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Study Abroad Office

Principia College

Elsah, IL 62028

T: 618.374.5215

T: 800.277.4648

ext 2831

www.principia.edu/abroads

England's Lake District

Study Abroad

Exploring "What is Natural?"

Program Description

The Lake District National Park has been inhabited and cultivated by humans for at least 5000 years. In such an environment, what does the term "natural" mean? The area is a region of supreme natural beauty and has inspired generations of authors to reflect on the qualities of nature. Geologic events and climatic conditions cast the foundations for the development of complex interactions between humans and the environment that resulted in this serene landscape. Modern demands are forcing changes to the land. The Lake District has committed to be carbon neutral by 2025. Declines in biodiversity are triggering alarms. Society recognizes the value of planting more trees, but the shepherds need open space to graze their sheep and tourists value the unobstructed view. A rewilding movement seeks to promote natural ecosystems, but that begs the question, "What is natural?" By cross referencing the two fields of biology and literature, we hope to uncover how humans' attitudes towards nature have impacted the actual decisions made regarding the land. Together, as an abroad, we will search for evidence for the definition of "natural" by observing the ecosystem, researching stakeholder perspectives, and by reading from the works of Lake District authors past and present.

This program is open to all students and all majors.



Applications

(see Application Instructions on page 4 for more information)

Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22

Completed applications must be submitted to the Principia Study Abroad Office no later than **5:00 pm** on **Wednesday of Week 4, September 21, 2022**.

No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Program Staff

This program will be directed by Heidi Snow, professor of English, and John Lovseth, associate professor of Biology and Natural Resources.

Heidi Snow has taught at Principia College for nearly 20 years. She has been involved in five study abroad programs to England focused on Shakespeare and one in the Lake District. Besides her travels to Britain in connection with study abroad programs, Heidi has traveled there several times to research the life and times of William Wordsworth. Her research into theological views on poverty in the 18th and 19th centuries has taken her to the Lake District, Oxford, London, and Scotland and has resulted in a book with Routledge Publishing entitled *William Wordsworth and the Theology of Poverty*.

John Lovseth has taught natural resource inventorying and mapping at Principia College since 2011. As an English minor in his undergraduate studies, he developed a lifelong appreciation for poetry and the connection between the arts and sciences. John co-directed the last abroad with Heidi to the Lake District. His research focus has included the anthropogenic influences on ecosystem development and implications for managers who seek to restore and protect ecological communities. The Lake District provides a perfect case study for investigating the role of human activities in creating iconic landscapes.

A program resident counselor will be named at a later date

Academics

A total of **8** semester hours of credit will be earned with this program: 1 SH during Spring 2023, 6 SH during Summer 2023, and 1 SH during Fall 2023. Final grades for all courses will be determined by the program faculty.

SPRING SEMESTER 2023

SPST 280: Orientation Seminar: Lake District, England

SH: 1 Attribute: None

The orientation seminar provides an interdisciplinary survey of contemporary issues within England's Lake District. These issues may include geography, cultural history, politics, religion, foreign relations, environment, the arts, etc.

SUMMER BREAK 2023

BNR 362: Conservation: England

SH: 3 Attribute: GESN

This course focuses on how natural resources of the Lake District are managed, by studying conservation management strategies of ecosystems as well as species management and the interface of native culture and resource conservation. There is no prerequisite for this course.

ENGL 220: Environmental Literature: The Lake District, England

SH: 3 Attribute: GEH

This course focuses on the ways in which the environment has been portrayed in English language literature and the relationship between that portrayal and treatment of the environment. The course may focus either chronologically or regionally. Students are also introduced to theories of environmental aesthetics and their ethics.

PE 085: Hiking/Backpacking

SH: 0 Attribute: GEPE

Instruction on hiking basics, including training and preparing for long distance walking, preparation for weather conditions, proper clothing and footwear, trail etiquette, and navigation.

FALL SEMESTER 2023

SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: Lake District, England

SH: 1 Attribute: none

Taught on campus fall semester 2023, this required reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to articulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study in England's Lake District. Students share their growth and experiences through reflection and writing assignments, directly linked to the Study Abroad Office learning outcomes, of intercultural competence and multicultural professional development, and create a community presentation.

