For general undergraduate enquiries please contact:
The Enquiry Centre
t: +44 (0)115 951 5559
e: undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs

Parents’ Guide
Undergraduate study
www.nottingham.ac.uk
For most young people, going to university is hugely exciting. However, the process of applying to and beginning university involves decisions and changes that may seem daunting.

Parental guidance can be a valuable source of support at this time. We’ve produced this guide to help you understand the process more fully and enable you to better support your son or daughter.

We hope it’s useful – if you have any more questions, please contact us using the details on page 34.
Why go to university?

There are many benefits to following a path in higher education. By developing in-depth knowledge and valuable transferable skills, your son or daughter will have access to a more fulfilling career, as well as better salary prospects.

In addition, university will give them access to opportunities that will enable them to expand their horizons, make new friends and become a more confident and well-rounded adult, which will help them in whatever direction they take.

Key reasons
- Academic improvement
- Broadened horizons
- Improved career prospects
- Personal development
- Potential financial rewards
- Social opportunities
- Study and work abroad options
- Year in industry*

Key fact
Many employers target graduates in their recruitment campaigns. Figures also show that over the last decade, graduates earned an average of £12,000 a year more than those without a degree**.

* Where applicable, and permitted in accordance with Tier 4 immigration rules.
** Office for National Statistics.

University Park is a beautiful, green campus with period buildings and a large boating lake.
Choosing a university – what to ask

We’ve put together a list of topics your son or daughter might want to consider, along with suggested questions.

Key questions
• How does the University rank for teaching and research in guide books and league tables?
• How is it viewed by employers?

Key facts
The University of Nottingham falls within the top 1% of all universities worldwide in the QS World University Rankings.

We are a founding member of the Russell Group, a collaboration of 24 of the UK’s leading universities.

We were ranked 8th in the UK for research power in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF). The same REF found that more than 97% of our research is recognised internationally and more than 80% is ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’.

In its most recent audit, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education awarded its highest possible judgement to the University for the quality of learning opportunities available to students and our systems for ensuring high academic standards.

Twice since 2003 our research and teaching academics have won Nobel Prizes. The University has also won a number of royal honours.

Nottingham is consistently named as one of the most targeted universities by Britain’s leading graduate employers*, and is a world top 40 choice for employers**.

For more information, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/about

* The Graduate Market in 2013, 2014 and 2015, High Fliers Research.
** QS World University Rankings 2014.
Key questions
• What accommodation is available (catered or self-catered, single or en suite rooms)?
• What’s included in the accommodation fee?
• Are students guaranteed accommodation in the first year?

Key facts
We offer over 8,000 furnished rooms in secure catered, part-catered and self-catered accommodation. Rooms range from shared rooms to en suites.*

All fees include internet access, personal contents insurance, access to a launderette and storage facilities for bikes.

Whatever accommodation your son or daughter chooses, they will automatically become a member of their hall’s Junior Common Room (JCR). Elected by students, the JCR Committee’s role is to help students settle in, organise events throughout the year and act as a voice to the University and the Students’ Union.

At The University of Nottingham, we guarantee University-arranged accommodation for one year to all new full-time undergraduate students, who: firmly accept their course place; accept their offer of accommodation by the deadline given in the offer letter; and have an unconditional status no later than 31 August in the year they begin their studies. International students are guaranteed a place for three years**.

If your son or daughter chooses to live with friends in private accommodation (as many students do after their first year), they can access help and advice using an online search facility for private-sector housing.

For more information, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

* All our sites are mixed-sex occupancy but we’ll do our best to provide accommodation in a single-sex area if requested.
** Providing you submit your returners’ application in line with the requirements of the accommodation providers.
Key questions
● Does the University offer any support in terms of researching careers and applying for jobs?
● How many of the University’s graduates find work or go onto further study and what are their average starting salaries?

Key facts
The University of Nottingham is consistently named as one of the most targeted universities by Britain’s leading graduate employers*. We have excellent links with national and international employers, including Barclays, BP, Civil Service, EY, Goldman Sachs, GSK, Jaguar Land Rover, Mondelez, P&G, PwC, Rolls-Royce and Teach First. Research shows that over 93% of our students had found employment or taken up further study within six months of graduating**.

The University of Nottingham’s Careers and Employability Service organises a range of activities including skills workshops, recruitment fairs, work experience opportunities and the Nottingham Advantage Award – a programme of 250 free modules focusing on skills, employability and personal development. We also offer dedicated online resources to help our international students explore their career options in the UK, at home and overseas.

