ual:

Student guide

2021/22
Hello and welcome to University of the Arts London (UAL).

This guide is designed to offer useful information if you are joining UAL for the first time. Our students come from a wide variety of places and backgrounds, so there is a lot included here.

Read it from cover to cover, skip ahead using the contents or jump right to the end to find what you need, using the index. When you arrive at UAL, you will receive another guide with further information about the University and your specific College.

Please note some arrangements at the University may change in view of the coronavirus pandemic. This guide was updated in May 2021.

We hope you will find this information helpful and we look forward to seeing you at UAL.

University of the Arts London

Illustrations by Jack Sachs, 2013 BA Illustration, Camberwell College of Arts, UAL | jacksachs.co.uk
Contents

04 Pre-arrival essentials
12 Settling in
23 About UAL
31 Meeting new people
35 Index
Pre-arrival essentials
Pre-arrival essentials

Visas

If you do not have an immigration status that permits study in the UK, you will need a Student Visa. For information on the different kinds of student visas and whether you need one, visit the UK Visas and Immigration website.

If you need a visa to study in the UK and are staying for more than 6 months, you will have to pay an immigration and health surcharge as part of your visa application. This will entitle you to healthcare from the UK National Health Service (NHS) after registering with a doctor.

Immigration and Visas
Student Visas

Insurance

There are many low-cost insurance policies covering travel, possessions and health. It’s a good idea to insure your belongings, especially if you have expensive electronic equipment such as laptops and phones. If you’re living in UAL Halls, your belongings will be insured. Your Halls team will provide you with information about your cover before you arrive. If you’re renting privately, you should get private contents insurance in case your belongings are lost or stolen.

Living in halls: rent, insurance and contracts

Booking your travel

We recommend you pay extra attention to the following if you’re booking tickets to travel, particularly when travelling by plane:

- Make sure you understand your rights to amend or cancel any bookings if needed.
- Each airline differs in the amount of free baggage you can travel with so make sure you check your baggage allowance before booking.
- The electronic devices and electrical items you’re allowed to take on a flight depend on your country of departure. Some airlines might also have different restrictions. Check with your airline before you travel if you’re not sure about what you can take as hand luggage. This also applies to things like laptops, phones and vapes.
- Make sure you check the airport codes match the airport you want to land in to ensure that you land in the right place — London has 5 major airports: London City, London Gatwick, London Heathrow, London Luton and London Stansted.
- Visit the airport’s website for information on how to get to your final destination from there. There will be a choice of buses, trains and taxis – taxis will be the most expensive option. Make sure you plan your onward journey before you arrive at the airport.
Airport Collection Service: UAL offers a free one-off collection service for students coming to the University for the first time from non-European countries. You’ll be collected from any of the London airports and driven to either your Hall of Residence or your private accommodation. To take advantage of this free service, you must book at least 7 days before your arrival date in London. Simply fill in the online form on the UAL website with your arrival details.

Airport collection service

Travel restrictions

At the time of writing this guide, strict travel restrictions have been implemented by the government for arrivals into the UK. This includes requirements for both testing and quarantine when arriving from many destinations. It is essential that you carefully review government guidance before making any travel arrangements.

gov.uk ‘Duty free goods’

Tip: Discreetly label your luggage with your contact details. Also make a list of what you pack in case you need to make an insurance claim.

Packing

Most clothing and household items such as bedding and cooking utensils can be bought cheaply when you arrive in London as well as online, so pack lightly and don’t ship or mail too many personal belongings as this may be more expensive than buying what you need when you arrive.

Note that UK appliances are fitted with a 3-pin plug. If you’re from another country that uses lower voltage than the UK average of 230v, you may also need a transformer — they are easy to find once you arrive.

There are strict governmental controls on what you can bring into the UK. Some things you can only bring limited quantities of — for example, alcohol and tobacco — so check the government’s website for details.
Books and materials

Some specialist courses might give you a kit list so you can buy things in advance if necessary. For most, you don’t need anything beforehand and you will be given a book and course supply list during the first week of classes. Many items will be available from the University shops, located at the College sites. Your tutor can also tell you about shops that sell affordable supplies and materials.

You should have a laptop suitable for the type of course you are doing, for example, a more powerful one if your course is more media/digital focused. Note that you can borrow laptops from the UAL Learning Zones and if you are experiencing financial hardship, you may be able to apply for financial support to buy equipment.

