*The CUA Oxford Program is jointly administered by the Center for Global Education at CUA and the Oxford Program for Undergraduate Studies (OPUS) in Oxford, England*
Dear CUA Oxford Program Participant,

This pre-departure E-guide has been put together to help you prepare for your upcoming journey to England and to Oxford in particular. It is by no means comprehensive; however it should provide you with a valuable array of information for your upcoming education abroad program. You will find that much of this information was gathered online, and I strongly encourage you to do your own online research as well. Online resources are limitless and you can surf from pages containing general tips for overseas travel to others displaying aerial views of Oxford and descriptions of Oxford colleges!

This E-guide includes an overview of the United Kingdom, sections on London and Oxford and program-specific information. You may either print out this E-guide and take it with you, or bookmark it so that you and your family may refer to it electronically while you are abroad.

Remember that all education abroad programs, no matter how well organized, will involve some moments of confusion and frustration. There will undoubtedly be times when you are tired, nervous and home sick. However, with hindsight, all these mixed emotions will seem worthwhile as the overall experience will be one of intense learning and personal growth. Be patient, kind, prepared and open to the unknown and I guarantee this will be the experience of a lifetime.

Carpe Diem!

Tanith Fowler Corsi
Assistant Vice President for Global Education
Center for Global Education
Catholic University of America
TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. UNITED KINGDOM

II. LONDON

III. OXFORD

IV. CUA OXFORD PROGRAM DETAILS
I. UNITED KINGDOM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

United Kingdom and Gibraltar
(England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)
Country Specific Information
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1052.html#

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a highly developed constitutional monarchy composed of Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) and Northern Ireland. Read the Department of State Background Notes on the United Kingdom (UK) for additional information. Gibraltar is a UK Overseas Territory bordering Spain, located at the southernmost tip of Europe at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea; it is one of 13 former British colonies that have elected to retain political ties with London. Tourist facilities are widely available throughout the United Kingdom and Gibraltar.

SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP) / EMBASSY LOCATION: If you are planning visit or reside in the United Kingdom, please take the time to tell our Embassy or Consulates about your trip. If you enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency.

The American Citizen Services section maintains a blog of easy-to-access information relevant to U.S. citizens living in or traveling to the United Kingdom. Local Embassy and Consulate information is available below and at the Department of State’s list of embassies and consulates.

U.S. Embassy London
24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE
Telephone: 020-7499-9000
Telephone from the United States: 011-44-20-7499-9000 (24 hours)
Consular fax: 020-7495-5012
Consular fax from the United States: 011-44-20-7495-5012

U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh, Scotland
3 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BW
Telephone: 013-1556-8315
Telephone from the United States: 011-44-13-1556-8315
Emergency after-hours telephone: 020-7499-9000
Emergency after-hours telephone from the United States: 011-44-20-7499-9000
Fax: 0131-557-6023
Fax from the United States: 011-44-131-557-6023

U.S. Consulate General Belfast, Northern Ireland
Danesfort House, 223 Stranmillis Road, Belfast BT9 5GR
Telephone: 028-9038-6100
Telephone from the United States: 011-44-28-9038-6100
Emergency after-hours telephone: 07545-507738
Emergency after-hours telephone from the United States: 011-44-7545-507738
Fax: 028-9068-1301
Fax from the United States: 011-44-28-9068-1301

There is no U.S. consular representation in Gibraltar. You should direct passport questions from there to the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, located at Serrano 75, Madrid, Spain; telephone: 34-91-587-2200 and fax: 34-91-587-2303. You should direct all other inquiries to the U.S. Embassy in London.

ENTRY / EXIT REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS: While some countries impose minimum passport validity for arriving passengers, there is no such requirement for the United Kingdom. U.S. citizens seeking entry as tourists or visitors are required to present a valid passport. U.S. citizens traveling to the UK for purposes other than tourism should refer to the UK Border Agency website to verify if a visa or entry clearance certificate is required for entry. U.S. citizens traveling from the UK to other countries, or changing planes in the UK en route to onward destinations, should check the passport and visa requirements of any onward destinations prior to entering the UK. The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has a five-tier, point-based visa system that affects U.S. citizens coming to the United Kingdom as well as U.S. citizens and family members already in the country. You can find information on the point-based system on the UKBA website. You must be outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man when you apply for a UK visa.

Companies and individuals intending to employ U.S. citizens, or other nationals from countries beyond the European Economic Area and Switzerland, are required to apply to the UKBA for a sponsorship license. Information on the sponsorship license can be found on the UKBA website.

Educational organizations must also apply for a sponsorship license from the UKBA. This includes U.S. educational institutions offering only short-term study abroad programs on their own premises in the United Kingdom to students who are enrolled in the United States but come to the United Kingdom for one or two semesters prior to returning home to finish their degrees. Information on the license for educational institutions also can be found on the UKBA website.

Students and prospective students who intend to stay longer than six months, and those coming for less than six months but who wish to work while studying, are required to obtain a student or prospective student visa before traveling to the United Kingdom. If you do not, you will be refused entry to the United Kingdom. You can find information on student visas on the UKBA website. Students may apply online.

Please note that charity workers, religious workers, and other temporary workers -- even those performing unpaid duties -- are required to obtain a visa prior to traveling to the United Kingdom. You can find information on temporary workers on the UKBA website.

It is your personal responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate permission to enter the United Kingdom. We cannot intervene on your behalf when applying for a visa, nor can we obtain one for you at the airport. We cannot assist if you are denied entry into the United Kingdom and returned on a flight to the United States. The UKBA website will help you find out whether you need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.
Effective November 1, 2011, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) now requires any visitor or resident without recourse to public funds to clear any National Health Service (NHS) charges before being admitted back into the UK. The threshold for defaulters is £1,000 (approximately $1,600). Anyone who has not paid their outstanding NHS debts will be refused entry or the issuance of a visa until the charges are settled. Visit the UKBA website for more details. The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of the UK. Anyone who does not appear to be in good health may be required to undergo a medical exam (including an HIV test) prior to being granted or denied entry into the United Kingdom.

You can find information about dual nationality or the prevention of international child abduction on our website. For further information about customs regulations, please read our Customs Information page.

**THREATS TO SAFETY AND SECURITY:** The United Kingdom is politically stable and has a modern infrastructure, but shares with the rest of the world an increased threat of terrorist incidents of international origin, as well as the potential for isolated violence related to the political situation in Northern Ireland.

Like the United States, the United Kingdom shares its national threat levels with the general public to keep everyone informed and explain the context for the various increased security measures that may be encountered. The UK Home Office posts UK threat levels on its website.

The UK Security Service, commonly known as MI5, publishes through its website specific reasons for any changes in the threat level and recommended actions for the public.

U.S. citizens should check with the UK Department for Transport for the latest security updates and carry-on luggage restrictions.

