

Returning to study – useful links

So, you've made the brave decision to return to university and you may be thinking 'what am I doing here?' Don't worry, you are not alone - like you, some of us have returned to studying after a break, for a second degree or a postgraduate degree. City has plenty of resources to help you with this transition back into student life.

- Student Centre - finance and accommodation:
 - The Finance team in the Student Centre can assist you with finding appropriate funding for your return to student life. It doesn't need to be cup noodle everyday – they can help you with sorting out an adequate budget.
 - Need to find a new place close to Uni? The Student Centre has accommodation advisers to help you find a hall suitable for your degree (postgrad only) or private accommodation that takes into account your needs.
 - CTA button: <https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/help-and-support/student-centre>
- Mental Health resources and counselors
 - A return to the student grind can be a stressful time. Make use of the counselors and resources provided by City to help with exam and assignment stress or the anxiety of re-orientating your life around study.
 - CTA button: <https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/help-and-support/mental-health-counselling>
- LEAD- refreshers for academic writing, study skills, note-taking, exam tips, etc.
 - When was the last time you wrote a paper or read a research article? If you can't quite remember, sign yourself up for an [Academic Skills Workshop](#). They cover topics from critical thinking to academic writing to help refresh your knowledge and set you up for success in your current classes.
 - CTA button: <https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/help-and-support/improve-your-study-skills>
- Testimonials from other students – student page of City, blogs of post grads, etc.
 - Remind yourself why pursuing a degree is worth it by reading about past student's experiences with returning to school.
 - CTA button: <https://www.city.ac.uk/people/students/kathryn-drumm>
- Career advice, help, specific info for switching careers or promoting new degree
 - City has advisors in the Careers Service who can help you revamp your CV to find a new part-time job during your studies and find full-time work or graduate programmes after you've finished your studies. They also have the resources to advise you on a career change and direct you to the right places to start your job hunt.
 - CTA button: <https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/careers-and-volunteering>

- CitySport
 - We all know that money can be a bit tight when you are a student so gym memberships can seem a bit of a luxury. However, CitySport, the university gym, offers affordable and flexible memberships for City Students.
 - If a long term membership is too much of a commitment, you can pay as you go to use the gym, classes and courts.
 - CTA button: <https://studenthub.city.ac.uk/student-life/sport-and-recreation>

- Tips on socialising with other students in your course, in student groups
 - So you've returned to classes to expand your knowledge and skills base – don't forget about networking. Find ways to connect with other classmates and faculty through after-class pub meet-ups, before class coffees or attending events around the University. You never know where a good connection will take you.

- Remembering you can utilise the 'student' status for things around town, tickets, grocery discounts, etc.
 - Don't forget that you're now classified as a 'student' again. While you may not resemble the typical undergraduate, you still have access to discounts on a whole load of opportunities including theatre tickets, supermarket shopping, or your rail card. Find some of these discounts at the Student Centre or check out the NUS website.

- Travel
 - Oyster card: travelling across London can be a drag but great news - as a mature or returning student may be eligible for an 18+ Oyster card. You must be a full time student or enrolled on a part-time course lasting a period of at least 14 weeks and either: a part-time student receiving NHS bursary money or a part-time postgraduate student receiving financial help from your education establishment as part of their Higher Education Council for England (HEFCE) discretionary additional support (such as Student Opportunity allocation or Access to Learning Fund). Check out the TFL 18+ website for full eligibility criteria.
 - Railcard: Even better news, you can also apply for a 16-25 Railcard. Don't let the name fool you. You can apply for a railcard if you are studying full-time at a college or University for 15 hours or more a week for at least 20 weeks a year. Read the full eligibility criteria here