# City St George’s merger aims to scale NHS training and widen London access — but delivery will be tested over coming cycles



The formal union of City, University of London and St George’s, University of London — completed on 1 August 2024 — has produced an institution that its backers say will reshape parts of London higher education. According to the original report, the combined City St George’s, University of London now presents as one of the capital’s largest suppliers of healthcare professionals while retaining City’s longstanding profile in business, law and the professions. The merger is being rolled out as an integrated operation across Clerkenwell, Moorgate and Tooting campuses.

The merged university’s own announcement describes a deliberate effort to create an integrated School of Health & Medical Sciences that brings together City’s health provision and St George’s medical expertise. Led by Professor Sir Anthony Finkelstein, the university positions the move as both a scaling up of clinical training and a contribution to NHS workforce supply; full brand and operational integration were scheduled to be phased across 2024–2025. Those claims come from the institution itself and should be viewed as its strategic framing of the merger.

Early signs suggest the consolidation arrived at a time of rising demand: applications and admissions to the predecessor institutions were reported as up — by 9% and 16% respectively for courses starting in September 2024 — and the merged intake remains heavily London‑based and ethnically diverse. The Daily Mail noted that almost four in five UK entrants were recruited from the capital and that nearly two‑thirds of the intake were of Asian or Black heritage. The new university has also been given a boost in rankings of social mobility, placing in the English top ten and, according to a university news item, reported as the top university for social mobility in London in the 2024 index compiled by London South Bank University.

Student finances and emergency support form a notable strand of the merged offer. The original overview highlighted that City’s hardship fund paid out more than £500,000 in 2023–24 to 322 students, with non‑repayable grants intended to cover travel, accommodation, childcare, course materials and living costs. The university’s own guidance sets out the discretionary nature of this support: grants are not designed to cover tuition or visa fees, maximum awards are indicated at up to £1,500 and rise to £2,500 for defined priority groups, and short‑term loans of up to £500 may also be available. The university frames these measures as helping students continue and successfully complete their studies.

Accommodation remains a practical — and costly — consideration for many students. The merged institution’s accommodation listings show roughly 1,000 hall places close to Clerkenwell and Tooting; advertised weekly rates for 2024/25 include Romano Court at around £220 per week (39‑week contracts) and Garden Halls standard superior rooms at about £293 per week for a 40‑week contract, while Tooting campus halls published weekly rates for 2025/26 at approximately £206–£228 per week (calculated to a 42‑week year). The Daily Mail’s overview converted these figures into typical contract totals — for example, a 42‑week contract at Tooting was cited at £8,652 — and emphasised the spread of costs between sites. The university’s accommodation pages provide the detailed contract lengths, what rent covers and payment guidance prospective students should consult when budgeting.

Academically, the merged university is extending vocational and professionally focused provision. The institution has introduced new degree programmes intended to align with career pathways: a BSc in mathematics and business is due to begin teaching in September 2025, and new combined law and criminology degrees (including a proposed LLB Law and Criminology) are seeking recruits for a September 2026 start, subject to approval. The City Law School and the School of Policy and Global Affairs will jointly deliver the law and criminology pathway, which the university says will combine core legal foundations with criminology modules, practical mooting and placement opportunities to prepare students for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination and careers across criminal justice, policy and advocacy. The merged university has also signalled plans to expand degree‑apprenticeship provision by around 50% with named programmes in areas such as aviation management, computer science and advanced clinical practice.

Alongside course expansion, the university is investing in student wellbeing and facilities. The Rob Lowe Sports Centre on the Tooting campus has been transferred to students’ union operation following refurbishment, and a new support hub at Tooting is scheduled to open for the 2025–26 academic year to mirror a Clerkenwell hub opened in September 2024. The university describes its student support teams as split into engagement, mental health, counselling and disability/neurodiversity strands, offering drop‑ins, first‑contact conversations and tailored adjustments for students with longer‑term needs. These developments are presented as part of an effort to combine clinical training capacity with the pastoral resources expected of a major metropolitan university.

The merger arrives against a wider backdrop of consolidation in UK higher education. The university and independent commentators alike have framed the alliance as the first of several likely moves as institutions seek scale, specialist capacity and closer ties to public services such as the NHS. That prospect brings both opportunity and complexity: blending distinct institutional cultures, aligning professional accreditation pathways and delivering the promised increases in apprentice and clinical training places will be operational challenges that the university must manage during the phased integration. The timetable published by the institution sets out the initial brand and structural roll‑out through 2024–2025, but many practical details will continue to emerge as new courses recruit and campuses harmonise policies.

