



STUDYING IN LONDON:

THE ALL-IN-ONE STUDENT'S GUIDE


ACROSS THE POND
STUDY IN BRITAIN • SINCE 2004



THE KNOWLEDGE SEEKERS

Have you always wondered what it would really be like to live and study in London, the UK's fantastic capital? If you're at this stage, this eBook, [The All-in-One Student's Guide to Studying in London](#), will answer your questions about what it would really be like to live in the 'Old Smoke.' Everything you need to know about studying in London will be uncovered in this guide that is full of real insights from former London students.

THE APPLIERS

Do you feel like your heart is already set on studying in London? While this guide might be interesting to you, as it offers little tips and insights, you might benefit more by reading one of our other eBooks, [London Living: Insider Tips from the UK Study Experts](#). This eBook will give you real insight into the London student experience from people who have been there and are ready to share their stories.

THE DEPARTERS

If you're raring to depart on your London adventure, you'll probably already be aware of everything that is in this guide. But if you would like to read about the fun you could have or if you're looking for things to put on your bucket list, why not [read these blogs](#) – they'll add to your excitement!

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MEET THE AUTHOR

IT CAN BE DAUNTING WHEN YOU MAKE THE DECISION TO ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THE UK, BUT IT'S EXCITING AS WELL! IN 2012, I WAS IN YOUR SHOES...

Hello,

My name is Ashley Jeanson and I live in New York City.

I earned my BA in Journalism from San Diego State University before deciding to branch out and look for a Master's program in the UK. I ended up taking the leap and studying abroad, receiving my MA in Education from the University of Roehampton in London. Studying in the UK changed my life and helped me to grow into the person I am today.

I am now a US Advisor for **Across the Pond** and want to help you on your journey, just like they helped me.

In this eBook, we want to share with you anything that **we** wanted to know when we were in your shoes – to give you the complete guide to all things London – so you'll be completely comfortable when you make the big move!

CHECK OUT #LOVELDNSTUDY ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM FOR MORE TIPS FROM OTHER STUDENTS AND TO ALSO ADD YOUR OWN TOO!

If you do have any concerns, please get in touch with me. I am more than happy to help you with your exciting journey across the pond!

Ashley



INTRODUCING LONDON ...

LONDON, WHAT A FANTASTIC CITY



There is no doubt that London is one of the best cities in the world for study; it has everything that a student needs – delicious restaurants, buzzing streets and the odd celebrity or two. But what else makes London THE place to experience British student life?

It may not come as a surprise to you, but statistics now prove that we, as Americans, love the idea of studying and living in London. In June 2015 over [30,000 students](#) from North America studied in the city. And why wouldn't we want to study there?

According to two of the most influential university rankings in the world, [no city on earth beats London](#) for a university education. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings say that London has the greatest percentage of first class universities of any city in the world. It seems pretty clear why we would all want to go and experience the education that this amazing capital city has to offer us.

It isn't just the first class education that London offers, though. As Mayor of London, Boris Johnson said, "With its unrivalled mix of history, culture, culinary gems and cutting-edge creativity, I'm confident that these accolades will keep coming as the capital continues to surprise and excite visitors from all over the world."

The opportunities don't end in London, either. **Across the Pond** is partnered with over 40 UK universities around the country, meaning if you don't find the course or the university you wanted in London, there's plenty of other choices in the rest of the UK!

**BUT FOR NOW, HERE'S OUR
GUIDE TO STUDYING IN
LONDON...**

CHAPTER ONE

GUIDE TO YOUR UNIVERSITY ESSENTIALS

It can be easy to get lost in the excitement of going to university in the UK and to let the essentials slip down on your list of priorities.

Some students forget about sorting out their accommodation on time, or about the fact that they will need to work out how they will get around without the car they have relied on since they were sixteen.

So you don't find yourselves in the same position, we suggest you focus on the following tips and information, just so you are as prepared as you possibly can be.



MAKING LONDON YOUR HOME

The majority of our partner universities guarantee their own university-managed housing for international students during the first year of their studies, assuming students apply for accommodation before the deadline (which is usually in the summer).

We know that you might be thinking about finding your own place to live in the city, but we highly recommend university accommodation for the first year of your study, for a few reasons:

IT'S A LOT EASIER TO ARRANGE LONG DISTANCE

Unlike UK universities, private landlords will often want to meet you in person and require hefty down payments.

