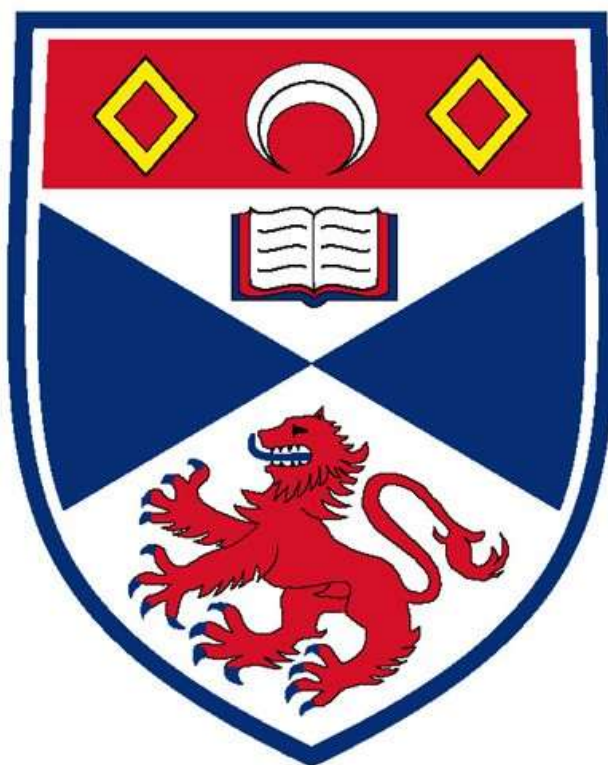


University of St Andrews Orientation Booklet 2023-24



This document represents the most accurate information available at the time of publication. Statements contained herein are not contractual obligations, and verbal or other representations that are inconsistent with or not contained within the document are not binding. The University of Richmond reserves the right to change without specific notice programs and the conditions under which they are offered.

Students must be aware that not all circumstances are predictable and that one must take self-responsibility very seriously. The University, its agents, and employees cannot be held responsible for the actions of the host institution or of the student.

A WORD ABOUT UR'S APPROACH TO STUDY ABROAD

UR follows a philosophy of study abroad that demands a lot of our participants and also provides deep benefits. We send most of our students on exchange programs, which provide you with the experience of learning and living in the way that the people of your host country do. By taking classes meant for local students, arranging your housing the same way as local students, and interacting directly with the governmental and university administration of your host country, you are gaining substantially greater insight on the workings of the world than if you were taking part in a more American-directed program abroad. Our model requires students to be highly organized and responsible; high standards are part of any aspect of a UR education. Other benefits of exchanges are that they last for a full semester or year, allowing you time to experience more aspects of your host country than if you were going abroad for a shorter term, and they bring international students to UR, enhancing the internationalization of our campus.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Amy S. Bergmann, Study Abroad Advisor

International Education, INTC 103-O
211 Richmond Way
University of Richmond, VA 23173
Tel : (804) 289-8817
Fax: (804) 289-8904
E-mail: abergman@richmond.edu
Web: <https://studyabroad.richmond.edu/>

Mr. Tobias Patrick Wolf

Global Office
University of St Andrews
Room A11, Bute Building
Westburn Lane
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9TS
Tel: 01334 462787
Fax: 01334 463330
Email: studyabroad@st-andrews.ac.uk
Web: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

PROGRAM DATES

The authoritative source for the dates of your program is the acceptance letter you receive from your host institution abroad and/or the website of your host institution's international office. UR lists our best understanding of these dates under "Dates and Costs" on the page for your program on the study abroad website, www.studyabroad.richmond.edu.

The exact date by which your program ends, and by which you can plan to leave your program site, depends on your exam schedule. You will not know this until you have arrived on-site and finalized your schedule of classes for the semester. You must not plan to leave your program site until after you have finished your last exam. If you leave your program site without taking exams required for your classes, you will not earn any credit for those classes.

