GLOBAL CITIES URBAN REALITIES
London Spring 2016
Arrival & Orientation Information
Quarter and Semester Students

Arrival Date:
You must arrive in London for the first day of the program, Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016.

Participants will check in directly at their housing. Detailed information, including check-in location, will be provided approximately two weeks before arrival.

ACCENT staff will be available outside the check-in location to conduct neighborhood walks and answer any questions.

Orientation
You are required to attend mandatory orientation events the days after arrival. Orientation will include practical information about life in London, academic resources and course enrollment. You will also be invited to attend a welcome event, city tour and other activities.

Transportation Information

Below is a list of different means of local transportation from London’s major airports to your housing. Prices are correct at time of writing but may increase, please check before travelling.

HEATHROW
From Heathrow Airport by Train (The Heathrow Express)
The quickest route into London is on the Heathrow Express. It departs every 15 minutes from the airport (after you exit customs, follow signs to the Heathrow Express), and the journey into Paddington station takes only 15 minutes. The first train is at 5:07 am and the last train is at 11:48 pm. A one-way ticket costs £22.00. You may book online at www.heathrowexpress.com or at the ticket office in the airport. On arrival at Paddington, take a taxi to your housing for approximately £12-£15.

From Heathrow Airport by Underground (Tube)
Follow the signs to the ‘Underground’. You must purchase your ticket before you get on the train, and the one-way fare is £6.00. Take the Piccadilly line eastbound toward Central London. More detailed instructions will be provided in an arrival email approximately two weeks before arrival.

From Heathrow Airport by Mini-cab
A very convenient, but much more expensive option is to take a pre-booked mini-cab from the airport. This is a good option if you are travelling with at least one other person. You can book mini-cabs in advance, or you can call after clearing customs. If you call from the airport, you may have to wait 30 minutes or more depending on the time of day. The following service is recommended: Expressways: (+44) 8456 121212 or online expressways.co.uk). Ask for a car to pick you up at the terminal (you will need to know the terminal number). Be sure to confirm the fare before you get into the cab, as the fare is fixed. Expressways will charge approximately £40-60 for 1-4 passengers and £55-80 for a van for 5 or more passengers (the fare can be more if your flight is delayed or you take more than normal time to go through immigration and customs).
Black Cabs

Black cab taxis are very expensive from the airport - approximately £70 depending on traffic. You are advised not to use other cab companies that try to obtain your business at the airport. The only cab, which can be hailed on the street, is the black cab.

GATWICK

From Gatwick Airport by Train

After you exit customs, look for signs to the ‘Trains’. Purchase a ticket for the Gatwick Express to Victoria station (online gatwickexpress.com). The one-way is £17.80 (when purchased online, or £19.90 at the ticket office) and the journey takes 35 minutes. Trains depart every 15 minutes during the day until 01.35 am. From Victoria station, you can either take a taxi or take the tube to Russell Square station. A taxi from Victoria station will cost approximately £10-£15. If you decide to take the tube, follow the signs in the station to the ‘Underground’. Take the Victoria line, northbound to Green Park station. Change at Green Park to the eastbound Picadilly line toward Central London. More detailed instructions will be provided in an arrival email approximately two weeks before arrival.

FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ALREADY IN EUROPE

STANSTED

From Stansted Airport by Train

The Stansted Airport rail station is directly below the terminal building. Tickets can be bought in advance or at the station. The Stansted Express runs every 15 minutes and reaches London Liverpool Street in 45 minutes. A standard single fare is £19.00. From Liverpool Street take the Central tube line toward Central London. More detailed instructions will be provided in an arrival email approximately two weeks before arrival.

From Stansted Airport by Coach (Bus)

A number of inexpensive coach services also operate to and from the airport. For all transport options please visit the following link:

http://tinyurl.com/4ddn73

LUTON

From Luton Airport by Train

A shuttle bus service connects the Airport to Luton Airport Parkway Station. The service runs every ten minutes between 5 am and midnight. Rail passengers will be able to purchase tickets to London Luton Airport. Passengers arriving at the airport or at the station without purchasing a rail ticket will pay a bus fare of around £2.00 single. From Airport parkway take the train to London St Pancras. Any time day single fare is £14.00. From London St Pancras take the Piccadilly Line toward Central London. More detailed instructions will be provided in an arrival email approximately two weeks before arrival.

http://www.london-luton.co.uk/en/content/2/1202/by-rail.html

LUGGAGE
You are also advised that you might have to carry your luggage up several flights of stairs. You are expected to have to lift and carry your bags if using any form of public transport. Lifts and escalators are not always available.

Please also note the apartments have limited wardrobe space.

Should you need more information about preparing for your time in the UK, or if you have any further questions about the orientation program, please do not hesitate to contact us directly by email at ukcontact@accentintl.com.

We look forward to welcoming you in March.

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Print this document and pack it in your carry-on luggage where you can find it easily when you arrive.