For applicants, employers and healthcare planners, City St George’s is now a test case in whether merger can quickly translate into greater capacity and social impact. The university emphasises its role in widening access and producing graduates for key sectors; independent measures such as the English Social Mobility Index and admissions statistics show a diversified student body and improving access. Observers should note that many of the benefits claimed are linked to ongoing plans and phased changes, so the coming academic cycles will be the clearest indicator of whether the merged institution fulfils the ambitions set out by its leaders.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914739/City-St-Georges-University-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2024/august/city-university-of-london-and-st-georges-university-of-london-merge)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2024/august/city-university-of-london-and-st-georges-university-of-london-merge), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914739/City-St-Georges-University-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/university-guide/article-14914739/City-St-Georges-University-London.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2024/august/city-university-of-london-and-st-georges-university-of-london-merge> - City St George’s, University of London announced the formal merger of City, University of London and St George’s, University of London on 1 August 2024. The release explains the combined institution will operate across Clerkenwell, Moorgate and Tooting campuses and form an integrated School of Health & Medical Sciences, bringing together City’s health and St George’s medical expertise. Led by Professor Sir Anthony Finkelstein, the merged university is described as one of the largest higher education destinations for London students and a significant supplier of healthcare professionals for the NHS. Full integration and brand rollout are scheduled over 2024–2025 phase.
3. <https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/prospective-students/finance/funding/hardship-fund> - The City Hardship Fund page describes discretionary financial assistance for students facing acute hardship, covering travel, accommodation, childcare, course materials and living costs. Grants do not cover tuition or visa fees. Maximum non‑repayable grants are up to £1,500, rising to £2,500 for priority groups such as care leavers, carers, estranged students, those with disabilities or dependent children; short-term loans up to £500 may be available. Eligibility criteria, application procedures and required supporting evidence are explained, and priority categories and assessment timelines are set out. The page emphasises the fund’s role in supporting continuation and successful completion of studies for students.
4. <https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/prospective-students/accommodation/paying-for-halls> - The university accommodation pages list about 1,000 student places across halls close to the Clerkenwell and Tooting campuses and provide detailed weekly rates and contract lengths. Romano Court cluster flats are shown at £220 per week for 2024/25 and an increased £240.50 per week for 2025/26 (39-week contracts), while the Garden Halls list standard superior rooms at £293.23 per week for 2024/25 (40 weeks). Information includes what rent covers, contract start and end dates, booking procedures, and distinctions between undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The pages help students budget by giving total contract costs and payment guidance and cancellation policy details.
5. <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/life-at-st-georges/accommodation/fees> - The St George’s accommodation fees page sets weekly charges for halls on the Tooting campus and explains contract lengths and payment arrangements. For 2025/26 the standard single weekly rate is listed as £206 and premium rooms at £228 per week; the university recommends budgeting for a 42‑week academic year in calculations. The page describes what is included in fees, deposit requirements, payment methods and guidance for international students using TransferMate. It also confirms first‑year guarantee arrangements, priority for Horton Halls, and directs students to application procedures, invoices and the Accounts Receivable team for queries about payments and further contact details.
6. <https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/prospective-students/courses/undergraduate/law-and-criminology> - The LLB Law and Criminology course page outlines a proposed undergraduate degree for September 2026 entry, subject to approval. It describes a three‑year programme combining core legal foundations with criminology modules and practical skills, including mooting, placements and a social action research project. The degree is delivered by The City Law School and the School of Policy and Global Affairs, preparing students for legal careers, the SQE and roles within criminal justice, policy or advocacy. Entry requirements, fee guidance for 2026/27, assessment methods and facilities such as a new Law School building with mock courtroom are described for applicants interested.
7. <https://www.city.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2024/december/social-mobility-england> - The university’s news article summarises City St George’s placement in the English Social Mobility Index, compiled by London South Bank University. It reports that the merged institution ranked in the English top ten and was the top university for social mobility in London, coming ninth overall in the 2024 index. The piece explains the Index measures access, continuation and graduate outcomes to assess how well institutions improve students’ life chances, and highlights City St George’s work on widening participation, scholarships and support services such as City Cares. The article quotes senior staff and stresses commitment to transforming lives through education.