United Kingdom: All Academic Year Programs

Hertford College, University of Oxford
King’s College London
London School of Economics and Political Science
Queen Mary, University of London
University College London
University of St. Andrews
University of Sussex

Academic Year 2016-2017

Student Program Supplement

University of Michigan
Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS)
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Congratulations on your acceptance to one of the British universities that comprise the Michigan Global Academic Programs in the United Kingdom. As a U-M student at London School of Economics and Political Science (full academic year program only), Hertford College at University of Oxford, King’s College London, Queen Mary-University of London, University of St. Andrews, University of Sussex, or University College London, you will be enrolled at a university that is among the most respected in the world and highly selective in its admissions.

The purpose of this supplement is to provide you with general information about the United Kingdom, its educational system, and your time abroad. Prior to departure, you will receive detailed information from the university you will be attending. This material will supplement the information enclosed in the CGIS General Handbook and the information you receive from your host university. It is important that you read these materials carefully as you prepare to study abroad in the United Kingdom. You are responsible for knowing the information provided by the CGIS and your host university. We suggest taking all materials with you in your carry-on luggage.

The CGIS General Handbook and this Program Supplement are available in your MCompass application, under the Document Section, or on your program’s brochure page in MCompass under Additional Resources.

THE UNITED KINGDOM PROGRAMS

The United Kingdom programs are unlike some of the other study abroad programs administered by the Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS) in that there are multiple British universities programs. Each U.K. has its own requirements, international staff, curriculum, and fee structure. These programs do not have a resident director CGIS does for some of the other study abroad programs. Rather, CGIS acts as a representative and liaison to collect and review applications and to forward them on to the appropriate university. Official decisions regarding your admissions, course offerings, housing, and access to classes are all made by the host university and will need to directly correspond with them about these arrangements.

U-M students in the U.K. fall into one of two categories: you will either be a Visiting (Study Abroad) Student or an Exchange Student. As a Visiting Student, you will not pay tuition to U-M, but instead you will pay tuition to the host university and will pay a CGIS Administrative Fee. In contrast, Exchange students will pay their normal U-M tuition, but will not assess academic fees at the host university; you too will pay the CGIS Administrative Fee. Both Visiting and Exchange students will pay on site for your housing, food and other academic expenses.

Regardless if you are a Visiting student or an Exchange student, while in the U.K., you will be a British student for all intents and purposes. You are subject to the same requirements for assignments and the class grading scale as well as have access to all the services and facilities at your host university as your British counterparts. It is therefore extremely important that you carefully read all the materials regarding housing, cost, classes, dates, and orientation programs sent to you by the host university and CGIS.
ACADEMICS: THE BRITISH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OVERVIEW

You may notice that the curriculums at some of the older British universities are narrower than what you may have become accustomed to at U-M. There may not be a Department of Kinesiology, College of Engineering or a School of Education at the host university. The departments in such fields as theater, media, and music may take a theoretical, rather than the practical performance-oriented approach that you are accustomed to here.

Perhaps the greatest single contrast to the American university system is that British students are far more specialized in their studies by the time they reach university than students here. Most British university students are studying only a single subject and are not choosing courses from among several academic departments. University education is generally a three-year program and students do not spend the first two years fulfilling distribution requirements in a range of subjects. As a result, American students sometimes find that the class schedules are set up in such a way that choosing classes from several departments is more difficult. In addition, schools such as University College London limit visiting students’ course enrollments to one or two departments; UCL, moreover, requires that students take two of their four classes each term in the department to which they have been admitted (or four of four in the case of the English department).

