

UNITED KINGDOM

UC London Bloomsbury Center, Fall Semester



2012 Program Guide





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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.



► Scan to get this guide on your Smartphone.

YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office

The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientations, 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 provide academic and operational program information to you and your campus as well as administrative support for all aspects of your participation.

Operations Specialists manage the logistics of the program. They coordinate document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, acceptance and placement by host institutions, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements.

Academic Specialists advise on academic policies, review courses taken abroad for UC credit, and document your registration, grades, petitions and 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

Lisa Read

Phone: (805) 893-2810; E-mail: lread@eap.ucop.edu

Program Advisor

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Student Finance Accountant

Rachel Wilson

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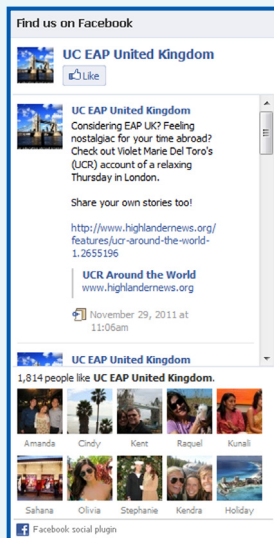
UCEAP Systemwide Office

6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200

Goleta, CA 93117-5823

Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583

► **Join the Conversation!**
Meet fellow UCEAP participants and alumni on Facebook.



UCEAP Online

Bookmark your **Participants** program page. This resource lists requirements and policies you need to know before you go abroad, including your Predeparture Checklist, *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets, and payment instructions.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network **UCEAP United Kingdom page**.

Study Center Abroad

The UCEAP Study Center in the U.K., staffed 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 class scheduling, and serves as a resource for nonacademic questions or problems you may encounter. The Academic Coordinator for ACCENT in London, Elizabeth Terry, 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: london@uceap-uki.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

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“ A British-born friend commented that he was amazed at the quality and depth of our study of London on this program.

”

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Please see the [Academic Information](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* for critical academic information and policies, including unit requirements, taking less than the program requirements, the MyEAP Study List registration process, changing courses, petitions, and grades. While abroad, direct all academic questions to the ACCENT Director first, with one exception: direct any questions regarding satisfying home UC department degree or major requirements through UCEAP coursework to your home UC department or college advisor.

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 that draws on a variety of humanistic and social perspectives to examine major aspects of British history, society, politics, 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 designed for UCEAP students; 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 provide a list of books for the course which you may wish to purchase in advance.

- **Active participation and attendance is mandatory in all classes.**

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“*One of the best classes I have taken as an undergrad. The trips to the museums helped contextualize the course material.*

The theater course made my London experience enjoyable, especially since theater is such a big part of London.

I learned the entire scope of British history through film.

I really feel like I understand what makes a British film now.

”

Course Information

You are required to take four upper-division courses (designed for and taught to UC students) including two required core courses and two of the four electives offered. While there is no guarantee of placement in your top elective choices, the UC/London Bloomsbury Center staff will try to accommodate student requests. You earn 5 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.

Required Core Courses

- **London: Society and Space** (ANTH 110, GEOG 110, and HIST 110): Explore a variety of interrelated themes (modernity, power and equality, culture and identity) while examining some of London’s characteristics as a global city.
- **British Cinema** (FILM 110): Get an insider’s view of British films through weekly viewings and discussions while examining cinematic representations of the individual “nations” within the U.K.

Elective Courses (choose two)

- **London Museums** (ANTH 111, ARTHS 111, and SOC 111): Examine the relationship between museum collections and key moments in the nation’s history through visits to both world-renowned and lesser-known London museums.
- **Theater in London** (DA 110 and ENGL 110): Take advantage of life in one of the world’s preeminent theater capitals by studying and then attending and analyzing a series of plays currently in production in London.
- **Britain and the EU** (POL S 110): Analyze the processes of European integration and EU policies, in light of the peculiar and often problematic relationship between Great Britain and the EU.
- **The London Music Scene** (MUSIC 110, SOC 110): Study London’s role as a vibrant world center of popular music innovation, the inter-cultural dialogue between Britain and America, and the impact of genres such as blues, jazz, and rock’n’roll.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is monitored closely by U.K. immigration authorities due to recent changes in immigration policies. 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.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

I am able to walk the streets with an added layer of insight; it has transformed me into a Londoner.

