



Recruiting Teachers into UK Schools

Accommodation Guide for Overseas Teachers working in London

There are endless accommodation options available to **justteachers** overseas teachers living and working in London, from studio flats to renting a room in a large house, there is something to suit every teachers preference and budget. We recommend locations in the heart of London, often in Zone 1 or 2, close to **justteachers** partner schools and on the doorstep of many of the best tourist attractions.

To help you familiarise yourself with London, **justteachers** have produced the following brief overview of some of the more popular areas of London, including a borough map and a number of accommodation web sites. Please note that from time to time there are a number of scams on the net, use your common sense, if it does not feel right then it probably isn't. Never wire any money from overseas and always see the flat in person rather than relying on the pictures online as the reality may be very different to the image.

The most popular Boroughs/areas that we advise overseas teachers in London to live in are:

- Camden – Camden Town is located in the heart of the London Borough of Camden, which stretches from Islington in the east to Kilburn in the west and from Holborn in the south to Hampstead's Whitestone Pond in the north. This interesting, leafy borough has a rich literary history, and a vibrant music scene which is a big attraction to overseas teachers. The streets in the immediate vicinity of Camden Town are stuffed with old but respectable terraced housing, as well as newer council estates, many of which house privately-owned flats. The east side of the Borough of Camden is generally cheaper than the west; a week's rent for a room in a shared house in Gospel Oak or Kentish Town is normally around £100, whereas in Primrose Hill you'll be looking at more. Chalk Farm, Mornington Crescent and Kentish Town stations are all close, as is Camden Town station. For more links on services and where to go and what to do, go to www.camdenguide.co.uk or www.welovecamden.co.uk/area-guide/ or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/camden/
- Shoreditch - The 'Shoreditch Triangle', which incorporates Shoreditch High Street, Great Eastern Street and the Eastern-most point of Old Street and the general locality, extending across to Brick lane and virtually meeting the City on Bishopsgate has fast become an international centre. In the span of 10 years or so it has moved on from being a particularly cheap real estate area, which attracted throngs of poor artists, to becoming the centre of the art world. Housing in the heart of Shoreditch can be expensive. Loft conversions and make shift studio flats are often slightly over priced due in the immediate vicinity of Old Street. This is unsurprising considering the proximity of the area to transport links and the fact that it is, literally, walking distance from the City of London. Moving further out up Kingsland Road towards Dalston, or east down either Hackney Road or Bethnal Green Road things get gradually cheaper. You can find affordable multi share housing, often with creative individuals. With the neighbouring Old Street (Northern Line) and Liverpool Street (Hammersmith and City line) tube stations and more than enough bus routes, Shoreditch is excellently placed for transportation links to the schools that we work with as well as access to the City, to Central and west London, and to south London to ensure you get the best out of London when you are not teaching. For more information go to www.stuckinlondon.com/londonareaguide/shoreditch.php
- Aldgate East – close to Shoreditch, Aldgate east is a large and built-up area of London located within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets; Whitechapel is approximately three and a half miles out of the city centre. At the centre of Whitechapel is Whitechapel Road. The quality of accommodation can vary so make sure you speak with the London team who will advise you on the most up and coming locations to live. In the early part of the 20th century, Whitechapel was famously the home of the Elephant Man and there is now a museum about his life in the Royal London Hospital also located in Whitechapel, make sure you go and see it. The closest tube station is Aldgate East on the district line which makes accessing **justteachers** schools very easy. For more information on what to do in the area go to www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/whitechapel or www.londontown.com/LondonStreets/whitechapel_road_fdc.html



