London Spring 2023 Participants,

Congratulations on your acceptance to FSU International Program’s study abroad program! It’s time to start preparing for the upcoming immigration and visa processes you’ll need to complete to be eligible to study and/or work abroad.

In order to study and undertake a work placement in the United Kingdom, you are required to apply for and obtain a Student Route Visa through United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI). International Programs is here to help guide you through the UK visa process, however, UKVI requires that applicants apply for their visa independently. This process requires full attention and can be time-consuming, so please read through this guidance carefully and allow yourself plenty of time for each stage of the process.

Please contact the Immigration Team, at IP-Visas@fsu.edu, if you have any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,
The International Programs Immigration Team
IMPORTANT COMPONENTS FOR VISA

PASSPORT
A valid passport book is required for your program and international travel.
If you have a passport, please ensure it meets the following requirements:
• Has six months of validity beyond your intended date of return (OCTOBER 27, 2023)
• Must contain at least 2 blank visa pages.
If you do not have a passport, or your current passport does not meet the outlined requirements, please contact IP-Visas@fsu.edu, immediately for guidance.

Processing times for passport issuance are currently delayed – if you require a new passport, it’s essential you apply as soon as possible. You can find a list of local Passport Acceptance Facilities near you on the U.S. Department of State’s website, found HERE.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, ENTRY INTO THE UK, & FLIGHTS

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS
In order to receive your vignette, you will be required to send your physical passport (not a copy), to a designated processing facility. As a result, you will not be able to travel internationally while your vignette is being processed. We recommend accounting for at least five weeks for the processing of your vignette with the Consulate.

ENTRY INTO THE UK
You must enter the United Kingdom within the dates listed on your vignette, as you will not be permitted to enter the UK prior to the start date.

When completing your online application, you are able to request a start date up to seven days before the start of your program. However, please note that housing will not be available to participants until the start of the program on JANUARY 12, 2023. Please keep in mind that FSU IP cannot guarantee vignette dates as they are determined by UKVI.

FLIGHT INFORMATION
International Programs highly recommends traveling on a round-trip flight. Due to the imposition of fines for violations in immigration policies, many airlines will not permit passengers to board international flights when traveling on one-way tickets. Because of this, it’s recommended that participants purchase their flight with insurance that would allow them to change the date of their return flight post-purchase.

For questions regarding flight insurance policies and information, please contact your airline directly.
IMPORTANT COMPONENTS FOR VISA

RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP

NON-U.S. & DUAL CITIZENS
Visa requirements for non-U.S. citizens are different from those of U.S. citizens. Please be advised that you will need to be in possession of your Permanent Resident Card, or U.S. visa, to allow re-entry into the U.S. following your program.

If you possess an EU passport with sufficient validity (until OCTOBER 27, 2023), you may choose to apply for your visa with this passport. You will not be required to attend a biometric appointment and will receive a digital status rather than a physical vignette in your passport – therefore, the process tends to be slightly faster.

If you are a non-U.S. citizen, hold dual-citizenship status, and/or possess an EU passport, please contact IP-Visas@fsu.edu.

CURRENT RESIDENCE
If you currently reside outside of the U.S., please contact an Immigration Coordinator at IP-Visas@fsu.edu.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT & VISA FEE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF $7,500
Due to the differential agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom, U.S. Citizens are not required to submit proof of financial support unless they are specifically requested by UKVI.

If requested, you must submit proof of financial support in the amount of $7,500 within a reasonable amount of time (i.e. 5 business days). Therefore, it is required that each participant makes the appropriate preparations in advance so they may submit the required documents immediately if required.

