Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER, WINCHESTER, ENGLAND 2020

Program Guide
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Congratulations on being accepted by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) to the exchange/study abroad program in at the University of Winchester. Living and studying in a new culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

- Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field
- Increasing understanding of different cultures
- Enhancing personal development
- Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture
- Gaining self-confidence and independence
- Learning skills for the future international job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

Use this program-specific guide with the more general resources in your BlugoldsAbroad account. While this guide contains the information available at the time of publication, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email information throughout the semester, and we encourage you to do your own research, also, using the web resources listed towards the end of this guide, as well as others that you find. Contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff or your peer advisor with your specific questions.

Questions only you can answer include:
1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge yourself in a new environment?

2) Given the way the program is set up; how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in British culture, yet you are with other U.S. students, how are you going to get out and meet the locals?

The information in this guide was current at the time of publication, though changes may occur at any time.
ACADEMICS

Additional information on topics such as maintaining program eligibility, registration at UW-Eau Claire, class attendance, course equivalencies, grades, transcripts and service learning is in the Academics section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Pre-departure Planning

Please see the UWEC Academics page for Winchester for details on how to plan your courses at Winchester.

College of Business Students: Consult closely with your UWEC academic advisor regarding study abroad at the University of Winchester. Curricular changes at the University of Winchester have made it more difficult for students, especially students studying abroad as upper classmen, to earn enough credit in business studies to advance their UW-Eau Claire degree program. In addition, COB students may be asked to provide a letter of support to register for level 5 and level 6 modules.

Psychology Students: The University of Winchester Psychology Department requires visiting students to demonstrate one year of research methods in order to enroll in 2nd and 3rd year modules (level 5 & 6 modules). You must have successfully completed UWEC’s Math 246, Elementary Statistics, or PSYC 265-Statistical Methods in Psychology I and PSYC 271-Methods of Research in Psychology prior to your semester at Winchester in order to access level 5 and 6 psychology modules. Winchester strictly enforces these prerequisites.

Graduate Courses

Some students have expressed an interest in taking graduate courses abroad. Although your Winchester faculty advisor may not have a problem with you taking graduate courses, UW-Eau Claire does. You will not be granted credit for graduate courses taken abroad unless Winchester allows the graduate course to count toward their home campus undergraduate degree.

Credits and Course Load

Exchange and visiting (study abroad) students at the University of Winchester are required to carry a load of 60 Winchester credits/15 UW-Eau Claire credits, which is the both the minimum and maximum you can take. Winchester modules are generally worth either 15 or 30 credits. A 15-credit module equals 3.75 UW-Eau Claire credits; a 30-credit module equals 7.5 UW-Eau Claire credits.

Keep in mind:

- The credits you earn abroad are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits.
- The classes you take abroad will count towards the total credits needed for graduation.
- Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and must be approved in advance by the CIE and Winchester.

Registration at Winchester

Fall & Year Long Students: Fall and year-long students will receive a module selection form in April after the next year’s modules are posted on the Winchester website. Winchester generally confirms your preliminary course schedule prior to your departure. Fall/AY students usually receive their schedules in late August/September.

Spring Students: Spring students usually receive the module selection in the fall with their
Winchester application and post-decision materials. Winchester generally confirms your preliminary course schedule prior to your departure. Spring students usually receive their schedules in mid-December.

**The Winchester study abroad coordinator in the University of Winchester Registry (Registrar’s Office) will enroll you in the modules that you listed on your module selection form.** If the coordinator cannot enroll you in your preferred or reserve modules, she will contact you regarding other module choices.

**Dropping/Adding Courses**
You are encouraged not to change your schedule once you have submitted your module selection form; however, that may be possible in certain cases. Please contact Jenna Krosch (kroschjm@uwec.edu), the UWEC Winchester study abroad coordinator with questions about changes.

If you would like to make any changes after your arrival, you will need to complete a paper-based change form and give it to the University of Winchester study abroad coordinator. Some UW-Eau Claire students find the registration process frustrating as much of it is still paper-based, unlike the online system at UW-Eau Claire. Please be patient and remember that this is part of adjusting to a new academic system.

**Class Attendance**
You are expected to attend all teaching sessions (e.g. lectures and tutorials), as material covered in these sessions forms the basis for your understanding of the subject. The University of Winchester does monitor student attendance.

Different departments/faculty may have specific attendance requirements and penalties over and above the general university guidelines. If you are in doubt about the attendance policy for your module/course, consult your lecturer.

**Grades**
Winchester gives grades in percentage points, which are then converted to U.S. letter grades. **At Winchester, a mark above 70 is nearly impossible to achieve.** It would be extremely rare for a student to receive above 80 for a piece of work. An excellent piece of work in the U.S. may be marked 95 whereas in the UK, the equivalent mark is 75. Both are excellent grades in their respective countries but on the face of it may appear lower. As such UW-Eau Claire uses a standardized scale to convert grades from Winchester. This conversion scale has been evaluated many times and will not be evaluated again. The conversion scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winchester %</th>
<th>UW-Eau Claire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67-77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>60-63%</td>
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<td>57-59%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>54-56%</td>
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<td>50-53%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>47-49%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>44-46%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>40-43%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 40%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that your essays may be double-marked, which means a second professor will mark your essay in addition to the professor who served as your lecturer.
Note: UWEC students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail. Grades from Winchester are figured into your UWEC GPA and posted to your UWEC transcript. No exceptions will be made.

Winchester & UWEC Transcripts
Please see the Academics section of the Study Abroad Handbook for important information if you are graduating, transferring or applying for a competitive major such as Nursing or Education at the end of your term abroad.

University of Winchester will send a transcript to UW-Eau Claire. Transcripts are not available until two or three months after the end of the Winchester semester. Due to this delay, you will initially receive a grade report with “NR” (not reported) for all courses. A revised report will be available after the grades have arrived.

UK Academic System
Expectation of independent learning:
Returned students most often describe academic life at the UK as “different.” They go on to explain that while they didn’t find classes there more or less difficult than classes at home, they did need to adjust to a new way of teaching and learning.

From a UK perspective, it is hard to understand methods used in U.S. higher education, with lots of direction from the professors, many small, graded assignments, and the general "checking up" to be certain that students are learning the assigned materials. This is how UK students learn in high school. Once they enter university, they are expected to take responsibility for their own education.

