

# Canterbury 2012-13



## Study Abroad Handbook

A useful guide to your  
study abroad experience



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE OF OVERSEAS STUDY

*Read this handbook **now** and **again** before you leave the U.S.  
Consult it **again** before you register for classes overseas.*

*The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.  
If you find erroneous information, please contact [overseas@indiana.edu](mailto:overseas@indiana.edu).  
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## PROGRAM CONTACTS

The International Office at the University of Kent has the overall responsibility for IU students in Canterbury.

<b>Address:</b>	The International Office The Registry The University of Kent Kent CT2 7NZ ENGLAND
<b>Telephone:</b>	From the U.S.: 011-44-1227-827994
<b>Fax:</b>	From the U.S.: 011-44-1227-823247
<b>Staff</b>	Ms. Hazel Lander, Exchanges/Short-term Study Officer
<b>E-mail</b>	<i><a href="mailto:h.lander@kent.ac.uk">h.lander@kent.ac.uk</a></i>
<b>Websites:</b>	<i><a href="http://www.kent.ac.uk/international">www.kent.ac.uk/international</a> <a href="http://www.kent.ac.uk/gettingstarted">www.kent.ac.uk/gettingstarted</a></i>

## PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a supplement to the *Getting Started* handbook. While it contains specific program information, *Getting Started* contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before contacting the Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is also available on the Web: [www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/canterbury.pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/canterbury.pdf)



## ICONS IN THIS GUIDE



### Helpful Program Information

Information to help prepare you for study abroad



### Student Advice

Suggestions from study abroad returnees



### Savvy Traveler Tips

Traveling tips to get you where you're going

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR STUDYING ABROAD

The goals and objectives of a study abroad program are as diverse as the students, faculty, and administrators involved. Some goals may be common (e.g. language acquisition), while others may be more personal (e.g. becoming independent). Some goals may seem more important to some than to others (e.g. desire for academic integrity in course work vs. desire to travel).

Study abroad programs will provide a more enriching experience if they incorporate a wide range of goals. The first step toward the achievement of these goals is acknowledging and defining them before the program begins. Once you are abroad, the process continues with a structured and cooperative approach to achieving these goals. We've begun the process by outlining some goals for your program.

## **University of Kent Program Goals**

- Knowledge of your academic major(s)/minor from British perspective
- Integration into the academic and social environment of the University of Kent
- Immersion experience in a supportive environment
- Personal development and growth

## **Program Elements that Support these Goals**

- Resident staff to provide personal and academic advising
- Onsite staff to provide personal and academic advising
- Attendance in University of Kent courses with British students
- Course work integrated into students' academic goals
- Access to university and community organizations/clubs
- Housing with British and international students

# The Program in Canterbury

## 2012-13 Calendar

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Arrive at university.....	September 15/16
Orientation.....	September 17-23
Autumn Term.....	September 24- December 14
Arrive at university (only for new Spring term students).....	January 9
Orientation (only for new Spring term students).....	January 10-13
Spring Term.....	January 14-April 5
Summer Term.....	May 6-June 14*

\*Students need to stay until the end of the academic year finals

## Passport & Visa

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If you do not already have a valid passport, apply for one immediately. You can pick up an application form and instructions as a county clerk's office or post office. You can also download an application from the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. Turnaround time can be as much as six weeks, so submit your application promptly.

You are required to obtain a student visa (or Entry Clearance) for your stay in Canterbury. The Office of Overseas Study will send students instructions for applying for a student visitor visa from the British consulate or embassy. For this purpose it is essential that you have your passport.

## Getting to Canterbury

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You will arrange your own air transportation from the U.S. to London. Since you will not know your final exam dates at Canterbury until the end of the academic year, it will be difficult to book your return flight. Look for a ticket with no fixed return date or a low fee for changing your return date. Coordinate with other students and travel together if possible.

## Clearing Customs in London

Have the following items on hand when you reach the London airport: your acceptance letter from the University of Kent, a copy of the medical history you submitted to Overseas Study in the spring, and a letter of financial guarantee (which is simply a signed statement from your parents confirming their ability to support you and their willingness to do so). Officials want reassurance that you have adequate financial resources and do not plan to work full-time in Britain.

### Savvy Traveler Tips

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Scan a copy of your passport page and save it in your e-mail so you can have easy access to it, should you need it, while you are travelling.