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- Bethnal Green - An east London gem, Bethnal Green is also located in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and is becoming an increasingly popular place to live for overseas teachers in London, primarily due to its excellent transport links for the schools that justteachers work with and within walking distance of Shoreditch and everything that it has to offer. The closest tube station is Bethnal Green (central Line). For more information on what to do in the area go to www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/bethnal-green or www.londononline.co.uk/Bethnal_Green
- Islington - When people mention Islington, they are often actually referring to the London Borough of Islington which is one of the most popular inner city regions for overseas teachers due to the large number of pubs, restaurants and shops in the borough. As a result of its popularity it can be expensive for overseas teacher in London, however, there are cost effective options within a shared house so make sure you have a good look at what's on offer and you may find a bargain. The closest tube stations are Angel (northern Line) and Highbury and Islington (victoria line). For more information on what to do in the area go to www.myvillage.com/?islington or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/islington/
- Highbury - Highbury is part of the London Borough of Islington and has a large young professional contingent, drawn to the area for its good transport links yet relatively friendly and laid back attitude it makes a perfect haven for overseas teachers. Highbury is located between other equally popular northern districts including Finsbury Park, Islington, Holloway and Stoke Newington. The closest tube station is Highbury and Islington (victoria line). As well as being a popular residential area, Highbury has also featured highly in London based films including Four Weddings and a Funeral, Fever Pitch and Killing Her Softly. Highbury was also the location where the character Mr Bean lived! Today, Highbury is a mix of teachers, students and social housing residents leading to a multicultural and relaxed atmosphere. For more information on what to do in the area go to www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/highbury or go to www.londononline.co.uk/Highbury/
- Greenwich - situated on south of the River Thames, is home to a host of attractions for overseas teachers, and recognised internationally for its military and naval connections and as the home of Greenwich Mean Time. Famous sites in Greenwich include the Cutty Sark Clipper Ship, [Greenwich Market](#) and the Royal Observatory Greenwich. Greenwich was chosen as the site for the U.K.'s Millennium Exhibition, comprising mainly of the Millennium Dome, a huge white elephant which lasted just over a year before closing its doors, however it has since reopened as the successful o2 arena and now hosts regular concerts from Prince to Take That and exhibitions. Greenwich is well served by buses, trains, underground (Greenwich Tube station and Cutty Sark) and river boats which makes it a popular choice for overseas teachers. For more information on what to do in the area go to www.myvillage.com/?greenwich or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/greenwich
- Southwark - Southwark is a south London Borough with a rich cultural diversity and a mix of housing for overseas teachers. Just one and a half miles south east of central London, Southwark or 'the Borough', as it is often known, is located immediately south of London Bridge. Over the last decade, Southwark has undergone substantial redevelopment and much of the declining industry that plagued the area has now made way for trendy shops, restaurants, bars and waterside flats although there are still some densely populated council estates within the borough. Places of interest for teachers include the Tate Modern and Art Centre. The closest tube station is Southwark (jubilee line). For more information on what to do in the area go to www.visitsouthwark.com/pages/southwark_things.html or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/southwark/
- Canada Water - Canada Water is a body of water and wildlife refuge in the Docklands in south-east London. Canada Water tube and bus station is named after the adjacent water and lies immediately to the north, while Surrey Quays Shopping Centre is also adjacent, and sits immediately to the south. The surrounding area is now increasingly known as Canada Water, after the underground station. With the opening of the tube station, the area is now well connected to the rest of London, with Canary Wharf one stop, Westminster less than 10 minutes, and Bond Street around 15 minutes away by underground train. Much of the area is now going through a phase of rapid development, with new

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residential developments, a new library, cafés and restaurants, and outdoor leisure facilities being built around the lake; there are also plans to redevelop the shopping mall, all in all a very happening place for teachers to locate themselves. For more information on what to do in the area go to www.allinlondon.co.uk/tube-canada-water.php or or www.londontown.com/LondonInformation/Travel/Canada_Water_tube/8427/

- Shepherds Bush – the second home to many Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and South African teachers, “She Bu” as it is commonly known is home to the Shepherds Bush Empire, Bush Theatre the BBC and the infamous Walkabout bar. At the heart of Shepherd's Bush is the green, surrounded by small shops, music and comedy clubs, and restaurants offering world cuisine (foodies might enjoy the local Middle Eastern Food Tour). Shepherd's Bush Market, which opened in 1914, sprawls along a narrow viaduct and is enduringly popular. Shepherds Bush is a vibrant, artistic, multicultural melting pot for overseas teachers with great places to eat, drink and shop. For more information on what to do in the area go to www.visitshepherdsbush.co.uk or www.allinlondon.co.uk/tube-shepherds-bush-central.php
- Lambeth – Clapham – Clapham High Street is situated on the other side of the Clapham common and offers a smattering of great bars, restaurants and delis. In summertime the Common is a great place to go once you have finished teaching and relax with friends while taking in passers by and maybe even some sunshine. Only 12-15 minutes by tube from central London, Clapham is a suburb with a lot to offer. Single rooms in shared houses can be rented for under £100 per week, and often the quality of the property will be significantly better than if you had rented a cheap flat to yourself. The High Street has three stations on the Northern Line (Clapham South, North and Common), which gives great access to schools but after hours all can have you in the West End or the city in fifteen minutes. The area also has regular night buses (N35, 88, N137, N155 and N345) from central London. For a light hearted look at where to go and what there is to go to www.stuckinlondon.com/londonareaguide/clapham.php or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/lambeth or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/clapham/
- Wandsworth – Putney – In South West London, Putney is one of the main neighbourhoods within the London Borough of Wandsworth. Putney is situated on the south bank of the River Thames, directly opposite Fulham. Despite the well-to-do nature of the area, some good housing in Putney can be surprisingly affordable – the slightly average transport system (there is no tube station) takes the sting out of the price a little. Anything just off the high street is likely to be pretty expensive, but if you are willing to be a short bus ride or walk away from the centre of Putney, you can look at a rent of about £100 a week in a shared house – something of a bargain considering how nice the area is. Despite not having a tube station there is an overland train service from Putney overland station to Waterloo (where the **justteachers** office is located), which is fast (about 20 minutes) and very regular, from here you can connect to the tube which will take you to **justteachers** schools in a flash. Given the strength of the overland service, the buses are fairly redundant except for short hops through town, but the 14 can be very useful. It runs from Putney station to Tottenham Court Road in about 45 minutes and it runs 24 hours a day, making it perfect for getting to and from late nights in Central London. For a light hearted look at where to go and what there is to do go to www.stuckinlondon.com/londonareaguide/putney.php or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/putney/ or www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/wandsworth
- Hampstead – Hampstead one of the trendiest regions of modern London, Hampstead is often recognised as being the centre for artistic, musical and media individuals. Located in the London Borough of Camden, Hampstead is approximately four miles North West of the centre of London. Hampstead Heath will make you forget you are even in a city; fishing, model boating, kite flying and horse riding are all favourites and swimming in the three ponds is a popular summertime pursuit. After a hard day's teaching wander down to the edges of the Heath and you'll find several famous drinking havens: The Spaniards Inn and the Bull and Bush are both musts in Hampstead, as is the Flask Inn on Highgate Hill, where, it is said, Dick Turpin once hid in the cellar. For more information on what to do in the area got to www.allinlondon.co.uk/regions/hampstead-and-west-hampstead/ or www.londontown.com/LondonStreets/hampstead_road_4d6.html

