

Greetings from the Center for Global Education and Experience at Augsburg University. We are pleased that your student will be a participant in our study abroad program in Northern Ireland this coming semester

You can find information about the program in the [Student Guide](#). In particular please note the information about communication (telephone numbers, mailing addresses, etc.).

Accommodations

Students will live in student accommodation at the [Ulster University Magee campus in Londonderry/Derry](#). These include a private room and a shared bathroom, common room, and kitchen facilities. They will have access to a washer/dryer or launderette, and all University accommodations have Internet access. A stipend for board expenses will be regularly disbursed by the program director. There will be several out-of-town trips during which they will stay in modest hotels or hostels.

Safety and Security

Two concerns that are frequently expressed when students travel abroad are health and safety.

Basic tips on personal safety and health are given on the pre-departure website, and more detailed information is provided to students during orientation in Northern Ireland and repeated throughout the program. With our resident director, we monitor health and security issues.

We receive regular safety and security reports from the [Overseas Security Advisory Council](#) (OSAC) and we regularly check weekly on international travel warnings and public safety announcements, provided by the U.S. Department of State.

Additionally, our medical and emergency services provider, [Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc.](#), (EIIA) sends us regular international security reports and provides us with pre-trip resources.

Finally, we register all student groups with the U.S. Department of [State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). This program provides the following services:

- Important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in the destination country, helping travelers to make informed decisions about their travel plans.
- Assist the U.S. Embassy to contact U.S. citizens abroad in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with travelers in an emergency.

We would not hesitate to cancel or to re-route any portion of the program if we it unsafe to travel there.

Contact Information

Center for Global Education and Experience, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minnesota:

24-hour Emergency Cell Phone: +1 612-817-2830

[Margaret Anderson](#), U.S. Manager

Phone: + 612-330-1159

Center for Global Education and Experience, Northern Ireland

[Nigel Glenny](#), Resident Director

Insurance Information

Medical Insurance: students are covered by Augsburg University's Foreign Travel Abroad insurance. This plan includes travel, accident and sickness coverage.

Company Name: EIIA Scholastic Travel - Starr A&H, Contract #: 16812020

For Emergency Assistance Available 24/7:

- Toll free in the US or Canada: +1 (855) 901-6712
- Collect outside of the US: +1 (240) 330 1551

For more information see below:

- [EIIA Webpage](#)
- [Summary of Benefits](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Member Card](#)

Medical coverage covers pre-existing conditions up to \$25,000 per person, but treatment must be on an EMERGENCY basis and not for normal follow ups, prescriptions, or trip interruption insurance.

In some cases, students may be required to pay up-front and file a reimbursement claim, so students should keep all receipts for medical care.

In the case of a serious illness, there are excellent doctors and hospitals in and around Derry/Londonderry if a situation calls for professional health care.

Helpful Websites

- [Center for Global Education and Experience](#)
- U.S. Department of State:
 - [Northern Ireland/United Kingdom Country Information](#)
 - [Travel Information](#)
- [BBC News Northern Ireland](#)

- [Belfast Telegraph](#)
- [Advice for Parents at StudentsAbroad.com](#)

As you may realize, the experience your student is about to have is a very intense and challenging one. Even short trips abroad can stimulate a great deal of reflection about personal values and life directions, and you may notice changes in your student upon return to the U.S. They will likely want to share all of the adventures with you and may, at times, find it difficult to communicate the intensity of the experience. An accepting and open environment will make it easier to share and integrate the experience.

You are most welcome to visit your student in Northern Ireland. However, please note that the program is very busy with classes, excursions and work at internships, so the best time to do so would be before the program starts, during fall/spring break, or after the program has ended. The U.K. visa general allows up to seven days before and after the program dates to travel, but do carefully review the visa to confirm.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns:

+1 612-330-1159

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