Money

If you don’t have a UK bank account already, you should bring some money with you to use during your first few weeks as it takes time to set up. You could also consider using an online bank whilst waiting for your UK bank account to be set up. To open a bank account, you'll need some, or all, of the following:

- Proof of your address (in your home country if you're from overseas).
- Proof of your UK address, e.g. your UAL accommodation contract.
- A ‘bank letter’ from UAL. You can request this from your College, but only after you enrol. You will need to provide us with the name and address of your chosen bank.
- Your passport and UK immigration permission if relevant.

Tip: If you are from outside the UK and are planning to use your debit or credit card from home during your stay, tell your bank so that they do not block your card.
**Student fees and funding including scholarships**

The Student Advice team provides students with information and advice about funding options available to cover tuition fees, living costs and course costs. You can also find out more about scholarships, bursaries and awards from the Student Funding Service.

**Income tax**

You may be charged UK income tax on earnings — however, you need to be earning more than a certain amount before you need to pay any tax. More information, including tax rates, is available online.

gov.uk ‘Income Tax rates’

**Halls Accommodation**

UAL Accommodation Services have 12 halls of residences available. These are open to all UAL students studying a full-time course, and utilities and Wi-Fi are included in the rent. In each hall, there are Residence and Accommodation Managers, 24-hour security, and a Social Programme managed by UAL students who run events and actively support their fellow students’ wellbeing.

Accommodation Services also have a team of advisers who are available to answer any questions you may have from your rent to your contract (including if you are renting privately).

**National Insurance**

Everyone who works in the UK needs to have a National Insurance number. National Insurance (NI) is a charge workers automatically have deducted from their wages, to contribute to state benefits such as the NHS. You will have to pay this charge if you earn over a certain amount in a week, even if you’re here for a short time. You can apply for an NI number once you have a fixed home address. More information, including how to apply, is available online.

gov.uk ‘National Insurance number’

**Working while studying**

You may need permission to work in the UK, depending on the visa status granted. Your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) card, or the visa stamp in your passport, will outline if you are allowed to work, and any working restrictions that you must follow. It is your responsibility to adhere to these restrictions.

**Accommodation**

accommodation@arts.ac.uk

UK office +44 (0)20 7514 6240  
(9am - 5pm Monday - Friday)

Asia office +852 2155 4207
Private Accommodation

UAL’s Private Accommodation Adviser offers friendly one-to-one Advice and Information on renting in London. Email private.accom@arts.ac.uk or phone +44 (0)20 7514 6240 (9am - 5pm Monday - Thursday).

As a UAL student you are also entitled to make use of the services offered by University of London Housing Services. This includes their Property Platform, which will help you find accommodation from vetted accommodation providers and landlords.

If you choose to rent private accommodation directly from an individual or an agency, there are a few things you should keep in mind:

- Living in or near the centre of London is very expensive. Most students live a little further away as it’s more affordable and you may be able to find better quality accommodation. This may mean it will take time for you to get to your College so factor in travel time when searching. The average journey time for most students commuting to University in London from halls or private accommodation by public transport or car is between 40-60 minutes.
- Unlike living in Halls, you will have to pay other bills in addition to the rent, such as water, gas, electricity and internet so make sure you factor in all these extras when budgeting.
- Rental prices vary widely with costs ranging anywhere from £150 per week to more than £500 per week. Most properties are listed with the weekly charge although most rents are paid monthly. Bear in mind 1 calendar month is more than 4 weeks. You may also be asked to have a UK guarantor, or pay up to 6 months’ rent in advance if you don’t have a guarantor.
- Please be cautious when using social media, free-ads websites and agents to find accommodation. Check the offer is genuine and you are not dealing with a scammer.
- Do not rent a property without viewing it in person or via live video. Photographs and pre-recorded videos can be deceptive. If you are not in London but you have a friend who is already here, ask them to go and check out the accommodation for you.

Tip: Laundry services are available in Halls. If you’re renting privately, make sure you have access to a washing machine or check where the nearest laundrette is.
Wherever you choose to live during your studies, remember:

- You should have a written contract, in English, for your accommodation. A contract is the agreement between you and your accommodation provider which you both have to sign.
- The contract will cover the amount of the rent, frequency and method of payment of the rent, the bills you are responsible for, the length of the tenancy, notice period, as well as other important points.
- You must read and understand the contract before you accept it and make an initial payment. UAL have a dedicated Private Accommodation Adviser who can check the contract and explain anything that is unclear to you.

Tip: You’ll also have to pay for a TV licence if you choose to watch programmes on your television or laptop.

**TV Licence**

**Council Tax**

Full-time students on most courses lasting at least 1 academic year do not have to pay ‘Council Tax’, which is a fee that residents pay to the local government for waste collection, recycling and general maintenance. If you’re renting privately, to avoid receiving a Council Tax bill, request a Council Tax Exemption Certificate after you enrol on your main course.

