

# The Courtauld

A photograph of three women sitting on a wooden bench in an art gallery. The woman on the left is wearing a red sweater and black pants, gesturing with her hands. The woman in the middle is wearing a yellow hijab, a white jacket, and black pants. The woman on the right is wearing an orange patterned shirt, blue jeans, and a blue choker. In the background, there are large abstract paintings on the wall and a small informational card on the wall.

Welcome Guide  
2025/26





# Dean's Welcome

**Welcome to The Courtauld, an independent college of the University of London. We are delighted that you have chosen to study with us.**

Starting a new degree can often seem a daunting experience, especially if you are moving to London for the first time. We hope that you quickly feel at home studying with us. At whatever level you join us, whether as an Undergraduate student, a Graduate Diploma student, an MA student or a PhD researcher, we are here to support you throughout your studies.

This guide is an introduction to life and studying at The Courtauld, our key staff and departments, and it includes some of the artistic highlights of London. This is one of the great cities in the world to see art and to participate in its artistic life. Make sure you regularly carve out some time to visit museums and galleries; and try to go with a friend - everyone looks at art differently. You'll see things

you never would on your own, and will get better at that key element of art history - learning how to put what you see, think and feel into words. Also try to come to some Research Forum events, they offer the chance to meet and hear talks and discussions with some of the leading figures in our field - art historians and conservators, artists, practitioners and curators.

On a personal note, I very much hope you enjoy your programme of study. It is an opportunity for you to immerse yourself in the worlds of art history, curating and conservation, and for you to look and think with us and your fellow students. I hope you start to look at art in new ways, and I look forward to being challenged by you to look at art differently myself.

I hope you have a rewarding and positive year.

**Dorothy Price**  
Executive Dean and Deputy Director



# Welcome to The Students' Union

## Dear new and returning students,

As the Students' Union President and Vice-President for this academic year, we are beyond excited to welcome you to The Courtauld.

The Students' Union is the representative body of the students at The Courtauld, and our role is to advocate on behalf of students in all matters including academia, welfare support, and student experience. We also organise socials and events throughout the year, and support societies and other student projects. As a student of The Courtauld, you will automatically become a member of our union upon enrolling.

This Welcome Guide aims to offer a useful summary of key information and tips for living and studying in London that you may need during your time here. We know first-hand that moving to a new city and starting university is an important step in life, and we hope to make this transition as easy as possible.

Welcome Week will be packed with activities organised by both the Institute and the SU, ranging from Welcome Talks and cohort and community socials to arts and crafts sessions and gallery visits. These events are a great opportunity for you to make new friends, meet other incoming students, and get to know the rest of The Courtauld Community.

Throughout the year, the Students' Union will also host its annual winter, spring, and summer parties amongst other activities. We hope that these events will be highlights of your time at The Courtauld, as they have been for us and our friends.

The experience offered by The Courtauld is undeniably unique. Aside from being located in the heart of London and on the doorstep of world-renowned galleries and museums, The Courtauld's small size is perhaps what makes us strongest.

Whether it's by joining a society, attending events, or representing our community through one of the elected Student Officers roles, we hope to get to know you all this year.



**Hannah Snyder**  
Students' Union  
President



**Martina Campagnoli**  
Students' Union  
Vice-President



**Email:**  
[students.union@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:students.union@courtauld.ac.uk)  
**Instagram:** @courtauld\_su

# Vernon Square Campus

Welcome to The Courtauld's Vernon Square Campus - one of our two campuses, alongside Somerset House. Most of your teaching takes place here, so here's a brief overview of the main spaces to help you find your way around:



## Ground Floor

Here you'll find the main entrance, Reception, and the Courtauld Library. This is also where you'll find our new large Seminar Room, either referred to as Ground Floor Seminar Room or VG01.

## First Floor

Home to Lecture Theatre 1 and Seminar Room 1, plus both a Quiet Study Room and a Group Study Room. The Students' Union office is inside the Group Study Room. The Royal Literary Fellows office is also on this floor, just inside the Staff Common Room.

## Second Floor

This floor includes Lecture Theatre 2, most seminar rooms, the Research Forum Seminar Room, and the Student Advice Desk.

## Third Floor

Here you'll find the Common Room and coffee bar, along with most academic offices.

# Academic and Career Support

## Academic Skills Tutor

The Academic Skills Tutor offers one-to-one support for students who feel they need some additional assistance with academic writing conventions, speaking for presentations, or any other academic skill.

## Royal Literary Fellows

The Royal Literary Fellows are here to help you improve your academic writing skills, reading strategies and organisation of material.

