

Information for international (non-EU) students
preparing to study at Goldsmiths

A Guide for New International Students



Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Checklist

It is important that you make sure you have done all of the things below BEFORE you arrive in the UK:

- Responded to your offer letter from Goldsmiths
- Organised and obtained your visa
- Got your funding in place for tuition and living expenses
- Arranged accommodation



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Welcome to Goldsmiths

Welcome to Goldsmiths

Thank you for choosing to study at Goldsmiths,
University of London.

This booklet contains important information which
will make your preparations to study at Goldsmiths
easier, so please take time to read it carefully.

We wish you an enjoyable and successful time
at Goldsmiths.

For the latest information, please visit our webpages
www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/international,
follow us on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/mygoldsmiths>
or you can find us on Facebook,
www.facebook.com/goldsmithsuol

If you have any questions, please contact:

International Partnerships and Development Office
Goldsmiths, University of London
New Cross, London SE14 6NW
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7919 7702

Fax: +44 (0)20 7919 7704

E-mail: international-office@gold.ac.uk
www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/international

**We can supply information in alternative formats
for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia.
Please contact the International Partnerships and
Development Office, tel +44 (0)20 7919 7702,
or visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/disability.**

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GOLDSMITHS COLLEGE

Before you arrive

IMPORTANT VISA INFORMATION

It is important that you read this section BEFORE travelling to the UK.

Immigration

The following information refers to those who are aged over 18. If you are under 18, please contact our Student Advice team at student-advice@gold.ac.uk. UK Immigration control affects everyone who is not a British national – unless you already have no limit or restriction on your stay in the UK.

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals can live, work and study in the UK with very few restrictions.

All other nationals who want to come and study in the UK must first obtain Tier 4 (General) student entry clearance. For more information, contact the British Embassy or High Commission in your home country, or visit www.ukvisas.gov.uk.

It will take several weeks to complete this process, so you are advised start as soon as possible.

- Do not enter the UK without Tier 4 (General) student entry clearance if you intend to study an English Language course for more than 11 months or any other course for more than six months. You may be refused entry, and you cannot switch to 'student' status later within the UK.
- Do not enter the UK as a 'General visitor' if your intention is to study. The Immigration Rules Part 2 paragraph 41(v) state: '(v) does not intend to undertake a course of study;' and you cannot switch from General visitor to Tier 4 (General) Student from within the UK.

If you are aged over 18 and you are coming to study on a course of six months or less or an English Language course of less than 11 months, you may choose to come to the UK as a 'student visitor', instead of as a 'Tier 4 (General) student'. If you choose to come as a 'student visitor', please be aware you will be much more restricted than if you come as a 'Tier 4 (General) student'. You will not be allowed to do any work (paid or unpaid), you will not be allowed to apply to extend your stay in the UK and it is not possible to switch from 'student visitor' to 'Tier 4 (General) student' from within the UK. You may wish to check with a Student Adviser which is the most appropriate route for you, email student-advice@gold.ac.uk.

For information on the process of applying for entry clearance as a Tier 4 (General) student please visit www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/infs/inf29pbsstudent.

The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) produce an information sheet called 'Making a student immigration application in your home country' which provides advice on the immigration requirements for students planning to study in the UK: www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/applying_home_country.php.

The Immigration Rules Part 6A paragraphs 245ZT-245ZY set out the requirements for those wishing to come to the UK as a 'Tier 4 (General) student': www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/part6a.

If you have obtained a Tier 4 student visa, this should be sufficient to gain entry to the UK. You may wish to carry your offer letter in your hand luggage, although this is not a requirement.

SECTION 1

Before you arrive (continued)

Please be aware that under UKBA rules if you do not come to or complete your enrolment, fail to attend satisfactorily, or subsequently withdraw from your programme of study, Goldsmiths will be obliged to inform the Home Office.

Please note this information refers to the UK Immigration System at the time of writing. Please check for updates on the UK Visa Service Section website: www.ukvisas.gov.uk.

Bringing your family to the UK

Certain members of your family can apply to be in the UK as your 'dependants'. If you have Tier 4 (General) student immigration permission these are your:

- Spouse (you must both be aged 18 or over)
- Civil partner (you must both be aged 18 or over)
- Unmarried or same-sex partner (you will need to have been living together in a relationship similar to marriage or civil partnership for a period of at least two years; you will be expected to provide evidence of this. You must both be 18 or over)
- Your child or children (children must be aged under 18).

Please see the UKCISA information sheet 'Your family's immigration' for information on the immigration requirements for students' family members: http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/your_family.php.

Whether your dependants can join you in the UK will also depend upon the level/length of course that you are undertaking. You may wish to check with a Student Adviser whether it is possible to have your dependants join you, email student-advice@gold.ac.uk

You are strongly advised not to travel to the UK with your family unless you know you will have suitable accommodation on arrival. It is difficult to find student accommodation suitable for families, and we suggest you come to the UK on your own and then organise suitable accommodation for your family to join you. Unfortunately, Goldsmiths cannot guarantee family accommodation.

Arranging childcare might be difficult. Goldsmiths offers a 'signposting service' to local childcare providers and organisations offering holiday play schemes. For further details on holiday play schemes please contact the Students' Union, +44 (0)20 8692 1406, or for childcare provision please contact Student Services, +44 (0)20 7919 7757.

Goldsmiths currently has some nursery spaces, but they are limited and we cannot guarantee your children can be accommodated. There is usually a waiting list for places and you are advised to apply early. A leaflet giving details of facilities and services, and of parents' financial and other obligations is available. Please phone Student Services at Goldsmiths: +44(0)20 7919 7757 or e-mail nursery@gold.ac.uk.

Registering with the police

Students (and their dependants) from certain countries, who will be studying a course of more than six months, are required to register with the police within seven days of arriving in the UK.

