



PRE-DEPARTURE LOCATION ORIENTATION RECORDING CLICK HERE

London, Fall 2023



ORIENTATION OVERVIEW



**GLOBAL
ORIENTATION**
COMPLETE



**LOCATION
ORIENTATION**
YOU'RE HERE!



**CARE TEAM
HANGOUTS**
AUGUST 23

vertoeducation.org/orientation



AGENDA

- Breakout Warm-Up
- Preparation and Arrival Process
- Program-Specific Expectations
- Your Academic Experience
- Living Life In London
 - Housing
 - Staff
 - Academic Facility
 - Packing & Budgeting
 - City Transportation, Food & Spots
- Next Steps & Questions

MEET YOUR SPEAKERS

We're excited to support you as you prepare for a Verto semester.

We're joined here today by:



**CLAIRE
KIBBLEWHITE**

LONDON CENTRE DIRECTOR



DR DI LAMPITT

LONDON ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



ELIZA WILTON

STUDENT LIFE MANAGER



**SARAH
HUTCHINSON**

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

MINI-BREAK

Share Out in Chat

What are you most
excited about?

What do you have
questions about?

*Also mention your name,
pronouns, and where you are
from!*



PREPARING TO GO



Packing Tips - What to Bring

- Medicines & contact lens solution - make sure you have enough to last for the whole semester!
- Clothes for all seasons - the transition from season to season brings a multitude of weather changes in London, so make sure you pack some warm and waterproof clothes as well as clothes that can be layered to adapt to temperature fluctuations
- A laptop/tablet - though we do have some to lend on site
- Plugs and adaptors - the plugs are different in the UK so make sure you bring some adaptors for your chargers and other electronic devices - though you can buy them in London
- At least 2 forms of payment – including at least £100 in cash to start

Pro Tip: make sure you can carry all of your own luggage!



Packing Tips - What NOT to Bring

- Hair straighteners and hair dryers - due to the voltage differences these items will malfunction if used with a regular adaptor (even a voltage convertor). You can buy them cheaply in London.
- Bedding blankets and pillows etc - you will be provided with fresh linens in your accommodation. You can buy anything extra when you're here.
- Towels - you can buy these quite cheaply upon arrival and you won't have to worry about them taking up valuable space in your luggage.
- Mace and pepper spray - **these are illegal in the UK.**
- Your most prized possessions or your grandma's heirloom jewelry. It's not worth the risk of being lost or stolen!

What should be in your carry-on

- All documents for Immigration (Passport Control) & Customs - see next slide for details
- All electronics & outlet adapters - **but make sure you can use them in the UK - no point bringing US ones!**
- All prescription medicine and doctor's notes
- Covid vaccine records
- Masks & hand sanitizer
- A change of clothes (for 2 days) in case your luggage gets lost
- Toothbrush



For the definitive packing list, check out the enrolled students page

Documents for Customs

Remember to bring in your carry-on:

- Passport
- Letter of Attendance (Verto will provide)
- Photocopy of your passport
- CISI insurance card (if you don't have this yet.. Don't worry! You'll receive it in an email soon).



Staying in Contact While Abroad

- Students **MUST** have a cell phone number where they can be contacted while studying in London
- Organise an International Plan through your carrier
- You can buy a British SIM Card.....BUT
 - Be sure to **UNLOCK** your phone if you want a new SIM! This takes at least 2 weeks so be proactive!
- You will receive a UK SIM in your arrival pack once on location
- You **MUST** give a working phone number to London staff by **Day 2** of arrival!