Class meetings and schedule: Most classes meet once per week for either a three-hour lecture or two to three hours with a mixture of lecture and tutorial. For the lecture and tutorial, both sections are taught by the same professor (known as a lecturer in the UK system). Given that the course load is 3-5 courses per term, you may find yourself spending only 12-15 hours in class per week depending on your schedule.

Lectures: Like in the U.S., the lecture is a traditional method of teaching that allows lecturers to pass important information to a large number of students. However, lectures in the UK offer less opportunity for students to ask questions: questions and discussions are in the tutorial. Also, the lectures are not intended to tell you everything you need to know for the test or assignment. They provide an overview to allow you to place your course material or readings in context, or to focus on a difficult concept or theory.

To take the best advantage of lectures, you should keep up with course reading and come to lecture prepared. By being prepared for lecture, you will be able to engage and ask questions in the tutorials.

Tutorials/Seminars: Tutorials, or seminars as they are also called, are NOT mini-lectures. They are active learning opportunities where the tutor and students meet to discuss the material covered in lecture and the reading that you are doing outside of class. For tutorials to be effective, they require active student participation. This means you:
- must have read the assigned work and suggested sources in advance,
- should be prepared to contribute to the discussion,
• made note of any difficult concepts or points from lecture or your readings that you do not understand, and
• should be willing to raise issues for discussion.

**Tutorials are not optional.** Attendance is kept, and absences are noted. Tutorials also allow for closer professor/student relationships than are typically found at the undergraduate level in the U.S.

**Advance planning and independent learning:** With only 12-15 hours of class time per week, you may think your time in the UK will be an academic vacation. This is not the case. Much of the emphasis is placed on private study. In the British system, students do not say they are "studying" history, for example. **They say they are "reading" history.** And that is precisely what students are expected to do: **read!** As one student said, "You will probably spend a lot less time in class than you are used to, but in exchange, you are expected to do a lot more independent work!"

Upon beginning a class, you will likely be given a (very) long reading list. This is not a required reading list; it is a list of suggested readings that will expand your knowledge of the subject area. What you actually read from the list is mostly left up to you. **If you are told that “You may wish to look at these specific titles,” take that as a strong hint to read those books.** You should also browse through several of the others and choose two or three to read carefully. These readings will form the basis of your contributions to tutorial discussions, as well as for the essays that serve as assessment for the module.

**Differences in assignments and exams:** In the UK, you will rarely find a lecturer who makes short, weekly assignments. During the semester, you may have to give a few **tutorial/seminar presentations,** typically a group assignment where you and two or three other students need to prepare a short presentation about the week's topic in order to facilitate discussion.

In some courses, you may not hand in any work until the last few weeks of the term. At this point, you will probably be asked to hand in essays or papers, which will range in length from 5-15 pages. You often receive the essay questions with your syllabus at the beginning of the semester. Start writing early!

The essays give you the opportunity to 1) show the lecturer that you have done some of the course reading, and 2) show the lecturer that you have critically thought about the material you have read. Generally speaking, you will be expected to present an original idea, or discuss opposing ideas, and **come to your own conclusion.** Demonstration of clear thought and argumentation are as critical as backing up your arguments with knowledgeable sources. You may also take a final exam in essay format.

In case you’re worried, take this advice from a former peer advisor: **“Don’t be afraid to email them or go to office hours! I often went to office hours to get input on essay outlines!”**

**Participation points:** Another difference is that there are no “participation points” in the UK. You may be penalized for not attending but you will not earn points just for coming to class or participating, as that is a basic expectation for all students.
**Student services:** Another difference to note is that "student services" are a relatively newer concept in British universities than in the U.S. The university is there to provide access to academic resources. There are some student support units. However, universities do not have the mission, common to most U.S. institutions, of "student development." University students are considered adults who will work their way through the system, asking questions when necessary. As a newcomer to the system and the culture, you may need to ask questions often!

In case you’re worried, take this advice from a past participant: “It all sounds a lot scarier than it really is. The keys are keeping up with reading, participating in class discussions, and explaining everything in papers/exams in detail, because you’re not just telling the lecturers what they already know, you’re trying to convince them of your viewpoint. If you are lost, by all means, talk to your instructors. They are very helpful to international students.”

**Books**
The main thing to remember is that there usually is not one specific text. Students are given reading lists and are free to choose any of them to prepare for class and/or to write the essay or exam. The only exceptions are literature classes. Students often share books with other students or check them out from the library. Past students have suggested getting to the library early in the semester as many books on the list will be checked out from the library if you wait too long.

**Service-Learning**
Given that you will most likely spend fewer hours in the classroom in England than at UW-Eau Claire, you may find your term abroad a good time to complete some service-learning.

However, to have this option, you must do the following **before you leave the U.S.**:

- **Apply for A Tier IV Student Visa**
  See the Learning Content “Visa Information: UK” in your BlugoldsAbroad account for details.

- **Have A Criminal Background Check**
  Volunteer work with vulnerable populations (i.e. children, the elderly, people with disabilities, etc.) will require a criminal background check. Like U.S., the UK has experienced some tragic incidents where people with criminal backgrounds have victimized vulnerable people. The result: a required criminal background check of all volunteers. You can apply for a criminal background check through the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice ([http://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib/crime-information-bureau](http://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib/crime-information-bureau)). You must apply for and receive your background check before you depart for the UK. Once you receive your letter, put it in a safe place and bring it with you. You will ultimately share it with the volunteer site coordinator.

Once you are in Winchester, you will need to locate a suitable service-learning opportunity AND remember to submit your service-learning forms online before you begin your project! ([https://www.uwec.edu/service-learning/](https://www.uwec.edu/service-learning/))

**MONEY MATTERS**
UWEC information about making payments, when they are due, withdrawal and refund deadlines, financial aid, general scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring
money abroad is in the Money Matters section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Cost Estimate
You can find the most current Cost Estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the CIE Winchester Page. Be sure you are looking at the correct term. The cost estimate includes what you pay to UWEC, what you pay to Winchester, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

Fall Exchange Option
Occasionally, students in the fall will be going to Winchester as exchange students. This will be determined before the cost estimate is posted so please see that to know whether or not you are considered as an exchange student. On a tuition only exchange program, each participant pays the costs they would normally pay at their home school – so Eau Claire students pay UWEC costs, and Winchester students cover tuition costs at their respective university, and they switch places. You will pay Winchester directly for your housing.

