

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



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WELCOME



Be assured, all of us at The University of West London are fully committed to caring for the people that study with us.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL

Being a student and going to university is a fantastic experience. A brave new world of academic, intellectual, cultural and social development awaits every participant. However, for most students, it is also the biggest challenge they have ever faced. The years at university are often an evolutionary step between the security of family life and career-focused independence.

At The University of West London, we take our responsibilities towards students very seriously. We realise that our role is so much more than the delivery of higher education. Our belief is that education must be relevant to the careers our students want to follow and that we, as an organisation, should provide the support services necessary to help students benefit from the opportunity that university presents.

Be assured, as you will see from reading this guide, all of us at The University of West London are fully committed to caring for the people that study with us. Our aim is that every student enjoys their time with us and moves forward in life with the skills, knowledge and confidence to excel in their chosen path.

Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.

John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)

Thirty-fifth President of the USA

OUR HISTORY

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY

Proud of our past and excited about our future

The University of West London has a heritage in teaching and professional education stretching back 150 years.

During that time the world has changed dramatically. In the past our staff and students have witnessed inventions of such magnitude as the telephone, television, penicillin and manned flight. Socially, we have seen the introduction of universal elementary education in England and Wales, votes for women and the launch of the NHS. Even now, when the pace of change is so rapid, we still marvel at and embrace the extraordinary developments in areas such as computing and communications.

Of course change and the perception of it are relative to all the other events happening at the time. However, what hasn't changed is

the guiding philosophy of the instructions that underpin the history of our University. From the outset, in its past and present forms, the University has played and continues to play a significant role in the educational, cultural and economic life of the region.

Our belief has always been that education should empower students to improve their knowledge, develop their skills and confidently reach out to achieve their aspirations in life.

As we celebrate the exciting and modern university we have become, we also reflect on our heritage and our partnerships with the local community. Our future then is a time for growth and change, and we will do this by building on our achievements and unlocking the potential of our staff and students in order to inspire creativity, innovation and enterprise. All of this makes us proud of our past and excited about our future.



OUR ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Our name change marks 150 years of education in West London, as the University seeks to strengthen its national and international reputation. This will coincide with the installation of a new Chancellor and a celebration of a 150 year milestone for education in Ealing.

The roots of the University of West London are to be found in the opening of the Lady Bryon School in Ealing in 1860. The school built its reputation in art and design before expanding into areas such as hospitality and catering during the 1950s. It was renamed Ealing College of Higher Education in the 1970s, and the college then merged with Thames Valley College of Higher Education, London College of Music and Queen Charlotte's College of Health studies in 1991 to become the Polytechnic of West London.

In 1907, an elementary school was founded on the Slough campus. By the 1940s, the school had become a technical institute and, in 1970, it evolved into Thames Valley College of Education.

The nineties brought yet more changes and in 1991 Ealing College of Higher Education merged with Thames Valley College of Higher Education in Slough, the London College of Music and Queen Charlotte's College of Health Studies to become the Polytechnic of West London. In 1992 the Privy Council bestowed full university status on the institution and it became Thames Valley University.

In August 2010 the Privy Council granted permission to officially change the name from Thames Valley University to The University of West London. This is now the University's legal title.

The change of name highlights a strategic shift for the University, with a repositioning of its operations onto its Ealing and Brentford campuses in West London. It also marks a change of emphasis in terms of its mission with a strong focus on employer engagement, in particular, vocational and professional education in a variety of national and international arenas.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter John says: 'This is a natural progression for TVU which is now a very different institution to that which was granted university status in 1992. The name change is necessary in order to align our new direction of travel with our clear brand and geographical identity which now lies at the heart of West London focusing on our two sites in Ealing and Brentford.'

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It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.

Albert Einstein (1870-1955) German-Swiss-UK scientist

LEARNING FOR LIFE

A GREAT START TO A CAREER

At The University of West London, our constant aim is to create and maintain an environment that integrates students' learning, personal development and career opportunities into a fully-rounded educational experience across all levels and courses.

The University of West London has a strong record of graduate employment helped by outstanding links with employers across a number of sectors. Over the past five years, the University's Employment Performance Indicator has consistently exceeded set benchmarks, achieving up to 94% in annual surveys conducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency. In 2008, The University was named number one university for graduate employment by *Times Higher Education*.

