

# **Handbook for Accepted Students**

**Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program**

**Oberlin College**

**Spring 2020**

**Modernism, Politics, and Theater in Britain**

**Read this carefully, do the items on the checklist, turn in the accompanying forms, and share with your family.**

**Take this handbook with you to London.**

This handbook is also available on the program website,  
[www.oberlin.edu/london](http://www.oberlin.edu/london).

The information in this Handbook is current at the time of writing and is provided in good faith. However, Oberlin College takes no legal responsibility for any omissions or errors. This is a living document; please send comments or corrections to [london@oberlin.edu](mailto:london@oberlin.edu).

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## **Greetings from the Resident Director**

Dear Oberlin Students,

Let me extend a warm hello to anyone reading this Handbook who has been accepted to study in London on the Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program. I write to you as the London Director of the program to introduce myself and this important handbook of information as you prepare to travel to London.

The Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program aims to fulfill the promise contained in its very name. That is, it strives to combine the best features of a small liberal arts college – accessible faculty dedicated to scholarship and to teaching, working closely with students eager for an education that privileges critical thinking, open-minded inquiry, and high academic standards – with the resources of one of the most culturally rich and humanly diverse cities on the planet.

Students can thus expect an academic program tailored to combine classroom-based study with experiential learning. How this happens varies with the design of each year's program. But what programs will have in common is a commitment to use London, and sometimes also the wider UK, as a classroom. This means that such things as field trips, visits, theatre performances, concerts, walks, speakers, and independent projects that make use of London's myriad opportunities will be planned to complement lectures, discussions, and readings.

Beyond the structured opportunities for learning presented by the Oberlin-in-London Program there lie the wider possibilities of life in London. This is your chance to put down roots in a major world city and to start to make it your own. Whatever your enthusiasms may be, London will offer you opportunities to pursue them. Even better, you may discover new enthusiasms. What is certain is that London is an inexhaustible treasure-house, a wide-open, three-dimensional encyclopedia of human life, history, and culture. If you don't believe me, get busy now on the internet: use your research skills to discover the sorts of venues, groups, activities, and events – mainstream and specialist – that London has to offer.

I greatly look forward to meeting you in London one day soon and to sharing my love of this astonishing city. Please feel free to be in touch with me before then if, having read this handbook, you have more questions.

Note also that, while every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the information provided below, things in London change all the time. Phone numbers may be out of date, organizations may have folded, etc. If you spot inaccuracies in this handbook, please let me know!

With very best wishes,

Prof. Donna Vinter  
Resident Director

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## **Checklist of important tasks**

Don't use this checklist as a substitute for careful reading of other information and future bulletins, daunting as that may seem! You are responsible for reading, accepting and acting upon ALL the information we send.

- \_\_\_ 1. **Obtain a passport, or make sure the one you have is up to date.** If you already have a passport, make sure that it is valid for at least 6 months after the END of your stay in the UK. If you have questions about applying for a passport, visit the following website: <https://passports.state.gov/> . Start work on this immediately. It can take a good many weeks, and the documents you need to submit for a passport have to be originals or certified copies.
- \_\_\_ 2. **Leave a photocopy of the identifying pages of your passport at home.**
- \_\_\_ 3. **If you are not an American or UK citizen, OR if you are a dual citizen or the holder of a green card, you may need a visa** along with your passport to enter Great Britain. Check with your embassy or the British consulate ([www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)) to see what you may need. **If you are an American citizen, you do not need a visa.**
- \_\_\_ 4. **By Friday, November 8, complete and return the Euracom Booking Agreement** to Rochelle Travis in Carnegie 124. A copy of this document is included here as an appendix for reference when you are in London.
- \_\_\_ 5. **By Friday, Nov. 15, complete the Waiver of Liability form, the Health & Medical Information form, and the Personal Data Questionnaire linked from the program page on [studyaway.oberlin.edu](http://studyaway.oberlin.edu).**
- \_\_\_ 6. **Make sure you have received your original signed letters, one signed by Donna Vinter, the other by the Registrar.** You will get these in December from Rochelle Travis. Keep them with your passport and flight information. It is essential that you carry all of these to be readily available for immigration officials when you enter Britain (i.e., don't pack them in your luggage).
- \_\_\_ 7. **Register for London courses** before you leave campus. You will be given consent to register for the courses, but you must actually register for them.
- \_\_\_ 8. **Check your financial status** with Student Accounts, Financial Aid Office, etc., to ensure that you will not have any outstanding bills at Oberlin College at the time you arrive in London, and that payment of next semester's bill has been arranged.
- \_\_\_ 9. **Complete your paperwork for financial aid awards** well in advance. In particular, request an electronic transfer on the Stafford Loan application. Stop by the Financial Aid Office to sign a promissory note for the Perkins loan.

- \_\_\_10. **Pick up and fill out a degree application form** from the Registrar’s Office if you will be graduating in May.
- \_\_\_11. **Speak to the Housing Coordinator** if you are uncertain how the housing selection process will work for people who are off campus on ENR status.
- \_\_\_12. **Buy a round-trip plane ticket to London.** A one-way ticket is not acceptable. The Immigration Officer will want to see evidence of when you plan to leave the UK. **NOTE: Do not book a flight that takes you to London via Dublin.** Coming via Dublin means that you will arrive in London via a domestic flight and will not receive a UK passport stamp; therefore you will not have any formal immigration status. You will have to leave the UK and re-enter before you can validly participate on the program. **See “Schedule” below for guidance about arrival and end-of-program dates.** To find the best airfare available, you should check and compare on the following websites: <https://www.kayak.com/flights>; <http://www.farecompare.com/>; <http://www.studentuniverse.com/> (which often offers special student rates).
- \_\_\_13. **By January 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest, provide your travel information on the Google Docs spreadsheet** that will be shared with you. With this information, you may discover that there are fellow Obies on your flight with whom you can arrange transport from the airport into London.
- \_\_\_14. **Make arrangements for any medical check-ups, transfer of health records, filling of prescriptions, etc.** Check whether you need additional vaccinations. You are advised in particular to be sure to be up to date on both meningitis and hepatitis B vaccines. A flu shot is also strongly recommended.
- \_\_\_15. **Make appropriate arrangements for accessing funds while you are in London.** See below, [Getting money to London](#).
- \_\_\_16. **Make a budget.** Use the information you have gathered about what you would like to do while abroad and the information provided in this handbook concerning costs, and make a realistic budget for yourself. And then make a plan for how you are going to stick to it.
- \_\_\_17. **Make arrangements with a friend to act as your proxy for housing and other campus matters while you are in London.** Forms will be sent to you in London for anything that cannot be done electronically, but it’s useful to have a proxy on campus as well.
- \_\_\_18. **Make sure a family member has all the relevant telephone numbers and addresses for reaching you in an emergency.** Remind them about the five-hour (east coast) time difference. A phone call at 3 am London time needs to be an emergency – especially if made to the Resident Director!
- \_\_\_19. **Make absolutely sure the London Resident Director ([dvinter@oberlin.edu](mailto:dvinter@oberlin.edu) ) has contact information for you for the winter break period.** It may be necessary

to contact you in a hurry and right at the last minute. During this time, consider whether anything needs to be updated since you entered this information online.

- \_\_\_ **20. Have a digital passport-type photograph of yourself available.** The Resident Director will be sending you information about how to apply for a London Transport Student Oyster Card, entitling you to 30% off the cost of Weekly or Monthly Travelcards in London (for Underground and bus travel). You will need a digital photograph in order to make this application.
- \_\_\_ **21. Consider your travel plans while in the UK.** Eurail passes can only be purchased in America, not in Europe. The earlier the purchase, the cheaper the ticket for the Eurostar (the Channel tunnel train) and most of the cheap airlines. Youth hostels, which can provide the best cheap accommodation, can book up fast, particularly in cities. Do some research so that you can make the best of your opportunities.
- \_\_\_ **22. Prepare for your London experience: do some reading!** You will enjoy and profit from your experience more if you have prepared. See below “Suggested Reading” for some titles, both fiction and non-fiction. Use the internet to see what issues are current in the British media. The websites of the BBC and Channel Four News are good places to start, as are those of major newspapers, such as *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *The Times* [*The Times* has a paywall]. (These are linked from the London Program website.) Also take some time to look at maps of the city where you will be living and studying.

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## General Information

### ➤ Semester schedule

Dates	Description
Monday, 27 January	<b>Fly to London</b> (flights leave the US in the early evening to arrive in the UK the next morning)
Tuesday, 28 January	<b>Arrival in London</b>
Wednesday, 29 January	<b>Welcome Tea</b>
Thursday, 30 January	<b>Free day</b>
Friday 31 January to Sunday 2 February	<b>MANDATORY ORIENTATION</b>
Monday, 3 February	<b>Classes begin</b>
Saturday, 14 March to Sunday, 22 March	<b>Spring Break</b>
Thursday, 30 April	<b>Last day of classes</b>



Monday, 4 May	<b>Program ends. Recommended departure date.</b> You will need time to clean your flat and tie up loose ends after the completion of the semester. This is the day when pre-arranged housing contracts will end.
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➤ **Office and classrooms**

The Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program leases space from the Florida State University London Study Centre, at 99-103 Great Russell Street, near the British Museum in the Bloomsbury district of central London. We have a program office and use of a classroom. Students also have the use of the small Study Centre library, two computer labs (open 24 hours a day), a small student lounge, and a quiet study area. The Oberlin office is Room 29.

The FSU London Study Centre also leases space to the study abroad programs of several other American colleges and universities, including, for example, at present Grinnell College, Drew University, Bucknell University, Lawrence University, The George Washington University, Wake Forest University, and Hollins College.

The building is open to students and monitored by security staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students will receive a photo ID card that will provide access to the building. **For security reasons, this ID card must be in your possession at all times that you are in the building.**

The website for the FSU London Study Centre is <http://international.fsu.edu/london>.

➤ **Directions to the Program office**

The nearest Underground station is **Tottenham Court Road**, on the Northern and the Central lines. Take Exit 2, where you'll come out on Tottenham Court Road near the Dominion Theatre. Pass the theater on your right, then turn right at the first corner, which will be onto Great Russell Street. The FSU building is a block and a half down Great Russell Street, on the north side of the street (*i.e.* your left hand). The main entrance is at no. 99.

➤ **Mail at the Program office**

Students may receive mail, both letters and packages, at the address below.

Oberlin-in-London Program  
c/o FSU Study Centre  
99-103 Great Russell Street, Office 29  
London WC1B 3LA

Be sure to ask that "Oberlin-in-London" be included as part of your address when things are sent to you. If you would like to send packages to yourself in London c/o the teaching site, please be sure that they do not arrive before mid-January.

There is one exception to the above! FSU will no longer sign for or take delivery of student packages sent via FedEx. The reason for this is that there is often a customs or waybill charge to be paid, which FedEx does not disclose at the time of delivery. FSU has received many requests

from FedEx for payment after the student has left London. **Students should therefore have their packages sent via UPS, DHL, or Parcelforce.**

➤ **Student regulations**

Students on the Oberlin-in-London Program are expected to follow all academic and student conduct policies as outlined in the Oberlin College Course Catalog and the Student Regulations, Policies and Procedures, available at <http://new.oberlin.edu/office/dean-of-students/conduct/>

Life in London will demand responsibility and maturity, and the London Program Committee has accordingly adopted the following statement:

“Behaviour which, in the judgment of the London Program Director and faculty, substantially impedes the educational experiences of that student or other program participants may result in the removal of the student from the program. In such instances and where appropriate, reasonable efforts will be made to enable the student to complete the semester on the Oberlin campus.”

➤ **Contact information**

**In Oberlin**

**Marc Blecher**

Professor of Politics

[Marc.Blecher@oberlin.edu](mailto:Marc.Blecher@oberlin.edu)

(440) 775-8493

**Maureen Peters**

Professor of Biology; Chair, London Program Committee

[Maureen.Peters@oberlin.edu](mailto:Maureen.Peters@oberlin.edu)

(440) 775-8320

**Michael Rainaldi**

Director of Study Away

[Michael.Rainaldi@oberlin.edu](mailto:Michael.Rainaldi@oberlin.edu)

(440) 775-5226

**David Walker**

Professor of English

[David.Walker@oberlin.edu](mailto:David.Walker@oberlin.edu)

(440) 775-8584

**Rochelle Travis**

Administrative Assistant

[Rochelle.Travis@oberlin.edu](mailto:Rochelle.Travis@oberlin.edu)

(440) 775-6499

**Campus Security Emergency Number**

(440) 775-8911 (24-hour line)

**In London**

**Oberlin-in-London Program**

c/o FSU Study Centre

99-103 Great Russell Street, Office 29

London WC1B 3LA

Tel. +44 20 7419 1178

**FSU Study Centre Reception Desk**

Head Receptionist: Janice Moody

Tel. +44 (0)20 7813 3223

Fax. +44 (0)20 7813 3266

**Prof. Donna Vinter, Resident Director**

[dvinter@oberlin.edu](mailto:dvinter@oberlin.edu)

Tel. +44 20 7419 1178 (Oberlin Office)

+44 20 7813 3265 (Grinnell College Office)

+44 20 8995 0049 (Home)

+44 (0)7754 182 389 (Mobile: emergency use only)

*Please don't ask Reception Desk staff to take messages unless it's extremely urgent. Several hundred students use this building.*

➤ **Emergencies in London & Europe**

The UK emergency number is 999. An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in danger. Use 999 to call police, ambulance or the fire brigade in such an emergency. 999 calls are free of charge.

The European emergency number is 112. It operates just like 999, and will also work in the UK. Calls to 112 are also free of charge.

➤ **Phoning the UK from the US**

The full string of numbers to phone, for example, the Oberlin office is: **011 44 20 7419 1178**

“011” puts you through to the international system. “44” is the UK “country code” in that system. The numbers that follow are London-specific numbers.

➤ **Phoning within the UK**

Unlike in the US, UK telephone numbers clearly distinguish between mobile phone and landline numbers. All mobile phone numbers begin ‘07’. London landline numbers begin ‘020’, normally followed by either a ‘7’ or an ‘8’, and then 7 more digits. Many organisations, helplines, etc. have numbers beginning ‘0800’, ‘0844’ or ‘0845’.

- a) To phone a London landline from outside London, you need to use the full London number: 020 7419 1178. Note that the first “0” drops out when you are phoning from abroad.
- b) To phone any landline in London or outside London from a mobile phone, you need to use the full number: 020 7419 1178.
- c) To phone a mobile phone from another mobile phone or from a landline, you need to use the full number: 07754 182 389.

➤ **Phoning the US from the UK**

The full string of numbers begins with “001,” then the area code, then the seven-digit number.

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## **Housing**

Housing is arranged by Euracom, a provider of pre-arranged flats for American students in London. The college has a long-standing relationship with Euracom; the flats are central, safe, secure, and reasonably well equipped. Utilities are included, so there are no extra costs apart from an end-of-tenancy cleaning charge. There is a property manager to deal with maintenance and emergencies.

**The College makes no representations or warranties and accepts no responsibility regarding the suitability and safety of any housing arrangement entered into by a student.**

### ➤ **Description of Euracom flats**

The group of flats we are currently using house between 3 and 7 students each. The flats vary in layout, but a three-bedroom flat for 5 students might have two twin bedrooms and a single. Most students will need to have a roommate. Beds are twin or double, but are allocated one person per bed. Unless specifically requested, all flats have a maximum of two beds in each bedroom. There is a kitchen, a lounge/dining area, and at least one bathroom. The flats vary in amenities, but overall they should be comparable in quality.

All of the flats are centrally located within easy reach of Bloomsbury. In 2019 all flats that Euracom offered were in Zone 1 of the London Underground, within easy reach of our headquarters.

Students should let the property manager know about any damages or breakage when they occur so that the necessary repairs or replacements can take place. The inventory provided on arrival will be rechecked on departure.

The flats are in safe areas and reasonably well equipped. The kitchen has all the basic items like pots and pans, plates, glasses and cutlery (in various qualities); sometimes there are extra appliances such as a coffeemaker, hot pot, or rice cooker. The amenities vary by flat but should include a dining table, TV plus VCR and/or DVD, oven/stove, microwave, fridge, as well as linens and towels. Washer and dryer may be in the flat itself or in the building for shared use. (This will probably be an additional cost.) Internet access is provided.

Your rent will be billed through Oberlin on your spring term bill.

**Some important points:** Any flats routinely used by students are likely to be well worn and, while there is a maintenance staff, repairs can take time. Few flats come with desks, though they do have a dining room table. As with almost all providers of such flats, Euracom has strict rules against overnight guests. The actual contract that each student enters into with Euracom will be written out on the Booking Agreement; **you should read this very carefully.**

### ➤ **Costs and charges**

Cost for spring 2020: £230 per week per person for 3 to 7 persons sharing a flat. Included in that cost are utilities, including internet service. In previous years, Euracom has charged each student a damage deposit, collected in advance of the semester and then returned afterwards

except in the case of significant damage to the flat. This year, on a trial basis, Euracom will not be requiring this deposit. You are nevertheless responsible for the condition of the flat and its contents, and in the case that any serious damage occurs, you and your flatmates will be billed by Euracom.

In addition to the rent, an end-of-tenancy cleaning charge of £80 per student will be included in your term bill from Oberlin.

