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EASTWEST EDUCATION GROUP

International Student Prospectus 2013-14

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Studying & Living in the UK

Every year thousands of international students come to the UK to study. Here's our guide on preparing for British life.

The British Education System

The British education system is well known worldwide for its academic excellence and pastoral care, attracting thousands of international students for study every year. The United Kingdom Education Advisory Service (UKEAS), suggests you to learn more about the British education system before considering study in the UK. Generally, most parents in the UK will send children below the age of five to study in private nursery schools or local preschool classes, in order to help them adapt to school life. These children will go on to primary school, secondary school and then university.

A Brief Introduction to the British Education System

Primary School
Age: 5-10
Primary school generally includes infant school and junior school (in some circumstances, pupils are up to 12 years old), but a few schools have a three-tier education system - elementary, intermediate and higher level, with the graduate age from 8 to 13.

Intermediate Education
Age: 11-17
Secondary School
Students enrol at the age of 11 or 12 and graduate at the minimum age of 16. Students can take the GCSE exams.

Sixth Form College
After finishing secondary school, students are often referred to as "lower sixth form" and "upper sixth form" respectively, which are the A level years. Students must pass the exams to gain entry into university.

Higher Education (HE)
Age: 18-20
University
A Bachelor's degree in the UK, typically takes 3 years. If students are not qualified for university entry, they can apply for an access course provided by a national instruction college in order to satisfy the university entry requirements.

Master's Degree
Age: 20+
A Master's degree is usually undertaken in 1 year. A thesis must be submitted as part of the programme completion.

Guardians

According to British law, for students under the age of 16 studying in the UK, an appropriate British citizen must act as guardian. Many schools insist all overseas students must have a guardian under the age of 18.
The guardian's responsibility is to give advice to the students regarding personal (including making accommodation arrangements) and professional matters, to keep contact with the school on behalf of the student's parent and to ensure they are the first point of contact for any emergencies arising during their stay in the UK.

Most schools have a list of families that can provide guardianship, but parents can also seek a guardian through intermediaries, since this is a very important decision. We can also refer parents to *recommended guardians*, ones we have been working with for years.

Advice to Parents

Parents need to pay particular attention to the points set out below when sending their children to a UK secondary school:

1. There are lots of applications for schools in London and surrounding areas, which means places are very competitive.

2.Parents should visit their favourite schools in the UK before making a decision, if possible. Otherwise, they should check the opinions of other parents whose children have previously studied in the UK.

3.To proceed with their application one year in advance, as a great deal of preparations is needed. Children can also improve their English during this period.

British Weather and Time Difference

Weather Overview

Britain has a fairly temperate climate and can sometimes be overcast. However, we enjoy long summer evenings due to our northerly latitude and periods of fine weather can happen in all seasons. The weather can vary greatly from day to day, but generally summer (June-August) is hot (14-30 °C), and winter (December-February) is a cool 1-5 °C. There is quite a difference in temperature between Scotland and Southern England. Generally, the further south you go, the warmer it is likely to be.

Seasonal Variations & What to Wear

Whatever the season, the British weather is liable to change from day to day, so if you are wondering what to wear, it is a good idea to bring a selection of items including some light clothes, items you can layer (so you can add or remove layers depending on the temperature), at least one warm pullover and a waterproof coat or umbrella.

To get a better idea about what to pack, look at the seasonal variations you can expect in Britain.

Transporatation and Travel

Domestic and international transportation in the UK is well established, and students enjoy attractive concessionary rates. Bus, tube (underground railway) and bicycle are the main methods of transport for students in the UK. Therefore, students should check the regulations and concessionary fares of the transport concessionary card when they enrol into school. The transport concessionary card is usually age restricted for full-time students and generally valid for one year.

Travel to Britain

We compare all the leading airlines for the best scheduled, charter and low-cost flights to Britain. Air isn't the only way onto this island however. We've also got all the information on high-speed rail links from Europe (Eurostar and Eurotunnel), as well as ferry routes to and from various destinations.

Travel around Britain

Whether you are travelling on foot, by car, bus, taxi or train, in fact whatever type of transport you're using, we can help you find your way easily from city to city, airport to station or restaurant to hotel, as well as providing you with essential information on how to use these services in Britain.

Medical Insurance

Britain has a reputable medical service. Overseas students studying on courses for six months or longer can enjoy the benefits of using the National Health Service (NHS). The NHS is a free medical service that has widespread coverage, including emergency room and clinical services. Students should register at their nearest health care centre, with their passports and student cards issued by the schools when they arrive in the UK. When the registration is completed, a medical card with a registration number will be issued to the students. They have to show this card for every medical service if they wish to enjoy NHS coverage. However, when overseas students take short courses, extra overseas insurance must be purchased for each student.

Medical Insurance

You are strongly advised to take out adequate insurance before travelling to Britain. Your travel agent will be able to suggest a suitable policy.

Pharmacies & Chemists

In Britain you can obtain prescription, and over-the-counter, medications as well as expert medical advice at pharmacies. We recommend you carry a letter from your doctor stating your prescription and dosage if you are taking any medication.

