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Frontiers and Fortresses: Study Abroad Program July 4 —August 2, 2012

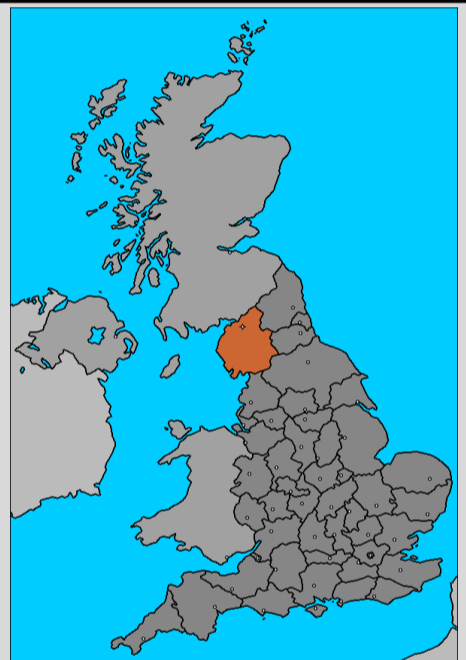
Frontiers and Fortresses is a four week, three course, nine credit Michigan Tech Study Abroad program hosted by the University of Cumbria. The leader, Dr. Carl Blair, and the students will explore issues of history and archaeology in Cumbria and across northern England and southern Scotland. A mix of classroom work, field trips and site visits will make up the course.



Carlisle Castle (top)

Locator map for Cumbria (below)

If you have questions about any aspect of Frontiers and Fortresses please contact
 Dr. Carl Blair
 Program Director
 cblair@mtu.edu
 487-3625
 215 Academic Office Building
 Dept of Social Sciences
 MTU
 1400 Townsend Drive
 Houghton MI 49931 USA



What's New for 2012?

A new funding structure was announced by the Provost Dr. Max Seel in Early October. While the details are too long to go into the net result is that we will probably be able to LOWER! The program fee significantly. The current expectation is a program fee of c. \$3,400 which is \$400 LOWER than the 2011 fee and \$800 lower than the fee was initially set in August of 2011 for the summer of 2012.



Edinburgh Castle

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Cumbria: Was formed—or rather reformed— during the re-organization of English counties in 1974, its roots go back to early Medieval England when the region, which was known as Cumbria at that time was part of the British Kingdom of Strathclyde. A predominately rural county now with an emphasis on tourism and agriculture Cumbria was in the past one of the most significant political and economic hubs of England. Hadrian’s Wall runs across the north of the county, during the later Medieval periods when Scotland and England were in a state of near-permanent conflict the royal castle of Carlisle anchored the northwest frontier. During the American Revolution John Paul Jones even briefly attacked the Port of Whitehaven! Many of the early developments of the industrial revolution took place in West Cumbria and of course the region was one of the most important parts of the Romantic period with the flourishing of the Lake District Poets. The Lake District National Park helps to preserve the nature and character of the region now. The county is, as a whole, undergoing something of an economic and cultural revival perhaps best characterized by the formation of the new University of Cumbria in 2007.



Lake Windermere above
Carlisle Market Square below



Carlisle: The County seat of Cumbria and the largest—and only—city in the county. Carlisle has a population of about 100,000. The most interesting area of the city is the city center which is the home of the Castle, begun in 1122, and the Cathedral that dates from 1123. Perhaps the most significant post-Medieval period for the city was during the 1745 Jacobean rebellion when Carlisle was the scene of much of the fiercest fighting. The modern city has, along with its history, a wide array of cultural centers, extensive shopping opportunities and is the home of the University of Cumbria. Carlisle is also located on the main north-south road and rail routes making it a convenient base for exploring northern England and southern Scotland.

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Courses Offered

Each Student enrolled in the program will take all three of the following courses, each is worth 3 MTU credits and may, of course, be applied to major, minor or distribution requirements, all three courses are also HASS courses (for MTU students only)

SS 3560: History of Britain I

Will follow the standard MTU course design but will continue a bit longer than is generally done – the course normally ends at AD 1715, we will continue on to AD 1745 because of Carlisle’s major role in the 1745 Rebellion

A mix of readings, class room discussions/lectures and site visits will be used in the course, evaluation will be through participation, quizzes and a student project/presentation



SS 3960: International

Experiences: This course will provide an academic framework for the cultural experiences of the program. Included in the course will be topics such as Lake District poets and gardens, the rise of tourism, urban and rural distinction in modern Cumbria and North Yorkshire and attendance at 2 – 3 cultural events, etc.

