

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



WINCHESTER
SPRING 2019

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 US culture
Gaining self-confidence and independence
Learning skills for the future international job market

This program guide is to be used together with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The handbook has information that is valid for all study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the Winchester study abroad program. It is designed to complement the handbook, study abroad orientation, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that although this guide contains all of the information available at the time of printing, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email additional information throughout the semester. Please contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, your peer advisor, and past program participants with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

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

In this exchange/study abroad program, UW-Eau Claire participants become regular students at the University of Winchester. The fall semester and academic year 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.**

The first UW-Eau Claire students attended the University of Winchester in the fall of 1981. UW-Eau Claire students enroll directly in classes with British students, are taught by Winchester instructors, and live in the university residence halls.

The Location

Winchester is one of the most beautiful cathedral cities in the UK. 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 well 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 small by present day standards 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. Notwithstanding its history, Winchester is very much a modern city and supports a thriving

cultural life, with three theaters, a concert venue, city museum, and art gallery.

Winchester has a number of good bookstores and there is a bookstore on campus as well. 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 quite compact. Situated on the West Hill, it is a 12-minute walk from the city center and a 10-minute walk from the train station. Winchester has more than 5,900 students, most of whom are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education, humanities, and social sciences. Of the 5,900 students, ~1,200 are pursuing graduate degrees.

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:

- Residential accommodation both on-site and within easy walking distance of the campus.
- A library containing approximately 250,000 books and 8,000 journals and offering inter-library loan facilities for material not in the college’s stock. The library also contains a number of online resources.

- A learning resources area containing materials for use in schools and viewing, listening, and dubbing carrels for audio and video tapes, cassettes, and records.
- A computer studies building and an IT center.
- A theater and arts center in which up to 24 productions are presented during the year and weekly movies!
- A gymnasium, a sports hall, and outdoor sports and athletics facilities; the college is also equipped for a variety of outdoor pursuits.
- A new 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 Spring 2019:

Depart the U.S.	Wed, January 9
Official arrival date	Thurs January 10
Orientation/Registration	Fri, January 11
Classes Begin	Mon, January 14
Last Day of Program	Fri, April 5
Student Accommodation Contract Ends	Sat, April 6

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.

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.

A Note on Course Levels

The University of Winchester follows a three-year plan. Classes are divided into three levels: 4, 5, and 6. Level 4 courses are for first year students, and these should be the majority of your course load. Level 5 and level 6 are considered second and final year courses respectively.

You will find that many level 5 and level 6 Winchester courses have prerequisites. You will also find that Winchester professors will let you take their classes without having the prerequisites if you ask them. **DO NOT DO THIS!** You will still be graded on the same scale as your classmates who have the required background. Past participants who have taken courses without having the prerequisite knowledge have typically returned with Cs and Ds. In general, you will want to **take level 4 courses unless you are taking courses in your major.**

To figure out which courses are level 4 and which are level 5, you look at the first digit in the course number. Level 4 modules begin with the number 1, level 5 begin with number 2, and level 6 begin with number 3. For example, AC 1001 is a level 4 class.

Please note that level 4 and 5 courses are considered lower-division courses by UW-Eau Claire. Only level 6 is given upper-division status by UW-Eau Claire.

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.

The CIE will ask the Admissions Office to evaluate any courses listed on your application that do not have UW-Eau Claire equivalencies. Equivalencies will be posted 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.

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/Academic Year: 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 transcript from University of Winchester arrives, your Winchester 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 regarding who has studied abroad. However, the INTX/INTA credit units will be removed and the INTX/INTA course will not be graded.

Registration in Winchester

You already submitted your Module Selection Form with your Winchester application in May. Winchester generally confirms your preliminary course 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. However, changes may be possible before or after your arrival. 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.

British Academic System

The University of Winchester offers the following advice for incoming international students: "You may find, as many international students do, that the teaching methods used by lecturers can be very different from any you have been used to. The relationship between staff and students is often more relaxed and informal and high importance is placed on students' abilities to take responsibility for their education and organize their own time.

The UK system assumes students will develop through independent learning."

Expectation of independent learning:

Returned students most often describe academic life at the University of Winchester as "different." They go on to explain that while they didn't find classes there more or less difficult than classes at home, they definitely did need to adjust to a new way of teaching and learning.

The first difference you may notice is time spent in class. **Many classes meet only two hours per week, once for a lecture with 40-100 students, and once for a small group (10-15 students) seminar.** Both sections are taught by the same professor (known as a lecturer in the British system), allowing for closer professor/student relationships than are typically found at the undergraduate level here. The seminars are discussion-oriented and

are used both to discuss the lecture materials and the outside reading. Given that the average course load is 4 courses per term, you may find yourself spending only 8-10 hours in class per week.

The above paragraph may make it sound like your time at Winchester will be an academic vacation. This is definitely not the case. Private individual study is heavily emphasized in the British system. 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 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 seminar discussions, as well as for the essays discussed below.

Unlike in the U.S. system, you will rarely find a lecturer who makes short, weekly assignments. During the semester, you may have to give a few **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.

Assessment: 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! Some examples of graded assignments are posted to Learning Content in your online BlugoldsAbroad account.

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.

From a British perspective, it is hard to understand the teaching 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 British students learn in high school.** Once they enter university, they are expected to take responsibility for their own education.

