

A photograph of a modern, multi-story yellow brick building with large windows, situated on a grassy hill. A paved walkway leads up the hill, with several people walking. The scene is framed by large, leafy trees in the foreground, casting shadows on the grass. The sky is clear and blue.

Southlands College

Finding your place

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Southlands College is the only university college in Britain with a thriving connection to its Methodist Church origins. With the help of this guide, we welcome all who come to use our buildings and facilities. Whether you are living, working or visiting here, we trust that you will appreciate our distinctive heritage. From the sense of community to the design of the buildings themselves, our founding values have deep roots, and continue to enrich our college life.





Access all areas: the entrance approach welcomes visitors to the Queen's Building, and on the left into the quad

Southlands College

Whether you are visiting, studying, working or coming to live at Southlands College, we welcome you warmly and hope you will enjoy your time here. This guide will help you find your way through our buildings, and appreciate our unique and inspiring heritage.

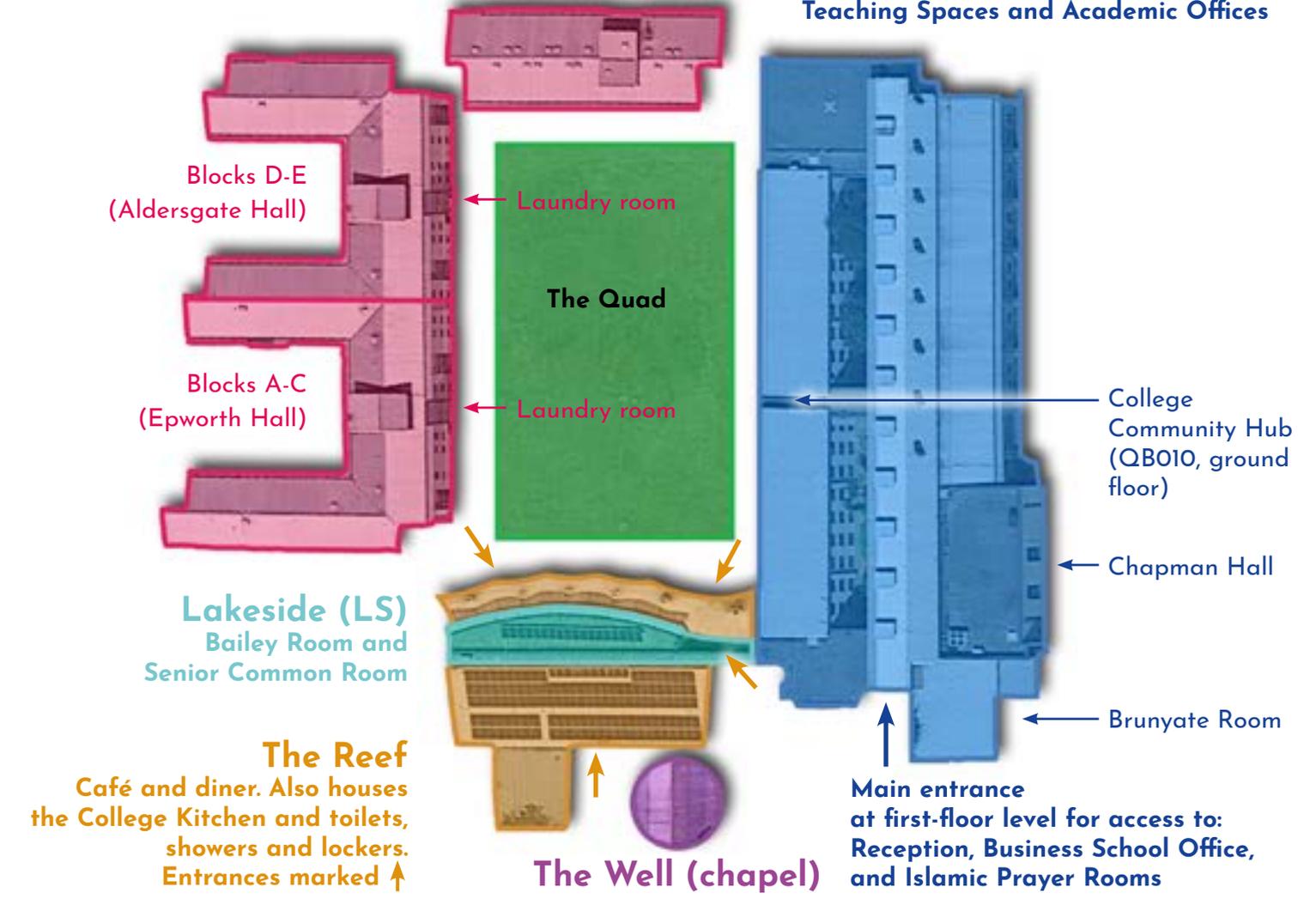
Southlands College was founded in 1872 as a teacher training college, and moved to its current site in Roehampton in 1997. Our values and vision have helped to shape the very fabric of the buildings you see today, making real our commitment to providing a thriving and dynamic learning environment for all.