Pharmacy Opening Hours

Pharmacies are usually open from 09:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays with limited availability on Sundays. However, in larger cities you will find a number of pharmacies open late during the week and on the weekend.
For more information and to find a pharmacy near you, visit: http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx

Vaccinations & Inoculations

You do not require an International Certificate of Vaccination when travelling to the UK, but you should check if one is needed on re-entry into your own country.

Food & Water

The level of food hygiene in Britain is very high, so you should simply observe the normal precautions when consuming food products (i.e. ensure it is thoroughly cooked, or that it is within the expiry date). The standard of water cleanliness is also very high, and in general, kitchen water supplies and tap water in restaurants are safe to drink. You can find bottled water in most shops and supermarkets.

Banking & Finance

The banks in the UK are the best choice for assisting students to manage their money. We have an agreement with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in the UK to help students open bank accounts and manage their finances. If the students do not want to use HSBC, they should learn some basic concepts of finances management.

The British Monetary System

British money is based on the decimal system. There are one hundred pennies to one pound. Coins have the values of 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2. Notes have the values of £5, £10, £20 and £50. Scottish £1 notes are still in circulation in Scotland. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have some different coins and notes from the mainland but the monetary system is the same.

Bringing Money to the UK

If you are an EU citizen and travelling from within the EU, you can bring in and take out bank notes, travellers' cheques and letters of credit in any currency and up to any amount.
Please note that from 15 June 2007, if you are travelling to or from a country outside the European Union (EU), you will need to declare any sums of cash of 10,000 Euros or more (or the equivalent in another currency) to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Changing Money & Exchange Rates

Foreign currency can easily be exchanged at banks, post offices, some hotels and Bureau de Change kiosks, which are found at international airports and most city centres.

Do I need to put money into the bank?

Yes. To put the money into the bank means the money is kept in a safe place, and this helps us plan and use the money more efficiently and conveniently. Opening hours for most of the banks in the UK are from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Some banks also open on Saturday mornings. Most of them have ATM machines providing a 24 service so we can withdraw money anytime if we have an ATM card. Moreover the ATM machines can be set inside or outside of the banks or somewhere else, such as the outside the supermarkets, or inside of a mall. For more information on the exchange rate visit the Financial Times Website.

Generally speaking, no handling fee will be charged even when using other banks' ATM machines, as long as they are in the same group. Otherwise, 1.5% will be charged as a handling fee.

1. Current Account
The bank will provide a chequebook and ATM card. This is the most popular type of account, which is easy for cash deposits and withdrawals. However, the interest of this account is very low.

2. Savings Account
Also called a 'Fixed Savings Account', the money will not be used temporarily and put into the bank for a fixed period in order to gain higher interest. If the money needs to be used, advanced notice to the bank is needed and no cheque can be used for this account.

3. Student Account
Students cannot open bank accounts in Britain if the course is shorter than 6 months, but if the course is longer than 6 months (particularly for university and postgraduate overseas students), students can open this bank account. Nevertheless, banks sometimes still disallow students studying on long-term linguistic programmes to open this type of account.
However, they will allow them to open a Savings Account. Banks will not provide a chequebook for a Savings Account.

Can I handle these matters in my home country?

This is the best way. Before going to Britain, our agents can give you advice if you need our help. Otherwise we advise you to check with your bank in country, for details of transferring your money to Britain. They will tell you if they have any direct business with any British banks, and if your local ATM card can be used in the UK (such as 'Cirrus').
Since short course students (of less than 6 months) cannot open bank accounts in Britain, we suggest those students open a 'Comprehensive Savings Account' at the HSBC in their home country. They can use their ATM card in Britain as well because the HSBC is an international bank with branches everywhere in Britain. However there is a drawback, a handling fee will be charged for every transaction.

Lunch

If you go to Britain to study English and you stay with a family, you will almost certainly be given a *packed lunch* to eat for your midday meal. Some factories and schools have canteens where you can eat, but the packed lunch is the most common thing to eat. A packed lunch normally consists of some sandwiches, a packet of crisps, an apple and a can of something to drink (for example, Coca-Cola). The contents are kept in a plastic container and you take it with you when you go to school or work. The quality of the packed lunch can vary from terrible to very good - it all depends on who makes it!

British Food

British food is not bland and boring, it also boasts some delicious dishes, such as roast beef, fish and chips, Shepherd's pie, Yorkshire pudding and the famous *Afternoon Tea*. Besides British food, you can tantalise your taste buds with Indian, French, Italian and Chinese cuisine in the UK.

Breakfast

Generally speaking the British breakfast is much bigger than in most other countries. Many people like to have a fried breakfast which can consists of fried bacon and eggs with fried bread and possibly fried tomatoes or black pudding. Of course not everybody wants to eat a lot early in the morning and many people prefer to just eat toast and marmalade with tea or coffee. Cereals are also very popular. The most common is *Cornflakes*. They are made with different grains such as corn, wheat and oats. If you go to a British supermarket you will see that there are many types of cereals available. In Scotland many people eat *porridge* or boiled oats. Porridge is a very heavy breakfast, but in the winter it will keep you warm on your way to school.

Dinner

Things are changing and most British people eat meals from many different countries, for example spaghetti (Italian) or curry (Indian). In fact you could even say that the British don't eat much British food! However the most typical thing to eat for dinner is *meat and two veg*. This consists of a piece of meat accompanied by two different boiled or steamed vegetables. This is covered with *gravy* which is a sauce made with the juice that was obtained when the meat was cooked. One of the vegetables is almost always potato. The British eat a lot of potatoes.

