world.

UCL is located in the Bloomsbury district of London at the very centre of the capital (see map, inside front cover).



Travelling to UCL

There are easy connections to UCL from London's global hub airports at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Luton and London City airports are also readily accessible and you will find that London's extensive public transport system is convenient and easy to use.

To plan your journey to UCL, including walking and cycle routes, visit the Transport for London (TfL) website at www.tfl.gov.uk. National Rail enquiries can be contacted on (0)8457 484950 or at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

London Underground (Tube)

www.tfl.gov.uk/tube

The closest Tube stations to UCL's Gower Street site are Euston Square, (Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan and Circle lines), Warren Street (Northern and Victoria lines), Euston (Northern, Victoria and Overground lines) and Russell Square (Piccadilly line).

Buses

www.tfl.gov.uk/buses

UCL's Gower Street site is served by many TfL bus routes. Buses travelling from north to south stop in Gower Street, immediately outside UCL's main gate, while those travelling from south to north stop outside Warren Street station, about five minutes' walk from UCL.

Services to these stops include route numbers: 10, 14, 24, 29, 73, 134, 390.

Getting around London

London's public transport system is the easiest way to travel around the city. As a student in London, you can benefit from the TfL/National Rail Student Oyster photocard scheme. This offers 30% off all adult travelcards and bus passes valid for a week or more. Full details are available at www.tfl.gov.uk



For shorter journeys, why not walk or ride your bike instead? A Cycle Hire scheme and safe cycle routes are provided across central London and excellent cycle maps are available from TfL at www.tfl.gov.uk/cycling, making cycling the quicker, cheaper and healthier way to travel. With many of London's streets and squares now traffic-free you can walk through some of the UK's finest public spaces as part of your daily routine.

Travelling around the UK

National Rail

www.nationalrail.co.uk

London has many mainline rail stations. Most of these are a short journey away from UCL, with the stations at Euston, King's Cross and St Pancras being within easy walking distance.

Trains from London serve destinations across the UK. The best value tickets are obtained by being flexible and booking well in advance.

Coaches

www.tfl.gov.uk/coaches

Coaches from London operate to most parts of the UK, many offering direct and very economical services. Details can be obtained from the TfL website.

Travelling beyond the UK

Eurostar

www.eurostar.com

The London Eurostar terminal is at St Pancras International, a few minutes' walk from UCL. This offers you direct high-speed rail connections to Paris (2hrs 15 mins) and Brussels (1hr 50 mins), with onward connections to many European destinations.