United Kingdom
UC London Bloomsbury Center, Fall Semester
2011 Program Guide
The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University’s student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.
YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

EAP Online
Bookmark your Participants program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Local UCEAP Support
Campus UCEAP Office
The Campus UCEAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office
The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

- **Program Advisors** communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.
- **Operations Specialists** coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.
- **Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students’ academic records.
- **Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

**Operations Specialist**
Michelle Bobro
Phone: (805) 893-3246; E-mail: mbobro@eap.ucop.edu

**Academic Specialist**
Francesca Latham
Phone: (805) 893-2810; E-mail: flatham@eap.ucop.edu

**Program Advisor**
Kelsey South
Phone: (805) 893-3246; E-mail: ksouth@eap.ucop.edu

**Student Finance Accountant**
Rachel Wilson
Phone: (805) 893-5927; E-mail: stufinance@eap.ucop.edu

**UCEAP Systemwide Office**
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583

To get this guide on your smartphone, scan the QR code above.
Study Center Abroad
The UCEAP Study Center in the U.K., with a UC faculty consultant and program officers, administers the UC London Bloomsbury fall semester program. Study Center staff advise on academic and other matters and help ensure that your academic program meets UC requirements.

The Study Center administers this program in close and continual collaboration with ACCENT, a provider of student services for a number of study abroad programs worldwide. ACCENT headquarters are located in San Francisco; ACCENT’s London office is located in a large building block owned by Florida State University, so there is FSU signage on the building. The classrooms, computer lab, and some of the housing for the program are also located in the FSU building, and the rest of the program housing is within a 10-minute walk.

ACCENT handles the logistical arrangements and day-to-day activities of the London fall semester program. ACCENT oversees student housing, coordinates on-site orientation, organizes field trips and cultural activities, handles the logistical side of the academic program such as class scheduling, and serves as a resource for nonacademic questions or problems you may encounter. The Academic Coordinator for ACCENT in London, Dr. Natasa Blecic, is also available to discuss academic issues. ACCENT works with Acorn Property Management which provides housing for study abroad programs throughout London.

If you need to contact ACCENT prior to departure, call the San Francisco office.

Contact Information
UCEAP Study Center
3 Bedford Square
London WC1B 3RA, United Kingdom

Phone (calling from the U.S.): (011-44-207) 079-0562
Phone (calling from the U.K.): 0207-079-0562
E-mail: studentsupport@californiahouse.org.uk

ACCENT San Francisco
870 Market Street, Suite 1026
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (800) 869-9291

ACCENT London
99-103 Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LA
United Kingdom
E-mail: ukcontact@accent.intl.com

Phone Number Codes
U.S. international code ............... 011
(dial this to call from the U.S.)
United Kingdom country code ...... 44
London city code. ................. 20

Approximate Time Difference
Add 8 hours
**ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

**UC London Bloomsbury Center**

UCEAP’s 16-week fall semester program in London is designed by UC and taught by faculty from universities in the London area. The program has a rigorous curriculum of four integrated courses that draw on a variety of humanistic and social perspectives to examine major aspects of British history, society, and culture. The curriculum pays particular attention to London as a crossroads of large social and cultural dynamics, and it draws on the special resources of greater London to examine these dynamics.

Past students have praised the thought-provoking qualities of classes offered in this program and value the opportunity to complement class time with field walks, museum visits, theater performances, and guest lectures.

The ACCENT office, classroom facilities, and some of the program housing are located in a large building block (owned by Florida State University) in the heart of London’s Bloomsbury district near the British Museum and the University of London. The program is open to non-UC students, but there are no British students in the program.

**Library Facilities**

In addition to the ACCENT office library, you will have access to a small, fully staffed lending library, which is located in the same building as the ACCENT office. Within the library there is a selection of materials relevant to your courses reserved just for UCEAP students.

You can also access the California Digital Library (CDL) while abroad. This library includes online academic journals and other resources. In order to access the CDL from a computer that is not part of the UC network (including those you may use abroad), follow the instructions from your UC campus on the CDL website. Students can also become members of the British Library. Please see ACCENT staff for more details.

For some courses, you will need to purchase textbooks or course reader packs as required or recommended by faculty after arrival in London. ACCENT will be in touch with the list of books for the course which you may wish to purchase in advance.
Active participation and attendance is mandatory in all classes.

Course Information
You are required to take four upper-division courses (designed for and taught to UC students) from the areas of anthropology, art history, dramatic arts, English, film studies, geography, history, and sociology. You earn 5.0 UC quarter units per course, for a total load of 20 UC quarter units. You may take one course P/NP.

Each course consists of weekly lecture meetings and discussion sections with about 30 students each. Lecture and discussions for each course will be led by the same faculty member.

Extracurricular cultural activities complement the academic program and establish the local London and British context in which the program is situated. Most courses include field trips.

Courses
- London Museums: Cross-listed with Anthropology, Art History, and Sociology (ANTH 111, ARTHS 111, and SOC 111)
- British Cinema: Listed under Film and Media Studies (FILM 110)
- London: Society and Space: Cross-listed with Anthropology, Geography, and History (ANTH 110, GEOG 110, and HIST 110)
- Theater in London: Cross-listed with Dramatic Arts and English (DA 110 and ENGL 110)

Attendance Policy
Attendance is monitored closely by U.K. immigration authorities due to recent laws from the British Home Office. Consistently missing class can have a bearing on your right to stay in the U.K. for the duration of the program. A maximum of two absences per class, for any reason, is permissible but discouraged. Normally, absences are not permitted except for health and unforeseen emergencies. In both cases, if possible, discuss your absence with the ACCENT London Director prior to taking it.

