

UW Global Launch in London Program Handbook

Academic Year 2020-2021

The UW Global Launch in London program is a collaboration between the London-based Foundation for International Education (FIE) and International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook provides you with information and advice available at the time of posting. This handbook will be expanded as program details are finalized in the coming months. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad, and you will receive notification of these changes through your wisc.edu email.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, course credit, health and safety, billing, etc.) should be directed to IAP.

This program handbook contains information about:

- Program Contacts
- Program Dates
- Pre-Departure Preparation
- Immigration Documents
- Packing
- Travel and Arrival
- Academics
- Life Abroad

Contact Information

UW-MADISON INFORMATION

International Academic Programs
(IAP)
301 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329
www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Carmen Pitz
Study Abroad Advisor
carmen.pitz@wisc.edu
Tel: 608-265-6329

Professor Mike Vanden Heuvel
Fall 2020 Faculty in Residence
mvandenh@wisc.edu
Cell: 608-513-9746

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION

Your primary contact in London will be:
Clare Woessner, UW Program Assistant
Foundation House
114 Cromwell Road
SW7 4ES
Tel: 0207 591 7818
cwoessner@fie.org.uk

Your mailing address will be:

Attn: *YOUR NAME*
Metrogate
3-7 Queens Gate Terrace
London
SW7 5PE
UK

FIE: Foundation for International Education On-Site Contact Info

FIE operates a 24/7 Emergency Line : **+44 (0)20 7808 0131**

IAP Emergency Contact Information

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number **(608) 265-6329** between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (Central Time). After-hours or on weekends, call the IAP 24/7 Emergency Line at **(608) 516-9440**.

Contact information for your fellow program participants is located in your MyStudyAbroad portal under the Contacts tab if you wish to contact fellow UW students before your program.

Embassy Registration

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

United States Embassy
33 Nine Elms Lane
London, SW11 7US
United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 7499 9000
<https://uk.usembassy.gov/>

Program Dates

Orientation in Madison:	July 13-15, 2020	Fall Semester End & Departure:	December 13, 2020
Group Flight from Chicago:	August 26, 2020	Spring Semester Arrival:	January 6, 2021
Fall Arrival & Program Start:	August 27, 2020	Spring Departure & Program End:	April 25, 2021

Once the group of participants is confirmed, IAP will email about additional orientation and departure details.

Pre-Departure Preparation

Please note that IAP pays FIE your fees for the program, so please do not pay FIE directly.

Pre-Departure Orientation

Students and families will be invited to participate in an in-person orientation **July 13-15, 2020**. More information will be provided via email. You will learn more about the program and have the opportunity to ask questions about your year abroad. This orientation will be led by IAP, the Faculty in Residence, FIE representatives and other departments on campus.

Review all of the information located in your MyStudyAbroad account prior to the pre-departure orientation.

After the orientation, you will receive emails from both FIE and UW-Madison sharing more details. Please remove any junk mail settings that may block FIE or UW-Madison emails and be sure to check the email account for the address you gave.

Immigration Documents

Passport

A passport is needed to travel to the United Kingdom. [Apply immediately](#) for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid at least six months beyond the dates of your program (through October 2021).

Immigration Requirements

In order to study in the United Kingdom, you will need a student visa. A student visa is a stamp that is placed in your passport and gives you permission to study in the UK. IAP & FIE will provide you with information and guidance regarding this process, but ultimately it is your responsibility to obtain a student visa.

In order to study abroad in the UK, you must apply for a Tier 4 (General) Visa. You cannot apply for a Tier 4 visa after you arrive in the UK. You must apply in your country of residence, prior to departure.

For information on the application process:

- Visit FIE's "[Before You Go – London](#)" Visa Information page
- Read through the information on this page carefully
- To access the guide, scroll down and click on the **[Tier 4 Visa Guide](#)** link (you will receive a password from FIE to open the guide)

Packing

Essentials:

- **Practical Clothes.** Clothes that require minimal care, are comfortable to travel in, and can be layered are best to take. Layering is the best way to combat the unpredictable British temperatures. Casual clothing is the most comfortable for day-to-day British life. If you plan on going out to dinner or to the theatre at night, dressier clothing would be best.
- **Backpack.** Backpacks are easier to carry than suitcases on longer trips. Your flats will not have a lot of closet space or areas for storage, therefore it may be best to bring a collapsible suitcase. A small travel bag is convenient for weekend and day trips.
- **Comfortable shoes.** You are likely to be out and about walking around London in many of your classes in addition to outside your classes!
- **Strong umbrella and raincoat.** Many a Londoner will tell you it rains quite often here!
- **Bath towels.** Bed sheets will be provided in the flats and you will be able to buy bath towels upon arrival from a nearby store if you don't want to carry them over.
- **Travel purse or money belt.** To keep your passport, ID, and money safe.

