



## Our Story

UK Scholars is a project that was launched by founder Nick Scott in 2020 during uncertain and difficult times for students. As a young person growing up and trying to apprehend the various challenges we face in life, where and when to study is probably among the most daunting choices we must make. Our *Scholars* project seeks to identify some of the brightest and most ambitious students from all around the world and give them the opportunity to explore the various UK universities which they might want to choose from.

We believe that there is no better way to fully be satisfied with the institution we choose to study in than by visiting the campus, meeting professors and current students, exploring the student life in the cities by spending some free time in them and above all, meeting other prospective students whom might share the exact same ambitions and interests as us. This is the driving force behind our program, and it is an incredible experience that is available to all those believe they have what it takes.

## Step by Step Guide for Parents

Now that your son/daughter has applied to *UK Scholars* and been accepted there are just a few more things to do so we can make sure that their stay with us is as comfortable, enjoyable and as beneficial as possible. Please complete the steps below as soon as possible.

### Next Steps

- Book Flights

The 'Travel Information' page on our website will give the necessary guidance as to when and how to book flights. It is important that students arrive and depart within the suggested time frame to avoid additional transfer costs.

- Send us Travel Information

Once it has been decided how your son/daughter will join *UK Scholars*, please inform us of their arrival details. Visit our website, click on 'About' then 'Travel Questionnaire'.

## Step by Step Guide for Parents

- Purchase Travel Insurance

We advise you to take out your own basic travel insurance designed for international travellers that includes lost luggage and medical care. Please contact your local provider for information.

- Apply for Visa

For those students who require a visa to enter the UK or USA we suggest applying as soon as possible. Please visit our website, click on 'About' then select 'Visas and Insurance' from the drop down menu. Contact us to receive visa support documents.

- Send a Photo

If you have not sent a photo of your son/daughter, please email one to us as soon as possible. This is very helpful for identification.

## Before arriving at UK SCHOLARS

Once everything is organised for your son/daughter's trip to UK Scholars, you can relax but don't forget these essentials:

- Pocket Money

Make sure your son/daughter has access to spending money. Rather than students being responsible for large sums of money, we suggest you set up a pre-paid debit card for their time at UK Scholars such as Revolut or Monzo. For more information on pocket money, see page 23.

Prepare for the Experience of a Lifetime!

Your son/daughter will have an amazing experience at UK Scholars and will meet other 13-18 year olds from all over the world. We are looking forward to meeting and spending time with them this summer!

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact our **Operations Director, Nick** by email: [nick@visituniversity.co.uk](mailto:nick@visituniversity.co.uk) or call us on +44 (0) 7894 554120

## Travel Information

It is up to parents to make their son/daughter's travel arrangements to/from UK SCHOLARS this summer. We ask all parents to send full arrival and departure details, even if the student is being dropped off by car. Travel plans must be passed to UK Scholars well in advance of arrival to ensure that all of our students arrive safely to a warm UK SCHOLARS welcome.

For arrival and departure dates/times for your chosen campus, please see accompanying letter, or our website.

- Arrival and Departure by Plane

All students will be welcomed at the designated airport by a uniformed member of UK SCHOLARS staff. Staff will help students with their luggage and accompany them on the coach to their campus. UK SCHOLARS staff will be at the designated airport only between **8am and 3pm**.

- Coach Transfer to UK SCHOLARS

Coaches will make various departures from the airport throughout the day. This transfer service is included, provided students arrive before 4pm on Arrivals Day. Travel arrangements can be made outwith these times, and the designated airport, at an extra cost.

- Waiting Times

Due to the large number of students arriving at the airport, there may be a short wait for the coaches to depart, however, our students will be accompanied by a member of staff, and their wait will be made as comfortable as possible.

## Travel Information

- Unaccompanied Minors

An Unaccompanied Minor Service is provided by some airlines to assist those who are under 16 years old and are flying alone. This is an additional service which is paid for by the student's parents at the time of booking the flight.

In order for our staff to collect your son/daughter, UK SCHOLARS staff must be in possession of the official Unaccompanied Minor paperwork for the student's arrival and departure flights.

Certain airlines may not provide this service or allow passengers under 16 years to travel alone.

If this is the case, you must arrange for an adult to travel with your son/daughter on each journey.

Please ensure that you make appropriate arrangements for students under 16 years.

If you are unsure about this service, please contact us immediately.

