All of the information in this packet is accurate at the time of publication. As we have referenced in several other documents, forms, and websites, the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic is such that all elements of our programs are subject to change. We will do our best to update this packet and notify you as changes occur.

Reference the Spring 2021 Reopening Plan that was shared with you via email and through the IP Student Portal as a notification titled “Spring 2021 Reopening Plan” on 10/1/2020 for details about COVID-19 safety measures.
Table of contents
Click on A title BELOW to JUMP To that section

Important Contacts.................................................................................................................. 3
Academics.................................................................................................................................. 4
    ACADEMICS MATTER.................................................................................................................. 4
    LONDON STUDY CENTER MINOR.......................................................................................... 4
    TUTORING RESOURCES......................................................................................................... 4
OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (OAS)............................................................................ 4
FSU ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO STUDY ABROAD............................................ 4
Airfare.......................................................................................................................................... 5
    FLIGHT INFORMATION............................................................................................................ 5
IN TRANSIT.................................................................................................................................. 5
Arrival.......................................................................................................................................... 6
ARRIVING IN LONDON ............................................................................................................... 6
Housing....................................................................................................................................... 7
    LONDON HOUSING.................................................................................................................. 7
    HOUSING AMENITIES............................................................................................................. 7
    HOUSEKEEPING.................................................................................................................... 7
Personal Travel, Climate & Packing............................................................................................ 8
    PERSONAL TRAVEL.................................................................................................................. 8
    CLIMATE & PACKING............................................................................................................. 8
Communication & Electronics.................................................................................................... 9
    CELL PHONES & COMMUNICATION................................................................................... 9
    COMPUTERS.......................................................................................................................... 9
    MAIL......................................................................................................................................... 9
Currency & Banking.................................................................................................................. 10
    EXPENSES WHILE IN LONDON.............................................................................................. 10
    CURRENCY............................................................................................................................. 10
BANKING.................................................................................................................................... 10
Health & WELLNESS.................................................................................................................. 11
    INOCULATIONS/MEDICAL CONCERNS................................................................................. 11
    ALCOHOL AWARENESS & ILLEGAL DRUGS...................................................................... 11
    MAPPING YOUR IDENTITIES................................................................................................. 11
Policies & Safety....................................................................................................................... 12
    RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES.................................................................................... 12
    SAFETY & SECURITY............................................................................................................. 12
Tips & Resources....................................................................................................................... 13
    TIPS FROM STUDENTS ON WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW................................................... 13
ONLINE RESOURCES................................................................................................................. 13
USEFUL APPS.......................................................................................................................... 13
CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.................................................................................... 13
Exploring the UK infographic.................................................................................................... 14
Important Contacts

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE
A5500 University Center
282 Champions Way
P.O. Box 3062420
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2420

PHONE 850.644.3272
1.800.374.8581
FAX 850.644.8817
850.645.4659
EMAIL IP-Info@fsu.edu
WEBSITE international.fsu.edu
HOURS 8:00am - 5:00pm EST
Monday - Friday

THE LONDON STUDY CENTRE
Florida State University
99 Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LH
United Kingdom

PHONE From US: 011 44 20 78133223
Inside UK: 020 78133223
FAX 011 44 20 78133266
WEBSITE https://international.fsu.edu/london/
HOURS 8:30am - 5:30pm GMT
Monday - Friday

Dr. Kathleen Paul, Director
kpaul@fsu.edu

Dr. Lisa Bowers Isaacson, Senior Associate Director
lbowersi@fsu.edu

Katie Behringer, Assistant Director
kbehringer@fsu.edu

Megan Griffin, Student Affairs Manager
mgriffin2@fsu.edu

Emily Greene, Programs Manager
egreene@fsu.edu

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS – LONDON
In emergency situations, the London staff may be called at the numbers provided. Please reserve these numbers for emergencies only.

- Dr. Kathleen Paul
  Cell Phone 011 44 (0)7793504166
  Home Phone 011 44 (0)727753133

- Dr. Lisa Bowers Isaacson
  Cell Phone 011 44 (0)7545865637

- On-site Staff
  Katie Behringer 011 44 (0) 7869 519977
  Megan Griffin 011 44 (0) 7753 212039

London Emergency Response Services
Fire, Ambulance, Police 999
Non-Emergency Police 101
Camden Police Safer Neighborhood Team
020 7404 1212

AMERICAN EMBASSY - LONDON
33 Nine Elms Lane
London
SW11 7US

PHONE 011 44 20 7499 9000
WEBSITE http://uk.usembassy.gov/

INTERNATIONAL CALLS
Making international calls from the US to United Kingdom:
First dial “011” (for international call), followed by “44” (the country code), then the specific area code (dropping the first zero) and location number.

