

The European and Study Abroad Office (ESAO)

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Kingston
University
London

Study Abroad programme

“As soon as you
leave Kingston, you’ll
be planning a way
to come back!”

Julia Petty, Appalachian State University





Welcome

I am very pleased that you're considering Kingston's Study Abroad Programme. Over the past 25 years, our programme has attracted students from across the globe to participate in international education, to broaden their intellectual and cultural horizons and to enrich their personal development.

Your experience of studying abroad will show employers that you're comfortable working across cultures, which is very important in today's global economy.

If you decide to study at Kingston, you'll be based in an attractive suburb of south-west London, which is close to the centre of one of the world's most exciting capital cities.

We are a very diverse community with students coming from many different backgrounds and from over 150 countries. We're sure that you'll find studying here both stimulating and rewarding – in fact we think that it'll be a life-changing experience.

Do get in touch if you have any questions or need any help.

Dr Heather Forland

Head of International Development

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“Kingston is the ideal study abroad location: a university town with promising day and night life for its students, and so close to the heart of London.”

Danielle Lucksted, Grand Valley State University
Academic Year 2010/11

About us

With over 100 years of history, Kingston University was started in 1899 as the Kingston Technical Institute. Just decades later Kingston became and still is one of the largest modern universities in London, with a student body of over 25,000 students, offering a diverse range of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees.



Prime location

Situated in south-west London, Kingston benefits from easy access to Central London, the international airports and the surrounding countryside. It has also been consistently rated by the police as the safest borough in London.

Teaching excellence

Kingston achieves strong results in national assessments of teaching quality and prides itself in designing courses with industry experts to ensure that our students gain the necessary skills and knowledge that are valued by employers.

Established Study Abroad Programme

We've run our Study Abroad Programme for over 25 years and we're dedicated to providing our students with a fantastic exchange experience that will be both beneficial to your studies and personal growth.

