



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Access to Education

[www.london.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.london.ac.uk/alumni)

A portrait of Professor Sir Adrian Smith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London. He is an older man with grey, wavy hair, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red tie with a small white pattern. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle smile. The background is a blurred interior of a library or study, with wooden bookshelves filled with books.

The University of London is the original international university, based in the heart of the greatest international city. For almost 200 years, we have improved the lives of millions of people around the world through our unique approach to education.



**Above:** University of London International Programmes graduation ceremony in Mauritius.

Innovation characterises the University of London. We were the first University in the UK to open degree programmes to women, to encourage students of all beliefs and faiths, and to welcome ordinary working people to participate in a previously closed education system.

Since we were established by Royal Charter in 1836, our vision has been to enable people to learn wherever they are, and give them the opportunity to improve their own lives and the societies in which they live.

Today, more than 50,000 students in over 180 countries are studying for a University of London degree, making us one of the largest, most diverse and inclusive universities in the world.

The School of Advanced Study and its highly acclaimed specialist Institutes play a collaborative role in promoting and facilitating research in the humanities in the UK, while Senate House Library offers students and researchers access to the University's outstanding humanities and social science collections. We also support more than 120,000 students across London through the unique University of London partnership with independent member institutions of outstanding world-class reputation.

Our mission to provide access to education is as relevant today as it was in 1836, and is reflected in the three core aims for the University's future plans and activities, which are to:

- > Deliver academic excellence through research and teaching
- > Widen global access to a world-class education
- > Create a collaborative programme of engagement for the public benefit

We will expand our leading global access mission by creating new programmes that are delivered in a way fit for learning in the 21st century. We will provide more support to enable access and inclusion to higher education irrespective of location, background or financial means.

We will throw open the doors of our dynamic Institutes and libraries to allow more people to benefit from our exceptional collections and exemplary research and teaching, so that we can make an active contribution to society.

We will continue to work for the public benefit and to widen access to education and knowledge. Fundamental to our success is our ability to collaborate with everyone connected to the University of London, whether with the member institutions in London and our international partners, with our staff, our students, alumni and our friends throughout the world.

**Professor Sir Adrian Smith**  
**Vice-Chancellor,**  
**University of London**



# Our Influences

Our heritage shapes the aims and ambitions we have today. The University's strategic vision is to make a unique contribution to learning and research through an unrivalled network of member institutions, global reach and reputation, and high-quality, innovative academic services and infrastructure.

Our work is influenced by four underpinning themes that define who we are.

## London and the World

London is a global hub for academic excellence. Recognised worldwide as being at the intellectual heart of the city, the University of London and the independent member institutions play a key role in the promotion of learning and knowledge thanks to our national and international reach. Our research and teaching is globally renowned, and across the world, the University of London plays a significant role as an ambassador for the UK's academic endeavours.



**Right:** Map of the University of London by Macdonald Gill in Chancellor's Hall.  
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## Access and the Student Experience

Widening access to education and knowledge creation, promotion and facilitation, have been at the heart of our mission since our foundation.

The University of London International Programmes provide access to a world-class, yet flexible, education to students in over 180 countries. The School of Advanced Study and Senate House Library have a unique national remit in Humanities Research Promotion and Facilitation (RPF), while the federal University plays a vital role in enhancing student life through high quality services and facilities that provide excellent learning environments, careers advice, housing, welfare and other essential services.

The University of London is well placed to enhance the student experience through our distinctive combination of academic activity, services and facilities.

## Public Benefit

The University was founded for the purpose of public benefit. That mission continues to shape our activities, not least in the provision of affordable higher education around the world delivered by the University of London International Programmes.

We contribute to our local community through public engagement projects and access to our facilities. Many of our research seminars and events are open to the public and available online, helping us to promote learning and scholarship more widely.



**Above:** A copy of Shakespeare's first folio from Senate House Library

## Collaboration

The relationship between the University and the independent member institutions is fundamental to our success. It is a focal point for networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration, enabling each institution to fulfil its own distinctive activities, yet where appropriate, to act together for mutual benefit, creating a potency that is greater than the sum of its parts.

The development of our work will be complementary to the activities of the independent member institutions, and there will be an underlying principle that University of London membership is recognised in our academic development, service offer and property strategy.

