

FAQS – AKC

Information for Current KCL Students

1. Who can study the AKC?

The AKC is open to all current KCL staff and students, including distance learners, and will in most cases take three years to complete alongside your main programme of study.

If you will only be at King's for a total of less than three years (i.e. if you are on a one-year master's programme) or if you will not be at on-campus at King's for all three years of your degree, then please do [contact us](#) or have a look at our [Programme Regulations](#) to see what options are open to you. In certain cases students can take the course in two years, rather than three, but you will need to get in touch with the AKC Office if you wish to apply for approval to do so.

2. I am a distance learning student at King's, can I still take the AKC?

Yes, you can take the course via distance learning. If you are a distance learning student at King's you will need to get in touch with us at the beginning of the academic year so that we can enrol you on to the AKC Online course.

3. Are there any fees?

No, the AKC course is completely free to all current King's students and staff.

4. Do you have to be an Arts & Humanities student, or have pre-existing knowledge of theology and philosophy or ethics to take the AKC?

Not at all, no prior knowledge of any of the topics covered is necessary and there are students studying the AKC who come from every faculty across the university. You can have a read through some feedback from students from a broad range of different degree programmes [here](#).

5. What are the benefits of studying the AKC alongside my main degree programme?

The AKC is the original award of the university and is unique to King's College London. It is the only course open to all KCL students, staff and alumni.

The AKC offers an inclusive, research-led programme of lectures that give King's students the opportunity to explore diverse religious and cultural perspectives alongside their main degree programme. It is at the very heart of the College's commitment to an international, interdisciplinary, and innovative curriculum; it seeks to foster an understanding of different beliefs and cultures that can be taken into wider society.

To read what previous students of the AKC thought of the course go to our ['About'](#) page.

6. How much extra work will the AKC entail?

There is a one-hour lecture each week, after which students must complete an online quiz relating to test their attendance and their engagement with the material presented. Each quiz contains two questions which we recommend students write no more than a short paragraph each in response to.

There is no compulsory extra reading outside of the lectures, and no other form of assessment throughout the year.

7. I am a new student, how do I enrol/register?

Any students starting a new course at KCL at the start of the Academic Year (Autumn) will be invited to enrol on to the AKC via [Student Records](#). You will then also need to self-enrol onto the AKC course on [KEATS](#). Please note that you will need to enrol on to **both KEATS and Student Records** if you wish to take the AKC.

AKC enrolment closes on 1 November. You do not need to be enrolled in order to attend the first lecture, but please do enrol before as soon as possible if you wish to follow the course.

Please note: You must enrol on the first year of your course if wish to take the AKC whilst a student at King's. Some exceptions can be made if your degree programme is longer than three years in total.

8. What sites will I need access to?

You will need to be able to access KEATS in order to view the lecture handouts, assessment information and quizzes. There is no further compulsory reading for the AKC outside of attending the lectures.

You will need to be enrolled on to the AKC course on Student Records.

9. Where can I find the AKC Handbook?

You can find the AKC Handbook on your webpages, [here](#).

10. Where can I find the timetable of lectures and screenings?

The AKC live lecture takes place on Mondays at 12:00 in the Arthur & Paula Lucas Lecture Theatre, *S-2.18*. The lecture is recorded and then screened at various times across all KCL campuses throughout the week. You can find more details about the screening times and venues [here](#).

In weeks 1-4 of the first semester, the live lecture will also be streamed to the Edmund J Safra Theatre, *S-2.23* and *S-3.20*.

11. How do I find my way there?

If you need directions to any of the venues for the AKC lecture screenings, please search for the room or campus [here](#). If you are still unsure of how to find the venue then please do feel free to [e-mail](#) the AKC Office or call us on 020 7848 1844 or 020 7848 2717.

12. What do I do if I can't attend a live lecture?

Please do not worry if you cannot attend the live lecture. There are eight alternative screenings across every KCL campus, so you will be able to find one that fits your timetable.

13. Are the lectures recorded? How can I watch a lecture if I can't make any of the screenings?

All AKC lectures are recorded, however they are not made available to all students online. This is because lecture attendance and engagement with the lecture material are key

requirements of the AKC course, and so where possible we ask that our students attend each lecture (or a screening of it) in person.

If you are absent from university due to mitigating circumstances, and unable to attend any of the screenings for a particular week, then please [contact the AKC office](#).

14. I am a second/third year student. Do I need to enrol on KEATS and Student Records again?

You only need to enrol on the AKC via Student Records once, when you begin the AKC programme.* You will, however, need to re-enrol on to the AKC KEATS page at the start of every academic year. You can do this by searching KEATS for the AKC page and self-enrolling there, or you can follow [this link](#) to our current page.

***Please note:** Students taking the AKC for Alumni are required to re-enrol at King's at the start of each academic year and will receive email correspondence from the AKC office regarding this.

15. What are the key dates that I should know about?

You can view the dates of all AKC lectures for the current academic year, including the dates of both reading weeks, [here](#).