Instructors maintain attendance records and may treat arrival more than ten minutes after the class begins, or leaving early, as an absence. Attendance at all components of a class (lecture, seminar, field visits, etc.) each week is expected and absence from any component will be counted as an absence for that week. Violation of the attendance policy may result in sanctions including a lower grade, loss of course credit, or dismissal from the program.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...”

Good books include Notes from a Small Island, The Mother Tongue, and Made in America, all by author Bill Bryson.

Bill Bryson is an American author who decided to move to England, where he remained for 20 years. His books offer a sense of life in Britain from an American point of view. These often humorous stories best sum up British identity and the state of the nation, which will prepare you for the coming months you’ll be spending in the United Kingdom.

Be prepared to talk about all aspects of American life—you’ll be asked about sports, politics, cities, just about everything.

“CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

“Nothing gives the English more pleasure, in a quiet but determined sort of way, than to do things oddly.” —Bill Bryson

Become as acquainted as possible with the U.K. prior to departure, and keep up with current events by reading articles in newspapers and magazines, and by watching films set in contemporary Britain. UC libraries subscribe to the main daily newspapers published in London and weekly or monthly magazines of news and commentary also should be available.

Recommended Reading

British University Life

American universities and their counterparts in the United Kingdom are different. These books will give you an idea of what life is like at a British university.


Novels Relevant to California Students

Are you intrigued by differences between Americans and the British? These books offer a look into Britain’s academia and society, often from an American perspective.


North, Freya Polly, Ullstein TB, 2001; Sally, Heinemann, 1996.

Travel Guides

UCEAP students report it is wise to acquire a guide book or two before departure. There is a series of travel books which gives comprehensive accommodation, sightseeing, historical, and travel information, covering practically all countries of the world. Suggested travel series include Let’s Go, Rough Guide, Lonely Planet, Blue Guide, Michelin Guide, and Intelligent Traveler’s Guide. Other resources are Time Out, DK, Insight, and Footprint guides.
Culture Shock

You will likely hear much about culture shock in your EAP campus orientation meetings. Some students feel that the term overstates the matter, others may feel that shock is just the right term to describe how it feels to adjust to a location where everything can seem cold and gray. In any case, adjusting to life, even in a country where the language is the same and much of the popular culture is shared, can present significant challenges.

Though many returned students describe their EAP year as “the best year” of their lives, they admit that genuine effort is required, especially in the first term, to make the adjustment.

To begin with the obvious, Californians need to adjust to a significantly cooler, darker, damper climate. In fact, compared to much of North America, the British Isles experience a mild climate, warmed by the Gulf Stream. But this may seem increasingly irrelevant after weeks of overcast skies and temperatures in the 30s and 40s. UC students frequently express an anticipatory preference for living in the southern part of Britain, as if this will make a significant difference in the weather; in fact the difference is rarely more than 5 degrees between Scotland and the North and the southern counties of Kent, Sussex, or Devon. Few Californians are prepared for the increasing dark of November and December. Because of the latitude of Britain, the days approaching the winter solstice grow very short, and darkness lasts from approximately four in the afternoon until eight in the morning. Even when it can be seen, the sun is low on the horizon. Students encounter the most difficult times in late November and December, when the combination of gray weather, shortened days, adjustment to a new academic system, and homesickness bears down the hardest. The compensation, of course, is the impressive explosion of spring and the relatively longer days of May and June. Virtually all students report that they feel considerably more at home in their host universities after the winter break.

Class and Race Consciousness

While Great Britain has changed much in the past 15 years, class stratification is still a part of its society, and you are likely to be aware of some degree of class consciousness among your British peers. A smaller percentage of the population attends university in the U.K. than in the U.S., which means that a given university may be less representative of the population as a whole. But because students traditionally leave home to go to a university just as in the U.S., the political and social character of a university cannot be predicted by its location. Try to be open to a variety of social and political attitudes on the part of your peers in Britain.

The United Kingdom is most emphatically a multiracial society and has experienced, and continues to experience, many of the racial tensions that beset American society. But the mix of races is quite different; in addition to Africans and Afro-Caribs, Britain has a sizable population from the Asian subcontinent, including Indians and Pakistanis, but in relation to California, a smaller number of East Asians. Moreover, ethnic minorities represent quite different cultural experiences, deriving their place in contemporary Britain from the nation’s comparatively recent colonial past.
British people are very much aware of the need for racial tolerance and sensitivity, but as ethnic groups are unevenly spread across the country (minorities typically concentrated in London and the large cities of the Midlands and North), they vary a great deal in their actual experience of racial diversity. While Britain’s differences from the U.S. should not affect the degree of acceptance and friendliness toward non-Caucasian American students, it may mean differing assumptions, even misunderstanding at times, about the backgrounds of such students. Political correctness is as much a part of discourse in Britain as in the U.S., but it means different things and elicits a variety of attitudes.

**Social Conduct**

**Socializing**

Making good friends with local students is clearly important to the process of adjusting to student life. Past EAP students report that the best way is to join some of the clubs and sports teams that are available. Nearly all students studying at British universities have remarked that the fabled British reserve is more than just a stereotype, even among young people; they find that friendships are slower to form than they expect, and some effort is frequently needed to get to know fellow students. But people are as different in different parts of the country as, for example, Californians are from New Yorkers, and Scots and Northerners insist that they are more outgoing than the reserved Southerners.

