## Contents

This program handbook contains the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Learning Objectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-departure Information</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Area</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important Documents</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packing</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival Information</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site information</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of Kensington</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructions for Arrival</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration and Orientation on Arrival</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Academic Program</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Information</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Information</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration, Course Selection, CERs</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in London</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicalities (Food, Clothes, Toiletries)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeing London Outside of Class</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving London</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Websites of Interest</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In partnership with UW-Madison
FIE welcomes you to London!

The UW in London program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in partnership with Foundation of International Education (FIE).

FIE, a London-based non-profit educational organization provides customized partnership programs and individual student enrollment programs in London, Dublin, and Amman for undergraduates.

Since establishing in 1998, the Foundation for International Education (FIE) has set new high standards in delivering academic programs abroad. We are a forward-thinking organization with a mission that expresses our passionate belief in the value of international education. The secret of our success lies in our ability to provide exceptional experiences for each and every student. We achieve this through a combination of three essential ingredients: the expertise and commitment of our team, the quality and depth of our support facilities and resources, and the value we place on maintaining the highest levels of service in every aspect of our operation.

Our specialized academic programs allow our visiting students to maximize the value of their stay, gaining theoretical knowledge, practical skills, life experience and an international perspective. Our innovation in areas such as internships, service learning and international research ensure that our students have the most thorough and integrated study abroad experience possible.

FIE is delighted to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Madison in this exciting study abroad endeavour. The wealth of learning opportunities available to students in London is limitless. We look forward to working with UW staff and students to realise their potential in this cosmopolitan city.

Your IAP Program Handbook supplements materials you receive from IAP as well as the FIE/UW Student Handbook you will receive on arrival. FIE reserves the right to change any matter in this publication without prior notice. Therefore it should be read as neither a part of a contractual agreement of courses/programs described herein.
Program Learning Objectives

- Knowledge of English history, literature, culture, and the arts
- Integration into the academic and social environment of the Foundation for International Education (FIE)
- Recognize how FIE’s values of sustainability, diversity & inclusivity, and social justice are reflected in British culture
- Immersion in the British workplace through internships and service internships.
- Personal development, growth, and ability to adapt to a new culture
- Develop a literacy in day-to-day London life
- Gain a greater understanding of American culture through the lens of the U.K.
- Succeed in immersive academic experiences in the city of London
- Engage with fellow international students and faculty members at FIE

Program Elements that Support these Objectives

- Local on-site staff to provide personal and academic advising in London
- UW program office located in FIE residence building
- Special courses taught by English faculty in area studies for program participants
- Course work integrated into students’ academic goals
- Internship placement with a London-based organization (second half of semester only)
- Extracurricular opportunities to join clubs at nearby Imperial College
- FIE-sponsored extracurricular cultural events in London and excursions around various regions of the UK
- Shared FIE housing with other American and international students
- Extensive co-curricular outings to exhibits, galleries, and historical sites in London with each course

Updated December 2015
Program Overview

The UW in London program allows you to cater your course load and internship placement to reflect your academic interests. You will enroll in a variety of courses while also earning academic credit for your internship placement. The internship is an essential component of the program structure and required for all students. You will select either an Internship or Service Internship for your experience (Business students will select a Business Internship).

Important Dates

- Arrival date in London: Wednesday, January 6, 2016**
- Orientation: Wednesday, January 6 – Sunday, January 10, 2016
- Classes begin: Monday, January 11, 2016
- Mid-term break: Monday, February 29 – Friday, March 4
- Internship Begins: Monday, March 7, 2016
- Departure date from London: Sunday April 24, 2016 (Housing check out no later than 12PM)

**You should plan to check-in at Metrogate no later than 2pm, and then proceed to Foundation House Study Centre for Registration and Passport copies. This must be completed upon your arrival and before 6pm. See “Instructions for Arrival” for more detailed information.
Pre-departure Information

Your pre-departure orientation is scheduled for Friday, November 13th from 2:30-4:30PM in the Red Gym (On Wisconsin A). You will find out more about the program and have the opportunity to ask questions you have to previous participants, faculty member Lee Palmer Wandel, Study Abroad Advisor Jessa Boche and FIE/UW Program Assistant Clare Woessner.

After this, and during the weeks before you arrive in London you will receive emails from both FIE and UW-Madison telling you more about the program in London. Please remove any junk mail settings that may block FIE or UW-Madison emails and be sure to check the email account for the address you gave.

