Postgraduate International and EU offer guide 2012 entry
Welcome to the University of Birmingham

Your offer from the University

Congratulations on being offered a place to study at the University of Birmingham. Gaining a place at Birmingham, one of Britain’s leading research universities, is an achievement of which you can be justifiably proud.

Studying for a postgraduate qualification at Birmingham means that you will be working alongside scholars who are at the leading edge of their disciplines. With a Birmingham degree your future employment prospects will be considerably enhanced.

In this short guide you will find lots of information on life as a student at the University of Birmingham, including advice on accommodation, immigration, and living costs. I hope you find it useful. Do not hesitate to contact us with any queries you may have.

I look forward to welcoming you to our global student community.

Best wishes

Edward

Dr. Edward Harcourt, Director, International Relations.

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An inspirational student experience at a leading global university

What does this mean for you?

An elite academic experience at a university that pushes the boundaries of knowledge

Our research has made an impact on our city, the nation and the world. At Birmingham you will be studying and working alongside academics who are global experts in their field.

You will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, spending time outside lectures reading around your chosen subject and formulating your own ideas. This enquiry-based approach to learning enables you to challenge ideas and put forward your own opinions. As a result you will develop the skills that employers are looking for: independence, teamworking, problem solving and time management.

This approach may be very different to the way you have studied in the past. To support you through your learning we offer a range of learning support, including a personal tutor who will support you on academic-related issues, welfare tutors in your school or department, an International Students Advisory Service (ISAS) and English language support through our English for International Students Unit (EISU).

A broad range of support outside your academic studies is also available to you. This includes pre-arrival support, an extensive welcome programme on your arrival in Birmingham, a multi-faith chaplaincy, nursery facilities for those bringing their family to the UK, and specialist support for students with disabilities.

Outstanding opportunities that will shape your future

Your academic programme is only part of your university experience. We offer a host of opportunities for you to benefit from during your time with us which, if you choose to take part, will enable you to leave Birmingham as a professional, skilled individual.

Our Careers and Employability Centre offers a wide range of services to support you in achieving your career goals. As well as helping you to research work in the UK, the employability team can help you research jobs in your home country and overseas. We list international job opportunities on our vacancy database and host fairs, workshops and presentations with many large global companies. Currently there are various schemes to allow international graduates to pursue careers in the UK, and our International Students Advisory Service will advise you on the latest options when you graduate.

The Guild of Students is the Students’ Union for all students at Birmingham. The Guild is home to over 200 clubs and societies, from international societies which bring together people from your own country, to sporting activities, a debating society and subject-related groups. In addition, the Guild has over 200 volunteering opportunities to get involved in. Research amongst our student volunteers found that 93% believe that taking part in volunteering has increased their employability.

A unique learning experience in a global city

Life at Birmingham offers you the best of both worlds — a peaceful, thriving campus community on the doorstep of one of Europe’s most dynamic cities.

Studying in the shadow of striking architecture on a 250-acre green and leafy site, you’ll be inspired to get the most out of your time here. You’ll study in a safe, friendly environment with the amenities of a small town, and where your security is provided for. You’ll find bars, banks, shops, a concert hall and an art gallery on campus.

Vibrant and diverse, the city of Birmingham is a European centre for retail, commerce and culture. Appropriately, its civic motto is ‘Forward’, and it is its driving ambition and attitude which makes Birmingham a great place to live, study and work.
We guarantee a place in University accommodation to all full-time international and EU nationals who are new to Birmingham, as long as you apply before 31 July, as we understand the importance of securing suitable accommodation, particularly when you are getting used to an unfamiliar environment and meeting new people.

University accommodation for postgraduates is located in two villages – Pritchatts Park Village and the Vale Village. Accommodation is offered on a self-catering basis and is available on a 50-week contract to complement the postgraduate academic year.

**Pritchatts Park Village** is a residential site for both postgraduate and undergraduate students within a ten-minute walk of the main campus. Postgraduate accommodation comprises numbers 3 and 7 Pritchatts Road. A social centre helps to create a sense of community, with facilities including meeting rooms, a games room, a licensed bar and a launderette. Limited parking is available on site.

- **Pritchatts Road** is the location of a number of newly refurbished self-catered studios, which were originally large family homes before their conversion to student accommodation. The facilities include self-contained studios and a number of self-contained small, medium and large apartments for individuals and couples.

The Vale Village is a 15 to 20-minute walk from the main campus and approximately 3km from Birmingham city centre. The Vale is set in a relaxing conservation area with its own lake, and accommodates both postgraduates and undergraduates. At the heart of the village is The Hub, which boasts fantastic facilities for all Vale and non-Vale residents. These comprise Fusion (a dining area), Bar One and Rio’s (a café).