**Council Tax**
Staying safe

At UAL, we work hard to make your learning environment as safe as possible, including enhanced health and safety measures in our buildings. UAL also currently provides students a mix of on-campus and online learning, and lots of advice and support to help you study safely.

Coronavirus: important information

London is generally a safe city to live in, but like any new place, you should take time to learn how to look after yourself and your belongings. Students are also sometimes targeted by scammers trying to access personal information or bank details, but there are a few things you can do to protect yourself.

Keeping in touch

There are several mobile phone plans to choose from — shop around when you are deciding on the best option for you:

- Pay Monthly: you'll need to sign a contract for a fixed length of time, usually for 12 to 24 months.
- Pay As You Go: you'll just need to top up / buy credit as and when you need it.
- SIM-only: like Pay Monthly but you'll only be committed to a rolling 30-day contract and won’t get a mobile device.

Calling international numbers from the UK can be expensive, especially if you use your mobile. Some alternative ways to stay in touch with people overseas include using Skype, WeChat, Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp to make calls and send messages. You can also consider including an international calling plan when you get a UK mobile. You can buy international calling cards from most local shops and many have a free phone number you can access to place a call; if your mobile phone plan charges for calling free phone numbers, use a landline or the public telephones located around London.

You can access free Wi-Fi at all UAL sites, including UAL Halls of Residence.

If you are renting privately, there is a wide selection of home broadband companies and packages to choose from.

Tip: Use a price comparison website, such as Money Super Market, to see offers from different companies.
Settling in
Settling in: When you get here

When you arrive in London, there are a few things you should do in the first 2 weeks:

Register with a doctor

You should register with a doctor near your new home so you can get to them easily if you need medical attention. Visits to the doctor and emergency treatment are free for those registered with the NHS, however, you may be required to pay a fee for any medication, or treatment for any pre-existing conditions.

For emergencies, either call 999 and ask for an ambulance or go to the nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E) department in one of the hospitals. For non-emergencies, call 111; they will give you professional advice and make you an appointment with your doctor or nearest Walk-in Centre.

If you have a recurring health problem that requires treatments, you should bring a supply of medication and a note from your doctor at home so your doctor in London can help you as effectively as possible. If you’re from outside the UK, you should also consider additional medical insurance, as there are restrictions on what treatments can be provided for existing health problems. Furthermore, UK treatments may not be the same as the treatments in other countries.

Health Advice

UK visas and registering with the police

If you have a certain type of visa, you may have to register with the Overseas Visitors Records Office (OVRO). This will be indicated on your passport or visa documentation. You will need to take your passport, 1 passport size photograph and a £34 registration fee with you to register.

How to register
Things to know about the UK and London

British climate

Although London’s climate is moderate, it’s often changeable and difficult to predict. It is advisable to bring clothing for a variety of conditions, including rain. The coldest months tend to be November through to February and warm clothing is needed for these months of the year.

British weather and seasons

Daylight Saving Time

To make the most of daylight, the clocks change twice a year in the UK. They are moved forward by 1 hour in March, for what is known as British Summer Time (BST), and are turned back by 1 hour in October.

When do the clocks change?

Date and time notation in the UK

Religion

London's cultural diversity brings many different faiths together as well as many different places of worship. Many of our College sites also offer non-denominational prayer rooms.

Chaplaincy

Culture

Culturally, the UK is welcoming of all people and London is especially diverse and inclusive. Although you may find the pace of life fast in London, people are mostly friendly and willing to help if you ask. A few British customs:

- In the UK everyone is considered equal in status with the same rights.
- British people like to say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ and appreciate when others do too.
- People in the UK ‘queue’ (or line up) when waiting for a service – it’s considered rude to ‘push in’ ahead of people who were there before you.
- It’s considered bad manners and, in some areas, a punishable offence to spit or to throw rubbish (litter) in the streets.
- It’s expected that people will arrive on time for meetings, appointments and classes. If you’re going to be late, it’s polite to tell the person/people you are meeting beforehand if possible, and also to apologise for being late when you arrive.
- Note also that smoking in all public enclosed places, public buildings or on public transport is illegal in the UK. This also applies to e-cigarettes and vapes, so always look for a designated smoking area.
Multicultural city

London is one of the most multicultural cities in the world.

A third of all Londoners were born outside of the UK and over 200 languages are spoken. If you want to experience some of the cultures present, here are some neighbourhoods to visit:

**Chinatown**

Packed full of Chinese supermarkets, bakeries, and over 80 different Chinese restaurants. A great place to join in Lunar New Year celebrations.

**Camden**

Known for contemporary art, it also has lots of Latin culture to explore.