The telephones in the flats have a call-barring facility and therefore students will not be able to make outgoing telephone calls unless they are to toll-free numbers (0800), emergency services (999), or non-emergency help services (101). Students will, however, still be able to receive incoming calls. If you choose to purchase an International Calling Card make sure this has a Freephone access number so that it can be used from the telephone in your flat as needed.

### ➤ **Housing procedure**

Once the London students are all selected, students will be helped to divide themselves up into suitably-sized and hopefully compatible groups. We will honor your preferences as far as possible, but some flexibility will be required in order to place everyone in a housing group.

Once Euracom has assigned you to a suitable flat, they will return the signed Booking Agreement form to you, with your London address and other relevant details.

### ➤ **Euracom billing**

As indicated above, the rent will be charged to your spring term bill, which you'll pay at the usual time. (Financial aid will of course be credited to the bill. We urge all students on financial aid to meet with Val Kepner in the Financial Aid office if you have any questions about how your costs will be figured.)

The following needs to be clearly understood:

1. Euracom housing is more expensive than on-campus housing, so the charge on your term bill will be higher than usual.
2. You are renting your share of the flat not from Oberlin, but from the Euracom agency. Once you sign the housing agreement, you are legally responsible for your share of the rent, even if you later withdraw from the program. As a convenience to you, Oberlin will bill you on behalf of Euracom on your spring term bill. If you don't pay the bill, the usual Oberlin penalties apply (e.g., a hold on enrollment/registration, potential withdrawal, etc.).
3. You and your flatmates will be billed by Euracom after the end of the semester for any significant damage to the flat or its contents.

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## **Immigration**

### **➤ Visas**

If you are studying in the UK for less than six months and are not participating in an internship or any other type of work while in the UK, whether paid or unpaid, you are eligible to enter as a Short-Term Student.

US nationals do not require a visa before arriving in the UK as a Short-Term Student. You do not need to apply for a Short-Term Student Visa prior to your departure. However, you must be prepared to supply the Immigration Officer with the correct documentation.

Students entering the country under the Short-Term Student category will not be permitted to work in any capacity (either paid or unpaid), or to participate in an internship.

Students entering the country under the Short-Term Student category will not be permitted to extend their study period without first departing the UK.

Students will have permission to be in the UK in the Short-Term Student category only for 30 days after the end of the program, i.e. only until 3 June 2020.

### **➤ At the airport**

After your flight arrives, you will need to clear Customs and Immigration by meeting with an Immigration Officer.

You must present a valid US Passport that has at least 6 months validity after the END of your stay in the UK.

You will also need to present original signed copies of two letters, one signed by Donna Vinter, the other by the registrar. You must have these original letters with you and available (not packed in your checked luggage) upon meeting the Immigration Officer.

You may be asked to show the Immigration Officer that you will have the necessary funds to support yourself for the entire period you intend to stay in the UK. There are several ways you can do this, including having with you (a) a current bank statement (in your or your parent's name) showing a balance of at least several hundred dollars; (b) a letter from your parent(s) guaranteeing to support you in full while you are in the UK; and/or (c) a credit card statement showing an adequate credit limit.

You will need to demonstrate your willingness to leave the UK once your course of study is complete by showing return tickets or an itinerary with your name and information on them.

After reviewing your materials, the Immigration Official will stamp your passport with the Short-Term Student stamp/endorsement, and you will be permitted to enter and study in the UK.

**NOTE: Please do not travel to the UK through the Republic of Ireland. You will not be able to find a UK Border Agency official to stamp your passport if you enter via this route, and you**

**will therefore not have the correct stamp in your passport to undertake study in the UK. In such a situation, the program will require you to leave the UK before classes begin, for example by taking a day trip to France, in order to re-enter the UK at a border where your passport *can* be stamped. Without the appropriate stamp, you cannot be legally enrolled on the Oberlin program, according to UK immigration regulations.**

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## **Insurance**

Oberlin College has contracted with Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) for Student Accident and Sickness Insurance for all students on the London Program. The cost of this insurance will be covered by the program. This insurance offers excellent accident and sickness coverage to students who are studying abroad. Information about CISI is available at [www.culturalinsurance.com/students/service\\_and\\_support.asp](http://www.culturalinsurance.com/students/service_and_support.asp) ; information about Oberlin's policy will be emailed to you once you are enrolled. If you have questions about this insurance, contact Mike Rainaldi at 775-5226 or email [Michael.Rainaldi@oberlin.edu](mailto:Michael.Rainaldi@oberlin.edu) for assistance.

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## **Money**

### **➤ Tuition and fees**

Students on the Oberlin-in-London Program are billed for Oberlin tuition and fees just as they would be if enrolled on campus. They are not billed for Oberlin room and board. Once you have formally accepted your place on the program, if you later withdraw, a mandatory \$500 cancellation fee will be charged to your student account.

Tuition and fees cover costs in the following categories:

- Admission costs, theater ticket costs, etc. for curricular activities, when students are enrolled in the relevant course; transportation costs when such trips involve out-of-London travel; and accommodation costs if overnight stays are included. Note: meals are not paid for by the program.
- Similar subsidies for certain co-curricular activities that may be planned
- Membership in the International Students House

Students are responsible for the following additional costs (estimates only, at 2019 rates):

- Transportation to and from London (upwards of \$900, though bargain fares are sometimes available)
- Housing in London (£230/week [~\$300 at current exchange rates], for 14 weeks)
- Meals

- Transportation in London £331.30 (for 14 weeks of London Underground Travelcard at student rates, if you buy 3 Monthly Travelcards + 2 Weekly Travelcards in total) at September 2019 prices. Fares are raised every January, so you can expect a 4-5% increase on that amount.
- Other expenses such as course books, personal travel, and personal items

### ➤ **Financial Aid**

Once students confirm their participation in the London Program, the financial aid office will adjust the financial aid award package to take account of the higher housing costs in London and the fact that work-study is not available there. Students receiving financial aid from the College should ensure that they have signed all forms and made arrangements for disbursement prior to leaving the country. N.B: There is no early disbursement of financial aid available.

### ➤ **Costs**

In addition to tuition and fees, students will need to pay for transatlantic air fares, accommodation, food, and transportation while in London, as well as such other expenses as course books, personal travel, and personal items. Expenditure tends to vary greatly depending on personal choices.

London can be a very expensive city. In the first week or so the shock of prices is compounded by the fact that there are a lot of things to pay for right at the start in settling into accommodation and getting ready for classes. However, do not panic: once you are settled in, weekly expenses are considerably reduced, and London offers so much in entertainment and enrichment for free! Previous program participants have found ways to economize and limit their weekly spending, while still enjoying London thoroughly. You will too. Accommodation will be your largest fixed expense, but it is also the only regular fixed budget item.

One of the most productive areas to economize is on your food budget. Eating out is expensive, so do it sparingly. If you shop ahead at your local supermarket, pack lunches to eat at the site, pack food to take with you on field trips, and plan to cook your own evening meals rather than eat out, you can eat *relatively* cheaply (considerably more cheaply than on CDS in Oberlin).

As for activities, read the listings of free events on [www.TimeOut.com/London](http://www.TimeOut.com/London) and [www.Londonist.com](http://www.Londonist.com). Every week there are concerts, lectures, and a variety of events from the wonderful to the weird that cost either nothing or very little, especially for students. Personal travel doesn't have to mean taking a plane to another urban environment. A country walk outside London with friends using a 4-for-the-price-of-2 cheap day return train ticket will cost much less than a weekend in Amsterdam. There is a book of country walks available for consultation in the Oberlin-in-London office.

### **What the semester may cost**

The numbers below are based on self-reported student expenditure for Spring 2019 (Oberlin-in-London). These numbers were estimated by students at the end of the term, and should therefore be treated as approximate figures rather than hard ones.



Category	Oberlin-in-London, Spring 2019 (22 responses)
Airfare	\$350 - \$1300
Rent, Euracom (per person per week)	£228
Food per week	£20 - £60
Entertainment per week	£10 - £20
Travel in London per week	£10 - £25
Travel outside London per semester, excluding Spring Break	£60 - £700 (widely varied)
Spring Break	£50 - £1000 (widely varied)
Books	£15 - £100
Mobile phone purchase	£0 - £150
Phone calls per week	£0 - £10
Laundry per week	£2 - £4
Personal items per semester	£15 - £300 (widely varied)
Medical expenses	£0 - £600 (most spent nothing)
Total, excluding airfare, housing and break	£655 - £2300 (widely varied)

See “Money saving tips” on p. 56.

### ➤ **Getting money to London**

There are different options for getting money to London, and best advice is to make sure you have at least one back-up plan for accessing funds in case of problems with your primary method. Think through carefully in advance what will work best for you.

#### **ATM Cards**

Students report that the method for accessing cash that works most easily and economically is use of an ATM card at a “hole-in-the-wall,” as they are called in London. If your ATM card is part of the Visa or MasterCard networks, then you should have no problem with this method. Make sure you have a 4-digit PIN number: a longer PIN will not work in British machines.

In order to access your US account, you must have money in the type of primary account designated for international access by your bank. Contact your home bank to ensure that your account is properly designated for international access.

The currency you receive in pounds (£) from an ATM transaction will be debited directly from your US account in dollars. In most cases, this is the best exchange rate you will receive. However, note that you will not be given a receipt that shows you what your US bank balance is after the debit, so you need to have established some other way to keep tabs on that. These days many students have set up online banking.

To avoid extra charges, use ATM machines that are in or outside British banks and that display a notice saying that you will not be charged for the transaction. ATM machines found in other places, *e.g.* supermarkets, *will* charge you per transaction and they are best avoided. Note that

your US bank may add an extra service charge each time, however. Check what your bank's policies are before going abroad.

Note that there will be a limit to the amount of money you can draw per day at these machines. That amount varies but it may be no more than £200-£300.

It is strongly recommended that you let your bank know that you will be abroad and for how long, so that they do not put a stop on your account because of 'unusual' transactions. You may also want to see whether your bank would be willing to adjust the daily and one-time withdrawal limit on your account.

Note that if your card is 'captured' by a cash machine, or if it apparently completes the transaction but fails to give you cash, there is little that the British bank branch can do about it. You will have to contact your issuing bank in the U.S. to get a replacement. This is why it is an excellent idea to have a back-up way of accessing funds.

### **Visa & MasterCard**

Visa and MasterCard credit cards are accepted pretty universally throughout Europe. However, **most US credit cards charge exchange fees** on purchases in other than US dollars. (Capital One and some Chase credit cards are among the few that do *not* charge foreign exchange fees. See <http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/top-credit-cards/no-foreign-transaction-fee-credit-card/>.) Some debit cards, however, have not imposed fees. Check with your card company.

Some very small shops in the UK may not accept cards (especially if your card is not 'chip and PIN,' which many US-originated cards still are not), and many shops impose a minimum expenditure for credit card use. The exchange rate that you get when you use your credit cards to make purchases tends to be a favourable one compared to other ways of translating pound expenditure into dollars. However, you should not use your credit cards in an ATM as a way of getting cash: you will begin to pay interest on what is effectively a 'loan' from the moment that you obtain cash in this way until you pay your monthly credit card bill. This is a very expensive way of accessing cash.

With any credit card, be sure to know your maximum expenditure limit. Also be sure that you know how to cancel or replace your card if it is stolen. **As with the use of bank debit cards, it is a very good idea to let your credit card companies know in advance the dates that you will be in the UK and Europe.** The card is otherwise likely to be stopped after one or two transactions as a precaution against fraud.

### **Prepaid cards**

Prepaid cards are increasingly popular as an alternative to carrying cash. They are available from both Visa and MasterCard. You pre-load these cards with money, and they can then be used like a debit card in shops, when shopping online, etc. No credit check or prior bank account is typically needed. Visit one of the money comparison sites available on the internet to check terms and conditions and compare available deals.

### **Amex**

An American Express card allows you to cash your personal checks up to \$500 at Amex offices (not Amex banks) all over the world. If you don't have a card, but your parents do, they can transfer money to you in 24-48 hours from their home Amex office. Google "American Express London" for full information about the current locations of American Express offices. Note that many stores do not accept American Express credit cards, so be sure to have an alternative.

### **Travelers' Cheques**

Some students choose to bring some money with them in the form of travellers' cheques. However, these are no longer as common as they once were and many businesses don't like to deal with them. If you do choose to use travellers' cheques, the best option is to get American Express travellers' cheques, which can be cashed free of charge at an American Express office. You are advised to bring such cheques in pounds rather than dollars: this way you will never have problems with getting them cashed or have to worry about fluctuating exchange rates. Banks usually charge a commission for cashing travellers' cheques. However, Barclays travellers' cheques, which are available at affiliated banks in the US, may be cashed at a Barclays bank for no additional fee. **Remember to keep a record of all your travelers' cheques separate from the actual cheques.**

### **Wiring Money**

See [www.westernunion.com](http://www.westernunion.com) for information about wiring money via Western Union. This is an expensive but useful way to get money from the US to the UK if you need it in a hurry.

### **Personal Checks**

These are not recommended. In most cases you would have to deposit them into a British bank account (and as a short-term visitor you will be unable to open a bank account) in order to turn them into cash. Any corner money exchange shop willing to negotiate your American personal checks is likely to give you a very bad deal.

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## **Packing**

**No matter where you are traveling, passports, program letter, travelers' cheques, plane tickets, cash, credit cards, and IDs should not be put in your checked luggage. Keep such valuables on your person.** *Strongly consider* buying a money belt that can be worn around your waist or a special pouch that can be worn around your neck under your clothes. Do not carry valuable items in places from which they might be stolen – thieves are very, very clever. Backpacks, shoulder bags, wallets in the back pocket – all of these are 'scenarios' that pickpockets are good at profiting from. Think defensively at all times.

**Do not over-pack.** Have there ever been more famous words more frequently flouted? Once students are in London they often feel that they have brought too much with them. The journey into central London trying to manage heavy suitcases can often be enough to convince them! Also, be sure to check with your airline's website about restrictions on size, number, and weight of bags. Label your luggage with your name on the inside as well as on the handle.

**Clothing.** We recommend bringing a combination of casual and dressy clothes. Bring clothes that can be combined in various ways to make more outfits. To accommodate weather changes – and over the course of the program there will be big ones – pack clothes that can be worn in layers. Londoners dress up more than Midwesterners do; you don't have to copy them, but you might want at least one nice outfit. Bear in mind that London does get cold, and flats can be drafty and/or inadequately heated. These days, it can also get very warm! Don't forget also that you'll be walking around a lot: comfortable shoes, preferably a couple of pairs, are a must.

### ➤ **Medicines**

For prescription medication, bring a supply that will last the entire semester. Label all bottles clearly and bring the actual prescription with the generic name of the drug in case you need to have it filled while in London. Having the prescription will also help avoid any potential problems with Customs when you initially enter the country.

If you have an **allergic condition** that requires you to have shots periodically, you should prepare carefully. Issues of liability have arisen in the UK, with the result that general practitioners are unwilling to comply with requests from an American doctor to give allergy shots. Instead, you will need to go to the London Allergy Clinic, where you will either have to pay for consultation and diagnosis or provide the following:

- A letter signed and office-stamped from your home doctor with the diagnosis of your condition and details of the course of treatment which s/he has prescribed
- Precise information about dosages
- A statement as to whether, and if so how many, injections have already been given in the series
- A statement as to whether any adverse reactions to previous injections have occurred
- If you are bringing the serum with you, phials which are clearly labeled and dated. These must be kept refrigerated.

If at all possible, arrange to have allergy shots shortly before you leave so that you do not need to be taking care of this during the first two weeks of your stay in London.

### ➤ **Other items**

You should take along an **extra pair of glasses or contacts, or a good supply of disposable contacts if you use them**, as well as the **prescription** for them. This precaution is especially important if you wear contacts, because the type of lens you wear may not be available abroad.

Any medication or prescription glasses you have sent to you from the US will be held up at Customs (for up to a month!) and they will charge you VAT on the value of the medicine. Bring such items with you if at all possible.

Also bring written information from your doctor about any long-standing medical condition/history that might affect how you should be treated in a medical emergency, or that would assist a UK doctor in understanding why you have been prescribed a particular drug.

It's worth bringing your own towel in case your flat does not provide enough. It's also useful for travelling if you plan to stay in hostels.

Most students choose to bring a laptop to London. There is a wireless environment at the FSU centre available 24 hours a day. But only bring your laptop if you have insurance coverage for it. Bear in mind that, in addition to normal big-city risks, your valuables are only as safe as the individuals you live with make them. Also, check with your supplier about procedures you should follow if your laptop develops a fault, especially if it is still under warranty.

If your program is going to be leaving London for any weekend trips, find out whether hiking boots are recommended. You might want these in any case, as you'll want to explore beyond London too – Great Britain has many, many miles of wonderful public footpaths through the countryside. Do not underestimate how different the weather may be outside London – certainly colder, maybe wetter! You will certainly need rain gear wherever you are, preferably a coat with a hood. One with a zip-in lining for added warmth would be ideal. The ability to change out of wet shoes and into dry ones may make all the difference to your happiness.

There are many good used clothing stores and charity shops, as well as some outdoor flea markets, in London. If your wardrobe needs to be supplemented in London, it needn't impoverish you.

