

# Pre-Arrival Information

## 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 at your accommodation by 22.30. Arrivals after 22.30 will have to pay a late arrival fee of £20.00.

## Immigration

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

- Your passport.
- If you come from the EEA or the EU, you may 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 visa stamp 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 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 £80.00 a week if you are living with a homestay or £110.00 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 please go to 1 The Avenue, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3HG at 09.00. If you are using Google Maps, then please use the postcode (BS8 3HG) as there are two "1 The Avenues" in Clifton.

We will give you an orientation talk about Bristol and life in the school.

Remember on your first day to bring your passport (or national identity card), some cash for lunch 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 is open seven 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 about £10 per item.
- Dentist - The school can make an appointment for you, but everyone must pay for dental treatment, which can be expensive.

## Insurance

ELC does not arrange 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

Only students from certain countries, here on a Youth Mobility Scheme (Tier 5 Visa), may work. Joining the free ELC Job Club on Wednesday afternoons will help you to find a job.

## Email / Internet / Laptops / Phones

- There are student computers available for use in the school building.
- 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.

## Emergencies

Emergency Telephone (24 Hours): +44 7969782846 (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 1179707060**

If, when taking part in the social programme, you need to contact the Activity Leader, call the Social Programme mobile: +44 7379286902 (please save this number).

## 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 traveling 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](http://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

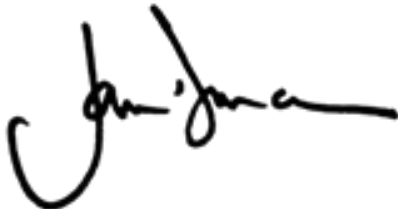
### Heathrow and Gatwick

If you have booked a transfer, our representative from Go Executive Travel will meet 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

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