



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Supporting Global Access and Innovation

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University of London at a glance



degrees awarded by the
University of London in 2017–18



students across
the globe



books and other materials
held in Senate House Library



events locations



the first women in the UK
admitted to special examinations
at the University of London



visits to Senate House
Library in 2017–18



research fellows and associates



University of London
Institute in Paris
incorporated into the
University of London

The University of London is the original international university, based in the heart of the greatest international city. Described by Charles Dickens as ‘The People’s University’, for almost two centuries we have improved the lives of millions of people around the world through our unique approach to education.

200 years of global access and innovation

The University of London was the first to allow degrees to be undertaken by all, opening our physical and later virtual doors to provide the highest quality of education to those with a desire to learn, regardless of religious belief, gender, or geographic location. Today, we have students on all seven continents, and our academics, students and alumni continue to innovate and inspire the world over.

Established by Royal Charter in 1836, the University of London is one of the oldest, largest and most diverse universities in the UK. It consists of a federation of 17 independent member institutions of outstanding global reputation, as well as a number of highly acclaimed central academic bodies. Amongst these are Senate House Library and the University's School of Advanced Study (SAS), the UK's national centre for the support and facilitation of research in the humanities, comprising nine internationally-renowned research institutes.

In addition, around 50,000 students in 190 countries take degrees through the University's flexible and distance learning programmes, with a further 1.2 million learners studying through our free open access virtual learning programmes (MOOCs). Our European campus, the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP), works in partnership with Queen Mary University of London to provide an exceptional learning experience for undergraduate and postgraduate students studying in Paris.



Professor
Peter Kopelman
MD DSc FRCP FFPH
FAcadMED
Vice-Chancellor

"Although we live in a world faced with economic problems, political tensions and global inequalities, there is no question in my mind that University of London graduates contribute to raising standards across the world through an appreciation of the opportunities for progress, and an understanding of the need for greater tolerance and respect as the basis for a more harmonious and equal world."

Our priorities are to support...

- ▶ Access to education
- ▶ Innovative research
- ▶ Public engagement initiatives
- ▶ World-class facilities

Our priorities

Access to education

The University of London has pioneered equal access to education since its inception. We were the first to offer degrees by distance learning in 1858 and the first to introduce many new subjects into university education, including modern languages and laboratory science. In 1868, we were the first British university to allow women to study special examinations and, 10 years later, the first to enable women to study for degrees on equal terms with men. As innovators in education, our vision is to ensure the growth and inclusiveness of our uniquely flexible – and truly global – programmes.

We are committed to ensuring that all students can study for a University of London degree, regardless of their social or financial background. Scholarships enable our students to complete their studies without financial worries, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed, and supporting them to become future leaders in their chosen fields. By providing scholarships to our most deserving students, we can break down the barriers to education and allow each student to achieve to the height of their ability.

One recipient of the Sir John Cass's Foundation Scholarship commented:

"This scholarship has provided access to a path that I did not believe could be open to me. It has relieved the burden of trying to account for my living expenses as well as my fees, and has given me a chance at education at a time when I felt all hope was lost."



Professor Mary Stiasny OBE
Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and Chief Executive University of London Worldwide.

"We believe education should be available to all with the ability to pursue it, regardless of their financial situation. Support for our scholarship programmes allows students from around the world, regardless of their personal circumstances, to improve their lives and the lives of their communities through education."



Innovative research

The University's School of Advanced Study is recognised as the national centre for the facilitation and promotion of world-leading research in the humanities. The School leads debates that stimulate new agendas and innovative thinking, demonstrating the positive contribution that humanities make in our complex and interconnected world.

Together with the University of London Institute in Paris, the School cements the University's reputation as a world leader in turning research and knowledge into practice.

Our researchers are tackling global issues, including:

■ Digital Humanities

Digital Humanities are growing ever more important in today's technological world. Digital materials are extremely vulnerable, and digital preservation theory and practice is at a very early stage of development (and necessarily untested over time).

Jane Winters, Professor of Digital Humanities, focuses both on how we can capture and preserve digital archives, and how they can most usefully be made available to researchers now and in the future, including 'born-digital' resources and how to preserve them.

■ Media Freedom and the Commonwealth

The recent increase in illiberal and authoritarian governments across the world has marked a clear shift in the landscape of media freedom. Out of these movements have emerged pertinent contemporary discussions over the role of media in national politics, from biased media to outright cries of 'Fake News'.

Building on the work of its Deputy Director, Professor Sue Onslow, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies will become the focal point of contemporary debates on media freedom, looking at legislative frameworks, holding governments accountable and responsible in order to promote good governance across the Commonwealth.

■ Internally Displaced Persons

There are nearly a quarter of a billion Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) worldwide, fleeing both natural disasters and conflict. Most face serious risks to life and livelihood. Solutions for them are elusive, and many linger in protracted displacement for decades.



