



LSBU past present & future

Celebrating the history of
London South Bank University

welcome to London South Bank University

From its origins in 1892 as the Borough Polytechnic Institute, London South Bank University has evolved into one of the capital's largest and most innovative universities. While much has changed, our original mission – to promote '...the industrial skill, general knowledge, health and well-being of young men and women' and to provide employers with a highly skilled workforce – remains remarkably similar today.

Our current students, wherever they come from and whatever their goals and aspirations, can look forward to an education that develops them both academically and personally, reflects the needs of business and society and equips them for rewarding future careers.



*K2 building (opposite), c.2009
Borough Polytechnic Institute, c.1892*



LSBU our origins

The Borough Polytechnic Institute was established in 1892 to 'improve the mental and bodily health and social happiness of the people in one of the poorest parts of south London.' The Institute was founded using a combination of charitable funding and public donations. The fundraising committee, set up by solicitor and London Education Board member Edric Bayley and backed by the Prince of Wales and the Archbishop of Canterbury, took collection boxes to London's bridges and sent out over 55,000 letters of appeal. Within four years, the committee had raised enough money to set up two polytechnics, one at Battersea (now part of the University of Surrey) and one at Elephant and Castle now LSBU. While much has changed in the intervening years, our belief in the power of professional education and the importance of equipping our students for the workplace remains as strong as ever.



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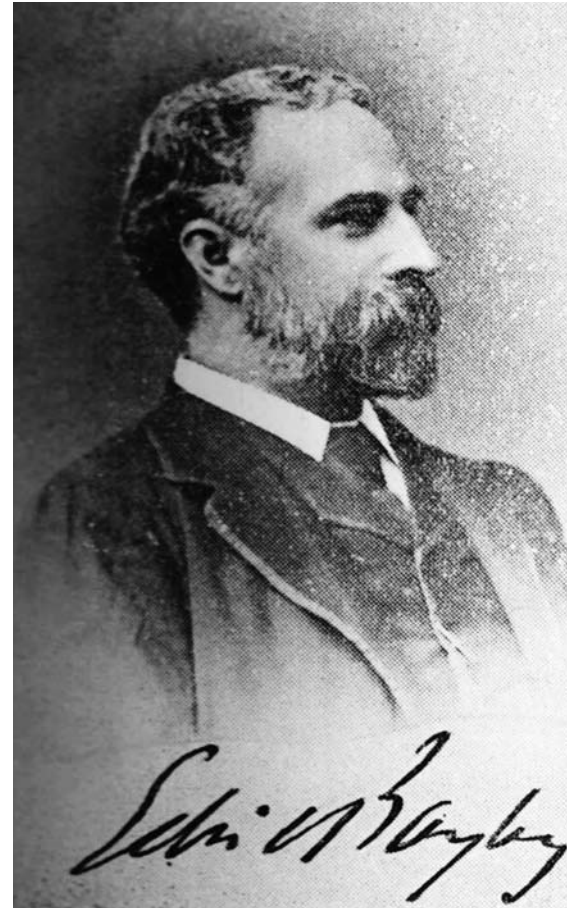
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The Institute proved popular from the start, with over 1,500 people attending the opening ceremony and some 5,000 'availing themselves of the opportunity to visit the rooms'. Newspaper reports of the time focused on whether the Institute was right to ban students from smoking. The logical outcome of such a ban, wrote one correspondent, 'is that you get in the polytechnics all the young goody-goody persons who have no need of salvation...But the very persons you wish to catch remain outside...'.

The original curriculum offered 'technical and trade' evening classes for young men and women working in industries then common in Southwark, such as bricklaying, printing, hat-making and leather-tanning. There was also tuition in the 'three Rs' – reading, writing and arithmetic – and courses for female factory and domestic workers in subjects including 'plain needlework and cutting out', blacking grates and the preparation of delicacies such as 'Prune Shape' and 'Roman Pie'.



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Between 1914 and 1918, the Institute actively supported the war effort with courses in wheelwrighting, telecommunications and the cold-shoeing of horses, while during World War II a community centre was set up for bombed-out local people, serving hot meals and providing classes in cookery and 'Mend and Make-Do'. After the war, the Polytechnic was rebuilt to provide modern workshops and laboratories where students could equip themselves to work in emerging industries such as heating and ventilation and plastic technology. In the late 1960s, the Duke of Edinburgh opened a number of extension buildings to house new facilities and accommodate the ever-expanding student body.

