The program offers four Vassar credits:

- A seminar taught by the Vassar Faculty resident director.
- An independent project that engages an aspect of London media as an object of study and source of inspiration.
- A Goldsmiths Media and Communications course that students can select from more than two dozen offerings.
- An elective Goldsmiths course; students may choose from courses including Anthropology, Computing, Drama, Education Studies, Economics, English and Comparative Literature, History, Languages, Music, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, or Visual Cultures.

The Goldsmiths Media Centre

STUDY AT GOLDSMITHS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Spring 2017

Ranked the top University of London campus in Media and Communications, Music, and Visual Arts, Goldsmiths is also among the most respected UK colleges in Anthropology, Cinema Studies, Cultural Studies, Drama, Economics, History, Literary Studies, Political Theory, Psychology, and Sociology.

The Vassar London Program balances immersion in a dynamic and expansive global city with the familiarity that a small program and resident Faculty Director can provide: a sense of community, a source of personal as well as pedagogical support. David Kennett (Economics and International Studies) will be resident director in the Spring of 2017.

Students live in Goldsmiths dormitories on the New Cross campus, in South East London, with easy access by both Underground and Overground to all parts of the city. Travel cards are provided by the Program. They have all benefits available to Goldsmiths students (research centers, computer labs, clubs, athletic teams, trips around the UK and Europe, counseling and health care) and will be members of the Students’ Union, library, and fitness facilities at Goldsmiths and all other University of London campuses.
London Program Seminar
London: Media Capital
David Kennett, Resident Director, Spring 2017

London is a dynamic city. Its population grows by a steady 1% per year. What catches the eye, and ear, is the pace of change, the influx of immigrants, the plethora of language and sounds in the streets and the number of cranes constantly altering the skyline. Stripped of its functions as a manufacturing center and port, much of this dynamism originates in the sphere of media where London excels. This course examines some aspects of London’s media landscape in the company of some leading practitioners*; this interaction may well provide the basis for the student’s independent study. Topics include:

The Press: Fleet St. to Wapping. The British press has been transformed in three ways: it has been physically moved from its heartland of Fleet Street, it is stressed and challenged by electronic and other new media and its ethical responsibilities are under attack. Discussion with Steven Quinn, Managing Editor of Vogue and GQ, Jessica Carson Director of Editorial Communications, The London Times, Catherine Mayer, Editor at Large at Time International and Kimberly Solomon Quinn, VC ‘83, author, journalist and former publisher of The Spectator

Radio and Television. The BBC was founded with the pervasive vision of John Reith, its first director of a medium free from both commercial pressures and free from government intervention. Over time both have inserted themselves on these Reithian ideals. We will visit the historic Broadcasting Centre in Portland Place and then discuss the issues with Patrick Loughery, now Warden of Goldsmiths, and a former senior BBC executive, Warren Nettleford, Channel 5 TVb, Jonathan Lewsley, Development Editor BBC Independent Drama.

Movies and Film-making. We will visit the British Film Institute on the South Bank in the company of Steve Abbot, Film and TV Producer, member of British Film Institute and FI, Chair of Screen Yorkshire; Rosanne Flynn, Director and Screenwriter, and Claire Daxter, Carnival Films (producers of Downton Abbey)

The Theatre. London remains a pre-eminent theatrical centre. We will discuss the scene with Dr. Farah Karim-Cooper, Head of Higher Education & Research, Globe Education and with Eunice Roberts of the British American Drama Academy & Actors From The London Stage Headquarters. We will follow this with an evening at the National Theatre.

Music. London’s music is rich and varied, and sometimes almost comic in juxtaposition. We will visit Handel’s House which is also Jimi Hendrix’ house. Then we move to a seminar at Goldsmiths with Dr. Stephen Graham and other members of the Popular Music Research Unit and outside practitioner and contributor Simon Thornton, who is a recording engineer, producer and musician.

Graffiti, Street Art and Protest Following a seminar with Giles Lane of Proboscis, a creative practice of artists, and Ruth Catlow of Furtherfield we take a tour with London Graffiti Tours.

* Participants might change with availability.