International Guide
2017
Checklist

- Accept your offer
- Apply for your visa (if necessary)
- Apply for accommodation
- Develop your academic English language skills
- Book your place on The Welcome to Warwick programme
- Research bank accounts
- Contact Student Finance if you are funding your studies through a private loan or sponsorship
- Plan what to pack and arrange shipping if required
- See warwick.ac.uk/welcome for more information and checklists

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The University of Warwick achieved a satisfaction rate of 90% for visa advice, placing them amongst the top of the Russell Group Universities (source: International Student/Student Barometer, Autumn 2015)

All information contained in this guide was correct at the time of going to print however immigration regulations are subject to change, often at short notice, so you should always consult our website or an adviser for the most up-to-date information.

www.warwick.ac.uk/io
Visit Global Engagement, 1st Floor, University House
Applying for your visa

If you need any support or advice whilst you are applying for a visa, or you experience any difficulties in making your application, please contact our dedicated Immigration Service or your Overseas Representative Office (contact details on page 42).

EEA and Swiss Nationals
European Economic Area (EEA) citizens (all EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) have the right of free movement and residence in the UK. If you are from one of these countries, you will have only a brief passport or identity card check on arrival in the UK.

Please note that we do not expect there to be any change to your immigration status in the UK for approximately two years from the date the UK formally submits its intention to the European Council to leave the EU. There is no change for students starting their course at the University of Warwick in Autumn 2017. More information will be published on our website as it becomes available.

All non-EEA students studying for more than six months
All students studying full time at Warwick for more than six months are required to apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student visa in advance of travelling to the UK, using the CAS issued to you by the University of Warwick. Along with your CAS number, you will also need to provide evidence of how you will pay for your tuition and living expenses (maintenance).

Unless you are funding your studies through a loan or sponsorship that meets the definitions given in the Tier 4 Policy Guidance, you will need to show that you have sufficient funds in a personal bank account (yours or your parents) for 28 consecutive days at the time of your application.

The balance for each of these day must be at least your total tuition fees for the current academic year plus up to £9,135 to cover your living costs for the year.

The Home Office has a list of low risk countries, where limited financial documents are needed from any national who applies to study in the UK. Full information is available online on the link below.

Students applying for a Tier 4 visa may be asked to undertake a credibility interview, answering general questions on their study plans. Find out more on the link below.

You will not be able to study at Warwick if you apply for a Tier 4 visa with a CAS number issued from any other university.

All non-EEA students studying for less than six months
Non-visa nationals coming to study a course lasting less than six months (including distance learning) are not required to obtain entry clearance before entering the UK. We would advise you, however, to gain entry clearance before entering the UK to avoid any problems on arrival to the UK. A Short-Term Study Visa is valid for up to six months (or 11 months for an English language course). It does not provide you with permission to work in the UK and it is not possible to extend this type of visa or to switch to any other visa category from within the UK.

To apply for a Short-Term Study visa or permission to enter the UK as a Short-tern Student on arrival in the UK, you must have an unconditional offer from the University of Warwick, and have the financial resources to cover living costs and expenses during your time here.

You must also be able to show that you intend to leave the UK when you have finished your course (e.g. airplane tickets). Visa letters to support your application are available on request from your department.

If there is any chance you may need to extend your stay or work whilst in the UK, you should apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa.

Tuberculosis (TB) Certificate
Applicants for UK visas in certain countries require a certificate to show that they are free from TB. Only certificates issued by a clinic approved by the Home Office will be accepted. Ensure that you carry any medical certificates in your hand luggage, in case they need to be checked on arrival in the UK.

Immigration Health Charge
From April 2015, everyone who is granted leave for the UK for over six months is required to pay an Immigration Health Charge (IHS) at the point of submitting their visa application. The charge will entitle the visa holder to free health services under the National Health Service (NHS) once inside the UK.

Check the Home Office webpage to calculate what you (and your dependants, if applicable) will need to pay.

Dependants
Tier 4 students can only be accompanied by dependents if they are studying on a postgraduate course of at least 12 months in length or be a government sponsored student on any course over 6 months.

The End of the EU Student Agreement
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Check the Home Office webpage to calculate what you (and your dependants, if applicable) will need to pay.

www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

Dependants
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www.warwick.ac.uk/io/immigration/tier4/dependants

Adam Arnold
PhD Philosophy

“I found the immigration service team were efficient in ensuring that I was able to start my PhD on time and faced no further issues.”
ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme)
Your offer letter from Warwick will inform you whether you need to apply for an ATAS certificate before you apply for your visas. You should apply as early as possible for this, as it takes 20 working days for the certificate to be produced. If your offer letter requires ATAS clearance you must obtain this before we can confirm your place to study as unconditional and assign a CAS.

Warwick.ac.uk/atas

Applying for your visa
Before you apply for your visa, you need to ensure that you have all of the necessary documentation. If any documents are not in English, these will need to be officially translated. You must apply for your visa from your home country, or country of residence. We recommend starting early as it can be time consuming and you may be asked to submit additional paperwork.

If you are already studying in the UK as a Tier 4 student and would like to academically progress to a higher level of study, you must ensure that you are eligible to extend your visa from within the UK. Read through the latest requirements at Warwick.ac.uk/immigration/tier4/acprog.

You should refer to the Immigration Service webpages for up-to-date information on how to apply for your Tier 4 visa and advice on the type and format of your supporting documents Warwick.ac.uk/immigration/tier4.