Since then the campus has continued to grow and mergers with specialist colleges from all over the capital have bolstered student numbers and broadened the curriculum. There have been changes of name too, from the Polytechnic of the South Bank to South Bank Polytechnic and – following our 100th anniversary and the award of university status in 1992 – to South Bank University and, finally, London South Bank University. But throughout, we have remained true to our original ethos, to educate students who are doers as well as thinkers and equip them to make a positive contribution to the economy and society as a whole.

1 Art class in the Borough Polytechnic Institute, c.1940s

2 Trade Dressmaking class, c.1900

3 Students during RAG week in the Borough Polytechnic entrance hall, 1965

4 Edric Bayley, Chair of the Governing Body, c.1892

5 WW2 servicemen at the Polytechnic, c.1940

In a city with a global reputation for artistic excellence, it is natural that LSBU should be deeply engaged with the creative industries. In the early days of the Institute, free exhibitions gave local people access to works by celebrated artists including Holbein, Gainsborough and Burne-Jones. In 1911, Bloomsbury Group artist Roger Fry painted a series of murals in the Polytechnic's student dining room to great critical acclaim. The 1940s and 50s saw the emergence of the Borough Group, led by charismatic teacher and artist David Bomberg. Today, LSBU's Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences embraces new technology, nurturing creative talent in areas including digital photography and games culture.



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Art formed part of the Institute's curriculum from the start, with classes in freehand, geometrical, perspective and model drawing running alongside lectures on design. 'The object,' stated an early annual report, 'has been to raise the standard of taste in the industries involving a knowledge of design.' That link with industry and commerce continued to deepen and evolve; by the 1950s, courses included Advertising Design and Fashion Drawing.

At the same time, the Polytechnic was playing its part in the development of Britain's fine art tradition. David Bomberg, who joined as a tutor in 1945, is now recognised as one of the giants of 20th century British art. His classes, attended by artists including Frank Auerbach and Leon Kossoff, have been described as among the most 'significant and consistently adventurous...in post-war British art education'. Over 150 works by Bomberg and five artists who studied under him – Dennis Creffield, Cliff Holden, Edna Mann, Dorothy Mead and Miles Peter Richmond – have been generously donated to the University by Sarah Rose and are to be put on public display, providing an important resource for teaching, research and public engagement with art.

The University's Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences now offers a range of innovative courses designed to nurture creative talent in emerging areas like Digital Photography, Digital Media Arts and Games Culture and offers a highly successful programme of courses in Arts Management and Performing Arts.

1 David Bomberg: *Washing of the Feet* (Armenian Church), Oil on wood, c.1925
2 Media Room, Keyworth Centre, c.2009

Thanks to its comprehensive portfolio of built environment courses, LSBU has long been the first choice for students entering the building and architecture professions. From early practical courses in brickwork and joinery for local apprentices to architecture and the green building technologies showcased at our new Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in Buildings, our aim has always been to produce graduates with the knowledge, skills and understanding to create spaces that enhance people's lives and make a positive contribution to the environment, now and in the future.

Over the years, we have strengthened our built environment curriculum by incorporating a range of specialist organisations, most notably the Brixton School of Building, set up in 1904 to train construction workers in Camberwell and Lambeth and described in the 1920s as 'easily the most complete school of building in the world.' By the mid-1970s, when the Faculty of the Built Environment was created, the Polytechnic was the only higher education institution in Europe to offer courses spanning every profession within the construction industry, including architecture, town planning, civil engineering and estate management.

Today, LSBU's Faculty of Engineering, Science and the Built Environment has a strong course portfolio including Property Management, Real Estate, Surveying and RIBA-accredited Architecture courses. The opening in 2010 of the Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in Buildings at the top of the K2 building confirms our position at the forefront of sustainable building technologies. The Centre, built in partnership with City and Kingston Universities and with funding from HEFCE, the London Development Agency and M&E Sustainability, provides a unique resource for teaching and learning about the design, operation and management of low-carbon buildings.

