

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



WINCHESTER
FALL/ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18

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 adviser will email additional information throughout the semester. Please contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, your peer adviser, 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 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 an unlimited number of UW-Eau Claire students have the option of studying at Winchester.

The first UW-Eau Claire exchange students attended the University of Winchester in the fall of 1981. The first UW-Eau Claire study abroad students attended the University of Winchester in spring 2007. 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 musical life of the 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 centre with a heated pool, a lively film society, an ever-improving selection of eating and drinking places and, for those who venture further afield, 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 just over 5,900 students, most of whom are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education, humanities, and social sciences. Of the 5,900 students, approximately 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, common rooms, a television room, launderette, an ATM, and a shop.

Academic Calendar

For Fall and Academic Year Students

The University of Winchester has provided the following dates for Fall 2017.

Depart US: September 15

Arrival: September 16

Orientation: Week of September 18

First Day of Class: September 25

Last Day of Class: December 15

Move out of Housing: December 16

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:

You cannot stay in housing over the winter break; you will need to move out for the break on December 16. You can leave your belongings in your room for a storage fee of £150.

You need to be back in Winchester by **January 14. Semester 2 classes begin on January 15.**

Orientation for Semester 2 students will take place a few days prior to this. If you want to return to Winchester during the orientation time, please contact the Study Abroad coordinator at the University of Winchester about making arrangements with Housing for this.

The last day of spring term is April 6, 2018, and move-out day will be April 7, 2018.

ACADEMICS

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

Program Pre-requisites

To participate in the Winchester program, you must have a 3.0 resident GPA and be in good standing (academic, conduct and financial). We check grades at the end of the semester prior to departure. If you are on warning or probation, we will need to check with the University of Winchester to see if you will be allowed to participate. If you have been suspended, you will not be allowed to participate in the program.

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

You will find a listing of Winchester “modules” (courses) available to exchange/visiting students at

<https://learn.winchester.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=2677>

Make sure you look in the module catalogue for the correct term. This site has good information to use in your planning.

Business Students: College of Business students should consult closely with their 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 *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 this prerequisite.

Course Equivalencies

Many courses you can take at University of Winchester have already been evaluated for UW-Eau Claire credit. To find courses that have been evaluated, you will go to the Transfer Credit Wizard site:

https://my.uwec.edu/psp/PUBLIC/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/EAU_SS_CUSTOM.EAU_TRNCRD_WZ.GBL. Choose "United Kingdom" from the “Country” pull down menu, then hit “Search.” Then, select “Univ of Winchester” by clicking the link. You will need to look up the

equivalencies by using the Winchester module number or subject area code.

If a course appears on the list, it has already been reviewed by the appropriate UW-Eau Claire department chair, and the equivalency listed is what you will receive upon successful completion of the course. (Please note that catalog changes at either university may change a previously established equivalency. Examples of such changes would be a change in course title, number, or description; dropping a course at one institution; etc.)

Keep in mind that this is a historical record of past course equivalencies. If a course on the UW-Eau Claire equivalency list is not listed in the Winchester online module offerings, it typically means the module is not being offered for that academic year.

Please note that if you end up taking a course that has not been evaluated by UW-Eau Claire, **you cannot assume that it will transfer back in the way you want just because the course description sounds similar to a course taught at UW-Eau Claire.** All course equivalency decisions are made by UW-Eau Claire department chairs and are not official until the Registrar's Office receives the equivalency with the chair's signature on it.

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 course 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

Fall and year-long students will receive a module selection form via email in April 2017 after the 2017-2018 modules are posted on the Winchester website. Spring students usually receive the module selection in the spring with their 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. Students are encouraged not to change their schedule. However, changes may be possible before or after your arrival. Please discuss changes with Cheryl Lochner-Wright, the Winchester study abroad coordinator, or your academic adviser.

The study abroad coordinator in the Winchester Registry 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.

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 Winchester exchange 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.

Credits and Course Load

Credits earned abroad on a UW-Eau Claire program are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits. For continuing UW-Eau Claire students, the classes you take abroad will count towards the total credits needed for graduation, **and grades count towards your UW-Eau Claire GPA.**

Exchange and visiting (study abroad) students at the University of Winchester are generally 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.

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. Much of the emphasis is placed on private study. Keep in mind that 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 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 study abroad 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 former 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

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 at Winchester than at UW-Eau Claire, you may find your time abroad an ideal time to complete some service-learning. Remember to submit your Service Learning forms online before you begin your project! (www.uwec.edu/SL)

Background Check Required of Volunteers in the U.K

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 U.K. has experienced some tragic incidents where people with criminal backgrounds have victimized vulnerable people. The result: a required criminal background checks 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 U.K. 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.

