Welcome New International Students

September 2018

A warm welcome to our new international and EU students. The University of Dundee has a wide range of support services across campus available to all students. For general advice and referrals, your first point of contact should be the Enquiry Centre, Campus Green (no. 22 on the campus map): www.dundee.ac.uk/international/support. We also have Global Room (no. 48 on the campus map), which is a social space on campus for all staff and students to relax, meet new people and celebrate cultural events.

The International Advice Service (IAS) provide support and advice specifically for international students and their families, on a wide range of issues, including visa and immigration, practical guidance as well as links to home hospitality schemes. We understand that studying and living in a different country can be exciting and challenging and are fully aware of your primary concerns. This also applies to study abroad and exchange students who stay for a shorter period of time.

The IAS works within the Enquiry Centre, Campus Green and is open from Monday – Friday from 9 am—5 pm. Visit our website at: www.dundee.ac.uk/international/support. To make an appointment for specialist advice, please complete the online meeting form at www.dundee.ac.uk/international/support/meetingform or attend a drop-in session at the Global Room every Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11 am—1 pm.

The University also has a high quality welcome programme (uod.ac.uk/freshers) with lots of events and opportunities to learn about all the support available and make friends. We hope you will enjoy your time in Dundee and take advantage of all that is on offer. Below are just some of the events you can attend from the Principal’s Official Welcome to the Taste of Scotland Welcome Party, there’s something for everyone.

Events

Principal’s Official Welcome Event
Monday 3rd September 10:45 - 12:00, Caird Hall, City Square. Official welcome and procession by University Principal and Academics. Dress informal.

International Welcome & Adapting to a New Culture
Friday 7th September 15:00 —17:00, Global Room, Old College Hall
This event will be fun, interactive and informative hosted by International Advice Service. You will meet members of staff, representatives from our local international hospitality schemes, International Society and more. Learn about studying and living in new culture and environment. A chance to win a Highland trip worth £135. Free refreshments.

DUSA Freshers’ Fair
Saturday 8th September 12:00—16:00, Campus Green
Fresher’s Fair is the best way to meet societies, fellow students and get a lot of free things. Last year, Dusa won Best Fresher’s Fair Award in Scotland! Early entry from 11:30.

Peer Connections
Look out for events offered by the Peer Connectors who will welcome, buddy, mentor and help all students settle in, show you around, meet, mix and share information and experience with other students. www.dundee.ac.uk/studentservices/peer-connections. Enquiry Centre, Campus Green (no.22 on the campus map).

Student Calculator
The International Student Calculator will help you manage your money for your studies in the UK. It enables students’ to budget throughout the year, before and after arrival in the UK. Case studies are available for guidance with regards to time and money whilst in the UK: international.studentcalculator.org.uk

Welcome to the UK

Cultural transitions
When you first arrive in a new culture, differences are intriguing and you may feel excited, stimulated and curious. At this stage you are still protected by the close memory of your home culture. A little later, differences create an impact and you may feel confused, isolated or inadequate as cultural differences intrude and familiar supports are not immediately available. It might be helpful to realise that your experience is quite normal and you can read the following helpful guidance at: uod.ac.uk/cultureshock

Listen to some of our students experiences of arriving/living in Dundee www.dundee.ac.uk/international/support/

LIVE Smart and LEARN

Smart Signposts you to key information and online resources to help you during your studies. Provides help with wellbeing, healthy living, personal development and student life in Dundee. http://libguides.dundee.ac.uk/learnsmart

Student Calculator

Welcome to the UK

Collect your International Welcome Pack which includes a free mobile sim card (with £5 credit inside) from the Enquiry Centre, Campus Green, (no. 48 on the campus map).

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The University of Dundee 'Taste of Scotland' Welcome Ceilidh (Party)
Friday 28th September 19:00 – 23:00,
Bonar Hall

Join our, staff and students for this traditional Scottish party. Enjoy a haggis supper, Burns poetry, Highland Dancers, bagpipes and join in the of Scottish country dancing to the excellent Ceilidh band. Tickets cost £8, pay by debit/credit card online at: http://uod.ac.uk/tasteofscotland

University of Dundee International Families' Group – weekly get-together

Would you like to meet with other international students’ spouses and their children? Why not join us on Wednesday mornings? This is a good opportunity to practice speaking English and to make friends. Children can come too and they can play together. We meet every Wednesday morning during the university term time from 10am to 12pm in the Chaplaincy Centre (no. 30 on the campus map). For more information email: farquhars@friendsinternational.uk

Frequently asked questions from international students

The International Advice Service have prepared a range of factsheets which cover frequently asked questions, from government legislation and visa extensions, to practical information such as opening a bank account and applying for a National Insurance number. These factsheets are available to collect from the Enquiry Centre, Campus Green (no. 22 on the campus map), Global Room (no. 48 on the campus map). You can also view them online by visiting this webpage: www.dundee.ac.uk/international/support/factsheets

Collection of BRP cards at the Post Office

All visa nationals will be aware that they must collect their BRP (Biometric Residence Permit) within 10 days of arrival in the UK. When you indicated on your visa application that you will be studying in Dundee, you will have selected Dundee Post Office in Whitehall Street as the collection point for your BRP. Remember to take your passport with you and any other relevant letters/documents to collect your BRP card at the Post Office. You are required to collect your BRP card before you attend matriculation/registration. The Post Office is a 5-10 minute walk from Campus at: 30 Whitehall Street, Dundee DD1 4AF uod.ac.uk/brpcollection

Registering with the Police

Some visa nationals are required to register with the police when they arrive in the UK. If so, this will be stamped in your passport/stated on your letter from Home Office. If you are required to register with the police, you will be asked to present a completed registration form (available from the Enquiry Centre and Global Room), your passport and BRP card, 2 passport sized photographs and £34 cash. For a list of nationalities required to register with the police, follow the instructions on the factsheet here: uod.ac.uk/policereg

Student Services

Here to support students who have personal, health, disability or work related problems but also seek to help all students learn the personal skills needed to build the lives and careers they want. Being at University is about seeking out and responding to opportunities in all spheres of life, not just academic work, and Student Services support that search whether things are going well or not so well. www.dundee.ac.uk/studentservices

Fraud, tricks and scams

We have been made aware that there are scams (email, telephone call or letter) targeting students. For example, the scammer informs students that there is a problem with their original visa application and requests a payment to solve the issue. The scammer may pretend to be an officer from the Home Office, police, embassy, customs control. Under no circumstances, you should give away any personal details (bank details, passport/visa details, computer passwords) over the phone/email. For further information, see www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/scams

A large print version of this newsletter is available on request by calling 01382 383838. This newsletter can also be provided in a variety of formats.