The Study Center will organize a Thanksgiving lunch event. All students are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.

**Drinking and Smoking**

You will also find quite different practices and attitudes toward drinking and smoking. In general, British students use pubs for socializing a great deal, and a night out may be more frequent and involve the consumption of more alcohol than you may be used to. You are not required to adopt this cultural practice and should note that pubs do serve a range of nonalcoholic beverages. Coffee shops are becoming increasingly popular. Smoking, while more controlled than a few years ago, is still quite common, especially among university students. Smoking is illegal in all public, enclosed places.

**Sexual Orientation**

Although the British are not as open about sexuality, especially in the smaller cities, you will find that larger cities, especially London, have well established Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) communities. Publications such as *Time Out* list GLBT-friendly events and venues in London and EAP staff will have further contact information. In addition, most universities offer GLBT clubs. The age of consent for gay males is 16 years. There are no legal prohibitions against lesbianism.
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Travel Documents
You are not required to present a birth certificate to the host university, even if requested. Your passport is sufficient identification.

Make photocopies of all important documents and keep the copies in a separate location from the originals. Also recommended is to have accessible an electronic list of passport and credit card numbers, and any other personal information that can be stolen or lost and will need to be replaced.

Entry Clearance
You can obtain an entry clearance, called the Student Visitor Visa, upon arrival in the U.K. from British immigration officers at the airport or from another port of entry. UCEAP will provide information about this clearance. You need to show proper documentation of your student status and evidence of financial support for the coming term abroad.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, contact the British consulate in Los Angeles to find out if you must obtain an entry clearance while still in the U.S.

Entry Clearance for Back-to-Back Program Participants (subject to change)
Summer plus London Fall:
(a) Present admission letters from both host universities plus financial proof to cover both programs.
(b) Obtain a Student Visitor Visa upon arrival in the U.K. (if both programs total six months or less).

London Fall plus Spring Immersion:
(a) If you received a Student Visitor Visa upon arrival, you are required to return to the U.S. during winter break to apply for a Tier 4 Student Visa. The British Home Office has stated that students with a Student Visitor Visa cannot receive a second Student Visitor Visa upon or after arrival.
(b) If you have a Tier 4 Student Visa, you can either return to the U.S. to apply for a second Tier 4 Student Visa or you can apply to the British Home Office in London. (Students in Scotland can apply to the Home Office in Glasgow.) However, this method will cost at least $590 to apply by mail and at least $1,000 to apply in person. In addition to the high cost, applying by mail requires you to submit your passport to the Home Office for several weeks, which means you cannot travel out of the country.

International Student Identification Card
An international student identification card (ISIC) is cheaper in the U.K. than in the U.S.; you may want to wait to purchase one for the term abroad on EAP.
Packing Tips

Identify all luggage on the inside and outside with your name, address, and destination (the international office at the host university is preferable). Pack lightly, as all carriers have weight restrictions. Luggage restrictions vary by airline.

Objects such as scissors, pocket knives, knitting needles, etc., must be packed in your checked luggage; they will be confiscated if found in your carry-on luggage.

➢ The EAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.

Essential

• Clothing that is washable and quick drying
• Clothing that can be layered (T-shirt, fleece or lined vest, cardigan, or pullover sweater)
• Jeans and fleece-lined pants
• Lightweight and warm jackets
• Warm socks
• Scarf and gloves
• Flip-flops, walking shoes, casual footwear
• One dressy outfit
• Coat (U.K. thrift shops sell good quality coats appropriate for the weather)
• Umbrella
• Rainwear and rain boots (available at all large U.K. department stores)

Optional

• Bathrobe and slippers
• Beach towel
• Lightweight blanket
• Seat pad (good for train and bus travel)
• Travel-size sleeping bag
• Empty backpack (to bring home items purchased abroad)
• Travel alarm clock and flashlight
• Small gifts for new friends (with UC logo or California designs)

Do Not Pack

• Medications that are illegal in the U.K.
• Fragile items, unless they are bubble-wrapped

Electronics

The electrical current used abroad is 50 cycles AC rather than the 60 cycles current used in the U.S., and voltage is 220–250 rather than the standard U.S. 110–125 volts for small appliances. Most electrical sockets abroad have three-pin plugs. In general, North American appliances need both a converter and an adapter for use abroad. However, travel irons, curling irons, blowdryers, electric razors, etc., can be purchased in the U.S. with either a built-in converter or a dual voltage function. These appliances will need only an adapter to be used abroad. (Appliances without either a built-in converter or a dual voltage...
function will need an external converter, which can be purchased at electronics stores or travel specialty shops. U.S. clocks need to be battery-driven to operate abroad. EAP students recommend that you purchase small appliances once abroad, although they will be more expensive than they are in the U.S.

If you plan to take a laptop, be sure that the AC input of its power supply will accept 240 volts and 50hz (AC input: 100–240V; 50–60hz); if it does not, purchase a transformer before departure. The correct adapter plug (for three-pronged sockets) can be easily found in the U.S. or abroad.

Since the cost of electricity abroad is high, and improper use of appliances may damage electrical outlets and the appliances, ask before using the outlets. Some university accommodations will test your appliances to make sure they are compatible. Information on purchasing appliances and accessories can be found on the Magellan’s and Distant Lands websites.

