

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



WINCHESTER

FALL/ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

Program Guide

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Congratulations on being accepted to the UW-Eau Claire exchange/study abroad program with the University of Winchester. Living and studying in a foreign 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

Use this program guide together with the general Study Abroad (SA) Handbook. The Handbook has information for all study abroad programs. This guide has specific information for the Puebla exchange. It is designed to complement the SA Handbook, study abroad orientation, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Although all the information available at the time of publishing has been used, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email additional information throughout the semester. We also encourage you to contact your peer advisor, the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, and past program participants with your specific questions.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

- 1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common goals of student travelers include advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.
- 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 going with a group of UW-Eau Claire students, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other U.S Americans?

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Program

The first UW-Eau Claire students attended the University of Winchester in the fall of 1981! The fall semester is an exchange program in which an equal number of UW-Eau Claire and University of Winchester students exchange places. The spring semester is a study abroad option in which UW-Eau Claire students have the option of studying at Winchester.

At Winchester, you will live in the residence halls and take classes with UK and international students, taught by British professors. It will be a true immersion into British university culture.

The Location

Winchester is a beautiful cathedral city. For centuries, it was the “capital” of Saxon and Norman Kings of England and was the center of King Alfred’s Wessex. Its past is preserved in its famous monuments: The Great Hall, housing what is traditionally known as the King Arthur’s Round Table; Winchester College; St. Cross and its medieval hospital; the Westgate; and, Winchester Cathedral, which remains the focus of the thriving city.

The city is similar in size to Eau Claire, with a population of just around 60,000. It is in the county of Hampshire and is surrounded by rolling country with many stream valleys. Also, like Eau Claire, Winchester supports a thriving cultural life, with three theaters, a concert venue, city museum, and art gallery.

The city has an excellent sports center with a heated pool, a lively film society, an ever-

improving selection of eating and drinking places. For those who want to venture further afield, there is easy and quick access to London and Southampton. Check out www.visitwinchester.co.uk/ for more information.

The University

The University of Winchester is situated on the West Hill, a 12-minute walk from the city center and a 10-minute walk from the train station. Winchester has ~ 5,900 students, most of whom are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education, humanities, and social sciences.

Winchester was founded in the 19th century as a teacher-training institution, but since the 1970’s it has diversified to include B.A. degrees in American studies, business, English, history, drama, design, religious studies, and social care.

The University’s facilities include the following:

- Housing both on-site and within easy walking distance of the campus.
- A library that also includes on-line resources and inter-library loan for material not in the college’s collection.
- A computer studies building and an IT center.
- A theater and arts center with ~ 24 productions/year and weekly movies.
- A gymnasium, a sports hall, and outdoor sports and athletics facilities.
- A Student Union building, open to students and staff, providing a licensed bar, coffee shop, computer lab, game area, movie theatre, and eateries.

Academic Calendar

The University of Winchester has provided the following dates for Fall 2019:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Depart the U.S. | Sept 13 |
| Official arrival date | Sept 14 |
| Orientation/Registration | Sept 16-20 |
| Classes Begin | Sept 23 |
| Last Day of Program | Dec 13 |
| Student Accommodation Contract Ends | Dec 14 |

You are not allowed to move into the dorms before the arrival date specified by Winchester. However, if you wish to travel before orientation, you may request to drop off some luggage at the University. You must notify the staff in Reception of your request two weeks prior to arrival and arrive between the hours of 9:00AM and 4:00PM, Monday-Friday. You will be required to pay a storage fee if allowed to drop your luggage off early.

Academic Year Students Only:

As long as you choose housing in one of the non-catered halls, you will not need to move out over winter break. If you do not, you will need to move out for the break on December 14. You can leave your belongings in your room for a storage fee of £150.

You need to be back in Winchester by **January 12. Semester 2 classes begin on January 13.**

The **last day of spring term is April 3, 2020 and move-out day will be April 4, 2020.**

ACADEMICS

There is additional information on program eligibility, as well as academic topics such as registration, class attendance, credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Pre-Departure Academic Planning

Please see the **Academic Information and Course Selection** document on the [UWEC Winchester Academics](#) web page for details on how to plan your courses at Winchester.

