



*The
Fresher's
Guide to
all
things
Queen
Mary &
London*



2011-2012

*Freshers, get ready for the time of your
lives! You're gonna love it!*





ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY



Queen Mary, University of London is one of London's and the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions. Amongst the largest of the colleges of the University of London with 16,000 students, Queen Mary's 3,000 staff teach and research across a wide range of subjects in Humanities, Social Sciences and Laws, in Medicine and Dentistry and in Science and Engineering. With a budget of £285 million per annum the College has a yearly economic impact on the UK economy of some £750 million.

Queen Mary spans London's diverse districts. Two of our four campuses are in east London, in the Borough of Tower Hamlets between The City and Canary Wharf, a multicultural and socially diverse area that is one of the most rapidly developing parts of London. We have the advantage of being the London research-focused university closest to the site of the 2012 Olympic Games, only two miles from the Mile End site, our main residential campus. Whitechapel is home to part of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, focused on the stunning Will Alsop Blizard Building, housing the largest open plan laboratories in Europe.

Our other campuses are in central London: at Charterhouse Square and Barts Hospital, on the edge of the City of London, the key financial district, one of the two campuses of Barts and The London Medical School; and at Lincoln's Inn Fields, in London's Legal District, the home for our Graduate School of Law and the world-famous Centre for Commercial Law Studies. Queen Mary has its roots in four historic colleges: Queen Mary College, Westfield College, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College and the London Hospital Medical College. The Mile End campus is historically the home of Queen Mary College, which began life in 1887 as the People's Palace, a philanthropic endeavor to provide east Londoners with education and social activities. It was admitted to the University of London in 1915.

Westfield College was founded in 1882 as a pioneering college for the higher education of women, and was granted its Royal Charter in 1932. In 1995, Queen Mary and Westfield merged with two distinguished medical colleges, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, established in 1843, and the London Hospital Medical College, England's first medical school, founded in 1785. Pooling strengths, expertise and resources, this brought clinical medical teaching to Queen Mary for the first time. Queen Mary is now fully integrated.

Although the size and diversity of Queen Mary gives it all the characteristics and facilities of a university in its own right, it is also part of the federal University of London, a wide-ranging body comprising some 40 academic institutions and 120,000 students. Together, these make it the largest and most diverse university in the country. It also means that, although Queen Mary is a self-governing institution, our students are able to take advantage of the wide and varied educational and social facilities of the University of London. These include the Senate House library, which contains more than 1.4 million volumes, and the University of London Union (ULU), which is amongst the most active in the country.



Queen Mary Malaysian Society

Overview, History and Objectives

QMMS was formed in 2000 to represent the interests and welfare of Malaysian students in QMUL. QMMS aims to foster a continuing exchange of ideas regarding issues of interest to Malaysians, to address the needs of the Malaysian community in QMUL and to promote Malaysian culture here. QMMS is also the only society in the university that is officially represented by the United Kingdom Executive Council for Malaysian Students Societies (UKEC) and is therefore in the best position to reach out to the Malaysian student population in London.

Membership Base

QMMS is currently over 50 members strong (pursuing a wide-range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees), and every year we welcome approximately 20 new students at our annual pre-departure briefing held in Kuala Lumpur. To our delight, the intake of Malaysian students for the year 2011 has increased tremendously compared to previous years.

Activities on Campus

QMMS consistently organizes events in QMUL to cater to its members' needs and interests. This year, we plan to organize our very own Malaysian Fashion Show & Charity Dinner which would assimilate Malaysian traditional clothes and Malaysian cuisines in one event. We believe this event would boast high turnouts, attracting not only the Malaysian students at QMUL and other UOLs, but also their friends, which consist of various different nationalities. We aim to bring some home-like feelings to the students from Malaysia while at the same time promote our own culture and food to the local people here in the United Kingdom.

Aside from the aforementioned main event, QMMS also organizes other events on a smaller scale more regularly such as field trips, Raya Dinner, Chinese New Year Dinner and charity sales, etc. These events further strengthen the bonds within the close-knit Malaysian community in QMUL.