The college has been designed to offer an open and welcoming place, the buildings placed around a large quadrangle of grass lawn where everyone is invited to sit, meet, talk, read or play. Around this quad lie the four main buildings of the Southlands complex: two accommodation blocks, the Reef dining and café area, and the offices and lecture rooms of the Queen's Building. There is also a Methodist chapel at the front of the complex, an attractive circular structure that serves as a gentle reminder of the faith foundations that shape the fabric of our college.

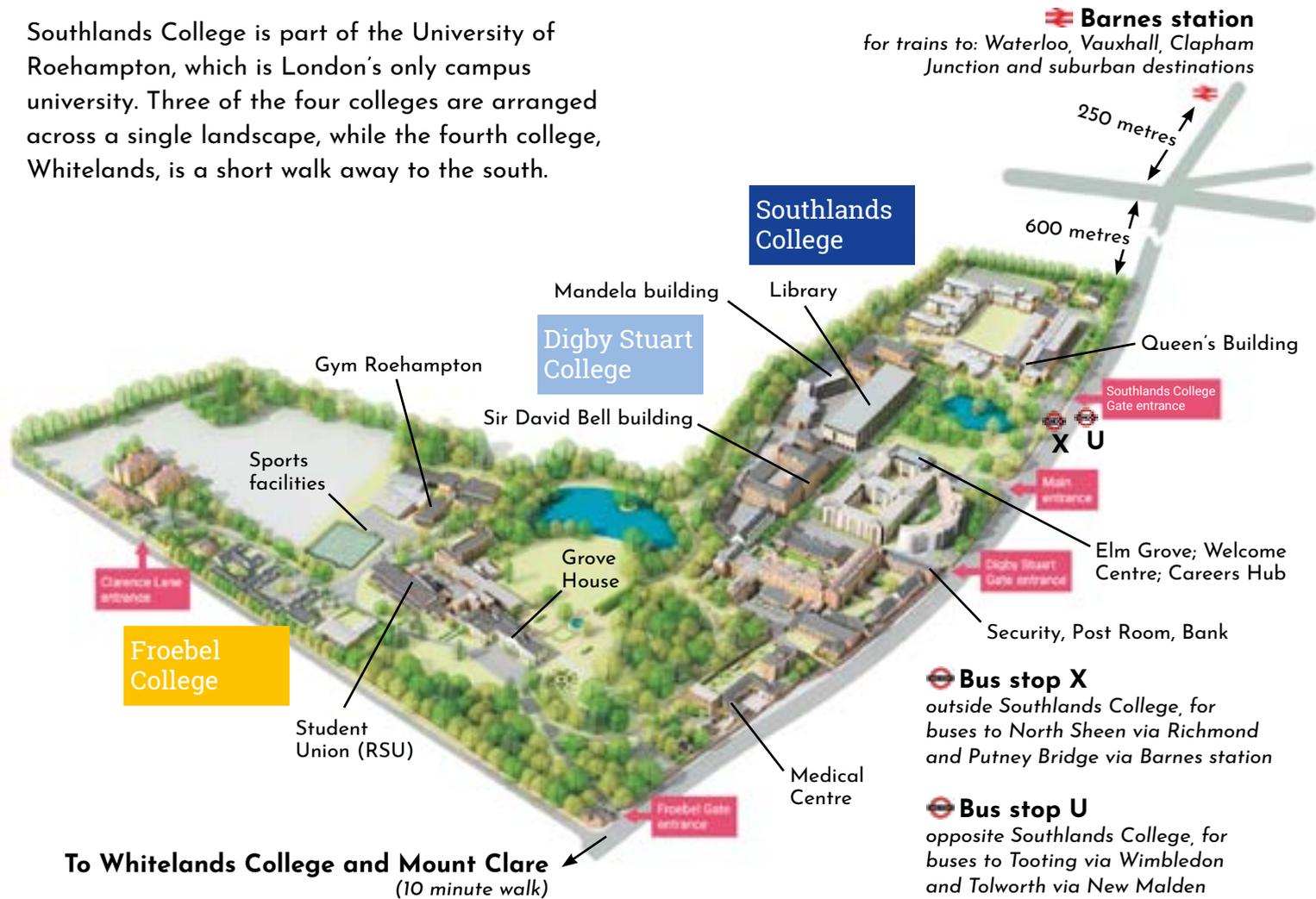
Our founding tradition as part of the Methodist Church gives us confidence that all who come will be able to find their place. We put great emphasis on daily life, a communal spirit that is found in corridors and on lawns, in chance encounters and in everyday relationships. We trust that your time here is true to our founding principles, open and welcoming to all, with a sense of service at our heart.