You will receive the following information via email. Some of the information is also available via the links below. Please read it all carefully!

• Welcome to FIE/London
• Academic Resources
• Student Life Introduction
• Residence Life Policies, Procedures & Code of Conduct
• State Department Registration Information
• UK Cell Phone Information
• Gym Membership Information
• General Housing Information (about 30 days prior to arrival)

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Roommate assignments won’t be released until you arrive in London.**
• Detailed Arrival Information Email (about 2 weeks prior to arrival)

It’s expected that you will review all the information located in your My Study Abroad account prior to the pre-departure orientation.
The Area

One of the world's great cultural and economic centers, London offers almost endless potential for study abroad. As London specialists, FIE staff and faculty have been helping universities, colleges and hundreds of their students realize this potential each year since 1998 through programs of the highest quality.

FIE study and housing facilities are located in the attractive Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, one of London's most desirable areas.

Highlights of the Area

- FIE is located near schools such as Imperial College, the Royal College of Art, and the Royal College of Music.
- Just down the street are some of the world's great cultural institutions, including the Royal Albert Hall, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Natural History Museum.
- Kensington is home to charming residential areas where famous residents of the present (Madonna, Hugh Grant, Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise—not to mention the Royal Family) mix with the ghosts of those who lived in the area in the past (T.S. Eliot, J.S. Mill and Beatrix Potter).
- Students live and study near some of London's most fashionable streets, including Gloucester Road, where students will find banks, a post office, pubs, restaurants, and grocery stores; and High Street Kensington, one of London's premier shopping streets.

Accessing the Rest of the City

Getting to the rest of the city is easy and convenient. The area is served by a number of underground (tube) and bus routes, opening up the whole city to the curious visitor.

Foundation House is located near the corner of Gloucester and Cromwell Road, at the Gloucester Road tube stop. From here, students have instant access to the Piccadilly, Circle, and District Tube lines.
Contact information

UW-Madison Information
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329
www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Jessa Boche
Study Abroad Advisor
boche@studyabroad.wisc.edu
Tel: 608-265-6329

Professor Lee Palmer Wandel
Spring 2016 Program Leader
UW-Madison Department of History
lpwandel@wisc.edu

On-Site Program Information
Your primary contact in London will be:
Clare Woessner
UW Program Assistant
Foundation House
114 Cromwell Road
SW7 4ES
Tel: 0207 591 7818
cwoessner@fie.org.uk

Your mailing address will be:
Attn: YOUR NAME
Metrogate
3-7 Queens Gate Terrace
London
SW7 5PE
UK

Emergency Contact Information
FIE Emergency Number
Facilities Support Team (Metrogate)
0207 808 0131

IAP Emergency Number
IAP emergency phone (608) 516-9440
Important Documents

Embassy Registration
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register with the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishaps. You can register online at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

Address
United States Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London, W1A 1AE
United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 7499 9000
http://www.usembassy.org.uk

Passport
A passport is needed to travel to the United Kingdom. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for the duration of the programme.

Immigration Requirements
In order to study in the United Kingdom, you will need a student visa. The only exceptions are for citizens of the UK and the European Union. A student visa is a stamp that is placed in your passport and gives you permission to study in the UK. IAP & FIE can provide you with information and guidance regarding this process, but ultimately it is your responsibility to obtain a student visa.

In order to study abroad in the UK, you must apply for a Tier 4 (General) Visa. You cannot apply for a Tier 4 visa after you arrive in the UK. You must apply in your country of residence, prior to departure.

Visit FIE’s Visa Information page for more information the application process:
- Click on the link called “Tier 4 Criteria and Requirements”
Money
For those of you who are not accustomed to living in a major city, be prepared for an adjustment. The cost of living in London will be significantly higher than many areas of the U.S. In addition, the U.K. currency, pounds sterling, is valued much higher than the U.S. dollar. The exchange rate changes daily, and can be checked at www.x-rates.com. We suggest you begin to familiarize yourself with the currency before you arrive.

Budgeting for London
Estimated expenses vary widely depending upon the student. How much you spend will depend on your lifestyle, such as how much you eat out and travel during your free time. We recommend you budget for between £80 - £100 each week for food and personal expenses. Keep in mind that your purchasing power is directly related to the dollar/sterling exchange rate.

