

# **Contents**

#### The inside view on London

London is one of the greatest cities on the planet to be – especially when you're a student. Those lucky enough to study here enjoy access to fantastic food, art, sport, theatre, shopping and surprising sights.

There are already hundreds of books and websites where you can find information on where to go in the capital (we list some of the best at the back). But we want to give you a view from those already studying at Goldsmiths about how to get the most out of living here. We've picked their brains about everything from where to go out at night, to the best places to ride a bike. So we hope our insiders' guide will get you excited about the opportunities that lay ahead if you are joining us at Goldsmiths.

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# **AREAS TO EXPLORE**



"As an international student, I wanted to study abroad to experience as much of the wider world as possible – but it's as if living in London brings the world to you."

> Saif, BSc Management and Entrepreneurship with International Foundation Yes



Goldsmiths is located in New Cross, in South East London. On the train it's just seven minutes to London Bridge Station, which connects to central London and its world-famous galleries, museums, theatres, festivals, shops, markets and parks for you to explore.

If you're looking for a great cultural experience and a vibrant mix of people, then this global city is the perfect venue for your studies.



#### **SOUTH-EAST LONDON**

Moving to a large city can seem daunting, but London is really just a collection of neighbourhoods, and they each have their own character. Walking around and getting to know your area, and deciding on your favourite places, are some of the great pleasures of moving to a new city.



New Cross has a large student community, and being based on one campus makes it easy to get to know others. There are lots of places to try in New Cross, which are mentioned throughout our guide, and you will soon have your own favourites. Here's our introduction to some nearby areas, and a few of the places we love to eat, drink and relax in, to give you a head start.



Deptford is less than a 10-minute walk from Goldsmiths. There's a growing creative community in the area, with many artists and makers filling the studios that sit beside Deptford Creek, the old docks. At Deptford Market you'll find stalls selling fruit and veg from all corners of the world sitting alongside small art galleries like Bearspace, performing arts centre The Albany, and community hub Deptford Lounge.

Look out for some fantastic murals while you're shopping along Deptford High Street, which has been voted one of the best in the capital for its diverse independent shops. If you fancy sampling some traditional London grub, investigate Manze's (eels, anyone?). Other highlights include the Royal Albert and Dog and Bell pubs, and community café The Greenhouse Deptford.









Did vou know... South London has many annual free festivals including **Lewisham People's** Day, Rotherhithe Festival and the eclectic Lambeth **Country Show** 







Greenwich is a 20-minute walk from the Goldsmiths campus. With strong maritime connections and status as a World Heritage Site, Greenwich has history and beauty galore. Famous attractions like the Cutty Sark and National Maritime Museum (which is free) sit side-by-side with bars, markets, a theatre, comedy club and restaurants.

For low-cost, hearty Chinese meals head to Tai Won Mein, near the Cutty Sark. There's cheap traditional British food, including the Cockney staple pie and mash, at Goddards, or if coffee and brownies are more your thing, try Red Door, a small quirky shop near the covered market.

The cheapest way to eat in this area is to take a picnic to the park, which is between Greenwich and Blackheath. See pages 18-19 for advice on enjoying outdoor London.











## **Brockley and Lewisham**

Nearby Brockley is home to the awardwinning Brockley Market. Open every Saturday, it's a brilliant place to pick up fresh food supplied by local producers and traders, and enjoy street food on the nearby picnic tables.

A short bus ride or walk away you'll find cafés and coffee shops like Browns of Brockley and The Brockley Mess, as well as the Brockley Jack Theatre and the retro Rivoli Ballroom, which is London's only intact 1950s ballroom. It holds regular dance and musical events.

En route to Lewisham from the Goldsmiths campus you can take in some culture at Lewisham Arthouse, or indulge yourself at Turkish restaurant Meze Mangal. Lewisham itself has a shopping centre with high street stores, as well as a large market selling everything from cheap fruit and vegetables to bric-a-brac.



## Peckham

Peckham is just a short bus ride away and it is a favourite with many students from Goldsmiths. Read Harriet's tips for places to go here on pages 20-21.

