

# Parents' Guide

TO STUDY ABROAD IN

# OXFORD, ENGLAND



# Study Abroad

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**W**e are excited about the wonderful opportunities that await your son or daughter during their Study Abroad experience. The experience is like the question the 5-year-old boy asked his father: “What is it like to be tall?” The boy was curious, but had no point of reference to truly understand what it is like to be tall. The father may have lifted the boy up to let him experience being “tall,” but this was only a brief experience.

Your son or daughter may not have had the experience of being away from the United States for a substantial period of time. While they may have traveled abroad, it is not the same as living in a foreign culture.

He or she may be asking, “What is it like to *live* in another culture?” They are going with the curiosity, expectation and excitement of living and studying in another country. There will be many opportunities for spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth. The student may feel some anxiety leaving many things that are familiar and going into a situation where things are different in many ways. Their points of reference, those things that are familiar to them, will change.

One point of reference that *does not change* throughout the world is Jesus Christ, and it is the hope and prayer of ACU Study Abroad that this truth will be realized in the students’ lives as they live abroad.

While your son or daughter is in another country, you may feel some anxiety of your own. Please know that this is natural. If you need to talk with someone about this issue, please contact the Study Abroad Office.

The ACU Study Abroad office wants the experience to be enjoyable and safe for all participants. All Study Abroad participants have been provided a copy of the Behavior Contract so they will be aware of our expectations. ACU Study Abroad is designed to benefit all students, and we hope that by having these guidelines, we are providing structure in an environment that is different from any the student has experienced.

Students attending the program are encouraged to engage the culture by interacting with people from the community, while traveling, and through studying about the history and culture of the host country. It is our pledge to assist your son or daughter in getting the most out of their experience in a productive and safe way that glorifies God.



[www.acu.edu/study-abroad](http://www.acu.edu/study-abroad)

“I heard God’s voice in so many things this semester. He spoke through my classes, friends, teachers, travels and nature. I learned that God is faithful when we feel alone and out of place. And I learned that God created us all and we are all different and beautiful in His sight, yet he has revealed himself to us through so many things that sometimes we simply need to see another angle before we can fully understand what is being revealed.”

“When I think about all of the things from England that I miss and everything that was different about it, I begin to see the differences in me. Somehow when I pictured the end of this semester I thought I would be the same person. I don’t know what I was thinking. I learned so much about myself and my desires in life; it will shape the way I think forever.”

“Although I learned a lot about my own independence in Oxford, I learned even more about my dependence on the Lord. I had no choice but to fully lean on Him this semester. He drew me closer, and closer, showing me daily how much I need Him in my life.”

## ACU'S OXFORD ON-SITE SUPERVISOR: Ronnie and Janine Morgan

Dr. Ronnie and Janine Morgan are excited to be a part of Abilene Christian University's Study Abroad program in Oxford and the opportunity to delve into England's rich historical and literary legacy, interact cross-culturally with a diversity of people from around the world, and grow in Christ as they live, worship and serve in community with ACU students.

The Morgans view their involvement in the Oxford semester as a natural outgrowth of their academic training, their experience in cross-cultural missions, and their passion for contributing to the intellectual and spiritual formation of Christian university students.

The Morgans came to ACU from Southern California, where Ronnie was a professor of history for five years at Biola University. His academic training includes the B.A. in biblical studies and M.A. in history (ACU '81, '83) and the Ph.D. in latin American history from the University of California at Santa Barbara (1998). Along with Janine, he served as a church-planter in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1984-90.

Fluent in both Portuguese and Spanish, he is author of *Spanish American Saints and the Rhetoric of Identity, 1600-1810* (University of Arizona Press, 2002) and several articles, including "Leaning on Jesus: Restoring Heart Language to the Lord's Supper in Churches of Christ" (*Stone-Campbell Journal*, Fall 2003).

Ronnie serves as on-site director in Oxford, a role that entails academic advising and spiritual care, as well as general orientation to life abroad and travel. He also teaches the 6-hour humanities course (History and Literature) created especially for the Oxford semester and a fine arts course entitled Oxford through the Ages, as well as work with Honors Program students on their special projects.

During the past 12 years, Janine Morgan has prepared

for her role with ACU-in-Oxford. At UC-Santa Barbara, she worked for six years in Student Housing. At Biola, she worked with international students for two years before returning to graduate school. Her academic background includes the B.A. in Bible-missions and M.S. in family studies (ACU '78, '84), the M.A. in intercultural studies (Biola, 2002). Currently she is pursuing the Ph.D. in missiology at Fuller Theological Seminary. Her dissertation will examine the Lord's Supper and evangelism as practiced in evangelical revival movements in post-Christian, post-modern Great Britain.

A daughter of missionary parents in Italy, Janine has done cross-cultural ministry in Italy, Scotland and Brazil. She speaks Portuguese and Italian. In the Oxford semester, she teaches courses in Bible, spiritual life, and cross-cultural adjustment, as well as providing spiritual care for students.

As participants in the ACU mission of educating students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world, Ronnie and Janine

Morgan are committed to providing a holistic learning experience. Students learn on site, walking the path where C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien often strolled and talked, and where Lewis came to faith in God.

Students experience spiritual formation in community. The semester abroad will provide a unique experience of community, as students live, pray, study and travel together in small groups, as well as observe diverse Christian communities in England and on the European continent. Finally, through daily activity, travel, and community service assignments, students will develop intercultural skills that prepare them for a more global Christian witness.



# Study Abroad

---

## Check-In

All fall/spring semester students are required to arrive on the Abilene campus the Sunday afternoon prior to departing on the Wednesday of the first week of classes for check-in procedures with the Study Abroad Office. Students will need to find a place to stay while on campus and are responsible for their own food during this time.