”

Academic Culture

The overall academic culture in the United Kingdom is extremely different from that in the U.S.; it's a rigid and highly structured university system. Many courses still last one year, have long suggested reading lists that students explore on their own, and assess student work through just one final exam after an intense period of revision.

The London Bloomsbury program is very different. Courses are designed along the American model, with continual assessment and multiple assignments. The focus of the program is careful analysis of London and British society. You'll be expected to assimilate and then compare and critique what you read, see, and experience around you.

Instructors will welcome questions and lively discussion. However, most program faculty are themselves products of the U.K.'s traditional academic culture, and will generally admire independence, self-discipline in managing readings and assignments, very strong writing skills, and intellectual curiosity. UCEAP students who exhibit these qualities will especially shine in this program.

UCEAP 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 British university traditions.

Amis, Kingsley *Lucky Jim*, New York: Penguin, 1974.

Snow, C. P. *The Masters*, New York: Scribner, 1951.

Novels Relevant to California Students

These books offer a look into Britain's academia and society, often from an American perspective.

Bradbury, Malcolm *The History Man*, New York: Penguin, 1985; *Eating People Is Wrong*, London: Secker & Warburg, 1959.

Fielding, Helen *Bridget Jones's Diary*, New York: Penguin, 1999.

Hornby, Nick *Fever Pitch*, New York: Riverhead, 1998.

Lodge, David *Changing Places: A Tale of Two Campuses*, London: Secker & Warburg, 1975. *Small World*, New York: Penguin, 1995. *Nice Work*, New York: Penguin, 1990.

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

Travel Guides

UCEAP students report it is wise to acquire a guidebook or two before departure. There are various series of travel books that give 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.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“It’s easy to underestimate the degree to which you’ll feel foreign. The key is to be honest about how you’re feeling and what confuses you. Find people you can talk to and share with. Don’t struggle to assimilate entirely or to understand everything you feel. Have patience and courage.

Culture shock happens—you just have to go and experience it.

”

Social Conduct

Living in the U.K.

While Great Britain has changed much in the past 15 years, some 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 university just as in the U.S., the political and social character of a university cannot be predicted by its location. Be open to a variety of social and political attitudes on the part of your counterparts in Britain.

The United Kingdom is a multiracial society and has experienced, and continues to experience, racial tensions. But the mix of races is quite different; in addition to Africans and Afro-Caribbeans, 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 different cultural experiences, deriving their place in contemporary Britain from the nation’s comparatively recent colonial past. British people are conscious of the need for racial awareness 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 extended to non-white 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 also means different things and elicits a variety of attitudes.

You will likely hear much about culture shock in your campus UCEAP orientation meetings and during the orientation abroad. Whether you feel the term overstates the matter, or that shock is just the right term to describe adjusting to a new environment, realize that adjusting to life in a different country, even one where the language is the same and much of the popular culture is shared, can present a significant challenge. Though many returned students describe their time on UCEAP as “the best time of my life,” they admit that genuine effort is required to adjust, especially in the beginning.

Although the British are not as open about sexuality (especially in the smaller cities), larger cities such as London have well established lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) scenes. Publications such as *Time Out* list LGBT-friendly events and venues in London, and UCEAP staff will have further contact information. In addition, most universities have LGBT societies. The age of consent for gay males is 16 years in the U.K. There are no legal prohibitions against lesbianism.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Expect a completely different way of socializing—especially if you're under 21.

Be prepared for the centrality of alcohol consumption in the culture. Going to the pub daily is a very easy pattern to fall into.

