

# At King's

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# First few weeks

The first few weeks at anywhere new can seem daunting, but this chapter will give you an outline of what you can expect at King's and hopefully ease any nerves.

## International Students' Welcome and Orientation

The annual International Students' Welcome and Orientation Programme is the welcome event for new international students. When you first arrive in the UK you may be unfamiliar with aspects of life and study in this country.

Orientation has been specially designed to cover key topics such as:

- adjusting to a new academic culture
- dealing with culture shock
- health
- insurance
- study skills
- working
- staying safe
- opening a bank account
- student discounts and saving money (on travel, food, books, phones, movies etc).

You will also have the chance to find out what the students' union ([www.kclsu.org](http://www.kclsu.org)) has to offer and there will also be plenty of opportunity to meet other new international students and enjoy a range of social activities.

The main Welcome and Orientation Programme for full-degree students will take place between **Wednesday 16 September and Friday 18 September**. Places are limited, so please apply early. For more information and an online booking form please go to [www.kcl.ac.uk/international](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/international) or email [orientation@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:orientation@kcl.ac.uk)

If you can't attend the main Welcome and Orientation, we are running a number of additional specialist international orientation events. We strongly recommend that you attend an international orientation event:

- For Erasmus-Socrates students and those unable to attend the main event there will be an orientation event on 22 September 2009.



# The first few weeks



- ♦ Study Abroad and Exchange Students' Orientation (compulsory for all students studying at King's for one semester or a full academic year from the US or from a partner university) will be held in September 2009 and January 2010.
- ♦ International students following a graduate research course are welcome to attend specific sessions jointly organised by Student Advice & International Student Support and the Graduate School which will focus on academic issues as well as general welfare and immigration. Events will take place in October 2009 and January 2010.
- ♦ Institute of Psychiatry International Students' Day on 28 September 2009.

For full details of the range of Welcome and Orientation events for international students, please see [www.kcl.ac.uk/international](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/international) or contact Student Advice & International Student Support by emailing [orientation@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:orientation@kcl.ac.uk)

## College induction

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In addition to the welcome events specially provided for international students, all new students should attend an induction session with their department. Full details of introductory briefings and tours to familiarise yourself with departmental staff and subject specific resources and facilities will be sent to you by your School.

A special welcome for all research graduates is organised by the Graduate School. One event will be held in early October 2009 with an additional event being held in January 2010 for students registering later in the year. Book your place on [www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate)



## Registration & enrolment

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Registration at the College and enrolment onto your degree programme usually takes place in the third week in September (week beginning 21 September 2009), and is the point at which you will become a student at King's. Please note that every School Office works to different deadlines, therefore the timings could vary by up to two weeks. Details about when, where and how to register will be sent to you by your School Office approximately three to four weeks before the start of the academic session.

Some School Offices send a letter asking for students to collect their packs in person when they arrive. If you have not received anything two weeks before you are due to arrive then please contact your School Office (see *Contact & maps* section). Once you have registered you will be given your College identity card, which you must keep with you at all times when you are at the College. The card will enable you to use College services such as the libraries, the computing facilities and so on.

## KCLSU Welcome Weeks

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During the first two weeks of term (following the International Students' Welcome and Orientation) KCLSU organise a number of social events that will give you the opportunity to meet your fellow new students and get a flavour of some of the activities that are on offer to you during the rest of your time at King's. A highlight of the Welcome Weeks is the Welcome Fair, to be held on 24 and 25 September at Waterloo Campus. The fair will showcase all the student sports clubs, societies and other activity groups available, allowing you to chat to those students already involved and find out more. Look out for information on Welcome Weeks events at [www.kclsu.org](http://www.kclsu.org) during August prior to arrival.



# Calendar

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

## KCLSU events

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KCLSU organise a special timetable of events during the first two weeks of term (see page 37) and run other events throughout the year.