Students are occasionally detained at the airport for an on-the-spot health check. Immigration officials have the right to require such health checks, but they rarely conduct them.

## From London to Canterbury

Read carefully the *Getting Started at Kent*, which U of Kent will send you. It provides detailed information on options for getting from London to Canterbury, including an airport pick-up service for approximately £35 -40 for those who arrive in early morning until 4:00 p.m. on either of the two days preceding the welcome week. The cost of the shuttle may be subject to an increase. Those arriving later in the day can share the cost of a taxi from the airport to Canterbury for about the same price. With a year's worth of luggage in tow, the cheaper route by public transportation is a struggle. If you choose that option, note that taking the bus from either of London's airports directly to Canterbury is preferable to making the trek into central London to board the train at Victoria Station.

## Canterbury

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Canterbury, the oldest and one of the most beautiful English cathedral cities, is 55 miles southeast of London amid the hop fields, orchards and picturesque villages of East Kent. It is easily accessible by road and rail, with particularly good links to the Continent. Within half an hour's drive of the city are some 70 miles of coastline stretching from the old harbor town of Whitstable in the north through Sandwich, Deal, Dover, and Folkestone to the quiet Romney Marsh in the south.

The city itself has a population of 43,000. The old town, with ancient walls and narrow streets clustered around the magnificent cathedral, preserves much of its medieval atmosphere. Yet the city is no backwater, for it acts as the shopping and commercial center for a wide area of East Kent, and a number of activities are based there.

## University of Kent

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The University of Kent is situated on the crest of a hill overlooking the cathedral and city below. An eight-minute bus ride or 30-minute walk will get you from campus to town. The University was founded in 1965 and now has about 13,000 students, including over 1,000 international students of 139 different nationalities. It is made up of five residential colleges, each of which has student sleeping rooms, faculty offices, classrooms, lounges, pubs, small libraries and dining halls. In addition, the university has a central library, a theater, a gymnasium, a book shop, self-catering accommodations, and a small student union. The offices of several banks are housed on campus, including ATMs.

## Welcome Week

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Upon arrival on campus, you do not need to make a special visit to the International Office, unless you would like to introduce yourself to the staff. The orientation program that takes place during your first week at the University of Kent includes assistance with academic advising, medical registration, and banking; a tour of Canterbury Cathedral; reception and welcome dinner; and an introduction to student groups at the day-long Freshers' Fair. Since many British upperclassmen are not on campus during

orientation week, you will inevitably make some of your first friends among the other international students and the British first-year students (“Freshers”). Save room in your friendship circles for the upperclassmen, who might arrive on campus closer to the start of classes. During this time, you may find that you need several photos for ID cards and passes, locate one of the many fotomat machines to have inexpensive photos made or bring extra passport-sized photos with you from home.

## Academic Program

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Academically the university is divided into four divisions, generally referred to as “faculties:” Humanities, Social Sciences, and Science Technology & Medical Studies. Within each faculty there are departments and centers, some of which are interfaculty.

IU students are special “short-term” students at the University of Kent and are not subject to all University of Kent procedures. You will be assigned to a college (whether you reside in one or not) and for academic purposes you will be assigned a short-term advisor who counsels American students and/or students in your discipline. Get to know this advisor or “tutor” early in the year. They are familiar with the American university system as well as with the system at Kent, and can advise you on matters relating to your academic progress as well as on any personal problems. However, if you have complex academic questions, particularly if you are in the natural and mathematical sciences, request advice from someone in your own discipline.

## The British Degree Program

Although you will be spending a short time at Kent and will not be a degree candidate there, it will be useful for you to understand in general the sort of academic program followed by regular students at the university. The program leading to a Bachelor’s degree is usually a three-year course of study, rather than a four-year one as in the U.S. The notion of a degree program, however, is somewhat broader than in our system of departmental majors. There are basically three types of degree programs: (a) Single Honors: programs of study where the majority of modules are within one major discipline (history, economics, English, math, chemistry, etc.); (b) Joint Honors: programs which equally combine work in several fields related to a particular area or topic (Renaissance studies, urban studies, industrial relations, etc.); and (c) Inter-Faculty Honors: programs which allow students to pursue a major/minor degree where the majority of the study is in one subject and the minority is in another (history and law, accounting and computing, etc.).

