



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

Study Guide

1 Overall impression

It was a fascinating year at KCL, with interesting courses and some great teachers. London itself is a beautiful city that I don't think anyone can ever get tired of exploring, and it was wonderful to experience it as a student.

2 Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

There's loads of information to be found on the UZH Double Degree pages, as well as the KCL Dickson Poon School of Law website, and if you don't find a specific piece of information, you can always contact the e-mail addresses provided there to get individual responses.

3 Contacts/Responsibilities

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

The PGT Office would be the important contact point at KCL, they will respond to queries of Postgraduate Taught Law students.

4 Housing

I would really, really recommend going for a shared flat rather than student housing. KCL student housing seems quite expensive for what you get. You will be able to find a flatshare via spareroom, for example. Of course, it's a lot more administrative work beforehand, and it can be tricky to get through the screening process. For example, some landlords ask for a UK guarantor, which many might not have. However, we solved this problem by paying a few month's rent upfront (but of course you should always double-check that the property, letting agency and landlord are legit! Best to go by in person, of course, and make sure all is as should be and do some checks (e.g. asking to see the landlord's ID document) before you transfer any money – there are many scams.)

5 Arrival

You can take the train into London St. Pancras (Eurostar) or fly in via any of the airports. Heathrow has a good tube connection to the city centre via the Piccadilly Line, which is quite cheap.

6 Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I first had a sim card from Vodafone, then changed to O2. Costs are lower than in Switzerland, for 10 pounds (pay monthly) you usually get unlimited calls and texts and around 5-10 GB of Data. Make sure before you choose a plan that you can use the data also in Switzerland (roaming is usually possible in most of the European Zones without any extra cost – not anymore with Vodafone, but with O2 at least), so you can use the data also if you go home in between

7 Bank account

You can open a UK bank account, e.g. with Nationwide, which I found helpful to have, and transfer money to it from your Swiss account (e.g. via transferwise, which has good rates on transfers.). Many of the people I know have opted to open an online e-banking account like revolut instead, which has also worked for them.

8 Transport

Tube transport is very good usually, or of course also the famous red buses. You can apply for a student oyster for public transport, which will then give you a discount on monthly or annual or weekly passes for the zones you need (probably zone 1 and 2, depending on where you live). It is still quite expensive though, in 2021/22 it was around 100 Pounds per month for zones 1 and 2. If you like cycling, you could also get a secondhand bike and helmet off of online platforms like gumtree, which will be a lot cheaper in sum.

9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

KCL puts on interesting public lectures and social events within your pathway, but also across pathways, so definitely keep posted on these and join if that piques your interest. Maughan library is a great place to work, there are also study places all around King's Campus and Strand Campus, which is where your lectures will mostly be. The professors are approachable, so don't be shy to ask for help or further info and guidance if you need it, of course also from your fellow classmates!

There are also many student societies you can join to meet some more people outside of law

10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

You will be required to do a lot of reading, therefore it's very important that you learn how to efficiently skim-read articles and chapters, otherwise it will take you too long to do your homework. A lot of value is placed on discussion, try and make the most of that and participate orally in class, even if it might be daunting at first. I found it very helpful and enriching! Depending on what pathway you take, you might be required to write essays instead of exams. For example, in the modules I took within the Transnational Law Pathway, all of the required end of semester work was essays, with some part of the final grade being oral participation or a reaction paper or similar.

11 City

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

There are so many things to do, I wouldn't know where to start! But it's always good to just quickly google "things to do in London this weekend" or similar, and you'll see what's happening that specific weekend. There are many beautiful places within 5 hours of train journey from London, so if you feel like exploring the UK, that could be something for you (if you book early or at times that are not highly frequented, it's cheaper, even better if you get a RailCard). I would recommend trying to see something of the different boroughs of London, it's definitely worth it to venture out of where you live to soak up the atmosphere of different parts of London, e.g. Hackney for going out, or Clapham or Brixton in the South, or Islington and Angel in the North for exploring.

Date: August 2022