Volunteering and Visa Requirements

All students participating in volunteer activities must enter the UK under the Tier 4 General Student Visa. You can learn more about the Tier 4 General Student Visa in your online study abroad account Learning Content.

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/Academic Year Exchange Explanation

On an **exchange program** (students who begin their program in the fall), 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 pay University of Winchester costs, and they switch places. The money paid by the Winchester students is then used to pay the tuition and fees for the UW-Eau Claire students, and vice versa. Students pay the host institution for their housing and meals.

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 Winchester. What is exchanged is not actual payment, but rather benefits: you should receive the same benefits a typical Winchester student receives, and the Winchester student receives the benefits a typical Eau Claire student receives. This type of arrangement allows students to participate in overseas programs at a cost similar to what they would pay to attend their home university.

Spring Study Abroad Explanation

On a **study abroad program** (spring only), a student pays the tuition, fees, housing, and meal cost set by the University of Winchester. Participating only in the spring semester at Winchester is more expensive than fall semester/academic year participants in the spring because students are paying Winchester non-resident tuition rather than UW-Eau Claire tuition.

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.

Past participants who responded to our money survey spent between \$300 and \$5,000 on personal travel. To give a sense of what you can do for these amounts:

"If you go to less-traveled countries, you can do it pretty inexpensively. I spent a week in Croatia and a week in Portugal. Flew London-Croatia, Croatia-London, London-Portugal, Portugal-London all for about \$300. We stayed in each place about a week, in youth hostels."

"Okay I went A LOT of places... We had a month off, and so we bought a Eurail and traveled to Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Spain. The pass was about \$600, and then we flew a couple of times in there. All in all, we managed to spend only about \$2,000 for the 4 weeks of travel on the trip which included the flights (London-Greece, Berlin-Spain, and Spain-England), the Eurail pass, staying in hostels every night, food, and personal expenses like buying souvenirs or doing things like Gondola ride or skiing."

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 November 14, 2016 was \$1 US = 0.76951 British pounds. 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 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. It is also advisable to bring some traveler's checks with you for emergencies; they can be cashed at airport "bureaux de change" offices and in banks. You can also 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.

Travelers Checks

Many people no longer find travelers checks useful in the UK due to the convenience of ATMs and the service fees (1-4%) associated with cashing your travelers checks. Also, you will need to go to a bank or a money exchange office (e.g. bureaux de change) in order to cash travelers checks, which can be inconvenient. However, travelers checks are useful in an emergency situation such as when your credit or debit cards are lost or stolen, your cards are

damaged, your cards are de-activated due to fraud concerns, etc.

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.

On-Campus Health & Counseling Services

Winchester does not have a health center on campus. However, Winchester has a nurse on site who works from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the week. Winchester does have counselors on staff that students can access through the Student Services offices. Students can drop in when needed for whatever reason: homesickness, overwhelmed by academics, etc.

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.

Prescriptions - Allergy Shots

Please note that 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.

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 at orientation; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times. The information is also on

the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

911 Equivalent in the UK

If you are in an emergency situation in the United Kingdom, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line **in the United Kingdom is 999; in Gibraltar, it is 112.** 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. The CIE will post basic information about the current visa options for U.S. citizens for study in England to the Learning Content section of your online study abroad account during the semester prior to departure. **However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date about student visa requirements for England, and if required, to apply for and receive a visa from an English consulate or embassy in a timely manner.** Please read the “Visa” section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about

what you should do to keep up-to-date on visa requirements.

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, jeans, casual pants, wool skirts, sweaters. Sweatpants are not considered appropriate wear in public, save them for the gym or for lounging in your room! 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

You will receive a suggested packing list from your peer adviser the semester prior to departure.

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. There is also information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Study Abroad Handbook. Please see the section "Getting to Winchester" for detailed travel information.

Immigration

At the airport in the United Kingdom, you will need to pass through immigration. See the "Learning Content" section of your online study abroad account for details on what you should carry with you through immigration. Don't joke around at immigration or customs. Just answer the questions politely.

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.

Most terms, Winchester provides a free pick-up service from Heathrow. 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 Adviser (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. If you decide to remain in Winchester, you may want to stay in a bed and breakfast (B&B) for one or more nights. There is a [Tourist Information Office](#) in the Guildhall which is directly across from the Winchester Bus/Coach Station on High Street (the Broadway).

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 be housed 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.