Making international calls from the United Kingdom to the US: First dial “001” followed by the U.S. city area code and the seven-digit telephone number.

Time Differences: Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is ahead of Eastern Standard Time by five hours, Central Standard Time by six hours, Mountain Standard Time by seven hours, and Pacific Standard Time by eight hours. Daylight Savings Time changes often occur on different dates in the UK than in the US.
ACADEMICS MATTER

This program is first and foremost an academic one, so you should be prepared to invest as much time, effort and thought into your coursework as you do on your home campus.

Since classes are small, you will have more interaction with your fellow students and with faculty than you have on main campus. There will be a greater emphasis on participation in class discussions and attending organized excursions may be required for some courses. This means you must be prepared to maintain a high level of performance by being an active and committed participant in your class.

LONDON STUDY CENTER MINOR

The London Study Center Minor enhances and focuses a student’s program in Britain. It requires 15 credits, 9 of which must be earned in London and include a cultural component. Students can choose from various disciplinary perspectives on British Studies. A maximum of 9 hours may be counted in a single academic discipline. A minimum grade of “C-” must be earned and a minimum grade point average of 2.0 must be maintained for all courses taken for the minor. Courses used toward the London Study Center minor cannot be used to meet any other University requirements (general education, major, graduation, etc.) Contact Sarah Lovins Bacani (slovins@fsu.edu) for more information.

TUTORING RESOURCES

There are a number of tutoring resources available at Florida State University to assist you academically, both in Tallahassee and abroad. Online tutors are available through the following programs:

- **Reading & Writing Center (RWC)**
  [http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Reading-Writing-Center/RWC-Online](http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Reading-Writing-Center/RWC-Online)

- **Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)**
  [http://ace.fsu.edu/](http://ace.fsu.edu/)
  ACE provides free tutoring in many subject areas, including accounting, biology, chemistry, economics, math, statistics, and physics.

- **University Libraries: Office of Distance Library Services**
  [https://www.lib.fsu.edu/department/distance-learning](https://www.lib.fsu.edu/department/distance-learning)

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (OAS)

OAS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Documented disabilities and accommodations vary in nature, and though the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 do not apply extraterritorially, we do our best to accommodate our students. If you anticipate needing to request accommodations for a documented disability, please schedule an appointment with OAS by calling 850-644-9566 (Voice) or 850-644-8504 (TDD). For more information, visit [https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas](https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas).

FSU ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO STUDY ABROAD

FSU students are encouraged to get involved with the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society and the Global Citizenship Certificate program. These two resources provide special recognition as global-ready graduates.

The Garnet and Gold Scholar Society

[https://garnetandgoldprogram.fsu.edu](https://garnetandgoldprogram.fsu.edu)

A student who has met the criteria in three of the five areas is eligible for consideration.

All study abroad programs organized through the International Programs Office qualify for the international experience portion of the International Area.

The Global Citizenship Certificate

[https://gspe.fsu.edu/globalcitizen](https://gspe.fsu.edu/globalcitizen)

The Global Citizenship Certificate program helps undergraduate students develop invaluable cross-cultural skills and global competencies needed to be a global-ready graduate.

Students who enroll in the certificate take 1 required course, Global Perspectives, and 3 electives. The required course counts toward FSU Liberal Studies X, E-series, and writing requirements. Students can choose from 500+ courses to fulfill the elective course requirement. In addition, students participate in 8 intercultural events on campus and a sustained international experience abroad, which you are about to do!

Enroll in the Global Citizenship Certificate before you leave to ensure your study abroad experience counts toward the certificate.
Airfare

FLIGHT INFORMATION

There is no group flight for this program, and your program fee does not cover airfare.

Traveling on a one-way ticket may not be allowed due to airline restrictions. Please check with your airlines before purchasing a one-way ticket.

Do not purchase airfare until you are notified by International Programs to do so. You will receive a notification in your IP Student Portal. If you choose to purchase airfare before you are instructed to do so, International Programs is not responsible for any fees associated with your flight changes or cancellations.

Please refer to the information listed in your IP student portal notifications to book your airfare.

You should make arrangements to arrive in London on the start date of the program and depart on the end date of your program, as stated on the International Programs website and IP student portal. Note that most transatlantic flights from the US depart one day prior to their arrival date.