- **Laptop.** We would recommend you bring a laptop as a lot of your work and assignments will be electronically submitted. There is free wifi in your residences and Foundation House. You will also have 24-hour access to a computer lab in Metrogate should you not be able to bring a laptop.
- **Necessary prescriptions and medications.** Prescriptions for certain medications can be difficult to get in the UK so make sure you have the right amount of medication for the duration of your program, in their original labeled bottles. Be sure to complete this step well in advance of your departure in case you need to consult with your doctor. If you are more comfortable with certain American brand-name products (ex. Tylenol, Advil), we recommend you bring a supply of these with you.

A few tips:

- **Avoid over-packing!** Airlines can place additional charges for extra or overweight luggage. You may also want to bring souvenirs or gifts back from the UK so leave some room!
- **Ensure that every bag is marked** in capital letters with your name and Metrogate address.
- **Create copies of important documents** before you go abroad both for yourself and for someone you trust and can easily get in contact with at home. These documents should include scans of your passport, debit/credit cards and insurance cards, as well as any supplemental information that you believe is of significant importance. It is also helpful to have all of these documents in a folder to make it easier for you to navigate border control upon entering the country.
- **Electrical Appliances.** Make sure you bring an adapter for both the UK and Europe if you anticipate travelling as the sockets are different. British electricity runs on 240 volts, while U.S. runs on 110 volts. If you plan on using a hairdryer or electric razor, we recommend purchasing these items in London to not run the risk of blowing a fuse. For example, a hairdryer can be purchased for around £10 at Sainsbury's or Argos.

Travel and Arrival Information

Important Dates

Arrival date in London:	August 27, 2020
Orientation:	August 28-30, 2020
FIE Welcome Reception:	Friday September 4, 2020
UW Global Launch Welcome Event:	Saturday August 29, 2020
Classes begin:	Tuesday September 1, 2020 (Monday August 31 is a Bank Holiday)
Fall Excursion:	October 17-19, 2020 (TBC)
Fall break:	October 20-23, 2020
Departure date from Housing for Winter Break:	12pm on Sunday, December 13, 2020

Arrival date for Spring:	January 6, 2021 Arrival Information (For Spring 2021)
Orientation:	January 7-10, 2021
FIE Welcome Reception:	Friday January 8, 2021
UW in London Welcome Event:	Saturday January 9, 2021
Classes begin:	Monday January 11, 2021
Spring break:	March 1-5, 2021
UW in London Farewell Dinner:	Thursday April 22, 2021
Departure date from London:	12pm on Sunday, April 25, 2021

IMPORTANT: Do not make any travel plans for your time abroad until you arrive in London and receive a list of confirmed dates.

IAP will book your flight from Chicago (potentially Madison) to London on a group flight. This cost is included in your program fee and you are required to travel to London on the group flight (no exceptions). You will receive more information about the group flight during orientation. FIE will provide group transportation upon arrival in London to the FIE premises for check in and onsite orientation.

Registration and Orientation on Arrival

On arrival to your residence you will receive information about what to expect and the location of your on-site orientations.

On arrival day (Thursday), you will be expected to register at Foundation House, after having settled into your residences. You **MUST** bring your passport to registration – FIE will photocopy it for immigration purposes. You'll also receive additional documents aiding your stay in London. You will have a mandatory Welcome Meeting the evening of arrival with your FIE Residence Life Supervisors. This will be held in your flats and you will receive more information about the timing of the meetings upon arrival.

Orientations (required for all students) will be held after your arrival (Thursday – Sunday). The orientations will help you settle in and provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions about the academic program, where you are living, the local area, health and safety and what's going on during your time in London. Further orientation activities include a visit to the Houses of Parliament, a London bus tour, theater trip, and a welcome reception.