Each Quiz will be open to students to attempt for a fortnight after the date of the live lecture.

Students will be informed of their results in June.

16. I am studying abroad as part of my degree. Can I still complete the AKC?

Yes, students who study abroad for a whole academic year but still spend three academic years at King's can interrupt their AKC studies whilst they are away and to complete them upon their return. Students who are studying abroad for one semester are entitled to be assessed solely on the semester during which they are still at King's.

If you are studying abroad you must [contact the AKC Office](#) at the beginning of the academic year you will be studying abroad, in order to make these arrangements.

17. How do I withdraw from the AKC?

You can withdraw from the AKC at any point during the academic year if you no longer wish to take the course. To do so, you will need to get in touch with the [AKC Office](#) via e-mail. Please note that only withdrawing yourself from the KEATS page **will not** fully withdraw you from the course as we will need to alter your record on Student Records on your behalf.

18. If I withdraw, will it affect my main degree programme?

No, withdrawing from the AKC will not have any bearing on your main programme of study. Please do be aware, however, that as it is a course you have enrolled on whilst at King's it will still appear on your Student Records. It will **not** appear on your final transcript from King's or anywhere on your HEAR or your final award from the college.

19. Can I interrupt my participation in the AKC?

If you are interrupting your main degree programme, [please contact the AKC office directly](#) so that we can update your record accordingly. Our usual practice is to follow the interruption decision made by your home department.

20. Why haven't I received a response to my e-mail?

We aim to respond to all student enquiries within two working days, although the wait may be longer during busy periods such as the start of each academic year.

Our office hours are usually 09:00 – 17:00 Monday – Friday, except bank holidays and days on which the university is closed.

During term time, when AKC teaching is taking place, all members of AKC staff are normally involved in the live AKC lecture screening at 12 noon on Mondays and there will be no one in the office for the duration of the lecture.

Assessment (All AKC and AKC Online Students)

1. How will I be assessed?

AKC students are assessed on their attendance via weekly quizzes based on the lectures given. Each quiz consists of two questions which invite you to reflect personally on the topics discussed each week. For more information please visit our [Assessment Information](#) pages.

2. What are the minimum requirements of a pass mark?

In order to successfully complete each academic year of the AKC, students must successfully complete **between four and nine quizzes per semester**. For more information about assessment regulations please visit our [Assessment Information](#) pages.

3. Where can I find the quizzes?

Students can access the quizzes via the AKC KEATS page. They can be found under the relevant lecture title heading and will be labelled 'Quiz'.

4. When will each quiz be available to complete?

Each quiz will be available for students to attempt for a fortnight after the date of the live lecture. They open at 12:00 noon on the day of the lecture, and close at 12:00 noon 2 weeks after. Once they have closed they will not be reopened for the rest of the academic year, except the event of mitigating circumstances approved by the AKC Office.

5. What happens if I do not pass an academic year of the AKC? Is there an opportunity to take a resit?

Catch-up weeks will operate at the end of each semester, for students with appropriate mitigating circumstances. Students will be contacted with more details regarding these towards the end of each term.

For students with mitigating circumstances who did not take part in the semester catch-up weeks, a final catch-up week for both Semesters will also operate at the end of the AKC year (end of May/early June).

If you have exceptional circumstances which prevent you from completing the AKC quizzes, please [contact the AKC office](#) as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

6. When will my result be finalised and released?

Your results will need to be ratified by the AKC Steering Group at the end of each academic year. Students will be notified of their final results in June. Individual quizzes will be given provisional marks as the term progresses, which will be visible on KEATS.

7. Who moderates my work?

All quizzes are moderated by trained AKC examiners. The work of AKC examiners is overseen by the AKC Steering Committee.

8. What happens when I finish the course? How do I become an AKC (Associate of King's College)?

Once you have successfully completed three years of the AKC you are entitled to have your AKC read out at your graduation ceremony and to wear the AKC epitoge as part of your academic dress. Please see our [Graduations](#) page for more information about how to ensure this happens if you finish the AKC in a year other than the one that you graduate in.

After your graduation, you are eligible to apply for election as an Associate of King's College. All elections must be ratified by the College Academic Board. Once that has happened you will be entitled to use the letters AKC after your name and you will receive a certificate attesting to your election. You can find out more about how to apply [here](#).

Information for Nursing and Medical Students

1. I am a nursing student/MBBS student in my third year or beyond and as such will be on placement for much of my degree. Can I still take the AKC?

Yes – we have arrangements in place for students whose courses stipulate a large amount of time spent on work placements. Please [get in touch with us](#) at the start of the academic year, and we can grant you access to the designated area of KEATS set up for students with high placement hours.

2. I am taking an elective placement abroad for part of my degree – can I still complete the AKC?

Yes, students who are taking an elective placement abroad for one semester are entitled to be assessed solely on the semester during which they are still at King's. I.e. if you are abroad for Semester 2, you would be assessed solely on your results for Semester 1.

If you are studying abroad you must [contact the AKC Office](#) at the beginning of the academic year, in order to make these arrangements.