Collection of your visa
(Overseas applicants only)
If you successfully apply for a 6 month+ visa from overseas, you will receive a temporary travel visa which is valid for 30 days prior to the start date of your course. You will use this to travel to the UK and then you must pick up the visa which is valid for the duration of your course called a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) when you arrive in the UK. We recommend that you read the guidance sent with your CAS carefully which will include a unique code for you to use in your Tier 4 visa application which will ensure you can collect your card from the University. Information about this can be found at Warwick.ac.uk/immigration/tier4/brps.

If your visa is refused
Please complete the online web form at Warwick.ac.uk/immigration/tier4/refusals upload a copy of your refusal notice and other documents that you think may be helpful. A member of the Immigration Service will contact you with further advice.

Further advice
Full information is available on the University’s Immigration website Warwick.ac.uk/immigration. You can also visit the Home Office website Gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa for information on processing times, fees and application advice.

Pre-sessional courses
If your offer for the degree course gives you the option to take a Pre-sessional English language course, or, you would like the opportunity to improve your academic English and study skills before you begin your studies, there are Pre-sessional English language courses that take place every summer through the Centre for Applied Linguistics (CAL).

CAL offers courses, aimed at developing students’ linguistic skills and becoming familiar with British university culture. At the end of the course you will receive a detailed report on your levels of competence in all four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing for Academic Purposes. Courses delivered by CAL are accredited by the British Council and meet all of their quality criteria.

Course dates
Phase 2 Only (6 weeks):
14 August – 22 September 2017
Special Note: for postgraduate Economics students, the dates for Phase Two are as follows:
Phase 2 only: (6 weeks): 7th Aug – 15 Sept 2017 - You may also apply to Phase One, commencing on 17 July.

Please note that Monday 28 August 2017 is a Bank Holiday in Britain and there are no classes on that day.

Fees
The tuition only fee for 2017 is £1945 for the 6 week course. A non-refundable deposit of £880 must be paid at the time of application. Accommodation will be charged separately and arranged on campus.

If you require a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK, please first check your eligibility before making an application for the Pre-sessional English course.

Further information
For more information about pre-sessional and in-sessional English courses see Warwick.ac.uk/al/study/learn-english.

Preparing for Warwick
If you are concerned about attending lectures taught in English, CAL offers an online course with interactive activities focused on listening to lectures and seminar discussions. You can try out a free sample unit or sign up for the online course at www.easeonline.org.uk.

You can also prepare yourself for Academic Success through the Prepare for Success website www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk.

During your studies
There are also a number of Students’ Union societies who can help with your English. This includes World@Warwick who offer informal language classes for all students. Find out more at: Warwick.su.com/worldatwarwick.
Paying your fees

Tuition fees are payable in full on the first day of the academic year, or the first day of your course (whichever is later). You can pay by bank transfer, credit card, debit card or by cheque/banker’s draft. Accommodation fees are due at the start of each term. Please see the University Term dates.

All students have the choice to pay all of their tuition fees in full, or in instalments. If you choose to pay in instalments, the payment schedule is:

- 50% of tuition fees due on the first day of term 1
- 25% of tuition fees due on the first day of term 2
- 25% of tuition fees due on the first day of term 3

All payments must be made in GBP Sterling. To pay in instalments, a direct debit will need to be set up to enable this. Further information on how to set this up can be found at the Student Finance webpage.

Methods of payment

Credit/Debit Card

You must have enrolled with the University and have setup an IT Services account to pay your fees online by credit or debit card via the Students Records System.

Bank Transfer

If you wish to pay by bank transfers, please quote your University ID number and student name on any transfer you make to the University’s bank account.

The University’s bank details are:
Barclays Bank
Account Name: University of Warwick
Account number: 80113700
Sort Code: 20-23-55
IBAN number: GB15BARC20235580113700
Swift code: BARCGB22

Please note it may take up to 10 days for the bank transfer transaction to arrive so you should always commence the transaction before your payment due date. The University neither makes charges nor accepts bank charges for such transactions. Any bank charges incurred at the time of the transfer will be passed on to you.

If you are financing your studies through sponsorship or a private loan, please contact the Student Finance team prior to arrival www.warwick.ac.uk/student_finance

“The best thing about Warwick for me is that it is a really international environment. There are students from all over the world here and a real appreciation and understanding for different cultures. It was these things that made settling into a new culture and living in a new country very easy.”

Adeel Azam
MSc Programme & Project Management
Bank accounts

Opening a bank account can take several weeks when you first arrive in the UK. Researching and completing application forms online may save some time, but you will need to provide proof of your university student status, UK address and overseas address to complete the application form. It is important that you bear in mind some of these documents are only available to you after you arrive in the UK.

On campus, we have branches of Santander and Barclays. Other bank branches are located in Coventry city centre and in Leamington Spa. Smaller branches of some banks can be found in Kenilworth and in the Earlsdon area of Coventry.

Bringing cash and/or a credit card is recommended for the first few weeks of term. Do not bring large amounts of cash with you.

Cost of living

The cost of living on campus and in the surrounding area is reasonably priced and you should find that your money will go further than in major cities. Your budget does depend on your lifestyle though, so it is important that you work this out according to your own needs.

Below is an estimate of some typical weekly living costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Cost</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation on-campus</td>
<td>£77 - £171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation off-campus</td>
<td>£70 - £120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books/Materials</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>£25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General expenses</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other things you should budget for:

- Visa renewal fees
- Police registration fees (currently £34.00)
- Course costs
- UK day trips/holidays

What to bring with you

Most things can be bought on or near the campus. Household items and kitchen utensils can be bought from the nearby shopping centre, Cannon Park. You can also purchase low cost clothing at Cannon Park, or in Coventry city centre. If you choose to purchase items in the UK rather than bringing them with you, you will also need to budget for this.

