Our global rankings place us among the top research-intensive universities in the world, and we’re ranked number 1 for quality of teaching by our own students. We educate a community of learners as diverse as the capital city’s population. Over 18,000 students study with us each year, gaining prestigious University of London qualifications in the evening, while building successful careers in the day.

“Birkbeck exists to bring the highest levels of teaching, research and scholarship within the reach of those who seek it.”

Baroness Joan Bakewell DBE, President of Birkbeck

Ranked in the top 1% of universities in the world and a College of the University of London, Birkbeck is at the heart of a global capital city: accessible, flexible and open to everyone. The academic community is recognised across the globe and students, aged 18–100, are drawn from all backgrounds. Study is organised flexibly, inclusively and mostly in the evening, accommodating the busy and varied lives of students and seeking to liberate the potential of all.
Birkbeck is one of the world’s leading universities, and students from around the world come to study here. Our research excellence benefits our students in terms of both the teaching they receive and the guidance they get as research students – both of which are of the highest quality.

Birkbeck received £12 million in external funding in 2012–2013. This included grants from Research Councils UK and funding from donors and philanthropic trusts. This demonstrates the diversity and excellence of our research, and the benefit this brings to society through knowledge transfer.

"Birkbeck prides itself on giving students the very best education in an institution where the teaching is informed by our outstanding research excellence."

Professor David S Latchman CBE, Master of Birkbeck
London’s evening university

As London’s evening university, we offer the unique opportunity to fit university study around busy lives; and Birkbeck is geared to supporting the needs of students who are juggling careers or other commitments with evening study.

Evenings are when Birkbeck comes alive, when students arrive from across London to study with us. Birkbeck provides:
- the serious academic culture of a research-intensive, world-class university
- prestigious University of London degrees by evening study
- the opportunity to plug into London’s global professional networks.

The best student experience and teaching

Birkbeck provides inspirational teaching and supervision by internationally-renowned academics who are involved in cutting-edge research.

On a more personal level, students find that our academic staff have a wealth of experience and expertise in supporting and encouraging students tackling academic challenges alongside careers and other commitments.

The combination of the highest-level academic expertise and a friendly approach results in a great learning experience, and our students consistently vote us number 1 for teaching and student satisfaction in the annual National Student Surveys.
One of the many advantages of Birkbeck is that, as most teaching takes place in the evenings, our students don’t have to put their careers on hold in order to study with us.

The majority of Birkbeck students are working professionals in London. This makes for a unique learning environment, as students can form professional networks and hear first-hand about careers in particular industries and sectors. Many students tell us this helped them achieve their ambitions. A degree from Birkbeck is recognised by employers as evidence of hard work, commitment and ambition. Most Birkbeck alumni are based in London, with successful careers in major corporations, City firms and institutions, as well as some of the world’s most prestigious arts and cultural organisations, global NGOs and government bodies. They remain committed to, and passionate about, Birkbeck, and are actively engaged in sharing their experience and expertise with current students.

“It was tough, but I enjoyed it and I’m living with the rewards. It’s the CV that gets you the interview, and having a Master’s from Birkbeck really got me through the door.”

Sajjad Rashid (MSc Finance) MD, Head of Risk Central Management, Deutsche Bank

“The evidence of my work at Birkbeck was certainly a contributor to getting this role.”

Andrew Williams (MSc Climate Change Management), Global Chief Information Officer, Save the Children

“I now work as International Account Director – through a referral from the network that I was able to form at Birkbeck.”

Wei Wei Tian-Page (MSc Organizational Behaviour), Management Consultant

ACHIEVING AMBITIONS

PROFESSIONAL PEERS AND NETWORKS
“I’ve looked at my life and thought what could I do to better it and maximise my prospects – that’s the road I’m on.

I work at Harrods and often work 60 hours a week. This isn’t something I want to be doing in 20 years time, so when I saw an advert for Birkbeck on the train I started to think that maybe this is something that I could do.”

Sam White
CertHE Higher Education Introductory Studies

“Providing opportunities to get a better job, a bigger income and a broader outlook

“A degree broadens your horizons personally, as well as helping you to build your confidence.

Any time you set yourself a task and you achieve it your confidence grows, and that’s certainly true of successfully completing a 4-year degree from one of the top 1% of universities worldwide.”