**Insurance for Personal Possessions**

It is possible that your parents already have insurance coverage for personal possessions. Find out if their insurance will cover your items while in transit and while abroad. The [UCEAP Insurance Plan](#) also contains some coverage for personal property. Be sure that the EAP policy and any parental insurance policy is sufficient to cover the items you will be taking with you.

You are strongly advised to review the UCEAP insurance for personal belongings, especially for anything of value such as a computer or camera. If you decide to obtain additional insurance, it is best to do so before departure because most thefts occur in the airport or while moving into housing. Personal belongings are your responsibility. The host university will not protect your belongings—even in university accommodations.

Some host university accommodations fees include partial personal possessions coverage, which may provide compensation for some stolen items. However, such insurance may provide coverage only if the theft occurs within a designated time frame and locale. Theft during breaks, vacations, and while in transit may not be covered. Some policies may not include laptops in their definition of computers. Such insurance may not cover the full replacement cost of stolen items, and it may not cover all personal items, such as bikes or cell phones. Therefore, even if your accommodations contract includes this insurance, you may want to purchase additional coverage. [Endsleigh](#) is a major student insurance provider in the U.K.

**Storage**

Numerous sites exist where you can store luggage, either during breaks or while traveling after the end of the program. Two storage companies are [Big Yellow Self Storage](#) and [Excess Baggage Company](#). Storage sites are usually at airports, underground stations, and train stations. Rates and hours will vary, so confirm all details in advance. Most companies can also arrange to ship luggage.
Travel to London

When traveling, always carry your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money. Never put valuables in your checked luggage. Leave extra credit cards at home, and carry only what is necessary. To avoid theft, never leave your luggage unattended.

Flights from the U.S. direct to Europe arrive the day after they depart the U.S. Keep this in mind when booking your flight to arrive on the correct date for the program.

No group flight has been arranged by UCEAP for travel to the U.K. You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements directly to the program site. Even if you are on full financial aid, you are responsible for reserving and purchasing your airline ticket. Your Financial Aid Office will not do it for you. Purchase a changeable airline ticket; standby tickets are not appropriate.

You are required to arrive at the correct program site on UCEAP’s Official Start Date—see the program calendar on the UCEAP website for the date. If you fail to appear on the date and at the place indicated, you will be subject to dismissal from the program (see the Student Agreement in MyEA P).

Detailed instructions on transportation from London-area airports to the designated arrival point at the program site are available in the UCEAP Predeparture Checklist. The start date of the program can change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for making modifications to your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. In addition, flights are routinely changed or canceled; confirm your flight schedule about two weeks before the departure date. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges you may incur. To be kept informed of any program changes, update your address, telephone number, and e-mail address in MyEAP.

Financial Aid Students

Your financial aid package is based partly on the UCEAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to the U.K. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the UCEAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselors. Neither UCEAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

Airline and Customs Restrictions

Do not ask other students to carry any items of any kind abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines will ask you if you are carrying items for someone else, and if you are, they will not allow you to take them. If you are allowed to board the plane with the items, customs abroad may charge you a high duty upon arrival. They will assume you plan to resell the items, especially if you already have similar items of your own. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.
Rules About Traveling to the U.K.
The United Kingdom is part of the Common Travel Area Arrangement (CTA), which also includes the Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man. The first entrance into the CTA dictates the type of entry clearance stamp or entry clearance activation you will receive. This means that if you arrive first in Ireland on your way to the U.K., you will receive an “in transit” stamp even if you already have a U.K. entry clearance from the British consulate in your passport. If you receive an “in transit” stamp, a U.K. entry clearance for a year’s study will not be activated upon arrival in the U.K. and an entry clearance for short-term study will not be given because the CTA has already been entered.

U.K. immigration officers may not be present where passengers deplane from flights via CTA locations into the U.K. Immigration officers elsewhere in the airport will not and cannot activate or give an entry clearance to persons who have already entered the CTA. This means you would have no status in the U.K. immigration computer records and your student status in the U.K. would be nonexistent (your stay would be illegal). If this occurs, you must regularize your status in order to register at your host university, and you will be denied reentry if you travel.

If you must regularize your status, you will have to apply for the correct entry clearance after arrival at your host university. It will cost at least $590 to apply by mail and at least $1,000 to apply in person. In addition to the high cost, applying by mail requires you submit your passport to the British Home Office for a number of weeks, during which time you cannot travel out of the country.

Purpose of CTA
CTA has been in existence for decades to allow ease of travel to British and Irish citizens between their two countries. Recently, the European Union has adopted and continues to fine tune several similar arrangements for various groups of European countries, the most well-known being the Schengen Treaty and its offshoots. However, Europe compensates for ease of border crossing with more internal controls, such as identity checks and shared immigration databases. How does this affect you? If you arrive in the U.K. through Dublin, you will not receive the entry clearance stamp or visa activation you need.
Orientation

You will have an on-site orientation organized by ACCENT in consultation with the UCEAP Study Center.

The London fall semester orientation has two sessions. The “practical” session led by the ACCENT team will include information on getting around London, understanding how the city works, health issues, personal safety, financial topics such as how to make your money go further, emergency preparedness, and other information. The “academic” orientation session, led by ACCENT’s Academic Coordinator, will cover the academic culture, academic program, important University of California administrative information, and other topics. Participation at both sessions is mandatory for all students. Other orientation events may include a welcome reception, a walking tour of central London, and a guided bus tour.