Budget Guidelines

- Meals are not included
- You will have a fully-equipped kitchens in your flat to prepare meals. You will need to budget for groceries and dining out

Student Budget Guidelines (reported from students who previously spent a semester in London:

- Groceries & Dining Out:
- Average grocery bill ~ \$50-100 per week
- Average cost of a meal out is £15-25 (GBP)
- Social Activities:
- Average of ~ \$30-90 per week
- Personal Items (clothes, home goods, souvenirs):
- Average of ~ \$50-90 per week
- Independent Travel:
- Average of ~ \$60-250 per week



ARRIVAL PROCESS



Arrival

- Upon arrival you will go through Immigration (Passport Controls), collect your luggage, and then proceed through Customs
- Standard Visitor Visa - valid for 6 months
- NOTE: This is for the UK, NOT Europe
- Pick-up at London Heathrow Airport by program shuttles
- Transportation to housing is provided on Monday, 28th August
- Flights should arrive by 5pm local time
- When you arrive, look for the Verto staff who will be ready to welcome you and will be standing next to a Verto banner and wearing a Verto t-shirt
- They will put you in coach shuttles which will take you to your housing



What If....My flight is delayed?

Please contact your US based Verto On-boarding staff and also let London staff know by emailing them on

London@vertoeducation.org

- Staff will be tracking your flight
- If you're arriving within a reasonable timeframe, Verto staff can assist with your transit.
- If you need to take a taxi or Uber to Ability Towers, use EC1V 8AE (zip/post code) - Macclesfield Road



Discovery Week

Discovery Week starts the day after arrival (10:00 am start)
Details to be found in your Welcome Pack, which will be in your flat when you arrive.

Session topics include:

- Health & safety, and security discussions
- Review of program and academic policies
- Additional critical information needed to get your program off to a good start
- Care team Activities
- A walking tour and panoramic bus tour have been organized to get you acclimated to London as part of your orientation activities
- Also a typical 'cream tea' YUM!



PROGRAM-SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS



Behaviour & Safety

- Student Community Guidelines to guide your actions and decisions
- Living in a large capital city (very much a melting pot of people!)

Tips for safety

- Don't make yourself a target
- Walking around with airpods
- Flashing your phones or other devices
- Walk with a friend after dark
- Let someone know where you're going
- Don't accept drinks from strangers
- Carry a bag with a zipper
- Don't carry your wallet or phone in your back pocket



Alcohol

- Because you are 18 years of age, you have reached the legal drinking age in England
- Please be responsible
- Acting irresponsibly will put yours or anyone else's personal safety at risk
- Any person guilty of disorderly behaviour in a public place while drunk may be arrested and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50
- You may not consume alcohol on public transport
- You may not consume alcohol on any Verto sponsored Program Activity



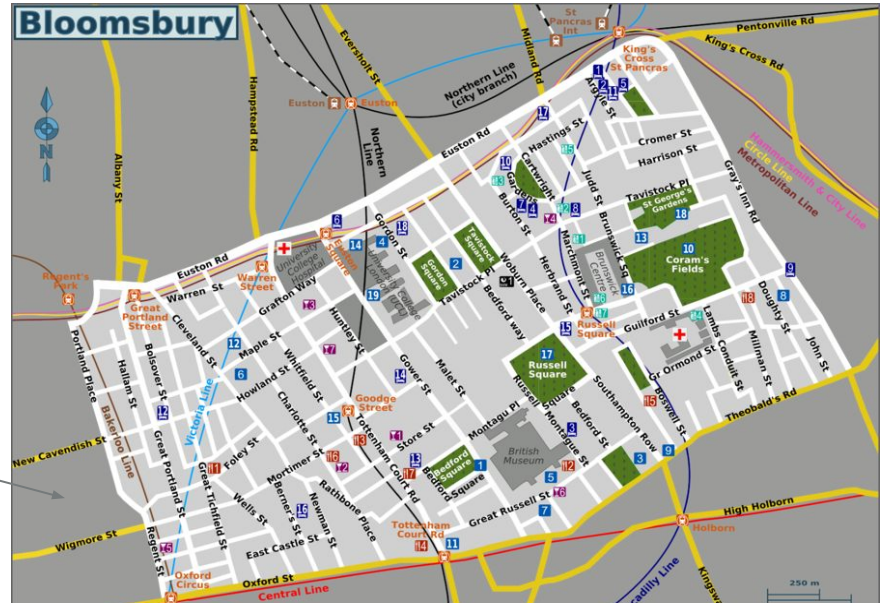
LIVING IN LONDON



Where Is London Verto?