Be aware.

”

Drinking & Smoking

You will find quite different practices and attitudes toward drinking and cigarette smoking. In general, British students use pubs for socializing a great deal more than their American counterparts; a night out may be more frequent and involve the consumption of more alcohol than most American students are used to.

Smoking, while more controlled than a few years ago, is still common, especially among university students. Smoking in public buildings has been banned and is restricted to designated areas on university grounds. If you do not want to share accommodations with smokers (even though they are not smoking indoors), clearly note this in your housing application and every attempt will be made to accommodate the request, although it cannot be guaranteed.

► Additional information about passports, visas, and other required documents is provided in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and UCEAP Predeparture Checklist.

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 location separate from the originals. E-mail yourself a list of passport and credit card numbers and any other personal information that would need to be replaced if it were stolen or lost.

Entry Clearance

U.S. citizens 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, check the website of the [United Kingdom Border Agency](#) (UKBA) to find out if you must obtain an entry clearance while still in the U.S.

Consecutive Programs: Continuing on UCEAP

It is occasionally possible to participate in two different UCEAP programs consecutively. Following are current entry clearance processes for such options (subject to change):

Summer plus London Fall:

- Obtain a Student Visitor Visa upon arrival in the U.K. (if both programs added together total six months or less) by presenting admission letters from both host universities plus financial proof to cover both programs.

London Fall plus Spring Immersion:

- Obtain a Student Visitor Visa upon arrival (for London Fall), then return to the U.S. during winter break to apply for a Tier 4 Student Visa (for Spring Immersion). The British Home Office has stated that students with a Student Visitor Visa cannot receive a second Student Visitor Visa upon or after arrival.

Traveling to the U.K.

You may not travel to or through the Republic of Ireland on your way to the United Kingdom. Do not book your flight on Aer Lingus, as it will make a stop in Dublin on its way to the U.K.

The U.K. and Ireland are part of the Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangement, which also includes Jersey, Guernsey, and the 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 an entry clearance (for the U.K.) from the British consulate in your passport. So, the U.K. entry clearance you might already have will not be activated upon arrival in the U.K., and you will not receive an entry clearance for short-term study because the CTA has already been entered and an “in transit” stamp given.

U.K. immigration officers may not even be present where passengers deplane from flights from 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 have no status in the U.K. immigration computer records—your student status in the U.K. is nonexistent and your stay is considered illegal. 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. Most likely you will need to return to the U.S. to obtain the correct entry clearance. If the British Home Office allows you to apply to their London office, it will cost at least \$590 to apply by mail and at least \$1,000 to apply in person. Applying by mail requires you to submit your passport to the British Home Office for several weeks, so you will not be able to travel out of the country. To be on the safe side, do not travel to or through Ireland on your way to studying in the U.K.

History of CTA

CTA has been in existence for decades to allow ease of travel to British and Irish citizens between the two countries. The European Union has adopted and continues to refine 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? The U.K. appears to be loosening internal CTA border control in the European manner, thus you would not receive the entry clearance stamp or activation you need if you arrive in the U.K. from Dublin.

International Student ID Cards

An international student identification card is cheaper in the U.K. than in the U.S., and some students wait to purchase one. However, cards purchased in the U.K. do not carry the supplemental travel insurance policy that is provided with cards purchased in the U.S.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

Less is more! Take no more than one suitcase—you won't want it, won't need it, and will want to buy things when you get there that are appropriate to the weather and to the fashion (British fashion is very interesting).

Don't worry so much about what you need because everything you could possibly need is there.

A backpack is essential for traveling (and if you fill it, that undoubtedly will be too much stuff).

”

Packing Tips

Identify each item of luggage on the inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination. A rolling suitcase is a wise investment. Luggage restrictions vary by airline, though all carriers have weight restrictions.

Pack clothing that is washable and quick drying if possible. Objects such as scissors, pocket knives, nail clippers, etc., must be packed in checked luggage only. They will be confiscated if found in your carry-on luggage.

