# Merrimack in England A partnership with Advanced Studies in England (ASE)

http://www.studyabroadbath.org/

# **Program Overview**

## Advanced Studies in England, Bath England

- Advanced Studies in England (ASE) offers single semester, full year or summer courses for US undergraduates. It is located in the world-heritage city of Bath, England. ASE offers challenging liberal arts curriculum, small seminar classes and tutorials as well as course-related study trips. There are roughly 50-55 students per semester.
- **Bath** is located **100** miles west of London and 15 miles south-east of the nearest big city, Bristol and has a **population of 100,000**.
- Bath is famous for its **hot springs, Roman baths, Medieval heritage and stately Georgian architecture**.
- Crossing the city is an easy and fun walk surrounded by **shops**, **pubs**, **cafes**, **galleries**, **the River Avon**, several parks, and various architectural wonders.

# **Program Dates**

<b>Spring Semeste</b>	er (2014)	Fall Semester (2014)	
Feb 3 (Monday)	Arrive in Bath	Aug 25 (Monday)	Arrive in Bath
Feb 4-9	Orientation Week	Aug 26-31	Orientation Week
Feb 10	Classes Begin	Sept 1	Classes Begin
March 22-28	At Oxford	Sept 13-19	At Oxford
April 4-13	Spring Break	Oct 17-26	Spring Break
April 28-May 2	At Stratford-upon-Avon (Subject to confirmation)	Dec 1-5	At Stratford-upon-Avon (Subject to confirmation)
May 19-22	Examination Week	Dec 8-11	Examination Week
May 23	Semester Ends	Dec 12	Semester Ends
May 24 (Sat.)	Departure Day	Dec 13 (Saturday)	Departure Day

# **Application**

• Please visit the Office of International Programs (OIP) Sakowich, 340 to pick up an application.

# **Application Requirements:**

• GPA requirement: 3.0

- A current official transcript
- Two letters of recommendation (unless enrolled at an <u>ASE affiliate college</u> with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above).
- Application letters, where appropriate, for the Education, Tutorial and Internship Programmes, and samples for the Advanced Creative Writing tutorial.

## **Cultural Activities**

- Each semester includes a week-long residential at University College, Oxford and three days in Stratford-upon-Avon, where we attend performances by the worldrenowned Royal Shakespeare Company, and organized day trips to some of the hidden rural treasures of England and Wales. Many of our seminars also include study trips to course-connected locations and events.
- ASE Day Trips are optional, and open to all students on the Programme.
- Stonehenge, Salisbury and Lacock.
- Each semester, Orientation Week concludes with a Day Trip to introduce students to some of the best-known sites in the South West of England.
- The day begins with a visit to the famous stone circle at Stonehenge, Britain's greatest prehistoric archaeological monument. We spend lunchtime in the elegant market town of Salisbury, and visit its magnificent cathedral. Later that afternoon, you are free to wander the pretty medieval streets of Lacock village, and the halls and cloisters of Lacock Abbey. Don't be surprised if the place looks familiar in recent years it has been used as a location for various films and TV dramas, including, most famously, a number of Harry Potter movies.

## **Other Day Trips**

- A typical ASE semester also contains two other optional Day Trips.
- The first trip is a visit to nearby places of historic and cultural interest. In previous semesters, destinations have included picturesque villages and historic houses in The Cotswolds, or the Tor and ancient ruins at Glastonbury, reputed burial place of King Arthur, and the country town of Wells, with its own delightful cathedral and Bishop's Palace.
- The second trip involves a substantial hike in remote, stunning countryside. Favourite past locations have included the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales, with its spectacular peaks and views, or the coastal paths and ruined castles of Dorset, the so-called Jurassic Coast.
- The cost of all ASE Day Trips is included in the Programme fee.