The neighbourhood that houses the Verto London Academic Centre is in the centre of London in an area called **Bloomsbury**. It is considered a fashionable residential area, and is the location of numerous cultural, intellectual, and educational institutions such as University College London, SOAS and Birkbeck. Near to cafes, restaurants, within a short commutable distance from program housing.

Tube Stations: Holborn, Russell Square and Tottenham Court Road



London: The City As Your Home



Verto Education UK Study Centre
Where you'll study.....
23 Bloomsbury Square,
London WC1A 2PJ



Ability Towers:
Where you'll live.....
Borough of Islington

London: Accommodations

SHARED APARTMENT (FLAT)

- Shared flat with 2/3/4 Verto students
- 1/2 students per bedroom
- Single beds/or bunk beds
- 1 wardrobe/set of drawers per student
- Shared common areas within the flat: (kitchen/dining & living room)
- Shared bathrooms
- Fully furnished
- Fully kitted kitchen
- Washing Machine - No Dryer
- Serviced **(yes you get them cleaned!)** once a week
- No A/C, which is normal in the UK
- Located in Zones 1 & 2 of the Underground



London: Accommodations



Please note YOUR flat may look slightly different

Housing Rules And Regulations

- A high regard of the rights of all residents is essential for creating a healthy community spirit.
- You are accountable for the condition and cleanliness of your flat, items and furniture within your flat, and all residential keys issued to you at the start of the program.
- You are responsible for all actions and activities that occur in your flat/room, including those of fellow residents or personal guests.
- You are responsible for following all important safety procedures, including fire safety, in your residence.



Accommodations: The Basics

- **Mail** - Packages should be sent directly to the **Verto Study Centre**
- **Drinking** - is not allowed in any public space or outside
- **Secure Entry** - Keys and code entry to your flat
 - If you lose your key - you must pay for replacement £50
- **Cleaning** - Weekly cleaning of common areas
- **Bed Linens & 1 towel per student** - Sheets & pillow cases are changed out weekly
 - Comforter & towel are student responsibility
- **Maintenance Issues** - Report as soon as they happen
 - More information will be shared in the Apartment Directory documentation



Mail should be directed to:
Your Name | Verto Education
23 Bloomsbury Square
London
WC1A 2PJ

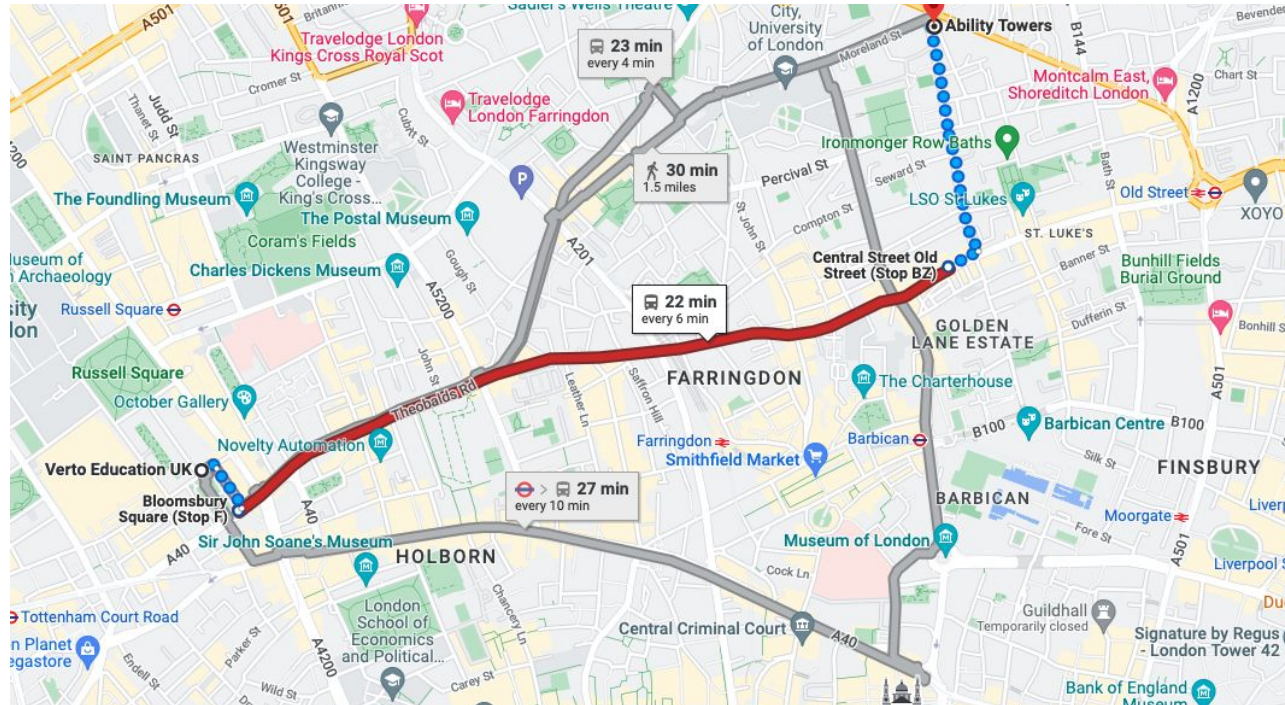
- Be aware of any duty that you may need to pay on items sent from the US at UK Customs
- Verto will not accept responsibility for duty payments
- You will be able to buy most US foods in London so look before any care packages are sent !

