Here are some suggestions and ideas to keep in mind as you prepare for your trip to Aberdeen for the Summer Abroad Program.

**Transportation:** Many students have been very successful finding excellent airline fares over the internet using a variety of sites. In addition to the usual ones, [www.sidestep.com](http://www.sidestep.com) and [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com) may be helpful. Please share information with each other by e-mail on what you find. We are creating an e-mail list to share this information. A suggestion for someone who has been serving our students for several years now:

American European Students Union (AESU) [www.aesu.com](http://www.aesu.com)
3922 Hickory Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211-1834
Promoter Code #431
Contact the reservation department at 800-638-7640 or 410-366-5494; then press for “Extension 3” after dialing either of these numbers
If you encounter any problems, ask to communicate with Karoline Bowman; karoline@aesu.com

Also you can check with travel agents for their best airline deals on both commercial and charter flights. There are discounted "wholesale" fares as well as charter flights (Euram, for example) that may save you a considerable amount of money.

You should also decide if you plan on traveling in Europe before or after the program. If so, this should be planned out in order to select your arrival and departure dates as well as the city of arrival and departure. Traveling before the program is cheaper than after. In past years, several students traveled before and after the program. Some traveled in England, Ireland, France, Italy, etc. Some students flew into London, some into Glasgow, and some directly into Aberdeen. Some students flew home from Aberdeen, Glasgow, Shannon, Paris, Amsterdam, Luxembourg, etc.

**Passports:** You must have a valid passport to enter Scotland/the United Kingdom. To be valid, the passport must not expire prior to October 2009. (October 2009 is the date because for entry into many countries, including the United Kingdom, the passport must be valid for two months past the date of entry). You do not need to get a visa. You may want to carry your letter of acceptance into the program, or some other proof that you will be studying in Scotland, in the unlikely event that this is required at customs. In addition to carrying your passport, it is suggested that you make a copy of your passport in the event your passport is lost.

**Matriculation/I.D. Cards:** Matriculation/identification cards are included in the program fees. The matriculation card will allow you to use all the facilities at the University of Aberdeen that are open to full-time students. The program assistant, Gloria Joy, has already sent you messages on what you must send for us to obtain your card, which includes a photograph of you that’s about the same size as the photo used for passports. Please note that Matriculation Cards will be available to students on Monday, June 29, 2009, the first day of the program, but that it will take 24hrs for the cards to become active and
give you internet access. The campus is now wireless but you do need a username and password to access the University’s wireless system.

**Arrival in Aberdeen:** Classes begin on Monday, June 29. You are expected to arrive at Crombie-Johnston Halls on Sunday, June 28. However, **you may arrive as early as Saturday, June 27, at no extra charge.** Please let the Director (Professor David Carey Miller) know in advance if you expect to arrive later than Sunday, June 28. Late arrival is discouraged because of the full schedule of orientation activities on Monday. (The draft schedule was sent to you all on Monday.) Also, students should not plan to leave Aberdeen before the evening of July 31.

Upon arrival, students should collect room keys from the porter in the main building at Crombie-Johnston. If you want to arrive one to three days earlier than Saturday, June 27, or stay a day or two at the end of the program, you can reserve a room directly with the University of Aberdeen, King’s Hall Reception tel: 011-44-1224-27263444; e-mail: kingshall@abdn.ac.uk). Daily cost there, for a standard bed & breakfast room, is £39 (about $60.00) per night on Friday and Saturday, and £56 (about $85) per night on Sunday-Thursday. On arrival at Crombie-Johnston Halls, you will be welcomed by the summer school liaison/assistant for students, Mr. Thushara Kumarage. Please e-mail Thushara (t02tk7@abdn.ac.uk) your arrival information. Professor Carey-Miller, the Aberdeen Director, will be more than happy to be contacted if any student is concerned about arrival arrangements. He can be contacted by e-mail or by phone listed on page 4 of this information sheet.