## **Academics**

#### **Courses Abroad**

Learn about the latest course offerings:

http://www.studyabroadbath.org/drupal/ase\_dev/?q=node/19

• ASE offers a range of internships with prestigious organizations in the city, or within close proximity to Bath. Each student is allotted a placement mentor to oversee their weekly work experience, and spends a total of 120 hours in the placement over the

- course of a semester. In addition, they meet weekly to discuss progress with an ASE internship tutor, who guides them in the preparation of an 8,000 word paper (or equivalent). This paper, which develops from, and complements, work undertaken at the placement, forms a substantial part of the student's final assessment.
- The Education Programme is modelled on English teacher training and allows students to undertake a theory course, Education in England, alongside a complementary school placement (pre practicum) and two other classes. The theory course is a weekly seminar taking a broad analytical look at contemporary issues in English Education, often comparing and contrasting these with the US. The placement is a pre-practicum, involving one day a week in a local primary or secondary school and a weekly reflective seminar with an ASE placement tutor.
- The Education Programme aims to give students a rigorous academic and practical
  understanding of the English system, which allows them a different perspective on
  the American education system. The weekly placement also provides students with
  a 'real world' experience, helping to immerse them more fully in the Bath
  community and to gain unique insight into British life and culture.
- The theory course is assessed by means of two written papers and a final exam; the placement by a mixture of classroom observation by the ASE placement tutor and a written portfolio of work.

## Classroom

- Classes are held Monday to Thursday, each seminar and tutorial class meeting once a week for two hours. You will not take more than two classes on the same day. Internships involve a total of 120 hours in the placement, spread over the 15 weeks of the semester, plus brief weekly meetings with the Internship tutor. Education students spend a day a week in their school placement, and also have brief weekly meetings with their Placement tutor; the Education in England course meets for two hours per week.
- The maximum number of students in a class is 13 during the semester, 12 for the summer school Seminar Courses, and 15 for summer school Core Courses.

# **Transcript and Grades**

On successful completion of the ASE Programme, an official copy of each student's transcript will be sent to Merrimack College.

# **Housing & Meals**

# Housing

 ASE students live in handsome 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> -century town houses and flats (apartments) throughout the centre of Bath. All offer wireless internet, laundry facilities, phone access, communal areas and bathrooms and kitchens of various shapes and sizes.

## **Meals**

- After paying their study abroad bill to Merrimack, students will receive a meal stipend from Merrimack College to budget for meals while abroad.
- Learn about the host countries Dining Etiquette at <a href="www.etiquettescholar.com">www.etiquettescholar.com</a>

## Travel

## **Passport**

- You must have a valid passport in order to travel abroad.
- You need to renew your passport if it will expire in less than 3 months

#### Visa

- Students who want to study for more than 6 months or want to work while studying will need to apply for a tier 4 general student visa prior to arrival in Bath.
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKR5dsbUCHA
- http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/Welcome.htm
- <a href="http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/resources/en/docs/1903073/PBSappendix8generalst">http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/resources/en/docs/1903073/PBSappendix8generalst</a> udent
- <a href="http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/quickguideforstudent/adults-tudents/applyingforanadultstudentvisa/">http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/quickguideforstudent/adults-tudents/applyingforanadultstudentvisa/</a>

#### Travel

- Students are responsible for booking their own transportation to and from the host country.
- For travel information visit ASE's websites: <a href="http://www.studyabroadbath.org/drupal/?q=node/7">http://www.studyabroadbath.org/drupal/?q=node/7</a>
   <a href="http://www.studyabroadbath.org/drupal/ase\_dev/?q=node/363">http://www.studyabroadbath.org/drupal/ase\_dev/?q=node/363</a>
- Students should arrive on the date given by ASE, students that arrive on that day will be picked up at the airport by ASE staff.
- Students may arrive and/or leave their host country before and/or after their program of study is complete. However, it will not be part of their Merrimack study abroad program.

# **Important Documents**

- Students should make photocopies of all their important documents, such as passport, visa (if applicable), credit cards (front and back), ID cards, medical insurance cards, etc. Bring one set of photocopies abroad and leave another set at home with your parents. In addition, you should pack a photocopy of your passport in each of your suitcases.
- Students should bring their driver's license to use as a form of everyday ID while abroad and carry a photocopy of their passport at all times. It's not a good idea to carry your passport with you unless you are traveling. While you're not traveling, keep your passport locked in your suitcase.

## **Finances**

Students who study abroad for semester or year program at UCD will continue to pay tuition, room and board to Merrimack College and will keep all financial aid.