Much has been written about culture shock and you will hear about it in predeparture orientation meetings and again at the orientation abroad. You may eventually feel the term overstates the matter. Realize that adjusting to life, even in a country where you know the language and much of the popular culture is shared, can present significant challenges. Though many UCEAP returnees describe their experience abroad as “the best time” of their lives, they admit that genuine effort is required to make the adjustment, especially in the beginning.

You will have the opportunity to participate in neighborhood walks that allow you to explore London in a relaxed but informative setting. Details about the walks will be distributed during the orientation in London.
Local Transportation

London Transportation System

You will use the London transportation system extensively, both as part of class meetings and for extracurricular use. During orientation, you will receive an Oystercard, which you can used to pay for local transportation costs to sites required by the academic courses.

Detailed maps, routes, and schedules for bus and London Underground transportation are available online. Bus rides are free for those in wheelchairs.

Return Travel

You are encouraged to purchase a round-trip ticket not only to avoid an expensive one-way return ticket, but also to show to Immigration upon arrival. It is not required at this time, but Immigration prefers to see a round-trip ticket, although you can show any kind of proof that you will depart the U.K. at the end of your program (such as a plane, train, or ferry reservation to another country). For flexibility, you can purchase a changeable or “open return” round-trip ticket.

If you do not make round-trip arrangements, be sure to book a return flight with plenty of lead time once abroad. Study Center and ACCENT staff can refer you to a local travel agency for information on return travel. Flights to the U.S. fill up quickly and economy-fare seats are booked early.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after UCEAP is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to UCEAP
- UCEAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on UCEAP (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

UCEAP Student Budget

Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget.

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your UCEAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions

- Download and print your UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the UCEAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your UCEAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the UCEAP Financial Information web page.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Spending time in Britain is expensive. You’ll spend a lot of money, even if you’re living cheap. Things just cost more there. Submit to the forces that be and accept being eternally indebted to your parents and to your credit card company. You won’t regret spending the money later, but you’ll regret missing out on any experiences that present themselves.

Never let a California bank change money into pounds before sending it abroad. U.S. banks charge high fees. Have the sender insist that the wire transfer be in U.S. dollars.

Don’t think about converting pounds into dollars. It’ll make you crazy. Just realize that it’s going to be expensive.

Get as much money together as possible before you go abroad. Things are expensive and you don’t want money to limit you.

Never cash a check at a “checks cashed” place unless you want to be ripped off. Go to a bank.

Handling Money Abroad

➤ Be cautious about carrying and displaying money.

You will need a minimum of $160 initially for textbooks and basic supplies. Budget additional funds for clothing and travel. The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing or recreational travel abroad.

Before Departure

Before leaving the U.S., exchange $200 into British currency. The funds will be useful upon arrival for snacks, transportation, tips, and unexpected purchases. Some U.S. banks will purchase the foreign currency for you; the process may take a week or more. Dollars can also be exchanged for foreign currency at airports.

Recommendations from UCEAP Students

Take a bank card that enables access to funds in a U.S. bank account at an ATM. The bank card must have a four-digit PIN. Although most U.S. banks will charge currency exchange fees when money is withdrawn from an ATM, ATM withdrawal is the best way to access your money. Using a credit card to make purchases is another good way to access your money, and it helps you avoid carrying too much cash.

Take funds in an easily negotiable form, such as travelers checks issued in British pounds, for immediate use after arrival. Keep in mind that travelers checks are not as widely accepted abroad at retail venues as they are in the U.S. You will first need to cash your travelers checks at a bank. Not all banks provide this service, not all banks will cash American Express travelers checks, and some banks will charge a commission. You will need to show your passport as ID to cash travelers checks.

➤ Do not expect to open a bank account due to time constraints.
COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Mail
The British mail service is usually fast. Letters mailed in the evening before the last mail collection at any of the British universities are generally delivered in London the next day or two and vice versa. Airmail usually takes from six to ten days to or from California. However, delivery times can vary widely; if you are expecting a package that you need by a certain date, encourage the sender to use an express mail service.

Have your mail sent to the ACCENT office:
[Student Name]
c/o ACCENT Student Mail
99-103 Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LA
United Kingdom

Shipping
Packages generally take six to eight weeks to send by surface mail. Due to the short length of the UC London Bloomsbury program, you should not have packages sent. The Study Center and ACCENT will not collect luggage that has been shipped in advance, and staff will not pick up any luggage that must be claimed at a customs office or dock.

Study Center Contact
Keep in contact with the UCEAP Study Center, in addition to being in daily contact with the ACCENT office.

The Study Center office hours are generally 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office may be closed for lunch. You may contact the Study Center at any time and leave a message on the answering machine. You may also contact Study Center staff outside office hours in an emergency by using the personal telephone numbers that will be distributed during the on-site orientation.

ACCENT office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for student services.

Phone Use

Approximate time difference: add 8 hours

Most students purchase cell phones in the U.K. after arrival. Some students bring “unlocked” cell phones with them.

There are two types of public phones in the United Kingdom. Pay phones take coins of 20 pence and over. Card phones are the alternative. Calling cards are the most convenient method for making calls from public telephones. £2, £4, £10, or £20 cards are available from the post office, travel centers, some news agents, machines on underground platforms, and anywhere there are Phone Card signs. Many BT pay phones take major credit cards and charge cards. Unfortunately, phone card telephones may not be available in your residence hall or even on a university campus.

