Thinking about university? Here's what you need to know...
Contents

- Meet some King's students
- What I wish I'd known
- Applying to uni
- Student money
- Being a student in London
- Top tips
- Top spots in the city
- More than a degree
- Make a difference
- A word about qualifications
- Your next steps
Welcome to the KCLSU alternative prospectus, written by students for students.

If you're thinking about university and want to know what it's really like to study at King's then look no further, this prospectus is for you!

We want to give you a glimpse of all that King's has to offer outside the classroom,

so whether you're interested in finding out what it's like to study in the capital or want to know how to get involved with your Students' Union,

this prospectus will cover all the exciting stuff that you can get involved with at King's.
Meet some King's students

I'm Ellie, and I'm originally from Luton. Neither of my parents went to University so this was all new to us.

I study History and I chose KCL because everybody I met was so friendly - on my offer holders' day it felt like I'd already started! In my spare time I have my own show on KCL Radio.

I'm Joe, I'm from Sheffield and when I'm alone I dream about scoring the winning goal for Sheffield United in the Champions League final.

I'm studying medicine and I came to King's because all the most interesting medical cases get sent to London hospitals. Plus there's always something going on in London!
Hey, I'm Nadine. I'm the first person in my family to go to university, and was born and raised in London.

I've just graduated with a BA in Liberal Arts and that's why I chose to study at King's because it was the only institution that had the kind of interdisciplinary study I wanted to do.

I'm Rachel and I've always found the brain interesting. I'm studying for my PhD in Developmental Neuroscience, I also get involved with activism and politics.

I chose to study at King's because, as a Londoner, it feels like home.

I'm Sophia and I'm from London. I went to university to study mental health nursing at the age of 22 and lived at home.

I chose to study at King's because Florence Nightingale founded the Faculty of Nursing, and she really inspires me.
What I wish I had known before starting university

What do you wish you had known before starting university?

That you can work part-time and juggle your studies.
Sarah, 23

How important getting valuable work experience is alongside studying for your degree.
Nadine, 21

That there is support to help you - if you think you're falling behind or are having a tough time settling in, seek advice!
Nicole, 22

Everyone's in the same boat: you might think that someone seems better suited to university than you but just remember - you share a classroom and you deserve to be at university too!
Matt, 21
To get involved with your Students' Union.
Abi, 23

To run for a Student Officer/Sabbatical position within my Students' Union.
Uzma, 30

At university you need to find out information for yourself, and not wait to be told by your teacher.
Joe, 22

That I’d make friends, even though I chose to live at home whilst studying for my degree.
Rachel, 22

To apply for bursaries and scholarships to give (me) some extra money whilst studying.
Jamie, 21

How to manage my time so that I meet all the deadlines.
Ellie, 20
Applying to uni

UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, and they are in charge of applications to British universities.

You will complete an online application form and fill out all your personal details, your qualifications and any work experience.

You'll also need to write a personal statement which outlines why you are applying for the course, the experience and interests you have and why you want to study the subject.
When it comes to finding your chosen degree King's offers a range of subjects to study so make sure you have a look at all the options available.

For example, you may be interested in studying Medicine but find that Biochemistry is right for you; or you may want to study History but discover that you're better suited to International Relations.

As there are lots of courses to choose from it is best to research as much as possible. You can search for all available courses using the UCAS website.
You don’t have to come to university with thousands of pounds already. You can apply for a loan from the Government regardless of your income.

Student loans are broken down into two parts: tuition fee loans and maintenance loans (living costs). Tuition fees pay for the cost of the course and go straight to the university.

Maintenance loans are for everything else outside your course, including things you’ll need for studying, such as a laptop and text books.
Studying in London can be more expensive but students get a bigger loan when studying in London.

King’s offers the King’s Living Bursary which is available to all students, unless NHS funded, whose household income is below the student finance threshold.

There are lots of other bursaries and scholarships available to you as a student, so make sure you do your research!

Did you know? Paying back student loans is different to other types of loan, as you only pay back what you can afford. For more information please see: https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview
If you decide to study in London here are a few tips to get the most from your experience and help you save money (from current students!)

Get a student Oyster card - apply to Oyster through your university in London, and they will verify your student status. This is fairly easy to do and will save you lots of money on travel.

Pick your zone: make sure you're not commuting too far from your campus, as the money you save in rent will be spent on travel.

Make the most of being part of the University of London - attend social and academic events.

Take advantage of being in the capital - apply for London-based internships or work experience, attend galleries and exhibitions and utilise the opportunities London provides you with.

Get an NUS extra card, this card proves you are a student which will give great discounts in a variety of places.

Try cycling: lots of London has cycling superhighways which means it's fairly safe to cycle across London, saving money and doing good for the environment.
Here are some top tips for having a successful student experience from our King's students...

Locate your library services!

Find out about the Chaplaincy - lots of universities will have a Chaplaincy service which can provide both spiritual services and individual support.

