

Studying at King's College London

Professor Cathy
McIlwaine



Who am I?

Education

- BA (Hons) Geography (University of Liverpool)
- MA Latin American Studies (University of Liverpool)
- PhD (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Employment

- Vice Dean Research, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy, King's College London.
- Professor of Geography, King's College London.
- Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader, Professor of Geography, School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London.
- Research Project Manager, World Bank, Washington D.C
- Lecturer, Department of Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science

Introduction to King's College London

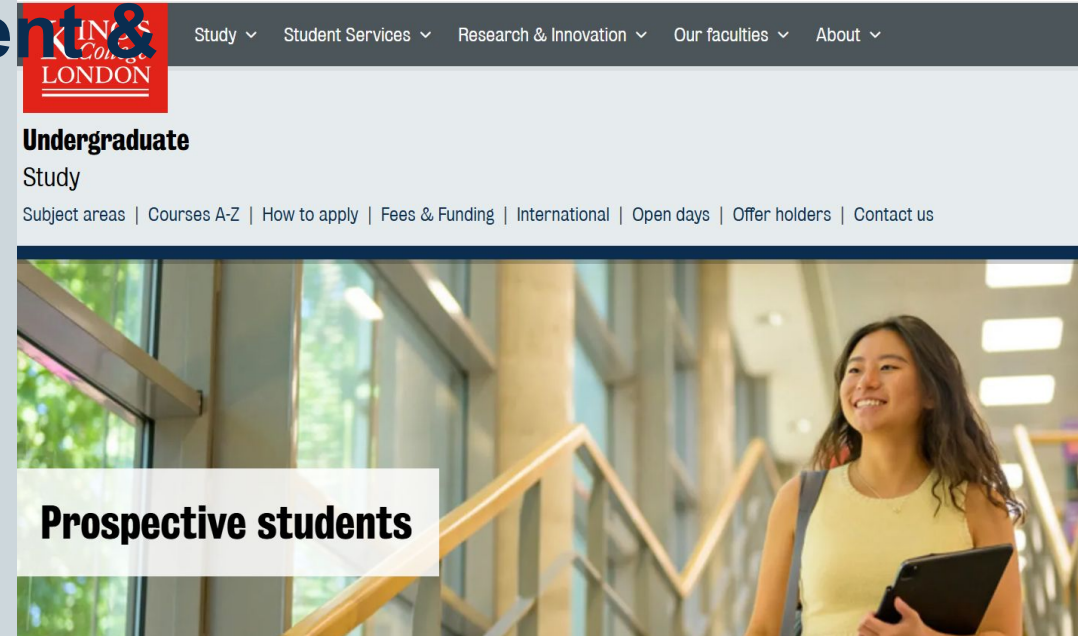
- Founded in 1829
- More than 33,000 students from over 190 countries around world
- More than 250,000 alumni across world
- £273m annual research income
- 6th in UK for research 'power' (2021 Research Excellence Framework)
- Ranked 8th in Europe (QS World University Rankings: Europe 2025)
- Ranked 38th in world (Times Higher Education World Rankings 2023)
- 14 Nobel Laureates



Thinking of applying to King's College London?

Find out about subject areas and courses

- Arts and humanities
- Social sciences (**Geography, environment & sustainability**)
- World issues
- Business and finance
- Law
- Science, technology & mathematics
- Engineering
- Health sciences
- Health practice (including psychology, medicine, nursing and dentistry)



[See here](#)

Find out about the university

Join on campus or online events

[Undergraduate events](#)

[Undergraduate open days](#)

[Campus tours](#)



Student life at King's

- London is the best student city in the world (QS city rankings)
- King's Students' Union and societies - activity groups and societies
- Sport and wellness
- King's language centre
- King's volunteering
- King's Edge (extra-curricular opportunities)
- King's Undergraduate Research Fund (KURF)



Choose your course and apply

- Choose your course
- Check out accommodation (if you require Halls of Residence)
- Apply through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)



Applying to King's College London

How to choose your course

- Match your strengths to your interests
- Which A levels do you enjoy/are good at?
- Think beyond A levels
- Where do you want your course to take you in terms of a job?
- Are you interested in research-led teaching?
- What are the research strengths of a department?
- Look at module choices
- Ensure predicted A level grades match required grades



Write your personal statement

- Demonstrate your passion
- It's not why you are good enough/want to do a programme but why that programme should have someone as good/passionate as you on it
- Degree as a stepping stone
- Avoid cliches and/or generic elements. E.g. 'I love travel, therefore geography is the one for me'
- What specifically triggers your interest?
- Global issue/certain incident or experience/certain book
- How you think the degree you have chosen will help you with your interest
- Speak to the degree itself



What else can you add to your personal statement?

- Follow what specific topic interests you most within your chosen subject
- Read some of the key thinkers in the field
- Attend public talks/student internships
- Attend Taster Courses
- Volunteer in field of your chosen subject



Why study geography?

- Diversity of sub-disciplines, topics and skills
- *The* topic of our time
- High employability
- Geography @King's > research-led
- Excellent teaching
- Exciting field trips
- BA Geography
- BSc Geography and Environmental Science



KCL graduates

- Environmental Consultant
- Air Quality Control Officer
- Local Govt Site Manager
- Charity worker (international dev)
- Urban Planner
- Secondary School Teacher
- Trade Sales, Wine Merchant
- Recruitment Consultant
- Marketing Exec. Save the Children
- Strategy Consultant, Accenture
- Solicitor
- Sustainability consultant
- Green finance consultant

Geography at KCL



I chose geography because of its interdisciplinary approach to understanding physical and human environments and relationships. It brought together several topics of interest for me, alongside offering some amazing fieldtrips. You can't go wrong!

Tara, former third year student

Thank you!

KING
College
LONDON

Any questions?

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/cathy-mcilwaine>

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study-at-kings/ug/subjects/geography>

www.kcl.ac.uk/