To make a collect call in the U.K., dial 100. Calling collect is expensive. Do not phone the Study Center this way unless there is an emergency.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...  
It’s expensive to call home. Buy a calling card for 5 or 10 pounds and put all of your calls on it. It’s cheaper than using a phone account that your school may provide, and it’s easier to limit your spending.”

Directory Assistance  
Information in the U.K. is reached by dialing a provider of Directory Service Information. There are several providers—all have six-digit numbers beginning with 118 and all charge for the service even from public telephones. First try other means to find a telephone number (the Internet, a phone book, etc.) because the charge can be expensive. More information will be distributed during the on-site orientation.

International Phone Calls  
International calls are best made using phone cards, though you will need at least a £10 card for calling the U.S. The direct dialing code to the U.S. is 001 + area code + number. You can call the U.S. collect through the operator by dialing 155 (the International Operator). Calls made between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. are the most expensive, those made in the afternoon are slightly less expensive, and rates go down considerably after 8 p.m. An excellent time to phone California is 7 a.m. because the rates are still low and it is 11 p.m. (the previous day) in California.

Computer-to-computer calls are widely used. The programs to make such calls can be downloaded; be sure to have your family and friends download the software.

Calling from Student Housing  
There is a landline telephone in each room. You can receive calls but will need a phone card to call out (except for the 999 emergency number). Phone cards are available at all newsagent stands.

Computer Access and E-mail  
Computer access is available 24/7 in the ACCENT computer labs. However, you may experience long waits during peak hours or at midterms/finals periods. Some computers may be too old to have ports for downloading images from digital cameras and saving them to CDs. Take a laptop if possible; there is wireless Internet access in the student housing.

The network in the student housing cannot support 3–4 electronic items per student, especially when most items are all on at the same time. Try to bring only one item in addition to your laptop. Acorn housing management has an office on site at the Bedford Place flats, with an IT staff person. Do not do any illegal downloads; this may cause all students to lose Internet access.
**Housing & Meals**

**Where Will I Live?**

The UC London fall program requires you to live in a shared apartments pre-arranged by ACCENT. You will most likely be housed in one of two locations: Bedford Place (approximately 10 minutes from the ACCENT office) and Great Russell Street (inside the ACCENT office building).

**Q: What kind of housing is available?**

**A:** You will live with other U.S. students only. No British students live in the apartments. Each bedroom in the apartments will be double- or triple-occupancy; each apartment has one to three bedrooms. The cost of double and triple rooms is different and you will be able to state your preference when you apply. As there is a limited number of each type of room, you may not get your first choice. All apartments are non-smoking. When completing the ACCENT Housing Form, you must indicate whether or not you are a smoker, even though all apartments are non-smoking, so ACCENT can make appropriate housing assignments.

Apartments are fully furnished, including televisions and telephones (for incoming calls; all outgoing calls can be made only by using a calling card); bed linens, towels, dishes, and cooking utensils are provided. A basic weekly cleaning is also provided. All flats are self-catered. Laundry facilities are available, at no cost, either in the apartment or in a separate laundry room. All utilities except outgoing telephone calls are included in the UCEAP housing fees.

ACCENT handles any housing questions or problems that you may have during the semester in London. You may make housing maintenance requests to ACCENT, which will work with Acorn Property Management as needed (see Your UCEAP Network in this guide for information on ACCENT and Acorn Property Management).

As is the case with most aging institutional buildings in an urban setting (such as youth hostels or student dorms), the London fall housing has experienced occasional pest infestations in the past. Should any such problems arise while you are occupying these rooms, be sure to bring the issue to the immediate attention of the ACCENT staff and Acorn Property Management for resolution.

**Q: Do the housing fees include a security deposit?**

**A:** Housing fees for this program do not include a security or damage deposit. You will be billed by UCEAP for the cost of any housing damage repair or cleaning and for any lost key charges, invoiced to UCEAP by ACCENT at the end of the semester. The cost of housing damage repair or cleaning will be divided among the occupants of a flat, so roommates should agree among themselves to treat each other and their surroundings with respect.

**Q: Will I receive a roommate preference form?**

**A:** You will receive the URL for ACCENT forms in the Predeparture Checklist, including a housing contract and housing/roommate preference form. You will need to print and complete these forms and return them directly to the San Francisco office of ACCENT by the deadline stated on the forms. Detailed instructions will be included with the forms. Students will be assigned as roommates only if both students request to room together.
Q: Can I have mail sent to my apartment in the student housing?
A: No. The London post office will not deliver mail to short-term student housing due to the constant turnover of recipients. In addition, ACCENT cannot give you your exact housing assignment (room number, roommates, etc.) prior to arrival in London. Give the ACCENT office address in London (provided in the Communication section in this guide) to family and friends prior to departure to use as a mailing address during the semester. The ACCENT office is located in the same building where participants attend classes, so mail pickup is convenient.

Q: Can I stay in my apartment after the program ends?
A: No. You must move out of the housing no later than 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 17, 2011. No exceptions will be made.