1 Wandsworth Road, home of the faculty of the Built Environment, c.1975
2 CEREB's Solar hot water collectors housed on the roof of K2, c.2010
3 Brixton School of Building, plastering workshop, c.1949



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Commercial courses formed an important part of the Borough Polytechnic Institute's curriculum until the 1920s. In 1970, business courses were reinstated when the City of Westminster College – one of the largest commercial institutes in London – became part of the Polytechnic, leading to the formation of a new Faculty of Administrative, Liberal and Social Studies. By the 1990s, the newly-established South Bank Business School was one of the UK's largest business schools, with around 7,000 full- and part-time students and strong links with the business community in London, the UK and worldwide. In 1993, the late Professor Andrew Ehrenberg set up the Ehrenberg Centre for Research in Marketing, a valued resource for businesses from all over the world wishing to maximise the impact of their products and brands.

In 2001, the School introduced an innovative degree course in e-commerce. In 2003, it was incorporated into what is now the Faculty of Business. Today, courses include International Finance and Banking, Charity Marketing and Fundraising and the Masters in Business Administration, and around a quarter of all graduate accountants from new universities in the capital graduate from LSBU. There is a strong focus on encouraging new enterprise and knowledge sharing. At the London Knowledge and Innovation Centre, established in 2006 in partnership with Business Extra, budding entrepreneurs can access mentoring, legal advice, help with funding applications and affordable office and meeting space.

To date, the Centre for Knowledge Transfer has brokered Knowledge Transfer Partnerships between LSBU and over 100 companies, giving businesses access to cutting-edge knowledge and skills and offering academics the chance to enhance their commercial experience.

1 Borough Polytechnic students using hand calculators, c.1960s
2 City of Westminster College, c.1970



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Throughout the University's history, a focus on vocational courses and strong links with business and industry have equipped our students to build successful and rewarding careers. Since the students of the early 1900s studied 'banking and currency' and 'the machinery of business', our curriculum has evolved to reflect the realities of a global online marketplace and, increasingly, to provide support for entrepreneurs wanting to make their own mark on the business world. The London Knowledge Innovation Centre provides space, advice and practical support for fledgling businesses, while LSBU is currently one of the top three universities in the UK for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, which bring together academics and businesses that want to make use of their expertise.

Engineering has been a core part of LSBU's offer since its foundation. Over the years, our strong links with industry have helped us keep pace with the latest developments and produce graduates who are innovative, creative and equipped with the knowledge and skills employers need. As a partner in the London Engineering Project, we are also helping to ensure the long-term health of the industry, by working with schools, colleges, science and engineering education charities and businesses to encourage young people to take up careers in engineering.

Our first engineering department, set up in the early 1900s, offered courses including 'Steam and the Steam Engine' and 'Electrotechnics'. Since then, our engineering programme has evolved alongside industry's changing needs. Between 1914 and 1918, the Institute offered wheelwrighting and telephony classes for servicemen. In the 1920s, we were the first institution in the capital to offer courses in heating and ventilation, hosting the National College for Heating, Ventilating, Refrigeration and Fan Engineering from its inception in 1948. In the late 1950s, we developed one of the country's first courses in nuclear power.

Following the merger with the National College in 1970, energy engineering became a key area of expertise for LSBU and remains so today. Throughout the 1990s, new courses including computer-aided engineering and fire engineering were introduced. Today, courses within the Faculty of Engineering, Science and the Built Environment include Mechatronics, Product Design and Telecommunications. The Faculty's global reputation for both teaching and research is demonstrated by its current ranking of 16th in the UK in the latest government assessment of university research.



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1 Engineering students, c.2010
2 National College Wing, c.1970s
3 Engineering students, c.1990

The story of the University's food-related programmes is one of growing professionalism and increasingly close links with industry. Initially, the focus was on domestic skills such as cooking and baking. By the end of the 1890s, bakers formed the largest single group of students and the National School of Bakery and Confectionery had been set up. From the 1930s, the Chemistry department began running courses in the chemistry and microbiology of food, a move which culminated in the establishment in 1993 of the Nutrition and Food Research Centres. Today, the University is at the forefront of food research, and is the leading provider of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships to the food industry.