- ▶ **The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.**

Essential

- Layered clothing (T-shirt, shirt, fleece vest, button and pullover sweaters)
- Lightweight jacket
- Warm socks
- Flip-flops, walking shoes, casual footwear
- One dressy outfit
- Umbrella
- Heavy jacket or coat
- Rainwear

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)
- Family photos

Do Not Bring

- Pharmaceuticals that are illegal in the U.K. (prescription medications are the exception; see [Health](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*)
- Fragile items unless they are bubble wrapped

Insurance for Personal Possessions

The [UCEAP Insurance Plan](#) includes a personal property benefit; however, it is your responsibility to determine if it will suit your needs. Look into the benefits prior to departure and decide whether or not you will need to purchase additional coverage, especially if you are bringing anything of value like a laptop or camera.

In addition, your parents may already have insurance coverage for personal possessions, though it may not cover items that are in transit or abroad. Find out if your parental policy, combined with the UCEAP policy, is sufficient to cover the items you will be taking with you.

If you decide to purchase additional coverage, it is best to obtain insurance before departure because most theft occurs in the airport or while moving into housing. The host university does not protect student belongings, even in university accommodations. [Endsleigh](#) is a major student insurance provider in the U.K.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“Pack lightly. Don’t take more than you can carry.”

► To avoid theft, never leave your luggage unattended.

Electronics

The electrical current used abroad is 50 cycles AC rather than the 60-cycle current used in the U.S., and voltage is 220–240 rather than the standard U.S. 110–120 volts for small appliances. Most electrical sockets in the U.K. have three-pin plugs. In general, North American appliances need both a voltage converter and a plug adapter (available at electronics stores or travel specialty shops) for use abroad. However, travel irons, curling irons, hair dryers, electric razors, etc. can be purchased in the U.S. with either a built-in converter or multi-voltage function. These appliances will need only a plug adapter to be used abroad. U.S. clocks need to be battery-driven to operate abroad. Past UCEAP students recommend purchasing small appliances abroad, although they will be more expensive than 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: 100V–240V; 50hz–60hz); if it does not, purchase a transformer before departure. You can purchase the correct adapter plug (for three-pronged sockets) in the U.S. or abroad. Since the cost of electricity abroad is high and improper use of appliances may damage both the electrical outlets and the appliances, ask before using the outlets. Some university accommodations will test your appliances to make sure the appliances comply.

Information on electrical appliances and accessories can be found on the [Magellan’s](#) and [Distant Lands](#) websites.

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 MyEAP).

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 & 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.

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.

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 Oyster card, which you can use 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.

► It is important that you carefully read all of the information available in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and discuss it with the person who will assist you with your finances while you are abroad.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after your program 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 abroad (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 UC campus financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. You can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover). The fees that you owe UCEAP will be applied to your account after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP. For the amount due to UCEAP prior to fees being posted on your account, refer to the UCEAP Student Budget Payment Vouchers. Program fees are subject to change.

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. Review your UCEAP Student Budget frequently. The Payment Vouchers are on the second page of the UCEAP Student Budget.

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 this person 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 will be receiving financial aid, see also the [UCEAP Financial Assistance](#) web page.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“*Spending time in Britain is expensive. You'll spend a lot of money, even if you're living cheaply. 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 voicemail message. 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 onsite 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.

UCEAP 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 & 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 apartment 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 15, 2012. 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 Cancellation Fees

Students who withdraw from the program for any reason from:

- May 22–June 6, 2012 will be charged 10 percent of the housing fee
- June 7–July 18, 2012 will be charged 15 percent of the housing fee
- July 19–July 25, 2012 will be charged 25 percent of the housing fee
- July 26–August 1, 2012 will be charged 30 percent of the housing fee
- August 2, 2012 onwards will be charged 100 percent of the housing fee except any recoverable costs

Program Cancellation Fees

Students who withdraw from the program for any reason from:

- June 7–August 1, 2012 will be charged a £100 cancellation fee (non-recoverable orientation, cultural activities, and excursions cost)
- August 2, 2012 onwards will be charged 100 percent of the program fee except any recoverable costs

➤ ACCENT will provide information on how to participate in a variety of activities, which is an excellent way to become part of the community and socialize with locals.