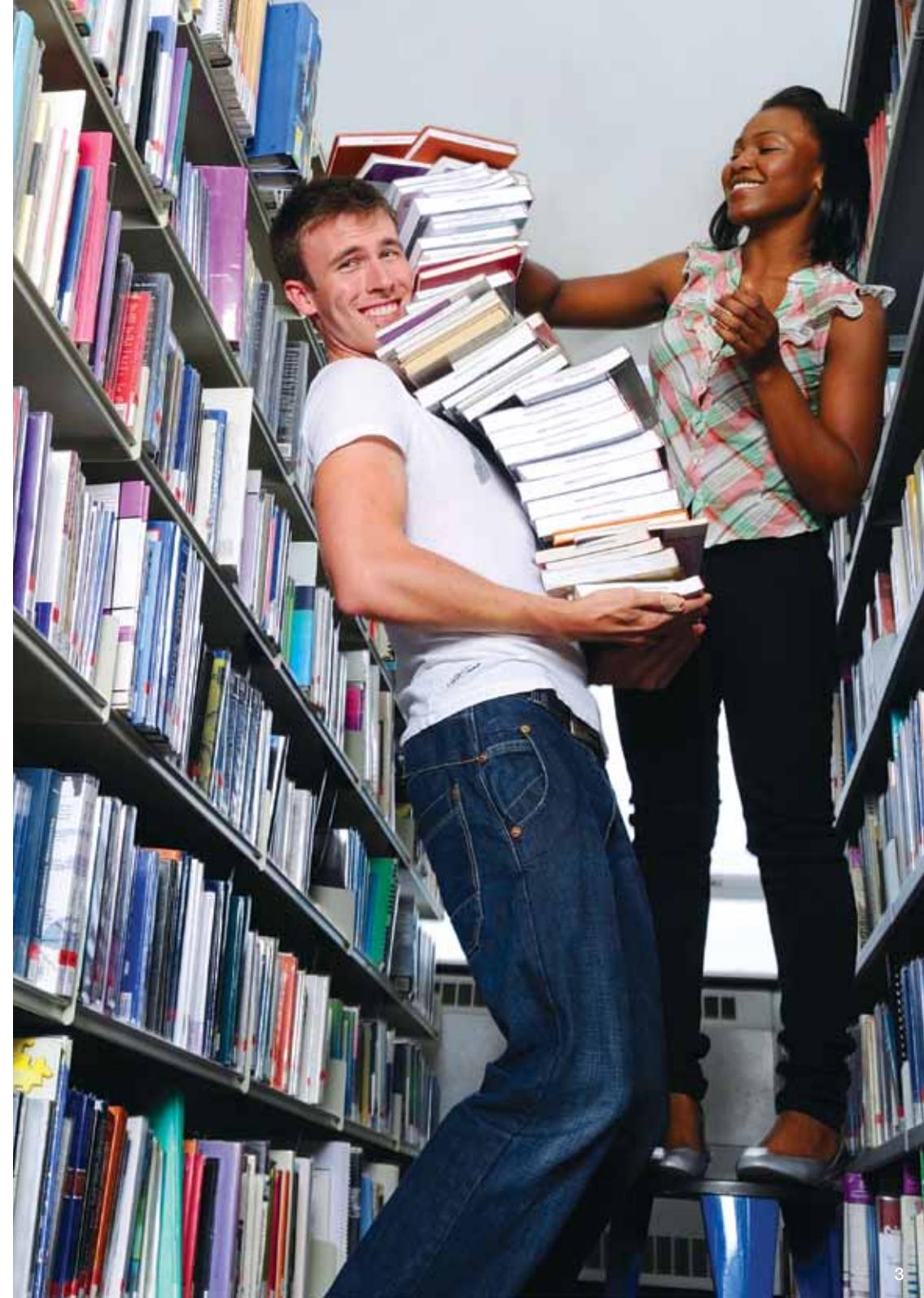
Resources and facilities

Over a 10-year period, we're investing £80 million on development to the University and have recently spent over £30 million on new teaching facilities. With the latest e-learning technology and state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities, Kingston offers its students excellent campus resources.



Fast facts

- 24hr Learning Resources Centres on our main campuses
- Extensive network of over 2,000 computers
- Wi-fi zones throughout the campuses
- Sports facilities including a University Fitness Centre
- On-campus Health Centre

