'What is the Gateway Program?'

The Gateway Program allows students to complete the first year of their undergraduate degree at one of the Florida State University’s four international locations (London, Florence, Valencia, Panama City) and then upon successful completion of that year transfer to the US for the remainder of their degree. It is designed for students who want to combine their university career with study abroad and for students keen to embrace the diversity and strength of a U.S. Liberal Arts degree.

'How much are your tuition fees/how much does it cost?'

University fees for this academic year at the FSU London campus are £9,400. Campus housing costs are £7,200 for self-catering shared rooms in flats. These fees include a full range of cultural activities. At current exchange rates, tuition fees for the US are currently £12,300 for the year. Twelve months housing and food in the US is around £7,500.

'Can I use my UK student loan to pay the fees?'

No you cannot. UK student loans are only for UK universities. You may be able to take out a private bank loan but that would be for you to determine. As in the UK though, your tuition and housing fees need only be paid on a semester by semester basis.

'How do you get your degree in the States?/What are credits?'

The US degree is a cumulative degree. You earn your degree with each class you take. For most majors you need 120 credits to graduate. You generally earn about 30 credits each year. Generally it takes 4 years to accumulate 120 credits. You might end up with more than 120 credits but you need at least 120. The good thing is that the work you do in your first year counts towards the GPA you earn upon graduation – it really is a four year education.

'What is a GPA?'

A GPA is a Grade Point Average. You earn it with each grade you get for each course you take. An A is worth 4 points, for example, and a B is worth 3 points. If you take four courses and earn an A for each of them you get 16 points divided by the number of courses you took, to get your average grade, or specifically grade point average. In this case it would be 4.0. If you got 2 As, a B and a C, you would get a GPA of 3.25.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>‘How many points do I need to get in/What UCAS score do I need to get a place?’</td>
<td>It varies by discipline. Each case is considered on individual merits.</td>
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<td>‘Do I have to take the SAT?’</td>
<td>You do not need to take the SAT for your first year at the FSU London campus. During that first year FSU will provide workshops and assist you in preparation for taking the SAT which you will need to have taken in order to transfer to the US campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Do I need a visa to get in?’</td>
<td>You do not need a visa for your first year at the FSU London campus. During that first year FSU will provide workshops and assist you in applying for the student visa that you will need to have in order to transfer to the US campus.</td>
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<td>‘Where is your London campus?’</td>
<td>We are in central London in Bloomsbury. The nearest tube is Tottenham Court Road. We are about 2 minutes’ walk from the British Museum, 10 minutes’ walk from Trafalgar Square. We are in the very centre of London.</td>
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<td>‘How big is your campus?’</td>
<td>Our campus is located inside a complex of Georgian buildings in Central London and has classrooms, library, computer labs, and student housing on site.</td>
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<td>‘How many students do you have?’</td>
<td>The FSU London campus is designed for about 500 students. In general, we have about 100 FSU students or so here at any one time. The FSU Florida campus has about 32,000 undergraduates.</td>
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‘How large are the classes?’

Classes at the FSU London campus tend to run around 10 students per class. There might be some run on a tutorial style with only 5 or so and some larger at 15. Classes taught on the London campus offer great opportunities to get to know both professors and fellow students.

‘Where is your Florida campus located?’

It is located in Tallahassee, the state capital. The city has a population of just over 150,000 and is home to State Government so both a university and political town. It is about 30 minutes’ drive from the beach.

‘Can I come and visit your London campus?’

Please contact the University to arrange an appointment,

‘Do I have to live on campus in London or the US?’

For the London year, you are expected to live on campus but may, with the Director’s permission, live off campus – either at home or elsewhere.
For the US, you do not have to live on campus although as an international student you will be guaranteed on campus housing should you request it.

‘What about health insurance or medical issues? I’ve heard the US is very expensive because it does not have a National Health Service. Is that true?’

Every FSU student, whether international or US is required to buy the FSU comprehensive health insurance plan which covers you for just about anything and costs just under £1,000.
‘Are there scholarships available/Can I get a scholarship?’

International students are largely expected to be self-financing though there are a small number of opportunities available:
- a number of small scholarships worth £500 for the London year and £6,000 for the US
- in the US you can work on campus for up to 20 hours per week in term time
- you will receive up to a semester’s worth of credit for A Level or IB qualifications
- it is possible to complete the degree in 3 years (and so save time and money)
- and of course once you graduate you will be able to work in the US for either one or two years in your field (1 or 2 years depends on major)

‘Is the transfer to Florida automatic?’

Yes so long as you successfully complete the first year of your degree in London, obtain a student visa for the US, can show proof of some standard vaccinations and take the SAT. In terms of the SAT, the score you achieve will be placed in the context of your A Level results and we will provide workshops on campus during your first semester.

‘When does your university/term start?’

Orientation for Fall 2011 starts on Thursday September 1. The first day of academic classes is Monday September 5.

‘What courses do you have places on?’

As you probably know, the US undergraduate degree is typically of four years’ duration and is within the Liberal Arts tradition. Thus, US students spend the first two years taking elective classes or modules across a broad interdisciplinary range and the final two taking specialist classes in a particular major. The courses offered here at the London campus form part of the elective range. There are over 300 different majors and programs at FSU. So this means that we have places available for a variety of subjects or majors. What subject are you interested in?
‘I want to study History/English Lit/Biology/Political Science or some other particular subject...’

In general those majors certainly fit well into the Liberal Arts degree and mean that you would graduate with a Bachelor of Arts and your major will be ‘History/English Lit/Political Science. For a specific review of your situation, however, you would have to submit a completed application form.

‘How do you figure out which courses to take each term?’

Each student is assigned a personal academic advisor who works closely with students to determine which courses best meet each student’s particular needs and interests. There is a great deal of freedom to explore and choose but you also have someone on hand who helps keep you on track. Besides, each major has a ‘map’ which sets out certain courses that must be taken in order to graduate in that major. All of this will be explained in more detail by Senior Staff both here in London and over in Florida.

‘What courses or classes will I take during my first year in London?’

For the first semester, all students on the International Gateway program will study a Core Curriculum of 5 courses drawn from the heart of the Liberal Arts tradition. Second semester courses will be selected in consultation with each student’s personal Academic Advisor based on the student’s academic interests and the upcoming transfer to the US. The Liberal Arts degree and the US education system allows for intensive advising combined with the freedom to explore and develop individual interests and talents.

‘What exact courses will I take in London then?’

Courses in London form part of the elective range of classes available to students. FSU has designed a specific Gateway curriculum. The exact Fall 11 courses are:
- Intro to Archaeology and Lab
- Intro to Public Speaking
- Intro to London Theatre
- Math for Liberal Arts
- Academic Skills
‘How good of a university is FSU? Is it an Ivy League?’

FSU is a comprehensive research and teaching university. It is ranked in the top 3% of public universities in the USA while many of its undergraduate degree courses are ranked in the top 25 in the country. And as you might know, there are over 4,000 universities in the US. It is extremely competitive to get in to FSU. Last year, there were 27,000 applicants to the Freshman class. Of these only 6,000 enrolled.

How do I apply?

Application forms are available on www.fsu.edu/london. Please do not hesitate to contact the London staff should you have any questions.