



Summer Scholars London Program

20 June - 27 June, 2025

A one week summer enrichment program for high school students

www.summerscholarsprogram.com

Using London as an exciting lab for learning, this innovative, one week program allows students to engage their own interests in field sessions focusing on Art, Architecture, History, Music, Literature, Theatre, Science and Engineering.



Program Summary and Eligibility:

This innovative program is designed to be fun and intellectually engaging. There is no homework, grading or assignments, only experiencing, seeing, listening, discussing and learning! Participation is open to any high school students from any school, including graduated seniors, who are interested in experiencing culture. Since this is an open enrollment program, students come from a variety of schools, allowing friends and relatives from different schools to participate. Finally, our alumni students who have participated before are most welcome to repeat, as each week-long session is customizable and subsequently unique.

Sessions:

The program is typically divided into half day blocks. Morning sessions are designed to be topic-specific and will relate generally to the focus areas of Humanities, Social Studies, Language or Science. Students select from a menu of faculty-led field trips and sessions each day, so participants can follow their own interests and essentially design their own London experience. Afternoon sessions will focus around core experiences and are designed for all students to participate. Planned evening events will be scheduled each night to focus on cultural experiences, such as theater, urban exploration or cuisine.

Faculty:

Our team of enthusiastic, credentialed curricular faculty are professional educators who have been selected from a variety of schools specifically for their excellence in teaching and their experience in overseas travel.



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Anticipated Faculty Team Members

Ashley Alcorn is an Art History, Creative Writing, and British Literature teacher with over a decade of teaching experience in the classroom, at the museum, and on the stage. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Art History and English from the University of Chicago, she obtained a Master's degree from Harvard in Arts Education, while working as a docent and teaching artist in performative poetry. When she entered the classroom, she obtained a further Master's degree in Literature from DePaul University, focusing her studies on British Literature. Ashley was fortunate enough to learn more about creative arts integration during her time working with Project Zero at Harvard University and dive deeply into the literature of the United Kingdom while studying at Oxford University. Currently, she teaches at Benet Academy in Lisle, Illinois and works within the Drama program, the literary magazine, a Shakespeare performance group, with the Senior retreat program, and with an all-female student band and feminist group called Estro. Ashley is an avid traveler, with a goal of reaching 60 countries in the next five years, but her favorite location is London!

Colleen Aufderheide is a studio artist and art educator with over 25 years of teaching experience. As a working artist, Colleen most enjoys nurturing creative thinking and a love of the artistic process with students through art making and art history. Currently, she is teaching visual arts at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois where she has taught introductory through advanced classes including Advanced Placement Art and Design and Advanced Placement Art History. Her range of artistic experience with students includes history, drawing, painting, printmaking and photography as well as a service learning art course in which students examine and respond to social justice issues through contemporary art and art making. Colleen earned a BFA from Miami University, Ohio and a MA in Education from North Park University in Chicago. Colleen exhibits her own artwork in the Chicago area and volunteers with the Illinois High School Art Exhibition (IHSAE) to provide exhibition opportunities for the state's youth. Ms. Aufderheide is a veteran of the 2018 and 2019 Summer Scholars UK programs.

Sarah Johnson is an English teacher and theater faculty at Riverside-Brookfield High School in Riverside, Illinois, a position she has held since 2007. Ms. Johnson graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's Degree in English Language and Literature, followed by Master's Degrees in Literacy and Language from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2003, and Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2011. Prior to teaching at Riverside-Brookfield High School, Ms. Johnson taught English at Hinsdale Central High School from 1998-2007. Ms. Johnson is passionate in her love of literature and drama. She is a seasoned veteran of the 2018 Summer Scholars UK program.

Charles Pipal is a practicing architect, lecturer, architectural historian and award winning professor in Architecture and Historic Preservation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he has taught since 1999. He holds a Bachelors degree in Landscape Architecture and a Masters degree in Architecture, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with a concentration in Historic Preservation. He is a past board member of Landmarks Illinois, the state's premier historic preservation advocacy group. His professional projects include the Chicago Historic Resources Survey and the restoration of the Walt Disney Birthplace. Prof. Pipal's particular professional and academic focus has been on the documentation and rehabilitation of historic buildings and the interpretation of historic sites. In addition to his teaching and architectural practice, he is also co-owner of Blueprint Tours, a destination management company specifically focused on academic and curricular-based learning through travel. Mr. Pipal serves as Program Director of the Summer Scholars UK program and has participated since its inception.



