

Column: Studying in London

It seems like only yesterday that I applied for the MA in English Linguistics at UCL. After a year of hard work and social isolation to be able pass all the tests and finish my dissertation on time I managed to get my BA. Here I am now, in UCL's Student Union. I just finished the enrolment, had my picture taken to go on my student ID and paid my fees. It's official: I'm a UCL student. I must say that it feels quite good, especially after the welcome's speech we had yesterday, telling us how special we all are and that we are among a group of people that includes ninety Nobel Prize nominees (of whom most are dead now, though).



My house

While you all had to go back to your studies, I was still enjoying some free time. My classes did not begin until the first week of October. I arrived in London much earlier and I kind of got used to walking around beautiful London, doing some shopping, having a coffee at Starbucks, going to a West End play and everything else you can imagine doing in this metropolitan city. It is going to be hard to find the discipline to read books that have not been written by Sophie Kinsella or Cecilia Ahern...

I knew I loved London before I moved, but I begin to love and appreciate the city even more now that I live here. I discover something new almost every day that makes me realize that London is not just an every day city. I mean, we have all seen Big Ben, the London Eye and Topshop, but most tourists don't (and neither did I) take the effort to look beyond that. Next time you are in London, visit one of the less obvious areas. Go into one of the local pubs, order yourself a pint and the people there will provide you with the most interesting stories. Just walking around these areas will show you there is much more to this city. I live in Hampstead, North London,



Beautiful houses in my street

which (I think) is one of the best areas to live in. It's a quiet and expensive area (my neighbours probably paid around two million pounds for their house), which is good if I ever want to do some studying this year. If walk ten minutes southwards, though, you find yourself Regent's Park, walk in the other direction and you're in Hampstead Heath, where you can walk up Parliament Hill and get a fantastic view of the city and it's only a fifteen minute bus ride to Oxford Circus.

Well, got to run now. I'm meeting some Irish people for the rugby game that is on tonight. I will let you know what it is really like to be a student in London next time. Until then, you can read more about my life in the UK on lesley.whereareyou.net

Love, Lesley



View from Primrose Hill