

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, check the latest [COVID guidelines](#). Currently you must complete the [COVID passenger locator form](#) on-line to show where you will be staying in Bristol. Put the address of your accommodation in Bristol and make sure you give your mobile telephone number and not the school phone number. You may also need to take a [COVID test](#) before leaving your country and 2 tests during your first 10 days in the UK.

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

- ▶ Your passport. EEA students coming from the EU, Switzerland, Iceland or Liechtenstein can use their National ID cards but only until 01 October 2021, after which date, they must show their passports.
- ▶ If you come from the EEA, you only need a visa if you plan to study for more than 6 months.
- ▶ 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 plan to get a Short-Term Study Visa on arrival, you must 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, most students go to the local shopping centre or to one of the many cafés located close by in Whiteladies Road.

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.

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 chemist's. 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 generally free but if you have to stay in hospital, 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 may have to pay for non-emergency medical treatment. If you are from the EEA (European Economic Area), you may not have to pay these charges if you have a valid EHIC (European Health Insurance card) or if you have a GHIC (Global Health Insurance card). However, the EHIC and GHIC cards may not cover all situations. ELC no longer arranges insurance, so 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.

Work

We do not encourage you to work as we feel our full-time courses will keep you busy. However, we realise that some students like to supplement their pocket money and also value the contact with local people. Only EEA students from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein or students on a Youth Mobility Scheme (tier 5 visa) may work. Joining the free ELC Job Club on Wednesday afternoons will assist you to find a job.

Email / Internet / Laptops / Phones

There are 14 student computers in Abon House and 20 in the Summer Centre. There is also WiFi in the school, in the homestays and in the residences. 4G is widely available in Bristol.

Free UK SIM cards are available from the office.

If possible, please bring your own laptop/ipad as teachers may prefer to send you documents and homework online.

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 7969 782 846 (save it on your phone).

Please remember this number is for emergencies only.

If it is not an emergency, please contact the school during office hours.

09.00 to 17.30 Monday to Thursday 09.00 to 17.00 Friday +44 117 970 7060

If, when taking part in the social programme, you need to contact the Activity Leader, call the Social Programme mobile: +44 7379 286 902 (save it on your phone).

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 online in advance. 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. They will have a sign with the ELC logo on it and some form of ID. They 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. They will have a sign with the ELC logo on it and some form of ID. They 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