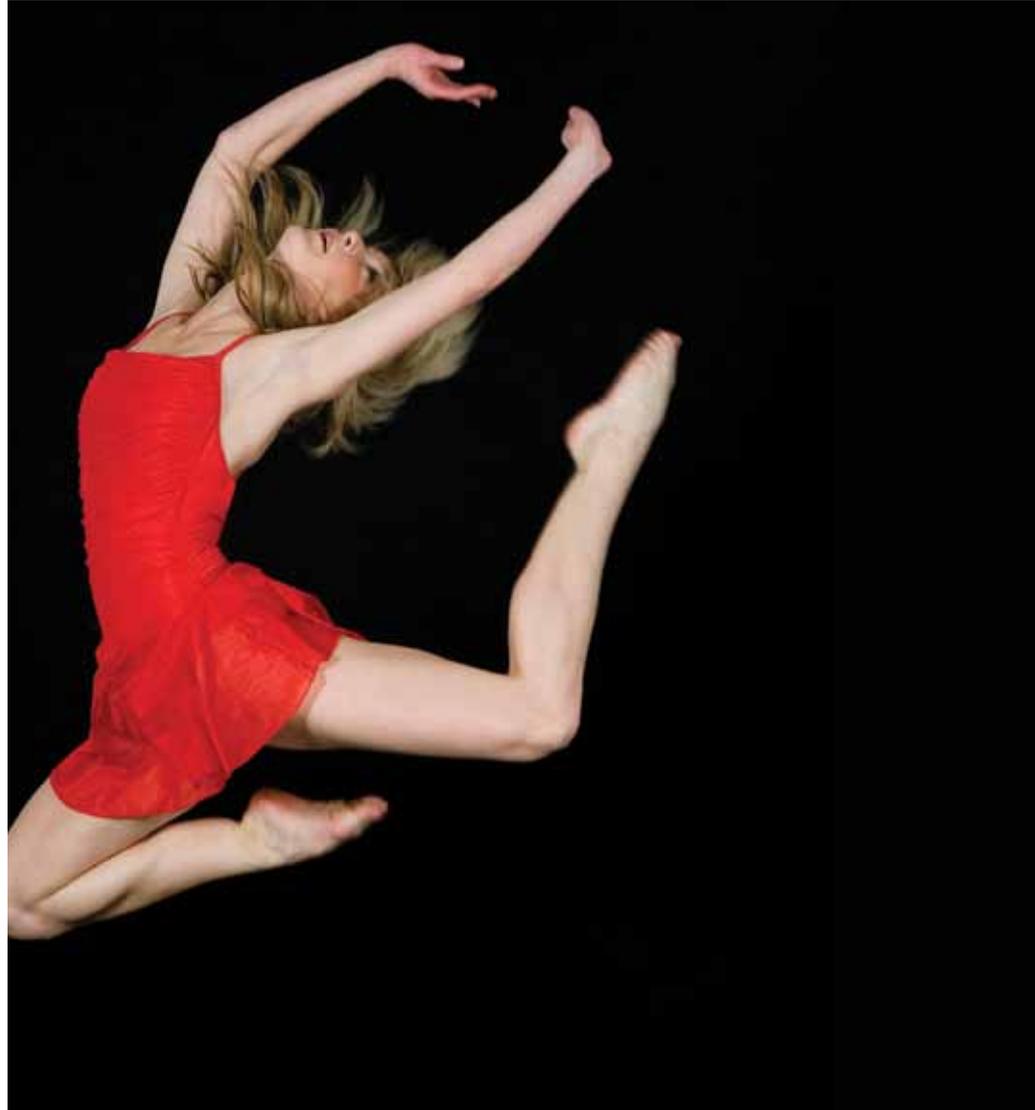


About us

Wide variety of courses

With five faculties made up of schools specialising in subject areas, we offer an extensive range of modules.

| Faculty | Schools |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Art, Design & Architecture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture and Landscape • Art and Design History • Communication Design • 3D Design • Fine Art • Surveying and Planning |
| Arts and Social Sciences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics • Education* • Humanities • Performance and Screen Studies • Social Sciences |
| Business and Law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business • Law |
| Science, Engineering and Computing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerospace and Aircraft Engineering • Computing and Information Systems • Civil Engineering and Construction • Geography, Geology and Environment • Life Sciences • Mathematics • Mechanical and Automotive Engineering • Pharmacy and Chemistry |
| Health and Social Care Sciences* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midwifery and Child Health • Nursing • Paramedic Science • Rehabilitation Sciences • Radiography • Social Work |



“Study Abroad students have done everything in music from performing in the Royal Festival Hall and at the Paris Jazz Festival to creating animations and acting leading roles in new multi-media events.”

David Osbon, Principal Lecturer in Music



Once-in-a-lifetime experience

A Study Abroad exchange is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, offering you the ideal opportunity to:

- Increase your global and cultural awareness
- Gain new skills and enhance your employability
- See new places and form new friendships
- Study new subjects
- Complement your studies
- Live in Europe
- Experience student life at another university
- Have fun!