Students can access our Ingenuity Lab for help with starting up their own business. They also benefit from global networking opportunities and a thriving alumni community.

Unitemps Nottingham enables students to apply for suitable part-time and temporary work. As well as supplementing their income, students can gain valuable work experience.***

For more information, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers

* The Graduate Market in 2013, 2014 and 2015, High Fliers Research.
*** Please note that there are working restrictions in place for international students holding Tier 4 visas. For more information please visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/workingintheuk

Career opportunities

At the 2015 Whatuni Student Choice Awards, The University of Nottingham was ranked the number one university for job prospects.
Key questions
• What does the University's Students' Union, an organisation run by students for students, offer in terms of clubs, societies and events?
• What other initiatives can students get involved with?

Key facts
The Students' Union at Nottingham offers more than 330 societies and clubs as well as help with setting up new ones. Options range from sports clubs to course specific societies (such as the Law Society), and hobbies (such as the Dance Society) to cultural groups (such as the African/Caribbean Society).

The Nottingham New Theatre was the first fully student-run theatre in England, and in 2013 three productions were selected to be showcased at the National Student Drama Festival, winning seven awards.

Impact, the student-run campus magazine, won ‘Best Website’ in the Guardian Student Media Awards 2014.

University Radio Nottingham (URN), the student radio station, has been voted Best Student Radio Station for five years running at the Student Radio Awards.

The Student Volunteer Centre (SVC) helps the local community, with over 4,000 students volunteering with more than 100 organisations in 2014.

In 2014 the Raising and Giving (RAG) group, Nottingham Karnival, raised over £1.7m, making it the largest RAG group of its kind in Europe.

Our Student Ambassador Scheme gives students the opportunity to represent the University at open day events and other outreach activities. As well as earning money, students can gain additional skills for their CV.

We have finished in the top 10 in the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) championships for the last 20 years. We also boast one of the largest intramural sport programmes (sport played between students of the University) in the country.

For more information, please see www.su.nottingham.ac.uk

Extracurricular activities

The Juggling and Circus Skills Society is one of many societies that students can get involved in at Nottingham.
Finance for UK students

Key questions
• What support does the University offer in terms of bursaries, scholarships and financial advice?
• What sort of advisory services does it offer?

Key facts
Tuition fees
For full-time undergraduate courses, the University will charge students £9,000 per year in fees. Your son or daughter will not have to pay fees while studying – they can take out a tuition fee loan*.

Support from the UK government
This includes:
• tuition fee loan
• non-repayable grants
• loans for living costs

Loan repayments
Your son or daughter will repay the living costs loan and tuition fee loan once they graduate from (or leave) university and are earning over £21,000 per year. They will repay 9% of any earnings over £21,000.

NHS funded courses
For the latest information on which courses are funded by the NHS, please see www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

Support from The University of Nottingham
Although bursary figures for 2016/17 are yet to be finalised, the University will continue to provide a generous package of bursaries to support UK students from lower-income households.

Our Financial Support Team provide information and advice on all aspects of student finance, see www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport for more information or download our finance guide at www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees

For more information about student finance and government support please see www.gov.uk/student-finance

* Eligible students only – please see www.gov.uk/studentfinance for details.

Note: at the time of going to print, fees and funding for 2016 entry were yet to be finalised. The information in this guide is based on figures for 2015 entry.
Finance for EU students

**Key questions**
- What support does the University offer in terms of bursaries, scholarships and financial advice?
- What sort of assistance can the UK Government offer for EU students?

**Key facts**

**Tuition fees**
For full-time EU students starting an undergraduate course, The University of Nottingham will charge £9,000 per year in fees.

**Support from the UK Government**
EU students are eligible to apply for a loan from the UK Government to cover the full costs of their tuition fees. For further information see www.gov.uk/studentfinance

**NHS funded courses**
EU students may be eligible for an NHS fee bursary on applicable courses, though some restrictions apply. For further information, please see www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

**Support from The University of Nottingham**
The University of Nottingham offers a range of scholarships for international and EU students. For details of external sources of funding in your country please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/scholarships

Some schools and departments offer undergraduate scholarships. Check our online prospectus for funding details: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy

*Note:* at the time of going to print, fees and funding for 2016 entry were yet to be finalised. The information in this guide is based on figures for 2015 entry.

Finance for international students

**Key questions**
- What support does the University offer in terms of bursaries, scholarships and financial advice?
- What are the funding requirements for students entering on a Tier 4 student visa?

**Key facts**

**Entering the country**
To enter the UK as an international student on a Tier 4 student visa, your son or daughter will need to demonstrate to the immigration authorities that they have sufficient funds to meet all of their costs, including maintenance and the first year’s tuition fees.