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 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 somewhat 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.

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. Please note that your different departments/faculty may have specific attendance requirements and penalties over and above the general University of Winchester guidelines. If you are in doubt about the attendance policy for your module, please consult your professor.

Grades

Winchester gives grades in percentage points, which are then converted to U.S. letter grades. Your grades appear on your UW-Eau Claire transcript and are figured into your GPA. UW-Eau Claire does not allow students on exchange or study abroad to take courses pass/fail.

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 US may be marked 95 whereas in the UK, the equivalent mark is 75. Both are excellent marks 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
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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

A transcript for your exchange will be sent from the University of Winchester to UW-Eau Claire. Because grades for individual courses carry much less weight in British higher education than they do in the U.S., there is much more lag time between the end of the semester and the submission of grades. Professors typically have several months to do their grading, unlike in the U.S. where grades are typically submitted one week after the semester close. Therefore, **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 in Winchester for your last semester, please note that the different timelines in grade reporting will require you to delay your graduation.

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.

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 US**:

- ***Apply For A Tier IV Student Visa***
See the Learning Content "Visa Information: UK" in your online 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 in the 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.

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 May 18, 2018 was 1 GBP = 1.31156 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.

An Intro to the British Health System

The British health system sometimes does not have a very good reputation in the U.S. The system actually is very good; 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 British health systems:

- 1) The British system is set up to **favor those typically most in need of medical treatment:** infants/children, pregnant women, and the elderly. People in the traditional university age range are expected to be low users of the health system except in the case of accidents or serious illness.
- 2) In Britain, **medical professionals do not consider a common cold/sore throat to require medical attention.** Being sick with a cold for three-four days is considered normal at times and of no major concern in a person of college age.
- 3) **Antibiotics are very rarely prescribed in Britain.** British doctors point to research showing that frequent use of antibiotics leads to mutation in germs, rendering the antibiotics useless. They are therefore used to treat severe illness. If you use antibiotics regularly, you may wish to bring them with you.
- 4) Allergy shots are generally not recommended by physicians in the UK and it

will be difficult to find anyone who will prescribe or administer them.

Vaccinations

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) recommends that you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before your study abroad or any trip. 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 U.K). 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 UW-Eau Claire students enter under the Short-Term Study Visa category. See the "Visa Information: UK" in the Learning Content section of your UW-Eau Claire online BlugoldsAbroad account for basic information about the visa options

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 U.K.

Clothing/Weather

The weather in the U.K. 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 US 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 in November.

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.

ARRIVING IN ENGLAND

Travel Arrangements

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Winchester. Carefully read the information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Study Abroad Handbook. Note that

- 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
- **you cannot enter the UK for the first time via Ireland if you are using the short-term study visa option.**

Immigration

If you are using the short-term study visa option to enter the UK, you will be asked to provide the following documents to the UK immigration official at the airport:

- a valid passport
- your Letter of Acceptance from your host university

If requested by the immigration agent, you must also show additional documents. Again, this information is also in your Learning Content, Visa Information: UK

Plan to have the following documents on hand if they are requested:

- *proof of onward journey* (i.e. proof that you are leaving the UK, **most often this is in the form of a round-trip airline ticket**).
- *proof of the necessary funds* to pay for your course fees and support yourself for the entire period you intend to stay. This can be in the form of scholarships, grants, or other financial aid award letters as well as bank statements in your name which are **dated no more than one calendar month before you arrive in the UK**. UW-Eau Claire will also provide you with a letter stating your tuition will be paid through UW-Eau Claire.

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. In general, you will be in one of three halls ("dorm" is not used in British English): 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. Most rooms are singles but not all. Halls are co-ed, so don't be surprised if your wing-mates are female and male. All of the halls are within five minutes walking

distance of the center of campus and 10 minutes from the city center.

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 US 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

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.

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/socs) 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 U.K. includes England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland."

From:

<http://geography.about.com/library/faq/blqzulk.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, begun 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> and
<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108078.html#ixzz1fnATw3d5>

If you want to learn more about British culture, visit the following Web site:

<http://projectbritain.com/>.

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).

Bus & Train in the U.K.

If you plan to travel in England, Scotland or Wales, transportation by train, ferry, and bus

(coach) are HIGHLY recommended. A Young Person's RailCard gives you 1/3 off regular fare tickets. It pays for itself after three or four rail trips. Check out this website 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.

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. Unfortunately, you can't catch the bus from Winchester, but it's still cheaper with your Young Person's Rail Card to take the train to Southampton and then the "Fun Fare" bus to London. You'll invest much more time than just a train ride from London to Winchester, but it's about half the price.

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 U.K. 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

Study Abroad Coordinator
Rosamund Robinson (on maternity leave thru August 2018)
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 U.K. **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/checklist.html>

We suggest that you copy this page and leave it with your emergency contact and/or parents.

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.
- That England is pretty secluded from the rest of Europe. It's hard to get there 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 US. It has helped me work on my adaptability and I have learn 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 more here.

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 and met so many new people among having the opportunity to have so many amazing experiences. It was nice that it was an English-speaking program as well 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 so important to witness world events from another view point, and what better way to do it than by visiting a new country and making great friends." – [Samuel](#)

Updated May 2018, clw