



## Academic Field Trips: Guidance for Visiting Semester Faculty

Travel and experiential learning are distinctive features of a Harlaxton education. Students regularly tell us that combining field work with classroom preparation significantly enhances their understanding of, and appreciation for, what they are studying.

If you are thinking about including field trips in your course, here are some key points to consider as you design your syllabi:

- You are encouraged but not required to include field trips;
- Some field trips may impose additional fees on students;
- If you wish to require field trips, please be aware that it will be difficult to arrange more than 1-2 without causing disruption to other classes and activities;
- Field trips may not oblige students to miss their other classes;
- Field trips should not conflict with major college functions;
- It would benefit the students if field trips did not conflict with student development activities such as our very popular House competitions or athletic contests;
- The British Studies course (which all students take for six credits) requires 3 field trips: Lincoln, Southwell Workhouse, and London.

Students and faculty travel a lot. This point is significant enough that it deserves its own headline:

- There are usually no classes on Wednesday afternoons;
- Most Wednesdays (and some weekend days), therefore, we offer a “local culture” scheme to destinations of common interest that are within 45-60 minutes of the Manor. These trips are already included in the students’ fees;
- Independent and college-sponsored travel on the weekends is extremely common. In fact, on average, students and faculty alike travel 9 weekends out of 12.
- There are usually no classes on Fridays;
- You should, however, be aware that this calendar arrangement exists to allow students and faculty to travel and is also used for local culture and British Studies trips. A free Friday, therefore, would not be a good day for an additional field trip.

Finally, here are some recommendations for making field trips work in your syllabi:

- Familiarize yourself with Harlaxton’s semester calendar. It is full and complex;
- Do not overschedule yourself or your students;
- As a guideline: 1-2 field trips in a three-credit course ought to be your upper limit;
- Use the free Wednesday afternoons and local culture destinations for field trips. With enough notice, we can even tailor our local culture scheme so that it goes to a destination that you suggest. (N.B. there is no additional charge to students. Recent destinations are in the appendix that follows and posted as flyers on our website);
- When there is a strong connection to one of your classes, use UK weekend destinations in the college-sponsored travel scheme as a locus for an optional special assignment or tour. (N.B. these have an additional charge and are open to all students; therefore, you may not “hold” spaces in them or require students to book one of these trips so that they can complete an assignment for you. See the appendix for regular destinations).



## Planning Academic Field Trips: Appendix

Please see the related Guidance for Visiting Semester Faculty for recommendations and other key points to consider.

**Common Local Destinations** in the Wednesday (and weekend) local culture travel scheme:

Cities: Birmingham,\* Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, Liverpool,\* Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham, Stamford

Places: Belton House, Bletchley Park,\* Burghley House, Chatsworth,\* Clumber Park,\* DH Lawrence Home, Haworth, Lonthorpe Wood, National Space Centre, Newstead Abbey, Rutland Water,\* Sherwood Forest,\* Woolsthorpe Manor

\*denotes a day trip (i.e. not a Wednesday afternoon)

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**Regular UK Weekend Destinations** in the college-sponsored travel scheme that could lend themselves to field experiences:

Less heavily programmed destinations:

- Cambridge
- London Weekend (non-British Studies; often includes Shakespeare, but room for other options)
- Oxford
- York

More heavily programmed destinations:\*

- Bath and Stonehenge
- Lake District
- Northumberland
- North Wales
- Stratford-upon-Avon (always includes Shakespeare)

\*Although heavily programmed, these destinations may be closely suited to a course you are teaching and therefore should be considered as options for field experiences or special assignments. Stratford is the best illustration of the match between a college-sponsored destination and a field trip.

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**Whom to Contact** for local knowledge and – yes – inspiration:

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**Whom to Contact** about the Wednesday (and weekend) local culture travel scheme:

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