Accommodation blocks



Southlands College is part of the University of Roehampton, which is London's only campus university. Three of the four colleges are arranged across a single landscape, while the fourth college, Whitelands, is a short walk away to the south.



Practical information

Getting here and getting away

The college is well served by local buses, while the nearest railway station is just under 1km away, at Barnes station, a short walk or bus ride. In addition, during term time the university offers a free bus service for students and staff. Journey planning, timetables and route options including cycling can be found online at the tfl.gov.uk website.

Food and drink

At Southlands there is a café and dining room in the Reef building, with a large seating area looking over the quad. Both outlets are always open during term time and at certain times during the holidays. The Reef building also houses the communal College Kitchen for students. Outside term time, catering information will be displayed on noticeboards and on the Reef doors about opening hours for other facilities across the whole university. There are cafés, dining rooms and vending machines in all four colleges, and a large café in the central library which is open year round. For evening drinks the Student Union bar in Froebel College is open to all.

Sports and leisure

The college quad is used for a range of events and games throughout the year, and is always available for small games and activities. Table tennis is available indoors and out. For larger team sports the university offers a range of pitches, studios, courts and a well-equipped gym, most of which are found near Froebel College.

The central quad

At the heart of Southlands College is an open space: a place for people to meet, to grow, to learn and to feel welcome from the moment they step into our college buildings. The complex has been designed and built to create a positive working and living environment for all who come to spend time with us.

Our buildings are modern but in some ways reflect the best of traditional university architecture, with a grassy quad or courtyard in the middle designed to create a peaceful centre of learning and living. Yet there is one important difference that reflects our welcome to the outside world: all four corners of our quad have been left open, a modern variation on the enclosed space of traditional colleges. We are an inclusive community built in a way that articulates our care for the world beyond our walls.

The grassy lawn is there to be sat on, used and played on. Numerous student activities take place outside here, including sports events, informal gatherings, celebrations of festivals and the marking of anniversaries.

The lawns of Southlands can be seen as you approach the entrance or move around the buildings themselves. It is a statement that stays true to the college's founding Methodist vision of a place of welcome for all, a place of meeting and of connection.



The college is built around a traditional university central quad, opened out to the modern world

The awnings over the Reef dining area form a distinctive backdrop to activities in the college quad. Pictured is a carol service involving staff, students and children from the local community.



The Reef café and dining hall

All of our buildings have been designed to maximise opportunities for meeting, sharing and thriving within our community. This is certainly true of our café and dining area. Known as the Reef, its tent-style roof and views out over the central lawn make the most of the open space at the heart of our college. The Reef houses a café and a restaurant which are open during term time, while vending machines offer out-of-hours provision. Alongside is a large seating area that runs right across the glass front of the building, a popular space whether you want to sit quietly alone with book or phone, or gather and meet with friends and colleagues. The building also houses a communal kitchen for students, with fridges, microwaves and filtered water. There are also shower and locker facilities available.

These facilities were deliberately set slightly apart from the other buildings, designed to mark a pause from work or rest. As you walk from the Queen's Building or accommodation blocks, you will have to step into open air for a few moments, a refreshing way to start your break. The distinctive tent-like awnings along the front of the Reef in part reflect this al fresco feeling, the canopy also sheltering the short path to the Queen's Building.

Sun, wind or rain there is no harm in feeling the elements, although dry weather certainly helps when taking food and drink outside to enjoy on the quad lawn. The Reef is the social space of the college, and students often gather here at the start of an evening out. For evening socialising over a drink there is the Students Union bar, open to everyone, beside the Froebel College dining room about 7 minutes' walk away.

The Queen's Building

A clean-cut, modern style of architecture was chosen for Southlands College, the neutral colour palette of natural yellow brick and white render designed to create a harmonious feel across all of the buildings. Indeed this open simplicity has been designed to extend inside the buildings as well, using the same colours to maintain a consistent and unified sense of place.