**Brixton**

Over 24% of the population of Brixton is of African or Caribbean descent. There are lots of Caribbean restaurants and reggae music shops, and it also hosts an annual celebration for Jamaican Independence Day.

**Waltham Forest**

Waltham Forest has one of the most diverse ethnic populations in the UK, it is mainly home to Eastern European and British Pakistani communities. You’ll also find a variety of architecture, restaurants and shops influenced by Scandinavian, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish culture.

**Golders Green**

Mainly a Jewish community, the area also features a mix of various cultures including Japanese, Turkish, Korean and Italian. The neighbourhood is home to countless Kosher cafes and Jewish bookstores, and the former home of ballerina Anna Pavlova has been turned into a Jewish Cultural Centre.

**Tooting, Southall and Aldgate**

These areas thrive with Indian and Asian culture. Shops are packed full of imported items, from traditional clothing to spices, so you can find food from nearly every country in South Asia.

**New Malden**

One of the most densely populated areas of Koreans outside of South Korea, this area boasts over 20 different Korean restaurants, cafes and karaoke bars as well as Korean-language churches and nursery schools. The area also hosts the Korean Food Festival every year.
Food and drink

The diversity of cultures and their cuisines provides something for everyone in London, whether you are looking to match dietary needs such as kosher, halal, vegan and vegetarian or just want to try something new.

Traditional British food

There are so many tasty British dishes that are enjoyed and eaten quite regularly all across the UK. Here are some examples:

- **Sunday roast**: traditionally eaten and served in pubs all over the country at Sunday lunchtime. It involves roast meat, roast potatoes, at least 2 different kinds of vegetables, gravy and Yorkshire puddings (which, confusingly, are not sweet!)
- **Fish and chips**: battered cod and chips with salt and vinegar. It’s the classic English take-away food. The best fish and chips are found near the coast, so maybe take a trip to Brighton!
- **Full English breakfast**: a very English meal involving any combination of toast, sausages, fried mushrooms, eggs, baked beans and bacon. Most people don’t have it every day, but might indulge at the weekend! You can try it yourself in almost any café.
- **Curry**: Curry is one of the UK’s most popular dishes. Chicken Tikka Masala was invented for the British!

Pubs and alcohol

In England, visiting pubs is a common way to relax, celebrate or simply meet up with friends. All pubs will have a bar serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Many serve food as well as put on events, such as the traditional pub quiz. It’s absolutely fine to go along if you don’t drink alcohol.

‘Off licences’ are small shops which have a licence to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises.

You might see signs in shops reading “Under 25?”. You don’t need to be 25 to buy alcohol in the UK (the legal drinking age is 18); all it means is that if you look under 25, you will be asked for ID. ID stands for ‘identification’, and in this case refers to an official document with a photo of you and your date of birth on it, such as passport or driving licence.

Some pubs, bars and clubs ask for ID from everyone wishing to enter, regardless of age. If you don’t have ID, you may be turned away.
**Eating and drinking out**

Eating and drinking out might seem like a simple thing, but if you are unfamiliar with UK customs, you may be in for a few surprises! Here are some common things to know:

- If you order water, you may be served bottled water that you'll have to pay for. Ask for tap water, which is free and safe to drink in the UK.
- Many restaurants add a service tip to the final bill (look out for ‘service included’ on your receipt), so there is no need to tip extra unless you want to.
- In most pubs you have to go to the bar to order your food and drinks.
- About 10 minutes before closing time, the bar staff will ring a bell and tell people to order their last drinks. The pub isn’t allowed to serve drinks after closing time and you must finish your drink and leave 20 minutes after the bell has been rung. Closing times vary in different pubs.

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**Eating in**

Although all manner of food is available within a variety of price ranges in restaurants and the UAL canteens, we recommend that you shop for, and prepare, your own meals. This is a healthier option and will better suit a student budget.

The most affordable way to prepare food is setting a budget first and creating meal plans before buying the ingredients. You’ll be surprised how many different foods you can create with the same ingredients and there are lots of websites to help you plan meals on a budget.

Google ‘Eating on a student budget’ 🦁
Travelling around London

London has one of the largest transport networks in the world and once you get used to it, you’ll find it easy to use. With multiple ways of getting around, the best thing to do is plan your journey by using Transport for London’s (TFL) ‘journey planner’, available on its website or as an app. Alternative apps to help you find your way around London are Citymapper and London Transport.

Zones

London Underground and Overground trains are divided into zones with most operating in zones 1 to 6, and a few operating in zones 7 to 9. The zones depend on their distance from central London (classed as zone 1).

