

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW**  
**MAYMESTER IN LONDON**

**2012 Course Description**

**Introduction.**

The London Maymester program is a joint project between the Law School and The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn in London. This information sheet is intended to provide a general description of the program. Descriptions herein are subject to change, but plenty of notice would be given.

**Subject Matter.**

The program is organized around a course entitled Transnational Dispute Resolution. Content will include comparative US/English legal institutions, international civil litigation, and international arbitration.

**Course Credit.**

This is a real law school course worth four credit hours. Grades will be based on an 8-hour, take-home-open-everything final exam following return to the States. The exam may be picked up from a TWEN site, or physically at the Law School, and answers returned by internet, or physically, at any time during June convenient to the individual student. The course satisfies the graduation requirement of completion of at least one "perspective" course.

**Schedule.**

Introductory meetings will be held in Columbia during Fall 2011 and Spring 2012. An introductory meeting and lecture will take place at Gray's Inn, London, on the afternoon of Sunday, May 6, 2012. The main part of the course will be taught during the weeks of May 7, 14, and 21, on each MTWTh morning, with some required activities (such as visits to the Law Courts) on MTW afternoons.

**Faculty.**

The principal faculty are Prof's McWilliams and Samuels. Guest speakers will be drawn from the English Bar, courts and universities.

**Location.**

The course will be taught at Gray's Inn, one of the four London Inns of Court. The course administrative office is also located at the Inn. Check out the Grays Inn web site at

Graysinn.org.uk. The website explains location (near Chancery Lane and the Law Courts). A web site called central-logon-apartments.com has a useful map showing Gray's Inn on the border between the upper right and left quadrants. From the map you can see that Chancery Lane is the closest Tube stop. The Holborn and Russell Square stops are also nearby. Caution: The Chancery Lane Tube stop is closed on Sundays.

Gray's Inn will permit us to participate in their Easter Dining Term, a series of dinners for Gray's Inn barristers and pupils. More detail on this feature will be provided later.

### **Required Books.**

All course materials will be provided at no cost. Guest speakers often provide supplemental handouts.

### **Library and Study Space.**

Gray's Inn has common spaces for students and a law library to which we will have access. Internet access is available in the library. Other nearby public institutions, such as the British Museum and the nearby public library, have public reading rooms and other resources.

### **Computers.**

You won't be required to have a computer. Many students do bring one. Should you wish to bring one, either be sure that it's compatible with British current (most modern laptops are) or bring a converter. You will also need a gadget to convert your power plug from American style to British style. As an alternative to bringing a computer, London has many "web cafes" that provide word processing and printing capability and cheap access to the internet. The Inn's library offers web access and public libraries provide free access. The student lodging arranged by the program offers wireless internet.

### **Air Travel.**

Travel arrangements are on your own. This is for two reasons. First, not everyone will want to go and return on the same dates. Second, experience shows that you can find cheaper flights on the web than can be obtained through block booking.

For cheap student fares check out Studentuniverse.com. There's also Orbitz, Sidestep, and so on. Try putting "discount air fares" into your Google search window. Extremely low fares are available from New York at times, for those able to get themselves to New York.

Book air tickets early unless you're willing to take a chance on deeply discounted last minute fares. As to exact dates, be flexible, although you'll want to match up your travel dates as closely as possible with lodging dates and the course schedule.

## **Lodging.**

The program books, and offers to participants, suite-style accommodation based on double bedrooms, convenient to Gray's Inn. The accommodations are fully furnished, including kitchens and laundry facilities. Linens are provided. A more detailed description of the accommodation will be distributed along with registration materials. Space is limited (although last year all 35 students were able to obtain space). The Law School London Maymester website has a link to a description of the lodging provided by the program.

For those not choosing to use the University-provided accommodations, lodging is on your own, but the program will assist you in finding appropriate and convenient space. Suggestions for making your own arrangements:

- Again, check out Studentuniverse.com. They offer hostel-type lodging, and travel arrangements, among other things. When you get to the website, click on "hostels", then click on "buy now." You'll be prompted to enter a country, city and dates. Then "enter," and you'll find a huge menu ranging upward from \$14/night dorm type arrangements.
- Alternatively, just put "student lodging London" into your search engine. Google yielded 38,000 hits.
- Or try putting "short let apartments London" into your search window. Groups taking a flat together can find nice accommodations at reasonable prices.

