New staff campus tour
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This self-guided tour has been designed to help new members of staff get to know the University and Egham campus. You can complete it by yourself or with members of your team, and it takes approximately 60-90 minutes.

1 Start

The tour starts in front of the Davison Building overlooking Founder’s Square.

Founder’s Square

Welcome to Founder’s Square. Today’s Royal Holloway is formed from two colleges, founded by social pioneers, which were among the first places in Britain where women could access higher education. From the square, we can appreciate both the Victorian and modern architecture of Founder’s and the Emily Wilding Davison Building.

Building on the inspiration of our founders, the University has made a commitment to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion for all. You can find out more about this commitment and our staff diversity networks on the staff intranet.

The Windsor Building

To your right is the orange-painted Windsor Building. You may spot the gold postbox behind the greenery in front of the building. This is to mark the achievement of Mathematics alumna and equestrian Sophie Christiansen, who won three Paralympic gold medals at London 2012.

The Windsor Building houses the University’s largest lecture theatre (capacity 197) and other teaching spaces, as well as Little Café on the Square.

Founder’s Building

Go down the steps in front of the Davison Building and cross the square to reach the main entrance of Founder’s (there is a ramp embedded within the steps).

This magnificent building 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 student summer ball. The building houses a Chapel, Picture Gallery, dining room and café/bar, along with a lecture theatre, Victorian reading room and health centre. Founder’s is also a hall of residence.

In the University’s early years, the fire drill involved evacuating the upper floors of Founder’s via a fabric escape chute. These days, it’s essential to complete your Fire Safety Awareness training on Moodle. The full list of mandatory staff training is on the staff intranet.
Founder’s South and North Quads

Enter Founder’s at the Visitor Centre entrance in the centre of the building and go through the two sets of automatic doors.

Ahead of you is Crosslands, which sells a variety of hot and cold drinks and food. Next to the entrance to Crosslands, there is a lift for step-free access to the dining hall.

You can use your University ID Card to pay for food and drink at catering outlets on campus (except Kimiko Japanese Kitchen).

From the Visitors’ 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. Thomas Holloway made his fortune producing and selling pharmaceutical products and with no children to leave his fortune to, and on 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 current University is formed from a merger of Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges, which took place in 1985. Bedford was founded in Bedford Square, London, by Elizabeth Jesser Reid in 1849. Reid was a social reformer and anti-slavery activist, who devoted her life to supporting benevolent schemes set up by women. Bedford was the first women’s higher education college in Britain.

Behind the statue is the ornate South Tower. Here is the entrance to Lower Herringham which is one of the collaborative working spaces on campus.

Head through the archway under the tower, cross the road and turn right. Turn the corner and follow the pavement along the length of Founder’s Building towards the main entrance to campus until you reach the Clock Tower. Enter the archway of the tower and ahead you will see a statue of Queen Victoria in the North Quad.

Picture Gallery

To your right is the Picture Gallery, home to the Thomas Holloway’s collection of Victorian art. He filled the gallery with masterpieces from the era, including The Princes in the Tower and Edward Landseer’s Man Proposes, God Disposes which imagines the fate of the failed Franklin expedition to find the Northwest Passage and continues to fuel superstitions to this day. The Picture Gallery is often used for teaching and events, and you can check the opening times online.

There are many University events that members of staff are welcome to join, including lectures, concerts and exhibitions. You will find these advertised on the events section of the intranet. You can also view the art collections on the University website. An audio described tour of Royal Holloway’s Picture Gallery was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award 2021.
Chapel
To your left is the stunning gilded Chapel, which was the last part of Founder’s Building to be completed. The Chapel is non-denominational and hosts a variety of services and events. If there are no services in progress, you may wish to go inside to view this beautiful space.

North A30
**Turn back to exit the quad at the Clock Tower.** To your left you will see the University bus stop next to the tennis courts. From here, you can catch the shuttle bus to Egham station and Kingswood hall of residence.

**Cross the road to the pathway to the right of the roundabout. If you would like to extend your walk, the footbridge behind the great Atlantic cedar tree leads to the north A30 part of campus** where the Muslim Prayer Room is located in the Wetton’s Annex. You will also find the Department of Music and onsite nursery and pre-school, as well as George Eliot, Penrose and Highfield halls of residence. George Eliot, author of novels including Middlemarch and Silas Marner, was one of the first students at Bedford College.

**To view these locations via a step-free route, exit through the main gate and turning right onto the A30 pavement to cross at the toucan crossing. Turn left to head towards Harvest Road. Return to the pavement in front of Founder’s the same way you came.**

> In front of Founder’s, you may notice the Victorian lampposts bearing the letters HC for Holloway College. These were installed before Queen Victoria conferred the Royal title. The [brand toolkit](https://example.com) tells you how to correctly use our brand, including the University name, logo and colours, in your work.

Computer Centre and Arts Building
**Continue along the pavement past the footbridge with Founder’s to your right. Go alongside the main road through campus past the Windsor Building until you reach the Computer Centre.**

> Did you know that members of staff can access free software for use at home? Find out more on the [staff intranet](https://example.com).

Opposite the Computer Centre, the Arts Building houses the Department for Law and Criminology. Students from this department run a Legal Advice Centre which offers free legal advice and information to the local community.