Please check the stamp/sticker in your passport when you arrive in the UK to see if there is a requirement for you to register with the police.

Take your passport, two passport-sized photographs, and the registration fee (currently £34) to the Overseas Visitors Records Office, Brandon House, 180 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LH, between 0900 and 1600, Monday-Friday.

Working in the UK

To find out whether you are able to work in the UK you must check what the entry clearance sticker stamp in your passport says.

If you are in the UK with Tier 4 (General) student immigration permission and your passport sticker says:

'Restricted work, p/t term time, f/t vacations' or 'Restricted work in term-time' or 'Work (and any changes) must be authorised' or 'Able to work as authorised by the Secretary of State' you are allowed to work during your studies.

You can work up to 10 or 20 hours a week during term-time, depending on the level of your course and full-time during vacations.

You can do most kinds of work, but you must not engage in business, be self-employed, provide services as a professional sportsperson or entertainer, or pursue a career by filling a permanent full-time vacancy.

If your passport sticker or identity card says 'No work', you must not work in the UK. This would be a breach of your immigration conditions, which is a criminal offence. Please note that work includes both paid and unpaid work.

Those with 'student visitor' immigration permission are not allowed to work in the UK.

Please note the consequences of a student breaching these conditions can be very serious.

Please see the UKCISA information sheet 'Working in the UK during your studies' for more information: http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/working_during_studies.php.

Travelling outside the UK

If you are travelling abroad, for example on holiday, and you are planning to return to the UK to continue your studies, you will again have to satisfy the Immigration Officer at the port of entry that you meet the requirements for entry to the UK as a student.

Before you travel abroad you should:

- Check that your passport is not going to expire while you are away. If it is, you should apply for a new one in good time before your date of travel.
- Check that your Tier 4 (General) student immigration permission is multiple entry and is not going to expire while you are away.
- Ensure you have evidence you are a student enrolled on a full-time course (the Student Records Office can provide you with a certificate of enrolment).
- Check whether you need a visa to enter the country you intend to visit or any country through which you will be passing. You should consult the Embassy or High Commission of the country concerned.

SECTION 1

Before you arrive (continued)

Visiting Europe

The Schengen Visa Scheme allows visitors to obtain one visa to visit a number of designated countries within the European Economic Area. The following countries participate in the scheme:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

If you intend to visit only one Schengen country, you must apply at the Embassy or Consulate of that particular country.

If you intend to visit several Schengen countries, you must apply for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate of the country which is your main destination (the country in which you plan to spend the most time during your trip).

If you intend to visit several Schengen countries but do not have a main destination, you should apply for a visa at the Embassy or Consulate of the country which is your first point of entry.

Extending your stay in the UK

For advice on extending your Tier 4 (General) Student immigration permission, or switching into a different immigration category, please contact Goldsmiths' Student Services Advice team at student-advice@gold.ac.uk.

MONEY

Living costs

The cost of living and studying in London can be higher than other parts of the UK, although Goldsmiths' location in south east London means that the cost is lower than in central London.

Under UKBA's points-based system for international students, part of the criteria when applying for your visa will be to ensure you pass a maintenance test. The amount you have to show will depend on the length of your course.

If your course is nine months or less you will need evidence that you have sufficient funds to pay your tuition fees plus £800 for each calendar month of the course for your living costs.

If your course is more than nine months, you will need evidence you have sufficient funds to pay your tuition fees for the first year of your course plus £800 for each calendar month of the course for your living costs, up to a maximum of nine months (equating to £7,200).

If you will be bringing dependants to the UK you will need an additional £533 per dependant per month.

There is more information at www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk.

Remember that your expenses will rise each year. Tuition fees are payable each year and may also rise by up to 5% per year.

Please note that this information is correct at the time of publication, but is subject to change. Please check the UKBA's home page for the latest information: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk>.



SECTION 1

Before you arrive (continued)

Tuition fees

Tuition fees are payable in UK pounds sterling in full on enrolment, and your enrolment will not be complete until payment has been made, or a direct debit mandate has been submitted. This means that you will not be eligible to use any Goldsmiths facilities or attend classes.

You can pay your tuition fees in one of the following ways:

Online

Once you have a student number you can pay your fees online by visiting <http://www.gold.ac.uk/paying-online/>

Direct bank transfer

You can transfer the full amount directly to the institution's bank account using the following details:

Goldsmiths College Account
National Westminster Bank plc
Peckham Branch
PO Box 3753
London SE15 5RZ
UK

Account number: 77506774

Bank sort code: 60 16 16

Swift code: NWBKG B2L

IBAN: GB67NWBK60161677506774

IBAN BIC: NWBKGB2L

If you are transferring money direct to the Goldsmiths account, you should add £20 sterling to cover bank charges and ensure your name is clearly stated on the payment instruction.

If you choose to pay by this method please keep a copy of the transaction note and present this at enrolment. You will need this to confirm your money has been deposited into the Goldsmiths account.

Cheque

Payment must be made in full. Cheques must be in UK pounds sterling and made payable to Goldsmiths using the institution's legal name: Goldsmiths' College.

If you pay fees for tuition or accommodation with foreign cheques, they are subject to large bank charges which we have to charge back to you. It may also take up to 28 days for the cheque to clear and you will not be able to draw any money until it has cleared. Information on opening a bank account in the UK is available on the UKCISA website: www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/bank_account.php.

Credit/Debit Card

Payment must be made in full. Goldsmiths does not accept payment by American Express/Diners cards.

Direct debit

You can pay in five monthly instalments by direct debit from a UK bank account. Please note, instalments are only available by direct debit, no other instalment facility is available.

Payment by direct debit is available only to students studying for at least 12 months.