Example costs can be found in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bath towels</td>
<td>£10 - £15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saucepan</td>
<td>£7 - £10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plates</td>
<td>£1 - £5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>£100+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter coat</td>
<td>£50+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumper</td>
<td>£30+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic TV</td>
<td>£100+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>£300+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shopping

There is a range of shops on campus, including Rootes Grocery Store and the Bookshop. A 10-minute walk from central campus takes you to Cannon Park Shopping Centre where you can find large supermarkets Tesco and Aldi. These shops are useful and stock some international ingredients. There are also smaller food and home stores, fashion and sports shops, a pharmacy and an Asian grocery store. Every month, there is also a Piazza Market day on campus, selling fresh and local produce. See here for Piazza Market updates

Opening times

Most shops are open from 9am till 6pm from Monday to Saturday, with some larger supermarkets open 24 hours. On Sundays, opening times are normally between 10am till 4pm, although smaller local stores may offer longer opening times.

Budgeting

It is important to ensure you budget carefully during your time here in the UK. Websites such as International Student Calculator will allow you to budget your money, as well as providing helpful advice international.student.calculator.org.uk

warwick.ac.uk/io
Accommodation

Warwick provides over 6,300 rooms on campus, and 2,200 rooms in the nearby areas of Coventry, Leamington Spa and Kenilworth. Choosing the location that’s right for you is important, especially if it’s your first time away from home. All University-managed accommodation for applicants is booked through the online application form.

For new first year undergraduate applicants, University managed accommodation (on or off campus) is guaranteed provided that you have Warwick as your firm choice with UCAS (and meet any conditions on or before 31 August 2017), and have made your application for accommodation before the deadline of 31 July 2017.

New first year Postgraduate students will be prioritised for University managed accommodation or referred to local area accommodation, provided you have received and accepted an offer to study at Warwick, and the application for accommodation is made before the deadline of 31 July 2017.

Please check the Accommodation website for advice on completing your application, along with information and advice on how we allocate rooms and make offers

www.warwick.ac.uk/accommodation

On campus managed accommodation

Warwick Accommodation offers a range of residences, all within walking distance of the academic, social and sporting buildings on campus. Each of the residences is fully managed and has an excellent network of support staff within the Residential Life Team. All rooms are self-catered, with access to shared kitchens and living spaces. All rooms are furnished, have Wi-Fi and either have en suite facilities, or shared bathrooms.

The University has a limited number of single-sex areas. Please indicate within your application if this is important for you but note that it is not possible to guarantee this. Any medical needs must be stated within the application form, along with medical evidence sent directly to the Accommodation Office.

Off campus managed accommodation

Warwick Accommodation offers a wide range of properties all within walking distance of the University, or near to direct transportation links. These properties offer a range of letting lengths, have no deposit, signing fees or bond, and are all furnished.

Local area accommodation

Warwick Accommodation have reserved rooms at Liberty Park and Study Inn for postgraduate students. These are managed privately, but are carefully selected by Warwick Accommodation to ensure good quality student accommodation. Both facilities are located within Coventry and are close to transport links to campus.

Private accommodation

If you would prefer to live off-campus in private accommodation, the Warwick Students’ Union Advice Team have helpful advice and guidance on their website, including useful publications on house hunting, checklists, and Agent and Landlord lists. You are advised to see in person any properties before signing or agreeing to a private housing contract, and before any money is paid or transferred.

www.warwicksu.com/advice

Temporary accommodation

If you arrive in the UK early, you may need to book temporary accommodation if your University managed room is not available. Within the UK, you can stay in hotels and guesthouses, and you can find accommodation close to campus at www.warwick.ac.uk/accommodation/studentaccommodation/usefulinfo/hotels.

To find temporary accommodation in London, please visit www.visitengland.com. You may also find help available at the Tourist Information Centres at Heathrow and Gatwick airports.
To make things as smooth as possible, there are things that you will need to do.

**Enrol at Warwick**

Before you begin your studies, there are some steps you need to complete. We refer to this as ‘enrolment’.

1. Submit your photo for your University Card
2. Complete course registration (this includes uploading a copy of your visa, passport and Home Office decision letter)
3. Register for your IT Services Account
4. Access the Enrolment Dashboard and complete tasks
5. Non EEA students will be required to upload a copy of your passport and visa.

For more information about enrolment, please see warwick.ac.uk/welcome/checklist.

**Pre-departure events**

The University offers pre-departure events in a number of countries. Events are a useful opportunity for students and parents to find out more about Warwick before moving to campus. All offer holders will be invited to any events being held in your country. For more information, please see the International events page warwick.ac.uk/io.

Throughout the summer months, there will be opportunities for you to connect with us through our live chats held every Wednesday. These include chats with representatives from the University, as well as your departments. You can find out more info at warwick.ac.uk/livechat.

You can also connect with us via social media. All of the links can be found at warwick.ac.uk/io/connect.

**Important documents**

Ensure that you have a photocopy or digital copy of all important documentation, at home and with you. This includes your passport.

**Insurance**

Before you travel, you should purchase travel insurance to cover your journey to the UK. Most travel insurance will cover any problems such as delays, emergency medical treatment and lost or stolen luggage.

You should research any insurance needed for the duration of your stay in the UK, such as medical, home contents, gadgets, or travel. Endsleigh Insurance is the only insurance company recommended by the National Union of Students, and provides the cover for University managed campus and off campus accommodation www.endsleigh.co.uk

**Welcome website**

Full guidance and up-to-date information on arriving and enrolment can be found on the Welcome to Warwick website warwick.ac.uk/welcome. Information on the Welcome events provided by the University can be found on page 20.