London: Food

- Students will prepare their own meals in their flats
- Grocery shops are on nearly every corner in London including Tesco, Co-Op, Sainsburys, and Marks and Spencer. There are also many fresh food markets which can be cheaper.
- Londoners make frequent market trips for food rather than one large weekly trip as refrigerator space is also less than we are used to in the U.S.
- Check out **Chapel Market** a short walk from your housing which has a wide selection of fruit and veg



London: The journey from home to school



The easiest option is a bus: **Route 55**

You can also catch the tube or walk!

Transportation

- You will have an Oyster Card - you will be told how to register this when you arrive on site
- Use on the London Tube System and City Buses
- Lots of Walking!
- Taxis - accessible, but will add up quickly!



YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM



London: Academic Expectations

- **Academic Staff:** Di Lampitt (Academic Director) & Sarah Hutchinson (Academic Coordinator)
- **Add/Drop** will be from *4th-8th September* through your Academic team on site
- **College Counseling Week** led by Academic Team *25th-28th September*
- Course Schedule - courses run Monday through Thursday, once a week for 3 hours.
- Writing and Inquiry (all sections) and College Algebra meet twice a week for 1.5 hours
- Calculus I meets twice a week for 1.45 hours
- **Study Expectations:** For every 3 hour class, students should expect to study/work on that course for 6 hours
- **Academic Accommodations:** [Apply before you arrive](#)
- Academic Resources in Country:
 - Number of museums, libraries & cafes (UCL) you can utilize. Information provided through our Study Guides.
 - Weekly tutoring sessions with the Academics Team
 - Foundational college-level skill workshops
- All co-curricular activities such as visits to museums and local companies are compulsory and information for each will be provided to you by your faculty members. Please be on time and conduct yourself appropriately. They are an extension of the classroom.



London: Academic Expectations

Attendance Policy:

- Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions, labs, and course-related activities and excursions. Students should be punctual and thoroughly prepared for class activities.
- In each course, there is a maximum number of accumulated general absences due to illness, mental or physical health, personal emergency, transportation delays, or other issues as outlined in the course syllabus.
- Final course grades may drop by one-half (for instance, A- to B+) to a full letter grade (A- to B-) for additional class time missed beyond the maximum number of general absences, regardless of the reason for the absence.
- If a student's absences exceed the equivalent of three weeks of class missed, students will fail the course or be removed from the course by the faculty member.
- All students must maintain full-time student status (minimum of 12 credits) and attend classes every week. Any student who fails to maintain student status is subject to program dismissal



London: Study Center

- Services and Amenities for students within the centre
 - Unlimited wifi throughout the whole building
 - Fridge and microwave
 - Library resources
 - Postal facilities
 - Student Lounge
- Student Life in London and Travel Information
- Office hours
 - Monday to Friday (Friday will be excursion day!)



