

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Erasmus+ Institution Code: UKLONDON062

The University of Westminster

309 Regent Street,
London W1B 2UW
United Kingdom

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/international/student-exchanges>

Education Abroad Team

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Travel Information

Nearest Train Station	Regent / Cavendish Campus Oxford Circus	Marylebone Campus Baker Street	Harrow Campus Northwick Park
Nearest Airport	London Heathrow / London City / London Gatwick (more information on getting here will be sent to you via email).		
Travel Assistance	www.tfl.gov.uk (maps, journey planners, travel information for London) www.nationalrail.co.uk (national travel information for trains)		

University Accommodation Information

Type of Accommodation	Available to Exchange Students	Notes
University Halls of Residence	Yes – not guaranteed	Applied for by student in the exchange application form
Private Rented Accommodation	Yes	See Student Accommodation webpage

Students can apply for University Accommodation as part of their application to study with us. We cannot guarantee students a place in Halls of Residence, although priority will be given to exchange students staying for a whole academic year. Students coming for the second semester should be prepared to find private accommodation in London. Nevertheless, it is worth applying and all exchange students who apply will be placed on a waiting list.

If your application is successful and you are offered a room, you will receive a set of instructions to secure your room. You are responsible for ensuring that the student accommodation team receives your acceptance and deposit before the deadline specified on your tenancy offer. You must pay for your room for the duration of the semester.

If your application is unsuccessful, you will receive notification from the Student Accommodation team, who will also send you an information pack about finding alternative accommodation in London.

Many international students choose to live in privately rented accommodation. The University provides free help and advice once you have arrived. Privately rented accommodation is plentiful in London, but the search for the right place will probably take you a few days.

For more information please see <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/prospective-students/student-accommodation>

Studying at Westminster	
Language of Instruction	English
Modules	<p>Please find our Module Catalogue with further information on the modules available here: Module Catalogue</p> <p>Please note that all exchange partnerships at Westminster are Faculty/Department-specific.</p> <p>If you are unsure which Faculty/Department your students can choose modules from, please contact us at educationabroad@westminster.ac.uk so we can clarify.</p>

Nomination Process	
Nomination Deadline	<p>Students must be nominated by their Home University for an exchange at the University of Westminster.</p> <p>1st April – For September start (Semester 1 or Full Year Exchanges) 1st September - For January start (Semester 2)</p> <p>Nominations must be sent to educationabroad@westminster.ac.uk</p>
Application Process	
Application Deadline	<p>Students must complete and submit their exchange application by:</p> <p>1st May – For September start (Semester 1 or Full Year Exchanges) 15th October – For January start (Semester 2)</p> <p>Successfully nominated students will be emailed their individual link to our online application system and invited to submit their application through our online system.</p>
Application Process	<p>http://www.westminster.ac.uk/international/student-exchanges/overseas-students/entry-requirements/how-to-apply</p>
Supporting Documents Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal Statement - Official Transcript - Copy of Passport (main photo page) - Proof of English Language ability - Portfolio of work (for students applying for practical modules at the School of Media Art and Design or Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment) <p>Evidence of English Language:</p> <p>If English is not your first language, you will need to provide official proof of your English language ability. Proof of English must be in the form of a recent IELTS, Pearson, TOEFL or Cambridge English Language Examination score. Please note that a TOEFL test cannot be accepted if you need to apply for a Tier 4 visa.</p> <p>Students who are applying from an Erasmus+ exchange partner, and hold an EU/EEA passport, are able to provide evidence of English language ability in the form of a formal letter from their home university outlining their language ability.</p> <p><i>Please visit our webpage for the most up to date information.</i></p> <p>Any questions regarding evidence of English Language should be directed to educationabroad@westminster.ac.uk</p>

Acceptance Process	
Acceptance received	Via Email Notification to student and formal Acceptance Letter sent to their Home Institution.

