University College London Exchange 2019-2020 Handbook



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Program Information

University College London

UCL is one of London's leading multidisciplinary universities, with more than 13,000 staff and 38,000 students from 150 different countries. Founded in 1826 in the heart of London, UCL was the first university in England to welcome students of any religion and the first to welcome women on equal terms with men.

Program Team

There are a number of different partners and players that make important contributions to your academic, cultural, and personal experience abroad.

At Northwestern, the team in the Global Learning Office (GLO) is available to support you before, during, and after your study abroad experience. GLO plays the following roles:

- Liaison with Host University: GLO works with the international office at your host university to pave the way for you to be successful. GLO collaborates with your host university to facilitate your nomination and application processes and to provide ongoing support.
- **Pre-Departure Orientation and Materials**: GLO provides you with important information about your program to help you prepare for your experience. This includes resources, such as this program handbook as well as online modules and in-person meetings related to health and safety, budgeting, travel, and academics.
- **Course Registration:** GLO will register students at Northwestern for the appropriate study abroad course(s) for their program; you will not register yourself for any Northwestern courses during your term(s) abroad.
- Academic Credit: GLO will collect and submit your transcript to the Registrar's Office, which will post general study abroad credits.
- **In-Country Support**: Faculty and staff at your host university will provide support for you while abroad and should be your primary resource, but if you need additional assistance or would feel more comfortable speaking to GLO staff, please do not hesitate to contact your GLO adviser (see below).
- **Re-Integration Support**: Upon your return, GLO will provide you with resources to help transition back into campus life at Northwestern, as well as connect you to other study abroad returnees and program alumni.



Lauren Worth

Study Abroad Program Manager

A native of Illinois, Lauren joined Northwestern after living and working around the US and the world for a number of years. She completed her BA in Political Science at Colorado State University and a MS in Student Affairs in Higher Education at Miami University (Ohio). Before joining the staff, she was a study abroad adviser at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and worked closely with programs in Asia and Eastern Europe. She spent four years living in beautiful Fukushima, Japan and completed a one year round-the-world trip. Lauren loves the adventure of traveling to remote or non-traditional destinations like North Korea, Siberia, Antarctica and the West Bank.

Lauren is your **GLO Adviser** and primary point of contact for any questions you may have about your program, academics, preparing for study abroad, health and safety, or any other exchange-related matters, particularly **before your departure or after your return**.

Study Abroad at UCL

The staff at UCL can provide you with information, support, and connections to student life at your host university.

Each subject has an Affiliate Tutor. Your tutor is a great resource who will assist you with registration, advising, and academic support. You can find your tutor by navigating to your subject page: <u>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-at-ucl/subjects</u> Contact information is located near the bottom of each subject page.

Program Schedule

Classes will run from September 23 to December 13, 2019. Refer to your admission letter or the study abroad website for more details: <u>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-at-ucl/study-options/term-dates</u> There is an optional orientation that takes place before classes begin. You are strongly encouraged to attend orientation to give yourself time to learn more about the university and the city.

Academics

Refer to the **Academic Planning** section of the GLO website for more information about academic information, expectations, and policies: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/academic-planning/index.html</u>

In addition to familiarizing yourself with the information below, it is important that you take some time to learn about the academic culture of your host institution. Speak with past Northwestern students who have studied at your host university, as well as exchange students from your host university who are currently studying at Northwestern.

Choosing Courses, Registration, and Enrollment Requirements

For the term(s) that you will be abroad, you will be enrolled at Northwestern in a placeholder course, which corresponds to your program. GLO will register you for your study abroad course(s), so please do not register yourself for any classes.

Your first step to becoming a UCL student is to complete pre-enrolment. When you have accepted and met the conditions of your offer, you will receive an email from UCL inviting you to pre-enroll.

This will be sent to you about 4 to 6 weeks before the start date of your program. Your preenrolment service will not be available until you receive this email.