You will be required to undergo testing for COVID-19 through a recognized testing procedure of your choice before departing for the program. Updates about testing prior to departure will be provided in the coming weeks.

Airport pick-ups are provided at Heathrow Airport on the start date of your program. You may check-in to FSU London starting at 10:00am. All orientation/welcome activities that take place upon arrival are mandatory.

Once you book your travel arrangements, you must submit your flight itinerary through the IP student portal. All flight information will be provided to the London staff and group pick-ups will be conducted for students flying into Heathrow Airport. You must arrive on the morning of the start date of the program to be picked up at the airport (in accordance with the scheduled pick-ups). You should expect to take approximately an hour and a half from landing to exiting into the arrivals hall.

We strongly advise you to purchase airfare and travel insurance directly with the airline when booking your flight; travel insurance typically covers flight cancellation fees, lost luggage, or other losses incurred while traveling, etc. Speak with your airline for details. Click here for more information about travel insurance and trip cancellation policies. Note: Airfare costs are not included in your program fee, and FSU will not reimburse any costs or fees associated with flight changes or cancellations due to COVID-19 should they occur.

• Keep your boarding pass until you have landed, cleared immigration and customs, and have collected your luggage.

• Have your passport and immigration letter accessible in your carry-on luggage.

• During your flight make sure to drink lots of water to stay hydrated. Get up and walk around once an hour to help your circulation. Do simple stretches while in your seat. Try to sleep; it will help you combat jet lag. Wear layers, as the temperature on the plane and in airports can vary.

• You should expect to be required to wear a mask throughout your flight, including in connecting airports. You are required to wear a mask upon exiting the plane in the UK until you check into your apartment.

For planning purposes, you must check out of program housing on the morning of the last day of your program. You will be responsible for getting yourself to the airport in time for your departure.
Arrival

ARRIVING IN THE UK

After you land, you will go through immigration control, using either the E-Gates or a Border Force Officer station. After this, you will collect your luggage and go through customs before exiting into the airport.

• E-Gates and UK Entry Clearance: US citizens are permitted to use the electronic facial recognition gates at Immigration Control when entering the UK. If you are a Short-Term student however, you must NOT use the e-Gates and must see a Border Force Officer to receive the Short-Term Student stamp. This stamp serves as your permission to live and study in the UK for the duration of your course. If you do not receive this stamp, you will have to leave the UK and re-enter in order to receive it. If you are studying on a Tier 4 (General) Student visa, you may use the e-Gates as your Entry Clearance has already been granted via the vignette in your passport.

• The Immigration Letter will be mailed to you approximately three weeks before your program begins. It is critical that this original letter is kept with your passport at all times. You will also be required to present this letter along with your passport when you pass through immigration and each time you leave and re-enter the UK during your program.

• Be sure to have your passport, round-trip airline ticket, Immigration Letter, and this packet of information readily available. DO NOT PACK THEM IN YOUR CHECKED LUGGAGE!

ARRIVING IN LONDON

Note: it can sometimes take up to 90 minutes to pass through immigration and baggage claim.

Airport pick-ups are provided at Heathrow Airport on the start date of your program. Airport pick-up logistics will be determined based on submitted flight itineraries. More information will be distributed closer to departure.

If your flight is canceled, delayed, or you miss a connection on your way to London, contact International Programs staff via email or phone.
Housing

LONDON HOUSING
Student housing will be on-site at FSU London. Housing locations may not be exclusive to program participants. As previously stated, you may check-in to FSU London starting at 10:00am. Rooming assignments will be made based on a combination of factors such as type of program, housing preference, availability, and special needs as indicated in the information you provide on the Medical, Special Needs, Housing questionnaire in the IP student portal. You will receive your roommate assignments during check-in at FSU London.

We are very fortunate that FSU London is located in the heart of central London, but please be aware that there are certain 'quirks' with all buildings as old as ours (17th century home registered on the National Heritage list for England). These differences are part of the experience of immersing yourself in another, much older culture. Rooms may be smaller than you are used to, there are many stairs, no elevators, and no air conditioning. On the plus side, you will be living in central London, just a few minutes' walk from the British Museum, Covent Garden, West End theatres, and Trafalgar Square – just to name a few sites!

Come prepared to cook most of your own meals while you are in London. Cooking in your flat is a great way to:

- save money
- help keep you healthy by eating fresh food and vegetables
- develop relationships with your flatmates through communal cooking and meals
- add variety to your life as you try new dishes from the grocery store or learn new recipes from your flatmates

During your on-site orientation, you will be advised of the FSU London Housing Rules & Regulations. Violation of any of the housing policies is grounds for dismissal. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the housing rules and regulations for your specific program. Refer to the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement and the Housing Terms and Conditions for details. You are required to sign the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement as it outlines your contractual obligations as a participant on our program.

