



Royal Academy of Music

Guide to Student Travel around London

2017

As a student in London, you are automatically eligible for various discounts on travel. The fare structure in London can be confusing and complicated for newcomers; however this guide will hopefully help you decipher the various charges. Depending on how far you have to go, there are various options available to you.

All transport in London is cheaper and quicker to use if you have an 'Oyster Card.' This is a plastic card the size of a debit or credit card that you can either load money, or a 'travelcard' onto (meanings explained below.)

In London there are many different modes of transport that you can pay for using your Oyster Card. The London Underground (or tube) is the main transport network across the city. Also part of the tube network is the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) which operates in East and South East London, and the London Overground service, which is a less frequent train service. You will also be able to use your Oyster Card on all bus services, some river services and some suburban rail services.

For the purposes of fares, London is divided into 'Zones' - with Central London falling into Zone 1, and further zones, going up to Zone 9 at the outermost points of London. The stations closest to the Academy are all in Zone 1.

Pay As You Go Oyster Card

Regardless of your situation, having an Oyster Card will automatically save you money. It costs £5 to purchase (refundable if you wish to return your card if you leave London), and will automatically save you money compared to the cash fare for a paper ticket. Using an Oyster Card as 'Pay As You Go', means that if you load for example £20 onto the card (either done at a station or online), for each journey you make, a deduction is made. There is a daily price cap so that no matter how much you use your card in a day, it will never exceed the amount charged for a 'day travelcard' - this is a paper ticket (not an Oyster Card) that can be purchased for unlimited daily travel for one day only.

TFL have also introduced the ability to pay for your travel using a contactless credit or debit card. Please see <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/contactless> for more details.

18+ Oyster Card

If you live outside Zone 1, and regularly travel to the Academy and around London by tube, the 18+ Oyster Card is probably the cheapest option. This gives all students a 30% discount on travelcards and bus passes. A travelcard is purchased and added to your Oyster card and can be bought for a week, month or year and entitles the holder to unlimited travel within their chosen zones for a set price. Prices for some of the combinations are below; however check the TFL website for a full list.

<i>Monthly</i>	Regular Adult Travelcard	18+ Student Travelcard
Zones 1-2	£126.80	£88.40
Zones 1-3	£148.70	£103.70
Zones 1-4	£181.70	£126.80
Zones 1-5	£215.90	£151.00

<i>Weekly</i>	Regular Adult Travelcard	18+ Student Travelcard
Zones 1-2	£33.00	£23.00
Zones 1-3	£38.70	£27.00
Zones 1-4	£47.30	£33.00
Zones 1-5	£56.20	£39.30

The 18+ Oyster Card does not give discounts on Pay As You Go fares. If you only use the tube a few times a week (e.g. if you are living in the Marylebone Flats, ISH, Intercollegiate Halls), it will end up costing more than Pay As You Go. For discounts on Pay As You Go fares, see below for details of the 16-25 Railcard. If you use transport in London more than a couple of days per week, this is usually the best option.

Applications for the TFL 18+ Oyster Card need to be made online, and are subject to a £20 application fee. You cannot apply until you have enrolled at the start of term.

National Rail 16-25 Card

The National Rail 16-25 card gives 1/3 off all rail journeys, as well as Pay As You Go tube journeys. Anyone under the age of 25 is eligible, as well as all full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students regardless of age. Having this card can prove to be very handy, as it enables the holder to benefit from cheap train travel throughout the UK - on tickets bought on the day, or booked in advance.

The card can also be linked to an Oyster Card, so that the holder will automatically be given a discount on all pay as you go fares on the Underground subject to certain restrictions (see below). This can be done at the ticket office of any Underground Station on the presentation of your Oyster Card and Railcard.

Please check before you travel, as most journeys made before 9.30am on mainline trains are exempt from railcard discounts, and travel between 6.30am - 9.30am and 4pm-7pm on the Underground is also exempt from discounts. Please see <https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/adult-discounts-and-concessions/railcards#on-this-page-1> for more details on using your railcard on the underground network.

National Rail 16-25 cards cost £30 per year. Applications can be made online if you are aged between 16-25, or if you are older than 25 an application form can be downloaded via this link:

<https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/download/clientfiles/files/16-25%20Mature%20Student%20application.pdf>

Please bring the completed form to Will Scott in room LG86 to be stamped, along with a passport sized photo.

Bus

Using the bus can be significantly cheaper than using the tube; all fares are £1.50 using an Oyster card or you can also use a contactless debit/credit card. London buses no longer accept payment in cash on any routes. If you have an 18+ Student Oyster card with either a daily, weekly or monthly travel card loaded, you are automatically able to use any bus without any further charge. Unfortunately the 16-25 National Railcard cannot be used for discounts on buses. A 'bus only' 18+ Travelcard is available for £56.90 per month, permitting unlimited travel on buses in any Zone. Please see <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/fares/bus-and-tram> for more details.

Santander Cycle Hire Scheme

Also known as 'Boris Bikes' after the Mayor who introduced them, you will notice that there are docking stations with distinctive red bikes dotted around central London. These are available for hire, using either a dedicated key (£90 per year) or using your credit/debit card at the docking station on a day-to-day basis (£2 per day). The first 30 minutes of use are free, you'll be charged if you use the bike for longer than this.

Links

Oyster Cards:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster>

18+ Student card:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/adult-discounts-and-concessions/18-student>

National Rail 16-25 Card:

<http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>

Santander Cycle Hire Scheme:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles>

Tube map:

<https://www.tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/standard-tube-map.pdf>