

Overview: Centre in Reading

Sixteen years ago, Centre selected the University of Reading as the location for its fall England program because of Reading's long-standing reputation as an attractive and welcoming home for American and other international students. The variety and strength of its academic programs, its leafy location near London, and the professionalism of its Visiting Student Office, which organizes very low-cost excursions to Edinburgh, Stonehenge, Bath, etc.

About 20 percent of Reading's 17,000 students are from other countries, including about 80 visiting American students from institutions similar to Centre. Unlike most modern British universities, the 300-acre campus at Reading includes a lake and much green space.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2012-13 put the University of Reading in the top 1 percent of universities in the entire world. Other league tables give the university a consistently high score, and many university departments are ranked at the top of their subject.

Reading itself is a pleasant town of 235,000 people upstream on the River Thames, about halfway to Oxford. The town is a leading shopping destination and a hub for successful international companies. Trains between London's Paddington Station and Reading leave about every 20 minutes and continue until 2:30 a.m. The express train takes 23 minutes and can cost students as little as 28 pounds round-trip.



University of Reading

Program Dates and Fees

Requires a \$375.00 abroad program deposit and \$25.00 medical fee due to the Finance Office by mid-March for all semester programs.

*Dates will vary year to year.

- Students traveling for the Fall semester should depart from the United States to arrive in Reading where they can move into the flats for Fall 2022 these dates were: 16 Sept move in. Students must be enroll by Sept 18 as Welcome week starts Monday 19th and you must be there for that. The program starts Sept 19 and ends 9 December 2022.

Notes about Program Dates and Travel:

- Because classes often end at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays, students can sometimes leave for weekend travel on Thursday evenings.
- When students are away for the night, they must let the director know where they'll be and travel with at least one other Centre student, unless their parents e-mail the director permission for them to travel alone.
- Students must be registered in person at Reading by a certain date in September, as orientation week begins early Monday morning and will last one week. Classes will start following Monday.
- During Reading's week-long orientation, students will finalize their course schedules; meet others in their residence halls; take part in social events, excursions, and student fairs; and get information about student clubs and travel opportunities in the UK.
- Students should plan to vacate the dorm the day after their last final exam.

Eligibility

Students may not apply for this program unless they have a 3.0 academic average at the time they apply: this is a requirement of the University of Reading.

Courses and Director

Students will express their interest in courses on their University of Reading application during the spring semester before their fall abroad. However, students will not officially register for classes until orientation week in Reading, which will allow them plenty of time to meet with professors and receive detailed course information before registering. Because official course registration takes place after students arrive in Reading, *students should be flexible in selecting courses and should not assume*

that a particular class will be offered, or offered at a time that works with the student's other selected courses, during the time they are in Reading.

It is imperative that students email Centre's Registrar, as well as the Center for Global Citizenship, with their final course schedule before beginning classes in the fall. This will ensure that students know how courses will transfer back to Centre and what (if any) requirements they will fulfill. Reading courses not approved by the Registrar in advance may not transfer to Centre.

Students select three or four courses totaling 25 ETCS hours (translating into either 12 or 13 Centre hours) from those available across many departments. The Reading term is 11 weeks long; typically, a course may have two lectures a week, occasional individual meetings with the professor, two papers, and some kind of final examination—although this regime will vary widely depending on the course and department.

Students may not use a Reading English course as their required English junior seminar.

Program Director

There will not be a program director for this trip because it is through the university.

Grades

The grades that Centre students studying abroad have received in the past have been consistent with, or even a bit higher than, grades received on campus. Nevertheless, we want to make certain that you understand from the outset that the courses you take abroad will not necessarily be taught or evaluated as they would be at Centre. Being abroad does not mean the course load will be lighter or easier and students should still expect to be challenged academically.

We will, of course, do what we can to advise you on courses you take, but finally you are responsible for those choices, and you must live with the results. The faculty committee on curriculum and academic standards will almost certainly not agree to change an abroad grade because you believe it is too low.

As a reminder, students enrolled in off-campus programs may not take courses on a Pass/Unsatisfactory basis during that term.

Registration, Convocations, and Library Resources

While abroad, students will contact your advisor and pre-register for future courses via e-mail. They will get an email from the registrar and it will be similar to registering on campus.

Students will automatically be credited with six convocation credits during your term abroad.

While abroad, you may access articles on any database at our library. However, if you wish to use an e-book abroad, you will have to access the book through EBSCO ebooks (in Databases A-Z). Students should also log into ARTstor and create accounts before they leave campus.