Students will spend Monday and Tuesday morning in sessions; topics covered will include class lectures, safety and security abroad, travel tips, and general information about Oxford. All fall/spring students are required to attend the sessions and will take an exam for the International Studies course (INTS 241.S1) titled Introduction to Global Studies.

---

## Flight Information

All fall/spring students must ride on the chartered bus from Abilene to DFW airport on the Wednesday of departure. Typically, departure for the bus is 9 a.m. in order to arrive at DFW airport early for international flights.

All other students attending various semesters including summer and short courses meet at the appropriate DFW airport terminal at the British Airways ticket check-in counter. Upon arrival back in the United States, *all students must go through Customs before parents may meet their son or daughter in the international arrival section at the end of terminal B.*

---

## Communication

### MAILING

The mailing address for Oxford is:

**[Student's Name]**  
**9 Canterbury Road**  
**Oxford OX2 6LU**  
**ENGLAND**

*Packages can be expensive so check the rate with UPS, Global Priority or FedEx. Usually it takes five to six days for letters and/or packages to arrive at the desired location.*

### EMAIL

One of the cheapest, quickest and easiest ways to communicate is through email. A computer lab is available where the students can check their email.

### PHONE

There is one phone in each house for student use. Please remember Oxford is six (6) hours later than Central Standard Time. If it is 2 p.m. in Texas, it is 8 p.m. in Oxford. There are two ACU houses in Oxford:

- House #9: 011-44-1865-512-785
- House #10: 011-44-1865-316-346

---

## EMERGENCIES ONLY

Students are not allowed to make or receive calls from these phones unless it is an emergency:

- House #9: 011-44-1865-427-322
- House #10: 011-44-1865-316-924

---

## Cost

A program fee covers most major expenses. *Tuition, fees, room and board cost the same as for any student studying in Abilene.*

### Program fee for Oxford includes:

- Round-trip airfare from DFW to London
- Ground transportation to and from the airport
- Group excursions and course related trips
- Group health insurance including major medical, medical evacuation and repatriation (See the Medical Insurance brochure in the Study Abroad Office for more information.)

### Miscellaneous additional expenses

- \$100 to \$300 per weekend of independent travel.
- Time spent during a fall or spring break. Students will need to have enough money if they are going to travel during the break. Costs estimates include food (\$10 to \$15 per day), youth hostel or hotel (\$20 to \$100) per night, transportation (varies depending on form of transportation), plus any extra spending money.
- Students may use the laundry facility at St. Hugh's College for an estimated \$3 per load of clothes.
- Textbooks vary depending on the semester and will be purchased **on campus before leaving**. Students need to leave room in their suitcases for the textbooks. Cost of books may be charged to the student's account.

---

## Medical Emergencies

In the event of a serious medical emergency in which the student may need to be transported by ambulance to a hospital, the student will access the British national health system, and many times there is no charge. If the student is ill (flu or cold), he or she may visit the pharmacist where they will be given appropriate medication. See the Medical Insurance brochure in the Study Abroad Office for more information.

---

## Travel

Part of the Study Abroad experience is traveling to various places within the United Kingdom and surrounding countries. Students must notify the on-site supervisor where they are going and leave a contact number before they leave so that they may be reached in case of emergency, and they are required to travel in groups of two or three. Students who fly while abroad may wish to consult a travel agent to maximize their money.

### GROUP EXCURSIONS

Excursions and services related to courses in the fall and spring semesters are included in the program fee and are integrated into the content of the courses taken in Oxford.

**NOTE: All excursions are day-trips only and are subject to change.**

The following are typical excursions for students in the fall and spring semesters:

- Warwick Castle
- Tour of various places in London (Big Ben, Tower of London, etc.)
- River Thames
- English Society and Heritage Tour
- Literary Tour of England (Stratford-Upon-Avon, various places in Oxford, etc.)
- England's Religious Heritage (Westminster Abbey, etc.)
- Stonehenge
- Tour of Bath, England

Summer-semester excursions vary depending on the courses taught.

---

## Managing Your Money

The best method for students to access their money while abroad is with a bank debit or check card.

Another way to manage spending is through on-line banking. If a student uses a bank with this service, they can check their account regularly and have a realistic picture of how much money they are spending.

Part of the process of maturing is learning how to live on a budget, and this will be a good tool for them to monitor their spending. The key to maximizing the use of their money is to set up a weekly budget and be aware of how much is being spent.

A student should be aware of the exchange rate, which varies. You can find information about it at Web sites such as [www.oanda.com/convert/classic](http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic).

---

## Safety and Security

Safety and security of your son or daughter is of the utmost importance, and the Study Abroad Office will work to make the semester safe and enjoyable for everyone.

For the safety of everyone in the program, the Study Abroad site has a curfew of midnight on nights before classes and 1 a.m. on non-school nights. On-site directors are also careful to choose dependable and trustworthy modes of transportation for group excursions. Should you wish to discuss this further, please call our office.

---

## Behavior Contract

To create a positive and productive semester, all students attending Abilene Christian University Study Abroad programs have signed a behavior contract. See inserted copy for details.

---

## Key People

### ON-CAMPUS IN ABILENE

**Kevin Kehl**, *Director of the Center for International and Intercultural Education*

**Phone:** 325-674-2710 **Email:** [kehlk@acu.edu](mailto:kehlk@acu.edu)

**Lauren Graham**, *Study Abroad Coordinator*

**Phone:** 325-674-2754 **Email:** [study\\_abroad@acu.edu](mailto:study_abroad@acu.edu)

Billing questions regarding Study Abroad should be directed to the billing office at 325-674-2643 or 800-460-6228.