There are several complexes within the Vale:

- **Aitken**
  - Aitken accommodates a total of 147 students within 23 flats comprising six study bedrooms with shared kitchen, dining and bathroom facilities.

- **Mason**
  - Mason accommodates a total of 840 undergraduate and postgraduate students and consists of ensuite bedrooms with shared kitchens. Mason also has a number of self contained studio apartments.

**Metchley Hall**
- 67 self contained studio, 1-bed and 2-bed apartments located just a short walk from the main Edgbaston campus. This accommodation, supplied by a private provider, forms part of the guarantee scheme and you may be allocated to this scheme in your first year.

**Mansion Brook**
- 106 self contained studios ranging from classic, premium to deluxe. Located in Selly Oak within walking distance of the University. This accommodation, supplied by a private provider, forms part of the guarantee scheme and you may be allocated to this scheme in your first year. It is necessary for you to have a UK guarantor to qualify for this accommodation.

**Selly Oak Village**

**Jarratt Hall**
- Jarratt Hall is about a 10 minute walk from the main campus in the heart of Selly Oak, accommodating 820 postgraduate and undergraduate students in ensuite bedrooms with shared kitchen facilities.

The University campus provides a safe environment in which to live and study. For more information about safety and security on campus, in the city and the West Midlands region, please visit www.as.bham.ac.uk/study/support/international/livingsafety.shtml

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### University accommodation costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation type</th>
<th>Total fee payable</th>
<th>Weekly fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pritchatts Road</td>
<td>From £8,250–£10,750</td>
<td>£165–£215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aitken</td>
<td>£4,500</td>
<td>£90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>£6,675</td>
<td>£133.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metchley Hall</td>
<td>From £8,700–£14,000</td>
<td>£174–£288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mansion Brook</td>
<td>From £8,355–£9,375</td>
<td>£167–£187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarratt Hall</td>
<td>£5,950</td>
<td>£119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All postgraduate accommodation is available on a 50-week contract. Please note that the accommodation fees listed above are for 2011–12, and are subject to increase.
Accommodation guarantee

The accommodation guarantee is subject to the following conditions:

- You have firmly accepted an offer to study at the University
- You have completed your online accommodation application and returned it to Accommodation Services by 31 July 2012. Apply online at www.birmingham.ac.uk/accommodation
- You are applying for single accommodation*
- You agree to remain in your University accommodation for the duration of your contract

*The University has a limited supply of accommodation for students wishing to bring their families to Birmingham but this cannot be provided on a guaranteed basis.

Securing your accommodation

Accommodation Services will start to allocate accommodation from July onwards. All students whose place at the University is confirmed will receive their offer of accommodation by email. Your accommodation offer will include your housing contract and payment details.

A pre-payment of £550 is required to secure your university owned accommodation. A variable deposit is required for our third party provider accommodation.

Sponsored students: if your accommodation fees are being paid by a company, government department, an educational institution or an employer, you are not required to pay an accommodation pre-payment. You should supply evidence of your sponsorship – eg, a letter from your sponsor – and send this to: Accommodation Services, University Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT. Please remember to quote your ID number in your correspondence.

If you have any queries or are unable to access the online accommodation application form, please email: pgradaccom@bham.ac.uk

Disclaimer: Although correct at the date this leaflet went to print, fees and other conditions are subject to revision from time to time. Services may be added, changed or withdrawn. Up-to-date information is available by contacting Accommodation Services or visiting our website www.birmingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Private accommodation

All types of private sector properties can be found through Birmingham studentpad, the official accommodation service for our students, www.birminghamstudentpad.co.uk

The studentpad will provide you with a comprehensive and up-to-date database of private sector properties, so you can find the property most suited to your needs as quickly and easily as possible. You will also find a link to the message board where you can either post your own message or search through existing messages to find other students to share with.

Since January 2008 Birmingham Studentpad has only accepted landlords who have attended and been certified on the Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme and the London Landlord Accreditation Scheme. The aim of the accreditation is to provide landlords with the relevant information that would keep them up-to-date with legislation and regulations and to help them run their business to the benefit of both themselves and their tenants.

The Accommodation Services LIVING office is located on the ground floor of University Centre, where you will find friendly and helpful staff on hand to assist with any advice you may require, along with a contract checking service when renting in the private sector.