This strategy reflects an increasingly transparent and mature relationship of equals with a good balance of shared risk and reward. Flexibility and innovation are core attributes of this partnership, and the nature of how the University engages with its member institutions will necessarily change over time.

# Providing access to education to all for almost 200 years



**23.1 million** visits to digital resources and information platforms provided by the School of Advanced Study in 2014-15



**50** named special collections in Senate House Library, featuring authors from Francis Bacon to Terry Pratchett



**1948** Lillian Penson appointed as the first female university Vice-Chancellor in the Commonwealth



**11** Shakespeare folios, including **4** first folios and **3** early quartos



**Over 1 million** learners enrolled for University of London MOOCs on the Coursera online platform in 2016



**6** Nobel Prize winners

**89,000** active users of the world's first employability MOOC from The Careers Group and the University of London International Programmes in 2014



**1969** The University of London Institute in Paris incorporated into the University of London



**308** Being Human Festival 2015 events held in **36** towns and cities across the UK



**1878** The first women in the UK admitted to study University of London degrees



**68,000** participants from around the world in School of Advanced Study events each year



**84** degree programmes studied by distance learning in **180** countries



**2,000** JobOnline vacancies posted every week by The Careers Group for graduates and students



**150 years** since the first University of London overseas examination in Mauritius



**29** students received the first University of London degrees in 1839

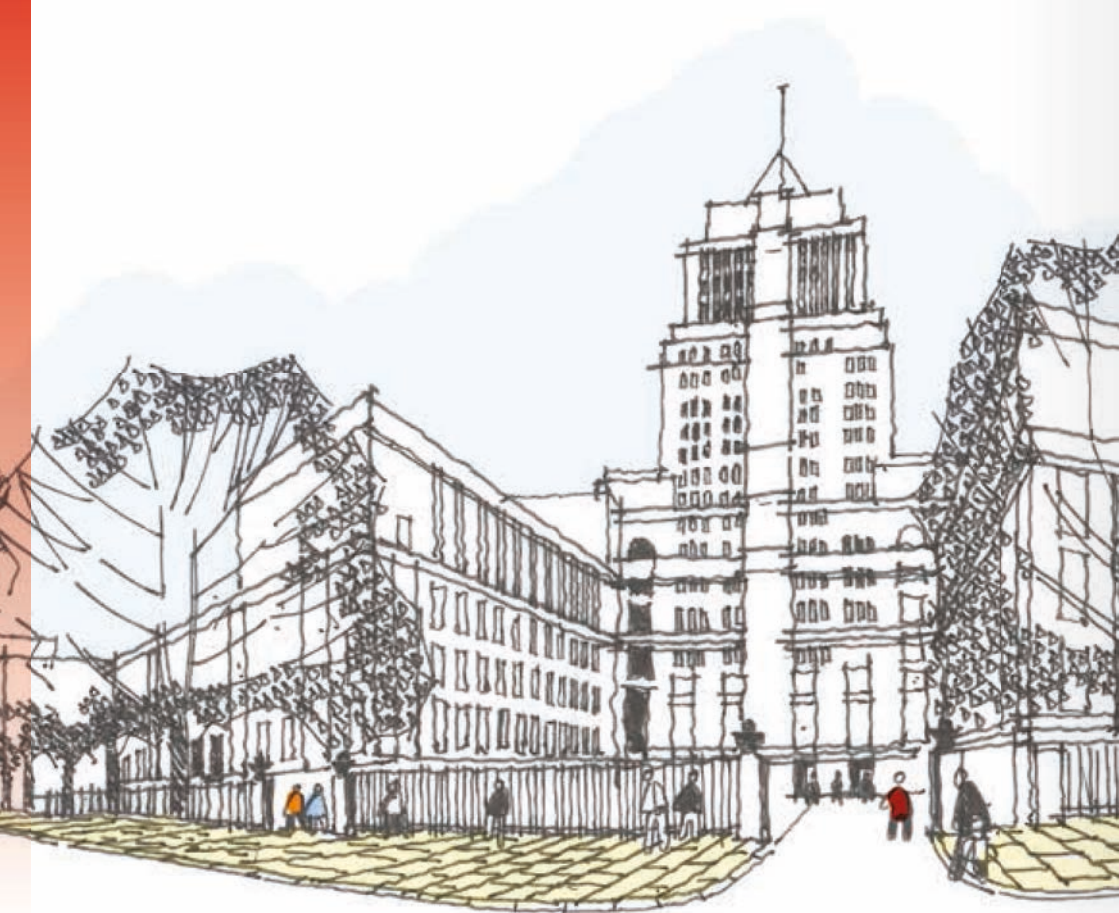


**9** internationally recognised specialist research institutes dedicated to the humanities



# Our Priorities

Our priorities for support and engagement encapsulate what we believe to be the core spirit of the University. These priorities not only reflect the strategic aims of the University, but will also direct our fundraising requirements for research, capital projects and scholarships.



Our priorities for support and engagement are defined by the following themes:

## Global Access to Education

## Public Engagement

## Internationalisation

## Interdisciplinarity

## Digital Scholarship

Our mission is to enable access to our world-class research and education. The University of London holds a unique position at the interface of teaching, research, policy and public engagement across the UK and internationally.

Our world-renowned Institutes are at the core of our academic mission. Collectively part of the School of Advanced Study (SAS), our Institutes possess enormous strength in their individuality and dynamism. SAS is the country's only national co-ordinating centre for the humanities and is a multi-disciplinary hub, driving a wide range of developments and initiatives to promote and facilitate research, in the UK and globally.

We aim to build and enhance the public profile of UK humanities research, as well as ensuring that everyone can access our unique collections, the information contained in our libraries and participate in our events.

Our network of fellows, students, alumni and friends is central to our global reach and outlook, and act as ambassadors for the University of London, linking us to an international audience.