Underground trains

The most popular method of travel is the London Underground, also known as the Tube. It’s the quickest way to travel in and around London and has 11 ‘lines’, some of which are open 24 hours at weekends.

Tip: Travelling outside the busiest hours (which are known as ‘peak time’ between 6:30am - 9:30am and 4pm - 7pm on the weekdays) is cheaper and also less crowded.

Buses

Buses cover all zones of London, and you can get from one zone to another for a set fare. You can also travel on more than 1 bus for the same fare but you must complete your journey within an hour. It’s a convenient way to get to know your surrounding area but you should factor in traffic on the roads when planning your journey. Some buses run for 24 hours a day, but most stop around midnight.

Above ground trains

The London Overground and National Rail are easy and quick ways to get from central London to more residential areas not covered by the Tube. Similarly, the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) mainly travels to East London areas.
Ways to pay

There are a range of ways for your travel and the cheapest method depends on where you live and which mode of transport you'll use most often. London buses do not accept cash payments, however you are able to make payments via a variety of contactless methods.

With a Student Oyster photocard, you will save 30% of the price of a Travelcard and Bus Pass, available to buy for daily, weekly and monthly use.

You can only apply for a Student Oyster photocard through the TFL website after you’ve been given a student identification number at enrolment. You’ll need a digital photo of yourself, your course start and end dates, your email address and a bank card to pay the £20 fee.

tfl.gov.uk ‘Student Oyster’

You might also be able to apply for one of a range of National Railcards which offer discounts on Tube, DLR, London Overground, TfL Rail and National Rail services.

tfl.gov.uk ‘16-25 Rail Card’

Tip: Register your Oyster card on the TFL website; it’ll save time in case you lose your card and will also let you put credit on your card online.

Walking

The best way to travel in London is walking. Start somewhere central like Oxford Circus and walk in any direction, and before you know it you will reach another Tube stop you recognise. You’ll be surprised how small central London really is. If you get lost, Google Maps and other similar apps will help you find your way.

Walking Tube Map

Cycling

Cycling is an affordable and healthy way to travel around London. If you don’t have your own bicycle, you can hire one for as little as £2. Simply go to any docking station in London with your bank card and touch the screen to get started. There’s no need to book — hire a bike, ride it to your destination, then simply return it to the nearest docking station. If you do not live near a docking station, you can hire bikes using sites such as Brompton Bike Hire and Swapfiets.

TFL also offers free online and in-person Cycle Skills lessons, advice on how to protect your bike and has some great guides for when you’re ready to take to the road.

Tip: To stay safe, we recommend wearing a helmet and bright clothing when cycling.

tfl.gov.uk ‘Cycling’
TFL Cycle Skills
**Cars**

Cars are a comfortable way to travel but they are very expensive to maintain in London.

You’ll have to pay a fee every time you drive into central London, as well as pay for fuel, parking, insurance, road tax and maintenance. Make sure you research what is involved in maintaining and using a car in London before making a decision.

[ukcisa.org.uk](http://ukcisa.org.uk) ‘Driving’

**Taxis**

Taxis, also known as ‘cabs’ or ‘mini-cabs’, are a quick and comfortable option but are much more expensive than taking a bus or the Tube. There are some illegal or unregistered mini-cabs that can be dangerous, especially for women travelling alone, so make sure there’s a registration number or a fare counter near the driver. Visit the TFL website to learn what you should look for before getting into a vehicle and the different options available.

[tl.gov.uk](http://tl.gov.uk) ‘Taxis and cabs’

You can hire a private driver to pick you up and take you to your destination with the tap of a button on any smartphone device.

**Travelling around the UK**

You might want to travel to other parts of the UK while you’re here and you can do this with:

- Coaches: often the cheapest way to travel as sometimes you can get a ticket for as little as £1 when you book in advance
- Trains: can be expensive so it’s best to book in advance using websites like Trainline to compare prices. You can get more information about train travel in the UK on the National Rail website

**Tip:** You can also plan and book journeys across the UK via GoEuro, a multi-mode search engine which allows easy comparison and combination of train, coach and plane travel.

**Travelling abroad**

There are various options for overseas travel from the UK — planes, trains, ferries and coaches. Before you plan your trip, check:

- Your passport is valid and won’t expire while you are away.
- If you need a visa to enter, refer to the embassy website of the country you want to visit.

[Travelling abroad](#)
Exploring London

Museums and Galleries

Most of London’s museums and galleries are open every day and free to enter.

Larger museums, such as the British Museum and The Royal Academy of Arts, host events called ‘Lates’, which take place in the evenings and sometimes include performances and art installations.

