



Getting started.

Your guide to enrolling and starting your studies with the University of Northampton International College (UNIC).



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Welcome.

Congratulations on gaining a place at the University of Northampton International College (UNIC), we are delighted that you have chosen to start your UK studies with us.

Northampton is a great place to live and study and here at UNIC we want to help you settle into your new home and make the most of your first few weeks as a student. This guide has been designed to make starting your studies in the UK as easy as possible by preparing you for what to expect and how to organise yourself.

We wish you a safe journey and we look forward to welcoming you at UNIC and the University of Northampton very soon.

The UNIC Team.

Immigration and visas.

Tier 4 (General) Student Visa

All students who are non-EEA nationals and who will study in the UK for longer than six months will need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa. You will also need to provide documentation to support your application, specifically a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). This document gives you permission to study in the UK for the duration of your course with UNIC and the University of Northampton.*

Check the details of your entry vignette and decision letter carefully. Ensure you enter the UK within the validity of your entry vignette.

You can find more information on the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website.

Credibility interviews

Credibility interviews were introduced by the UKVI to ensure that only genuine students were applying to come and study in the UK.

Credibility interviews are now part of the Tier 4 visa application process and if invited to attend you will be asked a number of questions by either an Entry Clearance Officer (overseas) or Caseworker (UK).

If you are applying for a Tier 4 (General) student visa from overseas you will more than likely need to attend a credibility interview. If you are applying for a Tier 4 (General) student visa in the UK you may still be required to attend an interview so it is best to always be prepared.

You might find this video 'A guide to credibility interviews' helpful.



* If you are studying UNIC's Foundation in Science and Healthcare you will need two separate CAS documents. One for your Foundation course with UNIC and one for your degree course with the University of Northampton. This is due to extra entry and progression requirements in place for these courses.

Tier 4 Visa refusals

If your visa has been refused please contact info@unic.northampton.ac.uk as soon as possible to seek further advice. We will be able to advise what options are available to you and how to proceed.

Delayed visa outcome

If your visa application is delayed then please contact UNIC immediately so that we can advise you on how to proceed. The CAS letter issued by the University stipulates the latest enrolment date. Students who cannot arrive in the UK by this date will be required to defer their studies to the next available intake.

We will contact you periodically throughout the visa application process, please keep us informed of any developments and notify us as soon as you receive your visa outcome.


Your BRP card

A Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) card is proof of your right to stay, study or work in the UK. Once you arrive in the UK, you will need to collect your BRP. Your decision letter will advise you when and where you need to collect your BRP card. If your decision letter granting your leave is sent to you via email, you should print a copy and carry it with you in your hand luggage to the UK.

The majority of students will collect their BRP cards from Northampton General Post Office. If you have nominated an alternative post office, full details will be provided in your decision letter. The UNIC Team can provide further details on locating your chosen post office upon request.



Your Getting Started check-list.

- Arrange accommodation and pay deposit. Refer to the Accommodation section on UNIC website. Most UNIC students choose to stay at Bassett-Lowke as it is a very convenient location, right opposite the College.
- Complete Arrival Form on the website.
- Arrange for travel insurance - this can be done through Navinsure. For more information read here... 
- Check both your luggage allowance and what you must declare at customs when you enter the UK.
- Read through the Enrolment and Orientation Week information sent by UNIC Student Services. This will be sent to the email you have provided to UNIC around two weeks before enrolment opens.
- Research UK living costs so you can plan a budget and bring enough cash to cover your first few days in the UK.
- Pack the following documents in your hand luggage for your journey:
 - A valid passport
 - A valid visa or UK Entry Clearance
 - Tier 4 visa decision letter
 - An Airline ticket
 - Original copies of qualifications
 - Translated versions of qualifications (if not in English)
 - CAS letter
 - Financial sponsorship letter (if applicable)
- Save the important contact numbers from page 10 on your phone.

Getting here.

There are a number of ways in which you can travel to UNIC and the University of Northampton. We can organise transport for you with our recommended taxi company but you must fill out the arrival form on our website at least 48 hours before you travel in order for us to do this. Even if you have decided to make your own way to campus it is still important that you advise us of when you plan to travel so we know when we can expect you at UNIC. We therefore request you use the arrival form in both instances so we can make arrangements to welcome you to the College.

Please be aware if you arrive unannounced or out of hours you must ensure you have arranged your own overnight accommodation.

