About the Program

Oberlin’s London Program is a life-changing experience: a chance to study with a small group of motivated students and stimulating faculty in an exciting city, in the presence of great museums, music, theater, history, and a thriving and diverse culture.

Unlike most study-away programs, the Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program offers students the opportunity to study abroad with professors from our own campus in one of the world’s most exciting locations. It combines the thrill of living in a vibrant international metropolis with the rigors of first-rate education. The curriculum makes intensive use of all that London has to offer. Classes are designed to plunge into the city: much learning takes place outside the classroom. Courses are both disciplinary and interdisciplinary.

Moreover, the program offers an intimate intellectual environment. One course, an interdisciplinary, team-taught course, engages the two Oberlin faculty members and all the students (about 25) in what will be an exciting venture, studying the evolving relationship between nature and culture in the context of 19th-century British life and thought. Like all the courses, this will use London through field trips to such sites as natural history museums, art galleries, historic sites, and landscapes such as the Lake District and the moors of Devon. The faculty members will each teach separate courses in their disciplines – Biology and English – with about half the group in each. Students will also elect one of the two courses taught by the experienced resident faculty in London (see page 3 for details).

Students on the program are registered at Oberlin College, and their courses are Oberlin College courses, so there is no need to transfer credits, and your financial aid travels with you. Moreover, the Financial Aid Office adjusts aid packages to take account of those living costs—mainly housing—that are higher in London.

Oberlin’s London Program has profoundly changed many students’ and faculty members’ lives forever. Those of you who come along are in for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

• Nick Jones, Professor of English, 2014 Oberlin-in-London Faculty
• Roger Laushman, Associate Professor of Biology, 2014 Oberlin-in-London Faculty
• Donna Vinter, Resident Director, Oberlin-in-London Program
• Ellen Sayles, Associate Dean and Director of International Studies
• David Walker, Professor of English, and Chair, Oberlin-in-London Program Committee

Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Prospective Student Information for Spring 2014
About the faculty:

**Nick Jones, English**

I regularly teach courses in British Literature, specializing in Romantic (19th-century) poetry as well as Shakespeare and Milton. I enjoy working on the interface of literature with the other arts, including film, music and the visual arts. I love museums of all kinds, and have been active in teaching classes in Oberlin’s Allen Memorial Art Museum. I’m an avid amateur musician and have often co-taught courses with Conservatory faculty, including on two previous London semesters. I’m currently finishing up two interdisciplinary books, one on the poetry that Monteverdi set to music, and the other on the pairing of poems with paintings, a subject that we will pursue further in one of the London courses. I majored in Chemistry as an undergraduate, so the science part of this London program will not be totally foreign to me. I have directed three London semesters before this one, and each has been a wonderful learning experience for me and, I think, for my students.

**Roger Laushman, Biology**

This is my first time teaching on the London Program. I have taught courses at all levels of the Biology curriculum, including a First Year Seminar (*Everyday Evolution*), an introductory course (*Genetics, Evolution, and Ecology*), intermediate and advanced courses (*Plant Ecology, Population Biology, Evolution*), and a senior seminar in *Conservation Biology*. My research focuses on population genetics, with particular emphasis on biological conservation and the biology of invasive species, which has been published in *Aquatic Botany, The Journal of Heredity, The Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, and *The Journal of Crustacean Research*. 
About the Curriculum

**Students will earn full semester credit (equivalent to 4 courses) under the new course system.**

Each student will enroll in the interdisciplinary team-taught course:

**Nature and Culture: Romanticism, Evolution, and Ecology in the British Imperial Age. Nick Jones & Roger Laushman.** (Counts as 1.5 full courses: 1 NS, 0.5 HU)

This course will explore, through readings, museum visits, and field trips, the foundational struggle of nature and culture in the “long 19th century” in Britain (roughly, from the American Revolution through the first World War). Conducted through an interdisciplinary vision based in, but not limited to the study of ecology and literature, the work of the course will comprise analysis of scientific writing and theory, visual arts, literature, and music, as well as the cityscape of London and the landscape of Great Britain.

The course will count for the **ENGL** major as either a 200- or a 300-level course, depending on the student’s previous experience, and towards the 1700-1900 and British lit. requirements. No previous English courses are required. Alternatively, it will count as a **BIOL** 400-level seminar, with BIOL 100, or 102, or 103 (or 605) required.

**Each student will elect ONE of the following two courses taught by the Oberlin faculty:**

**The Poem in the Museum. Nick Jones.** (Counts as 1.5 full courses. HU)

This seminar will explore the synergy between reading poems and looking at objects of art in the museums of London. Poems in English from the Renaissance to the present day will be paired with paintings, sculptures, and other works of art in order to tease out what each ‘says’ to the other. Prerequisite: two English courses or consent of the instructor. Previous experience in art history would be welcome but is not required.

**Nature Perspectives: From the Linnaean Revolution to DNA. Roger Laushman.** (Counts as 1.5 full courses with Biology lab credit. NS)

We will explore how the Linnaean system of naming species revolutionized biological organization, which facilitated global exploration in the effort to describe and understand biological diversity. Students will carry out research on selected topics, conducting literature reviews and examining specimens, with results conveyed both in written and oral presentations. Field trips will make use of museums and botanical gardens, with guest speakers. Prerequisite: BIOL 100, 102, or 103 (or 605).

**Each student will also elect ONE of the following two courses taught by the resident faculty in London:**

**The London Stage. Donna Vinter.** (Full course, HU)

This course aims to expose students to contemporary British theatre in all its variety. At its heart will be discussion of productions in the current London repertory, with plays ranging from classical to contemporary, and venues including subsidized, commercial, and fringe theatres. Counts toward the English major.

**A History of London. Katy Layton-Jones.** (Full course, SS)

This course explores the history of London from its Roman origins to the present day and examines how royalty, trade, religion, and transport have shaped the city’s pattern of growth over 2000 years. Counts toward the History major.
Oberlin-in-London Program Site

The Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program is located in the Bloomsbury neighborhood of London, on a street whose most famous and prestigious building is no less than the British Museum. Thus, we are just down the street from the Rosetta Stone, the Parthenon Marbles, the Benin bronzes, treasures of ancient Egypt, and much more. Bloomsbury is also a central location for the University of London, so the neighborhood has a student feel.

The London Program leases space from the Florida State University London Study Centre, at 99-103 Great Russell Street. We have a program office and use of a classroom. Students also have the use of the small Study Centre library, two computer labs (open 24 hours a day), a small student lounge, and a quiet study area.

The FSU London Study Centre also leases space to the study abroad programs of several other American colleges and universities, including at present Grinnell College, Drew University, Colgate University, the University of Iowa Law Program, and SUNY Binghamton.

The building is open to students and monitored by security staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students will receive a swipe card, with a photo ID, which will provide access to the building. The website for the Florida State University London Study Centre is [http://international.fsu.edu/london/campus.html](http://international.fsu.edu/london/campus.html).

Housing

Students live in groups of between 3 and 7 in self-contained apartments ("flats"), usually centrally located, within easy reach of our headquarters.

The flats are managed by Euracom, a provider of pre-arranged flats for American students in London, with whom Oberlin has a long-standing relationship. The flats are central, safe, secure, and reasonably well equipped. Utilities are included, so there are no extra costs apart from an end-of-tenancy cleaning charge. There is a property manager to deal with maintenance and emergencies. You will be billed for this housing through your spring term bill.

Costs

Students on the Oberlin-in-London Program are billed for Oberlin tuition and fees just as they would be if enrolled on campus. They are not billed for room and board. A $500 non-refundable deposit is required upon admission to the program to be allowed to register in the program; it will be applied to tuition for the semester.

Tuition and fees cover costs in the following categories:

- Admission costs, theater ticket costs, etc. for curricular activities, when students are enrolled in the relevant course; transportation costs when such trips involve out-of-London travel; and accommodation costs if overnight stays are included. Note: meals are not paid for by the program.
- Similar subsidies for certain co-curricular activities that may be planned.
- Membership in the International Students House.
• Supplementary health insurance through HTH Worldwide.

Students are responsible for the following additional costs (estimates only):

• Transportation to and from London (upwards of $800)
• Housing in London (in 2013, £188/week – currently about US$295)
• Meals
• Transportation in London
• Other expenses as course books, personal travel, and personal items

Financial Aid

Once students confirm their participation in the London Program, the financial aid office will adjust the financial aid award package to take account of the higher housing costs in London and the fact that work-study is not available there. Students receiving financial aid from the College should ensure that they have signed all forms and made arrangements for disbursement prior to leaving the country. N.B: There is no early disbursement of financial aid available.

What students say about the program

“I would emphasize what a life-changing experience it has been to combine a small class with in and out of class learning in one of the best cities in the world. . . . Many of my friends say they remember travelling, or drinking in pubs, when recounting their experiences studying abroad in other programs. But I feel the Oberlin-in-London program has allowed me a great educational experience and provided me with two mentors.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the excitement of travel and city life while maintaining a close relationship with the familiarity of Oberlin. Not only do you become closer with your fellow Obies, but you also develop a sense of responsibility and maturity that only comes by taking care of yourself in a big city.”

“The program really is serious about using London as a way to teach the courses here. We went on many trips and attended lectures and went on some great history walks. London offers something for everyone.”

“You can literally find anything here – there is theater, history, multicultural activities, activism, intellectualism. . . . I have had the freedom to explore yet classes to give me grounding and depth. I would highly recommend London as a city for any student to spend a semester.”

“Even though we were miles away from home, we were with friends and other familiar faces, we already spoke the language, our classes were intellectually engaging and fun, our financial aid checks did not get lost in the mail, and we only occasionally ran out of toilet paper. . . . Even though there were days when I missed my family and friends so much that it hurt, days when I thought that another rainy day would drive me up the wall, I would not trade my experience for the world.”
Calendar for 2014

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 28 January - to</td>
<td>Fly to London (overnight). Housing opens 29 January.</td>
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<td>arrive Wednesday, 29 January</td>
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<td>Friday, 31 January -</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<td>Sunday, 2 February</td>
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<td>Monday, 3 February</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<td>Saturday, 15 March -</td>
<td>Spring Break (note: a week earlier than OC spring break)</td>
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<td>Sunday, 23 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 1 May</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 5 May</td>
<td>Program ends — departure date. Note: in booking return flights, you</td>
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<td>should bear in mind that you will need to allow time after the</td>
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<td>completion of the semester to clean your flat thoroughly. It is</td>
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<td>recommended that you plan to leave London on this day (when housing</td>
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<td>contracts will end).</td>
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Student Regulations

Students on the Oberlin-in-London Program are expected to follow all academic and student conduct policies as outlined in the Oberlin College Course Catalog and the Student Regulations, Policies and Procedures, available at www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-reg.html.

Life in London will demand responsibility and maturity, and the London Program Committee has accordingly adopted the following statement:

“Behavior which, in the judgment of the London Program Director and faculty, substantially impedes the educational experiences of that student or other program participants may result in the removal of the student from the program. In such instances and where appropriate, reasonable efforts will be made to enable the student to complete the semester on the Oberlin campus.”