

# The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London (Great Britain)

## 1. Overall impression

My year at King's College London was simply fantastic.

The stimulating academic atmosphere, the international surrounding and the vibe of the city made my year an unforgettable personal and academic experience. I would recommend the Double Degree Programme in partnership with King's College London to any prospective Double Degree student.

## 2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

I recommend to clarify the following details before leaving Switzerland: Whether you have to give a notice of departure at your local municipality ("Wohnortabmeldung"), whether you could reduce/suspend your health insurance fee for the year abroad (since you are automatically covered through NHS when in London) and I printed and saved all relevant documents (ID and passport, insurance, confirmation letter, proof of address etc.). This will come in handy if you need copies of your documents and do not (yet) have access to a printer.

## 3. Contacts/Responsibilities

(e.g. important contact persons at the Partner University and Faculty)

There are various people at King's whom you could contact, depending on the matter at hand:

Your pathway leader concerning questions about the pathway/modules/dissertation topics, your personal Tutor (with regards to a recommendation letters, personal academic/career advice) and the PGLT team which supports you very generally with matters regarding the LLM (module bookings, administrative questions, examination requests, official documents etc.). Additionally, individual professors are usually very forthcoming for meetings with students (check their office hours).

## 4. Housing / Finding accommodation

I chose to live in a KCL Accommodation for it was easier to organise for me and cheaper.

KCL offers a variety of accommodations in different locations and with different amenities (some have gyms, some are close to certain campuses, some are PG only, some don't have studios etc.).

You sign up through a KCL portal and get assigned an accommodation from a list of preferences which you can indicate sometime in spring. I would suggest signing up for a KCL accommodation in any case, since you can (depending on the regulations of each accommodation, please do check) cancel your booking within a certain period of time. If you happen to find something cheaper privately, you can still cancel but still be safe that you have a place to live if you don't find anything.

I lived at Orchard Lisle House near London Bridge and Guy's Campus, which was a great location (30min Walking distance to Strand Campus and the Maughan Library, 2min to Guy's Campus Library and the KCL gym, right opposite Borough Market and London Bridge Tube Station, granting you access to the Northern and Jubilee Line) and it was a postgraduate only residence.

The flats are not luxurious residences for sure, but for the price and location, it's a good option.

I was in a flat of four. We shared two bathrooms and one big kitchen. I lived with flatmates my age who were also studying at King's. I had the best flatmates, and, therefore, I would always chose to live at Orchard Lisle again, but there's always a bit of luck involved with flatmates - privately, or via KCL.

## 5. Arrival

Depending on your accommodation, I would suggest to book you ticket to London to the nearest Airport (London City, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stanstead or Luton) since you may be travelling with large amounts of luggage. You will have to buy an Oyester Card to travel upon Arrival, bear in mind that at some Airports you can only pay cash for your Oyester card.

## 6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I received a free SIM from giffgaff from my residence. You can easily enter into a monthly contract with a package of 2 GB and free calls for 8-10 pounds, and an option to cancel the contract in any given month.

## 7. Bank account

I opened a bank account with HSBC. All the big Banks (Barclays, Santander, HSBC etc.) will come on campus and woo you to open your account with them. From what I could tell, offers do not vary significantly and it does not make a difference where you decide to open your bank account.

The only option you could consider, alternatively, is to open an account with virtual bank Monzo/Revolut.

## 8. Transport (e.g. from Switzerland, to the University)

Travel by plane.

## 9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

Generally, the PGLT team at King's College London is open for discussion and flexible in its handling of requests. If you have any questions and requests, I would always suggest trying, they are usually open to make your academic experience enjoyable and enriching, also given the tuition fees you are paying.

In Terms of Student life, I would recommend joining a Student society - there is a society for literally everything and anything, ranging from the knitting society to the society on nuclear disarmament. Do attend the Fresher's week society event and join one if you like (that way you can ideally combine an interest of yours with meeting people from the UK, if you only stay within the LLM chances are high that you remain in an international bubble without getting to know British culture) and if you don't find anything, you at least got a lot of free gifts and bags.

## 10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

(e.g. program structure, methodology, exams, etc.)

You have an option to join any of the specialised pathways requiring choosing modules from a pre-selected list of modules or to, alternatively, chose the General Law pathway that leaves you to choose any of the modules on the module list. Unless you are very certain in your future career path, I would recommend choosing the General Law pathway as it gives you more options and from what I could tell, Swiss law firms are generally not interested in the pathway you chose, but rather only care that you have an LLM from King's.

Depending on the modules you chose, teaching can be very interactive and seminar-based or if you chose larger classes, it can end up being the classical "Frontalunterricht". I recommend choosing your modules wisely and depending on which teaching style you prefer.

Assessment of your Modules depends on the modules you chose. It can consist of presentations, essays, exams, legal memoranda, class participation or a mix of these elements. I would suggest to choose a good mix of assessment modes, so that you will not have too many exams and too many essays due at the same time.

## 11. City

(e.g. cultural activities, sports, discounts, nightlife, must-sees, short trips, etc.)

Needless to say that London offers an infinite amount of exciting cultural activities (Comedy shows, clubbing, museums, theaters, Musicals etc.). Bear in mind that many of the Events require Prior bookings (especially during Christmas Season).

I would also recommend asking for Student discounts in all restaurants and shops, as they usually do offer discounts but will not announce it unless you ask.

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