The UW Global Launch program will have a group welcome outing to Afternoon Tea on the first weekend of the program. The group will gather to kick off the program and celebrate finishing the first week of classes successfully. You will receive more details upon arrival, but please pack [one nice outfit suitable for the occasion](#). The location will be the Royal Garden Hotel, just opposite Kensington Palace.

The Academic Program

General Information

The FIE/UW Program Assistant and UW alumna, Clare Woessner, will be based in Foundation House. Clare will be there to help you with every aspect of the program from academic inquiries, drop/add, registration and other course-related questions, adjustment issues, and any other information to help you gain the most from your time in London.

The courses run from Monday-Friday and will be scheduled between 8am and 9pm. Classes normally meet one or two times per week. [FIE Academic Resources](#)

No unexcused absences are allowed. It is very important that you attend all of your classes because a large part of your grade is based on your class attendance and/or participation. Professors do not accept traveling as an excuse for missing class. Attendance of classes is also a stipulation of your visa.

You **MUST NOT** make any arrangements for weekend travel until you have arrived in London and received your term schedule which will tell you when your classes and other compulsory events are taking place. Some cultural activities will take place on Saturdays and Sundays as well.

Course and Credit Information

Classes are held at FIE's Foundation House and Metrogate House. You will register for 15 credits each semester. Each course in London is worth 3 UW-Madison credits, so this means you will take 5 courses.

UW Global Launch Program Structure

Fall Semester Courses:

1. UW Fall Faculty in Residence course (Humanities or Social Science)
2. UW Fall Faculty in Residence course (Humanities or Literature)
3. College Writing-Britain as a Text (Communication-A)*
4. British Life and Cultures (History)
5. Music in 20th Century Britain (Music) - OR- Environmental Science: Our Role in Today's World (Environmental Studies)

* If a student has already fulfilled their Comm A requirement, they will take both of the courses listed in 5 and not the course listed in 2.

Spring Semester Courses:

1. UW in London Spring Faculty in Residence course (Choose one from courses offered: Humanities or Social Science)
2. The Nature of Story Creative Writing (Communication-B)
3. International Service Learning (International Studies)
4. Choose one course from the list below
5. Choose one course from the list below

Course Options for 4 and 5:

- London is the Place for Me: Twentieth Century British Migrant Fiction (English)
- Harry Potter: Magic, Myth and Meaning (English)
- Statistics (Statistics)
- British Politics (Political Science)
- Modern & Contemporary Fine Art in Britain (Art History)

Participants will be invited to enroll in a one credit post-program course, CP 125, and will receive additional information about enrolling during the spring semester.

Registration

IAP will register you for a special "Study Abroad Course" for the terms you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.

Course Selection

Participants sign up for classes in the summer before leaving for London. This process will be coordinated by FIE and you will be discussing this with UW academic advisors at the pre-departure orientation.

Course Equivalent Requests (CERs)

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison "equivalent" and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your MyStudyAbroad account. The deadline to submit the CER is by the end of the fourth week of classes.

Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process is in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and in your MyStudyAbroad account under the Academics tab.

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit

Students are expected to enroll in the full-time academic program. Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies and procedures. The deadline for submitting a Pass/Fail form can be found in the Academics tab of your My Study Abroad account.

Grades and Grade Conversions

Courses taken in London will follow the same grading scale as UW-Madison, and the grades you earn will apply to your overall GPA.

FIE Grade	UW-Madison Grade
A+ / A	A
A- / B+	AB
B	B
B- / C+	BC
C / C-	C
D+ / D / D-	D
F	F

A note about Co-Curricular Excursions: A large part of your academic program in London will be outside the classroom. You are likely to visit areas, cultural sites, museums, theatres and do tours with your professors in addition to being able to see London outside your classes. Some examples of these trips could include; Houses of Parliament, British Museum and Shakespeare's Globe.

Living Abroad

Housing and Classrooms

The program is located on FIE premises in the Kensington neighborhood of London. Key buildings are:

Foundation House: Foundation House is FIE's main study center where many of your classes are held. The opening hours are 8am – 9pm during the semester. You will spend a significant amount of time in this building during the school week. The UW Global Launch/UW in London program office is also located here within the Student Life Office.