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“I cannot say just one thing which I like about Warwick; there are a number of things that add up: the facilities, the infrastructure and the support centre. I love the depth of the lectures, the resources and the amount I have learnt in my first term. Also you get to meet so many people from around the world.”

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Ajayi Tosin
MSc Finance & Economics
Packing
Deciding what to bring and what to leave behind can be a difficult decision. You will be able to buy many things from your home country here at Warwick and in the surrounding shopping areas. If you do travel with electrical items, please ensure that you bring adapters with you, or buy them locally on arrival.

Hand luggage
Airlines have strict guidelines on what you are allowed to pack in your hand luggage as well as the size and weight of your baggage. Please check on your airline’s website before your departure.

In your hand luggage you should have:
- Your passport with visa/UK immigration permission, or national identity card.
- Offer letter from the University (if available)
- Copy of the email containing your CAS number
- Evidence of finances, e.g. bank statements or sponsorship letter
- Evidence of accommodation, if applicable
- Evidence of TB certificate, if required
- Police Registration Certificate (if previously studied in the UK for longer than six months)
- Documents used to support your visa, as mentioned in your CAS

These documents should be easy to access in case you need to show the Immigration Officer at Passport Control.

What not to bring
What you can and cannot bring to the UK depends on where you are travelling from. There are strict penalties for bringing in prohibited or restricted items. These items include illegal drugs and offensive weapons.

When entering the UK from a non-EU country, you must make a declaration to customs if you exceed your duty free allowance, you have brought goods to sell, you have €10,000 or more in cash or you think you may have banned or restricted goods.

You are advised to check your duty free allowances and the official gov.uk website for a full list of banned and restricted goods.

Airport transfers
The University provides coach transfers directly to campus from Birmingham Airport (BHX) and London Heathrow Airport (LHR) on Saturday 23 September, Sunday 24 September, Tuesday 26 September.

For further information about Airport Transfers and prices please see the Welcome to Warwick webpage.

Travelling independently
There are excellent coach services in the UK and rail travel is available from all major cities and airports to Coventry. Local transport (either bus or taxi) can then be used to reach the University campus. We recommend that your ticket is booked in advance, especially for coach journeys, as seats are limited and prices will be expensive on the day of travel.

You will be responsible for your own luggage once you arrive in the UK, and coaches normally limit you to one or two medium-sized suitcases and one piece of hand luggage.

Travel times to Coventry
- Birmingham Airport - 15 mins by train, 30 minutes by bus, 20 mins by taxi
- Central London - 1 hour by train, 2 hours by coach

TOP TIP!
When booking travel to campus, remember to ensure that you allow at least 2 hours between the time your plane lands and entering the airport arrivals area.

TOP TIP!
Our team of student helpers will be in the arrivals hall on select days as part of our airport transfer service, to welcome you to the UK and signpost you to the coaches.

- London Heathrow - 1 hour 30 mins by train, 2 hours 30 mins by coach
- London Gatwick - 2 hours by train, 4 hours by coach
- Manchester Airport - 2 hours by train, 2 hours 30 mins by coach

If you are in central London, you can use London Euston Rail Station for direct links to Coventry station. You may need to use the London Underground system, otherwise known as the Tube to access this station. The Tube network is extensive and journeys are fairly cheap. There are a lot of steps and escalators in the stations, and you may struggle if you have large amounts of luggage www.tfl.gov.uk

For more information about travelling to Warwick please see the following: warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/directions/international

External Services
National Express - www.nationalexpress.com
Megabus - www.megabus.com
National Rail - www.nationalrail.com
Arriving on campus

Collecting your accommodation keys
You will hear from Warwick Accommodation regarding your offer of accommodation in September. The Residential Life Team will be distributing keys from a location close to your residence. More information about collecting your key is available here: warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome/arriving

If you are staying off campus in University managed accommodation, you can collect your keys at any time from the start of your contract. Keys will be available from the Student Reception in Senate House. If you are arriving outside of the opening hours, please email studentreception@warwick.ac.uk so that alternative arrangements can be made. Please see www.warwick.ac.uk/accommodation/reception for information on opening hours.

Students attending the Welcome to Warwick programme will receive instructions closer to the time of arrival regarding key collection.

Enrolment and BRP card collection
Within your CAS email, you will receive information on the Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) card, how to collect your BRP card, and how to ensure delivery to the University of Warwick www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration

The Welcome Guide and Welcome to Warwick website will provide information on when you can complete your enrolment and collect your University card www.warwick.ac.uk/welcome

Registering with the police
Some nationals are required to register with the police upon arrival in the UK. This is usually within 7 days, but if you arrive in September or October, and are living locally to the University, you can delay registering until the police visit campus. Students will be able to book an on campus appointment with the Police following enrolment. Students will be required to show their BRP at the Police appointment, therefore this should be collected in advance.

Registering with the Health Centre
For international students moving to the UK for more than six months, you are entitled to some free National Health Service (NHS) treatment, such as consultations with a doctor or GP (General Practitioner), family planning treatment, and emergency care. Students living on or off campus may register with the University Health Centre, located on campus. If you would prefer to register off campus at a Health Centre close to your off-campus residence, you can search for your closest surgery at www.nhs.uk

If you have not already done so, you will need to fill in a NHS registration form to register with a doctor. You can either collect one from your chosen Health Centre, or download a form from www.nhs.uk. You will need to show evidence of your UK address, that you are a student at Warwick, your passport, and details of all inoculations. You will also need to detail any pre-existing medical conditions. If you have already lived in the UK, you should bring your NHS number so that you can transfer between Health Centres.