The three-year program is divided into two parts. Stage I occupies the first year and is interdisciplinary in nature. A student who intends to specialize in English and American literature, for example, would take basic courses designed to provide a broad background in the humanities. A student in sociology would take a wide range of courses in the social sciences. Stage II covers the remaining two years and consists of specialized work within a student’s field of concentration. Many students take a fourth undergraduate year and spend their third year at another European or U.S. university.

“The diversity and integration of the students on this campus is what makes it an incredible place to study abroad. I have met so many interesting people—from English, to Nigerian, to Bengali, to Finnish, to Japanese.”



STUDENT ADVICE

The British degree programs tend to be more structured than U.S. degree programs; that is, there is a more rigid pattern of courses that must be followed in the three-year curriculum. Yet individual classes have far less structure than the U.S. student is used to.

## Organization and Conduct of Classes

In the Humanities and Social Sciences, some courses consist of a large lecture session with accompanying small seminars, while others are offered exclusively in seminar format. Science courses consist of lectures and labs. In British lecture-seminar courses, the seminar is more important than the lecture, and attendance at seminars is compulsory. Grades in the lecture-seminar courses are based on performance in the seminars, most of which require two ten-page essays (term papers) per term. Seminars typically include informal presentations by the instructor, with student response, discussion, reports and essays. Courses meet less frequently than in the U.S., which requires self-discipline to keep up with the required reading.

Your professors will be strict about deadlines to submit essays; students **strongly advise** that you meet the deadlines so that you plan ahead and do not find yourself overwhelmed by a pile of essays to submit at the end of the year.

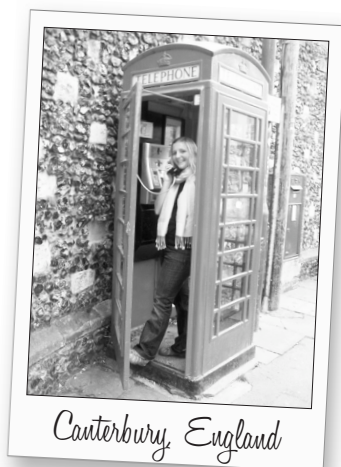
## Instructors

University instructors in Britain are referred to as “lecturers.” The term “professor” is reserved for those who actually hold professorships (usually only a few in any field). Find out the appropriate title for your instructors. You may find that the relationship between lecturer and student is often less formal than at large American universities. This is true in class as well as out. The system of seminars encourages students and teachers to get to know each other and to work together closely. However, in courses consisting of lectures and seminars, the actual lectures are fairly formal and impersonal, without student participation. Professors will have office hours, although they may be more limited than you are used to in the U.S.

## Module (Course) Selection

During your mandatory advising conference at Overseas Study, you will set up a module (course) schedule using the *Catalogue of Short-Term Modules* ([www.kent.ac.uk/studying/short-term/pdfs/BT\\_108508\\_catalogue\\_1109.pdf](http://www.kent.ac.uk/studying/short-term/pdfs/BT_108508_catalogue_1109.pdf)). This advising form will need the approval of your IU major and minor advisors. Kent will have you complete a scheduling form with your preferred classes and alternate choices. If you are going to take courses in the natural or mathematical sciences, your schedule will not be finalized until you arrive at Kent.

Kent may allow you to change modules during the first couple of weeks of the first term, but change will be difficult once a course is full. In lecture modules with required seminars, you may be able to change seminar leaders within the same course. See your Kent advisor to make such changes.



## Module (Course) Load

You must take a full course load during the year and sit for exams at the end of the year. You may choose to earn the University of Kent's "University Diploma" if you select modules that meet Diploma requirements.

In general, you should take courses that correspond to the work done by Kent students in their second or third year. That is, your classes should be chosen from the list of Stage II courses, and your module load should be the same as that required of Kent students in your field. The academic year is organized into two long terms and an exam period.

For a full academic year, all short-term students are required to undertake work that will be equated to 32 credit hours under the American credit system during their academic year at Kent, equivalent to a full year's undergraduate load. At Kent all undergraduate degree programmes comprise 120 study credits per year, and the modules are usually weighted at 15 or 30 credits (or, respectively 4 or 8 U.S. credit hours).

Although it depends on the department, former IU participants often discourage Stage I courses since they tend to be more crowded, allow less class discussion, and are treated more casually by the British students who do not receive computed grades for them. Stage I courses also last longer, pushing the final exams much later than Stage II courses and the final exam is weighted more heavily than Stage II courses.