Housing and Meal Plan

Housing arrangements at the University of Reading are made during the summer before you attend; **you must be on the lookout for an email** regarding your housing application. At Reading, Centre students typically live in single rooms, each with its own washbasin, telephone, and computer port. There is a small kitchen for every eight rooms, and students are not segregated by gender or year. Room and board fees are included in the tuition that you pay to Centre. You should not have to pay any additional fees directly to the University of Reading. You will take your meals, compete on intramural teams,

and have social events with the 250-300 other students in your residence hall. To encourage visiting students to get to know British and other international students, Reading does not house all students from an American institution in the same hall but, rather, spreads them out.

For your meal plan, you get a platinum meal plan.



Alcohol and Late-Night Policy

When problems abroad have occurred for Centre students (and American students generally), there have almost always been two elements involved: 1. Alcohol, and 2. Students being out alone (without another Centre student) late at night.

The following policy is in effect for all Centre study-abroad programs:

1. If a student uses alcohol irresponsibly, as determined by the program director and director of the Center for Global Citizenship, **the minimum fine will be \$100**. The director may also require that the student sign a statement saying that the student will not have alcohol during the duration of the program, and both the **student's parents and the Centre Dean of Students will be informed**.

2. If a student is out at a bar or club after midnight alone—that is, without another Centre student—the program director and director of the Center for Global Citizenship will together decide on an appropriate punishment, **including the most serious one of separating the student from the program without any academic or financial credit.**

Mandatory Travel Medicine Presentation

Mandatory Travel Medicine Presentation Each student studying abroad on a Centre program is required to attend a travel medicine session, and there will be two sessions held each semester for all participants registered. Students must attend the session specifically catered to their destination, as Dr. Brian Ellis will be discussing diseases and vaccinations specific to certain destinations at each session. Only if students have an approved excuse to attend the other session may they do so. The program's faculty director is the only person who can give students permission to attend the other session.

Holding two sessions should eliminate any student's having to miss the presentation entirely due to scheduling conflicts. Centre regards the travel medicine presentation as extremely important in preparing you to study abroad, and failure to attend one of the two sessions will highly jeopardize your participation in the course.

At the sessions, Dr. Brian Ellis will present up-to-date information outlining recommendations and/or requirements for each destination. Students will also be instructed on how and when to schedule an appointment to receive vaccinations and prescriptions through Centre Student Health if they so choose. All students studying abroad on a Centre course will be billed on their student account a \$25 professional consult fee that covers the travel medicine presentation; those wishing to receive vaccinations or medications at Centre Student Health will receive a detailed list from their office that will include the fees for additional services.

As stated above, failure to attend one of the two sessions will *highly jeopardize a student's participation in the course*. At the very least, failure to attend a session means the student will not be eligible to receive travel vaccines or prescriptions at Centre Student Health, will be required to seek travel medicine advice on his or her own, and will be required to sign a waiver, also signed by the student's parent or guardian, from the CGC. Students who receive the educational material and vaccines elsewhere must show proof to the trip leader, who will notify the Center for Global Citizenship.

Fall students should attend the travel medicine presentation held in March. Spring students will attend a presentation in October.

Medical Insurance

The College EIIA insurance policy, which covers the director and his or her immediate family, provides a safety net for serious medical situations abroad; this is especially important for students who do not have medical insurance of their own. The categories of coverage provided are accident and sickness (\$100,000 limit); emergency medical evacuation (\$1,000,000 limit); accidental death and dismemberment (\$200,000 limit); medical repatriation (\$1,000,000 limit).

The person in need of medical care has two options for using the study abroad emergency accident/illness insurance. On moodle there is a Wecare card that lists the pre approved hospitals that will be covered by insurance. As long as the claim has been started the insurance company will take care of the rest. Before reporting to the hospital or clinic, the patient (or a director) can simply call the insurance company to get a claim started before the patient even arrives at the hospital. Call **+1-844-344-2360** and tell the insurance rep who you are, where you are, and what your group name is (for everyone associated with Centre, its EIIA) and the activation Group ID (for everyone, it's **LTG 273330**). The rep will let you know how to proceed and will get the claim started immediately; this eliminates the need to pay anything upfront.