Jose Barbero
MA Industrial Relations & Managing Human Resources

“The best thing about being at Warwick is being on campus. I am a member of the sports centre and I attend the chaplaincy regularly. The other members of the chaplaincy were extremely welcoming and I have enjoyed attending the trips that have been organised by this group.”

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Welcome to Warwick Programme

The programme is tailored to support all new international and postgraduate students as they adapt to life at Warwick and the UK.

It involves a full programme of events designed to help you settle in and meet new people. It also includes practical support with administrative tasks such as opening a bank account, collecting your Biometric Residence Permit (non-EEA students only), guided tours of the campus and an introduction to all of the support services provided by the University.

Our team of student helpers, wearing red hoodies, will be on hand throughout the programme to make sure your first few days at Warwick are enjoyable.

The postgraduate timetable will run from Saturday 23 - Friday 29 September; with international undergraduates joining the programme from Tuesday 26 September 2017. As part of the programme you will be able to reserve a place on our free timetable of events but also select additional services to tailor the programme to suit your needs:

- Airport Transfers
- Accommodation for the duration of the programme
- Tours of campus and Coventry city centre
- A busy and entertaining programme of events and activities
- Invitation to our Closing Ceremony

warwick.ac.uk/welcometowarwick

Arrivals Weekend - 30 September and 1 October

The majority of students will arrive at some point over Arrivals Weekend, which is the busiest weekend on campus. There will be many activities taking place on this weekend and in the following few weeks to help you settle in to university life. You can find further information on these in your Welcome Guide and on the Welcome to Warwick website warwick.ac.uk/welcome

Ahmad Faris
BSc Accounting & Finance

“I found Warwick is very international in terms of culture, diversity of students and values. I was really impressed. The best thing is the people. You can have great universities, but the highlight will always be the people. They are the hearts and souls of Warwick; students, lecturers and simply everyone!”
Settling into campus and British life

When arriving in a foreign country for the first time, it can seem like a strange place. Each country has its own unique food, social life, etiquette, sport, transport and holidays - and the UK is no exception.

The new culture can be a lot to take in at first, so students are advised to be aware of differences they may face before arriving on campus. This should help to limit any culture shock that may affect your academic life.

The British Council guide ‘Cultural Connections’ provides essential information on cultural awareness. There is also a First Steps Guide produced by Education UK that can offer valuable advice before you arrive on campus.

Another useful resource is The Great British Mag. They offer lots of insight into living and studying in the UK, covering everything from the weather, to queuing, British humour and manners.

Get involved
Warwick is home to over 9,000 students from 192 countries so you are definitely not alone. One of our biggest tips to new students arriving is to engage yourself in something that you would like to do in addition to your studies. Not only will this allow you to be exposed to the environment and get used to it, it’s also a fantastic way to meet people and make new friends. This can include sports, entertainment, nightlife, shopping or a walk in the park. The Students’ Union Sports and Society clubs are a great place to start and offer lots of ways to continue at least one of your hobbies here in the UK.

To find out more, visit: warwick.ac.uk/societies warwick.ac.uk/sports

Volunteering
Volunteering in campus and community projects can be a beneficial and memorable achievement to add to your Warwick experience, and is a great way to meet new people and make a difference.

It is a UK legal requirement for all volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults to undertake a criminal records check. If you would like to volunteer in a school or with young people next year, please remember that you are required to complete a UK criminal records check and provide a Certificate of Good Conduct. It is much easier and quicker to get a Certificate of Good Conduct over the summer vacation so you have it ready to bring with you at the start of term. For further information: warwick.ac.uk/volunteers

Go Global
Equipping all of our students with the global perspective you’ll need to succeed in today’s increasingly globalised society is right at the core of the University’s values. In our highly multicultural community, every student can have a truly global experience whilst studying at Warwick. To help this happen, Go Global is a Students’ Union/University initiative designed to get you thinking and acting globally. You may choose to undertake a period of study abroad, learn a new language, join an international society or volunteer in the local community.

As well as encouraging you to take advantage of the many intercultural opportunities available to you as a Warwick student, we also offer you an interactive intercultural training programme. Taking part will complement your intercultural experiences as part of your Warwick journey to becoming a global graduate.

For more information see warwick.ac.uk/interculturaltraining.

World@Warwick
The World@Warwick society is at the heart of the international experience at Warwick and offers language buddy schemes, free language classes and many social events throughout the year. You can find out more about the initiative here warwick.ac.uk/worldatwarwick.

Chaplaincy
The Chaplaincy is the focus of spiritual life on campus, and is the primary place of meeting for any faith. The Chaplaincy is home to chaplains from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. There is also the opportunity to gather with people from different faiths, either through the Chaplaincy or through the religious societies at the Student’s Union, warwick.ac.uk/chaplaincy

HOST
HOST is a charitable organisation which provides international students with the opportunity to experience a weekend in a British home. All the hosts are volunteers who enjoy meeting people from other countries and cultures. Interested students can apply through the HOST website.

Sustainability on campus
We all have a role to play in the sustainability of our campus. The University is committed to improving efficiency and reducing the environmental impact of the campus as it grows and develops, and we hope you’ll join us in doing this. There are all sorts of ways you can get involved, from simply putting waste in the correct bin, joining us at events, becoming an intern or organising your own campaign or activity.

Sustainability is for everyone and is part of your everyday life. If you want to learn new skills and meet new people then you can join us as a “Green Champion”, helping to raise awareness and make improvements across campus. We hold events every term and offer opportunities to do placements, projects and dissertations connected to sustainability, warwick.ac.uk/environment.

TOP TIP!