The University of West London has a number of initiatives in place to ensure that students leave university equipped with the skills to succeed in their chosen field. The graduate internship programme offers graduates from any discipline, and any university, fantastic opportunities within leading firms. By coupling targeted training with tailored placements, each graduate receives real life, high level exposure to forward thinking businesses. The internship programme has been very successful with 315 interns completing the programme to date and 45 interns offered employment as a result.

TEACHING FOR THE REAL WORLD

The area of West London is among the most successful business regions in the UK. It has one of the highest levels of employment in Europe and is home to many businesses ranging from specialist enterprises through to first-class national, international and global corporations.

As such, we wholeheartedly embrace the opportunities inherent in our location for the benefit of our students. All our study courses have a clear academic, professional and practical focus with particular emphasis on the knowledge and skills needed for employment, study and life. We work hard to match student and graduate skills to the needs of businesses and engage positively with the business community to create openings for students to undertake work placements, part-time jobs and find employment on graduation.

Work placements

As well as developing skills that employers value, many of our courses also offer students the opportunity to undertake a work placement. These placements enable students to work for up to a year in an organisation relevant to the course being studied and are usually taken between years two and three. They are a great way of expanding knowledge and can significantly enhance employment prospects.

Working and studying abroad

The University of West London has links with many other European universities for exchange agreements arranged within the European Union's Socrates-Erasmus programme. We can also help with study in other countries including Canada and the USA if appropriate. In such instances, the credits gained while studying outside the UK count towards the ultimate University of West London award.

Careers and employment service

Our belief is that it is never too early for a student to start planning the years beyond university. That's why the expert advice of our Careers and Employment Service is available to students from day one of joining us. We can offer guidance on a wide range of career issues, help define the career opportunities and even provide support for the practical essentials of writing a good CV, personal presentation and interview techniques.

Careers newsletter

Students who register with our Careers and Employment Service receive a copy of our 'Opportunities' magazine. This contains articles written by employers, useful application tips and current employment opportunities.