Students in the U.K. are also expected to work with a high level of independence, which may be a significant difference from the American system with its very structured course system of on-going assessment. You may not receive syllabi with each week’s assignments carefully laid out. Instead, you are likely to be given a lengthy reading list of books and expected to choose from that list those titles and sub-fields of particular interest to you. And rather than a series of quizzes or short assignments spaced throughout the term, your final grade may be largely determined by a final exam or paper. While this privation of monitoring may at times be frustrating, it also can be exhilarating. Students often remark upon their return from the U.K. that they enjoyed the contrasting demands the U.K. university system places on students and enjoyed the opportunity to learn independently.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Teaching at British universities takes place both in lectures and in small seminars (called “tutorials” at Oxford; see next paragraph). In lectures, which have large enrollments, you may be given a list of suggested readings or texts, but there will not be frequent tests and quizzes to monitor your progress. Some lecture courses may also have attached discussion sections, led by graduate students (as is true at LSE), but at other universities (Oxford), lectures may be just that, with no discussion sections. In seminars, enrollments are much smaller, and you may be expected to write short essays and discuss what you have read on a frequent basis (perhaps weekly).

Students participating in the program at Hertford College will find the system of teaching even more different. Students are assigned a tutor, who is part advisor and part teacher. At the start of the term (or at the end of the previous term) the tutor will work out with the student a program of tutorials or supervisions (individualized “tutorials” teaching sessions; see under “Course Selection and Credit Issues by Program”) and may also recommend that the student attend lectures in a particular topic. A faculty at Oxford is roughly equivalent to a department at U-M. Each term, faculties schedule a series of lectures for the term, such as, Modern History or Philosophy. Lists of these lectures are published and
made available at the start of the term. Your tutors may recommend attending particular lectures in
your field of interest, but do not expect their subject matter will correspond exactly to your
tutorials/supervisions or that you will have any assignments or requirements for these lectures. It is in
the weekly tutorials or supervisions where discussion and assessment take place. During these tutorials,
students are asked to read a short paper and/or discuss what the week’s readings. There may be other
students taking the same tutorial, but very often these are one-on-one meetings with a tutor.

In either type of course you probably will not be graded as often as you are used to here, and grades
may be based on a single final exam or paper. The mix of courses and how they are graded will vary
from university to university; the information you will receive from the specific U.K. institutions will
provide you with more detail.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The British academic year at many universities is divided into three terms of ten weeks each, with a
month’s holiday between terms. The first term (sometimes called Michaelmas) runs from
September/October to mid-December. Classes resume in January for the second term (sometimes
called Lent or Spring term) and continues through mid-March; the final term (Summer) runs from April
to late June/early July. In some schools, students take classes in all three terms, while in others (most
notably the colleges of the University of London), the third term is somewhat shorter than the other
two and given over to reading and examination periods. Sussex, St. Andrew’s and Queen Mary are
exceptions to the three-term pattern as they have a two-semester calendar.

ACADEMIC TIPS

• University study in the U.K. is a three-year program, with students taking courses in a single
department and with few electives. American students in their junior year match up most closely in
terms of age and academic preparation with British students in their second year.
• In selecting classes at the host university, you should generally pick from among second-year
offerings. If you are in doubt as to whether or not you have the appropriate background, or if you
are considering a third-year class, review the descriptions for those classes which British students in
the department will already have taken in their first and second years.
• In British universities, attendance may be taken. A student who misses two classes in a row may be
asked for the reason, while missing three classes may mean being dropped from the course and
losing all credit.
• Students in the U.K. are expected to work independently outside of classes. You will find that
reading lists are just that—lengthy lists of suggested readings—and not syllabi with specific chapters
or pages assigned in a given week. While you are likely to spend less time in the classroom than in
the U.S., you will find you should devote more time between class meetings to reading (and
thinking) on your own.
• The grading system in the U.K. is very different from what you are used to here: rather than grade
students on a curve based on the performance of other students in the class, British faculty assign
marks against an ideal standard. Very few students receive “firsts” (“A’s”), and most simply pass. A
conversion table used for each institution transcript is included later in this document.
• You are likely to find yourself expected to write more and shorter papers than you probably have to
date at Michigan. In general, style and presentation count for less than in the U.S., and content and
organization are crucial. U.K. instructors and tutors tend to put heavy emphasis on critical analysis
(rather than descriptive narrative) and require more examples and documentation to support arguments than you may be accustomed to here. Students returning from a semester or year in Britain often remark that their writing skills have improved and that they have learned to present their arguments more effectively.