➤ **Don't bring. . .**

. . .electrical appliances, except those clearly marked as "dual voltage" (as most laptops, phones, and electric shavers are: they will be labeled something like "100-240V"). The voltage in the UK is different (240 volts by comparison with the US 110 volts). Although some appliances can be used with an adapter and transformer, the transformers are expensive. Appliances may still not work right, and they may also be destroyed by the attempt to use them in the UK. In addition, you risk damaging wiring and even starting a fire. The program office has some electrical items (e.g. hair dryers) which may be borrowed – not enough for everyone, but some!

A mobile phone unless you have planned a way to use it in London that will not be prohibitively expensive. (See section on mobile phones below, under "London Information.")

American ring-binders, unless you bring paper to go in them. Paper sizes and hole punch patterns are different in the UK.

Personal security devices such as pepper spray. Such products are illegal in the UK. The program has very effective screech alarms available for you to borrow for the semester, however.

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## **Suggested reading**

You will enjoy and profit from your time in London a lot more if you prepare for it. The more of a historical, political, or cultural matrix you have when you come, the more informed responses and intelligent connections you will be able to slot into it. This will add to your pleasure! Here are some suggestions:

### ➤ **Fiction**

Peter Ackroyd, *Hawksmoor*; *Dan Leno and the Limehouse Golem*; *The Clerkenwell Tales*  
Monica Ali, *Brick Lane*  
Martin Amis, *London Fields*  
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*  
Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*  
Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*; *Our Mutual Friend*; *Little Dorrit*; *Great Expectations*  
Margaret Drabble, *The Millstone*; *The Ice Age*; *The Radiant Way*, *A Natural Curiosity*, *The Gates of Ivory* (a trilogy)  
Buchi Emecheta, *Second Class Citizen*  
Sebastian Faulks, *A Week in December*  
Alan Hollinghurst, *The Line of Beauty*  
Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*  
David Lodge, *Changing Places*; *The British Museum is Falling Down*; *Therapy*  
John Lanchester, *Capital*  
Andrea Levy, *Small Island*  
Ian McEwan, *Saturday*  
Timothy Mo, *Sour Sweet*  
Iris Murdoch, *A Word Child*  
Caryl Phillips, *A Distant Shore*  
Ruth Rendell, *The Keys to the Street*; *Thirteen Steps Down*; *Portobello* (crime fiction)  
Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*  
Kamila Shamsie, *Home Fire*  
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*; *NW*  
Muriel Spark, *The Ballad of Peckham Rye*; *The Girls of Slender Means*  
Barbara Vine, *King Solomon's Carpet*  
Sarah Waters, *Fingersmith*; *The Night Watch*  
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Here is a website with many other suggestions: <https://bookriot.com/2017/06/06/100-must-read-novels-set-in-london/>

### ➤ **Poetry**

Mark Ford, ed., *London: A History in Verse*

### ➤ **Non-fiction**

Peter Ackroyd, *London: The Biography*  
Bill Bryson, *Notes from a Small Island*

Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation*

Kate Fox, *Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour*

Helene Hanff, *84 Charing Cross Road*

Stephen Inwood, *A History of London*

Jeremy Paxman, *The English*

Roy Porter, *London: A Social History*

Craig Taylor, *Londoners: the Days and Nights of London Now – As Told by Those Who Love It, Hate It, Live It, Left It and Long for It*

Polly Toynbee, *Hard Work*

Martin Upham, *Britain Explained*

Any good history of Britain

➤ **Newspapers and magazines**

*The Economist; The Guardian; The Independent; The Times; The Daily Telegraph*

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## **Arrival in London**

➤ **Passing through Immigration at the airport**

Have ready to show the Immigration Officer these essential documents:

- Your passport
- Your program letters from the Registrar and the Resident Director
- Your round-trip ticket (to the UK and back to the US)

Be scrupulously polite and answer truthfully any questions you may be asked. If you encounter any difficulties at Immigration, you should ask that the Immigration Officer contact the London Director, Prof. Donna Vinter. Have her contact details with you. The Oberlin College program letter you carry includes the Oberlin-in-London office phone number, but **you should carry with you** Prof. Vinter's home telephone number, her mobile telephone number, and the Grinnell College office number as well. All of these are listed in [Contact information](#) above. To repeat them here:

- Oberlin-in-London office      020 7419 1178
- Grinnell-in-London office      020 7813 3265
- Donna Vinter's home      020 8995 0049
- Donna Vinter's mobile      07754 182 389

Have these other essential documents readily available to produce, if necessary:

- Your Oberlin College ID
- A copy of a document that confirms you have medical insurance

- A letter or email confirming your residential address in London (if you are arriving early, have the address of hotel/hostel to hand)
- Supporting evidence that you will have access to funds to cover your housing and other living expenses while you are in Britain. Your Euracom contract will cover the former. A US bank statement showing a reasonable balance would be good for the latter. Evidence of travellers' cheques, relevant financial aid document, affidavit of financial support from your parents – any of these could be helpful, depending on what questions you are asked at Immigration.
- Any prescriptions, certificates of immunization, instructions for treatment, etc. that you may have from your doctor, especially if they relate to drugs you have to carry with you.

### ➤ **Travelling into London from the airport**

Think ahead about the journey from the airport to your accommodation. There is an essential website for information about travelling around London, which is maintained by Transport for London, the overall authority managing the London Underground, the London buses, and many greater London over-ground train routes. Familiarize yourself in advance with its features! It is: [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

Here you will also find information on any disruptions to lines because of planned engineering work or unplanned events, such as signal failure. The website has a “Journey Planner” facility, which you can use to plot the best route between any two points in greater London. The website will also give you information about prices – for example, what you might expect to pay if you take a taxi from Heathrow airport into central London. Please read the following advice only as a preliminary to the more detailed advice that this website can give you on all of the following.

### ➤ **Travel from Heathrow Airport**

From Heathrow, you can choose to take the London Underground (Piccadilly Line), TfL [Transport for London] Rail (direct train to Paddington Station), a private car service, a taxi, or a bus. Follow the airport signs that will direct you to the right place to access any of these modes of transport. The following website expands on most of the information that follows: [https://www.londontoolkit.com/travel/heathrow\\_central\\_london.htm](https://www.londontoolkit.com/travel/heathrow_central_london.htm)

### **London Underground**

This is the cheapest way into central London (currently £5.10 during peak times and £3.10 at other times, assuming you use an Oyster Card; otherwise £6.00, paying cash without an Oyster Card). Heathrow Airport is in Zone 6 of the London Underground on the Piccadilly Line. There are trains every few minutes from approximately 5.00 am (a little later on Sundays) until just before midnight (around 10.50 pm on Sundays). Journey time to Piccadilly Circus is about 50 minutes. **If your luggage is heavy or awkward to carry, be warned: many stations have stairs to negotiate – this may not be your best route if you have much to carry.**

The section of this handbook called [Travelling around London](#) gives advice on purchasing an Oyster Card at Heathrow in order to travel by London Underground into central London. Load



about £10 on the Oyster card at Heathrow. Note that there is a refundable £5.00 deposit for the Oyster Card, which you can redeem at the end of the semester, or when you switch to a Student Oyster Card.

The Piccadilly Line connects Heathrow Airport to central London and to the rest of the Underground system. Work out your route to your destination before you board: know where you need to change, and what line you are changing to. Pick up a London Underground map at Heathrow if you do not already have one.

### **TfL Rail**

TfL Rail trains leave every 30 minutes, with a journey time into Paddington Station in central London of 30 minutes. They leave directly from Terminals 2, 3, and 4; if you're arriving at Terminal 5, you can take a free transfer service to the Terminal 2/3 stop. In September 2019, a one-way ticket costs £10.50. From Paddington Station you can take the Underground (buy an Oyster card!) or a taxi to your final destination. The combination of TfL Rail and taxi is recommended if you have heavy or awkward luggage to manage.

(There's also another train to Paddington called the Heathrow Express, but since it costs twice as much [£25 if purchased from a ticket machine or ticket office] and is only 15 minutes faster, it's not recommended. See [www.heathrowexpress.com](http://www.heathrowexpress.com) for more info. Note: tickets are cheaper if purchased online 14-90 days in advance—see the website for deals.)

### **Car service**

Private car hire can be surprisingly affordable, especially if you're traveling with one or more other people. And it's obviously much more convenient than the Underground or the train if you have much luggage. One reliable service is Blackberry Cars (<https://www.blackberrycars.com/>), which currently charges around £39 (plus tip) to meet you at Heathrow and drive you and your luggage to your destination in central London. That's per car, not per person, for a car that will fit 3 or 4 passengers and 3 pieces of luggage; they also have larger vehicles available (see the website). It's bookable in advance online, and even less expensive (around £30 per car) when you're going to Heathrow. Another similar and reliable service is <https://www.atlascars.com/>.

### **Taxis**

The Transport for London website reports that journeys from Heathrow Airport take between 30 and 60 minutes and cost on average between £45 and £85. Sharing a taxi with other students can make this a more affordable option, though be aware that you will pay a small additional charge per item of luggage.

### **National Express buses**

National Express also runs coach (i.e., *bus*) services into central London from Heathrow Airport (currently tickets range from £6.00 - £10.00 to Victoria Coach Station). For full details, consult [https://www.londontoolkit.com/travel/heathrow\\_bus.htm](https://www.londontoolkit.com/travel/heathrow_bus.htm).

### ➤ **Travel from Gatwick Airport**

The recommended method of travel into central London from Gatwick Airport is the Gatwick Express. This 30-minute train ride delivers you to Victoria Station, from where you can either take the London Underground or a taxi to your final destination. The Gatwick Express leaves the airport every fifteen minutes. The current cost of the one-way journey (September 2019) is £17.80 if booked online, or £19.90 if booked at the station office. If three or more people are travelling together, they can get a group deal, i.e., tickets for 34% off each. But you must travel together and you must purchase these tickets online or at the Gatwick ticket office before boarding the train. Alternatively, with an International Student ID card (ISIC), you can get a 25% discount on the £19.90 fare, but only when purchasing your ticket from the ticket office; this deal is not available online. See [www.gatwickexpress.com](http://www.gatwickexpress.com).

For more information on London airports, consult: [www.airwise.com](http://www.airwise.com) or [www.baa.co.uk](http://www.baa.co.uk).

### ➤ **Arriving at your accommodation**

Use the “Journey Planner” feature of the Transport for London website, together with the section below in “London Information” about travelling around London, to help you think about how you will do this. Be sure that Euracom knows in advance what your expected arrival time is. Be sure you are clear how you will gain access to your flat. Where will you pick up the keys?

Once you have arrived, please notify the London Director that you have arrived safely. Do this either by phone or by email: [dvinter@oberlin.edu](mailto:dvinter@oberlin.edu)

### ➤ **Arriving at the Oberlin-in-London program site**

As described in Section 3, the Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program site is located just west of the British Museum on Great Russell Street, near the Tottenham Court Road underground station. Go to the Reception desk at the main entrance (99 Great Russell Street).

In order to have regular access to the FSU building at 99 Great Russell Street, you will need to obtain a key card. Go to the Reception Desk between 9 am and 5 pm, where your name will be listed with the Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program. The key card, which is designed to be worn around the neck on a lanyard, gives access not only to the front door, but to the library and computer labs. All persons in the building are expected to display their cards at all times as a security measure.

The head of IT within the FSU building will be present at Orientation to explain procedures. However, if before then you wish to obtain access to wifi within the FSU building, go to the library/computer lab on the basement level of the building, and use one of the computers there to set up your access. Your username will be your first initial followed by your last name, so for example, William Shakespeare’s username would be “wshakespeare.” The password initially is “London2020!”. The first time you log on, the system will prompt you to change the password.

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## **Travelling around London**

The main modes of transport around central London are the London Underground (“tube”), buses, local Overground trains, and taxis. The cost of journeys on the tube is mainly determined by the distance you travel: the network is divided into ‘zones’ that form concentric rings around central London.

Pricing and ticketing on the London underground is complicated by different fares and schemes. For the complete picture of how it all works, go to the website of London Transport: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk> .

### ➤ **Oyster Card**

To travel round London on the bus and underground system, **you are strongly advised to get an Oyster Card**. They are available at any underground station. Oyster Cards are electronically programmed cards that are used by touching them on electronic readers as you **enter and leave** the underground system, or as you **enter** buses. Oyster Cards for travel on the London Transport underground and buses are priced to be the cheapest form of travel. Note that there is an initial refundable £5.00 deposit for an Oyster card.

**ADVICE: Do not purchase cash single fares on the Underground: the rates are punitive!** A single journey from one station to the next in central London will cost you £4.90. **Use an Oyster Card instead!**

**Oyster Cards** operate by means of two different payment systems:

#### 1. **“Oyster Pay as you go” loaded onto an Oyster Card**

An Oyster card can be “loaded” with a sum of money – usually £5, £10, or £20 – and fares will be debited from this sum as you travel around London each day. This is called “Oyster Pay as you go.” The Card computer system keeps track of your journeys and will “cap” the amount you pay in a day, so that it will always be cheaper to travel by this means than by any other kind of day ticket. In 2019 the Pay-as-you-go capping rate for travel in Zones 1&2 is £7.00. See <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/adult-fares.pdf> . ***You must be sure always to touch your Oyster Card on the reader as you enter and leave underground stations in order to be sure you get this best rate!!***

**ADVICE: Get an Oyster card as soon as you arrive at Heathrow Airport and load some ‘Pay as you go’ money on it.**

At time of writing, your Oyster single fare from Heathrow to central London would be £5.10 during peak times (06.30 to 09.30 and 16.00 to 19.00 Monday to Friday) or £3.10 during off-peak times (all other times). It would be £6.00 (at all times) if you simply pay cash. (You can’t use an Oyster Card to get from Gatwick into London. If your plane arrives at Gatwick, buy an Oyster Card at Victoria Station, where the Gatwick Express trains terminate.)

## 2. “Weekly or Monthly Travelcard” loaded onto an Oyster Card

The second method is to use the Oyster Card as a ‘Travelcard,’ meaning that for a single lump-sum payment, your card is good for a selected period of time within selected travel zones for an unlimited number of journeys on the underground, buses and some local trains. Any Londoner who travels to school or work every day by London Transport uses this system. In 2019, a 7-day Weekly Travelcard would cost you £35.10 for Zones 1&2. Do the math and you will see that this is the most economical way to travel around London if you are going to be travelling on a daily basis. Having a weekly or monthly Travelcard is also a tremendous psychological stimulus to getting out and doing things, because you are not constantly thinking about what journeys will cost.

NOTE: these two methods of paying for journeys can both be present on your Oyster Card. That is, you can have a Weekly or Monthly Travelcard for Zones 1 and 2 and then also have some extra money loaded on the card for whenever you take a journey beyond, into Zone 3, for example. The card will automatically calculate and deduct the additional charge for the extra zone. Having cash loaded on with your Travelcard is a good safety precaution, because ticket inspectors can impose a spot fine of £50 on those who do not have a ticket that covers the full extent of their journey. But those caught fare-evading risk fines of up to £1,000, as well as a criminal record.

## 3. Student Oyster Cards

The Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program is registered with Transport for London as an educational institution. This allows the participants on our program to apply for the Student Oyster Card, which entitles the bearer to **a 30% reduction on either Weekly or Monthly Travelcards**, e.g., a 30% reduction on the prices quoted above for a Weekly Travelcard. In 2019, a 7-day Weekly Travelcard with the Student Oyster Card would cost you £24.50 and a Monthly one £94.10 for Zones 1&2. Applications for the Student Oyster Card are made online. Students will be advised by the Resident Director via email during January on exactly how to apply; applications for the Student Oyster Card are best made just before you depart from the US.

The Student Oyster Card application requires that you have access to a digital passport-type photograph. There is also a £20.00 application fee, payable by debit or credit card.

There is likely to be an initial period when you have not yet received the Student Oyster Card. During this time you will have to pay the full adult rate, so you are advised to load some Pay-as-you-go money onto the Oyster Card you initially acquire.

NOTE: the Student Oyster Card will cease to work at the end of the program. If you stay in London after that time, you will need to pay full adult fare once again.

NOTE ALSO: Transport for London puts prices up every January. The fares you will pay are likely to be around 5% higher than those quoted above.

It is recommended that once you have established an address, you get Weekly or Monthly Travelcards on your Oyster Card. These will work on the tube, buses, and trains. Read more about the details of these in the section above called “Transportation Costs”; full information is

to be found on the London Transport website at <https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster?intcmp=1683> . Click on “18+ student” to view information about student discounts.

In order to participate fully in the Oberlin-in-London Program, you will be expected to purchase an Oyster Card that will enable you to travel freely in zones 1 & 2 for at least the period of time when classes are in session. Not only will this give you the ‘freedom of London’ to explore and do things without thinking of the cost of each journey, but **it will be essential to participating in London field trips** (like the walks that are part of the History of London course, each of which will begin from a different tube station). Because these trips are often on a strict schedule, there is no room for delay: professors will not wait while students stand in queues to buy individual tickets.

**Initially, put money on your Oyster Card on a “Pay as you go” basis.** Once your Oyster Student card comes through, you will save 30% on the cost of Weekly or Monthly Travelcards.

ONE LAST NOTE: If you’ve purchased a 16-25 railcard, this can be linked to your Student Oyster Card for further off-peak discounts.

### ➤ **Citymapper app**

The Citymapper app is a very useful app to download onto your smartphone or other such device. It will give you access to a wealth of real time transport information in London: directions by bus, tube, etc., including multi-transport options for your journey; bus arrival times; bus stop location information; transport disruption alerts; and more. Go to <https://citymapper.com/london> for full details.