London: Study Center

In the Classroom you can expect to...

- Engage in discussions with your instructor and peers
- Collaborate on group projects and assignments
- Take ownership of your learning
- Gain a different perspective by learning from a diverse group of people



**WHAT ELSE
WILL WE DO
TOGETHER?**



Program Activities



Day Trip to Windsor

Windsor Castle is a residence of the British Royal Family and embodies almost a Millennium of architectural history. Windsor lies on the River Thames and is in the county of Berkshire



Day Trip to Oxford

Oxford is a beautiful city in the English countryside. Verto students will have the opportunity to visit the famous Oxford University - one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the world.. And where parts of Harry Potter were filmed!

Program Activities



Day Trip to Brighton

Brighton is as well-known for being a welcoming and diverse city with a passion for culture, creativity and sustainability as it is for its historic landmarks.



3 day/2 night trip Overnight trip Edinburgh

Edinburgh is a historic, traditional, and scenic town! Very different from London, students will have the opportunity to explore a new part of the United Kingdom on the program.

OPTIONAL Program Activities

Want to do more? Your Student Life Coordinators will also organize lots of other activities for you to join!
Some of these may have an additional fee. Possible activities may include:

Sky Garden



Musical Theatre



Beatles Walking Tour



London Eye



Curry Night



City walking Tour



Free time in London

What do to?

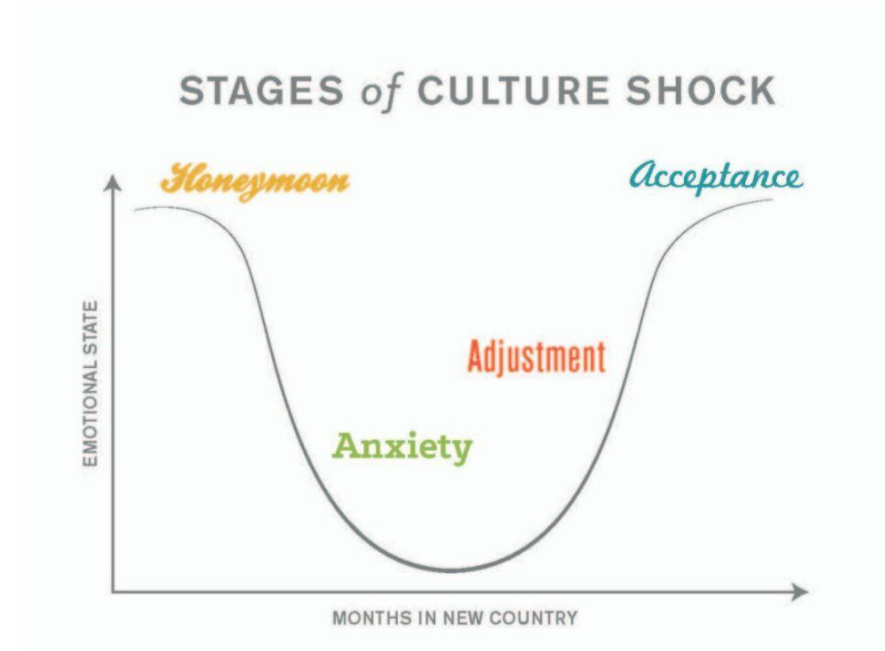
- Students have a travel card so you can explore
- Markets
- Museums (all free)
- Walking tours
- Iconic sites



Cultural Adaptation

Best practices for cultural adjustment:

- Expand your worldview
- Create social bonds
- Ask for help when you need it
- Keep in mind: feeling uneasy is normal
- Take care of your physical health
- Maintain open communication with your advisors
- Be patient - don't try to understand everything immediately