Guest and staff lectures, site visits, field trips and cultural performances will provide the material for this course, evaluation will be based on written “journals” and participation.



SS 3920: Archaeology of the North: Here we will study a mix of the archaeological past of the region and the changing methods and theory of archaeological data recovery from the earliest antiquarians to current research and rescue excavations in York and on Hadrian’s Wall. This is not a field course as such so no actual excavation will take place however the students will be given the opportunity to take part in field walking and survey and will have hands on work with collections.

Readings, classroom and field work (site visits, etc) will be the core of the class, participation, quizzes and an exam will provide evaluation

General Note: While you will take three distinct courses, obviously there will be overlap, for example: on our second field trip we will go to Birdoswald Roman Fort, on Hadrian’s Wall. Is this helpful to SS 3560, SS 3920 or S 3960—actually all three!

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Field Trips: Schedule and Visits

A total of five trips are planned, four will be day trips and one a longer, three night, excursion to York. Along with the sites mentioned below, readings and discussions relating to the places to be visited will be a part of each experience.

Day Trip #1: Neolithic Circles and Baronial Castles

The day will start with a visit to Castlerigg Stone Circle (1/2 hr) – arguably the most spectacular Neolithic site in England, based upon location, next a drive through the Central Lakes with a lunch time visit to Windermere a tourism hub of the area it is best seen as an English equivalent to the Wisconsin Dells, here we will also take advantage of one of the famed steamer Lake tours on Lake Windermere (4 hrs). The afternoon will be spent in the Eden valley visiting Brougham Castle (1.5 hr), a significant and well preserved baronial castle, with Roman components, that was built to help control that vital communication route. The day will end with a brief visit to Brough Castle another of the Eden Valley Castles (1 hr).

Day Trip #2: The Wall

The day will start with a visit to Carrawburgh Mithrium, (.5 hr), then we will proceed to Housesteads perhaps the most dramatic of the Forts along the Wall (1.5 hr). Next a pub lunch, and a brief stop at Wallstown Crag with its dramatic view north of the Wall, followed by a stop at a Mile Castle (Poltross Burn—also a good spot for Pooh Sticks!) then a longer visit (2 hrs) to Birdoswald Fort, finally a brief stop at a turret (Banks).

Day Trip #3: The Borders:

The first visit of the day will be to Bewcastle Cross, perhaps the best Anglo Saxon Cross in the U.K. (30 minutes). We will cross into Scotland and then visit Hermitage Castle (1.5 hr) one of the best preserved mixed earth/wood and stone fortification castles in the country. Lunch and Jedburgh Abbey and its fine reconstructed monastic gardens will be next (2—3 hr), followed by a visit (2 - 3 hours) to the well preserved abbey of Lanercost with its superb Tudor Village Hall and its wall paintings.

Day Trip #4: Edinburgh

On this trip we will take the train to Edinburgh and in the morning view the castle, with the crown jewels, royal apartments, etc. The afternoon will be a tour of underground Edinburgh and a few hours for the student's choice, there are many museums that could be viewed, such as the National Museum that emphasizes history and archaeology, or the National Portrait Gallery with its many works of art, or....



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York Trip:

Day 1: Travel and Countryside

Leave Carlisle in the morning, travel to York, We will stop at Barnard Castle with its many gates! and Richmond Castle with its superb Norman Keep (the tallest in the UK) and reconstructed gardens. After lunch—a traditional English Sunday Roast—we will visit Ripon Cathedral. Arrive at York in the late afternoon, city tour to familiarize students with town. Evening talk.

Day 2: Minster and Vikings

The entire morning will be spent at York Minster, one of the great cathedrals of the world, the undercroft with Medieval and Roman remains will be toured along with a visit to the tower. The afternoon will be spent with the archaeological resources of the Jorvik centre and its ancillary sites. An evening cultural event will be planned too.

Day 3: Museums and Walls

No trip to York is complete without a walk on the city walls, this will start the day the rest of the day will be an orgy of museums, the excellent York County Museum, Clifford's Tower, and the National RR Museum – student choice - each must go to two of the three, time will be allowed to wander the Shambles and a free evening.