### ➤ **London Underground**

Using the London Underground can be confusing at first, but you will be pleasantly surprised how quickly it becomes second nature. The London Underground map is a work of genius: it makes seeing where you are with relation to where you want to go very easy. But if you get confused, London Underground staff are normally on hand (during the daytime, at least) to offer advice. Seek their help. Ordinary members of the public are also normally happy to help strangers – but **never** accept help if/when you are trying to buy a ticket at a ticket machine. This is classic con-artist territory.

London Underground stations will have maps of the system. Pick one up at your earliest opportunity if you haven’t acquired one before coming to London. Tube maps and street maps can also be downloaded onto your iPad or smartphone.

In addition to the Transport for London website ([www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) ), you can call the 24-hour London Transport Information Line (0843 222 1234) for more information.

### ➤ **Buses**

In recent years London buses have improved dramatically. Buses come fairly frequently and there are many, many routes traversing all of London. Many people find them a more pleasant mode of travel than the London Underground, because you can see where you are going and

thus get a better sense of the relation between one place and another. There is also simply more to look at than on the Underground. However, they will often (though not always) be a slower mode of transport than the Underground and probably won't be your best choice if you have to be sure to be somewhere on time. The single fare is £1.50 for any 'Pay as you go' journey with an Oyster Card. Bus travel is included in any weekly or monthly Travelcard you have loaded onto your Oyster Card. You can't use cash to pay for your bus fare.

There is also a system of Night Buses that run throughout the night. They are less frequent than daytime buses, but they are a reliable means of getting home if you have been out late in central London, after the underground network has closed down at around midnight.

**Central London bus maps will be provided to you at Orientation in London.**

### ➤ **Taxis**

There are two kinds of taxis you can take in London – traditional 'black cabs' (they are not always black) and 'minicabs'.

#### **a) Black cabs**

These are the safest option but also the more expensive. As they are government-regulated, they must charge a consistent metered and posted rate. Each individual cab has a licence number clearly displayed inside. They are available at designated locations near some train and underground stations, but you can also hail them in the street. A cab is 'for hire' if the yellow "Taxi" light on the roof is lit up. As a rule, you should tip the driver – 10% is adequate, though some people just round up to the next whole pound.

Black cabs can also be ordered by phone:

One-Number Taxis:	0871 871 8710
Computer Cab:	020 7908 0271
Dial-A-Cab:	020 7253 5000
Radio Taxis:	020 7272 0272

There is a charge when booking by phone and other terms and conditions may vary so please check when booking.

If you have a smartphone, download one of these apps: "Gett" or "FREE NOW." They will both locate a licensed black taxi nearby, send it to your location, and give you the option to pay by card if you're stuck without cash.

#### **b) Mini-cabs**

London's streets are also served by independently owned and operated 'mini-cabs.' These vehicles look like ordinary cars. Many of the companies that operate mini-cabs are reputable and licensed, but you need to be sure. To find out more about mini-cabs, go to: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/taxis-and-minicabs/> . **Under no circumstances should you get into a 'mini-cab' touting for business at an underground station, outside a pub or club – or anywhere. It is illegal for mini-cabs to tout for business in this way. Such drivers will not be**

legitimate. You will be putting your safety at serious risk if you get into such a vehicle. Do not even do this as a group.

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## **Travel outside London**

The resources of the internet have taken away the need to provide a great deal of information here. Be aware, though, that both the FSU centre library and the Oberlin-in-London office have many travel books which may be consulted and also borrowed.

“I went to Ireland, Amsterdam and Spain. But I really should have travelled more around England. I would suggest this, and Brighton is awesome.”

“I travelled to Paris, France for a week. I wholeheartedly recommend travelling to the continent if at all possible but at the same time don’t travel too much. The London program offered numerous activities to take advantage of and I advise future students to consider the wealth of options available in London before attempting to spend a great deal of time travelling.”

“Day trips to Oxford, Cambridge, or Canterbury are worthwhile. I visited the Eden Project in Southern England (Cornwall). I recommend visiting Scotland or otherwise getting out of London and into the countryside.”

### ➤ **See Britain First**

When you are thinking about possible travel outside London, consider the arguments that you should **See Britain First**. You will have future opportunities to visit Europe as a tourist but you may not readily have a future opportunity to put down roots for so long in one place and get to know it well. For a small island, Great Britain is astonishingly diverse in its history, landscape, people, and culture. Have a look at [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com) , [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com) , [www.visitwales.com](http://www.visitwales.com) . Before you opt to take CO<sub>2</sub>-producing short-haul flights to Europe, consider the alternative of taking coaches (i.e., buses) and trains round the UK. Both modes of transport offer substantial discounts to students:

- National Rail offers a 16-25 Railcard. For an initial outlay of £30 you can save 1/3 off most journeys. You may recoup the cost of this card with one journey to Scotland! Go to [www.railcard.co.uk/](http://www.railcard.co.uk/)
- National Express, the principal inter-city bus (‘coach’) company operates a similar scheme, the Young Persons Coachcard, costing £12.50 plus £2.50 p&p. Go to <http://www.nationalexpress.com/coach/offers/studentcoachdeals.aspx> . Journeys by coach are normally cheaper than journeys by train.

**Before coming to the UK, you should also investigate train passes that must be bought in the US, e.g. Eurail Youth Pass, Britrail Pass, etc.**

Train services are operated by a variety of companies. Some companies offer special deals, especially if booked in advance. To find out more about train travel in the UK, including details

of train schedules and fare options, visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) . There is also a National Rail enquiries number: **08457 48 49 50**.

Note: you need to take care to note all the terms and conditions of any rail tickets you buy. Some tickets are flexible, but the cheapest usually apply only to the train time specified. Be sure to board the correct train if you have one of these non-flexible tickets – if you take an earlier or later train, you could be charged a large penalty fare.

### ➤ **Travel to the European continent**

Eurostar trains which use the Channel Tunnel depart from the beautifully restored St Pancras International terminal, next to King’s Cross. This is the fast and easy way to get to central Paris or Brussels, and to connect into European rail networks. If booked well in advance, and/or if you are willing to depart very early in the morning, Eurostar tickets can also be fairly cheap. Go to [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com) .

For cheap air travel to the European continent, go to: [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com) ; [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com) ; [www.cheapflights.co.uk](http://www.cheapflights.co.uk) ; [www.statravel.co.uk/cps/rde/xchg/uk](http://www.statravel.co.uk/cps/rde/xchg/uk) division [web live/](http://www.live.com) (STA Travel is one of the main student travel companies in the UK).

“Ireland, Germany and Switzerland were all fun, beautiful, and accessible. Any travel in Europe, I gather, is spectacular. I also went to Birmingham and Manchester. It was fun seeing other British cities.”

“I think the amazing part of London is that it is simultaneously a hub to travel to amazing locations cheaply, and also so enjoyable to live in! I travelled to Amsterdam, Ireland, and will soon go to Turkey, Greece and Sweden very inexpensively. I think it is a great asset for being in London.”

“Go to Ireland, but near the coast, countryside.”

### ➤ **Organized travel**

Some students have enjoyed travelling with companies that specialize in tours in particular locations. Past students have mentioned favourably in particular:

- Paddywagon Tours through Ireland ([www.paddywagontours.com](http://www.paddywagontours.com) )
- Anderson Tours [formerly Hallam Anderson] ([www.andersontours.co.uk/](http://www.andersontours.co.uk/))
- Haggis Tours through Scotland ([www.haggisadventures.com/](http://www.haggisadventures.com/))
- Rabbie’s Tours, based in Edinburgh ([www.rabbies.com/](http://www.rabbies.com/))
- The Backpacker Tour Company ([www.backpackertours.co.uk](http://www.backpackertours.co.uk) )
- International Friends ([www.internationalfriends.co.uk](http://www.internationalfriends.co.uk) )
- The International Students House Travel Club trips

### ➤ **Accommodation**

The cheapest and most popular form of accommodation for students while travelling is hostel accommodation. Check out the details of:



- Youth Hostel Association: [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk)
- Hostelling International: [www.hihostels.com](http://www.hihostels.com)
- Other websites: [www.hostels.com](http://www.hostels.com) ; [www.hostelseurope.com](http://www.hostelseurope.com)
- Information in guidebooks, especially *The Rough Guide* series, *The Lonely Planet* series, the *Let's Go* series.

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## **Returning home**

### ➤ **Travel to the airport**

If you're taking the Gatwick Express train from Victoria Station or the Heathrow Connect train from Paddington Station, it might be easiest to book a cab from your flat to the train station.

Or see information above, under "Travel from Heathrow airport: Car Service," about Blackberry private car service.

Whatever you do, give yourself as much time as possible. Traffic – both rail and road – cannot be relied on always to run smoothly.

### ➤ **Reverse culture shock**

You might want to think ahead to how it's going to feel to be back. Although you will be returning to a place you know well, it (and perhaps you) will have changed while you are away. You will be returning to family and friends who haven't shared your experiences and may not be able to summon up the degree of interest in hearing extensively about them that you might have expected. Your group of friends, or the relationships within the group, may have changed. Even the United States may look different to you. All of these things can be positive opportunities for reflective self-awareness and enhanced cultural and political awareness. But they can also make you feel unhappy and at least momentarily isolated. Students report that such feelings are common, if felt to different degrees.

Here are some tips for dealing with such feelings:

- Try to treat them as a positive opportunity for making observations about yourself and about the country you are returning to. Re-read your journal if you kept one.
- Stay abreast of news and current affairs in the UK.
- Get together with other program participants to talk about your common experiences: arrange a social event.
- Help with recruitment for future programs: prospective participants will be very interested in hearing about what happened to you!
- Follow up on some of the things you learned, either in classes or on your own. Think about whether they suggest future directions. Many students report that their semester

studying abroad was a life-changing experience. How will it have changed your life or suggested new possibilities?

- Consider returning, or travelling elsewhere. Speak to people in the Study Away office about what your options might be.
- If you are more seriously unhappy on returning, seek help from the student health services at Oberlin.

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## **Safety and security**

Unrest on the international stage makes everyone involved with American students in London more conscious of security and emergency procedures. The Resident Director is in touch with the American Embassy and other program directors, and she will advise you should they make any information available relevant to your safety in London. But there are also the reasonable precautions for personal safety that anyone in a big city needs to take, and that you should take, while you are in London. These pertain to possible emergencies and how you should react or prepare yourself, your physical safety while in London, and the safety of your possessions.

### ➤ **Security emergencies**

- In the event of a sudden emergency such as a reported terrorist attack, be aware of the advice of the London Metropolitan Police: GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN. Go or stay inside some safe location and tune in to local radio or television news programs for advice and information. The authorities will use local radio and TV to deliver information and advice. They will issue advice immediately, through all possible methods, if you need to take specific action.
- As soon as possible, contact the Resident Director for any further information and instructions, and follow these instructions. If you cannot make contact by email or telephone because lines are disrupted, **send a text message** on your mobile phone. These messages will wait in a queue and get through the instant there is an 'open' mobile line.
- As soon as possible, contact your parents to reassure them you are ok.
- Stay calm, keep phone/internet lines clear so that you can receive further information and instructions in the event of a serious crisis.

### ➤ **Preparing for an emergency**

- Ensure that the Resident Director in London has full, up-to-date contact information for you. **It is very important that you inform her if your mobile phone number changes or there are any other changes in your contact information.**
- If you plan to be out of London during the semester, either for the weekend or during Spring Break, please give the Resident Director details of where you will be and when you plan to return. It may be necessary to establish your whereabouts in the event of a sudden emergency.
- At the start of the term in London you will be provided with a laminated card giving the Oberlin office, Resident Director, and Oberlin faculty contact numbers. **Carry this in your wallet at all times.**
- Put an ICE (In Case of Emergency) number in your mobile phone. We suggest this might be the Resident Director's mobile number, as she would be the person most readily on hand if you were found injured. The Resident Director can then make the proper

arrangements and contact your family.

- It is to your advantage, in case of loss or theft, to have a photocopy of your passport in addition to a certified copy of your birth certificate. Both are very helpful to have available in case your passport does need to be replaced.
- If you are going to be travelling outside the UK, use the internet to find out the location of the US embassy or consulate where you will be – in case your passport is lost or stolen or you need other emergency consular help.
- When travelling outside the UK, consult the US State Department Travel Advisories. The website is <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html> . The comparable – and very helpful – UK government site is [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) .
- Keep with you at all times emergency telephone numbers: the U.S. embassy, the Resident Director’s home and numbers, London numbers of the visiting Oberlin faculty. Put these into your mobile phone if you have one. Feel free to use these in case of emergency at any time.
- The Resident Director will be registering the entire Danenberg Oberlin-in-London student group with the US Embassy, which can better provide support to US citizens so registered. But you should also plan to register any shorter trips you take while you are in the UK on the same website. You can do all of this online. See: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

### ➤ **Contacting your local police**

To report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice, or make police aware of any policing issues in your local area, call **101**. Calls to **101** from landlines and mobiles cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long your call lasts.

### ➤ **Top tips for a safe London experience**

Official advice provided by the Metropolitan Police about general safety in London (*Stay Safe*) and official advice provided by London Underground and the British Transport Police about safety on public transport in London is given below. If possible, a police officer will also come to Orientation in London to talk more about staying safe in London. Please read the official advice carefully. We particularly highlight the following:

1. Be street-wise. Traffic approaches from the right. Obey traffic signals. Cross the road only at designated pedestrian crossings. At night walk on well-lit streets, preferably with a friend or two.
2. Do not carry valuables carelessly. Thieves are likely to know that you are a visitor to the UK. Your valued possessions should not be in an easily snatchable bag or in a wallet kept in your back pocket. And don’t go out at night with your entire wallet. Take only what you’ll need. Never leave your bags unattended in public places, and keep a close eye on them at all times. Thieves and pickpockets can be devious, and sudden, in their efforts to relieve you of your possessions.

3. Be alert. Report any suspicious persons or packages to the appropriate authority, e.g. the FSU building staff, the police, London Transport staff, etc. **Never agree to carry a package or anything else anywhere for anyone that you meet.**
4. Be especially watchful on the London Underground. In central London sophisticated gangs of pickpockets operate on the tube.
5. Be especially watchful at ATM machines. Never accept help. Do not allow yourself to be distracted. Always shield your pin number. If possible, use an ATM machine located *inside* a bank. If there is anything suspicious about the machine, do not use it and report it immediately.
6. Never give the address of your flat to casual 'friends' that you make in bars, clubs, etc. or invite such people back to your flat on a casual acquaintance. Remember that the safety of your flatmates is also involved in choices that you make.
7. Make sure that the outer door of your flat shuts behind you. Always lock the windows and door to your flat when you leave, using all the available locks.
8. Be aware of how much louder Americans tend to talk: do you need to be so loud? Avoid speaking loudly when you are with groups of other Americans (quite apart from any other considerations, the locals will appreciate this!). If you encounter any anti-Americanism, try not to over-react to it or take it personally.
9. Be especially careful when out at night. To travel home, use either the night buses or licensed "black" cabs. Never get into a mini-cab touting for business (these are taxis that look like ordinary cars). Get to know your neighbourhood so that if you felt you were being followed on your way home you would know in advance what premises were likely to be open where you might go for help.
10. Be alcohol-wise. You are more at risk if you are under the influence of alcohol.

➤ **Stay Safe: a guide to personal safety**

The following is taken from a 1998 booklet entitled *Stay Safe: a guide to personal safety* produced by the Metropolitan Police.