Dates for Academic Year 2018-19	
Semester 1	
University Accommodation Check In	Saturday 15 th September (from 2.00pm)
Orientation / Registration Week	Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st September
Classes Begin	Monday 24 th September
Classes End	Friday 14 th December
Winter Vacation	Monday 17 th December to Friday 4 th January
Semester 1 Exam Period* (full year students only)	Monday 7 th to Friday 18 th January
Semester 1 Ends	Friday 11 th January
Final University Accommodation Check out	Saturday 12 th January (by 10.00am)
<p>*Please note: Students studying in semester one only will be set alternative assessment in the case of a module with an exam. This means it may be possible to complete all assessment before the start of the winter vacation. Students will be able to leave from this date. Semester one contract dates for housing end at the official end date of the semester and any student selecting the option to live in University accommodation does so on the express understanding that they are liable for the full contracted period.</p> <p>Please also note: Some coursework deadlines may be set in the first half of January. Students with deadlines after the winter vacation who have to leave London before these deadlines should endeavor to complete all assessment before they leave. If a student decides not to do this, the student must ensure that they submit the assessment via the method of submission defined in the Module Handbook by the UK time of the deadline (ie Greenwich Meantime).</p>	
Semester 2	
University Accommodation Check In	Saturday 12 th January (from 2.00pm)
Orientation / Registration Week	Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th January
Classes Begin	Monday 21 st January
Classes End	Friday 12 th April
Spring Vacation	Monday 15 th to Friday 26 th April
Exam Period Begins	Monday 29 th April to Friday 17 th May
Semester 2 Ends	Friday 24 th May
University Accommodation Check Out	Saturday 25 th May (by 10.00 am)

Visa Information	
Do students need a visa?	<p>This will depend on where you are travelling from and where you currently reside.</p> <p>If a student does hold an EU/EEA passport then you do not require a visa to study.</p> <p>If a student does not hold an EU/EEA passport or nationality then they will probably require a student visa.</p> <p>The kind of visa you will need will depend on the length of your student exchange. Students studying a course more than six months long will need a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.</p>

	<p>If you are undertaking an internship as part of your exchange (and you are not an EU/EEA passport holder) you will also require a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.</p> <p>If your exchange is shorter than six months, you can enter the UK as on a Short Term Study Visa. Depending on your country of origin you may need to apply for your visitor visa before coming to the UK. For further information please view the www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/ website or visit the Visa advice and requirements webpages.</p> <p>Further information can also be found at http://www.westminster.ac.uk/international/advice-and-visas/visas</p> <p>BEWARE students who enter on a student visitor visa via Ireland – THIS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE MEANS OF ENTRY TO THE UK- In order to be fully enrolled at University of Westminster, students are required to have a UK entry stamp in their passport.</p>
<p>Where can I find more information about visas?</p>	<p>Visit the Government website which provides a step-by-step walkthrough to determine whether or not a visa is needed and how to apply:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/uk-visa</p>

London City Guide

City Context	
<p>About London</p>	<p>Capital city of England & UK</p>
<p>Population</p>	<p>8.5 million</p>
<p>Tourist information links</p>	<p>http://www.visitlondon.com/tag/tourist-information-centre</p>
<p>Climate / Weather</p>	<p>Winter: 2-11 degrees Celsius & Summer: 11-23 degrees Celsius (minimum night time temperature – maximum daytime temperature)</p>

Living Costs	
<p>Accommodation Costs</p>	<p>The average weekly spend on rent in London for a student is between £140-£240. Halls of Residence costs vary but estimated weekly rent is between £180-£250.</p> <p>All halls of residence include the costs of all utility bills, council tax and wireless internet connection and are self-catered.</p> <p>Privately rented accommodation will differ entirely depending on location and room/property type.</p>
<p>Transport options & Costs</p>	<p>A rough estimate of weekly travel costs when living in London will be between £20-£30.</p> <p>London Underground, overground, DLR, tram and bus: purchase an ‘Oyster Card’ (available at most stations) which can be topped up with credit for either pay-as-you-go travel or travelcards. If you are only using your oyster card for single journeys (instead of purchasing for</p>