Art and design

- Tate Modern
- Tate Britain
- Royal Academy of Arts (RA)
- Saatchi Gallery
- Whitechapel Gallery
- Photographers’ Gallery
- The Design Museum

Taking time out

Central London is a busy place, but you can also find quieter places to relax:

- Follow Regent’s Park’s beautiful twisting canal walk or discover London’s history via Thames walking paths.
- Visit Hampstead Heath Park, Richmond Park and Primrose Hill for unique views of London.
- Bird watch at the Waterside café located on a canal boat.
- Read a book in the Poetry Café during the day and stay for the free performances in the evening.
- Kew Gardens offers a lot of things to see and do as well as several cafes with views of the beautiful gardens.

Museums

- Museum of London Docklands
- Imperial War Museum
- Museum of London
- The National Gallery
- Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)
- Museum of Brands
London is a great place to stay fit and active, offering a wide variety of activities.

**Parkrun:** a great way of finding people to run with. All you need to do is find the closest event to you on parkrun.org.uk.

**Our Parks:** offers free group exercise in parks across London. Experienced instructors lead activities ranging from Tai Chi and yoga to Brazilian dance and high-intensity full body workouts. Book your free place through ourparks.org.uk.

**Meditation:** to relax, unwind and recharge, join free meditation sessions offered by innerspace.org.uk.

**Gyms:** as a student, you may be able to get discounted rates for memberships at local gyms — check out your preferred gym’s policy for more information.
About us
About us

UAL is a multinational, multicultural creative community of 19,000 students from more than 130 countries.

It’s located in one of the best cities in the world for art and design, with lots of opportunities to make the most of student life.

UAL is made up of 6 world-renowned Colleges and 3 Institutes:

- Camberwell College of Arts
- Central Saint Martins
- Chelsea College of Arts
- London College of Communication
- London College of Fashion
- Wimbledon College of Arts
- UAL Creative Computing Institute
- UAL Social Design Institute
- UAL Decolonising Arts Institute
About UAL

The University has its own community of followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, and some have specific groups related to courses or Colleges, so you can ask questions before you arrive. You can also listen to students talking about their first experiences at the University on UAL Student Voices.

Facebook

- UAL
- Camberwell College of Arts
- Central Saint Martins
- Chelsea College of Arts
- London College of Communication
- London College of Fashion
- Wimbledon College of Arts
- UAL Creative Computing Institute

Instagram

- UAL
- Camberwell College of Arts
- Central Saint Martins
- Chelsea College of Arts
- London College of Communication
- London College of Fashion
- Wimbledon College of Arts
- UAL Creative Computing Institute

Twitter

- UAL
- Camberwell College of Arts
- Central Saint Martins
- Chelsea College of Arts
- London College of Communication
- London College of Fashion
- Wimbledon College of Arts
- UAL Creative Computing Institute

Diversity

We want UAL to be an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone. We are committed to promoting equality, inclusion and diversity on the grounds of age, disability, gender, gender identity, nationality, language, race, religious belief (or no belief), sexual orientation and socioeconomic class.

Student diversity

International UAL

London is one of the most internationally populated places in the world, offering huge diversity to inspire and explore. UAL reflects this through its diverse student cohorts and inclusive approaches.

UAL offers an international experience to all its students, through diversity on campus, the curriculum and mobility opportunities, work placements and virtual collaborations.

At UAL, you will find yourself working with people from all kinds of places and backgrounds, often very different from your own. This presents an extraordinary opportunity to learn from others and broaden your own perspectives, as while as to acquire skills that will be useful throughout your life.

Staff and students at UAL have access to intercultural and communications training and resources.
**Term dates and public holidays**

We have general term dates for 2021/22 but specific dates may vary for some courses. Term dates depend on whether you are in:

- Higher Education (HE), for example an undergraduate or postgraduate degree
- Further Education (FE), for example a foundation course

There are several public holidays (bank holidays) recognised in the UK throughout the year. On these days the University will be closed, as well as most businesses and non-essential services.

**Libraries and Learning Zones**

You can use all 6 College libraries; just bring your student card to start exploring and borrowing. You can use the online catalogue to get books sent to the library most convenient for you and return them to any College library. As well as books, there are online resources such as e-books and e-journals you can access.

Our libraries have study zones, access to computers, photocopying and printing. You can borrow a laptop and get help from the library staff to find what you need. Learning Zones are also available for social and activity-based study in an informal environment.

**UAL locations and opening times**

UAL has many buildings across London, including our Colleges and halls of residence. Opening times vary, so please check the arrangements at each site.

**Library Services**

**Locations and opening times**
English Language Development

If you speak English as an additional language, UAL Language Centre offers language tutorials, classes and resources to help you build your language proficiency and specifically in your subject area.