**Introduction**

*Although few of us will become victims of crime, some of us can feel vulnerable when we are out and about in a city new to us. This is especially so at night. Staying safe is all about being aware of what's happening around you, being alert to situations that might be dangerous and knowing how best to avoid them. If you have any fears be aware of them.*

*The reality is that most victims of assault in the street are young men under 30 – and drink usually has a part to play. Women are at greater risk from those they know – from rape or domestic violence, for example. Even so, for many, the fear of harassment, robbery or assault by a stranger remains.*

*Of course, we are all vulnerable at times, and it would be foolish to pretend otherwise. But we should not let that fear of crime take control of our lives.*

### **Stay Safe at Home**

*A few precautions can significantly reduce the risk of burglary and make you feel more secure. In one third of all home burglaries, the criminal gets in through an open door or window without forcing an entry.*

- *Be sure that all outside doors and windows are fitted with good locks and bolts. If your door has a chain and/or peephole, use them.*
- *Keep ground-floor level windows shut. They are a favourite way in for burglars.*
- *If a stranger rings the doorbell, do not let them in until you are satisfied: ask for proof of identity. Staff from gas, electricity and water services should have identity cards. Keep the chain on the door while you check it. If you were not expecting anyone from that service or from your landlord, have the caller wait outside while you ring his office to check.*
- *If you have any suspicions, call the police – dial 999.*
- *When you go out or go to bed, check that all doors and windows are locked. And don't leave valuable possessions on view from windows.*
- *On returning home in the evenings or late at night, have your house keys ready so you can let yourself in quickly.*

### **Stay Safe in Public Places**

*By taking a few simple precautions you can help yourself to stay safe in the street, in crowds, and at cash dispensers.*

- *Think ahead and plan your journey. Carry your phone with you.*
- *Walk confidently. Stay alert: be aware of what's going on around you. Hold your head up and look as if you know where you are going. Don't make it apparent that you are a tourist by stopping in open places to consult your A to Z — duck into a more discreet place to do so.*
- *Try to avoid walking alone at night. If you are going to stay out late, try to travel home with a flatmate. Keep a taxi number and your fare handy.*
- *Consider how much alcohol you have had. It can affect your judgement of people and situations.*
- *If you think you are being followed, quicken your pace and cross the road. Head for other people: a shop, pub, police station, etc.*
- *It is an offence to carry any item for the sole purpose of self defence. Mace and pepper sprays are illegal in Britain. Personal alarms are permitted.*
- *Keep your personal property safe. Always keep your bag where you can see or feel it: on your lap or between your feet. Don't hang bags over the backs of chairs.*

- *Try to keep your keys separate from anything with your address on it.*
- *Don't leave valuables in your jacket pockets or coat if you are likely to take it off. Don't leave your mobile phone exposed to view.*
- *Carry your handbag over your shoulder with the flap against you. If someone tries to snatch your bag, give it up rather than risk injury.*
- *Carry your wallet in your front trouser pocket, never in a back pocket.*
- *At cash machines stay alert. Make sure no one can see you entering your PIN number. Be aware of anyone loitering nearby. If you are in doubt or at all suspicious, trust your instincts and don't use the dispenser*

### **Stay Safe on Public Transport**

*By remembering a few general points when travelling on public transport you can help yourself to feel safe and stay safe.*

- *Plan your route there and back, and tell someone the details. Check on times of trains, tubes and buses before you travel, especially late in the evening.*
- *Always stay in well-lit areas on platforms. If there is a Help Point, stand near it.*
- *Try to sit in a train or tube carriage that is near the guard or driver. On a bus, sit downstairs. Always try to sit near other passengers.*
- *Be aware of other passengers getting off at the same stop or station.*
- *If you feel uncomfortable with any of the people in your carriage, don't be afraid to move at the next station. Make sure you know where the alarm or emergency cord is and don't be afraid to use it if necessary.*
- *If you see anything suspicious, tell a member of the transport staff.*

### **Stay Safe in Taxis and Mini-cabs**

*You can reduce the risks to your safety when using taxis or mini-cabs by being aware of a few facts and following these practical tips.*

*Taxis are licensed and regulated in London by the Metropolitan Police Service. Taxis have an illuminated 'taxi' sign on the roof and display licence details on a white plate on the back of the vehicle, showing the license number, expiry date, and the words 'Metropolitan Police'. **Do not get into a London-style taxi that does not have this licence plate on the boot [trunk] lid.***

- *The taxi driver always wears a green or yellow metal badge.*
- *Only licensed taxis can be hailed legally in the street or picked up at a taxi rank.*

- *Mini-cabs in London can only legally carry passengers who have booked them in advance. Ordinary cars are used as mini-cabs. Do not hail them in the street and do not get into one touting—illegally—for business.*
- *If you are in a public place when you book a taxi or mini-cab, avoid being overheard when you give your name and address. Share a mini-cab with a friend. You will feel better, and it's cheaper.*
- *If you use a mini-cab, choose a firm recommended by someone you trust. When you book the mini-cab, ask what sort of car will be sent and the driver's name.*
- *When the mini-cab arrives, ask the driver who he has come for. Don't give your name first. Check the driver's identity and check they are from the company you telephoned.*
- *Sit in the back seat, not next to the driver. If you talk to the driver, stick to general topics and don't give away any personal information.*
- *Trust your instincts. If you are in any doubt, don't get into a mini-cab or taxi.*

### **Stay Safe – To sum up**

- *Staying safe is all about being aware of what's happening around you, being alert to situations that might be dangerous and knowing how best to avoid them. If you have any fears be aware of them.*
- *We are unlikely to become victims of crime ourselves. And the fear of crime can be very damaging if you allow it to blight your life. Try to keep it in perspective: the streets are still safe and being more aware and feeling more confident is the best defence you can have.*
- *So when you're at home: Lock up securely; never let strangers in without checking; if you're suspicious, phone the police.*
- *And when you're out: Think ahead, and tell someone what your plans are; stick to busy, well-lit areas.*

### ➤ **Safety on the London Underground and buses**

The Tube is one of the quickest ways to get around London. It is also one of the safest. The following advice is based on that given by London Underground and the British Transport Police.

#### **Before you go**

- Locate your Oyster card and have it ready. This will avoid your having to dig through belongings in full view of others at a crowded station.
- If you are travelling late at night, avoid travelling alone. If you must travel alone, phone ahead to alert your flatmates that you are on your way and when they should expect you.
- If you do not have a mobile phone, carry a phone card with you.



- Keep keys separate from anything with your address on it.
- If you are setting off on a trip, avoid putting your flat address on any visible suitcase labels.
- If you are carrying large sums of cash, split it up and carry it in different pockets. Never keep a wallet or valuable items in a back trouser pocket.

### **Around the station & on the platform**

- Always look as if you know where you are going: appear confident!
- On escalators, hold on to the handrail. Stand to the right and avoid standing too close to the edge.
- In lifts, NEVER obstruct the doors and take great care with loose clothing and baggage straps.
- Don't stand near the platform edge and NEVER attempt to retrieve belongings from the track. Always ask a member of staff.
- Never try to board or alight from a train while the doors are closing. Take extra care if there is a gap between the train step and the platform edge.
- If you know the layout of your destination station, move along the platform so that you travel in the part of the train which will be closest to the platform exit at your destination.
- Always keep handbags and backpacks closed, with the fastener towards you.

### **On the train**

- Make sure you know where the emergency handle or button is located.
- Avoid standing near the doors if you can, and be aware of who is around you. This will minimize your risk of becoming a victim of pick-pocketing or bag-snatching.
- Beware if you are jostled or if there is a sudden argument or commotion. Incidents can be staged to distract you while a pickpocket steals from you.
- Sit or stand near other passengers. If the carriage empties and you feel uneasy or uncomfortable, get off at the next station and move to a busier carriage.

### **If something should happen**

- Shout out to alert others if you see a thief at work or if your pocket is picked.
- ***If you are on a train, use the red emergency alarm to alert the driver. If the train is between stations it will not stop until the next station.***
- On a platform, dial **999** or push the green emergency button on the nearest Help Point. Report details to a member of staff or a British Transport Police Officer.

- If you have witnessed a crime on the Underground, you can speak in confidence to the British Transport Police on **0800 40 50 40**.

➤ **Sexual harassment**

London, like many other parts of England, is extremely cosmopolitan, populated by people from many other countries and cultures of the world. Many neighborhoods have concentrations of people from other cultures. This rich cultural diversity is certainly what makes London a special and exciting place. At the same time, your expectations and assumptions concerning behavior may need to be modified. While travelling around London, in the wider UK and in Europe, you may find different understandings of what constitutes harassment, particularly toward women. Do what you can to avoid such potential situations and if one does occur, walk away. Please be cautious – walk away! If you have an encounter that is troubling to you, please discuss the matter with the Resident Director.

Serious sexual harassment is a matter for the police, just as it would be in the US.

➤ **Racial abuse**

This is always unacceptable and should be reported to the police. Always keep in mind your own personal safety and try to get away as soon as possible from any situations that appear threatening or that could escalate.

➤ **Lost passport**

If you lose your passport or have it stolen, you must report this loss to the police immediately. If you are in London, contact the Resident Director for assistance in obtaining a new passport. If you are traveling when this occurs, please follow these instructions:

Read the following for detailed information on what to do in the case of a lost passport: <https://uk.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/u-s-passports/replacing-a-lost-or-stolen-passport/>.

- If your passport is lost during the course of the semester while you are away from England, you will probably need to obtain an emergency, limited validity passport for immediate travel and will then take care of obtaining a full-validity passport back in London.
- Check the US Consulate Web site: <https://uk.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/u-s-passports/> for the location and hours of the Passport Service Office nearest to you.
- Contact the Resident Director and/or your parents/guardians for assistance in faxing a copy of your passport and a copy of your program letter to the appropriate Passport Service Office.
- US Embassy in London: 020 7499 9000

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## **Medical and emergency help in London**

The general emergency telephone number is **999**. You should use this if you need to contact the police, fire brigade, or an ambulance in an emergency.

### ➤ **Emergency and Urgent Care**

You can visit the Accident and Emergency Department (“A&E”) of a hospital if you are in **serious need of immediate treatment** but are not in a genuine emergency requiring an ambulance. Oftentimes sudden medical needs seem to arise at weekends; the nearest hospital emergency room may be your most practical option for seeking treatment. Accident and Emergency departments are normally very busy. Expect to have to wait quite a long time to be seen, depending on the severity of your condition – up to four hours. However, when you finally are seen you should not be charged for this medical attention. Should you need to be admitted to hospital, you would have to pay.

Not all hospitals have Accident and Emergency Departments. The main central London hospitals which do have them are:

- **St. Mary’s Hospital**  
Praed Street  
London W2  
(Paddington underground station)  
Switchboard: 020 3312 6666  
[www.imperial.nhs.uk/stmarys](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk/stmarys)
- **University College Hospital**  
235 Euston Road  
London WC1  
(Euston Square underground station)  
Switchboard: 0845 1555 000  
[www.uclh.nhs.uk](http://www.uclh.nhs.uk)
- **Chelsea & Westminster Hospital**  
389 Fulham Road  
London SW10  
(Fulham Broadway underground station)  
Tel. 020 8746 8000  
[www.chelwest.nhs.uk](http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk)
- **Charing Cross Hospital**  
Fulham Palace Road  
London W6  
(Hammersmith underground station)  
Tel. 020 3311 1234  
[www.imperial.nhs.uk/charingcross](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk/charingcross)
- **St. Thomas’s Hospital**  
Lambeth Palace Road  
London SE1 7EH  
(Westminster underground station)  
Tel: 020 7188 7188  
[www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk)
- **Moorfields Eye Hospital**  
City Road  
London EC1  
(Old Street underground station)  
Tel. 020 7253 3411  
Advice line: 020 7566 2345 (M-F 9.00 - 4.30)  
[www.moorfields.nhs.uk](http://www.moorfields.nhs.uk)  
*For an accident or for serious concern about your eyes*

***Check the location of the hospital nearest to your flat that has an Accident and Emergency Department.***

### **Minor Injuries Units**

Minor injuries units are for patients with less serious injuries, such as sprains, cuts, fractures and grazes. The waiting times are much shorter than those in Accident and Emergency Departments. You do not need an appointment.

#### **St Bartholomew's Hospital**

Outpatients Wing

West Smithfield, EC1

Open: Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm

**Reception/enquiries: 020 3465 6843**

#### **St Charles Hospital Minor Injuries Unit**

Exmoor Street, W10

Open 8 am to 9 pm daily

**020 8962 4262**

#### **Guy's Hospital Urgent Care Centre**

Ground Floor, Tabard Annexe

Great Maze Pond

London SE1 9RT

Open: 8 am to 8 pm (last patient booked in at 7.00 pm)

**020 3049 8970**

### **NHS Direct: Phone Line for Medical Advice**

**NHS 111 Service** is a 24-hour confidential helpline and telephone advice service. To access it, simply ring **111**. Also see: [www.nhs.uk.111/](http://www.nhs.uk.111/). You will be asked to provide some basic information about yourself and to describe the nature of your call. If you need advice about a health problem you are asked if you are calling for yourself or on behalf of someone else and are asked to explain:

- What the symptoms are, how they affect you/the person and when they began
- What you/the person have tried already
- Any drugs you/the person are already taking
- Any existing medical conditions
- Anything else you think is relevant

If you are calling on behalf of someone else, that person needs to be in the same room as you so that the adviser can accurately assess their symptoms. NHS 111 advisers will use their skills and experience, together with a comprehensive computer system, to advise you on the most appropriate course of action to take – for example, whether you should see a doctor immediately, whether it can wait till the next day, whether you should instead seek over-the-counter help at a pharmacy, etc. He or she will also have details of other relevant health information services, late-night pharmacies, after-hours dentists, etc. that you can contact if you need to.

## ➤ If you need to see a doctor

### **General Practitioners**

**You are covered under the terms of the CISI insurance, which reimburses you for 100% of reasonable expenses for doctor visits while you are on the program.** Since this is a new policy for Oberlin, full details about how to use the program were not available when this handbook was printed. See the online version of this handbook for updates. You will be receiving an email with full details, which will also be discussed during orientation in London. Be sure to download the CISI app onto the smartphone you'll be using in London, since this will be the easiest way of interacting with CISI and receiving updated information.

### **NHS Walk-in Centres**

You can go to an NHS walk-in clinic and receive same-day consultation. NHS Walk-in Centres offer fast and convenient access to a range of NHS services, including health information, advice and treatment for a range of minor illnesses (coughs, colds, infections) and minor injuries (sprains, sprains, cuts). Most centres are open from early morning to late evening, seven days a week. The centres are run by experienced NHS nurses, and you don't need to make an appointment.

A consultation will cost around £75. The nearest to the FSU centre is:

#### **SOHO Centre for Health and Care**

1 Frith Street (off Soho Square)

London W1

Tel. 020 7534 650

Open: Mon-Fri, 8 am- 8 pm; Sat, Sun, Bank Holidays: 10 am – 8 pm

To find other London locations, perhaps nearer to where you are living, search “NHS Walk-in Centres” on the internet.

### **Medicentres**

These are walk-in GP services and may be your best option if you need to see a doctor at the weekend. You will need to pay up-front to see one of these doctors. Visit [www.medicentre.co.uk](http://www.medicentre.co.uk) for complete information. Note that last appointments are 20 minutes before closing time.

#### **Victoria Station Medicentre**

Main concourse, by Platform 15, London SW1V 1JT

020 7510 0314

Open: Mon-Fri, 8 am-8 pm; Sat, 9 am- 6 pm; Sun, 10 am-4 pm

#### **Bank Medicentre**

80 Cheapside, Poultry exit at Bank tube station, London EC2V 6EE

020 7510 0310

Open: Mon-Fri, 8 am-6 pm

➤ **If you need a dentist**

**NHS 111 Service**

111

They can give you details of emergency dentists in your area.

**24 Hour Emergency Dentist**

[www.24hour-emergencydentist.co.uk](http://www.24hour-emergencydentist.co.uk)

Emergency hotline: 020 8748 9365

Four treatment centres in central London

**Soho Dental Care**

1 Frith Street

London W1

Tel. 020 7534 6622

**Kensington Dental Spa Emergency Dental Service**

21 Kensington High Street

London W8 5NP

(High St. Kensington underground station)

24-hour emergency hotline: 0800 389 1998

**Non-emergency dental treatment**

**Dr. Peter Lawrence**

Tel. 020 7580 1610

**NHS 111 Service**

111

They will give you details of dentists in your area who may treat you as a private patient.

**To find a dentist in your area**, search on: [www.192.com/](http://www.192.com/). This is a powerful business/people search engine that you can use to find a dentist in your area. See also NHS website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). Search under "Health services near you - Dentists."

➤ **If you need a pharmacist (chemist)**

Pharmacists, or chemists as they are often known in the UK, are good medical resources. They can give you professional advice about what your medication or treatment needs may be. Once you have settled into your housing, be sure to locate a nearby chemist. The **Boots** chain is the commonest on London streets, but there are also others.

Here are some chemists shops in central London which are open late:

**PharmaCentre**

149 Edgware Road

London W2

(located midway between Edgware Road and Marble Arch underground stations)

020 7723 2336

Open until midnight every day

**Zafash Pharmacy**

233-35 Old Brompton Road

Earl's Court, London SW5 0EA

020 7373 2798

Open 24 hours a day: the only one in London!

➤ **If you need an optician**

There are many opticians in London. To find one in your area, try [www.192.com](http://www.192.com). Or try [www.londontown.com/](http://www.londontown.com/). Both sites will enable you to search businesses and services in your area. An optician that is close to the FSU centre is:

**University Vision**

University of London Union

6 Malet Street

London WC1

Tel. 020 7636 8925.

This optician serves the student market and you may find that frames and lenses are cheaper than elsewhere.

See also: Boots Opticians ([www.boots.com/opticians](http://www.boots.com/opticians)) and SpecSavers ([www.specsavers.co.uk](http://www.specsavers.co.uk))

➤ **If you have mental health concerns**

Mental health care is included under the CISI policy. You can search the CISI database of Preferred Providers, or see someone else. If the latter, you may need to be prepared to pay up-front and then be reimbursed by CISI.

Here are some particular names we draw your attention to: (Note: as this is printed, we don't yet know whether these doctors are on CISI's preferred list or not. We will update this information online.)

1. **Dr. Kamal Gupta**, listed under 'Psychiatry', but also able to offer psychotherapy. The Oberlin students who have consulted him have given very positive feedback. Additionally, he regularly sees students on some other big US university study-abroad programs in London, so he is familiar with American students and their needs. Dr. Gupta has kindly offered to share his email address with us, and is happy for students on the Danenberg Oberlin-in-London program to get in touch with him with any preliminary questions before booking an appointment, if this would be helpful. The address is: [Kamal.Gupta@slam.nhs.uk](mailto:Kamal.Gupta@slam.nhs.uk). His contact telephone number is 020 7535 7702
2. **Dr. Kenneth Demsky**, listed under 'Psychotherapy'. Dr. Demsky is an American who has settled in London, and he likewise has a track record of working with American students.

