England, Southampton – Fall 2010
Program Handbook

The England, Southampton Program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the University of Southampton. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbook(s) or materials you receive from The University of Southampton as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

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UW-Madison Information
International Academic Programs (IAP)
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Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

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

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

Physical Address
24 Grosvenor Square
London, W1A 2LQ
United Kingdom
PROGRAM DATES
Arrival/Students can move in: September 29
Semester: September 30 – December 17
Christmas Break: December 20 – January 7
Exam Period: January 8 – January 29

PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING
Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

Immigration Documents
Passport: A passport is needed to travel to England and because of strict visa regulations is a required supplementary material during the application process. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/passport). Make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa
All non-EU nationals studying in the UK MUST apply for and obtain a student visa before arriving in the UK. For students with US passports, there are two types of visas to study in the UK: the “Tier 4 General Student Visa” and the “Student Visitor Visa.”

Students studying in the UK for six months or longer must apply for the Tier 4 General Student Visa. This visa allows you to work (part-time), intern, and/or volunteer in the UK. It also allows you to extend your stay if you would like to remain in the UK after your program ends. In order to apply for this visa, you will receive a “Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies” once you have firmly accepted your offer from the university. Apply for this visa as early as possible as it can sometimes take 2-3 months for processing.

Students studying in the UK for fewer than six months are not required to obtain the Tier 4 General Student Visa. Students staying in the UK for fewer than six months may apply for the Student Visitor Visa.

IAP has developed a presentation that gives a general overview of the application process for UK student visas: http://studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs/UK_Visa.html

More information about the student visa process can also be found at: http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/

If you are a non-US passport holder, please contact your Study Abroad Advisor.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD
Banks: The four main banks in the United Kingdom are National Westminster, HSBC, Barclays, and Lloyds. Their services are very similar and they have branches all over the United Kingdom. However, most major banks will not allow you to open a bank account unless you have lived in the United Kingdom for one year. Some of the local building societies (similar to a Savings and Loan) will open an account for you. They will give you a cash card, which you can use to withdraw cash from a cash (ATM) machine.
**ATM/Debit Cards:** The most convenient way to withdraw money from a U.S. bank is by using an ATM card. There are a large number of cashpoint (ATM) machines in England which connect with CIRRUS and PLUS networks. Usually, the exchange rate at ATM machine is as good if not better than at a bank. Before departure, you should check with your U.S. bank/credit union to see if your ATM card will function properly in the United Kingdom, if you need to use a different PIN abroad, and if there will be any fees and service charges while you are abroad. Also, check the maximum amount you can withdraw in one day or one week as this can vary from bank to bank. You may want to consider taking an extra ATM card with you in case yours gets demagnetized, lost, or eaten in an ATM machine. Always leave the extra ATM card in your dorm or flat in England.

**Credit Cards:** Most major U.S. credit cards can be used worldwide and are extremely valuable in a financial emergency. It is highly advisable to obtain a major credit card in your name (not a parent) before studying abroad. Be sure to record your credit card number and emergency card numbers in a separate place in case your card is stolen or lost.

**Important Tips:**
Not all merchants accept credit cards, regardless of the brand name. Visa and Master Card are the most commonly accepted cards. Past participants have found it difficult using a Discover Card or American Express, as they are not as widely accepted. Be aware that credit card companies charge fees for “cash advances” if you choose to take money out of an ATM using a credit card. Be sure you know what these charges are before you leave the U.S. as well as the maximum daily withdrawal.

Before you leave for England, make sure to get confidential four-digit international identification numbers to use with your credit card while you are overseas. Typically, the amount charged to your credit card bill is based on the exchange rate on the day that your bank or credit card company processed the transaction.

**Traveler’s Checks:** If you are using travelers checks, it is essential to keep a record of the check numbers (in a separate safe place away from the checks) in case they are lost or stolen. The checks will not be replaced unless you have a record of the numbers. Be careful where you cash your checks; most banks and bureaux de change will charge a commission. American Express will cash American Express travelers checks free of charge and usually have a good exchange rate. You will need your passport with you when cashing travelers checks.

**Packing**
Past participants recommend casual but neat clothes that you would wear in Madison. A good raincoat or waterproof windbreaker large enough to wear over a sweater is recommended. Several lightweight layers of clothing are warmer than one heavy one, but you may want to take a down jacket if you plan to vacation in colder climates.

**Electric Appliances:** England runs on 220V (volts), 50Hz (cycles) AC and uses the British Standard 1363 three-pin plug. If you plan on bringing any appliances from the United States, keep in mind that they will require adapters/converters which you should purchase before departure. It may be more convenient and less expensive to purchase appliances in England rather than purchasing the necessary converter/adapters in the United States.

