



ACADEMIC
STUDIES ABROAD

Site-Specific Guide

University of the Arts London

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PRE-DEPARTURE

Important Phone Numbers

**** PROGRAM THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS INTO YOUR CELL PHONE****

<p><u>ASA Office in Boston, MA</u> Academic Studies Abroad 16 Cohasset St. Roslindale, MA 02131-3013 Tel: 617-327-9388 Lee Frankel Emergency Cell: 413-221-4559 Fax: 617-327-9390 E-mail: info@academicstudies.com</p> <p>Lee Frankel, Director lee@academicstudies.com Chelsea Kaloupek, Assistant Director chelsea@academicstudies.com</p>	<p><u>University of the Arts London</u> 272 High Holborn London, WC1V 7EY http://www.UAL.ac.uk Tel: UAL Study Abroad Office: +44 (0) 20 7514 2249 Contact: Aisling Clafferty (a.clafferty@arts.ac.uk)</p> <p><u>Will Wyatt Court (Residence Hall)</u> Will Wyatt Court Opal 1 168 Pitfield Street London N1 6JP Tel: +44 (0) 207 739 5103 Email: willwyattcourt@arts.ac.uk</p> <p><u>ASA Site Director</u> <u>Victoria Hedges</u> Email: vhedges@somewherenew.com Cell phone: - From the U.S. dial: 011-44-7512-738-676 - In the UK dial: 0-7512-738-676</p> <p>** See helpful dialing instructions below. **</p>
<p><u>U.S. Embassy in London</u> http://london.usembassy.gov/ 24 Grosvenor Square, W1A 1AE (tube: Bond Street) Tel: 020 7499 9000</p>	<p><u>Additional Emergency Numbers</u> <i>(Local numbers, as dialed in the UK)</i> Police, Fire, Ambulance: 999 Campus Emergencies: 2222 Department of Health: 020 7210 4840 Nightline (a free and confidential service offering support to students): 020 7631 0101</p>

In an emergency, please contact the ASA office or your Site Director *immediately*. It is of utmost importance that you notify your Site Director of any problems, issues, or concerns that you encounter while you're abroad.

Telephone Dialing Instructions

International Dialing Code: 011

Country Code: 44

-Within the UK: Dial the local number as is, including the beginning 0.

-How to Call London from the U.S.: Dial 011 44 plus the local number, but be sure to drop the first 0 of the local number. For example, if the number you're trying to call is (0) 770-231-1021, then you would dial 011-44-770-231-1021.

-How to Call the U.S. from London: 001 + area code and number

Essential Links

Here are some websites that are ESSENTIAL to check out before you go!

These links have **important info and helpful tips** about academics, living in London, getting around London, goings-on at the university, and more.

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/assessment/index.html>

- Academics!
- Types of assessment (grading)
- Marks and criteria
- Submission (project/assignment) requirements and deadlines

<http://moodle.arts.ac.uk>

- Outline timetables (class schedules) can be accessed via the Moodle VLE (Virtual Learning Environment), which will be available from 1st August 2013 at the above link. (Your personalized timetable will be available on Moodle, once you have completed Online Enrolment through Student Self Service – more information on this is below.)

<http://commonplace.arts.ac.uk/study-tips>

- Study Tips and Support
- Making an Online Portfolio
- Tips for Making Presentations
- Glossary of Terms/University Jargon

<http://commonplace.arts.ac.uk/getting-around>

- London transport and getting around the city

<http://commonplace.arts.ac.uk/new-arrivals>

- Advice for new students

<http://www.suarts.org/get-involved>

- The Students' Union is there to help you settle into life at UAL and get involved on campus through Societies and Clubs. **We strongly recommend you take advantage of this opportunity!!** For more info visit the link above!

<http://showtime.arts.ac.uk/showtime/>

- This is the university's own online gallery, featuring up and coming artists and designers. Really cool stuff!

Your UAL Email Account

By now, you should have set up your UAL email account using instructions emailed to you by ASA. **It is extremely important to CHECK THIS EMAIL ADDRESS REGULARLY BOTH BEFORE YOU GO AND DURING THE SEMESTER** because

instructions for Online Enrolment and other important messages will be sent there.