When considering booking lodging, remember to check for laundry arrangements, kitchens, and convenience to the Inn either by walking or by public transport. Again, the closest Tube stops are Chancery Lane, Holborn, and Russell Square. When considering lodging try to have someone check it out before you book, if possible, because price does not always reflect quality.

## **Meals.**

For the most part, food will be on your own. It is more expensive in London than in Columbia, so you'll want to budget and plan. Our accommodations have fully equipped kitchens. There are many decent and relatively inexpensive places to eat near the Inn.

## **Laundry and Dry Cleaning; Clothing.**

Laundry facilities are something to take into account in making lodging decisions. Directly across the street from the Inn there is a dry cleaner that does fluff laundry. There are also laundry facilities in the accommodations arranged by the program.

You will need at least one dress-up outfit to wear for "dining in Hall" at the Inn. This should be a black, dark gray, or navy blue suit for guys, with the equivalent for women. Those who register for the course will get further advice on this sort of thing.

### **Passport and Visa Letter.**

You'll need a passport. If you don't have one, and you're even remotely thinking of coming on this trip, go ahead and get a passport now, because it can take some time. The Post Office has the forms. *Do not pack your passport.* You'll need it for check-in and boarding at the airport, and you'll need to present it at passport control upon arriving in England.

The British Home Office now requires students to present a "visa letter" at passport control when entering the country. Those registered for the program will be issued appropriate letters. *Do not pack these letters.* You'll need to present them along with your passport upon arriving in England.

### **Foreign Exchange.**

If you plan to bring £ with you, your local bank can obtain it, but be sure to plan for this in advance, as it can take time. Travelers' cheques are not advised.

In London, just about everything can be paid for with a VISA card. While VISA gives an excellent exchange rate, it may also impose a charge for foreign-currency transactions. You can also use debit cards to obtain local currency from cash machines, just like in the US. US card issuers charge fees for this service. Check to see whether your card issuer has a no-fee arrangement with one of the British banks. Bank of America, for example, has an arrangement with Barclays Bank.

Use your debit care to obtain cash from cash machines. Using a credit card to obtain local currency from a cash machine is treated by US banks as a cash advance, and interest is charged from the time of the withdrawal. This is not advised.

### **State Department Travel Advisories.**

The State Department issues travel advisories from time to time. The Law School will keep an eye on these and pass along any that affect our travel period.

### **Tuition; Financial Aid; Registration.**

Course tuition for the four-hour course for 2012 is expected to be the same as last year, \$3,500 per student (that includes the University-imposed activity fee). This rate applies to both in- and out-of-state students. A non-refundable deposit, credited against the tuition charge, will be required to confirm placement (make checks payable to the University of South Carolina), due at the time of pre-registration. Register for the course by completing the registration form and submitting it, along with your deposit check, to the Registrar. Pre-registration will begin in November.

Students intending to rely on financial aid should consult Dean Palmer in Student Services. To be eligible for most sources of federal aid a student must be "full time,"

which, for the summer, means six hours. Financial aid is privately available to summer students who enroll for four hours, but the loan programs generally have less attractive rates and are limited to students with good credit. There will be a presentation on financial aid in January.

Most sources of student aid permit aid to be used to pay the student's airfare and living expenses (but not those of a spouse). Your financial aid source may require you to submit a proposed budget. A budget is posted on the London Maymester website. The personal-expense budget estimates student expense for travel, food and lodging at \$4,500.

Those using Title IV funds must complete a "consortium agreement" (contact Paula Edwards). This can take time to be processed, so early submission by is encouraged.

Those who need six credit hours to qualify as full-time for student aid purposes should register as summer students either for a two-hour research paper ("Legal Research 3" – see below) or for some other summer course of at least two hours.

### **Legal Research 3.**

Legal Research 3 entails writing a two-credit-hour research paper for a faculty sponsor. This paper can fulfill the "30-page paper" graduation requirement. Students enrolling in Legal Research 3 must find a faculty sponsor for their paper. Tuition for Legal Research 3 is less than the usual summer-school rate. This rate applies to both in- and out-of-state students. Tuition for other summer school course will be charged at the usual summer-school rate.

### **Health and Trip Insurance.**

Health and trip insurance are on your own. Trip insurance is recommended and health insurance is required. The University's student health insurance provides coverage.

**The number of spaces available is limited.**

Early registration is recommended.

*Cheers!*