Once you have completed pre-enrolment you will need to enroll on your place at UCL.

Enrolment incorporates the following important steps:

- UCL will verify your ID
- UCL will check and record your passport and any visa you hold
- You will confirm your acceptance of UCL's terms and conditions
- You will have the opportunity to pay your fees
- You will be issued you with a student ID card and a confirmation of your enrolment
- Once UCL confirms your enrolment, you can select your modules and access the library, your UCL email account and other online resources

Enrolment takes place at the Recruitment and Admissions Hub on the Ground Floor, room G01 & G02 (Chadwick Building). They are open for enrolment from 2pm - 4.30pm each weekday. Once you have completed pre-enrolment, you will receive an email confirming your enrolment appointment details.

All new students need to bring a valid passport and visa (if applicable).

University College London exchange has a minimum credit enrollment requirement of:

- 2.0 credits in Fall
- 2.0 credits in Winter/Spring
- 4.0 credits for Full Year

For more information about how these local credits will convert to Northwestern units of credit, visit the GLO website: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/academic-planning/registration-credit/exchange-credit-transfer.html</u>.

You normally apply to one subject area and, once you arrive at UCL, you will be expected to take at least 50% of your modules within this area. You can choose the remainder from modules offered across the university, though be aware that prerequisites may apply, and spaces on certain modules may be limited.

You can also apply for joint admission to two subject areas. For joint admission you would be expected to take at least 50% of your modules in the first named subject area and 25% in the second, with the remainder chosen, again, from across UCL.

There are some exceptions:

- Law modules are only available to students admitted to the Faculty of Laws.
- English Language and Literature modules are only available to students admitted directly to this subject area.
- Level 2 and 3 Economics modules are only available to students admitted directly to this subject area.
- Architecture modules are only available to students admitted directly to this subject area.
- Most Computer Science modules are only available to students admitted directly to this subject area.

Transcripts and Credit

Following completion of your program, you will be issued a transcript from UCL and eligible course credit will be transferred to Northwestern, as long as students follow all rules regarding course transferability and earn course grades of C (or equivalent in the local grading system) or above. For more information about credit transfer, visit these sections of the GLO website:

- Transfer Credit Rules: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/academic-planning/choosing-courses.html</u>
- Transfer Credit Process: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/return-home/credit-transfer/index.html</u>

Accommodations

While housing for Fall or Winter/Spring is not guaranteed, students wishing to live in campus housing are normally able to secure a spot. Accepted students will be sent information on applying for housing with their acceptance notification.

UCL has two types of accommodation:

- UCL Halls of Residence (these halls are catered; i.e. breakfast and an evening meal are provided from Monday Friday; brunch on Saturday and Sunday).
- Student Houses (these halls are self-catered; i.e. students cook for themselves in onsite kitchens).

Most student housing is located within walking distance from the main Bloomsbury campus. Most rooms are single study bedrooms, equipped with a bed, desk, chair, washbasin, bookcase, cupboard and Wi-Fi. The price of UCL allocated housing will vary depending on the location and facilities available; to get an idea of the different types of accommodation you can visit the UCL Student Accommodation website: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/accommodation/

If you'd prefer to make your own arrangements for housing, you can get advice from the University of London Housing Services: <u>https://housing.london.ac.uk/</u>

United Kingdom

British history and culture are both rich and complex. We provide some basic information below, but we encourage you to do some research about the history of your host country as well as general country information, including the political system, geography, the economy, population, culture, and current events. Your ability to take full advantage of your time abroad will be influenced by the amount of preparation and research you do before you go, so read as much as you can! Refer to the list of resources in the **Links & Recommended Reading** section.

