



PRE-MASTERS PROGRAMME

COLLEGE GUIDE
January 2010

Classes are held here in our premises at:

David Game House, 69 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JS

Telephone: 020 7221 6665

Fax: 020 7243 1730

E-mail: info@pre-masters.com

Website: www.pre-masters.com

Course Coordinator Mobile: 07800 529 564

Email: akburrett@davidgame-group.com

WELCOME TO DAVID GAME COLLEGE!

We want your time here to be happy and productive. This guide contains all the important information you will need to help you settle in and get to know your way around the college and living in London. It is a useful reference document and you should keep it to refer to throughout the year.

PRE-MASTERS PROGRAMME COURSE DIARY

WINTER TERM

Monday 11th January 2010 – Friday 26th March 2010

SPRING TERM

Monday 12th April 2010 – Friday 25th June 2010

SUMMER TERM

Monday 28th June 2010 - Friday 10th September 2010

AUTUMN TERM

Monday 20th September 2010 – Friday 3rd December 2010

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Public holidays in 2009-10 are as follows:

Friday 1st January 2010 (New Years Day)

Friday 2nd April 2010 (Good Friday)

Monday 5th April 2010 (Easter Monday)

Monday 3rd May 2010 (Early May Bank Holiday)

Monday 31st May 2010 (Spring Bank Holiday)

Monday 30th August 2010 (Summer Bank Holiday)

Monday 27th December 2010 (Christmas Bank Holiday)

Tuesday 28th December 2010 (Boxing Day Holiday)

Please note that **there will be no classes where a public holiday happens during term-time.**

PRE-MASTERS COURSE OUTLINE

SEMESTER ONE

IELTS
Academic Skills
Business Economics I
IT
Research Methods

SEMESTER TWO*

IELTS
Advanced Academic Skills including Advanced English
Business Economics II
Guided Research Project
Introduction to Accounts and Finance
Quantitative Methods

SEMESTER THREE

IELTS
Advanced Academic English
Accounting & Finance II
Advanced IT
International Relations
Management & Marketing

* Research Methods is central to the Pre-Masters Course and all students are expected to acquire specified and demonstrable core skills from this module. Students who do not achieve this in the first semester will repeat the Research Methods module in the following semester.

In addition to IELTS, students pick three out of four of the given options in Semester Three. If a student does not wish to take a Masters Degree in a Business and Management subject, they may choose Contemporary Art History, Criminology, Law, International Law, International Relations, Maths, Further IT or Travel and Tourism in Semester Two or Three in place of one or more of the Business and Management options.

The course integrates research methods and academic skills, including dissertation writing.

The Pre-Masters programme averages 16-18 hours per week of tuition and the full three-semester course is 33 weeks long.

Your IELTS tutor will decide when you are ready to apply for the exam. The College will organise the applications. Entry for the IELTS exam currently costs £105.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

FEES

Fees should be paid in one instalment if possible. They must be paid at or before the start of the course. If you have any problem please see the Course Coordinator as soon as possible.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE

Students withdrawing from the course during the first four weeks will be liable to a penalty. If you withdraw from the course at any other time, then any refund of fees is at the discretion of the Course Director and dependent on circumstances.

ATTENDANCE

(i) Classes

Students must attend all classes. If you know you are going to miss a class, you **must** tell the tutor concerned. If you are ill please telephone the college between 9 and 9.30am.

Please note that Attendance will be included in the final mark of each course.

Do not book any holidays in term-time or book flights to leave before the end of the semester. Your attendance is recorded on your final Pre-Masters Certificate and is also reported to the Home Office. Poor attendance may result in the renewal of your visa being refused.

(ii) Examinations

There will be examinations in all subjects during the final week of each semester. You **must** attend all tests. If you miss a test you will be awarded 0% (unless there are exceptional circumstances.)

COURSEWORK

All coursework must be handed in **on time on the date specified by your tutors.** Late work will lose marks.

Your work must be presented in the **correct format** as expected at any British university e.g. with references, bibliography etc. Your tutors will advise you on this.