A note on noise: The law in England forbids excessive noise after 11:00pm. The police and the local borough authority strictly enforce this rule. Quiet hours are in effect from 11:00pm until 8:00am, during which time no noise should be heard outside student rooms. At all other times residents should be aware of the effects of their noise on others and respond appropriately to requests to lower volume.

HOUSING AMENITIES
Housing will be fully equipped with everything you will need, including:

- one or two bathrooms
- kitchen
- living room area
- shower
- iron
- ironing board
- microwave
- oven
- dishes
- pots and pans
- tea kettle
- refrigerator & freezer
- towels & linens
- wardrobe
- television
- Wi-Fi
- individual safe or access to a safe
- and more!

THINGS TO NOTE
- Cleaning products and toilet paper are your responsibility.
- The electrical current in Europe has two times stronger voltage (220 volts) than in the U.S. (110 volts). Do not bring anything electrical, such as hair straighteners, blow dryers, or curling irons. Hairdryers are provided free at your accommodation or you can obtain one from FSU London Reception. Hair straighteners and curling irons can be purchased at a low cost at local shops.
- Laundry facilities are available. You will be assigned two towels, a top sheet, a bottom sheet, a duvet, duvet cover, two pillows, and pillowcases. Linens will be changed weekly.
- Locks are provided at check-in. Please use your safe to store all valuables including your passport and money. Once locked, keep your safe key in a secure place.
- Housing facilities are not air conditioned. This is standard across Europe, and we appreciate your accommodation of this difference. Fans may be provided, and we encourage you to purchase other personal fans/cooling mechanisms as needed.
- All off-site accommodations provide comparable facilities, however, we cannot guarantee that each residence will have the exact same amenities. Each student housing facility has safety and security measures. They may vary by location.

HOUSEKEEPING
Your flats will be cleaned once a week, but you must leave your flat in such a condition that the housekeeping staff can do their job. Housekeeping staff will mop the floors throughout the flat, wipe down surfaces, and remove one bag of trash per flat. Housekeeping staff will not clear away personal possessions, clean dishes left in sinks, or pick up dirty laundry left on the floors. Above all, you should remember that primary responsibility for the cleanliness of your flat remains with you and your flatmates. You are responsible for cleaning up after yourself when the kitchen or bathrooms have been used, making your own beds, and for keeping your room reasonably tidy. At the end of the program, the flats will be inspected. They should be neat, clean and in the condition in which they were found. If the flat is left in an un-fit state or if any damages are found upon your departure, additional charges may be assessed to your FSU account. Please note that housekeeping staff will not enter student flats during required quarantine periods.
**PERSONAL TRAVEL**

Aside from program-provided excursions within England, you must remain in central London for the duration of your program.

FSU’s President and Provost approved the reopening of the London Study Centre based on the specific condition that students must not travel independently outside their host city to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Failure to do so could have significant consequences, including potential removal from the program.

**CLIMATE & PACKING**

The average temperatures in London in the fall, winter and spring are comparable to temperatures in northeastern states. The climate is generally damp, so it may feel colder than it actually is. You may need warm clothes (sweaters, etc.) and a raincoat because it often rains in London. The summer can be hot and most buildings, including our housing facilities, are not air-conditioned.

The buildings in England are sometimes not heated to the same level as they are in America. Therefore, do what the British do—wear warm clothes inside and outside. On the coldest days, we recommended you wear layers that will keep you warm while you’re outside, but can be removed to keep you cool if indoor spaces or public transport are well-heated. By the same token, buildings are generally not air-conditioned in the summer months, including student housing.

**PACKING**

All airlines have different policies regarding the number, size, and weight of bags allowed on domestic and international flights. Fees for having too many bags or exceeding size and weight limits are steep, and also vary by airline. It is important that you determine the restriction on your particular airline before you pack. Please be aware that you will be responsible for carrying your own bags, packs, etc. Restrictions regarding carry-on baggage are different for each airline and sometimes vary depending on your originating, transferring and/or terminating airport. Also, requirements change based on current events. It is imperative that you check your specific requirements prior to your departure and plan accordingly.

Ensure your bag has a luggage tag with your name, address, and final destination. It is recommended that you pack 1 or 2 outfits in your carry-on in case of flight delays/cancellations or lost luggage.