COSTS

You pay tuition to UR for your semester abroad, but not room & board. In more detail:

- **You receive:** a \$1,000 credit on your UR bill for a travel allowance applicable to your study abroad program; travel, accident, and sickness insurance coverage; and all financial aid for which you are eligible. Travel allowances and health insurance premiums paid by Richmond on behalf of its semester/year abroad students are available only to Richmond degree-seeking students accepted to participate on UR-affiliated abroad programs.

- **You must pay:** (1) UR tuition; (2) housing and utilities abroad; (3) food; (4) general start up costs for linen, kitchen utensils, telephone connection and bills; (5) books, school supplies; (6) local transportation; (7) personal entertainment; (8) travel expenses not covered by travel allowance; (9) medical expenses not covered by insurance (also you must cover £470 UK insurance surcharge if you apply for the Student Visa).

Personal travel

Expenses for personal travel and entertainment are not included in the cost estimates in this booklet. *Be aware that this is the single greatest discretionary expense for students on study abroad.* You should make deliberate decisions about where and how you will travel in your free time. Many students succumb to peer pressure and make a lot of short, impromptu and superficial trips while on study abroad (“Come on, you have to hit Prague with us this weekend!”). People often come home saying they have been to 10 new countries, but have not really learned anything about any of them, and have incurred thousands of dollars in debt. IE suggests that you take just a couple of well thought out, longer trips during your semester abroad...you will learn more and spend less.

FINANCIAL AID

Merit and need-based scholarships for which you are eligible are applicable to your semester abroad. Check with UR’s Financial Aid Office (289-8438) for more specific information. It is essential to understand when and how your funds will be disbursed. Aid for room and board is disbursed in a different manner than if you were to be on campus. See here for more information: <https://financialaid.richmond.edu/undergrad/study-abroad/index.html>.

HOUSING

On-campus housing is guaranteed for exchange students provided they meet the application deadline. Richmond students are fully integrated with other international and Scottish students in the residence halls. Options include catered residence halls (with meals) or self-catering ones (where students prepare their own meals). Catered residences are the most popular choice and include 19 meals per week (breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday to Friday, and breakfast and lunch on weekends). Note: The David Russell Apartments are located further away from the main St. Andrews campus, but closer to the science buildings. The apartments come with or without a meal plan, but the meal plan option has only 14 meals per week (breakfast and dinner, Monday to Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday). Once housing placements are made, they are not able to be changed.

IMMIGRATION

The following guidelines explain immigration and visa requirements for the UK. Please note that these criteria are subject to change. You should check <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa> for the most up-to-date information.

If you are a U.S. citizen whose period of study will be LESS than six months (1 semester programs):

You do **not** need to apply in advance for a visa (“entry clearance”) and instead can enter the UK with no fee as a “Standard Visitor.” As the United States is not on the list of countries whose citizens need to apply for entry clearance in advance, you are considered a “non-visa national.” You may request entry to the UK as a Standard Visitor when you arrive. If you enter the UK in this way, when you arrive at the airport you will need to show proof that:

- you are over 18 years old
- your experience will not last longer than 6 months
- you have accepted an unconditional offer on your course of study
- you intend to leave the UK at the end of your studies
- you do not intend to work/intern
- you have enough money to support yourself while in the UK
- you can pay for your return journey home

Therefore, you will need to bring the following documentation in your hand luggage (carry-on):

- a valid passport that will not expire during or for a short period after your time in the UK
- a letter of acceptance from your host institution (St Andrews)
- accommodation details for your semester (confirmed room reservation or housing assignment, for example)
- proof of onward travel (return plane ticket, most commonly, but could be train ticket to another country, for example, if you plan to travel afterward, etc. OR the ability to pay for such)

- proof of funding for your period of study (e.g. documentation of scholarship funding, federal financial aid, private loans, or personal or joint bank account in the amount of at least £1,023/month for living expenses for the duration of your program abroad (or roughly \$1,282/month per the 12/13/2023 exchange rate); the amount ideally needs to have been in your bank account for 28 days minimum and not dipped below the required amount on any day in the 28 day period; bank statement must be dated no more than one calendar month before you enter the UK; if parent/guardian is providing funding, you must also show letter of consent/support from parent/guardian)
- All one-semester students will need a tuition-exempt letter as part of their "evidence of funds." This shows that you are not responsible for paying tuition to your host school (since you pay UR tuition here) and therefore they will not expect you to show evidence that you have paid the host school tuition costs. International Education provides those letters for students.

