Kingston University London

British Life and Culture Module for Visiting Students 2025/2026



This popular module is specifically designed to help Study Abroad and Exchange students gain optimum benefit from their study abroad experience and become aware of British culture in its many aspects.

Lectures are given on various facets of British life, culture and history which are supplemented by an exciting package of excursions to places of special interest which may include <u>Bath</u>, Stonehenge, Hampton Court Palace, the National Theatre,

Shakespeare's Globe and the Houses of Parliament.

In addition to the lectures and excursions, each student undertakes an independent study on some aspect of British Life and and will be encouraged to reflect on the benefits and challenges of studying abroad.

Please note that there is a supplementary fee of up to **£100**, to contribute to the subsidized entry fees/transport costs of the fieldtrips.

Updated April 2025/EB/PJW

Entry requirements: GPA of 2.75 or above (out of 4.0) or equivalent

Pre-requisites: There are no specific pre-requisites for this module

Taught at: Penrhyn Road campus

Key to Module Descriptors

Suitability of Module for Study Option:

1: Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 1 (Whole Year)

2: Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 2 (Autumn)

3: Indicates module is suitable for students visiting KU on Study Option 3 (Spring)

The University makes every effort to ensure that module availability & content is correct at the time of publishing, but it cannot accept responsibility for subsequent changes, as part of the University's policy of continuous improvement & development.

Module Code: XB5067

Module Title: British Life and Culture

Credits: 4 (US) 7.5 (ECTS)

Level: 5 (Intermediate)

Prerequisites: none

Suitability:

- this module runs in the autumn semester and is repeated in the spring semester
- study options 1 or 2 or 3

Module Content:

The module aims are as follows:

- to provide the opportunity for students to develop an understanding and appreciation of key aspects of contemporary British culture and society, within an historical context.
- to introduce students to key cultural and historical sites in England and to encourage students to visit additional sites independently and to view such places in an informed and critical way.
- to encourage students to make informed, critical comparisons between what they observe and learn of British society and culture and their own home societies and cultures.
- to provide the inspiration and methodologies to pursue an understanding of other cultures, languages and ideas.

Topics covered include:

- British National Identity
- The rise and fall of the Monarchy
- For or Against Debate
- The Mother of all Parliaments: Westminster
- Class and the Education System
- The English Theatre
- Popular Music and subcultures
- National Sports
- British Cinema
- The value of studying abroad

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Teaching:

• 11 weekly three-hour interactive lectures/workshops/screenings, sometimes integrated with field trips. Runs on Wednesday afternoons, from 2-5pm.

• 5 group fieldtrips

Assessment:

> Portfolio Route 1:

- 2 x fieldtrip papers, various deadlines (25% each, 50% total, 1000 words each)
- Research essay (50%, 2000 words)

Portfolio Route 2: (with audio or video submission)

- themed project formative plan (unmarked, 850 words)
- themed project structured around UK person, place or object, video/audio with bibliography (60%, 5-10 mins)
- reflection on themed project (40%, 1000 words)

Last updated: 06/04/25 PJW

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