Early payment discount

If your tuition fee for the academic session is £5,400 or more and you pay your fee in full by the last Friday in August before you begin your programme of study, you are entitled to a discount of 2.5% on the fee due. To be eligible for the discount, payment must be received and cleared by Goldsmiths by the required date. Payment by direct transfer or cheque can take up to four weeks to clear, so please ensure you allow sufficient time for the transfer to be completed by the required date. The early payment discount is only available to self-financing students.

For up to date discounted fees please visit www.gold.ac.uk/student-services/tuition-fees.

For further details, please contact the Fees Office, telephone +44 (0)20 7078 5311 or e-mail fees@gold.ac.uk.

If you are unsure of the exact amount of fees you should be paying, please confirm the details with the Fees Office.

If you are not paying your own fees, provide details of your sponsoring organisation so that we can bill them directly.

Currency

You need to bring at least £300 in British currency to cover your immediate needs on arrival in the UK, including customs charges, rail fares and any emergency expenses. You can exchange money at the airport or station when you arrive. See www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/international/financial-info for more information about living expenses.

There are four British notes in use: £5, £10, £20 and £50. The pound sterling (£) is divided into 100 pence (p). There are eight coins in use: 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2. Credit cards (charge cards) are useful, as personal cheques need to be backed by a cheque guarantee card (issued by your bank) and are rarely accepted in the UK. Banks are sometimes reluctant to issue credit cards to international students unless they have been in the UK for at least six months. You may find it useful to order a Visa/MasterCard credit card from your own bank before coming to the UK. These are widely accepted here, but you may incur charges if you use them to withdraw cash or for obtaining cash from ATMs (cash or dispensing machines). Some retailers do not accept American Express cards.

Places which accept credit cards usually display a notice on the entrance doors and cash points. Please do not assume travellers' cheques will be accepted everywhere.

Opening a bank account

We recommend you open a bank account in the UK. You will need to enrol before you can open an account. There is a sub-branch of the NatWest Bank on campus, with a cash dispensing machine.

Citibank UK also offer student accounts.

A Citibank account may be of advantage to you if you already bank with Citibank in your home country, as the two accounts can be linked. Please visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/international/regions/usa/citibankaccount. All UK high street banks offer student accounts, and you may find other banks of more benefit to you than NatWest or Citibank.

For day-to-day living expenses when you arrive, we recommend that you bring with you cash and some travellers' cheques in pounds sterling.

Transfer of money

If you want to transfer money for tuition or hall fees before you arrive, please see the payment information on page 10.

Council Tax

Council Tax is a local tax used to help pay for local services such as education, social services and refuse collection. The Tax is a tax both on people and on property. Full-time students are usually exempt from paying Council Tax but you must send proof that you are a student to your local Council Tax office. Once you are registered, exemption letters are available from the Student Records and Enrolments Office. If you are living in Goldsmiths accommodation, you will automatically be exempt from Council Tax.

For detailed information, visit http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/council_tax.php.

SECTION 1

Before you arrive (continued)

Student loans for American students

American students can apply for Federal Loans and private loans. For more information, visit www.gold.ac.uk/international/regions/usa/american-student-loans.

Loans for students of other nationalities

There are few loans available for students of other nationalities studying in the UK. Canadian students can apply for national loans or provincial aid grants. All of these loans need to be certified by a Senior Fees Officer at Goldsmiths.

Please forward any paperwork to Federal Aid at the Fees Office address below.

The Fees Office can help with any further queries about student loans:

Fees Office

Room 122, Richard Hoggart Building
Goldsmiths, University of London
London, SE14 6NW, UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7078 5311

Fax: +44 (0)20 7919 7271

E-mail: fees@gold.ac.uk

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

Goldsmiths is committed to supporting its students and has a range of scholarship schemes available for international postgraduate students.

Please note that scholarship and funding schemes are subject to the availability of funds: the details in this booklet were correct at the time of going to print, but are subject to change at any time. Please visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/pg/costs/international for up-to-date information about available schemes, application procedures and deadlines.

Goldsmiths International Postgraduate Scholarship

There are up to 15 scholarships available to prospective international students studying for a full-time taught Master's programme. The scholarship provides a £5,000 fee waiver and is tenable for one year only.

To be eligible to apply you must have applied for a place on a full-time postgraduate taught degree, have an international fee liability and are self-financing to some extent. You will also need to demonstrate academic excellence and/or significant achievement in your chosen field of study.

Goldsmiths Humanitarian Scholarship

There are four awards available to students studying for a taught Master's degree at Goldsmiths. The scholarship provides full tuition fees and living costs for one year, as well as airfares to and from the UK.

Two of these awards are reserved for students from Palestine. The remaining two scholarships are open to students who are from countries affected by widespread oppression, persecution, political or military strife, such that their human right to postgraduate education is denied.

To be eligible for the scholarship, you must have applied for a place on a full-time postgraduate taught degree and have an international fee liability. You will also need to demonstrate academic excellence and/or significant achievement in your chosen field of study.

Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme

There is one scholarship available to a postgraduate Master's student from a developing Commonwealth country. The scholarship provides full tuition fees, living costs, airfares and allowances, and is jointly funded by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and Goldsmiths.

To be eligible for the scholarship, you must come from a developing Commonwealth country and be applying to study on a course that will assist in the development of your home country. Visit our website for a list of eligible countries and courses.

International Postgraduate Research Scholarship

We have one scholarship available to prospective international students applying to studying for a full-time postgraduate research programme. The scholarship provides a £5,000 fee waiver and is available for your first year.

To be eligible to apply you must have applied for a place on a full-time postgraduate research degree, have an international fee liability and are self-financing to some extent. You will also need to demonstrate academic excellence and/or significant achievement in your chosen field of study.

Goldsmiths Hong Kong Postgraduate Scholarship

There is one scholarship available to a prospective student from Hong Kong studying for a full-time taught Master's programme in a social science subject. The scholarship provides a £5,000 fee waiver and covers your first year of study.