*Not available to Study Abroad students

12 reasons to choose Kingston's Study Abroad Programme

- 1 25 years' experience of providing a high-quality Study Abroad Programme
- 2 A self-contained, vibrant, riverside location
- 3 Guaranteed University-arranged accommodation*
- 4 Semester or academic year study options
- 5 Over 1,300 modules on offer with flexible module combinations
- 6 Just 25 minutes from Central London

- 7 Strong record for teaching quality
- 8 Competitive tuition fees
- 9 Dedicated Study Abroad team
- 10 Add and drop period
- 11 Free airport pick-up service
- 12 Less than an hour from London's international airports – Heathrow and Gatwick

*Subject to applying by the deadline



Kingston upon Thames

Kingston upon Thames is a safe and attractive location close to the excitement of Central London. The town's parks and riverside offer a more peaceful atmosphere for your studies, while the lively town centre provides everything you need, from shops to entertainment to nightlife.

Attractive riverside location

Based beside the River Thames in south-west London, Kingston is a leafy, attractive location with easy access to the Surrey countryside, providing a relaxing contrast to the bustle of the capital city.

Lively town centre

With a huge variety of restaurants, pubs and nightclubs, as well as sports centres, the highly acclaimed Rose Theatre and a multiplex cinema, Kingston offers a great variety of things to do. It also has lots of fantastic shops, including Apple Store, Topshop and Cath Kidston.

Excellent transport links

Kingston offers a great public transport network, with the centre of London just 25 minutes away and the city's international airports less than an hour away. The free University bus provides students with access to all University sites and the town centre.

Historic town

Kingston has a rich history dating back to Anglo-Saxon times over 1,000 years ago. You can still see many ancient buildings in the town centre and you can visit the magnificent Hampton Court Palace where King Henry VIII once lived.

“I met students from every corner of the world and it was a truly amazing experience.”

Amanda Linam, Colorado State University (via Eurolearn), Spring 2010



The River Thames and Kingston Bridge



Hampton Court Palace



Market Place



Out of Order, designed by internationally renowned sculptor David Mach

London living

As one of the world's most historic and vibrant capital cities, London has something to offer for everyone! Life in London is never dull, and there is so much to see and do throughout your time here.

Explore Europe

Not only is London one of the global centres for business and culture but it's also the perfect place to explore Europe from. With Eurostar within easy reach and a variety of budget airlines to choose from, European destinations are both accessible and affordable.

Top attractions

You'll have lots of fun exploring the city, from riding on the famous London Eye to discovering museums and arts galleries such as the Natural History Museum and the Tate Modern.

Historical London

London's rich history is evident throughout the city. St Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben and Tower Bridge are instantly recognisable London landmarks, alongside the palaces and castles of the British monarchy.

Shopping

With more than 37,000 shops and markets, London is a shopper's paradise. You'll find everything from luxury department stores to cheap markets, and from large, indoor shopping centres to small fashion boutiques.

Sports and the outdoors

If you enjoy sport, you'll love London. There are lots of opportunities to watch or take part in various sport activities. With the London 2012 Olympic games around the corner, you may even be lucky enough to attend one of the events.

Entertainment

London offers an unbeatable variety of entertainment. From West End theatres to live concerts, and from restaurants and pubs to the city's lively nightlife, you'll never run out of things to do!

“With easy transportation to London airports, I was able to travel throughout Europe over our Spring Break.”

Carol Hennessy, Niagara University (via CCIS)
Spring 2011



Trafalgar Square



Big Ben



The London Eye



Student life

Spread across four campuses, Kingston University offers a great student experience. With a friendly, diverse student body, students benefit from the opportunity to get involved in many clubs and societies.

Different subject areas are taught at different campuses, each with their own facilities and unique character. On each campus you'll find a Learning Resources Centre (LRC), computer rooms and student canteen / restaurant.

Penrhyn Road campus

This is the main campus, very close to the town centre. It's also home to the Fitness Centre, Health Centre and Students' Union headquarters. Arts and Social Sciences, Science, Civil Engineering, Computing, Information Systems, Mathematics and Surveying and Planning are taught here.

Kingston Hill campus

Based on the outskirts of Kingston, this attractive campus is set in an area of trees and grasslands. It's self-contained and made up of both historic and modern buildings. Business, Law, Education, Music and Health and Social Care Sciences are taught here.

