

How to get to London?

Due to London's huge global city status it is the most served destination in the world when it comes to flights. London has five major airports.

- [London Heathrow Airport](#)
- [London Gatwick Airport](#)
- [London Luton Airport](#)
- [London Stansted Airport](#)
- [London City Airport](#)

Airport transfer

Travelling between the city and the airports is made relatively easy by the large number of public transport links that have been put in place over recent years. However, if transiting through London, be sure to check the arrival and departure airports carefully as transfers across the city may be quite time consuming.

Train

London Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports each have dedicated express train services running regularly to central London stations.

- The [Heathrow Express](#) runs every 15 minutes between [London Paddington](#) station and all five Heathrow terminals. Fares start at £21 one-way
- The [Gatwick Express](#) runs between [London Victoria](#) and the South Terminal train station every 15 minutes. Fares start at £19.90.
- The [Stansted Express](#) takes 46 minutes to go between [London Liverpool Street](#) in the heart of the city and the airport, with trains running every 15 minutes. Fares start at £8 one-way when booked in advance.

Coach

Coach transfers to and from the airport are really good value for money

- With [National Express](#) services starting from £5 one-way when booked in advance. Coaches run 24-hours a day, are air-conditioned and many offer free wifi.
- [Easybus](#) offer services between Gatwick, Stansted and Luton airports and central London drop-off points, with fares starting as low as £2 one way when booked in advance.
- [Greenline coaches](#) also run services from Heathrow, Luton and Stansted airports to a wide range of central London locations.

Car/Taxi

You can book a private airport transfer through [Golden Tours](#) for up to eight passengers. Your driver will pick you up from any London airport and meet and greet you at the terminal.

- [Addison Lee](#) is London's largest minicab company and offers complimentary meet and greet at all of London's airports for transfers. Book in advance and Addison Lee will give you a fixed price and SMS notifications when your driver is on the way. The easiest way to book with Addison Lee is through the [smartphone app](#).
- There are also several [chauffeur services](#) available for car transfers to and from all of London's airports, ranging from limousines and luxury vehicles to budget options.
- [Black cabs](#) can also be hailed at the airport.

Tube

If you are travelling to or from Heathrow or London City airports you can use your [Oyster card](#) and take the [Tube](#) or [Docklands Light Railway](#) (DLR).

- The Piccadilly line connects Heathrow Airport to Central London and the rest of the [Tube](#) system. The Tube is cheaper than the Heathrow Express or Heathrow Connect but it takes a lot longer and is less comfortable.
- [London City](#) is on the DLR.

Car Hire

Finally, if you'd prefer to drive along the roads of Central London, then you can [hire a car](#) at the airport. You can also find out where to park your car in London on the [NCP website](#).

Eurostar

An alternative way to travel to London is to take the Eurostar via the Channel Tunnel. There are frequent Eurostar services from [London St Pancras International](#) to Paris and Brussels daily. Travel from Paris to Central London in just two hours 15 min, or from Brussels in one hour and 51 minutes. [Eurostar](#) ticket prices vary to meet all budgets. For cheap Eurostar tickets, book ahead to enjoy the cheapest fares – from £69/€76 adult return. A £5 booking fee applies to all telephone bookings.

London public Transport system: Transport for London (TFL)

London has one of the largest urban transport networks in the world, with integrated bus, river and road systems spanning the city's 32 boroughs. London is divided into 'zones' when it comes to transport. Each zone has a separate value and the zones extend out in a rough circle from Central London, which starts at Zone 1. Different fares apply depending also on which services you use and when.

You can travel on Tube, DLR and London Overground services using one of the different ticket types

- [Oyster Card](#): is a smartcard which can hold pay as you go credit, Travelcard and Bus & Tram Pass season tickets. You can use it to travel on bus, Tube, Tram, DLR, London Overground and most National Rail services in London.
- [Contactless payment cards](#): You can use a contactless payment card to travel on bus, Tube, tram, DLR, London Overground and most National Rail services in London. Using a contactless payment card to travel could save time and money; you won't need to stop to top-up an Oyster card, or buy a ticket and you could benefit from daily and Monday to Sunday capping (see below). If your card was issued outside the U.K., you should check that it will be accepted before attempting to travel on our buses. You can find out more about card acceptance at this [link](#).
- [Paper tickets](#): These are paper tickets which allow you to travel as much as you like, as often as you like for a day. You can use them on bus, Tube, tram, DLR, London Overground and most National Rail services within London. You can buy Day Travelcards for different zones
- [Visitor Oyster cards](#): A Visitor Oyster card is a quick, cheap and easy way to pay for your travel on public transport around London. It is basically a regular Oyster card but you can buy it before you get in London and have some special offers and discounts.