Fast Facts¹

- Surface Area: 243,610 sq km (England 53%) (twice the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than Oregon)
- Population: 65,105,246 (England 55,268,100) (July 2018 est.)
- Government type: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
- GDP per capita: \$44,300 (2017 est.)
- Major industries: machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, other consumer goods

Population

The core of the population lies in and around London, with significant clusters found in central Britain around Manchester and Liverpool, in the Scottish lowlands between Edinburgh and Glasgow, southern Wales in and around Cardiff, and far eastern Northern Ireland centered on Belfast

- Ethnic Groups: white 87.2%, black/African/Caribbean/black British 3%, Asian/Asian British: Indian 2.3%, Asian/Asian British: Pakistani 1.9%, mixed 2%, other 3.7% (2011 est.)
- Religions: Christian (includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7% (2011 est.)

Language

English, Scottish Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland), Welsh (about 20% of the population of Wales), Irish (about 10% of the population of Northern Ireland), Cornish (some 2,000 to 3,000 people in Cornwall) (2012 est.) note: the following are recognized regional languages: Scots (about 30% of the population of Scotland)

Transportation

There are many modes of transportation in London, some of which are safer and more reliable than others. Below is some basic information about how to get around, but also refer

¹ <u>https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uk.html</u> (2019)

to the **Health**, **Safety**, **and Security** sections of this Program Handbook for tips about safe travel.

- Foot: London is a very walkable city, though some sidewalks and streets can be narrow and cobblestones in older parts of London can be difficult for those with mobility challenges. There are many guided walking tours around London to help you learn more about the history and culture of the city.
- Public Transportation: London's public transport system is the easiest way to get around, with extensive underground ('Tube'), bus and rail networks across the city. As a student you'll be eligible for 30% off all adult travelcards and bus passes valid for a week or more. If you want to travel further afield, London has direct links to the rest of the UK and is a great base for further exploration - day trips to the seaside at Brighton, or Shakespeare's birthplace at Stratford-upon-Avon, for example. The Eurostar terminal at St Pancras International (a few minutes' walk from UCL) offers direct, high-speed rail connections to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam.
- **Bike**: London has a popular cycle hire scheme and there are more people than you might expect in such a densely populated city who commute by bike. Take care when biking on narrow streets and congested areas. Remember that cars drive on the opposite side of the street.
- **Taxi/Uber**: Taxis are everywhere, but fairly pricy, even for short distances. At the time of this writing, Uber is available in London, but there have been some recent legal battles with the city after London decided not to renew Uber's private hire operator license.

Getting To/From the Airport

UCL is located in the Bloomsbury district at the very center of London. There are easy connections to UCL from London's global hub airports at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted and you will find London's extensive public transport system is convenient and easy to use. The closest Tube stations to UCL's Gower Street site are Euston Square (Hammersmith and City, Metropolitan and Circle lines), Warren Street (Northern and Victoria lines), Euston (Northern and Victoria lines) and Russell Square (Piccadilly line).

Depending on the location of your housing, you may want to plan your journey from the airport to a different part of the city. Most students arrive at London's Heathrow Airport. Consult the airport website for options to get to your housing: <u>https://www.heathrow.com/transport-and-directions/getting-to-central-london</u>

Be very careful with your belongings at the airport and when boarding a taxi or shuttle. Make sure your bags are in your possession at all times.

Visas

US passport holders studying at UCL for the fall term are not required to apply for a visa in advance. You will be able to get a Short Term Student Route on arrival provided you come prepared with the appropriate documentation which you can read about here: https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa/y/usa/study/six_months_or_less

UCL will provide a letter of acceptance and guidance in advance of your arrival.

