



Photograph by  
Brian Lehmann,  
SU London Alum

## be a savvy traveller

### Getting involved

The vast majority of students who study at SU London cite it as one of the highlights of their college careers. However, when asked what they might have done differently if given the chance, the insights they share reflect a few recurring themes. The main regret commonly expressed by students is their wish to have been more fully immersed in British culture. The second regret is that they would have liked to connect more fully with fellow students and faculty. You can only do that if you are here. Flying off to various European destinations is great, but perhaps try to fit some weekends in London in too.

While London definitely has something for everyone, it can be easy to miss out on some of its hidden treasures, especially if you don't know where to look. You need to get involved with some of the extra-curricular events during the

course of the semester like the Love London weekend, the Faraday Features, the Encompass program, HOST, Hillel, ULU or the London volunteers list. We give you opportunities to venture beyond the well-worn tourist/student trail and see London and the world through the eyes of Londoners.

### Out and About

After getting settled in London you'll want to start getting out and about. Whenever you leave the country make sure you always carry, along with your passport, the immigration letter issued to you by SU. You need to have it to hand each time you go through UK Border Control.

You will also need to tell us your travel plans by filling in the Travel Form in case we need to contact you in an emergency, available on our

homepage at: <http://sulondon.syr.edu>. Let us know BEFORE you go! If you suffer delays or cancellations in your travel plans and you're late back as a result, you'll be excused from any class you miss **if you've filled in the travel form**. If you haven't, you're on your own.

Field study trips greatly enrich your study abroad experience. They are the link between your daily life and coursework at SU London to the history and culture of London, the UK and Europe. At SU London we offer two types of school sponsored travel: All School Field Trips, and mandatory or optional Course Related Field Trips.

You'll find out about what is on offer over email, the website, the SU London blog and through field trip flyers and promotions.

## All School Field Trips

All School Field Trips are open to all students. They are designed to give you a wider perspective than you would gain travelling on your own and you've got your classmates to share the experience. All School Field Trips are not related to any specific course and they tend to take place on Friday or on a weekend day.

The sign-up procedure is straightforward. One day field trips have no charge but you still need to sign up. Go see Charine John in SR 109 and make a £10 returnable deposit by the deadline. This is to secure your place only and the £10 will be given back to you when you leave on the trip; however, if you don't show up you will lose the £10.

Weekend or overnight trips have a fee attached. Unless otherwise stated, this fee is inclusive of accommodation, transport and entrance fees to attractions stated on the itinerary.

In addition to these trips, there are also a series of guided walks around London based on the history of London and its impact on contemporary culture. These are called the Jill Curran Walks. They are led by a professional guide and cover such topics as Dickens' London, Jack the Ripper, Borough Market and many other London attractions. If you want to book your place or find out anything else about the School sponsored trips just pop along to SR 109 and speak to Charine.

## Course Related Mandatory Field Trips

Course Related Mandatory Field Trips are trips required for certain courses. They are announced in the course syllabi and clearly marked as mandatory in your field trip schedule. If you are registered for the course you must go on the trip.

Check your course schedule carefully to make sure that you do not have conflicting mandatory field trips. While we make every effort to schedule these required trips where they don't conflict, sometimes this is not possible. In case of conflicts

with other field trips scheduled for the same day or weekend, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try our best to find a solution when reasonably possible; however, be aware that you may have to drop one of the courses. Course related travel also encompasses class visits.

Several courses will take you around London. For example drama courses involve seeing several performances, International Communications will take a BBC tour, and Intro to Photography students do a photo outing to the South Bank, just to name a few. These are all part of your course and will be introduced to you by your professor, in addition to being clearly marked on the syllabus. If you are enrolled in a course with class visits you are expected to participate in every event; they are not optional extras.

These field trips are normally only available for the students taking the courses; however, occasionally a few spaces may become available and students who are interested in the subjects studied will be able to join. If spaces become available, they will be advertised to all students and will be assigned on a first come first served policy.

Be sure that you make a note of the dates of the field trips in your diary and don't make any other arrangements which conflict with them. Once enrolled in a course with a mandatory field trip, you'll be automatically charged on your bursar account. If you have any serious reason not to go on the field trip, you need to talk to your professor and agree on a different assignment to make up for the trip. You then need to see Michele Britton in SR 103 and fill out a petition form to avoid being charged the fee. You will still be charged for any expenditure that has already been incurred in order to secure your place. Please note that the same applies in case of sickness, where costs have already been incurred. Your medical insurance should cover this kind of incidents, however, and you should be able to claim your money back on your return to the States.