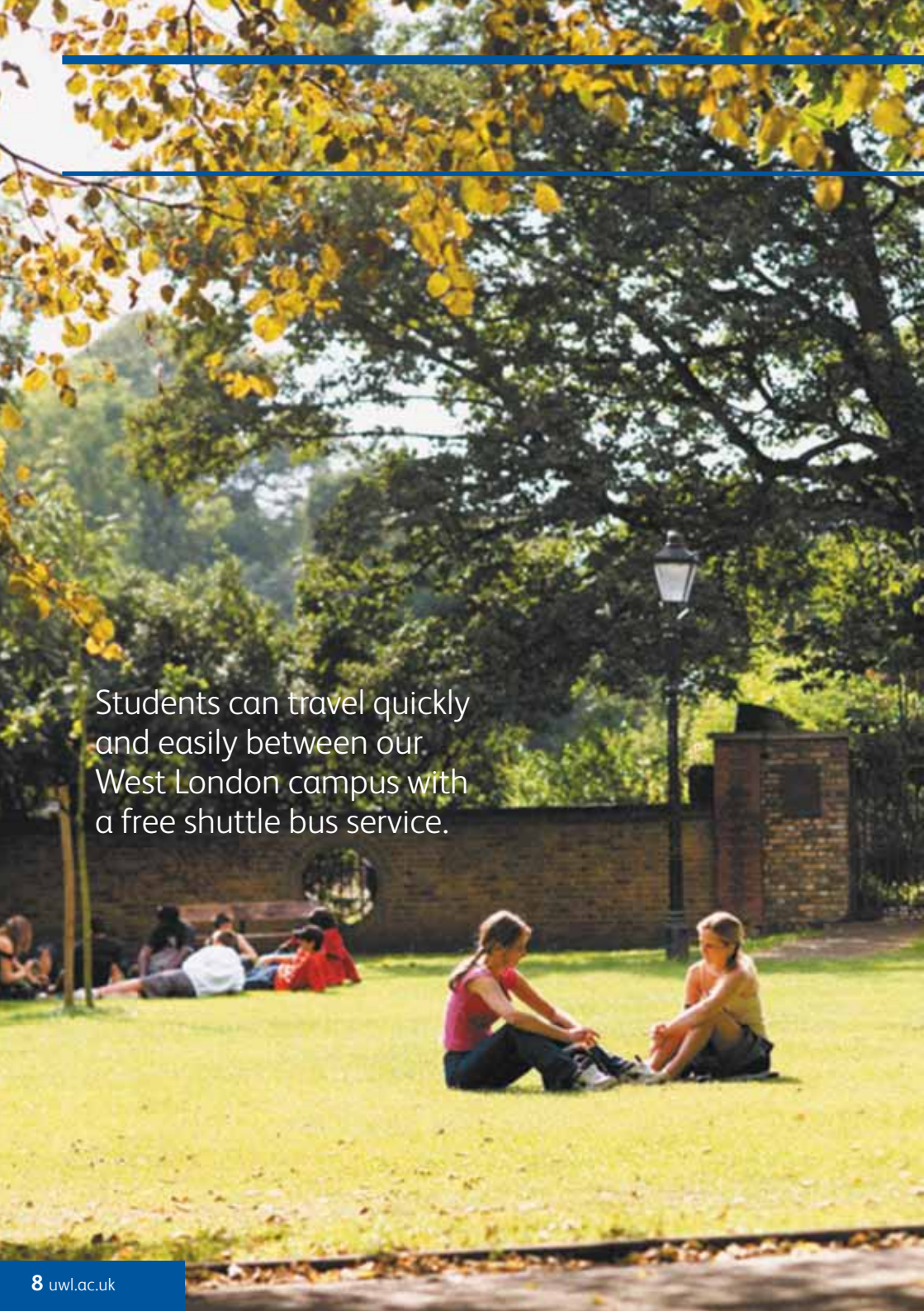
Part-time work

The University of West London has its own Employment Service, run by our Careers and Employment Service. Its aim is to help students find part-time work during their years with us. We maintain a large database of vacancies and have employer contacts covering virtually every sector within the business community.'

First study the science, and then practise the art which is born of that science.

Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519) Artist and Scientist



A scenic view of a university campus. In the foreground, two young women are sitting on a green lawn, facing each other and talking. In the background, a group of students is sitting on a bench or lying on the grass. The scene is surrounded by large, leafy trees, some with yellowing leaves, suggesting autumn. A brick wall and a black lamppost are also visible. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and academic.

Students can travel quickly
and easily between our
West London campus with
a free shuttle bus service.

OUR LOCATION

AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION

Our campuses are superbly equipped to support students' studies while also enabling close links with the thriving business community and a vast array of cultural and social activities. Our sites are connected by the University's free shuttle bus service.

Being a student is generally regarded as one of the most stimulating periods of a person's life. Through the quality of our locations, being at the heart of the action, The University of West London provides a platform from which an individual can explore and experience the many facets of academic, career and cultural development.

EALING

St Mary's Road

Ealing has long been regarded as a desirable place to live and work. Even though it is one of London's largest boroughs, it has a distinctly green environment with more than 1,900 acres of parks and open space.

The key to modern Ealing is its diversity. At one extreme there's the renowned Questors Theatre and at the other a multi-screen cinema. Shopping ranges from high street boutiques through to covered malls, and the local culinary delights encompass the four corners of the world. Nearby Gunnersbury Park is home to the famous London Mela while Walpole Park hosts annual jazz and comedy festivals.

The borough has an excellent local bus service, is served by fast rail links between Reading and London, and is no more than 30 minutes by tube to central London. The motorway network is easily accessible and Heathrow International Airport is just a 20-minute drive away.

BRENTFORD

Paragon

The Brentford site, home to our new residential accommodation development called Paragon, is located 1.5 miles south of the Ealing site.

Brentford has the feel of a village about it and is rapidly growing in popularity as an aspirational place to live. Its location between Ealing, Richmond, Kew and Hounslow provides easy access to a fabulous array of cultural and leisure activities. Travel in any direction will reveal an extraordinarily diverse range of theatres, cinemas, shops, clubs and restaurants. Among the many notable local attractions are the Watermans Arts Centre, the Brentford Fountain Sports and Leisure Centre, Syon House, Gunnersbury Park and Kew Gardens.

Brentford is served by excellent bus and rail services giving quick and easy access to central London, the tube network and connections for mainline rail travel.

Nine tenths of education is encouragement.

Anatole France (1844-1924) French writer

LIVING AWAY FROM HOME

HELP WITH ACCOMMODATION

We recognise that, for many people, going to university is probably the first time they have lived away from home. As such, we understand how important it is to provide our students with help and advice in finding suitable secure accommodation.

Accommodation Team

Based on extensive local knowledge, our Accommodation Team provides a comprehensive service to help students find a place to live, whether in our halls of residence or in the private rented sector.

Paragon

Situated on the Brentford site, Paragon is The University of West London's main hall of residence. This purpose-built, award-winning accommodation facility has 810 single study bedrooms with access to communal kitchens and 29 studios. The site benefits from 24 hour security and has a common room, laundry room and refectory.

