

When to arrive

Try to arrive on Sunday and leave on Saturday. This allows your accommodation provider time to clean the room before the next guest arrives. Please try to arrive in your accommodation by 22.30. Arrivals after 22.30 will have to pay a late arrival fee of £20.00.

Immigration

Before coming to the UK, complete this COVID form on-line to show where you will be staying in Bristol <https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk> Please put the address of your accommodation in Bristol and make sure you use your mobile telephone number and not the school phone number.

When you arrive in England you will also have to show the immigration officer:

- ▶ Your passport. If you come from the EU, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein, you do not need a visa. If you come from any other country, you will need a visa. Please see the enrol/visa section of the school website or check with your local representative for details. If you get a Short-Term Study Visa on arrival, tell the immigration officer you plan to study and you must show the papers from the school. This is to ensure that you get the required 'Short-Term Student' stamp in your passport.
- ▶ The ELC Bristol Certificate of Registration/ Visa letter.
- ▶ Proof that you have either paid your fees or that you have sufficient money to pay your fees on arrival at the school.
- ▶ Proof that you have sufficient money to support yourself while you are here.
- ▶ Accommodation letter confirming where you will be staying in Bristol.
- ▶ Parental consent form to travel to the UK for students under 18.

What to Bring

In homestays bed linen and towels are provided, but you should bring your own toiletries, phone charger and an adapter plug if you have any electrical appliances, (shaver, hairdryer, etc.). In self-catering accommodation, you should also bring your own towels.

The Weather

The weather in England is unpredictable so you should always bring an umbrella, warm clothes and a waterproof coat. The temperature ranges from around 6°C in winter to 22°C in summer. Occasionally in winter it snows, and the temperature can drop to around 0°C and sometimes in summer, if we are lucky, it might reach 30°C!

Pocket Money

We suggest a minimum of £70.00 a week if you are living with a homestay or £100.00 if you are staying in self-catering accommodation. If you like shopping, bring more!

Lunch

At lunchtime (12.45-14.00), most students go to the local shopping centre or to one of the many cafés located close by in Whiteladies Road. During July and August, you can also have lunch in the Summer Centre café, where the cost of a light lunch is around £6.00.

First Day at School

When we send your accommodation information, we send you a link to a map showing you how to get to school. On the first day of your course, go to Abon House (25 St John's Road, BS8 2HD) at 09.00, except between 5 July and 20 August 2021 when you should go to the ELC Summer Centre (4-5 Worcester Road BS8 3JL).

In the morning we test your English level so that we can place you in a suitable class. We also give you an orientation talk about Bristol and life in the school. You are then shown some places to have lunch.

In the afternoon you join your class for your first lesson. However, on main starting dates, we take you on a walking tour of the city in the afternoon. You get back to the school around 15.30 and you have your first lesson the following morning.

Remember to bring your passport (or national identity card), some cash for lunch, walking shoes and an umbrella, just in case!

Medical Care

- ▶ **Pharmacist** For minor problems, we suggest you talk to the pharmacist in one of the local chemists. Boots the chemist is open 7 days a week and is located close to the school in Clifton Down shopping centre.
- ▶ **Doctor** The school can arrange for you to visit a doctor or for the doctor to call you (Monday to Friday) usually free of charge.
- ▶ **Hospital** In an emergency, students can go at any time to the Bristol Royal Infirmary (Accident and Emergency department). Emergency treatment is free but if you have to stay in hospital overnight, you may be charged.
- ▶ **Medicine** Medicines prescribed by a doctor currently cost £9.15 per item.
- ▶ **Dentist** The school can make an appointment for you, but everyone has to pay for dental treatment, which can be expensive.

Insurance

Students who are not from the European Economic Area (EEA) have to pay for non-emergency medical treatment. If you are from the EEA, to avoid these charges, you should bring an EHIC card with you (European Health Insurance Card).

We strongly recommend you take out travel and medical insurance before leaving home. Insurance should cover the loss of your fees and flights in case of cancellation or curtailment (shortening of your course), medical expenses, personal injury, personal liability, overseas legal expenses and the loss of personal belongings and money.

