Founder’s Field

Royal Holloway campus guide
Welcome

Welcome to Royal Holloway, University of London. This guide is designed to help you explore our campus and find out more about what we have to offer our students.

Royal Holloway is one of the UK’s leading research universities, home to some of the world’s foremost authorities in the sciences, arts, business, economics and law. It was founded by Thomas Holloway and opened in 1886. In 1985 Royal Holloway merged with Bedford College, the first college for women in the UK, which was founded by Elizabeth Jesser Reid in 1849.

During your tour you will be able to see where you could be learning and living as a student, from our academic departments and study spaces to our accommodation and social areas.

We are very proud of our campus and hope you enjoy your visit today. If you would like to visit us again, please check our website for full details of our upcoming Open Days or information on how to book a guided tour. If you apply for an undergraduate course and receive an offer you will also be invited to attend an Applicant Visit Day, where you will have the chance to experience life in your academic department and on campus.

For details on how to find us, parking and other information, please visit royalholloway.ac.uk/campustours
If you plan to bring your car you must register in advance.

Start

The following tour is a suggested route and accessible routes are highlighted. There are plenty of places to eat and drink on our campus, although some will not be open if you visit outside of term time. Full details on opening hours can be found on our website.
**Davison Building**

Your tour starts at the Emily Wilding Davison Building (Davison Building), which contains our library, Student Services Centre, Careers & Employability Service, Café on the Square, shop, bank and exhibition space. This impressive building was opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in October 2017.

The building is named after Royal Holloway alumna Emily Wilding Davison, the suffragette who died after stepping in front of the King’s horse at the 1913 Derby. She campaigned for women’s rights and fought for equality and inclusivity. These values were championed by the university’s founders and are principles that still underpin everything we do today.

Take time to explore the building. Towards the rear of the building you can access the Union Shop where you can pick up snacks and drinks, or head to Café on the Square at the front of the building for a hot drink.

**Founder’s Square**

Leave the Davison Building by the main entrance. In front of you is Founder’s Square, used as a meeting place and social area for our students and also for many of our large events, including Open Days, Arrivals Week and our popular Christmas market.

**Founder’s Building**

Cross the square to reach the main entrance of Founder’s. This magnificent building was the vision of our founder Thomas Holloway and was inspired by the Château de Chambord in the Loire Valley. It is built around two quads, which are used for various events, including Graduation and the annual Summer Ball.

Holloway made his fortune producing and selling pharmaceutical products and with no children to leave his fortune to, and on his wife Jane’s advice, he decided to build a college for women. Building work started in 1879 and Royal Holloway College was opened by Queen Victoria in June 1886, admitting the first students the following year.

The building houses a Chapel, Picture Gallery, Dining Room and café/bar, along with a lecture theatre, Victorian reading rooms and our NHS health centre. Founder’s is also a hall of residence, housing 500 of our students. Rooms were refurbished in 2014 but remain traditional in spirit. Each floor is single gender with students sharing bathrooms and pantries.

**Founder’s South and North Quads**

Enter Founder’s at the Visitor Centre. Ahead of you is Crosslands, which sells a variety of hot and cold drinks and food. There is also a lift, if you choose to visit the upper floors, the Victorian reading rooms or want step-free access to view the Dining Hall.

From the Visitor Centre, turn left and then right and exit through the green door to reach the South Quad, where you will see the statue of Thomas Holloway and his wife Jane. Behind the statue is the south tower, and to the right, in the corner you’ll find Founder’s Lecture Theatre.

To reach the North Quad step-free, head out of the tower and turn right, following the building round until you reach the Clock Tower, which is the entrance to the North Quad. Alternatively, you can retrace your steps to the lift to access the first floor, and then follow the signs.

Enter the archway of the tower and ahead of you, you will find a statue of Queen Victoria. Founder’s Dining room is directly behind the statue, up the stone steps, and is open at meal-times. (Step-free access to the Dining Hall is available inside when using the lift from the Visitors’ Centre).
The Chapel
Opposite the Picture Gallery is the Chapel, which was the last part of Founder’s Building to be completed. The Chapel, which is beautifully gilded and contains a fine 3-manual organ, is non-denominational and hosts a variety of services and events, including Choral Evensong and graduation ceremonies. Graduates from the university can also get married in the Chapel.

When you’ve finished viewing the Chapel, exit the quad at the Clock Tower and cross the road to the pathway.