Yearlong students: Remember, the housing fees paid to Winchester do not cover housing over the winter/holiday break.

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 be given 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. The cost of the bedding pack is approximately £25 and had historically been added to your housing bill. Past students have found the bedding pack very convenient. The bedding pack contains: a duvet, duvet cover, pillow, pillow case, and a bottom sheet for a single bed.

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 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 Student Union (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.

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 and Brooks Shopping Center, Poundland
- Thrift Shops: Naomi House Charity Shop
- Toiletries: Savers, Boots, Poundland
- Inexpensive clothes: Primark

Meals

All exchange/visiting 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 was almost impossible to spend, especially since, as international students, we traveled a lot on the weekends.... 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 adviser 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, Somerfields and the farmers market. Most halls have a kitchenette with facilities to cook small meals or snacks. Past students also recommend Weatherspoons, The County Arms, Ask, and Prezzo when you feel like eating out.

Student Life

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

Early in the fall semester there is the Freshers Fayre, an event like the Blugold Organizations Bash (BOB), where you can check out opportunities to get involved both on campus and in the community. Past students recommend joining (and being active in) at least one campus club or a community organization as a great way to get involved. This fair is not held in the

spring so spring students need to be more proactive 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

Early in the fall semester there will be a "Fresher's Fair," 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.

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/blqzuk.htm>.

The Government

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, with a queen and a parliament that has two houses: The House of Lords, with 574 life peers, 92 hereditary peers, and 26 bishops; and the House of Commons, which has 651 popularly elected members. 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. In Nov. 1999, hundreds of hereditary peers were expelled in an effort to make the body more democratic. The executive power of the Crown is exercised by the cabinet, headed by the prime minister.

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>

Population

Population of the UK: 63,742,977 (2014 est.)

Nationality: British

Language: English (Note: the UK also has recognized regional languages: Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Cornish)

Religion: Christian 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, Other 2%, none 25.7%, unspecified 7.2%

Ethnic groups: White 87.2%, black 3%, Indian 2.3%, Pakistani 1.9%, mixed 2%, other 3.7% (2011 estimated)

From:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uk.html>

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, and the Isle of Wight. London (Waterloo) is an hour away by train, while

direct services link the city with Bournemouth, Birmingham, Crewe, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Southampton is 15 minutes by train and Portsmouth is 55 minutes.

Eastleigh 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	City	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/
		CouchSurfing http://www.couchsurfing.org

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
Registry (Main Building 122)
University of Winchester
Sparkford Road
Winchester, Hampshire
S022 4NR
England
Ph.: 011-44-1-962-827683 or 827210
Email: studyabroad@winchester.ac.uk

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.

COMMENTS FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS

"I have had so many new experiences, some positive and others more trying, but in the end I am a better person for my time abroad and I am now more aware of the world instead of just the little bubble in the states. The world is bigger than it seems and it has been a great opportunity to explore and learn about it as much as I possibly could." -Jessica

"My time studying at the University of Winchester was enriching through course work and I learned a lot about myself being placed in an entirely new environment. I was able to be more independent than ever by dealing with difficulties and differences between the UK and home. I also developed great planning, money management, and flexibility skills while traveling around Europe and creating close friendships with people from around the world was a wonderful addition to my overall experience." -Rachel

"My semester at Winchester has been one of the most fulfilling of my school career. My professors were fantastic, the city itself is positively charming, and I even had plenty of time to travel. I'm now more confident in myself and my abilities. English culture is far more different from American culture than most people expect, and I'm grateful every day that I was able to experience it firsthand. The best part, however, was probably the people I've met and the friends I've made -- now I definitely have a reason to go back!" - Carolyn

"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

"My experience of England was very culturally encompassing. I spent little time travelling so as to better understand the system of schooling here, which is what I wanted from the program. I did travel a bit in the UK to see what it was like and get a feel for the atmosphere. I found it to be quite informative in getting to know where friends lived and the kind of area they grew up in. As a whole, I would refer to my experience in England as "cultural immersion" because I really did get a feel for the university culture as well as other aspects of British life." – Jill

"Studying in Winchester gave me a wider perspective and understanding of the global economy. Living with English students has been "wicked" (that means great. I loved picking up their lingo)! I learned in a way I could have never learned in a textbook. I truly believe that studying abroad is one of the best things UW-Eau Claire has to offer!" – Melissa

"My experience abroad has sharpened me as a person, student and friend. You receive few chances in life to take a big leap. I am happy that I took this leap into a new country. It has been some of the best moments of my life."- Justin

