PRE-DEPARTURE / NORTH AMERICA

Hazel Lander, Sophie Baker, Meg Foley & Nathan Harris
International Partnerships
Study Abroad team

- **Hazel Lander**, Study Abroad & Exchanges Officer
- **Sophie Baker**, International Support & Placement Coordinator (Wednesday – Friday)
- **Megan Foley**, International Events & Placement Coordinator (Monday pm – Wednesday)
- **Nathan Harris**, International Support & Placement Coordinator (Monday & Tuesday)
- R155, The Registry (main reception, first floor)
  +44 (0)1227 827994 / 824088
  studyabroad@kent.ac.uk
US visas

- Andrew Orsorno, US Embassy
The secrets of success

- Be realistic, patient and flexible
- Allow time to adjust
- Enjoy the differences
  - Cultural
  - Academic
  - Social
- Take responsibility
- Commit to your time abroad
- Make the most of the opportunities
- Tell us if you have a problem
Research your destination

- Short-term students currently at Kent
- Final-year students
- Guidebooks
- Social media
- Blogs, testimonials and videos
- Fulbright Commission (USA)
Admin checklist

• **Enrol on Moodle**

• **Insurance**
  • You **must** register for Kent’s free insurance, even if you also have your own
  • Some universities will also require you to also purchase their insurance, but it is sometimes possible to apply for a waiver
  • **Use your Kent email address**

• **Student Contract**
  • Do this **now** and hand it in to us before you leave

• **Basic Health Questionnaire**
  • Do this **now** and hand it in to us before you leave
Admin checklist

• Learning Agreement
  • **Must** be completed and submitted to studyabroad@kent.ac.uk once you have confirmed your modules at your host institution **and** signed off by the study abroad coordinator in your Kent academic school (ask us who that is if you are unsure)

• Risk Awareness
Finance

• Before you go
  • Speak to anyone who supports you financially to confirm that you are able to support yourself
  • Ensure you will have sufficient funds available to you on arrival to cover initial costs
  • Plan a budget for the remainder of your time abroad

• See our estimated costs for your host institution documents to help you budget

• Student Finance
  • Apply in the usual way
  • You will receive your maintenance loan as normal
  • You can request for your instalments to be adjusted to reflect the term dates of your host institution by emailing the Data Quality Team at dataquality@kent.ac.uk
Finance

• Travel grant
  • Means tested
  • You will be sent a form if eligible, which must be signed by the Central Student Administration Office (csao@kent.ac.uk)
  • For travel-related costs: flights, visa fees, insurance etc.
  • Currently, students have to pay the first £303 towards flights
  • Takes up to six weeks to process
  • Claim as you spend, or in one go on your return

• Tuition fees
  • You are not required to pay tuition fees to your host university
  • If you are going abroad for a term, you pay the normal annual fee to Kent
  • If you are going abroad for a year, you pay a reduced fee of £1,385 to Kent (15% of the normal annual fee)
  • Don’t panic if you are billed for tuition by your host university, this will be corrected when you arrive on campus
Visas

- Students going to the USA for a year or a term or to Canada for a year require a visa
- You cannot apply for your visa until you receive an official acceptance letter and any necessary visa documentation from your host university (this can take time)
US visas

- Your acceptance pack will contain a DS2019 form or an I20 form. This will determine what type of visa you apply for (J1 or F1).
- Check your details carefully. Let us know if there are any errors.
- We will provide you with a visa letter to support your application
- **Book an interview** with your local embassy (London, if you are in the UK) and pay any related fees
- Apply for your visa on the [US Embassy website](https://usembassy.gov) by completing the DS-160 form
- After the interview, you will be issued with your visa
US visas

- If you plan a trip outside of the US, you need a valid signature on your DS-2019 or I-20

- To re-enter you must present your passport (valid for at least six months after re-entry date), a valid visa and valid DS-2019 or I-20 with return authorization signature
Canadian visas

- **Montreal**: before applying for your student visa, you will need to apply for your Quebec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ). More details will be sent in your acceptance pack.

- **All other Canadian universities**: you must apply for your study permit before entering Canada. You should download the application form from the Canadian embassy website.

- In addition to a study permit, students from the UK are now also required to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA).
Dear [Name],

Your application to study in Canada has been approved. A permit authorizing your studies will be issued to you on your arrival to Canada following an examination by an officer of the Canada Border Services Agency, subject to your compliance with the requirements of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and its Regulations.

