

# PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS SEPTEMBER 2017 ENTRY



ARRIVAL



# PRE-ARRIVAL ONLINE COURSE

## GET READY FOR SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

If you're coming from outside the UK we recommend you complete our pre-arrival online course prior to arriving. This course will help international students prepare for life in the UK, both academically and socially.

You will get the opportunity to:

- Meet other students coming to study at Solent
- Hear from current students about their experiences
- Learn and develop essential study skills for succeeding at university
- Meet staff members who will be able to answer any questions you may have before arriving.

It's a great way to discover more about life as a Southampton Solent student, so get involved and get online. Visit [open.solent.ac.uk](https://open.solent.ac.uk) to register for an account and enrol on the Get Ready for Southampton Solent University online course. The course will begin at the end of August and run for four weeks until the end of the Welcome Week.





# CALENDAR

## **Meet and greet service**

12-13 September 2017 (6.30am to 6pm)

Student guides will be at the train and coach stations in Southampton to meet, greet and signpost new arrivals to their accommodation.

## **International induction**

14-15 September 2017 (10am to 4pm)

An ideal opportunity to meet fellow international students (EU & overseas), find your way around campus and settle into the city. A timetable is included in this pack.

## **New students' welcome week**

18-22 September 2017

You will meet other fellow students from the same programme of study, get your timetable, your student card and a series of events will take place throughout the week. Please note that joining instructions will be sent to you by email informing you on where to go on the first day of that week.

## **Teaching starts**

25 September 2017

## **Other dates**

**Winter break:** 19 December 2017 - 3 January 2018 (Teaching starts 3 January)

**Spring break:** 23 March - 9 April 2018 (Teaching starts 9 April)


**Examinations:** 14 - 18 May 2018

**Graduation ceremonies:** 9 - 13 July 2018



# IMPORTANT

Please bring the following original documents when you come to study at Southampton Solent University.

- Proof of **identity** (a valid passport or national ID card).
  - **Original** certificates of your **qualifications**.
  - Your **offer letter** from Southampton Solent University confirming your acceptance on a course.
  - Proof that you have applied for a **tuition fee loan** or your sponsorship letter (if applicable).
  - Arrival Confirmation and Key Collection Form if you are living in one of the SSU student **residences**.
  - Within 7 days of your arrival collect your [Biometric Residence Permit](#) (BRP visa card) if required.
  - Within 10 days of your arrival [register with the police](#) if required.
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# PRE-REGISTRATION

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PRE-REGISTER?

From the end of August, if you have been offered a definite (unconditional) place and you have accepted it, you will be able to pre-register online.

Access details will be sent to you towards the end of August along with a user guide. Please complete this online pre-registration before you arrive.

Please note that as a new student, you will be required to upload a photo. The photo has to be of passport quality (not from a mobile phone!). Further guidance on the photos will be provided with the Joining Instructions.

Once you have successfully pre-registered, you will have access to your Welcome Week timetable. Please refer to your Joining Instructions document for guidance on how to locate this.



## CAMPUS CARD

All students will receive a campus card upon their arrival at the University. It will allow you to electronically register your attendance at lectures, seminars and workshops, borrow books from the library, access IT, printing and photocopying services. It can also be used at Sport Solent venues and campus catering outlets.

You will only be issued with one card for your entire time at the University, so it's important you provide a picture you are happy with.





# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY ENGLISH?

### Pre-sessional English language courses

Our pre-sessional courses help you improve your reading, writing, listening and speaking skills to the level required for your chosen undergraduate or postgraduate course.

- **10-week course:** 26 June - 1 September 2017  
Course fee: £2,990 (includes tuition, course books and test fees)
- **5-week course:** 31 July - 1 September 2017  
Course fee: £1,450 (includes tuition, course books and test fees)

### Solent International Language Programme

Many of our degree and diploma courses offer you the chance to learn a language as part of your programme of study.

We offer a range of classes in Mandarin Chinese, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Classes in Academic English, General English and Business English are available to students whose first language is not English.

If language is not an option as part of your course, it is still possible to take up one of the above languages as a supplementary unit.

### International Foundation Year

This programme forms an integral part of a range of extended degree programmes for students whose first language is not **English**. It is suitable for you if you wish to **improve** your English skills before studying for a degree course here at the University.

A minimum level of English of **IELTS 4.5** in all 4 components or equivalent is required. The International Foundation Year focuses on three areas:

- Business English
- Academic Skills
- a course-related pathway.