Over the years, the Bakery School has made some notable contributions to the life of the nation, helping to make a silver wedding anniversary cake for King George VI and the Queen Mother in 1948 and a christening cake for the infant Prince Charles. In 1989, the team produced a cake to mark the 800th anniversary of the Lord Mayor of London which stood nearly three metres tall and featured a model of Dick Whittington and his cat. In 1992, the School pioneered a BSc (Hons) in Baking Technology and Process Management, the first course of its kind in the UK, and it has continued to innovate ever since. Today, the range of food courses run by the National Bakery School and the Applied Science Department includes Culinary Arts, Food and Nutrition and Baking Technology Management.

The London Food Centre was set up in 1998 and offers a unique mix of academic expertise, technical and business know-how to food and drink companies. Areas of expertise include new product development, food legislation and labelling and sensory evaluation, and the Centre works closely with colleagues elsewhere in the University to offer consultancy in areas like packaging and design, energy and carbon reduction and refrigeration. It also runs a wide range of courses, from one-off workshops and seminars to full-time degrees.

1 The Duke of York visiting the National Bakery School as part of the official opening of the Polytechnic's new buildings, 20th February 1930
2 Food science student, c.1997
3 National Bakery School student, c.2010



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With its innovative curriculum, LSBU is one of the top-rated universities in London for nursing and midwifery. One of the first institutions to offer a degree in nursing, our portfolio of courses ranges from Diagnostic Radiography to Social Work, and Rehabilitation Therapy to Health Protection. The Faculty of Health and Social Care is the largest of LSBU's faculties, with over 7,000 students and 350 teaching staff. As the UK's second largest provider of nurse education, we train one in four of London's nurses and health and social care professionals.

In the early days of the Borough Polytechnic Institute, health was seen as a largely female preserve with lectures for women on subjects including domestic and personal hygiene and 'First Aid to the Injured and Sick'. Although the nature of the courses on offer has changed significantly since the 1890s – today's programme even includes an Integrated Masters in Chinese Medicine – the focus remains on helping students to develop their practical skills as well as giving them a robust academic foundation for their future careers. From 1974, we were one of the first institutions to offer nursing degrees. Mergers with the Redwood College of Nursing and the Charles West School of Nursing, set up in 1878, enabled nursing courses to expand further. In 2001, we established campuses at Whipps Cross Hospital in east London and in Essex, where we are working in partnership with NHS Haverling to create opportunities for students to deliver wide-ranging services to local people.

The Faculty of Health and Social Care is at the forefront of the NHS Modernisation and Service Improvement agenda, working with NHS trusts to develop programmes that support interprofessional education, practice development and research. The latest NHS London Contract Performance Management results rank LSBU number one in London for adult nursing and second for learning disabilities nursing. The Faculty is now housed in the new K2 building, where state-of-the-art laboratories and teaching facilities enable students to practice their skills in environments that accurately recreate hospital and community settings.



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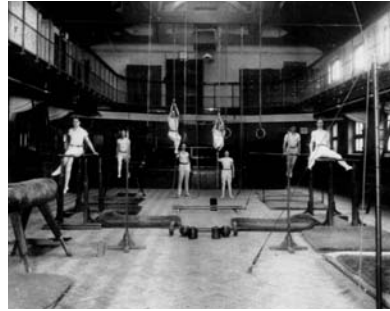
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1 Student nurses in an operating theatre, c.2000
2 Children's Nursing student at Great Ormond Street Hospital, c.2009

From the outset, the Borough Polytechnic Institute declared its intention to train not just the mind and hand but also the body and character by providing 'instruction and practice in gymnastics, drill, swimming and other bodily exercises'. Men joining the gym were promised 'special exercises for weak parts of the body', with measurements to be taken 'at the close of the session to see how much has been accomplished'. Since then, the University has continued to develop its sporting provision, offering degrees in sports science and supporting health professionals, coaches and athletes through its Academy of Sport. We are also committed to widening participation in sport, providing facilities for the community and working closely with local schools.