Day 4: Fountains Abbey and Return to Carlisle

Upon leaving York the group will proceed to Fountains Abbey and spend the morning and afternoon there, a World Heritage Site the abbey and grounds provide an opportunity to consider the history of the location and also how the site is presented to the public today. The recently renovated early Georgian gardens of the estate will also be visited. Return to Carlisle will be late, c. 8 PM.



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Registration and Costs

Registration for Frontiers and Fortresses is quite simple, there are two tracks depending upon whether you are a MTU student or a non-MTU (guest) student)

MTU Students: Once you have talked with Dr Blair sufficiently to decide that you want to apply to the program go to the IPS web site (www.mtu.edu/international/study-abroad/apply/) and follow the instructions, pay your deposit—\$500, ask questions throughout, apply for your passport, come to the orientation (Date TBA), buy your text books, start to read them and meet us at the airport in Manchester on July 5 at 10:00 am

Non-MTU students, exactly the same except you need to fill-out the guest student application (same web site, click on “Guest Student”), and we will have a conference call orientation.

Note: You will register for the program through IPS—any problems please let Dr. Blair know, a group enrollment in the courses will be done during spring semester, you do not have to take care of this, we will as the courses are of course only open to those going.

Costs:

Program Fee: Currently the program fee is \$3,400, however hanks to a new initiative announced by Provost Seel in October it is very likely that if some quite reasonable enrollment target are met that we will have much lower fee. The current goal is \$3,100. All students, regardless of when they register for the program will pay the same fee, however if sufficient students are not registered by Jan 31 2012 the program will be cancelled, so do not delay hoping the fee will drop, if it does, and we anticipate it will all will pay the same. Whether you are the first or the last student to register.

Included:

- Housing (residence halls Carlisle, 4 Star hotel York)
- Ground transfers from Manchester to Carlisle and return
- All field trips, admissions, speaker fees, and cultural events
- Groups Meals (3 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 9 dinners)

Not included:

- Airfare, est. \$1200 RT from O’Hare
- Meals, est. \$621 (based upon the following assumptions your choices will impact the total breakfast, 24—@\$5.25, lunch, 21—@\$9, dinner, 17—@\$18)
- Spending money: est. \$800 (assume \$200/week)
- Text books: est. \$60
- Insurance: variable (we strongly urge both medical and trip)
- MTU tuition: 9 credits (charged at regular rates see official MTU web site for current charges)

Payment Schedule:

- Deposit (\$500) due whenever you can pay it—However your place in the program is not ensured until you make the payment! pick-up payment coupon at IPS so that it will be credited properly
- Tuition and fees due: May 5, 2012 (regular MTU summer due date, if this changes then so too will this due date)

Financial Aid:

MTU student’s only, non MTU students should consult with your own financial aid office. With 9 credits Frontiers and Fortresses is considered full-time enrollment for Track B, however in order to obtain financial aid during the summer one needs to be enrolled for at least 12 credits. If you are enrolled in 3 or more in track A, great no worries. If you are not taking courses in Track A please talk with Dr. Blair about an extra 3 credit option for track B that will allow you to get financial aid.

Proposed Schedule Beginning, Wednesday July 4, 2010



Hadrian's Wall will be visited as part of Field Trip 2 (FT2)



Jedburgh Abbey from FT 3

Events and schedules are subject to change based upon local conditions, student interests, etc.

	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
Day			1	2	3	4	5
AM			travel	arrive	class	FT1	
Lunch						group	
PM			travel	tour	class	FT1	
Dinner				group	group		
Evening				talk	talk		

	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
Day	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AM	class	class	class	FT 2	class		
Lunch				group			
PM	class	class	class	FT2	class		
Dinner	group		group				
Evening	talk		talk				

	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
Day	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
AM	class	class	class	FT 3	Class		York
Lunch				group			group
PM	class	class	class	FT 3	class		York
Dinner	group		group				group
Evening	talk		talk				talk

	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
Day	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
AM	York	York	York	class	class		
Lunch	group		group				
PM	York	York	York	class	class		
Dinner		group					
Evening	talk	talk					

	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
Day	27	28	29	30			
AM	FT 4	class	class	dept			
Lunch							
PM	FT 4	class	class				
Dinner			group				
Evening	talk						

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Practical Information 1

Below are some answers to practical questions about the program, I am sure not all are answered, if you have others, please ask me, Dr. Blair—cblair@mtu.edu—directly and I'll try and answer them I will also add them to the list for others too.