PLAGIARISM

All work must be your own. Plagiarism (copying from books, the Internet or other students) is taken very seriously at British Universities. An attempt to pass off plagiarised work as original would lead to the immediate failure of that Option or Course. On the Pre-Masters course any plagiarised work will be rejected and not given a mark.

ASSESSMENT

The overall grades for the Pre-Masters Course are as follows:

A 70+ B 69-60 C 59-50 Pass 49-40 Fail 39-0

The student's overall grade for the Pre-Masters Course will be the average of all their course marks.

TIMETABLES

You will receive your timetable at the start of term. It may be necessary to make changes in the first week or two. You will be told of these if they occur.

USE OF COMPUTERS

There is a special computer room designated for Pre-Masters students (Room D9). You will be issued with an individual password.

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

Universities have started to introduce deadlines for applications to postgraduate courses. For this reason it is essential for you to start considering which universities you wish to apply to as soon as possible. The Course Coordinator will help and advise you on universities and subjects.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/TELEPHONE NUMBER

If you change your address or telephone number please let the Course Coordinator know immediately. It is vital that the College has up-to-date contact numbers (including mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses).

THINGS TO DO AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

There are many advantages of having a bank account. It will be easier for you to manage your money. You can pay school fees easily by cheque. Without an account, you cannot apply for some services, for instance, a pay-monthly mobile phone service.

To open a new account, you need proper documents. The College will help students to open accounts when they arrive at the College. Note that it takes 7-10 working days before an account will be opened if you have further questions please go to Reception and we will be happy to advise you.

ABOUT MOBILE PHONES

Most of the students use Vodafone because of its strong signal.

There are several choices: you can choose to use a top-up service, or a pay-monthly service. Top-up is easy, you just need to put money into your phone when you need it, but the disadvantage is that the charge is quite expensive. Students just need to bring their GSM mobile phone from home and buy a SIM card when they arrive in London. Depending on different networks costs vary from £5 to £30. If you shop around you can get one very cheaply. Ask Terry.

A pay-monthly service has several advantages: call costs are cheaper, you get free air-time and messages, and you can get a mobile phone at a cheaper price (some are free!). Also you will never be worried about the lack of money on your mobile phone. There is one problem for new students, the phone company will require a proof of address e.g. Bank Statements, etc. It will take up to one month for a new bank statement to come.

It's necessary for an overseas student to call home. For a student from regions far away, it's more important. But how can you avoid the high cost of calling home? From experience it is best to combine the free time given by the pay-monthly service with an international phone card, which is specifically used for calling other countries at a low price. In this way, you can have more contact with your family and friends, although you are far away from them. Some places sell these cards very cheaply e.g. in Chinatown.

INSURANCE

Medical and Personal Effects Insurances are optional. It is important that you consult Terry Kwok about any issues relating to insurance.

REGISTRATION WITH THE POLICE

Overseas students who are not members of the European Union (EU) or the Commonwealth can sometimes be required to register with the police on their arrival in the UK (within 7 working days). ***Only students who have had an endorsement to this effect placed in their passport or travel documents at the British customs are required to register.*** Failure to register within 7 working days may result in police prosecution. In the London area you should register at:

Overseas Visitors Records Office, Brandon House, 180 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LH Tel: 0207 230 1208

The office is open Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 4.00pm.

The nearest tube stations are: Borough, Elephant & Castle, London Bridge

In order to register you will need to take your passport or travel documents and two passport size photographs, plus any other appropriate Home Office paperwork you may have. You will also need to pay the registration fee, which is currently approximately £35 but subject to change.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Under the new visa system students are **legally** required to inform the college immediately of any change address, contact details or circumstances.

VISA REQUIREMENTS AND ABSENCES

Students must inform the college of any absences due to illness. For an absence due to illness of two consecutive days or more a medical note from a General Practitioner (GP Doctor) must be submitted to the College. Should a student go on unauthorized absence for 10 expected contact days or 2 weeks of a course the College is obliged, under the law, to report that student to the Home Office.