As you approach the Queen's Building the doors automatically open for you, a way of welcoming all to Southlands. Ahead of you is a long corridor that has been nicknamed 'The Street', carefully designed with natural light on the left, and a window at the far end. It is not uncommon to see students gathering here around lectures and exams, an elongated meeting space.

There are also two small courtyard gardens set within the Queen's Building, bringing natural light and that same sense of open space into the heart of the building, just as the grass quad does to the college as a whole.

This is the working heart of the college, with lecture and teaching rooms, academic and management staff offices and a purpose-built concert space called the Chapman Hall. Full details of these and other facilities are found on the following pages. The building is also home to the Muslim prayer rooms, a reminder of the ongoing role that faith plays in the foundation of our college.





A place for study, work and creativity

Southlands is built around the needs of all who come to study, work and meet at our college, with rooms and facilities in the Queen's Building to enable you to achieve to the best of your abilities. Creativity is a vital part of any flourishing community, and remains a deep-seated part of our approach to learning and living together.

The college is home to the university's Business School, which has offices on the first and second floors of the Queen's Building. In general most of the rooms on the western side of the building, facing the quad, are used for staff offices, while lecture rooms and other common meeting and study spaces for students are found on the eastern side.

Southlands is particularly proud of its musical heritage, a reflection of the rich legacy of hymns and songs found in its origins as part of the Methodist Church. There are dedicated practice and performance rooms for musicians, including the purpose-built concert space of the Chapman Hall. On a quieter note, the Queen's Building also offers silent study rooms, and has seating areas in the common spaces to enable further communal study. The second floor also has an esports arena, used by members of the student Esports Society in a purpose-built suite of computing and gaming rooms.

If you need help finding your way around, the reception is located by the main entrance on the first floor. The first digit in each room number indicates which of the three floors you need, 0 for ground level, 1 for the main entrance level, and 2 for the top floor. We are here to help you find your place in every sense of the word.



The accommodation at Southlands is divided into groups of flats arranged across eight blocks

Living in college

The college is home to more than 250 students, some staying for a term and others for the whole of their degree course. The accommodation has been designed from the ground up to give people a place at the centre of our college life, and to make people feel at home and valued as part of the community.

The names on the accommodation blocks are linked to some important points of Methodist heritage, the most obvious being Wesley Hall, named after the founder of Methodism John Wesley. More commonly however these blocks are known by the large letters that stand prominently on the front.

It was decided to divide the accommodation building into a number of small flats, from four to eight bedrooms with a communal kitchen and seating area. This was a carefully considered decision that aims to encourage smaller groups of people to get to know each other during the course of their residency. By avoiding long, anonymous corridors in favour of shared space the design seeks to nurture the best aspects of communal living. It is an atmosphere further enhanced by the presence of flat reps and College Wardens, who offer welcome, support and guidance to students finding their way. College Wardens are also on hand to provide out-of-hours emergency care.

There are three halls in total:

Epworth Hall (A, B and C) 121 rooms

Aldersgate Hall (D and E) 92 standard, 4 accessible rooms

Wesley Hall (F and G) 66 rooms

Places for faith and community

Southlands is a college for everyone, and has been since it first opened its doors at Roehampton. Its Methodist origins run deep, but it may be that the most prominent Methodists you meet these days will be part of the chaplaincy team. They and the chapel, also known as The Well, are there for everyone, another piece in the busy life of Southlands College.

Standing apart, yet visible to all as you approach the college, The Well is an attractive circular brick building that houses a warm and flexible worship space with comfortable sofas and a smaller quiet room, both looking into a courtyard garden which is a favourite spot for some of the campus wildlife. It is a place that honours the faith tradition of the college without taking centre stage, a quiet space you are most welcome to enter.

The Chaplaincy and Southlands as a whole welcome people of all faiths and none. Both a Methodist and Muslim Chaplain sit within the College Team and within a wider interfaith chaplaincy team available to all students and staff. We provide two designated prayer rooms for Muslim students, on the ground floor of the Queen's Building, and there are other faith spaces available across campus. Our faith origins are present and are respected but are discreet; the chaplains are there if you choose to interact in any way and otherwise form part of the support network and community.

The Well offers a protected quiet space, a place of creativity and rest that is open to all. Here you will find opportunities to celebrate the arts through music and other creative activities as well as Methodism's trademark hospitality with tea and coffee available.



The Methodist chapel building stands separately from busy college life, but in view of the entrance



The view across the central quad to Southlands College's accommodation blocks, with the Reef café building on the left



Southlands College

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roehampton.ac.uk/Colleges/Southlands-College

 [SouthlandsCollegeUR](https://www.facebook.com/SouthlandsCollegeUR)

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