Apart from that, we also organize fortnightly sports sessions and games such as football and badminton for our members. This is so that they can all enjoy the facilities in the sports centers for free on a regular basis while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. On a more competitive scale, we also send teams for the Nottingham Malaysian Games, Cardiff Malaysian Games and Manchester Malaysian Games every year.

Last but definitely not least, one of our main welfare programs is providing our Malaysian freshers with 'parents', who will consist of a senior from the university and another studying the same course as they do providing them help with their studies. This ensures that the transition from Malaysia to QMUL will be as smooth as possible.



Food, Food, Food!!!!



Dining in

If you can cook, or this would be your first attempt to cook here in London, you need not to worry about grocery shopping. There are a few supermarkets scattered around the Queen Mary campus where you can get almost everything you need. Here are a few supermarkets that are close by:

Closest to Whitechapel: Sainsbury's

Closest to Mile End: Budgens

Tesco

Co-operative Store

Iceland

Tesco, Sainsbury's

If you crave for an Asian variety of ingredients, do check out the stores in Chinatown that is around 20 minutes away by tube. Malaysian curry powder, Milo and even durians are all available here! But do bring a year's supply of Milo, curry powder, maggi mee and food that you can't live without with you to London as it quite pricy to purchase them from Chinatown. For grocery shopping, you could spend less than £100 a month. Also, buying a rice cooker from Malaysia would be way cheaper compared to buying it in London. Get a small one of course!

Dining out

Whenever you are tired of eating your home cooked meals and want something different, you can opt to dine out! But let me warn you, that dinner meals at posh restaurants in Chinatown and Convent Garden would range from £10 onwards. Here are a few restaurants that are closer to the campus:

Closest to Whitechapel: Fresh

Closest to Mile End: Nando's

Cafe at the Blizzard Building

Indian & kebab food

Zaza's

The Hive

Marakesh

The Globe

Needos

Fast food joints

Mc Donalds

Costa Coffee

Nando's

If you crave for Malaysian food, check out restaurants like Rasa Sayang located at Leicester Square as well as Hare and Tortoise. All Malaysian restaurants in London are halal of course. For more information about Malaysian restaurants in London, check out <http://www.malaysiakitchen.co.uk/>



Finance



The main problem that you might have is setting up a bank account on time. After that's done and over with, withdrawing cash would not be a problem as there are cash machines almost everywhere around campus where you can take out cash for free. Here are some of the banks situated near Queen Mary University:

- Barclays Bank
- Lloyd's Bank

Some of the things that you would need to open up a bank account are a letter from the university mentioning that you're a student studying in Queen Mary and also your passport.

It is advised that you bring enough cash that would last you for 2-3 months. £ 600 should suffice. And here's a reminder to pay your tuition fees before enrolment if u want a 2% discount off your fees.



Life In London



Shopping

From luxury shops like Harrods to bargains at London's Camden market, there are plenty of shops to spend your time and money on! We do not advice you to bring many warm clothing as the clothes here in London are quite affordable and suited for its unpredictable weather. Do bring a really good umbrella that can resist London's gushing wind as the umbrellas here are pretty pricy. If you are thrifty when it comes to clothing, check out stores like Primark and Forever 21 at Oxford Street. If you like to dress like the Londoners do, opt for brands like Topshop, Dorothy Perkins and Marks and Spencer. The main shopping destinations in London would be Oxford and Bond Street, Camden, Harrods and Selfridges as well as Westfield shopping mall. Do check out the vibrant markets that London has to offer too!



Harrods



London's Top Attractions

Let the pictures do the talking:



Big Ben and Westminster



Hyde Park



The London Eye



Tower Bridge



Oxford Circus



Buckingham Palace

And many many more! Do splurge a little on theater tickets and check out plays like Les Miserables, Wicked and Phantom of the Opera. So much to see, so much to do!