No money is exchanged between the schools, and there is no direct monetary correlation between what you pay in Eau Claire and what you receive in England. What is exchanged is not actual payment, but rather benefits. You should receive the same benefits a typical Winchester student receives, and the Winchester student receives the benefits a typical Eau Claire student receives. This type of arrangement allows students to participate in overseas programs at a cost similar to what they would pay to attend their home university.

Spring Study Abroad Option
Those of you studying for the full academic year, and those studying for spring only, will be study abroad students. All spring students will always be considered study abroad students as there are too many applicants and not enough exchange places. In this case, U of Winchester will bill UWEC for your tuition and fees, at a discounted non-resident tuition rate for partner institutions. You will pay that amount to UWEC, and we will transfer the fees for all UWEC study abroad students to Winchester. Spring is typically more expensive than the fall because you are paying Winchester non-resident tuition. Again, you will pay Winchester directly for your housing.

Housing Costs
All housing costs are paid directly to Winchester. The cost of accommodations will depend on where you select to live. If you choose to live in housing that has a meal plan (catered) you will pay more. If you choose to live in housing with no meal plan (self-catered) you will pay less but then you will need to purchase all of your food/meals. There can be pros and cons to either housing option so be sure to think it over. To get an idea on housing costs, click here and scroll down to “one semester rates”

Currency Exchange
The currency of the United Kingdom is the pound, abbreviated GBP (Great Britain Pound) and symbolized “£.” Just like the dollar, the pound is divided into 100 units, called “pence,” abbreviated “p.” Coins come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 pence, as well as 1 and 2 pounds. There are £5, £10, £20, and £50 bills.

You can find current exchange rates at http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/.
Cost of Living
For an idea of what everyday costs you may encounter, check out this website:
https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Winchester-United-Kingdom

Funds upon Arrival
The University of Winchester recommends that you arrive in the UK with approximately £200-
£250 in British currency, more if you are traveling by taxis and other public transport. Do not carry any more than this in case it gets lost. You are able to withdraw money from ATMs using your credit or debit card.

Bank Accounts
For yearlong students, it may take up to three weeks to open a UK bank account so be prepared with cash, debit/credit cards, and/or traveler’s checks until then. Students studying in the UK for six months or less are not allowed to open an account.

Credit Cards and ATMs
Credit cards are widely accepted in the UK. You will want to make sure you have either Visa or MasterCard as those are the most widely accepted. It is strongly recommended that all of your credit/debit cards have a chip in them. Most places in the UK have the chip reader technology and swiping your card is less common.

When withdrawing money from the ATM, always use caution. Make sure you notify your bank and credit card companies before your travel. They will want to know your travel itinerary to the best that you have it planned out. Also make a copy of all of your credit cards so that in the event they are lost, stolen, or eaten by an ATM, you have the contact information to call and cancel.

Traveler’s Checks
Traveler’s checks are increasingly rare and difficult to use. They generally must be cashed at a major bank, although, in some countries, post offices also offer this service, and you must have your passport with you. Most banks charge a fee for cashing the checks; it can vary widely. Before cashing a check, ASK what the fee is.

Health & Safety
General information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health & Insurance and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Centers for Disease Control
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has vaccination suggestions, how to stay healthy when abroad, and health information specific to the UK. Review the CDC site for the United Kingdom.

Vaccinations
Due to an increasing measles and mumps cases in Europe, we strongly encourage all students to check their vaccine history to see if they have had the MMR vaccine.

Also, our university partners in the UK have indicated that the National Health Service has a policy of immunizing for Meningitis “C” and recommend that students who have not been vaccinated plan to have this done before leaving home.
Medical & Mental Healthcare

Campus Medical Services:
During orientation in Winchester, you will receive information about the UK National Health Service (NHS) and registering with a doctor. The university does not have a health center on campus; however, there are three local clinics, St. Clements, St. Paul’s and Friarsgate, (known as “surgeries” or “practices” in the UK). St. Paul’s is closest to campus, while St. Clements currently holds the contract for a doctor’s office on campus. However, this is not a campus health service, per se: students still make appointments through the main St. Clements clinic but request to be seen on campus. The doctor is only on campus two days/week, so students may be seen faster by going to the clinic itself.

In the case of an emergency, the Royal Hampshire County Hospital is located next to campus, with an Accident and Emergency (A & E) department.

Clinic Registration:
Registering with a clinic is free and can be done on campus through a very short form made available at the orientation session. After orientation, the form is available at Student Services. You can return the form on campus, or directly to one of the clinics. While you are encouraged to complete and return the form at orientation, if you do not, you can simply complete it when you go in for an appointment.

It is normal in the UK to wait four-six days for an appointment unless it is an emergency. That has nothing to do with you being registered in advance or not.

Counseling Resources: Winchester does have counselors on staff that students can access through Student Services. Students can drop in when needed for whatever reason: homesickness, overwhelmed by academics, anxiety, etc.

Services for Students with Disabilities
Winchester’s Disability and Learning Diversity Team can provide assistance to study abroad students.

It is also important to look at the level of accessibility in England. To find more information on this topic, please see the State Department Country Specific Information page. If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact your UWEC study abroad coordinator.

Intro to the UK Health System
The National Health Service (i.e. the UK national healthcare system) sometimes does not have a very good reputation in the U.S. The system generally works fine; however, it operates under a different set of assumptions from the U.S. health system. U.S. students and their parents need to be aware of some of the major differences between the U.S. and UK health systems.

1) The UK system is set up to favor those typically most in need of medical treatment: infants/children, pregnant women, and the elderly. People in traditional university age range are expected to be low users of the system except in the case of accidents or serious illness.
2) Because of this, **there can be a long wait to set up treatment for pre-existing conditions.** If you have a condition that will need ongoing treatment while in the UK, contact your UW-Eau Claire study abroad coordinator right away!

