The Dylan Thomas International Summer School  
Tip Sheet for Travel to Wales  
2019

Travel to and from the UK

Please arrange to travel to the U.K. in time to meet the group in the Arrivals Hall at London’s Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5 by:

12 noon on Monday, 27th May 2019

If you choose to arrive before this date, please make sure you travel to Heathrow Terminal 5 in time to meet the group. If you’re flying into the U.K. that morning, please make sure your flight arrives in plenty of time to clear Immigration (note that there can be lengthy lines) and to pick up your bags so you can be in the Arrivals Hall at the above time.

Also note that most flights to the U.K. from the U.S. travel overnight, so if your flight does this, you’ll need to make your reservation for the previous evening.

Dominic Williams will be there to meet you, and the group will then travel by bus to Lampeter. The trip will take about 5 hours, and there will be one stop en-route.

Return Flights:

Please be aware that the return bus to Heathrow Airport will leave Lampeter around:

8 a.m. on Friday 7th June 2019

Again, the trip takes about 5 hours, so you will not arrive at the airport until approximately 1 p.m. As airlines request passengers to arrive 2-3 hours before international flights, please do not book flights that return to the U.S. before 3:30-4pm on 9th June 2019.

If your flight leaves earlier, you may have to arrange your own transportation to Heathrow Airport.

Note on Passport requirements:

U.S. passport-holders do not normally need to pre-apply for a visa in order to enter the U.K. for study at the Summer School.

DTSS students from the U.S. must inform agents at Immigration Control that they are in the U.K. to study on a short summer school course for 10 days.

In addition to your valid passport, you’ll need evidence of enrollment in the course, so please have your letter of registration from The University of Wales, Trinity St David ready to show to the border agent, along with receipt showing that you have paid the program tuition. (You’ll receive the letter in mid-May.) The agent will then stamp your passport accordingly.
Details of these immigration rules are given at:
https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa/documents-you-must-provide

Different rules may arise if any of the students are not US passport-holders, plan to follow other courses of study while they are in the U.K., or already hold some kind of valid UK visa.

Travel Tips
Items to consider bringing include:

- Sunscreen (yes, it’s true: sunscreen. When the sun shines it’s strong!)
- Hat or baseball cap
- Eye shades (like the kind you get on planes--take one if they offer it! The sun rises by 4 am in the UK in summer, and curtains are thin)
- Walking shoes or hiking boots
- Hooded rain jacket (you won’t need a heavy coat)
- Warm layered clothing, including T-shirts, fleece, light woolen or cotton sweaters, sweatshirts. No dress-up clothing is necessary. Temperatures range from the mid-50s to the mid-70s.
- Light gloves
- If you’re sensitive, bring motion sickness medicine or ginger gum. Our bus is very comfortable and will be driven by a professional driver, but the roads are twisty--best to be prepared!
- Small notebook for jotting down observations and notes on trips and hikes
- Larger notebook for composition of prose and/or poems
- If you bring a hairdryer, make sure it’s dual voltage
- Outlet adapter (not a converter, just an adapter), which allows 2-prong US plugs to adapt to 3-prong British outlets. You can buy these on amazon for $6; they are also available at Sainsbury’s supermarket in Lampeter.

Note: Most phone, camera, and computer chargers work on both US and British electrical currents. All you need is an inexpensive outlet adapter.

Computers: it’s not necessary to bring a laptop computer to the DTSS. However, if you work best on a computer, consider bringing a small laptop or tablet. But note that it is not required. There are computers and printers on campus that you can use.

Phones: to avoid roaming fees, it’s a good idea to leave your phone on Airplane Mode while you’re in the UK, and only enable the Wi-Fi option, so you’ll have internet access when Wi-Fi is available.

Wi-Fi: The Lampeter campus has Wi-Fi and we may be in other Wi-Fi spots at times (including Heathrow airport). Ty Newydd, the National Writers’ Centre in North Wales, also has Wi-Fi. You will be able to access the internet on your phone when you are in a Wi-Fi area and for most students that’s enough to satisfy their needs.
However, if you want to use data when you are someplace that does not have Wi-Fi, you might want to explore international data plan options with your mobile carrier, because burning data without a plan when you're abroad is very expensive. Some carriers have “everything” plans that include unlimited data anywhere in the world (T-Mobile has this I believe), and some carriers offer plans that let you buy a month of international data (Verizon offers 100 MB of data for $25 or 250 MB for $50, for example).

