



# Living in London

## A brief area guide for new students

Please note – we couldn't list every area as there would be far too much information. What follows is based mainly on LSHTM staff experiences, so bear in mind this is subjective. We strongly recommend that you check an area you're interested in in person and research it online, before you decide to live there.

- [North London](#)
- [North West London](#)
- [East London](#)
- [West London](#)
- [South London](#)

This guide should be read in conjunction with a [map of the London tube and Overground network](#), as well as Google maps. For reference, it is useful to know that the closest tube stations to LSHTM are:

- Goodge Street (Northern line) = 350 metres
- Russell Square (Piccadilly line) = 550m
- Euston Square (Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan lines) = 600m
- Tottenham Court Road (Central and Northern lines) = 600m
- Warren Street (Victoria and Northern lines) = 850m
- Euston (Victoria and Northern lines) = 900m



The above distances are in relation to LSHTM's main building in Keppel Street.

### North London including Camden, Mornington Crescent, Kentish Town/Tufnell Park, Angel, Arsenal, Bounds Green, Finsbury Park, Highbury, Holloway, Archway, Manor House, Stoke Newington

North London is a popular choice for students and is handy for transport, as LSHTM is easy to get to from North London. Whilst some of the areas listed under this heading have an NW postcode, they are loosely referred to as being part of 'North London'. This area can be a bit more expensive than other parts of London.

#### Camden, zone 2, postcode NW1

Transport links to LSHTM: Camden Town station is on the Northern Line which stops very near LSHTM (Goodge Street station, 4 stops from Camden Town). Camden is near enough to be viable by bus (direct bus routes 24, 29, 168; approximately 20 minutes.) or walk (allow 30-40 minutes).

Plus points: Trendy area with lots of bars, restaurants and boutiques. Popular music venues. Huge supermarket for food-shopping (Sainsbury's and Morrison's).

Minus points: Can be pricey. Camden Market and surrounding streets can get very busy with tourists at weekends.

## **Mornington Crescent, zone 1, postcode NW1**

Transport links to LSHTM: Walkable to LSHTM in about 20 minutes, lots of transport links including tube (direct line) and buses.

Plus points: Central location; close to Camden market; close to lots of restaurants & music venues.

Minus points: Some busy roads, so can be noisy. Can be expensive due to central location. Doesn't have a 'community' feel.

## **Kentish Town / Tufnell Park, zone 2, postcodes NW5, N19, N7**

Transport links to LSHTM: Kentish Town and Tufnell Park stations are 5 and 6 stops, respectively, on the Northern Line from Goodge Street station, which is the closest tube station to LSHTM. Only 1 and 2 stops from Camden Town.

Plus points: Cheaper than Camden, and plenty of nice residential streets; has a welcoming atmosphere.

Minus points: Some bits are a little run-down.

## **Angel, zone 1, postcode N1**

Transport links to LSHTM: 73 bus comes direct (allow 25 minutes). Angel is within walking distance of the School (35 minutes). Also on the Northern line, but on the Bank branch, so direct line to Euston station only.

Plus points: Near Central London. Lots of great shops, including choice of three supermarkets. Two cinemas. Many picturesque residential streets with Victorian and Georgian properties. Regent's Canal nearby with footpath. Many different restaurants, cafes and bars/pubs.

Minus points: The proximity to the centre is reflected in rental prices which tend to be high.

## **Arsenal, zone 2, postcode N5**

Transport links to LSHTM: Good transport links with Arsenal and Finsbury Park stations on the Piccadilly Line (direct line to Russell Square tube station, which is very near LSHTM).

Plus points: Plenty of residential accommodation in nice, old properties on quiet streets. Near the Emirates Stadium (for Arsenal fans). Close to two big London parks (Finsbury Park and Clissold Park).

Minus points: Some congestion during football matches. Fairly expensive rent.

## **Bounds Green, zone 3, postcode N11**

Transport links to LSHTM: Piccadilly Line from Bounds Green tube station direct to Russell Square.

Plus Points: Good public transport connections (tube, buses, train station Bowes Park); quiet neighbourhood, very suburban (a pro and a con); good for cars (close to North Circular - easy to get out and about).

Minus Points: Not much going on, very suburban.

## **Finsbury Park, zone 2, postcode N4**

Transport links to LSHTM: Great transport links with Finsbury Park station served by both the Piccadilly and Victoria lines (both stop nearby to LSHTM). Well connected by bus (30-40 minutes).

Plus points: Not too far from centre, reasonable value for money, plenty of local shops. big park. Lots of attractive residential streets with Victorian houses divided into flats. Offers good value for money considering it's in zone 2.