In the past several years, extremists have targeted and attacked public transportation infrastructure in European cities such as London, Madrid, Glasgow, and Moscow, demonstrating that terrorists continue to take an active interest in targeting this sector. The British Home Secretary has urged UK citizens to be alert and vigilant. For example, travelers are encouraged to keep an eye out for suspect packages or people acting suspiciously on buses, on the subway (called the Tube or Underground), at train stations, and at airports, and to report anything suspicious to the appropriate authorities. U.S. citizens should remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and to exercise caution. As has been widely reported in the press, UK law enforcement authorities have taken action to guard against a terrorist attack, underscoring in their public statements that the police are using a range of tactics to mitigate the threat. For more information about UK public safety initiatives, consult the UK Civil Contingencies Secretariat website.

The political situation in Northern Ireland has improved substantially since the days of the “Troubles,” with the successful completion of a four-year term by the Northern Ireland Assembly in March 2011 and the devolution of policing and justice authorities to the Assembly in April 2010. Nevertheless, the Police Service of Northern Ireland assesses the dissident republican threat in Northern Ireland to be severe. Three violent dissident republican groups, the Real IRA (RIRA), Oglaigh na hÉireann (ONH), and the Continuity IRA (CIRA) are the main sources of an increased number of security incidents in recent years. Attacks by these groups have focused primarily on police and military targets, and involved the use of firearms and explosives. Attacks have targeted the private vehicles and homes of security personnel, police stations, and other justice sector buildings, increasing the potential for travelers to be caught in the wrong place at the wrong time during such attacks, and also during any sporadic incidents of street violence and/or sectarian confrontation. U.S. citizens
traveling to Northern Ireland should remain alert to their surroundings and should be aware that if they choose to visit potential flashpoints or attend parades, sporadic violence remains a possibility. Tensions may be heightened during the summer marching season (April to August), particularly during the month of July (around the July 12th public holiday).

We remind you that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. You should avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and be careful within the vicinity of any demonstrations. You should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

The phone number for police/fire/ambulance emergency services – the equivalent of 911 in the United States – is 999 in the United Kingdom and 112 in Gibraltar. You should also use this number to report warnings about possible bombs or other immediate threats. The UK Anti-Terrorist Hotline, at 0800-789-321, is available for tips and confidential information about possible terrorist activity.

Stay up to date by:

- Bookmarking our Bureau of Consular Affairs website, which contains the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts as well as the Worldwide Caution;
- Following us on Twitter (Consular Affairs or U.S. Embassy London) and on Facebook (Consular Affairs or U.S. Embassy London);
- Downloading our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips;
- Calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free within the U.S. and Canada, or a regular toll line, 1-202-501-4444, from other countries; and

Taking some time before travel to consider your personal security. Here are some useful tips for traveling safely abroad. Take some time before you travel to improve your personal security—things are not the same everywhere as they are in the United States. Here are some useful tips for traveling safely abroad.

CRIME: The United Kingdom and Gibraltar benefit from generally low crime rates. Overall crime rates have decreased over the past decade; however, according to Metropolitan Police statistics, serious crime (i.e. assault, robbery, burglary, gun-enabled crimes, and rape) in many London boroughs has increased. As with any major metropolitan city, U.S. citizens are urged to be cautious and aware of their surroundings.

Typical criminal incidents include pick pocketing, mugging, and “snatch and grab” theft of mobile phones, watches, and jewelry. Theft of unattended bags, especially at airports and from cars parked at restaurants, hotels, and resorts is common. Pickpockets target tourists, especially at historic sites and restaurants, and on buses, trains, and the London subway. Thieves often target unattended cars parked at tourist sites and roadside restaurants, looking for laptop computers and handheld electronic equipment - especially global positioning satellite (GPS) equipment.

U.S. citizens should also be alert to other criminal schemes, such as imposters posing as undercover police officers and "fining" tourists for bogus minor offences (littering or not having ID documents, for example). A legitimate Metropolitan Police Services officer will never demand an immediate cash payment from a citizen or tourist.
You should avoid walking alone in isolated areas, including public parks, especially after dark, as these are advantageous venues for muggers and thieves. You should be especially careful using underground pedestrian tunnels at night or when there is little foot traffic. As a general rule, either walk the extra distance to use a surface crossing or wait until there are other adult pedestrians entering the tunnel.

In London, you should use only licensed Black Cabs or car services recommended by hotels or tour operators. Unlicensed taxis or private cars posing as taxis may offer low fares, but are often uninsured and may have unlicensed drivers. In some instances, travelers have been robbed and/or raped while using these cars. You can access 7,000 licensed Black Cabs using one telephone number: 087-1871-8710. This taxi booking service combines all six of London’s radio taxi circuits, allowing you to telephone 24 hours a day if you need a cab. Alternatively, to find a licensed minicab, text HOME to 60835 on your mobile phone to get the telephone number to two licensed minicab companies in the area. If you know in advance when you will be leaving for home, you can pre-book your return journey. The Safe Travel at Night partnership among the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, and the Mayor of London maintains a website with additional information on cabs and car services.

Don’t leave your drink unattended in bars and nightclubs. There have been some instances of drinks being spiked with illegal substances, leading to incidents of robbery and rape.

U.S. citizens should take steps to ensure the safety of their U.S. passports. Visitors in the United Kingdom and Gibraltar are not expected to produce identity documents for police authorities and thus may secure their passports in hotel safes or residences.

**ATM Fraud:** You don’t need to carry a passport to cash a traveler’s check. There are many ATMs that link to U.S. banking networks. When using ATM machines in the United Kingdom, you should use the same common-sense personal security measures you would use in the United States. ATM fraud in the United Kingdom is becoming more sophisticated, incorporating technologies that surreptitiously record customer ATM card and PIN information. Avoid using ATMs that look in any way temporary in structure or location, or are located in isolated areas. Be aware that in busy public areas, thieves use distraction techniques, such as waiting until the PIN has been entered and then pointing to money on the ground or attempting to hand out a free newspaper. When the ATM user is distracted, a colleague will quickly withdraw cash and leave. If you are distracted in any way, cancel the transaction immediately. Don’t use an ATM if there is anything stuck to the machine or if it looks unusual in any way. If the machine does not return your card, report the incident to the issuing bank immediately. If you need to visit an ATM always try to use the machines inside the bank, as they are monitored by CCTV and are the least likely to be targeted by thieves.

Don’t buy counterfeit and pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are the bootlegs illegal to bring back into the United States, but you may also be breaking local law.

**Scams:** Financial crimes conducted over the Internet have increased dramatically in the United Kingdom as scammers attempt to convince you to send them money. These fraudulent schemes can include lotteries, online dating/social networking services, inheritance notices, work permits/job offers, bank overpayments, or schemes that make it appear you are helping a loved one or a friend in trouble.

