One World Week at Warwick

This year, from 26 January to 2 February, the students of the University of Warwick will once again be gathering together to organise One World Week, the world’s largest student-run international event.

As a non-profit initiative that never fails to get the entire Warwick community involved, OWW is an achievement that we pride ourselves on, so this year we hope to make it bigger and better than ever. The eight day extravaganza aims to promote cultural diversity and stimulate every individual's development, inspiring an acceptance and appreciation of the world’s mosaic of cultures.

We hope that we will encourage awareness of and inspire positive action on issues which affect the world we live in through five elements: Forum, Days, Sports, Conference and Nights. While Nights brings the campus to life with music, dance and performances that showcase international talent through events like Carnival, Arabian Nights, World Music Concert and the sell-out Fashion Show, Days provides a platform for societies to draw visitors into a whirlwind of culture through themed workshops, culinary delights, activities and games. True to Warwick culture, we have maintained a spirit of competition through Sports, in which events like the Five-a-Side match and the Charity Run encourage every student to strive for their best while partaking in some friendly rivalry!

Working on the foundation that every one of us is integral to the community, we have ensured that there is an event to suit all needs, cultures and interests. Though this is most definitely a fun and uplifting celebration of the global community, Forum and Conference provide students with the opportunity to debate and discuss key issues facing the world today. Both the students and our prestigious guest-speakers cover a myriad of contemporary topics that we feel are vital current affairs that should be acknowledged by the youth of today so that they can make a change. Since our University is made from a diverse selection of students from every corner of the world, it is important to us that we receive personal insights on issues that are likely to affect our peers.

As the pinnacle of the international experience at the University of Warwick, we truly do hope that the event will not only maintain diversity within our student community, but that it will unite people from all over the world.

www.oneworldweek.net
Inform Spring 2013

If you’re one of the Warwick students who had a HOST visit over Christmas we hope you enjoyed it. Did you know that HOST offer you the chance to spend a weekend with families throughout Britain at any time of year? It gives you a chance to see another part of the country and to see what life in the UK is like for people who aren’t students.

HOST offers you more than a tourist trip to another region. If you apply for a HOST invitation, you will be staying with an approved volunteer host family who will not only show you their local area: they will make you a part of their own way of life for a weekend. There is no better way to find out about the real life of this country – sharing meals together, eating home-cooked food, chatting, asking questions, cultural exchange. You will see life in a private home and in a local community; you will make new friends; and be an ambassador for your own country. If your partner lives with you in the UK while you study or you have children with you, they can come with you too.

The University pays a lot of the cost of your first application, so after you apply for the first time we would ask you to pay £10 online (or, if you choose the option of a day visit, £6). You are welcome to apply more than once, but we would ask you to pay the full fee if you did that (£60 or more for a weekend visit). To apply or to find out more information please see www.hostuk.org

Family fun

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Did you know that if you have to register with the police, you also need to see them again if you change your employment status, address or other personal details?

If you had an instruction on your visa telling you to register with the police, hopefully you’ve seen them by now. If not, you need to see them as soon as you can, as this is a legal requirement. There is information about this at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/policerегистration

You’re probably also aware that you need to see them again within seven days if you get a new visa or passport or if you move to a new address. Although, in some cases, if you move from one room on campus to another room on campus, you may not need to inform the police. Again, there are more precise details at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/policerегистration but once you’ve read that website, if you’re not certain whether you need to report a change of address to the police please send an email to internationalsupport@warwick.ac.uk giving your new address and also attaching a scan of your police registration certificate. However, there are several more changes of circumstance that you need to report to the police within seven days. You must also see them if you get a new part-time job. If you register with an employment agency (e.g. Unitemps) you must see the police for them to record this. So if you register with more than one employment agency you need to see the police each time you join a new one. Don’t wait for the agency to find you some work, register with the police within seven days of signing up. However you don’t need to see them each time the employment agency gives you a new assignment, because your employer is still the employment agency. You must also let the police know if you leave your job or deregister from an employment agency.

Other changes you need to report to the police are if you change your name or your marital status or if you have a baby. To find out which police team you need to see, how to meet them and what to take with you see www.warwick.ac.uk/go/policerегистration

Fancy a day out?

There are four more coach trips this term, which are now on sale. We start off with an old favourite: York, on Saturday 9 February. This city with its old-fashioned feel and a varied choice of things to do is always popular. Then on Saturday 16 February we’re off to a less well known location: Sheffield, another northern city but with a more modern feel. The week after, on Saturday 23 February we’ll be off to Bristol, a city which manages to be relaxing and exciting at the same time. Finally, on Saturday 2 March there’s a trip to Winchester, a pleasing smaller town.

As with last term, the trips range in price between £10 and £15. If you want more information about what there is to see at these destinations and to buy tickets, go to www.warwick.ac.uk/go/international/events You can also use this page to sign up for the trips mailing list to be the first to hear about anything new. Please do remember that these trips often sell out quickly, so if you want a ticket you should buy one soon.