If a student is travelling as an Unaccompanied Minor please inform us of this as soon as possible. Please note that any students travelling as an Unaccompanied

Minor must travel within the designated times as we require a staff member to collect them /check them in.

We advise you to check all rules and regulations if your son/daughter will travel as an unaccompanied minor to ensure that they fit with our transfer times and policies. If your particular airline operates a very strict policy, for example, DELTA or Ryanair, again, please contact us before booking any flights to ensure we can meet or check in your son/daughter as smoothly as possible.

- Baggage Allowance

We ask that students travel with only one piece of luggage (students must stick to this, we cannot guarantee all luggage will fit on a coach if all students bring more than one piece of luggage). Please attach the enclosed luggage label to your suitcase, this will be invaluable if the airline misplaces a bag - it will ensure it is sent directly to UK SCHOLARS.

- Luggage Label Address

The UK SCHOLARS luggage label is pre-printed with the campus address.

- Arriving outwith Coach Times

If students arrive or depart outwith the advised times, alternative transport can be arranged. In this case, there will not be a member of UK SCHOLARS staff at the airport to meet students - this means that students cannot travel as unaccompanied minors. If alternative transport is arranged, there will be an additional charge.

- Clothing and Equipment List

### General Clothing

The general dress code at UK SCHOLARS is casual. Students are encouraged to wear whatever they feel comfortable in, as long as it is practical and appropriate, i.e. no offensive t-shirts, nothing too revealing etc.

We have put together a list of clothing that we suggest students bring:

- waterproof jacket/raincoat • sweat shirts
- jeans/trousers • t-shirts
- underwear and socks • sleepwear
- swimming suit • sweat pants/tracksuit bottoms
- sneakers • sandals/flip-flops
- formal/smart clothing (If desired)

There is access to laundry facilities and students are given allotted times to use the machines - students do not need to label clothes as they are provided with their own laundry bag (students will receive a laundry schedule on arrival).

### Other Items

- bath towels • sun glasses • hat/baseball cap
- sun screen • toiletries • small backpack, suitable for day trips

Bedding is provided.

### Computers and WiFi

We recommend that students bring a laptop or portable device for classroom work and homework purposes. Students will have access to WiFi in common areas of the residence and within the classrooms.

## Typical Day at UK SCHOLARS

The safety and happiness of our students is of the utmost importance at UK SCHOLARS therefore we always have a team of dedicated counselors who plan activities and take care of our students. There is ALWAYS someone on hand to help students find their way to class, log on to computers, phone home or simply just chat.

Once students have arrived at UK SCHOLARS and have unpacked, there will be a variety of activities to help them get to know other students and their surroundings. We will have tours of the campus which will let students know where classes and activities take place, as well as give them information about the town.

In the evening, students will be with their counselor and their group. Their counselor will talk them through the next day's classes, activities and schedule, answering any questions they may have. This is a great time for students to get to know each other and understand how UK SCHOLARS works.

### - Highland Games

The UK SCHOLARS Highland Games. During the UK SCHOLARS program, each student becomes a member of a Scottish Clan and during the 3 weeks the Clans compete in a variety of competitions.

At the Highland Games, all Clans take part to win the Clan Cup. Students will take part in traditional Scottish games, such as: Welly Wanging, Tossing the Caber and Strongest Person. This is a great way to finish the session with everyone cheering and coming together as part of a Clan.

## Final Day and Night

### - Parents' Reception

UK SCHOLARS hosts a reception on the day before students travel home. We welcome all parents, family and friends between 4pm- 6pm on this day, giving you the opportunity to meet the UK SCHOLARS staff and gain an insight into the session at UK SCHOLARS.

If you do wish to attend this reception please visit our website and click on the 'Parents' Information' page for more details, or alternatively email Nick - [nick@visituniversity.co.uk](mailto:nick@visituniversity.co.uk)

We will be more than happy to provide you with a recommendation for a local hotel and take you on a tour of the town during the Parents' Reception.

### - Final Night Dance

The Final Night Dance is a chance for students to hang out with friends and staff before they depart the following day. To celebrate UK SCHOLARS' Scottish roots, the evening begins with a Ceilidh for students to practise their Scottish country dancing (taught earlier in the session).

The second part of the evening welcomes our DJ who will change the atmosphere a little and keep the students going until later that evening.

## While Students are at UK SCHOLARS

- Pocket Money

Although all accommodation, food and activities are provided by UK SCHOLARS, we recommend that students bring pocket money, around £50 / \$70 per week. This pocket money is for additional snacks, postcards and souvenirs. Your son/daughter may require additional money if they enjoy shopping during weekend cultural trips.

