



Bucksmore

SUMMER PROGRAMMES

Welcome to Bucksmore Summer Programmes

Dear Student,

We look forward very much to meeting you this summer and will do everything possible to ensure that your stay in England is a happy and memorable one.

We have prepared some useful information for your stay in the UK.

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Please read these carefully even if you have been to one of our courses before.

Will I be busy all the time?

Depending on your course you can be sure that there will be a full and comprehensive programme of exciting and involving things to do. A sample programme of your chosen course is included in the welcome pack. The course is divided between English tuition, afternoon and evening activities, full day excursions and half day trips. Bucksmore believes a busy enjoyable programme is the best way to spend your time in the UK! If you attend a Bucksmore Young Leaders or World University Preparation course some of the afternoon or evening activities will be English tuition or English skills practice.

What should I bring?

English summer weather is usually variable so, as you can see from the following list we advise you to be prepared for anything!

- ✓ Washable laundry bag (your clothes will be washed in this, and helps prevent lost clothing)
- ✓ Personal items (brush, comb, toothbrush, face cloth)
- ✓ Toiletries (shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste)
- ✓ Night clothes (suitable for dormitory life)
- ✓ Slippers
- ✓ Bathrobe
- ✓ 8 sets of underwear
- ✓ 8 pairs of socks
- ✓ T-shirts and tops (enough for 1 week)
- ✓ 2 jumpers or sweatshirts
- ✓ 2 pairs of jeans or trousers
- ✓ Waterproof jacket
- ✓ 1 pair of shoes
- ✓ 1 pair of trainers
- ✓ 1 smart outfit for the evening activities (preferable but not essential)
- ✓ Swimwear and flip flops
- ✓ 2 Towels

Other useful things to pack:

- ✓ Backpack or small bag to carry your essentials during the day although you will receive a Bucksmore backpack on arrival
- ✓ Mini umbrella
- ✓ Travel adaptor

You don't have to worry about bed linen, it is supplied in all our centres.

And if I have chosen Optional Sports Extras?

If you have chosen one of our **Optional Sports Xtras** – don't forget to bring the following additional items

ProTennis

- ✓ 1 pair of tennis shorts



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- ✓ 2 tennis tops
- ✓ Tennis shoes
- ✓ 4 pairs of sports socks
- ✓ Sweat bands

Horseriding

- ✓ Strong shoes/riding boots (plain with a small heel)
- ✓ Long trousers/jeans/jodhpurs

What happens when my clothes need washing?

Don't forget to bring a washable laundry bag! This will greatly assist us in returning your clothes after washing them for you. Laundry is washed once a week, so please ensure that you have enough underwear to last for 8 days. All clothing should be marked with your name (we can provide nametapes that you can attach to your clothing, provided we have 6 weeks' notice. The cost of these is shown on the Booking Information). Whilst we do our best to care for your clothing in the laundry, we cannot accept responsibility for any losses or shrinkage of colour runs that might occur.

King Edwards and Plumpton

The laundry is collected once a week so you need to make sure you know which day the laundry is being collected if you want clean clothes! Your Centre Manager will let you know which day this is.

Oxford and Cambridge

At these Bucksmore Centres there isn't a collection day as there are coin operated machines. The Centre Manager will arrange times for you to take your laundry and put your clothes into the machines. You don't need any money for this.

What happens if I lose something?

If items are lost while you are at our Summer School, there is a chance, if the items can be identified, that we can recover them and forward them to you at your cost. However, items that are not claimed within one week of departure are sent to charity.

It is a good idea to make a list of all the things you are bringing with you and to check it before packing on the last day.

What is it like to live with other students?

Living in dormitories has been an important part of the experience of being at Bucksmore, as it helps you make new friends and integrate. Where dorms are available, students are usually placed in them according to age, in mixed nationalities. If the rooms are twins or singles a group of rooms with one staff member will make up a dorm group. Bucksmore Counsellors are always close by in the night for supervision purposes.

What is lights out?

With a full programme of lessons and activities, we try to ensure that you all get a good night's rest. If you are a Junior, lights out is at 21:30, whilst if you are a Senior, it is at 22:30.

Juniors or Seniors?

We know our students like to mix with those of their own age, and we organize our programmes on this basis. For some aspects of the programme (e.g. allocation to dorms and bedtimes) it is important to split students into Juniors or Seniors. The rule for this is that you are a Junior if you have not had your 12th birthday before the date of your departure from our Centre. Every year we get at least one request to make an exception to this rule, but if we start making exceptions that does not count as a rule anymore!