Glossary of Typical English Food

Baked Beans: Baked beans are beans cooked in a tomato sauce. They come in cans and are normally eaten on toast. The British are very fond of baked beans.

Bangers and Mash: This is mashed potato with sausages.

Black Pudding: A thick sausage made with blood and fat.

Yorkshire Pudding: A batter made with flour, eggs and milk and cooked in the oven. This is most often eaten with roast beef for Sunday lunch. (Batter is the same mixture that is used to make pancakes).

A Ploughman's Lunch: This is a very popular thing to eat if you eat in a *pub* at midday. It normally consists of a bread roll with a piece of cheese and a pickled onion. By the way, there are many very good pickles that you can buy at the supermarket, for example *Branston Pickle*. Branston Pickle is not sold in any other countries, but it is the perfect accompaniment to cheese. British cheeses are very good. The most famous is Cheddar. Most of the cheeses are named after the region from where they come from, e.g. Red Leicester, Cheshire etc. There is a very good British blue cheese called *Stilton* although it can be rather expensive.

Haggis: This is only normally eaten in Scotland. It is sheep's intestine stuffed with meat and vegetables.

The Fish and Chip Shop: You will almost certainly go to a fish and chip shop when you visit Britain. It is a shop that cooks fried potatoes called chips. Fish, pies and mushy peas usually accompany them. The chips used to be wrapped in newspaper, but now white paper is used. They often ask if you want salt and vinegar to be sprinkled over your chips. Be careful because sometimes they give you too much!

Pies: A pie is usually meat and vegetables surrounded by pastry (pastry is a mixture of flour and butter). It is normally baked in the oven. The content of the pie can be sweet or savoury. Typical examples of pies are *steak and kidney pie* (savoury) or *apple pie*. There are variations of the pie, such as *Cornish Pasties*. Pasties were originally invented so that workingmen could take their food to work with them.

Bread and Butter: When the British eat bread, they almost always cover it with butter or margarine. It is very common to see a plate of bread and butter on the table when you eat. You can use it to soak up the gravy or juices left on your plate.

British Bread: British bread is very good and if you go to the baker there are many different types of bread to choose from. However, although the bread is very good, the most popular type of bread in Britain is sliced white bread. This is sold in plastic packets and is not half as good as the bread that you must cut yourself.

Shopping in the UK

UK is a shopping heaven. There is enough shopping and bargain hunting to gratify even the most ardent of shoppers!

Overseas students living in the UK want to experience another lifestyle and culture, but they sometimes also want to live in an environment they are familiar with, especially buying food from their own countries. Fortunately, the British taste is more international, and it is easy to find food in the supermarkets to satisfy any student's appetite.
In the big cities, there are Chinese and Indian supermarkets, Italian groceries and Japanese sushi bars, although the prices are comparatively higher than where the food originates from.
Most of the food and daily commodities can be found in the supermarkets, but it is better to make a pricing comparison of the supermarkets. Shops close to the dormitory will have special discount for students. For instance, members of some clubs can also enjoy discounts (such as *Tesco Club Card* or *Sainsbury Reward Card* members). Fresh vegetables, fish, meat and bread will have discounts in the evening, buy late and save more. Another bargain place for inexpensive food and clothes is the traditional market.
However, cheaper clothing items can also be bought from the discount areas set in stores all year round, such as Gap and Miss Selfridge. Charity shops selling second hand clothes are also a good source for bargain hunting. Second hand shops operating in the universities may have retro clothing, vintage jeans and denim jackets. Students can definitely find the clothes they want. There are also special times to buy clothes at a cheaper rate, such as January and July when all the high-street shops have sales.

Because competition amongst Variety Stores in the UK is fierce, they always lower the price tags or offer discounts for their merchandise. This is also a good place to visit. Another kind of discount is bundling sales – customers can *buy two get one free* (buy three items for the price of two) *or buy one get one free* (buy two items for the price of one).
Some department stores or shops offer discounts (such as 10% off) for a couple of days, you really can get good quality merchandise for low prices. Some people will even arrive the night before the sales, just to be the first in line!
Online purchases are also growing in Britain. All universities in the UK provide a free and unlimited internet service to their students. You can buy anything online as long as you have a credit card or debit card. Moreover, some online shops have a free delivery service, so it is also a cheap and convenient way to shop.

Despite the fact Britain is a European country, the Euro is still not its currency. However some sizeable stores supermarkets, such as *Marks & Spencer* , *John Lewis* , *Virgin* and *The Body Shop* accept Euros. Even some public telephones located at sightseeing spots also accept Euros.

Sterling pounds (£) is still the currency of the UK. 100 pennies equals £1 (1 sterling pound), usually called the *pound*. The bank notes are printed and issued by Britain's central bank, the Bank of England, but different banks issue banknotes in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The minimum face value of the bank note is £5 in England and Wales, whilst it is £1 in Scotland.
Plastic currency in Britain is very popular and all major shops accept it no matter what the price is. The Debit card replaces the usage of the cheque, but a cheque can also be accepted as long as it is with the presence of a bankcard issued by the same bank. Credit cards can be used anywhere, the most common cards are *Visa* and *Master*. So if students want to study in the UK, it is advisable for them to open a bank account with a local bank, which can issue an international ATM card. With this card they can withdraw cash at

The opening hours of shops in Britain are gradually getting longer. As a matter of fact, some superstores run 24 hours a day. However, the opening hours for most of the shops are from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday to Saturday. Some even open on Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. There are only a very few outlets that don't open during the lunch hour. In some bigger cities, some shops are open until 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm from every Wednesday to Friday. Of course there are public holidays every year, but the majority of shops close only on Christmas Day (25th December), the Boxing Day (26th December) and the New Year Day (1st January).