Cash for Arrival
It is a good idea to carry some British currency with you for arrival, to help you settle in during your first few days. We recommend you exchange this money before you arrive in London - this can be done at some banks or at currency exchange booths in airports - and ask for mixed notes in small denominations.

Banking
- Do NOT plan to keep large amounts of cash in your room. The easiest way to handle your money abroad is often to use the same checking account you have in the U.S., using your debit card as your primary means of payment and cash withdrawal. ATMs are readily available all over Europe.
- The largest banks in England are HSBC, Barclays and Lloyds TSB. If your bank has a relationship with any of these banks, they may not charge an ATM fee. Check with your financial institution to see whether they have these relationships, and what kind of charges you will incur on international purchases. Online banking with your U.S.-based account will help you keep track of how much you are spending in U.S. dollars.
- ALWAYS have a backup. If you are using your debit card as your primary means of money abroad, make sure you also bring a credit card (Visa, MasterCard or American Express are recommended) in case your primary card is lost or stolen. Keep the backup card in a different place from your primary card.
- You MUST inform your bank and credit card companies that you will be abroad so they do not freeze your accounts.

ISIC Card
The International Student Identity Card, or ISIC, is an internationally recognized form of student identification. When starting your studies in London you will receive one of these as your FIE Student ID. Having one of these cards allows students to ask for discounts at hundreds of theatres, restaurants, cinemas and museums, as well as student discounts on plane and rail tickets across Europe.
Packing

Essentials:

- **Practical Clothes.** Clothes that require minimal care, are comfortable to travel in, and can be layered are best to take. Layering is the best way to combat the unpredictable British temperature. Casual clothing is the most comfortable for day-to-day British life. If you plan on going out to dinner or to the theatre at night, dressier clothing would be best.

- **Backpack.** Backpacks are easier to carry than suitcases on longer trips. Your flats will also not have a lot of closet space or storage room, therefore it may be best to bring a collapsible suitcase. A small travel bag is convenient for weekend and day trips.

- **Comfortable shoes.** You are likely to be out and about walking around London in many of your classes in addition to outside your classes!

- **Strong umbrella and raincoat.** Many a Londoner will tell you it rains quite often here!

- **Bath towels.** Bed sheets will be provided in the flats and you will be able to buy bath towels upon arrival from a nearby store if you don’t want to carry them over.

- **Travel purse or money belt.** To keep your passport, ID, and money safe.

- **Camera.** Take some of your memories home!

- **Laptop.** We would recommend you bring a laptop with you as a lot of your work and assignments will be electronically submitted. There is free wifi in your residences and Foundation House. You will also have 24 hour access to a computer lab in Metrogate should you not be able to bring a laptop.

- **Necessary prescriptions and medications.** Prescriptions for certain medications can be difficult to get in the UK so make sure you have the right amount of medication for the duration of your program, in their original labeled bottles.

A few tips:

- **Avoid over packing!** Planes can place additional charges on extra or overweight luggage. You may also want to bring souvenirs or gifts back from the UK so leave some room!

- **Ensure that every bag is marked** in capital letters with your name, address and final destination.

- **Electrical Appliances.** Make sure you bring an adapter for both the UK and Europe if you anticipate travelling as the sockets are different. British electricity also runs on 240 volts, while U.S. runs on 110 volts. If you plan to bring any electrical appliances (hairdryer, electric razor, radio, etc.), you will need to purchase a converter for the voltage. We recommend that you purchase an inexpensive hairdryer (around £10 from Sainsbury’s or Argos) in London so as not to risk blowing a fuse.
Arrival Information

Site information
The program is located on FIE premises in the Kensington neighborhood of London and consists of three of FIE’s buildings: Foundation House, Metrogate, and Hyde Park Gate.

Foundation House: Foundation House is FIE’s main study center where all of your classes are held and the FIE/UW-Madison staff will be based. You will spend a significant amount of time in this building during the school week.

Metrogate: FIE’s main residence building in the Kensington neighborhood. Upon arrival, this is where you will check-in to receive your housing assignment and key. Metrogate has a 24-hour reception, a computer lab, study rooms, and laundry facilities. Your mailbox is located here too, so this will be your mailing address.