To find courses already evaluated for UWEC credit, you will use the Transfer Credit Wizard. A guide to using the Wizard, with screenshots, is on the Academics page listed above.

If any courses you plan to take do not have equivalencies, email the course description, including department, course code, title, credits and summary of content, to Cheryl Lochner-Wright, your UWEC study abroad coordinator. She will ask the Admissions Office have department chairs evaluate the courses. Equivalencies are on the Transfer Wizard as they are evaluated.

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. Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of

financial aid and/or insurance coverage and must be approved by the Winchester exchange coordinator and the UW-Eau Claire Center for International Education.

Registration at UW-Eau Claire

Do not register for classes at UW-Eau Claire for the semester you will be abroad.

The semester before your program departs, the Center for International Education (CIE) staff will work with the Registration Office to enroll you in the University of Winchester program under a **temporary course number** for 12 credits. The courses are as follows:

Fall: INTX 337

Spring: INTA 339

This temporary registration for 12 credits will appear on your registration/billing statements. You do not need to complete any other registration at UW-Eau Claire.

Once your Winchester transcript arrives, your classes, credits, and grades will be posted on your UW-Eau Claire transcript. The INTX 337 or INTA 339 registration code will remain on your transcript so that the university can maintain historical records on study abroad. However, the INTX/INTA credit units will be removed, and the INTX/INTA course will not be graded.

Registration in Winchester

Fall and year-long students will receive a module selection form in April 2019 after the 2019-2020 modules are posted on the Winchester website. Spring students usually receive the module selection in the spring with their Winchester application and post-decision materials.

Winchester generally confirms your preliminary course schedule prior to your departure. **Fall students typically receive their schedules in late**

August/September, shortly before departure. Spring students typically 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.

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 [Cheryl Lochner-Wright](#), 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.

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 Scotland 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.**

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. The conversion scale is as follows:

| Winchester | UW-Eau Claire |
|------------|---------------|
| 67-77% | A |
| 64-66% | A- |
| 60-63% | B+ |
| 57-59% | B |
| 54-56% | B- |
| 50-53% | C+ |
| 47-49% | C |
| 44-46% | C- |
| 40-43% | D+ |
| Below 40% | F |

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.

Transcripts & Graduation

University of Winchester will send a transcript from your time abroad 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.

If you are a senior and are studying abroad for your last semester, please note that the different timelines in grade

reporting **will most likely require you to delay your graduation from fall to spring or from spring to summer.** The UW-Eau Claire Bugold Central-Registrar must receive grades within 42 days of the last day of the UW-Eau Claire semester in order to confirm your graduation that semester. This is a UW-Eau Claire requirement, and our partners abroad cannot change their usual timelines to accommodate it.

If you are planning to apply to a competitive program at UW-Eau Claire, such as Education or Nursing, for the semester you return, contact the UW-Eau Claire study abroad coordinator to see if any form of grade can be sent prior to the review deadline. Please note that this is at the discretion of Winchester and may not be possible.

Service-Learning

See additional information on Service-Learning in your Study Abroad Handbook. 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 BugoldsAbroad 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>). 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! (www.uwec.edu/SL)

MONEY MATTERS

Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the UW-Eau Claire withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in 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 webpage](#). Be sure you are looking at the correct term. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you

pay to Winchester, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

Fall Exchange Option

In Fall 2019, you will be going to Winchester as exchange students. On a tuition only **exchange program**, each participant pays the costs they would normally pay at their home school – so Eau Claire students pay UW-Eau Claire 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 Scottish student receives, and the Scottish 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. In this case, U of Winchester will bill UW-Eau Claire for your tuition and fees, at a discounted non-resident tuition rate for partner institutions. You will pay that amount to UW-Eau Claire, and we will transfer the fees for all UW-Eau Claire 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.**

Personal Travel

This varies greatly from student to student. It depends on your budget and your priorities. Students who want to be involved in their host community generally spend less time (and money) traveling. Others travel every weekend with correspondingly high costs and fewer close connections in their new home.