Cambridge City Guide

Cambridge is home of the world-famous university and a compact cosmopolitan city with outstanding architecture, old and new. The beauty of its ancient centre is beautifully preserved with its medieval streets, college courts, gardens and bridges. 23% of its population is students, making Cambridge a highly academic and youthful city. Cambridge is easy to get to by road, rail or air, being just 50 minutes from central London and 20 minutes from London Stansted Airport.

What's Nearby?

Grantchester: Where you can go punting or have *afternoon tea* in the Orchard Tea Gardens.
Historic Norwich: Is only a 1-hour train journey from Cambridge.
Newmarket: Only 30 minutes by rail, this market town is home to the famous Newmarket Racecourse.
Ely: Is a 15-minute train journey from Cambridge and boasts a number of remarkable buildings, including a beautiful cathedral.
Central London: Is also only a 45-minute train ride from Cambridge, ideal for opportunities to travel Europe using the Eurostar or flying from Stansted International Airport.

Cambridge itself has a plethora of things to do. Whether you fancy a glass of wine by the river, entertainment or shopping, this cosmopolitan city offers international students a hedonistic mix of culture and community living.

Sightseeing in Cambridge

Top attractions in Cambridge:

- The Round Church
- The Old Cavendish Laboratories
- The Bridge of Sighs
- The Mathematical Bridge
- The Senate House
- The University Library
- Great St Mary's Church
- The Fitzwilliam Museum

Parks & Gardens

A few colleges will charge you to walk the grounds. However, we would definitely recommend you to visit the following:
The Backs: With spectacular views across the river, at the back of riverside colleges.
Castle Mound: Motte of William the Conquerors' castle and views of the town and country.
Jesus Green: Acres of grass, with an outdoor pool in the summer.
Parkers Piece: Famous for being the place for the invention of football and a fabulous place to relax.
Botanic Gardens: Scenic landscaped gardens and glasshouses with an extensive collection of plants.

Shopping

Cambridge is an incredible place to shop, especially since the redevelopment of the Grand Arcade. This stylish mall includes designer outlets and larger department stores (e.g. John Lewis, Topshop, New Look). It's easy to find what you're looking for, be it fashion or food. Across town, you can find a different shopping experience at the Grafton Centre, home to BHS, Debenhams, a cinema and lots of eateries.

Nightlife

Although Cambridge doesn't have as large a choice of nightclubs available as in other UK cities, it is a very historical city – and this is mirrored in its longstanding pubs and restaurants. Because of the high student population, there are many student centred activities in the evenings. Check out our recommended spots:

ADC Theatre: See Cambridge Footlights, where famous British actors, Emma Thompson and Stephen Fry, launched their careers.
The Corn Exchange & the Arts Theatre: Both in the heart of Cambridge boast marvellous productions year-round.

Eating Out

Cambridge offers a great range of places for eating out.

Jamie Oliver's Italian: For famous 'Jamie' dishes.
The Cambridge Chop House: 50 yards from Kings College Chapel, the Cambridge Chop House serves customary British food.
Varsity: The River Bar Steakhouse & Grill is located on the Quayside, with breath-taking views of the river.
Don Pasquale's: For Al Fresco dining.
CB2: Visit here for live music, home cooked food and an incredible wine list.

Our Language Centres in Cambridge

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)

East Road, CB1 1PT

They were also ranked top 3 in the UK for their Welcome, Arrival and Orientation Programme for new international students in 2010.

Anglia Ruskin has over 30,000 students and is one of the largest universities in the East of England.

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Cambridge Regional College (CRC)

Kings Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2QT

Cambridge Regional College (CRC) provides excellent facilities with modern surroundings and state-of-the-art technology.

A friendly environment, supported by qualified, experienced and enthusiastic staff makes this an exceptional centre of academic study.

CRC also provides a number of student & personal support services, including study support and careers guidance.

Our Programmes in Cambridge

Year-Round Short Term English Programmes

General English Programme

Location: Cambridge
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Elementary to Advanced
Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 25 hours

Intensive English Programme

Location: Cambridge
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 16+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level A1
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to use English in everyday situations
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

Academic English Programme

Location: Cambridge
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level A2
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: Students that wish to improve their study skills
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

Business English Programme

Location: Cambridge
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 21+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level B1
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: Business professionals that wish to improve their English confidence and fluency for work purposes
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full-board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

International Summer School

Summer School Programme

Location: Cambridge
Dates: June, July and August
Duration: 1-4 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Elementary to Advanced
Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
No. Of Lessons Per Week: 15 hours
No. Of Activities & Excursions Per Week: 1.5-2 days

Oxford City Guide

Oxford, *The City of Dreaming Spires*, is famous the world over for its University and place in history. For over 800 years, it has been a home to royalty and scholars, and since the 9th century an established town, although people are known to have lived in the area for thousands of years. Oxford is located centrally within the country, about 50 miles northwest of London and has a population of 138,597 (Census 2001). Oxford is a major historic city with a modern service economy as well as a major manufacturing and academic centre.