If the College reports a student to the Home Office their existing visa will be repealed and any subsequent attempt to renew their visa rejected

VISA EXTENSION

There are a number of ways to extend your visa:

1. You can extend your visa from the British Embassy in your home country.
2. You can post your passport and proper documents to the Home Office. It costs about £357. It takes about 3 to 12 weeks to get it back.
3. You can go to the Home Office with passport and documents, and get an interview. In this way you can get the visa immediately. But it costs more (£565).

After a change in policy, it's no longer possible to extend the visa at the airport. It's not an option. The school can assist and advise students on the formalities in this matter. Students will need to bring their passports to the College and the staff will help you to prepare the relevant documents before sending them to the Home Office.

STUDENT CARDS

You should get your student card from Terry Kwok (**D13**). It will only be issued after you have paid your first term's fees. You must carry your student card with you at all times for security reasons. If you do not have it with you, you may not be allowed to enter the College.

TRAVEL CARDS

Terry Kwok (**D13**) will give you an application form for this to enable you to get discounts on London Transport. You will need a passport sized photograph. There is a charge of £5.

If you intend to use the rail network around the U.K. then it is also possible to get a Student Railcard to get cheaper travel on trains. For this, you need to go to a British Rail station with verification of student status and pay £20.

You can now apply online for an 18+ Student Oyster Card.

- Go to www.tfl.gov.uk/photocards and select the option to apply for an 18+ Student Oyster photo card.

- To start enter the name of the establishment at which you are enrolled. This will prompt a list of “matching” establishments to be displayed. You then select the establishment from the list.
- Enter all the required application information (date of birth, course details etc.)
- Confirm your acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.
- Upload your photo
- Pay £5 using your debit or credit card.

YOUR HEALTH

NHS DOCTORS

You should register with a local doctor (GP) i.e. a doctor in the area where you are living. You can do this by going to the National Health Service website www.nhs.uk and then click on **GP Surgeries**, then type in your postcode. This gives you a list of GP's in your area. Choose one, and then visit the surgery to register. Take your college acceptance letter with you.

The Department of Health recommends that **all new students be immunised** against **meningitis** (meningococcal group C). Contact your doctor (GP).

The Surgery, 45A Pembridge Villas W11 3EP Tel: 020 7727 2222

Dr. G D M Jackson, 17 Pembridge Road, London W11 3HG

Tel: 0207 7221 0174

PHARMACIES

A pharmacist can often give medical advice. The nearest is in Boots across the road next to W H Smith.

EMERGENCY TREATMENT

In an emergency, if you need an ambulance, ring 999. Otherwise go to your nearest hospital (Accident and Emergency Department) – you may have to wait sometime for treatment if your condition is not life-threatening.

St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY Tel: 020 7886 6666
(This is the nearest hospital to the College)

Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 Tel: 020 8846 1234

DENTISTS

This is a dentist recommended by the College.

Cambridge Court Dental Centre, 4 Sussex Gardens, London W2 1UL
Tel: 020 7262 3334

Please telephone the dentist to make an appointment. You have to pay the cost of the treatment.

DAVID GAME COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

The Principal and members of staff of the David Game College are committed to developing the David Game College as a centre of excellence for study in an atmosphere of equality of opportunity and academic achievement. We recognise that the opportunity to achieve in studies is vital to students' future educational and career opportunities and to their own sense of self worth and motivation. With this in mind, we will strive to help all students achieve to the best of their ability in whichever courses offered by our College they choose to pursue. As a fee-paying educational institution, we will also strive to provide value-for-money in all aspects of our educational provision.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The David Game College is committed to implementing equal opportunities at the college. We are committed to providing all aspects of our educational provision irrespective of race, gender, creed or physical disability and we will strive to create a genuine atmosphere of equality of opportunity and access throughout the institution.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The College has adopted a health and safety policy for the benefit of all students and staff. We try to maintain a healthy and safe working environment but to achieve this we need the active co-operation of all students. Here are a few basic points to remember:

- i) When you first come to the College, make sure you are familiar with all the points of entry and exit, including the fire exits.
- ii) Read the instructions about evacuating the College if the fire alarm sounds and make sure you understand them.
- iii) Be ready to leave the College promptly and without panic if the fire alarm sounds. From time to time we hold practices to remind students of the procedure.
- iv) Do not encourage thieves – never leave personal belongings unattended.
- v) Never place objects in such a way that they stop people from being able to move about freely on staircases and in corridors.
- vi) Report any accident, however small, to the Reception staff and ensure that a record of this is entered in the College Accident Book.
- v) Report anything to the Reception staff that seems to be a risk to health or safety
- vi) Respect the College's NO SMOKING policy. Any student found smoking outside the designated area will be suspended.

CONSIDERATIONS TO BE MADE WHEN CHOOSING A POSTGRADUATE COURSE

Before deciding which Postgraduate degree and university to which you wish to apply, discuss your plans with the Pre-Masters Course Coordinator.

Some initial guidance and considerations are set out below:

- MA, MSc, M.Phil or MBA? The title of a British postgraduate degree clearly indicates whether its teaching and academic content is social science or science based. A Master of Arts (MA) would emphasis the social science aspects of a subject. A Master of Science (MSc) would indicate a more scientific, statistical or mathematical approach to a subject. A Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is primarily a research based Masters degree. While a British MBA is generally offered to those with relevant work experience, but a wide range of MBA courses are available that require only a first degree.
- Apart from the MPhil all British masters degrees are taught courses
- A 10,000-12,000 word dissertation is a requirement of all taught British postgraduate degrees
- University league tables are at best a crude guide for selecting a university. A more accurate guide to deciding which university to choose is the rating of the department that teaches the specific subject area you wish to study
- Universities with high ratings for research or who employ well known academics may not be the best option for taught postgraduate degrees as senior staff focus on research, delegating teaching and seminar work to junior colleagues
- Taught British postgraduate degrees include both lectures and seminars. To succeed you must have the specific skills necessary for each teaching environment
- Ensure that you attend the regular presentations given by Admissions Tutors, from specific universities. This will give you a greater insight into just what courses they offer and an opportunity to discuss your specific needs with a qualified person

- Before deciding which university you wish to attend on completion of the Pre-Masters course visit the university buildings and its campus. Admission tutors are happy to arrange visits for potential postgraduate students

UNIVERSITY LINKS

University of Brighton	www.brighton.ac.uk
City University	www.city.ac.uk
London School of Economics	www.lse.ac.uk
London Metropolitan University	www.londonmet.ac.uk
Imperial College London	www.imperial.ac.uk
University of Lancaster	www.lancs.ac.uk
Loughborough University	www.lboro.ac.uk
University of Nottingham	www.nottingham.ac.uk
Oxford Brookes University	www.brookes.ac.uk
Queen Mary University of London	www.qmul.ac.uk
Royal Holloway University of London	www.rhul.ac.uk
School of Oriental & African Studies	www.soas.ac.uk
University of Surrey	www.surrey.ac.uk
University of the West of England	www.uwe.ac.uk
University of Westminster	www.wmin.ac.uk
STUDY SKILLS LINK	
Study Skills	www.how-to-study.com

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR STUDIES

ACADEMIC BOOKSHOPS

Foyles www.foyles.co.uk

113-119 Charing Cross Road
London WC2H 0EB

Tel: 020 7437 5660

Waterstones (LSE)