- You can log into your UAL Email Account here:
<http://outlook.com/owa/lcc.arts.ac.uk>
- Your **username** is your UAL Student ID # and your **password** is DD/MM/YYYY (including the forward slashes). Once you have logged in, you can change your password.

Online Enrolment

Enrolment is the process by which you officially become a matriculated student at UAL. You'll complete Online Enrolment before departure, as well as Face-to-Face Enrolment after arrival. You will not be able to attend class if both these steps aren't completed.

IMPORTANT: You will receive an email to your UAL email account, inviting you to complete Online Enrolment. The SUBJECT LINE of this email will be "UAL Essential Info: Enrol Online." **It is crucial you find this email and follow the instructions for Online Enrolment prior to departure.**

(NOTE: If during Online Enrolment you are asked to make tuition or accommodation payments, please ignore and forward the request to ASA.)

Then, you will complete final step of Enrolment after arrival, which is Face-to-Face Enrolment. For Study Abroad Students, this usually takes place on UAL's Study Abroad Welcome Day. **Be sure to BRING YOUR PASSPORT to Welcome Day, as it is required for Enrolment.**

Once you have fully enrolled, your personalized Timetable (class schedule) will become available to you in Moodle. You will also be sent an "iCal" link which you will be able to subscribe to on your calendar systems on your computer, tablet and phone.

*Note that as student groups fill up, it may be necessary for the Timetables to change slightly to accommodate the balancing of group sizes, so **check your Timetables regularly in case of any changes.***

Passport and Visa

All students must have a valid passport. You must have your passport stamped upon your first entry into the UK! This will document your entry into the country; failing to get your passport stamped could cause problems with your visa.

Obtaining your Short Term Study Visa (formerly called Student Visitor Visa):

If you are studying in the UK for one Semester or a Summer program, you will need to pack the following documents in your carry-on, to be presented to Immigration at

Heathrow airport. These documents are required to be issued a Short Term Study Visa (a stamp placed in your passport).

1. **“Short Term Study Visa Letter” from UAL and “Short Term Study Visa Letter” from ASA (addressed “TO: The UK Border Agency.”) Both will be E-MAILED to you prior to departure.**
2. Valid **passport** that does not expire for at least 6 months after the day you plan to leave the UK. Check your passport’s expiration date!
3. **Proof of funding for your stay in the UK.** Your Short Term Study Visa Letter from ASA confirms that you have met your financial obligations with regard to tuition (course fees) and accommodation for the full term of your studies. *However*, you must also provide proof that you have enough money to live on during your stay: **minimum of US\$200 per week of your stay; present traveler’s checks OR bank statements from you or your parents.**
4. **Round trip plane ticket.** (You will not be allowed to enter the UK on a one-way ticket.)

Don’t be surprised if the Immigration officer asks you:

1. What is the purpose of your visit to the UK?
2. Where are you studying in the UK?
3. Have you got a letter from the University?
4. Where are you living in the UK?
5. How much money have you got to study in the UK?

****Every time you leave and re-enter the UK during your semester abroad, you may be asked to present the above-listed Visa documents when you re-enter. *Don’t discard those documents!***

What should I do if I lose my passport?

Contact the local police, the U.S. Embassy, and your Site Director immediately. Having a photocopy of your passport on hand will make it MUCH easier to have it replaced.

U.S. Embassy: http://www.usembassy.org.uk/cons_new/how_to_find_us.html

Budgeting for your Trip

The currency in Britain is the **pound sterling (£)**, which is divided into 100 pence. The banknotes are worth £50, £20, £10 and £5; the coins £2, £1, 50p (50 pence), 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p, 1p. Exchange rates fluctuate, so check <http://www.xe.com/ucc/convert.cgi> for today’s exchange rate.

How much money should I bring?

Recommended amount: **US\$250-300 PER WEEK OF YOUR STAY**

Please note that these are general guidelines based on what past students have reported spending. Some students spend less and others more. The above figures do not allow for traveling every weekend, eating out a lot, or shopping every day.

What expenses should I budget for?