What's Nearby?

Blenheim Palace: only 15 minutes from Oxford, Blenheim Palace is considered to be one of the finest baroque houses in the country.

Stonehenge: Is a little over 1 hour from Oxford. Stonehenge is a prehistoric monument located in the English county of Wiltshire, about 2 miles (3.2 km) west of Amesbury and 8 miles (13 km) north of Salisbury. The Cotswolds: The nearest Cotswolds town is a mere 30 minutes from Oxford. The Cotswold area includes famous cities like Bath.
London: Is 1 hour by train from central Oxford.

Oxford is incredibly rich in heritage and history and is one of the seven cities in Britain to ne awarded Heritage City status. It is also the place of Britain's oldest university, with over 20,000 students.

Sightseeing

Top attractions in Oxford:

- University Church of St Mary the Virgin
- Saxon Tower of St Michael at the North Gate
- Sheldonian Theatre
- The Ashmolean Museum
- The Thames, the Cherwell and Oxford Canal
- The University of Oxford Botanic Garden
- Christ's Meadow, St Aldate's
- Magdalen College

Parks & Gardens

University Parks: These include 70 acres of parkland on the west bank of the river Cherwell. There are sports areas and a variety of plants and trees, making it an excellent place to picnic or just take a break!

Shopping

Oxford is brimming with antique shops, bookshops and high street names. If you're looking for souvenirs you might want to visit the market, otherwise the Clarendon Centre has everything under one roof for convenient shopping!

Try the Covered Market for eateries, fashion accessories and flowers.

Nightlife

Oxford can offer students, visitors and residents a fabulous nightlife. Make the most of the riverside pubs on a sunny evening or visit the bountiful independent cinemas and theatres.

Eating Out

In Oxford, you can enjoy fine dining or a modest sandwich. Choose from English, Chinese or Indian cuisine. If that isn't enough to tickle your tastebuds, then you can still eat at established chains like,
Pierre Victoire, Jamie Oliver's Italian and fast food restaurants, Burger King and KFC.

Try the Old Parsonage, a cosy and intimate restaurant with the best of British cooking and a fine wine list.

Our Language Centres in Oxford

Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

Norham Gardens, Oxford, OX2 6QA

In the summers, our partner school holds part of our summer school at Lady Margaret Hall (LMH), University of Oxford, allowing our students to study in the same classrooms used during the academic year by Oxford University students. LMH is also just a 5-minute walk from trendy North Parade, a small haven of galleries and restaurants that is popular with students for lunchtime wanderings. Today, LMH is one of the most well respected colleges in the Oxford University system. It also has one of the most beautiful campuses of all the Oxford colleges, being situated in the northern part of the city surrounded by the University Parks, the River Cherwell, and unmaintained nature areas.

Oxford & Cherwell College

Oxpens Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 1SA

Founded in 2003, Oxford and Cherwell College is the largest institute in the south of the UK, where there are about 17,000 students, of whom, about 700 come from different countries.

Oxford and Cherwell College is situated in the famous city of Oxford. It has four campuses and offers specialised and online courses for students who plan to study in Oxford and Cherwell College. The international campus is close to the beautiful Oxford River, and it only takes a few minutes walk to reach the busy shopping malls.

Oxford School of English

4th Floor, Claredon House, Shoe Lane, Oxford, OX1 2DP

Located in the very centre of Oxford, just a few metres from all the main bus stops and a very short walk from most of the city's key attractions, Oxford School of English is one of the city's most popular English language schools. Oxford School of English combines low prices with high academic standards and is accredited by the British Council.

Oxford School of English is located in a spacious and quiet building in the centre of Oxford, a few metres from the main shopping streets (Cornmarket Street and Queen Street).

Our Programmes in Oxford

Year-Round Short Term English Programmes

General English Programme

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Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 25 hours

Intensive English Programme

Location: Oxford
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 16+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level A1
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to use English in everyday situations
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

International Summer School

Academic English Programme

Location: Oxford
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level A2
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: Students that wish to improve their study skills
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

Business English Programme

Location: Oxford
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 21+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level B1
Other Entry Requirements: None
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Duration: 1-4 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Elementary to Advanced
Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
No. Of Lessons Per Week: 15 hours
No. Of Activities & Excursions Per Week: 1.5-2 days

School Group Travel

UK & Europe

Our School Group Travel Programmes are tailored for overseas schools wanting to give their students a truly unique experience. This is an opportunity for students to practice their English and also have a taster of British or European history and culture.

For secondary school students thinking about studying in the UK or Europe, this is a great immersion experience.

UK School Group Travel Programme

Dates: June, July and August
Duration: 1-4 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Elementary to Advanced
Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Destinations: Cambridge, York, Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford and London
Accommodation: Single or shared room, full board (Groups)
No. Of Activities & Excursions Per Week: 6 days

European School Group Travel Programme

Dates: June, July and August
Duration: 1-4 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Elementary to Advanced
Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Destinations: London, Paris, Koln and Amsterdam
Accommodation: Single or shared room, full board (Groups)
No. Of Activities & Excursions Per Week: 6 days

Studying & Living in the USA

Life in the USA

The USA boasts the world's largest international student population of nearly 600,000 and growing. If you are planning to live, learn or work in the United States, then you obviously have an incredible sense of adventure. In this section, we hope to prepare you for living in the U.S.