To be eligible to apply you must have applied for a place on a full-time postgraduate taught degree and have an international fee liability. You will need to demonstrate academic excellence and/or significant achievement in your chosen field of study, as well as evidence of financial need.

The Geoffrey Crossick Scholarship

The Scholarship offers £2,000 to a prospective student studying for a full-time taught Master's programme, which will act as a partial fee waiver for one year of study only.

In order to apply, you must have completed (or be expecting to complete) an undergraduate programme of study at Goldsmiths (eg BA, BSc). You will also need to demonstrate academic excellence and / or significant achievement in your chosen field of study.

SECTION 1

Before you arrive (continued)

How to apply

You will need to complete the relevant application form, which you can access from www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/pg/costs/international. Your application must be submitted separately from your application for admission, and should be returned to by e-mail with scanned attachments, or by post to the address printed on the form.

External funding sources

You are advised to contact the Ministry of Education in your home country for information about any government-funded schemes that may be available for study abroad. You should also contact your local British Council office or British High Commission or Embassy for further information on funding sources.

The internet can be a useful tool in the search for funding for study in the UK. You can search using key words like 'scholarship funding', 'international student funding' and 'postgraduate bursaries'.

The following are some of the agencies that can provide funding or information about funding opportunities:

Association of Commonwealth Universities
www.acu.ac.uk

British Chevening Scholarships
www.chevening.com

British Council
www.educationuk.org

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
www.fco.gov.uk

Graduate Prospects
www.prospects.ac.uk

Hot Courses
www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Alumni discount scheme

We offer a discount on tuition fees for those who successfully completed an undergraduate degree, DipHE or postgraduate taught programme at Goldsmiths and want to study for a different postgraduate taught or research degree here. You need to be accepted for your programme of study and to satisfy all the usual academic admissions criteria and conditions of enrolment and registration.

The Scheme offers a reduction of £500 on tuition fees in the first year of your programme.

For more information on the scheme, please visit www.gold.ac.uk/student-services/tuition-fees/alumni-discount-scheme





When you arrive

ARRIVING IN THE UK

Immigration control

If you arrive by air, the first thing you will have to do when you enter the airport terminal is to pass through Immigration Control. Tell the Immigration Officer you will be a full-time student: you will need to show your entry clearance sticker to the Immigration Officer. It is sensible to carry your documents as evidence that you meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules for 'students' (or 'student visitors') in your hand luggage in case the Immigration Officer asks to see them.

Check your passport when the Immigration Officer gives it back to you so you are aware of any changes they may have made to your conditions (for example, to register with the police).

If the Immigration Officer refuses you entry to the UK, and you have no entry clearance, you may be sent back immediately, or given a very short period of temporary admission. If this happens, you should seek specialist immigration advice immediately, you should also telephone the International Partnerships and Development Office at Goldsmiths – +44(0)20 7919 7702 – and let us know.

Declaring cash on entering the UK

Under EU (European Union) Law, if you are carrying 10,000 euros or more, or the equivalent in another currency in the form of notes, coins, bankers drafts, cheques and travellers cheques, and are travelling directly to or from a non-EU country, you must complete a cash declaration form. These forms are available at airports and ports.

Please read the form carefully before filling it in. You will be liable to financial penalties if you fail to comply with the obligation to declare, or provide incomplete or incorrect information. When you have completed and signed the form, tear off the top copy and post it in the box provided at your point of entry. The second copy is for you to keep as evidence of your declaration.

You do not need to declare cash if you are travelling within the UK or to or from another EU country. HM Revenue and Customs officers may question you about your cash. They will not detain properly declared cash if they have no reason to doubt its legitimacy, but it may be seized if an officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that it is either the proceeds of, or is intended for use in, unlawful conduct.

Goldsmiths recommends international students pay their fees either by bank transfer before leaving their home country (claiming a 2.5% discount if paying in full by the last Friday in August) or by credit card. For full information on how to pay your fees, please see www.gold.ac.uk/student-services/tuition-fees.

TRAVELLING TO GOLDSMITHS

When do you need to be here?

You can move into Halls of Residence from 23-25 September. Students staying in the McMillan halls of residence can only gain entry from Saturday 24 September.

Orientation week (including registration) runs from Monday 26 September-Friday 30 September. More information about this will be sent in August.

Classes begin on Monday 3 October.

Airport pickups

Goldsmiths operates a coach pick-up service from Heathrow Airport over the weekend before orientation week. The coaches will pick you up from a designated spot at the airport and will take you to Goldsmiths. More information is available at www.gold.ac.uk/student/welcome/airport-meet-and-greet.

Waterloo
New Cross
Camberwell
Brockley
171
Holborn Station

LONDON
Central



PVL94

W494 WGH



SECTION 2

When you arrive (continued)

How to get to Goldsmiths

There are details of how to get to Goldsmiths at www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/find-us. New Cross and New Cross Gate are on the London Overground Line.

Goldsmiths, University of London is in New Cross, south-east London, five miles from central London. It is:

- Five minutes' walk from both New Cross and New Cross Gate stations, in Travelcard Zone 2, on the main rail network
- On a number of major bus routes

Taxis

If you decide to take a taxi, agree the fare with the taxi driver before getting into the car. Journeys of more than six miles (9.8 km), even in registered taxis, are not price controlled. We would advise you to always use Black Cabs. You should never hire a 'minicab' (private taxi) from anywhere except a minicab office. Taxis from Heathrow and Gatwick are expensive, costing between £60-£90, so you are advised to use public transport instead. Maps of the Underground system are available free of charge from underground stations.

