

BOND EXCHANGE PROGRAM - A STUDENT'S VIEW

Studying internationally provides opportunities for you to create a global network of friends, expands your cultural awareness and ensures you will make lifelong memories of your university experience.

Read about studying at our London-based university exchange partner, Kingston University from the perspective of an inbound exchange student, Lizette Soulier.



Kingston University (KU), LONDON

KU has the best of both worlds. It is a mix of the traditional English schools and modern cutting-edge technology. Located in the beautiful city of Kingston-Upon-Thames, I call it 'my mini London'. It is a combination of traditional narrow streets and historic architecture (it is also very close to Henry the XIV's Hampton Court Palace) and modern cosmopolitan shopping centres, restaurants and nightlife entertainment.

Kingston has a thriving student culture and however you enjoy spending your time, there is always something going on. Your time in the UK will be adventurous. Theatre, musicals, festivals, markets, sporting events, concerts and cultural discovery.

Kingston University is a great place to study. It has approximately 25'000 students from 154 nationalities. It is divided into four campuses which are accessible via the University free double-decker bus. This is a great service that runs all day long seven days a week and allows students to move around town from residences to classes, to sports facilities and to downtown events. This service is very convenient and it is a great place to meet new people. Having this accessible commodity saves money on car transportation and gives easy access to many places.

KU has hundreds of clubs and societies to get involved in and throughout term-time there are whole ranges of student-organised entertainment events, this gives an opportunity to get more involved and make new friends.



I previously mentioned KU has four main campuses: Penrhyn Road (Top ranked for Journalism), Knights Park (Ranked second-best fashion course in the world), Roehampton Vale (which has aerospace, aircraft, automotive and mechanical engineering), this one is my favourite. It has a Lear jet in the classroom! KU has a range of 1,300 modules in more than 30 different subject areas covering the arts, humanities, business, law, social sciences and sciences. All the modules are flexible and can be combined.

Each campus has its own Library, which is convenient when looking for a quiet and calm area to study or finish on assignments, they are called Learning Centres and give the advantage to loan laptops on a daily basis in case you don't fancy carrying your own.

There are five halls of residence with 2,579 rooms and the majority have en-suite facilities. As an international student you are guaranteed a space in the halls but if you prefer to live off campus there are plenty of flat-sharing opportunities as well. The cost varies and usually depends on the type and style of your room (size, en-suite etc) but the cost generally covers utilities (water, electricity, heating), cleaning, internet access and basic self-catering facilities.



KU has an amazing language scheme program, which allows you to learn a foreign language for free as part of your studies during your stay. It is a fun activity where you can also meet different students from other faculties, with different interests and make a new global network of friends. I joined the Russian language scheme and it was a great experience. If you stay two semesters you can even experience two different languages.

As a student in the UK you benefit from student discount fares almost everywhere. In shops, restaurants, events, cinemas, travel etc. This I found different from Australia where student discount is not a popular thing. While studying at KU I found this very beneficial and was easily accessible, moreover, it made going out for lunch with friends more social and enjoyable, and most restaurants are also very inexpensive compared to Australia.

Kingston has great entertainment and shopping but if it is not enough you can catch the train and be in London in 25 minutes!

Living in London will allow you to visit Europe easily. The fast train from Victoria station takes 2:30 hours to Paris or Brussels. Or you can fly to any nearby country such as Switzerland or Spain with 'Easyjet' (a very low-cost airline), for as cheap as the equivalent of 60 AU dollars! The connections you will make while on Exchange will last a lifetime and that is one of the essential elements of this experience.

And if you go in 2018 make sure you don't miss the Royal wedding!