3) In the UK, **medical professionals do not consider a common cold/sore throat to require medical attention.** Being sick with a cold for three or four days is considered normal and of no major concern in a person of college age.

4) **Antibiotics are rarely prescribed in the UK.** Doctors point to research that shows frequent use of antibiotics leads to mutation in germs, rendering the antibiotics useless. Antibiotics are therefore used to treat severe illness. If you use antibiotics regularly, you may wish to bring them with you.

5) **Allergy shots are generally not recommended** by physicians in the UK. It will be difficult to find anyone who will prescribe or administer them.

**Safety in the U.K.**
Information on crime, specific safety issues, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in the U.K. is included in the U.S. State Department’s [United Kingdom Country Information website](https://travel.state.gov). Specific safety in and around Winchester will be discussed during orientation in Eau Claire and at Winchester.

One main thing to remember about safety in England is that they drive on the opposite side of the road, so **LOOK RIGHT!!** before crossing the street.

**Hiking**
Per the U.S. State Department, “Hiking in higher elevations can be treacherous. Several people die each year while hiking, particularly in Scotland, often due to sudden changes in weather. We encourage visitors, including experienced hikers, to discuss their intended routes with local residents familiar with the area and to adhere closely to recommendations.”

**Sexual Harassment and “Lad Culture” in the UK**
“Lad culture” is a concern among British universities. In recent research, it was defined as a “group” or ‘pack’ mentality residing in activities such as sport and heavy alcohol consumption, and ‘banter’ which is often sexist, misogynist and homophobic.” Although some respondents found it influenced their academic experience at the university, lad culture is seen as particularly influential in the social side of university life. Some commentators compare it to “bro culture” or frat culture here.

Many respondents, in the study, reported sexist jokes and rape banter in their friendship groups that made them feel uncomfortable or felt pressured to engage in sexual relationships. Sexual harassment was common, and there were accounts of sexual violence. Harassment ranged from verbal harassment and catcalling to physical harassment and sexual molestation. Some viewed groping in nightclubs as a part of a normal night out.

Excessive drinking is an often-cited contributing factor and the university drinking culture is seen as one of the biggest obstacles to eliminating lad culture. Some women were also found to participate in the heavy drinking and crude behavior associated with lad culture and have been dubbed “ladettes.”
Undoubtedly, some UW-Eau Claire students have witnessed or been victim to this type of behavior in Eau Claire. However, it may be more difficult to speak up when you are in a new culture. You cannot change a culture in a visit, but you can make smart choices about how to manage your interactions and reactions to lad culture:

- Ask your British friends, both male and female, how they think lad culture impacts university social life.
- Remove yourself from situations where you do not feel comfortable. Listen to your instincts.
- Drink in moderation if you choose to drink. UWEC student health services has information about being smart while drinking.
- Be careful accepting drinks from people that you don’t know. In particular, watch your drink when you are out at bars or clubs.

**Emergency Contacts**

General emergency procedures are described in the Safety Abroad section of the Study Abroad Handbook, and Winchester has a Study Abroad Adviser who is available for consultation if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at Orientation 2; be sure to keep it in your wallet. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

**911 Equivalent in the UK**

If you are in an emergency situation in the United Kingdom, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line in the United Kingdom is 999; in Gibraltar, it is 112. Save this number in your cell phone in case you need it to use it quickly.

The U.S. State Department also provides a list of 911 numbers abroad. Please note that in some countries there are different numbers for fire, police, and ambulance. Plan ahead and research numbers before you go.

**Marijuana and other Illegal Drugs**

Although marijuana may be relatively easy to obtain in the UK, the possession and use of marijuana is illegal. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in the U.K. are severe and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. U.S. citizenship offers no protection if you break a U.K. law. There is NOTHING the CIE, Winchester, or the U.S. government can do if you are found in violation of U.K. laws.

In addition to legal penalties, you are putting yourself at risk of robbery or assault, or you may get a much more dangerous combination of drugs than you thought you were buying.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

Passport information is included in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact the CIE for more information about the following topics.

**Visa**

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. U.S. citizens studying in the UK for less than six months may enter the UK under two categories: Short-Term Study Visa or Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.
Most semester UW-Eau Claire students enter under the Short-Term Study Visa category. Academic year students must apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.

See the “Visa Information: UK” in the Learning Content section of your UW-Eau Claire BlugoldsAbroad account for basic information about the visa options. This information will also be discussed briefly at study abroad orientation.

Note that you cannot enter the UK for the first time via Ireland if you are using the short-term study visa option. In addition, proof of onward journey, usually in the form of a roundtrip plane ticket, is required.

It is your responsibility to keep up-to-date about student visa requirements for the UK, and if required, to apply for and receive a visa from a UK consulate or embassy in a timely manner.

Visas for Travel to Other Countries
If you plan to travel outside of the UK while abroad, verify visa requirements for each country you will visit by contacting the nearest consulate for that country, or your travel agency. Most Western European nations do not require U.S. citizens to have a visa for tourist travel of less than three months, but you should always verify the requirement as entry requirements can change with little notice (and Europe has talked about changing this).

What to Pack
Your peer advisor will provide a suggested packing list at Orientation 2.

Converters & Adapters
The standard electric current in the UK is 240 volts and in Europe is 220 volts. U.S. appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 120 volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need to buy both a converter and a plug adapter. You may also choose to buy the appliances abroad, but still bring a plug adapter for traveling in other countries.

PACKING TIPS
There is general packing information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook, and you will get a suggested packing list for Winchester at Orientation 2. In addition, you should know the following:

Weather
The weather in the UK is often cool and wet, especially in the fall and winter (November – March). Winters can be long, windy and mostly always cloudy. Summers are short (June-September) and a comfortable temp.

Most buildings are centrally heated. However, they can be drafty and cooler.

Clothing
Past participants suggest bringing clothing that you can wear, or take off, in layers. Take clothing that is washable and does not wrinkle easily. British students generally dress casually, but not as casually as U.S. students do (as in, you won’t see British students wearing sweatpants to class). You will be hard pressed to find students wearing sweats to class. Bring a few “dress-up” clothes for going out to restaurants or clubs. Some nightclubs will not let you in wearing jeans or tennis shoes. In addition, having a good waterproof jacket is important.
According to the University of Winchester 2016-17 International Student Handbook, "All portable electrical items brought into the accommodation will be PAT tested for safety within a short time of your arrival. Exact details of when your items will be tested will be provided after you move in. There is a one-off charge of £15 per student for PAT testing. This amount will be added to your accommodation invoice.