Sport clubs – including cycling, boxing, fencing, football, shooting and jujitsu – have always been an important aspect of life at LSBU, with some of those established in the 1890s still running today. More recently, the University has turned its attention to teaching sport, with degrees in sports science offered for the first time in the 1990s. In 2004, the Academy of Sport was set up to promote sporting excellence and healthy living within the University and throughout the local community. As well as courses in Sport and Exercise Science and Sports Product Design, the Academy also runs the Elite Sports Programme and the Sports Ambassadors scheme, where students go out to local schools and community organisations, providing coaching and mentoring for pupils as part of LSBU's commitment to nurturing sport at every level from grassroots upwards.

The Academy is also responsible for the Human Performance Centre, which provides services including biomechanics, strength and conditioning, sports psychology and nutrition to elite athletes, corporate clients and members of the public. The Centre promotes innovation, through collaboration with the Sport and Exercise Science Centre and the Nutrition Research Centre, developing innovative products including the FitFlop™ fitness shoe and 'youbreathe', a device for improving respiratory function and enhancing sports performance.



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1 Victoria gymnasium for men c.1910
2 Women's basketball player c.2009
3 Borough Polytechnic Institute cricket team, c.1910



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There has been an educational institution on the Borough Road site since 1798, when a young Quaker called Joseph Lancaster founded a school for local children. That spirit of inclusivity has underpinned our ethos from the outset: at the opening of the Borough Polytechnic Institute in 1892, course fees were deliberately set 'at a figure within the reach of those in receipt of a small weekly wage' and evening classes made open to members and non-members alike. Today, our work is still underpinned by the belief that everyone – regardless of their background – has a right to high quality education.

Teachers have a vital role to play in raising aspirations and encouraging young people to make positive choices; high quality teacher training therefore forms the backbone of our education provision. Postgraduate certificates in education have been available since the late 1960s and in 1976, the Polytechnic merged with the Battersea College of Education and part of the Rachel McMillan College of Education, named after the educational campaigner who opened the country's first school clinic in Bow in 1908. Today, LSBU's Education department is housed in the flagship K2 building in Keyworth Street, where the purpose-built space includes specialist classrooms for ICT, maths, research, PE and dance. As well as PGCE courses, students can study adult dyslexia diagnosis and support, multi-sensory e-learning, teaching and learning skills for lifelong learning networks.

Throughout their training, LSBU's teachers gain valuable experience of working with some of the capital's most disadvantaged young people; experience many of them go on to put to use in local schools. Students from other parts of the University are also working to create opportunities for the next generation of learners by becoming Student Ambassadors or Aimhigher Associates, acting as mentors and providing positive role models for pupils who might otherwise never have considered higher education. At the same time, we are constantly working to make learning as accessible as possible by offering flexible courses at all levels to students from all walks of life. Our success is reflected in the fact that over 60 per cent of our students are 25 years or older when they join us, and nearly 40 per cent study part time.

1 Student Ambassador, c.2009
2 Technical Day School for Boys pupils at work in the Engineering Laboratory, c.1911

LSBU today & in the future



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LSBU in 2010 offers a broad teaching and research portfolio and one which is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of business and industry, giving our students the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. It is also one of the UK's most diverse universities, with over 100 nationalities represented among our 24,000 students.

The University's physical environment has changed dramatically in recent years with the construction of the Keyworth Centre and now of K2. This RIBA Award-nominated building, designed by Grimshaw Architects, creates a landmark and focal point at the heart of the Southwark campus and provides state-of-the-art facilities for both students and staff.



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Our Estates Strategy aims to continue this work. Further developments on campus will run side by side with the wider regeneration of the Elephant and Castle area. Initial schemes will focus on improving the student experience and include a new Student Centre, which will bring together student-facing non-academic support services as well as Student Union functions. A new Enterprise Centre will provide support for new and developing businesses. There are also plans for dramatic improvements to the public realm. These developments form part of a phased approach to realising our overall vision for the Southwark campus.

The changes also reflect our ongoing commitment to being a centre of excellence for education, innovation and enterprise. Our corporate plan for 2009-2012 shows how we aim to deliver this commitment and sets out our vision: 'to be the most admired university in the UK for creating professional opportunity, and thus a source of pride for our students, our staff and the communities we serve'. We hope that everyone associated with the University will join us in turning that vision into reality.



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1 K2 building, c.2010
2 Keyworth building, c.2003
3 Illustration of the vision for the Southwark Campus, c.2010



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