Average rents in Selly Oak area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation type</th>
<th>Weekly fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single room (flat share)</td>
<td>£60–£65 per week (bills extra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-bedroom house for a family</td>
<td>£575–£700 per calendar month (bills extra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-catered room (sharing kitchen with owner)</td>
<td>£65–£75 per week (bills included)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information

To apply for accommodation (deadline 31 July 2012) visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/accommodation
The International Students Advisory Service (ISAS)

ISAS is a service especially for international students; our role is to welcome and support international/EEA students.

We have trained immigration advisers to help you prepare to come to the UK and to support you during your course. Our service is free and available to prospective students and current students at the University.

We work closely with other University departments who teach or support international students to ensure you have the best experience possible.

Areas of advice
We provide advice on the following issues:

Immigration
- Student visa applications (inside or outside the UK)
- Student dependant visa applications (inside or outside the UK)
- Student visitor visa applications
- Immigration issues during your studies such as changing course or university, taking a break from your course or delaying the start of your course
- Working as a student and options for work after your course
- Dependants working
- Applying for your family or friends to visit you in the UK

Finance
- Advice for new students on the cost of living in the UK
- Information on where to look for funding
- Advice on how to open a bank account
- Advice if you are having financial difficulties during your course

Living in the UK
- Registering with a doctor and dentist
- Registering with the police
- Rights for free health care
- Overview of accommodation options in the UK
- Support if you are having difficulties in the UK

Our services
- Appointments with trained immigration advisers
- Email advice service – submit your query directly to the ISAS advisers
- Visa correction scheme – contacting the UKBA to try to correct mistakes on your Entry Clearance visa
- Reception – for information services and appointment booking
- Batch Scheme – we submit student visas and student dependant visa extension applications to the UKBA for you
- Workshops on student visa extensions and applying for Post-Study Work visas
- Online guides about immigration, visas and other issues
- A website with information on immigration and other issues important to international students
- Interlink – an email service used to update students on upcoming events and changes to the immigration rules.

Please ensure that you are registered with Interlink by going to: www.as.bham.ac.uk/studentlife/international/news/interlink.shtml
- International students newsletter – a termly newsletter specifically for international students

Under UK Immigration law the ISAS advisers are the only University staff allowed to offer immigration advice or services on behalf of the University. We are regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) and are required to comply with its Code of Standards and those of the Association of International Student Advisers (AISA)/UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA).

International Welcome Week
In order to help new international students settle into life in Birmingham, the ISAS team runs a one-week orientation programme called International Welcome Week. During the week you will register with the University, open your bank account, attend talks on University life and attend many fun social events such as campus and city tours and evening social events.

How to contact ISAS
Our website provides lots of useful information on our key advice areas as well as current news and events affecting international students. Details of all our information guides (downloadable) and links to other useful websites and information are available at: www.as.bham.ac.uk/international
Email advice service
If, after visiting our website and using our information guides, you still require further information, you can email us and an adviser will respond to your query. Please contact us at: isas@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Visit ISAS
Please visit or telephone our reception if you are unable to find the information you need on our website or in our information guides.

Opening hours
Monday to Thursday 09:00 (9.00am) – 17:00 (5.00pm)
Friday 09:00 (9.00am) – 16:00 (4.00pm)

Address
International Students Advisory Service (ISAS), Advice and Support, Division of Student Life, 1st Floor, Aston Webb C Block, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 8464
Fax: +44 (0)121 414 3850
English language requirements

All candidates are required to have a good level of written and spoken English before taking up a place at the University. Our minimum English language requirements for students offering TOEFL, IELTS and Pearson test qualifications are shown in the table below. Examples of alternative English language qualifications that fulfil the University’s minimum requirements are shown in the second table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic area</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
<th>TOEFL IBT</th>
<th>Pearson Test of English (PTE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Science</td>
<td>6.0 with no less than 5.5 in any band</td>
<td>87 overall: with no less than 22 in Reading, 21 in Listening, 23 in Speaking, 21 in Writing</td>
<td>PTE Academic 51 in all four skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts***, Business****, Education (Taught), Health Sciences, Public Policy, Social Sciences</td>
<td>6.5 with no less than 6.0 in any band</td>
<td>93 overall: with no less than 22 in Reading, 21 in Listening, 23 in Speaking, 21 in Writing</td>
<td>PTE Academic 59 in all four skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine, Dentistry, Education (Research)</td>
<td>7.0 with no less than 6.5 in any band</td>
<td>100 overall: with no less than 23 in any band</td>
<td>PTE Academic 67 in all four skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law (LLM)</td>
<td>7.0 with no less than 6.0 in any band</td>
<td>100 overall: with no less than 22 in Reading, 21 in Listening, 23 in Speaking, 21 in Writing</td>
<td>PTE Academic 67 in all four skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Further information on the PTE test and how to register can be found here: http://pearsonpte.com/PTEAcademic/Pages/home.aspx
** Applies to all programmes in the School of English, Drama, American and Canadian Studies, the School of History and Cultures, the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, the School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music, and the School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion
*** Some Business programmes require higher grades. Please see the Business School website for more details