- Exams in the U.K. are often essay exams, and students who have not had much experience taking exams of this type may wish to review sample exams or exams from past years.
- Library hours are shorter than in the U.S., usually from 9 am to 9 pm and with much reduced hours on the weekends. Books also tend to circulate for shorter periods of time, especially if held on reserve for a particular course. In addition, some libraries (including the Bodleian Library at Oxford) are non-circulating; their advantage, of course, is that the books are always available.
- A note for students needing special accommodations for examinations: In the U.K., time limits on examinations tend to be enforced strictly. If you will need to have special accommodations, such as a longer time in which to complete an exam (or if you have other academic needs), please be sure to pass this information on to your host institution and discuss your situation and what accommodations you are able to receive while on-site.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

During the duration of your study abroad participation term in the U.K., you will be registered as a full time student at U-M. Please refer to your CGIS General Handbook for the correct STDABRD course number for your U-M registration. Students will register for 15 credits as a place holder for the classes that you will take on your program. The specific classes, credits and grades earned will be added after the completion of your program after CGIS receives your official transcript from the host institution.

STDABRD:
Queen Mary: 481
University of Sussex: 364
St. Andrews: 458
University College London: 483
King’s College: 480
London School of Economics: 456
Hertford College, Oxford: 451

After the completion of your study abroad year (or term), CGIS receives notification of your grades and will process them accordingly onto your academic transcript. This process may take some time, as there are several steps to this process as it all needs to be done manually by different offices on campus, so we ask for your patience. Grades and credits will be converted from your British transcript using the appropriate table found below and the listed on your U-M transcript. The grade you received for your classes will appear on your U-M transcript, and they will be calculated into your U-M cumulative GPA.

LSA students will earn in-residence credit for your work in the program. Non-LSA students must check with their college or school to determine its policy on Michigan Global Academic Program (MGAP) credits, grades and GPA.

CGIS students can take courses Pass/Fail during the program. Please refer to the section on Pass/Fail in the General Handbook for details. Note that the deadline to submit the proper form to the CGIS Office is within 2 weeks of the start of classes in the U.K.. The Pass/Fail forms are available on your MCompass.
brochure page under “additional resources.” If you choose to take a class Pass/Fail, simply complete the form and e-mail it directly to your CGIS Advisor.

GRADES AND CREDITS

HERTFORD COLLEGE (OXFORD)

Credits: Students at Hertford take two tutorials in each of the three terms of the academic year. These are individually arranged in consultation with the student’s academic tutor after the application process, prior to arrival and then also at the start of the year or term, and there is not a catalog of classes that you will take.

Primary Tutorials earn 8 U-M credits and Secondary Tutorials are 4 U-M credits each. Primary Tutorials meet weekly and Secondary Tutorials meet every other week. There are 3 separate teaching terms at Oxford, thus students will receive a total of 12 credits per term. U-M students who participate in the U-M Winter term program will receive a total of 24 U-M credits as they will be at Hertford for two terms. Students will register at the U-M for both the Winter term (15 credit placeholder) and also for Spring (6 credit placeholder) to accommodate the 24 credits earned for the latter part of the year. Grades will be based on weekly papers and discussions. Full-year students can expect to earn a total of 36 credits, while Winter term students, who will be at Hertford for the second and third terms of their academic year, can expect 24 credits.

Grades: are converted using the following scale and U.S. grades are provided on the Hertford transcript report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oxford Percentage</th>
<th>American Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 and above</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;40</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KING’S COLLEGE LONDON

Credit: Each semester modules (courses) are valued at 15 credits, for which we award 4 U-M credits. Some Semester courses and all Year-long classes are 30 credits, which equal 8 credits at U-M. Study Abroad students are required to take four courses in each semester, a total of eight for a full year student.

Grades:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Letter Grade</th>
<th>King’s Mark</th>
<th>UK Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>80-100</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>Upper Second Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>Upper Second Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>Lower Second Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>Lower Second Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>Third Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>41-44</td>
<td>Third Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Third Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-39</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

(NOTE: LSE only admits students for a full academic year.)

