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# Pre-arrival Information

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Cultural and  
environmental  
adjustments

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**Kingston  
University**  
London

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To ensure that you get the most out of your study abroad period, it is really important to prepare yourself for the differences you will experience living in the midst of a different culture. One of the main benefits of studying abroad is that this demonstrates your flexibility and adaptability as a person.

It is important to keep in mind that you should not expect the U.K. to be the same as your home country. It is of course NOT the same, and you will have different experiences on the programme. You may also find that you much prefer some things here, which can result in reverse culture shock when you go home.

## British students and summer schools



British students don't tend to take classes over the summer period in any university. Therefore, when attending the Summer School you are likely to meet other international students on your course, but very few British students. However, you will of course meet and interact with plenty of British people during your time spent exploring London

London is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, and you will meet people from all over the world!

## Walking



British people love to walk. Sometimes if you are out in London it can be quicker to walk than to get in a taxi, or nicer to walk than to take the tube (underground train).

London has a fantastic public transport system, and many people choose to live without cars because they don't need them. For example, you will sometimes see people in suits wearing a pair of trainers (sneakers) to walk to work! You may find that you end up doing more walking here than at home (depending on your lifestyle). All our classes are very field-trip based, and involve a lot of learning outside of the classroom, some of which includes walking tours. **As such, it is essential that you bring a good pair of comfortable walking shoes with you.**

The University's Main Penrhyn Road campus is separate to the Middle Mill halls of residence where you'll be living. The halls of residence are in a great location in Kingston; just a 5minute walk to Penrhyn Road campus, and the halls are next door to the Knights Park campus where you have some classes.

The travelcard that we provide you with during the Summer School covers the cost of all bus, train and tube travel in London zones 1-6.

Kingston train station is a 10 minute walk from the halls of residence. There are fast trains into London taking about 20-30minutes to get to Waterloo Station in central London.

## Weather



British people love to talk about the weather. Our weather is so unpredictable

because we are an island, and we can easily get four seasons in one day. You will see from the average weather chart that the temperatures in the UK are normally very comfortable, even during the summer period. British people do not have air conditioning or fans in their houses, and so you should not expect these in the University halls. If you tend to get hot easily, or if you are used to living in an air conditioned environment, then you might want to consider buying a fan when you get here. Occasionally we might be lucky enough to experience a heat wave, which usually doesn't last more than a few days. Even during the summer, we continue to have some rain, so pack for all weather types!

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	17.2 (63)	19.8 (67.6)	24.2 (75.6)	29.4 (84.9)	32.8 (91)	35.6 (96.1)	36.7 (98.1)	38.1 (100.6)	35.4 (95.7)	29.9 (85.8)	20.8 (69.4)	17.4 (63.3)	38.1 (100.6)
Average high °C (°F)	8.1 (46.6)	8.4 (47.1)	11.3 (52.3)	14.2 (57.6)	17.9 (64.2)	21.0 (69.8)	23.5 (74.3)	23.2 (73.8)	19.9 (67.8)	15.5 (59.9)	11.1 (52)	8.3 (46.9)	15.2 (59.4)
Average low °C (°F)	2.3 (36.1)	2.1 (35.8)	3.9 (39)	5.5 (41.9)	8.7 (47.7)	11.7 (53.1)	13.9 (57)	13.7 (56.7)	11.4 (52.5)	8.4 (47.1)	4.9 (40.8)	2.7 (36.9)	7.5 (45.5)
Record low °C (°F)	-13.2 (8.2)	-9.6 (14.7)	-5.1 (22.8)	-2.6 (27.3)	-0.9 (30.4)	1.5 (34.7)	5.6 (42.1)	5.9 (42.6)	1.8 (35.2)	-3.3 (26.1)	-7.0 (19.4)	-11.8 (10.8)	-13.2 (8.2)
Average precip. mm (in)	55.2 (2.17)	40.9 (1.61)	41.6 (1.63)	43.7 (1.72)	49.4 (1.94)	45.1 (1.77)	44.5 (1.75)	49.5 (1.94)	49.1 (1.93)	68.5 (2.69)	59.0 (2.32)	55.2 (2.17)	601.7 (23.689)
Average precip. days (≥ 1.0 mm)	11.1	8.5	9.3	9.1	8.8	8.2	7.7	7.5	8.1	10.8	10.3	10.2	109.5
Mean monthly sunshine hours	61.5	77.9	114.6	168.7	198.5	204.3	212.0	204.7	149.3	116.5	72.6	52.0	1,632.6

This chart shows average temperatures. Bear in mind you might experience much warmer or cooler weather too!

