# UEL ramps up employer‑linked training and targeted bursaries to boost graduate outcomes



The University of East London presents itself as an institution with employability at its core, linking academic study closely to workplace experience. According to the original profile, UEL has formed partnerships with more than 2,500 employers to embed industry-facing learning across many of its programmes, and the university’s own communications emphasise a practice‑based approach that starts from day one. That employer network underpins work placements, live projects and built‑for‑purpose facilities intended to smooth students’ transition into paid work.

Those links are delivered through a range of targeted interventions. The university’s Funded Internship Scheme — which won a NEON award in recognition of its work to widen access — offers paid, flexible placements aimed at students from under‑represented backgrounds and combines wrap‑around employability support with mentoring and realistic recruitment processes. UEL also runs a formal Professional Mentoring Programme, pairing students one‑to‑one with industry professionals for short, intensive placements and panels designed to build confidence and sector insight. According to the university, these programmes raise completion and retention rates and improve graduate prospects for participants.

Student wellbeing and academic support are presented as central to UEL’s model, a necessary stance for one of the most diverse intakes in UK higher education. The university was among the first five institutions to gain the Student Minds University Mental Health Charter Award in 2022, and the guide records an extensive support offer — academic advisers for every student, trained staff able to identify distress, a pool of counsellors and therapists and digital tools that signpost services, including a Track My Future app and 24/7 assistance via Spectrum.Life. “We take a proactive approach to supporting our students,” the university told the guide, adding that careers, sport and social activity are all designed “through a wellbeing lens.”

Financial support is substantial and targeted. University figures cited in the profile show more than one in four students received some form of financial help in 2023–24, with £2.6m distributed in bursaries and scholarships and almost £1m allocated to hardship support. The hardship bursary has a maximum payment of £3,000 and the university says 1,271 awards were made in 2023–24 at an average of around £776; engagement and progression bursaries — which can also reach £3,000 — are used to cover childcare, commuting and equipment costs. UEL’s published undergraduate funding pages flesh out this offer and signpost additional targeted support such as a Young Independent Student Bursary and short‑course support.

Campus investment is a conspicuous part of UEL’s strategy to align learning with industry needs. The waterside Royal Docks campus and a Stratford presence host a range of subject areas, and the university’s Vision 2028 masterplan commits multimillion‑pound funding to refurbishments and new facilities. Phase two of the Hospital and Primary Care Training Hub — due for completion in time for the September 2025 intake, according to the university — will add virtual‑reality simulation rooms, TEAL (tech‑enhanced active learning) spaces, an operating theatre suite and mock wards intended to support multi‑professional health education and community engagement.

That investment is accompanied by curricular growth in health disciplines. The guide notes a new BSc paramedic science degree is planned for September 2026, and the university says it is awaiting Nursing and Midwifery Council approval for three new nursing programmes in adult, children’s and mental health nursing, including a registered nurse degree apprenticeship route. The health campus strategy is explicitly presented as an instrument to address local health inequalities by combining education, research and community services.

Practical student life details are also prominent: on‑campus accommodation has been recently refurbished and the docklands halls provide around 1,160 places, with published rents ranging from about £6,675 for a 38‑week standard West Halls room to £8,811 for an East Halls studio. The university’s accommodation information sets out tenancy dates, deposits and room‑type breakdowns for applicants planning to live on campus.