If arriving in Aberdeen by rail or by bus, you can take a taxi from the station to Crombie-Johnston Halls (off High Street) for a fare of approximately $10.00-$11.00 (£7 - £8). If arriving by air, taxi fare will be approximately $ 22.00-$29.00 (£15-£20) from the airport.

Please see website (http://www.abdn.ac.uk/central/vcampus/index.hti) for campus maps. The law school building where your classes will be held is the Taylor Building, and you’ll see on the map it’s just a block from the Crombie-Johnston dorms.

**Departure from Aberdeen:** The last official day of class is Friday, July 31, ending with a final lunch. You will not be free to leave until after 3:00 p.m. The final exams are scheduled for Thursday morning, July 30, and Friday morning, July 31. Your housing contract ends on Saturday, August 1st, by noon.

**Guidebooks:** There are many good ones. *Let's Go: British Isles and Ireland* points out sites and low cost lodgings. *Michelin's Green Guide Scotland* has good historical and cultural information. Also, *Fodor's Scotland* and *Rough Guide* are most informative.

**International Student ID Card:** These can be obtained by paying a small fee ($22.00 [add $3.00 for photo, if needed]), submitting one passport size photo, proof of current enrollment (a current student ID or copy of a current class schedule), a driver’s license, and your passport. You can get information on how and where to purchase the ID cards from their website: www.isecard.com. The form and the cards are also available from AESU (contact information on page 1). Allow several weeks for processing time. These are not necessary, but can get you discounts at various places.

**Rail passes:** There are many good deals to be had on the railroad through European Rail Passes. Many of these RailEurope and Britrail passes must be obtained in the United States before you leave. You can obtain information about the passes and purchase them through a travel agent or you can call RailEurope...
at 1-800-4-EURAIL (website: www.raileurope.com). The best deals are for younger students (under 26). Go to the website below for youthpass prices:


Passes must be purchased in the United States. Many students have flown into London, then used the pass to travel by train to and from Aberdeen and also for travel on the weekends.

**Clothing:** The weather forecast for July 2009 in Aberdeen is an average temperature in the low 70s. That is an average; some days could be 10-15 Fahrenheit degrees warmer or cooler than that. Expect there will be some rainy days; a jacket with a hood and an umbrella are worth packing. Turtlenecks are good to have; if it's cool, you can add layers. Warm pajamas are welcome, and a robe and flip-flops for travel to and from the bath. A bathing suit (there are pools), slacks, one sweater (buy others), and waterproof walking shoes are good items to have. Dress for class is casual. **There are, however, tours of courts, receptions, a dinner, and talks by guest speakers, so bringing two "good outfits" and one pair of dress shoes is important.**

There are lots of thrift shops in Aberdeen, so if you are short of hack-about clothes (an extra sweater or pair of slacks), you will be able to acquire them easily and cheaply there.

Also, some people bring clothes that are serviceable while they are at the program, but that they are willing to leave behind to permit them to have more room in their baggage to bring things home. **PACK LIGHT, mindful of the fact that you will probably acquire things in Scotland or on your other travels. Also many airlines now charge by the weight of luggage!!**

**Class Materials:** All of your class materials will be provided for you in Aberdeen or posted online (probably on a TWEN site) by no later than June 11. Please be sure to keep us current on your e-mail address so that we can notify you about the posting of class materials. We strongly recommend that you print out the posted materials because, even though you will have wireless access in your dorm facilities and in the Taylor Building, there are few electrical outlets in your classrooms, so you cannot assume you will be able to access materials online from your own laptop while you’re in class.