Students staying for more than 6 months will need to apply for a General Student Tier 4 Visa before arrival. UCL will assist you with this process and provide some of the paperwork needed for your application. You can read more about the Tier 4 visa requirements on the UK government website here: <u>https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa</u>

Students traveling on non-US passports may need to apply for a visa in advance of arrival even if their program lasts less than 6 months. Please consult the UK government website here: <u>https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa?step-by-step-nav=cafcc40a-c1ff-4997-adb4-</u>2fef47af194d

Students who are citizens of countries in the European Union should pay careful attention to the news. While we do not anticipate any changes that would impact students' ability to study at UCL for the upcoming academic year, the ambiguity of the UK's exit from the EU makes it difficult to advise students on future immigration related matters with any certainty. UCL maintains a website to monitor Brexit and its impact on the university. Students are advised to review this site regularly: <u>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit/</u>

Money Matters

Refer to **Appendix I** for cost information for your program. Also reference the Money Matters section of the GLO website and the relevant modules in Canvas for information about billing, financial aid, and budgeting: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/money-matters/index.html</u>. If you have any questions about billing, financial aid, or scholarships, email Krista Bethel in Undergraduate Financial Aid at <u>krista@northwestern.edu</u>.

Identity Abroad²

The sections below provide some basic information, summarized from Diversity Abroad and reflections from past students. Also refer back to the Identity Abroad section of the GLO website for general guidance and resources: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/student-experiences/identity-diversity/index.html</u>.

Gender Roles & Identity

Female students who travel to the United Kingdom can expect a level of protection and respect equivalent to the U.S.

Race and Ethnicity

Although U.K. heritage is ethnically Anglo-Saxon, the country's colonial conquests were such that, at the heyday of its rule, Great Britain was famously referred to as "the empire on which the sun never sets." The country's post-colonial ties with former and current commonwealths has meant increased immigrant flows into the U.K. under its nationality law. Communities from the British West Indies, South Africa and Kenya, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and Australasia can be found in urban areas across England, but particularly its largest ones.

London is by far the most populous and diverse city in the U.K., but it is not the only city with diversity. The U.K. enjoys a reputation as a tolerant, multiculturalist society, generally one considered as or more tolerant and less bigoted than the U.S. overall. This does not mean

² Adapted from the Diversity Abroad Network (2019): <u>http://www.diversitynetwork.org/</u>

that prejudice does not exist there. Although debates over the place of multiculturalism are taking place in the wake of high-profile homegrown terrorist plots and attacks as well as the 2011 youth riots, the debates generally relate more to immigration and naturalization policy than negative sentiment towards any ethnic or social group. U.S. students of color should not feel very concerned about experiencing discrimination in the U.K. Still,

this should not be interpreted to mean that prejudice and racism are nonexistent there.

Sexual Orientation and Identity

British society is generally accepting of the LGBT community. Laws there protect LGBT individuals from hate crimes and discrimination based on sexuality and gender identity. It has recognized same-sex civil unions since 2005.

U.S. students participating in education abroad programs in the U.K. can generally expect to find a campus environment that is at least as tolerant of and accommodating to the LGBT community on the average U.S. college campus.

High Financial Need

The cost of living in London is higher than in Evanston. All students, but especially students with high financial need, are encouraged to keep a weekly and monthly budget to track their spending. Refer to the **Budgeting & Planning** section of the GLO website for more information: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/money-matters/budgeting-planning/index.html</u>.

Students with high financial need may experience pressure from their friends to travel often. Some students may be able to afford to travel outside of London multiple times, but many will not. Like you do with your daily living expenses, you are encouraged to set a travel budget, if you plan to travel, and stick to this. Also seek out free and low-cost options in and around London. There are many discounted activities for students!

Religion and Spirituality

The U.K. is nearly three-quarters Christian. However, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and communities worship there. The largest concentrations of Muslims, Hindus, and Jews are in London, where students can easily access religious houses of worship. Christians will find a variety of options. Parliament legally respects and protects religious freedom through the establishment and enforcement of nondiscriminatory laws and policies. The U.K. is actively making efforts to better integrate minority groups into society through tolerance education and public outreach.

Health, Safety, and Security

The sections below provide information about health and safety risks and resources in [Host Country]. Refer back to the Health & Safety section of the GLO website and the modules in Canvas for more information about preparing for and responding to health, safety, and security concerns.