**Health Insurance**
As a participant of a UW-Madison program, you have health insurance through CISI. Please see the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for additional information on coverage through CISI.
Travel and Arrival
You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to Southampton.

Heathrow Airport to Southampton by Bus: There is a daily National Express coach service from Heathrow to Southampton. Coaches leave the Central Bus Station at Heathrow Airport and go to Southampton Coach Station where you can get a taxi to your residence or to the University. Coaches leave Heathrow daily at regular intervals. The journey to Southampton takes approximately 1 hour 50 minutes, and direct departures are more frequent during the daytime. More information, including times, routes and prices, can be found on the National Express website at www.nationalexpress.com.

Heathrow Airport to Southampton by Train: If you wish to travel to Southampton via central London there is a bus called A1 Airbus which goes from Heathrow Airport direct to Victoria Station. A bus leaves Heathrow every twenty minutes and the journey takes 1 hour. Directions for travelling from Victoria Station to Southampton are given below.

Gatwick Airport to Southampton by Bus: You could take the National Express coach to Heathrow Airport and then transfer to the direct coach from Heathrow to Southampton. This journey takes about 3 hours (including 45 minutes to transfer at Heathrow) and the service runs roughly every 2 hours. A National Express coach service also runs from Victoria Coach Station (about 5 minutes walk from Victoria Train Station) to Southampton. The coach journey takes 2 hours, coaches leave every 1 to 2 hours.

Gatwick Airport to Southampton by Train: There is a train service from Gatwick to Southampton, from South Terminal. There are several trains during the day. The journey takes approximately 2 hours. For information about prices and times of trains, visit: www.nationalrail.co.uk. If you want to go into London, you can take the Gatwick Express train to Victoria Station in Central London. This frequent service runs around the clock, but departures are more frequent during daytime. The journey takes 30 minutes.

Southampton by Train: There are two major train stations in Southampton, Southampton Airport Parkway, on the north side of the city, and Southampton Central in the city centre (about two miles from the Highfield campus. Southampton Airport Parkway is more convenient for most University Halls of Residence. The train service from London to Southampton runs from Waterloo station. There is usually one train an hour and the fastest train takes 1 hour 10 minutes. Eurostar trains through the Channel Tunnel go to Waterloo.

There are several smaller stations in Southampton including Swaythling and St Denys, which are close to the University. Sometimes the ‘slow’ trains to and from London stop at these stations. The fast London trains stop only at Southampton Central and Southampton Airport Parkway. For information about train times and journey costs, telephone National Rail Enquiries on 0845 7484950.

From the Southampton train station, the easiest way to get to your accommodation is by taxi.
The Academic Program

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

The University of Southampton was founded as the Hartley Institution in the mid-19th century, and after a period as a University College of London, the University of Southampton was granted its Royal Charter in 1952. The university is a flourishing center of learning and research and is one of the leading research universities in the country. The University of Southampton has approximately 18,000 students. Of these students, approximately 12,000 are full-time undergraduate students.

The University has seven faculties containing over 130 departments, research centres, and associated consultancy units based at its seven main campuses in Southampton and Winchester. The University's main Highfield Campus is situated about two miles from the Southampton city centre and is a compact mix of graceful older and modern style buildings, grouped around an attractively landscaped valley.

THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

IAP has an agreement with the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Southampton; hence, IAP students participating on this exchange program will take all of their classes on the Highfield Campus through the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The Faculty of Social Sciences houses the following departments:
Economics
Social Statistics
Sociology and Social Policy
Psychology
Politics
Social Work Studies

Note: It may be possible for IAP students participating on the Southampton exchange to take courses in the Faculty of Arts by special arrangements. However, there is no guarantee that students will be able to get into courses offered outside of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Students wishing to take courses in the Faculty of Arts will need to have their request(s) reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Course unit options for Faculty of Social Sciences:
http://www.socscinet.soton.ac.uk/students.htm (Southampton password required).

English Academic System

There are some important differences between the educational systems in England and the U.S. which you will need to understand as you approach your year of study at the University of Bristol. Many terms are used differently from the way we are used to using them. The term “unit” is the British term for class. The British use "staff" where we use "faculty" and their "faculty" includes students as well as teachers. They use the term "marks" rather than "grades."