## Book a Librarian:

The Courtauld Library offers one-to-one support for Courtauld students looking for assistance with finding books, articles, images, scholarship, or art.

**Find out how to book a session with the Academic Skills Tutor, Royal Literary Fellows, or a librarian by following the QR code below and scrolling to the relevant section.**



## Careers

The Courtauld Careers Consultations offer one-to-one meetings and interview practice sessions. You can use these services as a student and for up to two years after you have graduated.

**For more information and how to book a session, visit the Careers page on the VLE or follow the QR code below.**



## Student Handbook

For more information about semester dates, academic support, key members of staff, consult the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook also includes information about Wellbeing support at The Courtauld, learning adjustments students can request (SoRAs) and Disabled Students' Allowance information (DSA).

**You can find the Student Handbook on the VLE under your programme of study's information page.**

# Useful Information

## Student Representation

Every academic year, the student body is represented by the Students' Union President and Vice-President, an Executive Committee, course representatives and Student Officers (Global Majority, Disability, International, and LGBTQIA+). All these positions are elected roles, and it is important that you vote during student elections to ensure that you are well advocated for.

Some of the Executive Committee roles were filled during our April election, but not all. Our next election will be in October.

## Emergency Support Fund

Previously known as the Student Hardship Fund, it provides short-term emergency funds to meet the immediate needs of students registered at The Courtauld Institute of Art. It is intended to provide support for short-term needs, such as living costs and rent and cannot be used in payment of tuition fees.

To access the fund, please contact wellbeing@courtauld.ac.uk who will send you an online link to the application form and explain the process.

## Students' Union Pantry

The Student Pantry is a Students' Union initiative which aims to provide free basic pantry items on a need and trust basis. The Student Pantry can be found on the 1st floor, in the group study room in front of the Students' Union office. The pantry is restocked on a monthly basis.

## Paid Student-Staff Opportunities

Student Event Assistants are paid roles which may lead you to work across many different departments at The Courtauld. Many of the shifts offered will be event-focused, but some roles may also include content creation, research, and more practical and administrative tasks. You can find out more about these roles in the Student Casual Work Guide (on the Careers VLE page) or by getting in contact with researchforum@courtauld.ac.uk.

Other work opportunities communicated to the Students' Union will be shared through the SU Weekly email Newsletter. Make sure to take a look!

# Societies

Joining societies is an exciting way to engage in The Courtauld community, gain experiences outside of your classes, and meet new people. You will get a chance to discover The Courtauld's numerous societies at our Freshers' Fair on 23rd September 2025/26.

Here are some of our societies for this year:

## The Courtauldian

The Courtauldian is The Courtauld Institute's student newspaper. They publish around four issues across the academic year. You can participate as an author, illustrator, editor, web designer, or through occasional submissions.



## East Wing Biennial

Founded in 1991 in the East Wing of Somerset House by Joshua Compston, EWB is a student-led exhibition dedicated to displaying contemporary art in the Institute. Showcasing both emerging

and established artists from the UK and overseas, EWB is currently exhibited along the walls of our Vernon Square campus. Its 16th edition, RE:VISION, will be on display from September 2025 to August 2027.

## Business of Art Society

Founded in 2005, the Business of Art Society offers its members insight into various business aspects of the art world. BoAS not only organises talks, tours and events - allowing members to network with professionals working at the heart of the art business world - but is also a business organisation in itself.

## Feminist Society

Open to all genders and backgrounds, the Courtauld Feminist Society celebrates feminist art practices, uplifts women artists, and fosters critical feminist thought. They organise engaging lectures, discussions, and tours, exploring the history and impact of feminist art while creating a welcoming space for learning, activism, and community.

## Fashion Design Society

The Courtauld Fashion Design Society explores the intersections of art history, fashion, and design. From costumes and jewels to handbags and textiles, the society offers students a platform to engage with fashion across its history, contemporary practice, and future directions. They organise socials, exhibition outings, and guest lectures with industry experts, creating a space to celebrate fashion as both scholarship and artistic expression.



## Architecture Society

The Courtauld Architecture Society provides a platform for students to engage with the world of architecture and the built environment through engaging talks, tours and events. They offer members opportunities to connect with architects, urban planners, academics and other inspiring professionals in the field, creating a vibrant community for learning, discussion and networking.

## Caledonian Society

The Caledonian Society is a lively community celebrating Scottish culture through the tradition of Reeling. Open to all, regardless of experience, it offers students the chance to build friendships, learn new skills, and enjoy the joy of dance. More than social events, gatherings provide a meaningful connection to Scotland's rich heritage, with opportunities to collaborate with fellow Caledonian Societies across London.

