

INFORMATION FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS

PRICING FOUNDATION COURSE

The standard price (Sunday – Friday weekly) of the Foundation Courses are shown on the web site. However, there are some additional charges that need to be added. These are:

- Single Room Supplement of £300 for the whole course. We find that with jet lag in the first week, our overseas students really appreciate being in a room on their own.
- Weekend stay charge. There is a £75 charge per night for staying at weekends. With three weekends through the course, and the charge applying on Friday and Saturday nights, that adds £450 to the price of your stay.

PRICING LIFESKILL COURSES

The standard price (Sunday – Friday) of our Life Skills Courses are shown on the web site. However, there are some additional charges that need to be added. These are:

- Single Room Supplement of £75 for the week. We find that with jet lag our overseas students really appreciate being in a room on their own.

PRICING ELEMENTS COURSES

The standard price (Monday – Friday) of our Elements Courses are shown on the web site. However, there are some additional charges that need to be added. These are:

- Single Room Supplement of £75 for the week. We find that with jet lag our overseas students really appreciate being in a room on their own.

PAYMENTS

We require that the above amount is paid in advance of your arrival. When you register for a course we will ask you to pay a deposit, and the full amount is due six weeks before the course starts. I will send you an invoice for these amounts, along with all the instructions that you need to make the international transfer. Please note that any costs for the money transfer will need to be paid by you.

LIVING COSTS

While you are staying at the cookery school, there is nothing more to pay. However, we go out on trip to local towns, and you may need to buy small incidentals at the shops for which you will need some cash.

Many students take trips around the local area or to London at weekends, and for these a credit card is extremely useful to pay for meals, accommodation and entertainment.

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU PACK YOUR BAGS

When you arrive at the Cookery School you will receive a file containing all the recipes that will be covered on the course, together with other literature and reference information. All the necessary aprons, utensils and equipment are provided, although you may wish to bring an additional notepad for your own notes. All bedding and towels are provided and throughout the course you have access to a washing machine and tumble drier; there is no need to bring any washing powder as we have that here. You will need a pair of comfy shoes with covered toes suitable for working in. Casual clothes are worn in the kitchen and, although some people like to change in the evening, it is not at all formal. Should you be keen to take some exercise during the course you are welcome to bring walking/running gear. I suggest you brings a laptop with you as you may find this useful for research purposes and menu planning.

WIFI

We do have wifi access at Middle Farm House, but as we are in the country it is a slow connection. We find that some of our overseas students purchase data bundles for their mobile phones and tablets to alleviate the slow speed of country broadband.

MEDICATION

If you are taking any medication, it will be entirely your responsibility when you are staying with us. However, it is very useful to know all about it in advance so that if there are any problems we are ready and waiting to help. Please either put this on your enrolment form, or inform us in an email. We would also appreciate it if you are open and honest about any things you find challenging, or if you need any assistance with particular subjects such as maths. We are very willing to help you in any way that we can, but can only assist if we know that you need it.

TYPICAL STUDENTS

The typical student is normally on a gap year or perhaps just finished their studies and doing the course prior to going into employment. In the past, in addition to students from UK, we have had students from America, Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Tanzania and Belgium. We occasionally have older students who attend the course, but not in high numbers. The mix of male and females changes course to course, but it is unusual to be a lone female or male on the course. The teaching on the course is tailored to suit the different experiences and confidence levels of the students who attend.

E MAIL SHARING

Some of our overseas students find it useful to have the contact details of the other overseas students on their course so they can be in contact prior to the course to see if they can organise to travel together. Please let me know if you are not happy for me to share your email address with other students and their parents on your course.

ARRIVAL AT THE FOOD OF COURSE COOKERY SCHOOL

You are very welcome to arrive on the Sunday evening before your course starts, and join us for a casual supper at 8.00 p.m. Alternatively, you may arrive on Monday morning; teaching will begin at 9.15 a.m. on the first morning and at 9.00 a.m. thereafter. If you are travelling by train, I am happy to arrange for you to be met at Castle Cary Railway station. Once you have decided when and how you will be arriving, I would be grateful if you would let me know your flight and train times, preferably at least a week prior to your arrival date.

VISAS

The website <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa> indicates that if you are visiting or studying for 6 months or less you do not need a visa, but you have to bring some relevant documents with you. We advise you check your own travelling scenario against the criteria to confirm your requirements.

TRAVEL

The cookery school is just over 100 miles west of London, so London Heathrow or Bristol are the most convenient airports to fly into, but Gatwick works as well. There are trains that connect from London Paddington or Reading to the station at Castle Cary, just 1 mile from the school. Bristol Airport is 30 miles away and can be reached by train. There is more detail on transfers from Heathrow and Bristol below.

We often find students arriving from overseas arrive in England on a Sunday morning and they are more than welcome to make their way directly to Food of Course Cookery School where they will be shown their room and have an opportunity to settle in prior to their first meal, which is supper that evening.

On finishing the course, most overseas students leave after the Final Lunch on the Friday and head to stay closer to London or Bristol airport for a flight the following morning, although it is possible for some to fly home that evening, which is dependent on where in the world they are flying to. For Bristol airport we have found most will book a car, especially if their flight is on Friday evening, but for Heathrow there is a train that leaves Castle Cary just before 4pm which the majority of students aim to catch. If you need to stay on the Friday evening following the Final Lunch there is a £75 charge. Should you require car transfers to and from the airport please contact either of the companies below to arrange your transport and please let us know an estimated arrival time. If you are arriving by train at Castle Cary station please advise us of your train arrival time in advance and we will collect you.

It is advised that if you plan to use the train frequently while in the UK that you purchase a British Rail pass prior to your arrival in the UK. For further information please go to Brit Rail Pass from www.visitbritainshop.com.

CAR TRANSFERS

For transport to and from Middle Farm House please contact the companies below for quotations and reservations.

At your Service

+44 1458 441881

email on webpage (please click below)

<http://www.atyourserviceuk.com/chauffeur/>

Number Seven Taxis

+ 44 1963 351015

email: david@seventaxis.co.uk

<http://seventaxis.co.uk>

TRAIN TRANSFERS FROM HEATHROW AND BRISTOL

HEATHROW

Catch the Heathrow Express to Paddington Train Station and then a train to Castle Cary. The Heathrow Express runs every 15 minutes and takes about 15 minutes. Details can be found at this link. <https://www.heathrowexpress.com/>. The link to National Rail is here. <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>. An alternate ticket agent is the trainline. The link to this site is here. <https://www.thetrainline.com/>. Note that the last train normally leaves Paddington for Castle Cary just prior to 8pm on a Sunday. The trains run every 1 1/2 - 2 hours.

BRISTOL

Catch the Airport Flyer Express bus service which will take you direct to Bristol Temple Meads Station. It is about a 30 minute bus journey. The details are here <https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/to-and-from-the-airport/trains>. The bus leaves about every 5/10 minutes and drops passengers directly outside the railway station. From Bristol Temple Meads you catch the train to Castle Cary. The link to train times are <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/> or <https://www.thetrainline.com/>

WEEKENDS

The course runs from Monday morning until Friday late afternoon; there is no teaching at the weekends. Our experience is that at weekends the overseas students use the farmhouse as a base for day trips and we are very fortunate that Bath, Bristol, Stourhead (a National Trust

property) and the Jurassic Coast are all in within easy reach, and Louise's husband, Roger, is a very willing and able tour guide. If the students do wish to travel further afield at weekends, to London for example, the ability for us to reimburse them for not staying at the Farmhouse, in cash in British Pounds, means they can then be self-sufficient to purchase train tickets, meals and accommodation away from the farmhouse as required.