Good academic study does not differ much from country to country, but there are differences of emphasis. A key difference between the learning methods of the American and British degree systems is the extent to which British students are expected to plan and carry out their own work. Particularly in the Arts, the amount of classroom contact is less then in some other systems, with a correspondingly greater reliance on independent study, in the form of directed
reading and essay writing. Most units (courses) consist of formal lectures as well as tutorials and seminars (which vary in size from perhaps three to a dozen students and require active participation), but there are great variations between departments. Each department is responsible for both its own curriculum and for the form in which it is delivered, which can range from small seminar groups to computer-assisted learning. Acquiring this level of responsibility and adjusting to a different academic system presents a challenge, but it makes for a rewarding experience. It is also an excellent preparation for graduate study, since it provides an introduction to the self-discipline skills required of a good graduate student. Units are normally taught as a mixture of lectures, tutorial or seminar classes and practical laboratory work (where appropriate). Attendance at classes is compulsory for credit earning purposes. Assessment is normally by written work, project or laboratory work (where relevant) and examinations, which usually come at the end of the year in May and June.

COURSE LOAD & CREDITS
In the School of Social Sciences at the University of Southampton, all degrees follow a unit course structure. Degrees are divided into two parts. Part I consists of the first year in which students obtain the basic skills and training necessary for further study in their chosen subject areas. In Part II of their degree program, students undertake more specialized study in their chosen subject area. Each academic year is split into two semesters. During each semester, the majority of students take four courses (a total of eight during one academic year). UW-Madison students are expected to take four courses during the semester.

Course credits are called CATS points in Southampton. Each semester long undergraduate course at Southampton is equivalent to 15 CATS points.

Credits and Credit Conversions
The following is how your credits will be transferred back to UW-Madison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southampton CATS Points</th>
<th>UW Madison Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teaching Methods
Classes at the University of Southampton vary in size, but an integral part of the teaching philosophy is small-group instruction and an emphasis on independent study. Most courses in the humanities and social sciences involve both lectures and seminar sessions. The size of the lecture class varies, but few exceed 50. The seminars typically have 15-20 students, meet once or twice a week, and are taught by regular members of the Southampton teaching staff, though not necessarily by the lecturer. Seminars are used to explore ideas in greater depth. Some courses include lectures by several members of a given department. Other courses omit lectures and are conducted entirely as seminars. Southampton does not have teaching assistants in large classes as we sometimes do.
You will have fewer formal contact hours than at Madison. You should expect to spend a lot of time reading outside of class and preparing for discussion and assignments on your own. Personal study is a key element of each course and each student is responsible for managing this effectively. You will have your own personal tutor who can offer academic and personal advice.

A variety of assessment methods are used, which can include exams, coursework and practical assignments. For most courses, assessment is either by exam at the end of each semester or towards the end of the academic year. This exam may be a progress test or may contribute to the final degree. Written projects, course work and practical work may also form part of the final assessment.

**Terminology**

Many terms are used differently from the way we use them. "Course," for instance, means primarily one's whole program of study rather than a single academic course as we think of it. Our term "humanities" is replaced in the Southampton terminology by "Arts." The British use "staff" where we use "faculty" and their "faculty" includes students as well as teachers. They use the term "marks" rather than "grades," and our "checking account" is their "current account" and our savings account is their deposit account. Discovery of such different usages in our common language is an enjoyable part of studying in Britain.

**GRADES**

Before you leave Southampton, please request that a copy of your final transcript be sent to IAP, as your transcripts will not automatically be sent to us. The grading conversion scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHAMPTON</th>
<th>UW-MADISON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57-62</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48-56</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42-47</td>
<td>BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-41</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-29</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Living Abroad**

**SOUTHAMPTON**

Southampton is a vibrant and lively city, ideally situated on the South coast of England, a ferry ride away from France and the rest of Europe, and one hour from London by train. The population of Southampton is approximately 200,000 and accordingly, the city provides a wide variety of entertainment and leisure activities as well as an abundance of parks. Southampton boasts many attractions, with first class venues for theatre, opera, music and cinema. It is now established as the south coast’s cinema capital. The city is the main regional center for the arts.
and has one of the finest 20th century British art collections outside London.

With a history rich in heritage, the Medieval walled city has played a significant role in maritime history down through the ages, from the sailing of the Mayflower to the fateful voyage of the Titanic. After the Norman invasion of 1066 Southampton became the largest port on the south coast, developing trade links with France and then the rest of Europe and the Mediterranean. Known throughout history as the Gateway to the world, the city remains a premier international port. Its bustling marina, Ocean Village, regularly plays host to international sailing events such as the Whitbread Round-the-World Yacht race.

Southampton is also set amidst some of Britain’s most ancient places of interest; the cathedral cities of Salisbury and Winchester are close by, as is the prehistoric site of Stonehenge. Spreading out across an area of 145 square miles, the New Forest is one of the most beautiful and oldest woodlands in Europe. The beaches of Bournemouth are right on the doorstep.