** Housing, medical insurance, and all other ASA services are not included during the break between semesters or terms.

* = Accounted for in weekly money recommendation above.

1. Books and materials for your classes
Budget **US\$350 per semester**.
2. Local transportation*
Budget **US\$250 per semester**. Local transportation includes getting around town during your free time, getting to and from where your group is meeting to depart for an excursion or academic field trip, and getting home afterwards. This may include paying for bus, subway and taxi fares. Since you'll be living on campus, you'll walk to and from class.

For subway and bus fares, go to <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tube/>.

You can get discounted Tube rates by purchasing an Oyster Card:

<https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/oyster/entry.do>. For taxi fares, go to

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/taxisandminicabs/taxis/1136.aspx>. Sharing a taxi with friends is always a good idea. Finally, keep in mind that the exchange rate will affect exactly how much in U.S. dollars you end up spending.

3. Phone usage (calls and text messages)
Budget **US\$400 per semester**.
4. Spending money / Personal expenses*
Meals, laundry, entertainment, shopping, souvenirs, dining out, travel, haircuts, toothpaste, etc. This is accounted for in our weekly money recommendation (see previous page).
5. Transportation back to the airport at the end of the program
Budget **\$40**

ARRIVAL

Airport Pick-up

What should I do when I get off the plane at London Heathrow airport?

- ▶ **After you de-plane, you will go through Passport Control (also called Immigration), where you must present your passport and Short Term Study Visa documents.** (See “Passport and Visa” section for the required documents.) It may take you up to an hour to pass through Immigration (long lines).

- ▶ **You must get your passport stamped to document your first entry into the UK.** Not getting your passport stamped could cause problems with your visa! *You may not automatically receive a stamp, so you may have to ASK to have your passport stamped.*

- ▶ After Passport Control and Customs, follow signs to baggage claim. Delayed baggage must be reported to your airline’s lost luggage counter before exiting the baggage claim area.

- ▶ Next, **claim your luggage**, go through customs, and **exit into the airport lobby. LOOK FOR A SIGN WITH YOUR NAME ON IT.** NOTE: The driver **cannot** meet you in baggage claim! *Be sure to turn on your UK mobile phone – they may try to call you on it after you’ve landed.*

- ▶ If you reach the airport lobby early, don’t panic! Just sit tight and watch for the sign. If you have trouble finding the driver, check by the terminal Information Desk or call ASA’s Site Director, Victoria Hedges.

▶ **Address for delivery of delayed baggage:**

YOUR NAME
 Will Wyatt Court Opal 1
 168 Pitfield Street
 London N1 6JP

If my flight is delayed, will you still pick me up at the airport?

Your driver will monitor flight status online to see if there are any delays, and they will pick you up accordingly. However, if you missed your flight completely or will be arriving on a different flight than you originally booked, it is YOUR responsibility to notify Victoria, as indicated on your **Last-Minute Checklist**. She will let you know if you will still be picked up at the airport.

ACADEMICS

Host Institution: University of the Arts London

University of the Arts London is comprised of 6 different colleges, each with its own separate campus and situated in different parts of central London. They are: Camberwell College of Arts, Central Saint Martins (CSM), Chelsea College of Arts, London College of Communication (LCC), London College of Fashion, and Wimbledon College of Arts. Each College has a close-knit community and culture. When you get

to London and someone asks you where you are studying, you wouldn't say "University of the Arts London." Instead, you should tell them which college you're attending.

In total, UAL has about 18,000 students from 114 countries, making it Europe's largest and most influential university for arts, design, fashion, communication and performing arts. Our 1,100+ academics, research and technical staff are supported by 2,000+ associate lecturers. Together, they deliver a diverse range of courses at all levels from foundation and undergraduate to postgraduate and research. We are proud to have teaching staff who are themselves active professional artists, practitioners, designers, critics and theorists engaged in cutting-edge research. Sharing this diversity, knowledge and expertise with our students, we provide a unique learning experience to the creative leaders of tomorrow.

Teaching Style – Important Differences

The style of teaching and learning at University of the Arts London differs greatly from what you may be used to at your home university. **There is a heavy emphasis on independent and self-directed study, rather than being directed at every stage by academic staff.** You may feel a little lost at first, but you will soon settle into a routine of arranging your time and get to grips with the different style of learning.