Credits: Unless you are notified otherwise by the General Course office, you can expect that you have been admitted to the department listed as your first choice on your application. (If LSE recommends a change, you will be informed of this at the time of your admission.) Although you are admitted to a particular department, and assigned an advisor from that department, class selections are not limited to a single department. Most courses at LSE run for the entire year. Students will normally take four year-long courses of 8 credits each for a total of 32 credits, and are required to take final exams in all of these. There are also some "half-unit" (4-credit) courses. For the 8 credit full-year courses, students will receive two 4 credit listings of the course on their U-M transcripts, one for each term. For example, a class titled International Organizations for 8 credits on the LSE transcript will show on the U-M transcript as International Organizations-A in Fall for 4 credits and International Organizations-B in Winter for 4 credits, with the same grade for each term.

Grades: We use the grades as provided by LSE, but LSE reports the grades in two columns: Class Assessment and Final Examination. For U-M grade, average the two. If they are too close to average (i.e. B and B+), record the higher of the two.

QUEEN MARY-UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Credits: Semester modules (courses) are valued at QM 15, for which we award 4 credits. Year-long classes (and some semester courses) are 30 at QM, 8 credits at U-M. Study Abroad students are required to take four courses in each semester, a total of eight for a full year student. Queen Mary numerical grades are carried out to 1 decimal. These scores will be rounded using standard process: .5-.9 will round up to the next whole number, while 0-.4 will remain the same).

Grades are converted using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QM Letter Grade</th>
<th>QM Mark</th>
<th>U-M Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>75-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Credit: The grades and credits are taken from the transcript without conversion. Except: F = E at U-M. The pass mark for all courses is 40%.

Grades: The conversion table to recommend US grades will be as follows-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Class</th>
<th>UCL Mark (%)</th>
<th>Recommended US Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>70 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Second</td>
<td>65 - 69</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60 - 64</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Second</td>
<td>55 - 59</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 - 54</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>46 - 49</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43 - 45</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40 - 42</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0 - 39</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

Credit: The number given as “Credits Awarded” should be divided by 4. Students enroll for a total of 60 credits per semester (which equates to 15 U-M credits).

Grades: are converted using the following scale (Please note: U-M does not round up numerical scores. Ex) If you earn 15.8, your will still receive an A- on your U-M transcript)-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Andrews Grade</th>
<th>U-M Grade</th>
<th>St Andrews Grade</th>
<th>U-M Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-20</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>10-9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**In contrast to the other British universities, the St. Andrews curriculum is fully semesterized, with all classes lasting for a single term and an examination given in each course at the end of the semester. Students are expected to take all final examinations unless officially exempted by St. Andrews.**

THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

**Credit:** Divide the number of Sussex credits by 4 to equal the U-M credits e.g. 12 Sussex credits equal 3 U-M credits. Students generally earn 9 U-M credits for courses lasting the full year, 6 credits for those which span two terms, and 3 credits for single-term classes. Typically students take two to three courses per term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Class</th>
<th>Mark (%)</th>
<th>Recommended US Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>70 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Second</td>
<td>65 - 69</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60 - 64</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Second</td>
<td>55 - 59</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 - 54</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>46 - 49</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43 - 45</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40 - 42</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0 - 39</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades are taken from the Sussex transcript without conversion. Except: F = E at U-M

BEFORE YOU GO

HOUSING

All accommodation for the British universities is handled and assigned through the Housing or Accommodations Office at the host university. Please remember, it is your responsibility to apply for housing on your own and adhere to any deadlines. Here are some pointers and suggestions:
1. Apply for housing as soon as you decide to accept the offer from the particular school. Please read carefully the requirements for applying for and accepting housing at your host institution. Some schools may require a deposit and some may assign housing on a first-come, first-served basis. Spaces may be in especially short supply for Winter term applicants.

2. Term-time-only housing may be cheaper than year-long accommodations and which one you choose will depend on your plans during the semester breaks. Some students elect to travel during this time, and so they choose not to pay for a room they will not occupy. You should be aware of your options and choose what works best for you.