Moore Building
**Continue and you will pass more academic buildings.**
To your left, the 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 was extended in 2006, with the addition of the lecture theatre and glass-enclosed foyer and seminar rooms you see at the front. You can find the original red brick building by turning left between the Computer Centre and the modern frontage. The Moore Building is now home to the School of Business and Management.
Boilerhouse

Head down the hill and part-way down you will come to the Boilerhouse with its two chimneys.

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

Inside the Boilerhouse Café

Students’ Union

Near the bottom of the hill, you will come to the Students’ Union Building on your right. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing to come to the front of the building.

The Students’ Union runs an independent advice centre as well as a range of clubs and societies, with more than 150 for our students to get involved with on campus. The Students’ Union Building hosts club nights and serves hot food from Tommy’s Kitchen. A weekly fruit and vegetable market is held during term time in addition to other regular sales. There is also a cashpoint here.

Members of staff can purchase a TOTUM card from the NUS to access discounts in shops and restaurants.

To the left of the Students’ Union Building, the road leads to the Estates workshop, Omnidrone Research and Innovation Centre, and across the A30 is the Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance. Another time, you may like to visit the arboretum and community garden which are there too.

Queen’s Building

Continue to the right hand side of the Students’ Union Building and turn left to go down the steps or ramp back to rejoin the main road. Turn right and head along the pavement until you come to the Queen’s Building.

This was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on her visit to mark the University’s centenary in 1986 and is home to the Departments of Geography and Earth Sciences.

Wolfson and Bourne Buildings

Cross at the pedestrian crossing and head towards the Shilling Building.

To your right are the Wolfson Building and Bourne Building, which houses the University’s MRI scanner. (Step-free access to the Bourne Building is via the entrance in front of the Bedford Building.)
Shilling Building

Continue along the road and you will arrive at the Shilling Building, which is home to 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. Creative working is at the core of the design of the building 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.

The University is a breastfeeding-friendly institution and wants to support families to feel confident about breastfeeding in public spaces. However, if preferred, breastfeeding parents can access private spaces including the dedicated nursing room in the Shilling Building.

The Hub

Continue along the road with the Shilling Building to your left and you will pass halls of residence, Butler, Tuke, Williamson, Reid and Runnymede, as well as the electron microscopy unit.

To your left is The Hub, which contains a large dining hall serving a variety of different cuisines and Kimiko Japanese Kitchen. Beyond it is Medicine, the Student Unions’ bar venue.

You can view weekly menus for dining halls and other outlets on the staff intranet.

Gowar and Wedderburn halls of residence

At this point you can choose to follow the main road to the right of The Hub towards Gowar and Wedderburn halls of residence.

The Common Room in Gowar is often used for staff training and development.

The University has a wide range of development opportunities for staff including general training, coaching, mentoring, leadership development and training for researchers. Find out more on the Organisational Development intranet pages.

Sports Centre

If you wish to see the Sports Centre, there are two ways to do this from campus. From The Hub, you can follow the main road underneath Gowar hall of residence to a gravel path and steps that lead steeply down towards the Sports Centre. Step-free access is signed via the road through Runnymede Hall to the left of The Hub. Please note that this road is sloped with some speed humps. Alternatively, you can access the Sports Centre via car park 17 off of Prune Hill.

The Sports Centre includes a multi-use sports hall, 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.

Staff membership includes bookable gym sessions and group exercise classes.
Woods

The woods are a tranquil place to spend your lunch break or have a walking meeting, and you may be lucky to spot a muntjac deer as well as other wildlife, and enjoy the changing seasons.

If you have visited the Gowar and Wedderburn halls and the Sports Centre, retrace your steps back to The Hub and follow the woodlands to your left. If you did not go to the Sports Centre, the woods will be on your right as you look towards The Hub, signed Jane Holloway Hall.

Walk straight ahead into the woods, ignoring any paths to your right and crossing over the stream until you come to Jane Holloway Hall.

Originally the site of an indoor swimming pool, this building is now used as a performance space, and beyond it is the peaceful meadow on West Field.

Walk past the hall and take the next right hand turn. You will soon come to Founder’s Pond, with nearby tree ferns and redwood trees. Take the right hand path to go round the pond, past the top of the cascade. Head left at the redwood tree until you reach a T-junction with the main path.

 Ahead of you rises the wooden Colossus sculpture, in tribute to the University’s polar bear mascot.

To return to the starting point, turn left and up the steps to Founder’s Square and the Emily Wilding Davison Building. For a step-free route, turn right and head downhill. Turn left onto the path in the direction of the Hub and then left again past the small pond. Turn left at the litter bins, following signs uphill towards the Windsor Building. Continue past the cycling parking and turn left at the zebra crossing to head between the Emily Wilding Davison and Windsor Buildings.

Please note that the paths towards Jane Holloway Hall and the pond can be muddy at the edges and uneven in places, and the path around the pond is unpaved. If you prefer, you can follow signs from the Hub straight back towards the Windsor Building.

There are many options if you are in need of refreshments after your walk. You can also refill your own water bottle at locations all over campus.

Emily Wilding Davison Building

The tour finishes at the Emily Wilding Davison Building, which stands on Founder’s Square. This impressive building was opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in 2017. It 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.

Take time to explore the building. It houses the Library and the Student Services Centre, which supports students with things such as halls of residence, enrolment, exams and graduation. At the side of the building you can access the well-stocked 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.

All members of staff can use their University ID Card to access the Library collection.

Thank you for completing the tour. We hope you have enjoyed it and feel that you know our beautiful campus better. If you have any feedback, please contact Organisational Development at orgdev@royalholloway.ac.uk