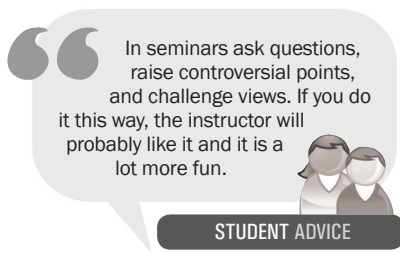
**Crossing Disciplines:** You are allowed to cross faculties even though most British students do not. That is, a Social Sciences student can take a Humanities course, and so on. And you may take up to one Stage I course each term. If you have a single major at IU and you plan to take courses in your major only, then your work at Kent will be similar to that of a student in a "Single Honors" program. If you are pursuing a double major at IU (or if you simply want to take a course outside your major and are qualified to do advanced work in that field), then you should arrange your program as though you were in the "Combined Honors" program. It is important to recognize, however, that because the British students in your classes are majoring in that discipline, you will need some background in the course subject. Lack of at least one or two IU basic courses will make a course significantly more challenging than one in your major(s).

There may be certain prerequisites or course restrictions that may limit your choice of courses at Kent. For example, Stage II modules typically fall into two categories: **Core Modules** and **Special Modules**. Special Modules are available only in the student's final year and have a narrower focus than the Core Modules. Core Modules aim to provide more comprehensive coverage of subject area. Some modules are also designed to be taken sequentially.


**Science Technology & Medical Studies:** Those of you pursuing courses in the Science Technology and Medical Studies do not have flexibility to cross disciplines because of scheduling conflicts. You do have the flexibility within your degree program to mix courses from the Stage I and Stage II offerings (although this can lead to minor schedule conflicts). There are some drawbacks to Stage I/Stage II cross-scheduling in chemistry, physics or mathematics. Inquire at the Office of Overseas Study for the written advice that past participants in these disciplines have given regarding registration, scheduling and course loads at Kent. In the Natural Sciences, every lecture course has a lab. The class schedule changes every term, even though you'll be registered for the same classes. The class schedule for the current term only is always posted in the ground floor

lounge of the Biosciences and Chemistry buildings and in the library. It is also available online through the Student Data System (SDS).

**Finding Classrooms:** After you arrive at Kent, you should visit each department to find the location of your classes. Your timetable is available through the Student Data Web site ([www.kent.ac.uk/student](http://www.kent.ac.uk/student)). Please note that locations will list the building abbreviations (R for Rutherford College, D for Darwin College, E for Eliot, K for Keynes College, etc.) followed by the room numbers. If you have trouble understanding the abbreviations, ask a fellow student.



In seminars ask questions, raise controversial points, and challenge views. If you do it this way, the instructor will probably like it and it is a lot more fun.



**STUDENT ADVICE**

## Examinations

The British university final examination ritual differs markedly from the American system. Students spend the third term sitting (revising) for exams, if applicable. Studying for the exams provides an important opportunity for a general review of the year's course work. Some professors administer practice exams, and some seminar leaders hold special revision seminars in which they discuss exams and how best to study. You can consult a file of past examination papers in the library or on the Web: <http://library.kent.ac.uk/library/exampapers/>. You will note that certain topics come up on the exams frequently so if you select your essay topics based on those recurring themes, you may be better prepared for the exams. Ask questions about how the finals are designed so you are prepared.

Examinations are announced on bulletin boards in the library foyer during week 23 and they are also published on the Web through the Student Data System ([www.kent.ac.uk/student](http://www.kent.ac.uk/student)). Examinations are administered in the main and small sports halls, as well as the colleges. Each exam lasts two or three hours and involves three to four questions that usually provide several choices. The number of questions may vary from subject to subject. Some professors give take-home exams with a time limit. One-day papers can be grueling for English majors, particularly if you have two such take-home exams. Students will more than likely take exams in April/May for modules that ended in the Autumn term.

**Outside Examiners:** Each exam is marked by two examiners, and if their assessments vary greatly, a third marker is used. Final exams are also monitored by outside examiners in the same discipline. This system is designed to result in the most objective reading of the exam. Past participants say that examiners gave more weight to original, well-argued ideas than to mastery of specific facts.

**Weight of Final Exam:** The weighting given to exams, coursework and projects varies greatly between modules, with a few being assessed 100% on coursework while other modules have the final exam worth 50% of the total grade. Handbooks and transcripts indicate the weightings assigned to exam, coursework and project and the number and level of credits awarded for each module.