We recommend researching ways to access a textbook as an eBook (electronic book) through the FSU Bookstore, FSU Libraries, Amazon, or other online sites. Keep in mind that not all textbooks are available as eBooks. If you wish to ship textbooks or other course materials to your study abroad location, reference the Mail section of this document and contact the International Programs office with any questions. Plan to bring textbooks and other required course materials with you. You will receive information from the International Programs office when it is time to register for classes with details about textbooks. As a reminder, textbooks are not included in the program fee and will most likely need to be purchased prior to departure.

Make several photocopies of the pages in your passport that contain the issue date, your signature, and your photograph. Leave one copy at home with your family and take another copy with you in case your passport is lost or stolen. Carry a copy separate from your passport when you are traveling.

You should not bring any valuable or sentimental items such as jewelry, expensive watches, expensive cameras, or keepsake items you would regret losing.
Communication & Electronics

COMUNICATION & CELL PHONES

Staying connected to your family and friends while you are abroad is extremely important.

Establish a communications plan prior to departure. Whether it’s setting up a Skype meeting every Sunday night, sending them messages over WhatsApp, or checking-in with them on social media, make sure you keep in touch!

Though it is not mandatory to use your cell phone abroad, consider one of the following options. Do your research to see which option is the best fit for you:

- Add an international plan through your current service provider
  - This tends to be the most expensive option. Talk to your service provider for details. Each provider offers varying international plans.

- Purchase a sim card in-country for your current phone
  - You will need to unlock your phone and make sure your phone is GSM-capable before departure. You can buy a prepaid UK SIM plan, either for phone calls only or for calls and data.

- Use the Wi-Fi available in the Study Center and around the city while the phone is in airplane mode.
  - Make sure to turn off roaming before you leave, just in case. Otherwise you might end up with a very large phone bill when you return to the U.S. Apps you can easily use while connected to Wi-Fi include Skype, FaceTime, Viber, and WhatsApp. If you have a smartphone, download these apps before you travel abroad so you will be able to activate the account.

- Purchase an inexpensive phone with a local plan in-country and pay for more minutes/data as needed.
  - A pay-as-you-go Top Up phone, which can be purchased for as little as $20, can be used for local and national calls in the UK, calls to and from the U.S. and continental Europe, and calls within continental Europe.

  We highly recommend only using your UK-based cell phone for emergencies while you are outside of the UK. We strongly suggest that you do not buy a pay-as-you-go cell phone in the U.S. to take to England. Students who have done this in the past have frequently found the phones do not work. It is far cheaper and more efficient to buy the pay-as-you-go phone in London. In addition, we strongly recommend against buying a contract phone while you are overseas. The costs associated with these contract plans are very hard to control and students might find themselves being billed for unexpectedly high amounts.

COMPUTERS

There are 24/7 computer labs at the London Study Centre with socially distanced desktops, though we recommend students plan to bring a laptop or tablet with them. Students will need their laptop/tablet especially during the quarantine period. It also reduces the frequency of touching communal keyboards. We recommend doing the following prior to departure:

- Bring a plug adaptor so your computer can charge on a UK outlet
- Check your homeowner’s insurance to make sure that your computer is covered when you are away from your primary residence. If not covered by your homeowner’s insurance, you may look into insurance through http://www.safeware.com/, a worldwide insurance provider for all electronic devices (e.g. laptop, digital camera, iPod, etc.). They also have a provision for non-electronic personal property.
- Do NOT pack your laptop or laptop charger in your checked luggage.

MAIL

Please share the following information with those in the US who are interested in sending you mail while you are abroad.

The Reception Desk will not accept FedEx packages for students so please ensure that any packages sent to you are sent through either UPS or the U.S. Post Office.

Airmail usually will take 7 days. People writing to you should be sure to buy and use airmail stamps; failure to do so will cause their letters to go surface mail, which will take about 6 weeks to deliver. Have mail sent to the FSU London address listed in the Contact Information section of this packet, with your name on the first line.

Shipment to the UK from outside the EU often incur IMPORT DUTY. You will have to pay these taxes unless the goods are labeled correctly. Be sure to let the person shipping you the package know the following rules:

1. DO NOT overestimate the cost of goods for insurance purposes; this will only drive up the cost of the import duty.
2. DO NOT ship alcohol, tobacco, or perfume, as these goods will incur extra import duty.
3. You can ship personal effects (clothes, school supplies, etc.) worth up to $25.00 tax free.
4. You can ship a GIFT worth up to $50.00 tax free. Other items may incur taxes, which can be very high.
5. Items like cheese or meat products are banned. A list of banned/restricted goods can be found online: https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/banned-and-restricted-goods

You will not be able to receive your package at the Study Centre until any charges are paid in full. Any charges the Study Centre must pay on your behalf will be placed onto your student account.

