

ASA

Location-Specific

GUIDE:

London South Bank Univ.

For parents and students

In this guide:

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Please read our ASA Guide to Study Abroad for information about:

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Student Visa

All students must have a passport that does not expire for at least 3 months after their proposed return date from the UK.

U.S. citizens studying in the UK for an academic year must obtain a Student Visa (Entry Clearance) from the British Consulate BEFORE departure. ASA provides all academic year students with information on how to obtain Entry Clearance. **If you are going to the UK for an academic year, you must have your valid passport in hand no later than 60 days before departure, since you must apply for Entry Clearance 60 days prior to departure, in order to allow time for processing.**

◆ **Please read the document “Student Visa/Entry Clearance - UK” for full details on the Student Visa (for academic year students).**

U.S. citizens studying in the UK for a semester (under 6 months) will get a Student Visitor Visa issued to them upon arrival at Heathrow airport. **If you are going over for a semester but are considering staying for an additional semester, then you must apply for Student Visa (Entry Clearance) from the British Consulate 60 days before departure.**

Students who opt for the **Student Visitor Visa** must present the following documents when they pass through Passport Control/Immigration (*pack these in your carry-on*):

- Valid U.S. passport that does not expire for at least 3 months after your proposed return date from the UK. Check your passport’s expiration date to be sure.
- Your “Formal Letter of Acceptance” from London South Bank University and Student Visitor Visa letter from ASA. (These are sent to each student by ASA.)
- Proof of funding for the stay in the UK - **min. \$200 per week of your stay.** This amount should be shown in a bank statement (either yours or your parents) or travelers checks. The purpose is to show you have enough money to live on while you’re in the UK.
- Proof of a round trip plane ticket

◆ **Please read the document “Student Visitor Visa - UK” for full details on the Student Visitor Visa (for semester/summer students).**

Helpful Local Information

ASA students in London will have a Site Director to assist them during their stay.

Emily Nunes

email: emily@academic-solutions.com

cell phone: 011-44-783-798-8593 (*dial from the U.S.*) / 0-783-798-8593 (*dial in the UK*)

Host Institution & Housing

ASA students in London will attend:

London South Bank University
103 Borough Road
London, SE1 0AA, UK
<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk>

Location

The London South Bank campus is situated just south of the River Thames in the London Borough of Southwark. The University’s main buildings sit within a triangle bordered by three major London roads – Borough Road to the north, Southwark Bridge Road to the east and London Road to the west. Within 20 minutes walk of the campus are some of London’s most famous tourist attractions.

Where will the students be living?

All ASA students live in David Bomberg House, which comprises 289 single rooms, each with their own bathroom. The rooms are divided into suites of 7 or 8 rooms, which all share a common kitchen. All rooms have phones and data connections and there is 24 hour security.

Will I have a roommate?

No, all rooms are singles. However, you will have 6 or 7 other students in your suite.

What are the dorm rooms like?

They are small, as you would expect a single room to be, but are no different than American style single rooms.

Where can students do their laundry?

Students will have 24-hour access to the coin-operated laundry machines on campus.

◆ **You may not move in early to your program housing or stay after the program ends. Students who choose to arrive early or stay late must make their own lodging arrangements for any extra days.**

Medical Care

What happens if I get sick while I'm in London?

Our students' health and safety is always our number-one priority. Modern medical facilities and medications are widely available in the UK. There are several pharmacies a short walk from campus, where you can ask the pharmacist to recommend medication. There are also several medical clinics very close to campus which our students may use for medical care. A complete list of medical facilities will be given to each student upon arrival at LSBU.

Cell Phones

◆ **If a student can't be reached on their cell phone, you may call the David Bomberg House reception desk at 011 44 870 036 4805**

What is the time difference between England and where I live?

The following times are the number of hours BEHIND England each region is:

Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
8 hours	7 hours	6 hours	5 hours

So, if it is 6pm in England, then it is 1 pm Eastern, 12pm Central, and 10am Pacific.

Dialing Instructions for the UK

011-INTERNATIONAL CODE 44-COUNTRY CODE FOR ENGLAND + PHONE NUMBER**

**Drop the zero at the beginning of the local number when calling the UK from the U.S.

For example, if your phone number is (+44) (0) 123-456-7891, you would dial 0123-456-7891 if you're in the UK; and you would dial 011-44-123-456-7891 if you're calling from the U.S.

For more information on calling abroad, go to <http://www.howtocallabroad.com/>

How do the cell phones work?

Each student receives a cell phone from Piccell Wireless. ASA provides the phone, while students are responsible for the cost of all calls. Students will receive email instructions from ASA on how to order the phone about a month prior to departure. (*Please do not order your phone until you receive instructions from ASA.*) Students will get their cell phone number when the phone arrives in the mail. The rates for calls and text messages can be found at <https://www.piccellwireless.com/latest/ratesandinfo.php> (click on the UK). Piccell offers fairly reasonable call rates to the U.S. Piccell will bill the student's credit card monthly for their phone calls, text messages, etc

INCOMING CALLS TO THE INTERNATIONAL (UK) PHONE NUMBER ARE **FREE**. INCOMING CALLS TO THE U.S. VIRTUAL NUMBER ARE **NOT** FREE. Piccell assigns each student an international (UK) phone number and a U.S. Virtual Number (USVN for short). Be sure to call their international number, since students are charged for calls receive on their USVN. As long as you dial their international number and they are in the UK at the time, the student will **NOT** be charged for the call.

The U.S. Virtual Number is basically a way for someone in the U.S. to call the student “collect.” The USVN is a U.S. phone number that connects you to the student’s phone abroad. The caller pays only for the local or long distance call. However, while it’s cheaper for the caller, the student is charged for the incoming call at the rate given by Piccell. Check the link above for current rates. The USVN is automatically assigned, but students aren’t obligated to use it. If you don’t use the USVN for 45 days, it is automatically deactivated.