Staying Healthy

Students studying in England should expect a high level of medical access and care, as well as high food safety standards. As in some parts of the US, at the time of this writing there is an outbreak of measles in the UK. Students may want to check that their routine vaccinations are up to date.

Safety and Security

In addition to the **Travel Safety** information outlined on the Global Learning and Global Safety and Security websites, you are advised to follow these precautions during your time in United Kingdom:

- Terrorist groups continue plotting possible near-term attacks in Europe. The UK Security Service publishes specific reasons for any changes in the threat level and recommended actions for the public via its UK threat levels website: <u>https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency</u>
- Avoid areas of demonstrations if possible, and be careful within the vicinity of demonstrations. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate to violence.
- Crime:
 - Be cautious and aware of your surroundings.
 - Be vigilant, as pickpocketing, mugging, and "snatch and grab" theft of mobile phones, watches and jewelry can occur.
 - Do not leave bags unattended in restaurants, pubs, hotel lobbies, and parked cars.
 - Be alert to other criminal schemes, such as impostors posing as undercover police officers and "fining" tourists for bogus minor offenses. A legitimate Metropolitan Police Services officer will never demand an immediate cash payment.
 - Use only licensed Black Cabs or pre-ordered car services (minicabs, Uber). Unlicensed taxis or private cars posing as taxis may offer low fares, but in some instances, travelers have been robbed or sexually assaulted while using these cars.
 - Avoid using ATMs that look temporary in structure or location or are located in isolated areas – they may not be legitimate. Use ATMs located inside a bank branch.
- Refer to the U.S. Department of State Country Information Sheet for safety and security guidelines: <u>https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/UnitedKingdom.html</u>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Packing

Is there anything special that I need to pack for my program?

There is nothing special you need to pack. Expectations for dress are the same in the UK as they are in the US. You may want to pack at least one nicer outfit for special occasions or class presentations. A smaller bag for weekend/overnight travel is a good idea as well.

Food & Water

Can I drink the water?

Yes. Tap water is safe to drink unless explicitly told otherwise.

Is the local cuisine vegetarian friendly?

Vegetarians and vegans will find many options in London. While traditional British food is meat heavy, it is common to find meat-free options at most restaurants. Even chain restaurant/cafes like Pret A Manger, Caffe Nero, and Costa offer vegetarian and vegan friendly options and are found on almost every block in London.

Money

How much does the program cost?

See Appendix I or refer to the program website for a breakdown of program costs.

Are meals included in my Program Fee?

No. All room and board costs are out-of-pocket costs for students. Only tuition, administrative costs, and GeoBlue travel health insurance are included in the program fee billed by Northwestern.

How much money should I plan to spend?

Refer to the student budget in **Appendix I** for an estimate of costs for room and board, books, local transportation, and personal expenses. The figures included in the budget represent averages reported by past students spent over the entire duration of the program.

Be aware that your student budget does not include personal travel, and traveling can quickly add up. Travel costs will depend upon the nature of your trips and traveling in Western Europe and Scandinavia is more expensive than traveling locally or to other parts of the region.

How much cash should I bring?

For safety reasons, you are advised to bring no more than \$200 cash with you, plus a credit card and an ATM or debit card to use for purchases and to access additional funds. It is also recommended that you bring a second credit card in case of emergency. If you choose to bring more U.S. dollars, be sure to pack safely and monitor your belongings while traveling.

Communications

How do I get a cell phone that works in London?

You have a few options. First, you can use an international plan provided by your current carrier, though this can be expensive for a long stay. If you phone is unlocked, you can purchase a UK SIM. You can buy these at the airport or most convenience stores. Some are pre-paid, some are pay-as-you-go. Wi-Fi is regularly available at cafes, popular tourist destinations, and of course, on campus, to help you save data. Ask returned students for their recommendations!

Transportation & Travel

Will I be picked up from the airport?

You will not be picked up from the airport, but there are convenient, efficient, and safe ways to get from the airport to your housing. Most students arrive at London's Heathrow Airport. Consult the airport website for options to get to your housing: https://www.heathrow.com/transport-and-directions/getting-to-central-london

How will I get back to the airport for departure?