It is important to understand that if you enter the UK in this way (without a visa):

- You cannot work or take on an internship (paid or unpaid) in the UK
- You cannot extend your period of study from the UK (so if you decide you like studying abroad and want to extend for a year in the UK, you cannot do so without going back home to apply for a full Student Visa; extending to other locations is fine, like fall at St Andrews and spring at Konstanz in Germany, for example)
- If you arrange your flight via Ireland, which is in the Common Travel Area with no immigration control between Ireland and the UK (and therefore nobody to provide the appropriate visa stamp in your passport), you **MUST** keep evidence of the date of entry into the UK, such as an e-ticket or electronic boarding pass
- You must be prepared to present your passport (with the Student Visitor stamp) and your acceptance letter and other documents to immigration authorities upon entering the UK and re-entering (from weekend travel outside of the UK, for example)
- You may typically arrive in the UK a maximum of 7 days before the study program begins.

NOTE: *If you intend to work/intern while you are abroad or if you think you will extend your stay in the UK to the year, you are permitted to apply for the full Student Visa (see below for instructions), but be aware that the process is very complex and time-consuming, so only students very certain they need the full Student Visa should go this route. Please contact IE to get a new letter for the full visa if you were originally granted a Student Visitor letter. You will also need to secure a CAS (Confirmation for Acceptance of Studies) number from your host institution.*

If you are a U.S. citizen whose period of study will be MORE than six months (1 year programs):

You must apply for a UK Student Visa under the category of "General Student." See below for instructions on applying. The cost is currently £490. Yearlong students will also need to obtain a UK national identity card and pay the £470 insurance surcharge (Note: The insurance surcharge is not reimbursable by UR, since we already purchase insurance for students).

Applying for a Student Visa (if necessary based on above criteria)

You must obtain a Student Visa in advance of your arrival abroad. You should apply no more than 3 months prior to your departure and ideally no less than 2 months prior.

You will see that your host institution must be on a certain approved list of education providers. All of Richmond's partner institutions are fully approved.

- You must apply via the British embassy or consulate nearest you. Check the UKVisas website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>) to find the one that has jurisdiction and to complete the online application.
- Each individual consulate makes its own rules regarding things like:
 - Do you have to apply in person or may you send your application materials via courier?
 - How long will it take to process the visa?
 - What form of payment is accepted (money order, credit card, cashier's check)?
 - If a personal appearance is required, do you need an appointment?
 - How many photos do you need?
 - What form of return postage is accepted (pre-paid courier or ExpressMail envelope? an additional fee?)

Read the information on your consulate's website to answer the above questions and telephone them if you have questions.

IMPORTANT: All applications for UK visas will require 'biometric' information as part of the visa application process. Visa applications will not be processed until the applicant has provided the necessary biometric information.

The required biometric information consists of digital scans of all 10 fingers and a full-face digital photograph. Applicants will be required to submit biometrics at visa application support centers located across the United States. While the actual process will take no more than five minutes to complete, students will need to plan accordingly for travel to the visa application support centers. To find the nearest center, use the zip code locator service on this website (scroll down to the map): <https://egov.uscis.gov/office-locator/#/asc>. Students need to bring their printed visa application, original passport, and barcode-printed appointment sheet. Nearest support center to Richmond is in Norfolk or Alexandria. IE does not reimburse for travel expenses to/from the visa support center.

NOTE: Once you have your biometrics done, when sending your materials (which will include your passport) to the consulate for your visa, **never use regular U.S. mail**. Use a courier service such as FedEx, UPS, or DHL, or use U.S. ExpressMail, whichever is recommended or required by the consulate (for example, the New York office no longer accepts Fed Ex return labels; you can ship to them using Fed Ex, but your return label must be UPS or USPS). No matter which service you use, make sure you can track your shipment and be sure to write down the tracking number before you enclose the return label.

