

# GREENHEART TRAVEL High School Abroad *United Kingdom*

Curriculum Guidelines



greenheart<sup>®</sup>  
travel



## OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S SCHOOL SYSTEM

We enroll students in the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form is the most senior level of UK high school. It is for students ages 16 to 19. The Sixth Form is an institution of further or tertiary education that bridges the gap between compulsory high school and UK University. This is the part of school where we enroll participants.

The Sixth Form is largely composed of those students of higher academic ability who have done well at secondary school and wish to progress to UK University. In the Sixth Form, students will study various subjects to achieve A Levels (this means Advanced Level) qualifications. The UK universities will usually insist on good grades in three or four A Levels when offering a student a place in UK University.

### Academic Calendar

There are school breaks of approximately 2 weeks for Christmas and 2 weeks for Easter, plus one week half term in October, and one week half term in February. The precise dates of these school breaks vary from year to year. During school breaks, we continue to provide host family accommodation for students, and the UK school will give students assignments to complete during school holidays. We occasionally run two or three day optional excursions to places like London or Edinburgh during school breaks to keep students occupied, and students will have the option to join these additional trips if they wish to do so.

## Subjects in the United Kingdom

The curriculum and subjects offered can vary from one UK school to another UK school; however, we can make some useful generalizations to give you an idea what a UK school curriculum is often like.

In the UK, it is entirely normal for our own British students in Sixth Form to be enrolled in only three or four different classes. Although they study only three or four subjects, they study these subjects in depth; therefore, they may spend four or five hours per week in one class.

Please see below a matrix of the some type of subjects on offer in most UK schools:

Humanities and Social Science	Mathematics and Science	Creative and Artistic	Modern and Contemporary	Skill Based and Professional Subjects
English Language	Mathematics	Art	Film Studies	Accountancy
English Literature	Information Technology	Art Textiles	Media Studies	Business Studies
History	Engineering	Music	Photography	Law
Geography	Biology	Music Technology	Product Design	Health & Social Care
Sociology	Chemistry	Drama	Leisure & Tourism	Hospitality & Catering
Psychology	Physics	Theatre	-	-

## Schedule

If studying three or four subjects, the class tuition time (the amount of time a student is in class) varies from 12 to 20 hours, but usually averages at around 15 to 18 hours per week. This is legitimately defined as full-time education, and, unless a student's timetable has less than 12 hours of classes per week, it falls within these acceptable parameters.

Now, we fully understand that 12 or 15 hours per week may seem too little, but there is another consideration. When we say a full-time program of study, this is not just based on classroom time. Every week, students are expected to spend approximately 1 hour a day of independent study for each class. They are expected to study independently on a daily, consistent basis to do research, prepare for class and complete school assignments.

Therefore, if a student is enrolled in three classes, amounting to 12 hours per week classroom time, they will be reasonably expected to spend a further 15 hours a week of independent study, researching, or completing assignments in between class. If we take together the class time plus the time needed to complete homework and assignments, this will amount to a workload of 27 hours per week minimum; this is - most definitely - a full time course.

When students have independent study time, students should remain on school campus for the whole school day and make use of facilities. For example, the library or information technology resources will be available to complete their assignments. We always recommend students remain on campus for the whole day in between classes to study in the library or computer suite. During this time, they may also become involved in school clubs or extracurricular activities (which is a really good way to make friends and get more out of school life). Active participation in school activities is a condition of the exchange program.

## **Tutoring**

We place students in UK school as cultural exchange students and guests of school and, therefore, will not be penalized if struggling academically. Exchange students will retain their place in school on condition they demonstrate good behavior, appropriate dress, and punctual and consistent attendance. If a student finds schoolwork difficult, we will organize for one of our team of School Liaison Officers to visit school and help them with their studies.

## **Transcripts**

An exchange student will be able to get a transcript for this program, but they are in charge of talking to the local school about the transcript before leaving the program.

## **Exams and Results**

If students visit for the school year, the students may complete final examinations at the end of their school year. They will complete nationally and internationally recognized UK high school qualifications. These qualifications are recognized and accepted by all UK universities as appropriate entry criteria for UK University.

To obtain credits back home from the home school for work done in England, we normally recommend students (or their parents) contact their home school guidance counselor at school back home (their home school) before departing for the UK to enquire about home school procedures for obtaining credits for work done while in the UK.

Many home schools in other countries have a written policy on accreditation, but these procedures may vary from school to school. We recommend that students obtain a copy of the written policy of their home school. Usually it is the case that students are instructed by their home school guidance counselors what subjects they need to study while in the UK. Before we place a student in a particular UK high school, we will contact the high school to check they offer the same or similar subjects that a student prefers to study. While in Britain, students generally sit in on the same or similar classes to those they are missing back home.

While in England, we strongly recommend and encourage students to compile a portfolio of written work produced for them to take back with them to their home school and submit for accreditation. We recommend that this portfolio includes the following items: course syllabi and hand-outs from UK school; written assignments completed and marked in the UK; a reference from class tutors in school, verifying those subjects studied and commenting on student behavior and performance; and, a reference from our organization verifying that a student has attended a full-time cultural exchange program.

We do not enroll students in particular classes prior to them arriving in England. Instead, when an exchange student starts school, they will have a meeting with their *Head of Year*, and together they will devise the most appropriate schedule of classes possible. When creating a school schedule, the school will take account an exchange student's preferred school subjects and try to offer these subject options if available.

## **What Should I Do Next?**

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.



## Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.