Metrogate House: FIE's main residence building in the Kensington neighborhood. Upon arrival, this is where you will check-in to receive your housing assignment and key. Metrogate House has a 24-hour reception, a computer lab, study rooms, and laundry facilities. There are also three classrooms in this building and several FIE administrative offices. Your mailbox is located here too, so this will be your mailing address.

[General Housing Information](#)

****IMPORTANT NOTE:** Roommate assignments won't be released until you arrive in London.

Student Residences:

- You will be living in Metrogate House, FIE's First Year student residence in South Kensington, within a 10-minute walk from Foundation House.
- Each student will share a bedroom with one, two or three other program participants, and the living room area is shared by everyone in the flat.
- Metrogate House has a communal kitchen space that everyone will share.
- We typically place students in rooms with others of the same sex. In some locations, this is necessary for legal or cultural reasons. We understand that not all students may identify as female or male, and we want to create a welcoming environment for you while you are abroad. We are happy to work with students who identify as transgender, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, and/or non-binary regarding life abroad. If you have questions or concerns regarding housing as it relates to your gender identity, please contact your Study Abroad Advisor.
- You will be notified of your roommate assignment when you arrive in London.
- British housing, in general, is much smaller than U.S. housing. Not only will you have a smaller living space, but also smaller storage space.
- You will share a bedroom with other UW-Madison students, but there will be students from other universities studying with FIE living in the residences.
- All rooms have their own TVs and bed linen that is changed every week (bed linen includes blanket, pillows and sheets). You should bring your own towels or plan to buy towels once in London. Stores like TK Maxx, Marks & Spencer, and Primark offer very inexpensive towels and pillows.
- **No overnight guests are permitted.** FIE can help you find inexpensive accommodations for your visitors.
- Residence Life Supervisors live in student accommodations. They are usually graduate students pursuing their own course of study in London or young professionals. They keep FIE and UW staff informed of any discipline and welfare problems which may affect the general harmony of all residents.
- Arrival/Departure dates are firm; no exceptions can be made for you to move in early or move out late.

The Area

One of the world's great cultural and financial centers, London offers almost endless potential for study abroad. As London specialists, FIE staff and faculty have been helping universities, colleges and hundreds of students realize this potential each year since 1998 through programs of the highest quality.

Highlights of the Area

- FIE is located near schools such as Imperial College, the Royal College of Art, and the Royal College of Music.
- Just down the street are some of the world's great cultural institutions, including the Royal Albert Hall, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Natural History Museum.
- Kensington is home to charming residential areas where famous residents of the present (Madonna, Hugh Grant, Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise—not to mention the Royal Family) mixed with the ghosts of those who lived in the area in the past (T.S. Eliot, J.S. Mill and Beatrix Potter).
- Students live and study near some of London's most fashionable streets, including Gloucester Road, where students will find banks, a post office, pubs, restaurants, and grocery stores; and High Street Kensington, one of London's premier shopping streets.

Accessing the Rest of the City

Getting to the rest of the city is easy and convenient. The area is served by a number of underground (Tube) and bus routes, opening up the whole city to the curious visitor. Foundation House is located near the corner of

Gloucester and Cromwell Road, at the Gloucester Road Tube stop. From here, students have instant access to the Piccadilly, Circle, and District Tube lines. Oyster cards with unlimited free travel in Tube zones 1-2 will be given to you at check-in at Metrogate House and fully explained in orientation.

Living in London

Communication

When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html).

Phones

If you are planning to use your smartphone while abroad, you should visit your cell phone provider prior to departure and request to have your device unlocked. Upon arrival you will then purchase an International SIM card to use with your unlocked phone. Alternatively, you can purchase an inexpensive pay-as-you-go phone. Much more will be explained about mobile phones in the UK during your July Pre-Departure Orientation.

Internet Access

All FIE buildings including your residences and Foundation House have free wifi for internet access on your mobiles or laptops. You will be given a password upon arrival to enable Internet access to your device. The Metrogate PC Lab is also available for participants to use and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Skype/Facetime

The cheapest way to video call friends and family in the U.S. is through Skype or FaceTime. Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing. For those using Apple products, Facetime video and voice calls can also be made on wifi.