Proof of financial support can be met through supplying one of the following:

- Original Financial Aid Award Letter
- Original Bank Statement
- Notarized Letter from Bank

The letter/statement of proof of financial support must meet the following criteria:

- Must be in the name of the student or a parent/legal guardian. No exceptions.
- Must be recent. The statement or letter may not indicate a “cycle end date” more than one month before the submission of your application to the Consulate.
- The funds shown must be liquid – such as a Checking Account, Savings Account, or Financial Aid. Account types other than Checking or Savings (e.g. Money Market, Retirement Account, or Certificate of Deposit) WILL NOT be accepted.
- The entirety of the funds (in the amount of $7,500) must be shown in one, liquid account. For example, you cannot submit statements from multiple Checking or Savings Accounts, or combine a Financial Aid Award Letter and a statement from a Checking Account.
• The letter or statement of proof must demonstrate that the funds have been held in the specific account for at least a consecutive 28-day period, never dipping below $7,500. For example, if you supply financial proof with a Checking or Savings Account the funds must never dip below $7,500 for the duration of the bank statement.

**VISA FEE**

The cost to obtain the necessary visa required to partake in a UK internship is not included in your program fee. **The current cost of a UK student visa is £363** – this fee must be paid during the online portion of the visa process.
Please review the timeline & next steps outlined below.

### NOW

Please **check your passport** and make sure it meets all validity requirements. If you do not have a passport, or your current passport does not meet the outlined requirements, **please contact IP-Visas@fsu.edu, immediately for guidance**.

It is also recommended you make the necessary preparations to your financial accounts advance to ensure you have adequate liquid funds.

### AUGUST

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022**

Deadline to upload a copy of your physical passport to the IP Student Portal. Please reference the upload instructions carefully.

### SEPTEMBER

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

Deadline to upload the Contractual Agreement and Letter of Intent

### OCTOBER

A program-specific Visa Packet and CAS will be issued and emailed directly to each participant. The Visa Packet will provide further guidance on how to complete the visa application and compile all supplemental documents.

Once you’re issued your CAS and Visa Packet, you must complete the online application, attend your scheduled biometrics appointment, and submit your visa application, passport, and supporting documents to the designated facility.

### NOVEMBER

Once you have been notified of the approval of your visa, you must upload a copy of your vignette and your visa approval letter to the IP Student Portal.
CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDIES
Florida State University London will be sponsoring you as a student and will issue you a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

In order for FSU London to issue your CAS number, the following items must be submitted to International Programs by the respective due date:

UPLOAD PASSPORT COPY – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022
You must upload a clear, color copy or scan of the two informational pages in your passport book to your IP Student Portal by WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022. Please reference the upload instructions and requirements included in the checklist item.

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
This Contractual Agreement can be found on your IP Student Portal in the Program Information section of your IP Portal Dashboard.

Please read, sign, and upload the Contractual Agreement to your Student Portal by WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022. This document is required for CAS issuance – failure to submit your signed Contractual Agreement by the outlined due date will result in a delay in receiving your CAS number.

LETTER OF INTENT – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
In approximately 200 words, please explain why you chose to apply to study and intern with the London Study Centre, and what you hope to gain from this time spent in the UK. You should upload this letter of intent directly into your IP Student Portal by WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022. This document will form a part of your official visa-related record. Therefore, please ensure that your response reflects the academic nature of your program. Be sure to include your full name, date of birth, and program name (FSU London Intern) at the top of the letter.

You may wish to write about:
• Classes you plan to take
• What you hope to gain from your internship experience
• How studying and interning in London will fit within your major
• The opportunities for global consciousness and intercultural engagement to which you are looking forward

Failure to meet visa deadlines can result in late arrival or ineligibility to participate on the program.

APPLY FOR YOUR VIGNETTE
Your visa will be in the form of a vignette affixed to the inside of your passport. The visa application consists of an online form, a biometrics appointment, and a variety of supporting documents that will be sent to the UK consulate.

A Visa Packet will be provided to assist you throughout this process. However, please make note of the following:
BIOMETRICS APPOINTMENT
In order to receive the vignette, you will be required to make and attend a biometrics appointment. At this appointment you will complete the required fingerprinting and photographs.

Please note that your biometrics must be completed at a UK-authorized facility will require significant travel. You will schedule your biometrics appointment when you complete your online application with UKVI.

Be sure to monitor your IP Student Portal and FSU Student Email. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact International Programs at IP-Visas@fsu.edu.