Portable equipment is defined as an appliance of less than 18kg in mass that is intended to be moved whilst in operation or an appliance which can easily be moved from one place to another. This includes computers, printers, TVs, hairdryers/straighteners, Hi-fi equipment (including decks), kettles, toasters, vacuum cleaners, plug-in heaters, table lamps, microwaves etc. Please be aware that the UK uses 230 volts. If your home electrical supply is of a different voltage, you will need a transformer so that it is compatible with the UK electrical supply.

Each item tested will be given a sticker as evidence of the successful test. Any items deemed unsafe will be removed and held in trust by the University Safety and Security Officer. You will be able to retrieve these when leaving the University. If your items are under warranty, you will be able to arrange to have them sent to the relevant place on your behalf to have them repaired suitable for use.

For more information, see www.pat-testing.info."

**GETTING TO ENGLAND**

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook

**Travel Arrangements**

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Winchester.

Remember:
- **you should not book your flight until your acceptance has been confirmed and the exact beginning and ending dates of the program have been confirmed by the University of Winchester.** However, this does not mean that you cannot look online and begin price comparisons.
- **You cannot enter the UK for the first time via Ireland if you are using the short-term study visa option.**
- Most visas require a **roundtrip** ticket. If you are planning to travel at the end of the program, that is fine. You do not need to leave the UK immediately at the end of the program, as long as you will not be there/in Europe as a tourist for more than a total of 90 days before/after the program.

**Immigration**

If you are using the short-term study visa option to enter the UK, you will be asked to provide documents to the UK immigration official at the airport. Please see your BlugoldAbroads Learning Content “Visa Information: UK” for details on what documents you need to have with you.

Upon verifying your documents, the immigration agent will stamp your passport with the short-term study visa.

**IMPORTANT:** You will be arrested if you bring pocket knives, blades, mace or pepper
spray canisters, or any part of a gun into the United Kingdom. Please refer to the US State Department Country Information page, which details the items visitors are prohibited from bringing into the United Kingdom.

Getting to Winchester
Winchester provides a free coach (bus) pick-up service on the designated arrival day from London Heathrow Airport. In recent terms, the coach has departed Heathrow at 10:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. Winchester recommends that students book flights that land at Heathrow at least 1.5 hours before the coach departure time to allow for immigration clearance and baggage collection.

You will receive details about this in your acceptance letter from Winchester. After you receive the information, if you have questions about the pick-up service, please email the University of Winchester international staff.

Independent Arrival
If no shuttle is offered the day you arrive, or if you experience travel delays, you should plan on making your own way to Winchester. Past participants strongly recommend taking the bus (coach) rather than the train to get to Winchester because it is easier to store your luggage.

From London Heathrow Airport: There is a coach (National Express Bus) service from Heathrow to Winchester which runs every two hours. The coach leaves from Heathrow Central Bus Station. You can ask for directions to the bus station at the information desk in the terminal. The journey takes between one hour and 40 minutes to two hours. Approximate cost is 23 pounds. Tickets can be purchased at the information desk at each terminal. Winchester recommends that you book your ticket in advance online: http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx

From London Gatwick Airport: You need to take a coach from Gatwick coach station to Heathrow airport. Then at Heathrow, change to a coach headed to Winchester. See Heathrow information above. The journey takes two to three hours. Approximate cost is 27 pounds. Tickets can be purchased at Gatwick coach station main desk.

In either case, get off at the Central Winchester (King Alfred Statue) stop.
Service is not as frequent in the evenings and on Sundays, so the journey may take longer.

Winchester is also accessible by train, but the journey is more complicated and more expensive than by bus. However, if you would like to take the train, you should check the routes and availability on the National Rail Web site (http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) closer to your departure dates since routes are only published three months in advance.

Getting to the University (Independent Arrival)
The University of Winchester is a short taxi ride from both the railway station and the bus station in Winchester. Approximate cost of the taxi ride from either station is 5 pounds.

In past University of Winchester International Student Handbooks, students are instructed, "Ask the taxi driver to take you to Main Reception, Sparkford Road where you will
collect your key. If you are arriving after 18.00 hours (6 p.m.), please report to the Site Steward using the telephone at Main Reception who will give you your key.

If at all possible, you should arrive during office hours (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.). If you are arriving outside of office hours (not recommended), please report to the Site Steward at West Downs who will give you your key."

If your flight is delayed: please phone the Exchange Coordinator and International Student Welfare Advisor (see Contact Names and Addresses) as soon as possible so they know when to expect you. During the work week, you can also call or email the UW-Eau Claire Center for International Education, and someone there can then email Winchester about your delay.

Early Arrivals
Since the University of Winchester cannot accommodate students prior to the arrival date, you will need to find alternative housing arrangements if you arrive early. There are plenty of hotels, B&B’s, in Winchester.

SETTLING IN
Orientation
Your first one or two days at Winchester will be an orientation program. You will be introduced to the university and the city, and you will finalize your class registration.

On-Site Support
As an international student at the University of Winchester, you will have access to campus resources. The international staff is there to support you should any questions or concerns arise. The international staff won’t actively seek you out to make sure everything is going okay.

Instead, should anything come up, you will need to reach out to them. As you may recall from earlier sections, the UK education system is much more hands off than the US education system, but the UK system can support you if you make staff aware.

Student Clubs & Organizations
All students at the university are automatically members of the Student Union (the SU), which has its own Council and is represented on the university’s main decision-making bodies. The Student Union hosts all types of events: club nights, quiz bowls, live music, Winchester’s Got Talent, and movies. Many of the events are low costs. Visit the Winchester Student Union site to learn more about ways to get involved on campus.

At the fall “Fresher’s Faire,” you can learn about lots of campus and community organizations. Watch for it; you don’t want to miss it! Whether you like sports, music, kids, or church organizations -- there are plenty of things to do.