George Eliot Hall and Department of Music
If you would like to visit our newest hall of residence, head over the footbridge to the right of the main entrance. On the other side you’ll see Wetton’s Terrace, the home of our Department of Music. Turn right and walk through the car park passing Woodlands, which contains rehearsal rooms, to reach George Eliot Hall. Here you’ll find a series of townhouses, which opened to students in September 2017. The houses contain eight or 12 bedrooms, with bathrooms shared between two students. These halls were built using student feedback with a focus on providing additional shared space, such as larger dining and living areas.

For a step-free route from Founder’s, exit through the main gate and turn right onto the A30 to cross at the Toucan crossing. Head along Harvest Road and then turn left and walk through the car park to see the Department of Music, or turn right for George Eliot Hall.

Retrace your steps back to Founder’s using the footbridge or the Toucan crossing.

The Windsor Building
Turn left from the main entrance (facing Founder’s) and in front of you is the Windsor Building. As you approach, to your right you’ll see the Gold Post Box, in honour of our alumna and Paralympic gold medallist Sophie Christiansen, who graduated with an MSci in Mathematics in 2011.

The Windsor Building houses our largest lecture theatre, with 400 seats, which is used for academic department lectures as well as other events such as concerts. It was opened in May 2007 with a concert featuring Sir James Galway, Lady Jeanne Galway and the London Mozart Players. There is also a group study area on the ground floor and a number of large seminar rooms throughout the building.
9 Moore Building
Exit the Windsor Building and turn left passing the on-campus bank and Union Shop. Across the main road is the Computer Centre, followed by the Moore Building, the home of the School of Business and Management. The original Moore Building was the first to be constructed on campus after Founder’s, with work beginning in 1888, and started life as a chemical and botanical laboratory. It is named after Professor Tom Moore, head of the Chemistry Department for 32 years until 1946. It was extended in 2006, with the addition of the lecture theatre and glass-enclosed foyer and seminar rooms.

10 Arts Building, McCrea Building, Horton Building
On the other side of the road you will see a number of academic buildings. The Arts Building houses two lecture theatres and a number of seminar rooms. In the McCrea Building you will find the school office for the School of Law and Social Sciences while the Horton Building contains learning, teaching and research space.

11 Bedford Building
Turn right, passing the Horton Building on your left and you will see the Bedford Building ahead. This was originally opened as a science library in 1993. After the library was moved into the Emily Wilding Davison Building in 2017, the building was repurposed to provide teaching and learning space and is the home of the School of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

To your left you will see the Bourne Laboratory, which you will learn more about later in the tour (step 18).

To continue your tour, retrace your steps back to the main road.

12 Tolansky Lab
Continue down the road and you will see the Tolansky Lab on your right. This is the home of the Department of Physics as well as our Observatory. It was named after Samuel Tolansky, who was Professor of Physics from 1947-1973.
Boilerhouse and Café

Cross the road using the zebra crossing to reach the Boilerhouse. The building is about five metres below the surrounding landscape which made it convenient for coal to be delivered directly to the coal store. There were originally three large boilers that supplied heat to the College through a series of pipes contained in an underground tunnel that is now closed off. The space has been fully refurbished to provide a lecture theatre, practice space and performance space. In 2016 the Boilerhouse Café, which sells a range of hot and cold food, was opened. In warmer months you can enjoy the atmosphere of the cobbled courtyard.

International Building

Return to the main road and continue walking down the hill. On your left is the International Building, which houses the office for the School of Humanities.

Katharine Worth Building and Caryl Churchill Theatre

If you would like to visit our Department of Drama, continue following the road and cross the footbridge, or turn left out of the main gate and use the traffic islands to cross the road. The Caryl Churchill Theatre, named after the world-renowned playwright, was opened in 2013 and provides a flexible space for performance and practical study.

Students’ Union Building

Retrace your steps back to the main campus and follow the road until you reach the Students’ Union. The building contains a function space with a capacity of 1,200, which hosts club nights every Wednesday and Friday. The bar, Tommy’s Kitchen, opens from Monday to Friday, serving hot food.

A weekly fruit and veg market is held in the main hall, with poster and plant sales held regularly.

The Students’ Union runs an independent advice centre as well as a range of clubs and societies, with more than 150 to get involved with on campus. For more information about what’s on offer visit su.royalholloway.ac.uk
Queen’s Building and Wolfson Building

Leave the Students’ Union and turn left to go down the steps or ramp back on to the main road. Turn right and you will see the Queen’s Building on your left. This is where our Geography and Earth Sciences departments are based and was opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 1986. The Wolfson Building, which contains the office for the School of Life Sciences and the Environment, is opposite.

Bourne Laboratory

Continue along the road and you will see the imposing Bourne Laboratory on your right. Named after Professor Edward Bourne, it was opened in 1971 as a Chemistry department. Today it is the home of Biological Sciences, containing laboratories and teaching space.