Once you have your visa you will be able to:

- work part-time while in the UK (although we do not guarantee you can find employment) or intern
- extend your course of study beyond six months (if desired), if not already planning to be abroad for a year
- Students getting the full Student Visa who want to arrive early may arrive 1 week early if they will study 6 months or less and may arrive up to 1 month early if they will study more than 6 months.
- Once you get overseas on a Student Visa you will have one month to go to a Post Office to collect your Biometric Residency Permit. You will receive instructions for this when you receive your visa.
- Periodically after your arrival in the UK you may also need to go to census points, which is essentially a 5-minute task to check in at Student Administration (Registry) on three occasions through the year.

British Council USA Website

The British council website (<http://www.britishcouncil.us/study-uk/want-study-uk>) is a great source of information for anyone planning to study in the UK. You can view or download an immigration guide here: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/student-visas>.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

If you are an EU citizen:

EU citizens are not required to obtain a student visa in order to enter the UK.

If you are a non-U.S. citizen studying abroad for any period of time:

Citizens of other countries (called "visa nationals") studying abroad for any length of time should consult the website of the British Embassy or Consulate in their home country for information on their requirements. See <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>. If you do need a visa, see above for instructions on applying. Note that visa nationals applying for the Standard Visitor Visa (6 months or less) will likely need to apply for it in advance, rather than receiving this upon entering the UK (see <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa> for more information).

SCOTLAND, ENGLAND & THE UK

You need to know the difference. Ethnic identities are very strong in the British Isles. It would be worthwhile to read about the history of the region so that you can speak intelligently on these matters.

YOUR HOST INSTITUTION

[The University of St Andrews](#) is Scotland's first university, founded in 1411, and the third oldest in the United Kingdom. For almost six centuries, St Andrews has upheld a proud tradition of academic excellence, attracting scholars of international renown and students from all over the world. Today the university is firmly established as one of the leading research and teaching institutions in the UK.

The beautiful town of St Andrews is situated on a sheltered bay along the coast of Fife, 45 miles north of Edinburgh and 13 miles south of Dundee. It commands a view of the Angus coast and the Grampian mountains beyond. With a student population of 8,000 and one-third of the town's 20,000 residents having a connection with the university, it is easy to understand why the entire town is quite literally the university campus. Academic and social life intermingle as people meet and talk in the lanes and quadrangles, at sporting events or at the numerous concerts, university balls, and *ceilidhs* (Scottish folk dances). The rich cultural life, together with a wide array of academically challenging programs, make St. Andrews an exceptional institution at which to study.

TRAVEL TO ST ANDREWS

Rail. The nearest station to St Andrews is Leuchars. The station is 6 miles from St Andrews and is on the main East Coast line connecting London (Kings Cross), Edinburgh (Waverley), and Aberdeen. The St Andrews city bus goes to the rail station and back, and taxis are usually available.

Road. St Andrews is about 50 miles from Edinburgh. After crossing the Forth Road Bridge, proceed north along the M90 to Junction 8 and then by the A91 to St Andrews.

Bus. There is an hourly bus service between Edinburgh and St Andrews until 19.50 hours. The journey takes just under 2 hours. The cheapest way from London to Edinburgh is by coach from the Victoria Coach Station (5 minutes walk from London's Victoria Station). There are also coach services to Dundee, which is 14 miles north of St Andrews with frequent connections by local bus and rail services.

Air. When arriving, the nearest International Airport is Edinburgh (Turnhouse). An airport bus (AirLink) will take you to Waverley Station, where you catch the train to Leuchars, and then you can take a bus or taxi to St Andrews. If you are travelling on a scheduled flight it will be quicker and more convenient to book through to your final destination. For a map and directions to St Andrews, see <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/visiting/travel/>.

St Andrews Direct. For orientation arrival, there is an option to pre-book a discount transport service direct from the Edinburgh airport (other locations available) to St Andrews, but it must be booked in advance. See here: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/orientation/before-you-depart/travel-arrangements/>.

