Leeds International Summer School
Travel and study at Leeds International Summer School

The University of Leeds

The University of Leeds is surrounded by some of the most beautiful countryside the UK has to offer. Located in the county of West Yorkshire in the north of England, Leeds is approximately 2 hours from London and 3 hours from Edinburgh.

Founded in 1904, the University of Leeds is one of the UK’s largest universities, with over 33,000 students from 151 countries. Study Abroad and Exchange students come to Leeds from North America and continental Europe, as well as Asia, South America and Australia, seeking to internationalise their student experience.

The University campus is a mix of old and new. State-of-the-art learning and teaching facilities coexist with impressive landmark buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We are internationally renowned for research and teaching excellence, and are a committed member of the Russell Group – a consortium of the top research-led UK universities.
Journey to the heart of Yorkshire

Yorkshire and the city of Leeds
Yorkshire is home to the famously beautiful countryside of the Dales and moors, a dramatic and unspoilt coastline, historic towns and cities, spectacular ancient ruins and some of the most magnificent historic houses in the country. It’s affectionately known as ‘God’s Own County’ and Leeds is nestled right in the middle!

One of the fastest-growing commercial and financial cities in Europe, we have an extensive range of shops, restaurants, bars and nightclubs, and are one of the UK’s most popular student cities. You can walk from the University to the city centre in ten minutes and a variety of public transport options mean that you can always get where you need to be easily and quickly.

Over the years, communities from all over the world have chosen to settle in Leeds, making this a multicultural city – and an especially welcoming place for an international student like you!

There’s a popular and diverse clubbing scene, attracting people from across the region. And if that isn’t your thing, you can take advantage of the wide variety of live music that Leeds has to offer, ranging from chamber music and jazz, folk festivals and rock, to the highly acclaimed 3-day summer Leeds Festival, where the likes of Red Hot Chili Peppers, Metallica and Arctic Monkeys have headlined. On top of that, the University’s students’ union is one of the largest and best in the country and is home to The Refectory, a renowned music venue where bands such as The Rolling Stones, The Who, Led Zeppelin, Bob Marley and Pink Floyd have all played.

If you want to experience more traditional culture, Leeds is home to Opera North, Northern Ballet, the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and the West Yorkshire Playhouse, amongst others.

There are a host of museums and galleries, including the City Art Gallery, The Henry Moore Institute and award-winning Royal Armouries museum, as well as the University’s own Treasures Gallery and Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery.

We have a proud sporting tradition too, with Leeds United Football Club, Yorkshire Cricket Club, the Leeds Rhinos (rugby league) and the Leeds Carnegie (rugby union) clubs.

We’ve got it all, and it’s here for you to enjoy!

“I encourage anyone looking for an amazing academic, social and explorative experience to take part in LISS – I guarantee you’ll learn something new about yourself, and the world around you.”

Amanda, Canada
“Leeds International Summer School has increased my perception of the world’s differences. I have never felt so cultured. I’ve walked on moors, climbed on rocks, explored beaches, and seen some of the most beautiful architecture in the world.”

Sadhvika, India
Time spent at an overseas institution is academically stimulating and challenging, as well as being a life-enhancing opportunity. The University of Leeds International Summer School offers you a chance to experience the UK education system at one of its leading universities, alongside fellow international students. You will be able to immerse yourself in genuine British culture, in one of the best student cities in the UK. You will learn from Leeds academic staff about the beautiful Yorkshire region, famous for its lush green countryside, fascinating history and friendly people! Being so central, Leeds is also a great base to travel to other parts of the country.

Field trips and experiential learning
Our summer school takes advantage of the rich history, culture and natural beauty of Yorkshire, as well as visiting other famous UK cities. All academic modules include a field trip and these have been carefully chosen to complement each module, so everyone can participate and enjoy the interdisciplinary and ‘hands on’ (experiential) learning.

Previous field trip destinations include:
- visits to country houses such as Temple Newsam, Harewood House and Castle Howard (film location for ‘Brideshead Revisited’)
- the city of Liverpool
- Haworth, home of the Brontë sisters
- company visits to local businesses
- various locations in the stunning Yorkshire countryside, such as Brimham Rocks and Bolton Abbey.