YOU WILL MAKE INSTANT FRIENDS

University housing gives you the opportunity to mix with other students from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, which will help you to make friends more easily.

IT'S MORE CONVENIENT

University housing is often a lot closer to the university campus than private housing, meaning you will spend less money on transportation and will have a shorter walk or bike ride to those early morning lectures! Additionally, all costs are included, from your internet connection to content insurance to, sometimes, your gym membership.

IT'S QUALITY IS ASSURED

UK universities invest large sums of money to keep student housing comfortable and modern. It can sometimes be difficult to find the same standard quality for a similar price in the city.

If you're a graduate student, don't worry about being placed in accommodation with undergraduate students; universities will often have separate housing for you, which is more mature and studios in nature.

After your first year, it is normal for university students in the UK to find their own apartments or houses with the friends that they have made. After a year in the UK, these city housing arrangements will be easier for you to manage.



TOP TIP: SUBMIT YOUR HOUSING APPLICATION EARLY SO YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING YOUR FIRST CHOICE!

**USEFUL LINK:
PICKING YOUR
ACCOMMODATION**



GETTING FROM A TO B

TOP TIP: ASIDE FROM BUSES AND THE UNDERGROUND – BLACK CABS IN LONDON ARE ALWAYS THE BEST OPTIONS FOR WHEN YOU NEED OR WANT A TAXI, THEY ARE THE CHEAPEST AND THE SAFEST CHOICE FOR YOU.



You might be used to having a car to get around when you're in the US, but we don't recommend that you have regular access to a car while you're studying in the UK – they do drive on the opposite side of the road, after all! And it will give you extra unnecessary expenses; so save your money and make the most of the fantastic travel and transportation networks that London has to offer!

[The London Underground](#), or the 'Tube' is probably the best option for public transportation while you're staying in London. It's fast and it will get you anywhere that you need to go – there are Tube stations all over the city! And don't worry about getting lost, at every station there are maps, but if you're not into carrying around paper, you can [download apps](#) that will help you plan your journeys around London. You'll be a regular commuter in no time!

If you're going to be a regular user of the Tube, or even the iconic red London buses, invest in an Oyster card; the official travel card of London. These can be used in the metropolitan area of London and students get 30% off their travel fare!

And of course you can walk! There are a lot of great places that you'll be able to explore when you're walking around London and it will help you to familiarise yourself with the city – it'll feel like home in no time at all. Not to forget either, walking around everywhere is a great way to make sure that you're keeping fit!

USEFUL LINK:
WALKING ROUTES LONDON



YOUR UNIVERSITY CHOICE

Across the Pond is partnered with many fantastic universities, all unique in their own right — from the varying sizes, to different locations, to plentiful atmospheres of student life. Different universities also have different focuses where they will excel in one academic area in particular, so make sure that you do your research so you know exactly what kind of university experience you want. Here are the list of universities in London with which we are partnered:

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY LONDON:

A modern, campus based university in the west of London, home to nearly 15,000 students from 110 countries worldwide. In 2013, [Brunel](#) were awarded Business School of the Year.

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY LONDON

Loughborough University London is an inspiring postgraduate campus based on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The campus combines influential thought leaders, pioneering researchers and intellectual innovators to drive forward creativity and deliver the highest quality of teaching.

TOP TIP: CHOOSE YOUR UNIVERSITY BASED ON THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT CAN BENEFIT YOU, RATHER THAN THE LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF.

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON:

Located in the South-West of London, Roehampton has a stunning 54 acre campus, which is only 30 minutes away from the West End. Roehampton's dance department is one of the largest of its kind and is renowned for first class choreography and performance.

ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

One of the UK's leading research-intensive universities, combining world class research with a global perspective to offer teaching to their students from international renowned academics across arts, humanities, social sciences, management and economics.

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE:

The University of Hertfordshire is a modern, employability focussed institution located just 25 minutes north of Central London. The University holds the prestigious Gold Teaching Excellence Framework award which showcases a high quality of teaching and commitment to the overall student experience.

GOLDSMITHS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON:

Goldsmiths is a dynamic university in South East London with a reputation for excellence in teaching and research. They offer students a combination of a close-knit community, a rich academic heritage, a creative powerhouse and a thought-provoking place.

CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON:

Ranked among the top five percent of universities in the world, City University London has seven schools with focus on business, law, community and health sciences, arts, engineering, informatics, mathematical sciences and social sciences.

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY:

Kingston is based in south-west London and is known for its career-focused courses, high quality teaching and links to industry meaning many courses are vocational and designed to prepare you for the world of work.

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY:

Located in Hendon, Middlesex University is a 25 minute drive from central London. More than a third of students here are international, from over 140 different countries!

SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON:

The school of Oriental and African studies, which specialises in in the study of Africa, Asia and the Near and Middle East. The student staff ratio of 3:1 is one of the best in the UK – with small group teaching being an important feature at this university.

UCFB AT WEMBLEY STADIUM:

Offering ground breaking programs in the strategic, operational and business facets of the football business and wider sports and leisure industries, designed to prepare students for a life within the global multi-million pound world of sport.



STAYING HAPPY AND HEALTHY

THE HEALTH SYSTEM IN THE UK WORKS DIFFERENTLY TO THE US BECAUSE OF THE NHS, WHICH GIVES RESIDENTS OF THE UK ACCESS TO FULL HEALTHCARE FOR FREE, PLUS SUBSIDISED DENTAL AND PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE.

When you're applying for your Tier 4 Visa, you will have to pay a small fee known as the NHS surcharge, so that you will be covered for your healthcare while you are in the UK – this is non-negotiable and has to be done before you live in the UK. Staying on your parents healthcare cover won't mean that you'll be covered should you fall ill when you're studying abroad.

During your orientation week at university, there will often be the chance to sign up to a GP (General Practitioner) – a medical doctor who will treat and provide prevention and health education care to patients outside of a hospital. You will have to pay a small fee of £8.50 for any prescriptions you need during your time in the UK. Please note that we can't advise you on bringing your prescriptions over from the US, so if you're on any medication, check with your doctor about the process of transferring your medications.

The health surcharge that you will have paid when completing your Visa application will give you the access to the NHS to ensure that you will stay happy and healthy while you're in the UK!



TOP TIP: STAY HEALTHY BY KEEPING FIT AND MAYBE JOIN YOUR UNIVERSITY GYM! OR SAVE EVEN MORE MONEY BY WALKING EVERYWHERE. NO GYM FEE AND NO BUS/TUBE FARE NEEDED!

**USEFUL LINK:
HEALTHCARE APPLICATIONS**



CHAPTER TWO - GUIDE TO YOUR LIFESTYLE ESSENTIALS

NOW FOR THE FUN PART... THE ESSENTIAL LONDON EXPERIENCES!

The city is famous for its fantastic restaurants and varying cuisine, which will ensure you never get bored when it comes to eating. And if you have dietary restrictions, don't worry. There really is something out there for everyone! Keep reading for more foodie details...

The shopping. You can't get a better shopping experience than the one London offers! For girls and boys, the streets have everything you could want from high street shops to little unique boutiques and markets. Exploring the city through a shopping trip is a great way to get acquainted with your new surroundings. Find out more exciting details in this chapter!

If you're unsure of what to do with your weekends, or even how you'll be able to fund eating out at extravagant restaurants, shopping until the sun goes down and trips away at weekends; the final section of this chapter tells you how to earn while you learn.

ENJOY!



EATING THE WHOLE OF LONDON

When you're in London, you must try all of the dishes for which the UK is famous! Roast dinners, fish and chips, tea and scones, you could even tour London based on restaurants that offer a particular cuisine. [Pie and mash](#), for example, is a favorite in the UK, and London is home to many top restaurants with their own version of the dish.

But, if you're not a fan of pie and mash, there are many other ways you can explore London by food. For instance, you could journey to another 'country' by heading out to [Chinatown](#), which is home to over eighty restaurants. If you like a certain dish and feel like you're a savvy cook, you can also shop at Chinese supermarkets, stocked full of the many necessary ingredients for Chinese cooking. Next time you think about ordering take out, maybe cook up your own Chinese meal instead.

Have you ever heard of a [street feast](#)? Every Friday or Saturday, there are two street feasts in London – Model Market and Dalston Yard. Traders set up their food stalls at five in the afternoon and stay open until the late hours of the night to give you the chance to experience as much as possible, from stone baked pizzas to waffles and cream. Street feasts give you the most variety, all in a buzzing atmosphere with music, DJ's and Londoners!

