London

From learning to literature, art to architecture, science to sport, history to pop culture and enterprise to governance, London has it all. As Samuel Johnson succinctly put it, “When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford.”

At UCL, you don’t just learn it, you can live it.

The resources for learning you can enjoy in London are many and varied.

- With its countless libraries, archives, cultural spaces and professional bodies, this is the perfect place to find context and support for your studies.
- London houses more than 350 public libraries and nearly a third of all the archives in the UK, from the world-famous British and Guildhall Libraries and British Newspaper Archives at Colindale to the National Archives at Kew.
- Free lectures, workshops and exhibitions are offered by institutions like the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Institution and the Wellcome Collection.
- History of Art students are often taught in galleries, directly in front of the works under discussion.
- Arts and Humanities students benefit from a wealth of cinemas and theatres.
- Law and Politics students are near the UK’s seat of government, and can observe debates in the Houses of Parliament or meetings of the London Assembly in City Hall.

Why not try...?

London offers you an unrivalled range of culture, history, art and leisure. For example:

- around 250 museums and galleries, including world-famous art galleries like the National Gallery, Tate Modern and Tate Britain, as well as smaller modern galleries such as the Whitechapel, Saatchi or White Cube. Renowned museums include the British, Victoria and Albert (V&A), Natural History, Design and Science museums, as well as lesser-known collections like the Hunterian Museum (surgical history) and the Horniman Museum (anthropology and natural history)
- mixed performance and exhibition spaces such as the Barbican, the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Southbank Centre
- plays and musicals in the West End and Shakespeare’s Globe, cinemas in Leicester Square and on the South Bank, and plenty of venues for rock, pop, classical and opera
- the chance to watch, or take part in, all kinds of sport, from tennis at Wimbledon to London’s yearly marathon
- the Museum of London, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and walking tours around the neighbourhoods of Charles Dickens or Jack the Ripper

UCL’s location in the heart of London gives students access to a huge range of social and academic opportunities.

The financial centre of the City of London is just 20 minutes by Tube from UCL’s central London campus.

Writers such as Virginia Woolf (pictured) and E.M. Forster, artists such as Roger Fry and Vanessa Bell, and the economist John Maynard Keynes, all lived and worked in Bloomsbury in the early 20th century.
Living in London

Sonya Patel, Second Year, Population Health BSc

UCL was always where I aspired to study because of its research domains, especially the Cancer Institute. I chose the Population Health BSc as I knew the versatility that it offered in allowing me to develop my skills and interests further in the health sector.

Living and studying in London is a great experience, as the availability of services and work opportunities are endless; there are multi-faculty universities and internationally recognised institutions here. I was born and raised in London, and would recommend it to anyone.

Getting around London and beyond

// London’s public transport system is the easiest way to get around, with underground (‘Tube’), train and bus networks. As a student, you are eligible for 30% off all adult travelcards and bus passes valid for a week or more.

www.tfl.gov.uk

// Cycling and walking are cheap and healthy. Use London’s network of cycle routes plus the Cycle Hire scheme.

www.tfl.gov.uk/cycling

// London has excellent transport links to the rest of the UK, Europe and beyond.

// UCL is within walking distance of several major transport hubs, including the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras International, and King’s Cross and Euston stations.

www.nationalrail.co.uk

www.eurostar.com

London event calendar

There are events, celebrations and holidays throughout the year in London. Many of them are free.

January
New Year celebrations with fireworks on the River Thames

February
Chinese New Year parade/London Fashion Week/Six Nations Championship (Rugby)

March/April
The annual Boat Race on the Thames / The London Marathon

May
Chelsea Flower Show/ FA Cup Final (Football)

June
Royal Academy Summer Exhibition/Trooping the Colour (Queen’s Birthday Parade)/ Wimbledon (Tennis)/ Pride London Parade

July
Lovebox Festival/City of London Festival

August
Great British Beer Festival/Notting Hill Carnival/Summer opening of Parliament and Buckingham Palace

September
Open House London/London Fashion Week/Thames Festival

October
Diwali celebrations/London Film Festival

November
Remembrance Sunday/Guy Fawkes Night/The Lord Mayor’s Show

December
Christmas celebrations including the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree lighting ceremony/Spitalfields Winter Festival

Here East, in Stratford, East London, is home to a new research and teaching facility for robotics, digital fabrication and a new MEng in Engineering and Architectural Design (see page 79)

30% (475sq km) of London’s surface area is parkland, including eight Royal Parks

Here East, in Stratford, East London, is home to a new research and teaching facility for robotics, digital fabrication and a new MEng in Engineering and Architectural Design (see page 79)