Q: Is the housing accessible to students with disabilities?
A: Yes, there are a few accessible rooms—students should make requests for accessible housing as soon as possible. In general, the housing provided by Acorn Property Management is in older buildings, which have been refurbished well. However, most buildings have at least one step up to the main door and showers have a small step into them. Bathrooms do not have grab bars. Some apartment doors have two locks, with one fairly high, and require two hands to open them. Some buildings have laundry facilities in the basement, but no elevator. Depending upon the disability, most rooms are not very accessible. If accessible housing is needed that cannot be provided at either Bedford Place or Great Russell Street, then most likely there will be a significant supplemental housing cost and the alternative housing would probably be a studio about 25 minutes away from the classrooms. Buses and taxis in London are generally accessible, but the underground system is not, so daily transportation is as important to consider as housing. Also, if needed, personal assistants can be hired through private organizations; however, students need to make their own arrangements and pay directly for any assistance.

Housing and Program Cancelation Fees
Students who withdraw from the program for any reason from:
- June 9, 2011—July 20, 2011 will be charged 15 percent of the housing fee
- July 21, 2011—July 27, 2011 will be charged 25 percent of the housing fee
- July 28, 2011—August 3, 2011 will be charged 30 percent of the housing fee
- August 4, 2011 onwards will be charged 100 percent of the housing fee except any recoverable costs
Extracurricular Activities

Get Involved

This program is designed for UCEAP students only—there are no British students enrolled in these courses. For this reason, you are encouraged to seek out ways to interact with the greater London community in your free time.

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while studying on UCEAP is an excellent way to meet people and integrate more fully into the community. Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

Extracurricular Activities

It can be challenging to find and participate in activities, but it can be done. After you arrive in the U.K., you will receive information about available options, but you also need to make an effort to locate additional options and participate in as many activities as possible. Interaction in the community is not the only way to get to know British people, but past UCEAP students who have joined clubs, played sports, and attended religious services have tremendously increased their enjoyment of the program.

You can purchase an associate membership in the University of London Student Union, or ULU, located a few blocks from the ACCENT office. Information about this option will be distributed at the ACCENT on-site orientation. Students from universities throughout London belong to the student union, so participating in ULU sports teams and student clubs is a great way to meet British students. The facilities include inexpensive dining options, a café, a copy center, and a popular venue for live music performances.

Academic and Cultural Visits

A number of academic and cultural activities are provided as part of the UCEAP program; however, you must sign up for each event after arrival in London so ACCENT can schedule the buses needed and plan how many groups there will be.

- Be prepared to walk or take local transportation to some sites in London that are an integral component of your courses (i.e., museums, galleries, theaters). ACCENT will provide an Oystercard to each student during orientation. The card should be used towards local transportation costs to sites required by the academic courses. If you use it for other purposes, you are still responsible for paying for local transportation costs to mandatory sites.
- See “Estimated Personal Expenses” in the UCEAP Student Budget, where the “Incidentals/Books/Transportation” line factors reasonable, average local transportation costs into the budget.
**Rugby in London**

A former UCEAP London fall female participant wrote:

“I have been playing rugby for four years at UC and it has been the most definitive experience of my college years. I knew I wanted to go abroad somewhere I could play rugby, even if only for a few months. So when I chose to go to London through UCEAP, I knew I had to find a team. I got the names of a few clubs through a coach in the States and e-mailed them when I got to the U.K. and decided to play for the London Wasps. Their men’s team is world renowned and their women’s program is one of the best in the U.K. They recently had six women playing for the England team in the Rugby World Cup.

“I practiced twice a week in the evenings in Ealing Common (it’s an hour commute each way on the Tube, but well worth the trek and cost) and had games on Sundays. It was an amazing experience. I learned a new style of play and new skills. I was able to stay in shape and see different parts of London, since we traveled for games. But the best part was meeting locals and even a few internationals. There were about 30 girls on the team and although the majority were English, there were also Welsh, Australian, Canadian, Fijian, and even other Americans. I left London knowing that I will have more to bring back than the things I learned in class or the pictures I took of fabulous European cities. I will have experiences and friendships that I will remember for a lifetime.”

**Working**

You cannot work, or do volunteer work, in the U.K. regardless of the type of visa you have. The UC London fall program provides fewer classroom contact hours than the minimum allowed for students to work or do volunteer work during their program in the U.K.
You’ll probably get sick when you first get here. Almost all of us got a horrible cough and cold-type symptoms. It lasted about two weeks.

**Health**

You will receive health care information during the on-site orientation. In addition to the following sections, read the Health and Student Safety chapters of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*, and the U.S. CDC *Travelers’ Health* information website for specific health information for all your travel destinations.

**Physical Health**

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact the Study Center and ACCENT immediately. The Study Center and ACCENT can recommend a clinic to visit, provide advice about completing the necessary medical insurance claim forms, and help if extended absence is expected from class.

Since you will be studying in London for less than six months, you are not entitled to free treatment by the National Health Service.

You may choose where to obtain medical treatment. Both the UCEAP Study Center and the ACCENT office can provide information about private practitioners, clinics, hospitals, or other care providers. Wherever you go to receive care, you will pay up front. For example, a visit (regardless of the nature of the illness) to a care provider’s office may cost approximately $115; a consultation with a nurse, approximately $39; a consultation with a doctor, approximately $55; to have a prescription written, not including the cost of the medicine, approximately $22. So, if you visit a care provider, are examined by a nurse who calls in the doctor for further consultation, and the doctor writes a prescription, the approximate cost will be $231, not including the cost of any tests done or the cost of the medicine. Be prepared to be charged a fee for every type of service, including the completion of forms.

