Connecting you to the International Office at the University of Warwick

Warwick’s Islamic Society Cooking

The Islamic Society gives a warm welcome to all students, whether muslims or non-muslims.

They have members from many parts of the world, and with that comes recipes from many different countries. On Saturday 21st March at 4pm they will be holding an International Cooking Class in the Islamic Prayer Hall Kitchen in the centre of campus. The event will have a demonstration of how to cook a simple vegetarian dish and then everyone will cook and eat together.

You don’t have to be a member of the Islamic Society to attend. A voluntary donation of 50p is requested to cover the costs of the ingredients. To sign up for the event or if you have any questions including about allergies and other dietary requirements please email Jennifer.Eggert@warwickisoc.com

Easter Activities

If you’re staying on campus during the Easter break there are a couple of activities you might want to take part in. On Wednesday 25th March we’ll be holding our Easter Tea Party in the Chaplaincy, from 4pm to 5:30pm. Tickets cost £3. If you want to come please buy a ticket in advance from www.warwick.ac.uk/go/international/events/uk

There will be tea and cakes and of course some Easter Eggs and the chance to have a bit of fun and relax with other students. Families are very welcome.

There’s also a coach trip that will run during the Easter holidays, on Saturday 11th April which is to visit the Cotswold village of Bourton-on-the-Water, which has various things to see and do. To find out more about it and to buy a ticket for £12 please also see www.warwick.ac.uk/go/international/events/uk

HOST family visits

Now that spring is here you might want to consider a HOST visit. You can spend a weekend or if you prefer just a day with a HOST family, to get to see another side of the UK, away from student life. Many Warwick students have taken part over the years and have given some very positive feedback so we can recommend the programme. For your first application Warwick will pay most of the cost, so a weekend visit will cost you £10, not including your transport costs. If you have applied before as a Warwick student, you are welcome to apply again but you will have to pay the full cost. Currently this is £60 for a weekend visit, plus extra if you will be taking any family members with you. To find out more about HOST and to apply for a visit see www.hostuk.org
Say NO to bullying and harassment
All members of the University are responsible for ensuring that individuals do not suffer any form of harassment or bullying and that they are encouraged and supported in any legitimate complaint. Students are encouraged to examine their own behaviour and where possible raise issues with the relevant individual(s) before they escalate. The University encourages the constructive discussion of differences of views and approaches.

What if you feel you are being bullied or harassed?
Informal options
Students are encouraged to seek to resolve the matter informally:

• Speak to the person involved, tell them how their behaviour is making you feel.
• By talking to someone it can help you feel less alone and may help you deal with your experience. There are many people you can speak to: a friend, the Residential Life Team, Student Support Services, the Counselling Service, the Chaplaincy, the Senior Tutor, Nightline and the Student Advice Centre and Welfare and Campaigns Officer in the Students’ Union.

University’s Student Complaints Resolution Pathway
The University has a formal Student Complaints Resolution Pathway. To find about this and read related documents please see www.warwick.ac.uk/studentfeedbackandcomplaints

Immigration advice
Changes to work rights for some Tier 4 students
This will be of relevance to Tier 4 visa holders working in the UK whose passports are due to expire!

The UK Government recently updated its guidance for employers as to what documents may be accepted as evidence of a migrant’s right to work in the UK. Specifically, visa vignettes (the Entry Clearance sticker placed inside a passport when a UK visa is granted overseas) must be presented in a current passport. This means that students with a valid Tier 4 visa inside an expired passport will not be permitted to work in the UK until they have applied for a UK Biometric Residence Permit (BRP card).

It is only possible to apply for a BRP card from inside the UK (called a Transfer of Conditions, or TOC) and the Immigration Service can assist with the application. At present the application fee is £107 but this is set to increase to £183 from April 2015. The average processing time is around 6-8 weeks during which time you will not have access to your passport. It is possible to attend a premium visa appointment for an additional fee of £400 which would normally see the application processed within 7-10 days.

Students with valid Tier 4 leave in an expired passport can still travel and study provided they also hold a current, valid passport. Students holding a BRP card issued inside the UK will not be affected by this change and may continue to work in accordance with the conditions of their leave.

Travel safety advice
With the Easter vacation approaching you may be planning to explore the UK or further afield. To ensure that yours is a trip to remember for all the right reasons, please take time to read our top tips for safe travel:

• Always travel with a copy of your passport and immigration permission – if your hotel has a safe, store the original documents there and carry duplicates when out and about
• If your visa is a separate BRP card remember that you will need both this and your passport to re-enter the UK when travelling overseas
• Be mindful of your surroundings, never leave bags open or unattended and avoid carrying on your person high-cost items like digital cameras or tablets
• If travelling overseas, take out comprehensive travel insurance which will cover both your personal belongings and health care
• Refer online for full instructions of what to do should the worst happen: www.warwick.ac.uk/immigration/lostpassportandvisas

3 stage training
Going on Study Abroad this year? Don’t forget to sign up to our 3 stage intercultural training being offered to all outgoing students for 2015-6. The training will be delivered through a series of interactive workshops and online modules, supporting you pre-departure, while you are overseas and on your return to the UK. These interventions will help you make sense of your experience in the context of working with a range of people from different backgrounds and cultures, as well as supporting you to articulate your skills of observation, analysis and reflection in a job interview. In the words of a past participant: “The modules provide a sort of test run for different scenarios we will be put into during our year abroad. Having the opportunity to identify and work with the soft skills we need to develop in order to flourish abroad is invaluable, and will hopefully result in less embarrassing miscommunications” Sign up online – places are limited: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/international/students/interculturaltraining

#WeAreInternational
International students in the UK are achieving all sorts of things; let’s let more people know about it. There’s a campaign on Twitter and Instagram throughout March using the hashtag #WeAreInternational to tell international students’ stories so do take a look. You may want to join in to tell your story of why you chose to study in the UK, the successes you’ve had and contributions you’ve made here.

Orientation 2015
Are you friendly and hard-working? Would you like to welcome our new international students to campus in September? We’re now recruiting for our 2015 team of Orientation helpers and team leaders to help man the coaches to bring students from Heathrow and Birmingham airports, run the welcome desk, run social activities day and night, and much, much more! If you’d like to help welcome our new cohort of international students, apply online now – deadline is Sunday 26th April: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/international/events/orientation

Entering your address
The Academic Office would like to highlight a new facility within your Student Records Online page which means that you can now enter your home address in non-Latin characters. We have previously used this facility for students wishing to have their degree certificates sent to their home address and it has increased the number of successful deliveries. The facility can be found via the “Edit my home address” link under the “Edit my personal data” tab.