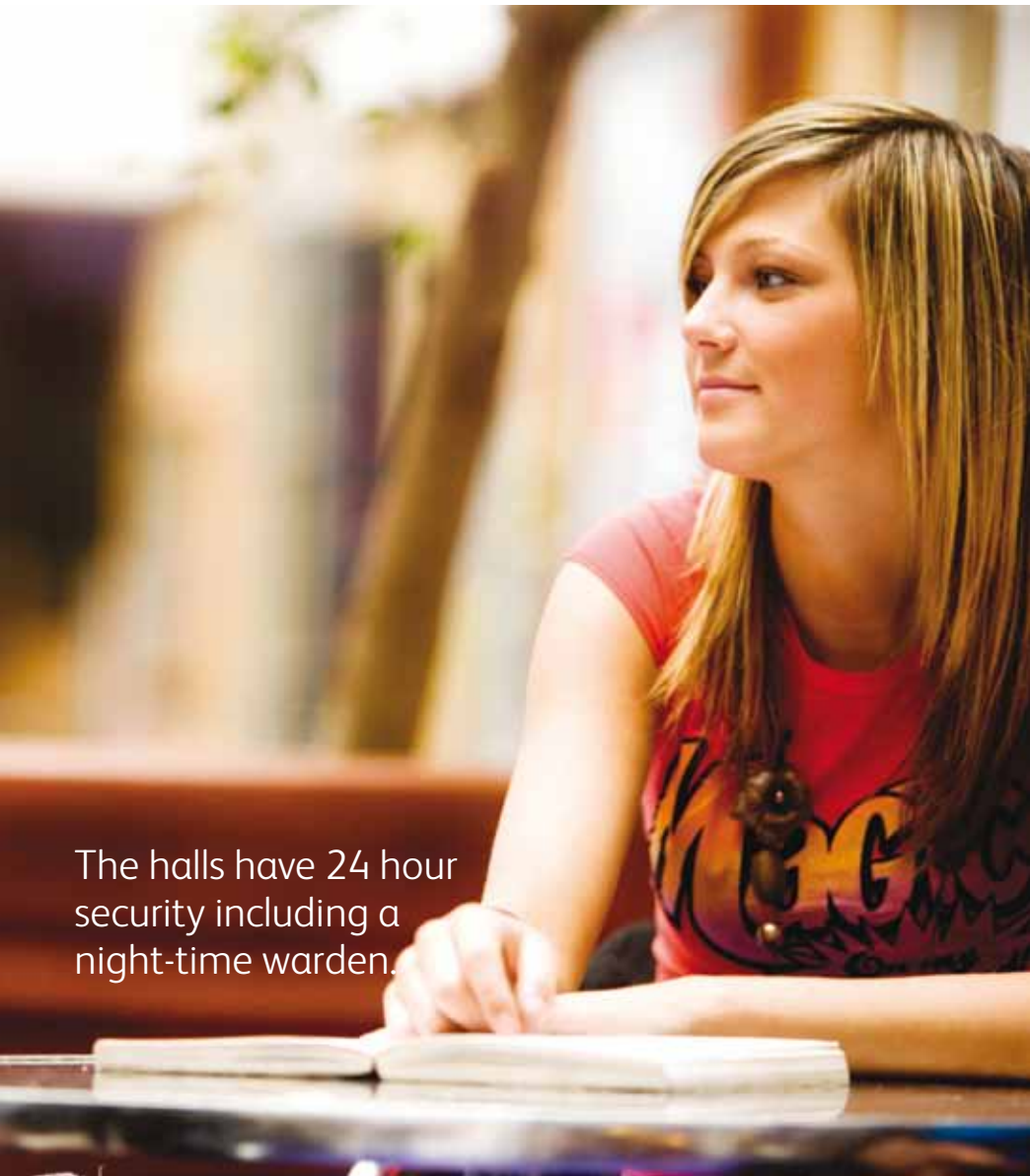
Private rented sector

Our Accommodation Team produces a superb printed guide to help students find accommodation in the private rented sector. It also provides regularly updated lists of registered properties available to rent. The Team can also provide details of local letting agents, private householders, hotels and B&B accommodation.

There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live.

James Truslow Adams (1878-1949)
American historian and writer





The halls have 24 hour security including a night-time warden.

LIVING AWAY FROM HOME



DAY TO DAY NEEDS

A move to university is often a move away from all those people and community services that are taken for granted in the early years of life. At The University of West London, we have built a comprehensive support network to help students deal with their new found responsibilities.