**International tuition fees**
Fees will remain fixed for your son or daughter for the whole duration of their programme (except for medicine and foundation year entry) so the fee quoted for the year of entry will not be increased during the programme.

Please note that you can pay fees in different ways. For more information, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees

**NHS funded courses**
Due to NHS funding regulations, international students are not eligible to study these courses. For further information, please see www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

**Scholarships**
The University of Nottingham offers a range of scholarships for international students. Your son or daughter should apply for these and know the outcome before they register at the University, as competitive scholarships are not available after registering. For more information see www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/scholarships

Some schools and departments offer undergraduate scholarships. Check our online prospectus for funding details: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
Key questions
• Is the University based in a town or city or on its own campus?
• If on a campus, what facilities are provided?
• How easy is it to get to the University?

Key facts
There are five University of Nottingham campuses: University Park, Jubilee and Sutton Bonington in the UK; the China Campus in Ningbo; and the Malaysia Campus in Semenyih, near Kuala Lumpur.

In the UK, students have the best of both worlds: they’re close enough to Nottingham city centre (and in the case of Sutton Bonington, to Loughborough) to be able to enjoy city life but also have access to a wide range of facilities on campus.

We’re proud that each self-contained campus offers attractive surroundings and a strong sense of community spirit.

Our campuses provide high-quality academic facilities as well as social and day-to-day amenities in a safe and friendly environment. Initiatives include a free bus service between campuses and a bike-hire scheme.

Regular bus services make it easy to get into Nottingham city centre and in the case of Sutton Bonington, to Loughborough.

University Park Campus was first awarded a Green Flag Award in 2003 and has received one every year since. Jubilee Campus has won several awards for its innovative green technology and has received Green Flag Award status since 2013.

Nottingham is approximately two hours’ travelling distance from London. There are good rail and coach links (including regular trains to London throughout the day), and excellent access to the M1. East Midlands Airport is just 13 miles south of the city and is served by a 24-hour bus service to Nottingham.

Location

There is a new tram line which will run directly into Nottingham, creating a fast and easy way to get to and from the city centre, Beeston and other student hotspots.

Jubilee Campus’ green spaces and unique architecture, make it a student favourite.
Key questions
• What support services are available to students?

Key facts
Support services at The University of Nottingham include:
• health and dental services on University Park Campus
• the Student Services Centre – home to Academic Support, Disability Support, Financial Support, Student Administration Support and Tuition Fee Services (selected services are available at every UK campus)
• free counselling service
• childcare services
• pastoral support within University accommodation
• faith support and advice
• the International Office – guidance and advice on matters such as visa and immigration regulations, working and living in the UK and entry requirements. A Welcome Programme is also provided for new international students each September
• personal tutors
• disability liaison officers in each school
• mental health advisory service
• the Students’ Union Advice Centre – confidential advice on issues such as housing and tenants’ rights, money, and academic and employment concerns

For more information, please see
www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices
and
www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/support

Student support

Students are able to make use of the Student Services Centre based in the Portland Building, University Park Campus.
Study abroad

Key questions
• What does the University offer in terms of opportunities to work or study abroad?
• Is support offered before or during the trip?

Key facts
Studying abroad can help students improve their job prospects. According to research, “One third of employers viewed a graduate with any overseas study experience as more employable.”

In 2000, The University of Nottingham became the first UK university to establish a full university campus in Malaysia, followed in 2004 by the China Campus, the first foreign university campus in China.

As well as opportunities for inter-campus exchange, we have a wide range of study abroad opportunities all over the world, including the option to work abroad for some subjects. The vast majority of students at Nottingham have the opportunity to study abroad. In most cases, there’s no requirement to extend the degree programme beyond three years, nor learn another language.

All students on a study abroad programme pay reduced tuition fees to Nottingham and no fees to the host university/campus. A variety of grants, bursaries and scholarships are available, depending on the destination, to support students who wish to study abroad.

The University offers comprehensive advice throughout the process, including health and safety information and immigration guidance. Key presentations are recorded and made available to students together with online information and advice for their specific destination. Dedicated staff are available prior to, during and after studying abroad to guide students through the process.

For more information, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/studyabroad

* Report by CIHE: Global Horizons and the Role of Employers.
Choosing a course – what to ask

Key questions

• What are the required grades?
• What modules are available?
• Does the University have a good reputation for that course?
• Does the school/department offering the course have any links with relevant employers?
• What careers can the course lead to?