#### **EAST LONDON**

The sights and delights of East London are well connected to New Cross – you can get there on the London Overground in under 15 minutes. From the nightlife of Shoreditch and Dalston to the curry houses of Brick Lane, there's plenty to keep you occupied.

#### Whitechapel and Brick Lane

This area is home to the Whitechapel Gallery, which has played a central role in London's cultural scene and has brought art to the people since it was founded in 1901. Alongside works from artists such as Picasso, Pollock, Kahlo and Freud, you can find many Goldsmiths alumni too. (Read art student Tami's advice for enjoying the creative side of London on pages 14-17).

Just around the corner is the famous Brick Lane, which today is home to a thriving community, lots of vintage shops and a great choice of curry houses. Other food options include Brick Lane Beigel Bake (open all day, every day), and Pho, offering South-East Asian delights.

If music and culture is your thing, you won't be disappointed at Rough Trade East. A major retailer located within the Old Truman Brewery, it boasts a wide variety of music, gigs and literature not for the faint hearted. Live music venue 93 Feet East specialises in experimental electronic music and has a large courtvard that plays host to frequent BBQs in the summer. Also within the Old Truman Brewery is Sunday Upmarket. where you can find anything from handmade jewellery to Middle Eastern street food. If you haven't got much to spend you can still wander round and take inspiration from the crafty goods.











### **Shoreditch and Hoxton**

Shoreditch, once a neglected part of the capital, is now a nightlife hotspot. While some have moved north to up-and-coming Dalston (see right), Shoreditch still attracts a young, creative crowd, who come for the music and arts venues.

Favourites include Cargo and XOYO, a two-floor club that features global names alongside emerging acts. A short walk away, Rich Mix is an cultural hub. The community space hosts art exhibitions and live music as well as daily cinema screenings with great student discounts. If you're after cheap food, pick up pizza from Voodoo Rays. If you'd like a margarita with your margarita, try Homeslice, which has a cocktail bar.

Heading towards Hoxton, The Love Shake is a diner-style café complete with cosy booths and kitsch Americana. It is open until 2.30am every night, serving up classic shakes and proper hotdogs, as well as regular speakeasy nights.

While in Hoxton (in daylight hours) visit the Geffrye Museum, which offers a history of the home. The museum is surrounded by gardens that include a café, which make a peaceful space away from the bustle of the area.

#### **Dalston**

From not-for-profit jazz clubs like Vortex to bohemian cultural community centre Passing Clouds, there's something for nearly every taste here.

If you need to get away from the bars into the open air, the Laburnum Boat Club, between Dalston and Shoreditch, has boats for hire. Or head to London Fields if you want a relaxing afternoon in a park or a swim in an outdoor pool. On a Saturday you can stroll to Broadway Market, where you are spoilt for choice for street food.



# TRAVELLING AROUND LONDON

Like any big city, the transport system in London can be confusing at first. It includes a massive network of trains, tubes, buses, trams, boats and even a cable car. But here are some tips to help you use public transport like a local.

### Never pay full price

The cheapest way to travel around London transport is with an Oyster card, which you top up with money and then swipe on a reader as you enter stations or get on a bus or tram. There is a maximum spend on an Oyster card for any one day, so if you are making a lot of journeys you won't break the bank. The current cap is £6.50.

It's worth remembering you can use a contactless bank card to pay instead of an Oyster card.

If you are a full-time student, then you can apply for an 18+ Student Oyster photocard, which will get you 30% off the price of adult-rate travelcards and bus and tram pass season tickets. Apply for one here: photocard.tfl.gov.uk

#### Two-for-one bus journeys

In 2016, the new London mayor, Sadiq Khan, introduced the Hopper Fare. It means you can make a journey using pay-as-you-go (contactless or Oyster) on a bus or tram, then make a second bus or tram journey for free, as long as it is within one hour of starting the first journey. If you need more information go to tfl.gov.uk/campaign/hopper-fare

#### Cable car over the river

Once you have an Oyster card you can get discounted tickets on the Emirates Air Line – otherwise known as the cable car. The journey across the river takes 10 minutes, and includes views of the Greenwich peninsula and the 'Millennium Dome'. It's the same price to ride at night, so you could get a starlit view of east London if you are lucky and have clear skies. tfl.gov.uk/modes/emirates-air-line

## All-night tubes

Some Londoners can now avoid taking a night bus or an expensive cab ride home by catching the Night Tube. Five lines now have trains running until morning on Fridays and Saturdays. Visit tfl.gov.uk/nighttube if you want to see which lines are running all night.