3. I am a MBBS student intercalating for a year outside of King's. Can I still complete the AKC?

Yes – as long as you will be able to study the AKC for three years in total you can pause your AKC studies and continue them upon your return to King's the next year. Please do [get in touch with us](#) as soon as you can, so that we can advise you and alter your record accordingly.

Information for Current KCL Staff

1. I am a member of staff at King's – how can I sign up for the AKC?

If you are a KCL staff member who would like to take the AKC, then please get in touch with the [AKC Office](#). We will need to set you up with a Student Records account as you will not be able to enrol on to the AKC course without one.

You can then self-enrol on to the [AKC KEATS Page](#), or we will enrol you onto the [AKC Online KEATS Page](#) if you choose to take the course via distance learning.

- 2. If I wish to pursue the AKC, do I have to be able to attend a weekly lecture in person?**
You can choose to participate in either the campus-based AKC, or the AKC online. It is also acceptable for you to attend lectures in person and to have access to the distance learning AKC Programme on KEATS in case you miss one.

Please note: AKC Online runs roughly one week behind the campus-based AKC. Please view the campus-based AKC schedule [here](#), and the AKC Online Schedule [here](#).

- 3. Can I attend the lectures without being formally enrolled?**
Yes! the AKC lectures are open to all current King's students and staff, so please do attend any lectures that you are interested in, even if you do not intend to join the programme.

Please note: you will not be able to gain the AKC award or be elected as an Associate of King's College unless you are formally enrolled on the course and assessed accordingly.

- 4. How long must staff study the AKC for in order to gain the award and be elected as an Associate of King's College?**

The AKC takes three full academic years to complete. You must meet the minimum requirements of a pass when assessed in each of these years to successfully complete the course.

- 5. Can I continue the course if I leave King's?**

It is not always possible to allow ex-staff members to complete the course once they leave their job at King's. If you are taking the AKC and know that you will be leaving your job at King's before you finish the course, then please do [get in touch](#) and we will advise you of your options going forwards.

- 6. How am I assessed?**

All AKC students are assessed on their attendance which is monitored via weekly quizzes based on the lectures given. Each quiz consists of two questions which invite you to reflect personally on the topics discussed each week. For more information please visit our [Assessment Information](#) pages.

Information for Alumni

- 1. Am I eligible to apply for the AKC Online course?**

If you have already completed either an undergraduate, postgraduate or research degree at King's College London then yes, you are eligible to apply for the AKC Online. You will also be eligible if you are an alumnus of a College which has merged with King's. All applicants will be required to upload a copy of their degree certificate or transcript as part of the application process.

Additional Requirements

As all course materials are delivered online, you are advised to only apply for this course if:

- You are comfortable using the internet
- You have access to a PC and broadband internet

2. How do I apply for the AKC Online?

You need to apply through the KCL [Admissions Portal](#). First, you must register for an account. You can then create a new application – just search in the ‘Programme Name’ area for ‘AKC’.

Please note: King’s College London only accepts applications submitted through the Admissions Portal.

3. What are the deadlines for the application and when will I hear back from you by?

Admissions open in January. The deadline for October entry is 31 August, although admissions may close before this date if all available places have been allocated.

4. What are the fees per academic year?

Course fees are £500 per academic year. You will receive an invoice from Credit Control after you have enrolled at King’s at the start of each academic year.

Please note: students who withdraw before 1 November each year are able to request a refund. Students who withdraw after this point remain liable for the whole fee.

5. How long is the course?

The AKC Online course takes three years to complete. Each year the course will run from October – April.

6. How do I enrol on to the course at the beginning of the academic year, once my application has been accepted?

AKC Online students are required to enrol on to the programme at the start of each academic year.

At the start of your first year on the course, you will receive an e-mail that explains how to set up your IT account. Once you have followed these steps you will be able to enrol on to this course via Student Records. You can find further details about this process on our [Alumni](#) page.

7. What sites do I need access to, in order to complete the course?

Once enrolled on to the AKC course, you will be sent all the relevant information in order to set up your King’s IT account. Once this is done, you will be able to use these details to access the e-learning platform [KEATS](#) on which the AKC Online is delivered.

8. How will I be assessed?

AKC Online students will be assessed via weekly quizzes, based on the lectures given. Each quiz consists of two questions which invite you to reflect personally on the topics discussed each week. For more information please visit our [Assessment Information](#) pages.

9. What happens if I do not meet the attendance criteria?

Catch-up weeks will operate at the end of each term. Students will be contacted with more details regarding these shortly beforehand. If you have exceptional circumstances which prevent you from completing the AKC quizzes, please [contact the AKC office](#) as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

10. How do I change my registration status? Can I interrupt/how to withdraw?

If for any reason you find that you must interrupt your AKC studies, or withdrawn from them completely, then please do [get in touch with us](#) outlining your situation and we will advise you how best to proceed.

Please note: students who withdraw before 1 November each year are able to request a refund. Students who withdraw after this point remain liable for the whole fee.