We highly recommend that you apply to for a pre-paid debit card which will allow your son/daughter to spend freely, and you are in control of top ups if necessary (from your home country). A popular card is Revolut or Monzo, however your own bank may offer a similar card.

**We do not recommend that students bring large sums of cash for safety reasons.**

- Contacting UK SCHOLARS

We do encourage students to call home when they arrive but as you will appreciate, they are often preoccupied making new friends and settling in. Please do not call UK SCHOLARS if you would like to speak to your son/daughter, instead send an email and we will encourage them to contact home.

- Mail

Please do not send packages to our office. If you would like to write to your son/daughter during UK SCHOLARS program, please refer to the mailing address on the letter included with this information booklet.

- Visiting UK SCHOLARS

UK SCHOLARS is designed as a well balanced program; students will gain the most benefit when taking part in everything the program has to offer and remaining part of the program at all times. With this in mind, we encourage parents to refrain from visiting their son/daughter as it often causes students to feel unsettled, homesick and can be disruptive to other UK SCHOLAR students.

We would be delighted if you would like to join us at the parents' reception to hear about what your son/daughter has been up to, take a tour of the campus and meet teachers and counselors. This will allow you to enjoy time with your son/daughter before heading home.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will my Son/Daughter be met at the Airport?**

A member of UK SCHOLARS staff will be at the designated airport for your campus, to meet students on opening day.

### **Is my Son/Daughter an 'Unaccompanied Minor' while travelling?**

An Unaccompanied Minor Service is provided by some airlines to assist those who are under 16 years old and are flying alone. This is an additional service which is paid for by the student's parents at the time of booking the flight. In order for our staff to collect your son/daughter, UK SCHOLARS staff must be in possession of the official Unaccompanied Minor paperwork for the student's arrival and departure flights.

Certain airlines may not provide this service or allow passengers under 16 years to travel alone. If this is the case, you must arrange for an adult to travel with your son/daughter on each journey.

Please ensure that you make appropriate arrangements for students under 16 years. If you are unsure about this service, please contact us immediately. If a student is travelling as an Unaccompanied Minor, please inform us of this as soon as possible. Please note that any students travelling as an Unaccompanied Minor must travel within the designated times as we require a staff member to collect them /check them in.

### **What about Safety?**

The safety and well-being of our students is our number one priority. Throughout the three-week program, students are well supervised both within scheduled visits, trips and activities, and their free time. We specifically choose locations which are known to be exceptionally safe and offer a safe environment for students to enjoy their program. All outdoor activities are run by qualified outdoor instructors, any activities using outside contractors are subject to detailed risk assessments.

### **How does the accommodation work?**

Where possible students are housed in the University Halls of Residence however in some cities they will stay in hotels; we will notify parents in advance with a detailed itinerary of their childrens' accommodation situation with names and addresses of hotels etc.

There are separate floors for boys and girls, and staff members stay on each floor.

Rooms are either single or double and students share bathroom facilities.

There are common areas for students to spend time together.

### **Will students have access to wifi?**

There is wireless access in most of the University public areas that students can sign in to.

### **What about Medical Insurance?**

All students should have insurance that covers them for medical care while in the UK or any other *Scholars* program. While travelling, all students should carry information regarding their policy, in case of an emergency. For recommendations or advice on who to use as an insurance provider please contact us.

### **Are students well supervised?**

We have a team of counselors dedicated to supervising and looking after students. Our counselors organise evening activities and are always there to help students whenever needed. Students are very well supervised and our campus towns are very safe places to spend the summer.

### **Do you cater for dietary requirements?**

Yes, we can cater for virtually all dietary requirements. Please fill in our questionnaire on the 'Parent Information Page' to inform us of any dietary needs.

### **Will my Son/Daughter be sharing a room with someone from the same country?**

No, we make every effort to make sure that if students are sharing a room, they are paired with someone of a different nationality.

### **Social Media**

At UK SCHOLARS, we love to stay in touch. You can join us on our social media channels now for the latest updates and news about UK SCHOLARS. Get to know the other students who will be attending your session and familiarise yourself with our summer school. We upload hundreds of photographs to Instagram and Facebook during the summer, so make sure you follow and like our pages and share your UK SCHOLARS experience with friends and family.

Let's stay in touch!