The officer will ask to see this letter, your passport and may request to see your supporting documents, such as the letter of acceptance from your educational institution. Do not pack these or other valuable papers in your checked luggage. You can find out more about which documents you will need to bring with you by visiting [www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/arrival.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/arrival.asp).

As you gather your documents, please take note of the following:

- This letter is not a passport or travel document. You will not be permitted to board your flight without your passport, even if you have this letter with you.
- This letter is not an authorization permitting you to enter or remain in Canada. An officer of the Canada Border Services Agency will make that determination upon your arrival to Canada.
- This letter is important because it contains information that will be used by the Canada Border Services Agency to issue your study permit. Please do not misplace it.

You must seek entry to Canada to obtain your study permit by 2017/07/24 (yyyy/mm/dd). Your passport must be valid beyond the period you intend to remain in Canada. If not, the validity of your study permit will not be issued beyond the expiry date of your passport, or, for United States citizens and permanent residents, the validity date of your identity document.

Note: As an international student in Canada, it is your responsibility to ensure that you continue to meet the conditions of your study permit, including the requirement to actively pursue studies. Your study permit will automatically become invalid 90 days after you complete your study program, regardless of the expiry date indicated on your study permit. For more information, please consult [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp).

Sincerely,

CPC Vegreville
6212 50th Avenue
Vegreville, AB
T9C 1W5

[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)
Accommodation

- Pay attention to deadlines and submit all necessary forms on time
- Find out what is included in your room
- On or off-campus housing
- Roommates and period of adjustment
Academic culture

- Emphasis on student participation
- Attendance and participation contributes to final grade; you are expected to speak up in class so be prepared to be called on directly to answer questions
- “Easier” exams, heavier workload. Far more contact hours
- Continual assessment; weekly quizzes and daily homework
US credits

- You **must** take 12 credits per semester
- These **must** be upper division classes (300-499 level)
- Drop and add period
Canadian credits

- Brock: 2.5 credits per semester
- Calgary: 4 credits per semester*
- Concordia: 6 courses per semester
- Mount Allison: 5 courses per semester
- Trent: 2.5 credits per semester
- Montreal: 6 credits per semester
- Ottawa: 15 credits per semester
- Osgoode Hall: 13 credits per semester

*Please note: students attending Calgary must order their own transcripts from their UCalgary Student Centre at the end of their exchange
Arrival

- Keep important documents in your hand luggage
- Plan your travel from the airport to the university
- Attend orientation
- Order your textbooks

**Students going to the USA**: authorities can now demand access to passwords and digital information held in electronic devices when travelers enter US territory. Students are advised to take inexpensive, “empty” temporary phones rather than their usual smartphone.
Your responsibilities

• Update your contact details on SDS as soon as you arrive, including your phone number. It is vital that we are able to contact you in an emergency.

• Check your Kent email account regularly

• Student requirements on a Tier 4 visa

• Students studying abroad for a year are responsible for arranging accommodation on your return. Students returning to Kent in January may be able to apply for on-campus accommodation.
Health and welfare

- **Homesickness is normal**
  - Give yourself time
  - Eat and sleep well
  - Stay active and involved
  - Keep in touch with friends at home, but don’t spend all your time following what they’re doing on social media. Make them envy you!
  - Talk to someone about it, but not to excess

- **Support at your host university**
  - Medical facilities (register in order to access Kent support)
  - Disabilities and specific learning requirements
  - Mental health

- **Support at Kent**
  - [Student Support & Wellbeing](#)
  - Your academic school
  - The Study Abroad team
Personal safety

• Use your common sense
  • Keep hold of your belongings
  • Avoid putting yourself in potential danger
  • Don’t accept lifts/drinks from strangers
  • Look out for your friends, particularly on nights out

• Follow local security advice, including emergency preparedness plans

• Be aware of local gun laws

• Are you prepared for an emergency?
  • If you need assistance in an emergency while abroad, you must contact the consulate of your home government (not the US Consulate)
  • Carry with you emergency telephone numbers (hard copies)
  • Know who to call locally in an emergency. A charged phone with a local plan is critical.
Go Abroad! Photo/Video Competition
Self-reflection

- What do I want to achieve?
- What work do I need to put in?
- What obstacles might I need to overcome?
- What skills or attributes will help me?
- What skills do I want to develop?

Task: spend five minutes answering these questions
THE UK’S EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

www.kent.ac.uk