3. Decide whether “self-catered” or “catered” accommodation suits you best. In catered accommodation, students are expected to take their meals in the dining hall and kitchen facilities. Where you might cook for yourself, will likely be minimal. Self-catered accommodations generally indicate that there is a shared kitchen space and this option works well for students who want a greater amount of independence as regards meals.

4. Most rooms in the residence halls are singles. In the newer halls, with self-catered arrangements, six to eight students may be assigned to an “apartment” with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities; bedrooms in these apartments are singles. Some rooms even have “en suite” facilities—their own toilets, sinks, and showers.

5. Prior to your departure, verify before you go if you are expected to provide your own sheets, blankets, and towels. You may want to bring them with you, or decide to purchase them upon arrival. You should also check to see when and where you are able to pick up your room keys after you arrive.

**Electricity**

In the U.K. and throughout Europe, the electrical current from wall outlets is 220v, 50 cycles (Hz), rather than the 110v and 60 cycles you may be familiar with at home. The outlets or plugs are also be different. Hence, in order to use electric razors, hair dryers, radio etc, you may have to use an adapter and/or converter or purchase these items when you are on-site. Students need to check the electrical specs for laptops and cameras to see if they will function while on-site.

**Passport Photos**

You may want to bring extra passport photos with you. You may need photos for a student identification card, a discount rail pass (and a student Underground pass in London), and other forms of identification you'll find useful to have. (You can also get pictures in the U.K., of course; it's simply easier to do this beforehand if you can.)

**Visas**

**IMPORTANT-PLEASE READ:** The visa process for students entering the U.K. to study has changed in the recent years and it continues to evolve at the present time. It is each student’s responsibility to be informed about immigration requirements for their particular circumstances (country of citizenship, age, etc). Thus, it is imperative that students research on their own what the requirements are for entry into the country and other countries if they are planning on traveling outside the United Kingdom. The following paragraphs are meant to provide a few tips and helpful hints. CGIS will try to update students and families if we learn of changes to the visa information. However, we do not provide visa services, nor can we be held responsible for difficulties students may encounter upon entry.
Immigration policy requires that all students who will be in the U.K. for six months or longer must obtain a visa (“Entry Clearance”) before traveling to the U.K. The Tier 4 General Student visa must be obtained from the British consulates before you depart for your program. Please check the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) website for information as to where you must send your visa application materials.

For both the Tier 4 General visa and the Student Visitor there are steps that you will need to follow and documents you will need to obtain in order to meet the British requirements. Regulations continue to evolve as time goes on, so please continue to monitor the websites as you prepare for your departure.

Please be aware that if you are applying for the Tier 4 General Student visa, you will have to apply for and receive your visa before you leave the U.S. Thus, you will need to allow enough time for your visa application to be processed, please check the U.K. Border Agency website for current time estimates for obtaining your visa. In addition, you are not allowed to apply for your visa more than 3 months before the start of your program, so there is a small window of time that you will need to use to apply for your visa.

Students who are U.S. citizens and are participating in academic programs in the U.K. for less than 6 months will be able to enter the country as a Student Visitor. You do not need to apply for the Tier 4 General Student visa. Students entering the U.K. as student visitors must only be entering the U.K. to study, you will not be able to work (this includes working in an internship or as a volunteer), you will not be able to extend your stay as a student beyond your program, or longer than 6 months, nor will you be able to apply for (or switch to) a General Tier 4 student visa while in the U.K. Currently, there is no charge for entry as a Student Visitor and the status is obtained at immigration when you arrive in the U.K. Also, the Student Visitor is meant to be a one-time entry, meaning that if you travel outside of the country you should be prepared to show all required documentation upon each entry at immigration.

As mentioned above, students entering as a Student Visitor will present their passport and supporting documents to the immigration officer on arrival at the UK airport.

PLEASE NOTE: It is not recommended that students enter the UK via Ireland. Passengers flying from Ireland to the U.K. do not encounter an immigration officer at the U.K. airport and cannot therefore enter the UK in the correct status.