WhatsApp/Messaging

If you are looking to lower international text messaging costs, or you do not want to purchase a UK SIM card, then applications such as Whatsapp and Facebook Messenger may be helpful alternatives for you. Many students find these apps to be supplementary for traditional texting, and they only need wifi to operate.

Health and Safety

You are required to participate in IAP’s Health and Safety Orientation online, which will provide general information on how to minimize risk, as well as health and safety resources available to you abroad. Carry your emergency card and insurance card throughout your program.

Health

Students will be covered by CISI supplemental health insurance for the duration of their program. More information on the CISI health insurance coverage can be found in MyStudyAbroad under the Health, Safety & Insurance tab. If you need to see a doctor, you will most likely have to pay out of pocket and submit a claim to

CISI to be reimbursed. The Student Life Team and the FIE/UW Program Assistant are able to assist you in making arrangements for doctor's appointments. You should observe health precautions similar to those that would apply while traveling in the United States. For more information on recommended immunizations for travel to the U.K., please see the Center for Disease Control (CDC) web site:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/united-kingdom>

Safety

Your on-site orientation will provide specific information once you arrive to London, but some general tips to encourage safety in any location include:

- Use caution when traveling around the city.
- Do not travel alone after dark.
- Tell someone your whereabouts.
- Have a working telephone on your person.
- Intoxication compromises your ability to make safe choices and may increase your risk for being a target of crime.

The UW Code of Conduct applies during your time abroad and means that alcohol consumption is not allowed during any program events or activities and is not permitted in program housing, regardless of whether you are of legal drinking age in London.

For police, fire and/or ambulance response in an emergency situation, dial **999**. To report a crime that is not an emergency, dial **101**.

London, particularly the Kensington neighborhood, is relatively safe. However, it is still a large metropolitan city and commonsense precautions are necessary to ensure your safety. You will want to follow the same safety precautions that you would at home.

Flat Security

Never let anyone into the flat without proper identification. You should always be informed of workers entering the building, so if someone comes unexpected, do not be afraid to request an ID.

Pick-pockets

London is known for its pick-pockets, especially in busy places like Tube stations. Men are advised to carry their wallet in their front pocket. Women will want to ensure that their purse is always zipped and tightly at your side, and never hang it on the back of a chair at restaurants. Use common sense!

Going Out

Make sure you leave with everyone you came with. Do not accept drinks from strangers. Always have an eye on your drink. More information about staying safe in London will be explained at your Pre-Departure orientation, and reiterated at your FIE Orientation once you arrive in London.

Cab Services

Either call for a cab or take a London Black Cab. Black Cab drivers are certified through London's metropolitan police. NEVER get into other unmarked cabs or cabs you have not called for.

Practicalities

Food

You will live within walking distance of several supermarkets as well as many small shops. Sainsburys, Tesco, and Waitrose are the three major supermarkets in London. Most grocery stores are open between 8:00 a.m. -

9:00 p.m. but close earlier on Sundays. Food in Europe often has fewer preservatives than in the U.S., so milk, cheese, bread and other perishables will spoil much faster.

Clothes

If you need a few additional items once you are in London, and are looking for cheaper shops, head to TK Maxx on Kensington High Street (10 minute walk) or Primark on Oxford Street (15 minutes underground journey).

Toiletries

Toiletries are widely available in supermarkets and stores such as Boots or Superdrug (Britain's version of Walgreens). Again, if you are particular about certain brands of toiletries, you may want to bring a supply with you.

Handling Money Abroad

The cost of living in London will be significantly higher than many areas of the U.S. In addition, the U.K. currency, pounds sterling, has at times been valued much higher than the U.S. dollar. The exchange rate changes daily, and can be checked at <http://www.oanda.com>. We suggest you begin to familiarize yourself with the currency before you arrive.

Budgeting for London

Estimated expenses vary widely depending upon the student. How much you spend will depend on your lifestyle, such as how much you eat out and travel during your free time. We recommend you budget for between £80- £100 each week for food and personal expenses. Keep in mind that your purchasing power is directly related to the dollar/sterling exchange rate.

Cash for Arrival

It is a good idea to carry some British currency with you for arrival to help you settle in during your first few days. We recommend you exchange this money before you arrive in London. Be sure to ask for mixed notes in small denominations.