Student Residences:
• UW-Madison students will be living in either Hyde Park Gate or Metrogate, two of FIE’s student residences in South Kensington.
• Both residences are a few minutes’ walk from Foundation House.
• Each student will share a bedroom with one, two or three other program participants, and the kitchen/living room area is shared by everyone in the flat.
• You will not know who your roommates are until you arrive in London.
• Keep in mind that British housing, in general, is much smaller than U.S. housing. Not only will you have a smaller living space, but also smaller storage space.
• You will share a bedroom with other UW-Madison students, but there will be students from other universities studying with FIE living in the residences.
• All flats have their own TVs and bed linen that is changed every week (bed linen includes blanket, pillows and sheets). You should bring your own towels. Alternatively, you may buy towels once in London. Stores like TK Maxx and Primark offer very inexpensive towels and pillows should you decide you’d like extras.
• No overnight guests are permitted, but FIE will help you find inexpensive accommodations for any visitors you have.
• Residence Life Supervisors live in student accommodations. They are usually graduate students pursuing their own course of study in London or younger young professionals. They keep FIE and UW staff informed of any discipline and welfare problems which may affect the general harmony of all residents.
• Arrival/Departure dates are firm; no exceptions can be made for you to move in early or move out late.
Map of Kensington Area
Instructions for arrival

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to and from London. Past participants suggest having £80-100 in cash for your arrival and you can either bring it with you or exchange dollars in the airport. Once you arrive in London, please report to the reception desk at:

Metrogate
3-7 Queens Gate Terrace
London SW7 5PE
Tel: 0207-823-7440

Regardless of which building you are assigned to, you MUST collect your keys from Metrogate upon arrival. The Metrogate reception desk is staffed 24 hours a day in case you arrive early or experience a delay and arrive late. The door to Metrogate requires a key code to enter so when you arrive, ring the door bell to be granted entry. You will be given the codes for the doors at Metrogate and Foundation House at your on-site orientation.

From Heathrow Airport

By Tube
The least expensive and easiest route is to take the tube directly from the airport. Follow the signs in the terminal to the Underground and take the Piccadilly Line (dark blue) to Gloucester Road. You can look up your journey before you go on the Transport for London website. This costs approximately £5 and will take about 50 minutes. From the Gloucester Road stop, walk or take a taxi to Metrogate Residence. This is very easy if you are not carrying too many bags - another reason to pack light!

***Oyster cards with unlimited free travel in zones 1-2 will be given to you at check-in at Metrogate and fully explained in orientation.

By Taxi
The most expensive route is to take a cab from Heathrow. A licensed black cab will cost around £50, depending on traffic. This is costly, but if you are sharing a cab with another student and have heavy luggage, you may find it worth it. Don’t take a cab without a meter unless you have called ahead to book a car service. We recommend Green Tomato Cars.

By Train
The Heathrow Express train runs every 15 minutes from the airport to Paddington Station. Current prices can be found on the website. You will then need to make your way from Paddington to your residence, either by tube or taxi.
From Gatwick Airport
By Train
Follow signs at the airport to the trains. Take the Gatwick Express train from the airport to Victoria train/tube station. Current prices can be found on the website http://www.gatwickexpress.com/. Trains leave every 15 minutes. It is advisable to ask which platform you need to wait on, as Gatwick is a mainline station with trains to other destinations. From Victoria, either take the Circle or District underground train to your closest tube station (approx £4) and walk or take a taxi directly to your residence (approx £10).

Do not take a cab from Gatwick unless you want to spend a fortune!

Registration and Orientation on Arrival
On arrival to your residence you will receive a Welcome Bag with information about what to expect and the location of your on-site orientations.

On Wednesday, January 6th you will be expected to register at Foundation House, after having settled in to your residences. You **MUST** bring your passport to registration – FIE will photocopy it for immigration purposes. You'll also receive additional documents aiding your stay in London. You will also have a mandatory Welcome Meeting the evening of arrival with your FIE Residence Life Supervisors. This will be held in your flats and you will receive more information about the timing of the meetings upon arrival.

Orientations will be held on Wednesday January 6th – Sunday, January 10th. The orientations will help you settle in and provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the academic program, where you are living, the local area, health and safety and what’s going on during your time in London. Further orientation activities include a visit to the Houses of Parliament, a walking tour of Kensington and Chelsea, a London bus tour, theater trip, and a welcome reception.
The Academic Program

General Information
The FIE/UW Program Assistant, Clare Woessner, will be based in Metrogate. Clare will be there to help you with every aspect of the program from academic inquiries, drop/add, registration and other course-related questions, adjustment issues, and any other information to help you gain the most from your time in London.

