



The University of
Nottingham

International Office

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

www.nottingham.ac.uk/international



Student support

The wellbeing of students at the University is extremely important to us. With this in mind, we have a well developed network of support services to help and guide students. The Support Section of the International Office is the focal point of this network for International and EU students. With a dedicated team of ten staff it is our aim to enhance the experience of non UK students at the University. We do this in a variety of ways:

Welcome Programme for new International students

We co-ordinate a free residential welcome programme for all new International students. The programme takes place immediately before the start of each new academic year and provides an excellent opportunity for students to make friends and settle into University life quickly and easily.

Pathways online resource

We are continuing to develop our online resource through 'Pathways' which offers advice, support and information to students coming to live and study in the UK for the first time. Pathways is an interactive website which helps to ensure that the transition from home country to host country is as smooth as possible. For more information see: www.nottingham.ac.uk/pathways/international_route_1

Advisory service

We offer a professional and confidential advisory service to all International and EU students both before they arrive at the University and once they are here. Our specialist advisers are able to help and guide students on a wide range of issues. Our main areas of work include immigration,* employment, financial matters, personal/family concerns and academic difficulties. As part of our immigration advice service we run the Student Batch Scheme, sending applications directly to the Home Office on behalf of our students.

All students are welcome in the International Office. We offer an appointment service between 10am and 12 noon at the Student Services Centre on the University Park Campus. Appointments must be booked by telephone on: 0115 951 3710. This is term time only. We also offer a drop in service, no appointment needed, at the International Office on the Jubilee Campus between 1pm and 4pm, Monday – Friday throughout the year and we are happy to make appointments for students who are unable to come in to see us during our drop-in times. Alternatively, we are able to provide advice by email or over the telephone.

Guidance notes and website

We produce and maintain useful guidance notes for students on a wide range of issues related to living in the UK. Many of the guidance notes are produced in hardcopy and can be obtained from the Reception area of the International Office. All of the notes are available via our website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/international/current_students. The website also includes lots of helpful information on support services across the University.

Presentations

We deliver a series of presentations throughout the academic year which explain in depth about: *Extending Student Visas; Working in the UK; Inviting Family and Friends to the UK and Schengen Visas*. Presentations can be booked online via <https://internationaloffice.nottingham.ac.uk/EventBookings>



“The international office plays an important role in making international students feel more comfortable in the UK.”

International and EU student mailbase and newsletter

We operate a student mailbase which allows us to keep in touch with all International and EU students at the University. The mailbase is used to keep students updated on important information and what is happening on and off campus. We prepare a newsletter once a term for students and this is circulated via the mailbase.

Employability

We work closely with the University’s Centre for Career Development to identify and promote opportunities for International and EU students to work during and after their studies. We are also able to advise students on immigration issues related to working in the UK.

Scholarships

We offer a wide range of scholarship opportunities for new international and EU students. It is the general rule and practice that scholarships have to be agreed with the student before starting the course. Our scholarship portfolio enables us to attract students of the highest calibre from across the world. We celebrate the success of our scholarship students at an annual afternoon tea event.

International sponsors and their students

We work closely with international sponsors and their students to ensure that both receive the highest level of service possible through a dedicated contact. As part of this service, regular progress reports are collated and fed back to sponsors. Sponsor visits to the University can be co-ordinated on request.

International Office trips

We organise a programme of trips across the UK for International and EU students and their friends. Our trips include visits to cities such as London, Liverpool and York as well as outings to the countryside where students can relax and enjoy spectacular views. You can view our current events schedule here: www.nottingham.ac.uk/international/current_students/events_activities

Host and Family Link

We run two schemes – Host and Family Link – which aim to provide International and EU students with a truly unique cultural experience. Host is a national scheme which gives all students an opportunity to meet British people and stay in their homes. Family link is a Nottingham based scheme which provides mature postgraduate students with an opportunity to meet up with local families.

Culture Vulture

Nottingham Culture Vulture is a group set up to allow students from all over the world to meet, form friendships, share languages and enjoy cultural social events. Any student can come to these events! To receive information on social events, become a member of the Culture Vulture Facebook Group. Simply search for "Nottingham Culture Vulture" on Facebook and request to join the group.

Nottingham Culture Vulture also offers buddying opportunities for new students to match with existing students for friendship and help with 'settling in' to a new life in Nottingham. Students can complete an online application form to either be a buddy, or have a buddy. For more information, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/international/current_students/events_activities

English classes for partners of students

We offer English language classes for partners of International and EU students as part of our ongoing support for non UK students and their families. These classes ensure that partners are able to improve their English (where necessary) and meet other people during their time in the UK. The classes are complemented by regular coffee mornings which provide an opportunity for partners to meet up in a relaxed and informal setting. A registration fee of £20 is payable to join the classes.

Events for the children

We co-ordinate social activities for children of International and EU students including an annual Christmas party and Easter craft event. The social activities that we arrange are good fun and provide an opportunity for children to make new friends and experience various aspects of British culture.

School liaison

We work closely with the local education authorities and have good links with primary and secondary schools in the Nottingham area. These links help us to ensure that children of international and EU students are supported in schools and that the cultural diversity brought to Nottingham by non UK students is shared with local children and their parents.

Academic outreach and support for staff

We work closely with academic schools and departments to promote cultural awareness and sensitivity across the University and to ensure that staff members are aware of the wide range of support available for students. We are able to offer tailor made training courses for staff when required.

Where appropriate, we are able to work with academic staff on particular student cases and issues to achieve the best possible outcomes.

* Our advisers are authorised to provide immigration advice and services by an order made under section 84(4)(d) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

International Support Services Team

Deborah Webb Head of Team
Dawn Barrett Student Support Assistant
Hannah Dickinson Receptionist

Helen Rylands Sponsorship Co-ordinator (International Sponsors)
Maire Rockley Scholarship Assistant
Nicola May Scholarship Co-ordinator

Rosemary Gibson Senior International Officer/Student Adviser
Ruth Fox International Officer/Student Adviser
Hong Sun International Officer/Student Adviser

Feedback

We are always looking for ways to develop and improve our support service and welcome feedback from staff and students

Contact Us

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Student Support Enquiries: international-support@nottingham.ac.uk
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