For more information about obtaining a visa, please review the information in your acceptance packet from your host university. You may also wish to visit the following websites:

- UK Border Agency Online Application Service (Visa4UK): [www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk](http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk)
- Information for Student Visitors: [https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa](https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa)
- Other helpful websites: [https://www.visainfoservices.com/Pages/Welcome.aspx](https://www.visainfoservices.com/Pages/Welcome.aspx) or [http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/)

**MONEY AND BANKING**
The U.K. is expensive. This is the single aspect about the U.K. for which students are least prepared for each year. Converting pounds into dollars to determine prices gives you a little idea of what daily purchases such as a cup of coffee, a bottle of shampoo, or a movie are likely to cost. In general, a useful rule for figuring prices is that you can expect to pay at least as much in pounds for an item as you would dollars.

You may want to consider opening a bank account in the U.K. when you arrive. Please check with your host institution for recommendations and requirements to opening an account. Please be aware that it may take several weeks for your new account to be set up and before you can draw out money you have deposited—regardless of how you make that initial deposit. Also, plan ahead for when you will need to have money transferred; even wire transfers can take a week or two to clear.

Students participating in the winter semester may never open an account with a British bank, but instead rely on their U.S. debit and credit cards. Please refer to the section on Finances and Money While on Site in the CGIS General Handbook for more information.

CONTACT AND VISITING INFORMATION FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS

When you arrive in your host country, register with the nearest American consulate or embassy. It is important they know where to reach you in the event of an emergency. You should register your travel plans prior to departure with the U.S Department of State via the *Smart Traveler Enrollment Program* (STEP). Here is a link to their website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/registration/registration_4789.html

It helps if you know where you will be living ahead of time, although it may be possible to update this information later. Here is a link to the U.S. Embassy’s website http://london.usembassy.gov/index.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Address(for GPS &amp; Google maps)</th>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Grosvenor Square&lt;br&gt;London, W1A 2LQ&lt;br&gt;United Kingdom&lt;br&gt;Web: <a href="http://london.usembassy.gov/embassy_location.html">http://london.usembassy.gov/embassy_location.html</a></td>
<td>24 Grosvenor Square&lt;br&gt;London, W1A 1AE&lt;br&gt;United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is the link for the American Citizens Services section of the Embassy website: http://london.usembassy.gov/service.html

Please see the following link for information on how to register with the Embassy online and other FAQs: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/faqs/faq_scs.html

Before going to the consulate or embassy, you may want to call ahead to check office hours devoted to providing services to U.S. citizens, usually limited to two or three hours a day. This information is often available from the U.S. Embassy websites, which are accessible at http://usembassy.state.gov, the State Department Embassy links page. Don’t forget to take your passport with you when you go.
GETTING THERE

CGIS does not schedule a group flight for students traveling to the U.K. to study—each university has different schedules. It is your responsibility to make your own travel arrangements. Once you receive information from your host university about starting dates, you should begin to make inquiries about travel dates and prices. Please allow yourself at least a day’s time to recover from the flight before the various activities begin at your host university.

There are several airports in the London vicinity and you will want to check with your host school to determine the best airport for you to arrive at. For Sussex students, it makes the most sense to fly into Gatwick and go by train from the airport down to Brighton. St. Andrews students may wish to consider flying to Glasgow and use the free St. Andrews airport shuttle. The other primary airport which students use is Heathrow, this is probably the best option for students studying in London or Oxford.

You can get to central London from Heathrow Airport via the Underground (the Tube, see www.tfl.gov.uk/ for information on tickets and maps). Or you could travel via the FastTrain (see the website www.heathrowexpress.co.uk for fares and timetables). You will need to have pounds to pay for any of these options. Generally it is not recommended to take a taxi from Heathrow to London, as a taxi ride will probably be very expensive. Here is a link with information on your various travel options from Heathrow Airport: http://www.heathrow-airport-guide.co.uk/transport.html

From Gatwick there are multiple options as well for travel to London or other locations in the U.K. Again, your host institution can supply you with information on how to arrive at your final destination. The following is a link with information on travel options from Gatwick: http://www.gatwick-airport-guide.co.uk/transport.html

Although you will receive more specific information concerning arrival on campus from your host university, be aware there are many train stations in London, each serving a different part of the country. Read the information from your university or college carefully, and keep it in an easily accessible place during your trip to the U.K.