In many cases, scammers troll the Internet for victims, and spend weeks or months building a relationship. Once they have gained their victim’s trust, the scammers create a false situation and ask for money.
Scammers can be very clever and deceptive, creating sad and believable stories that will make you want to send them money.

A number of U.S. citizens are lured to the United Kingdom each year in the belief that they have won a lottery or have inherited from the estate of a long-lost relative. U.S. citizens may also be contacted by persons with whom they have become acquainted over the Internet – or even receive an email purportedly from a friend or family member – who now need funds urgently to pay for hospital treatment, hotel bills, taxes, or airline security fees. Invariably, the person contacted becomes a victim of fraud. **If you receive an email from family or friends requesting assistance you should first try calling them, as that person may not know their email account has been hacked.** You should view any unsolicited invitations to travel to the United Kingdom to collect winnings or an inheritance with skepticism. Also, there are no licenses or fees required when transiting a UK airport, emergency medical treatment is never withheld pending payment of fees, and hotels in the UK will not detain guests for lack of funds without involving the police. A claim that a hospital or hotel will not let someone depart until their bill is settled is usually a red flag for a scam.

Visit the Embassy London website for more information about Internet Financial Scams and how to protect yourself. The site contains useful tips to prevent becoming a victim. To view a common example of Internet financial scams, see Embassy London’s YouTube video. The U.S. Department of State also provides information about other types of international financial scams.

**VICTIMS OF CRIME:** If you or someone you know becomes the victim of a crime abroad, you should contact the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate (see the Department of State’s list of embassies and consulates). If your passport is stolen, we can help you replace it. For violent crimes such as assault and rape, we can, for example, help you find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and help you get money sent from them if you need it. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime are solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line in the United Kingdom is 999; in Gibraltar, it is 112.

The Victim Support website is maintained by an independent UK charity to help people cope with the effects of crime. A Northern Ireland-based independent charity maintains a similar victim’s support website. In Scotland victims of crime should contact Victim Support Scotland.

Please see our information for victims of crime, including possible victim compensation programs in the United States.

**CRIMINAL PENALTIES:** While you are traveling in the United Kingdom, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different than our own. If you break local laws in the United Kingdom, your U.S. passport won’t help you avoid arrest or prosecution. It’s very important to know what’s legal and what’s not where you are going.

Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs in the United Kingdom are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime prosecutable in the United States.
Many pocket knives and other blades, and mace or pepper spray canisters, although legal in the United States, are illegal in the United Kingdom and will result in arrest and confiscation if detected. Please refer to “A UK Customs Guide,” detailing which items visitors are prohibited from bringing into the United Kingdom.

Air travelers to and from the United Kingdom should be aware that penalties against alcohol-related and other in-flight crimes (“air rage”) are stiff and are being enforced with prison sentences. Please also see our information on customs regulations that pertain when returning to the United States.

Drivers of non-UK-registered vehicles may have to provide an on-the-spot deposit of up to 900 pounds (approximately $1400) if stopped for a motoring offense. If the driver cannot pay due to lack of cash or credit, the vehicle may be impounded until payment is made, and a release fee will be charged in addition to the deposit.

Non-UK-resident drivers charged with motoring offenses are often unable to provide a verifiable address where a summons (subpoena) to appear in court can be delivered and/or enforced, or fail to return for court if released on bail. U.S. citizens may be detained and arrested if they cannot provide a UK address to receive a subpoena or are about to depart the United Kingdom and have to be brought to court quickly for a motoring offense. If alleged offenders attend court and are found not guilty, the deposit is returned.

UK authorities nearly always promptly notify the U.S. Embassy or a consulate if a U.S. citizen is detained or arrested in the UK, but to ensure the State Department is aware of your circumstances, request that the police and prison officials notify the U.S. Embassy or nearest consulate as soon as you are arrested or detained in the UK.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: The legal drinking age (18 years old to purchase alcohol) in the United Kingdom is lower than in the United States, and social drinking in pubs (bars) is often seen as a routine aspect of British life. Parents, organizers of school trips, and young travelers should be aware of the impact that this environment may have when combined with the sense of adventure that comes with being abroad. Please see our Students Abroad website to help you plan a safe and enjoyable experience.

The United Kingdom has strict gun-control laws, and importing firearms is extremely complicated. Travelers should consider leaving all firearms in the United States. There are restrictions on the type and number of weapons that an individual may possess. All handguns, such as pistols and revolvers, are prohibited, with very few exceptions. Police control the licensing of firearms in the United Kingdom. Applicants for a license must be prepared to show good reason why they require each weapon. Applicants must also provide a copy of their U.S. gun license, a letter of good conduct from their local U.S. police station, and a letter detailing any previous training, hunting, or shooting experience. Background checks will also be carried out. Additional information on applying for a firearm certificate and/or shotgun certificate can be found on the London Metropolitan Police Firearms licensing web page. For firearms certificates for Scotland, please check with the police constabulary in the city you wish to visit as Scotland has separate regulations. Licenses from England or Wales may not be valid in Scotland; please check with the appropriate authorities.

Accessibility: In the UK, accessibility and accommodation for individuals with disabilities may be very different from what you find in the United States. UK law mandates access to buildings for persons with disabilities, and the government effectively enforces this requirement in practice. The law requires that all public service
providers (except in the transportation sector) make "reasonable adjustments" to ensure their services are available to persons with disabilities.

Getting around in UK cities may be difficult at times since many sidewalks are narrow and uneven. Although the London Underground and the UK’s National Rail System are very efficient methods for traveling throughout central London and the UK, most stations are not readily accessible for people with disabilities. Very few stations have elevators, and most have stairways and long corridors for changing trains or exiting to the street. However, many UK buses are equipped with lowering platforms for limited-mobility or sight- or hearing-disabled travelers. Taxis are also a good means of transportation.

The Transport for London and National Rail websites provide information for passengers with disabilities. There are many other resources available on the internet for disabled persons traveling to or living in the UK. You may also contact any of our consular offices by e-mail for further information on this topic.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION:** While medical services are widely available, free care under the National Health System (NHS) is allowed only for UK residents and certain EU nationals. Tourists and short-term visitors will be charged for medical treatment in the United Kingdom. Charges may be significantly higher than those assessed in the United States. Travelers to the United Kingdom should ensure they have adequate medical insurance to cover the cost of any treatment received - please see additional insurance information below.

You can find good information on vaccinations and other health precautions on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization (WHO) website, which also contains additional health information for travelers, including detailed country-specific health information.

Hiking in higher elevations can be treacherous. Several people die each year while hiking, particularly in Scotland, often due to sudden changes in weather. We encourage visitors, including experienced hikers, to discuss their intended routes with local residents familiar with the area and to adhere closely to recommendations.

**MEDICAL INSURANCE:** You can’t assume your insurance will go with you when you travel. It’s very important to find out BEFORE you leave whether or not your medical insurance will cover you overseas. You need to ask your insurance company two questions:

- Does my policy apply when I’m out of the United States?
- Will it cover emergencies like a trip to a foreign hospital or a medical evacuation?