American Culture

One of the trademarks of American culture is independence. Please take a look at some of the advice offered by our international students if you are considering a place in a U.S. high school, college, university or work environment.

1. Take the initiative: Because of the American culture of independence, you must make the effort to get to know people.
2. If you need help, ask for it!
3. Say yes if you want to accept an offer of food or drink: In some cultures it is polite to refuse an offer two or three times. However, in America, you may only get asked once – so say, "Yes, please" if you want it!
4. Get involved: There are lots of group activities in American society and this is an important initiation for lots of Native American students. Try to join a group in order to make friends and understand more about becoming a true American!

U.S. Holidays & Customs

A fun way to learn about a different culture is to participate in its traditions. Below are a few holidays Americans celebrate throughout the year:

- 1 January: New Year's Day
- 3rd Monday in January: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 3rd Monday of February: President's Day. Honor past U.S. presidents like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln
- Last Monday of May: Memorial Day. Remember the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces
- 4 July: Independence Day. This is the date Americans marked when 13 U.S. states declared their independence from England in 1776
- 1st Monday in September: Labor Day. Celebrate the economic and social contributions of workers throughout the U.S.
- 2nd Monday in October: Columbus Day. Pay tribute to the man thought to have been the first to discover America in 1492.
- Last Thursday in November: Thanksgiving Day. Share in a traditional meal that commemorates the dinner eaten by the pilgrims and the Native Americans.
- 25 December: Christmas Day

Transportation

Whether you are living on or off campus or school grounds, there are lots of transportation options for getting around the U.S.

BICYCLES

This is a great way to travel around your local area. A bike is relatively inexpensive and a good way to stay fit and healthy! You should take care to observe the road and always wear a helmet. As with all personal property, you should lock up your bike when you are not using it. Most schools provide a bike rack so you should invest in a lock in order to ensure the security of your bike.

BUSES

If you are living in a city the bus system will be quite expensive. If you live in the suburbs, you may find buses do not run as frequently as inside the city and you will have to look for alternative ways to get around. For longer routes, *Greyhound* operates an extensive and inexpensive means to travelling across the USA. However, be warned, it can take a long time to get from one location to another.

TRAINS & SUBWAYS

Subways can be found in many major cities: New York, Boston and Chicago to name a few. They are also a very convenient, fast and economical way to travel.

TAXIS

Taxis can be very expensive for students and should only be used for longer journeys that are too far to walk or cycle and if there are no bus or train systems near where you need to go.

Remember: Always check the driver has a valid ID card on display and that the meter is running. Do not get in a taxi if the driver has asked for a fixed fee!

SAFETY ISSUES

It is a good idea to educate yourself and take steps to reduce any potential safety issues while you are residing in the U.S. You can do this by familiarising yourself with well-lit paths and sidewalks in your local area. The school's security office may offer a service for ensuring your safety. Don't forget to ask about this. At home keep your door locked and your windows closed. Get to know some of the families in your neighbourhood so you can watch out for each other. As with all safety precautions, sue your common sense!

Money Matters

As you may already know now, paying for a first-rate education in the U.S. does not come cheap. Nevertheless, with the right preparation, you can reduce the costs of this incredible opportunity.

In this section we explore money matters you might encounter on a regular basis during your time in the U.S.

As in any country, it is not advisable to carry large amounts of cash on you. Debit cards, credit cards and traveller's checks are all viable ways with which to pay for goods in America.

Traveller's checks are perhaps one of the safest and easiest means of transporting money because they can be replaced if they are lost or stolen. If you do choose to carry traveller's checks from your home country, make sure they are denominated in U.S. funds. Most major businesses (excluding public transport), will accept this method of payment during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm).

We would suggest you bring a minimum of $100 in cash on your arrival in the U.S. so you can arrange to take a taxi or an alternative means of transport to your residence.

U.S. Currency

The United States Currency is based on the decimal system so $1 is equal to 100 cents. The most common coins and their equivalencies are as follows:

- 1 penny = 1 cent or 0.01 dollars
- 1 nickel = 5 cents or 0.05 dollars
- 1 dime = 10 cents or 0.10 dollars
- 1 quarter = 25 cents or 0.25 dollars

It will take a few days to get used to the currency system. For instance, $1 is reasonable for a can of Coca-Cola from a vending machine, but $2 for the same item is expensive.

Bank Accounts

After you arrive in the U.S. you will need to think about opening a checking account. In many cases, you can deposit traveller's checks for free or arrange a wire transfer from your overseas bank for a fee of $35. Subsequently, you can then make an unlimited number of additional deposits and withdrawals. However, you must ensure you have sufficient funds in your account to cover any outgoing expenses. If you don't the bank may impose a fine for going overdrawn. There
is also usually a waiting period after you deposit money in the bank so the bank can avoid any fraudulent activity.

You will require some form of identification if you want to open a checking account. If you don't have a Social Security Number, fill out an IRS Form W-8, which the bank can supply.