Preliminary Itinerary

- **Week One:** Introduction to much of the environmental issues of the area and the tensions—positive and negative—between local farmers and conservationists. The first week will also include a visit to early industrial site Quarry Bank and Levens Hall, a 17th century garden and home to the world's oldest topiary.
- **Week Two:** This week our home base will be Grasmere. Students will travel to locations related to the early authors such as Claife Station, built on the picturesque principles of William Gilpin. A significant period of time will be spent at the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere, where students will work in the Wordsworth Library to understand Wordsworth's views on nature, his composition process, and the environment in which he worked and lived.
- **Week Three:** In Ennerdale we will meet important local conservationists engaged in the "Wild Ennerdale" project and undertake a deeper dive into a couple of important authors such as James Rebanks, George Monbiot, and William Wordsworth. The week will end with a trip to see Wordsworth's birthplace home and garden in Cockermouth.
- **Weeks Four and Five** will be based in Keswick in the north of the Lake District. The group will continue to explore areas of interest to the Lake District such as issues of coastal restoration, the impact of mining on the landscape, and the current zero carbon goals for the area.
- **Week Six** will continue with reading local authors, visiting their homes (specifically John Ruskin and Beatrix Potter), and meeting local conservationists and other local officials. We hope week six will culminate with a seminar at the Wordsworth Trust where students will present their literary and science research findings to local citizens.

Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2022. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) for additional student eligibility criteria.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant at the end of Week 8, fall semester 2022, regarding the decision on his/her application. Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put her or him on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the *Principia Conduct Standards* or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

Cost

The cost of this abroad program will be the same as tuition for 6 semester hours, \$300 a week for room and board (\$1,800 for this 6-week break program), airfare up to \$1,500, and a \$150 study abroad fee.

The following expenses will be **INCLUDED** in the program: all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs **NOT INCLUDED**: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the “Financial Aid and Responsibility” section to the right to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

Study Abroad Grant*

Students who receive Principia need-based aid are eligible for an additional Study Abroad Grant to help with expenses not covered by financial aid and scholarships. These costs may include flights, room and board, administrative fee, and opportunity costs. Preference is given to students who demonstrate financial need, are first-time study abroad participants, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Vaccination Information

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges that require an informed approach to ensure ongoing safety for Principia College study abroad programming. Recent positive progress is encouraging and, to the extent risks can be mitigated, the Principia Study Abroad Office is committed to offering opportunities to study abroad through our approved upcoming programs should travel conditions improve as anticipated.

Uncertainties with international travel include the possibility of airlines, the U.S. government, foreign governments, and/or in-country partner program providers requiring COVID-19 (or other) vaccinations. Information or evidence about participants' status with regard to Covid-19 vaccination may be required by these entities. Program participants may be subject to these requirements, and need to be aware of them. Failure to comply with these requirements may mean inability to travel or participate in the study abroad program.

In order to manage the uncertainties of international travel safely and effectively, the Study Abroad Office will collect COVID-19 vaccination information, from all participating program faculty, staff, and students.

Eligibility and Prerequisites

This study abroad is open to all students in good academic and social standing, regardless of major. There are no prerequisites for the Lake District Study Abroad. If accepted, all students are required to participate in the spring semester, 2023, orientation seminar.

We expect students to show a commitment to solving problems metaphysically and to developing strength of character. Other fundamental criteria for selection include the student's responses to the essay questions on the application and responses in the interview with the program faculty and RC.

Students must meet the [Study Abroad Student Selection Criteria](#) to apply for and remain on this program.

Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2022-2023 academic year will have their loans, scholarships, and grants automatically applied toward **tuition only**. Your PrinBill will also include room and board (\$1,800) and the Study Abroad fee (\$150), but **no financial aid will be applied toward these costs**.
**See Study Abroad Grant for additional funding opportunity.*

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Student Billing Representative, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after **Wednesday, November 23, 2022**, they agree to pay to Principia a penalty fee of the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all prepaid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account, and payment will be due by **April 26, 2023**.

Study Abroad Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F22
- To authenticate the Google Form application submission, you **must use your Principia email address**.
- **DUE DATE:** Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 21 (Week 4)**.
No late applications will be accepted!
- The application has **9 sections**, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
 1. **Personal Information:** The first section includes basic **personal information** including P01 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
 2. **References:** The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
 3. **Academic Advisor Meeting:** The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature
 4. **Resident Counselor Meeting:** The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature
 5. **Additional Questions:** The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted.
 6. **Essay Questions:**
 - a) Why are you interested in participating in this particular program?
 - b) Describe your spiritual practice, in specific regard to how you envision it being relevant to participating in this study abroad program.
 - c) Describe an experience where you needed to work to accomplish something with a group (consider your roles as leader and/or follower).
 - d) Explain your willingness to be responsible for your own learning as well as your willingness to be flexible and adventurous in your learning. Provide examples illustrating your ability to be a self-motivated, curious, fearless, and flexible learner.
 - e) Give an example of a time when you had to engage with a person or people who held significantly different opinions than your own. How did you negotiate the experience?

The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics:

7. **Financial Responsibility** – including commitment and withdrawal deadlines. **If applying for Study Abroad Grant, additional questions will be asked in this section to explain specific funding need.*
 8. **Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#).
 9. **Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, Principia's standards, additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 21 (Week 4)**. Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Allison Terry with any questions – allison.terry@principia.edu or 618-374-5215 – or stop by School of Government, Suite 160 (SOG 160).