Fresco in the Holy Sepulchre Chapel, Winchester Cathedral. Photo: Mattana
The countries that make up the British Isles – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, have national saints, called patron saints. Each saint has a particular day to commemorate him, and these days are used by each country as a day of celebration. So Wales celebrates St David’s day on 1 March, England celebrates St George’s day on 23 April and Scotland celebrates St Andrew’s day on 30 November, though Burns Night on 25 January is a more important day to many Scots. Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland both celebrate St Patrick’s day on 17 March. Incidentally, although the British Isles mean the countries listed above, the United Kingdom is England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Great Britain is just England, Scotland and Wales. Yes, we know it’s confusing!

Welcome... old and new!

For those of you who start at Warwick this term, welcome to one of the most vibrant, diverse, and innovative Universities in the UK. For the old hands amongst you, welcome back!

The Students’ Union is here to ensure you get the most from your time at Warwick and we are here to help if ever you encounter difficulties along the way. Our Advice Centre provides a free, confidential and impartial service to all students on issues relating to academic matters, financial issues, and mental health and wellbeing. We also have a full-time advisor for international students, who can advise you on visa applications, working in the UK during and after studies, tax, driving licences, national insurance and more! Come and find us on the second floor of SUHQ Monday to Thursday between 9am and 4pm and on Fridays between 9.30am and 3pm or alternatively email advice@warwicksu.com with any enquiries.

Remember, it’s not too late to join any of our 230 societies and 70 sports clubs – which is why we are holding a Refreskers Fair on Tuesday week 3 (22 January) from 10am to 4pm in the Students’ Union. Come along and meet a variety of societies who will expand your horizons and provide you with a lot of fun for the rest of the year! In addition from Monday to Wednesday week 3 one of our most talented societies, Opera Warwick, is putting on Cinderella The Opera in Warwick Arts Centre. The society has put a 21st century twist on the old classic and as tickets start at £9.50 it would be a great shame to miss it!

As always, feel free to visit the Union any time to find out more about what’s going on! You can also visit our website at www.warwicksu.com

Just the ticket!

The Arts Centre is offering students exclusively discounted tickets for their Spring Season – and there’s a lot to see! From contemporary theatre to classical music, there really is something for everyone at Warwick Arts Centre. Go to our website www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/events to see what’s on or find us on facebook and twitter.

There are £5.50 tickets which cover a selection of live shows across a range of art forms and £10.50 tickets for our Concert Series where orchestras from around the world come to perform in our Butterworth Hall.

Highlights this Spring include Alfred Jarry’s Ubu Roi by renowned British theatre company Cheek by Jowl, the visually-stunning play The Animals and Children Took to the Streets, explosive dance from the BalletBoyz and three classic operas from English Touring Opera.

Warwick Arts Centre also offer £3.50 film tickets for students in our Cinema where both British and international films are regularly screened, for example in January and February we have Rust and Bone, Great Expectations, Lincoln and No.

For a full list of shows with student tickets see www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/students/university-of-warwick-students-deals

With a great venue for entertainment right on campus (we are opposite Costcutters) and tickets from £3.50 – don’t miss out on a great chance to experience British and international culture here at Warwick.
Volunteering – can you spare some time?

As you’ve hopefully realised by now, there are all sorts of things you can get involved with on campus. But it’s also good to get to know the local community.

One way of doing this is by volunteering. Warwick Volunteers provide opportunities for students to do this. They have a range of different projects – some require a regular commitment but others are very flexible about the time needed.

Warwick Volunteers is the link between the University and the many projects around Coventry and Warwickshire that are either supported throughout the year, or when they need that little bit of extra help. As a volunteer you’ll have the opportunity to work with children and adults from all kinds of backgrounds, from the homeless to school children, from refugees to the elderly.

Many international students have already found that volunteering is rewarding, good fun and a chance to see another side of Britain, as well as being great to mention in job applications and interviews. As a Warwick Volunteer, you’ll never be short of help or support.

You can find more information on how to volunteer and upcoming activities and events on the Warwick Volunteers website: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/volunteers

Advance notice of a Microsoft deal

Keep a look out for an exclusive deal for Warwick students from Microsoft at http://warwick.ac.onthehub.com. Between 4 February and 3 March they’ll be offering you the latest version of Microsoft Office for £18 per year which would save you over £300.

Immigration update

The Home Secretary has announced that from April 2013, PhD graduates and certain MBA graduates will be permitted to stay in the UK for 12 months to enable them to look for work in a skilled job or to set up their own business. Full details of this are yet to be released and we will put information on our website as soon as this is available.

From April 2013, the Immigration Service will be requesting that students submitting a Tier 4 visa extension application, do so using the online ‘Print and Send’ version of the form. You can find this on the UKBA website at https://apply.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/apply.portal. The Immigration Service will continue to submit the application with all supporting documents to the UKBA on your behalf. Our website provides full details of what is needed for such an application.

The Immigration Service offers various workshops on immigration issues that may be of interest to you. Please see our website at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/immigration/workshops for details of these and to book a place.

It is important that whilst you are in the UK, you are aware of your immigration responsibilities. These include keeping the UKBA and the University up to date with your contact details and providing the University with copies of your current passport and visa. Please see our website at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/immigration/responsibilities for full details of both yours and the University’s immigration responsibilities.

Should you have any immigration queries during your time here, the Immigration Service would be happy to help you. You can contact us by telephoning 024 7652 3706 or emailing immigrationservice@warwick.ac.uk.

Our website also provides information on relevant immigration issues: www.warwick.ac.uk/go/immigration.