In many places, doctors and hospitals still expect payment in cash at the time of service. Your regular U.S. health insurance may not cover doctor and hospital visits in other countries. If your policy doesn’t go with you when you travel, it’s a very good idea to take out another one for your trip. For more information, please see our medical insurance overseas page.

Visitors to the UK should be aware that effective November 1, 2011, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) now requires any visitor or resident without recourse to public funds to clear any National Health Service (NHS) charges before being admitted back into the UK. The threshold for defaulters is £1,000 (approximately
$1,600). Anyone who has not paid their outstanding NHS debts will be refused entry or the issuance of a visa until the charges are settled. Visit the UKBA website for more details.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS:** While in the United Kingdom, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States.

UK penalties for driving under the influence of even minimal amounts of alcohol or drugs are stiff and often result in prison sentences. In contrast to U.S. and continental European traffic, which moves on the right side of the road, UK traffic moves on the left. Visitors uncomfortable with or intimidated by the prospect of driving on the left side of the road may wish to use the United Kingdom’s extensive bus, rail, and air transport networks. Roads in the United Kingdom are generally excellent but are narrow and often congested in urban areas. If you plan to drive while in the United Kingdom, you may wish to obtain a copy of the Highway Code, available for purchase at most UK bookstores.

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle in the UK while you are using a hand-held cell phone or similar device, including a Personal Data Assistant (PDA) that incorporates a cell phone. Hands-free phones may be used. Use of cell phones and hand-held communication devices while driving can lead to a substantial fine, and in the event of an accident, could result in a jail sentence.

The maximum speed limit on highways/motorways in the United Kingdom is 70 mph. Motorways generally have a hard shoulder (breakdown lane) on the far left, defined by a solid white line. It is illegal to stop or park on a hard shoulder unless it is an emergency. In such cases, you should activate your hazard lights, get out of your vehicle, and go onto an embankment for safety.

Emergency call boxes (orange telephone booths with “SOS” printed on them) may be found at half-mile intervals along the motorway. White and blue poles placed every 100 yards along the motorway point in the direction of the nearest call box. Emergency call boxes dial directly to a motorway center. It is best to use these phones rather than a personal cell phone, because motorway center personnel will immediately know the location of a call received from an emergency call box.

Roadside towing services may cost approximately £150 (approximately $240). However, membership fees of automotive associations such as the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) or AA (Automobile Association) often include free roadside towing service.

Travelers intending to rent cars in the United Kingdom should make sure they are adequately insured. U.S. auto insurance is not always valid outside the United States, and travelers may wish to purchase supplemental insurance, which is generally available from most major rental agents. Authorities impose a congestion charge on all cars entering much of central London Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Information on the congestion charge can be found on the Transport for London website.

Public transport in the United Kingdom is excellent and extensive. Information on disruptions to London transportation services can be found on the Transport for London website. Information about the status of National Rail Services can be found on the National Rail Enquiries website. Information on bus and train services in Northern Ireland can be found on the Translink website. Many U.S. citizen pedestrians are injured, some fatally, every year in the United Kingdom because they forget that oncoming traffic approaches from the opposite direction than in the United States. You should exercise extra care when crossing streets; remember to remain alert and look both ways before stepping into the street.
Driving in Gibraltar is on the right side of the road, as in the United States and continental Europe. Persons traveling overland between Gibraltar and Spain may experience long delays in clearing Spanish border controls.

Please refer to our Road Safety page for more information. For specific information concerning UK driving permits, vehicle inspection, road tax, and mandatory insurance, refer to the UK Department for Transport website or the Driving Standards Agency website. The U.S. Embassy in London can also provide information.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the UK government’s Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of the United Kingdom’s air carrier operations. Further information may be found on the FAA’s safety assessment page.

CHILDREN’S ISSUES: Please see our Office of Children’s Issues web pages on intercountry adoption and international parental child abduction.
UK BORDER AGENCY

Student Visitors
http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/student-visitors/

Eligibility

If you want to come to the UK in order to do a short course of study during your visit, you can apply to do so as a student visitor. The period when you intend to be in the UK must not exceed six months.

You must be aged 18 or over, and you must have been accepted on a course of study provided by:

- an education provider that holds a sponsor license under Tier 4 of the points-based system; or
- an education provider that is accredited by an accreditation body approved by the UK Border Agency; or
- an education provider that is inspected or audited by either the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland, Estyn in Wales, Northern Ireland's Education and Training Inspectorate or the Independent Schools Inspectorate; or
- an overseas higher education institution that offers only part of its programmes in the UK, holds its own national accreditation, and offers programmes that are of an equivalent level to a UK degree.

During your visit, you must:

- support and pay for accommodation for yourself and any dependants, without help from public funds; or
- ensure that you and your dependants will be supported and accommodated by relatives or friends, and will not take employment.

You must leave the UK at the end of the visit you told us about, and you must be able to meet the cost of your return or onward journey.

You must not:

- take employment in the UK (including part-time or full-time vacation employment); or
- engage in business, produce goods or provide services within the UK (including selling goods or services direct to members of the public);
• study at a government-funded school;
• undertake a work placement or internship (paid or unpaid) as part of your course of study;
• extend your stay in the UK;
• carry out the activities of a business visitor, a sports visitor or an entertainer visitor;
• receive private medical treatment; or
• be in transit to a country outside the common travel area (the UK, Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands).

Applying

Depending on your nationality, you may need to apply for permission to come to the UK as a student visitor (known as a 'visa' or 'entry clearance') before you travel here. You can find out whether you need a visa by using the 'Do I need a UK visa?' questionnaire on our Visa services section.

If you need to obtain a visa before you travel

If you need a visa, you are known as a 'visa national'. The 'How to apply' section of our Visa services section can tell you which visa application form you need to use, and describes the documents that you should provide when you apply for your visa.

If you do not need to obtain a visa before you travel

If you are a 'non-visa national', you will not normally need a visa to come to the UK as a student visitor - but you may want to consider applying for entry clearance if you have previously been refused entry to the UK.

When you travel here, you should bring some documents to show the immigration officer at the UK border. These documents include:

• if you are employed, a letter from your employer granting leave of absence from your job for a specified period - the letter should also say how long you have been employed by that employer, in what job(s), and when you are expected back at work;
• if you are self-employed, evidence of your business activities and financial standing;
• evidence of any property you own in your home country;
• evidence that you have been accepted or enrolled a course of study that will be provided by an organization described in the Eligibility section (for example, a letter from the school, college or university where you will be studying);

• evidence of any family or social ties and responsibilities to return to;

• evidence of any firm travel plans you have made;

• bank statements going back over a period of several months; and

• evidence of savings available to you.
Preparing for Your Trip to the United Kingdom

Before visiting the United Kingdom, you may need to get the following vaccinations and medications for vaccine-preventable diseases and other diseases you might be at risk for at your destination: (Note: Your doctor or health-care provider will determine what you will need, depending on factors such as your health and immunization history, areas of the country you will be visiting, and planned activities.)