Arriving at UNIC

All new students will need to report to the UNIC Reception which is located on the first floor of the Portfolio Centre on St. George's Avenue. We strongly recommend that you arrive during the first week of enrolment so you do not miss any teaching time or the opportunity to settle in, get used to your new environment and make new friends.

When you arrive you will be provided with a UNIC Welcome Pack. This includes lots of important information including the enrolment and orientation schedule, SIM Card, bus pass and your student handbook. We can also help with arranging onward travel arrangements to your accommodation if you haven't already checked in.



* Service runs Monday to Friday only.
 **Monday - Friday fares only. Weekends are full price.

Bus routes are subject to change.
 True at time of publication May 2018.



Enrolment.

To become a student at UNIC and the University of Northampton you will need to enrol. There are three stages and these will be clearly stated on your orientation schedule. It is very important you check the times on this document and arrive at your allocated slot as each of the stages must be completed in consecutive order. The first stage is at the College where we will check and photocopy your documents, the second stage is with the University of Northampton where you will collect your student ID card and the third is back at the College in which you will get set up on the online portal and receive your personal academic timetable.

What should I bring with me to enrolment?

- Passport
- Tier 4 Visa/Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) card
- CAS letter
- Original qualifications and transcripts
- Translated versions of qualifications (if not in English)
- Original Evidence of English Language
- Financial sponsorship letter (if applicable)

Welcome and Orientation Week

Welcome and Orientation Week gives all new students a full introduction to university life through a series of events and activities to help you settle into your new environment. Aside the events organised by the University, UNIC also plans lots of events to help you settle into college life and make friends. During this week you will have the option to participate in campus and town centre tours, take part in a library induction and join clubs and societies run by the Students' Union. We also run our own UNIC film nights and a Fresher's Fair so there is lots to do and get involved with.

Student ambassadors

Need advice from someone who has been there and done it? Look out for our fantastic student ambassadors! They are easy to identify as they will be wearing bright red hoodies with our hashtag, **#IamUNIC**

Student card

Your student ID card is what you will use to be able to access all the University's facilities and services. It is also your library card and allows you to access the Students' Union so it is important you keep it safe at all times. If it is lost, a replacement charge will be incurred.

Adjusting to your new life in the UK.

Money matters

Northampton's affordable cost of living makes it a great place to study. It may take a few weeks to open a UK bank account, therefore we advise you to bring enough cash to cover your initial living expenses, including food, accommodation, travel, entertainment and enough for any unexpected costs or emergencies.

Credit or debit cards are widely accepted throughout the UK, but cash may be preferred for smaller payments. There may be a minimum spend required when paying by card or cards may not be accepted.

Keeping safe

The UK is a safe place to live and study with low levels of crime, however it is important to take some safety measures to minimise any disruptions to studies. Follow our advice and keep yourself and your belongings safe.

- Do not carry large amounts of cash
- Do not go to unfamiliar places alone at night
- Keep to well-lit or well-populated areas if travelling at night
- Know where you are going and your way back
- Let friends and flatmates know where you are going and when you will be back
- Use known taxi firms, avoiding unmarked cars
- Close and lock doors, including Halls of Residence, your flat or house and your own room
- Do not leave cash, mobile phone or valuables lying around in view. Secure them in a safe place





Culture shock

Culture shock is a reaction to the exciting, but often confusing experience of moving to another culture. Things like the food, weather, different social behaviour, and the rules and systems in the UK may make you feel uncomfortable, unhappy or unwell at times. These are all temporary symptoms of culture shock. You can find out more about culture shock by visiting the UKCISA website.

Our Student Services Team can also provide help, advice or just a chat to help you overcome any culture shock or homesickness you may experience.

Clothing

The British climate is changeable throughout the year. During the summer months between July – August temperatures can reach 30 degrees Celsius, by contrast we often have snowfall in January and February. Make sure that you wear appropriate clothing to keep you warm and to protect you from the rain. In very cold weather it is better to wear a number of layers of clothes over each other.



Useful contacts:

Student Services (open Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.00pm):
+44 (0)1604 893 262
studentservices@unic.northampton.ac.uk

Academic Services: academicservices@unic.northampton.ac.uk

Accommodation: accommodation@unic.northampton.ac.uk

UNIC Emergency phone: + 44 (0)739 3236 080
Please note this number should only be used in case of an emergency
and not just as an out of hours number.

Join us on social

#IamUNIC

Don't forget to join the UNIC students Facebook group- open to any student with a UNIC offer. Chat to your future classmates and speak to current UNIC students before you arrive.

Follow us for all the latest updates:

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