Dr Bas Winkler – Netherlands

settling into the UK with a family

What were your main sources of help and advice before you arrived in the UK?
The main sources really were advice from colleagues as well as again extensively using
this website ‘upmystreet.com’ which gives lots of information, not just about the
properties but also about the area, Schools that are close by etc etc.

If international staff were bringing their families with them, what advice could
you give them in relation to the family settling into the UK?
Well I suppose there are a couple of things that need to be considered. One important
thing is the School, if you have children who go to School. So again you may want to
visit the Schools beforehand if that’s at all possible, and when you look for
accommodation, you want to make sure that the Schools that you like are in the
catchment area and have places available. That’s very important to ask that as some
Schools may not be quite what you like.

If your partner needs to register with a professional body, that may happen for instance
if they are a teacher or a GP. Now if you are from the EU, your qualifications should be
automatically recognised and there is quite a bit of wrong advice that you might get.

Do you have any other tips for new international staff in relation to settling into
the UK?
What you don’t have to worry about is health insurance, you just have to register with
your GP and that’s it.
And than if you have children you can claim child benefit which is fairly straight forward,
and you can use the government websites to find all the relevant forms.

If you have children younger than School age, do you have any tips for people
trying to find childcare in the UK?
Well you can go to nurseries, there is I think one nursery on campus. An alternative is to
go to your local council and ask for a list of childminders and they will provide you with a
list of names and contact details.