Clare Market
Portugal Street
London WC2A 2AB

Tel: 020 7405 5531

Waterstones

82 Gower Street
London WC1E 6EQ

Tel: 020 7636 1577

Waterstones

203/206 Piccadilly
London SW1Y 6WW

Tel: 020 7851 2400

PUBLIC ACCESS LIBRARIES FOR PRE-MASTERS STUDENTS

The British Library www.bl.uk

St Pancras
96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB

Tel: 0870 444 1500

British Library Newspapers

Colindale Avenue
London NW9 5HE

City Business Library www.cityoflondon.gov.uk.citybusinesslibrary

1 Brewers Hall Garden (off Aldermanbury Square)
London EC2V 5BX

Tel: 020 7332 1812

Imperial College London Library

Central Library
Imperial College London
South Kensington Campus
London SW7 2AZ

Tel: 020 7594 8820

USEFUL COLLEGE INFORMATION

BOOKS

There is a good bookshop near the College – Waterstones. Turn right outside the College and walk for about 50 metres. They will also be happy to order books for you. It may be possible for you to join your local public library – go in and ask to join (it's free). See separate section.

CANTEEN

This is in Room U24. It is open daily from 9am to 5.30pm and serves hot food, sandwiches and snacks from 10am onwards.

LETTERS

If you need the college to write a letter for you, fill in a letter request form. These are in Reception, just inside the door.

LIBRARY (COLLEGE)

This is on the 1st Floor. It is open and supervised from 9.30am to 5.30pm. It is intended for private study and reference (not chatting or eating!).

There is also a possibility that Pre-Masters students may have access to a London University library. More details from the Course Coordinator.

PAPER

The College does not provide stationery. You can buy the necessary paper, files and pens from W H Smith (opposite the College on the corner of Pembridge Road)

PHOTOCOPYING

You need to buy a photocopy card from Reception in order to use the photocopier. Students must only use the photocopiers in the staff-room (opposite D13). If teachers need to use the machine you must let them go before you.

POST

If you want to use the College address you may do so for personal letters. You may NOT give the College address for official correspondence such as bank accounts or mobile telephones. Student post is kept in the Library. Post will be returned to the sender after 4 weeks, if you do not collect it.

LIBRARIES IN KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

How to join a Local Library

It's simple if you live, work or study full-time in the Borough. The library will ask you to provide two forms of identification, one of which should be a formal document showing your address. If you live outside the Borough you will need the College to endorse your application form.

With a library card, you can borrow books, audio items, language courses, videos, DVDs and CDs. It's free to borrow books, but the library makes a small charge for other items. You have to pay a fine if you return items late!

There are six libraries in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea:

Kensington Central Library - Phillimore Walk, LONDON, W8 7RX
Tel: 020 7937 2542, E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

North Kensington Library, 108 Ladbroke Grove, North Kensington,
LONDON W11 1PZ
Tel: 020 7727 6583, E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

Notting Hill Gate Library, 1 Pembridge Square, Notting Hill,
LONDON
W2 4EW, Tel: 020 7229 8574, E-mail:
information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

Chelsea Library, Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, LONDON SW3
5EZ
Tel: 020 7352 6056, E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

Brompton Library, 210 Old Brompton Road, LONDON SW5 OBS
Tel: 020 7373 3111, E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

Kensal Library, 20 Golborne Road, LONDON W10 5PF
Tel: 020 8969 7736, E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

WHO'S WHO?

David Game (Principal)

Mr Game is always willing to see students if they have a problem and they feel that nobody else can deal with it. If you wish to see him just make an appointment through one of the Reception staff.

Mr. M Kahn (Vice-Principal)

Mr. Mike Kahn is in charge of the day-to-day running of the College. His office is in **D4**

John Dalton (Co-Vice Principal, Head of Science & College Manager)

As College Manager, Mr Dalton is responsible for the overall running of the College, especially in relation to matters concerning Health & Safety and Security. He is in **U5**.

Tony Burrett (Pre-Masters Programme Coordinator)

Tony is in charge of the running of the Pre-Masters Programme. If you have a problem talk to Tony first. His office is in **D22**.

Miling Leung (Bursar)

Miling runs the Accounts Department in **D5**.

Terry Kwok (International Student Welfare Officer)

Terry is available every day to help students with problems of any kind, including visas, travel cards etc. She is in **D13**.

Mr. Debsay (Security Officer)

Mr Debsay is responsible for monitoring everyone who enters and leaves the College building (he may ask to see your student card). He also ensures that students respect the College rules and behave appropriately while in the College.