	<p>the week/month) or even if you forget your oyster card, you can use the contactless function on a UK debit card to travel for the same price as on an oyster card.</p> <p>Travel fares can be found at - https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/fares</p> <p>London also has a cycle hire scheme 'Santander Cycle Hire' which is one of the cheapest ways to travel in London if you like to cycle. The scheme consists of an access fee plus a charge for the time spent using the bike. For more information visit https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles</p>
Taxes (Council tax)	<p>If a student rents private accommodation then they may be required to pay Council Tax on top of their rental costs. Full-time students are exempt from paying council tax (the course must last for at least one academic year). However if someone other than a full-time student occupies the same property, a discount of 25% will be applied, but they will have full legal responsibility to pay the remaining 75% of the bill. If two or more occupants are not full-time students, the full bill will be obligatory for them to pay.</p> <p>The amount will vary depending on the valuation of the property and which 'band' it falls under (A-H).</p> <p>NB: If you move to England before your course has commenced, you will be liable to pay council tax up until the start-date, unless you live in student accommodation.</p>
Food Costs	<p>There is a wide range of quality supermarkets to choose from in London to suit most budgets. The cheaper stores are Asda and Tesco but all supermarkets have both budget and premium ranges to choose from.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to share food costs with their flat mates which will considerably reduce the expense. By doing this, you can expect to spend less than £30.00 a week but realistically, it is safer to expect to spend a bit more than this.</p>
Books and Study Equipment	<p>The university has a book store in the Marylebone Campus. They sell most core subject books at a reasonable price and discounted second-hand books. Once you have finished with your books, if you have retained your receipt, you will have the option to display your used books on the second-hand shelf in the store, choose a price and let the book store pay you your profit into your bank account if the book sells. They will take a small fee of around 20%.</p> <p>However, the library is extensive and will stock the core text books which can be borrowed for a limited amount of time. In most occasions, it is very likely that most of your required books can be borrowed from the library rather than buying them. If your book is not available, the library staff can request them for you for a later date. The libraries are accessible 7 days a week. Opening times for the library counter will vary depending on the campus but all the libraries are open 24 hours a day during term time.</p> <p>Buying online, such as from Amazon, is also advisable where good quality second hand options are also available.</p> <p>Study equipment can be purchased from a whole range of stores and can be reasonably priced. Look out for stores offering student discount, such as Ryman or Paperchase.</p>
Entertainment	<p>London is one of the most exciting cities in Europe offering a whole breadth of leisure activities.</p> <p>Check out the Time Out London guide online for up to date information of current events:</p> <p>http://www.timeout.com/london/</p>
Student Discounts Available	<p>Travel: National railcards can be purchased for great discounts on rail fares. Example: the 16-25 Young Persons' Railcard gives 1/3 off of most fares and expires after one year.</p>

	<p>All valid student cards will allow students to benefit from student discount in most high street stores and even some bars and restaurants. The general discount is 10%, however, this will vary from store to store or during promotional periods.</p> <p>Your Westminster ID card is usually valid however some stores only accept NUS card (this also works online on many sites e.g. Amazon). You can apply for an NUS card here: http://www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra/</p>
Student's Union	<p>The university offers many different societies and sports you can get involved in from Anime to Yoga. See all of our sports and societies here http://www.uwsu.com</p>
Student Affairs	<p>We offer many student services including Counselling, Faith and Spirituality and an Academic Learning Development Centre. Information on this is available on our website and also in your orientation pack.</p>
Bursaries / Scholarships Available	<p>For financial aid information please refer to the Money Matters information page: http://www.westminster.ac.uk/international/advice-and-visas/money-matters</p>
Health Information	<p>We have health services at the Marylebone and Harrow Campuses, there is information on this and also general health services in the UK (including emergencies) in the exchange handbook you will receive in your orientation pack.</p>
<p><i>Please note: All information provided is correct as of November 2017, however this is an estimate of living costs only and should not be considered a complete and final list. There may be costs which are not mentioned here and you should be aware that a strict budget cannot always be followed when studying abroad.</i></p>	

Things to See and Do

There is something for everyone in the city of London and it is perfect for student life.

With a whole host of landmarks, London can be enjoyed for free with a range of museums, exhibitions, music gigs and sight-seeing, all free of charge. Take a look at the free section on the Time Out website for some ideas:

<http://www.timeout.com/london/feature/1424/free-london>

The Londonist also has a constantly updated range of articles, ideas and lists of things to do for most days, weekends and holidays:

<http://londonist.com>