In your first few weeks, spend as much time as possible out of your room, trying new activities. Sport can be a great way to meet people.
The University of Warwick is a very safe campus, with a very low crime rate. As a University, we are committed to keeping it that way by committing to keeping it that way by providing a safe, secure and welcoming environment for everyone who studies, works and visits here. We have a dedicated Security Team who work within the University to make the area feel safer for students. As in most countries (and particularly at night), you must use your common sense and be aware of your surroundings. At night, you should take sensible precautions such as avoiding badly lit streets and not walking on your own. We have a number of systems in place to make the campus as safe as possible. These include a late night shuttle- bus service to residences, a 24 hour 365-day a year Security Team and emergency telephones situated around campus.

To the right you will find some of our top tips to keep safe on and around campus.

- Always remember to lock your room and any ground floor windows when you go out, even if it is just for a short while.
- Ensure you have suitable insurance for your possessions and properly mark your valuables with a UV marker pen.
- If you plan to use a bicycle, make sure you have a good quality D-lock.
- Never purchase items, such as computer items, from strangers on the street.
- Always keep important receipts securely.
- When taking a taxi, ensure that it is either a black cab or a pre-booked private hire taxi. If you are unsure, check the back of the taxi to ensure there is an official licence plate displayed.
- Protect your online identity by getting advice and guidance from www.actionfraud.police.uk.
- When listening to music through headphones, be extra vigilant of your surroundings, especially when crossing the road.
- For more safety advice, please refer to the British Council brochures at warwick.ac.uk/study/international/students/britishcouncil.
- Reporting a crime
  Where there is a danger to your own life or if there is a crime being committed, call the emergency services on 999 from any telephone.
  For non-emergency minor crimes, you can report a crime by calling 101 or speak to your local police station on 0345 113 5000.
  It is important to report any crime, even if you think it is a minor offence. It is important that you report the crime to the police and to the University Security Team. Police in the UK are very approachable and here to help.
  For comprehensive information on all aspects of safety, please visit the West Midlands Police website at saferstudents.west-midlands.police.uk and follow the links for international students.

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Health

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)
All students studying for more than six months will need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), at a cost of £150 per year. For full details, please refer to www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/overview

Vaccinations
Please ensure your vaccinations are up-to-date before coming to the UK and have a record with you of all the vaccinations you have had. All students require the Meningitis vaccine. Please ensure you have received the Meningitis ACWY (conjugate vaccine) before leaving your home country. If you are unable to arrange this, register as soon as you arrive at University and ask to book an appointment with the Practice Nurse. We also recommend that you are vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella and that you have received two doses.

Emergency care
Everyone has access to emergency treatment in the UK. If you require hospital treatment for an accident or emergency, the closest hospital is either University Hospital Coventry (6 miles from campus) or Warwick Hospital (3 miles from Leamington Spa). In an emergency, you should call 999 for an ambulance.

The Health Centre - on campus
There is a Health Centre on campus, where you can access a wide range of health services.

Please see below for opening hours:
- Term Time - Mon – Fri: 9am – 6pm
- Vacation - Mon – Fri: 9am – 5pm
Surgeries operate throughout the day. The building has suitable access facilities for disabled patients. All consulting rooms are on the ground floor.
Please note the centre will be closed during Bank Holidays and may be closed at times for staff meeting and training. For more information see here: www.uwhc.org.uk

Out of hour’s healthcare
If you require medical advice or attention outside of normal surgery hours (9.00 - 18.00), then you can seek advice from NHS Direct, which is a nurse-led telephone advice helpline – 111.

You can also seek advice from health professionals within the NHS Walk-In Centre, located in City of Coventry NHS Healthcare Centre in Coventry City Centre or at University Hospital Coventry.

Prescribed medication
If you are ill and require medication, the doctor may give you a prescription. You can take this to any pharmacy, who will dispense your medicine. This is currently at a cost of £8.60 per item.
Some medicines are available from a pharmacy or supermarket without a prescription. These include medicines to treat minor conditions such as a cold or flu.

Dentists and opticians
To find a local dentist or optician please visit www.nhs.uk. Dental treatment and eye care are subsidised but not free under the NHS. Dentists may be limited to the number of NHS patients they can take on, and you may need to join a waiting list or contact multiple practices before you find a NHS dentist. If you require emergency or out of hours care, please contact your dental practice or 111 for advice.
You can apply for help with all healthcare costs if you have a low or limited income. Forms are available from the University Health Centre or from any pharmacy.

General health issues
You will probably remain fit and well throughout your studies. However, some students find that any minor health problems they experience seem worse when they are adjusting to a new climate, unfamiliar food and the emotional stress of being away from home. The most frequent illness is the common cold, which may cause you minor discomfort in the form of a sore throat and runny nose. The symptoms of a cold will usually last a couple of days, and medicine is available from a pharmacy or supermarket.
Everything you need to know about finding work globally and in the UK
Student Careers and Skills is committed to providing you with comprehensive support in your career planning. Visit our website www.warwick.ac.uk/careersandskills for full details on resources, vacancies, workshops, career events and how to book one-to-one guidance interviews.

Working abroad
Information for working abroad and international students can be found on the International Moodle.

Working on campus
If you are an EEA student, you are allowed to work without restriction during your studies. For non-EEA students, please check the conditions of your visa. Tier 4 visa holders are limited to 20 hours per week during term time and full-time in vacations if you are an undergraduate student.

Due to academic regulations, you are not permitted to be employed in a full-time job.
There are many opportunities to work on campus, and these are advertised through our on campus recruitment agency, Unitemps. Warwick Arts Centre and the Students’ Union also offer job opportunities.

