



Student Pre-Arrival Information Package

Address: Alperton House, Bridgewater Road, Wembley. HA0 1EH

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8902 3020 **Fax:** +44 (0) 20 8902 3030

Email: info@essexcollege.co.uk

Website: www.essexcollege.co.uk

1. Life in London

London has the largest student population in Western Europe. Apart from the various colleges of the Universities there are many of the newer polytechnic universities and Private colleges. London is very much a 'World City'. Apart from being one of three major international financial centres, London is the capital of the fourth largest economy in the world. It has unrivalled art collections and world famous museums which either have free entry or charge a modest fee. Students are usually entitled to pay a reduced fee.

London has more theatres in the central area than any other city in the world. These offer everything from classical repertoire, experimental theatre, light entertainment and musicals. With three Opera Houses and Corps de Ballet, and nine Symphony Orchestras, this is truly the world's 'Capital of Music', celebrated each year during the summer at the world-famous Albert Hall 'Promenade Concerts'. All of these opportunities are available at special student discount rates.

Sport is, of course, another passion which can be pursued very actively in London. Some of the UK's most famous and successful football teams are located here, including Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham. For cricket fans, Lord's and the Oval provide venues for international matches, and for tennis the summer championships at Wimbledon provide an obvious highlight. There are also, of course, numerous youth culture venues, ethnic restaurants and shopping facilities offering everything from super-budget to luxury goods and services. Student life in London could, therefore, never be described as 'boring'!

The Weather

The weather in Britain can be unpredictable and changeable. Differences between the seasons are not as extreme as in some countries and although London is warmer than many other parts of Britain. Autumn temperatures are around 12 - 20 degrees Celsius summer is around 20 to 30 degrees.

What to bring to London

London is a very expensive city but you can buy lots of cheap household goods and cheap clothing in shops and in the markets. Check with the airline how much luggage you can bring and be careful - paying for excess baggage can be very expensive.

Clothing

You will need light clothes in summer and warm clothes in winter and it is also a good idea to have a waterproof jacket. If you are arriving in London in June it will be spring and temperatures will be mild and pleasant. If you are arriving in September or later, you will need winter clothing. In winter you should layer your clothes to keep warm and to adapt to changing temperatures in and out of buildings.

Electrical Equipment

Voltage in the UK is 240. If you bring equipment from home you will need an adaptor to use UK sockets (plugs have 3 square pins). Many students use personal computers at home. If you are thinking of buying a computer, it may be better to wait until you start your course to find out exactly what you need.

International Students House is a centre for international students in London. They organize social and cultural events throughout the year including free cinema every Sunday evening, discount trips around the UK and in Europe, sports clubs, musical events and lots more.

NHS: (National Health Services)

International students enrolled on courses of more than six months' duration are entitled to free medical treatment through the UK National Health Service. All students must register with a local doctor. Students encountering any difficulties in obtaining medical care must consult the college immediately.

Registering with the Police

once you have been admitted to the UK, nationals of some countries are required to register with the police. Your passport stamp will say if you have to do this, and if this is the case you must do so within seven days of your entry into the UK.

2. Accommodation

The college can arrange, on request, accommodation for its students. Initially, the college can reserve accommodation with a host family within reasonable travelling distance. The weekly rent for this type of accommodation may range from £95 to £105 per week. The majority of the students reserve accommodation for an initial period of four weeks. After the initial period they may extend the contract beyond the initially reserved period or look for alternative, usually cheaper, accommodation.

For accommodation to be arranged by the college, students must inform the college at least four weeks before accommodation is required. There is a charge of £420.00 which is one month's rent deposit, followed by rent payable on a weekly basis.

Average cost of living in London as an International student

Students will need £400-£500 a month to cover living expenses. This includes accommodation, food and transportation. This may vary depending on the area you live in, your budget and your life style.

3. Working in the UK

Students who are studying in private colleges are not allowed to work in the UK. Please refer UKBA's website: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/>

4. Airport Pickup Service & Form

Essex College provides an airport pick-up service for the convenience of international students. This service is available on request only. Kindly inform the college at least one week prior to arrival. There is a charge of £75 for this service payable in advance. The Airport pickup form is available for downloading. Download the form, fill-in the form and send / mail to us.