Did you know... There are 19,500 bus stops in London, 3,500 of which are solar powered



# **CULTURAL LIFE**

Cultural life is very rich in London, and you could be seeing new plays, visiting art galleries and watching performance poetry every day if you had the energy. If your funds are low there are many places to access art for free – including the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery in Trafalgar Square, the two Tate galleries, and Damien Hirst's Newport Street Gallery. in Vauxhall.





You don't have to travel in to town to get your art fix – Tanishtha, who's in the third year of a Fine Art and History of Art degree, shares some of her tips for enjoying cultural life in South London.

"London is a great place to study for many reasons, but it is especially good if you're interested in the creative side of things. Ranging from performances and gigs, to artist collectives, and pop-up exhibitions, London has so much to offer.

You don't necessarily have to be in Zone 1 to be part of London's creative community – in fact many of the smaller galleries and collectives are a lot more open to student participation. From the very start of my art degree, I realised that being in South East London was really beneficial to my studies.

There is always a performance or exhibition to go to and meet people that work in the industry. This area has been very helpful to build up a network of like-minded practitioners, as well as having a platform to show my own work."



# OUR ART STUDENT'S ADVICE FOR THE BEST LOCAL CREATIVE SPACES

Bussey Building/Copeland Park (above) copelandpark.com

сореганиратк.сон

"This is a collection of galleries, cafés, pop-up restaurants and markets as well as a club with music and live performances. It's hard to cover everything because there's always something new happening. Some of their activities are seasonal, such as the rooftop cinema, while the galleries and clubs are more permanent."

#### **Buster Mantis**

www.bustermantis.com

"Buster Mantis is perfect for something intimate as it's in railway arches. Half of the venue (middle right) is a creative space where local people can host cultural events. They range from pop-ups and musical performances, to exhibitions and screenings. They're friendly and easy to contact if you want to use the space."

## Deptford X

www.deptfordx.org

"This contemporary art festival features emerging artists who are commissioned to create site-specific works for the Deptford area. And every year an exciting fringe festival runs alongside this, including many site-specific events, most of which are completely free."





## Tanishtha's tips for great resources to keep you in touch with what's happening in the city



## The South London Art Map

www.southlondonartmap.com

"Lists most of the smaller independent galleries. They also host events such as 'SLAM Fridays' where galleries in South London remain open late, offering tours, screening and more. I've found that this is a great way to socialise and be immersed in the arty side of things."





#### SongKick app

"There's always so much going on in London, sometimes it's really hard to know about all of it. Apps like this are really helpful if you're interested in a particular musician or group or genre of music, and want to know when their events are in your local area."

#### **MUSEUMS WE LOVE**

London is famous for its great museums, and three of the most loved by both Londoners and tourists are in South Kensington – the Victoria & Albert, the Science Museum, and the Natural History Museum. The Design Museum is now in a new, bigger home by Holland Park. All four are free to enter.

But here we've picked out five of the best specialised, smaller museums that take you away from the big crowds and offer something different.



#### 1. Cinema Museum

www.cinemamuseum.org.uk

Tucked away on a side street in Kennington, this unique collection of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment preserves the history and grandeur of cinema from the 1890s to today.

### 2. The Old Operating Theatre

www.thegarret.org.uk

At the top of a spiral staircase in an old church near London Bridge you'll find the only surviving 19th-century operating theatre in England. You can learn about medical history, peer into some interesting specimen jars, and watch live demonstrations of surgical techniques.

#### 3. Cartoon Museum

www.cartoonmuseum.org

Around the corner from the monumental British Museum, the Cartoon Museum includes original British cartoon and comic art from the 18th century through to Manga. And if you have Student ID you can get in for £3!