Studying at Warwick
If you are new to studying at University in the UK, you may find that there are some key differences from how you have been taught previously. These might include the amount of independent learning required, the degree of class participation expected and the need to challenge opinions and defend your point of view to other students and staff. These differences apply to both class and written work.
If you are concerned about attending lectures taught in English, CAL offers an online course with interactive activities focused on listening to lectures and seminar discussions. You can try out a free sample unit or sign up for the online course at www.easeonline.org.uk.

Skills programme
Warwick has developed a skills programme for all study levels, which will help you develop your academic, personal and professional skills. You can find out more at www.warwick.ac.uk/skills.
Support and advice

The University of Warwick is committed to providing a supportive and positive environment for all members of its community. There is a comprehensive network of support and welfare services available to students. We want you to make the most of student life, and there is a range of services available to help you.

Student Wellbeing and Support Services
The Student Wellbeing and Support Office, located in University House, provides welfare and pastoral care to all students. You should speak to them if you have any specific support requirements for a disability, disabling medical condition or a specific learning difficulty prior to arriving at Warwick, so that they can discuss individual requirements with you. The full range of support services can be found on the website warwick.ac.uk/supportservices.

Warwick SU
The Students’ Union Advice Centre is located on the second floor of the Students’ Union Headquarters. It is run by full-time professional staff offering free, confidential and impartial advice on a wide range of issues, such as housing, finance and immigration. You can find out more at warwicksu.com/advice.

The Office for Global Engagement
The Office for Global Engagement provides advice and support on immigration and welfare matters, as well as the year round trips and events that are available for all students. Visit the ‘Current students’ webpage to learn more about non-academic opportunities during your time at Warwick.

The Study Abroad Team is also available if you are looking to study abroad during your studies, or are visiting us from another institution. For more information on the study opportunities please visit warwick.ac.uk/studyabroad.

If you have any queries or questions before you travel to the UK, the contact details of your Regional Team can be found on page 42. You can also connect with them via social media or through the weekly live chat. For more information please see warwick.ac.uk/io.
Bringing your family

If you are bringing your family with you whilst you are studying in the UK, you will find helpful guidance here.

Accommodation
There is limited on-campus accommodation for students with families. Typically rent starts from £700 per calendar month excluding bills, and leases usually start in September. Family accommodation is also available in the local areas of Coventry, Kenilworth and Leamington Spa. Warwick Accommodation will help you to find a suitable house either on or off campus and it is essential that you contact them as soon as possible with your requirements. Should you be unsuccessful in securing accommodation prior to your arrival, you should come alone to Warwick well in advance of your course so that you can find a suitable home before your family joins you. More information can be found at warwick.ac.uk/accommodation.

Budgeting
It is important to ensure you budget carefully, as there are additional costs associated with family accommodation. Websites such as International Student Calculator will allow you to budget your money, as well as providing helpful advice international.studentcalculator.org.

Childcare
The University Nursery caters for children from three months to their fifth birthday. Demand for places is high, so it is important to make contact with the nursery as soon as possible before your arrival. More information can be found at www.warwick.ac.uk/nursery.

Schools
If your children are aged between 4 and 16 years, they can enrol for free at state primary and secondary schools in the UK, as long as they are here as your dependants. As the University offers accommodation in two separate Education Authorities, you will be able to apply for a place when you are aware of where your accommodation will be. If you live in Coventry, you will need to apply to Coventry City Council. If you live in Kenilworth or Leamington Spa, you will need to apply to Warwickshire District Council. See the ‘Bringing your family’ webpage for more information.

Healthcare
If you are studying on a course of six months or more, you and your visa dependants will be entitled to free NHS care, but may need to pay the NHS Health Charge. Any children under 16 (18 if in full-time education) will also be entitled to free prescriptions, dental treatment and eye care. Further information is available at www.foreignstudents.com/health/nhs.

Working
The ability for students and their dependants to work in the UK will depend on their visa. For students from the EEA or Switzerland, their dependants can work during their stay in the UK with no restrictions on the type or number of hours it involves, providing that they have applied for a Family Permit before travelling to the UK. More information on this can be found at www.gov.uk/family-permit.

DID YOU KNOW?
If your children are aged between 4 and 16, they can enrol for free at state primary and secondary schools in the UK, as long as they are here as your dependants.
Communications

Staying in touch
Letting your family know that you have arrived safely is important. The campus has many WiFi hotspots, and all residences have WiFi and network ports. To find out how to connect to the WiFi, read our guide here.

Mobile phone
If you decide to have a UK mobile phone, there are many popular companies to choose from. We recommend that you do some research to find the best provider for you. If your current phone is unlocked, you may be able to use an international SIM, such as Lyca, Lebara or GiffGaff, who offer cheap international calls. Make sure to check before your purchase, as call costs will differ for some countries. Websites such as www.moneysavingexpert.com and www.moneysupermarket.com will give you advice.

Parcels
If you live on campus and would like to send yourself a parcel, you can send it to the University of Warwick post room. Only items under 15kg can be accepted. If you are sending any items, please ensure that the mailing contains:
- Your full name as shown on your warwick id card
- Student number
- Your residency / block / flat / room (in that order), as well as the following address

University of Warwick
Coventry, CV4 7ES (UK)

All of the above information must be provided for the parcel to be accepted. If you are not aware of this information before leaving for the UK, please arrange for the parcel to be sent after you have arrived. If all of the above information is not included, the item will be returned. Any parcels not collected within one month will be returned or destroyed.

TOP TIP!
Letting your family know you have arrived safely is important. The campus has many WiFi hotspots that you can connect to with your IT account information.

TOP TIP!
Using online communication options such as email, social media or Skype can be an inexpensive way to connect with your home.
The University of Warwick occupies 290 hectares on three adjacent sites: Central campus, Gibbet Hill campus and Westwood campus. It only takes 15 minutes to walk between them, and campus accommodation is situated close to academic buildings, the Students’ Union and the sports facilities. A shuttle bus operates during term time covering all three areas.