The ACCENT office in London most likely will refer you to a general practitioner (GP) who has worked with UCEAP students for several years. GPs in the U.K. are the doctors who would further refer you to a specialist. Although you might be able to make your own appointment directly with a specialist, this is not the usual procedure. If the GP refers you to a specialist, then your physician or specialist in the U.S. should probably consult directly with the specialist in the U.K. There may be a fee for this consultation if it is done by telephone. If you plan to request referral to a specialist, you need to give the GP a letter from your health care provider. The letter should specify your diagnosis, treatment, and medication. You will need it for appropriate referral and further medication prescription. You can also call collect the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, in the United States. Ask them for medical referrals and help facilitating payment directly to medical providers, in particular if you face a medical emergency. Contact information: Call collect (202) 828-5896 or e-mail OPS@europassistance-usa.com. Identify yourself as a UCEAP student.
Psychological Health

You can be referred to the consultant psychiatrists at Priory Hospital North London for individual or group consultation sessions with psychiatrists specializing in various areas of mental health. The Priory Hospital is part of the Priory Group, the leading provider of private psychiatric care in Europe.

Your UCEAP insurance covers 40 outpatient visits; there is no co-pay and you can make an appointment with any doctor. Call Europ Assistance, the UCEAP assistance provider, to get referrals and request for direct payment to the provider. To contact Europ Assistance, e-mail ops@europassistance-usa.com or call the University of California dedicated line collect at 1+ 202-828-5896.
SAFETY

Crime
Cities in the U.K. are, by all relevant measures, relatively safer than comparable metropolitan areas in the U.S. However, there are significant incidents of crime affecting all members of the public.

Personal possession of guns is outlawed except for the strictly regulated use of shotguns for hunting and other weapons for competition sports. Policing units are unarmed, with the exception of a handful of specialized firearms support teams, counterterrorism protective specialists, and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Violent criminal confrontations and the use of weapons are still relatively rare, although serious incidents are increasingly more frequent.

In general, most central-city parks present few risks in daylight hours; larger open areas, the commons and heaths in and adjacent to major cities, should be treated with caution. Do not walk alone after dark. Pick-pocketing, mugging, and snatch-and-run thefts remain common criminal incidents, especially in airports, restaurants, public transportation hubs, and crowded streets. Take precautions. Keep all valuables, especially wallets, passports, credit cards, and the like, in buttoned or zippered inside pockets, money belts, or fastened bags while walking about major cities. Never leave bags, backpacks, and cases unattended anywhere, not even in locked cars.

Student Housing
While London is generally safe and the program’s student housing is located in a desirable neighborhood; however, the neighborhood is urban and you must use common sense and take precautions. Burglary is on the increase in student residences. Never leave doors propped open. Keep your room door locked and store valuable items in locked drawers or closets, if available.

It is your responsibility to follow basic personal protective measures to maximize your safety and that of your roommates.

For example, if a building has a door facing an open area and another door in an alley, common sense will show which door is better to use, even though the other may be reached by a shortcut. Be aware that people can reach through bars across an open ground-level window—do not place valuable items on a table under the window. If a ground-level window does not have bars, do not open the window wide enough for a person to enter and never leave the window open.

Personal Property Insurance
If you take valuable items such as a laptop or an expensive camera, read the UCEAP Insurance Plan brochure, which provides personal property benefits (in addition to health coverage). Read the plan, make sure you understand the limitations, assess if it is adequate, and consider purchasing additional coverage before departure from the U.S. if it does not fit your needs.
Road & Transportation Safety
The U.S. Department of State provides information about road safety in its country information bulletins. Refer to the U.S. Department of State website.

Pedestrian safety is a major consideration as Americans are occasionally injured or killed when they forget that oncoming traffic approaches from the opposite direction than in the U.S. and look the wrong way when crossing a street. There are arrow reminders painted on the sidewalk curbs. Be sure to look both directions while crossing streets, follow the pedestrian indicator lights, and always cross with caution. Additionally, bear in mind that many drivers in urban centers are not entirely familiar with U.K. road signage/rules. Never presume that being “right” means being safe. As a pedestrian, having the green traffic light facing you does not mean you should proceed into the street.

Public transportation in the U.K. is excellent and extensive. Information on disruptions to London transportation services can be found at the Transport for London website, www.tfl.gov.uk

Hitchhiking
Hitchhiking is not considered safe in Britain or in most of continental Europe. Exercise common sense about your personal safety and belongings and do not be lulled into a false sense of security by the perception that Britain or continental Europe is safer than the U.S. Do not carry large amounts of cash and, unless you are traveling, leave your passport in a safe place in your room.

Demonstrations
Public rallies and demonstrations, common in bigger cities, are usually peaceful and rarely end in violent confrontations. In case of larger gatherings, there is a possibility of sporadic confrontations and violent escalation. Strikes occasionally occur in the transportation sector and could have an impact on commuters. Do not participate in demonstrations, and remain vigilant when in the vicinity of any demonstrations; if violence erupts seek shelter.
Emergency Contacts

What Constitutes an Emergency?
Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the EAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad
Carry the local emergency contact information at all times:

- If you need immediate emergency assistance, call 999 for Police, Ambulance, or Fire Department
- If necessary, call the emergency number of the U.S. Embassy in London: (011-44-207) 499-9000

U.S. Embassy in London

Physical Address (GPS & Google maps)
24 Grosvenor Square
London, W1A 2LQ
United Kingdom

Mailing Address
24 Grosvenor Square
London, W1A 1AE
United Kingdom

If you have a health or safety emergency and do not have access to local or Study Center emergency contact information, call the EAP 24-hour emergency phone number.