Locate your counselling service - every university will have one and it's good to know about them in case you need to access their support at some point.

Budget budget budget! It helps to make sure you don't get caught short, so make a budget to plan how to effectively spend your money.

Consider taking a part-time job: this can help to bolster your CV and provide you with extra funds whilst a student.

Join societies to find people similar to you - these people will probably become your university family and you'll make some amazing friends.

Days at university can be long, especially if you're in the labs from 9-6! It's worth packing some snacks and investing in a refillable water bottle so you don't end up spending lots of money on lunches out.
Falafel & Shawarma in Camberwell, really good and really cheap falafel.

Burgess Park has lots of green space, which is perfect for taking a study break or lunches in the sunshine!

Check out the Tate Modern it's the best building in London. Good coffee too. It's really cool on late night openings.

Borough Market, there's cheap food if you go around 5pm, and a famous London landmark that's just a stone's throw from Guy's campus.
KCLSU Waterfront Bar (Strand), one of our student venues and a great place to grab a burger, meet a friend and admire the amazing view of the Thames.

SoHo is a great London location especially for LGBT+ clubbing it is right next to Chinatown which is great for delicious food.

Check out the pop up food stalls that sell falafel, Thai food and Ethiopian coffee outside St John the Evangelist Church near our Waterloo campus.

Make sure you visit The National Theatre on Southbank. Good place to have meetings, do revision, see some awesome brutalist architecture, the terraces have a great view in the summer and you can get in and hang out for free.
Whilst at university you should check out all the services available to you, especially your Students' Union.

Every university will have a Students' Union and as a student at the university you will automatically become a member.

A Students' Union is led by students for students. This means that their main purpose is to democratically represent the interests of their members.

Students' Unions are also a place to connect with other students, have fun, play sports, volunteer, seek advice and be part of the student community at your university.
So if you are a keen baker, a great footballer or Harry Potter super-fan head to your SU and get social and make friends at your Students' Union by joining an activity group or a sports club.

At King’s we have a wide range of societies from the KCL Dance society with over 300 members, to the Cheese Society - there’s a society for everyone.

The Welcome Fair is an event run by KCLSU during the first weekend of university. It’s held at the Barbican, a big London landmark and a huge venue.

Over the weekend thousands of students attend the fair where there will be 300 societies and sports clubs for you to meet along with your Student Officers and KCLSU staff - make sure you check it out in your first week!
The great thing about being involved with your Students’ Union is that if you don’t like something, you have the power to change it.

All positions are democratically elected, that means you run for a position, write a manifesto and your fellow students vote for which candidate they feel is most credible.

You might want to be your course representative or an elected Student Officer.

Some roles are part-time and voluntary and others, such as Student Officer roles are often full-time salaried positions.

These roles are a great way to get valuable experience outside of your studies, contribute to your student experience and have a positive impact on the student body.

Students’ Unions are traditionally political and you might find a passion for activism and being part of, or running, a campaign: these issues may be something specific to your university or a national concern.

At King’s College London Students’ Union, students were successful in running a campaign to have the libraries open for 24 hours.
Also many universities have liberation associations for specific communities of students, such as the LGBT community, students of colour, working-class association and disabled students.

Associations are a great forum to voice your opinion, and to run campaigns to ensure that your university is truly inclusive and a place where all feel accepted - they are also a great place to meet friends and like-minded people.

At university you may have a lot of spare time on your hands. Volunteering and Fundraising is a great way to give something back to the community and gain valuable experience and skills in the process.
A word about qualifications

It’s a good idea to start thinking about subjects you’re really interested in when picking your GCSE options.

For example if you’re interested in studying to be a medical doctor you’ll need good grades in your science GCSEs, it’s worthwhile finding out a bit about university entry requirements.

When you’re thinking about what you’d like to do after you finish school you should decide whether you enjoy learning in a classroom, learning practically or learning 'on the job' whilst earning money. Not every path will enable you to apply for university, so think carefully about what you want to do in the future.

If there are particular subjects you enjoy learning about, or want to study at university start choosing subjects which give you the best possible preparation for your chosen degree course.
Try and match up the subjects you've chosen for further study with the course you'd be interested in studying at university.

If you're not sure what you'd like to do, choose broad subjects like English, Maths and History to keep your options open!

Google 'Informed Choices' on the Russell Group website to find out more information.

University is not the only option, if you don't think further study is for you look into apprenticeships and vocational study.
Now that you know more about university and studying at King's, start looking into your options and planning where you want to go on your journey!

Make sure you check out our website www.kclsu.org for more information about being a student at King's.
This prospectus was printed in January 2017 and KCLSU has made every effort to ensure that this information was helpful and accurate when we went to print. But there may be some changes to (for example) our courses, facilities or fees and therefore it is important that you check on the King’s website for updates (www.kcl.ac.uk/prospectus) or contact us directly if you have any queries.