Banks offer a number of different checking accounts. You should research which account might be best for you before committing to one.

Lots of college students like the convenience of the Money Access Card (MAC) or Automatic Teller Machine (ATM). These cards allow account holders to make deposits, withdrawals and other transactions 24-hours a day. If you have an ATM card from your home country, ask a bank representative whether you can use it.

If you lose your MAC or ATM card, report it to your local bank immediately.

Once a month, the bank will normally send you a statement of your transactions. It is important you check their records match your records and no errors have been made. If you have any questions, you should contact your local bank.

Credit & Debit Cards

Credit cards are accepted nationwide. In fact, certain purchases are virtually impossible to make without one. A credit card is a good idea if you want to keep track of your financial spending, but it may also be a very expensive option if you don't pay the balance on the account within the specified deadline. Again, make sure you do your research so you can make an informed decision.

Some banks are reluctant to issue credit cards to international students due to their absence of credit history in the U.S. if you do already have a major credit (for example, American Express, Visa or MasterCard), bring it with you. This may increase the possibility of the bank offering you a credit card.

Debit cards are another option. You can use this like a credit card so you can withdraw money from ATM's and make purchases. Unlike credit cards, the money is taken from your account instantly, meaning you can't overspend!

American Food

American food differs from state to state. New England is popular for its seafood (particularly Lobster) and creamy chowder made with clams and potatoes.

The Southern states are known for their *soul food*, such as collard greens (leafy greens), fried chicken and cornbread. Grits (ground, boiled corn) is also a common dish in the South.

In the Midwest, potatoes and bread are the traditional foods. The city of Chicago is famous for its deep-dish pizza and BBQ ribs.

Over in the Pacific Northwest, fresh salmon is a specialty and in the Southwest *tex-mex* food, like *Chilli* (a spicy beef stew) and *chiles rellenos* (stuffed chillies) are incredibly popular.

California and Hawaii are reputed for their varieties of fruit, while Alaska is celebrated for its fish and King crab.

So remember, America does not just serve junk food!

Shopping

When it comes to shopping, we think its quality not just quantity that counts. That's why we have put together a list of the top 8 spots for the budget conscious and big spenders too!

1. New York:
Why Go? NYC is brimming with fashion icons and stylish storefronts lining *Fifth Avenue*, *Soho* and the *East Village*. There are a variety of stores for travellers of all tastes and budgets.

Things to do:

- Go to Central Park
- Visit the American Museum of Natural History
- See the Rockefeller Center

2. Chicago
Why Go? Chi-town's mile long stretch on Michigan Avenue, otherwise known as the Magnificent Mile. You'll also want to visit The Loop's State Street and Wicker Park's boutiques and antique shops.

Things to do:

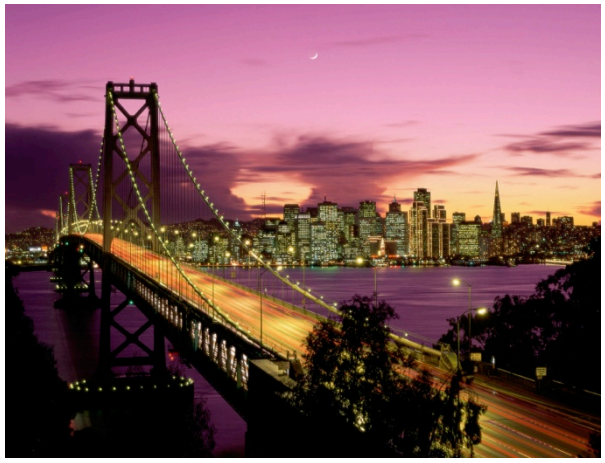
- Visit the Chicago Architecture Foundation
- See Millennium Park
- Take a trip to Lincoln Zoo

3. Los Angeles
Why Go? Shopaholics will love L.A's shopping scene. Upscale shopping streets like Rodeo Drive and Wiltshire Boulevard. L.A. has lots of chic boutiques and vintage shops too.

Things to do:

- Visit the J. Paul Getty Center
- Take a trip to Santa Monica Pier & Beach
- See Griffith Observatory

4. San Francisco
Why Go? The City by the Bay stands as flashy L.A.'s funky cousin. While you'll find the usual chains and high-end shops scattering Union Square, San Fran also boasts a bounty of indie boutiques and second-hand shops lining Chestnut, Union, and Fillmore streets.



Things to do:

- Take a trip to Golden Gate Bridge
- Visit Mission District
- Take a ride on the Cable Cars

5. Miami
Why Go? Downtown Miami features discount shopping, from luggage to leather, while Coral Gables showcases designer goods. Coconut Grove is known for their mix of boho shops and chain stores, and Calle Ocho in Little Havana is the best place to find baked goods.

Things to do:

- Visit Miami Beach
- See the Vizcaya Museum & Gardens
- Take a trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art

6. Minneapolis St. Paul
Why Go? Serious shoppers should make the pilgrimage to the Mall of America if not for the sheer amount of shops for the discounted designer re-sale items.

Things to do:

- See the Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- Take a trip to the Chain of Lakes
- Visit the Guthrie Theatre

7. Houston
Why Go? The greater Houston area doesn't have too many landmarks, but most natives will know exactly where you are talking about if you name the nearest shopping centre. An extraordinary outlet mall, Katy Mills marks the city's western edge, and you shouldn't miss out on the massive Galleria in Uptown.