Communication & Electronics
Currency & Banking

EXPENSES WHILE IN LONDON
In estimating your financial needs while abroad, calculate the amount of money you will need for meals for the entire period of your stay; costs for your personal entertainment and social activities.

A good way to estimate what you might need in London is to assume that whatever you spend here in the US (in dollars), you will spend the same (numerical) amount in pounds (which is considerably more dollars).

London is one of the most expensive cities in the world, with prices on par with those in Los Angeles or New York. However, you can find great bargains all over the city. Dining out can be cheap at a market or food hall, or more expensive at gastropubs or fine restaurants. You may want to splash out on outings such as an afternoon tea experience or shopping on Oxford Street. While some of these costs are high, many visitors find other things in London cheap, such as the cost of food in grocery stores, theatre tickets for West End performances, and ‘meal deals’ for lunch. Don’t forget that some of the best places in London are free, including most museums and its scenic parks!

Class-related excursions are included in the program fee for most classes. Occasionally, there are additional fees to cover expenses such as theatre tickets. This information is available in the textbook compliance section when you register for classes in my.fsu.edu.

CURRENCY
The unit of currency in Britain is the pound sterling (£ GBP). Bank notes are available in £5, £10, £20, and £50. Coins are in 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, and £2.

You may wish to exchange US dollars for British bank notes prior to leaving for London (up to $200). If doing so, please note that the UK is in the process of converting its paper money to new plastic notes. Paper £5, £10, and £20 notes are no longer accepted. The new £50 plastic note is due to be released in 2021. Also note cashless and contactless transactions are prevalent in the UK.

You can reference the current exchange rate online.

BANKING

We recommend you set up online banking for your bank account(s) prior to departure from the U.S. so you can monitor your account(s) while overseas. Students are typically not eligible to open a UK bank account.

You should bring two types of cards with you:

Debit Card
- A debit card can be used to access funds from an ATM or bank.
- Make sure your debit/ATM card is linked to a checking account, rather than to a savings account, so you will have access to your funds.
- If you have a pin longer than 4 digits or based on letters, you may have trouble using it abroad. You will need to change your pin before departure.
- You should contact your financial institution for information regarding ATM transaction fees. You can limit the fees if your U.S. bank has a ‘sister’ bank in the host country and/or if you limit your withdrawals, though we do not advise keeping large sums of money on your person or stored in your residence, even if a safe is provided.

Credit Card
- Credit cards are useful in the event of an emergency. If you need to visit a doctor or hospital, you will likely have to pay prior to the service, and then submit an insurance claim afterward.
- Credit cards are also useful for everyday purchases and offer excellent exchange rates. Mastercard and Visa are the most widely accepted credit cards overseas. A credit card with “chip and pin” technology is recommended, as this is the standard abroad.
- Consider applying for a credit card with no foreign transaction fees.

Before using an ATM or debit card overseas, we recommend the following:
- Contact your financial institution(s) before you leave the U.S. to make sure your ATM or debit card is activated for international use during the dates and in the locations in which you will be abroad.
- Keep a record of all credit/debit/ATM card numbers and the phone numbers you would need to call, with area codes, if they are lost or stolen. Keep this record in a safe place separate from your cards, and you should provide a copy to family at home.
INOCULATIONS/MEDICAL CONCERNS

BEFORE DEPARTURE:
We encourage all students with underlying health issues that may increase the severity of infection should they contract COVID-19 to discuss their study abroad plan with their doctor/specialist.

Florida State University requires certain immunizations prior to your registration for classes. All newly admitted degree-seeking students (freshman and transfer) and non-FSU students will be asked to complete and submit the required Student Immunization Form through the IP student portal.

Familiarize yourself with the specific requirements and health matters in your program location. The FSU Health and Wellness Center offers a travel clinic which provides immunizations. Click here for additional information available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s site. Some countries have specific requirements for inoculations based on past locations the traveler has visited. It is the student’s responsibility to confirm whether or not the previous travel requires additional inoculations.

WHILE ABROAD:
Your program fee includes international medical and evacuation insurance coverage through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI); Click here to access the policy online. The coverage will be effective for participants from the day the program starts until the day the program ends. It includes coverage for treatment of ill students, including those with COVID-19, as well as COVID testing for those who are symptomatic, or those who have had a known exposure to a person who tested positive. It does not cover preventative evacuation due to pandemics. There are Teleconsultation Services available. This policy is NOT intended to replace your domestic coverage.