**Currency:** In recent years, most students have found that using a bank ATM card is the most convenient means of accessing cash during the program. AAA in Maryland no longer even sells travelers checks, and banks’ fees for selling checks in pounds or in dollars probably will equal if not exceed the fees charged for using ATMs. **However,** unless you’re sure that you’ll have an opportunity to access an ATM before you spend any cash in the United Kingdom (including a cab ride), you should obtain 50 or more British pounds before you leave for the U.S. Many banks, and AAA, will exchange pounds for dollars. A credit card (MasterCard or VISA) can be used for most, but not all, purchases. Many credit card providers charge fees for transactions abroad, so if you have multiple cards, you may want to check which one has the lowest fees. If you want to use a debit card in Scotland, check with the institution that issued the debit card (e.g. a bank) on whether you can use their card for purchases in Scotland. It is not possible to predict accurately what the U.S. dollar-British pound exchange rate will be while you are there. You can check the current exchange rate at [http://www.xe.com/](http://www.xe.com/). The exchange rate is also printed in most newspapers’ financial sections and is available from AAA and banks.

**Housing:** Student housing is provided at Crombie-Johnston Halls, a block from the law school classes and evening activities. Students have single-study bedrooms with washbasins. Facilities include a laundry room, a TV room, and a lounge. Each floor has a kitchenette with mini-refrigerator, sink, and
hotplate. Cutlery and crockery are not provided. The facilities are insufficient for cooking meals, but will suffice for preparing snacks or hot drinks. (Mugs, teaspoons, etc., can be bought cheaply at local supermarkets.) Fresh linens and towels are provided in the rooms regularly, but students should bring their own towels for swimming or other use outside the rooms.

**Food:** As mentioned in earlier messages, students will be responsible for providing their own food, except for food and drinks at program receptions and activities (see the draft schedule) and cookies and tea or coffee on class days. Here is a link to a web page on locations on the University of Aberdeen campus where you can purchase meals and food: [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/foodforthought/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/foodforthought/). Off-campus, there are additional places nearby for snacks and take-out. You will discover wonderful cookies, yogurt, cheeses, fruits, soups, and other items in the grocery stores. (Aberdeen has a delightful selection of restaurants - many Indian, and seafood ones, as well as Italian, French, Chinese, and pubs.)

The nearest major grocery store is about a 10-minute walk. There is, however, a direct bus route from Crombie-Johnston to several grocery stores.

**Computers/Internet:** There will be wireless internet access in the common areas of the dorms, though not necessarily in your individual dorm rooms. There will also be wireless internet access in the Taylor Building where your class sessions will be held. However, the number of electrical outlets in your classrooms will be limited, so unless you have a laptop with a reliably long-lasting battery, it’s questionable whether you could consistently use your laptop to access the internet while in class. Students in the program will have access to computers (with internet access) and printers in the U of Aberdeen’s computer labs, which are reasonably close to your dorms. To have access to the computer labs and other facilities, you must have a U of Aberdeen Matriculation card (see discussion of i.d. cards, above). If you bring your own laptop computer to Aberdeen, and that computer is equipped for wireless access, you would have more options for where you use your computer and access the internet. There are some hassles in having to transport a computer to and from Aberdeen, but on balance it’s probably worth the hassles as long as the computer is one with wireless access.

**Gym/Fitness:** Once you have the U of Aberdeen Matriculation card, you can access the University’s fitness, sports and recreation facilities. Here is a link to information on those facilities: [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sportandrec/facilities/index.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sportandrec/facilities/index.php). The closest one to the dorms is the King’s Sports Pavilion.

**Mail:** Your mail is addressed to the university, collected by faculty, and delivered to you in class. Your postal address during the program is:

University of Baltimore Summer School  
School of Law  
University of Aberdeen  
Taylor Building  
Old Aberdeen AB24 3UB SCOTLAND

**Telephones:** In recent years, most students (and even faculty) have used cell phones (in the United Kingdom, called “mobile phones”) for most calls. You should check with your cell phone provider on whether you would be able to use your cell phone in Scotland, and what the costs would be (for many providers, you have to ask about adding “international roaming” to your account). Many students have found that the most convenient and/or cost-effective option is to buy a disposable cell phone and prepaid...
package at a cellphone store in the United Kingdom. Another option is “renting” a phone in the United States for use overseas: the companies that provide that service include Amigo (1-888-264-4687), InTouch USA (800-872-7626) and RoadPost (888-290-1616)

There are public phone booths in Crombie-Johnston. If you plan to use those make long distance calls, e.g., to the United States, you will need a phone card from one of the major carriers, AT&T, MCI, etc. Arrange this before you go overseas.

