

VISITING YOUR STUDENT IN LONDON

To help you gain insight into your student's transformative experience abroad with Verto, Verto staff host a **Mid-Semester Family Circle**. This event includes helpful sessions on subjects like academic & career success, affording college, and finding purpose. We believe that participating in the **Mid-Semester Family Circle** is the best way for families to connect with their student's experience while **encouraging them to focus on their coursework, academic success**, and building their abroad community.

If you plan on visiting, [please adhere to the following guidelines.](#)

Dropping Off Your Student

For family members who choose to drop-off their student in London, we welcome you! Please do keep in mind that this is **not required**, and students who travel independently will be received in great hands by Verto staff.

Please note that family members can only drop their student **outside** of their housing address. Only students are allowed inside our housing, per our Housing Provider and Verto policies, and for the well-being of all students.

If You Plan to Visit Your Student While Abroad

Families are welcome to visit students, though we strongly recommend visiting **at the end** of the Verto abroad experience, rather than during. Students will be quite busy with their coursework and experiential learning activities, so visitors may not be able to spend as much time with their Vertoan as they may have hoped. Additionally, participants whose families visited in the past have experienced more intense homesickness or fallen behind in their coursework as a result of the visit.

Academic and attendance policies remain in place regardless of visitors. Participants are strongly discouraged from missing classes to host family, friends, and other visitors. Should a participant plan to miss class, they should speak with their instructors and Care Team Leader in advance to understand the consequences for doing so.

Tips for Your Visit to London

Verto Participant Schedule

If you choose to visit during the abroad experience, you'll want to keep in mind your student's class and activity schedule. Classes typically start at 9am Monday to Friday, though students may have free time in between classes. Every week, there are activities that may be optional or required as part of students' coursework.

During Verto Discovery Week (the first week on-site), all participants will receive a semester calendar with their activity schedule. **We are not able to invite families to participate in student activities.** We encourage you to check with your student about their schedule before planning your visit.

Please note: Discovery Week is mandatory and all students are expected to fully participate unless they have special permission from London staff.

Lodging in London

All student housing is located within a 30 minute commute of the study center. Coordinate with your student if you'd like to stay closer to them. Otherwise, the following accommodations are near the study center:

- DoubleTree by Hilton London - West End: 92 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4BH•020 7242 2828
- Premier Inn London Holborn Hotel: 27-29 Red Lion St, London WC1R 4PS•0333 321 9346
- NYX Hotel London Holborn by Leonardo Hotels: 50 - 60 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AR•020 7242 1800
- Hub by Premier Inn London Goodge Street Hotel: Brook House, Torrington Pl, London WC1E 7HN•0333 321 3104

NOTE: All students will receive their housing address closer to the start date of their abroad experience along with details and arrival day logistics.

Getting Around the City

The easiest way to navigate around the city is via the London Transport System (the Tube and buses). We recommend getting an Oyster Card and loading it with credit or getting a one week travel card. For more information check out the [Transportation for London website](#).

Transportation from the Airport

From Heathrow Airport the Verto London Center takes about 45 minutes. The cheapest option is to jump on The Underground, known locally as the 'Tube'. At the airport, look for the official signs for London Underground.

You can also take the Heathrow Connect or Heathrow Express which are a bit pricier but faster. They operate a stopping service from Terminals 1 & 3. The Heathrow Connect service operates every 30 minutes, 7 days a week and journey time from London to Heathrow is 25 minutes. Heathrow Connect is a cheaper alternative to Heathrow Express, and takes only 10 minutes longer.

From Gatwick Airport, you can take The Gatwick Express train that goes directly to London's Victoria Station and takes approximately 30 minutes. Trains depart from Gatwick every 15 minutes beginning at 4:35am and ending at 1:35am. Once you enter the arrivals hall, look for a sign that says 'Trains' or 'Gatwick Express.' The train station is located close to the South Terminal of the airport. If you are landing in the North, you will need to take a free shuttle service to the South Terminal. Upon arrival at the train station, go to the Gatwick Express ticket window and ask for a single ticket to Victoria. The ticket will cost approximately £19.90 but is slightly cheaper if you purchase in advance at www.gatwickexpress.com.

Taxis and Private Cars. You may book a private transfer by car for around £100/ \$125. You can book in advance at the following: <https://airportstaxitransfers.com/>. Taxis are also available at the airports and will cost anywhere from £90-£100 depending on the timing and distance. Taxis don't need to be tipped, however, it's common to round up the bill.

Our team looks forward to meeting you in-person or virtually soon!