Brendon Thomas
BA Management

“My life and career would definitely not be the same if I had not come to Birkbeck.

I got so much out of my time at Birkbeck: I made some brilliant friends, developed my skills, discovered new areas for work and study, and experienced what it is like to study at the University of London.”

Oana Filote
MA European Cultures
Since 1823, Birkbeck has forged its own path in higher education, reaching out to working Londoners and making the highest quality university education available to students from less advantaged groups. We offer a range of ‘getting started’ programmes that reach out to students without traditional qualifications, wherever they are in London, and create bridges that enable them to aspire to a university degree. Success on our entry-level certificate programmes often leads straight into the second year of an undergraduate degree. Part-time students are some of the least confident and most non-traditional. Nearly always mature, and not in school or college, they are outside of the systems that normally provide advice and guidance on university, yet often need it more than most. Birkbeck is committed to ensuring that part-time, non-traditional students have fair and equal treatment, and the same opportunity to gain the full value of higher education and realise their potential.

“I hadn’t been in education for a long time and was quite daunted about going back into a classroom and especially about writing essays. However when I met other students and realised that we were all in the same boat it gave me a lot of confidence.

And the lecturers were great and were very supportive of the fact that I was trying to juggle a lot of things in my life. They always made sure that you understood everything before they moved on. Doing the certificate was great preparation for going on to do a BSc degree.”

Nana Agyeman
CertHE Higher Education Introductory Studies
Our international students come to us from all over the world and represent over 100 countries – enriching the College’s vibrant academic community.

They are attracted by our reputation for world-class research and teaching, our internationally recognised University of London degrees, and central London location. As a global city and economic powerhouse, London offers unparalleled opportunities for career development.

International students find that in addition to a professional peer group, our evening teaching enables them to take advantage of the career opportunities that London offers, and they can gain valuable professional experience while they study for prestigious University of London degrees.

In 2011 our international students rated Birkbeck’s course content as number 1 in the world, in the internationally recognised i-graduate International Student Barometer Survey™.
“Being in London opens up a lot of possibilities that don’t exist in smaller cities. I have access to all of the resources and events of the University of London which is really important for my research. I’m also used to living in New York, with all of the theatres and concerts that are available there, and London is quite a similar city in that respect.

I hope to return to the UN or another development agency when I finish my PhD and I feel confident that the work that I am doing at Birkbeck will really help the development community to understand these issues in a new light.”

Gabriela Alvarez Minte (Chile), PhD Development Studies

“The fact that Birkbeck is part of the University of London, which is an internationally recognised and respected university, was also an important factor. As an additional bonus, I am living in London, which is an amazing city.

Full-time study is demanding, but I have the daytimes to go to the library, do the reading for my course and write my essays. My relationship with my colleagues in my class is very good. It’s a big international community, with students from South America, Asia and Europe. There’s a very nice atmosphere.”

Cemal Erksun (Turkey), MSc Sport Management and the Business of Football
Research highlights:
- World-leading breakthrough in detecting autism in infants by Mark Johnson and his team at the Birkbeck Babylab
- Benjamin Wood’s novel The Bellwether Revivals shortlisted for the 2012 Costa Book Awards
- Helen Saibil, Bernal Professor of Structural Biology, awarded a £2m European Research grant
- Professor Gabriel Waksman elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society
- Professor Martin Eimer elected a member of Leopoldina – the German National Academy of Science
- A Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship awarded to Professor Chandak Sengoopta
- Joanna Bourke, renowned cultural historian, investigating the history of pain in a large, Wellcome Trust-funded project.

Birkbeck has a vibrant research culture with centres of excellence in many areas. Research students get the highest quality supervision from internationally renowned academics. Our academics work at the cutting-edge of their disciplines, and provide an intellectually challenging academic environment. Many are also professional practitioners, specialist advisors and consultants to government and industry.
High-profile speakers and commentators from around the world

Acclaimed novelist and Booker Prize winner Kazuo Ishiguro

Professor Glaucius Oliva of the University of São Paulo, and Director of Brazil’s prestigious ‘Science Without Borders’ programme, and Birkbeck alumnus

Acclaimed novelist and Booker Prize nominee Sarah Waters

Willie Walsh, Chief Operating Officer of the International Airlines Group

Alan Rusbridger, Editor-in-Chief of Guardian News and Media

Be Birkbeck is another way in which we make our world-class research and intellectual culture available to all. Members attend events and hear from leading academics about the arts, law, science, social science and business. They can also delve deeper with pre-lecture reading and engage in online discussion groups afterwards.
In keeping with our mission to champion widening participation and make university accessible to all, we have taken Birkbeck’s unique evening teaching model to Stratford, in east London where students from hard to reach communities, who may not otherwise consider higher education, have the opportunity to access the highest quality university education on their doorstep.
The £33 million development delivers a state-of-the-art university facility at the centre of Stratford.