The Cartoon Museum is part of London's Museum Mile, which runs from King's Cross down to the River Thames. Visit www.museum-mile.org.uk to find out more about the Museum Mile.

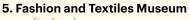
# 4. Sir John Soane's Museum

www.soane.org

This unique museum near Holborn was the house of a famous English architect, and it has been kept as it was at his death 180 years ago. It is full to bursting with his collection of antiquities and works of art, including an alabaster sarcophagus. This place is truly a treasure trove.







www.ftmlondon.org

Founded by iconic British designer Zandra Rhodes, this museum aims not just to display and collect items relating to fashion, jewellery and textile design, but to inspire the next generation of creatives. It is on Bermondsey Street, which also has lots of coffee shops and restaurants to explore.



# ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

Although Goldsmiths is in inner London, you don't have to spend your time here surrounded by buildings and traffic. The city is full of beautiful parks and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors – and South London is one of the best parts with 34% green space, according to Time Out.

You are truly spoilt for choice for open spaces in the city – there around 3,000! So there are different options depending on what you love doing. You might want to watch deer in Richmond Park, hire a boat at Regent's Park, or enjoy some open-air swimming in the lido in Herne Hill or Tooting Bec.



Michael is in the third year of a Sociology degree. He loves the outdoor life and travels in to Goldsmiths from across town on his bike. Here are his tips for enjoying the greener parts of the city.

"It's no good for your mind, body or soul to spend excessive amounts of time in the library or in lectures – London's parks and outdoor spaces offer much-needed opportunities to step outside the city, without actually having to leave it.

Nearby Telegraph Hill is a Goldsmiths student fave to chill in, where you can

look over the city, but when you fancy a longer walk Greenwich Park and Blackheath are great places. There are fantastic views of the river from the Observatory, and it's only a short bus journey away. Alternatively, walk along the Thames Pathways. I'd recommend joining the river in Deptford and finishing off at the Cutty Sark at sunset.









In terms of outdoor escapes local to Goldsmiths, the unsung hero of the bunch has to be Mudchute Farm (top right). Walking round the 32 acres of farm and seeing the llamas and other animals with the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf in the background is a brilliant and slightly surreal experience. The café does a good fry-up, which means the whole day can be a great hangover cure. From Deptford it's six minutes on the Dockland Light Railway. Come on people – show those llamas some love!

My favourite outdoor place in London has to be Hampstead Heath – it's amazing! It's a bit further than the previous options but once you're there you can quickly lose yourself in the hilly woodlands, visit Rembrandt's portraits in Somerset House or walk up Parliament Hill. It's one of the nicest places to look onto the city... especially at night.

## **Cycling in London**

A lot of cyclists not familiar with the city are worried about getting on a bike in London. Keeping safe wth lights, reflective wear and a helmet is a must, but cycling in London doesn't have to mean busy highroads and non-stop traffic. Plan your journey to avoid such routes and make the most of cycle super ways, quiet ways and bike paths.

As well as keeping safe, it's more relaxing and a good way to see parts of the city that get missed as people move primarily along bus routes and underground.

Don't worry if you're not bringing a bike to London with you in September. Some parks, such as Dulwich Park, include bike rental shops, or you can score yourself a Boris Bike (officially called Santander Cycles) from places across central London, and the first hour is only £2."

# **NIGHTS OUT**

If you're looking forward to nightlife while you're at university then you've made a great choice by considering Goldsmiths. There are world-renowned clubs in London and you're guaranteed to find some excellent events across the capital (you can use one of the sites listed on page 26 to help), but do not forget about South East London!



evening, and are seemingly filled to the brim with London's coolest people.

Canavans pool hall, just up the road, hosts regular nights such as the brilliant Rhythm Section – though if you're after something a little different their karaoke is a notable recommendation – or you can just play pool.

Copeland Park, round the corner of Bussey, has bars and restaurants such as The Nines, Forza Win and Ali Baba's. All these places are great for an evening drink and also have a lot of bands playing. Did you know...
The Goldsmiths
Students' Union
holds a weekly Club
Sandwich night, and
there are student-led
events, from gigs to
workshops, on too

Third-year English and Drama student Harriet, who is partial to a bit of DJing herself, gives us her recommendations.