## Transcripts

In late summer, the University of Kent will send official transcripts to the Office of Overseas Study and final UKC marks will be converted to American grades based on the following chart. To assist your advisors and professors at IU in making credit determinations, you should bring back course descriptions, reading lists, and all the papers you have written during the year, making sure to make copies of irreplaceable documents.

<b>Grade Conversion Chart</b>			
<b>IU Grade</b>	<b>UKC</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Ave. Mark</b>
A	70+	1st	70+
A	67-69	Upper 2nd	60-69
A-	64-66		
B+	61-63		
B	58-60		
B-	55-57		
C+	52-54	Lower 2nd	50-59
C	48-51		
C-	44-47	Third	40-49
D	40-43		
F	0-39	Fail	Below 40

Your IU record may not be finalized before September. If you plan to graduate in August, consult with staff at Overseas Study before going abroad about how to proceed.

## Grading

The range of grades in the British university system differs markedly from the range of grades in the U.S. Although there is a 100 point scale, grades above 70 are rare. The grade conversion chart appears in the U of Kent information booklet for short-term students. You should strive for grades in the 70-55 range, which fall within IU's A-B range. Faculty also use "class" designations: I = excellent, II.i = very good, II.ii = good, III = average, Pass and Fail.

## Textbooks

Most classes have long book lists, but you are not expected to read all of them, and you certainly are not expected to buy all of them. How much you spend on books depends on how interested you are in having them on hand, how much demand there is for the library copies, whether the library has them at all, etc. Photocopying journal articles for class is a good idea but may become costly.

## Learning Resources

Kent has a Unit for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (UFLT) that offers a series of handouts and workshops on a variety of topics including library skills, study strategies, essay writing, oral presentations, IT training, etc. These resources are designed for all U of Kent students and are not remedial in nature. Since academic writing is very different in the UK than in the U.S., some help in this area could have a major impact on how successful you are at Kent. Take advantage of the workshops early, at the beginning of the first term, so you can get a strong start on the year.

## University of Kent Graduation Ceremony

IU seniors, who will miss IU graduation ceremonies in May, have the consolation of participating in Kent's graduation ceremony in mid-July. You cannot graduate from Kent, of course, but you can process with British students down the magnificent aisle of Canterbury Cathedral. Contact the International Office at Kent for details.

# The Program in Canterbury

## Housing

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You will receive a housing request form (Accommodation Card) from the International Office at Kent, which you should complete and return to Kent immediately so you will have a good chance of being assigned your first-choice housing. The deadline for housing is usually in July for academic year and November for spring semester.

You have two on-campus housing choices: 1) a room in a college or 2) a student apartment.

You will receive information from the International Office at Kent outlining accommodation options and costs. You can also find current fees in the information center in Franklin Hall 303.

## College Rooms

There are four colleges in the university: Darwin, Eliot, Keynes and Rutherford. Although theoretically each college is associated with different interests (e.g. politics, sports, arts, etc.), IU students have found little difference between them.

Each college has classrooms, lecture theatres, student lounges (bars), recreation rooms, a dining hall and bedrooms. The rooms are singles, with a bed, two chairs, desk, closet and (usually) a sink. There are shared shower, bath, and toilet facilities on each corridor. Breakfast, blankets and pillows and maid service are included in the housing fee, but sheets and towels are not. Rooms do not have telephones, and storage space is limited. Rental refrigerators are not permitted. All rooms have internet access.

During vacations, you must *completely* empty your room and store your possessions, which is a major inconvenience. Breakfast is included in the cost of the room, but you pay separately for all other meals. Housing is limited at the University, so college rooms are allocated primarily to first-year and overseas students. Second and third-year students are required to live off-campus.

## Student Apartments

Student apartments have become the option of choice among many IU students at U of Kent. These self-catering accommodations, called Park Wood Courts and Darwin Houses, are on campus and fully furnished. Each modern, terraced, two-story house consists of five or six bedrooms with shared kitchen and shower facilities. Self-catering apartments are attractive because you can prepare your own food there, while also keeping the option of eating in any college cafeteria. Woody's, a popular pub in the complex, attracts students from all over campus. Campus shops are located in Park Wood and near the Student Union. They are called *Essentials*. Some advantages of living in Park Wood Courts and Darwin Houses include the fact that rooms do not have to be vacated during vacations and there is one telephone (for campus calls only) available per house of five students.