Public transport connections from Heathrow, Gatwick and City Airport are as follows:

From Heathrow Airport (LHR): Take the Piccadilly Underground Line eastbound and change at Green Park onto the Jubilee Line. Change at Southwark and catch a train at Waterloo East to New Cross or New Cross Gate. Alternatively, you can change at Canada Water from the Jubilee Line to the London Overground, which services both New Cross and New Cross Gate stations.

OR

Catch the Heathrow Express train to Paddington Station. Here you can either catch a 436 bus to New Cross Gate (this will take longer than the underground, but if you are carrying luggage, you avoid having to navigate station interchanges) or take the Bakerloo Underground Line to Charing Cross and catch a train to New Cross or New Cross Gate.

From Stansted Airport (STN): take the train to Liverpool Street Station, then by Circle Line or Metropolitan Line travel to Moorgate Underground Station. From Moorgate either take the number 21 bus to Lewisham which will go through New Cross and take around 40 minutes or alternatively get onto the Northern Line southbound and travel to London Bridge. Mainline train services run frequently from London Bridge to New Cross or New Cross Gate.

From London City Airport (LCY): Take the DLR train westbound to Lewisham or Deptford Bridge (see above). The airport is five miles from Goldsmiths.

From Luton Airport (LTN): shuttle buses connect the airport to Luton station, from where you catch the Thameslink train to London Bridge, then travel to New Cross or New Cross Gate stations by mainline train.

From Gatwick Airport (LGW): train from the station in the airport to East Croydon station. Change there and take the train to New Cross Gate. The journey time is about one hour.

From Central London

Trains run from Charing Cross, Waterloo East, Cannon Street and London Bridge. Journey time is roughly 10-15 minutes. If a direct train isn't listed, or you are travelling from Blackfriars Station, catch the first available train and change at London Bridge for either New Cross or New Cross Gate.

SECTION 2

When you arrive (continued)

Halls of residence online induction

Our halls of residence team have put together an online induction for all students moving in to halls of residence. The induction provides you with information on life in halls and introduces you to what you can expect when you arrive. You will usually be emailed a link to the online induction about two weeks before you are due to begin your study at Goldsmiths.

Electrical items

Please note that if you are bringing electrical items from your own country for use in a hall of residence, please check with the team at Loring Hall Management Centre your appliance can be used on 240 volts or can be converted into British sockets, and that your appliance is safe to use.

Welcome Programme

Before beginning your period of study you are invited to attend a Welcome Programme during which you will be introduced to Goldsmiths facilities and services and the local area, as well as being given general advice about life in the UK. You will also be given information about learning and teaching at Goldsmiths. We strongly recommend that you attend the programme.

Any questions?

Contact the Accommodation Office at:

Loring Hall Management Centre
Goldsmiths, University of London
St James
New Cross
London SE14 6AD
UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7919 7192

E-mail: accommodation@gold.ac.uk
www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/accommodation





Studying at Goldsmiths

and living in the UK

ABOUT GOLDSMITHS

History of Goldsmiths

In 1891, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths set up its Technical and Recreative Institute to provide educational opportunities for the people of New Cross. The University of London acquired the Institute and re-established it as Goldsmiths College in 1904.

Since 1989, Goldsmiths has been a full College of the University, with its own distinctive role as an independent university institution, while remaining committed to its membership of an internationally recognised academic federation.

Campus and community

Goldsmiths is in New Cross, south east London. Vibrant, urban and with great transport connections to central London, it's an ideal base for experiencing and enjoying the Capital. Our teaching and administration, and most of our residential accommodation, is located on a single campus. It includes the award-winning Rutherford Building, three Grade II listed buildings, and the Alsop-designed Ben Pimlott Building. Summer 2010 saw the opening of the New Academic Building, the new centre for the Department of Media and Communications, and the Institute of Cultural and Creative Entrepreneurship. The building also houses facilities all our students can enjoy: a large lecture theatre, meeting spaces and a café with outside seating.

Goldsmiths people

We have over 8,000 students taking part in our undergraduate, postgraduate and adult education study opportunities.

Our list of former students includes names like Alex James, Sam Taylor-Wood, Julian Clary, Mary Quant, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Bridget Riley, Tessa Jowell, Graham Coxon and Malcolm McLaren. Six winners of the Turner Prize have been Goldsmiths graduates.

Goldsmiths has approximately 1,564 staff, including 398 academics – 46% of them women, and many of them leading researchers in their field – and nearly 500 visiting and associate tutors.

Goldsmiths is committed to and supportive of diversity, the free exchange of ideas, tolerance and equal opportunities. We aim to provide a learning and working environment free from discrimination.

Academic Excellence

Our unique academic approach comes from the interaction and co-operation of 15 academic departments, together with a number of smaller centres and units. We strive to be at the cutting edge of teaching and research in all of our subjects, and are a member of the prestigious 1994 Group of smaller, research-oriented universities.

Teaching

We have a wide range of innovative and challenging programmes in subjects covering the arts, social sciences, humanities and computing.

Our commitment to creative and radical thinking creates an environment that encourages freedom of thought and expression, while excellence in teaching has been recognised by the establishment of the Peake Awards for outstanding teachers.

SECTION 3

Studying at Goldsmiths and living in the UK (continued)

At undergraduate level we offer University of London degrees. These are also available at postgraduate level, in addition to College certificates and diplomas in a range of subjects. Our links with overseas universities enable staff and students to benefit from study abroad and exchange visits.

Goldsmiths is also an active participant in the University of London's External Programme, which offers degrees via distance learning to 32,000 students worldwide.

Research

In addition to world-leading research across our disciplines, Goldsmiths supports collaborations in a dazzling array of permutations: psychologists work with computer scientists, artists with cultural theorists, musicians with anthropologists. The result is ground-breaking research. We have nearly 500 students on MPhil and PhD programmes, and we have introduced the MRes (Master of Research) in some subjects to bridge the gap between undergraduate study and research.

