



Advice for British nationals studying in the USA



**British
Consular
Services**

Before you go: Do your homework!

Travel Insurance: Make sure that you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of medical treatment in the USA and repatriation back home in an emergency. Keep details of your travel insurance safe.

Healthcare: At least six weeks before you go, check what healthcare precautions you may need to take. Visit **www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk** for information. Keep a record of prescription medication and vaccinations.

Medical treatment is expensive and there is no reciprocal arrangement between the National Health Service in the UK and medical providers in the USA. There are walk-in medical clinics at most pharmacies, but if you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 911 and ask for an ambulance. Contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Travel Advice: Check out our travel advice where you can subscribe to receive updates and alerts **www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice**.



Observe the restrictions of your student visa, particularly as it relates to finances and employment. Working without proper authorization could lead to the withdrawal of your visa.

"I started gigging in a band as I needed some extra money, but I didn't realise it was illegal to work on my student visa and was arrested by the police. This violated the terms of my visa, and I was fined, deported and I lost a semester at university. It's really important to learn about the restrictions of your student visa, especially around working" – Jack M.

When you arrive: Stay safe

Crime: Take sensible precautions to protect yourself against petty crime take care when travelling in unfamiliar areas. Research your destination before travelling, be vigilant, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Don't lose your passport: Keep it in a safe place and obtain a state-issued ID card where possible, so that you don't need to carry your passport with you. British consular staff helps thousands of students whose passports are lost or stolen. A UK driving license is acceptable for alternative ID in many places. Make a photocopy of your passport and student visa and keep them in a separate place.

Follow the law: Laws vary from state to state. The drinking age in the USA is 21. This is taken seriously by law enforcement agencies; consuming and purchasing alcohol under the legal age is a criminal offence and could lead to arrest. Fraudulent use of ID is a criminal offence and could lead to arrest.

Calling the UK: The international dialing code for the UK from the USA is 011 44 (followed by the UK number without the first 0). To call the USA from the UK, the code is 001.

Lost Bank Cards: Call the following to report your lost/stolen bank card as soon as possible:

MasterCard: 1-800-627-8372

Visa: 1-800-847-2911

American Express: 011-44-1273-696-933

"Medical treatment in the US is expensive! I fell from a bus, broke my arm and spent two days in hospital. My school insurance didn't cover this type of injury, so I had to pay thousands of dollars for treatment. Ensure you get comprehensive insurance and that it covers you for all the activities you want to do" – Katie P.



Don't be alarmed, be alert!

Sign up for our Twitter alerts service. During a crisis or emergency, we will send you Twitter alerts with time-sensitive, critical information related to an unfolding event. With Twitter alerts activated, it's faster to get essential information when you need it. Sign up at www.twitter.com/FCOTravel/alerts

If things go wrong, the help we offer includes:

- > contacting friends or family on your behalf, if you want us to;
- > issuing Emergency Travel Documents, if your passport is lost or stolen;
- > providing information about transferring funds;
- > providing help if you have suffered rape or serious assault, are a victim of other crime, or are in hospital;
- > contacting you as soon as possible after being told that you have been arrested;
- > providing details of how to contact a lawyer for assistance;
- > making special arrangements in cases of terrorism, civil disturbances or natural disasters.

but we can't

- > replace your stolen visa, you may need to return to the UK and obtain a new one;
- > get you out of prison, prevent the local authorities from deporting you after your prison sentence, or interfere in criminal or civil court proceedings;
- > give you legal advice, investigate crimes or carry out searches for missing people;
- > get you better treatment in hospital or prison than is given to local people;
- > pay any bills or give you money.



British Consular Services

There are British Consulates throughout the United States that can provide help and support, should you need it.

British Embassy Washington DC
(202) 588-6500

British Consulate General Atlanta
(404) 954-7000

British Consulate General Boston
(617) 245-4500

British Consulate General Chicago
(312) 970-3800

British Consulate General Houston
(713) 659-6270

British Consulate General Los Angeles
(310) 789-0031

British Consulate General Miami
(305) 400-6400

British Consulate General New York
(212) 745-0200

British Consulate General San Francisco
(415) 617-1300

www.gov.uk/fco