Professor Jonathan Kydd,
Dean of the University of London External System

**Working towards a world-class qualification**

The University of London External System is a world leader in the provision of transnational education and during 2008 it is celebrating its 150th Anniversary.

The University of London, established in 1836, has played an historic and pioneering role in extending university education to all regardless of race, religion, gender or country of residence. Not only did the University break new ground by admitting any male student who was able to take a degree, but in 1878 it became the first UK University to open its doors to women. Amidst these radical reforms in education access, further new ground was broken in 1858 with the establishment of the External System. This opened up degrees to those who could not come to London to study. The granting of the fourth charter, signed by Queen Victoria, established the University of London as the first to offer degrees to students worldwide.

Today the External System has 41,000 students worldwide, studying on more than 100 study programmes in 180 countries. Study through the External System enables students to take examinations in their home country, without having to come to London.

The University of London maintains robust and effective quality assurance mechanisms for all its degrees and other awards. Students studying on external programmes are examined to the same standard as those studying here in London at one of our constituent Colleges. The lecturers who set examination questions and mark examination papers are the same as for internal courses. In 2006, the External System was granted “Broad Confidence” by the Quality Assurance Agency of the UK government for the quality of its programmes and its administrative support for its students throughout the student lifecycle.

The international reputation of the University of London External System and its high academic standards enable our graduates to play important roles in every walk of life.
The External System's global community of former students include many exceptional people who have made their mark on the world. They include five Nobel Prize winners:

- **Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins** – Winner of the Nobel Prize in 1929 for the discovery of what are now known as vitamins.

- **Wole Soyinka** – Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986.

- **Professor Ronald Coase** - Winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1991.

- **Derek Walcott** - Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992, and the foremost West Indian poet and dramatist writing today.


We are delighted that the Finance Academy under the Government of the Russian Federation has set up tuition programme for its students who wish to study with the University of London External System. We are also committed to working with colleagues at the Finance Academy to provide its students with access to a world-class qualification that will enable them to be part of a unique global network of students and alumni.

I should like to express my particular thanks to Professor Alla Sheptun for her hard work in setting this project up. In addition, thanks must also go to Professor Vsevold Doumny for his ongoing support with the project.

Finally, I wish all the students enrolling with the Academy for the University of London study programmes every success for the future.