To have the most benefit, see a health-care provider at least 4–6 weeks before your trip to allow time for your vaccines to take effect.

Even if you have less than 4 weeks before you leave, you should still see a health-care provider for needed vaccines, medications, and information about how to protect yourself from illness and injury while traveling.

If your travel plans will take you to more than one country during a single trip, be sure to let your health-care provider know so that you can receive the appropriate vaccinations and information for all of your destinations. Long-term travelers, such as those who plan to work or study abroad, may also need additional vaccinations as required by their employer or school.

Be sure your routine vaccinations are up-to-date. Check the links below to see which vaccinations adults and children should get.

Routine vaccines, as they are often called, such as for influenza, chickenpox (or varicella), polio, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), and diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) are given at all stages of life; see the childhood and adolescent immunization schedule and routine adult immunization schedule.

Routine vaccines are recommended even if you do not travel. Although childhood diseases, such as measles, rarely occur in the United States, they are still common in many parts of the world. A traveler who is not vaccinated would be at risk for infection.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Vaccine recommendations are based on the best available risk information. Please note that the level of risk for vaccine-preventable diseases can change at any time.

Health information for travellers to United Kingdom

# Vaccination or Disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccination or Disease</th>
<th>Recommendations or Requirements for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Routine</strong></td>
<td>Recommended if you are not up-to-date with routine shots such as, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hepatitis B</strong></td>
<td>Recommended for all unvaccinated persons who might be exposed to blood or body fluids, have sexual contact with the local population, or be exposed through medical treatment, such as for an accident, even in developed countries, and for all adults requesting protection from HBV infection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Rabies vaccination

Rabies vaccination is only recommended for travelers involved in any activities that might bring them into direct contact with bats. These travelers include wildlife professionals, researchers, veterinarians, or adventure travelers visiting areas where bats are commonly found.

### Items to Bring With You

#### Medicines you may need:

- **The prescription medicines you take every day.** Make sure you have enough to last during your trip. Keep them in their original prescription bottles and always in your carry-on luggage. Be sure to follow security guidelines, if the medicines are liquids.

Note: Some drugs available by prescription in the US are illegal in other countries. Check the US Department of State Consular Information Sheets for the country(s) you intend to visit or the embassy or consulate for that country(s). If your medication is not allowed in the country you will be visiting, ask your health-care provider to write a letter on office stationery stating the medication has been prescribed for you.

#### Other items you may need:

See suggested over-the-counter medications and first aid items for a travelers' health kit.

Note: Check the Air Travel section of the Transportation Security Administration website for the latest information about airport screening procedures and prohibited items.
Other Diseases Found in Western Europe

Risk can vary between countries within this region and also within a country; the quality of in-country surveillance also varies.

The following are disease risks that might affect travelers; this is not a complete list of diseases that can be present. Environmental conditions may also change, and up to date information about risk by regions within a country may also not always be available.

**Tickborne encephalitis (TBE)** occurs in warmer months of the southern part of the nontropical forested regions of Europe.

**Leishmaniasis** (cutaneous and visceral) is found, especially in countries bordering the Mediterranean, with the highest number of cases from Spain, where it is an important opportunistic infection in HIV-infected persons.

**Variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob** cases have been reported primarily from the United Kingdom, although a few cases have been reported from other countries in Western Europe. Large outbreaks of trichinosis have occurred; outbreaks in France have been linked to horse meat.

**Measles** outbreaks occurred in several European countries in 2006.

Risk of **hepatitis A** is low, although sporadic outbreaks have occurred in developed countries.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 has been documented in wild birds or other avian species in several of the countries in Europe. For a current list of countries reporting outbreaks of H5N1 among poultry and/or wild birds, view updates from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

## Staying Healthy During Your Trip

### Prevent Insect Bites

Diseases, like **tickborne encephalitis** (TBE) and **leishmaniasis** are spread through tick and sandfly bites respectively. One of the best protections is to prevent such bites by:

- Using insect repellent with 30%-50% DEET. Picaridin, available in 7% and 15% concentrations, needs to be applied more frequently.

- Wearing long-sleeved shirts which should be tucked in, long pants, and hats to cover exposed skin. When you visit areas with ticks and fleas, wear boots, not sandals, and tuck pants into socks.

For detailed information about insect repellent use, see **Insect and Arthropod Protection**.
Prevent Animal Bites and Scratches

Direct contact with animals can spread diseases like rabies or cause serious injury or illness. It is important to prevent animal bites and scratches.

- Be sure you are up to date with tetanus vaccination.
- Do not touch or feed any animals, including dogs and cats. Even animals that look like healthy pets can have rabies or other diseases.
- Help children stay safe by supervising them carefully around all animals.
- If you are bitten or scratched, wash the wound well with soap and water and go to a doctor right away.
- After your trip, be sure to tell your doctor or state health department if you were bitten or scratched during travel.

For more information about rabies and travel, see the Rabies chapter of the Yellow Book or CDC’s Rabies homepage. For more information about how to protect yourself from other risks related to animals, see Animal-Associated Hazards.

Be Careful about Food and Water

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travelers. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- Avoid unpasteurized dairy products.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).

Diseases from food and water often cause vomiting and diarrhea.

Avoid Injuries

Car crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers. Protect yourself from these injuries by:

- Not drinking and driving.
- Wearing your seat belt and using car seats or booster seats in the backseat for children.
- Following local traffic laws.
• Wearing helmets when you ride bikes, motorcycles, and motor bikes.

• Hiring a local driver, when possible.

• Avoiding night driving.

Other Health Tips

• To avoid infections such as HIV and viral hepatitis do not share needles for tattoos, body piercing, or injections.

• To reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases always use latex condoms.

After You Return Home

If you are not feeling well, you should see your doctor and mention that you have recently traveled. Also tell your doctor if you were bitten or scratched by an animal while traveling.

Important Note: This document is not a complete medical guide for travelers to this region. Consult with your doctor for specific information related to your needs and your medical history; recommendations may differ for pregnant women, young children, and persons who have chronic medical conditions.
II. LONDON

LONELY PLANET
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/england/london

Introducing London

London assumes the mantle of one of the world's great cities with ease, crowning itself Napoleon-style by hosting its third Olympic games in 2012. It’s safe to say that London has not exuded so much confidence since the heady days of empire in the late 19th century, even despite the economic crisis that has seen the city’s status as the world’s pre-eminent financial centre take a wobble.

London has been called a ‘world in one city’ and that’s not just empty rhetoric. The brilliant feat carried off here is that while immigrants, the city’s lifeblood, continue to flow in and contribute their energy and cultures to the capital’s already spicy melting pot, London nevertheless feels quintessentially British, whether it’s those boxy black cabs, the red double deckers or those grand symbols of Britain – the mother of all parliaments at Westminster, the silhouette of Tower bridge above the muddy Thames or the already world-famous London Eye, barely a decade old.