Key facts

The University of Nottingham offers over 280 undergraduate degree courses, including some with a foundation year. For a full list of courses, including entry requirements and modules, please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy

Our schools and departments are grouped into five faculties: Arts, Engineering, Medicine and Health Sciences, Science, and Social Sciences.

We combine traditional lectures with innovative teaching resources such as an e-learning system, which is uploaded with useful weblinks and handouts, lecture capture facilities, 24-hour PC suites, wireless points and a free iPad and laptop loan service.

Our libraries provide access to literally millions of resources and facilities such as bookable study rooms and plasma screens.

The Language Centre, on University Park Campus, offers a broad range of language tuition at different levels.

Students on most courses can apply to study abroad.
The application process

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) acts as a central agency for all undergraduate applications to UK universities. Your son or daughter will need to make a single online application at www.ucas.com.

The UCAS website is a good source of advice and guidance and gives all the details you need about dates and deadlines for the process and technical information about using the UCAS system. Your son or daughter’s school or college will also be able to advise.

The next few pages give a few more informal pointers about the process.

We encourage all students to visit the University before applying.

Overview of the application process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What happens</th>
<th>Points to bear in mind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researching courses and universities</td>
<td>Online research and UCAS fairs are a good starting point, and so are university open days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose up to five course choices on UCAS.</td>
<td>Research the entry requirements by looking at prospectuses and talking to university staff. Schools and colleges provide predicted grades to UCAS, so it’s important for applicants to talk to teachers about their predictions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses can all be at different universities or your son or daughter could choose up to five courses at the same university.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Completing the application

- UCAS has strict deadlines:
  - 15 October for applications to Oxford and Cambridge, and for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.
  - 15 January for other courses*.
- After this, universities don’t have to consider any more applications and courses may be full.
- Schools may set an earlier deadline to prepare references and applications.
- Applicants will need to write a personal statement.

- Know the school’s deadline for receiving the application. Completing a UCAS application and personal statement isn’t a task to do at the last minute.
- Some courses require applicants to take special entry tests – eg LNAT for law or UKCAT for medicine. Ensure these tests are booked in good time.
- Plenty of time should be allocated for writing the personal statement – advice is available from schools, UCAS and universities on what to include.

* The UCAS website gives details of the processes for late and UCAS Extra applications submitted after the October and January deadlines. The dates in the rest of this section relate to applications received before those deadlines.
### What happens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Universities make their decisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ For applications made by 15 January, decisions will be made by May on UCAS Track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ The decision will be an unconditional offer, an offer with conditions or a rejection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Points to bear in mind

- Some courses require an interview before a decision. Others make an offer based on predicted grades, personal statement and reference.
- Applicants should regularly check for emails from UCAS and universities. The email address given to UCAS is what universities will use to arrange an interview or for other information. Junk folders should be checked regularly too.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accept or decline any offers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ UCAS will alert applicants when a decision is made by a university.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ If exams are still to be taken, offers could be conditional on achieving certain results, and only one firm and one insurance choice can be made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Points to bear in mind

- Universities may encourage applicants to accept their offer quickly. It is better to wait until all decisions are received. Applicants who haven’t been interviewed by the university will probably be invited to an offer-holder’s visit day. These are well worth attending before replying to an offer and there’s plenty of activities for parents to attend.
- Make sure applicants reply to their offers within the UCAS deadline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam results come through</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️ If grades are met for their firm choice, their place is confirmed automatically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️ If grades achieved don’t meet the offer conditions the university may still confirm the place. Don’t assume it’s a definite no.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Points to bear in mind

- Confirmation of the place will be clear on the UCAS system on results day.
- Check UCAS for the decision as early as possible on results day.
- Universities can’t delay decisions when confirming a place unless information is missing. Support your son or daughter in insisting on a quick decision so that if the answer is no, they have time to look elsewhere.

### What happens

| For applicants who miss out on the required grades, offers could be rejected from firm and insurance choices on results day. There’s still a chance of getting a place at another university. |
| Clearing and Adjustment allow applicants to find a place if they don’t have one, or to find a different place, after results are received. |
| Applicants who exceed their required grades can use Adjustment to find a new place without relinquishing their firm offer. Others can use Clearing but only if they aren’t holding a firm offer. |

### Points to bear in mind

- This can be a difficult and stressful time, so encourage your son or daughter to think ahead of time if their firm and insurance choices are rejected.
- It’s important to contact universities as early as possible on results day to see if places are available. This is also an option for those who have a confirmed place but have changed their mind.
- Some applicants may find it hard to make the calls, especially if results have been upsetting or the first couple of calls don’t succeed. You can’t make the phone calls for them – but help build their confidence by talking through what they will say.