Professor Rick Rylance
Dean and Chief Executive, School of Advanced Study

"SAS is nationally – perhaps internationally – unique. Housing four celebrated specialist libraries alongside Senate House Library, our work reaches out across the UK and worldwide engaging complex human problems and situations. Nine individual Institutes cover core areas of the humanities, and we sustain pioneering cross-disciplinary work and major initiatives in researcher training, digital humanities and public engagement."

A global education initiative on IDPs at SAS will stimulate new initiatives and develop a coherent approach to advance the response to IDPs.

Led by Professor David Cantor, the programme will be located at the Refugee Law Initiative, a centre established in 2011 for the study of refugees and forced migration globally. This will help establish ground-breaking research and responses to IDPs and the communities in which they live.



The Refugee Law Initiative project 'Pushing the boundaries' won the Research Project of the Year award in the Times Higher Education Awards 2017.

Public engagement initiatives

Public engagement is at the heart of the University's educational and charitable mission. Cutting-edge ideas and research are not just for students and academics; they benefit everyone in society.

In particular, the School of Advanced Study promotes and celebrates research into the humanities: the study into what makes us human. We believe the humanities – literature, history, art, philosophy, language, classics, politics, law – are intimately tied to what it means to be independent citizens in a free society.

Many of the University's 1,900 annual research seminars and events are open to the public and are available online. Through our public engagement work, exhibitions, and the special collections hosted at Senate House Library, and initiatives such as the University's 2018 Leading Women campaign, we have the opportunity to confirm the University and Senate House, located in London's Knowledge Quarter, as the centre of a global network for public engagement.

We need long-term support in order to sustain these initiatives for the future. With this, we can expand the reach of our activities, increase the diversity of our audiences, cultivate opportunities for students and create a digital legacy for the University – all of which, in turn, will have a transformative impact on society.

Being Human is the UK's only national festival of the humanities. Founded in 2014 by the School of Advanced Study, in partnership with the Arts & Humanities Research Council and the British Academy, the festival engages non-academic audiences with leading research in the humanities and beyond, via a nationwide programme of free events.

It is now the largest scale public engagement festival in the UK, and an integral resource in enhancing the public visibility and understanding of humanities research.

The support we receive from friends and partners is vital. It enables us to deliver high quality events, continue our outreach and education programmes, expand our international reach, and sustain the festival for future years.



Professor Sarah Churchwell
Director, Being Human Festival, Chair in Public Understanding of the Humanities, School of Advanced Study

"Education is the most effective means for the redistribution of privilege and for advancing communities, not only by sharing new ideas, but by learning from them as well. Public engagement throws open the doors to research and knowledge sharing, believing that through ideas we can inform and empower citizens."



World-class facilities

The University's estate provides a centre for an international community of scholars from undergraduates to professors and Nobel laureates.

The federal University plays a vital role in enhancing student and academic life with high quality services and facilities that provide excellent learning environments, careers advice, housing, welfare and other essential services which support the best learning environment.

Our goal is to ensure that our buildings and facilities match the high calibre of academic provision offered by the University.

■ The Warburg Institute

For more than a century, The Warburg Institute has transformed the study of art and history as one of the world's leading centres for studying the interaction of ideas, images and society.

The Institute is now embarking on an architectural and intellectual transformation to open it up to new partners and publics and extend its role as an international beacon for discovery and debate. New spaces and programmes will allow the Institute to:

- Offer our expertise to new audiences, host artists, curators, writers and translators in residence and serve as a laboratory for experimental exhibitions;
- Be a haven for scholars who have been forced into exile, to provide a refuge and a cultural memory bank; and
- Connect with leaders in digital technology to share our collections and explore the ways in which Aby Warburg anticipated the Digital Age.

The project offers a unique opportunity to support the architectural and intellectual redevelopment of one of the world's leading scholarly institutions, and to shape the future of cultural memory.

■ Senate House Library

SHL's refurbishment will help us create the following new spaces and programmes:

- A community hub with teaching and learning programmes for schools, small or medium-sized enterprises, and graduates
- A conservation studio
- An integrated research area with an emphasis on European culture
- An Artist in Residence programme



Nick Barratt
Director, Senate House Library

"Senate House Library holds collections of print books, manuscripts, archives and special collections of national and international significance in the arts, humanities and social sciences. In particular there are eight core research strengths covering social, political and economic studies, women's history, LGBTQ+ research, and the history of the book."

■ Senate House Intercollegiate Teaching Block

A primary goal of the masterplan is to 'unlock the innate potential of the iconic Senate House environs' to provide a core facility suitable for new blended learning and research and for students, staff and visitors to enjoy using.



Support our vision

If you would like more information on our plans, or wish to discuss how you could support the University, please visit **london.ac.uk/support** or contact us:

Bill Abraham

Director of Development

Holly Peterson

Head of Constituency Engagement

Email: development@london.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7862 8009

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