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, 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.

Choosing your bank

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/go/international/admissions/offerholders/preparing/bank.

What is a student status letter for?

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/study/welcome/beforearrival to enrol online and for a list of other things you need to do to be ready for your enrolment event.

Registering with the UK Police

Some nationalities are required to register with the Police on arrival in the UK. If you have to do this, the stamp on your visa will state 'register with the Police within 7 days'. However the Police will come to campus during the autumn term, and anyone who arrives in the UK in September or October is allowed by the police to wait until later in the autumn if they make an appointment to see them through our website. You do not need to be concerned about having to register within seven days of arriving in the UK at this time of year if you do this. If you already have a police registration certificate you must bring it with you when you come to Warwick as you will also have to see the police to update your address, visa and course details. For more information, and to make an appointment see this page: www.warwick.ac.uk/policeregistration.
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 on immigrationservice@warwick.ac.uk.

Anyone making a Tier 4 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 Warwick 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.

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.

In brief

**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.
- **We recommend you bring £250 in British money, but not more than that.** It’s best to have some smaller notes like £10 and £5, and ideally some coins in case you use a phone box. The only places likely to accept £50 notes are banks. Bring another source of money as well e.g. 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/about/visiting/directions/international.


**International Office trips**

The International Office runs several coach trips during the year to let you see different parts of Britain for a reasonable price. The autumn term day trips are due to be announced and go on sale in the second half of October. They often sell out quickly but if you sign up for the trips mailing list you can be informed when they go on sale. To do this go to www.warwick.ac.uk/go/international/events/uk.

**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.

**Go Global**

Go Global is an exciting initiative managed by the International Office in collaboration with the Students’ Union to highlight opportunities available to all Warwick students which could internationalise your experience. You have such a good opportunity to engage with not only the English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish, but also with students and staff from well over one hundred different countries. It’s important of course to keep in contact with family and friends from your home country, but don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity to make friends from all over the world and to explore British culture first-hand so that you really do make the most of your time at Warwick. Whatever your motivation for gaining international experience, be it for meeting new people, developing new skills, or simply broadening your horizons and trying something new, follow us on Twitter @WarwickGoGlobal, take a look at our portal www.warwicksu.com/goglobal or find us on Facebook to see how you can Go Global this year.