Summary

Students will have an opportunity to select a session each morning from a list of focus area options (Humanities and Art, Language and Literature, Social Studies, Science and Architecture), based on their interests. After the morning sessions, all students will participate in the afternoon core activity and evening outing. The following is a sample of potential sessions. Final course offerings will be available for student selection after enrollment. All sessions are subject to confirmation and a minimum enrollment number.

June 20, 2025

Our faculty leaders will meet us at the airport and will continue with us throughout our journey. The next morning, we'll arrive in England, where we will meet those traveling from other cities.

June 21, 2025

After arriving in London, we'll clear passport control, collect our luggage and make our way to Hampton Court Palace, the Tudor home of English royalty. We'll have time to explore the palace, get lost in the hedge maze, and eat a lovely lunch before boarding our private bus to our hotel in central London. This evening will be a "Tube" orientation, allowing us to see some of the main sites by night. Dinner this evening will be in Leicester Square.

June 22, 2025

Students will be able to select from a menu of three sessions. Potential sessions include Art Masters of the National Gallery; Behind the Scenes at a West End Theatre; and England and the Great War at the Imperial War Museum. This afternoon we will travel to Camden or one of the other lively London markets. This evening, we'll attend a play in Soho.

June 23, 2025

Today we will enjoy a full day trip out of the city. Potential destinations include Brighton by the Sea, with its magnificent Royal Pavilion and Brighton Pier; the historic pilgrimage city of Canterbury, with its spectacular cathedral and bountiful pedestrian shopping arcades; or the collegiate city Cambridge, known for its world class university. One will be selected for our group excursion.

June 24, 2025

This morning, scholars will be able to select from a menu of three sessions. Potential sessions include Tate Modern: From Power Station to Art Museum; Time and Earth at the Royal Greenwich Observatory; or Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. This afternoon we will all visit Christopher Wren's St. Paul's Cathedral and climb the dome. This evening, we'll attend a play in Soho.

June 25, 2025

Today students will be able to select from a menu of three sessions. Potential sessions include London's Guildhall: From the Romans to the Blitz; Beheading the King; Banqueting House; or Decorative Arts at the Victoria and Albert Museum. This afternoon we will all visit the Tombs of Westminster Abbey. This evening, we'll attend a play in Soho.

June 26, 2025

Scholars will be able to select from a menu of three sessions. Potential sessions include; Street Art in the Docklands and East End; The Faraday and Soane Museums: Collections of Two Geniuses; or Art Masters at the National Gallery. This afternoon we will meet up at Covent Garden Market for lunch and the visit the British Museum. Tonight we will enjoy a farewell to London meal!

June 27, 2025

This morning we will enjoy our last breakfast in England, before we pack up our belongings and check out of our hotel. We will travel to Heathrow International Airport where we will check in for our flight home, with knowledge and friends to last a lifetime!



Summer Scholars Program: London 2025

Dates: June 20 ~June 27, 2025

Program Enrollment Cost: \$2790.00 per participant + air fare*
(Airfare from Chicago O'Hare: \$1538)

Summer Scholars Program
England 2025



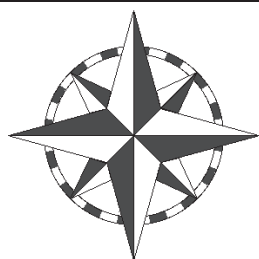
Inclusions

- + Twin, or in rare cases triple, accommodations at a four star property with full buffet breakfast daily
- + Fully staffed by program faculty and a full-time program director
- + Airport transfer in the UK via train or private deluxe coach
- + Round trip transport to Brighton/Hastings, Cambridge or Canterbury
- + All curricular-related program fees
- + All transportation in central London via the "Tube", London bus system and light rail connections
- + Admission to all included session sites
- + Tourist information packet including general info, baggage tags, detailed trip itinerary, and hotel information
- + Tickets to three theater performances in London
- + Farewell group dinner

* Students will be participating from various gateways in the US. Airfare from both Chicago O'Hare and Washington Dulles will be offer at cost and will be available to those who wish to utilize it. Families may also have the opportunity to utilize air miles for their flight, based on scheduling and availability.

About the Provider

Since its inception in 1998, Blueprint Tours has been a leader in custom designed, curricular-based travel for teachers and their students. Our mission is to expand the classroom into the world. As young students, we benefited greatly from educational travel and our hope is to continue to offer similar experiences to the next generations. We are very excited to be hosting the Summer Scholars London Program once again!



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