Welcome to Warwick!

Here in the International Office we’re looking forward to meeting all the new international students who will become part of the community at the University of Warwick.

We hope you’re looking forward to that too! Each one of you make us a lot more interesting and without you we would lose your unique input which complements and informs the perspective of British students, lecturers and other staff members. I’m sure that you are thinking of the practicalities of your final preparations before leaving or the things you have to do when you arrive and there are articles in this newsletter giving information about this which should help and also other information at www.warwick.ac.uk/welcome/checklist but there are lots of exciting opportunities at Warwick to stimulate you intellectually and for you to enjoy socially. Have a good journey if you haven’t left yet, and see you soon.

Discovering the UK

Throughout the year the International Office arrange coach trips for students to visit different parts of the UK.

The UK trips are very popular and tickets normally sell very quickly. You can book tickets NOW for you and your friends by visiting www.warwick.ac.uk/io/events/uk while The first coach trip for the Autumn term is to Conwy, North Wales on Saturday 31st October; home to the smallest house in Britain. We will then be visiting the famous Northern city of York on Saturday 14th November. Later that month, there is a coach trip to the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of Norwich on Saturday 21st November. We are also pleased to announce that there will be a coach trip to Liverpool on Saturday 28th November, a city full of culture, heritage, people and most famously home of the Beatles. Finally on Saturday 4th December, make sure you don’t miss out on the trip to Bristol in the South West Of England; famed for its passionate character and its maritime history.

Safe Travelling

If you are reading this before you’ve come to the UK, it’s worth considering these travel tips:

► Keep your passport and tickets safe! Make a photocopy of your passport just in case. Copy all the pages, even the front and back covers.
► We recommend you bring £250 in British pounds sterling, but not more than that. It’s best to have some smaller notes like £10 and £5, and ideally some coins in case you have to use a public phone box. The only places likely to accept £50 notes are banks. Bring another source of money as well, such as a credit card from your home country.
► Label your luggage clearly with your name and your UK address.
► If you use a taxi for any part of your journey, use one with an official taxi licence plate on the back of the vehicle.

For information about how to get to the University of Warwick once you have arrived in the UK see www.warwick.ac.uk/visit There’s also useful information about coming to the UK in the British Council’s First Steps brochure which can be downloaded from www.warwick.ac.uk/io/students/britishcouncil

Get Involved with Go Global

Go Global is an exciting initiative managed by the International Office in collaboration with the Students’ Union that aims to highlight opportunities available to all Warwick students to have global experiences both on campus and by going abroad. Gaining experiences in an international environment is important, as today’s global workplace will require you to collaborate with people from different cultures, and to adapt to culturally different environments. Warwick offers you a wealth of opportunities to acquire the skills you need, either by going abroad or by engaging with the Warwick community on campus. Apart from preparing you for a future workplace, broadening your horizon and trying new things will give you a chance to make friends with people from all over the world and is a lot fun! For more information follow us on Twitter @WarwickGoGlobal, take a look at our portal www.warwicksu.com/goglobal and www.warwick.ac.uk/io/students/goglobal or find us on Facebook. Look out for our brand new Go Global brochure which highlights some of these great opportunities, and will help you find your way to go global this year.

HOST

If you fancy a weekend away from the University with a British family you can do this through the national charity HOST. They will also have some opportunities to spend Christmas with a British family which you can apply for in October, though places are limited. If you apply we will ask you to pay an administration charge before your application is approved. Currently the charge for the first application for a weekend visit is £10. For more information, and to apply, see www.hostuk.org
Opening a UK Bank Account

It is worth spending some time before you arrive considering what bank you would like to open an account with.

The process of opening a bank account in the UK can take two or three weeks to complete. The more you do to research it now, the easier it will be. We suggest you take time to have a look at what each bank offers and which would best suit your requirements. Also note what documentation you will need to open the bank account you choose.

You can find information on banking including a link to a leaflet comparing some of the major UK banks here: www.warwick.ac.uk/io/admissions/offerholders/preparing/bank

Students in temporary accommodation

If you will start your time at Warwick in one room but expect to change address shortly afterwards this could mean that your bank posts important information (e.g. your bank card and pin number) to the wrong address. Many academic departments are able to help you with this problem by receiving post on your behalf that you can collect from them. The details are at www.warwick.ac.uk/io/admissions/offerholders/preparing/bank/tempaccomm

Immigration Update

If you need a visa to study in the UK hopefully you have now successfully obtained one or are in the process of obtaining one. Should you require any immigration advice, please refer to the Immigration Advice web pages at www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration

If you are unable to find the answer to your query here you can contact the Immigration Service by completing an enquiry form at www2.warwick.ac.uk/enquiry/form

Anyone making a Tier 4 (General) application is advised to read the Tier 4 Policy Guidance extremely carefully before submitting their application. This can be accessed from the Home Office website at www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa

If you are currently in the UK and will require an extension to your existing Tier 4 student visa or will make a new visa application using a CAS from the University of Warwick the Immigration Service in the International Office offer a ‘Check & Send’ scheme and can submit applications to the Home Office on your behalf. If you wish to make use of this service, please refer to the guidance on our website at www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration/student/applying and attempt as much of the online application form as you can before booking an appointment to meet with an Adviser, who will check your application and supporting documents.

Student Status Letter

A student status letter is a document that proves that you are a student and gives proof of your name, address and course of study. It is needed to open a bank account and some students will need one to register with the police. You may need to give one to other people too, perhaps for a mobile phone contract. You can collect a student status letter when you enrol at your enrolment event if you bring your passport or EU ID card and any immigration documents and if you have enrolled online, which you can do now if you have not yet done so. See www.warwick.ac.uk/welcome/enrol and follow the instructions under step two to enrol online.

Registering with the Police

Your passport or identity card or letter from the UKVI (the UK Visas and Immigration section of the Home Office) may contain the statement: “The holder is required to register at once with the police” or “Register with police within seven days". If you fail to register with the police, or keep your Police Registration Certificate updated, you will be in breach of your immigration conditions and this could have serious repercussions.

If you arrive in September or October you do not need to register within seven days as long as you book an appointment online to see the police when they come to campus throughout October and November. The police permit and encourage this for Warwick students.

If you have a Tier 4 visa which you applied for overseas for a course lasting over six months, you have received a temporary travel visa lasting 30 days. You should not see the police or make an appointment to see them until you have collected your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) which is the visa that is valid for the full duration of your course.

All students are advised to ensure they hold a visa that will enable them to enrol at Warwick. Please read the information available on our website at www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration/enrolment Any students who currently have a Tier 4 visa issued with a CAS from another institution or a CAS in relation to a previous course of study at Warwick will need to ensure that they have submitted a new Tier 4 visa application to the Home Office using a CAS from the University of Warwick relevant to their new course before they can fully enrol. If this applies to you, you will need to bring to your enrolment event proof that you had a valid visa at the time of making your new Tier 4 application, and either a letter from the Home Office confirming they have received or approved your application, or a print out of the online application form and a Royal Mail Special Delivery receipt as evidence that supporting documents have been posted. Alternatively, a receipt from the Immigration Service confirming they have submitted an application on your behalf will be accepted.

Any important immigration updates will be added to our news page at www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration/latestnews