You will also find that your fellow students are only engaged in one area – e.g. photography, with only a few other classes going on. This is because students in the UK are encouraged to specialize in their subject areas from a very early age – in fact, most British students graduate from High School (referred to in the UK as "secondary school"), having already chosen which subject (major) they will study at University. At University of the Arts London, most students will have also usually completed a Foundation course before commencing their proper degree. This means that by the time of the 2nd year of their main BA course, they already have several years of specialist experience in their individual subject area. This is why independent study is encouraged and is a prominent feature of the learning environment at the University.

When you arrive in London, you will have an introductory meeting with your Course Director at your college, where you will get all the details about your course, including your class schedule, and an introduction to your College and its resources.

Individual and group work is an important feature of study at University of the Arts London. **You can expect that, in a lot of cases, individual and group work can amount to as much as 60% of your time on a particular class unit.** In many ways, this is more like the approach used by a lot of graduate schools in the US. The levels of "contact time" in-class or with your lecturers (professors) may be a lot less than you are used to – this does not mean that there is less work involved; it means you need to make up those hours that would otherwise be spent in class by undertaking independent study and following up on and researching the issues covered in class!

Do not worry – you will receive further information after you arrive in London about how to succeed in your new learning environment and tips on how to make the most of your studies in London.

Assessment (Grading)

In the UK, grading is called “assessment.” It works quite differently from the U.S. American students are used to the professor telling them exactly what their grade is based on and spelling out exactly what you need to do to pass. This is not so in the UK. You may not be given such specific information with regard to assessment.

IMPORTANT TIP: It is essential that you to talk directly to your Course Director and your lecturers to make sure you understand what you will be assessed on, what is expected of you, and how to succeed in your course!

Here are some SUPER HELPFUL LINKS regarding assessment and coursework! Please take some time to read them! You will be really glad you did!

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/assessment/index.html>

- Types of assessment
- Marks (grades) and criteria
- Submission (project/assignment) requirements and deadlines

<http://commonplace.arts.ac.uk/study-tips>

- Study Tips and Support
- Making an Online Portfolio
- Tips for Making Presentations
- Glossary of Terms/University Jargon

Attendance

When you start your course you will be given a course timetable. You will be expected to attend classes in accordance with this timetable. **The reason for any absence should be reported to your course tutor and/or your school’s administration office, and in the case of sickness absence of five days or longer, must be supported by a medical certificate.**

Once you have fully enrolled through Student Self-Service, your personalized timetable will become available to you in Moodle (<http://moodle.arts.ac.uk>). You will also be sent an “iCal” link which you will be able to subscribe to on your calendar systems on your computer, tablet and phone. Note that as student groups fill up, it may be necessary for the Timetables to change slightly to accommodate the balancing of group sizes, so **check your timetables regularly in case of any changes.**

If you wish to withdraw from your course, you must provide written notification to your course tutor/course director immediately. We advise all students who withdraw from the

course to seek advice about immigration from Student Services in your college. **As a student on a Short Term Study Visa or Student Visa for the UK, you are to be enrolled full time and attend class regularly, or risk deportation.** If you fail to enrol on your course, fail to attend regularly, or withdraw from your course, the University is required to inform the UK Home Office. This information will then be held on your UK immigration file, and may have consequences for future travel into the UK.

In addition, if you withdraw from your course or fail to attend regularly, **ASA is required to notify your host institution immediately.** This may affect any financial aid you receive by requiring immediate repayment, or prevent you from enrolling in the coming semester at your home institution.

Libraries and Academic Support Services

Once you have fully enrolled on your course you will be able to use all the University of the Arts London libraries. To borrow books, DVDs, videos and equipment from the Libraries, you will need your university ID card.

For information about Library Services please go to <http://www.arts.ac.uk/library/>

Moodle

Moodle is the core component of the University of the Arts London's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Moodle provides online access to course content such as assessment briefs, course announcements, course handbooks and lecture notes and also allows you to communicate and collaborate with your tutors and fellow students.