Goldsmiths is proud that its position as one of the country's major research-intensive institutions was strengthened in the results of the official 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). In the authoritative Times Higher Education league table we moved up to 33rd position amongst larger multi-faculty institutions. The high quality of research across Goldsmiths departments was underlined, especially in Sociology, which was once again joint top in the country, and in Media and Communications. Research at Goldsmiths is innovative and imaginative in character. The RAE placed Goldsmiths 9th in the country, with a percentage of research being graded as 4* or world leading. Goldsmiths is a challenging and exciting place to do research. Visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/rae for our full RAE results.

LIVING IN THE UK

UK culture

The UK is quite an informal nation, but you may find it requires a little effort to adjust to your new environment as there may be some cultural differences. You might find the following summary helpful:

- British people are generally relaxed. There are relatively few customs that have to be observed and many British people are willing to chat casually to someone they have only just met.
- You should, however, expect to find a queue when waiting for a bus or for a service in a shop, and you will find that 'please' and 'thank you' are widely used.
- Punctuality and arriving on time for appointments and meetings is appreciated. It is important to be on time for all academic meetings – lectures, seminars and tutorials.
- If your culture does not allow you to drink alcohol, you may be worried if you are invited to go to a local pub (public house or bar). Pubs are popular social meeting places and soft drinks, and often tea and coffee are sold, as well as alcohol. Both men and women may visit pubs if they are over the age of 18. There is no waiter service and you pay for your drinks when you order them at the bar.
- You will find that in the UK men and women mix easily. British women are independent but although they mix freely with men, this does not imply a willingness to enter into sexual relationships.

- Goldsmiths participates in the HOST programme, a scheme which enables international students to experience life in a British home for a weekend. For further information visit their website, www.hostuk.org.
- For information on a broad range of social and cultural aspects of life in the UK, visit www.ukstudentlife.co.uk.

Healthcare

If you are taking a course of study which lasts more than six months you will not have to pay for any treatment that is available under the National Health Service (NHS), nor will your family members who are in the UK as your dependents.

If you are a student here for less than six months you will be treated as a private patient unless you come from an EEA country or are a Swiss national, or you come from a country which has reciprocal health agreements with the UK.

The list of countries with reciprocal health agreements (which are limited to the treatment of conditions which arise while you are in the UK) changes frequently and you should seek advice on whether this applies to you. There is more information in the 'Keeping Healthy' information sheet produced by UKCISA. A web link to it is at the bottom of this section.

Treatment for conditions which were present before you came to the UK may not necessarily be available under the NHS.

If you are not entitled to free hospital treatment, buy health insurance before leaving your home country. If you already have health insurance, it will probably be cheapest to ask your insurers to extend it for your stay in the UK.

Although treatment is free under the NHS, there is a standard charge for prescribed medicines, currently £7.20 per item. Treatment which is regarded as cosmetic is not available under the NHS. This would include, for example, contact lenses or dental braces.

Contraceptive advice and supplies are available free of charge under the NHS and at Family Planning Clinics. Prescribed medicines are only available from chemist and pharmacist shops, which are generally open from 0900-1730, with some late evening opening. Chemist and pharmacist shops also sell non-prescribed medicines for minor ailments and are able to give advice.

Students staying in the UK for more than six months should register for medical treatment on arrival, either with the New Cross Medical Centre or a local General Practitioner (doctor). Students staying for shorter periods cannot register, but can obtain General Practitioner services through the New Cross Medical Centre under the terms stated above.

For more information on health and healthcare in the UK read the UKCISA guidance note 'Keeping Healthy', available at: http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/keeping_healthy.php

SECTION 3

Studying at Goldsmiths and living in the UK (continued)

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH HOME

Telephones

There are several telephone companies in the UK; British Telecom is one of the largest, and operates public telephones. You will find instructions for their use printed inside telephone boxes. Most payphones will accept all British 'silver' coins (10p, 20p, 50p, £1). Some telephones are operated by credit cards and 'phonecards' which can be bought from Post Offices and newsagents.

International direct dialling

For international calls it is better to use card-operated payphones; international calls are cheaper between the hours of 2000 and 0700 the following day, and at weekends. You can dial direct to over 180 countries from the UK. Dial: 00 + country code + area code.

The market for international phone calls is very competitive and you can access many different services using a landline or mobile phone. For the cheapest service to your home country check www.ukstudentlife.co.uk.

Mobile phones (cellular phones) are very common in the UK. The names of companies selling or hiring out these phones can be found in the Yellow Pages, a telephone directory listing all kinds of suppliers. The International Partnerships and Development Office has a copy which you can look at or visit www.yell.com. Remember, calls made to and from mobile phones can be expensive.

Computers

Keeping in touch via computer is easy: there is internet access in halls of residence and the campus has wi-fi. Many students find it cheaper to call home using Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) programmes such as Skype

There are Mac and PCs available to use in the Rutherford Building on campus. The Building opens 8am-12am Monday to Friday and 9.30am-12am Saturday to Sunday.

THINGS TO DO OTHER THAN STUDY

Things to do on campus

Events

Goldsmiths hosts a wealth of events on campus ranging from high-profile lectures from visiting guests to cutting-edge electronic music. Look at the online events diary for College events at www.gold.ac.uk/student and the Students' Union web site at www.goldsmithssu.org for activities and events organised by the Students' Union.

Relax in the Students' Union

The Students' Union is a hub of activity night or day. During the day the common room on the first floor offers a place to relax and unwind. You can buy food or non-alcoholic drink from the vegetarian coffee bar, although you don't have to buy anything to use the space. There are comfy chairs and books and magazines available, plus the occasional entertainment. It's an idea place to relax between classes.

