

Royal Holloway University of London

Website	http://rhulfencing.org/		
Facebook and Twitter	https://www.facebook.com/groups/2425469073/ https://twitter.com/RoyalBlades		
Contact email address(es)	Club Captain: rhulfencing@gmail.com (club email address) Coach: hermandupreez@msn.com		
Size of fencing club	72 paid members academic year 2012-2013		
Cost to Join (Athletic Union and fencing club fees where appropriate)	£10 (required to join any clubs/socs at RHUL) Then £80 for two terms of sessions – around 11 sessions per term. An early bird discount of £10 was offered to those who paid their membership in the first week of term		
Venue details (where/size/quality/storage for personal kit)	<p>Half a sports hall (two badminton courts) on campus this academic year for training. Next academic year we have finally been promised more space. Storage area was far too small. In previous years masks were being stored in a metal shipping container when not in use which caused them to rust and have to be thrown out.</p> <p>Overall, storage this academic year was poor and not large enough. This should be changed by next year with any luck</p>		
Coach(es)	Herman Du Preez		
Additional coaching costs	N/A		
Details of beginners courses (cost/coaches)	The coach teaches the class (usually about 35-40 per night) a series of movements and then goes round helping individuals.		
Club night information (number of pistes/footwork/free fencing etc.)	2 hours of training a week. The is split between warm up, around 45mins of drills and bladework and around 45mins of free fencing during which 2 pistes are usually set up.		
Composition of club (experienced fencers/any weapon speciality etc)	<p>The majority of our members have not fenced before starting university. Each year only around 3-5 experienced fencers enter the club. We offer all weapons to all students if they want to learn a particular one other than the foil which is the main club weapon.</p> <p>The experienced fencers make up the majority of the teams. We also have Acland Byrant ranked 9th in foil at our uni although he only attends the BUCS individuals on behalf of the fencing club.</p>		
Does the club run out of term time?	No.		
Club equipment to use for training and competitions?	Members of the club are allowed to borrow equipment to use at various competitions.		
Teams entered into BUCS, which leagues and finishing positions for last year	Team	League	Final Position 12-13
	Men's	South Eastern 2A	4 th /8
	Women's	South Eastern 1A	3 rd /6
Do you send fencers to the BUCS individuals, does the AU pay for transport and entry fees?	The club was allowed to send 6 fencers per weapon to the BUCS individuals. The SU paid for all travel costs, entry fees and hotels.		
Do club members attend open competitions?	On occasion. The Slough open is relatively close to our university and at a quiet time of the year.		
Do you have other regular matches? Friendlies, local leagues etc.	No.		
What about social events? After training, dinners, parties etc.	After every training session club around 15-20 club members will go to the pub. There are also alcoholic and non-alcoholic socials throughout the year. The Christmas meal and Colours Ball at both black tie events the club runs/attends.		

Can elite fencers get sports grants, scholarships or other help from the University? Please give details of where from and how much.	All information here: http://www.rhul.ac.uk/studyhere/undergraduate/feesandfunding/bursariesandscholarships/allstudents/stars.aspx		
Hall of Fame – list some fencers who are currently at your university or who are recent alumni.	Acland Byrant – current student Tom Bennett		
What is the best thing about your university fencing club?	Having the chance to play a wonderful sport with people who can easily be your friends, all under the tutorship of a wonderful coach.		
What is the worst thing about your university fencing club?	<p>The lack of respect that fencing has compared to the majority of other sports. Big team sports get far more budget than the fencing club. This academic year our budget was £400. American football for example had £6000!!</p> <p>Before my arrival at Royal Holloway the club had <20 members and the state of the kit was a shambles. However, since I have joined the fencing committee I have ensured a number of changes to the Fencing Club such as: We have doubled the space we have been given for storage of club kit. Next academic year the club will have an extra training session. A second Men's team will be recruited to play friendlies with local clubs for a year before being entered into the BUCS league.</p>		
Anything else we should know?	Fencing needs to somehow become a bigger sport within the UK. If this happened then our clubs would thrive more.		
Any advice for prospective applicants	The RHUL fencing club has flourished over the past few years. There is a mix of both experienced and non-experienced members within the club so no matter your skill level you will find it easy to fit in. The large number of socials we run as a club help us grow closer together and make new friends. The fencing club for me is one of the best things of my student life at Royal Holloway.		
If there are local clubs that university fencers sometimes attend then please list the following information for each:	Egham Fencing Club		
Cost to join	£5 per night for students		
Venue details (where/size/quality/storage for personal kit)	About 4 badminton courts of space. Your own kit is useful but there is SOME kit for you to borrow on the night.		
Coach(es)	Herman Du Preez Mick Johnson		
Additional coaching costs	-		
Details of beginners courses (cost/coaches)	Beginner courses in September and January		
Club night information (number of pistes/footwork/free fencing etc)	Friday, Some footwork available. Then around two hours of free fencing.		
Composition of club (experienced fencers/any weapon speciality etc)	Wide mix.		
Club equipment to use for training and competitions?			

Does the club have any teams and if so what leagues/events do they compete in?	The club has regular friendlies with other local clubs.		
Do club members attend opens competitions?	A few select members attend open comps.		
Any other information?			