VISA AND IMMIGRATION





# VISA

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Please apply for your visa well in advance of your course start date. Many students fail to take up their place at the university because they leave applying for a visa until the last minute.

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months in advance of your intended course start date in the UK and travel to the UK up to one month before your course starts.

### How to apply for a student visa from your home country

If you are coming to the UK for a course of more than six months you will need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) visa. To find out more, including documents and other requirements please visit [www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa](http://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa).

### What documents will you need to apply for a Tier 4 visa

Please visit our website for a full list of documents that will be required. Before you can apply, you will need a:

**Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)** - A CAS is an electronic number issued to you by the institution you will be studying at in the UK. To be issued a CAS letter, you will need to meet the following conditions:

- Have an unconditional offer with us.
- Accept your unconditional offer.
- Pay £3,000 deposit (Or provide your financial guarantee letter if you are a government-sponsored student).
- Provide evidence that you have enough money to cover your tuition fees for the 2017/2018 academic year, plus living costs (£1,015 per month) up to the maximum of nine months (or provide your financial guarantee letter if you are a government-sponsored student).

For further information on visa and immigration please visit:

[www.solent.ac.uk/international/visas/visas-and-immigration](http://www.solent.ac.uk/international/visas/visas-and-immigration)

### Credibility interviews

International students may be requested to attend a 'credibility interview' as part of the application process, either in the UK or overseas. This interview is normally carried out by a Home Office member of staff based in the UK (using a system similar to Skype) who will assess whether you meet the English language requirements, and also if you are a genuine student. If you are asked to attend such an interview you must do so to avoid the possibility of your application being refused.

# IMMIGRATION

## Biometric Residence Permits

A Biometrics Residence Permit (also known as a BRP) is an identity document which shows your photograph and personal information, your Tier 4 status and immigration conditions, Southampton Solent University's Tier 4 Sponsor License Number and the length of time you are allowed to remain in the UK. It also contains a microchip holding your unique biometrics data.

When you are granted your visa overseas, you will be issued with a 30-day travel vignette (visa stamp) in your passport and an accompanying letter confirming your visa conditions. You must travel to the UK within the duration of your 30-day travel vignette.

On arrival in the UK you will be provided with your BRP card by the University during the enrolment process. Please ensure you enter the **University's ACL number 2HE887** on your visa application form otherwise the BRP will not be delivered to the University and you will instead have to collect it from a designated Post Office in the UK.

## Police registration

### Always check your visa

If you have to register with the police, this will be endorsed on your visa. Always check your visa even if you think you do not have to register, as the Entry Clearance Office sometimes stamps your passport even if your country is not on the list. You will be able to register with the police on campus during the first few weeks of term.

For further information or guidance on visa and immigration please email the [International Advice Team](#).





# FEES AND FINANCE



# FINANCE

## HOW MUCH DO I NEED FOR A YEAR?

When studying in England, you will need to take into consideration the course fees, the living expenses and the accommodation fees.

### Course fees for 2017/18

Undergraduate full-time courses: £11,000 (except HNDs and International Foundation Year: £10,000)

Postgraduate full-time courses: from £11,500 to £12,500

### Living expenses

Living expenses are additional to the course fees quoted above and are normally estimated to be approximately £1,015 per month. Your living expenses would include your social life, food, utility bills, study material and accommodation.

### University residence fees for 2017/18

Between £99.75 - £144.90 per week

Standard residence period runs from 14 September 2017 to 1 July 2018 (41 weeks and 3 days)

If you want to arrive and move into your room in student residences on 12 or 13 September please email the [accommodation office](#) to advise of your arrival time. You will not be able to move into your room in student residences before 12 September.





# COURSE FEE PAYMENT

## HOW DO I PAY?

Payment of fees may be made by international payment, cash, bank transfer, card or by Standing Order Mandate.

**International bank transfer and card payments** - PaytoStudy allows you to make your international payments to Southampton Solent University free of charge while receiving competitive foreign exchange rates.

For further information, please contact the [Income Team](#)

## WHEN DO I PAY?

The University will require:

- ✓ All tuition fees are due annually, in full, prior to the course start date.
- ✓ Where students are not receiving a student loan from the Student Loan Company, a payment plan, or financial guarantee letter covering any unpaid fees must be in place prior to registration on the course.
- ✓ Self-funded students will need to pay a deposit of £3,000 before a Confirmation of Acceptance (CAS) can be issued for a visa.
- ✓ 50% of fees are due before registration on the course.
- ✓ The balance of the fees are due prior to the course start date. Students on courses of at least one year's duration may be eligible for a payment plan either through standard instalment plans offered during on-line registration or by contacting the [Income Team](#).