Things to do:

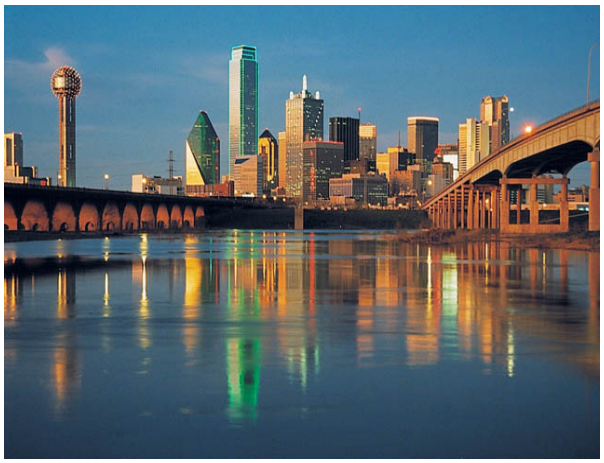
- See Buffalo Bayou
- Take a trip to the Menil Collection
- Visit the Holocaust Museum

8. Dallas: Fort Worth

Why Go? Shopping is a dress-up affair in Dallas, Texas—the home of the country's first department store, Neiman Marcus. Residents take their shopping very seriously here, and they accomplish it in sprawling malls, such as Highland Park Village for designer-wear and The Galleria for its cosmopolitan shops.

Things to do:

- Visit Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District
- Take a trip to the Sixth Floor Museum
- See Kimbell Art Museum



Our U.S. Centres

California State University
California

CSU is a leader in high-quality, accessible, student-focused higher education. With 23 campuses, almost 437,000 students, and 44,000 faculty and staff, they are the largest, the most diverse, and one of the most affordable university systems in the country.

It is one of three public higher education systems in the state, the other two being the University of California system and the California Community College system. In the 2011-12 academic year, CSU awarded 52% of newly issued California teaching credentials, 47% of the state's engineering degrees, 28% of the state's information technology bachelor's degrees, and had more graduates in business (50%), agriculture (72%), communications, health (53%), education and public administration (52%) than all other California universities and colleges combined.

Washington Language School
Washington

Washington Language School is our new school based in Washington DC.

Founded on July 16, 1790, Washington DC is unique among American cities because it was established by the Constitution of the United States to serve as the nation’s capital. Visit the Smithsonian, tour national monuments, memorials and the three houses of government, and take a walk through Georgetown.

Washington DC is a place of rich heritage, history and culture. A great location to visit and study!

Our U.S. Programmes

Year-Round Short Term English Programmes

General English Programme

Location: California
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Elementary to Advanced
Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 25 hours

Intensive English Programme

Location: California
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 16+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level A1
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to learn and use English in everyday situations
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

Academic English Programme

Location: California
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level A2
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: Students that wish to improve their study skills
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

Business English Programme

Location: California
Dates: Year-Round (January to December)
Duration: 1-33 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 21+
English Level: Minimum English language entry requirement of CEFR Level B1
Other Entry Requirements: None
Overview: Business professionals that wish to improve their English confidence and fluency for work purposes
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
Lessons Per Week: 30 hours

International Summer School

California Summer School Programme

Location: California
Dates: June, July and August
Duration: 1-4 weeks
Start: Any Monday
Age: 12+
English Level: Elementary to Advanced
Entry Requirements: None
Overview: For students that want to improve their general English skills, make friends from other countries and experience western life.
Accommodation: Homestay, full board (Individuals); Shared room, full board (Groups)
No. Of Lessons Per Week: 15 hours
No. Of Activities & Excursions Per Week: 1.5-2 days

Working in the USA

Summer Work & Travel USA

Work & Travel USA is, as its name suggests, an exchange visitor programme that gives you the opportunity to work and travel in the United States. As a participant, you will have the unique chance to experience life in the U.S. as more than just a tourist. You will also be able to share your own traditions and culture with the American people, as well as other international students.

Once you meet the requirements of the programme and you're accepted, we will do the following:

- ✓ We will provide you with the proper documents so you can obtain a visa.
- ✓ We guarantee you a job offer, which generally includes pre-arranged, affordable housing.
- ✓ You will get further information regarding the parameters of the Work & Travel programme and living and working in the U.S.

Work With Your Friends

Many participants are interested in sharing the work and travel experience with friends, boyfriends, girlfriends or a family member. If you want to be placed with someone else:

- ✓ You must qualify for all the positions you are requesting.
- ✓ We need to get the request at least 3 months before the start of the programme.
- ✓ You must arrive in the U.S. together.

Summer Work & Travel USA Programme

Location: Various
Type of Job: Entry-level in the Hospitality industry
Duration: 3-4 months
Age: 18-30
English Level: Proficient enough in English to successfully interact in an English speaking environment
Entry Requirements: Post-secondary school students enrolled in and actively pursuing a degree or other full-time course of study at an accredited classroom based, post-secondary educational institution outside the United States OR have successfully completed at least one semester or equivalent of post-secondary academic study
Overview: For students that want to experience life in the United States
Accommodation: Homestay, full board

Join Us Today

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