The picture UEL paints is one of clear strengths — close employer links, targeted internships and mentoring, significant student support and an active campus renewal — but not without challenges. The guide acknowledges that, while graduate salaries are comparatively high, the proportion of graduates in high‑skilled employment has room for improvement. UEL’s Careers Guarantee frames that shortfall as a priority and points to measurable outcomes from employer projects, placements and an embedded employability curriculum; independent data such as the National Student Survey results are cited as having recently improved the university’s standing and reflecting strong student satisfaction with teaching and support. Readers should note these claims come from the university and institutional reporting; they indicate progress but also signal areas where further external validation and longer‑term outcome data will be important.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/uel-careers-guarantee)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/about-uel/news/2023/may/uel-awarded-internship-scheme), [[4]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/your-career/mentoring), [[2]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/uel-careers-guarantee)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/scholarships-bursaries/undergraduate-scholarships-bursaries)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/location/connected-campus)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/location/connected-campus)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/study/accommodation/room-types-prices)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/uel-careers-guarantee), [[3]](https://www.uel.ac.uk/about-uel/news/2023/may/uel-awarded-internship-scheme)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914729/University-East-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.uel.ac.uk/uel-careers-guarantee> - The UEL Careers Guarantee page outlines the university’s commitment to embed employability from day one through five core pillars that provide industry experience, skills development and employer connections. It explains UEL’s practice-based learning approach, live employer projects and built-for-purpose facilities that support students’ transition to work. The page highlights partnerships with employers and states the university works with over 2,500 businesses to provide placements, projects and other work-based learning. It also emphasises measurable outcomes, industry alignment across curricula, and the role of careers services in helping students gain real-world experience while studying.
3. <https://www.uel.ac.uk/about-uel/news/2023/may/uel-awarded-internship-scheme> - This UEL news release reports that the university won the NEON award for its Funded Internship Scheme, recognising work to widen access and progression. The item explains the scheme targets under‑represented students and provides paid, flexible internships both within the university and with external partners. It gives impact data from the programme, including high completion and confidence rates, improvements in retention and stronger graduate outcomes for participants, and explains the scheme includes wrap‑around employability support, mentoring and a recruitment process designed to mirror real jobs, thereby reducing barriers to graduate‑level careers.
4. <https://www.uel.ac.uk/your-career/mentoring> - The UEL mentoring information page describes ‘Mentoring for All’, the university’s structured mentoring offer that gives students access to industry professionals. It sets out the Professional Mentoring Programme — an eight‑week, one‑to‑one placement matching students with experienced professionals — and details mentoring panels and events. The page notes the scale of UEL’s provision (thousands of students mentored historically) and lists partner organisations and sectors supplying mentors, including health services, media and professional firms. It underlines the scheme’s aims of improving employability, confidence and real‑world insight for students across disciplines.
5. <https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/location/connected-campus> - The Connected Campus section explains UEL’s multimillion‑pound investment to transform its campuses under the Vision 2028 strategy. It summarises the Stratford Health Campus masterplan and refurbishment plans, including the Hospital and Primary Care Training Hub (phase two) due for completion in 2025 and equipped with virtual‑reality simulation rooms, TEAL (tech‑enhanced active learning) zones, an operating theatre suite and expanded teaching spaces. The page sets out timelines for enabling works and construction phases, emphasises community engagement and sustainability goals, and positions the development as a hub for multi‑professional health education and research in East London.
6. <https://www.uel.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/scholarships-bursaries/undergraduate-scholarships-bursaries> - This UEL page lists undergraduate scholarships and bursaries available to students, describing eligibility and award levels. It details the Hardship Bursary (up to £3,000) for students facing financial difficulty and the Engagement and Progression bursaries (each with awards up to £3,000) to support childcare, travel, equipment and employability costs. The page also references targeted funds such as the Young Independent Student Bursary and short‑course support, and signposts further advice from the Student Money Advice and Rights Team, explaining how students can apply and access payment systems for allocated bursaries.
7. <https://www.uel.ac.uk/study/accommodation/room-types-prices> - The UEL accommodation page provides detailed room types, numbers and published rents for Docklands (East and West Halls) student residences. It lists full academic‑year tenancy dates and total rents, showing West standard rooms at a total rent of £6,675 for the 38‑week academic year and East studios at £8,811, together with nightly and weekly breakdowns. The page explains deposits and advance payments, provides a room‑type breakdown with quantities per hall, and gives practical booking and policy information for students planning on-campus living.