

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: WINTER IN LONDON: SOCIOLOGY OF FOOD

I am not a sociology major. Will the London Sociology of Food program work for me?

Of course it will! If you are mature, open minded, and eager to learn about London and the Sociology of Food, you will learn a TON of things that will surprise you.

Are there any ways to customize the program?

Not really. The only course on offer is SOC 358: Sociology of Food, and all students are required to stay at the same place—Stay Club in Camden.

Do I really have to share housing with other UB students, even if I have alternatives?

Yes, regardless of your circumstances (aunt lives in London, want to live in a tent), the cost of shared London student housing is part of the package price for the program and we all live together. If you want to stay elsewhere, or don't want to be fully immersed in the academic part of the program, then your better choice would be to go to London as a tourist.

So...what if I don't need 3 credit hours of sociology?

Well, Professor Street thinks it is always a good thing to learn more sociology! If you are not a sociology major, the 3 hours could count as electives—double check with your academic advisor. The course meets the SUNY general education requirements in the social sciences.

If I submit my application by the October deadline, am I automatically accepted?

No, not automatically, this is a selective program with a limited number of spaces. In all likelihood, the program will fill and students who apply late and are accepted will be placed on a wait list. Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are completed, and for eligible students places will be awarded on a first come/first served basis. Eligible students must be mature enough to handle living with strangers in a foreign city, serious about their intellectual goals, capable of dependably handling the logistics of being away from home, performing well in their course, tolerant, and confidently fluent in English so that there are no unexpected problems negotiating either course work or living arrangements.

What about the recommendation?

There is an automatically generated form to be filled out by your recommender via email from the online application. Be sure to check with your recommender **before** you put their name in the online application— professors don't really like it when students assume they will provide recommendations without first being asked.

Will it be cold in London in January?

Yes.

****Do not make travel arrangements until after program admission and deposits are settled.

****Do continue on to read the next page if you are an international student.

ADDITIONAL FAQ FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
APPLYING TO THE LONDON WINTER PROGRAM

Can international students apply?**

Of course! The more diversity in the study abroad program, the better. Complete ALL of the application materials online. You are UB students. Consequently, you pay exactly the same program fees (health insurance, housing deposit, etc.) as any other UB student, regardless of “home” campus or your own citizenship.

Get advice, both academic advice and immigration-related advice.

All UB international students must seek academic advice from their academic advisors and should check in with the Undergraduate Coordinator in their major Department before applying to the London program. If you hold US, Canadian, or Singaporean passports, you can visit the UK for a short 3 week study trip without obtaining a visa. However, if you are not a citizen of those three countries, you may need a visa to visit the UK for even three weeks.

Carefully check UK visa requirements that might pertain to you,

No one at UB has the authority to make decisions about immigration matters that pertain to unique individuals; such decisions are your personal responsibility and subject to the laws of your country of citizenship, the US (if that is where you study), Singapore (if that is where you study) and the immigration laws of the United Kingdom as enforced by the UK Border Agency. Neither Professor Street nor the UB Study Abroad office staff have expertise in the intricacies of the combined UK, US, and/or Singaporean visa systems for international students. International students are responsible for arranging UK visas themselves.

*******Note this very carefully*******Individual international students must ensure that their US or Singapore student visa status is not compromised if they study in London and then need to return to the United States or Singapore to complete their undergraduate degrees. There has never been a problem in the past when international students from either Buffalo or Singapore have joined the London winter session, because the students involved followed advice, acted in a timely way, and made certain that their visa statuses were protected. It would be horrible to study Sociology of Food in London, only to find that your student visa status had lapsed and you could not return to the US or Singapore to complete your degree. Don't take chances, get expert advice from your consulate or embassy about travel to the UK, and also from the US or Singaporean governments about returning in your student status from the UK study abroad experience.

****International students are students who study in Buffalo but who do not hold US passports, or UB students who study in Singapore but who do not hold Singaporean passports.**