

Study Abroad Report
University College London Summer School “Sustainable Cities and Societies”
6/30-7/18, 2025
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I am deeply grateful to the Tazaki Foundation for sponsoring me and enabling me to have an invaluable experience studying at University College London (UCL). My experience at UCL has given me valuable perspectives that I believe will support my future academic and professional goals—particularly in using computer-based modeling and engaging in collaborative work.

Among a number of summer courses at UCL, I took part in “Sustainable Cities and Societies,” a course designed to address the urgent global challenge of urbanization by utilizing computer simulation. The program provided hands-on experience using open-access data and modelling tools, as well as two field studies in Liverpool and Hackney. I decided on this course in an aim to gain fundamental modelling skills for my academic development, and to explore in more detail the urban energy policies. The course was taught by a researcher at UCL Energy Institute, who has extensive experiences developing urban building energy modelling tools for exploring the links between energy demand reduction, policy making, health, and wellbeing.

During my time in London, I was able to learn about the challenges faced by buildings in the UK, both in and outside the classroom. In class, students were introduced with the problems of UK buildings in terms of poor insulation, energy efficiency, and complexities of policy making. Students also explored how building performance affects health, especially under the pressures of the changing climate. This global issue is relevant not only in the UK, but also in other countries such as Peru. Outside of class, I paid close attention to the thermal comfort and structure of buildings. In mid-June, Europe was struck by a severe heat wave, which also impacted the UK. Like many other people in London, I experienced uncomfortable indoor heat in residential buildings, since many residential buildings are not equipped with cooling systems. As a solution, my team investigated the potential benefit of adding insulation to UK buildings with low Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings.

I am confident that the skills and insights I gained in UCL summer school will benefit me in my future academic and professional pursuits, especially when I do modeling by using computer software and work collaboratively in teams. The three weeks in London has changed the way I understand buildings and urban design.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the Tazaki Foundation for the generous support.

