Leeds, England

University of Leeds

USC’s exchange program in England is designed to help American students gain first hand knowledge of British culture. This program is located in Leeds, England, two hours northwest of London by rail. Leeds, a vibrant and successful city prospering in areas of finance, business and media, is also a culturally rich city whose citizens represent 75 different nationalities. Students will attend the University of Leeds, renowned world-wide for its quality teaching and research and as a center of excellence in academic and professional disciplines. Only USC undergraduate students are eligible to participate in this program.

The program at the University of Leeds offers a full range of courses. Students take classes with British and other international students. Classes are taught in English.

As a prerequisite, students must have attained at least sophomore standing prior to attending the University of Leeds. Preference is given to USC honors college students, but all highly qualified students are eligible to apply. The academic program is rigorous, designed for students who enjoy a challenging and independent academic environment that requires significant self-motivation. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required.

Courses and Credits
Students typically earn 15 credit hours per semester. Listed below are a few examples of subjects offered. A full list of courses can be found at http://webprod1.leeds.ac.uk/banner/modulesearch.asp?T=S&L=UG.

Sample Subject Offerings
Art and Design  Ecology  History
Business  Engineering  International Studies
Classics  English  Journalism
Computer Science  Foreign Languages  Philosophy
Cultural Studies  Geography  Sciences
Downtown Leeds

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Living Arrangements
University accommodation is guaranteed at Leeds for all exchange students who apply before the deadlines (1st July for September start; 1st December for January start). Students can choose to live in catered or self-catering University residences located either on or off campus. Students pay in-state tuition and fees to USC. Housing costs, which may or may not include board depending on the housing option chosen, are paid to the University of Leeds. More information can be found on the Accommodation website at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/studyabroad/incomers/accommodation.htm.

Budgeting
The United Kingdom is an expensive place to study abroad due to the weak dollar against the strong pound. Due to this fact, students need to budget accordingly and be aware that prices will be much higher while in the UK. For assistance in determining living costs and other fees, please refer to this site: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/international/planning_your_finances.htm.

Master Calendar
Classes begin in January and end in May or early June for the Spring semester. Academic year students will arrive in September and stay until June. A detailed schedule can be found at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/studyabroad/incomers/preparation.htm.

Insurance
Per university policy, all USC students will be charged emergency medical, evacuation and repatriation insurance for their time abroad. Contact the Study Abroad Office for more details.

Orientation
Leeds offers a welcome week full of activities for incoming international students. Information on the local area, the university, and other important details will be provided during these sessions. More information can be found at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/international/welcome_programme.htm.

Excursions
The International Student Office organizes several events specifically for international students, including weekend trips to various parts of the UK once a month. Students also have the opportunity for individual travel, and with its central location and good train and bus links, Leeds is an excellent base from which to explore the rest of the UK as well as Europe.

Visa
Students who attend the University of Leeds for one semester will need to apply for a Student Visitor visa at the airport, or in advance. Students studying for the full academic year will need to apply for the PBS Tier General Student visa. Please contact the Study Abroad Office for step-by-step directions on how to obtain either visa.

Footnotes
USC students can attend the University of Leeds during the spring semester or academic year. Visit the University of Leeds’s website at http://www.leeds.ac.uk. For information specific to the exchange program, please see http://www.leeds.ac.uk/studyabroad/incomers/why.htm.

For information on tourism in England and the UK, please see http://www.visitbritain.com/.