Important Note: No matter which transport option you intend to take, be sure to look up directions to your accommodations and keep them in your carry-on luggage, as you cannot entirely count on the coach driver to know where you will live, for example, and there will not likely be service direct to your door (for example, the bus will drop you at the bus station, and unless you take a taxi from there, you must know how to get to your housing). You don't want to be wandering around aimlessly on arrival (carrying your luggage, no less), so it is important to plan ahead.

ACADEMICS

Course load and credits

St Andrews has three faculties in which UR students can participate – arts, science, and divinity – each with a wide range of “modules” (classes). Richmond students may typically enroll in any module as long as they meet the prerequisites. **Note:** Students are only allowed to take honours level (3000 and above) courses if they have significant preparation in the subject (for example, a student wishing to take an honours-level English class must typically already have had 4 courses in that subject prior to studying abroad).

Modules at St Andrews are weighted in "SCOTCATS." Most are weighted at 10, 20, or 30 SCOTCATS. The normal course load for a Richmond student at St Andrews is 60 SCOTCATS per semester; the minimum is 50 SCOTCATS per semester. The chart below shows how St Andrews SCOTCATS are converted to UR units.

St Andrews	Richmond
one 10-Scotcat module	0.8 units
one 20-Scotcat module	1.5 units
one 30-Scotcat module	2.2 units
one 40-Scotcat module	3 units

However, it is not recommended to register for a minimum course load as this will leave you in a bad position if you later need to drop a class (you cannot be registered for less than a full-time course load), or if you get a grade lower than C in one of your classes (leaving you with less than a full semester's worth of credits at the end of your program).

Grading scale for credit transfer from St Andrews to University of Richmond

St Andrews Grade	UR Equivalent	St Andrews Grade	UR Equivalent
17-20	A	13	B-
16	A-	11-12	C+
15	B+	10	C
14	B	1-9	No UR credit earned

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING GRADING: Students should take careful note of the UR grade conversions for courses taken at St Andrews. As illustrated in the chart above, the equivalent of a 'C' grade (score of 10) or above is required in order to receive credit transfer from St Andrews. Students who receive scores of 8 or 9, for example, *while considered 'passing' at St Andrews*, would be considered a 'D' grade and are not eligible for credit transfer to Richmond. Do not confuse the term 'passing' with the actual mark required to obtain transfer credit here at the University of Richmond.

Maintain your high standards

Though your study abroad grades will not appear on your UR transcript, you should plan to work hard and get good grades while abroad for several reasons. One is that if you ever apply to graduate school, medical school, law school, etc., the institutions to which you apply can require you to submit transcripts from all of the places at which you have taken classes, including any at which you studied abroad. The same is true of potential employers. Another reason to work hard is that you will not get any transfer credit for classes in which you get grades lower than the equivalent of a C; if you do not earn a full semester's worth of transfer credit, you may fall behind in your progress toward graduation and you may jeopardize your financial aid status, if you are aid-eligible. And a third reason to work hard is that if you do not, you will tarnish the reputation of UR and of the people of your home country.

TRANSCRIPTS

Your host institution will send one official transcript to Richmond's Office of International Education after you have taken your final exams and your grades have been reported. We suggest that before you leave your program site, you should arrange for your host institution to send you one or two extra copies so that you can use them to apply for graduate school law school, fellowships, etc. This will involve paying a fee and providing an address to which they should send it. When you receive it, note that opened transcripts become unofficial transcripts, so be cautious.

REGISTRATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Registration at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country you are visiting makes your presence and whereabouts known, in case it is necessary for a consular officer to contact you in an emergency. During a disaster overseas, American consular officers can assist in evacuation, should that become necessary, but they cannot assist you if they do not know where you are.

U.S. citizens should register their abroad address with the U.S. Department of State via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at this link: <https://step.state.gov/step/>. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare or whereabouts may not be released to inquirers without your expressed written authorizations. Registration through the website is not considered proof of citizenship.

Remember to also leave a detailed itinerary and the numbers or copies of your passport or other citizenship documents with a friend or relative in the United States. Non-U.S. citizens who are degree-seeking students of a U.S. university may also be able to register with STEP and/or should see if their government has a similar program for its citizens.