You can log into Moodle from 1st August 2013 via the link on the MyArts Portal or directly at <http://moodle.arts.ac.uk/> (You will first need to have completed Student Self Service online.)

You will need your UAL user name and password to access Moodle. If you are experiencing any problems logging in to Moodle, please contact the IT Service Desk:
Email: servicedesk@arts.ac.uk
Tel: 0207 514 9898

The Student Centre

The Student Centre at High Holborn is home to the Students' Union and brings together a range of services in one location. It provides an opportunity for students to come together as a university community, where students from all the colleges can study, seek support and advice, socialize and meet friends, or simply relax.

University of the Arts London Student Centre

272 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7EY

For further information about the Student Centre and what they offer, please visit:
<http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/student-services/>

Your Students' Union

When you join UAL, you automatically become part of the Students' Union (SUARTS). You are our only members, so everything we do is for you! We can help make your time studying at UAL better, whether you need advice about your course, you want to meet people, get involved, find out what's happening in London, or you want to campaign about something that affects you at UAL or in the wider world. We provide a whole range of other services and events too - look on our website and our blog to get a better idea about all the things we can do for you! **Students' Union homepage:**
www.suarts.org

The Students' Union is based at 272 High Holborn, on the 1st floor - come and visit us any time!

You can also contact the SU via email at info@su.arts.ac.uk or any of these social media outlets:

Twitter: @suarts

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/suartslondon>

Instagram: @suarts

Tumblr: suarts.tumblr.com

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES:

Joining a Club or Society is an awesome way to meet other students and enhance your semester abroad!

Some of the **societies** at UAL include: Film Society, Fashion Society, Food Society, Photography Society, Drama Society, and more.

Some of the **clubs** at UAL include: Skiing/Snowboarding, Basketball, Cheerleading, Climbing, Football (Soccer), Hockey, Rugby, Volleyball, and more.

For details, visit: <http://www.suarts.org/groups#club-society#arts>

COMMONPLACE STUDENT WEBSITE:

University of the Arts London has created a fun website with students called commonplace to offer advice, funny stories and tips to help you settle into University and London life, from the 1st year through to graduation and beyond. You'll find everything from tips for managing your money, maps and secret London locations, to surviving your first crit - all written by current and graduating students.

There's also a swap shop to help you find flatmates, share skills or sell your stuff (just log on with your student ID to answer or place an ad).

<http://commonplace.arts.ac.uk>

Academic Calendar

Please note: Calendar is subject to change. Excursion dates and locations will be announced by **email** shortly prior to departure. **All Orientation meetings are mandatory.**

At the following link, you can see the Academic Calendar for your program:

<https://www.academicstudies.com/london-england-program-calendars/>

EVERYDAY LIFE

Housing

You will be living in **Will Wyatt Court** residence hall. All Study Abroad students at UAL who applied for university housing are housed in Will Wyatt Court.

ADDRESS:

Will Wyatt Court Opal 1

168 Pitfield Street

London N1 6JP

Tel: +44 (0) 207 739 5103

Email: willwyattcourt@arts.ac.uk

LOCATION:

Will Wyatt Court is in a superb location, in the vibrant and trendy Old Street area, in the heart of London! It is also right next to the restaurants, art galleries and bars of Hoxton Square and is just a short walk from the famous Brick Lane market with its shops and live music venues.

Your hall is a couple Tube stops (even walking distance) from King's Cross tube/St. Pancras train station. St. Pancras is one of London's main train stations and can take you all over the UK, as well as to Paris or Brussels on the Eurostar (chunnel)!

The very **closest Tube stop to Will Wyatt Court** is **Old Street** (10 min walk) or **Angel** (**both are on the Northern Line, Zone 1**). Look for these stops right near the middle of the following Tube map (or use CTRL+F and search by keyword).

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/standard-tube-map.pdf>

DESCRIPTION:

This purpose built, high quality student accommodation is situated near Old Street tube station in Zone 1. There are 514 individual (single) rooms, arranged in cluster flats, shared by up to 8 residents. Kitchen and lounge areas are shared with your flatmates. **Meals are not included**, but there are plenty of restaurants and grocery stores nearby. During orientation, ASA's Site Director will take you on a walking tour of the immediate area so you will know where to find the grocery store, pharmacy, ATM, etc.