2017 participants who responded to our money survey spent between \$800 and \$2,000 on personal travel. Those on the lower end indicated that they only traveled during a couple of weekends; those on the higher that they traveled almost every weekend.

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.

The exchange rate as of December 19, 2019 was 1 GBP = 1.22628 USD. You can find current exchange rates at <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

MONEY ABROAD

In addition to the information about bringing money abroad in the Study Abroad Handbook, past participants report the following about England.

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.

HEALTH & SAFETY

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

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.

Vaccinations

There have been large measles outbreaks in Europe. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) recommends that you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before your study abroad

experience. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

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 make arrangements to have this done before leaving home.

Accessing Healthcare

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 Services

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, 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.

Safety in England

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.

Information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in England is

included in the State Department Consular Information Sheet in the back of this guide. Safety in and around Winchester will be discussed during orientation in England.

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" has become a concern among British universities. In [recent research](#), it was defined by participants 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 university, lad culture is seen as particularly influential in the social side of university life. Some commentators have compared it to "bro culture" or frat culture in the United States viewing it as an imported phenomenon from the United States.

Many respondents reported sexist jokes and rape banter in their friendship groups that made them feel uncomfortable or pressure 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. Groping in nightclubs was

viewed by some 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 this type of behavior at UW-Eau Claire. However, oftentimes it may be more difficult to speak up when you are in a new culture.

You cannot change a culture, 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. [The CASE office at UW-Eau Claire offers advice how to drink in moderation.](#)
- Be careful about 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 Study Abroad Handbook, and the University of Winchester staff are available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card from your peer advisor. The information is also on the

Contact Names & Addresses section of this guide and will also be posted to the Learning Content of your UWEC online BlugoldsAbroad account closer to departure.

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.** We suggest you 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.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport and additional visa information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.

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 be discussed briefly at study abroad orientation, also.

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 US 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.

PACKING TIPS

In addition to the general packing information in your Study Abroad Handbook, you should know the following about the UK.

Clothing/Weather

The weather in the UK is often cool and wet, especially in the fall and winter. Most buildings are centrally heated. However,

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. 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.

What to Pack

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

Appliances

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.

According 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.

TRAVEL TO ENGLAND

There is additional information on travel, including student-oriented travel agencies and instructions for booking a flight, in 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.

Getting to Winchester—Pick-Up Service

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 International Student Officer Geoff Titchener at Geoff.Titchener@winchester.ac.uk.

Getting to Winchester Independently

If no shuttle is offered, 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.

You can research bus schedules and purchase tickets online, which Winchester recommends, for either journey at <http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>.

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

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 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.

Housing

You will live in one of the university residences for the term. Semester-only students will usually be in one of three "catered" halls ("dorm" is not used in British English; "catered" means that you will have a meal plan): Beech Glade, St. Elizabeth's (St. Lizzie's) or Alwyn Hall. 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.

Academic year students have the option of a room in self-catered hall, meaning there is no meal plan available. The halls usually available to academic year students 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. 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).

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.

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!

You can find [more information here](#).

What's Provided for your Room

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.

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.

Meals

Semester students: All semester-long international students are required to live in a catered hall, which means 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.

Academic year students: Although your hall options are 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.

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.

Around Town

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

Student Life

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](http://www.winchesterstudents.co.uk) site to learn more about ways to get involved on campus.

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.

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

At the fall "Fresher's Faire," where 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 are also some opportunities to volunteer both on campus and in the community. However, please see the "Service Learning" information starting on page eight of this guide as volunteering in the UK will require a background check and Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.

COMMUNICATION

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

Activities/Events

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/>.

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.

Time Difference

England is six hours ahead of Central Standard Time. For example, when it is 1:00 p.m. on a Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 7:00 p.m. on Thursday in Winchester.

Telephone Information

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

From England to the U.S.: To "phone home" while you are abroad using a calling card from a U.S. company or calling collect, you must dial 0800-89-0011 to get an AT&T operator, and then the regular area code and number.

Skype

Students can access Skype from University of Winchester computers but will need their own headphones and microphone. There is also Wi-Fi on most of the campus.