The same options that are available to you from the airport to housing are good options for departure.

How much free time do I have? What can I expect to do outside of class?

This is up to you and how you organize your class schedule. There are a wide variety of places for you to explore in and around London. Contact the Ambassadors for your program to get suggestions for things to do in your spare time:

https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/student-experiences/ambassador-program/studentambassadors.html

Links & Recommended Reading

Program & Country Information

- Program website: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/study-abroad/explore-programs/europe/university-college-london-exchange.html</u>
- Student Blogs: <u>https://sites.northwestern.edu/studyabroadblogs/</u>
- Connect with past students: <u>https://www.northwestern.edu/abroad/student-</u> experiences/connect-with-students/index.html
- CIA World Factbook United Kingdom: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uk.html
- U.S. Department of State Country Guide for United Kingdom: <u>https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/UnitedKingdom.html</u>
- Visit London: <u>https://www.visitlondon.com/</u>

Health & Safety

- Northwestern Office of Global Safety and Security: <u>http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/index.html</u>
- Northwestern Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <u>http://www.northwestern.edu/counseling/</u>
- Northwestern Center for Awareness, Response, and Education (CARE): <u>http://www.northwestern.edu/care/</u>
- Northwestern Travel Health Services: <u>http://www.northwestern.edu/healthservice-evanston/medical-services/travel-health-services/index.html</u>
- World Health Organization: United Kingdom: <u>https://www.who.int/countries/gbr/en/</u>
- CDC: Health Information for United Kingdom: <u>https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended_student/united-kingdom</u>
- GeoBlue Health Insurance: <u>https://www.geo-blue.com/</u>
- Smart Traveler Enrollment Program: <u>https://step.state.gov/step/</u>

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Appendix I: Cost Breakdown

2019-2020 Program Cost Information University College London Exchange (London, England)

FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN				
	Fall 2019	Full Year 2019-20	/Winter Spring 2020	
Program Fee Students are charged a program fee equivalent to the Northwestern University tuition rate. The program fee covers program expenses, including academic fees, program administration, and orientation (if applicable). It also includes GeoBlue Global Health Insurance, which is purchased by GLO on students' behalf for the full length of the program.	\$18,744 1 quarter of tuition	\$56,232 3 quarters of tuition	\$28,116 1.5 quarters of tuition	
Study Abroad Administrative Fee Students are exempt from the Study Abroad Administrative Fee.	\$0	\$0	\$0	
TOTAL FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN	\$18,744	\$56,232	\$28,116	
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS				
International Airfare				
Students are responsible for making arrangements to fly round- trip to their host city. International airfares vary greatly based on the point of departure, carrier, and type of ticket purchased as well as volatility of airline industry pricing. Students may choose to take advantage of frequent flyer or other airline awards available to them, which could significantly lower their travel costs.	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	
Room & Board Students are responsible for making their own accommodations arrangements, based on suggestions from GLO and the host institution (if applicable). Costs can vary by housing type. Housing and meal costs provided here represent expected averages.	\$7,600	\$17,100	\$9,500	
Visa Fees	\$0	\$700	\$0	
Books & Supplies	\$200	\$400	\$200	
Local Transportation	\$400	\$900	\$600	
Personal Expenses Personal expenses vary based on individual spending habits and budgets. Figures represent student-reported averages and include incidentals and living expenses, such as clothing, toiletries, entertainment, and communication expenses. Students who plan to travel outside of their program location should estimate an additional \$500-\$2,000.	\$1,000	\$2,250	\$1,250	
TOTAL ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS	\$10,700	\$22,850	\$13,050	
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TOTAL STUDENT BUDGET	\$29,444	\$79.082	\$41,166
(Fees + Estimated Additional Costs)	Ψ23,777	Ψ13,00Z	φ - 1,100