The best solution is to get a regular Oyster card in one of the station around London, top up £20-30 and pay as you go. You can make as many journeys as you like and you'll never pay more than the daily cap for the zones you've travelled in.

How does capping work? Capping is a feature of pay as you go which allows you to make a number of journeys in a single day but limits the amount you pay for your travel. Each time you make a journey, you are charged a fare. Once the total amount of all your fares reaches a certain amount you won't have to pay any more for your journeys for the rest of the day. For example you can travel as many times as you like in a day in Zones 1 and 2 and you will never be charged more than £8.40 a day. This is called a cap. If you make a lot of rail journeys or a mixture of rail, bus and tram journeys in one day, daily capping is usually better value than buying a Day Travelcard. Details are reported [here](#).

For more information you can check on the TFL website (<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>) or download the [Visitor Guide to London](#).

Accommodation

Imperial College has a number of local hotel partners who have been carefully selected with specially negotiated rates. A list of Hotels can be found on the Imperial College website here:

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/conferenceandevents/accommodation/hotelaccommodation>

It is important that you use the Imperial College booking site for this rather than contacting the hotel directly. Note these are 4 and 5 star hotels and are quite expensive, but even in cheaper hotels you can expect to pay £100+ per night in this area of London. You will need a credit or debit card to secure the booking but payment will only be taken when you are actually at the hotel.

People from Nottingham have already booked into the **Queen's Gate Hotel** (<http://www.thequeensgatehotel.com/en/index.html>) which is one of the closest and has an offer on in January (£125 for a double room with single occupancy including breakfast and wifi).

A cheaper alternative may be found through <http://www.travelstay.com/>. However, make sure that the place is within a reasonable distance from the college.

Directions to Imperial College

The meeting will take place in Lecture Room 2.28 in the Royal School of Mines (RSM) Building at Imperial College London, South Kensington Campus, SW7 2AZ.

A map of the Campus is available at this link

<https://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/campusinfo/Public/sthkencampus.pdf>

Google maps works really well I to find the quickest route to the college campus and will give by walking or public transport. An alternative is the TFL journey planner which is available online.

Tube

South Kensington (District, Circle and Piccadilly Lines) and High Street Kensington (District and Circle Lines) are the closest Underground stations to the college. Walking to the college takes approximately 10 minutes from both stations.

Bus

- **9** Aldwych - Hammersmith Broadway, alight at the Royal Albert Hall
- **10** Kings Cross Station - Hammersmith Broadway, alight at the Royal Albert Hall
- **52** Victoria Bus Station - Willesden Bus Garage, alight at the Royal Albert Hall
- **360** Elephant and Castle Station - Prince Consort Rd, alight at Prince Consort Rd
- **14** Tottenham Court Road - Putney Heath, alight at South Kensington Station
- **49** Battersea Rise - Shepherd's Bush Grn, alight at South Kensington Station
- **70** Acton - South Kensington Station, alight at South Kensington Station
- **74** Baker Street Station - Putney, alight at South Kensington Station
- **345** Peckham Bus Station - South Kensington Station, alight at South Kensington Station
- **414** Maida Vale - Putney Bridge, alight at South Kensington Station
- **430** South Kensington Station - Minstead Gardens SW15

Train

London Victoria is the nearest National Rail train station.

Cycling

There are a number of public bicycle racks located towards the South side of the building. Bicycles are left on these racks at your own risk and Imperial College cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage. There are also several Barclays Cycle Hire docking stations within walking distance of the College. The closest one is on Prince Consort Road just outside the RSM building. For further information visit the [Barclays Cycle Hire](#) website. You can find the best cycling route by using the [Transport for London cycling pages](#).