There is no organizations fair in the spring, so you need to be more pro-active about getting involved on campus. For information about specific student organizations or sports clubs, check out:
http://www.winchesterstudents.co.uk/socs

Possible Activities:
• You can join a variety of clubs, including choir, running, fencing, football (soccer), dance, theater, LGBT, etc.
• There are squash and tennis courts on campus.
• On-campus movies cost approximately £2. (There is also a movie theater in Winchester.)
• Discover historic Winchester.
The SU elects an Overseas Student Welfare Officer each year. This person contacts all overseas students each term, holds a meeting for them, and arranges three to four day trips each term. Watch for announcements on the International Board in the Students' Union.

Information about university/community events is somewhat decentralized. You'll need to make an effort to find out what is going on. Good sources of information are bulletin boards, particularly the board in the Students’ Union, and the Student Union Web Site: http://www.winchesterstudents.co.uk/.

Meeting People
Since you will live in the halls at Winchester, meeting people should not be too difficult. Everyone who lives on campus is a "fresher" (freshman), so they are in the same situation as you are, they don't know anyone! Step out of your comfort zone and be willing to initiate social activities.

Community Involvement
There are also some opportunities to volunteer both on campus and in the community. However, please see the "Service Learning" portion of this guide as volunteering in the UK will require a background check and Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.

HOUSING
Living Situation
You will live in one of the university residences for the term. All halls are co-ed, so don't be surprised if your wing-mates are female and male. Most rooms are singles but not all. There are no RAs as we think of RAs at UW-Eau Claire. There is a warden (or hall director) for each hall (the warden for St. Lizzie’s also oversees Beech Glade). Depending on the size of the hall, there is at least one “Senior Student” (2nd or 3rd year student) who serves as the immediate go-to for students.

The halls also do not sponsor programming in the way familiar to U.S. students. They are just housing—more like an off-campus rental in the U.S. Programming and events are offered by the Student Union.

The conditions of the halls may not be to the same standard as UWEC halls. When selecting your housing, be sure to research Winchester’s website so you can see your options. Keep in mind that this is a part of the cultural experience and you are staying in the same places as local students. International students will not get preferential treatment because they come from somewhere that may have “better” living conditions. If you have serious concerns about your housing conditions, you need to voice those to the Winchester housing and international staff.

Semester-only students will choose which hall they want to live. Options for semester students include:

Self-Catered Accommodations:
These accommodations will not include a meal plan. Instead, students will have access to a shared kitchen and will be responsible for either cooking their own meals or eating out.

The halls are Burma Road, Queens Road, and West Downs. Burma Road and Queens Road are located on the main campus, relatively close to the dining hall, while West Downs is a 10-15 minute walk.
**Catered Accommodations:**
Most international students usually are in one of three catered halls. Catered means that you will have a meal plan (please see the Meals section below as British meal plans are different than UWEC meal plans). Your options will be:
- Beech Glade,
- St. Elizabeth's (St. Lizzie's) or
- Alwyn Hall

These halls are more traditional and older. Past students have commented that they were dingy and then others have said they worked well so it is all about expectations and making sure you do not compare UK halls to UWEC halls.

Each of these halls has three floors and various wings that consist of 5-7 rooms with both British and international students, with one shared bathroom and kitchen per wing. These halls are within five minutes walking distance of the center of campus and 10 minutes from the city center. To learn more, see here.

**Academic year students** will live in a self-catered hall, meaning there is no meal plan available. If you choose to live in one of these halls, you will not need to move out over break/put your items in storage (at additional cost).

**Personal Property Insurance**
The University of Winchester recommends that students insure their personal property against theft, loss, or damage. Neither Winchester nor UW-Eau Claire provides insurance for personal effects. You will receive information on how to insure your possessions during your orientation at Winchester or you can take out personal property insurance before you arrive in the UK.

**Housing Rules**
**Quiet hours:** Though there are no official quiet hours, you will need to be respectful of noise issues. Wardens often receive complaints from the neighborhoods nearby about noisy university students (generally these are the students coming home late from the pubs).

**Visitors:** Overnight visitors are not allowed on a regular basis, but occasional visitors at weekends can be permitted by prior arrangement. Please notify the Site Steward if you intend on having a guest to stay. They will need to sign in at the Site Steward Office.

**Room upkeep:** You must keep your kitchen and room tidy. There will be room inspections occasionally, and if your room does not meet the inspector’s standards, you will receive one written warning and then be fined after another violation. So, keep it clean!

**Housing Complaints:** If you have any difficulties or questions about your housing that cannot be easily resolved by the Senior Student or hall warden, you are encouraged to contact the International Officer in Student Services or the Study Abroad Coordinator in Registry.

You can find more information here.

**What’s Provided?**
Your room will have a bed, dresser, desk, light, bookshelf, and sink. The cost of bedding and linens is included in housing fees. All students will be provided with a bedding pack upon arrival, including a duvet, duvet cover, pillow, pillow case, and bottom sheet for a single bed. The cost of the bedding pack is approximately £25 and is added to your housing bill.
You need to provide your own towels, hangers, and toilet paper! Purchase a pack for yourself when you arrive, or chip in a bit for a supply with others on your floor.

There is a phone line in your room, but you will need to set up a telephone account to use it. Once you've set up an account, on-campus calls are free, and off-campus or international calls are quite inexpensive.

**Shopping Suggestions**

If you get to Winchester and discover you've forgotten something, or just need to restock on something, here's a handy list of where to find what:

- School supplies: WH Smith, Poundland
- Thrift Shops: Naomi House Charity Shop
- Toiletries: Savers, Boots, Poundland, Superdrug
- Inexpensive clothes: Primark

**Meals & Snacks**

**Semester students - Catered Accommodations:** If you live in a catered hall you will have a meal plan.

**How it works:** Under the plan, students are allotted a certain amount of money per week. Food is priced per piece rather than a single fee for all you can eat. Winchester estimates that a student with an average appetite will be able to purchase two meals a day with the funds. One former participant had the following to report on the Winchester meal plan:

"We received a lump sum per week, which if you are travelling during weekends was hard to spend. The money each week was on a use-it-or-lose-it basis...."

Other students have indicated that they went through their meal plan more quickly than they thought they would. Your appetite and the amount you travel will have an effect on your meal plan funds.