During the evening, the focus switches to The Stretch - the Students' Union's bar and venue located on the second floor. It hosts diverse events across the year organised by full-time entertainments staff, students and external promoters. With a combined capacity of 1,000, The Stretch is fully equipped with the latest sound and lighting equipment making it the ideal venue for gigs, club nights or anything else that takes your fancy.



SECTION 3

Studying at Goldsmiths and living in the UK (continued)

Concerts and recitals

The Department of Music promotes a series of concerts, recitals and lecture tours throughout the year, both in the College and at other London venues. In addition to the resident ensembles, visitors are invited to participate during the season. A wide variety of musical styles are represented, from early music, the Goldsmiths Sinfonia, Chamber Choir, Wind Band and Big Band, right up to the cutting edge music of the Contemporary Music Ensemble, soundscapes from the Electronic Music Studios and the Popular Music Vocal Group. All events are advertised on the online events calendar (www.gold.ac.uk/student).

Degree shows

Goldsmiths is well known for its degree shows (undergraduate and postgraduate) in music, media and communications, fine art, textiles, design and eco-design, to name but a few. Shows are normally held between June and August and the exhibitions show students' final pieces of work, some of the work may be for sale. Visit www.gold.ac.uk/degree-shows.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the theatre

There is a varied programme of performances, events and installations organised by the Department of Drama throughout the year. These will either be by students as part of their degree programme or as extra-curricular activity, or by professional performers or companies. Events are advertised on Student Gold www.gold.ac.uk/student.

Shop for essentials at the Students' Union G-Shop

The Students' Union G-Shop is located in the Richard Hoggart Building, next to Loafers Café. It is the best place to pick up discounted newspapers, magazines, snacks, confectionery, chilled drinks, sandwiches, essential stationery supplies, and Fairtrade, organic, and ethically sourced products.

Satisfy your hunger

The College operates three outlets in the Richard Hoggart Building – the refectory, sandwich shop and Costa@Loafers. All three outlets use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar.

The refectory offers hot meals, including the special-offer 'meal of the day', soup, pizzas, salads and sandwiches. All the food is cooked fresh that day, overseen by Head Chef Gary Howells, and produce is locally sourced wherever possible. The refectory is open from 11.30am to 2.30pm, Monday to Friday during term time, although there is access throughout the day and evening to the vending machines that are housed in the refectory.

The sandwich shop is also housed within the refectory area and is open 9am to 4.30pm on weekdays during term time, selling freshly made sandwiches, hot and cold drinks and a range of snacks.

Costa@Loafers serves breakfast from 8.30am and is open right through 'til 8.30pm, Monday to Fridays during term time. There is also a smaller service on Saturdays from 9am-2pm. As well as hot and cold drinks, Costa@Loafers specialises in freshly made sandwiches, home-made soup, pizza, salad and jacket potatoes, plus sweet muffins and cookies.

The 'Loafers Pod' is an extra take-away area situated just outside Costa@Loafers, where you can pick up a hot drink between 10am and 4.30pm.

There is also a café in the Students' Union Building, located on the first-floor.

Sport and recreation

There is a lively sports scene at Goldsmiths, which has resulted in the College winning the Varsity Cup two years running. The tournament is a nine-game competition pitting Goldsmiths against the University of the Arts London.

Sport is delivered in collaboration between the College and the Students' Union. The Students' Union runs a large number of competitive and casual student sports clubs and societies. Facilities include the Club Pulse gym (more about this below); the College Green, and our sports ground in Sidcup, Kent, for football, rugby and cricket.

On-campus facilities are used for a range of dance and martial arts, and recreational activities. Facilities can be booked for casual use for activities such as badminton, basketball or table tennis. More information can be found on www.goldsmithssu.org.

Because Goldsmiths is a College of the University of London, the gym and pool facilities at the University of London Union are also available for your use, as are the multitude of University clubs and societies, such as swimming, rowing, sailing, athletics and fencing. Visit www.ululondon.ac.uk for details.

Your contact for all things sports-related is Ruth Gibson, Sports and Recreation Manager at r.gibson@gold.ac.uk.

Club Pulse at Goldsmiths

Club Pulse is a gym located within the Goldsmiths campus.

Built on two levels, the fitness suite has 90 separate exercise stations and a full range of cardio equipment, as well as a free-weight area and stationary weight machines.

Club Pulse offers a range of fitness programmes in a dedicated workout studio – group cycling, pilates, yoga, aerobics and much more – as well as nutrition and weight management advice and personal exercise programmes.

The gym is open seven days a week, throughout the year (except when the College is closed at Christmas and Easter). For further information, please visit www.clubpulse.gold.ac.uk or drop in to speak to a membership adviser and view the facilities.

Get involved with the Students' Union Clubs, societies and volunteering

The Students' Union supports a diverse range of clubs – run for students by students – which you can join at the Fresher's Fayre or throughout the year. Clubs range from football to dance, hockey to Ju-Jitsu in men's, women's and mixed teams, competitive and non-competitive. They are as much social as they are sporting, although many have professional coaches. You will find them welcoming whatever your level of play, or even as a complete beginner.

The Union also hosts a large number of societies including cultural, political, religious and special interest groups. Many of these put on events throughout the year which anyone can attend. Societies are an integral part of Goldsmiths Students' Union, as they expand social conversation and help further understanding of other cultures. You can also get involved in Smiths, the multi-award-winning, student-run magazine, and Wired, the student-run radio station.

The Students' Union has numerous volunteering opportunities, including innovative Union-led schemes and links with external agencies.

The Union is here to support and accommodate all students. If there is something you are interested in that it doesn't currently have, stop by the Union and speak with the Student Activities and Services Officer, who will be more than happy to support you in starting a new club or society.