HEALTH INFORMATION

CDC health information

Please check <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/> for updates and specific details and recommendations.

Study abroad insurance

University of Richmond students are automatically enrolled in travel, accident, and sickness insurance. The plan is called Chubb Insurance/AXA Assist, for which the costs are paid by UR (see <https://international.richmond.edu/study-abroad/health-safety/insurance.html> for exclusions and details). Your insurance card is available for download from your Gateway Abroad file. The policy wording, instructions on how to use the insurance, and a claim form are all online via the link above. The study abroad insurance covers you worldwide except in the United States.

It is important for you and your family to understand how your health insurance works *before* you need it. Read the policy description closely before you depart. It is difficult to absorb detailed information when you are sick, injured, or upset, and it is easy to make expensive mistakes when you are trying to make important decisions under such circumstances.

Health care in the UK

Exchange Students whose period of study lasts less than 6 months are not eligible for free primary health care at the University Health Center. Students who do apply for a full UK Student Visa will have to pay a £470 UK insurance surcharge and will have access to the UK health care system. Check the following web page for the latest health updates concerning the United Kingdom and Western Europe: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>.

Medications

Some students may need to bring medications with them overseas or may need to fill a prescription while they are abroad. Here is important information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/your-health-abroad.html>.

SAFETY RESOURCES

A safe trip abroad

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-checklist.html>.

Visit the Department of State web site frequently for updates and changes:

Main site <http://travel.state.gov/>

Current Travel Advisories and Public Announcements:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Worldwide Caution Public Announcements:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/worldwide-caution.html>

Emergencies in a Foreign Country: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/emergencies.html>

Help for U.S. Victims of Crime Overseas: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/emergencies/victims.html>

What the U.S. Consulate can and cannot do for you: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/emergencies/crisis-support.html>.

Phoning the Department of State

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Road/Transport Safety

Traffic and road conditions abroad are quite different from those in the U.S. and are a major cause of accident and injury to visiting students. The University of Richmond advises you not to rent or purchase a car while abroad. In the UK, if traveling to London, you should use only licensed “black taxi cabs,” or car services recommended by your hotel or tour operator. 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 even raped while using these cars.

Water Safety

Be especially careful in and around the ocean, lakes, ponds, rivers, canals, pools, ponds, and beaches. Even when a body of water appears calm and harmless, there may be hidden objects, swift currents, and other dangers lurking.

Fire/Natural Gas Safety

Students need to be aware of safety in their residence. As one would do in the U.S., be sure to locate the nearest fire escape route and know the phone numbers of emergency services in case they are needed. It is a good idea to take a battery-operated smoke detector with you abroad since many buildings are older and may not have smoke detectors or sprinkler systems in place. See this website to learn more about fire safety abroad:

<http://www.firesafetyfoundation.org/>.

As in the U.S., natural gas may be used to provide heat as well as to provide hot water. Be aware of the heating situation provided by your host institution and host residence. For locations where carbon monoxide-producing appliances may be present - i.e., any appliance that burns fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal – be sure to ask for detailed information on usage of these appliances in order to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. For further information, please visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website at <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/protect-your-family-and-yourself-carbon-monoxide-poisoning>.

Pub life

Being in bars raises safety issues. If you choose to drink, do so in moderation. Avoid traveling home alone if you have been drinking, because you could become an easy target for thieves and you may become disoriented on the public transport systems. Please be aware that beer in the UK has much higher alcohol content. Travelers should take care not to leave drinks unattended in bars and nightclubs. There have been some instances of drinks being spiked with illegal substances, leading to incidents of robbery and rape.

Geopolitical terrorism

Due to the possible threat of terrorism, please read all travel alerts sent to you from IE while you are abroad. In addition, to help prevent terrorist acts involving airplanes, increased restrictions concerning carry-on luggage have been put in place in the UK and are strictly enforced. Students are advised to check with the UK Department for Transport (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport>) regarding the latest security updates and travel updates or restrictions.