Minus points: Some parts have a slightly run-down feel. Big main roads (e.g. Seven Sisters Road) are not that attractive (but easy to escape into the residential areas).

## **Highbury, zone 2, postcode N5**

Transport links to LSHTM: 3 stops on the tube (~7 min) to Warren Street station near the School (from Highbury & Islington station on the Victoria Line).

Plus points: Good transport links to Central London and other areas as connected to the tube (Victoria Line), Overground and train station. Pretty residential area. Nice park (Highbury Fields). Upper Street has lots of great shops, restaurants, and bars. Two cinemas nearby.

Minus points: Expensive to rent. Less local amenities (though some shops around the tube station, and good selection of shops, bars, restaurants around Highbury Barn).

### **Holloway / Archway, zone 2, postcode N19**

Transport links to LSHTM: easy links to the School on either the Piccadilly or Northern lines.

Plus points: Reasonably priced accommodation, not too far from Central London. Plenty of cheap shops on Holloway Road, including supermarkets. Lots of nice residential streets. Cinema on Holloway Road.

Minus points: Holloway Road is one of London's biggest roads; it is not very attractive and is polluted (as most big roads in London). Some parts of Holloway can feel a bit run-down.

### **Manor House, zone 2/3, postcode N4**

Transport links to LSHTM: Piccadilly line direct to Russell Square station which takes about 15 minutes. The 29 bus goes direct to the School (and takes about 45 minutes).

Plus points: Manor House is just up the road from Finsbury Park so the same points apply. There is generally good value accommodation and lots of shops (mainly Cypriot and Turkish) along Green Lanes selling food & fresh groceries. There is a big Sainsbury's supermarket. There are lots of cafes & bars, and a community feel.

Minus points: Manor House is the more run-down end of Finsbury Park

### **Stoke Newington, zone 2, postcode N16**

Transport links to LSHTM: 73 bus goes direct (allow up to 45 minutes during rush hour).

Plus points: Village-like area with off-beat bars, eateries, indie shops and boutiques. Nice park nearby (Clissold Park). Has a friendly, artistic vibe. Lots of young families and students live in this area. With no tube station, it feels out of the way and quiet.

Minus points: Doesn't have great transport links – not on the tube, but on the Overground.

---

## **North West London including Harlesden/Kensal Rise, Queen's Park, Wembley Central/Wembley Park**

Many of these areas can be cheaper than the North London areas listed above, but most still have very good transport links with Central London.

### **Queen's Park, zone 2, postcode NW6**

Transport links to LSHTM: Queen's Park station is on the Bakerloo line – it's not a direct line to LSHTM, but it only involves one change at Baker Street station to the Metropolitan line which goes to Euston Square station, which is very near the School (total journey time ~23 minutes from station to station). Or the Overground line goes directly to Euston station (15 minutes) and then it's a 12-minute walk to LSHTM.

Plus points: Queen's Park can be more expensive as it's a popular place to live due to its relative proximity to Central London and good transport links. It has a wide variety of cafes, restaurants, shops and green spaces.

Minus Points: Harlesden in particular had a very poor reputation in the 1990's and still looks fairly run-down. Can feel threatening at night though crime rates are no higher than anywhere else in London. Lacking in accessible nightlife. No big name shops apart from Argos and Tesco.

### **Harlesden / Kensal Green, zones 2/3, postcode NW10**

Transport links to LSHTM: Overground stations Harlesden, Willesden Junction and Kensal Green are on a direct line to Euston Station (18-23 minutes). Number 18 bus goes to Euston Road (between 35 and 45 minutes). Kensal Green station is also on the tube – Bakerloo line, zone 2 (see Queen's Park above).

Plus points: It has a diverse population with high numbers of residents from Irish, African-Caribbean, African and Brazilian heritage backgrounds. Very diverse local shopping and not far from Westfield Shopping Centre on the Overground from Willesden Junction or Kensal Rise stations. Accommodation tends to be much better value for money. There is a number of large Victorian parks in the area.

Minus Points: Harlesden in particular had a poor reputation in the 90's and still looks fairly run-down. Can feel threatening at night though crime rates are no higher than anywhere else in London. Lacking in accessible nightlife. No big-name shops apart from Argos and Tesco.

## Wembley Central / Wembley Park, zone 4, postcodes HA0, HA9

Transport links to LSHTM: Wembley Central station is both on the Bakerloo line and on the Overground (see commute details above). Wembley Park station is on the Jubilee and Metropolitan lines; the latter goes directly to Euston Square station in 16 minutes, and then it's a short walk to LSHTM. Alperton station is also close by and is on the Piccadilly line which goes directly to Russell Square station, near the School, but it's a long journey on the tube (18 stops).