Find out more about our excursions, trips and socials on our website www.leeds.ac.uk/summer

Social activities
As part of the summer school, you will have access to a full social programme during evenings and weekends. This is organised by LISS Social Assistants, all of whom are current Leeds students.

Activities range from a welcome reception on arrival, visits to nearby places of interest such as the historic city of York or fish and chips in the seaside town of Whitby, to pub quizzes and film nights. The programme culminates in a farewell party with all the friends you have made during your time with us.

Earn credit while you learn
On Leeds International Summer School you can choose from an exciting range of modules and earn academic credits from the University of Leeds. Please contact summer@leeds.ac.uk for details of how to transfer your credits.

Transfer of credits is subject to the approval of your home institution.
LISS modules cover a range of topics to suit many interests. We have included examples of previous modules below. Please go to our website for current listings and information: www.leeds.ac.uk/summer

**The English Country House: A Social History**

Country houses are one of Britain’s greatest contributions to world culture, but who created them and why? Have they always functioned as ‘containers’ for art collections or have they had deeper meanings and a wider social impact? Using Yorkshire’s world-class country houses as case studies, this course will introduce you to concepts such as the rise and fall of the great estates, the ‘upstairs’ lives of the men, women and children in the country house and the ‘downstairs’ world of the men and women who served them. Tutor-led visits to houses such as Temple Newsam, Harewood House and Castle Howard are an important feature of this course.

**Music in Film**

Since the Lumière brothers screened the first ‘moving pictures’ in Paris in the 1890s music has played a key role in the presentation of film. This module explores the history and function of music in film from the silent era to the present day. Specifically, it considers the ‘Golden Age’ of Hollywood in the 1930s and 1940s, the rise of popular music starting in the 1950s, and the more recent use of electronics and innovative sound in the ‘New Hollywood’. We will visit the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, the first UNESCO City of Film.

**Sport in the UK: Health and Performance Issues**

The benefits of sport and physical activity are well established, with positive links to cardiorespiratory and bone health as well as social and psychological welfare. Despite this, relatively few people meet recommended activity levels. This module considers contemporary issues in sport, exercise and health from both scientific and practical perspectives. It includes a field trip to a well-known location in the beautiful Yorkshire countryside.

**British Literature and the Brontës**

This module provides students with an introduction to British Literature. It has a particular focus on well-known Yorkshire authors, the Brontës, who wrote some of the most original and challenging fiction of the Victorian period. Their novels retain their popularity and still inspire criticism, fiction, popular culture, and film adaptations. Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë lived at Haworth Parsonage, only a few miles from Leeds, and we will visit their home as part of this module. Other British authors, such as Charles Dickens and Oscar Wilde, will also be included in the curriculum.

**Heretics, Witches and Conspirators: A History of Fear, 1500–1700**

Who (or what) did the British really fear in the Early Modern period? Most students will be familiar with the witch-hunts that spread across Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries, but few will have fully grasped the beliefs, perceptions and anxieties that led neighbours to persecute
each other, children to accuse parents, or the ways in which other identities were perceived to threaten society. This course will allow you to diagnose the causes for cultures of suspicion and persecution, with particular attention to trials of ‘witches’ and ‘heretics’ in Yorkshire and Lancashire, including a visit to Pendle Hill and the surrounding area, home of the so-called ‘Pendle witches’.

**Exploring the Law: Crime, Contracts and Legal Skills**
From crime and policing to the courtroom, from banking to individual rights, everyone in society is affected by the law. In this module students will explore and challenge their own understanding of law and will have the opportunity to practise legal skills to take with them beyond the classroom. This module will examine a range of core subject areas, such as human rights, criminal and contract law. Practical activities will include statute building, debates on law and ethics, as well as a field trip to the Yorkshire Law and Order Museums.

**Building Britain, 1700–1840: Industrial ‘Revolution’ or ‘Evolution’?**
Between the accession of George III (1760) and the death of his son William IV (1837), the face of Britain and structure of British society changed forever. The popular notion that these developments were rapid and ‘revolutionary’ has been questioned by recent scholarship. This course takes advantage of local evidence of industrial development in West Yorkshire and examines the processes and social effects of Britain’s Industrial Revolution, exploring the accuracy of the term ‘revolution’. Field trips include visits to the National Coal Mining Museum, the Leeds Industrial Museum and the city of Liverpool.