In addition, Will Wyatt Court has a rooftop courtyard, secure bike storage, on-site laundry, vending machines, generously sized common rooms.

Each room is equipped with:

- Single bed, wardrobe, drawer unit, desk and shelves, desk lamp, under-bed storage.
- En-suite bathroom "pod"
 - Shower, toilet, shower curtain, sink, mirror, toilet brush & holder, toilet roll holder.
- Wired Internet connection (WiFi is available in the common room/lounge.)
- Phone connection. (*Phone usage is the student's responsibility.*)

Kitchens are equipped with:

- Fridge, oven and stovetop/burner, microwave, tea kettle, toaster, dustpan & brush, mop & bucket, vacuum. (*Cleaning of rooms, bathrooms and kitchen are the RESIDENTS' responsibility.*)

***Note! Refrigerators in the UK are often much smaller than in the U.S.! Do as the Brits do and make more frequent, smaller shopping trips.** The abundance of local markets makes this easy to do.

What do I need to bring?

You will need to bring your own **sheets (regular twin), pillow, duvet/blanket, and towels**. (We recommend bringing these with you, if possible, since they will be more expensive to buy in the UK.) **Kitchen items like cutlery and crockery are not provided by your hall, but talk to your flatmates before purchasing these things** because they may have brought some already or will be willing to share the cost. If you need to buy any household items, check your local Argo (www.argo.co.uk).

Will I have a roommate?

No, all rooms are single. However, you will have up to 7 other students in your flat, with whom you'll share kitchen and common areas.

What are the rooms like?

They are small, as you would expect a single room to be, and not much different than American style single rooms, except a bit smaller. (Living spaces in Europe are usually smaller everywhere you go.)

Health and Wellness

Many students do feel ill during their first few days abroad, due to the time zone change, different foods, homesickness, tiredness, etc. Please rest assured that it will pass and you will be having a great time in London before you know it!

JET LAG:

One good way to ensure a smooth transition into life in London is to make sure that you don't nap too much the day you arrive. Naturally, you will be tired after your transatlantic flight and therefore will be tempted to sleep the day you arrive. Taking a short nap will probably be good for you, but please try not to sleep all day because then you won't be able to sleep that night. Try to stay up until 10pm and get a good night's sleep, so you'll be on London time the next day.

ILLNESS:

If you become ill, contact one of your Site Director immediately. There are several pharmacies close to your campus or hall, where you could ask the pharmacist to recommend some medication. **If you have a life-threatening illness or injury anytime during your trip and you can't reach your Site Director, please call the 24-hour emergency number listed on your medical insurance card.**

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT & COUNSELING:

In addition, Student Services at UAL offers Mental Health Support and Counseling. **Do not hesitate to contact them if you would like to talk to someone – there's no need to struggle alone!** Please read about the advice and counseling services they offer at: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/student/studentservices/healthwellbeing/mentalhealth/>

Living in London

From the very beginning you will notice that things are different in London: The looks and styles of streets, the taste and smell of food, the sounds of voices and traffic. These are the tangible things that you will notice right away. To understand and become comfortable in your new environment, you have to start getting used to the city, the ways of Britons and the habits and tastes of your new English friends and acquaintances. Soon you will start to see the reasons behind English customs, and you will come to enjoy your ability to fit in. Be prepared for a wonderful adventure that brings you towards an understanding of England and its people, and a new understanding of yourself and your American heritage.

London is a very large city, with a population of about seven million. This booming city boasts every type of restaurant, museum, theatre, bar, club, and person imaginable. Over 30% of those who live in London are of overseas decent, making it an incredibly diverse city. In fact, over 200 different languages are spoken in London alone!

For Americans, London can be an expensive city. For the most part, things are priced the same in London as in American cities, except that the pound costs more than the dollar. So, for example, a pair of Levi jeans cost about \$40 in the U.S. and about £40 in

London. The difference is that £40 is about \$60! So, when you arrive be careful to convert pounds into dollars before buying anything to make sure you don't spend all your money in the first week.