Vigilance urged

Students are reminded to remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and to exercise caution. For more information about UK public safety initiatives, consult the UK Civil Contingencies Secretariat website at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx>.

Northern Ireland and terrorism

The political situation in Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, has dramatically improved since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 and the announcement by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) on July 28, 2005, that it would end its armed campaign. Within Northern Ireland, flash-points for sectarian confrontations still exist, but they are generally removed from areas where tourists congregate. The potential remains for sporadic incidents of street violence in isolated areas in Northern Ireland during the summer marching season (April to August), with tensions heightened during the month of July, especially around the July 12th public holiday. As a result, students traveling in Northern Ireland could experience delays and disruption.

CRIME IN THE UK

Crime rate

The United Kingdom benefits from generally low crime rates; but crime, including violent crime, has increased over the last few years, especially in London (if you are traveling through London on your way to/from St Andrews, this is good information to know). Incidents include pick pocketing, mugging, “snatch and grab” theft of mobile phones, watches, and jewelry, as well as theft of unattended bags (especially at airports). Since 2007, there has been an increase in the number of muggings involving knives. Avoid walking alone late at night, avoid isolated areas, and avoid intoxication to reduce the chances of becoming a victim. More specifically in St Andrews, crime is substantially lower, but use these guidelines to stay safe in general and especially if traveling to bigger cities.

Pick pocketing

Pickpockets target tourists, especially at historic sites, restaurants, on buses, trains, and if you are traveling in/through London, on the London Underground (“Tube” or subway). Thieves often target unattended cars parked at tourist sites and roadside restaurants, looking for laptop computers and hand-held electronic equipment. Walking in isolated areas, including public parks, especially after dark, should also be avoided, as these provide advantageous venues for muggers and thieves.

Protecting your passport

Due to the circumstances described above, visitors should take steps to ensure the safety of their passports. Visitors in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, 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

ATM fraud in the UK is becoming more sophisticated, incorporating technologies to surreptitiously record customer ATM card and PIN information. Travelers should avoid using ATMs located in isolated areas. In addition, the traveler should not use the ATM if there is anything stuck to the machine or if it looks unusual in any way. If the machine does not return the card, it should be reported to the issuing bank immediately. Common sense personal security measures utilized in the U.S. when using ATMs should also be followed in the UK.

Drug Use and Laws

Like many countries, Scotland experiences some drug-related problems. From marijuana to ecstasy, so-called “recreational drug use,” particularly among club-goers, can be a problem. When clubs and night spots close, there are often problems with the resultant foot and vehicular traffic on the streets. Petty crimes (theft, robberies, etc.) may be committed by drug-users to support their habit. According to the World Factbook of Criminal Justice Systems, in Scotland the “[p]roduction, supply, possession, possession with intent to supply, and offenses related to the importation and exportation of controlled drugs are illegal.” Do not turn your study abroad experience into a nightmare—do not participate in drug activity of any kind.

SOME THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Telephone numbers given on emergency cards are usually provided in the format used by one particular country; it is not possible to provide all of the possible telephone number formats on one card. For example, you cannot usually make an 800 call from a country other than the U.S. or Canada. When you get your health insurance card, you should check to see if/how you need to modify the phone numbers provided on it so you can reach the insurance company from the country where you will study. The same applies with phone numbers for cancelling credit cards & ATM cards.

For traveling, also be aware that many countries do not have one emergency phone number, like 911, that can be used in any emergency (though Scotland does—see below). Many countries have separate phone numbers for calling the police, ambulance, and fire services.

Also, be aware that in some countries the emergency service numbers are different if you are dialing from a landline or a cell phone.

Emergency numbers: AMBULANCE or POLICE: 999

VOCABULARY

It may take a few weeks to get used to the accent, but even longer to get used to the jargon. So be prepared to listen carefully and don't be surprised if they do not understand you at first either. Many first-time visitors to the United Kingdom find that there is more of a communication problem than they expected. This is especially the case for Americans confronted by familiar words used in unfamiliar ways. The mini-dictionary below should help you to prepare for your time abroad.

BRITISH

bathroom
bin
bloke
brolly
Cheers
chips
cinema/the pictures
crisps
Continent
chemist/pharmacist
duvet
fag
fortnight
ground floor
hire
lager, bitter, "real ale"
lemonade
let
lift
loo/WC
LV's
lorry
mate
mind
pissed
postbox/pillar box
restroom
rubbish
queue

AMERICAN

exactly that; where one bathes
trash can
a fellow, guy
umbrella
like goodbye, used at the end of a conversation, or used to mean thank you
French fries
movie house/theater
potato chips
Europe
drug store
comforter
cigarette
two weeks
first floor
rent (goods)
beer
like 7 UP
rent (real estate)
elevator
toilet
Luncheon Vouchers
truck
friend, pal
look out for (as in danger)
drunk
mailbox
where one takes a rest (not a toilet)
garbage
waiting line

quid	pound sterling
reverse charges	call collect
ring	to call on telephone
rubber	eraser
salad cream	salad dressing
sorry	pardon me
spirits	liquor
stone	equal to 14 pounds of weight
surgery	doctor's office; a period when doctor sees patients
telephone or ring up	call
trunk call	long distance
tube/underground	train, subway, metro
wally, divvy (Liverpool)	nerd, dork

*The British tell time differently than Americans. For example, half six is 6:30. Brits generally do not say it is “ten of six,” rather, they would say it is 5:50 p.m. or ten till six.

MISCELLANEOUS

Weather

The weather in Scotland is fairly moderate year-round, with typical highs in the spring semester ranging from 42-55 °F and typical highs in the fall semester ranging from 43-59 °F. Annual rainfall is said to be on par with New York. Bringing a sweater or dressing in layers is wise, as the weather can be changeable throughout the day. St Andrews, specifically, is known as the sunniest and driest part of the country, though the coastal location can mean a sea breeze.

Banking

Some students open a bank account in the UK, but most returned study abroad students report that they managed very well by using ATMs. If you have a debit/credit/check card for an account in the U.S. that has the Cirrus, Plus, Visa, or MasterCard symbol on the back, it is usually possible to withdraw money from your account in the States while abroad. Your parent or guardian could deposit money to your account so that you can access it while abroad. Check with your bank for details and ask whether your ATM card can be used in the place where you are going. In particular, read up on the “Chip and PIN” system [here](#).

If you bring a credit/check/debit card with you, remember to call your credit card company to inform them that you will be traveling and living abroad temporarily. Some companies do not accept international purchases unless they are given advance notice.

Advice from St Andrews website

Remember that you will need money immediately on arrival for meals, etc. Your requirements will depend on your port of entry and how long you expect to spend between arriving in the UK and coming to St Andrews (and therefore might include money for overnight accommodation). Travellers' cheques can be cashed at airports and at *Bureaux de Change*. Currency: One pound Sterling (£1.00) is divided into one hundred pence (100p). The coinage is 1p, 2p, 5p, 20p, 50p, £1, and £2; the notes are in denominations of £1, £5, £10, £20, £50, and £100. If you are carrying a credit card, please make sure that you sign it before you begin your journey. The UK uses the PIN security system, which means you will need to know your PIN number to make purchases using your VISA or Mastercard. American Express and Diners Club cards are not widely used in the UK; you may find that retailers charge a surcharge for their use.

USEFUL WEBLINKS

ABOUT THE UK

Greater Britain Travel – <http://www.travel.org/britain.html>

British Tourist Authority – <http://www.visitbritain.com/en/US/>

SAFETY & HEALTH

Safety advice from the U.S. Dept of State – <http://travel.state.gov/>

Health advice from the Centers for Disease Control – <https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/index.html#global-health-issues>

NEWS

BBC – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

Reuters – <http://uk.reuters.com/>

MONEY

Currency converter – <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Currency converter & printable cheat sheets – <http://www.oanda.com/convert/cheatsheet>

TIME ZONES

Make a personal, multiple time zone clock – <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/setpersonal.html>

Have an excellent adventure!!