For further information please visit [www.solent.ac.uk/finance/paying-your-fees](http://www.solent.ac.uk/finance/paying-your-fees).

## IMPORTANT NOTE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

It is essential to remember that course fees usually increase the following academic year. Therefore, when planning your **budget**, please bear in mind that course fees may increase over the next years of study in line with inflation.

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## CAN I GET ANY HELP?

### International Academic Merit Scholarships

The Merit scholarship is an academic scholarship awarded to overseas, EEA and EU students studying a full-time course at Southampton Solent University who exceed the entry criteria for their course. The scholarship is a financial deduction taken off the invoice for your tuition fees (£1,000 or £2,000 subject to funding and availability).

You do not need to apply for the scholarship as the University will advise the applicants if they are eligible for one.





ACCOMMODATION







## WHERE CAN I LIVE?

Like all students, you have the choice of living in one of our student residences or living in private accommodation.

### Student residences

If you wish to stay in the student residences, please note that the accommodation online application form will be available to all international students who have accepted a conditional or unconditional place at the University. For information on how to apply please visit [www.solent.ac.uk/studying-at-solent/accommodation/how-to-apply/accommodation-applications](http://www.solent.ac.uk/studying-at-solent/accommodation/how-to-apply/accommodation-applications)

### Alternative accommodation

University Accreditation Scheme SASSH (Southampton Accredited Scheme for Student Housing - [www.sassh.co.uk](http://www.sassh.co.uk)) - If you choose to rent in the private sector there are various routes to securing accommodation, however we strongly recommend that you use the Universities official housing accreditation scheme SASSH. Visit the SASSH website for a list of approved properties and housing tips.

The areas that are popular with students are:

- The Polygon/Bedford Place (where the majority of students live)
- High Street (Briton Street, High Street, Oxford Street and the surrounding area)
- Ocean Village (on the marina)

### Private Halls

There are several private halls of residence across the city of Southampton. These are run by private companies and not by the University. Private halls of residence offer a range of rooms from studios to standard en-suite study rooms.

### Provide proof of your right to rent in the UK

It is law that all landlords must carry out checks on all tenants to ensure they have the legal right to rent property in the UK. To do this they must retain copies of certain documents evidencing a tenant's immigration status. Under no circumstances should you allow the landlord or letting agent to retain an original document. For further details of landlords legal obligations please visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

**Summer accommodation** is available to students on pre-sessional courses prior to the start of the academic year.

# WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

## Bedrooms

All the rooms in residences are furnished with a bed, chairs, desk, wardrobe and bookshelf space. A bedding pack is provided free of charge:

- Duvet and pillow
- Sheets, pillowcases and duvet cover or blanket
- Towels

**You will need to bring:**

- Hangers
- Toilet rolls
- Alarm clock

All rooms have TV sockets for any portable televisions you may wish to bring. It is a legal requirement for students living in residences to buy a TV License if you wish to bring a television set.

For further information on TV licensing, visit the [TV licensing website](#).

## Kitchens

All of the kitchens in residences are equipped with electric hobs, ovens, microwaves, fridge/freezer, kettles and vacuum cleaners. You will need to bring:

- All cooking utensils (pots and pans should be suitable for electric hob)
- All crockery (including cups, plates and dishes)
- All cutlery
- Tea-towels and dishcloths
- Two small padlocks for your personal kitchen cupboard.

For bedding and kitchen packs, you can visit [click2campus](#) or [My Uni Pack](#). Both these companies will deliver items to the residence prior to your arrival.

Alternatively, IKEA is located close to the residences (as well as other retailers).

## Summer accommodation

Student accommodation is available during the summer months at **affordable** prices in some of our student residences.





## HOW DO I PAY?

There are two main ways to pay: either by direct debit or by using credit/debit card details.

### Instalments

To make life easier, accommodation fees can be spread across the whole year and paid in either three equal instalments - normally October, January and May - or eight equal monthly instalments.

**Please note:** Students from outside the EU must pay a prepayment of £1000 GBP to accept their room offer with the balance of accommodation fees paid by 31 August. Room offers made after 31 August will require full payment on acceptance.