GCE O level English Language Grade C
GCSE English Language Grade C
GCSE English Grade C
IGCSE English as a First Language Grade C
IGCSE English as a Second Language Grade C
IB English Language (First or Second Language HL/SL) 5 points
UCLES Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Grade C
UCLES University Certificate in Advanced English Grade A
Warwick University English Language Test (if taken before 2 May 2010)* ABB–CCC
Hong Kong Certificate of Education; Hong Kong Use of English AS Level C
HEFP (Warwick) Credit (55% or above)
Malaysian SPM 1119 (Cambridge O Level) C
Indian Class XII (ICSE/CBSE/West Bengal) 75%+
Other Indian state examination boards 80%

*Please note that the University of Warwick has decided to withdraw the Warwick University English Language Test. If you have taken the test prior to 2 May 2010 (but within the last two years) we will still accept your qualification. If you have planned to take the test after this date, we suggest you make alternative arrangements.

Some programmes have slightly higher requirements than those stated above. You will be informed when this is the case. If you have been instructed and assessed in English language at a recognised institution, you may be exempt from these requirements.

Pre-sessional English courses

If your offer is conditional you may need to retake IELTS or TOEFL in order to reach the minimum score. If you do not want to retake IELTS or TOEFL, you have the option of attending and satisfactorily completing one of the pre-sessional English courses run by our English for International Students Unit (EISU). If you choose this option you will not have to retake IELTS, but you will have to achieve a minimum final mark for your assessed coursework.

Please note that failure to complete the pre-sessional English course successfully will mean that you have not fulfilled the conditions of your offer. We will not be able to accept any other English language results after this point. Therefore our offer to you to study here will be withdrawn for that academic year. You may, however, wish to re-submit your application or defer entry to the following academic year, in order to continue to improve your level of English and to meet our language requirements.

Year-round English language support

Year-round English language support is offered free of charge to registered students whose first language is not English in subjects such as grammar, vocabulary, speaking and academic writing. For more information contact p.g.horton@bham.ac.uk

For further information about pre-sessional English language courses requirements please visit www.eisu.bham.ac.uk
Financial information

How much money you will need to study at Birmingham partly depends on your own circumstances and lifestyle. However, the following information may be helpful when planning your finances.

Tuition fees for international students

The University has introduced a fixed fees policy for international students (non-EU). Fees will no longer be increased on a yearly basis in line with inflation. The fee paid for the first year of a programme will remain constant with no further increase for the normal duration of your programme – with the exception of clinical rates.

Living costs

Coming to the UK to study is a serious financial commitment. You need to ensure that you have sufficient funds for your full tuition, your living expenses and the living expenses of any dependants. You should have the funding secured before travelling to the UK and starting your course.

Students living in Birmingham enjoy lower costs than in many other UK cities. The amount required to cover reasonable costs will vary depending on your circumstances. As a rough guide, we currently estimate that for 2012–13 you will need a minimum of £10,290* a year for basic living expenses (excluding tuition fees). Please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/support/moneyadvice/living.aspx for more information.

These figures are not exact and should be used as a guide only. You should also refer to the international student calculator, which provides an interactive guide to living costs: www.studentcalculator.org.uk/international

If you are planning to bring your partner or family with you, you will require more money. A brochure called Bringing Your Family to the UK can be downloaded at: www.as.bham.ac.uk/studentlife/international/work/during

* Please note that the UK Border Agency may require you to have sufficient funds for living costs that are higher than those stated above. For up-to-date information please see the UK Border Agency website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying

Working while studying

Many students will take a part-time job during their studies, to broaden their experience or to earn some extra spending money. If you are able to work during your studies (see guidance below) you must ensure that your academic performance is not affected by any employment that you take up. The University recommends that students do not work more than 16 hours per week.

Scholarships

The University offers a range of scholarships to reward outstanding academic achievement. Information on the scholarships offered can be found on pages 10–11 of this brochure.

Please note that, in most cases, the University only awards partial scholarships and competition for these awards is intense. Students must be able to finance the remainder of their tuition fees and living expenses.
Scholarship and funding opportunities

The University attracts students of the highest calibre and is proud to be able to offer scholarships to reward outstanding achievement. We also work with a number of external funding agencies whom you may be eligible to apply to for funding.

