

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

1. Overall impression

I really enjoyed my time in London. However, I was slightly disappointed from King's College. I expected something more, considering their reputation. In my view, its level is not comparable to University of Zurich. Nevertheless, some of the professors were good and I sure learned a lot within this year.

2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

Before moving to London, I felt very stressed and found it difficult to gather information about the year there. But once university started, I quickly realized that King's College really helps students a lot with getting into a new school (and I think UZH could do better on that matter). Another thing that I really appreciated during my time in London and also now that I am back home, is that there is someone at UZH that can be contacted regarding any questions relating to the Double Degree (Ms Röschard really was a big help, she always responded to emails although she must have gotten the same questions all the time).

3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

At the Partner University, I never felt the need to contact someone, since we were always very good informed. Normally, students would just contact the professor directly if they had questions (also in administrative matters). The professors were never too busy to help us out.

4. Housing / Finding accommodation

Finding accommodation itself was not difficult, as there are many student accommodations in London. However, I wish there would have been more support for finding private housing. I would even go as far to say that the student accommodation I stayed at was the 'worst' part of my year. It is mostly for undergraduates, rather than postgraduates.

5. Arrival

I didn't have any problems at my arrival. At King's College there is a Welcome Week before school starts, which helps getting to know people and the University. It also helped that we were a few students from UZH, so that during the first days in London, no one had to be alone (and since everyone picked different courses in the end, we did not end up as a 'Swiss group', but we all got to know new people).

6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

Mobile phone costs in London are cheap. I ordered a SIM card online from 'giffgaff', a company that does not require a contract. I spent about 10€ a month.

7. Bank account

To set up a bank account in London, it is important to go get a Student Confirmation Letter from King's College during the Welcome Week, which also serves as proof of residence. During the Welcome Week there are a few banks present on the campus which give students information about how to set up a bank account.

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

I flew with Swiss from Zurich to Heathrow Airport and then took a tube to my accommodation. To find the University I used Google maps.

9. General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

King's College has great professors who care about their students. They want the students to learn something. No one at King's College wants to see students fail. This support was very helpful (especially at the beginning). To that, King's College offers a lot of events, which are not always relating to 'studies', but can also be just drinks with professors. The student life is probably as it is anywhere with international students. Everyone is very open and friendly.

10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

King's College offers either a General LLM or a few Specialised LLMs. The specialised LLMs require students to choose modules within that pathway (a list of all modules will be released online in due time). The written exams are in May, but some courses are assessed by essays which may already have to be written in winter.

11. City

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

London is great, but can be very expensive. The nightlife is about as expensive as in Zurich. On the other hand, the gyms are very cheap (and offer student discounts), museums are mostly for free and there are lots of short trips that do not require much money (markets, parks, etc.). Nevertheless, it was an expensive year.

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