However, London doesn't have to be an expensive city; reading newspapers such as Time Out will help you find the bargains around London.

What do people do at night?

In general, bars and pubs close early in London. So, those who want a late night generally hit the pub until 11pm or so and then go clubbing when the pubs close. Clubs stay open very late—until 4-5 am.

In addition, there are loads of concerts and plays every night of the week. Good places to go for theatre are London's West End, which is similar to New York City's Theatre District. If you can't find something to do 7 nights a week in London, then you're not looking hard enough!

Picking up a copy of Time Out is always a good idea to stay on top of what's going on in London. It includes information on plays, movies, clubs, bands, food, museums, and more.

How can I meet locals?

One of the best ways to meet people in London is to go to the local pub for a beer. While the media and television shows may portray the English as tight-lipped, the reality is that they are very warm and quite outgoing. They also have an incredible sense of humor, so be prepared to laugh quite a bit.

When do I tip?

- A 10% tip is customary for restaurants. It is not necessary to tip bartenders.
- For taxi rides, a 5% tip is sufficient, if any at all. A lot of people don't tip taxi drivers in the UK at all. (Never tip a driver who overcharges you!).
- Porters are always found at airports and railroad stations. You should tip £1 per piece of luggage.
- A VAT tax is added to all hotel rooms and restaurant bills. (VAT means "value added tax" and is currently 20% in the UK.)

Local Transportation

How do I get around?

Taxis: There are basically two types of taxis in London: black cabs and "gypsy" cabs. The gypsy cabs tend to be cheaper, but aren't legal and aren't as safe, as they are not bonded. In many cases you have to give the driver directions! (If you ever get into a taxi and the driver asks you for directions, exit the cab and find another one!) The famous black cabs are expensive, but the drivers are required to take a test called "The

Knowledge” to prove that they know every street in London. Always take a black cab if possible.

Subway (The Tube): This is a fast and easy way to get around London during the day. The Tube’s website is <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/modalpages/2625.aspx>.

If you are going to use the Tube every day, it’s probably wise to get a monthly pass. For anyone who will just use the Tube a few days a week, or occasionally, it’s essential to get an Oyster Card – a pre-paid travel pass that gives you discounted rates on the Tube and London buses. You will have to apply for your Oyster Card online and pay the nominal £5 fee for the card. A couple weeks later, your personalized Oyster photocard will arrive in the mail. You can find out more about the Oyster Card at <https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/oyster/entry.do>.

Coach: There are more bus lines than you can count in London that can bring you to anywhere from anywhere. In most cases the Tube is faster than the bus, unless you need to get somewhere that is between Tube stations. For info on bus routes in London, go to <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/modalpages/2605.aspx>. You will also find that the actual bus stops around London have very good maps, showing which lines stop there and where they go.

Air: There are four major airports in London: Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted. None of these are actually in London, but Heathrow is only a 15-minute train ride away on the Heathrow Express. Luton and Stansted can take quite a while to get to, but offer some amazing fares (Ryanair often has flights from Stansted for £20 to Rome!). Here are some discount airlines to check out:

British Midlands (BMI)	www.flybmi.com
Ryan Air	www.ryanair.com
Easy Jet	www.easyjet.com
Go	www.go-fly.com

► **Please remember, luggage allowances will be a lot more limited than when you fly in the U.S. domestically. Be sure to check your airline’s website before your trip to check their luggage allowances.**

Rail: There is an extensive rail network in the UK, although it’s not always the most reliable. Virgin trains seem to be the best right now and tickets can be booked at www.virgintrains.co.uk. You can also buy a Young Person’s Railcard once you get to London; it offers up to 30% off the price of rail fares in the UK for full-time students up to 25 years old. A one-year card costs about £24, which you should easily recoup after one or two rail journeys.

Which airlines fly out of Gatwick?

To get to Gatwick airport, you can either take the Gatwick Express train from Victoria Station or go to www.batransfer.com to have a car service drive you there.