Don’t miss these essential sights of course, but equally ensure you partake in what really makes London great: a pint and a plate of fish n’ chips by the river, a day in the park or a night out in Soho or Shoreditch. Take a deep breath and prepare to fall in love with the British capital.

Costs

London can be a wincingly expensive experience, but doesn’t necessarily have to be. The main expense any visitor will have to bear is that of accommodation. To make your life easier, try hard to befriend a Londoner who has a spare room, otherwise you’ll need to budget an absolute minimum of £25 per night for a hostel dorm, rising sharply to at least £60 for a room of your own almost anywhere, and further to £120 for a room you’re actually likely to want to spend any time in. Booking in advance is always a good plan, and most hotels will offer reductions on the room prices if you’re staying for more than a few days. Most hotels also do excellent web deals that dramatically undercut their rack rates, and websites such as www.lastminute.com filter out the very best of these.

Money is an issue in other aspects as well, with the general cost of living in London being far higher than anywhere else in Britain and, unless you’re Norwegian or Japanese, probably higher than where you’ve arrived from.

Eating out can be done on a budget, with plenty of good cheap eats to be had in every neighborhood. However, even at the cheapest of the cheap, it’s no trifle – a decent sandwich will cost you around £3, and you’re unlikely to get much change from a tenner for a sit-down meal. London’s fashionable eating scene is a huge draw in itself, and it’s not cheap. A good meal for two with wine is usually around the £80 to £100 mark, jumping rapidly to more than £150 for any of the city’s leading establishments.

Getting around London can also be expensive. One obvious step to save cash is to get yourself an Oyster card immediately upon arrival (or even order one at home before you travel, see www.visitbritainindirect.com), as this will dramatically decrease the cost of using the public transport system.
Entertainment is likewise not cheap: cinema tickets in the West End have long since crossed the £10 threshold and many cinemas in further out areas are following, meaning seeing a film for under a tenner is becoming a bargain, although art-house and independent cinemas do still offer much more competitive prices. The big-name gigs are also fairly expensive, usually starting around £20 and going up to £150 for a superstar at Wembley or Earl’s Court. Clubbing is a mixed bag: a Saturday night at Fabric will set you back £20 just for entry, while some of the best clubs in town are free or very cheap, it’s just a question of research. Flyers with discounted entry rates are available all over the West End in music and fashion stores.

One surprising boon for such an expensive city is that all state-funded museums are free, meaning you can quite happily spend days in some of the world’s best exhibition spaces and galleries for absolutely nothing, although it’s always good to make a donation to each space to help keep them free (£3 is usually the standard suggested amount). Other sights are variably priced: some may balk at paying £16 for the Tower of London, but you can spend the most part of a day there and see one of the UK’s top attractions, while a big commercial attraction such as Madame Tussauds is just plain overpriced at around £20 per person.

**Tipping**

Many restaurants now add a ‘discretionary’ service charge to your bill, but in places that don’t you are expected to leave a 10% to 15% tip unless the service was unsatisfactory. Waiting staff are often paid poorly. It’s legal for restaurants to include a service charge in the bill but this should be clearly advertised. You needn’t add a further tip. You never tip to have your pint pulled in a pub but staff at bars often return change in a little metal dish, expecting some of the coins to glue themselves to the bottom.

If you take a boat trip on the Thames you’ll find some guides and/or drivers importuning for a tip in return for their commentary. Whether you pay is up to you. You can tip taxi drivers up to 10% but most people round up to the nearest pound.

**Money**

Despite being a member of the EU, the UK has not signed up to the euro and has retained the pound sterling as its unit of currency. One pound sterling is made up of 100 pence (called ‘pee’, colloquially). Notes come in denominations of £5, £10, £20 and £50, while coins are 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2.

**ATMs**

ATMs are a way of life in London, as the huge queues by them on Saturday nights in the West End attest. There is no area in London unserved by them, and they accept cards from any bank in the world that is tied into the Visa, MasterCard, Cirrus or Maestro systems, as well as some other more obscure ones. After a national campaign, most banks now allow their cardholders to withdraw money from other banks’ ATMs without charge. However, those without UK High-Street bank cards should be warned that there is nearly always a transaction surcharge for cash withdrawals. You should contact your bank to find out how much this is before using ATMs too freely. There are nonbank-run ATMs that charge £1.50 to £2 per transaction. These are normally found inside shops and are particularly expensive for foreign bank card holders. The ATM does warn you before you take money out that it’ll charge you so you don’t get any surprises on your bank statement.
Also, always beware of suspicious-looking devices attached to ATMs. Many London ATMs have now been made tamperproof, but certain fraudsters’ devices are capable of sucking your card into the machine, allowing the fraudsters to release it when you have given up and left.

**Changing money**

The best place to change money is in any local post office branch, where no commission is charged. You can also change money in most High-Street banks and some travel-agent chains, as well as at the numerous bureaux de change throughout the city. Compare rates and watch for the commission that is not always mentioned. The trick is to ask how many pounds you’ll receive in all before committing – you’ll lose nothing by shopping around.

**American Express** (Amex; 7484 9610; 30-31 Haymarket SW1; 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun; Piccadilly Circus)

**Thomas Cook** (0845-308 9570; 30 St James’s St SW1; 9am-5.30pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 10am-5.30pm Wed; Green Park)

**Health & safety**

London’s a fairly safe city considering its size, so exercising common sense should keep you safe. If you’re getting a cab after a night’s clubbing, make sure you go for a black cab or a licensed minicab firm. Many of the touts operating outside clubs and bars are unlicensed and can therefore be unsafe. The areas where you should try hard to avoid wandering around alone at night are King’s Cross, Dalston and Peckham, though sticking to the main roads should guarantee a certain degree of safety. A contagion of youth-on-youth knife crime is cause for concern, so walk away if you sense trouble brewing and take care at night. When travelling by tube, choose a carriage with other people in it and avoid deserted suburban stations. Pickpocketing does happen in London, so keep your handbag closed and any obvious pocket empty or buttoned up, especially in crowded areas, most particularly in the West End and within the Underground.
III. OXFORD

Map of Central Oxford
Quick Facts

http://www.oxfordcityguide.com/TouristInfo/EssentialKnowledge.html

Location: Oxford --> Oxfordshire --> South Central England

Population: 134,248 people

Geography: 51°45'07" N latitude and 1°15'28" W longitude at center of city. 87km (54 miles) NW of London; 87km (54 miles) SE of Coventry

Language: English

Currency: Pound Sterling (GBP)

Time Zone: GMT/UTC and BST (British Summer Time) - 5 hours ahead of EST

Country Dialing Code: +44

Telephone Area Code: 01865

Voltage: The standard electrical voltage in Britain is 240 v AC, 50HZ. A three square pronged adapter plug and/or electric converter for appliances is required.