**Introduction to Robotics and Autonomous Systems**
This module introduces you to robotics and involves a mixture of lectures and hands-on practical work in our world-class laboratories in the Faculty of Engineering. You will learn the principles of 3D mechanical design, how to assemble basic electronic circuits, and how to integrate elements such as the electronics and motors with the mechanical parts to construct a simple robot. Using a high-level programming language, the robot will then be programmed to perform a range of simple tasks. This module includes an industrial visit to a robotics or electronics company.

**Introduction to Digital Photography**
This module gives you an understanding of how a digital camera works and how to interpret and evaluate photographic images. You will learn how to compose a photographic image and how to expose a photograph correctly, as well as gaining critical insight by studying the work of key photographers. You will explore concepts and techniques, such as self-portrait, landscape, experimental photography, photography for promotional materials, exposure and artificial lighting. The module includes a field trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, one of the UK’s leading open-air galleries.

**Business and Cultural Awareness: Bridging the Gap**
What do we mean when we talk about culture? How can we describe cultures and what is their importance in business? This module considers a variety of cultural influences and examines their manifestation
in business behaviour and everyday activity. You will have the opportunity to improve your cultural awareness and learn to consider the role of culture in business situations. The module will also explore the impact of globalisation on the need for cross-cultural skills in communication and negotiation. This module includes company visits to Yorkshire businesses.

**Wealth and Poverty: The Making of the Modern World**

What is the relationship between wealth and poverty? How did the current global hierarchy of wealth and power come about in the course of the last five centuries? Are countries in the Global North powerful and well-off because they dominated, plundered and exploited the Global South? The module explores these questions by analysing the profound socio-economic and political effects of European colonialism on the making of the modern world. This module includes a field trip to the city of Manchester and the People’s History Museum.

**Entrepreneurship and Society: Ideas, Opportunities and Value Creation**

Are you interested in how ideas are developed and how creativity operates? This module covers key concepts in entrepreneurship, such as creativity, innovation, intrapreneurship and social enterprise. You will develop an understanding of the experiences and motivations of entrepreneurs through case studies and guest speakers’ personal stories. You will also develop insights into your own creativity and innovation. This module includes company visits to entrepreneurs and their Yorkshire-based businesses.


The topic of climate change is currently at the forefront of global politics. There is growing pressure on countries around the world to find ways to reduce carbon emissions and to significantly mitigate the likely impacts of a warming world. Renewable energy offers part of the solution, however, opinion remains divided on whether these technologies can meet the world demand for affordable clean energy. This module has interdisciplinary energy science and technology at its core. It provides an introduction to the principles of renewable energy systems, as well as exploring the associated economic, political and environmental factors. You will have the opportunity to visit sites of special interest, such as Drax Power Station in Yorkshire, the largest power plant in the UK predominantly fuelled by biomass rather than coal.

**Creative Writing: Travel and Journalism**

This module offers you the opportunity to develop your travel writing and journalistic skills. You will learn how to arrest a reader’s interest and convey complex messages in clear and thought-provoking ways. By exploring existing texts, you will develop an understanding of how you might convey information and tell a story. The module will also look at the value and appeal of travel writing and journalism by discussing issues such as truth and authenticity, writing for others, perspective, news values, agendas in writing, and developing tone, style and your voice as a writer. The module includes a tutor-led field trip to the ‘Tolkien Triangle’ in the East Riding of Yorkshire.
Application information

Entry requirements
To be eligible for our summer school you should:
• have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.8 or equivalent
• be enrolled at a university, or be a recent graduate (i.e. have graduated within the past two to three years)
• usually have completed at least one semester of undergraduate study
• meet our language requirements – non-native speakers of English are required to have IELTS 5.5 or equivalent.

Cost and application information
The summer school fee includes:
• tuition fees
• field trips and excursions
• accommodation
• social activities
• sports centre membership.

The cost of flights, insurance and meals is not included.

For details on how to apply, the cost, application deadlines and dates of Leeds International Summer School please visit: www.leeds.ac.uk/summer

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www.facebook.com/LeedsInternationalSummerSchool

Find out what other students have to say about LISS on our website:
www.leeds.ac.uk/summer

“After four weeks, I have friends for life, new memories to hold close, and a diverse education to add to my resume. There is a whole world out there to explore, and LISS is a fantastic way to get started!”

Kelly, Australia