**General international scholarships**

**International Postgraduate Scholarship**

International Postgraduate Scholarships are awarded annually by the University for outstanding students undertaking a one-year Masters degree programme. Candidates must apply by Friday 1 June 2012.

**Queen Elizabeth II Scholarships**

The University is delighted to offer the Queen Elizabeth II international scholarships worth £10,000 towards tuition fees for a one-year Masters course to graduates of the Universities 21 (U21) community.

These scholarships are offered as a symbol of our commitment to the U21 network and the benefits of international educational co-operation.

**Doctoral Research Elite Scholarships**

The University Graduate School is pleased to announce that it has ten Elite Scholarships, available to outstanding overseas candidates of the highest academic aptitude holding an offer of a place on a PhD. Please contact the School or College you have applied to, to find out more. Deadlines for nominations is 13 January 2012.

**Country specific scholarships**

**Joint University of Birmingham and China Scholarship Council PhD Scholarships**

In honour of one of our most notable Chinese graduates, Li Siguang, the University of Birmingham and the China Scholarship Council is pleased to announce jointly funded PhD scholarships for exceptional students from China commencing their studies at Birmingham in 2012.

**University of Birmingham USA Scholarship Programme**

The University, in partnership with the US Alumni Foundation, is delighted to announce the launch of a joint scholarship scheme for 2012 entry.

Scholarships each worth up to £15,000 will be awarded to two exceptional candidates from the USA.

**Islamic Development Bank – University of Birmingham International PhD Scholarship Programme**

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is a multilateral financial development institution based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and has 56 member countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. The IDB Merit Scholarship Programme (MSP) contributes to the development of science and high technology in its member countries. Candidates must apply by 31 December 2011.
Joint University of Birmingham and Santander Scholarship

In partnership with Banco Santander, the University offers six postgraduate scholarships worth £5,000 to outstanding candidates from Latin America and the USA.

Hong Kong Postgraduate Scholarship

The University is delighted to offer the Hong Kong Postgraduate Scholarship. This award is worth up to £15,000 towards the cost of tuition fees for a one-year Masters course in any subject area.

University of Birmingham Brazil Scholarship

The University will be offering 10 full fee scholarships for Brazilian PhD students to study at Birmingham. The scholarships will be available for students commencing in 2012 and will be available for a maximum of three years. The scheme is offered in partnership with the University of Nottingham.

Subject-specific scholarships

Colleges and Schools across the University offer scholarships relevant to particular courses of study.

For further information please visit the web pages for the relevant College or School on the University website.

Other scholarship awards

The University works in partnership with a number of organisations and scholarship bodies including British Chevening Scholarships, the Said Foundation, Marshall Scholarships and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission to offer scholarships to talented applicants who meet specific criteria.

Other sources of funding

For other sources of funding, we would advise that you contact the following:

- The British Council, Embassy or High Commission in your home country
- The Ministry or Department of Education in your home country
- Your current academic institution

Part-time employment

The Guild of Students offers a dedicated Job Zone, which can help you to find part-time employment should you need to support your living costs. All jobs are strongly vetted to ensure that they are suitable for students, and advice is also available on how to balance working part-time with your studies. For more information visit www.guildofstudents.com

Further information

To apply for scholarships visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/finance/scholarships/index.aspx
Contact us

International Relations

Our International Relations team can provide information on what it is like to study at the University of Birmingham, courses available, the city of Birmingham and the region, tuition fees and scholarships. We also offer advice on entry requirements, how to apply and how qualifications from your country relate to the UK higher education system.

International officers, academics and other members of staff from the University make regular overseas visits to conduct a range of activities.

These include meeting prospective students for information and interview sessions, providing subject-specific presentations, conducting pre-departure sessions and visiting our partner institutions. If you would like to meet us in your country then we will be happy to see you. Our itinerary can be found at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/meet

For general enquiries, please check our website in the first instance at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international. If you cannot find the information that you require please use the contact details below.

General enquiries
International Relations
Aston Webb C Block
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: +44 121 414 2894
Fax: +44 121 414 3850
Email: international@bham.ac.uk

Overseas representatives

International Relations also has a network of overseas representatives who can provide further information on studying at the University as well as advice and guidance on your offer.

Many of our representatives offer a visa counselling service to assist students with UK entry clearance preparation. International Relations staff visit our representatives’ offices several times a year to meet and interview prospective students and to give presentations about the University.

For details of our representatives in your country, visit your country page at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk