

BYU LONDON CENTRE

WHERE THE SUN NEVER SETS: THE CULTURE AND POLITICS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM STUDY ABROAD SUMMER 2026



At its height, the British empire was the most extensive the world had ever seen, covering approximately one-fifth of the earth's surface. It was said that "the sun never sets on the British empire." As a result, Great Britain exerted a profound and lasting influence not only in Europe, but also across Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Pacific. During this program, we will examine the culture and politics of Britain and the United Kingdom, from the Renaissance to the present. We will travel throughout the British Isles (including Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland) to understand the culture and politics that produced the British empire and gain a better understanding of how it has transformed our world today.

DATES

30 June–17 August 2026 (approx.)

HOUSING AND MEALS AT THE LONDON CENTRE

Students will live at the BYU London Centre, within walking distance of Kensington Palace and Hyde Park. Note that students are required to help with food preparation and clean-up. Because of the communal nature of the meals, the BYU London Centre cannot meet all special dietary needs, nor can it ensure a safe environment for those with food allergies.

COURSES

Students will take a total of 6 credits while on the program, consisting of the following courses:

IHUM 202—Western Humanities 2: Renaissance to the Present

EUROP 336R/POLI 351—British History and Politics

Students may not take any other courses on this program, including BYU Online courses, without approval by the program director and ISP.

COST

\$7,300–7,800

Includes full-time Latter-day Saint undergraduate tuition, housing, daily breakfast and dinner (except Saturdays), admission to program-related activities, transportation within London and for program excursions, and international health insurance coverage. Does not include airfare to and from London, preparation course tuition, lunches and Saturday meals, passport fees, or personal expenses. Most students spend \$1,000–2,000 on out-of-pocket expenses not covered by program costs.

TRAVEL

Students are responsible for purchasing their own airfare to and from the program sites. Airline reservations must be made through BYU Travel. Students should contact a BYU Travel agent: BYU Travel | 280 HRCB | (801) 422-6293 | travel@byu.edu.

PREPARATION

Accepted students are required to participate in an international, cross-cultural preparation course (IAS 201R, 1 credit hour) during the second block of the winter 2025 semester.

International study programs are physically, emotionally, and mentally taxing, and you must be in good health to participate. These programs often take place in international locations that do not have the same level of safety and services in terms of transportation, living conditions, residential accommodations, food, public behavior, and policing that you may be used to on campus. If you have further questions or concerns on this, please see <https://kennedy.byu.edu/isp-travel-policy>. Students must meet all country- and program-specific health requirements for travel.

FUNDING SOURCES

Regular BYU tuition scholarships, Pell Grants, and Federal Insured Student Loans may be applied to study abroad programs. Students who submit the financial aid section of the ISP application and who have a current FAFSA form on file at the Financial Aid Office (A-41 ASB) will be considered for a Study Abroad scholarship. Private grants and scholarships outside of BYU may also assist (see kennedy.byu.edu/scholarships). Academic departments and colleges may also assist with scholarships and grants.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students must be 18 years of age or older to participate. Complete the online application at kennedy.byu.edu/apply. A nonrefundable \$35 application fee is required. Applicants will be interviewed once the application is complete. Students will be notified via e-mail of their acceptance into the program. The first payment is due upon acceptance. Please refer to the Payment Information page.

Priority Deadline: 1 November 2025

Application Deadline: 31 December 2025

FACULTY

Stan Benfell is Professor of Comparative Literature and the Director of the Kennedy Center for International Studies. He has previously directed five London Centre programs as well as a program in Paris. He studies and teaches European literature and its relationship to religion and philosophy, focusing on the European Renaissance. (801) 422-3146 | benfell@byu.edu

Quinn Mecham is Associate Professor of Political Science and the former Academic Director of the Kennedy Center for International Studies. He is a specialist in comparative politics and teaches courses in international politics in Europe and around the world. (801) 422-5317 | qmecham@byu.edu

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT

International Study Programs

101 HRCB | (801) 422-3686

isp@byu.edu | kennedy.byu.edu/isp

PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS

International Study Programs (ISP) reserves the right to cancel this program, revise its offerings, or make any adjustments to the preliminary cost. If it becomes necessary for ISP to cancel a program, all program payments made to BYU ISP will be refunded to the student's BYU Financial account. ISP is the only office authorized to cancel any of its programs.