Plus Points: Good value accommodation available. It's a diverse & vibrant area of London with residents from India, Somalia, Ireland, Sri Lanka and many more. Good transport links with Central London. Lots of shops and stalls down Ealing Road selling a variety of fresh produce, colourful materials, household goods, etc. Many cheap & cheerful places to eat in Ealing Road. London Designer Outlet near Wembley Stadium, including a multi-screen cinema. Some nice parks including King Edward VII park close to Wembley High Road. Wembley Stadium hosts major football matches as well as other sporting events, concerts, etc.

Minus Points: The main roads can get very busy. Large events at the Stadium can mean some streets are crowded. Some areas are a bit run-down.

---

## East London including Dalston/Haggerston/Shoreditch, Hackney/Bethnal Green, Stratford

East London is generally considered cheaper than North London. Traditionally the home of the 'true Londoner', the Cockney, this is an area of close communities that now reflects the vibrant multiculturalism that makes up London. East London developed a reputation for poverty and gang crime back in the days, but now is the land of the hip and happening. The vibe is quite different to West and Central London – hipster, younger, cooler and a little rough around the edges. Although in parts still a bit shabby, the 2012 Olympics greatly revamped the area. East London has some of the best markets in London, and is also known for its street food and street art.

### Dalston / Haggerston / Shoreditch, zone 1/2, postcodes E1, E8, N1

Transport links to LSHTM: Dalston Junction, Haggerston and Shoreditch High Street stations are all on the Overground line. There is no direct route to LSHTM. The journey would involve a change over at either Highbury & Islington station to the Victoria line, or at Whitechapel station to the Hammersmith & City line. Approximately 30 minutes. From Shoreditch, buses number 8, 55, 205 and 243 stop fairly near to LSHTM, with a bus journey time of 35 minutes. From Dalston, bus 38 takes about 40 minutes.

Plus points: Everything on your doorstep – cinema, big Sainsbury's, Ridley Road market, bars, cafes, restaurants, clubs, parks. Good community events. This is considered one of the trendiest areas in London. Shoreditch is particularly lively with a buzzing nightlife, independent shops and restaurants.

Minus points: A bit rough around the edges (although definitely on the up), expensive, can be busy and loud at the weekends.

### Hackney / Bethnal Green, zone 2, postcodes E8, E2

Transport links to LSHTM: Hackney Central is on the Overground line, 3 stops away from Highbury & Islington station which is served by the Victoria line. Bethnal Green is both on the Overground and the tube – central line goes direct to Tottenham Court Road station (13 minutes), which is a short walk away from LSHTM. Bus 8 from Bethnal Green and bus 38 from Hackney stop nearby (allow up to 60 minutes in busy times).

Plus points: Lively area, close to nice markets (e.g. Brick Lane, Broadway Market) and few parks nearby. Close to trendy Shoreditch, Liverpool Street and the City. Victoria Park and Hackney Marshes are great outdoor spaces. London Fields Lido has an open-air swimming pool.

Minus Points: Hackney is not on the tube. Although Hackney has changed over the past few years, some areas are still a bit run down.

## Stratford, zone 2/3, postcodes E15, E20

Transport links to LSHTM: direct journey on the Central line to Tottenham Court Road station (22 minutes), which is a short walk away from the School.

Plus points: This is where the Olympic Park is situated, which is a great outdoor space. There has been significant regeneration to the area for the 2012 Olympics and lots of properties available since at reasonable prices. Westfield shopping centre is next to the station. Big transport hub with Overground, DLR, TfL Rail, train station and tube (Central and Jubilee lines).

Minus points: busy and lots of big roads, a bit further out (but good links to the centre).

---

## West London including Ealing, Notting Hill, Putney

Traditionally the domain of the wealthy, West London is typically seen as the more “posh” side of London, but it is more diverse and varied than many realise.

### Ealing, zone 3, postcodes W5, W13

Transport links to LSHTM: Ealing Broadway station is on the Central line which goes direct to Tottenham Court Road station (13 stops, ~30 minutes), which is not far from LSHTM. North Ealing, Ealing Common and South Ealing stations are all on the Piccadilly line which goes direct to Russell Square station (15–16 stops, 35-40 minutes), which is a very short walk to LSHTM.

Plus points: Good transport links to Central London, lots of parks, shopping and restaurants, good quality housing and cosmopolitan.

Minus points: Heavy traffic in certain parts, housing can be expensive, some areas are quite busy.

