

Dear NYU London student,

I would like to introduce myself to you, my name is Tony Skitt and I am the Senior Program Manager for Student Life at NYU London. Along with my colleagues Nigel and Clare (below) of the NYUL Student Life team, we would like to take this opportunity of welcoming you to NYUL and we very much look forward to meeting you in London next month.

The Student Life Team



Tony



Nigel



Clare

Over the coming weeks, we would like to send you a series of “**Letters from London**” that will be posted on the regular blogs you have been receiving from our teams in the Office of Global Programs in New York. Each *letter* will be aimed at introducing you to a different aspect of our program in the hope that it will help you to prepare for your time in our fair city.

By the end of this month, for example, I should be able to share with you our Cultural Programming Calendar for Fall 2013. This document will give you details of some of the exciting day trips and cultural events we have planned for you in London this coming term. To whet your appetite we are planning to offer day trips to places like Bath, Brighton, Cambridge and Stonehenge & Salisbury. We are also planning a hiking trip to one of the loveliest stretches of English countryside and a bike ride through the New Forest. It's not all trips out of town though; we're hoping to get tickets to at least four big West End shows to add to our Calendar. Sports fans will hopefully be happy to see we are including some top soccer and rugby action into our plans. We've also got ballet, opera, pub walking tours, cultural eating experiences, even a night at the Roller Disco; the list goes on and should be with you by July 31st – so keep an eye on the blog!!

For those who enjoy getting involved and *putting something back*, we have some tremendous opportunities for you to volunteer at a wonderful event called Maggie's Culture Crawl, help to feed those in need at the Whitechapel Mission and even take you to Wales to volunteer with the National Parks' Commission. If you *really* want to get involved, consider joining the NYUL Civics Team (register your interest [here](#)) and get involved with helping to run volunteering events and encouraging engagement with service activities among your fellow students.

These activities, though, are only part of what we do here in London. We spend a lot of time helping students with independent travel, so if you have got any plans to spend a weekend in Rome, see Madrid or start plotting your Fall Break, we would certainly like to help you with your planning. Personally, I have been advising international students on travel around Europe for over 20 years now, so I would be happy to share some observations that might help you to plan an even better trip. Here, for example, are some of the questions, last term's students asked me:

- *What's the best way to get to Paris?*
- *Do you know of any good hostels in Barcelona?*
- *What should I see in Rome, if I've only got three days?*
- *I want to hike in the Swiss Alps, where should I go?*

Of course, it is not just travelling in Europe we help people with: we like to think we know London very well and we would certainly like to answer any questions you might have about the city. Here is a flavour some questions we were asked by last term's students:

- *What's the best way to get around London?*

- *How can I get cheap tickets to go to see a theatre show in London?*
 - *My favourite band is playing London, how can I get tickets?*
- *My sister is coming to visit me in London, where would you recommend she stay?*
 - *Are there any guide books on London, you would recommend?*
 - *I've heard London has Europe's best shopping, tell me more?*
- *Am I going to need to buy a plug &/or power adaptor for the electricity in England?*
 - *Are Londoners friendly? Is London safe?*

For me, London is the most exciting city in the world: it has the diversity of New York, the history of Rome and the buzz of Tokyo all rolled in to one! You are going to love it, and if we can help you along that road, the happier we will be!

So please feel free to contact the team here on resourceroom@nyu.ac.uk and we will do our best to answer your questions. In fact, what we might do is try to capture some of the most popular questions and re-broadcast back to the group, in the upcoming series of blogs, so as everyone will benefit from the information.

So please look out for a second posting on (or around) July 31st with the Cultural Programming Calendar and, we look forward to receiving any questions you would like to ask us!

Best regards,

Tony