CULTURE 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 regions: 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/faq/blq_zuk.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: Theresa May (since 2016)

England has existed as a unified entity since the 10th century; the union between England and Wales, initiated in 1284 with the Statute of Rhuddlan, 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> and

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108078.html#ixzz1fnATw3d5>

TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

See additional travel information in your Study Abroad Handbook.

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).

Independent Travel

If you plan to travel in England, Scotland or Wales, transportation by train, ferry, bus (coach) and plane are all possible. 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.

Air

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.

WEB RESOURCES: WINCHESTER

| University | Area | Country |
|--|---|--|
| University of Winchester Homepage http://www.winchester.ac.uk/ | Official Web site of the city of Winchester http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/ | The UK Travel Guide http://www.uktravel.com |
| Host UK http://www.hostuk.org.uk/ | News and Weather http://www.bbc.com/ | British Express & Council http://www.britainexpress.com/History/index.htm http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts |
| Newspapers English: http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/england.htm Scottish: http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/scotland.htm | English Language http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language The Best of British English http://www.effingpot.com | South East England Tourist Board Internet http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com/ |
| Winchester Cathedral http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/ | London http://www.visitlondon.com/ | Political Resources: UK http://www.politicalresources.net/uk.htm |
| | | Visit Britain http://www.visitbritain.com/en/US/ |

CONTACT NAMES & ADDRESSES: WINCHESTER

GENERAL UW-EAU CLAIRE & CISI CONTACT INFORMATION IS IN YOUR STUDY ABROAD HANDBOOK.

UNIVERSITY of WINCHESTER

Rosamund Robinson
Study Abroad Coordinator
Registry (Main Building 122)
University of Winchester
Sparkford Road
Winchester, Hampshire
SO22 4NR
England

Ph.: 011-44-1-962-827683 or 827210
Email: 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
welfare@winchester.ac.uk

Stewart Clark, Housing Advisor
Tel: 011-44-1962-624852
Email: housing@winchester.ac.uk

UW-EAU CLAIRE

Center for International Education

Cheryl Lochner-Wright
Study Abroad Coordinator
lochnecb@uwec.edu
3 Schofield Hall
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702
Phone: (715) 836-4411 Fax: (715) 836-4948

British Consulate in the U.S.

British Consulate-General, Chicago
625 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: (312) 970-3800
Fax: (312) 970-3852
Web site:

<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

Mailing Address

The American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London **W1K 6AH**
UNITED KINGDOM

Physical Address

The American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London, **W1A 2LQ**
United Kingdom

American Citizen Services, Tel. In the UK **020-7499-
9000**

Web Site: <https://uk.usembassy.gov/>

The U.S. Department of State offers useful tips for living
and traveling abroad at the following site:
[http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/check
list.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/checklist.html)

PAST PARTICIPANT VOICES, 2017-2018

WHAT THEY WISH THEY HAD KNOWN BEFORE THEY LEFT

- How to budget.
- That it wouldn't be easy. There's lots of slang, systems are different. It may be English-speaking, but it's not like home!
- 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.
- 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.

THE BEST PART OF THEIR EXPERIENCE MID-WAY THROUGH

- Getting to experience the difference between the UK education system and the U.S. It has helped me work on my adaptability and I have learned so much culturally!
- I have met some great people on my floor and have become friends with many of them.
- How easy public transportation is to get to so many new places.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENTS THEY HAD TO MAKE

- Having to be more disciplined. 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.
- Learning a new academic system; it is completely different from ours. It has been a challenge when it comes to referencing, and what is expected in their terms of "academic writing".
- Time management. Lots of free time!
- 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.

HOW THEY SUMMED IT UP

"The program was immersive and interesting, and the University of Winchester was accepting, helpful, and welcoming to international students from all over the world." - [Courtney](#)

"The program was amazing. Location was amazing. Staff at the Uni was very helpful." - [Bailey](#)

"I had an amazing time studying abroad, met so many new people, and had the opportunity to have amazing experiences. It was nice that it was an English-speaking program and felt like home!" - [Ally](#)

I came to England to learn about history and experience a new culture, but as the months went by, I realized how much I learned about the United States. It is important to witness world events from another view, and what better way to do it than by visiting a new country and making great friends." - [Samuel](#)