Next door to Stratford Circus, the Theatre Royal Stratford East and the Picturehouse Cinema, the campus is also at the heart of Stratford’s well-established cultural quarter.

Excellent transport links make it easy for students to get to and from Birkbeck’s main campus in central London – just 20 minutes away by Tube.

The 5-storey building, orientated around a large, light-filled atrium, houses flexible day and evening teaching and performance spaces for over 3,400 students.

The reception area and atrium foyer provide the central hub of the building, as well as a student advice centre, IT helpdesk, café and the Weston Learning Centre.

Student services include:
- English language and academic learning support
- disability support
- specialist education advice and information services
- student orientation and other events.

University Square is a unique collaboration between Birkbeck and the University of East London. This initiative, possibly the first of its kind between 2 highly distinctive universities, represents a creative partnership aimed at encouraging access and progression into higher education for people in east London, and supporting the long-term economic regeneration of the area.
At Birkbeck, we believe that higher education should be accessible to everyone, and we are committed to making study as affordable as possible.

At a time of change for universities, when undergraduate fees across England have risen due to changes in government funding and policy, Birkbeck remains committed to ensuring that lack of money is not a barrier to education.

Most of our undergraduate students can now access government student loans, and will not have to pay their fees upfront – making university study more accessible and affordable for many. Our students tell us that the best information and advice they have received about financing their studies has been provided by Birkbeck – and this has enabled them to apply and enrol to study with confidence.

The College also offers generous financial support packages which complement the student loan scheme. These include:

- reduced course fees
- non-repayable cash bursaries paid directly to students.

“...it’s important for me that my kids see me study. They’re extremely excited for me – my daughter has been telling everyone. No-one in the family’s ever had a degree – it’ll be a first.

I came to several of the talks at Birkbeck and found out more about the fees and finance. I had no idea about the finances before, but once it had been explained and I knew that I won’t have to repay any of the loan until after I finish studying, I realised that, although I don’t really want to have the debt, it works out better for me. I hadn’t realised until we did the calculations that the monthly repayments would be so low. That made me confident that I would be able to manage them.

Nicola Shelley
Law (LLB)
Birkbeck was forged out of a powerful nineteenth-century convergence of social reform and philanthropy. Our eponymous founding father, and others including Jeremy Bentham, JC Hobhouse MP, and Henry Brougham MP, had a radical view that high-quality university education should be available in the evening and opened up to the working classes. Despite opposition, many donors were convinced by the important mission and funds were raised to open the College and push forward a radical new vision.

From the first evening class in 1823 to the present day, traditions of social inclusion and radical thinking have continued and included allowing women into the classroom long before others.

Today, Birkbeck is firmly established as London’s evening university, a unique institution that makes research-intensive, higher education accessible to all. Throughout this time, we have continued to share Birkbeck’s compelling story with contemporary philanthropists who support our work and share our values, helping us to ensure the success of today’s students.

The generous gifts the College receives enable us to provide financial and other support to students who need it most, in order to access the life-changing educational opportunities that we provide at Birkbeck.
“A centre of evening education at the highest level is as essential to a world city as a good transport system.”

Professor Eric Hobsbawm CH, 1917–2012

Internationally renowned historian and former President of Birkbeck. Eric’s work inspired generations of scholars and helped shape and define debates about modern history. His passionate service to Birkbeck over 6 decades, and his profound belief in the mission of the College and the importance of part-time higher education in London, has left an indelible mark.

The recently-established Hobsbawm Scholarships are a lasting legacy that will support the next generation of talented historians.
Birkbeck is a world-class research and teaching institution, a vibrant centre of academic excellence and London’s only specialist provider of evening higher education.
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