Travel: Air: As I know there will be students departing from multiple airports in the USA we will not have a group flight. We are trying to arrange airline discounts, once registered we'll keep you posted.

Arrival: All students need to be at Manchester Airport, terminal #2, arrivals lounge by 10:00 am on July 5, 2012 where we will all travel north to Carlisle on a coach (bus) that will take you directly to the Fusehill Campus and the Carrock Halls of Residence at the University of Cumbria.

Field Trips: For all course field trips and also the longer trip to York transportation will be provided by professional coach firms based in Carlisle

Departure: We will leave for Manchester Airport at 6:00 am on August 2, arriving c. 9:30, so plan departure flights accordingly.

Housing: All students will live in the residence halls of the University of Cumbria, single rooms with private baths and group kitchens. When in York the group will stay at a 4 Star hotel

Food: Some meals are included in your fee, 6 lunches, 9 dinners and 3 breakfasts (at York), others are up to you, Carlisle has a wide array of eating options from cheap and quick to quite expensive. The residence halls also have kitchens and are within 10 minutes walk from a major market, and 2 minutes to a convenience store (SPAR).

Health and Safety: Both Carlisle and York, the main locations for the program, are, as a whole very safe cities. However, reasonable precautions should be taken as in any city. If you become sick or are injured there are excellent medical facilities in both cities and world famed hospitals are near by in Edinburgh

Free Time: Most evenings, two full weekends and two partial weekends are yours to do what you will with, obviously homework will come first! Carlisle is centrally located on the main rail lines so travel is easy, we ask that you alert program staff as to where you are going and expected time of return. All free time travel is at your expense.

Prescriptions, and Glasses: While, of course, excellent medical facilities are easily found in the UK it is recommended that you bring all needed medications—in clearly labeled and original bottles. It is also recommended that you bring copies of all prescriptions both medical and visual.

Computers: Will you need one? No. Will you want one? It is up to you, virtually all computers have internal power converters so that is no longer an issue but you will need a plug-converto, available at virtually any major store in the USA—e.g. Wal-Mart.

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Practical Information 2

Clothing/Packing: Practical clothing suitable for walking over semi-rough terrain is recommended for the field trips. Otherwise normal clothing is suggested, laundry facilities are at the dorm and dry cleaning is available in Carlisle. Please note that as a whole England is more formal than the USA so 1—2 “nicer” outfits might be a good idea. Rain gear is essential. Baseball caps are strongly discouraged as these mark you as an American— and you will be treated differently. Pack lightly as you will need to carry all of your own luggage, and may want room for souvenirs!

Weather: That it rains all the time in England is a myth, however it can, sometimes for days at a time. As a whole temps in Cumbria in the summer are compatible to a cool Midwest summer, with a lot of variation. Over the years I’ve experienced July day time highs ranging from mid 90s to, low 50s and frankly on an average year less rain than in the summer at Houghton.

Spending Money: How Much and How to Get? Obviously the amounts are very variable, if you decide to buy 4 cashmere sweaters you will need more. We recommend \$200/week. The best way to get GBP when in the UK is at an ATM, you will be charged the lowest fees and get the best rates. I would not bother getting pounds prior to landing—it is expensive—and unnecessary, an ATM is available on the way to baggage claim, and more later at Manchester Airport.

Text Books: Specific titles are not yet available, they will be by January.

Passport and Visa: All participants will need a valid US passport, and based upon the new UK visa regulations it is likely that we will all need visas—which may be obtained on arrival in England, a virtually automatic process, if you are not a US citizen please contact Dr. Blair and IPS for further information.

Behavior and Expectations: Although overseas, all students will still be under the MTU student conduct code and will be expected to behave accordingly. The legal drinking age in the UK is 18 so you are welcome to have a pint or two whenever, however, excess consumption will be strongly discouraged, obviously there will be zero tolerance for any drug use. Violations will result in immediate expulsion from the program and no refund. Please note, while the above sounds stern—and it is—Dr. Blair who has led or been a senior graduate student leader of international programs since 1987 has never had a student who has run into trouble with any of the above issues, I do not expect this summer to be any different.

ADA and Non-discrimination: Fortresses and Frontiers and the faculty and staff of the Social Sciences department strongly support MTU’s positions on equal access to all its programs, we will work with any student to ensure that they have a rewarding and valuable experience while in the U.K.