## Medical Care

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There is a Medical Centre on campus, consisting of three full time Partners, and two part-time Partners, Nursing Staff, Health Visitor, Midwife, Reception, Secretarial and Administrative Staff. There is also a nursing service located in Keynes College and a pharmacy on campus.

## Health Insurance

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You will be covered by the National Health Service in Britain, provided your period of study is for six months or longer. Your IU fees include additional health insurance that is valid anywhere outside the U.S. You are required to pay cash at the time of treatment and then apply for reimbursement from the U.S. insurance company. U of Kent's International Office has the claim forms. Be sure you have cash to meet medical bills should they arise, especially when you are traveling outside Britain.

Typically, it is recommended that you bring a full supply of any medications you must take along with a copy of your prescription. There are some prescriptions you can get filled via the Medical Centre, such as birth control, which is available to students free of charge. For most medications, it is best to plan ahead since medications cannot be mailed overseas.

## Money & Banking

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You may want to bring a small amount of U.S. currency or traveler's checks to exchange when you first arrive in Britain so you have U.K. currency immediately to pay for books, meals, and incidentals for the first month. You can use the balance to set up a British bank account. You should plan on using a credit card to pay your accommodation fees.

Otherwise, it is not recommended to bring travelers checks. Most banks no longer process traveler's checks although traveler's checks can still be processed at American Express offices which are located in most major cities and airports. Previous students have recommended exchanging a small amount of U.S. currency to exchange as indicated above or using your American ATM card. If using your American ATM card to make withdrawals, you should contact your bank in the U.S. regarding any fees or limitations associated with international withdrawals.

You may bring a cashier's check to establish a bank account, but it can take two to four

### Helpful Program Information

- Using a service like "Skype" is the cheapest way to make and receive calls to the U.S. However, most students will also purchase
- a mobile phone after they arrive in Canterbury. Go to a phone store (VODAFONE or TMOBILE) and buy the cheapest phone they
- have for about £30. You can then purchase pre-paid minutes on the "pay-as-you-go" plan.

weeks for the U.S. check to be credited to your British bank account and the money in pounds made available to you. Once the account is established, you can have additional funds wired to your account.

British banking procedures differ from those in the U.S., so you are advised to wait until after the orientation course presentation on banking before you open an account.

## Working Abroad

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If you have obtained a Student Visitor Visa, you can work part-time in England (up to 20 hours per week during the term). A jobshop on campus puts students in touch with jobs in Canterbury and on campus.

## Telephones

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Telephones are not provided in college study rooms in Britain. Most students purchase a mobile phone on-site, which use “pay-as-you-go” cards, and you are only charged for calls you make. You are not charged for the calls you receive on a mobile phone. If you do not have one of these mobile phones, your family can reach you in an emergency by leaving a message at the College Reception. (Specific telephone numbers will be listed in the booklet you receive from Kent during the summer.)

We recommend that you set up a regular time to have your family call you or to call your family. Pre-paid calling cards are readily available. You may also wish to ask your long distance company about it's calling card options. Students have also reported that using Skype and other internet phone services have been affordable ways of communicating with friends and family.

## E-mail & Computers

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You may use e-mail at PCs in the computing laboratories, colleges, library and science laboratories. You will be issued an information packet for use of e-mail during orientation week. With a Unix account, you can access your IU account, and by arrangement with UITS at IU, have your mail forwarded to Kent.

Most students bring their own computers or use computer clusters in the colleges and the library. The campus computers are PCs; not Macs. Be aware that you will need to pay to print, but there are machines all around campus to add money to your printing account. It is helpful to save your Kent academic work on USB memory sticks to bring home so you can easily access all the work you did.

## Social Life

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The University of Kent offers lectures, film series, plays, clubs, rock band performances and other activities. The gymnasium has basketball and handball courts, and there are outdoor playing fields on the campus. At “Freshers' Fair” during



### STUDENT ADVICE

The library computer labs are only open until 10 p.m. Working in one of the college labs late at night is a little-known secret.

welcome week, you will have an opportunity to find out about more than one hundred societies and clubs—everything from hiking and bicycling to theater, singing, belly dancing, medieval warfare reenactment, and debating societies. Register for as many activities as you like. Since you do not have to pay membership dues right away, you will be able to attend a few initial meetings and discover which activities are worthwhile. These societies provide one of the best ways to meet English students.