Airlines:

Easy Jet (www.easyjet.com) - flies to:
Czech Republic: Prague (PRG)
France: Nice (NCE)
Holland: Amsterdam (AMS)
Italy: Rome Ciampino (CIA)
Spain: Barcelona (BCN)
Spain: Madrid (MAD)
Switzerland: Geneva (GVA)

Ryan Air (www.ryanair.com) - flies to Dublin, Ireland (DUB).

Meridiana Air (www.meridiana.it) - flies to Florence, Italy (FLR)

Which airlines fly out of Heathrow?

To get to Heathrow, you can either take the Heathrow Express train from Paddington Station or go to www.batransfer.com and have a car service drive you there.

Airlines:

British Midlands Air (www.flybmi.com / www.bmi-baby.com)

There are 3 additional airports in the London area. London City airport is served by Virgin Express (www.virginexpress.com), Stansted is served by many discount airlines including Ryan Air, as is Luton airport. None of these 3 airports is easy to get to, so if the airfare from Gatwick or Heathrow is only a little more expensive, you are better off flying from there.

Iberia: www.iberia.com
SpanAir: www.spanair.com
RyanAir: www.ryanair.com (Usually flies in/out of small airports outside of major cities, which may require you to take a bus from the airport to the nearest major city.)
Lagunair: www.lagunair.com/
Vueling: www.vueling.com/es/
EasyJet: www.easyjet.com
BMI: www.flybmi.com
BMI Baby: www.bmibaby.com
British Airways: www.ba.com
Aer Lingus: www.aerlingus.com
Air Berlin: www.airberlin.com
Air Meridiana: www.meridiana.it/en/index.aspx

Travel Websites:

www.opodo.co.uk
www.ebookers.co.uk or www.expedia.co.uk
www.travelsupermarket.co.uk

For cheap flights and hotels
Same as Expedia in the U.S.
Compares the cheapest airfares

www.lastminute.com
www.skyscanner.net

Vacation packages, flights, hotels, theatre tickets
Discount airfares

Weather

Summer

Summer students should be prepared for warm (but usually not hot) weather in the 60's and 70's. It may rain occasionally. If it gets warm, it shouldn't be any warmer than the low 80's at the most. Even during the summer months, it can be cool outside, especially at night, so bring a light jacket or sweater and clothes you can layer. See below for a chart of average temperatures.

Fall

Students going to London for the Fall should pack for a change of seasons. (See below for average temperatures!) Fall students: when you arrive, the weather will be nice, much like summer (i.e. in the 70's during the day, cooler at night). As the Fall semester continues, it will gradually get cooler. By the end of your stay, you'll be wearing a winter jacket and possibly a scarf and gloves. So, Fall students will need to bring lighter clothes for the beginning of the semester, and fall/winter clothes for the end. Bring clothes you can layer (sweaters, light jacket, t-shirts, etc.)

Spring

Students going to London for the Spring should also pack for a change of seasons. (See below for average temperatures!) Spring students: when you arrive, the weather will be cold (i.e. winter weather—in the 40's during the day). However, the winters in London are not as harsh as New England winters, for example, because it rarely snows in London. As the Spring semester continues, it will get gradually warmer. By the end of your stay, you will have Spring weather (60's-70's during the day). Bring clothes you can layer (sweaters, light jacket, t-shirts, etc.)

Don't forget, it can rain quite often in London no matter the season!

LONDON - AVERAGE HIGHS (DEGREES FAHRENHEIT)

<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>
45F	45F	51F	55F	62F	68F	72F	72F	66F	58F	51F	47F

Fahrenheit to Centigrade = Subtract 32 from F and divide by 1.8.

Centigrade to Fahrenheit = Multiply C by 1.8 then add 32.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Time Difference

What is the time difference between England and where I live?

The following times are the number of hours BEHIND England each region is:

Pacific	Central	Eastern
8 hours	6 hours	5 hours

So, if it is 6pm in England, then it is 1 pm Eastern, 12pm Central, and 10am Pacific.

Computers and Internet

Should I bring a laptop?

YES. UAL has free WiFi on campus. Your room in Will Wyatt Court also has wired Internet access.

► **For information about using a voltage adaptor with your laptop, SEE PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE, ALL PROGRAMS**