The UK has an excellent health care system. Students in need of emergency care will likely be dealt with at the nearby University College Hospital, which is a 15-minute walk from FSU London. Emergency care is free at the time of service.

Less urgent situations should be dealt with in one of the many nearby general practitioner or walk-in clinics. GP visits will incur a fee, which students are responsible for paying upfront.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS & ILLEGAL DRUGS
The legal age for the drinking of alcohol in the UK is 18. This means that you will likely have the opportunity to buy and drink alcohol legally. It is in your interest to recognize that this right carries a great deal of responsibility. FSU London has a strict code of conduct relating to the use of alcohol, violations of which will likely result in a judicial hearing with the possible outcome of being dismissed from the program. In short, know your limits, and drink in moderation if you choose to do so, but not to excess.

Florida State University has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, manufacture, production, sale, exchange or distribution of illegal drugs by students participating in FSU study abroad programs. Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal from the program and disciplinary action onsite or upon return to campus. International Programs’ policies follow either the U.S. law or local law, whichever is more stringent with regard to drug use. For complete information on student judicial processes, victim rights, and appeals see the Student Conduct Code: https://sccs.fsu.edu/.

MAPPING YOUR IDENTITIES
Our Mapping your Identities guide will help you explore your identities and evaluate your overall wellness to aid in your preparation for a successful and enriching study abroad experience. It will also help you understand others on your program and be better allies for them.
Policies & Safety

RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES
Florida State degree-seeking, transient, and special students are bound by the rules, policies, and procedures set forth in the FSU General Bulletin and Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these before you leave. You may locate the FSU General Bulletin online at http://registrar.fsu.edu/ and The Code of Student Conduct at https://sccs.fsu.edu/conduct-codes/student-conduct-codes. The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards updates any changes to the Code of Student Conduct.

SAFETY & SECURITY
Our highest priority is the welfare and security of our students, faculty, staff and facilities. We have emergency plans in place for each of our locations and work closely with our insurers and 24/7 emergency response providers to monitor and respond to all situations worldwide. It is our policy to follow guidance from the respective U.S. Embassies, U.S. State Department, as well as local officials and keep students apprised of any new information. For more information on IP’s security policies and procedures, please contact our Director of Risk and Emergency Management, Chris Carroll at 850.644.7823 or ccarroll@fsu.edu.

- **Resources.** Even though you are not on the main campus, you have access to many resources should you encounter issues while abroad. Program staff members are available to support you in a variety of ways, including connecting you with other professionals locally and/or on the main campus.
  - **Victim Advocate Program.** The University takes very seriously all types of victimization, including sexual violence, relationship violence, and domestic violence. Advocates are available and on-call 24 hours a day to provide confidential support services, even for students who are abroad. For more information on the Victim Advocate Program, visit http://victimadvocate.fsu.edu.
  - **University Counseling Center.** The Counseling Center is a welcoming and confidential place to discuss questions and concerns such as homesickness, struggles with relationships, sexual identity, cultural issues, and more. Visit https://counseling.fsu.edu/ for more information.
  - **Center for Health Advocacy & Wellness.** The Center for Health Advocacy & Wellness encourages you to make healthy lifestyle decisions that facilitate academic success and lead to life-long health and wellness. For more information, visit http://chaw.fsu.edu/.

- **The U.S. State Department** maintains a web site of information for Americans studying abroad, including current travel advisory warnings, at: http://studentsabroad.state.gov/.

- **The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. We strongly recommend you register here: https://step.state.gov/step/.

- **Waivers.** All IP participants must sign and submit a general Waiver of Liability & COVID-19 Waiver through the IP Student Portal.

- Be aware that you are subject to the laws of the country in which you are traveling.

- Always carry a photocopy of the picture and signature pages of your passport with you. Keep another copy in your room separate from your passport. Leave one copy at home in the U.S. with your family or a relative.

- Use the buddy system—try to travel with friends as much as possible and always tell your roommates or friends where you are going and when you expect to return. Bystander intervention is a powerful opportunity and responsibility for those within our community.