Shilling Building

Further along the road you will see the new science building on your left, which opened in September 2018. Creative working is at the core of the design and as well as a state-of-the-art lecture theatre, seminar rooms, laboratories and dedicated teaching and research areas, there are collaborative working spaces throughout. It also houses the Department of Electronic Engineering.

The building is named after Beatrice Shilling, a British aeronautical engineer and motor racer. Her engineering prowess had a direct impact on the outcome of the Battle of Britain as her retro-modification to the Merlin engine was used in both the RAF’s Spitfire and Hurricane fighter aircraft.

In 1929, Beatrice was one of the first female engineering undergraduates to enter Victoria University, Manchester. She also held a doctorate from the University of Surrey, was a Chartered Engineer, a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Women’s Engineering Society.

She raced motorbikes in the 1930s, and, after the war, raced cars. She raced regularly at Brooklands, in nearby Weybridge, where she won the Gold Star for lapping the circuit at 171 mph.

Accommodation – Butler, Tuke, Williamson, Reid and Runnymede

Continue following the road down and you will see some of our accommodation to your left. Reid, named in honour of the founder of Bedford College, Elizabeth Jesser Reid, is one of our self-catered halls (with meals provided in Founder’s Dining Hall) while Butler, Tuke, Williamson and Runnymede all provide self-catered accommodation. You can explore the outside of the accommodation, but you will not be able to see inside unless you are on a guided tour.
The Hub, Imagine and Medicine
Retrace your steps to The Hub, which is the reception area for our south campus halls. Inside, you will find a dining area, which serves meals during term-time. Downstairs, also accessible by lift, is Imagine, a unique and colourful café serving snacks and Pearl’s Bubble tea.

Exit The Hub and to the right you will find Medicine, the Student Unions’ bar venue, which has pool tables and hosts regular events.

Accommodation – Gowar and Wedderburn
Follow the path to the right of the Hub until you reach Gowar and Wedderburn Halls. These halls, named after previous principals of the university, were built in 2005 and consist of flats for eight students, with en suite bedrooms.

Sports Centre
If you would like to visit the Sports Centre, continue following the path between the halls and follow the signs down to the Sports Centre. Otherwise, retrace your steps back to The Hub.

The Sports Centre includes a multi-use sports hall, 60-station fitness suite, aerobics area and changing facilities. Outside facilities include floodlit, all-weather playing surfaces for a wide-range of sports, a 3G pitch for football and rugby, an astro pitch and tennis and netball courts. You will find further tennis courts to the west of the Founder’s Building.

The Jane Holloway Hall, located in the woodland, is also used for exercise classes.

Woodland walk
To return to the north of the campus to end your tour, follow the paths to the left of The Hub (facing towards the Shilling Building) to enter the woodland. You can follow the paths to explore the woodland and for a step-free route back, follow the signs towards the Emily Wilding Davison Building. Alternatively, you can follow the signs to Founder’s, which will take you up stone steps.
### School office locations

**School of Humanities – International Building**
- Department of Classics
- Department of English
- Department of History
- Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

**School of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences – Bedford Building**
- Department of Computer Science
- Department of Electronic Engineering
- Department of Information Security
- Department of Mathematics
- Department of Physics

**School of Law and Social Sciences – McCrea Building**
- Department of Economics
- Department of Law and Criminology
- Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy
- Department of Social Work

**School of Life Sciences and the Environment – Wolfson Building**
- Department of Biological Sciences
- Department of Earth Sciences
- Department of Geography
- Department of Psychology

**School of Business and Management – Moore Building**
- Department of Accounting and Financial Management
- Department of Digital Innovation Management
- Department of Human Resource Management and Organisational Studies
- Department of Marketing
- Department of Strategy, International Business and Entrepreneurship

**School of Performing and Digital Arts – Katharine Worth Building (main office), Wetton’s Terrace (Music) and Arts Building (Media Arts)**
- Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance
- Department of Media Arts
- Department of Music

### Buildings A-Z

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Arts Building</td>
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<td>Bedford Building</td>
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<td>Boilerhouse</td>
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<td>Bourne Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bourne Annexe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caryl Churchill Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Centre</td>
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<td>Davison Building</td>
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<td>International Building</td>
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<td>Jane Holloway Hall</td>
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<td>Katharine Worth Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCrea Building</td>
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<td>Munro Fox</td>
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<td>Moore Building</td>
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<td>Moore Annexe</td>
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<td>George Eliot Centre</td>
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<td>Williams Building</td>
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<td>Windsor Building</td>
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