Funding

Information and guidance is available on the funding options available to students, including funding administered or authorised by the University, such as the Access to Learning Fund.

Student advice

The student advisers provide students with a free and confidential advice and advocacy service, covering practical issues ranging from money management and sources of funding through to state benefits, visas and housing rights.

Health

Students who live locally in Ealing or in the Paragon halls of residence can register with a local Doctors' (GP) Practice.

Free shuttle bus

The University provides a free shuttle bus service so that students can travel between our West London sites quickly and easily.

Support for disabled students

The disability advisers assist students who have a disability or who think that they may have a specific learning difficulty eg dyslexia. The advisers provide advice and information relating to disability support and reasonable adjustments (including providing students with an Individual Support Plan), extra funding that may be available to disabled students, such as Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), and assistance in arranging support workers, eg note-takers, dyslexia tutors, communication support workers and mentors.

Counselling

We offer a Counselling Service to help students cope with any issues that may be of concern. The service is free, absolutely confidential and delivered by highly experienced trained counsellors. Various themed group sessions are also available.

Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy provides support for students on matters relating to spirituality, faith, religion and ethics. It maintains links with local leaders from many faith groups and can provide information about places of worship. Support is available for all members of the University, of any faith or of none. There are quiet rooms available on all campuses for individual and collective prayer, reflection and contemplation.

Free and confidential advice on practical issues ranging from money management and sources of funding through to state benefits and housing rights.

BEING A STUDENT

ACADEMIC STUDY SUPPORT

The way that we teach varies according to the needs of the subject. Lectures, seminars, tutorials and guided independent study are often supported by activities such as group projects, discussion groups and work placements. Similarly, the learning environments may range from traditional tutorial rooms and lecture halls through to personal study in one of our libraries. Whichever the methodology or combination of methodologies, all University of West London students benefit from individual study support.

Personal tutors

Every student has regular meetings with their allocated Personal Tutor. These sessions are designed to help improve study skills, monitor and report progress, develop learning and transferable skills, and optimise use of the University's learning resources.

Learning skills

At the beginning of a course, each student is asked to take a Key Skills check to assess their capabilities in English, Maths and IT. If there's a gap in knowledge, the student will be offered free weekly classes, workshops or tutorials to support personal development.

Libraries

We have a library on each of our sites. Each provides fully-networked open access work stations. In addition to traditional book and journal references, the centres have constantly expanding CD, DVD and electronic resources including the internet and access to the University's IT network.

STUDENT LIFE

Being a student is a wonderful opportunity to broaden the horizons. At The University of West London, with our extraordinary diversity, we provide a superb platform for individuals to expand their intellectual, social, cultural and academic perspectives on life.

Volunteering

Volunteering plays an important role at the University in that it offers students and staff the chance to work together and contribute to the wider community of West London. Courses are carefully managed by our Volunteering Coordinator to ensure that activities reflect the volunteers' personal and academic interests.



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Students' Union

All students automatically become members of the Students' Union at enrolment. The Union's prime role is to represent individual students and the student body as a whole. It ensures that the views of students are delivered to the University, the Government and to other professional organisations that affect student life.

However, the Union is also a focal point for many of the social activities at the University. The Coffee Shop and Freddie's Bar at the Ealing site are popular meeting places for students. The bar in particular hosts a lively programme of events ranging from live music and club nights to comedy and quizzes.

Sports and societies

The Recreation Office in the Students' Union building on the Ealing site is the centre for the University's wide variety of sports, recreational and student-run societies. In addition to ever-popular clubs such as football, netball, cricket and rugby, students can also become members of societies as diverse as chess, law, mooted and TUBE radio broadcasting.

PROUD OF OUR DIVERSITY

The University of West London is renowned for the diversity of the subjects on offer and the type of students who study with us. We currently have around 15,430 students, of which approximately 61% are female. Ethnic diversity is well represented in that we have students from over 150 countries, and 54% are of non-white ethnicity. 44% of our students study on a part-time basis.

We are proud of our diversity and are committed to encouraging people from many different educational and cultural backgrounds to study with us. Importantly, we are equally committed to developing our facilities, policies, procedures and support services to ensure that each facet of our offer is easily accessible.

Above all, we care for our students. It is our intent that every student is given a fair chance to gain from the opportunity that The University of West London presents.

We are committed to developing our facilities, policies, procedures and support services to ensure that each facet of our offer is easily accessible.



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