Map of London Boroughs



Sites to assist your hunt for accommodation

For a London Tube Map please go to www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/standard-tube-map.pdf

For a London Bus Map that includes Tourist Attractions go to www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/central_bus_map.pdf

Accommodation options when you first arrive



Generator Hostels are in great locations with over 800 beds in each hostel. Generator London is situated Russell Square (zone 1), close to the British Museum and Covent Garden.

Go to www.generatorhostels.com



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Please go to www.barmybadger.com



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Please go to www.doctorhouse.co.uk



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An excellent site with comprehensive feedback to allow you to make an informed choice of hostel can be found at this link:

www.hostelz.com/hostels/England/Greater-London/London

lastminute.com



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Find exclusive deals on travel, hotels, flights, holidays, restaurants, theatre and more at lastminute.com Please go to www.lastminute.com



An independent and free-of-charge reservation service. All the hotels have been inspected, and classed into four broad bands depending on their facilities and tariffs.

Please go to www.london-hotels.co.uk/

Studio 92 - Budget accommodation guide for London! Often has special rates for many hostels and hotels. Please go to www.studios92.com

What are the best sites for flats or house sharing?

Gumtree is one of the most popular sites around for Australian, New Zealand and Canadian teachers living and teaching in London, in addition to this you'll find an abundance of choice through any of the listed sites.



Please go to www.gumtree.com and search for London flats, you'll get better results the more you define the search e.g. room to rent in Camden

Spare Room

One of the UK's leading flat & house share website
Please go to www.spareroom.co.uk



Please go to <http://uk.easyroommate.com/>

FlatmateClick.co.uk

Please go to www.flatmateclick.co.uk

Flatshare Flat Share

Please go to www.clickflatshare.co.uk



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Please go to www.roombuddies.com/



Updated daily, this is the online version of London's free ads paper. A good place to look for rented/shared accommodation, as well as all sorts of bargains. Has a quick navigation search facility. Please go to www.loot.com/

Letting Agents – the below will give you an idea of what type of accommodation is available and the cost, once you have decided where you will live you will find local agents. You should not have to pay to view a flat.



Please go to www.net-lettings.co.uk



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Please go to www.flats-rent-london.co.uk/central_london_flats.htm

Home from Home is a London Flat rental agency with a large portfolio of privately owned flats in London. Please go to www.homefromhome.co.uk/



Please go to www.mylondonhome.com



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An excellent site for independent listings for living, shopping, health, travel and property in London. Please go to www.timeout.com/london/

Another popular site for making sure you have your finger on the pulse of what is going on in London is itchy London, please go to www.itchylondon.co.uk/default.cfm

I hope you have found this guide useful, do not worry if it all seems overwhelming as your dedicated consultant in London will be on hand to offer personal advice regarding accommodation and every aspect of living in London. If you have any feedback or have found useful sites on line please email me: paul@justteachers.co.uk

Kind Regards,

Paul Ashworth

justteachers International Manager

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