

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY & EXCHANGES



FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE IN LONDON!



? WHY FYE IN LONDON?

- Get started on your Skidmore degree
- Enjoy the historical and cultural riches of London under the guidance of two veteran Skidmore faculty members
- Acquire an international perspective early in your college career
- Gain maturity and independence
- Make lifelong friends



FYE LONDON

This coming fall, 36 students from Skidmore's Class of 2018 will have the opportunity to spend their first semester of college in London, one of the world's great cities. In addition to exposing students to the historical and cultural riches of England's capital, the First-Year Experience in London serves as a foundation for students' four years at Skidmore; enables students to earn credit toward their Skidmore degrees; introduces students to Skidmore's academic rigor; and builds strong connections and friendships among the participants, including the two faculty directors. This program is in its fourteenth year.

LONDON: THE CITY

The River Thames meandering through the city center; the trendy West End with Soho, Piccadilly Circus, and Trafalgar Square; the cultural melting pot of the East End; and the world-famous theater all combine to form today's London. Students can explore artistic treasures at the National and Tate galleries, visit the resting place of the royals at Westminster Abbey, watch the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, or pick through antiques at Portobello Market. It's easy to see why London attracts visitors from around the world. It's also easy to see why so many students find this to be a fantastic study abroad destination.



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Students will study under the guidance of two Skidmore faculty directors who will oversee the academic program, serve as advisors and mentors, and organize a variety of group cultural excursions and activities. The directors, Mark Hofmann, professor of mathematics, and Katie Hauser, associate professor of art history, will each teach a required Scribner Seminar—"Where are We?" and "Looking at London, Looking at Contemporary Art," respectively. These courses have been designed for the program and take full advantage of London's resources. Skidmore's Scribner Seminars are academically rigorous, foundational courses that introduce first-year students to the College's intellectual expectations and learning approaches. Students will take four additional classes at the London Center of the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES Abroad), including a 1-credit course called "Understanding Britain" required of all students. All courses are Skidmore courses; grades will appear on the Skidmore transcript and will count toward the Skidmore GPA. These courses count toward core-curriculum requirements. At the conclusion of the program, students will join their classmates in Saratoga Springs for their second semester.

IES AND SKIDMORE

Founded in 1950, IES Abroad is a global, nonprofit, study abroad organization with more than 100 academic programs in 36 cities worldwide. As a consortium of more than 200 selective U.S. universities and colleges, IES annually enrolls more than 5,700 students in its study abroad programs. IES is a leader in the field due to its dedication to academic rigor, health and safety, and the range of opportunities it provides students. Skidmore administrators and faculty have worked closely with IES since 1981.



SCRIBNER SEMINARS

Where are We?

Mark Hofmann, Professor of Mathematics

How did Columbus run into North America when he was trying to establish a route to India? How could pirates accurately predict where merchant ships would be when the merchant ships themselves found it difficult to determine their own position? Why did some believe that the yelps of wounded dogs might help to establish a ship's position at sea? In examining these questions, students will explore the science that is involved in determining longitude and latitude, in determining time, and also the nature of time itself. In learning the story of British clockmaker John Harrison, who won the "Longitude Prize" in eighteenth-century Britain, students will use London and Greenwich's resources to consider the social, political, and economic consequences of accurate navigation and mapmaking in the context of British and European history. Students will also explore the science of determining time and place in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Looking at London, Looking at Contemporary Art

Katie Hauser, Associate Professor of Art History

London is known for its exciting art scene: A thriving art market and dynamic museums and alternative art spaces create a rich environment for creating and viewing art. In this seminar you will experience London through the eyes of its contemporary artists. Looking at contemporary art gives us the opportunity to learn about the artists who make it, the ideas behind it, how it gets bought and sold, and above all how it represents and shapes the singular city, London. Therefore, you will get a taste of Victorian England; a glimpse into colonial Britain; an understanding of the finances involved in dealing and collecting contemporary art; and an awareness of the diverse city of London. This course involves studying the fascinating history of England and London, learning about the financial shenanigans of the art market, and experiencing, in person, some of the best contemporary art in the world.

SKIDMORE FACULTY DIRECTORS

Two Skidmore faculty members will accompany the students and serve as on-site directors in London. They will be responsible for teaching Scribner Seminars and advising and mentoring students.

Mark Hofmann, professor of mathematics, has taught a variety of math courses in his 28-year tenure at Skidmore. Interested in making math and science accessible and relevant to students, he has also taught a course examining connections between mathematics and art and in Skidmore's Apocalypse Project: Death from the Skies. Past chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Hofmann has served as associate dean of faculty and as the director of the Student/Faculty Summer Research Program.



