

Access statement:

**Faber Building (23-24 Russell Square), SOAS, University of London
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, WC1H 0XG**

Faber Building has listed building status, it was built during the Georgian era and therefore was not designed to modern standards. SOAS has worked with the Local Authority to maximise the wheelchair access, but both the listed building status and the original design of the building impose some limits which cannot be overcome (e.g. it is not possible to enlarge the lift enough to properly accommodate a wheelchair). So wheelchair access is limited to the ground floor and when necessary teaching and other activities are rescheduled to other more accessible buildings.

Entrance

The Faber building entrance is in Thornhaugh Street and there are steps to the front entrance. To the left of the steps there is a ramp to an alternative entrance.

Vertical Access

Vertical access within the building is by lift or stairs. The lift carriage is small with a concertina door and not especially accessible for a wheelchair user. The lift accesses the basement, ground, first, second and third floor but does not access the fourth floor. The lift is not of emergency evacuation standard (see below re emergency egress).

Emergency Refuge

There are no emergency refuge points in the Faber building.

Induction Loops

There are portable loop systems at the reception point throughout the school and others which can be borrowed from Student Services for lectures/seminars in other rooms – please request in advance.

Toilets

There are men's and women's toilet facilities on each floor. These are quite small and are unlikely to be suitable for a wheelchair user.

There are **wheelchair accessible toilets** on the ground floor and level 2:

- On the ground floor - past the reception desk and take the corridor to the left. You have to go through a swing door to access the toilet
- On the second floor - the wheelchair accessible toilet is opposite the lift exit.

Access to rooms

Most rooms in the Faber building are accessible from the main corridors. These corridors are narrow and may be difficult for a wheelchair user to navigate, particularly above the ground floor. There are swing doors on the ground floor separating sections of the building. The fourth floor is accessible by stairs only.

Assistance dogs: are welcome, please ask your host to arrange drinking water for the dog.

APPENDIX

The Emergency Evacuation Plan

The following plan applies to visitors, those staff and students who require assisted emergency egress should have their Personal Emergency Egress Plan agreed with the Disability Advisor or Diversity Advisor.

If you are able to exit the building unassisted, please do so via the nearest available route and with appropriate speed. Do not use the lift.

If you are able to exit without assistance, but need more time than other people to do so, please stand aside somewhere near to the exit route and wait for others to clear your floor. Once the route is clear, follow at a pace which is comfortable for you and report to the assembly point when you reach the ground.

If you are not able to use the stairs to exit the building please follow these instructions:

1. When the alarm rings, if you are on the ground floor of the Faber building:
 - move as quickly as you can to one of the ground floor exits (at least one has a ramp, if needed).
 - Exit and move away from the building to the proper assembly point.

OR

If you are above ground level (floors 1-4):

1. When the alarm rings exit from the building as quickly as you can. If you move more slowly than other people, you will need to stand aside for a short time to allow others to get past you (leaving the way clear for you to follow safely). If you have an assistant, they should accompany you.
2. You and the assistant should make your way down the staircase as quickly as you are able to manage safely.
3. Go to the usual assembly point and make sure that the person in charge has noted that you and your assistant are both safely out of the building.

OR

if you are below ground level (basement)

1. When the alarm rings exit from the building as quickly as you can. If you move more slowly than other people, you will need to stand aside for a short time to allow others to get past you (leaving the way clear for you to follow safely). If you have an assistant, they should accompany you.
2. You and the assistant should make your way up the staircase as quickly as you are able to manage safely.
3. Go to the usual assembly point and make sure that the person in charge has noted that you and your assistant are both safely out of the building.