

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

1. Overall impression

The whole year was an amazing experience.

I experienced a very interesting year in London that was as diverse as the city itself. The university, as well as the city itself, offers a wide range of opportunities in every respect. KCL is located in the heart of London and is very international with students from all over the world. The exchange with professors and fellow students is very enriching.

2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

KCL provides you with all the necessary information in advance, mainly over email. There is also an app to download that helps you to prepare. All the information on classes etc. is provided in the first week during information events.

The preparation process is basically very simple. The given registration steps are clear and well explained. Otherwise, help is provided by the KCL itself. However, I found the sparse information somewhat irritating, which one receives before starting studies but after enrolment. However, there is an introduction week which basically answers all questions and prepares you ideally for the start of your studies.

3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

There is a specific person in charge of all your questions concerning the LLM during your studies. You will find the contact online on Keats (the website you are going to use the most), where you get access during the introduction week. This person will direct you to other persons if necessary.

4. Housing / Finding accommodation

Student accommodations over KCL are easy to get but very expensive for what you get. Spareroom.com is a good website to find a room in a flatshare over an agency. Very many options all over London but everything is rather short notice.

I lived in a private dormitory (Urbanest), which had the advantage that it was bookable early, unlike the dormitories offered by the university. Based on the experiences of fellow students, I can say that a short-term apartment search is also possible (but you should arrive a little earlier to avoid stress). Shoreditch is a really cool area to stay as it offers trendy stores, food markets and clubs and is located close to the city center.

5. Arrival

I would recommend an uber from the airport to the accommodation because tube is rather stressful with a lot of luggage (especially during rush hour)

I arrived the day before the start of the Introduction week. This was enough, but it would have been more relaxed to arrive a bit earlier to get to know the city and the apartment a bit better. The start at the school is well organized. You should download the Introduction App, where you can sign up for many interesting introductions. In addition, you have to book a time-slot via the app to have the student-ID validated. Therefore, it is best to upload a photo already during the enrolment, so that this process is simplified. Attend as many social activities as possible.

6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

Roaming contract or local provider (cheaper)

I bought the "£10 Value Bundle" from Vodafone. You pay £10 a month and get 2GB of data, 250 minutes of telephony and 200 free text messages. Since there is W-Lan in many places in the city, this was just enough.

7. Bank account

I haven't opened a bank account in England, which basically works well as long as the credit card costs are not too high. If you want to open an account, you have to be prepared to wait a few days for the appointment.

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

I would recommend the City Airport or Heathrow. Heathrow is a bit further out but can be easily reached by tube and the flights are a bit cheaper.

Within the city, the tube or bus is very suitable, but you should buy a Student Oyster card for reasons of cost.

9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

PGLS is the student society for postgraduate law students, membership is only 10£ and totally worth it

The university offers a variety of leisure activities, such as all kinds of sports. Events are also organized, either by the university itself or by the student organization. To stay up to date, it is best to subscribe to the e-mail newsletter and to the Facebook page.

If you have any questions, the Law Office is a good first port of contact in terms of the academic calendar. The university offers many additional lectures, which are very versatile. For some of them, you have to register in advance. Language courses can also be taken, but here the courses are fully booked within a short period of time, so be quick!

10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

Everything will be explained in the first week, generally, you are completely free to choose your courses and most of them are not limited in number of students.

One can decide for a specific pathway or for the general LLM, depending on personal preference, but of course, there are certain synergies resulting from a specific pathway.

The year is divided into trimesters, with lectures in the first two of them (until the end of March). There are lectures which last two trimesters, others only one. Written examinations take place for both the first and second trimesters in May and June. There are also some courses that are examined by means of an essay, which are spread over the year. Thus one has the possibility to spread the work somewhat over the year.

In the last trimester, the master thesis has to be written, whereby there will be the possibility to participate in a practice project, which can be compared to a larger case study at the UZH.

The classes themselves are divided into lectures and tutorials, whereby lectures can also be very interactive and therefore require serious preparation. In principle, oral cooperation is expected and appreciated.

For the preparation of the lessons one should prepare the readings suggested by the reading list, however, I made the experience that this does not replace the attendance of the lecture. Certain professors offer lecture capture, on which one should not rely because of the quality and technical problems.

11. City

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

London is an amazing city, I especially recommend exploring the various street food markets and brunch places and the area of Shoreditch for going out.

Many museums are free. Food markets are highly recommended (Maltby Street Market, Borough Market, etc.). If you are interested in football, you are probably better off in the second league in terms of price and atmosphere.

Also excursions to Brighton, Cambridge or Dover are fun, also due to the good train connections.

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