For students studying at the Wellesbourne campus, there is a bus service that connects the campus via Leamington Spa daily from Monday to Friday.

Walking
Anywhere on campus is easily accessible by walking, with pavements and walk ways specifically for pedestrians. If crossing the road, pedestrian crossings should be used where possible. Always be aware of your surroundings at all times, and do not step into the road unless it is safe to do so. Plan your walk to and from campus at walkit.com. Their journey planner includes Coventry and the whole of our campus.

Self-guided campus walking tours
Try the University’s self-guided Walking Tour which takes you on a 1 hour walk around campus. Alternatively try one of our two Campus Walks which both offer the chance to further explore the campus.

Bus
Local buses offer a frequent and convenient way of travelling to and from campus. There are regular buses running from the city centre of Coventry through to Leamington Spa and beyond. Of these, the National Express Coventry and the Stagecoach Unibus service are the most frequent, and a bus pass can be purchased for either of these providers. For links to the operators, including timetables see warwick.ac.uk/directions/localbuses.

Cycling
Using a bicycle can be a very affordable and environmentally friendly mode of transport. You will find plenty of bike parks around campus, as well as cycleways around campus and the local area. It is advisable to use a D lock to keep your bike secure, to wear a cycle helmet, and fit lights for use after dark.

For more information about cycling in the local area see warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/directions/bike.

UniCycles
Warwick’s UniCycles scheme, run in partnership with nextbike, is a bike hire scheme available to all staff and students. Whether you pay an annual subscription or pay-as-you-go, you’ll have access to one of 100 bikes situated at our campus. To register and for more information please see warwick.ac.uk/uni-cycles.

Driving
If you choose to drive in the UK, you must hold a valid licence. Any car that you drive must be properly registered, taxed and insured, and it should have a MOT certificate if it is older than three years. There are also strict laws against drinking and driving, speeding, using your mobile and not wearing a seatbelt. Make sure you are aware of this information at www.gov.uk/driving.

Trains
Coventry Train Station is only four miles from campus, and is the nearest main line train station. Canley Train Station and Tile Hill Train Station are situated within walking distance from campus, and offer links to both Coventry and Birmingham Train Stations. Bus stops directly outside of Coventry Train Station offer direct links to campus.

Taxis
Taxis are more expensive and cost a lot more than in other countries. They can be useful for short journeys or journeys late at night when there is no bus service. Always ask for an estimate of the cost before you get in a taxi and check that it is has an official licence plate.

For more information about getting around on campus see the student portal page warwick.ac.uk/students/travel.

Road safety
If you are planning on driving or cycling in the UK, it is advisable to read the Highway Code, available at www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code.

Around the UK
Within the UK, people usually use trains or coaches for long-distance travel. Train tickets tend to be expensive unless booked in advance. Students can buy a Young Persons Railcard if they are between 16 and 25, or over 25 in full-time education. This provides a discount on the full purchase price of train tickets. Coaches are generally cheaper for long journeys, but will take longer. The Office for Global Engagement arranges day trips to various cities and tourist attractions across the UK. You can find out more at warwick.ac.uk/study/international/students/trips.

“Warwick University is located in the centre of the UK which makes traveling around the UK much easier. Just one and a half hours from London to the south and two hours to Manchester to the north by car or train.”

Khalid Alzahrani
PhD Chemistry
The University of Warwick is not, as some might expect, actually in Warwick. It is located very close to the city of Coventry (about 15 minutes away) and the town of Leamington Spa (closer to 20 minutes away). This means there’s a diverse range of locations to explore right on your doorstep.

If you’re arriving by train, Coventry station is the closest with regular Travel Coventry buses going from the station straight to the University. Leamington Spa train station is accessible too, with Stagecoach Unibuses making the trip just as regularly.

A lot of our students live in these areas and you may find that you decide to stay there after your first year of study.

Location
Located in the centre of England, the University has easy access to Birmingham and London. Birmingham, the UK’s second city, is 20 minutes by train from Coventry and is packed full of things you can do, whatever your interests are. In Birmingham, you will find lots of places to shop, museums to visit and events to be part of and we would definitely recommend a trip during your time here.

Surroundings
The University is in an area rich in history and has remnants of the past still very prominent in the landscape. Typical English towns and countryside fill the region and attract a lot of tourists.

The medieval Warwick Castle dominates the centre of the historic town of Warwick, and should not be missed. If you try really hard, you can spot the University from the top of the castle tower! On the University’s doorstep, there is also Kenilworth which has its own story to tell and historic castle to show off too.

Stratford-upon-Avon
The most famous town in the surrounding area is Stratford-upon-Avon, which is about 30 minutes from the University. This is the birth place of William Shakespeare and home to the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC). As well as this, within about an hour of the University is the Cotswolds, home to some of Britain’s most beautiful countryside.

DID YOU KNOW?
Only 30 minutes from campus you will find the popular tourist destination of Stratford-upon-Avon. Famous as the birthplace of William Shakespeare, it is a fantastic town to visit in your spare time.

The rest of the UK
As the University of Warwick is right in the heart of the UK, there is plenty to see across the surrounding countryside and even more to see throughout the country.

All major British cities are fairly easy to get to thanks to convenient train and motorway links from Birmingham. This makes it easy to get home from Warwick, wherever you come from.

Even if you are not from the UK, Birmingham International airport is just a stone’s throw away and the travel links mean that, although it is in the middle of England, it’s still easy to travel to the rest of the world.

The local area