Useful numbers in Scotland:

- Prof. David Carey Miller, Summer School Director: 011-44-1224-272419
- Prof. David Carey Miller’s e-mail address: dcm@abdn.ac.uk
- Prof. David Carey Miller’s home number: 011-44-1224 791587
- Carol Lawie, Prof. Carey Miller’s Secretary: 011-44-1224-272441
- Carol Lawie’s e-mail address: law331@abdn.ac.uk
- Thushara Kumarage, Aberdeen Student liason’s e-mail address: rt0tk7@abdn.ac.uk
- Aberdeen Law Faculty Fax: 011-44-1224-272442
- Crombie-Johnston porter’s desk: 011-44-1224-272218
- Crombie-Johnston Reception desk: 011-44-1224-273444

To call any of these local numbers from the United States, first dial 011-44 and then the number. When making calls from within the United Kingdom, omit the 011-44, but add a (0) before the 1224. When calling Aberdeen numbers from within Aberdeen, you can just begin with the 1224.

Health care: While at the University, you have access to the Student Health Services office. The following information is taken from the NHS (the UK’s state health service which provides treatment for UK residents) website: “Overseas visitors to the UK are not regarded as residents. But treatment in an emergency (not follow up treatment) is available to anyone.” You should check with your health insurer about coverage for travel outside the U.K. The program is providing for you trip insurance, which includes some medical insurance, and we will provide more details on the terms of that policy shortly.

Trip insurance: As noted above, the program is providing trip insurance, in case of accidents or emergencies that require cancellation of the trip or damage to property. We will provide more details on the terms of that policy shortly.

Car rental: You can obtain an International Driver's License from AAA for a small fee and two photos. It is not necessary in the U.K. to have it to rent a car. You must have your state driver's license, however. For older students renting a car for weekend touring is the preferred way to explore. Familiarize yourself with the rules of the road. Driving on the left, particularly around the round-abouts (traffic circles) that are quite common, takes some getting used to.

Cancellation policies: Unless there’s an unforeseen and tragic catastrophe, the 2009 program in Aberdeen will not be canceled. If the Aberdeen program were to be canceled, each and every student enrolled would receive individual notice by e-mail, receipt requested, and there would be follow-up up by regular mail or telephone or both to every student who did not acknowledge receipt of the e-mail. For a student to cancel his or her enrollment in the program, the student must send written notice (by e-mail or regular mail) that is received no later than Noon on Monday, June 15, 2009. The notice should be sent to the program director or program assistant or both, and their contact information is set forth at the end of
this information sheet. After timely withdrawal, the student will receive a refund of all payments other than the nonrefundable $250 deposit. No refunds will be made for withdrawals received after Noon on Monday, June 15, 2009.

**U.S. Consulate Information:** We received the following information from the U.S. Consulate in Scotland and thought it appropriate to pass it along.

We encourage your students to register with us when they arrive in Scotland. Registering is easy. Americans simply need to send an email to:

edinburgh-warden@state.gov

Please include name, address, phone, emergency contact in the U.S., and travel plans. We will then automatically send updates and newsletters which contain important information from the U.S. Department of State as it becomes available.

In addition, the Consulate offers its citizens a number of services, such as passport renewals, notarials, etc. A full list of our services, opening hours, etc. is available on our website: www.usembassy.org.uk/scotland.

Keep track of other tips you learn as you plan your trip and share them with your colleagues. (This message was sent to all students enrolled in the program, so you can obtain any and all of your colleagues’ e-mail addresses from this message),

Michael Hayes, Program Director
410-837-4604; fax-410-837-4492
e-mail: mjhayes@ubalt.edu

Gloria Joy, Program Assistant
410-837-4631
gpjoy@ubalt.edu