Knights Park campus

The vibrant arts campus is a short walk from the town centre. Located on the Hogsmill river, it is also home to the University's art gallery, the Stanley Picker Gallery. Only Art, Design and Architecture are taught here.

Roehampton Vale campus

Just outside of Kingston, this modern factory-style building houses a range of specialist engineering laboratories and workshops. All our engineering courses are taught here except for Civil Engineering and Construction.



Find out more

Why not take a virtual tour of our campuses and sites: www.kingston.ac.uk/tour



Penrhyn Road campus

Roehampton Vale campus



Kingston Hill campus

Knights Park campus



Student life

Accommodation

All Study Abroad students are eligible for University-arranged accommodation. We have different options depending on whether you are studying at Kingston for a complete academic year or a single semester. All accommodation is offered on a self-catering basis with access to a kitchen.

We will send you an accommodation application pack when we offer you a place on the Study Abroad Programme.



Typical halls of residence room



Middle Mill

“I joined a society during my time at Kingston and it was a great way for me to meet more people from other countries and form close friendships.”

Julia Petty, Appalachian State University
Autumn 2010

Societies, clubs and sport

The Kingston University Students' Union (KUSU) is a student-run organisation that looks after the students' interests. They organise and manage a wide variety of social events, clubs, societies and sport groups.

Cultural, religious and interest societies

We have over 50 societies relating to interests, with everything from politics; culture (eg the International Students society, and the Arabic, Oriental and Scandinavian societies); religion (eg the Hindu, Christian, Islamic and Sikh societies); and other interests, such as computer games, the environment, entrepreneurship and even Bhangra music!

Sports clubs and facilities

KUSU runs nearly 30 sports clubs, including everything from badminton, football, cricket, rugby and tennis, to snow sports, sub-aqua diving, sailing, skydiving and martial arts.

The University has great facilities for outdoor sports, including rugby, football, cricket, archery, netball and tennis. We also provide access to a range of other sporting facilities through links with local organisations and clubs.



Fitness Centre

Our Fitness Centre at Penrhyn Road features a modern 65-station gym with the latest cardiovascular and weight training equipment. There is also an air-conditioned aerobics and dance studio offering a range of dance and fitness classes.

How we support you

We want you to get the most out of your time at Kingston. That's why we offer lots of practical advice and support to help you settle into your UK and Kingston University life. Whether you want information relating to accommodation, your studies, travel or social activities, we are here to help.

Our range of support services include:

- Dedicated Study Abroad staff who will help you from admission right through to departure
- Academic advice before and during your studies
- Accommodation arranged before you arrive*
- Immigration advice before you travel to the UK
- Free airport pick-up service – we'll meet you at the airport and take you to your accommodation
- Comprehensive orientation at the start of each semester including a seminar about learning and teaching techniques in the UK
- Programme of exciting welcome events
- Tours of the town centre and campuses
- Social events and trips each semester
- Student Counselling Service
- Spiritual and religious support for everyone
- Disability and Dyslexia Support Service

* Provided you apply by the deadline

The academic programme

Kingston University is particularly well known for its diverse range of modules and subject areas available to Study Abroad students. You design your own study plan, which is later approved by your home university and by Kingston.



British Life and Culture module

We offer this special module for Study Abroad students (code XA1067) to help you get the most from your time in the UK. The module will introduce you to British life, culture and history, complemented by excursions and day trips to places such as: Oxford, Parliament, Stonehenge and Brighton. Students taking this class are required to pay an additional fee to cover the cost of the fieldtrips.

Period of study

The UK's standard academic year runs from September to June, with teaching taking place over two semesters. For Study Abroad students there are three possible study options at Kingston:

| Study option | Length | Study period |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | Whole year | Sept–June |
| 2 | Autumn (fall) | Sept–Dec |
| 3 | Spring/Summer | Jan–June |

Modules

Classes at Kingston University are taught as part of a highly structured degree programme made up of individual components called modules. Each module has defined content, contact hours, learning outcomes and assessment.