English Language Development support is free to full-time students. If you need to take an English test to progress within UAL, you can take the UAL Progress Test.

Modern Languages

Short courses in Arabic, French, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish are offered on a termly basis, all taught in the context of art and culture – these courses carry a fee. You will gain a certificate of attendance from UAL Language Centre if you attend at least 80% of classes. For certain languages, you can also prepare for external examinations.

Academic Support

Academic Support tutors help you develop and improve skills for your studies and your professional future. Academic Support tutors will be introduced to you during your induction events, and you can find resources and links to individual and group sessions in your College and across UAL.

Counselling, Health Advice and Chaplaincy Service

The Counselling, Health Advice and Chaplaincy Service offers support to all UAL students for personal, emotional wellbeing, health and mental health concerns as well as in spiritual, religious and faith related matters.

Disability and dyslexia

The Disability Service provides advice and support for disabled students and to students who are dyslexic or have any other specific learning difference. Support is available at any point throughout your time at UAL.
Student Advice

Student Advice Service staff are professionally trained to provide free and confidential advice on how to fund costs related to studying in the UK. They can also assist with enquiries about visas and immigration.

Student Advice

Student Funding

The Student Funding Service processes students’ applications for additional funding while at UAL. These include Hardship Funding, Scholarships and Bursaries. The team also ensures that student funding agencies worldwide have the right information to process loans and grants.

Fees and funding

Careers and Employability

We empower UAL students and graduates to make a living doing what they love and strive to support those underrepresented in the creative industries. Working collaboratively with UAL courses, we enhance students’ employability and creative attributes through experiential learning and access to industry. From the moment you arrive, you can:

- Find paid jobs and internships on the Creative Opportunities jobs board.
- Work on any skills you might need to get a job, freelance, or start your own business using our online resources.
- Use our practical guides and workshops to take you through everything from CV writing and tips for interviews to pricing your work and coming up with a business plan.
- Attend industry-specific talks and events which take place throughout the year.
- Access funding to help you as a designer or artist, or to start a business, as well as providing opportunities to show your work at various exhibitions and trade fairs.
- Benefit from having a mentor by your side to help you transition into professional working life.
- Learn about your Intellectual Property by making use of our IP Education resources.

Careers support for students
Arts Temps
Creative Opportunities
Academic culture

The language used at University may be new to you, so we’ve put together a list of commonly used words:

**Course Leader**
An academic who leads and manages the course and other tutors

**Associate Lecturers**
Tutors who teach part-time on your course, and often work in the industry connected to your course

**Academic Support Librarian**
Also referred to as Course Librarian – they work with your course to make sure you have the library resources you need and they help you use the library

**Technicians**
These staff demonstrate and support you with technical parts of your course such as operating machinery or using special materials and equipment

**Course and Unit Handbooks**
Important documents that contain all the information about your course, assignments, deadlines, learning outcomes and essential reading lists

**Unit Assessment Brief**
This document explains what you need to do for an assignment and how it will be marked

**Learning Outcomes**
A list of the knowledge, skills, or expertise that you can demonstrate on each assignment. Your grade for an assignment will show how well you have demonstrated an ability in each aspect of the learning outcomes

**Tutorial**
A discussion exploring an area of your work. Tutorials can be one-to-one with a tutor or in small groups and peer-led

**Seminar**
A discussion of a topic with a tutor and a group of other students

**Crit**
An opportunity to present and discuss your work and ideas with other students and tutors

**Formative Assessment**
An assessment that supports your learning, even though it will not count towards your final mark – it is an important part of your development process

**Summative Assessment**
An assessment that grades your learning and will count towards your final mark

**Dissertation**
A long essay that you may have to write in your final year that places your ideas and research into a wider discussion/argument

**Self-directed Learning**
When students are encouraged to follow their own interests, rather than tutors directing them. It may take time to get used to this way of studying if you have not experienced it before but it will help you develop different skills

**Plagiarism**
Presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own, without making it clear that the work or ideas are someone else’s. This also includes cutting and pasting other people’s words into your own writing as if they are your own. It’s a form of academic misconduct – read Cite Them Rite on how to avoid doing this

**Criticality**
When you analyse and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of an idea, object or approach, and also refer to the ideas of other thinkers and writers on the topic

**Reflection**
When you evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses as a student and build ideas on how to improve your work

**Cultural Capital**
The unique mix of skills, experiences and personal history each student brings to the course
Degree classifications

In the UK, when you finish and pass your degree, you will also get a ‘classification’ showing how well you did. This is not the same in all countries. The classifications in the UK are as follows:

- At FE level e.g., Foundation Degree, you can Pass and, on some courses, get a Merit or a Distinction. Distinction is the highest classification at this level.
- At undergraduate level e.g., BA or BSc, you can get a 3rd (third), a 2:2 (two two), a 2:1 (two one) or a 1st (first). A first is the highest classification at undergraduate level.
- At postgraduate level e.g., MA or PG Diploma, you can get a Pass, Merit or Distinction. Distinction is the highest classification at postgraduate level.