3. **Dr. Zack Eleftheriadou**, listed under 'Psychotherapy'. In spite of the name Zack, Dr. Eleftheriadou is female, and is a suggestion for anyone seeking to see a woman.

You can also make use of the service provided by London Nightline, to which the Danenberg Oberlin-in-London program is a subscriber:

### **London Nightline**

Confidential listening, support and information service run during term-time by trained students, for students.

Tel. 020 7631 0101 between 6 pm and 8 am.

See: [www.nightline.org.uk](http://www.nightline.org.uk)

More information about what London Nightline is and why you might want to contact them will be given at Orientation in London.

### ➤ **Where else to go for advice and support**

Living and studying in London can be very rewarding, but it can also sometimes be overwhelming. But there is help available. There are many organizations and services in London offering advice and support to international students on immigration and legal matters, disability, drugs and alcohol, HIV and AIDS, and pregnancy. See the list in the appendix for specific organizations that might be appropriate for your needs. Additionally, do not hesitate to discuss your concerns with the Resident Director. She can help point you in the right direction for a support group or arrange for you to meet with a counsellor.

### **Health/medical care or advice**

Medical information for US citizens	<a href="http://www.travel.state.gov">www.travel.state.gov</a>
US Consular information: UK	<a href="http://www.state.gov/travel/">www.state.gov/travel/</a>
Student Specific Health Links	<a href="http://www.studenthealth.co.uk">www.studenthealth.co.uk</a>
NHS Health Advice	<a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a>
Meningitis Now	<a href="http://www.meningitisnow.org/">www.meningitisnow.org/</a> 0800 80 10 388 (9 – 5 M-F)

### **Mental health**

SANELINE	0300 304 7000 (6 pm-11 pm daily)
Samaritans	FreeCall 116 123 (UK)

### **Alcohol**

Alcoholics Anonymous	0800 9177 650 <a href="mailto:help@aamail.org">help@aamail.org</a> <a href="http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk">www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk</a>
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Drinkaware 0300 123 1110  
(9am-8pm, M-F; 11am-4pm weekends)

[www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-support-services](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-support-services)

### **Smoking & drugs**

Action on Smoking and Health [www.ash.org.uk/](http://www.ash.org.uk/)

Talk to Frank 0300 123 6600  
[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

Narcotics Anonymous 0300 999 1212  
[www.ukna.org/](http://www.ukna.org/)

Release 020 7324 2989  
[ask@release.org.uk](mailto:ask@release.org.uk)  
[www.release.org.uk/](http://www.release.org.uk/)

### **Sexual health**

British Pregnancy Advisory Service 03457 30 40 30  
[www.bpas.org](http://www.bpas.org)

Brook Advisory Centres 020 7387 8700 (Brook Euston)  
[www.brook.org.uk](http://www.brook.org.uk)

FPA: The Sexual Health Charity [www.fpa.org.uk](http://www.fpa.org.uk)

National Sexual Health Helpline 0300 123 7123 (9am – 8pm, M-F)

Marie Stopes UK – Central London 0345 300 8090

Sexual Health Line 0800 567 123 (free confidential information  
and advice on sexual health)

Terrence Higgins Trust (*Advice about HIV/AIDS*)  
0845 1221 200  
[www.tht.org.uk](http://www.tht.org.uk)

### **Gay and Lesbian Switchboard**

0300 330 0630 (10am-10pm)  
Email: [chris@switchboard.lgbt](mailto:chris@switchboard.lgbt)  
[www.switchboard.lgbt](http://www.switchboard.lgbt)

**Eating disorders**

Beating Eating Disorders (BEAT)

0808 801 0811

[www.b-eat.co.uk](http://www.b-eat.co.uk)

**Advice for (international) students**

International Students House (ISH)

229 Great Portland ST; W1N 5HD

020 7631 8366 (Student Welfare)

[www.ish.org.uk](http://www.ish.org.uk)

**Lost or stolen credit cards**

American Express

0800 917 8047; +44 (0)1273 696 933

Visa

1-303-967-1096

Mastercard

1-636-722-7111

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## **Other resources in London**

### ➤ **Getting a mobile phone (also: making international calls)**

You are required to have a working cell phone (“mobile phone” in the UK) with you at all times while on the program. There are two ways to accomplish this:

(1) Some students decide to buy a UK mobile phone for the period that they are in London. Mobiles can be purchased extremely inexpensively. Cost, terms, and rates are variable and need to be researched once you arrive in London. It is a good idea to seek out specialist and independent advice for purchasing a mobile phone. Carphone Warehouse ([www.carphonewarehouse.com](http://www.carphonewarehouse.com)) is a major independent chain in Britain, selling mobile phones at a range of prices and on all the different networks. They should be able to advise you on the best phone deal to meet your needs. There is a branch of Carphone Warehouse at the junction of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street, very near to the FSU centre.

Note that you should buy what’s called a “pay as you go” phone in order not to be locked into a lengthy contract. Students have found it advantageous to buy phones on the same network as one another (e.g. EE, Virgin, GiffGaff, O2, etc.), as calls and text messages to other phones in the same network are priced more cheaply than calls to other networks.

(2) Alternatively, you can use your own smartphone from home by installing a UK SIM card in it, assuming your phone is unlocked. (Here’s a quick explanation of “unlocking”:  
<https://www.lifewire.com/unlock-iphone-att-verizon-sprint-tmobile-1999745> . Note: if you’ve paid off your initial phone contract, then it’s easy to unlock, if it isn’t already.)

SIM cards are sold with prepaid plans that include a data allowance for internet usage. Here too, Carphone Warehouse sells SIM card plans from a variety of providers, can advise you about them, and will be happy to help you install the card. Plans vary, but one of the least expensive pay-as-you-go plans is from GiffGaff. See the website for full details:  
<https://www.giffgaff.com/offer>. One recent student reports the following: “I ordered a \*free\* SIM card (free shipping too, so truly free) from GiffGaff before I left the States. Then when I arrived all I had to do was install it per the directions on their site (my US phone was already unlocked for international service) and sign up for a data package online. Excellent coverage so far, and it comes with free wifi access in the underground tube stations.” (Note that if you’re ordering the SIM card too late to reach you before you leave for London, you can use the program address as your mailing address.) Other students report satisfactory experience of SIM card packages bought from Vodafone and EE. If the instructions in the above link about unlocking don’t suffice, it’s sometimes possible to get your phone unlocked once you arrive in the UK. Luckily, there are many places to do this near the study centre, namely near the intersection of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street. Look for “mobile unlocking” signs in shop windows. Fees vary depending on your phone model, so shop around to get the best rate, which will range from £30 - £45. Students have also used UnlockFusion.net to unlock their phones for as little as \$1.99.

Note that if you install a new SIM card, you will have a new UK phone number, and your phone will no longer be reachable at your old number until you leave the UK and reinstall your old SIM.

(There is a third possibility, which is to sign up for an international plan from your US provider while you're in the UK, but this is likely to be considerably more expensive than either of the first two options and is not recommended—unless you have service via T-Mobile, which may include international service. It also would probably mean that others on the program wouldn't be able to make voice calls to your phone without paying international rates.)

International calls from the UK: Remember that you can make free voice and video calls over the internet via such apps as Skype ([www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)), Apple Facetime (<https://support.apple.com/guide/facetime/welcome/mac>), and Facebook Messenger (<https://www.messenger.com/>). These will also work via your data plan when you're not connected to wifi.

## ➤ Libraries

### **The site library**

The FSU London Study Centre library is open 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. It is closed on Saturdays, and open on Sundays 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The computer labs are open 24 hours. There is a quiet study space, called the Conservatory, at the back of the library.

### **The British Library**

Undergraduates may now get a Reader's Pass to the St Pancras Reading Rooms of the world-renowned British Library on Euston Road. This is a reference library: a reader's pass entitles you to use the catalogues and consult books on site, but not to take books away. This normally takes 45 minutes to an hour, though for some books, not housed on site, it can take a couple of days.

To get a Reader's Pass, go to the Reader Registration Desk and bring with you two forms of identification: a) proof of signature – e.g. passport, driving licence, credit card; and b) proof of your home address in the US – e.g. bank statement, credit card statement, driving licence. Note that a single item, such as driving licence, can only be used as one form of proof: either of signature OR of address, but not both. See [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) for full details.

Although entering the Reading Rooms requires a Reader's Pass, there are public areas inside the Library but outside the Reading Rooms that have comfortable seating and tables that may be used for studying – and designed for using laptops!

### **Westminster Reference Library**

This library is located behind the National Gallery, at 35 St. Martin's Street, London WC2. This library's reference collection may not be borrowed, so the books are permanently available. It is a useful place for students who find it difficult to study at home.

### **Guildhall Library**

The City of London's archive and reference library is located in the Guildhall, on Aldermanbury, London EC2, and is open Monday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It has open shelves of books on London history, as well as extensive collections on English and parliamentary history, including the complete series of House of Commons papers and journals from 1800.

### **Barbican Library**

Located in the Barbican Centre, London EC2, this is one of the local libraries of the City of London system. There is also a very good music library here. The Barbican Centre itself makes a quiet place to study, occasionally with musical accompaniment. There are tables and chairs with good lighting on several levels indoors and a lakeside terrace with tables and chairs when the weather is fine.

### **Local libraries**

Local libraries will allow members to take out books. Although the collections are obviously not geared specifically to undergraduate academic needs, local libraries in a borough try to ensure that, among them, they cater to a wide range of subjects that you can access through inter-library loan.

Once you have established a flat address, find out where your nearest library is (the Oberlin-in-London office can help you determine this) and go there to join. You will need proof of your address, for example a copy of your lease, or a proof of address document provided by your housing provider.

### **Specialist libraries**

There are also many specialist libraries in London, often reference libraries, ranging from the Poetry Library on level 5 of the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank to the Karl Marx Library in Clerkenwell. The Oberlin-in-London office has information on those specialist libraries which allow access to undergraduates.

### **➤ Quiet places to study**

It can be difficult to find a quiet place to study in London. Even if your flat or residence is a good place, it is not necessarily close enough to the teaching site to use in the middle of the day. So here are a few suggestions of other places to study.

The Wellcome Library: Located at 183 Euston Road, NW1, this library which specializes in the history of medicine is also open to members of the public to use, including as a place to read. You need to bring personal identification and proof of address to join. Many program participants have joined this library and reported very positively on their experience with it.

The South Bank: The National Theatre has lots of tables, chairs, and comfy corners. Try the Lyttleton Terrace! The Royal Festival Hall is a newly refurbished concert hall with a large foyer with seating and a poetry library on level 5. The National Film Theatre has cafes and comfy chairs and sofas in public areas.

At bigger bookstores (with coffee shops): Waterstone's, on Gower Street, is the main bookshop for the University of London. It has a coffee shop in the basement. Foyle's, on Charing Cross Road, is another good venue.

## ➤ Eating and drinking

### Supermarkets

Large supermarkets are cheaper than smaller food stores. The biggest names are Tesco, Sainsburys, Morrisons, Asda, Waitrose, and Marks & Spencer. Tesco and Asda have reputations as being the least expensive (but Sainsburys is often competitive), Waitrose and M&S as most expensive. There is a Sainsburys Supermarket very near the FSU centre, at the junction of Great Russell Street with Tottenham Court Road. You can use the supermarkets' websites to locate the ones nearest to your flat, or ask your landlord for information. Program staff are also happy to help. The staff at the Reception Desk in the FSU building also know a lot about where to shop locally.

### Markets

- **Berwick Street Market** (Leicester Square or Piccadilly Circus underground stations). Open 9 am-6 pm Mon-Sat. The best and cheapest selection of fruit and vegetables in central London. Also good for cheese, fish, bread, herbs, spices, and a variety of international street food.
- **Borough Market** (London Bridge underground station). Open Wednesday – Saturday. This is an astonishingly wonderful farmers' market, though not especially cheap. There are plenty of opportunities for free tastes of things, though. A number of traders specialise in organic produce. See: [www.boroughmarket.org.uk](http://www.boroughmarket.org.uk).
- **Brick Lane Market** (Aldgate East, Shoreditch, or Liverpool Street underground stations). See [www.visitbricklane.org](http://www.visitbricklane.org). A huge range of things is on sale here: meat, fruit, veg, electrical items, tools, bicycles, clothing, jewellery, and household goods. There are lots of great vintage shops in the area as well.
- **Brixton Market** (Brixton underground station). See [www.brixtonmarket.net](http://www.brixtonmarket.net) for full details of opening times. This is a thriving multicultural market where you can find African and Caribbean produce along with traditional fruit and veg and fish. There are also record stalls, second-hand clothes, and bric-a-brac. The newer part of the market, Brixton Village, is bursting with amazing independent restaurants and cafes.
- **Camden Market** (Camden Town or Chalk Farm underground stations). See [www.camden-market.org](http://www.camden-market.org). A whole collection of markets on Saturdays and Sundays primarily. Youth culture, street fashion, and retro clothes dominate; also crafts. It's very busy, sometimes claustrophobic.
- **Old Spitalfields Market**, 65 Brushfield Street, E1. See [www.oldspitalfieldsmarket.com](http://www.oldspitalfieldsmarket.com). Old covered market with a wide variety of shops and stalls, including an international food centre. Crafts and antique stalls are especially notable. This is near Brick Lane market, so you can plan to visit both on the same day.

- **Petticoat Lane Market** (Liverpool Street underground station). Primarily 9 am-2 pm Sundays. A traditional East End market selling a wide variety of things, including inexpensive clothing.
- **Portobello Road Market** (Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill Gate, or Westbourne Park underground stations). See [www.portobellomarket.org](http://www.portobellomarket.org). The antiques market (Saturdays) has a huge choice and range; the general market (most days) still has some of the cheapest fruit, veg, and flowers that you'll find in west London. Also famous for its new and vintage clothes stalls.

### **Eating out cheaply**

Here are some relatively cheap places to eat near the FSU site. Consult the *Time Out* website to research restaurants by type of food, by location and by price.

Relatively inexpensive restaurants close to the FSU centre include:

- **Belgo Centraal**, 50 Earlham Street WC2 (Covent Garden). This Belgian restaurant offers high quality, affordable, filling meals. I recommend their "Beat the Clock" deal, available in the very early evening. You pay what the time is on the clock when you order the food: *e.g.* 6 pm order means that the dish costs £6.00. This restaurant is popular, so arrive even earlier to secure a table and save more money.
- **Café Emm**, 17 Frith Street W1 (Soho). Good atmosphere and good, inexpensive food.
- **Chipotle**, 114-16 Charing Cross Road WC2 (Tottenham Court Road area). Missing Mexican food? This popular US chain will sort out your burrito cravings! Burritos, tacos, and salads range from about £6-8.
- **Diwana Bhel Poori House**, 121 Drummond Street NW1 (Euston). There is a set, buffet all-you-can-eat, amazing-value lunch available here. But it's an inexpensive Indian meal in the evenings too. (Be aware that in this country, unlike some places in the US, you usually have to order and pay for rice separately in Indian and Chinese restaurants.) Also in the same block with a great-value lunch buffet: another Indian restaurant called Chutney's.
- **Five Guys**, 1-3 Long Acre WC2 (Covent Garden). An American burger chain that has recently arrived to the UK!
- **Food for Thought**. Neal Street WC2 (Covent Garden). This basement restaurant offers excellent vegetarian dishes at reasonable prices in the heart of Covent Garden.
- **Fryer's Delight**. 19 Theobalds Road WC1 (Holborn). Good fish and chips. Get the mushy peas and mug of tea, too, for a real traditional English supper.
- **Hummus Bros**, 37 Southampton Row WC1 (Bloomsbury). Hummus with bread and a choice of toppings. Very friendly and popular. Highly recommended.
- **ICCo**, 46 Goodge Street W1 (Bloomsbury). ICCo serves up fresh, handmade pizzas for take away or dine in, in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Pizzas start at just £3.50 for margarita style.

- **Indian YMCA**, 41 Fitzroy Square W1 (Fitzrovia). This is authentic and very cheap Indian food. Most of the diners here are Indian students. Average price: £5-10.
- **Jimmy's Restaurant**, 23 Frith Street W1 (Soho). Very long-standing, very inexpensive Greek restaurant in the heart of Soho.
- **Mr. Jerk**, 189 Wardour Street W1 (Soho). Popular Caribbean café.
- **Maoz Falafel**, 43 Old Compton Street W1 (Soho). This popular lunchtime restaurant offers delicious falafel in pitas with fresh, crisp veggies and hummus. The cost is about £6-7 for a very filling meal (often with a drink!).
- **Masala Zone**, 48 Floral Street WC2 (Covent Garden). One of a chain of Indian restaurants serving excellent, inexpensive food.
- **Nara**, 9 D'Arblay Street W1 (Soho). Japanese and Korean menu, especially good value at lunchtime. Looking for a Korean barbecue? Look no further.
- **Rasa Express**, 5 Rathbone Street W1 (Fitzrovia). Primarily a take-away, this is part of the Rasa chain of fantastic restaurants serving South Indian cuisine. Excellent vegetarian dishes, too.
- **Shake Shack**, 24 Market Building, The Piazza WC2 (Covent Garden). Located in the heart of Covent Garden Market, this is where you'll find American burgers, fries, shakes, and hot dogs. This is London's first location of the popular NYC chain. Cheeseburgers start from £5, and prices increase as you add more toppings.
- **Soho Joe**, 22-25 Dean Street W1 (Soho). Excellent pizza at very good prices. Strongly recommended.
- **The Sandwich Man**, 23-24 Easton Street WC1. This is located just minutes from the Euracom flats. During weekdays at lunchtime they offer hearty sandwiches and salads starting from just £1. Just look for bikes and a queue of people outside of the warehouse-type building (it doesn't have a traditional store front).
- **Stockpot**, 18 Old Compton Street W1 (Soho); and 40 Panton Street SW1 (near Piccadilly Circus). The food isn't gourmet but it's good and basic (omelettes, pasta, grills, and specials) and *astonishingly* cheap for central London.
- **Wagamama**, Streatham Street WC1. Wagamama is a Japanese noodle bar chain popular with students and anyone wanting a nourishing, nutritious, and not very expensive meal in central London. To get there, turn left out of our building, right at the first corner onto Bloomsbury Street. Cross Bloomsbury Street at this corner too. The first left is Streatham Street.

