

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



## 1. Overall impression

My year at King's College London was amazing and I can recommend the experience to everyone. Not only is it a great school with a large number of well-known scholars, but it also offers important knowledge and courses that are not part of a normal curriculum at the University of Zurich. Therefore, the LLM at King's can really broaden your academic horizon and teach you new things about the world that you would not have learned through just spending your entire Masters in Switzerland.

## 2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

Finding information about the university is not that difficult, since King's College is very well organized in this regard. There are many informational pages online that tell you about all sorts of administrative matters, so it is best to just google for something you would like to know.

### 3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

The KCL Law Office is very approachable and is usually capable of answering questions swiftly and helpfully. The individual lecturers are also approachable and very open to answering questions about their courses.

### 4. Housing / Finding accommodation

This is a bit of a problem. King's offers accommodation, which is fairly easy to sign up for, but I wouldn't recommend it, as the prices are very high compared to private accommodation such as flatshares. Finding something private, for example over the webpage SpareRoom, can be challenging and it is important too make sure that one doesn't get ripped off by landlords and agencies, but the effort is worth it, since one will usually end up spending less money.

### 5. Arrival

The cheapest flights are usually Easyjet to Luton or Gatwick Airport, but Heathrow works well too, especially cause it offers easy access to the city via Piccadilly line.

### 6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I bought a prepaid sim card with Three (network), which ended up costing me 15£ per month for 5GB internet and more than enough texting and phone credit. Reception was pretty good, so I'd definitely recommend this.

### 7. Bank account

I had my bank account with HSBC and can really recommend this, since it was very easy to open the account and everything (including a Visa Debit card) was free of charge.

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

Direct flights to London are cheap, but the train also works, as it takes you no more than about 6 hours (trains from Paris to London are very frequent and only take about 2 hours).

I usually took the Underground (Tube) to university, as I lived right on the Piccadilly line (stops "Holborn" or "Covent Garden" are equally close to Strand Campus), but I would recommend using buses as well, as they cost a lot less and offer nice views of the city, if you're not in too big of a hurry. They're also a nice alternative to the rush-hour-horrors of the tube.

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

As mentioned above, the thing I loved most about the school was that they offered so many different viewpoints and new subject matter than I was used to from the University of Zurich. Student associations are also a big thing and very fun, so I would recommend trying one or two of them.

### 10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

I took the Transnational Law pathway at King's, which included many interesting courses. Most of these courses

did not have an exam for assessment, but essays and variety of papers (e.g. reaction or response papers). I really enjoyed this, since it gave you the opportunity to dig deep into an aspect of the course that interested you most.

Apart from that, most courses included a large amount of reading, so it's best to stay on top of that from the very beginning. They pay large attention to selecting a range of different viewpoints in the papers they suggest for reading, so it's important to look at all of them and not just select one or two.

## 11. City

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

I ended up joining the Women's Rugby team at King's and it was a fantastic choice. Not only is rugby a fun and exciting sport, but the team gave me an almost instant social circle with opportunities to go out or do something fun (besides) training almost every week.

London is a spectacular city. I would recommend seeing as many of the museums as possible, as they are all worth seeing for different reasons. Nightlife offers a lot of great opportunities as well, there's good pubs pretty much everywhere and clubs are fairly easy to find as well (my personal favorites were "EGG" and "Heaven").

If you have the time, I would recommend you take a weekend trip to either Cornwall or the Jurassic Coast, as these offer spectacular scenery of a kind that we don't really have in Switzerland.

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