Banking

- Do not plan to keep large amounts of cash in your room. The easiest way to handle your money abroad is often to use the same checking account you have in the U.S., using your debit card as your primary means of payment and cash withdrawal. ATMs are readily available all over Europe.
- The largest banks in England are HSBC, Barclays and Lloyds. If your bank has a relationship with any of these banks, they may not charge an ATM fee. Check with your financial institution to see whether they have these relationships, and what kind of charges you will incur on international purchases. Online banking with your U.S.-based account will help you keep track of how much you are spending in U.S. dollars.
- Always have a backup. If you are using your debit card as your primary means of money abroad, make sure you also bring a credit card (Visa or MasterCard are recommended) in case your primary card is lost or stolen. Keep the backup card in a different place from your primary card.
- You must inform your bank and credit card companies well in advance (1-2 weeks prior to departure) of your program that you will be abroad so they do not freeze your accounts for

security reasons. Keep in mind that your bank/credit card company may require you to notify them for each international trip you take during the program.

ISIC Card

The International Student Identity Card, or ISIC, is an internationally recognized form of student identification. When starting your studies in London you will receive one of these as your FIE Student ID. Having one of these cards allows students to ask for discounts at hundreds of theatres, restaurants, cinemas and museums, as well as student discounts on plane and rail tickets across Europe.

Student Life

- [Student Life Introduction](#)
- [Fitness & Gym Membership Information](#)

Co-Curricular Excursions

Sponsored academic activities are an integral part of the UW-Madison program, serving to enhance the academics as well as the cultural base of the program. A series of events including day trips to other English cities, popular tourist sites, and meals will be arranged by FIE. Participants are required to attend academic excursions. You will learn more about this (along with specific dates/schedules) when you arrive in London.

FIE Extra-Curricular Activities

Clare Woessner, the UW-Madison Program Assistant, and the FIE Student Life Team in Foundation House offers you information about local events and sponsors special discount outings for students. They are available to help with your questions and concerns. Participants are highly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities as they heighten the cultural experience of the program.

The UW Global Launch Faculty in Residence will also work with FIE to arrange a series of additional optional events in the city for UW students, based on the interest and time commitments of the students. These could include art exhibitions, theatre performances, or trips to local markets. The expenses for these events will be covered by the program and will be at no additional cost for students to attend! You are encouraged to attend these events in order to enjoy/explore London while getting to know your fellow UW program participants and Faculty in Residence!

Unique FIE offerings

Extra-curricular calendar: to show students a different side of British culture, FIE coordinates an optional extra curricular calendar of events taking place around London. The activities are subsidized by FIE and are limited to availability on a first come, first serve basis. There is always a deadline for online sign-up early in the term, so students should make sure to sign up promptly to avoid paying full price somewhere else! This may include a spin on the London eye, sporting events such as football or rugby matches, theatre trips to the West End, and an adventure weekend in Wales. Students will receive a copy of the calendar via email before they arrive in London, with instructions about how and where to sign up for the events.

- Access to the [Imperial College student union](#): you can join some of the 300 societies and sports clubs at Imperial and get to know British university students.
- Membership to [International Students House](#)
- Host UK weekend British home stays
- Regular Facebook updates: [join up now!](#)

Travel outside of London

London is a great hub of transportation to other parts of the UK and to Europe. Many students take the opportunity to explore the UK and Europe while abroad. During the orientation session in London, you will be told more about transportation in and out of London.

You are strongly discouraged to travel to areas that the U.S. State Department has designated as hazardous or has advised against travel. Make sure to check the U.S. State Department website (<http://travel.state.gov/>) for Travel Advisories and Consular Information Sheets for any country you are considering traveling to or through before you make any travel plans. Please see Clare Woessner, FIE/UW Program Assistant, or the FIE Student Life Team, for any advice on travelling outside of London.

Please remember to also alert FIE staff [online](#) when you leave London overnight.

Additional Relevant Information/Websites of Interest

[Cost of Living](#)

[FIE: Foundation of International Education](#)

[Time out London](#)

[Transport for London](#)

[Student Travel Association \(STA\)](#)

[Buckingham Badgers Facebook Page](#)