Where can I keep my money and valuables safe?

Everything is provided at the Summer School, but we know you may wish to spend money on Bucksmore souvenirs, extra sweets and drinks, personal shopping, and of course have money to spend when on excursions and visits. We suggest a minimum of £40 per week, although your parents may certainly send more. However, it is not a good idea to have more than £100 per week to be drawn as cash. If necessary, your parents should consider providing you with a credit card or ATM card. If for any reason your parents wish to send additional pocket money once you have arrived at the summer school, this can be done with a credit card, there will be an administration charge of 2%. On arrival you MUST deposit all your money with us (including travellers cheques and currency) for safekeeping. We have organized a pocket money account system that operates most days of the week enabling you to withdraw your money. Please remember that we cannot be held responsible for money not handed over to us. Of course you must also hand in your passport and travel documents for safekeeping. Talk to your



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parents and discuss with them any items of value that you might want bring, with a view to leaving them safely at home. We have no facilities for the safekeeping of valuables and see no purpose in putting temptation in the sight of the odd bad apple!

What happens if I don't feel well?

Each of our Summer School Centres has a member of staff appointed as a Centre Manager, to oversee the welfare of all the students. If you feel unwell or have any kind of mishap, the Centre Manager is on hand to take care of you. Feel free to talk to the Centre Manager about any problem you might have. Each Centre also has well-established links with local doctors, dentists and hospitals, should the need arise.

When can I phone home?

We have student phones available at each of the Centres to call your family and friends, or for you to return their calls. The best time for your parents to call is between 1600 and 1830, and also just before bedtimes. Because there are a lot of students, it is quite likely that the phone will sometimes be engaged. Your parents shouldn't worry, just persevere and they will get through eventually! Please remember that your parents should not call the office telephone numbers to contact you except in an emergency, or unless they wish to speak to the Centre Manager. Some Centres also have computer access where you can contact your family by email. This will be posted on our website prior to summer school.

What happens to my mobile phone?

Mobile phones can be a big distraction to you and to other students around you. For this reason we ask that you do not use your mobile phone in lessons or during activities. If any student keeps using their phone at these times the phone will be confiscated by a member of the Bucksmore staff.

What is the food like?

We make sure that you have a nourishing and balanced diet during your stay with us. It is also important to realise that catering for so many different nationalities and cultures means that sometimes the food is different from what you normally eat at home. But the food is good (we have to eat it ourselves!) and we know how important it is as part of the overall experience. There is always a vegetarian option at all meals, and if notified in advance, we can cater for special diets. Please don't forget to let us know any special requirements before your arrival!

What happens on the day of arrival and departure?

Our staff will meet you and other students at Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted and London City airport. Alternative locations may be available by arrangement.

What is an Airport Transfer Request Form?

As soon as your parents have your flights confirmed they should complete and mail/fax back to us this form. Please notify us of your travel details at least 2 weeks before your arrival in the UK or we will be unable to meet you. Should there be any last minute changes to the flight details your parents should inform us immediately. At the airport, there will be a Bucksmore Counsellor waiting to meet you in the Arrivals Hall. If you are under 12 years of age and travelling as an unaccompanied minor (UM), the airline staff will hand you over directly to the Counsellor. Senior students will be met by a Counsellor wearing our distinctive polo shirt, holding a board with your name on it. On the return journey a Counsellor will stay with each of you until you are handed over to airline staff or until you have checked in and entered the Departure Lounge.

Will I receive Luggage Labels?

If your parents have booked Airport Transfers for you, luggage labels will be sent to you. Please attach these to each item of your luggage after you have packed, don't wait until you get to the airport!

Why do I need to wear a Bucksmore badge?

If your parents requested an Airport Transfer for you we will send a badge for you to wear when coming through the airport in London. Please keep it in your hand luggage and don't forget to wear this on arrival, as it will help our staff to identify you as a Bucksmore student.

What if my parents have made their own Travel Arrangements for me?



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If your parents are making their own arrangements, you can arrive at the Centre at a time convenient to you between 0900 and 1800. We suggest that your parents contact the Centre Manager to arrange the best time.

Are there Summer School Rules?

When you attend a Bucksmore Summer Programme you have a unique opportunity to live as part of a community dedicated to learning and having fun! But for the benefit of all in our community, we have a few simple rules which we expect all of our students to know and to follow. They are very simple:

- Be polite and always punctual
- Never use tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol
- Chewing gum is not permitted
- You are not allowed in dormitories belonging to students of the other gender

Students who do not adhere to our rules may be removed from the Centre and sent home before the end of the course.