ROAMING CHARGES: When you’re outside your home service area of the UK, all phone usage, including calls/text messages received or placed, is considered ROAMING and is therefore, subject to high roaming charges.

To avoid roaming charges, students should NOT use their UK cell phone outside of the UK. Students can order a SIM card online from Piccell for any country they’re going to travel to, in which case you would just swap out your SIM card.

What is the best way to call to/from the UK?

Many students use **SKYPE** which gives you **free international calls** over the Internet. For details, go to www.skype.com.

You can also contact your long distance provider about their international calling plan. Or, use an international pre-paid calling card. To use an international pre-paid calling card, you dial the access number, enter your PIN number/calling card number, then enter the number you want to call.

Try www.tel3advantage.com for international pre-paid calling cards for calling U.S. – abroad.

Try www.enjoyprepaid.com for international pre-paid calling cards that parents or students can use to call each other, anywhere in the world.

TIPS ON CHOOSING A GOOD CALLING CARD:

- Make sure the rate you’re looking at is for a mobile phone and not a landline. Usually the rate to call a mobile phone abroad is higher than the rate to call a landline.
- Check to see if the card has a connection fee or disconnection fee.
- Some cards charge a small weekly or monthly MAINTENANCE FEE that is deducted from your balance.
- Watch out for MINUTE ROUNDING. For example, if your card has 3-minute rounding and you make a 1-minute call, you will actually be charged for 3 minutes of talk time; if you make a 5-minute call, you will actually be charged for 6 minutes of talk time; if you make a 7-minute call, you will be charged for 9 minutes of talk time. So, 1-minute rounding is much more desirable than 5-minute rounding.
- Most cards will give you a toll-free OR local access number to use. Try to use their LOCAL ACCESS NUMBER, if possible, because some cards charge a per-minute or flat fee for using their toll-free access number.
- Normally, the fewer “fees” a card has, the higher the per-minute rate. Conversely, the more “fees” a card has, the lower the per-minute rate. If a card seems “too good to be true,” with no fees AND a super low rate...then it probably is! Therefore, it’s important to READ ALL OF THE FINE PRINT before purchasing any phone card, and don’t be afraid to call the company to ask questions before purchasing anything.
- Don’t forget that you may have to pay for the call you make to the access number. If you call the access number from your cell phone, that call uses your minutes (or in the case of students abroad, Piccell will bill you for the call to the access number).

Mail, Computers, Internet

Will students have Internet/email access while in London?

Yes. LSBU has Internet in all dorm rooms and wireless hotspots all over campus, so **bring your laptop!** There are also several free computer labs on campus, as well as numerous Internet cafés around London that students can use for a reasonable price.

What kind of adaptor do students need in order to use their laptop in London?

In the UK, the power supply is 220 volts/50 cycles, while in the U.S. it is 120 volts/60 cycles. Most laptops have a power supply that supports both 110 and 220 volts and 60 and 50 cycles (dual voltage). If your computer meets these requirements, you will only need to buy a plug adaptor so that the U.S. plug will fit into the UK wall socket. Voltage adaptors and converters can be purchased at most hardware stores or places like Target, Wal-Mart, etc.

Can students receive mail at LSBU?

Yes. However,

- We do NOT recommend mailing packages to the UK unless it is absolutely necessary.
- All mail/packages must arrive AFTER the student has moved in.

What is the best way to ship packages/send mail to London?

In general, it is problematic to receive packages in the UK— the recipient is usually charged a customs tax to receive the package. Therefore, it is not advisable to mail anything— especially not items such as clothing, gifts, etc. that are of a non-urgent nature. The customs tax can be anywhere from £5 (approx. \$10) to £200 (approx. \$400), depending on the package's declared value and contents. It is difficult to predict what the tax will be when sending a package. If you declare a value, it is not uncommon to pay fees as high as US\$60-\$150 to pick up the package! Remember that all insured packages require a declared value.

If you do choose to send something, the following information will assist you. On the customs form, you should mark your items as “used” whenever possible (i.e. “used books” or “used clothing”), or “FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY – NO COMMERCIAL VALUE,” as packages containing new items will be taxed exorbitantly. You will also have to declare a value on the customs form. The higher the declared value, the higher the tax will be on the receiving end. Declaring a value of less than £10/\$10 may help to keep the customs tax to a minimum.

For sending packages, we recommend FedEx, UPS, or DHL because they will give you a tracking number. Although FedEx, DHL, and UPS are not the cheapest ways to mail items abroad, they are the fastest and most secure. You may contact any of these companies for a price quote and estimated transit time by giving them the weight, dimensions and destination of your package. For sending mail (letters, cards, papers, photographs, etc.), we recommend the U.S. Postal Service. *Here is the address to use:*

STUDENT'S NAME
David Bomberg House
282-302 Borough High Street
London SE1 1JJ
U.K.

◆ OVERNIGHT MAIL

“Overnight” from the U.S. does NOT mean overnight to the UK! If someone in the U.S. sends an overnight document to the UK, it will arrive in the UK AFTER 2 DAYS OR MORE. For urgent documents, ATM cards, etc., use a reliable service such as FedEx or UPS. While the express or overnight USPS Global Priority service is reliable, it will actually take several EXTRA days to reach its destination because when the item enters the UK it is placed directly into the British postal system, which delays its delivery.

Example: If a FedEx letter classified as “overnight” leaves the U.S. on a Monday morning, the student will likely receive the item at the *earliest* on Wednesday or Thursday of the same week. Other couriers (UPS, USPS) may take longer.