## Additional study abroad costs include:

- Airfare
- Spending Money for personal expenses and travel
- Books
- Visa application (if applicable)
- \$800 study abroad fee

Learn about the **local currency and currency conversions** at: <a href="http://www.xe.com/">http://www.xe.com/</a>

## **ATM Cards**

- The best and easiest way for you to get cash on a regular basis while you're abroad will be to use your ATM card. Withdrawing cash with your ATM card gives you a better exchange rate than exchanging travelers checks or U.S. cash. Purchases made with your credit card or ATM/debit card will get you the best exchange rate of the day. Since many ATMs abroad will only access a checking account, do not leave your funds in a savings account before departure.
- The ATM withdrawal fee is usually higher abroad and depends on your bank, so check with your bank before you go. Also, you must notify your bank that you'll be using your card abroad; sometimes banks have to remove a hold on the card to make this possible. And, sometimes banks simply cancel your card if they see purchases or withdrawals from outside the U.S. because they've assumed your card has been stolen.
- Make sure your ATM card has a 4-digit PIN number. Foreign ATM machines usually
  do not accept 5-digit PIN numbers. Your bank can issue you a 4-digit PIN, but be
  sure to request this at least 4-6 weeks before departure. If your ATM card says
  Cirrus, Plus, MasterCard or Visa, it should work at foreign ATM machines that
  display these logos.
- Check with your bank AND credit card company to inquire if they charge a foreign transaction fee. This is also called a currency conversion fee and is usually 1-3% of your purchase. Ask your bank if you can avoid this fee by making purchases using the debit function.
- Find the closest VISA ATM: http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/jsp/SearchPage.jsp
- Find the closest MasterCard ATM: http://www.mastercard.com/us/personal/en/cardholderservices/atmlocations/in dex.html

#### **Credit Cards**

 Credit cards are widely used abroad; Visa and MasterCard are the most widely accepted. American Express is not accepted as frequently. Discover Cards are usually not accepted abroad. Check with your credit card company to see if they charge a foreign transaction fee. • Notify your credit card company that you will be using your credit card abroad.

## **Foreign Currency**

• Many U.S. banks offer currency exchange for before you leave. This way, you will already have currency of your host country when you arrive to study abroad.

## **Health and Safety**

## **Emergency Contacts**

Advanced Studies in England Emergency Number (from inside England): 07-76-784-8265 Advanced Studies in England Emergency Number (from US): 011-44-7767-848265

## **Advanced Studies in England**

2 Pierrepont Street Bath BA1 1LB England

Telephone: 01144-1225-447134

Fax: 01144-1225-446134

admin@asebath.org

England Emergency # 112, 999 Merrimack College (978) 837 - 5000 Office of International Programs (978) 837 - 5210 Merrimack College Police Department (978) 837 - 5555

# **Cell Phones and Calling Abroad**

If you choose to get a mobile phone whilst you are in the UK, Orange or Vodaphone shops offer "pay-as-you go" plans.

## **How to call United States from England:**

dial 00 + 1 + area code + phone number

## **How to call England from the USA/Canada:**

dial 011 + 44 + area code + phone number

## **Medical Insurance**

All students will be covered through **HTH Worldwide**:

http://www.hthstudents.com/

ASE students are able to use the medical facility of a general practice based in Bath. In the event of illness you may make an appointment with the doctor on duty, or during office hours a member of the ASE staff will make an appointment for you. There is also an

emergency or night-number. There is a charge for each consultation with a doctor (of approx £45), and an additional charge (of about £17) for any medicines prescribed and any referral to a hospital or specialist for further treatment. Please be assured that throughout the UK, treatment for serious accidents or emergencies is given without checking insurance cover, although a bill may be presented for payment later.

## **Vaccinations**

It is a good idea to let your doctor know that you are planning to live abroad. They will make sure you have had all your Routine Vaccinations. Additional vaccinations are usually not required to travel to Europe.

## **Prescription Medication**

- If you take prescription medication, you must bring enough to last the duration of your program. It is difficult to fill prescriptions while abroad. It is also not possible to have medication mailed to you because it will not get through customs, so make sure you bring enough for your entire stay. Students may not be able to find the exact equivalent of their medication. Medications shipped abroad may be blocked by customs, making it impossible to retrieve them.
- All prescription medication and copies of the prescriptions should be packed in your carry-on luggage, in case your checked luggage is delayed. Prescription medication must always be carried in the original container so it can be clearly identified as belonging to you.

## **Embassy**

- Find out where the **Local Embassy** is located: <a href="http://italy.usembassy.gov/index.html">http://italy.usembassy.gov/index.html</a>
- **Register** with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate: https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/

# **Re-Entry**

• It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience "reverse" culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home: <a href="http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml">http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml</a> <a href="http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock">http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock</a>