The courses run from Monday-Friday and will be scheduled between 8am and 9pm. Classes normally meet one or two times per week.

No unexcused absences are allowed. It is very important that you attend all of your classes because a large part or your grade is based on your class attendance and/or participation. Professors do not accept traveling as an excuse for missing class.

Students MUST NOT make any arrangements for weekend travel until you have arrived in London and received your term schedule which will tell you when your classes and other compulsory events are taking place. Some cultural activities will take place on Saturdays and Sundays as well.

Internship & Service Internship Information
Extensive information about what to expect from your FIE Internship can be found on the FIE website, including the Internship Handbook and the Service Internship Handbook. These Handbooks are a preparation guide with advice on writing CVs and personal statements. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with this information now. You will have a special Internship Orientation Session during your first few days after arrival in London, followed by interviews in the weeks leading up to your mid-semester break. Your internship will not begin until the week beginning Monday, March 7th, 2016.

Course Information
Classes are held at FIE’s Foundation House. All students must be registered for a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 credits. Each course in London is worth 3 UW-Madison credits, so this means you will take 4 -6 courses. There are no exceptions to these rules.

UW in London Program Structure:
• Key Course: British Life & Cultures OR British Life & Business
• 1 of UW Professor Wandel’s courses
• International Internship placement & course OR International Service Learning placement & course
• 1-3 FIE elective courses
UW in London Program Structure for Business students:
• Key Course: British Life & Business
• 1 of UW Professor Wandel’s courses
• International Internship placement & course
• FIE Global Business course
• 0-2 FIE elective courses

Professor Lee Palmer Wandel from the UW-Madison Department of History will be teaching the following classes. You will enroll in at least one of Professor Wandel’s classes:

London in 1000 Objects
(UW Madison Equivalent: History 223)
Class description: In recent years, art historians, intellectual historians, and historians of science have all turned their attention to collections: museums, private collections, botanical gardens, and the ways that bringing objects together shape our sense of their organization.

This course will be rooted in the singular collections of the city of London: the Museum of Science, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, National Gallery, Kew Gardens, the Chelsea Physic Garden, as well as smaller collections such as the Wallace Collection and Sir John Soane’s Museum. Each student will be asked to do one large research paper on a single collection: its origin, the persons who started and shaped it, the principles by which it was organized and displayed, the ways display may have shaped perceptions of relations.

London and the Traces of Past Lives
(UW Madison Equivalent: History 224)
Class description: Urban historians have drawn upon the image of the palimpsest—vellum repeatedly scraped of previous writing for new inscription, on which the older text leaves traces—to conceptualize cities. London, “destroyed” by the Great Fire of 1666 and “severely damaged” in the Second World War, nonetheless offers material traces of older ways of life. Another model, which works especially well for the oldest parts of London, is sedimentation: excavations for the foundations of modern bridges and high rises have unearthed traces of “pre-history.”

This course will explore the oldest layers of London’s history and in so doing, ask the question, what is history? Class meetings will alternate between discussion in the seminar room and walking the city, learning how to see its history in the material traces of the past.

Registration
IAP will register you for a special “Study Abroad Course” for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.
Course Selection
Participants sign up for classes in the Fall before leaving for London. This process will be coordinated by FIE. Please note: Some classes have limited enrollment. If space is limited, class enrollment decisions will be based on the number of credits completed and GPA at the time applications are considered.

Course Equivalent Requests (CERs)
Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your My Study Abroad account. The deadline to submit the CER is by the end of the fourth week of classes. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and in your My Study Abroad account under the academics tab.

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit
Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies and procedures. The deadline for submitting a Pass/Fail form can be found in the Academics tab of your My Study Abroad account.

Grades and Grade Conversions
Courses taken in London will follow the same grading scale as UW-Madison, and the grades you earn will apply to your overall GPA.

Co-Curricular Excursions
A large part of your academic program in London will be outside the classroom. You are likely to visit areas, cultural sites, museums, theatres and do tours with your professors in addition to being able to see London outside your classes. Some examples of these trips could include; Houses of Parliament, British Museum and Shakespeare’s Globe.