Modules are measured in credits, and the table below shows how our credits correlate with US semester credit hours and the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

As a guide, 15 Kingston credits = 4 US credits / 7.5 ECTS credits.

| Study option | Kingston credits | US | ECTS |
|--------------|------------------|----|------|
| 1 | 120 | 32 | 60 |
| 2/3 | 60 | 16 | 30 |

Important

Credit value can vary from module to module, depending on the length of the module and the intensity of delivery.



“I truly enjoyed the British Life and Culture class. One of the greatest perks about taking the class is the trips around the United Kingdom.”

Cathy Waters, University of North Carolina Charlotte
Spring 2011



LRC, Kingston Hill campus

The academic programme

Selecting modules

Modules are designed to be studied at certain stages in an undergraduate programme. As a result, modules are grouped in levels. Each module is coded from 1–3, which indicates its suitability for a first-, second- or a third-year UK student.

In the UK, students generally specialise in secondary (high) school. This is much earlier than, for example, in North America, and therefore UK students will normally have chosen their major when they enter university.

The table below shows the correlation between the different systems:



| UK Education | US Education | Example of Kingston Module Coding | Suitability for Kingston Module |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Final year of secondary (high) school | Freshman year at college/university | N/A | N/A |
| First year of university study – Year 1 | Sophomore | Year 1 module eg AR1001 | No prior knowledge in the subject |
| Second year of university study – Year 2 | Junior | Year 2 module eg HA2448 | Some relevant background / completion of introductory class |
| Third and final year of university study – Year 3 | Senior | Year 3 module eg CW3188 | Strong academic background in the subject |



Summer School

If you cannot spend a semester or year with us, you might want to consider our very popular four-week Summer School, which runs in July. See: www.kingston.ac.uk/summerschool

“My teachers and tutors were knowledgeable, excited about their subject, and always available for help. I appreciated not being spoon-fed, but being given the academic freedom to pursue the aspects of the course that I found most interesting.”

Leslie Pitman, Queens University of Charlotte (via Eurolearn)
Spring 2010

Assessment

Modules have their own specific assessment requirements. These can vary between schools and faculties but may include a mixture of written papers, examinations, special tests, presentations or productions, or other practical assignments.

Some semester 1 modules are assessed by a formal exam, which takes place at Kingston in January. In such cases, these modules are not suitable for students leaving in December; but, in some instances, alternative assessment may have been agreed between the European and Study Abroad Office and the relevant faculty. This will be clearly indicated in the online module directory.

Credit transfer

Unlike the grading system in some international countries, marks in UK universities generally range between 40% (pass mark) and 70%. Consequently, a grade of 60–69% is considered very good.

At the end of your study period, the European and Study Abroad Office will produce a certificate of credits earned showing the US credit value and a letter grading designed to be compatible with the US system, shown below.

| US letter grade | Kingston (percentage) | Qualitative grade |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A+ | 80+ | Equivalent to UK First Class |
| A | 70–79 | Equivalent to UK First Class |
| A– | 65–69 | Equivalent to UK Upper Second Class |
| B+ | 60–64 | Equivalent to UK Lower Second Class |
| B | 55–59 | Equivalent to UK Lower Second Class |
| B– | 50–54 | Equivalent to UK Lower Second Class |
| C+ | 47–49 | Equivalent to UK Third Class |
| C | 43–46 | Equivalent to UK Third Class |
| C– | 40–42 | Equivalent to UK Third Class |
| D | 35–39 | Unclassified Pass |
| F | Below 35 | Fail |



Learning environment

Teaching methods vary from subject to subject, however most involve a mixture of formal lectures and smaller seminars, which provide the foundation for further independent study. Independent study is a major part of the British education system and you may find this both challenging and rewarding. Other teaching methods include:

- Online references and teaching
- Language suite work
- Laboratory work
- Engineering workshops
- Computer workshops
- Art and design studio work

Fees and expenses

Find out more

Study abroad costs: www.kingston.ac.uk/studyabroad/costs

Accommodation: www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation

Kingston University's Study Abroad fees offer great value for money, giving you the ability to put some extra money toward travels or spending money.

