

Packing for the Maymester

Luggage

- Bring NO MORE than two bags. I recommend a medium rolling bag and a backpack. Large bags are too bulky for train travel and tend to be too heavy for navigating city streets and public transportation



- Whatever bags you choose, ask yourselves these questions:
 - Can I walk with my bags up to 1/2 a mile on city streets, some of which might be cobblestones?
 - Can I pick up everything I brought and climb two flights of stairs in an underground Tube station?
 - Can I move quickly enough to board a train or subway car?
- A small tote bag that you can place in your luggage is perfect for day trips; it should fit a raincoat, umbrella, water bottle, snacks, etc.
- Bring a small, light re-usable shopping bag. Many shops in the UK now charge for single-use plastic bags; grab something you can fold up and put in a pocket in case you run across a market and want to grab some snacks for your room.

Rain gear

- RAINCOAT!!! Did I mention we'll be in the U.K.? And that I've never seen Edinburgh except through the haze of raindrops? Make sure you pack an adequate raincoat (not just a windbreaker) that repels water. Consider one with a hood that extends past your waist. Make sure it's large enough to layer a sweater underneath; particularly in Scotland, it can still be quite cool in May.



- Water-proof walking shoes/boots. Hopefully, you already have some version of this from walking around campus, but be sure that whatever you have, you will be comfortably walking around the city all day. Some women's rain boots don't have adequate support, and the last thing you want is blisters while walking in the rain.
- Travel umbrella...something lightweight.

Technology

- Portable laptop , tablet, or mobile phone for classwork.
- Universal adapter/s for plugging in cell phone, laptop, etc.
- Earphones/earbuds for audio walking tours and comfort while traveling.
- A reliable time-keeping device (I know, no one wears watches anymore...) You regularly will be responsible to getting yourself to our many ticketed events, and you will NEED to be there on time. For theatre performances, being on time means sitting in your seat at least 10 minutes before the curtain, because part of your assignment includes observing spectatorship.

Clothes

- Clothes for touring...what will you be comfortable wearing on a train for 5 hours? Walking around city streets, sidewalks, and cobblestones? Walking around an old castle, and perhaps navigating a muddy trail to get there?
- Clothes for attending theatre...no need for anything fancy, but think about being presentable and fitting in with a mixed crowd attending a cultural event. Many Londoners will leave work to have dinner and attend a show, so business casual works, as long as it is also comfortable and walkable. Jeans are fine; lots of students will be attending shows as well.
- A Vanderbilt t-shirt for taking fun group pictures.
- Individual Woolite packets and a Tide Stick (or some equivalent).
 - You will have free time if you want to use a laundromat or laundry service to clean your clothes; Central Wash (17 Star St.) is a 5 minute walk from the Days Inn in London, and they provide a laundry service by the pound for a

very reasonable rate. But if you want to save some money, you can easily wash select items in your bathroom sink each night.