**Adding funds to your account:** If you find that your weekly allocation of funds does not meet your needs, you or your family can “top up” or add additional funds to your Campus Card if you choose. If you have questions about the best way to top up, please discuss them with the international student advisor or catering. Like all catering funds, you will lose whatever is not used that week so be conservative in the amount you add.

**Purchasing additional food:** You can also pay cash at Winchester restaurants and cafes for additional meals, but you will pay slightly higher rate for your meals than you do with your Campus Card. If you need to purchase additional meals/food, you'll find groceries at Sainsburys, and the farmers market. Most halls have a kitchenette with facilities to cook small meals or snacks. Past students also recommend Wetherspoons, The County Arms, Ask, and Prezzo when you feel like eating out.

**Semester Students – Self-Catered OR Academic year students:** If a semester student chooses self-catered (academic year students have to live in self-catered), you can still eat in University dining facilities if you choose. How much you will spend on food depends on whether you mostly cook/eat at home, or whether you mostly eat out.

- Your housing will include kitchen facilities, so you can cook at home when you choose, which is usually a money saver.
- Winchester offers a “kitchen pack” at £42 that includes pans, plates, silverware, etc) to equip your kitchen.
• You will also receive a campus ID, similar to a Blugold Card, that you can put money on and use in the university dining facilities for a discounted price. (You can also pay with cash, but at full price.)
• Winchester indicates that students in self-catered housing spend on average £25/week on food, which would come to £725 for the time you are there.

A few things to try while in the UK:
• **Bangers & mash**: sausage with mashed potatoes
• **Black pudding**: sausage made with pig’s blood & fat
• **Yorkshire pudding**: a batter made with flour, eggs, and milk and cooked in the oven. Often eaten with roast beef for Sunday lunch.
• **Pie**: a pie is any baked food surrounded by pastry (mixture of flour and butter). So, you can get steak and kidney pie, or apple pie, to name a few.
• **Ploughman’s lunch**: typical mid-day pub meal, consisting of a bread roll with a piece of cheese and pickled onion.
• **Fish and chips**: French fries and batter-fried fish. The chips are generally served with salt and vinegar.

**Laundry**

There are no laundry facilities in the halls. Laundry must be done at the laundry room (about £3 a load). Most students let their laundry air-dry in their rooms to save costs. If you live in Beech Glade, however, you’ll have the luxury of a drying room on your floor.

**Communication**

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and on computer app-based phone services (SKYPE, What’s App, Facetime, etc) is in the Contacts & Communication section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Time Difference**

England is six hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, when it is 1:00 P.M. on Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 7:00 P.M. on Thursday at Winchester. To see the current time at in England, visit: https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/uk

**Email/Internet Access**

You will have access to free WiFi in your accommodations. There are also over 600 open access computers around campus that students can use. The Learning Café in the King Alfred Quarter has 24-hour access.

**Video Chatting/Online Apps**

Most Winchester students communicate with family and friends back in the U.S. by using and online video chat service such as Skype, Facetime, or WhatsApp. Past students recommend that you set up a regular time (for example, Sundays at 10 PM, Winchester time) so both sides are online at the same time.

**Calling from the U.S.**

From the U.S. to England: From the U.S. to England: You must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you must dial 44 to get England, and then the rest of the number to reach a specific city and location.

**Snail Mail**

International airmail takes 7-10 days to cross the Atlantic in either direction. You will be notified of your full postal address by the University Housing Office once your room has been allocated. Housing will send you an email
with details of your room and your address in due course.

**TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD**

See additional information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Local Travel**

Winchester’s central location in Southern England makes travel to other parts of the country and abroad relatively easy. Within easy travelling distance of Winchester are Stonehenge, Salisbury, Chichester, Bath, Brighton, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. London (Waterloo) is an hour away by train.

Southampton airport, with domestic services and flights to the Continent and Channel Isles, is fifteen minutes from Winchester by train. The Continent can also be reached by ferry from Portsmouth and Southampton, or by Eurostar train from Waterloo Station in London.

The Winchester information office is located across from the bus station. A good student travel office for cheap air fares and train/ferry connections to the continent is London Student Travel (located outside of Victoria Train Station in London).

**Train, Plane, Bus Travel**

If you plan to travel in England, Scotland or Wales, transportation by train, ferry, bus (coach) and plane are all possible. A 16-25 RailCard gives you 1/3 off regular fare tickets. It pays for itself after three to four trips, especially if you go anywhere in Scotland. Check out this Web site for more information: http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/. You can download the application form online or simply ask for one at any train station in England. Bring an extra passport-size photo for the application.

When deciding whether to travel by train or air, remember this: though often comparable in price, train travel is considerably longer. For example, a train from Glasgow to London takes four hours versus a forty-minute flight. On the other hand, traveling by train allows you to see much of the countryside that you would miss if you fly. Also, train stations are usually closer to the city centers, while a taxi or bus ride might be needed if you fly.

There is also a special rail pass just for Southwest England (which includes London and Oxford) which gives you a reduction off train tickets. When you buy a ticket to London with the pass, the ticket may also be used as a subway pass, providing transportation around London for the entire day.

If you plan to take buses, keep in mind that they are both cheaper and slower than trains. An NX2 card will give you at least 10% off all National Express bus tickets. If you’ve got time to spare, consider taking advantage of National Express’ £1 Fun Fare. During specific times, seats are offered for an absolute steal between London & 28 cities.

Many past students have recommended Ryan Air as a helpful site with low-budget flights all around Europe: http://www.ryanair.com/en. Typically, Ryan Air flies into airports that are further outside the city, so you may need to spend more on taxis, buses, or trains to get into town. Keep in mind that airlines like RyanAir and other budget airlines, charge for the littlest things like printing your boarding pass at the
airport and their weight/bag restrictions are very strict. Do your research to know what you can bring. If you don't you will end up paying a lot of money!

**CULTURAL NOTES**

*Where am I going? UK, England, or Great Britain?*

You are actually going to all three simultaneously. “The United Kingdom is a country that consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In fact, the official name of the country is ‘United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.’