Cultural Adaptation

Things to keep in mind when interacting with locals:

- Be respectful!
- Things are just different, not wrong.
- Quickly learn some of the main differences between American and British English
- Also learn the taboos or “no-no’s” in conversation.
- Customer Service differences

Things to keep in mind about your behavior:

- Be accountable for your actions.
- Use a lot of common sense.
- You are not exempt from the law in other countries.
- Your behaviour affects you and those around you.
- Be willing, flexible and open to new adventures.
- London living VS home living
- Everyone is a stranger
- We have a homeless community in London - big city living
- Quiet tubes and eye contact!
- Catcalling and sticking out from the crowds
- Alcohol and drug laws



Care Teams

Who is in your Care Team?

- Your Academic Success Coordinator (ASC)
- Your Student Life Coordinator (SLC)
- About 40 other excited Verto London students

When will you meet with your Care Team?

- You will receive an email from your Academic Success and Student Life Coordinators very soon
- In the Care Team Circle you'll meet them, your new group, and get a jumpstart on your semester together



Verto Discovery

- **Verto's Values in Action**
 - Compassion
 - Responsibility
 - Transformation
 - Vulnerability
- **Experiential learning activities**
- **Your weekly discovery lab**
- **Taking control of your semester**



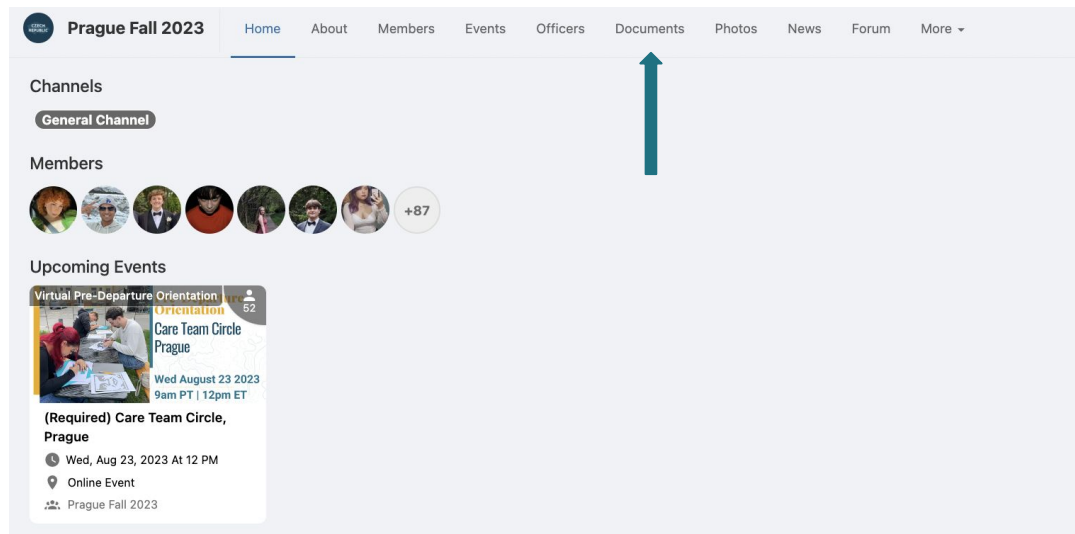
NEXT STEPS & QUESTIONS



PRE-DEPARTURE DOCUMENTS

These can be found in on the Student Portal Documents section:

- Pre-Departure Resources, including:
 - Packing List
 - Using Your Phone in [Location]
 - Mail and Package Guidelines
 - Verto [Location] Study Center
 - Visiting Your Student in [Location]
 - Code of Responsibility
- Arrival Guide
- Money Abroad
- Verto Housing Overview
- Verto Discovery Week Overview (General)



 Documents (5)

 Pre-arrival Documents (1)

MARK YOUR ATTENDANCE

IMPORTANT: Report Your Attendance
before the end of the Session

(Required) Care Team Circle Date

August 23 at vertoeducation.org/orientation

Location Resources

- In Student Portal

To access, visit
bit.ly/vertoattendance23