If you want to progress from undergraduate to postgraduate levels of study, it’s best to aim for a 2:1 or 1st at undergraduate level, as this will make it easier for you to get accepted onto a postgraduate course.

Assessment

It is important you understand what criteria your work is being assessed against so you can focus on those things. You may find assessment methods different to what you have experienced before. You will find information about assessment in your course materials (online) and on the UAL website.

Assessment
Meeting new people
Meeting new people

UAL Social Programme

Despite the size and population of London, it can be difficult to meet people. Being a student will make this easier through classes and group projects, as well as through student accommodation should you choose to live there.

There are also many events and activities where you can meet people. Events and activities vary from quiz nights, film nights, trips to famous landmarks or the theatre and various workshops and masterclasses.

- UAL Social Events
- UAL Social — Facebook
- UAL Social — Instagram
- UAL Social — Twitter

Arts Students’ Union

Students’ Unions are student-run organisations that are independent from the University. In the UK, universities and Colleges have an associated Students’ Union to allow students the opportunity to receive independent advice and guidance if they are struggling.

Students’ Unions are led by democratically-elected students, representing students at all levels of decision-making within the University, in their local community and nationally. Every Students’ Union is different, but most of them, like our Arts Students’ Union (Arts SU), offer a range of different services, support and social activities.

Arts SU delivers student-run sports clubs and societies, a course representative scheme, a free advice service, commercial outlets and campaign and lobbying activity to ensure students have the best possible experience whilst studying at UAL. It exists to make things better for all UAL students and by enrolling at UAL, you automatically become a member of Arts SU.

- Arts SU — Website
- Arts SU — Facebook
- Arts SU — Instagram
**Arts SU Companion Scheme**

SU Companion Scheme is a great way to meet new creative people. Once you sign up, we'll match you with another UAL student who's also looking to make new friends.

As well as chatting to their partner individually, members of the companion scheme can join a host of Companion Groups which meet during the term. When signing up for the companion scheme, if you wish, you can choose to join any of the following groups:

1. LGBTQ+ students
2. POC students
3. Mature students
4. International students
5. Students who are Parents and Carers
6. Disabled students
7. Neuro-diverse students

**UAL Post-Grad Community**

Post-Grad Community is an inclusive platform for all UAL postgraduate students to share work, find opportunities and connect with other creatives within UAL and beyond.

**Alumni and Friends**

The UAL Alumni Association has over 200,000 members across the globe. After you graduate, you automatically become a member and will be able to access support and stay connected with the Colleges and other alumni, wherever you are in the world.

[Alumni and Friends](#)
Index

A
Accommodation  8, 9, 10
Activities  22, 32
Advice Service  28, 32
Airports  5, 6
Alumni  33
Arts Students’ Union  32
Assessment  29, 30

B
Banking  7

C
Colleges  24, 25
Counselling  27
Culture  14, 15

D
Daylight saving time  14
Degree  30
Doctors  5, 13
Disability  27
Diversity  14, 25

F
Fees and Funding  8, 28
Food and Drink  16, 17

I
Insurance  5, 6, 13, 20
International  25

J
Jobs  8, 28

L
Languages  27
Libraries  26, 29
London  5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21

M
Materials  7
Mental health  27
Mobile phone  11
Money  7
Museums  21

O
Online resources  26, 28

P
Packing  6
Police  13

R
Religion  14

S
Safety  11, 19
Scholarships  8, 28
Services  6, 8, 9, 26, 27, 28, 32
Shopping  7, 15, 16, 17
Support  7, 8, 11, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33

T
Tax  8, 10
Term dates  26
Travel  5, 6, 9, 18, 19, 20

V
Visas  5, 8, 13, 20, 28

W
Welcome events  36
Wellbeing  8, 10, 27
Wi-Fi  8, 11
We hope this guide has excited and reassured you about coming to UAL and London. There’s lots to look forward to.

As part of our Big Welcome to you, you’ll be invited to course inductions, College welcome events and many other social and cultural activities where you’ll get a chance to meet other students and find out more about the University. Look out for more details on our website; we’ll be adding essential information over the summer to help you begin your journey with us.

We look forward to welcoming you.