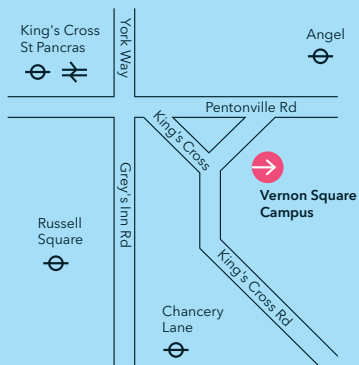


If you would like to start your own society, you can contact the Students' Union President or wait to receive more information about the process in October.



# Eat/Drink/Do

## Around Our Campuses



### → Vernon Square Campus

**George & Monkey** - 15% discount for students of The Courtauld

**Paolina Thai Cuisine** - delicious and cheap Thai food a 5-minute walk away

**Itadakizen London** - vegan Japanese food a 2-minute walk away

**Dim Sum Duck** - always long queues but a London favourite

**Frequency Coffee** - small café right around the corner; also located within Vernon Square Common Room

**Gibson's** - great local coffee and toasties

**Tesco Express** - a 6-minute walk from campus, great for meal deals

**Tian Tian Market** - popular Asian grocery chain just up the road

**Everyman on the Canal** - outdoor cinema located in Coal Drops Yard

**Word On The Water** - quirky bookshop on a canal barge (also in Coal Drops Yard)

**Fara Charity Shop** - great value charity shop only minutes away

**Camley Street Natural Park** - a nature reserve hidden behind King's Cross

**Culpeper Community Garden** - a vibrant garden in Islington



### → Somerset House Campus / Duchy House

**The WatchHouse Café** - located inside Somerset House

**Café Petiole** - a quasi-vegan cafe in Somerset House

**Art Café** - The Courtauld's own café and bar located opposite the Gallery

**Eat Tokyo** - a Japanese restaurant with moderately priced bento box menus

**Plume** - cosy wine bar located inside Charles Dicken's former publishing house

**The Lyceum** - this pub used to be referred to as The Courtauld 'common room'

**Tesco Express** - a walk from Somerset House, great for meal deals

**Route Strand** - great coffee and salad lunch options on The Strand; offers student discount

**The Fleet Street Press** - a good option for coffee and studying

**Sagar Vegan and Vegetarian Restaurant** - reasonably priced and located right behind the Royal Opera House

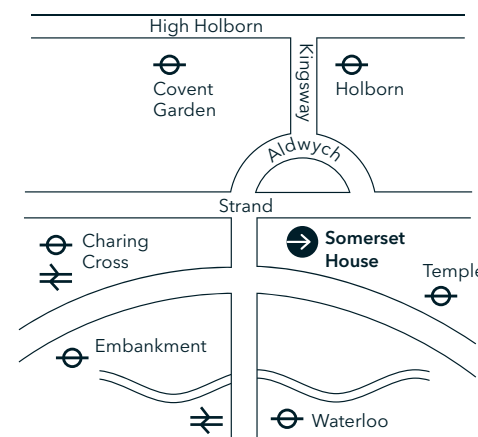
**Toklas Bakery** - for a nice treat, fresh bread and baked goods

**BFI Southbank** - riverside cinema for classic film enthusiasts; £4 tickets for under-26s

**Southbank Book Market** - beloved secondhand book market under Waterloo Bridge

**Victoria Embankment Gardens** - a well-manicured park for your lunch break

**The Vault** - KCL's student bar; great for a cheap drink (remember to bring your KCL ID)



# Transport

## in London and the U.K.



### Public Transport

London's tube has six zones, with fares depending on distance and time of travel. Pay by contactless, Oyster card, or physical tickets (the most expensive). Peak hours are weekdays 6:30–9:30 AM and 4–7 PM. Daily commuters may benefit from a monthly/annual Travelcard – with an 18+ Student Oyster you'll save 30%.

Buses cost £1.75 flat with Oyster/contactless and are often the cheapest option, though slower in rush hour. The nearest stations to Vernon Square are King's Cross (step-free) and Angel; for Somerset House, Temple, Covent Garden, and Blackfriars (step-free). The tube runs roughly 5 AM–midnight, with Night Tube services on some lines Friday and Saturday. See the TFL website for details.

### Bike

Cycling can be a great way to get around London and beat the traffic, but make sure to invest in a good lock and wear a helmet. There are places for you to lock your bike in Vernon Square in the courtyard, and in front of King's College London on The Strand (for Somerset House).