#### ***Tippling – aka 'service' or 'service charge'***

Restaurants in London often add a so-called 'optional' service charge to the bill when they bring it to you. This will be either 10% or, more frequently, 12½%. Check whether service has been added! Don't fall into the trap of leaving a tip twice. If service hasn't been added, then leaving something in the region of 10-12½% will be adequate.



### ➤ **Money-saving tips**

- **Tastecard:** One year membership can be purchased on special offer for £34.99 (they run this offer often). The card entitles you and your party to either 50% off or 2-for-1 offers at participating restaurants. Anybody can register for a £1.00 90-day trial membership – but be sure to cancel before 90 days to avoid automatic renewal. Trial information can be found at [www.tastecard.co.uk/trial/headertry](http://www.tastecard.co.uk/trial/headertry) . The list of participating restaurants can be found at [www.tastecard.co.uk](http://www.tastecard.co.uk) .
- **Student discounts:** It's common knowledge that students are entitled to discounts on exhibition entry fees and movie tickets, but students can also get 10% off at some popular high street shops like Topshop, Topman, Burton, Dorothy Perkins, Faith, GAP, New Look, Office, Ryman and Schuh. Presentation of an Oberlin student ID should be sufficient.
- **Inexpensive grocery shopping:** Grocery stores significantly mark down items which are set to expire that day, and the best time to look for marked-down items is around 5pm in areas where there are a lot of office workers and a few hours before closing in residential areas. On Tottenham Court Road, the Little Waitrose has been known to mark down a loaf of bread to 10p around 5pm! Marks & Spencer also do great markdowns on Tottenham Court Road. If you're happy to freeze bread or use other ingredients they've marked down in that night's meal then it's a great way to save money. The same principle applies at Itsu (a sushi takeaway chain) – they mark down their food 50% a half hour before closing time at their various locations.
- **TK Maxx**, 120 Charing Cross Road, London WC2: Located just a few minutes away from the study centre, this is a great place to find discount housewares (if your kitchen is missing something!), shoes, coats, luggage, sheets, umbrellas, scarves and lots of clothing! The markdowns are significant and if you don't mind hunting a bit, you can find some great bargains on big name brands.
- **Telediscount** (for BT landlines): On this website you'll find access codes to dial before making an international phone call. The savings made on calls using these codes are significant: [Telediscount](http://Telediscount)
- **Living Social and Groupon:** Register with these websites to receive local London discount offers on a daily or weekly basis. Most recently, offers like 50% off gift cards for Marks & Spencer and Starbucks have been on offer. Sometimes there are free grocery delivery passes or inexpensive gym membership passes. See [www.livingsocial.com](http://www.livingsocial.com) and [www.groupon.co.uk](http://www.groupon.co.uk).
- **myWaitrose:** If you regularly pass by a Waitrose grocery store which sells coffee/tea, then it is worth asking for a free myWaitrose membership card. There are some benefits to having this card but the main one is that it entitles you to a free coffee or tea once a day.
- **Flying Tiger**, 241-242 Tottenham Court Road, London W1: Probably one of the most inexpensive places to pick up notebooks, organizers, spices, wrapping paper, cards, housewares, decorations...practically anything you could possibly imagine!

- **Being nice:** Remember to be friendly to people working in chain takeaway restaurants, particularly ones like Pret. Staff members are encouraged to give away freebies to people they feel might deserve it. Make sure to smile, and if they ask how you are, sometimes saying something like “I’m a bit nervous for a big exam” or “I’m great, it’s my birthday week!” or “It’s my first day of my internship” will cue them to possibly give you a free coffee! The same goes with theater ushers – they’ve been known to upgrade seats from the very back rows if they know better seats are not being used closer to the stage. Also, if you visit a chain restaurant’s website and notice that there is a place to leave positive feedback about a particular location, make sure you take the opportunity to compliment them. Sometimes managers will invite you in for a free meal (Iitsu is known for doing this)!

### ➤ **Gyms and swimming pools**

There are three gyms that program participants have used in recent years. You will need to check what the current rates are for joining them:

- **YMCA** (has swimming pool)  
112 Great Russell Street  
London WC1  
This is a one-minute walk from the FSU centre. Students can join the YMCA at a reduced, student rate. This will require you to bring with you a letter from FSU Reception staff at the front desk of the building, affirming your student status.
- **Camden Oasis Sports Centre** (has swimming pool)  
32 Endell Street  
London  
WC2H 9AG  
Phone: 020 7831 1804  
<http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/leisure/sport-and-physical-activity/sports-centres/oasis-sports-centre/>
- **easyGym**  
The Plaza  
120 Oxford Street  
London W1D 1LT  
Phone: 0330 055 3568  
This brand new gym is only a five-minute walk from the FSU study centre. There are no contracts and the cost is only £19.99 per month.

### ➤ **Meeting the locals**

It’s not always easy to meet the British socially. Some of the best ways to do so are to join a club, do volunteer work, or attend a local church or other place of worship.

While it may not come naturally to you, you should try hard to take initiative about talking to people – *e.g.* in pubs, while you are standing in a queue, at concerts or theaters, etc. If you smile, are friendly and interested in others, you will be likely to meet with a positive response: the great British reserve is much overstated!

Try, for example, the **Saturday Walkers' Club**, which has weekly outings. You can just turn up for any of them. There's no charge other than the train fare to the walk's starting point. For details of weekly walks, see [www.walkingclub.org.uk](http://www.walkingclub.org.uk). Britain has over 120,000 miles of public footpaths, and this is a great way to see the countryside and to meet people. See also the **Ramblers Association**: [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk). Or there is the **London Intersivity Club** that organises evening and weekend walks in and around London every week for members. Membership starts at £9.99 a month for a three-month trial. See [www.londonivc.com](http://www.londonivc.com)

You could also look into HOST. This is a voluntary organisation that arranges for students to stay with people who enjoy meeting and welcoming international students into their homes at any weekend during the year and also at Christmas. These are volunteers who enjoy learning about other cultures and are pleased to share their own lives with students from different countries. HOST is not able to place every student who would like an invitation, so you need to apply in plenty of time. Students pay nothing except their travel costs. See [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org). Tel. 020 7739 6292.

### ➤ **Groups and clubs**

Visit "Yahoo Groups" ([groups.yahoo.com](http://groups.yahoo.com)) to search for London groups in your area of interest.

Here is just a **small sample** of the kinds of groups you might find in London:

#### **Sports**

Badminton clubs, boxing training for beginners, cricket clubs, fencing clubs, football clubs, handball clubs, korfbal clubs, running clubs, tennis clubs, volleyball clubs, walking clubs, lacrosse clubs. Martial arts/self defence classes of all kinds are popular.

#### **Dance**

- Danceweb: interactive directory for UK dancing enthusiasts; [www.danceweb.co.uk](http://www.danceweb.co.uk)
- Danceworks, London W1. [www.danceworks.co.uk](http://www.danceworks.co.uk). Tel. 020 7629 6183
- The RADA Studios, London WC1. [www.rada.ac.uk](http://www.rada.ac.uk). Classes: dance, fitness, singing, etc.
- English Folk Dance and Song Society, London NW1. [www.efdss.org](http://www.efdss.org). Tel. 020 7485 2206.
- Ceilidh Club. Scottish dancing. [www.ceilidhclub.com](http://www.ceilidhclub.com).
- The Gay Gordons, London N1. Scottish country dancing for gay people and friends. [www.thegaygordons.org](http://www.thegaygordons.org).
- London Swing Dance Society. [www.swingdanceuk.com](http://www.swingdanceuk.com). Tel. 01895 613 703.
- The Place, London WC1. Dance classes. [www.theplace.org.uk](http://www.theplace.org.uk).
- Salsa Class. [www.salsaclass.co.uk](http://www.salsaclass.co.uk).
- Salsamoves. [www.salsamoves.co.uk](http://www.salsamoves.co.uk).
- Salsa Rosada – Gay Salsa Classes. [www.salsa-rosada.co.uk](http://www.salsa-rosada.co.uk); 020 7813 4831.
- Much more!

**Karaoke bars, pub quizzes. See *Time Out*.**

#### **Music**

- East London Chorus. [www.eastlondonchorus.org.uk](http://www.eastlondonchorus.org.uk). Tel. 07762 822 157.

- Imperial College Choir. [www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/choir/](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/choir/)
- St. Matthews Choir. [www.smce.org.uk](http://www.smce.org.uk)
- London Community Orchestra. [www.lco-on.ca](http://www.lco-on.ca)
- The Pink Singers. [www.pinksingers.co.uk](http://www.pinksingers.co.uk).
- Non-professional orchestras in London. See: [www.amateurorchestras.org.uk/](http://www.amateurorchestras.org.uk/)

### ➤ Cinema

See <https://www.timeout.com/london/film> for listings. Central London cinemas can be expensive. For much cheaper options, try:

- **The International Student House** shows free, current films on Sunday evenings to members. You are a member!
- **Amnesty International** screens films at its east London action centre. See [www.amnesty.org.uk/events.asp](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events.asp).
- **Roxy Bar and Screen** in Borough High Street shows free full-length features every night, plus shorts. See [roxybarandscreen.com](http://roxybarandscreen.com).

### ➤ Theater

There are several ways to get cheaper tickets to major productions:

- **The National Theatre** saves some low-priced tickets to sell on the morning of the day of the performance. Each person can buy only two tickets, which cost £15 each. The Box Office opens at 9.30 am, but you may want to join the queue earlier as many enthusiasts do, in order to get the best seats. Student standby tickets may also be available @ £15 each from 45 minutes before the performance begins.
- **The Royal Shakespeare Company** makes some tickets to their productions in Stratford and in London available to those 25 and under for only £5. See <https://www.rsc.org.uk/rsc-key> for details.
- **The Barbican Centre** makes tickets for arts events (theater, music, film) available to 16-25-year-olds for as little as £5. See <https://www.barbican.org.uk/join-support/young-barbican> for details.
- **Tickets at the Young Vic Theatre** are often available for £10, especially if you book in advance: <https://www.youngvic.org/visit-us/concessions> .
- **ATG student discount** makes tickets to West End plays available to students for as little as £16: <https://www.atgtickets.com/student-discount/> .
- **See other options here:** <https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/top-ticket-discount-offers-students-47476.html>

- **Student Standby.** Many other theaters also sell heavily discounted tickets to students in the hour before the show begins. Just show up at the theater's box office. You need to present a valid student ID. Student rush seats may be available at other theaters in the mornings. Check websites for details.
- **Discount and rush tickets** are also available through the TodayTix website and app: <https://www.todaytix.com/shows/london> .
- **TKTS: the Leicester Square Half-Price Ticket Booth.** The official half-price ticket booth is the grey building located in the middle of Leicester Square. Tickets for same-day shows are available here. Tickets are sold at half the face value of the ticket, but you must take the tickets next on top of the pile. There is also a £3.00 service charge added to the price of the ticket. Therefore, this may still end up being a relatively expensive option for a student on a budget. See [www.tkts.co.uk](http://www.tkts.co.uk).
- **Standing room tickets for sold-out shows have also been recommended by some students.**

Theater enthusiasts should note the wealth of London's fringe theater activity waiting to be explored. This is a dynamic sector that stages both new writing and freshly-imagined revivals. Don't make the mistake of assuming that because it's "fringe" it will be inferior to what you would find on the "West End" stages; but it certainly will cost you less to see. The venues are smaller and the feeling of being a member of an audience intimately involved in that essential performer-audience transaction is correspondingly often much more gratifyingly intense. Consult *Time Out* on a regular basis to see what's on where, and what is recommended. Fringe theaters with strong track-records include:

- **The Bush Theatre**, Shepherd's Bush. The Bush is a world-famous home for new plays and an internationally recognised champion of new playwrights. It has produced many groundbreaking premieres since it opened in 1972. (Shepherd's Bush Market, Shepherd's Bush, or Goldhawk Road tube stations)
- **The Arcola Theatre**, Hackney. Tuesday nights here are "pay what you can" nights, purposely created for those who find the regular price of theater tickets off-putting. A theater with a strong recent track record. (Dalston Kingsland or Dalston Junction Overground stations)
- **The Gate Theatre.** The Gate has an average seating capacity of 70, but punches far above its weight. It is London's only producing theater dedicated to international work and has a first-class track record. (Notting Hill Gate tube)
- **King's Head Theatre**, 115 Upper Street, N1. The theater is located in the back room of the King's Head pub; this room has also been, in its time, a boxing ring and a pool hall. Over the years it has staged many new works, 37 of its shows transferring to the West End. It has recently been rebranded as London's Little Opera House at The King's Head Theatre, and will specialise in producing classic opera with new interpretations. (Angel or Highbury/Islington tubes)

- **The Battersea Arts Centre** ([www.bac.org.uk](http://www.bac.org.uk)) produces many innovative productions. (Clapham Junction mainline station – from Victoria or Waterloo)
- **Soho Theatre**, 21 Dean Street, W1: a short walk from the teaching site. Since its founding ten years ago, this theater has been building a strong reputation for producing new writing. Its program includes theater, comedy, and writers' events. It is also home to a buzzy bar scene.
- **Theatre Royal Stratford East**. Every night in the lively linked bar (with good, cheap food) there are free music, free poetry and free comedy events. The theater itself has a strong reputation for theater generally, and a good line in theater about multi-cultural London. (Stratford tube)
- **Menier Chocolate Factory**, 53 Southwark Street, SE1. There is an attached restaurant, and you can get theater/meal deals. The theater itself has a strong recent track-record of putting on non-mainstream or forgotten-about musicals: wonderfully done in a small space! (London Bridge tube)
- Not a fringe theater, but artistically significant and not to be missed (modern British drama is said to have begun here on a night in May 1956) is the **Royal Court Theatre** in Sloane Square. *The New York Times* once described it as “the most important theater in Europe.” It has both a main stage and a theater upstairs, and both stages frequently produce innovative new plays. On Monday nights all tickets are £12. The Royal Court also offers special deals for students, including standing room tickets (restricted view) at their main, downstairs theater for 10p, from an hour before the performance. (Sloane Square tube)

### ➤ Music

There are too many venues and kinds of music available in London every night of the week to begin to list them all. What's certain is that there is something for every taste and that there is much that is affordable or even free. Among the free offerings you might like to note are:

- 'Late at Tate Britain' is an eclectic pop music night on the first Friday of every month. See [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk).
- St Martin in the Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, has free lunchtime concerts (though they appreciate donations).
- The BBC Concert and Symphony Orchestras have some free recitals. See [bbc.co.uk/whatson/tickets](http://bbc.co.uk/whatson/tickets).
- The South Bank Centre. The concert halls here (Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room) sponsor many free musical events. See: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk).
- For other free music venues, see regular listings in *Time Out*.
- Not free, but students can get standby tickets for as little as £10 at the Royal Opera House (<http://www.roh.org.uk/for/students> ) and the English National Opera (<https://www.eno.org/experience/access-all-arias> ). A huge bargain.

## ➤ Museums and galleries

The following major museums are all FREE and FANTASTIC. This is not an exhaustive list by any means:

- The British Museum
- The National Gallery
- The National Portrait Gallery
- The Tate Britain
- The Tate Modern
- The Imperial War Museum
- The Museum of London
- The Victoria and Albert Museum
- The V&A Museum of Childhood
- The Geffrye Museum (the museum of the British Front Room, from 1600 to the present)
- The Science Museum
- The Wellcome Collection
- The Natural History Museum
- The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich; also the Royal Observatory in Greenwich – essential!

## ➤ Auction houses

Christie's exhibits art valued at millions of pounds for free. Works going under the hammer at upcoming auctions are shown in plush salons at its London premises. Dress smartly and the doorman will wave you in. Contemplate works by Botticelli, Renoir, or whoever is coming up for sale, and gawp at the price tags. Some of these paintings may never go on free public view again. Christie's, 8 King Street, St James's, London SW1. See [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). Also see Sotheby's, a very similar rival auction house at 34-35 New Bond Street, W1: [www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com)

## ➤ Speakers' Corner

In a category of its own. This is an enduring symbol of Britain's right to free speech, visible every Sunday in a corner of London opposite Marble Arch. Ever since the right of free assembly was recognized in 1872, Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park has been the place for philosophers, politicians, and anyone else to get things off their chest. Past orators have included the Pankhursts (famous suffragettes), Karl Marx, Lenin, and George Orwell. Other London parks have designated speakers' corners too, including Clapham Common and Finsbury Park. Two subjects are off limits: the royal family and overthrowing the government.

