

2012 ARRIVAL INFORMATION



When to arrive

If at all possible, you should arrive on a Sunday and leave on a Saturday. This allows families time to clear the room before their next guest arrives. Please try to arrive in your accommodation by 22.30. Arrivals after 22.30 will incur a late arrival supplement of £20.00

Immigration

When you arrive in England you may have to show:

- The ELC Bristol Certificate of Registration.
- 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.
- 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 wish to get a Student Visitor Visa on arrival, you must **tell the immigration officer on arrival** that you plan to study and you must show the papers from the school. If at the airport, you are just given a tourist visitor visa, you will not be able to study.

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. There is a bus timetable at the back of this document. If you arrive at Bristol Airport, the simplest thing is to take a taxi which costs around £25.00. When you come out of customs, walk straight ahead and go outside the terminal building. Turn immediately left and follow the walk-way for about 30 metres. The Checker Cars Taxi office is located on your left.

What to bring

In homestays bed linen and towels are provided, but you should bring your own toiletries, alarm clock and an adapter plug if you have any electrical appliances, (shaver, hairdryer etc). In residential 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 normal average temperature range is from around 6C in winter to 22C in summer. Occasionally in winter it snows and the temperature can drop to around 0C and sometimes in summer, if we are lucky, it might reach 30C!

Pocket Money

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

Lunch

During the break time (11.00-11.30), a sandwich van comes to the school and sells sandwiches, drinks and snacks. 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 Clifton College dining room where the cost of a 2 course meal is around £5.00.

First day at School

When we send you your accommodation information, we also send you a map showing you how to get to the school. On the first day of your course, you should go to **Abon House** (25 St John's Road, BS8 2HD) at around 9.00 am, except in July and August when you should go directly to the **Coulson Centre** (36 College Road, BS8 3JJ). In the morning we test you so that we can place you in a class at the correct level and we give you an orientation talk about Bristol and life in the school. In the afternoon we take you on a walking tour of the city, stopping on the way for lunch in one of the local cafés. You will get back to the school about 4.00 pm. 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 local doctor (Monday to Friday). EU students can be seen free of charge. Patients from outside the EU may be charged £37.50 for a consultation.
- 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 £7.40 per item.
- Dentist The school can make an appointment for you but everyone has to pay for dental treatment which can be expensive.

Insurance

We strongly suggest that you take out insurance before you leave your country so you are covered for your journey, as well as for loss and damage to property and for medical expenses. If for any reason you have to return home early, the school will refund your accommodation fees in full provided you give **2 full weeks'** notice if you are in homestay accommodation or **4 full weeks'** notice if you are in self-catering accommodation. However, we will not be able to refund any tuition fees whatever the circumstances, so, we strongly recommend that you have insurance to cover cancellation and loss of fees if you have to stop your course early.

Work

We do not encourage you to work as we feel that our full-time 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. Students can either do voluntary work or work on a casual basis. Students from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein may work without a permit. Other students can work part-time (maximum 10 hours per week) provided they have a General Student Visa (not a Student Visitor Visa).

Telephone

We like you to have a mobile phone so that if it is necessary, we can always contact you. The cost of a standard mobile phone is around £25.00. We suggest you arrange a 'pay as you talk' contract and just buy credit when you need it. If you already have a phone which works in the UK you may just need to buy a SIM card. A SIM card may cost up to £5.00. Sometimes they are free, it depends on which provider you use. There are many mobile phone shops near the school and when you get here, we will advise you which one to go to so you can find the most suitable contract for you.

email/internet

There are 14 student computers in both Pembroke and Abon House and a further 20 computers in the Coulson Summer Centre (July and August) so students can send and receive emails free of charge using their own email accounts. There is also free Wi-Fi access within Pembroke and Abon House so students can bring their own laptops and connect to the internet provided they have a Wi-Fi enabled laptop.

Examination fees

You will need to pay these when you are here as they are not included in your course fee.

Money/Cash

It is not advisable to carry large amounts of cash around with you or to leave it at your accommodation. The best thing to bring is a credit or debit card or travellers cheques - these should be Pound Sterling travellers cheques as these can be changed easily. 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 obtain cash with these cards from most banks. American Express is not so widely accepted. The school accepts Visa and Mastercard payments, but if you pay by credit card, you must add **2.5%** to the amount to cover the charges. There is no extra charge if you pay the school with a UK debit card (Maestro or Cirrus).

Emergencies

Emergency Telephone (24 Hours): **(0)774 7021261**

Emergency Telephone (Airport transfer and arrival difficulties): **(0)779 1702110**

Emergency Telephone (Self-catering accommodation problems): **(0)786 7526436**

Please remember these numbers are for emergencies only. It is better to contact the school during office hours (9.00 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday).

We look forward to meeting you soon.



John Duncan

How to Get here

If you fly to either Heathrow or Gatwick, an easy and certainly the cheapest way to get to Bristol is by bus.

Cost:

Heathrow: **£53.50** return ticket

Gatwick: **£62.00** return ticket



We suggest you buy your ticket in advance, online. The National Express website is: www.nationalexpress.com/airport. 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.

Flight Link 200/201 - Gatwick - Heathrow – Bristol

Gatwick	05.45	07.30*	09.45	11.45	13.45	15.45	17.45	19.45
Heathrow (Terminal 5)	06.45	08.45	10.45	12.45	14.45	16.45	18.45	21.00
Heathrow (Central Bus Station)	07.05	09.05	11.05	13.05	15.05	17.05	19.05	21.20
Bristol	09.05	11.05	13.05	15.05	17.05	19.05	21.05	23.20

* Leaves Gatwick 15 minutes later on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Please note the timetable changes from time to time so it's important to check times and prices at www.nationalexpress.com/airport

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

If you wish, you can book the following services:

Transfer: £185.00 - Heathrow £220.00 - Gatwick

Our representative meets you as you come through customs. He will have a sign with the ELC logo on it and also the name V Cars. He will take you by car to your accommodation in Bristol.

£35.00 - Bristol International Airport *

* The simplest thing to do when you get to Bristol Airport is to take a taxi which costs about £25.00. However if you have booked a transfer, go straight to the **Checker Cars Taxi** office and give them your name. The Checker Cars office is on your left just outside the terminal building.

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.