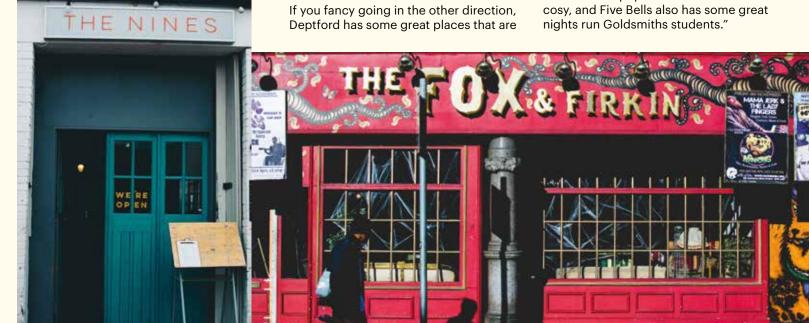
"Peckham has a great nightlife scene boasting venues such as CLF Art café, Canavans, Franks, Copeland Park and Four Quarters.

The CLF Art Café – aka Bussey Building – is a huge, multi-level warehouse right on the high street, and has some great nights out. Soul Train is pretty much an institution. Queues form early and it gets very busy, but it's totally worth it. Rye Wax, in the basement, is a great place to pick up vinyl, and hosts a plethora of smaller acts and DJs.

In the summer, Peckham has two of the best rooftop bars in London – legit, this is in Time Out Magazine – Frank's and Bussey. Both are great places for early still a bit under the radar. Job Centre, on Deptford High Street, is named after the civil service office that was once there. Inside it's cosy with a great menu – pretty much all the places round here have great food! – and has a jobs board, which is fitting for its namesake.

For something completely different to all of this, definitely head to The Fox and Firkin pub in Lewisham. It has all sorts of events throughout the week – even adult handstand classes.

If you want somewhere closer to Goldsmiths then luckily New Cross has some great and varied places. You are bound to bump into someone you know in the nearby The Fat Walrus. The Royal Albert is also popular and a little more cosy, and Five Bells also has some great nights run Goldsmiths students."



# GREAT PLACES TO STUDY IN LONDON

We've already given you some tips on where to enjoy the culture, nightlife and green spaces of London, but what about the (arguably) most important reason you are here – to study?

Goldsmiths library has room for group and silent study, and a place to buy drinks and snacks. During term time the library is open 24 hours a day, every day, so it is never too late to access the books or workspaces there. If you're a postgraduate there's a library room set aside for your quiet study, and in the Graduate School for research students.

Because we are part of the University of London you can also use the libraries of the other colleges, like Kings or SOAS, and the library at Senate House.





## Local coffee-fuelled study

If you prefer to study somewhere less formal, there are many cafés nearby that make great spots to work on your next essay. Some of our local favourites are:

**The Hill Station**, Telegraph Hill. Five minutes' walk up the hill behind Goldsmiths you'll find this community-run café. It has large tables and room to sit outside with views of Telegraph Hill Park if the weather is warm.

No 67 Café and Restaurant, Camberwell. What better place to feel inspired to do your coursework than in the café attached to the South London Gallery. It may be quite small, but during the day it's a relaxing place to pick something off the brunch menu and tuck into some study.

The Southbank Centre (pictured above). A little further away but you can use the free wifi while you study, and take in a stroll along the river if you need a break.



Samantha is studying for an MA in Children's Literature, and loves to write in some of the city's quirkiest cafés. Here's a few of her favourites.

#### **Hoxton Street Monster Supplies**

london.ziferblat.net

"This is the shopfront for the magical creative writing and mentoring centre Ministry of Stories. The shop (right) is cosy and full of fun products, like thickest human snot (lemon curd). If you volunteer, you can sit and do your work at the desk, and they'll bring tea and biscuits all day."

#### L'eau à La Bouche

www.labouche.co.uk

"This French café has window seating and long wooden shared tables, and everyone brings their laptops and headphones and dogs and sits together. I alternate between writing and listening in to the conversations of the people next to me."