If you cannot arrange your own insurance, we can provide you with insurance under our Studentguard+ Insurance Policy. The cost is £5.90 per week including Insurance Premium Tax. You must ask for insurance at the time you book your course as cover is not available once you arrive in the UK. Please check the policy meets your needs and note that Studentguard+ is non-refundable and does not cover pandemics such as COVID-19.

For full details of the terms and conditions see <https://elcbristol.co.uk/enrol/studentguard-student-travel-insurance>

Work

We do not encourage you to work as we feel that our full-time work course will keep you busy enough. However, we realise that some students like to supplement their pocket money and also value the contact with local people. Only students from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein or students on a Youth Mobility Scheme visa may work. Joining the free ELC Job Club on Wednesday afternoons will assist you in finding work.

Email / Internet

There are 14 student computers in Abon House and a further 20 computers in the Summer Centre for email/ internet use. There is also free WiFi access so you can use your own laptop/ smartphone.

Laptops / Phones

If possible, please bring your own laptop with you as due to COVID, teachers may prefer to send you documents and homework on-line. As well as there being WiFi in school and in your accommodation, 4G is available in Bristol. If you need a UK SIM card, you can get one from the office, free of charge.

Examination Fees

You will need to pay these direct to the exam centre when you are here as they are not included in your course fees.

Money / Cash

It is not advisable to carry large amounts of cash around with you or to leave it in your accommodation. The best thing to bring is a credit or debit card. If you are staying for more than a few weeks, we can help you to open a bank account.

Credit Cards

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in shops, restaurants and hotels. You can also withdraw cash with these cards from most banks. American Express is not widely accepted. The school accepts Visa and Mastercard payments, but for larger payments it will usually be cheaper for you to pay using Flywire (<https://www.flywire.com/pay/elcb>).

Emergencies

Emergency Telephone (24 Hours): +44 796 978 2846

Emergency Telephone (Self-catering accommodation problems): +44 786 752 6436

Please remember these numbers are for emergencies only.

It is better to contact the school during office hours.

09.00 to 17.30 Monday to Thursday

09.00 to 17.00 Friday +44 117 970 7050

Getting to Bristol

If you have not booked a transfer, the easiest and cheapest way to get to Bristol from both Gatwick and Heathrow is by bus. The journey from Heathrow takes around 2 hours and from Gatwick it takes around 3.5 hours.

If you arrive at Bristol Airport, the simplest thing is to take a taxi which costs around £30.00. When you come out of arrivals, walk straight ahead and go outside the terminal building. Cross the zebra crossing to the Arrow Cars taxi office. Students under 18 should be met at the airport, so we would recommend they book a transfer.

National Express

We suggest you buy your ticket in advance, online. This is especially recommended if you are travelling at a busy time of the year (July/August). If your flight is delayed and you miss the bus, you will always be allowed to take the next available bus. If you prefer, you can buy your ticket on arrival at the National Express office in the airport. The National Express website is: www.nationalexpress.com/airport.

When you get to Bristol bus station, you can take a 'Blue Taxi' to your accommodation (cost approximately £12.00). There are always lots of taxis waiting.

If you wish, you can book the following services:

Airport Transfer

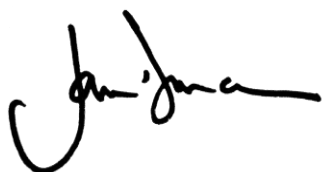
Heathrow - £220.00 Gatwick - £260.00

Our representative from Go Executive Travel meets you as you come through customs. He will have a sign with the ELC logo on it and some form of ID. He will take you by car to your accommodation in Bristol.

Bristol - £50.00

The simplest thing to do when you get to Bristol Airport is to take a taxi, which costs about £30.00. However, if you have booked a transfer and you are over 18 years old, go straight to the Arrow Cars Taxi office and give them your name. The Arrow Cars office is just outside the terminal building. If you have booked a transfer and you are under 18, you will be met by a driver from Go Executive Travel inside the airport building, as you exit customs. He will have a sign with the ELC logo on it and some form of ID. He will take you by car to your accommodation in Bristol.

Please contact your accommodation provider in advance to let them know when you expect to arrive in Bristol. This is very important, as they would like to be at home to meet you when you arrive! Please also remember to call if you are delayed.



John Duncan - Director



Margaret Duncan - Director