### Securing a place through Clearing or Adjustment

- Once the university has made a verbal offer of a Clearing/Adjustment place the applicant can refer themselves to that course through UCAS. This can be done from 5pm on results day.

### Points to bear in mind

- Start calling early but don’t let panic set in. Where and what to study is still an important decision – if possible visit the university concerned before making a final decision. Most hold Clearing open days around results time. If the choice doesn’t feel right, applicants can consider taking a break for a year before applying again.
Hints on starting university

For most students, starting university also means leaving home for the first time. It's hugely exciting – but it can also be daunting, with seemingly hundreds of things to think about. We welcome thousands of new students every year and have put together tips and information to make the process as hassle-free as possible for both you and your son or daughter.

Packing suggestions
They might find these things useful in their first few weeks:
- Address book
- Alarm clock
- Bank account details and cheque book
- Extra cash (in case funds don’t clear)
- ID (passport or driving licence)
- Mobile phone and charger
- Original documents – for registration
- Passport photos
- Photos, posters and other things to personalise their room
- TV licence (if applicable)
- Young Person’s Railcard (allows your son or daughter to save money on rail fares across the UK)

Support from you
Every student will adjust to university life in their own way and at their own pace. Feeling homesick is perfectly normal and we’ve found that on these occasions, calling home can be very reassuring.

Extra support
Most universities will offer support in various formats. It's important that your son or daughter asks for help if they need it – there’s never any need to suffer in silence.

For more information please see www.nottingham.ac.uk/newstarters

The library at Florence Boot Hall is one of many communal areas where students can meet with friends.
Moving to a new country to study is exciting, but also requires a lot of preparation. We’ve put together some tips and information to support both you and your son or daughter with the process.

**Hand luggage**
On their departure from your home country to the UK, they should carry the following items in their hand luggage:

- Passport and visa
- Flight tickets and any other travel documents
- University documents
- Cash or travellers cheques or debit/credit cards
- Evidence of financial support for fees and maintenance
- Evidence of TB screening (if required as part of the visa process)
- Travel insurance
- Six passport-sized photos for registration with different services
- Accommodation details
- Welcome Programme reservation (if applicable)
- Some warm clothes – it may be much cooler in the UK than at home

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Our International Office runs a free Welcome Programme for new international students joining The University of Nottingham in September every year. The programme takes place immediately before the start of each academic year and is an excellent opportunity for your son or daughter to meet staff and students at the University and get to know the campus. For more information: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/welcome](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/welcome)

**Student societies**
Joining student societies is a great way to connect with other students from the same country or with similar interests. The Students’ Union offers a variety of national and cultural societies, reflecting the diversity of our international student population. There are also societies for the different subject areas and a range of hobbies and interests. Find out more: [www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/societies](http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/societies)

For further information and advice, please see [www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/preparation](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/internationalstudents/preparation)
Useful contacts

The University of Nottingham contacts

Accommodation Services
t: +44 (0)115 951 3697
e: accommodation@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Admissions Office
Queries regarding the processing of students’ applications
t: +44 (0)115 951 4749

Enquiry Centre
• Request a prospectus or school brochure
• Open day and visiting us enquiries
• All other student-related enquiries
t: +44 (0)115 951 5559
e: undergraduate-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk

General switchboard
Redirecting general enquiries
t: +44 (0)115 951 5151

International Office
 t: +44 (0)115 951 5247
e: international-office@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/international

Student Services Centre
Incorporating Academic Support; Financial Support; Disability Support; and Tuition Fee Services
t: +44 (0)115 951 3710
e: ssc@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

Students’ Union switchboard
• Clubs, societies and activities
• Student Volunteer Centre
t: +44 (0)115 846 8800
w: www.su.nottingham.ac.uk

Widening Participation Team
• Local outreach activities
• Summer schools
t: +44 (0)115 951 5075

You can also connect with us through our social media channels:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect

Gov.uk
Government services and information including details of financial support for students
w: www.gov.uk

icould
Careers stories and activities
w: www.icould.com

NUS
(National Union of Students)
Information about all aspects of university life
w: www.nus.org.uk

UCAS
(Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)
• Applications
• General advice and guidance regarding university entrance, choice of degrees
• They also publish a guide on how to apply and a parents guide
t: +44 (0)871 468 0468
w: www.ucas.com

UKCISA
(UK Council for International Student Affairs)
w: www.ukcisa.org.uk

This publication is available in alternative formats.
t: +44 (0)115 951 5559

The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this brochure was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

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