Katie Hauser, associate professor of art history, graduated from the University of California at Davis and received her MA and PhD in art history from the University of California at Los Angeles; she is chair of the Art History Department at Skidmore. Winner of the college's Ralph A. Ciancio teaching award, Hauser teaches courses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century art and design, including a history of photography, as well as gender studies. Hauser's field of scholarship is twentieth-century representational art, an area in which she has lectured widely and had essays published in journals such as *The Woman's Art Journal* and *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*.



IES COURSE ELECTIVES

In addition to the Scribner Seminar, participants choose four courses from among the following offerings. All students are required to take the 1-credit British culture seminar called “Understanding Britain.”

JLID 151, Understanding Britain

Covers the development of the United Kingdom and its political system, the media, the welfare state, and Britain’s ethnic composition, especially in London. Class discussions supplemented by London field visits. (1 credit, required of all students)

JLSO 251, The Ethnic Tapestry of Contemporary British Culture

Analyzes how British national identity has been constructed and experienced over the last century, and what it means to be British in one of the world’s most diverse countries. Topics include the role of empire; economic, political, and social change since WWII; ethnic minority populations in London; and immigration and race relations. (4 credits, Social Science and Cultural Diversity requirements)

JLGO 201, Globalization Studies

Begins with theoretical approaches to globalization, then covers economic, political, cultural, and sociological factors related to “the shrinking world” and their impact on governments, corporations, and societies. (4 credits, Social Science requirement)

JLHI 217C, History of London: From the Tudors to the Blitz

Covers the social, political, economic, and environmental influences that shaped London’s development between the medieval era and 1945. London’s economy, social structure, and government will also be examined. (4 credits, Social Science requirement)

JLEN 229, Literature and Place

Focuses on literature inspired by London and a sense of place. In addition to novels by Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle, students will be introduced to a wide range of literature from many periods and writers. The class will also visit the places throughout London that inspired these stories. (4 credits, Humanities requirement)

JLTH 103, Theatre in London: An Introduction

Centered on visits to theater productions, smaller fringe venues and theater companies, allowing students to see new, innovative work and classic revivals. Lectures will provide a historical and cultural background and the artistic, financial, and professional structures that shape British theater. (4 credits, Humanities requirement)

JLAH 251, British Art and Architecture: 1780–1914

Explores the evolution of painting and architecture in England during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Will focus on the works of individual artists and architects as well as artistic movements, artistic theories, and social and historical influences. Students will visit London galleries and buildings of architectural importance. (4 credits, Humanities requirement)





THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE IN LONDON

Fall 2014 Schedule

Aug. 18–20	Orientation activities at Skidmore
Aug. 21	Students arrive in London
Aug. 22–25	Orientation in London
Aug. 26	Start of the academic program/classes
Oct. 6–10	Mid-term exams
Oct. 11–19	Mid-term break (no Skidmore classes)
Oct. 20–Nov. 28	Second teaching period
Dec. 1–5	Final exams (no Skidmore classes)
Dec. 6	Departure

ON SITE

The IES London Center

London students will have full access to both the IES London Center and the NIDO King's Cross residence hall. The Center, centrally located in Bloomsbury and within close proximity to the West End theater district, offers classroom space, wireless Internet access, a small library, and a student lounge. Students will also have access to the Senate House Library at the University of London. The Center also has meeting space for Skidmore faculty directors to hold office hours and individual appointments with students.

Housing and Meals

Students will live in the safe and modern NIDO King's Cross residence hall located on the edge of the academic district of Bloomsbury in central London with Skidmore, IES, and students from around the world. Located within Central London (Zone 1), the residence hall is a 20- to 35-minute walk or a short 5- to 10-minute Tube or bus ride to the IES Abroad Center for classes. Two students will share a double room with an en-suite bathroom and have access to a shared kitchen equipped with basic cooking equipment. Common lounges, study rooms, and laundry facilities are available throughout the building on various floors. There is also a fitness center available to all residents. All rooms include Internet access, and there is wireless Internet in many of the common areas of the building.

Since students have access to kitchen facilities and can cook for themselves, there is no dining hall service in the residence hall, but there is a small café there. Students will be provided with a stipend to cover most meals and a transportation pass. Grocery stores, cafés, and restaurants are within walking distance of the residence hall. (Please note that the living stipend is meant to cover most meals and public transportation. However, students should budget some personal funds to cover dining out, taxis, cell phone, books, etc.)