Or, when you want to be a little fancier, London is home to fantastic restaurants that offer a high-class dining experience. Whether you're in [Covent Garden](#), the top of [The Shard](#) or even [suspended in the air](#), you won't have experiences like these anywhere else.



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP



London has many distinct retail districts and shopping streets that tend to have their own themes and specialities – from quirky finds, to luxury pieces, to large shopping centers with all of your favorite stores.

At the heart of London shopping, you will find [Oxford Street](#), which has more than 300 shops – it really is a very, very long street! Oxford Street includes designer outlets and landmark stores, such as Selfridges, H&M, and the largest Topshop and Topman that you will ever see. Running parallel to Oxford Street is [Regent Street](#), which offers a good range of mix-priced fashion stores and is home to the famous toy store, Hamleys – five floors of every toy of which you can think and more.

If you have a little bit more money to spend and are really into the designer brands, [Mayfair](#) is the place for you. This is London's most exclusive shopping area. It wouldn't be unusual to see the odd celebrity doing their shopping around there.

Maybe you prefer to shop at malls? London has two major shopping centers, one in [Stratford](#) and the other in [White City](#). Both shopping centers are home to main brands, but also with a little luxury like Jimmy Choo and Louis Vuitton. If you get bored with shopping, both of these centers also have cinemas, gyms and several bars and restaurants! You could definitely spend more than a day wandering around!

For quirky, unique finds, [Covent Garden Market](#) is the place to go. The setting of this market is beautiful, surrounded by quaint, little cafes and boutique shops and sometimes, the odd brass band or choir. With reasonable prices, you will be very happy spending an afternoon in Covent Garden.



KEEPING YOUR WEEKENDS BUSY

WHEN YOU'RE IN LONDON, YOU HAVE TO DO THE TYPICAL TOURIST FARE. AS MUCH AS YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO BE A TOURIST, YOU NEED TO TICK OFF THOSE THINGS THAT ARE NO DOUBT ON YOUR BUCKET LIST!

So [take tours](#) and take in all the sights, whether it be on a bus, on a boat or even by yourself on foot. Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Tower of London, and The London Eye are all [iconic landmarks](#) that you should see. Remember they look different by night, so if you want to be a little more unconventional, take a tour in the dark and see these incredible places lit in bright colors (perfect for an Instagram moment).

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

While London is a great place, you can also use your weekends to head a little bit further outside the city to experience more of what the UK has to offer. You could journey further south to Devon and Cornwall to spend a day at the beach. This area offers some beautiful shores that will be completely different to those in the US. You could also head up north and check out the Peak District, one of the most famous and best loved UK national parks, where you can walk for miles and enjoy picturesque landscapes.

OR, YOU COULD USE YOUR WEEKENDS TO WORK...

EARNING WHILE LEARNING



Working alongside your studies is a great way to add to your experience, and it will look great on your resume to have some international work experience. There are many part-time jobs available, from retail to bar work, or possibly within the industry in which you hope to work. All of these options offer valuable experience and the chance to make a bit of extra money.

Even if you can only spare a few hours to work a week, you will find the experience to be a huge advantage and asset when you are back in the States looking for a job. Anything that will set you apart from other graduates is worth pursuing, and you will probably make more friends during your time!

As an international student, you are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week during term time on your Tier 4 student visa. This includes both paid and unpaid internship work. To take advantage of this opportunity, you will also need to register for a National Insurance ID when you arrive in the UK, which will allow you to work legally. You will find details on how to do this during welcome week at your chosen university.



LONDON CALLING ...

WITH THIS GUIDE TO STUDYING IN LONDON, HOPEFULLY YOU FEEL MORE PREPARED ABOUT TAKING THE NEXT STEPS...

London is an incredible place with opportunities galore, offering experiences of a lifetime for your education and lifestyle.

If you're willing to go an adventure, to step outside your comfort zone – if you have high career aspirations, studying in London is the ideal location for you. The various universities that London offers have something to offer everyone, from program interests to lifestyle needs.

Studying abroad in London will also help you develop many life skills you probably would not develop by studying at home. It will broaden your horizons, boost your confidence, develop independence and self-reliance, and make you a more complex, sophisticated thinker.