Coverage Summary:

Accidental Death & Dismemberment: \$200,000 each person

Travel Accident and Sickness:

Emergency Medical Expenses: \$100,000 each person/each injury or sickness

Emergency Medical Evacuation: \$1,000,000 each person/each injury or sickness

Medical Repatriation: \$1,000,000 each person/each injury or sickness

Security Evacuation: \$100,000 limit per person / \$1,000,000 per event

Natural Disaster Evacuation: \$100,000 limit per person / \$1,000,000 per event

Trip Cancellation: \$2,000 lifetime maximum per insured person

Trip Interruption Coverage: \$2,000 per insured person per policy year/and lifetime maximum, 3-day maximum benefit period

Excluded activities: skydiving/parachuting; hang gliding; bungee jumping; mountain climbing; pot-holing; zip lining; motorcycle riding; and scuba diving – unless scuba diving is assigned as part of the curriculum of study for course credit

Excluded causes of loss: AIDS; routine or elective medical care; normal dental; acne; pregnancy or pregnancy related procedures including abortion (unless an emergency); and loss due to participation in Specified Athletic Sporting Events*

*Specified Athletic Sporting Events are: Football, Boxing, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Martial Arts, Rodeo, Skiing (water or snow), Surfing, Swimming, Diving, Wrestling, Basketball, Baseball, and Equestrian are **excluded** when participating in the

event professionally or when representing the institution as part of the institution's athletic program.

Medication

- **VERY important: if you take prescription medication, be sure you take enough for the entire amount of time that you're abroad. Keep it packed in its original container from the pharmacy, and keep it in your carry-on luggage as you travel. Contact EIIA and GARDA world before they go and they will help facilitate and presort prescription needs.**

Counseling and Psychotropic Medication

The kind of counseling and support services available on campus are not available abroad. Because any significant life transition can exacerbate and complicate already existing mental health issues, students who are currently on psychotropic medication and/or have been in mental health counseling are encouraged to consider participating in the Centre Term programs abroad. In addition, those students are urged to meet with a Centre counselor prior to their leaving, to develop a support plan for their time abroad.

Students who find they need counseling services while abroad may arrange for such services but are responsible for making and paying for appointments and for scheduling appointments outside of class time and required outings. Director will give a list of English speaking counselors. More details are included below. Should you need counseling for a Title IX issue, please contact a member of Centre's Title IX resource team, listed at the end of this handbook. Centre's Title IX/Sexual Misconduct policies are listed at the end of the handbook.

If a student must leave the trip due to a mental health issue this should be handled on a case by case basis alongside counselors and parents. Students should first receive counseling while they are there with an English speaking counselor. Centre counselors will work with students within their jurisdiction but are limited. Therefore, a counselor there must be utilized as well. Insurance will pay for a doctor or nurse to fly to that country if the situation worsens and if it is a new issue they will pay.

Students will not be charged if they must return home. However, they may not be able to return to campus for that term. This is dealt with on a case by case basis with counselors and the Dean.

When students are admitted into an abroad program Centre counselors will be contacted and any of the students who have visited counseling throughout their time at Centre will be advised to return to counseling prior to the trip.

Passports

Passport If you do not currently have a passport that will remain valid for at least six months after your return, begin the process of obtaining one as soon as you are selected. In the recent past, some students have waited three months to receive a passport, even though the passport agency has stated that it will take six to eight weeks.

Travel Letters from Centre

Each student studying abroad will receive, at one of the mandatory pre-departure meetings, a personalized, official travel letter from Centre. This letter explains what the students will be doing, as well as information about the program director and insurance. If a student misplaces the letter, the student must pay the Center for Global Citizenship \$25 for another copy. To avoid difficulties, be certain to have this letter with you at all times while traveling.

Flights and Arrival Suggestions

Plane tickets are NOT included in the tuition fee that students pay to Centre College. Tickets are purchased independently.

Your arrival flight **must be into Britain** (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) for immigration purposes. You cannot fly into the Republic of Ireland or another European country prior to flying to Britain. Many students fly into London Heathrow Airport (LHR).

Almost all flights from the States to England are overnight flights, so remember when booking your ticket that you will be departing from the States the day prior to your arrival in England. Almost all flights from the U.S. now land at London's Heathrow airport, where there is an hourly direct bus to Reading. Students arriving at London's Gatwick airport can take the hourly direct bus between Gatwick and Heathrow and then catch a bus from Heathrow to Reading.

Consider a Multi-City Air Ticket: Typically, it costs about the same for a round-trip to London as it does for a multi-city ticket—such as to fly into London but fly back from Rome, Paris, Frankfurt, or some other European airport. Students might want to consider getting a multi-city ticket and traveling on their own to the continent at the conclusion of Centre-in-Reading _

***** No matter which arrival option you choose, you need to send the Faculty Director a copy of your flight itinerary as soon as you have it!***

Students have found studentuniverse.com, statravel.com, cheapflights.com, or chipmunk.com helpful sites. Book early for the lowest prices.