Great Britain is the name of the island northwest of France and east of Ireland that consists of three somewhat autonomous countries: England, Wales and Scotland. Therefore, England is part of Great Britain, which is part of the United Kingdom. The UK includes England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.” From: http://geography.about.com/library/fag/blqzuk.htm

*The Government*

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, with a queen and a parliament that has two houses: The House of Lords and the House of Commons. Supreme legislative power is vested in parliament, which sits for five years unless dissolved sooner. The House of Lords was stripped of most of its power in 1911, and now its main function is to revise legislation.

The current monarch and prime minister are:

Sovereign: Queen Elizabeth II (since 1952)
Prime Minister: Boris Johnson (since 2019)

England has existed as a unified entity since the 10th century; the union between England and Wales, began in 1284 with the Statute of Rhuddlan, which was not formalized until 1536 with an Act of Union. In another Act of Union in 1707, England and Scotland agreed to permanently join as Great Britain. The legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland was implemented in 1801, with the adoption of the name the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921 formalized a partition of Ireland; six northern Irish counties remained part of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland and the current name of the country, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was adopted in 1927.

From: [http://www.infoplease.com/country/united-kingdom.html](http://www.infoplease.com/country/united-kingdom.html) and [http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108078.html#ixzz1fnATw3d5](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108078.html#ixzz1fnATw3d5)

*Population*

Population of the UK: 63,742,977 (2014 est.)
Nationality: British
Language: English (Note: the UK also has recognized regional languages: Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Cornish)
Religion: Christian 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, none 25.7%, unspecified 7.2%
Ethnic groups: White 87.2%, black 3%, Indian 2.3%, Pakistani 1.9%, mixed 2%, other 3.7% (2011 estimated)
# Contact Information

## Winchester

**Rosamund Robinson**  
Study Abroad Coordinator  
Registry (Main Building 122)  
University of Winchester  
Sparkford Road  
Winchester, Hampshire  
S022 4NR  
England  
Ph.: 011-44-1-962-827683 or  
827210  
Email:  
[studyabroad@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@winchester.ac.uk)

**Geoff Titchener**  
International Student Officer  
(Welfare and Visa inquiries)  
Tel: +44 (0) 1962 827482  
Fax: +44 (0) 1962 827515  
Email:  
[Geoff.Titchener@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:Geoff.Titchener@winchester.ac.uk)  
[welfare@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:welfare@winchester.ac.uk)

**Stewart Clark**, Housing Advisor  
Tel: 011-44-1962-624852  
Email:  
[housing@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:housing@winchester.ac.uk)

## British Consulate in the U.S.

**625 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2200**  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Tel: (312) 970-3800  
Fax: (312) 970-3852  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/world/usa](https://www.gov.uk/government/world/usa)

Scroll down to the heading “British Consulate-General Chicago”.  
**Please be aware that British Consulate in Chicago no longer offers visa processing services.**  
The New York Consulate is the only location that process visa applications in the USA.

## U.S. Embassy in London

**33 Nine Elms Lane**  
London  
SW11 7US  
United Kingdom  

American Citizen Services  
Tel. In the UK 020-7499-9000  
Tel. from the U.S. 011-44-20-7499-9000  
[https://uk.usembassy.gov/](https://uk.usembassy.gov/)

## UW-Eau Claire

**Jenna Krosch**  
Study Abroad Coordinator  
kroschjm@uwec.edu  
3 Schofield Hall  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone: (715) 836-4411  
Fax: (715) 836-4948

### After Hours Emergency

**University Policy**  
(715)577-9045  
Remember that in most cases, local contacts are best in local emergency situations.

If you have an after-hours emergency that can be helped on the U.S. side, please call University Police at the number above. Calls can be made to this number 24 hours a day. You may get an answering machine; however, an officer is alerted as soon as you have left your message. Be sure to give the officer the phone number you can be reached at, as well as what type of assistance you require.
# Web Information: Winchester

## City

University of Winchester Homepage: [http://www.winchester.ac.uk/](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/)


Official Web site of the city of Winchester: [http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/](http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/)

## Culture

Newspapers:
- Scottish: [http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/scotland.htm](http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/scotland.htm)

The Best of British English: [http://www.effingpot.com](http://www.effingpot.com)

## Country

The UK Travel Guide: [http://www.uktravel.com](http://www.uktravel.com)


When past participants of the Winchester program were asked to sum up their experience, here is what they said:

People were always willing to help a student. British people and other Europeans would be curious about American politics. I really identified with the religious groups on campus and in Winchester. It was invaluable to bond with other Christians.

You should know about your country. Sometimes people would have questions about American politics or my hometown or state that I could halfway answer. I really wanted to have these cultural conversations with people but didn't want to say incorrect things. Know how to explain what is important to you and have pictures to show that help explain.

I loved everything about my study abroad experience. I learned so much, met some amazing people, and saw some awesome places. It was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Winchester is the perfect place to study. It is an old town with a history dating back to the Normans and Saxons, yet it still has a modern high street with plenty of shops and pubs. You can walk around the whole town and easily take a train to London. The University itself has many good qualities. Its professors are helpful and knowledgeable. Having catering and accommodations made studying easier with fewer details to worry about.

Winchester is an extremely flexible program that can support many people academically, and its just a really wonderful city in itself. The city has the most beautiful English feel that many other English cities are now losing because of economics, and is easy to travel from because of its proximity to London. Also there’s access to a lot of nature opportunities within and not far from Winchester (like St. Catherine’s hill and the New Forrest)!

I wish I had known that figuring out public transportation is not as hard as it seems.

I would definitely recommend Winchester. However, I would tell them that they would be staying in less-than-desired living conditions and that the food situation is rather poor, especially on the weekends (not enough money per week, and only two places that open at noon on the weekends).

England is pretty secluded from the rest of Europe. It’s hard to get to Europe for a weekend trip, and more expensive than I thought it would be.

Since your education is your responsibility, I have learned to become more disciplined in the sense of when I can relax and sleep in and when I should start working on projects or how much reading I should do.

The food. There are a lot of things missing! Kraft mac and cheese and ranch are non-existent here, to name a couple. And I have to really search for fruits and veggies to add to my diet.

I wish I had actually researched travel prices. I heard about “cheap” travel, but I didn’t really look into it until I got here. Some places can be cheap, some can be really expensive.

There’s lots of slang, systems are different. It may be English-speaking, but it’s not like home!

Budget, budget, budget. Money can go fast if you say yes to everything!