Our Institutes take the lead in innovative collaborations and networks, promoting interdisciplinarity and creating exceptional work at the interface of traditional disciplines.

At the forefront of advances in research, we continue to champion and drive the development of digital scholarship. We are digitising much of our work and collections to allow greater access to our resources. We will continue to explore and promote digital approaches to research, publication and education to meet the challenges of the future.

As pioneers in education, we will ensure the growth and inclusiveness of our uniquely flexible education. We will expand our scholarship programmes and collaborative partnerships within the University and beyond for the benefit of our students, scholars, their communities and society.



Above: Being Human Festival  
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# The Year Ahead

Our fundraising priorities for 2016-17 support the overall vision, mission and aims of the University. Linked directly to the University's strategic aims, they reflect our underpinning influences and priority fundraising themes.



1

## Access to Education

Access to Education supports the University's primary strategic aim of Academic Excellence, as well as the influences of Access and the Student Experience, and London and the World. It has a direct link to our priority fundraising theme of Global Access to Education, and has a specific case for support that includes a breakdown of projects, such as scholarships for the University of London International Programmes and the University of London Institute in Paris, and studentships in the School of Advanced Study.

2

## Public Understanding of the Humanities

This priority supports the University's primary strategic aim of Academic Excellence and reflects the underpinning influence of Public Benefit. Public Understanding of the Humanities also links to our priority fundraising theme of Public Engagement, and has a specific case for support that includes a breakdown of projects, for instance, support for the Chair in Public Understanding of the Humanities.

3

## Opening Our Doors

This priority supports both the University's strategic aims of Academic Excellence and Property that is Valued and Relevant. It reflects all four of our underpinning influences: London and the World, Access and the Student Experience, Public Benefit and Collaboration. It has a direct link to our fundraising theme of Public Engagement, and has a specific case for support that includes a breakdown of projects, for example, the Senate House tower, Senate House Library and its special collections, the Being Human Festival and the redevelopment of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

4

## Digital Scholarship

Supporting the University's primary strategic aim of Academic Excellence and reflecting the influence of Access, this priority is linked directly to our Digital Scholarship priority fundraising theme. It has a specific case for support that includes a breakdown of projects, including support for the Chair in Digital Humanities and digitisation projects in a number of the central University's Institutes, and within Senate House Library.

**Left:** "Hacking the Archives" projection onto Senate House, part of the Being Human festival 2014.  
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**Right:** Living Literature brings The Great Gatsby to life at Senate House.



If you would like more information or to discuss how you could support the University of London, please contact us.

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