Mohammed Teklies (Office Manager)

Mohammed is in charge of making sure that the office staff have everything they need to do their jobs properly! If you need any help or information e.g. about lost property, Mohammed will probably be able to help you.

YOUR LEISURE TIME

London is an education in its own right. It is one of the cultural capitals of the world with its theatres, cinemas, music venues, galleries and museums. Many of the opportunities here are free so do make the most of your free time and explore this amazing city. It's a good idea to buy a small guide-book and/or a map of the city. If you want to know about things that are happening in London during the coming week, then you should buy Time Out, the weekly listings magazine. The free daily paper Metro in tube stations also has some events listed. The following is a brief guide to some of the most popular places to go and things to do. The nearest tube stations are in brackets.

International Students' House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5HD
Tel: 0207 631 8300. www.ish.org.uk (*Gt. Portland St., Regents Park*).

This is a **students club** that is open to all full-time students in London. It organises many different activities, including: swimming, snooker, multi-gym, dances, musical evenings, film, art and drama, excursions and outings. There is also a very wide range of facilities available to all students, such as a restaurant, coffee shop, bar, study room, television rooms and even a laundry! Membership rates range from £20 for 1 year to £3 for 1 month. You will need a David Game College student card to join this club.

PARKS

London is famous for its parks. They are all free and are great places to relax and get some fresh air. The two within walking distance from the College are: **Holland Park** – has woods, formal gardens, a small Japanese garden and tennis courts. Squirrels and peacocks roam freely.

Kensington Gardens/Hyde Park– enormous. Has two lakes, the Serpentine and the Round Pond, Princess Diana's memorial playground for children, a pretty Italian sunken garden next to Kensington Palace. On the south side there is the Albert Memorial built by Queen Victoria and in the centre is the Serpentine Gallery which houses exhibitions of work by major modern artists.

MUSEUMS

All these state-run museums are free. All are worth visiting.

British Museum, Great Russell St., WC1 (*Tottenham Court Road, Holborn, Russell Square*) - wonderful building. Full of fascinating items from ancient times to today, from Egyptian mummies to 7th century treasures.

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (*South Kensington*) – world’s largest museum of decorative art. www.vam.ac.uk

Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (*South Kensington*) – wonderful displays of animals, insects, environmental issues, dinosaurs, fossils and geology. Beautiful Victorian building. www.nhm.ac.uk

Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (*South Kensington*) – everything scientific from old to cutting edge inventions. Lots of hands-on things. Great fun. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Museum of London, City Wall, EC2 (*Barbican, St Paul’s, Moorgate*) – great displays and reconstructions of interiors and street scenes of past London. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 (*Waterloo, Westminster*) – looks at all aspects of warfare, from weapons to the effects on ordinary people. www.iwm.org.uk

National Maritime Museum, Romney Road, SE10 (*Cutty Sark DLR*) – everything to do with the sea. www.nmm.ac.uk

ART GALLERIES

There are so many places to see art and exhibitions in London, from small commercial galleries to large galleries with permanent displays and special exhibitions. These are the main galleries which are free:

National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (*Charing Cross, Leicester Sq., Piccadilly Circus*) – paintings from the 13th century to 1900. Many very famous pictures. www.nationalgallery.org.uk

National Portrait Gallery, 2 St. Martin's Place, WC2 (next to National Gallery) – pictures of people through history to present day in paintings, drawings and photos. www.npg.org.uk

Tate Britain, Millbank, SW1 (*Pimlico*) – British art from 16th Century to now.

Tate Modern, Holland Street, SE1 (*Blackfriars, Mansion House, Southwark*) – amazing converted power station housing a major collection of contemporary art. www.tate.org.uk

CULTURAL CENTRES

South Bank Centre, SE1, on the river Thames (opposite *Embankment*) – the Royal Festival Hall is London's main concert hall and good community space with a café, restaurant, free art, free lunchtime music, good arts bookshops and music shop. www.rfh.org.uk Also, theatres and galleries.