The Study Abroad fee includes:

- All tuition: 12–16 US (22.5–30 ECTS) credits per semester
- An airport pick-up
- Special welcome events
- Enrolment and use of library and computing services
- Student welfare and Health Centre services
- Membership of the Students' Union
- Provision of a transcript at the end of your studies

The following costs are not covered by the fee: travel, accommodation, living expenses, insurance and / or field trips.

The fee that you are charged depends on the length of the study and whether you are applying to Kingston via a partner institution or independently.

If you are applying independently, the fees for 2011/12 are shown below. For the latest information on fees, check our website.

| Study option | Period of study | Tuition fee |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Whole year | £8,360 |
| 2 | Autumn (fall) semester | £4,180 |
| 3 | Spring / summer semester | £4,180 |

*Note: there is a supplemental cost for Music modules – £350 per semester in 2011/12.

Payment and deadlines

If you are personally liable for paying your tuition fees to Kingston, you must do so on the first day of enrolment at Kingston. Fees are payable in British pounds and can be paid either via:

- our secure payment site: www.kingston.ac.uk/epay; or
- bank transfer (refer to our website for the necessary details).

For institutions that are liable for the fees, payment is required within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

Living expenses and accommodation

In addition to the tuition fee, you will need to budget for your general living expenses. It's hard to calculate a standard figure, as this will vary depending on individual taste and lifestyle. Generally, we estimate about £140 per week to cover meals, some local travel, study-related costs, entertainment and other personal items.

Standard University-arranged accommodation will cost between £85 and £120.25* per week.

*Fees based on 2011/12

US financial aid

Kingston University is not able to administer any financial aid / scholarships that Study Abroad students would normally receive through their home college / university.

If you are in receipt of financial aid, please check with the Financial Aid Office at your home institution, as you may be able to continue with your current funding regime while abroad.



BUTEX scholarships for North American students

The British Universities Transatlantic Exchange Association (BUTEX) scholarship is available to all undergraduate students currently registered at an institution in the USA or Canada. To apply for this, you must have received a formal study abroad offer from a UK university that is a member of BUTEX, such as Kingston University.

Each scholarship is worth US\$500 (as of 2011) and will be paid to the recipient after they have enrolled at Kingston University. Please visit www.butex.ac.uk for further details.



Entry requirements

Academic requirements

Current undergraduate university/college students of any nationality are welcome to join our Study Abroad Programme. To be eligible to apply, you must have:

- Successfully completed at least one year of university study by the time you enrol at Kingston University
- A cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 on a 1–4 scale (or equivalent qualification*)

If your GPA is below this level, contact us, especially if there are special circumstances.

In addition to the general requirements, please note that higher level modules may have specific prerequisites, which are detailed in our online module directory: www.kingston.ac.uk/studyabroadclasses

*We are familiar with the grading systems of many countries, so please contact us to check for equivalencies.

English language requirements

If English is not your first language, you need to prove your level of English. We recommend that applicants do the IELTS Academic English test, which is the most common test. We will consider other recognised English language tests. The minimum requirement is IELTS 6.5 overall, with no individual score lower than 5.5.

If your level of English is not high enough, you may be able to take one of our pre-session English courses that take place in the summer before enrolment in September.

These vary in length between five and 15 weeks, depending on your current English language score. Visit www.kingston.ac.uk/presessional for further details.

“I had access to different experiences, cultures and countries that I had never had before.”