#### **Ziferblat**

london.ziferblat.net

"You ring the buzzer and say you're there for Ziferblat, like a secret clubhouse. Inside (bottom right) looks like a living room, but this is a space exclusively for reading, writing, and working on art or music. They have coffee, tea and snacks, which are free with your £3 entry fee."

Did you know...
There's a National
Poetry Library in the
Southbank Centre,
which is free to join.
It was opened by
TS Eliot and Herbert
Read in 1953





# OPPORTUNITY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

One massive advantage of studying in London is the access it can give you to the movers and shakers of so many industries. Whether you are interested in working in politics, the media, an NGO or the arts, there's no doubt that living in the capital brings you closer to the large organisations that influence Britain and the world.

Many Goldsmiths students complete work placements while they are

studying with us. Being so close to the headquarters of influential organisations gives you much better access to CV-boosting work experience.

You're also one step ahead of those who've studied outside London when you graduate. With the centre of business and the creative industries so close by, your employment options are likely to be wider than those who do not know the city.



"The value of the course was its connections to people working in the creative industries. Meeting people in a wide variety of companies was a real eye-opener, and the placement at The Princes Trust gave me on-the-job experience. Moonlighting as an usher in the West End did me no harm either!"

Jon, MA Arts Administration and Cultural Policy



PhD student Krys is making sure she accesses the resources and organisations that being in London allows while she studies.

"I've had the privilege of volunteering with various activist organisations while studying in London. However, I've felt most connected to Restless Development – a transnational youth-led development agency that believes young people are the most impactful catalyst for progressive social change in our world. restlessdevelopment.org/uk

I feel privileged to study within a cosmopolitan city that fuels global communication. I highly recommend the Media Trust, Britain's top communications charity, which hosts a range of creative opportunities for 16-25-year-olds through notable media powerhouses such as YouTube, ITN, ITV News, Community Channel and the Evening Standard.

#### www.mediatrust.org

The Roundhouse in Chalk Farm (pictured) is one of the city's most iconic concert venues and creative media hubs, and it engages with young people through various music, media and performing arts projects. As a striving broadcast journalist, this platform continues to provide me with an inspirational, tight-knit support network and a boost of confidence while undertaking media studies at Goldsmiths."

www.roundhouse.org.uk

As a Media and Communications student, I definitely enjoy the various public seminar series hosted by the Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy at Goldsmiths. Each event provokes insightful discussions and debates, with topics ranging from social justice, inequality and diversity representations.

#### gold.ac.uk/global-media-democracy

I also always make sure I attend the annual Goldsmiths Human Rights Film Festival, which features Q&A session's with the film directors after the screenings. Some of the impressive documentaries shown include: 'How to Change the World', 'Dreamcatcher', 'Blood in the Mobile' and 'Fuocoammare' (Fire At Sea)."



# **USEFUL WEBSITES**

#### **General London**

Londonist com

Visit London www.visitlondon.com

Secret London secretldn.com

A Peace of London apeaceoflondon.com

London SE www.london-se.com

TimeOut www.timeout.com/london

# **Cheap places**

Top Tip London www.toptiplondon.com

Skint London

www.skintlondon.com

#### **Outdoor London**

The Royal Parks www.royalparks.org.uk

Santander Bikes (aka Boris bikes) tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles

#### Travel

Transport for London (general travel information and a journey planner that almost works)

tfl.gov.uk tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey

Live departure boards (for up-to-date info on when the next trains are running from any station)

www.livedepartureboards.co.uk

Bus It London (easy-to-use way to find your best bus routes)

www.busitlondon.co.uk

### **Nights out**

Design My Night www.designmynight.com/london

London Night Guide (for swankier evenings out)

www.londonnightguide.com

Resident Advisor (specialises in electronic music and festivals) www.residentadvisor.net/guide/uk/london

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Thank you to the photographers whose work appears in this guide, particularly Annie Kruntcheva for her photographs of London (anniekruntcheva.wordpress.com).

Front cover image by Paul Gilmore

# **KEEP IN TOUCH**







GoldsmithsUoL