

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

1. Overall impression

My overall impression of the Dickson Poon School of Law is very positive. It is a renowned institution with very interesting opportunities to learn and benefit from a wide array of expertise.

2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

When making preparations I found the information provided by the University of Zurich very instructive. I was also guided through the application process at the partner faculty with ease. There is plenty of useful information online from the King's college too. I have encountered problems in my preparation, however, because I decided to settle over to London before the Semester started and I could not obtain any documentation from King's (confirmation of study letter) that would have allowed me to open a bank account (which luckily could be avoided through opening an account at an online banking service; revolut), make a telephone contract or apply for a lease. It was also not possible find detailed information on the possible modules before the semester officially starts. The information is accessible only as soon as the so called 'shopping period' starts which lasts for two weeks at the beginning of the semester. In this period the selection for the whole year had to be made, which can be a bit daunting.

3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

There was no specific contact person at the partner faculty to my knowledge. For any inquiries one could always contact the law administration office. However, it was common that one would get conflicting information from the professors, the examination office and the administration, but in the end all disputes were always resolved in a way that was favourable for the students (for example when two modules from the same pathway clashed in the timetables the administration office adjusted the timetables).

4. Housing / Finding accommodation

Since the student accommodations are quite expensive, I found a flat share privately. It can be quite tricky to find a room privately in London, but there is plenty of tips about it online (including on the partner faculties website). If one wants an easy solution, the student accommodations are a good option, I suppose.

5. Arrival

The induction days were very informative and a good way to get to know fellow students. I do not recommend arriving in London early (before the induction days), however, as setting up camp without being officially enrolled in the university is a challenge. The first two weeks are intensive (shopping period) but it is worth using them to find your ways around campus, meet fellow students and explore the possible modules that can be chosen.

6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I used three prepaid which was cheap (around 5 to 10 pounds a month) but did not offer the best service. Reception was bad, the process of putting money on the account is complicated (you have to convert your account balance into so called add ons which last for a month), and the customer service was bad.

7. Bank account

I highly recommend opening a Revolut account. Transferring money onto your account is free and you can exchange it at the daily exchange rates without losing any money. Revolut also comes with a contact less credit card and it is super easy to transfer money to friends and to pay your lease, if needed.

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

When the semester starts you can apply for a student discount for the TfL (Transport for London) and get monthly travel passes cheaper.

9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

The partner faculty offers a lot of interesting events. There is always something going on. The libraries are very good, open 24/7, spread all around London, offer computers to use and are located close to nice places you can eat.

10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

The choice of modules can be made very freely and there is a immense pool of modules you can choose from. Some modules are very challenging and demand a high degree of engagement. For example, you might be asked to hand in papers 2 weeks after the semester started. Others demand less work, so it is a question of preference how much effort you wan to put into your experience. I can recommend taking at least some challenging modules as they allow a deeper level of learning and profiting from the experience. The professors are generally very good and you can always contact them with questions and ask for advice.

11. City

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

The city is wonderful and exciting but can also get quite exhausting from time to time. It is therefore very important that you feel comfortable in your accommodation so that you can relax after long days. However, going out, eating well and entertaining yourself with theater or museum visits is a lot of fun and people are very kind and open. King's offers a great selection of physical activities you can choose from (either become a gym member and you can use three different gyms at different locations or you can become a BeActive member and participate in a wide selection of different classes). It is also nice to go jogging in one of London's many parks.

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