Simone Favor, Grand Valley State University
Autumn 2010



How to apply

You can apply to Kingston University in one of four ways, but you are advised to check with your home institution's study abroad / international office to find the most appropriate method of applying.

- 1 Via an institution that has a direct enrolment agreement with Kingston
- 2 Through a study abroad provider such as Eurolearn (www.eurolearn.org) or the College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS) (www.ccisabroad.org)
- 3 As an independent student and pay tuition fees directly to Kingston
- 4 Via an institution that is one of our official international exchange partners

The application process is straightforward and the forms can be downloaded at www.kingston.ac.uk/studyabroadapply

Please note that there are three separate forms that will make up your application:

- Application form
- Module selection form
- Reference form (two copies – at least one must be an academic reference)

Please read the information on page 18 about how to make your initial module choices.

Supporting documentation

We require the following documents to accompany your application:

- Official college / university transcript(s), including classes that you are currently enrolled in. If these are not shown on your transcript, please list them in Section C of the application form.
- A 250–300-word personal statement explaining your reason for choosing the Kingston Study Abroad Programme, the academic programme you have selected and the main goal for your study abroad experience.
- A photocopy of your passport
- A portfolio (only applicable to Art, Design & Architecture modules). Portfolio guidelines can be found on: www.kingston.ac.uk/portfolio

The three application documents including supporting documentation, should be submitted to:

Postal applications:
European and Study Abroad Officer (Inbound)
Kingston University
River House (Swan Wing)
53–57 High Street
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 1LQ
London
UK

Scanned email applications:
ESAO@kingston.ac.uk

Application deadlines

- 31 May – for the fall/autumn semester or full academic year (study options 1 and 2)
- 1 November – for the spring semester (study option 3)

Disclaimer: This booklet was published in May 2011. The information was correct at the time of going to press. The University makes every effort to ensure that the contents of and statements made within this guide are fair and accurate, but it cannot accept responsibility for omissions, errors or subsequent changes that may occur. The statements made and the information provided is a general guide and there may be changes following publication that affect the contents.

What happens after application?

- After receiving your application, you can expect a provisional acceptance (provided you meet our admission criteria) within one working day.
- Staff will then assess and approve an appropriate study plan for you, which will be followed by a formal offer and acceptance reply form. If a module is not approved or no longer available, we'll give guidance on how to choose an alternative.
- To accept and confirm your place, you'll need to complete and return the reply form by the given deadline.
- Your accommodation pack will be sent to you in:
 - June (for students starting in September); or
 - November (for students starting in January).
- All other information about when to arrive, enrolment, orientation and your airport pick-up together with practical information, will be sent to you in:
 - July (for students starting in September); or
 - November (for students starting in January).

Kingston loyalty bursary

International students who successfully complete a Study Abroad, Summer School or exchange programme at Kingston are entitled to a loyalty bursary if they return to the University* to follow a full-time degree course**. The bursary entitles these students to a 10% reduction in the tuition fees for each year of study.

*Within 10 years

**Subject to being classified as 'overseas' for tuition fee purposes

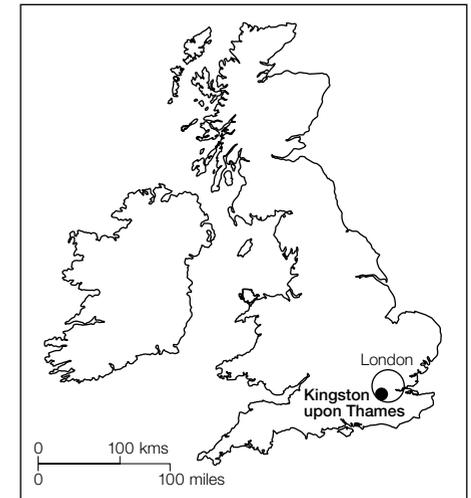


Did you know?

In the UK, most bachelor degrees are three years in duration and masters degrees are just one year in duration.



Kingston within the British Isles



Kingston within Greater London