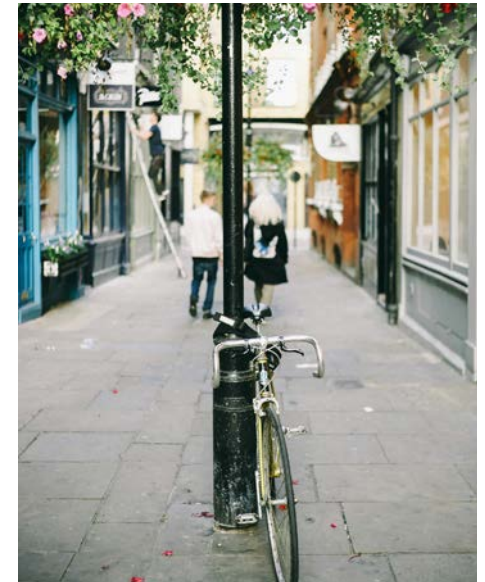
Some tube lines accept non-foldable bikes during non-peak hours. Check out the TFL website to see which ones. You can also take your bike on all Overground lines outside of peak hours and during the weekend, making it a great way to visit places outside of central London.

For those who do not want to buy a bike, e-bike rental services such as Lime, Santander, and Forest Cycles offer some form of student discounts for their annual subscriptions.

### Train

If you are keen to travel outside of London, the Railcard can be a great way to get a discount on rail travel. The 16–25 card gives you 1/3 off all rail travel in the UK, and costs £35 for 1 year or £80 for 3 years.

Connect your Railcard to your Oyster card for 1/3 discount on off-peak travel in London. Other types of Railcards are also available, including those for different age groups, families, veterans and disabled passengers.





# London Libraries

## **The Courtauld Library - WC1X 9EW**

The Courtauld Library is a great place for students to work and consult texts. Most sources recommended by your lecturers will be found here. As the library has limited seating, get there early if you want a seat during busy academic periods!

## **Senate House Library - WC1E 7HU**

Once home to the Ministry of Information and inspiration for Orwell's 1984, Senate House is one of the city's best study spaces. Courtauld students can join for free with a student ID, in person or online.

## **The Maughan Library - WC2A 1LR**

Through Courtauld's strategic partnership with King's College, you can access KCL's Maughan Library near the Strand - convenient if you study or live by Somerset House! Use your KCL ID to enter.

## **The British Library - NW1 2DB**

The BL offers free access to its vast collection and St Pancras Reading Room (open most days 9:30-8 PM, but it fills quickly). Bring ID to the Reader Registration office to get a Reader Pass.

## **The Warburg Library - WC1H 0AB**

Known for Aby Warburg's unique "law of the good neighbour" classification, books are arranged thematically so related topics sit side by side (ie. mermaids). A great place for discovering unexpected sources and research connections. Register on-site with your Courtauld ID.



# Art Institutions & Student Discounts

**A lot of museums, galleries, cinemas, and theatres in London have discounts for students and young people. Here are some of our recommendations:**

**The Courtauld Gallery** - Free for Courtauld students, including temporary exhibitions and discounted evening events.

**Tate Collective** - Free to join (16-25). £5 tickets to all Tate exhibitions, plus café, shop, and event discounts.

**ICOM** - £49/year student membership (museum-related courses) with free access to museums and heritage sites across the UK and Europe.

**Student Art Pass** - £10/year. Free or discounted entry to museums, galleries, and heritage sites across the UK.

**National Portrait Gallery** - £5 tickets for under-25s; 'Pay What You Wish' scheme (£1+) Sat evenings & Sun mornings.

**Young Barbican** - Free to join (16-25). £6 exhibition and film tickets, plus discounts on other events.

**BFI 16-25** - Free to join. £4 tickets at BFI Southbank, £6 festival tickets (e.g. BFI Flare, London Film Festival).



**National Trust** - Young Person membership (18-25) £48/year, with free entry and parking at UK sites.

**Institute of Contemporary Arts** - Blue Membership (under-26s/students) £30/year. Free exhibitions + 50% off programmes.

**English National Opera** - Free tickets for under-21s; discounts available for under-35s.

**Royal Ballet & Opera** - Young RBO scheme offers £30 tickets to any ROH Main Stage performance.

**\*Seb's Art List** - Not a physical venue, but essential for keeping up with London's art scene. Sign up to their weekly newsletter for updates on London art exhibitions, talks, and events.



**[www.courtauld.ac.uk](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk)**

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