Transportation Suggestions

From the Reading Rail Station, you can take a train to Paddington Station, which is in the center of London and connected to the rest of the London Underground train system.

Students can purchase an Oyster Card (an electronic smartcard run by Transport for London) for use on all Tubes, buses, and the DLR (Dockland Light Rail). Students can reload their card when need be, if they choose to purchase one. The cost has increased to 5 pounds.

In the past, some students have realized that they overused the Tube in the beginning and should have chosen to walk shorter distances while in London. Students should be aware that walking 5-10 blocks will be faster and will allow them to see the city in addition to preserving their Tube money for the longer-haul destinations.

Once a person charges 6.40 pounds in zones 1 & 2 on any one day (about four rides), all other rides are free, even if that person takes 47! Therefore, students might want to explore the central London transportation system thoroughly on a few days and not use their card indiscriminately on other days.

Tell any visitors that paying for a single Tube or bus ticket in central London is not advised: it would cost four GBP. With an Oyster Card, a single London trip costs only two pounds (or 2.50 GBP during peak hours costs

were rising in 2020?)—and no matter how many rides you take during the day, the Oyster Card will deduct only 6.4 GBP (again in 2020). Another good option for a visitor staying three days is a London Travel card, which allows unlimited rides (in zones 1 and 2) for about 20 GBP. For more information about Oyster cards, including seven-day travel cards, visit http://wikitravel.org/en/London_england#Get_around.

Though you will quickly become adept at using the Tube, do not forget buses, which can be quicker (and you can actually see London as you go) and cheaper. All bus stops clearly display the complete route of all buses stopping there. If the bus stop sign is white, all scheduled buses stop there. If the bus stop sign is red, you have to signal the bus to stop. After midnight, night buses are available on the major routes.

* This website is very useful for planning your transit from Reading to London, and within London: <https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/>

Eurostar Tickets

Booking Eurostar tickets: The high-speed Eurostar train leaves from St. Pancras station in London and is by far the quickest way to get to the continent: 2 hours and 14 minutes to the heart of Paris. If students book tickets four months and one week in advance (the earliest they can book), the tickets can also be the least expensive way. A

Eurostar ticket from St. Pancras to Paris's Gare du Nord station currently costs about \$66-\$100 return, if booked at the earliest time.

Money

England's unit of currency is the pound, which as of April 2022 equaled approx. \$1.30 USD. Students can exchange dollars to pounds before heading to Reading; however, such an exchange can be very costly.

Students can simply withdraw pounds at one of many ATMs after arriving in Reading.

Students should be sure to notify their banks, prior to leaving the United States, of their semester abroad in Reading in order to prevent their ATM cards from being frozen (due to the bank believing the cards were stolen).

Past Centre-in-Reading students have suggested having about £35 per week to spend on some food, souvenirs, and photocopied readings for classes, occasional restaurant meals, entertainment, and personal travel.

Phones

When traveling there are several options for phone's accessibility. Students should choose what is best for them.

1. Airplane mode + wifi
2. International phone plan
3. SIM card purchase

Helpful Apps

-maps.me = offline maps

-googlemaps

-XE currency = exchange rates app

-packpoint = creates packing list

-City mapper

What to Bring

About half of what you're planning to take. Most students check one suitcase with wheels (remember: there's a size and strict weight limit—50 pounds for most airlines beyond which you pay heavily, even on international flights) and carry a backpack (and perhaps laptop) with them on the plane. Put a splashy bright ribbon on your checked bag to make it easily identifiable on the luggage carousel. Take this test to see if you've packed too much stuff: carry your suitcase and backpack around the block and then up and down a flight of stairs three times without putting them down.

If you have a laptop, take it.

VERY important: if you take prescription medication, be sure you take enough for the entire amount of time that you're abroad. Keep it packed in its original container from the pharmacy, and keep it in your carry-on luggage as you travel.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

- **This is posted on centrenet and should be dealt with on a case by case basis under the college's policies.**

https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/icsfs/Sexual_Misconduct_Policy_Away_International_Resour.docx?target=a931449d-de2b-4174-8213-d4feb6399ab5

- **Resources for Diversity and Inclusion**

https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/icsfs/CGC_Resources.pdf?target=dc88fea6-dd49-4a93-9768-1b366b8a8a2a

Forms for students to fill out via Moodle

- These forms can be found under the program's tab on Moodle.
 - Health and Medical Information Form
 - Statement of Responsibility and Authorization Release, and Indemnification Agreement
 - Emergency Contact Form
 - Flight Information
 - COVID, health, and liability forms
 - Passport information