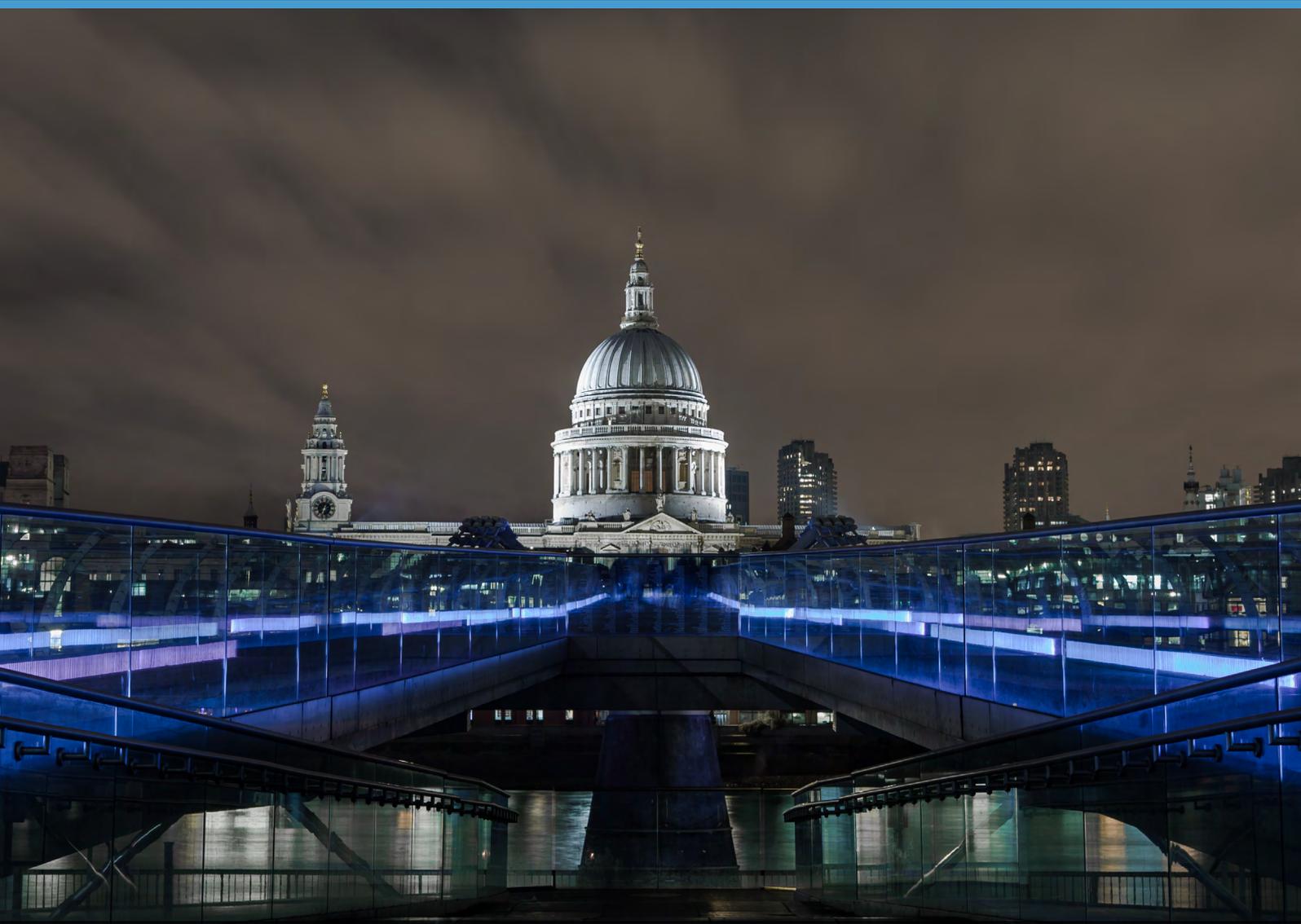
Going to the UK to study is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, one we encourage you take. So push yourself and make the jump. Until you do, you will never know all of which you are capable.

Deciding to study abroad can be scary, but the **Across the Pond** advisors are here to help. We offer personalized support and advice, helping you make the best decisions for your future. We are eager to help you get where you want to go. If you'd like to speak to one of us, [fill out this form](#) and we will get in touch.

EXCITED ABOUT STUDYING IN LONDON?
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS USING

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