## ➤ Haircuts

- **Vidal Sassoon Davies Mews School, Davies Mews, W1** offers some "model appointments" at greatly reduced rates. The session takes about 3 hours, though.
- **The Klinik**, 28 Exmouth Market, EC1. This salon offers 20% off all services for students on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays between 11 am and 8 pm. See: [www.theklinik.com/the-klinik-team](http://www.theklinik.com/the-klinik-team)

- For Black Hair Salons and Barbers in London, see comprehensive listings at: <http://www.itzcaribbean.com/blackhairsalonsbarbers>
- For a cheap local haircut, go to **Mr. Topper's** on Great Russell Street, diagonally across the street from the teaching site.
- Finally, see <http://www.timeout.com/london/shopping/londons-best-free-haircuts> for many other possibilities.

### ➤ **Hostels in London**

Hostels provide the cheapest temporary accommodation. Here are a few useful websites that have lists of hostels:

- The London Student Hostels Directory: [www.lcos.org.uk](http://www.lcos.org.uk)
- Hostels worldwide: [www.bootsnall.com](http://www.bootsnall.com)
- The Youth Hostels Association (YHA): [www.Hihostel.com](http://www.Hihostel.com)
- Generator Hostel: [www.HostelBookers.com](http://www.HostelBookers.com)
- London Hostel Association: [www.hostellondon.com](http://www.hostellondon.com)

### **Some Hostels/Hotels near the Oberlin-in-London site:**

- **Astor Museum Hostel**  
(Russell Square tube)  
27 Montague Street  
Bloomsbury WC1B 5BH, London  
(020) 7580 5360  
*This is a privately run hotel very near the FSU centre.*
- **International Students' House**  
(Great Portland Street tube)  
229 Great Portland Street  
London W1M 5HD  
(020) 7631 8300
- **The Wesley**  
(Euston tube)  
81-103 Euston Street  
London NW1 2EZ  
(020) 7380 0001  
[www.thewesley.co.uk](http://www.thewesley.co.uk)  
(See 'Student Accommodation')

### **London Association of Hostels:**

[www.lha.com](http://www.lha.com)

Information about many London hostel locations may be found here.



### **Youth Hostels Association (YHA)**

The YHA has seven hostels in London with beds in shared rooms. Maximum stay is two weeks and prices are around £30 per night, with a supplement if you do not have YHA membership. YHA hostels are also friendly, good value places to stay when travelling around Britain. See [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk).

The YHA hostel nearest the FSU centre is:

St. Pancras YH  
(King's Cross Tube)  
179-81 Euston Road  
NW1 2QS  
0845 371 9344

Other central London YHA hostel locations include Oxford Street; St Paul's (City); Holland Park; Earls Court.

### ➤ **Hotels in London**

Most of these hotels have websites. Websites that provide reviews such as Trip Advisor ([www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)) may be worth checking. Also consult *Let's Go London*, and *The Rough Guide to London*.

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Location and Description</b>
Arosfa Hotel (Euston Square Tube)	83 Gower Street WC1 (020) 7636 2115 <i>A simple budget hotel near the FSU centre.</i>
Arran House Hotel (Euston Square Tube)	77-79 Gower Street WC1 (020) 7636 2186 <i>Single and double rooms. Breakfast included.</i>
Ashlee House (King's Cross Tube)	261-265 Gray's Inn Road (020) 7833 9400 <i>This hotel is at King's Cross, very near to the FSU centre. Some dormitory-style rooms.</i>
Celtic Hotel (Holborn or Russell Square Tube)	26 Bedford Place WC1 (020) 7636 2869
Citadines Apart'Hotel (Holborn Tube)	94-99 High Holborn WC1V 6LF (020) 7395 8800, fax (020) 7395 8799 Other London locations too. <i>Studios and apartments with well-equipped efficiency kitchens. This is a French chain, highly recommended for clean, efficient</i>

Hotel	Location and Description
	<i>accommodation, with living and dining space so you can easily prepare meals and save considerably on dining-out expenses. See: <a href="http://www.citadines.com/">www.citadines.com/</a></i>
George Hotel (Russell Square Tube)	60 Cartwright Gardens WC1H (020) 7387 8777
Harlingford Hotel (Russell Square Tube)	61-63 Cartwright Gardens WC1H (020) 7387 1551
Jenkins Hotel	45 Cartwright Gardens WC1H (Russell Square Tube) 020) 7387 2067 <i>Single and double rooms.</i>
Morgan Hotel (Tottenham Court Road Tube)	24 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QJ (020) 7636 3735 <i>A stone's throw from the FSU centre.</i>
Ridgemount Hotel (Euston Square Tube)	65-67 Gower St, Bloomsbury WC1 (020) 7636 1141
Ruskin Hotel (Russell Square Tube)	23-24 Montague St WC1B 5BH (020) 7636 7388
St Margaret Hotel (Holborn or Russell Square Tube)	26 Bedford Place WC1 (020) 7636 4277
Tavistock (Russell Square Tube)	Tavistock Square WC1H (020) 7636 8383
Thanet Hotel (Russell Square Tube)	8 Bedford Place, WC1 (020) 7636 2869
Vandon House Hotel (St. James Park Tube)	1 Vandon Street SW1H OAH (020) 7799 6780 <i>This hotel is a few minutes walk from Victoria Rail Station (where Gatwick Express arrives).</i>

For more information on hostels, hotels and accommodations, and booking services, see:

- London Tourist [www.londontourist.org/](http://www.londontourist.org/)

- Visit London [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com)
- Londontown.com [www.londontown.com/](http://www.londontown.com/)
- London Tourist Accommodation Service [www.hotelbooking.co.uk/](http://www.hotelbooking.co.uk/)

### ➤ **Places of worship in London**

We can supply a more comprehensive list of places of worship in the Oberlin office, and/or help you find what you are looking for that may not be represented here.

#### **Buddhist**

- Buddhapadipa Temple  
14 Calonne Road, London SW19  
Tube: Wimbledon

#### **Christian**

- The American Church in London (interdenominational)  
79a Tottenham Court Road, London W1P  
Tube: Goodge Street
- Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church  
235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2  
Tube: Tottenham Court Road
- Brompton Oratory (Roman Catholic)  
Brompton Road, London SW7  
Tube: South Kensington, Knightsbridge
- Westminster Cathedral (Roman Catholic)  
42 Francis Street, London SW1  
Tube: Victoria
- All Souls, Langham Place (Evangelical)  
2 All Souls Place, London W1  
Tube: Oxford Circus
- Holy Trinity, Brompton (Church of England/Episcopal)  
Brompton Road, London SW7  
Tube: South Kensington
- St. Bride (Church of England/Episcopal)  
Fleet Street, London EC4  
Tube: Blackfriars, St. Pauls, Chancery Lane
- Chelsea Methodist Church and Pastoral Centre  
155a Kings Road, London SW3  
Tube: Sloane Square

- Friends House (Quaker)  
173 Euston Road, London NW1  
Tube: Euston, Euston Square

### **Islamic**

- London Central Mosque  
146 Park Road, London NW8  
Tube: Baker Street

### **Jewish**

- Union of Jewish Students  
Endsleigh Street, London WC1
- The Liberal Jewish Synagogue (similar to American 'Reform')  
28 St. John's Wood Road, London NW8  
Tube: St. John's Wood
- West London Synagogue (Reform – closest to American 'Conservative')  
33 Seymour Place, London W1  
Tube: Marble Arch
- Western Marble Arch Synagogue (United Synagogue)  
32 Great Cumberland Place, London W1  
Tube: Marble Arch

## Euracom Booking Agreement

### Students of Oberlin College January 2020

Please read this agreement in full before signing and returning. This is a legally binding document.

This booking agreement is made between the following parties:

1. Euracom, Suite 5b, Stanmore Towers, 8-14 Church Road Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4AW  
020 8420 7666

(For the purposes of this agreement, Euracom is acting in its sole capacity as Agent for the Licensor.)

2. Name of student \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email ("the occupier") – **WRITE VERY CLEARLY**

\_\_\_\_\_

Both the Agent and the occupier understand and accept the following terms and conditions of this Booking Agreement:

1. The Agent agrees to let and the occupier agrees to take a licence in the form annexed to this booking form at Annex 1 ("the Licence Agreement").
2. The occupancy will commence on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and terminate on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
3. The licence fee payable under the terms of the Licence Agreement will be £230.00 per Occupier per week inclusive of utilities.
4. The exact number of Occupiers to occupy the Premises will be noted on the Licence Agreement, before the commencement of the Term, under the Licence Agreement.
5. The Agent will advise the occupier of the address and telephone number of the Premises under the Licence Agreement as soon as practicable after the exact number of Occupiers to occupy the Premises under the Agreement in accordance with clause 4 above has been determined.
6. A Rent Deposit will not be collected as per arrangement with Oberlin.

7. The words Occupier(s), Premises, Licence fee, Deposit, Term, Utilities have the meanings ascribed to them in the Licence Agreement.

8. There is no provision for changing the Premises by the occupier for any reason prior to the commencement of the Term under the Agreement.

9. There is no provision for cancelling this agreement once signed and countersigned.

10. The Premises are strictly rented to the occupier and only the Occupiers of **Oberlin College** are permitted to occupy the Premises. Overnight guests other than the Occupiers are not permitted to occupy the Premises.

11. All terms and conditions included herein take effect on the date of countersignature.

**By signing and dating this Booking Agreement, the Occupier and Agent both understand and accept all terms and conditions stated in this document**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Occupier)      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Agent)      Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNEX 1**  
**LICENCE AGREEMENT**

This Licence Agreement is made for accommodation from the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**BETWEEN**

- (1) **EURACOM** of Suite 5b, Stanmore Towers 8-14 Church Road Stanmore Middlesex HA7 4AW (as agent for the licensor)
- 2) a student of Oberlin College (hereinafter called “the occupier”)

**NOW IT IS AGREED** as follows:

**1 Definitions and interpretation**

In this agreement:

- 1.1 **“the Contents”** means the furniture and other items included within the Premises at the commencement of the Term and which belong to the Licensor.
- 1.2 **“Payment Date”** (for the rent) shall mean the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- 1.3 **“the occupier”** means: the student named on the agreement.
- 1.4 **“the Premises”** means the flat allocated as per point 5 (or 6) of the booking agreement.
- 1.5 **“the Licence fee”** means the licence fee of £230.00 per week per occupier as listed in clause 1.3 above.
- 1.6 **Not applicable**
- 1.7 **“the Utilities”** means all energy charges, rates (including water rates), taxes (including council tax), duties, assessments, impositions, and other outgoings which are now or may in the future be assessed, charged, or imposed on the Premises and which shall include telephone rental and internet charges. These are included in the Licence fee. Each student is charged £80.00 to cover the end of tenancy cleaning charge.
- 1.10 words importing one gender shall be construed as importing any other gender and words importing the singular shall be construed as importing the plural and vice versa
- 1.11 where any party comprises more than one person the obligations and liabilities of that party under this agreement shall be joint and several obligations and liabilities of those persons.

**2 Licence**

- 2.1 The Licensor agrees to let, and the occupier agrees to take, the Premises for a fixed term commencing on and including 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and terminating on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (**“the Term”**).
- 2.2 The occupier acknowledges that the Licence granted by this agreement is not an assured Tenancy and that no statutory periodic tenancy will arise on the determination of the Term.

**3 Payment for the Premises**

- 3.1 Not applicable.
- 3.2 **The occupier’s obligations**  
The occupier agrees throughout the Term as follows:

4.1 **Licence fee and other outgoings**

4.1.1 To pay to the Licensor on the Payment Collection Date the following sums in the manner referred to above:

4.1.1.1 Not applicable

4.2 **Use of Premises**

Not to use the Premises except as a private residence for residential purposes for occupation by the occupiers and not to operate a business at the Premises or use the Premises for any other purpose.

4.3 **Nuisance**

Not to cause or allow invited visitors to cause a nuisance or annoyance to neighbours or other occupiers of the licensor.

4.4 **Noise**

Not to play or allow to be played any radio, television, or musical instrument so loudly that it causes a nuisance or annoyance to neighbours or can be heard outside the Premises.

4.5 **Illegal or immoral user**

Not to use the Premises for any illegal or immoral purposes or permit the Premises to be so used

4.6 **Pets**

Not to keep any pets at the Premises

4.7 **Internal decoration**

4.7.1 To keep the interior of the Premises in good decorative order and to keep the interior and windows of the Premises in good and clean condition and to keep drains and pipes clean and clear from obstruction.

4.7.2 Not to paint or re-paper or change the colour scheme of the interior of the Premises.

4.8 **Damage**

Not to cause any damage to the Premises and to make good any damage to the Premises or the licensor's fixtures and fittings or to the common parts of the building in which the Premises is situated, caused by the occupier or any invited visitor to the Premises (damage by risks against which the Licensor has insurance excepted, unless any insurance monies are irrecoverable due to the act or default of the occupier or its visitors) and to pay any costs incurred by the Licensor carrying out such works in default.

4.9 **Reporting disrepair**

To report to the Agent promptly in writing (email) any disrepair or defect in the structure or exterior of the Premises or in any installation in the Premises or in the common parts of the building in which the Premises is situated.

4.10 **Access**

4.10.1 To allow the Licensor / Agent's employee's agents or contractor's access at all reasonable hours of the daytime to inspect the condition of the Premises or to carry out repairs or other works to



the Premises or adjoining Premises notice normally being given in such circumstances unless there is an emergency and immediate access is required.

4.10.2 To allow the Licensor / Agent's employees access at all reasonable hours of the daytime to view the Premises with prospective occupiers or purchasers of the Premises.

4.11 **Assignment and sharing**

Not to assign this Licence agreement and not to assign, transfer, sublet, or otherwise part with possession of the Premises or any part of them to any other person.

4.12 **Posters**

Not to affix posters, signs, or notices on the exterior of the Premises or on the interior of the Premises, and not to hang on the balcony (if any) of the Premises any clothes or other items.

4.13 **Alterations**

Not to make or permit to be made any alterations to the Premises.

4.14 **Common parts**

Not to do anything or permit anything to be done that interferes with the use of the common parts of the building in which the Premises is situated and in particular not to store any goods in the common parts.

4.15 **Moving out**

To give the Licensor vacant possession of the Premises and Contents by 10.00am on the date the Term ends. Return the keys of the Premises at the end of the Licence and remove all items belonging to the occupier and his personal possessions and rubbish and leave the Premises and the Licensor's fixtures and fittings in good and substantial condition and repair. To pay to the Licensor the cost of repairing or replacing any damaged or missing parts of the Premises or any of the Licensor's fixtures and fittings.

4.16 **Contents**

To maintain the Contents and keep them in good condition (except to the extent their condition deteriorates as a result of fair and ordinary use) must make sure they are not damaged and must not remove them from the Premises.

4.17 **Regulations for the Premises**

To observe any rules and regulations made from time to time by the Licensor for the management or improvement of the premises.

4.18 **Insurance**

Not do anything, or fail to comply with any requirement, as a result of which the policy of insurance taken out by the Licensor in relation to the Premises and the Contents may become void or voidable or invalidated or by which the rate of premium on the policy may be increased.

4.19 **Smoking / Illegal Substances**

Not to smoke or take any illegal substances anywhere within the Premises or permit anyone to smoke within the Premises.

**5 The Licensor's obligations**

The Licensor agrees:

**5.1 Possession**

To give the occupier possession of the Premises at the commencement of the Agreement and to refuse access to the property at any time for individuals who are not named on the Agreement.

**5.2 Occupiers' right to occupy**

Not to interrupt or interfere with the occupier's right peacefully to occupy the Premises except where access is required to inspect the condition of the Premises or to carry out repairs or other works to the Premises or adjoining Premises. The Licensor will ensure that all appliances are safe and working properly. The Licensor /agent will respond promptly to any maintenance issues that require attention and keep the occupier informed of progress.

Where any damage renders the Premises uninhabitable the Licensor agrees to offer alternative Premises to the occupier.

**6 Proviso for re-entry**

If the Licence fee or any part thereof shall be in arrears for at least 14 days after it has become due (whether legally demanded or not) or if there shall be a breach of any of the provisions of this Agreement by the occupier, the Licensor may re-enter the Premises and immediately the Agreement shall terminate without prejudice to the rights and remedies of either party to each other.

**7 Deposit**

Oberlin students will agree to make payment direct to Euracom Ltd in the case of any damages or additional charges that would have previously been taken out of the deposit.

7.2.4 Cover any expenses incurred by the Licensor as a result of any breach of the occupier's obligations under this agreement;

**8 Compliance with agreement**

The occupier and the Landlord agree with each other to comply with the requirements of this agreement.

**9. Third Party Rights**

It is not intended that any term of this Agreement shall be enforceable by any third party under Section 1 of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

**Privacy Policy**

Please note we do not disclose any of the student's personal data to any third parties.

***Property Supervisor Details***

Tania Sanchez 07734 389 198 – Based at  
Hampden House,  
2 Weymouth Street,  
London  
W1W 5BT  
[tania@euracom.co.uk](mailto:tania@euracom.co.uk)

**All maintenance issues to be reported to [maintenance@euracom.co.uk](mailto:maintenance@euracom.co.uk)**