

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

1. Overall impression

Overall, my experience at King's College London was absolutely wonderful and I would recommend it to anyone. The only problem is the injustice to access this opportunity, particularly through the financial aspects. Spending this year at King's College costs A LOT of money and for a person who does not have either a wealthy family, own savings or a scholarship; it can be very difficult to access.

2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

Preparations were somewhat difficult on the University of Zurich side, as not a lot of information is provided. However, the administration of King's College London is very helpful and provides you with pretty much all the information you need regarding your studies. The trickiest part is probably accommodation. I would recommend starting early with looking at all the options, in order to familiarize yourself with the situation.

3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

The Law faculty at King's can pretty much be contacted at any time and responds swiftly and helpfully.

4. Housing / Finding accommodation

King's has a student accommodation program, but I would not recommend it. Rooms are very expensive, often way more than a normal room in a city flatshare, and sometimes they can also be in horrible condition (very dark and dirty, no equipment, filthy bathrooms, damaged furniture etc.). Instead, I would recommend looking for a private flatshare online. Spareroom can be helpful, but beware of landlords and agencies, many will try to sell you cheap and damaged rooms for high prices (housing market in London is awful). I would make it a rule to find a room in a flatshare where the people living there themselves are looking for a new mate, that way you'll know that you'll at least live with good people. This can also be done via social media, e.g. there is a group on Facebook called "KCL Flatmate Finder", where you might be able to find something like this.

5. Arrival

Maybe make sure to arrive a week before classes start, for freshers and induction events. It's a great way to meet people and some of the events also provide you with a lot of useful information.

6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I had a prepaid simcard with the network "3", which I can very much recommend.

7. Bank account

This can be tricky, as not all banks accept foreign students. I ended up at HSBC and was very satisfied, would definitely recommend.

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

Flights are best and cheapest with easyjet to Luton Airport. Transport around the city depends on where you are living. My flat was located in Islington with good access to the Piccadilly line, so I ended up riding the tube almost every day. For this, I recommend applying for a student Oyster card (which you can do online) and purchasing a monthly (or weekly) travel card, which costs about £90.

9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

King's has many great societies (as do many universities in the UK). Especially the sports teams are a lot of fun, as they offer you not only the opportunity for regular exercise, but also to find friends quickly and go out on social nights every week. I joined the KCL women's rugby team and was very happy with the experience.

10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

Teaching varies quite a lot. I had some very good teachers, and some that are less good. Some lectures are organised as colloquium whereas others are more a lecture. Generally, interaction is good, so try to participate. There is quite a lot to read for the classes, but you have the time since there are just approximately 8 hours of lectures per week in total. Exams may be open book, closed book, take home or just essays.

11. City

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

London is a dazzling city to live in. There are great opportunities for going out everywhere (lots of pubs and cool clubs, if you know where to look), many cultural experiences as well as sports and entertainment events. I recommend Shoreditch for cool pubs, "Heaven" nightclub for a great night out, the Openair theatre in Regent's park and the Imperial War Museum. There are of course many more things to explore as well.

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