## Graduate School events

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Unlocking London is a programme of events throughout the year designed especially for King's graduates who have never previously lived in London. It offers graduates an insight into London, an opportunity to meet their counterparts in other Departments and Schools and to make new friends. See the Graduate School website for further details, [www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/school](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/school)

16-18 SEPTEMBER 2009

International Students' Welcome and Orientation (see page 35)

22 SEPTEMBER 2009

Mini-Orientation (including Erasmus students)

23 SEPTEMBER 2009

Study Abroad Orientation (fall semester)

24 SEPTEMBER 2009

Study Abroad boat trip. KCLSU Welcome Fair at Waterloo Campus

25 SEPTEMBER 2009

KCLSU Welcome Fair at Waterloo Campus

28 SEPTEMBER 2009

Institute of Psychiatry Orientation

SEPTEMBER 2009

If your visa is due to expire soon look out for our visa extension workshop.

31 OCTOBER 2009

**Visa deadline!** Many students will find that their current visas are due to expire on 31 October. If your visa is due to expire you **must** ensure that you start preparing your application for an extension **at least one month** before this date, and that you have enough money in your bank account for **at least 28 days** prior to submitting your extension application.



### 28 OCTOBER 2009

Social event for international students with dependants.

### DECEMBER 2009

If your visa is due to expire soon look out for our visa extension workshop.

### 6 JANUARY 2010

Study Abroad Orientation (spring semester).

### 31 JANUARY 2010

**Visa deadline!** Many students will find that their current visas are due to expire on 31 January. If your visa is due to expire you **must** ensure that you start preparing your application for an extension **at least one month** before this date, and that you have enough money in your bank account for **at least 28 days** prior to submitting your extension application.

‘One advantage of studying at King’s has definitely been the international atmosphere. London itself is a very cosmopolitan city and with so many nationalities represented within the student body at King’s, I have felt part of a varied and rich academic community.’

**Giulia Merlo**  
**Comparative Literature MA, Italy**



# Support services

## STUDENT ADVICE & INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

They have experience in helping students with a wide range of issues covering immigration advice, money management, legal issues and housing.

## THE COMPASS

A 'one stop shop' for all student enquiries with a quiet study area. Compass online – available 24 hours a day via oneSpace. Answers to FAQ's, with the facility to send an enquiry to the Compass Team.

## CAREERS SERVICE

King's has one of the best careers services in the UK and offers students a wide range of assistance to help them pursue their career interests both in the UK and abroad.

## COUNSELLING

Counsellors work within Student Services on the main campuses. Their aim is to enable students to make the most of their time at College by helping them to cope with any problems or difficulties of a personal or emotional nature.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE

The Centre offers a wide range of language and study skills courses that run both before and during your degree. Courses are open to both native and non-native speakers.

'Before applying for undergraduate study I attended the Foundation Programme at the English Language Centre, which was a great experience. It prepared me for studying in the United Kingdom and helped me to improve my English, as well as develop skills essential for studying. I received advice and help whenever I needed it and now I can enjoy being an undergraduate student!'

**Aleksandra Wiecka**  
**European Studies BA, Poland**



## RELIGIOUS PROVISION & PASTORAL CARE

The College has had strong Anglican (Church of England) traditions since its foundation. All major world faiths are represented at King's, and the rights and views of students of all beliefs and backgrounds are fully respected; provision is made for people to practise their faith.

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY DEPARTMENT

The College has a dedicated Equality & Diversity Department that is open to all students for information and advice on any equalities-related issue. They also provide access to the International Students with Disabilities Fund (ISDF) for equipment and services.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Disability Support Team, based within the Equality & Diversity Department offers disability-related information and advice.

## STUDENTS' UNION (KCLSU)

KCLSU provides a free, impartial and confidential service that compliments those provided by the College. They operate drop-in sessions or you can make an appointment in advance. Visit [www.kclsu.org/advice](http://www.kclsu.org/advice) for more information.

'The student activity organised by KCLSU really helped me settle into life at King's and make new friends. Being involved in KCLSU made my time at King's so enjoyable that I wanted everyone to benefit from the same experience. This motivated me to stand for election as Vice President Student Media and Engagement to help ensure every student has a channel to voice their opinion.'

**Pete Ellender**  
**Vice President Student Media and Engagement**