SECTION 3

Studying at Goldsmiths and living in the UK (continued)

Students' Union entertainments

The team at the Students' Union want to ensure you have a safe and welcoming environment to socialise and enjoy yourself. They do their best to offer a rich variety of entertainments as well as a regular programme of events, which includes karaoke, club nights, comedy, live band nights and the now legendary mid-week bash, 'Club Sandwich'.

The Union tries to cater for more niche interests and eclectic musical tastes as well – anything from chilled-out Latin grooves to uncompromising drum 'n' bass. If they don't offer entertainments to suit your particular interests then let them know, make suggestions and they will be happy to try and come up with something perhaps even helping you put on your own night!

In recent years the Students' Union have hosted live acts like Graham Coxon, Art Brut, Metronomy, The Horrors, Pendulum, Dillinger, Skream, Scratch Perverts, Krafty Kuts, Roni Size, Stanton Warriors, Hot Chip DJ, Naboo DJ, Ipso Facto, Ricky Gervais, Russell Brand and Simon Amstell. Many of these nights were organised and run by students, particularly those involved with clubs and societies. It's a great way to raise funds to reinvest in their activities or donate to charities. Money generated by the Students' Union from their bars and entertainments goes straight back into funding the Union; the welfare services, campaigns and bigger and better entertainments next time around.

Places to visit in the local area

Local theatres

Deptford, is the home of the Albany, a leading arts centre. The Albany hosts productions and classes for a diverse range of activities, including salsa dancing and drama groups. The Birds Nest Theatre, which stages small productions can also be found in Deptford.

Greenwich Theatre hosts a variety of events, including shows from the Edinburgh fringe, local youth productions and professional productions en route to the West End. The Brockley Jack Pub in Brockley contains the small but highly recommended Jack Theatre. Blackheath Halls also puts on various events including productions, concerts and club nights.

The Broadway Theatre in nearby Catford stages a diverse range of light entertainment including pantos, concerts and comedy.

Shops and markets

There is a Sainsbury's and an Iceland supermarket in New Cross but if you don't mind jumping on a bus the local area boasts a number of excellent street markets. Lewisham, a short distance from the College, has a shopping centre with shops, supermarkets and vegetable, fruit and flower markets. Deptford holds a bustling street market three times a week in the High Street, while Greenwich and Blackheath offer a number of smaller, more exclusive shops. Brixton also has an outdoor market centred around Electric Avenue, and an indoor market in Granville Arcade, off Coldharbour Lane.

Greenwich has several popular weekend markets – selling bric-a-brac, clothing, furniture, crafts and other odds and ends – which attract crowds of visitors browsing for unusual objects. Further afield try the East End markets at Petticoat Lane, Spitalfields, Brick Lane or the Sunday morning market at Columbia Road, which is a flower and plant lover's paradise by making the short journey to Shoreditch.



SECTION 3

Studying at Goldsmiths and living in the UK (continued)

Open spaces

Despite its location in an urban area, Goldsmiths is within easy reach of open spaces such as Telegraph Hill (with views stretching right across London), Greenwich Royal Park, Blackheath, Peckham Rye Common and Dulwich Park. Green with expanses of trees and grass, these are ideal for walking and jogging, tennis, picnicking, flying a kite, or simply lazing with a good book.

If you really want to get away, trains from New Cross or New Cross Gate will take you to the Kent, Surrey or Sussex countryside.

Cinemas

Cinemas in the local area include the Premier in Peckham, the UCI at Surrey Quays, the Ritzy, an independent cinema in Brixton, and the Picturehouse in Greenwich. Central London has both major mainstream cinemas and leading arts cinemas, such as the National Film Theatre, the ICA and Barbican. There are also film nights in the Students' Union and in College. You can look up details of what's on at local cinemas in one of the many listing magazines like Time Out, available from newsagents, or on the web.

Clubs

New Cross is the home of the renowned Venue club which attracts people from a wide area and has bands on most nights. It specialises in cover bands. There are a number of 'underground' club nights happening in New Cross. Look out for posters or flyers advertising them.

If you make your way into Brixton there is also the Dogstar which is famous for cheap food, comedy and dancing. There is also the weekly Up the Creek comedy club in Greenwich which provides a popular showcase for new and established acts, followed by a late night dance club.

The Rivoli Ballroom in Brockley is one of the few remaining original dance halls and it is worth a visit just to have a look at the old style ballroom. The Rivoli holds various events from club nights to Latin and ballroom dancing.

Gigs

Many of the local clubs organise gigs, as do the local pubs in New Cross including the Amersham Arms (which is twinned with the infamous Lock Tavern in Camden), and the Crystal Palace Tavern (a few minutes walk away on Tanners Hill, just off Lewisham Way). They also tend to have late opening licences, especially at weekends.

If you want to see well-known bands, then the Brixton Academy (211 Stockwell Road) is not far away and is a great venue, attracting top acts and holding all-nighters.

You can also use the University of London Union, which holds various club nights and gigs – a list of events can be found at www.uln.ac.uk.

Museums and art galleries

Local museums include the Maritime Museum, the Fan Museum, the Cutty Sark, the Royal Observatory and the Queen's House in Greenwich. Or you could get a train to Forest Hill from New Cross Gate and visit the award-winning Horniman Museum and Gardens.

There are art exhibitions held by contemporary (mostly local) artists in the Lewisham ARThouse on Lewisham Way, and The Limelight in Lewisham Library. Other local art galleries include Brixton Art Gallery, Greenwich Village Gallery, Woodlands Art Gallery, East Greenwich, Dulwich Picture Gallery and the high-profile South London Gallery, Peckham.

London's wide range of national museums and galleries can be easily reached by train, while the growing number of East London contemporary art galleries can be found in nearby Whitechapel.




Deptford Marbles

Our Mission

We offer a transformative experience, generating knowledge and stimulating self-discovery through creative, radical and intellectually rigorous thinking and practice.