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.

It can be challenging to find and participate in extracurricular 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 & 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.

UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“ 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** chapter 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 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 you plan to request referral to a specialist, you need to give the GP a letter from your health care provider indicating your condition, prescribed medications, and your treatment plan. 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 Plan covers 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 direct payment to the provider, if the provider is able and willing to work with the Europ Assistance agents in the U.K. To contact Europ Assistance, e-mail ops@europassistance-usa.com or call the University of California dedicated line collect at 1+ 202-828-5896.

Medications

If you take any medicine regularly, bring enough to last through the program. It is against the law to send prescription and over-the-counter medications through the mail. Medicines will most likely be stopped at U.K. customs. Take an extra copy of the prescription for any medication, eyeglasses, or contact lenses. Your prescription should also list the generic name of the medication you are currently taking.

Some commonly prescribed medications are unlicensed in the U.K. and you will not be able to get them (e.g., Adderall is a drug that is not licensed in the U.K. and physicians cannot write a prescription for Adderall). Talk to your U.S. doctor and plan ahead before departure. The UCEAP assistance provider, Europ Assistance, can provide information about whether a specific prescription medication is legal and available in the U.K. Call them before your trip (1-866-451-7606) with the name of the medicine.

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.

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.

If you choose to drink, do so responsibly. Criminals are known to target vulnerable individuals whose judgment is impaired by intoxication. Always watch your beverage. Instances of drink spiking have been reported. Do not leave drinks unattended in bars and nightclubs. Drugs can easily be mixed into drinks when unattended. These drugs can disorient you, dramatically impair your judgment, or cause you to lose consciousness. Once you lose sight of your drink, do not continue drinking.

Pay particular attention to your personal belongings in busy pubs. Thieves use snatch-and-grab techniques to steal laptops, purses, and other valuables. In restaurants, bars, theaters, and other public places, keep bags within reach; do not place possessions on the floor or hang them on a chair.

Student Housing

While London is generally safe and the program's student housing is located in a desirable neighborhood, the area 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

- ▶ Hitchhiking is not considered safe in Britain or anywhere in the world.

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

Oncoming traffic approaches from the opposite direction. There are helpful reminders painted on the sidewalk curbs to look right; pedestrians should look both directions while crossing streets, follow the pedestrian indicator lights, and always cross with caution. As a pedestrian, having a green traffic light facing you does not mean you should proceed into the street. Unlike most places in the U.S., pedestrians do not have the right of way, and cars are only required to stop for pedestrians on black and white “zebra” crosswalks with flashing yellow globe lights on the sidewalk.

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.

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 Services Response

The police services, fire brigades, medical response, and other emergency services in the U.K. are excellent. Police services in the U.K. rank among the world’s best, but they face daunting challenges and strongly encourage the participation of the public in ensuring their own safety.

Fire Safety

The U.K. Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Act requires businesses and educational institutions to carry out a fire safety risk assessment and implement and maintain a fire management plan. Know all exits and have a fire escape plan. Read more in the [Fire Safety](#) section of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

Emergency Contacts

What Is an Emergency?

An emergency is a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. The following are considered emergencies:

- Any life/death situation
- A traumatic event requiring immediate assistance
- An arrest
- Civil unrest or 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 your Operations Specialist at the UCEAP 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, travel, or safety emergency and do not have access to local or UCEAP representative emergency information, contact the UCEAP travel assistance provider, Europ Assistance, available 24/7:

- **Call international collect:** 1+202-828-5896
- **Call within the U.S.:** 1+866-451-7606
- **E-mail:** ops@europassistance-usa.com