The South Coast, upon which Southampton is located, is one of the warmest places in the United Kingdom, although as throughout the country, the weather can be unpredictable and rain can occur at any time of year. Snow occurs rarely and it is unusual for the temperature to drop below freezing. Generally, June to September is warm, with occasional hot spells. October to May can be cold, with frost and cold winds from December to March. It rains throughout the year and it is never possible guarantee that a day will be dry, even in midsummer!

**HOUSING**

At Southampton, you will be housed with British and other international students in university dormitories (known as either a Hall or a Flat). You will apply for housing when you fill out your Southampton Application materials (you have already done this and will be receiving housing information by email). Once you have received all the forms, please return them to the Housing office by the deadline to ensure you get accommodations. If you have any questions about your housing, you can email the accommodation office directly accommodation@soton.ac.uk.

Upon arrival, you will be required to pay a deposit for your room. This deposit will be returned at the end of your stay provided there has been no damage to your room. Accommodations provide single rooms and either shared kitchen facilities or a cafeteria. Most rooms are equipped both with telephone jacks and the most halls have computer workstations. The University does not provide pillows, duvets, bed linen or towels, or cooking utensils. However, if you do not wish to bring all of these items with you it is possible to rent them for a short period of time until you are settled and able to buy the necessary items. It may also be possible to arrange to use the items for a longer period of time, but you must discuss this with the residence hall staff.

**STUDENT LIFE**

The Students’ Union (SUSU) supports over one hundred social, cultural and political societies which you can join, offering you the chance to meet people, express yourself and broaden your horizons. Whether you want to continue an existing hobby, or try something completely new, the opportunity is there. The Union’s entertainment programme includes live bands, jazz, karaoke and comedy evenings. There are also more than 200 sporting and social clubs and societies, from jazz dancing through to performing arts clubs and the Debate Society.

At the University of Southampton there are nearly eighty different sport clubs, so whether you are interested in participating competitively or recreationally, there should be something for you. Facilities include the sports hall, squash courts, gym, climbing wall, dance studios, tennis courts,
boat landing and swimming pool (New College), as well as extensive outdoor sports pitches.

The university also makes a major contribution to arts provision in the city and region through the presence on campus of three celebrated arts venues. One of the leading regional theatres in the United Kingdom, the Nuffield Theatre has a repertoire, which ranges from world premieres to classic revivals. The John Hansard Gallery has an established reputation as one of the United Kingdom’s leading venues for avant-garde art. It consistently breaks new ground, both in the shows it originates, and in its touring exhibitions. The Turner Sims Concert Hall is one of the leading chamber-music venues in the United Kingdom and one of the few purpose-built concert halls in the south outside London. Not only is it a prime attraction for leading international performers of classical and early music, it also has one of the most exciting jazz programs in the south.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

**Telephone:** In the United Kingdom there are two types of public telephone, those that are operated by coins, and those that take credit cards. Most students purchase mobile phones for use in the United Kingdom, if you already use a mobile phone in your country you should check to see if it will work in the United Kingdom before you arrive. Calls can be substantially more expensive if made from a mobile network. There are many cheap international calling services around, so it pays to look around before you decide which one to use.

Most rooms in Halls have their own telephone. It provides free access to all University of Southampton internal phone numbers so you can call your friends and neighbors for no cost, as well as providing competitively priced phone calls which are charged on a pay ‘as-you-go’ basis. (See Southampton Handbook)

**Email:** Personal computers and Unix workstations, available to all members of the University, are located in clusters around the University’s campuses and residences. Help Desks are located on each academic campus when classes are in session and a telephone-based service line is also in operation throughout the year. All study-bedrooms in university halls of residence are also networked to the main university server.

**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.

To create a Skype account, users must download the application from www.skype.com and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends' Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that’s required.
for calls to another computer.

TRANSPORTATION
Uni-Link [http://www.unilink.soton.ac.uk/] is the University’s own bus service which provides reliable bus links between the residence halls, the university, the city center, as well as the city’s shops and nightspots, major transport points, and sports leisure complexes. The buses are easily identifiable by the University’s dolphin symbol. The cost of a Uni-link bus pass is included in the accommodation fee for the Halls of Residence (See “International Students’ Guide). Also, bicycles are a convenient form of transportation and there is a campus bicycle route.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

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

University of Southampton
[http://www.soton.ac.uk]

Housing office
[http://www.accommodation.soton.ac.uk]

Guide to Southampton
[http://www.southampton.gov.uk]

British Council
[http://www.studyintheuk.org]

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

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

Center for Disease Control
[http://www.cdc.gov/travel]

Currency Exchange Rates
[http://www.oanda.com]

The BBC:
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/]

Southampton Tourism:
[http://www.visit-southampton.co.uk/]