### All at once

If you prefer to get it out of the way, you can pay all your fees in one go before you get here or when you move in to the halls of residence. To pay before you arrive, you can use a credit/debit card. To pay on arrival, you can use a credit/debit card or you can pay in cash.

**Please note:** As an incentive, if you pay your accommodation fees in full prior to your contract start date, **£100 will be credited to your campus card to spend in university catering outlets.**

*This offer is not applicable to anyone staying in summer accommodation.*

The final details of your fees and options for payment will be sent to you with your accommodation confirmation.

### Pay to Study

If you are a student from outside the UK you can use Pay to Study, a University endorsed international money transfer option



LIVING IN SOUTHAMPTON







## Opening a bank account

In order to open an account, you will first need to enrol as a student. You can then request a letter from the Student Hub confirming your UK and overseas addresses.

The major UK banks represented in Southampton are:

Santander: [www.santander.co.uk](http://www.santander.co.uk)

Barclays Bank: [www.barclays.co.uk](http://www.barclays.co.uk)

Halifax: [www.halifax.co.uk](http://www.halifax.co.uk)

HSBC: [www.hsbc.co.uk](http://www.hsbc.co.uk)

Lloyds: [www.lloydsbank.com](http://www.lloydsbank.com)

NatWest Bank PLC: [www.natwest.co.uk](http://www.natwest.co.uk)

Royal Bank of Scotland: [www.rbs.co.uk](http://www.rbs.co.uk)

## Insurance

### Medical/health insurance

If you are an international student from outside the EU/EEA studying a course of six months or more and you have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of your Tier 4 visa application you are entitled to health care under the National Health Service (NHS) from the beginning of your stay in the UK on the same basis as UK residents. However, we still recommend you still take out insurance for things that aren't covered by the NHS.

If you are coming to the UK with a short-term study visa, you will not be entitled to NHS healthcare. Therefore, we strongly advise you take out private medical insurance.

### Personal possessions insurance

You are strongly advised to insure your personal belongings against theft, loss and damage before coming to the UK. Many companies specialise in low cost insurance for students. Endsleigh Insurance Company, recommended by the National Union of Students (NUS), has a policy designed for international students studying in the UK. [www.endsleigh.co.uk](http://www.endsleigh.co.uk) - we strongly advise you to shop around for the most competitive quote.

## Registering with a doctor

Information about registering with a doctor will be available during Welcome Week.

# WORKING IN THE UK

## Am I allowed to work?

If you have a Tier 4 visa you will have a limit on the number of hours you can work. This is usually 20 hours per week. If you have a short term study visa you are not permitted to work in the UK. For more information see the [UKCISA](#) web pages.

## National Insurance and income tax

For full details on how to apply for a [National Insurance](#) number, how much tax you can expect to pay and how to claim tax back, please visit the [Gov.uk website](#)

# EVERYDAY LIVING

## Mobile phones

There are three main mobile phone networks in the UK: EE, O2 and Vodafone. Phones are available on a contract or 'pay-as-you-go' basis and there are hundreds of different tariffs. It is advisable to shop around to get the best deal and find the appropriate phone and tariff for your needs. If you want a contract and an English sim card you will need to open a bank account first.

To help you find the best broadband, TV and phone packages, you can use price comparison websites such as [www.cable.co.uk](http://www.cable.co.uk) (accredited by [Ofcom](#)). In addition to providing you with a [Comparison Service](#), it also offers guides for the following:

- [How to make cheap international calls](#)
- [How to choose the best student broadband](#)

## Homeware stores in Southampton

From bedding to kitchen utensils, you will find a range of shops in Southampton providing you with all the home furnishings you may need: [Ikea](#), [Argos](#), [Asda](#), [Next Home](#), [Marks and Spencer](#) and more.

## Supermarkets in Southampton

The following website will provide you with a list of supermarkets in the city centre: [www.southampton.co.uk/supermarkets/](http://www.southampton.co.uk/supermarkets/)





# SPORTS AT SSU

## SOLENT SPORT

As an integral part of the University's lifestyle, Solent Sport is committed to providing a quality service to students. Our product and service range is carefully designed to maximise sporting opportunities and to underpin the student experience. We offer competitive and recreational sport, coach education and coaching opportunities, healthy lifestyle expertise and talented athlete support. Our facilities include award winning cricket and football venues and exciting development plans are in place to greatly enhance our sporting provision.

### Sport scholarships

Solent Sport offers different levels of support to student athletes, based on their sporting talent and potential.