THE TUBE

Past program participants recommended that the Tube was the easiest way to get around in London. It is also possible to get to and from Heathrow Airport using the tube, but remember you will have to do a fair amount of walking and you will have to be able to carry your entire luggage with you. Heathrow is on the Piccadilly line, from which you can transfer to any line needed in order to reach your final destination. Students are able to purchase Oyster cards, with a student discount, once you are onsite and registered at your host school. It won’t take you long to become an experienced commuter using the tube.

SETTLING IN

Each university has an office and staff contact for students from North America (see the list at the end of this supplement). All of these offices plan orientations for incoming study abroad/exchange students;
this may be a week long affair for students arriving at the beginning of the year, and a single-day event for Winter term arrivals. At the orientation, you will be provided with important information about academic arrangements, access to various facilities (health services, banking, libraries, computer labs), and student discounts for on and/or off-campus activities and services; therefore, it is important for you to attend the orientation that is provided for you. The study abroad office is also the place to go for advice and counseling about course selection, housing arrangements, etc.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is important that you get to know the city in which you are living and learn which areas may be unsafe and at what times of day you should be especially vigilant. Please refer to the CGIS General Handbook and the online Health and Safety Orientation for more information.

This is also a time when students (and their parents) are greatly concerned about terrorism and specifically about threats against Americans. As a precaution, we urge you to avoid drawing attention to yourselves as Americans. Measures you should take include:

- Don’t wear clothing (e.g., t-shirts with logos) that underscores the fact that you are American
- Travel with someone else, but perhaps not in large groups (two to four is a reasonable-sized group)
- Let someone know where you will be going and when you plan to return
- Do not participate in political demonstrations
- Stay in frequent contact with your family at home

Please keep in mind safety is not simply a matter of concern about avoiding unsafe areas and political demonstrations. The two biggest risks abroad are alcohol abuse and traffic accidents. Excessive consumption of alcohol can result in bad judgment and even serious injury. In the U.K., you’ll also need to be specifically alert to the fact that traffic moves on the left-hand side of the road. This is, obviously, the opposite of what you are used to, and even such simple tasks as crossing the street requires an additional element of caution.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

While studying in the U.K., you will obviously not be learning a foreign language. This does not mean there are not significant cultural differences between the U.S. and the U.K. or that you don’t have to adapt your way of interacting to function smoothly in your daily life. There are very real cultural differences, and one of the most significant is the high premium Briton’s put on politeness. You may find “please,” “thank you,” and “sorry” are used with great frequency. And in making requests to one another, Britons tend to be overly polite—or at least that’s how it may seem to us. You’ll also find British politeness expressed in “queuing”—lining up for service and to get on buses and trains.

Although we share the same language, there are often significant differences in the meanings of words with the same words, but expressing quite different and even opposite things on the opposite sides of the Atlantic. Some differences can be quite amusing, while others are simply confusing. A "college" in Britain is not always equivalent to a university as it is here; rather, it can be either a unit of a university, as is true for Oxford University and the University of London, or a school whose level is closer to that of a secondary school in the U.S. " The "tube," you will quickly learn, is the subway, and the "subway" is an underground walkway. Here is a short and very incomplete list:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British term</th>
<th>American term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underground, tube</td>
<td>Subway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway</td>
<td>Underground walkway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground floor</td>
<td>First floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First floor</td>
<td>Second floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queue (pronounced “cue”)</td>
<td>Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscuit</td>
<td>Cookie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bap</td>
<td>Soft roll for sandwich/hamburger bun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biro</td>
<td>Ball-point pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemist</td>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chips</td>
<td>Fries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisps</td>
<td>Chips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pudding</td>
<td>Dessert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courgettes</td>
<td>Zucchini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolly</td>
<td>Popsicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooker</td>
<td>Stove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat</td>
<td>Apartment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boot</td>
<td>Trunk of a car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumper</td>
<td>Pullover sweater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fag</td>
<td>Slang for cigarette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face flannel</td>
<td>Washcloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grotty</td>
<td>Dirty, grungy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet, loo, W.C.</td>
<td>Restroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring up</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tights</td>
<td>Pantyhose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pants</td>
<td>Underwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trousers</td>
<td>Pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>Eraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptive</td>
<td>Rubber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorry</td>
<td>Truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quid</td>
<td>Pound (£)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zed</td>
<td>The letter “z”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CULTURE SHOCK**

