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 Collections 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.
// Biological Sciences students have easy access to ZSL London Zoo, the Natural History Museum or the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew.
// Medical students can take advantage of UCL’s various clinical and research institutions, including the Institutes of Child Health, Neurology, Ophthalmology and the Ear Institute. The new Francis Crick Institute is due to open in 2016.
// London itself provides a living laboratory for students of geography, civil engineering and the built environment. Crossrail, Europe’s largest infrastructure project, is due to open in 2018, creating thousands of jobs and training opportunities.

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.

London’s National Gallery was designed by the architect William Wilkins, who also designed UCL’s iconic Portico

The National Gallery houses over 2,300 paintings including works by Cézanne, Monet, van Gogh and Turner; entry is free.
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

Many discounts are available to students using the NUS Extra card.

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Living in London

Stephanie Lau, Fourth Year, Geography (International Programme) BA

I have met so many interesting people, and learnt a lot from these friendships – so my learning has extended beyond the classroom. I have had to grow up quickly and become an ‘adult’, which has given me more responsibility and I’m grateful for that. Living in London exposes you to the real world; I don’t think I’ll be as shocked when I begin my career and have to do more things for myself. There are so many exciting things to do as a student and a Londoner. I love that I can leave my house and go for a stroll across the city that is so often featured on screen, or visit a free museum, gallery or event. There are lots of exciting sub-cultures and areas of London that you can explore. It’s a bit of a cliché, but there is something for everyone.

UCL is growing! In 2019/20 a second campus (UCL East) will open on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, East London

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

The ‘new bus for London’ uses the latest diesel-electric hybrid technology to make it a more environmentally friendly option

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