## Noise at Halls



There might be different summer groups staying at the halls of residence at the same time. We will house you according to the lifestyle preference you indicated on your online application form so that you are living in flats with like-minded people. However, even if you opt to live with other quiet people who like to go to bed early, it is still a good idea to bring a good pair

of earplugs with you in case of noise from other sources.

## Language differences – UK/US



The following words, with sometimes startling differences in meaning, have been flagged with us over the years by American students studying at Kingston. They are words that they "wish they had known the meaning of". Please tell us if you come across others!

What the Brits say	Meaning / what Americans say	What the Brits say	Meaning / what Americans say
Alright?	Hey! / what's up?	Lorry	Truck
Assessments	Class papers	Lounge	Living room
Aubergine	Eggplant	Mate	Friend
Baguette	French bread	Mind the gap	Watch your step
Bap	Burger bun	Motorbike	Motorcycle
Biscuits	Cookies	Mousse	A soft textured pudding
Bloke	Guy	Pants	Underwear
Brilliant	Cool	Pavement	Sidewalk
Bum	Butt / bottom	Petrol	Gasoline / gas
Car park	Parking lot	Pissed	Drunk
Chat up / pull	Hit on / flirt with	Post box	Mail box
Cheeky	Smart ass (in a nice way)	Prawns	Shrimp
Cheers!	Thanks!	Primary school	Elementary school
Chemist	Pharmacist / pharmacy	Pub	Bar
Chips	Fries	Queue up	Line up
Chuffed	Pleased	Quid (£)	Bucks (\$)
Cinema	Movie theatre	Return ticket	Round trip ticket
College	High school (16-18 years)	Road	Pavement
Courgette	Zucchini	Rubber	Eraser
Crisps	Potato chips	Rubbish	Trash / garbage
Disco	Club	Scones	Biscuits
Dodgy	Sketchy	Secondary school	High school
Dungarees	Overalls	Serviettes	Napkins
Duvet	Comforter	Soft drink	Soda / Pop
Egg mayonnaise	Egg salad	Spade	Shovel
Fag	Cigarette	Sultanas	Golden Raisins
Fanny	Female genitalia	Sweets	Candy
Father Christmas	Santa Claus	Ta / thanks	Thank you / appreciate it
Flake	Chocolate wafer	Taking the piss out of	Mocking / making fun of
Flat	Apartment	Take away	Food to go
Football	Soccer	Telly	TV / television
Garage music	A type of dance music	Term	Semester
Garden	Backyard	The tube	Subway
Going mad	Going crazy	Tights	Pantyhose / nylons
Hamper	Picnic basket	To fancy	To romantically like
Hire	Rent	To let	To rent
Hoover	Vacuum	To lie in	To sleep in
Injections	Shots / jabs	To ring or phone	To call
Jacket potato	Baked potato	To shag	To have sex
Jam	Jelly	To snog	To kiss
Jelly	Gelatin (Jello)	Trainers	Sneakers / tennis shoes
Jumper	Sweater	Trolley	Grocery cart
Knickers	Panties	Trolleyed	Very drunk

Knob	Male genitalia		Trousers	Pants
Lad	Boy		Tuck in	Dive in
Lecturers	Professors		University	College
Lectures	Classes		Washing	Laundry
Lift	Elevator		Washing up	Washing the dishes
Loo / bog / toilet	Restroom / john /		Way out	Exit

**We look forward to welcoming you to what should be the best summer of your life!**