The residence hall has 24-hour security with an electronic key-card entry system. Guests must be signed in and out and are expected to vacate the premises by midnight. These security measures help ensure that students are safe within their living environment.

Support

Between the IES Abroad London staff at the Center and the residence hall security, students will have the support of student services personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is a residence management team in place as well as a residence life staff on call 24/7 to assist and to help organize events to allow students to get to know others in the building. There is also a Skidmore program assistant dedicated to Skidmore students. In addition, the two Skidmore faculty members accompanying the program will serve as the students' advisors. The IES staff, program assistant, and faculty directors plan numerous activities, some linked to coursework, others primarily social gatherings, for the students.

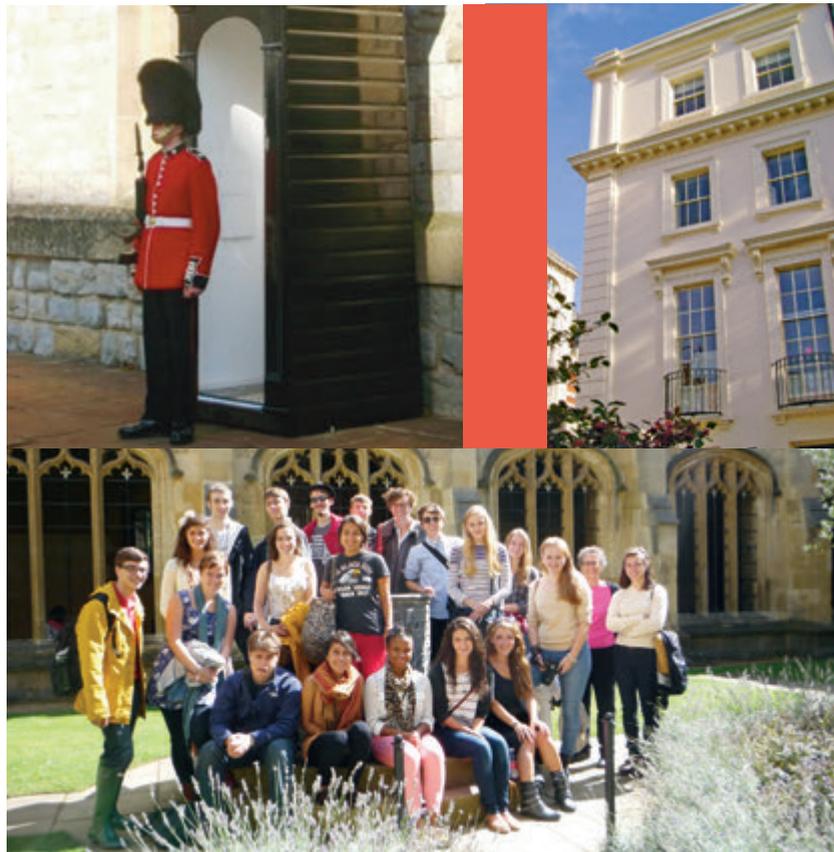
Keeping Healthy

Because student health is very important, Skidmore and IES provide basic international health insurance coverage. If a student has a medical issue during the semester abroad, the IES staff and Skidmore directors will help facilitate medical referrals.

Orientation and Cultural Activities

Prior to leaving for London, students will gather on the Skidmore campus in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., for a two-day, pre-departure orientation that includes welcoming remarks from the director of the First-Year Experience, the dean of admissions and financial aid, and Skidmore's president, as well as activities and sessions preparing students for their semester in London that draw on the resources of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges, IES staff from London, and former FYE London students. The orientation continues in London and

includes a one-day trip to Oxford. The faculty directors will organize additional cultural and social events throughout the semester, some supplementing the Scribner Seminars, others focused on getting to know London. In addition, each IES course will include four or five field trips that will enhance in-class work.



"The London First-Year Experience opened my eyes to how big the world really is and gave me an even greater desire to learn about different cultures and to explore the world further."

— Karen Donovan '12



"I loved learning things in class and then going to see them and applying what we learned in the classroom to real life."

— Sophie Dodd '16

"Every trip we took had some connection to a course. Attending the ballet at the Royal Opera House, for example, was an enriching experience that related to our art and architecture and theater courses."

— Tom Chandler '16



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE OR CONTACT US:

Off-Campus Study & Exchanges
Skidmore College
815 North Broadway—Starbuck Center 202
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Tel: 518-580-5355
Fax: 518-580-5359
ocse@skidmore.edu
www.skidmore.edu/ocse

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