Currency

England chose to stay with the Pound as their currency, and did not switch to the Euro.

To find the most current exchange rates,

The British Pound comes in the following denominations: Coins - one penny, two pence, five pence, ten pence, twenty pence, fifty pence, one pound, two pound; Notes (bills) - five pound, ten pound, twenty pound, fifty pound.

The best exchange rates can usually be found by withdrawing cash from an ATM machine, but check with your bank before you go to see how much they charge for using international ATMs.

Note from the editor: when traveling overseas, it's always a good idea to notify your credit card company and bank so that they don't detect a new spending pattern and put a hold on your card.

Driving

People in England drive on the LEFT side of the road. When crossing a street, always make sure you look to the right! The stoplights in Oxford flash yellow just before they turn green. This means to check to the left and right for pedestrians and make sure it's safe, and then you can go. Drivers must stop for pedestrians at marked pedestrian crossings, but walkers should always look in both directions to make sure drivers are stopping before crossing the road. There are many bicyclers on the roads in Oxford. Drivers must give them enough room, as they have the right to share the road.
Tipping
Many restaurants clearly include a service charge (check the menu), and in this case there is no need to tip. Otherwise tip a minimum of 10%. In pubs, tipping after a drink or two is not customary. If you have been at the pub for a while, and have had a few drinks, you should offer to buy the server a drink - especially if you are at the hotel bar and expect to return. Taxi drivers are commonly tipped 10%. Hotel porters that assist guests with bags expect between £1-£5, depending on how many bags there are.

Telephone
If you are in Oxford and need to dial a local number, there is no need to dial the area code of 01865. Just dial the remaining 6 numbers. If you are dialing outside of Oxford, you must dial the area code as well as the number. If dialing any of the establishments from overseas, you must dial the country code + the area code + the phone number. For example, if you are dialing from the US, you would need to dial your international access code first (usually 011) then 44 + 1865 + local number.

Living/Staying in Oxford
As with any city in the world, there are neighborhoods which may be more or less desirable to live in, and more or less affordable than the others. So what are the different neighborhoods in Oxford, and what are the rents and housing like?

- **Central North Oxford** - This area is north of the city centre, primarily around Woodstock and Banbury roads. It is within walking distance of the University and city centre, has large individual houses, shared houses, and several apartment complexes. Rent tends to be highest in this area.

- **City Centre** - There are few properties available for rent in the city centre, as most housing is owned by the University.

- **Summertown** - Approximately two miles north of the city centre on the Banbury Road (near Marston Ferry Road) is the self-contained town of Summertown. There are many Victorian and Edwardian homes in this area, as well as several apartment complexes and shared houses. Summertown is on a direct bus route to the city centre. Rent is still fairly high in this area, but less than Central North Oxford.

- **St. Clements** - East of the city centre, along St. Clements Street. This area is popular with students. Rents are lower than in Central North Oxford or Summertown.
• **Cowley Road** - East of the city centre, along Cowley Road, and the side streets. This area is popular with students. There is a great ethnic mix in this neighborhood, and many shops, restaurants, pubs, and clubs can be found here.

• **Headington** - Headington is a town in its own right. There are many suburbs, with all types of housing, and a full shopping centre. Oxford Brooks University is located here, as well as the popular Headington High School (currently attended by Emma Watson - Hermione of Harry Potter fame). Rents vary greatly in this area. It is not walkable to the city centre, but there are buses that run often into Oxford.

• **Marston** - Marston can be found along Marston Ferry Road, east of Summertown. Houses are much newer here, and so lack the character (and some say, the beauty) of many of the homes in Oxford.

• **Jericho** - Very near the city centre (easy walking distance), west of St. Giles and along the canal is this lovely part of town which boasts narrow streets, century old cottages and townhouses, and a good shopping and eating area along Walton Street. Rent isn't cheap here, but the housing varies greatly, so good rents can still be found.

• **Osney** - Near to the railway station, it's similar in look to Jericho, but not as appealing, and slightly further away from the city centre. And there is no equivalent to Jericho's Walton Street.

• **South Oxford** - Abingdon Road is the centre of this neighborhood. Rents are less the further south you go from Oxford's city centre. Many homes in South Oxford are walkable to the city centre.

• **Wolvercote** - There is 'upper Wolvercote', which is just west of North Oxford (just before the Wolvercote Roundabout), and 'lower Wolvercote', which is over the bridge and down the hill. Upper Wolvercote is a 'working class' neighborhood with many shared homes and flats, in addition to single family homes. Lower Wolvercote is next to Port Meadow and has a more rural feeling. Rents are lower here than in North Oxford.

• **Botley and Cumnor** - West of the City, outside the ring road, and connected mainly through the Park & Ride system. There is a mixture of old and new homes and apartments here. Rents are lower the further outside the city you go.

• **Iffley** - Iffley is a village within a city, with many lovely old homes and buildings and quiet neighborhoods.

**Important Contact Information**

• Oxford Police Station - [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)
Contrary to what most tourists believe
Oxford University is not just one central college with a campus. Many a tourist has been spotted tugging on a local's sleeve and asking, very perplexed, "but where exactly IS the campus??" Oxford University consists of 39 colleges, dotted around the city, each an independent entity, but also a part of Oxford University. Some colleges are large and visible, while others are small and tucked away on a side street. The colleges range from 50 to 750 years old. Many of them are open to tourists, and some are definitely worth seeing (see Visit the Colleges below). But it is essential to check the opening times before venturing out, or the most you'll see is a glimpse of a quad behind a 'college closed' sign. We do our best to be accurate here at Oxford City Guide, but unforeseen changes do occur.
**Famous Oxford Graduates**

Oxford has produced four British kings and at least eight foreign kings, 47 Nobel prize-winners, three Fields medalists, 25 British Prime Ministers, 28 foreign presidents and prime ministers, seven saints, 86 archbishops, 18 cardinals, and one pope. Seven of the last eleven British Prime Ministers have been Oxford graduates. Amongst Oxford students and faculty are many widely influential scientists, artists and prominent figures in nearly every profession. Contemporary scientists include Stephen Hawking, Nobel prize-winner Anthony James Leggett, and Tim Berners Lee, co-inventor of the world wide web; actors Hugh Grant, Kate Beckinsale, Dudley Moore and Richard Burton studied at the University, as did film-maker Ken Loach; Evelyn Waugh, Lewis Carroll, Aldous Huxley, Oscar Wilde, Vikram Seth and the poets Shelley, Donne, Auden and Philip Larkin are amongst the long list of writers associated with Oxford. Explorers such as Lawrence of Arabia and Walter Raleigh, along with modern media magnate Rupert Murdoch were also former students.