### Notting Hill, zone 2, postcode W11

Transport links to LSHTM: Hammersmith & City or Circle lines from Ladbroke Grove station direct to Euston Square station (7 stops, ~18 minutes). Notting Hill Gate station is on the Central line, which is 6 stops direct to Tottenham Court Road station (~15 minutes).

Plus points: Close to Central London. Notting Hill is a vibrant, trendy area. Lots of cafes, shops and restaurants. Famous Portobello Road market selling antiques and vintage fashion. High-end restaurants and upscale boutiques cluster around Westbourne Grove. Annual Notting Hill Carnival. Charming, beautiful old houses. Close to Westfield Shopping Centre.

Minus points: Housing can be expensive.

### Putney, zones 2/3, postcode SW15

Transport links to LSHTM: East Putney and Putney Bridge stations are on the District line. There is no direct route to LSHTM. The journey on the tube would involve a change over at either Earl’s Court to the Piccadilly line (for Russell Square station) or at Notting Hill Gate to the Central line (for Tottenham Court Road station). Approximately 35-40 minutes.

Plus points: Putney feels more suburban, it is quiet and charming. Close to the river. There are lots of cafes, restaurants and local activities.

Minus points: Further out, can feel removed from the city, not a very diverse area, expensive.

---

## South London includes Bermondsey, Brixton, Clapham/Balham/Tooting, Elephant & Castle, New Cross

Often thought of by Londoners in the north as a different world! Although some areas in South London have previously developed a reputation for being rough, there are some great areas to explore south of the river, and it can often mean getting more for your money!

## **Bermondsey, zone 2, postcode SE1, SE16**

Transport links to LSHTM: Bermondsey station is on the Jubilee line. No direct route to LSHTM. The tube journey would involve a change over at either Waterloo for the Northern line (to Goodge Street station) or at Green Park for the Piccadilly line (to Russell Square station), ~20-25 minutes.

Plus points: Rents possibly a bit cheaper than north of the river; near to the river Thames and South Bank cultural attractions; decent transport links (Canada Water station is also on the Overground); up and coming area near London Bridge; cosy pubs, eateries, and indie shops line village-like Bermondsey Street. Bermondsey Square hosts an antiques market. Gourmet food stalls and bars sit beneath Maltby Street Market's railway arches.

Minus points: some rougher areas (as in any part of London); not much in the way of shopping.

## **Brixton, zone 2, postcodes SW2, SW9**

Transport links to LSHTM: Brixton is on the Victoria line and only 7 stops to Warren Street station (14 minutes), which is a 10-minute walk to LSHTM.

Plus points: Reasonable rents; multicultural area; Brixton's indoor market is a popular place to visit with bars and lovely places to eat, as well as offering produce that reflect the area's Caribbean roots; lots of places to shop; near Brockwell Park and the quieter area of Herne Hill; lively nightlife and home to the live-music venue O2 Academy Brixton.

Minus points: Brixton doesn't have a great reputation and, like all parts of London, some areas are run-down and feel less safe. It is very busy.

## **Clapham / Balham / Tooting, zones 2/3, postcodes SW4, SW12, SW17**

Transport links to LSHTM: Clapham North/Common/South, Balham and Tooting Bec/Broadway stations are all on the Northern line which goes to Goodge Street station (25-35 minutes) near the School.

Plus points: Nice areas with lots of local amenities, lively centres with quieter residential streets, rents are reasonable and get cheaper as you go further out from Clapham to Balham to Tooting. Clapham Common and Wandsworth Common are both lovely parks.

Minus points: Balham and Tooting especially are a bit further out. Some parts are a little rundown.

## **Elephant & Castle, zone 1/2, postcodes SE11, SE17**

Transport Links to LSHTM: 13 minutes on the tube, but involves a change over at Waterloo for the Northern line to Goodge Street station.

Plus points: Excellent transport links into Central London on the Bakerloo and Northern lines; served by several bus routes. A popular area for students as it is nearby other London universities. Cheap shopping options nearby.

Minus points: A bit run-down, but is expected to benefit from the regeneration going on around London Bridge.

## **New Cross, zone 2, postcode SE14**

Transport links to LSHTM: No direct route. New Cross Gate/New Cross stations are both on the Overground and national rail. A train goes direct to London Bridge station which is on the Jubilee line to Waterloo with another change over to the Northern line to Goodge Street station; total train/tube journey time approximately 30 minutes. Alternatively, the Overground goes to Canada Water station which is on the Jubilee line.

Plus points: Popular with students as it is nearby another university, the area is up and coming with lots of new pubs and places to eat, large supermarkets, cheaper rents.

Minus points: Further from LSHTM and Central London than other areas in zone 2.