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, SE1 (*Barbican, Moorgate*) – 2 theatres, cinemas, galleries and concert hall. Bar, café and restaurant. www.barbican.org.uk

INTERESTING AREAS TO WANDER

Covent Garden – an old market area, now a lively shopping and eating area with a market of crafts and antiques in the central part. Street artistes perform here at weekends and evenings. (*Covent Garden*)

St. Katharine's Dock, east side of Tower Bridge, north of Thames, (*Tower Hill*) – old dock, now converted into an attractive area of water with interesting old boats, shops and cafes.

Greenwich – (*Cutty Sark Docklands Light Railway* or take a boat down the river!) – historic area, now a World Heritage Site. The Cutty Sark, an 1869 tea ship, the Royal Observatory, the Queen's House, Old Royal Naval College, the Ranger's House and more!

Chinatown, Gerrard St, W1 (*Leicester Square, Piccadilly Circus*) – centre of London's Chinese community. Lots of Chinese restaurants and shops.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Too many to count! The most famous are:

The Tower of London (*Tower Hill*) – very interesting prison, but expensive. The Crown Jewels are here. www.hrp.org.uk

Buckingham Palace (*St James's Park, Victoria*) – home of the Queen. Changing of the Guard happens every day 11.30am Apr – July, alternate days rest of the year.

Houses of Parliament and Big Ben (*Westminster*) – home of the British Government. You can sit in the public gallery of the House of Commons or Lords and watch parliament in action. www.parliament.uk

Westminster Abbey (*Westminster*) – incredible building with much history. Started in 1050, and is the burial and coronation place of most of Britain's kings and queens. www.westminster-abbey.org

St Paul's Cathedral, Ludgate Hill, EC4 (*St Paul's, Mansion House*) - architectural gem built by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Famous for its dome with Whispering Gallery. www.stpauls.co.uk

MARKETS

London has numerous markets. Here are a handful of the most colourful. **Portobello Road**, W10 (*Notting Hill Gate, Ladbrooke Grove*) – general market during the week, but best on Saturday when hundreds of stalls sell antiques. At far northern end there is a flea market. NOT TO BE MISSED!

Petticoat Lane, Middlesex Street, E1 (*Liverpool St, Aldgate, Aldgate East*) – 9am – 2pm Sunday. Sells clothes, leather goods, cheap jewellery, toys and fast food of all nations.

Old Spitalfields, Commercial Street, E1 (*Aldgate East, Liverpool Street*) Best on Sundays 9.30am to 5.30pm. Young designer clothes, food, hand-made craft items and bric-a-brac.

Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (*Camden Town*) – very trendy. Clothes, food, books, records and antiques. Great atmosphere.

SHOPS

There are several shops or shopping areas that are a must for the visitor to London.

Harrods, a beautiful department store in Knightsbridge, with its wonderful Perfume Hall and Food Halls.

Fortnum and Mason in Piccadilly, wonderful food emporium.

HMV and **Virgin** record shops in Oxford Street, Tower Records in Piccadilly Circus.

Oxford Street for clothes and shoes.

Knightsbridge, Chelsea, Bond Street for expensive designer shops.

Charing Cross Road for books.

Hi-fi and computers in **Tottenham Court Road**.

Department stores – **John Lewis** and **Selfridges** (more expensive) in **Oxford Street**.

MUSIC

There are so many venues for live music in London, both large and small. To find out what's on, look in **Time Out**, the weekly listings magazine. Some venues have **free music**, such as pubs, Festival Hall (lunchtime) and the Barbican Foyer.

THEATRE

Theatre ranges from sophisticated productions to fringe theatre productions in upstairs rooms in pubs. For cheap mainstream theatre tickets there is a **half-price ticket kiosk** on the south side of Leicester Square where you can buy unsold tickets on the day of the performance only. It's worth trying. The Evening Standard sometimes has 2-for-the-price-of-one deals (The E.S. also has a listings magazine called Metro on Thursdays).