**Other Interesting Information**

Oxford University has existed for more than 800 years. They began as medieval halls of residence for students under the supervision of a Master. The oldest colleges, University, Balliol and Merton, were founded in the late 13th century. Kellogg College is the newest and was established in 1990. All colleges except St Hilda's, which is for women only, are mixed. There was recently a vote to allow male students into St. Hilda's, but that won't occur for another few years. All Souls is primarily an academic research institution and traditionally has no undergraduates. Harris Manchester recruits mature students. Linacre, Nuffield, St Antony's, St Cross, Wolfson, Green and Templeton admit only graduate students. Templeton College is a postgraduate college dedicated to management studies. Kellogg College specializes in part-time, graduate and continuing education.

**Ten Most Visited**

We have chosen to focus on the ten most prominent colleges in the city center, as these are what we consider to be the most interesting and beautiful.

- All Souls
- Brasenose
- Christ Church
- Corpus Christi
- Lincoln
- Magdalen
• Merton
• New
• Oriel
• St. John's

**Oxford Brookes**

Oxford Brookes University, located in the Headington suburb of Oxford, is not part of Oxford University. For more information about Oxford Brookes University, please visit their official website.
Getting Around

The best way to get around Oxford is on foot or bicycle. However, if you're not big on walking or cycling, or you want to go somewhere a little outside your walking comfort zone, there are other options.

**Taxi**

There are several taxi companies operating in Oxford. They are clearly marked, and are very distinctive looking. Only get in a car that you know for sure to be a licensed taxi. You can call any of the taxi’s listed below, you can hail one, or you can walk over to the Gloucester Green bus station or the Train station and get one from there.

- 001 Taxis - 01865 240000
- ABC Taxis - 01865 770077 / 775577
- Radio Taxis - 01865 242424 / 249743
- Royal Cars - 01865 777333
- City Taxis - 01865 201201
- Euro Taxis - 01865 430430

**Bus**

Oxford has an excellent bus service. The main bus stop is on Magdalen Street, between Debenhams department store, and the cinema. There are poles which indicate where you should stand for which bus, and the schedules are posted here as well. Buses run fairly often, so you're never left standing for too long. Pay the driver when you get on, and tell him/her if you want a return ticket or a single ride. There are often printed schedules near the driver if you want to take it with you to plan your return trip.

Click here to visit the official website of the Oxford Bus Company for maps and timetables.

Tip: If you are not standing at a main bus stop (i.e. on Magdalen Street), but are at a marked bus stop, you must 'hail' the bus by waving at the driver.

Key bus - the #2 and #7 bus goes up the Banbury Road from the city center to Summertown
Bicycling is a great way to get around Oxford, as the city is virtually flat. Be aware that bike theft is quite rampant - especially at night after the pubs close - so keep your bike locked up when you're not on it.

Cyclo-Analysts
150 Cowley Rd, 01865 246061
Rent a bike for £10 for one day, £15 for two days, £16 for three days, £20/week. Take the #1, #5, or #10 bus (towards Cowley Center or Blackbird Leys) to get there.

Bike Zone
Market Street Bikezone (city centre) 01865 728877
Banbury Road, Summertown 01865 316885
Short-term hire (traditional upright city bikes with basket, Lock, and Lights):
One day £15, extra days @ £5 a day
1st week £30, extra weeks @ £20 a week
Deposit: £100 per bike (cash or card)
Longer-term bikes also available, Please call us for info. Please call in advance to reserve a bike. Call:
Summertown 01865 316885 Bikezone(city centre) 01865 728877
Bainton Bikes, 6 Bainton Road, North Oxford, 01865 365658
Bicycle hire, tours and repairs. Free puncture repair, breakdown support and routine servicing is provided with any bike hired.
IV. PROGRAM DETAILS

Fall 2013 CUA Oxford Program Participants: 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Male/Female</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Degree Level</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:91browna@cardinalmail.cua.edu">91browna@cardinalmail.cua.edu</a></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Musical Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughes</td>
<td>Jared</td>
<td>M</td>
<td><a href="mailto:05hughes@cardinalmail.cua.edu">05hughes@cardinalmail.cua.edu</a></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Regan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:16murphyr@cardinalmail.cua.edu">16murphyr@cardinalmail.cua.edu</a></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pettini</td>
<td>Meghan</td>
<td>F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:31pettini@cardinalmail.cua.edu">31pettini@cardinalmail.cua.edu</a></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcella</td>
<td>Dominick</td>
<td>M</td>
<td><a href="mailto:72porcella@cardinalmail.cua.edu">72porcella@cardinalmail.cua.edu</a></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trozenski</td>
<td>Abigail</td>
<td>F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:14trozenski@cardinalmail.cua.edu">14trozenski@cardinalmail.cua.edu</a></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>English/German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welz</td>
<td>Hannah</td>
<td>F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:83welz@cardinalmail.cua.edu">83welz@cardinalmail.cua.edu</a></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OXFORD LOCAL CONTACT
Mr. Deepak Mukhi
Oxford Program for Undergraduate Studies (OPUS)
Suite 31A Westgate Center
Oxford, OX1 INZ, England
Tel: 011-44-1865-201810
Fax: 011-44-1865-201758
Email: opus@herald.ox.ac.uk
Website: www.studyabroad.com/opus
OPUS coordinates your Oxford housing & tutorials

CUA OXFORD PROGRAM CONTACTS
Tanith Fowler Corsi
Assistant Vice President for Global Education
Center for Global Education
Email: corsit@cua.edu
Phone: (202) 319-5618
Fax: (202) 319-6673

OR

CUAbroad @ CUA
Email: cua-cuabroad@cua.edu
Phone: (202) 319-6010
Fax: (202) 319-6673
IMPORTANT FALL 2013 CUA OXFORD PROGRAM DATES - subject to change

LATE AUGUST
Arrival letter from Oxford, indicating detailed arrival directions and your Oxford college assignment. This letter will be mailed to your permanent address. Housing assignments are confirmed on arrival in Oxford.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

**Wednesday September 4, 2013**
Flight from United States to London Heathrow. Arrive at airport 3 hours early.

**Thursday September 5, 2013**
Morning arrival at London Heathrow airport.
Make your way to Oxford from the airport following the directions indicated in your Oxford arrival letter, which will specify where you will collect your arrival packet and your house key in Oxford. You should plan to have $200 converted into British pounds before you arrive in the UK for travel and other miscellaneous immediate outlays. Settle into your Oxford flat.

**Friday September 6, 2013**
OPUS Orientation. Full day attendance is mandatory. Location included in OPUS arrival packet.

**Monday September 9, 2013**

**Sunday September 29, 2013 to Saturday October 5, 2013**
Travel break for CUA Group – You are free to travel or stay in Oxford.

**DECEMBER**

**Friday December 6, 2013**
Final symposium

**Tuesday December 10 – Tuesday December 17, 2013**
Final Travel Break

**Tuesday December 17, 2013**
Official Program End - Departure