If SU London cancels a trip because we feel it is unsafe to go forward, we will absorb all non recoverable costs, and will make a full refund for you. However students dropping a course with a required trip, even within the add deadline, and before the financial deadline to drop, are liable for the unrecoverable costs. Conversely students adding such a course need to be aware of the required trip and accept responsibility for payment.

Do you want a friend who is not in the class to join the trip? This is sometimes possible if spaces are available and with the professor's permission. Before being allowed on the trip, though, they need to see Michele Britton in SR103 to fill out a liability form and a payment form. Please note that priority is strictly given to students in the class and students who cannot take part in the field trip cannot give their place to someone else.

There are also Course Related Optional Field Trips. These field trips are not mandatory, although they are designed to give a deeper understanding and insight into the topics of the courses to which they relate. Some of them are only for students taking the courses, but sometimes spaces may become available and then they will be advertised to all students.

Other field trips are open to all students but priority is still given to the students taking the courses. Most of these field trips have a limited enrollment number. And as these trips are optional, you will need to sign up to participate. The deadline to sign up will be announced during Orientation and/or the first day of class. You then need to see Michele Britton (SR103) and fill out a liability form and a credit card payment form. Please note that by signing a payment form, you commit to go on the field trip. Should you decide not to go on the field trip after having signed up, you are still liable for the unrecoverable costs.

Students participating in the field trip who are not in the class need to prove an interest for the subject studied in the related course and to agree to the itinerary proposed. If you have last minute problems you are still liable for the unrecoverable costs. Your medical insurance should cover the expense in case of sickness.

## General Travel Tips

### Time Difference

Most flight/train itineraries will show local departure and arrival times for each city. Check up on the time difference. Continental Europe is normally one hour ahead of UK time.

### Record keeping/copies

Keep a listing (kept separately from your cards) of your credit card numbers and their customer services call centres. In the case of lost or stolen cards, you can call to get them cancelled fast. Have photocopies of your passport which you keep in a separate place from your passport.

### Valuables

Leave extra credit cards and expensive jewelry at home, or anything that will create financial or emotional hardship if lost or stolen. For example, there's no reason you would ever need your Social Security Card whilst traveling in Europe or the UK.

### *Should I use my ATM card while travelling?*

Unlike the UK, most other European countries use the Euro so you will need to buy currency or use local ATMs when you're travelling.

Although your bank will levy a charge to use an ATM, the fee may well be less than if you use a

currency exchange office. Fees will vary so it's smart to shop around.

***Be sure to let your bank and Credit Card Company know of your travel plans.*** To prevent fraud, most card companies track 'unusual transactions' and if there's anything that they consider suspicious, they slam the brakes on and stop the card being accepted. Letting them know you're traveling should stop this happening, but if it does, call up the card company as soon as possible.

Don't wait until you're out of money to go to an ATM; the machines can run out of money or break down.

Be aware of your surroundings when using ATMs. Keep your safety and security in mind at all times. Use ATMs inside a bank whenever possible.

### Packing

Lightly does it! Can you manage with just your carry-on hand luggage? If so then go for it. Think of the advantages. If you are travelling on a budget airline, they will charge you extra to check in luggage. You can carry it yourself; you don't have to tip porters; you don't have to get to the airport as early as the loaded luggage traveller and, most importantly, you don't have to worry about your checked luggage ending up in another city (or even another continent).

And there is more. With one carry-on you don't have to worry about someone walking off with your checked luggage. You can zip immediately off the airplane to your destination, instead of waiting at the luggage carousel for your bag to come through. Also you will be able to catch the bus or train, instead of having to pay more to take a cab and having to pay extra for your luggage.

Here is a final note for the intrepid traveller. This is just a fraction of the information we hold about travelling – where to go and how to go there in style. Watch out for the Travel Seminar, held every semester around the first week of classes. This gives you all the information you need to get around like a seasoned pro this semester.

### And the last word

All the other information you may need can be found on our London Program website, <http://sulondon.syr.edu>. From field trip schedules, to daily announcements, to admin forms and current news, the website is the most up to date way of keeping track of what is going on at Faraday House.