If you want to send texts when you are on Wi-Fi, buy an international data plan and use a messaging app like WhatsApp instead of standard texting, because standard texting can get expensive fast if you text a lot when you are abroad. Again, when you're on Wi-Fi you don't have to worry about any of this, and most students have done fine just using Wi-Fi.

Note: Wales is full of hills. Often cell coverage is very intermittent, so service is sometimes interrupted.

**Money**

Make sure to inform your credit card company that you may be using your card overseas. Because fraud is a concern, more and more companies are apt to freeze your card unless you inform them that you will be abroad and what dates you'll be away.

Most credit cards now are “chip” cards although some older cards are not, and if you have a card that does not have a chip, you may find you are unable to use it at some places. Be aware that many credit cards add a ‘foreign transaction fee’ that will cost you extra when you use it in another country (3% is typical). A quick internet search will show you some cards that do not have foreign transaction fees.

It’s a good idea to tell your bank where you’re going, too. The best way to get British pounds is to use your debit card at an ATM once you’re in Britain, including Heathrow Airport (ATMs are known as Cashpoints in Britain). Note that your bank may charge a fee for overseas withdrawals; even so, you’ll get a better rate than changing dollars at a Currency Exchange Bureau or a bank.

**On Campus**

**Internet on campus**

You will receive a Wi-Fi code for UWTSD either before you leave the States or as soon as you arrive in Wales, which will allow to access the internet immediately. Occasionally the Wi-Fi can be moody and fickle but it works without a hitch most of the time!

**Room & Board**

Accommodation is in small, en-suite rooms (en-suite means ‘with private bath’). Each room has tea and coffee making equipment, internet access and housekeeping services with linens provided every 2 days.

Most meals are taken in the on-campus cafeteria. There will always be a vegetarian option provided. If you have other dietary needs, please let Joanne Price know in advance.
Program Preparation

Writing

We’ll be generating lots of new writing during the programme. If you’re doing the course for credit, the piece you hand in for grading at the end of the week must have been written over the course of your time in Wales.

Each student will have the opportunity to hold a 20-minute tutorial with Pamela Petro or Samantha Rhydderch. You can use that time to discuss writing in general; what you’ve learned on the course; a piece you’ve generated on the course; Wales or the Welsh language; or anything you wish. If you have a short piece of work that you’d like to bring with you from home to discuss during the tutorial, please do. Just make sure to give it to Pam or Sam well before the tutorial. (“Short” refers to 2-3 poems or around 3 pages of prose.)

Required Reading/Listening/and or Viewing

Before attending the DTSS, please read Under Milk Wood, Dylan Thomas’ ‘Play for Voices.’ Instead of reading it you may watch either the 1973 or 2015 film version (the 1973 adaptation is with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor; the 2015 remake is with Rhys Ifans) or listen to the radio play. Links for all follow below:

To read: http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0608221.txt (full text)

To listen: https://www.learnoutloud.com/Catalog/Literature/Drama/Under-Milk-Wood/15077

To watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llOWjF3lf8g (1973 version)
Suggested Reading

Readings to be discussed in class will be distributed during the previous day's workshop. The following titles are suggested readings you may wish to have a look at before traveling to Wales, but they are not required.


This brief essay offers a good introduction to ‘hiraeth’ and Wales. It will also be discussed in a workshop.


*Brand new evocative meditations on walking in Wales.*


*Morris is one of the great travel writers of the 20th/21st centuries, and she celebrates her own country in her inimitable, idiosyncratic style.*

**Travels in an Old Tongue: Touring the World Speaking Welsh**, by Pamela Petro (Flamingo, 1997).

*I couldn’t resist: it’s funny, and a good introduction to the ins and outs of Cymraeg (the name Welsh gives itself).*

**Wild Wales**, by George Borrow.

*This is the classic travelogue of Wales, originally published in the 1850s. There are many used copies on Amazon!*


*Very long and detailed, but the best Welsh history to date.*


*Honestly, any edition of Dylan’s poetry will do. I like this one because it’s light, lean, and easy to carry around.*


*The stories are wonderful! Dylan was such a terrific poet that his stories are often overlooked, but they’re more accessible and much funnier than many of the poems. Don’t miss them.*


*A great sampling of Welsh poetry from the 20th century.*


*A great range of material, from sheep farms to coal mining and beyond.*