- **Valuables.** Students should not take sentimental valuables on their program. Students should not leave cash, passports, or other items of value unattended in their rooms. If a locker or safe is provided, students are strongly encouraged to use it to store anything of value at all times. Students should plan regular visits to the cash machine rather than leaving large amounts of cash in their rooms. Students are responsible for ensuring their rooms are left secure at all times – do not prop open doors, do not leave doors and windows unlocked, do not give keys to anyone. If students notice others in the building leaving the main entrance door unsecured, they should notify FSU London staff immediately, even if there are others living in the building who are not FSU program participants. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance that will cover their belongings while abroad, whether a standard homeowners or renters policy. The International Programs insurance policy does not cover loss or theft of participants’ possessions.

- **Pickpocketing.** In most large cities throughout the world, pickpocketing is the most common crime and can happen anytime, anywhere! We caution you to always be aware of your surroundings. Beware of strangers who try to distract you with papers, boxes, or strange gestures. Smartphones and purses are often stolen in crowded areas, cafes, restaurants, and pubs. Keep them close to you and within your own sight, but out of the reach of strangers. Secure your valuables when you use public transportation, especially if you are travelling on an overnight train/coach.

- **Weapons.** You are strictly prohibited from keeping or using firearms, knives, weapons (including pellet, air guns, paintball guns or other dangerous articles or substances). Weapons, such as guns, mace, pepper spray, and disguised or flick knives are illegal in the UK. It is your responsibility to know the laws regarding weapons in the host country if you intend to bring any item for self-defense.
TIPS FROM STUDENTS ON WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
These comments came from students who recently attended our study abroad program in London:

- There is NO elevator in the building.
- Bring comfortable shoes to wear. You do a lot of walking!
- Research the weather conditions in London before you leave.
- Do not overpack – you will want to buy souvenirs.
- Plan to save money by being able to cook some of your favorite meals.
- There is no air-conditioning in the flats. Pack accordingly if you are on a summer program.
- Do not ship expensive items from the U.S. (especially technology) as these will incur customs charges.
- For the most part, you do not need to tip in the UK, especially in taxis.

ONLINE RESOURCES
The more information you find out about the country beforehand, the better off you will be once you get there. Here is a list of a few web sites that may be helpful as you begin your information search:

- [http://www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com) (student travel information)
- [https://www.letsgo.com/londoncover](https://www.letsgo.com/londoncover) (online travel guide)
- [http://www.state.gov/travel/](http://www.state.gov/travel/) (U.S. State Department’s information for Americans living abroad)
- [https://nolesabroad.international.fsu.edu/](https://nolesabroad.international.fsu.edu/) (FSU International Programs blog with articles from former program participants)

Looking for something to do in London? Check out these sites:
- [http://www.londonist.com](http://www.londonist.com) (what’s on & events in London)
- [https://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/](https://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/) (London theatre guide)

USEFUL APPS

- [Google Translate](http://translate.google.com) (instantly translates words, phrases, and web pages between English and over 100 other languages)
- [Dark Sky](https://www.darksky.net) (With down-to-the-minute forecasts, you’ll know exactly when the rain will start or stop, right where you’re standing)
- [Mobile Passport](https://www.mobileready.gov) (authorized by U.S. Government to get through customs upon your return to the U.S. Allows you to use the dedicated mobile passport line in 21 participating airports).

(Note: Florida State University is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.)

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

International Programs [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)
International Programs [Twitter](https://twitter.com)
International Programs [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com)
FSU London [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)
FSU London [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com)

Last Updated 10/24/2020
FOODS TO TRY
- Fish’n’chips
- Mushy peas
- Chicken Tikka Masala
- Sunday roast
- Cornish pasties
- Yorkshire pudding
- Scones and clotted cream
- Steak and ale pie

LINGO
- Awesome
- Bathroom
- Exhausted
- Chips
- Cookie
- To-Go
- Ace
- Toilet / loo
- Knackered
- Crisps
- Biscuit
- Takeaway
- Wait in line
- Thanks / To toast
- Thick cut fries
- Trash
- Trash can
- Sketchy
- Queue
- Cheers
- Chips
- Rubbish
- Bin
- Dodgy

QUICK TIPS
1. The United Kingdom consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The Republic of Ireland is a different country.
2. Never ‘jump the queue’ (cut in line). Brits are particular about queuing etiquette, and many joke that queuing is a British national pastime.
3. Restaurants will not automatically split the tab for you, but they may let you put different amounts onto different credit cards.
4. You should tip restaurant waitstaff around 10%. Bartenders do not expect tips and may even be confused by your offer. Tip taxi drivers £1 per bag they help you with. Otherwise, taxi drivers do not expect tips—though many will round up to 10% for a tip.
5. No matter the time of year, bring an umbrella! Brits always have access to an umbrella regardless of the season.