Most people experience some form of culture shock when living abroad. Because of the superficial similarities between British and American culture, students often assume that there will be no noticeable signs of culture shock and are then caught unawares. Each day will present itself with a new challenge that at first may seem overwhelming. However, this is a normal phase of adjustment. It may take you a few days or weeks to become accustomed to your new way of life. Everyone adjusts to culture shock in different ways depending on their personality. You should be aware that culture shock can be especially severe when you are also experiencing jet lag.

In order to reduce the impact of culture shock, here are some things you can do to make your acclimation as smooth as possible. Above all, learn about the U.K. ahead of time. Before you depart you...
should try to prepare mentally for temporarily relocating there. If you plan for and anticipate the
challenges you may face, then you are likely to find yourself assimilating into British culture more easily.
Talking with past program participants would be especially helpful – CGIS can help to arrange this. You
should try to educate yourself of the local customs and traditions in the U.K., as well as in other
countries you visit. Observe the way people do things, and do not assume a behavior that is acceptable
in the U.S. will be permissible elsewhere. Hand signals and body gestures have different connotations in
various parts of the world. Time, space, rituals, economic class, and social status also have symbolic
meanings that are not universal, but may vary widely.

Individuals from different cultures may observe the same event but interpret its content and
significance in very distinct ways. Avoid making assumptions based on American practices and try as
best as you can to “fit in” to your new culture. Misunderstandings are bound to happen no matter how
prepared you might be. Take your experiences in stride and with good humor, and then make
adjustments in your future behavior. You may find the information on this website helpful as you
prepare for your time in the UK: http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/

A FINAL WORD

We suggest that you browse through, and perhaps purchase, a travel guide to the U.K., of which there
are many. Any bookstore will have a selection of informative travel guides, which contain information
about both the logistics of travel (transportation, accommodations, and food) and the sights you will
see once you get there. Even if you decide not to buy a guide, or to wait until you get to the U.K., it’s
worth browsing through one or more as you begin to think about where you’ll be living, what you might
wish to bring, etc. Learn some basic facts about British geography—where London is, for example, in
relation to the rest of the U.K., and about regional differences in accents and attitudes.

Peaceful Thoughts: Enjoy your time in the U.K. You’ll find you have more independence than at
Michigan, which this can enable you to pursue interests and take advantage of opportunities that might
not present themselves here. If there is anything the CGIS can assist you with while you are on-site,
please do not hesitate to contact us.

CONTACT AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS)
University of Michigan
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435 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003
Phone: 734-764-4311; Fax: 734-764-3229
Email: cgis@umich.edu
Web: www.lsa.umich.edu/cgis

Ebony Ellis, Senior Intercultural Programs Advisor
EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency on-site, immediately call local emergency services. You should know your local address and the 911 equivalent number in your host country and carry that number with you at all times. Contact your local program director/on-site staff immediately if you are the victim of crime or need emergency assistance. Please also contact the University of Michigan Department of Public Safety, which has the following 24 hour number: (734) 763-1131. They will then contact the necessary on-campus offices, including the Center for Global and Intercultural Study, to respond to your situation. You may provide this same 24 hour number to your parents should if they experience an emergency and need to get a hold of you while you are abroad and are unable to contact you directly.

To contact HTH Worldwide in the event of an emergency or regarding insurance questions call 1.800.257.4823 or collect +1.610.254.8771 or globalhealth@hthworldwide.com

UNITED KINGDOM PROGRAM CONTACTS:

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Student Services Support information: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/studentServicesCentre/Default.htm

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Website: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/international/affiliate
and http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-guide/life-at-ucl

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Web: http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/team/

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