**The High Performance Academy** scholarship awards a discount of up to £1,000 on accommodation in halls, with further benefits totalling up to £2,500.

**Sport scholarships** are also awarded, two in cricket and two in basketball, that cover 100% of the cost of tuition fees paid in the first year and provide a fees discount of 50% in future years.

For further information please visit [www.solent.ac.uk/solent-sport/scholarships](http://www.solent.ac.uk/solent-sport/scholarships).



# CHECKLIST

## WHAT TO ARRANGE

- ✓ **Online pre-registration system** - You will receive an email from the University at the end of August which will give instructions on how to do this.
- ✓ **Sufficient finances** to cover your tuition fees, accommodation and living costs during your study period in the UK. It may take a week or so to set up a bank account. It is essential you have sufficient funds available to you for living expenses during this period.
- ✓ **Your flight and travel insurance**
- ✓ **Make sure that you apply for your visa in plenty of time, if you need one.**
- ✓ **Plan your journey** from the airport to Southampton.
- ✓ **Arrange your accommodation** in the UK in advance as it can be difficult to do so once you have arrived.
- ✓ **Bring your Arrival Confirmation and Key Collection Form** if you are living in one of the Southampton Solent University student residences.
- ✓ **Make arrangements for the payment of your fees** with the Income Team.
- ✓ **Anyone arriving in the UK from a country outside the EU will be required to declare if they have over 10,000 Euro in cash** (or its equivalent in other currencies equal to approx GBP £8,500). This includes notes and coins in any currency, bankers' drafts and cheques of any kind including travellers' cheques.
- ✓ **Check your governments' restrictions on taking money out of the country.**
- ✓ **Check with your bank about regulations concerning transferring money to the UK.**





# CHECKLIST

## DOCUMENTS TO PUT IN YOUR HAND LUGGAGE

You may be asked to show some of these at the UK border, and will need some when you enrol at SSU. So keep them in your hand luggage just in case your luggage gets lost (but we hope it won't).

- ✓ Original documents of qualifications and certificates which have been used by the University to issue your CAS (you will need to show these at enrolment).
- ✓ Your passport and visa
- ✓ Photocopy the personal page of your passport and visa and keep them in a safe place. Or, even better, take a photo of your documents and email them to yourself then you will always have a copy.
- ✓ Your acceptance letter (you will need to show this at enrolment)
- ✓ Debit or credit card to pay at least 50% of your course fees.
- ✓ If your fees are paid by an official sponsor (international organisation or government), bring the original letter on their headed paper.
- ✓ Small amount of money (about £300) in cash or traveller's cheques for everyday expenses and to use before your bank account can be activated.
- ✓ Any medication that you are currently taking (including a letter from your doctor, in English, confirming which medication that you are carrying with you.
- ✓ Medical records if you have any pre-existing conditions.
- ✓ Bring any relevant paperwork from SSU relating to your course of study, accommodation agreement, payment of fees etc.
- ✓ Legal documents proving any change of name, if applicable.



## USEFUL CONTACTS AT SSU

**Southampton Solent University - International Recruitment Office**

Tel. + 44 (0) 23 82 013 646

E-mail. [international@solent.ac.uk](mailto:international@solent.ac.uk)

**Southampton Solent University - Admissions Office**

Tel. + 44 (0) 23 82 015 066

E-mail. [admissions@solent.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@solent.ac.uk)

**Southampton Solent University - Accommodation**

Tel. + 44 (0) 23 82 015 040

E-mail. [accommodation@solent.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@solent.ac.uk)

**Southampton Solent University - International Student Support (inc. visas and immigration)**

Tel. + 44 (0) 23 82 013 821

E-mail. [internationalsupport@solent.ac.uk](mailto:internationalsupport@solent.ac.uk)

**Southampton Solent University - Finance**

Tel. +44 (0)23 82 013 970

E-mail. [income.team@solent.ac.uk](mailto:income.team@solent.ac.uk)

Information on [Living in the UK](#)



## USEFUL EXTERNAL CONTACTS

UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)

[www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

Tel. +44 (0) 871 468 0468

E-mail. [enquiries@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ucas.ac.uk)

UKCISA (advice for international students studying in the UK)

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/What-is-UKCISA>

Southampton Tourist Information Centre

[www.discoversouthampton.co.uk](http://www.discoversouthampton.co.uk)

Mobile phone comparison

[www.cable.co.uk](http://www.cable.co.uk)