The Student Union (upstairs in the Mandela Building) provides information regarding volunteer opportunities in the Canterbury community. Former program participants strongly recommend volunteerism as a means of getting involved in British society.

## Packing

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Pack light. Ask yourself, “Can I haul all my luggage from the airport to Canterbury? Am I willing to repack all these things and lug them to storage for both winter and spring vacations? Am I accounting for all the souvenirs, clothing and books I will accumulate in Europe and want to take home with me?”

British students are not bothered by being seen in the same clothes more than once in the same week. You will need some warm clothing, despite the fact the temperature rarely falls below freezing in Canterbury, but it is windy and wet.

### Take the following:

- Clothing that is easily washed by hand
- Warm clothing for rainy and cold weather
- At least one good outfit for special occasions
- Jeans (universal student apparel but expensive outside the U.S. and beware, long U.S. style jeans remain perennially wet and dirty!)
- Sturdy, comfortable, waterproof shoes (You will do lots of walking!)
- A lightweight raincoat with a hood and an umbrella
- Towels (not provided in colleges), or you can buy one when you get there.
- MP3 player
- Camera and batteries
- Travel alarm clock
- Diary or journal
- Addresses and photos of family and friends back home
- Map of the U.S. (Not everyone knows where Indiana is.)
- American measuring cup and spoons (The rest of the world is metric.) and your favorite recipes



### STUDENT ADVICE

Even with converters, many overseas students experienced difficulties, as college outlets are special. You can rent a kettle from your college very cheaply, and it is worth it to buy inexpensive small appliances (radios, clocks, etc.) here.

- Prescription for your glasses or contact lenses
- A full year supply of medications you take regularly (All medication should be in the original bottle, with contents clearly labeled, to avoid customs hassles.)
- Typewritten copies of prescription for medications, using generic, not brand names
- Light sports equipment (i.e. cleats, gloves, clothing, etc.) if you plan to play a sport

**Some items will be unnecessary, cumbersome or useless abroad. You should leave these at home:**

- Electrical appliances (They don't work well, even with converters.)
- A large wardrobe
- Clothes that need to be dry cleaned

## Suggested Reading

Don't leave home without the most recent edition of a good guide book. The most highly recommended student travel guides are the *Let's Go* and *Lonely Planet* series. Other recommendations include *Culture Shock: Britain*, *Brit-think*, *Ameri-think* by Jane Walmsley and *Notes from a Small Island* by Bill Bryson

## Vacation Travel

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### Trains

National Express coaches are quite affordable for travel within Britain. Traveling by train is the best way to see Europe. In most countries the trains are punctual, clean, comfortable, inexpensive, and they go nearly everywhere. You can usually save money by purchasing a rail pass. There are a number of attractive options, all of which are described in *Let's Go* and other student travel guides. Within Britain you can use a Student Rail pass. The best known is the Eurail pass, which is not valid in Britain and must be purchased in the U.S. Before you invest in any rail pass, check out the benefits of national rail passes sold for travel within a single country and individual point-to-point tickets.

### Planes

Commercial air travel on standard carriers in Europe can be expensive although there are many budget airlines that operate out of London. The International Student ID Card entitles you to cheaper rates on some flights, and you may find good fares on the web through both traditional and budget airlines (i.e., Ryan Air and Easy Jet) without using an ISIC ID.

### Bicycles

Many students found bicycling in Europe to be a very rewarding experience. You can take bikes onto the trains, and in many countries (most notably France, Belgium, the

Netherlands, and England) people and roads are quite friendly to cyclists. You can camp out, or bike from hostel to hostel.


## Hitchhiking

Contrary to popular belief, hitchhiking in Europe can be dangerous. Never attempt to hitchhike. Hazards include road accidents, frequent thefts and increasing personal assaults.

## Hostels

Youth hostels provide clean, inexpensive, albeit spartan accommodations throughout Western Europe. You must usually have a hostel card in order to spend the night at official Hostelling International member hostels. Cards cost \$28 for the year and are available from Hostelling International on the Web at [www.hiayh.org](http://www.hiayh.org) or at your local STA Travel. You can also purchase memberships at any youth hostel overseas. Call ahead for reservations in big cities or on weekends.

“ “ No attempt to describe the British character can replace your own observations. It's good to be laid back. The American stereotype is loud & overbearing; you will get to know people better if you do not fit this image.



**STUDENT ADVICE**