Living in London

Communication
Phones
Many students purchase inexpensive mobile phones for their time in the UK. The most common course of action is for students to either purchase a “pay-as-you-go” phone, or to unlock their smartphone before arriving in the UK and then purchasing an International SIM card in the UK. If you do intend to purchase a UK SIM card, it is important that you get your smartphone unlocked while you are still in the U.S. More information will be provided to you upon arrival in the UK, but it is up to you which plan you choose, as every student has different needs.
Internet Access
All FIE buildings including your residences and Foundation House have free wifi. Therefore on your mobiles or laptops you will have Internet access. You will be given a password upon arrival to enable Internet access to your device. The Metrogate PC Lab is also available for participants to use and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Skype
The cheapest way to contact friends and family in the U.S. is Skype. Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.

Safety
London, particularly the Kensington neighborhood, is relatively safe. However, this is still a large metropolitan city and common sense precautions are necessary to ensure your safety. You will want to follow the same safety precautions that you would at home.

Flat Security
Never let anyone into the flat without proper identification. You should always be informed of workers entering the building, so if someone comes unexpected, do not be afraid to request an ID.

Pick pockets
London is known for its pick-pockets, especially in busy places like Tube stations. Men are advised to carry their wallet in their front pocket. Women will want to ensure that their purse is always zipped and tightly at your side, and never hang it on the back of a chair at restaurants. Use common sense!

Going Out
Make sure you leave with everyone you came with. Do not accept drinks from strangers. Always have an eye on your drink.

Cab Services
Either call for a cab or take a London Black Cab. Black Cab drivers are certified through London’s metropolitan police. NEVER get into other unmarked cabs or cabs you have not called for.
Practicalities

Food
You will live within walking distance of several supermarkets as well as many small shops. Sainsbury, Tesco, and Waitrose are the three major supermarkets in London. Most grocery stores are open between 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. but close earlier on Sundays. Food in Europe often has fewer preservatives than in the U.S., so milk, cheese, bread and other perishables will spoil much faster.

Clothes
If you need a few additional items once you are in London, and are looking for cheaper shops, head to TK Maxx on Kensington High Street (10 minute walk) or Primark on Oxford Street (15 minutes underground journey).

Toiletries
Toiletries are widely available (albeit likely to be more expensive) in supermarkets and stores such as Boots or Superdrug (London’s version of Walgreens).

Seeing London outside of class

Co-Curricular Excursions
Sponsored academic activities are an integral part of the UW-Madison program, serving to enhance the academics as well as the cultural base of the program. A series of events including day trips to other English cities, popular tourist sites, and meals will be arranged by FIE. Participants are required to attend required academic excursions. You will learn more about this (along with specific dates/schedules) when you arrive in London.

Extra-Curricular activities
Clare Woessner, the UW-Madison Program assistant and the FIE Student Life Team in Foundation House offers you information about local events and sponsors special discounted outings for students, and is available to help with your questions and concerns. Participants are highly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities as they heighten the cultural experience of the program.

Some unique FIE offerings:
• Extra-curricular calendar: To show students a different side of British culture, FIE coordinates an optional Extra Curricular Calendar of events taking place around London. The activities are subsided by FIE and are limited to availability on a first come, first serve basis. There is always a deadline for online sign-up early in the term, so students should make sure to sign up promptly to avoid paying full price somewhere else! This may include a spin on the London Eye, sporting events such as football or rugby matches, theatre trips to the West End, and an adventure weekend in Wales.
• Access to the Imperial College Student Union: you can join some of the 300 societies and sports clubs at Imperial and get to know British university students.
• Membership to International Students House
• HOST UK weekend British home stays
• Regular Facebook updates: Join up now!
Leaving London

London is a great hub of transportation to other parts of the UK and to Europe. Many students take the opportunity to explore the UK and Europe while abroad.

During the orientation session in London, you will be told more about transportation in and out of London.

However, you are strongly discouraged to travel to areas that the U.S. State Department has designated as hazardous or has advised against travel. Make sure to check the U.S. State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/) for Travel Advisories and Consular Information Sheets for any country you are considering traveling to or through before you make any travel plans. Please remember to also alert FIE staff online when you leave London overnight.

Please see Clare Woessner, FIE/UW Program Assistant, for any advice on travelling outside of London.
Websites of Interest

UW-Madison International Academic Programs
http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

FIE: Foundation of International Education
http://www.fie.org.uk/london/

U.S. State Department:
http://travel.state.gov

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:
http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/

Current exchange rates
http://www.oanda.com

Time out London
http://www.timeout.com/london

Transport for London
http://www.tfl.gov.uk

Lonely Planet
http://www.lonelyplanet.com

Student Travel Association (STA)
http://www.statravel.co.uk/