

# ENGLAND Experience



**Summer 2026**

Honors: ENG 200: Introduction to Literature (3 Hrs)  
A literature-immersion study abroad program during  
Summer 2026 for Gatton Academy Class of 2027  
students

## **Expense**

Cost is estimated at \$6,300, which includes round-trip airfare from Louisville, all lodging, approximately 80% of the meals, all ground transportation, all site visits, and tuition. The WKU Study Abroad and Global Learning fees are now included in the program cost. Any student who has not previously used their one-time \$1,000 Gatton Academy Study Abroad Scholarship will only pay an estimated \$5,300 for the program cost.

## **Itinerary**

The precise itinerary for the Summer 2026 program will be shared with participants. Before the group moves on to London, half of the days are spent in the field for site visits and half of the days are more restful class days at our countryside Wroxton base. Here are some of the activities that students may experience:

### **Day 1 Travel**

Depart the USA, flying overnight to London, England.

### **Day 2 Wroxton**

Arrive in London and transported by chartered coach to our home base in Wroxton. Upon arrival, the group will have lunch, receive an orientation, have a guided house tour, get checked in, and eat dinner. Students have until late in the evening to explore their new, grand home.

### **Typical Class day**

Breakfast. Class 9 AM—Noon. Break during class for morning coffee. Lunch. Free time to work on assignments, explore the grounds, travel to nearby Banbury, play croquet, volleyball, soccer, etc. Afternoon tea served around 3:45 PM and dinner around 6 PM.

### **Guest Lecture: Differences between the US and the UK**

Students will receive an insightful and entertaining lecture from Dr. Nicholas Baldwin, Dean of Wroxton, about social, cultural, economic, and political differences between the United States and the United Kingdom.

## **Possible Field Trip Locations**

**Blenheim Palace:** Visit the birthplace of Winston Churchill, home to beautiful gardens, a maze, a mini-train students may ride, a duck pond, and a large obelisk. The palace also hosts exciting exhibits and festivals that students may experience.

**Broughton Castle:** This fortified manor house, built circa 1300, is surrounded by a moat and contains beautiful gardens, a gatehouse, and a cafe. This picturesque ancestral home of the Fiennes family (relatives of actor Ralph Fiennes) has served as a filming location for Shakespeare in Love and The Crown.

**Chawton, Stonehenge, and Salisbury:** This is a jam-packed day! In Chawton, students visit Jane Austen's home, where they learn about her family, play lawn games, and even get to dress up like early 1800s Britons. Students then visit Stonehenge to walk the grounds, admire the ancient ruins, take a group picture, and visit the gift shop. Lastly, students spend the afternoon touring beautiful Salisbury Cathedral (home to a copy of the Magna Carta) and the surrounding town.

**Day trip to London:** After reaching London via coach, students will take the Tube to the British Library for a literary scavenger hunt and the Wellcome Center for a science pedagogy assignment. Students will have free time in the afternoon to explore London before returning to Wroxton for dinner.

**Globe Theatre:** Students will get to see a play performed in the evening at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Students receive "groundling" tickets, allowing them to stand by the stage, which often results in interactions with the actors who are only a few feet away.

**Harry Potter Studio Tour:** Experience the magic of Harry Potter by walking through the Great Hall, seeing the Hogwarts model used for filming, drinking butterbeer, selecting a wand at Ollivander's Shop, and learning all about the making of these iconic films.

**Newstead Abbey:** Explore this medieval monastery that Lord Byron once called home, featuring beautiful gardens, ecclesiastical ruins, a lake that once hosted mock naval battles, and the best pet memorials that you will ever see.

**Oxford:** Students take an afternoon trip to nearby Oxford to visit museums (the Ashmolean, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and History of Science Museum are all free!), shop, and explore the city J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis called home.

**Sherwood Forest:** Walk the trails in this ancient Royal Forest, home to the legendary Robin Hood, and take in the majestic wildlife, highlighted by the nearly 1200-year-old Major Oak.

**Stratford-upon-Avon:** Visit the cottage of Anne Hathaway (Shakespeare's wife), Holy Trinity Church (Shakespeare's burial site), and Shakespeare's birthplace. Students grab dinner in town and then take in a play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

**Sudeley Castle:** At this home of Kentucky native Lady Ashcombe, students tour the castle, enjoy the Adventure Playground, see Queen Katherine's tomb, and admire the impressive animal sculptures on the grounds.

### **Days 16 - 21 Exploring London**

Aside from field trips and class sessions, students will be free to explore London (in groups of four or more) from their home base in the middle of London. Breakfast is provided at the hotel, and then students will be on their own for lunch and dinner with access to every kind of cuisine imaginable.

### **Day 22 Travel**

Return to the United States