

## Pre-arrival information for new international students registering in autumn 2012



Dear Student

We are pleased that you have been offered a place at the University of Sussex and we are looking forward to welcoming you at the start of the autumn term. (Please note that your place is subject to you meeting any academic conditions which may have been set.) This letter contains information to help you plan for your first week at Sussex; it covers arrival, induction arrangements, accommodation, and registration. The information should be read in conjunction with the *International Students' Handbook*, a copy of which you will find enclosed. If, after reading this letter and the *Handbook*, you are uncertain about anything please contact the International & Study Abroad Office (details below) where the staff will be happy to assist. If you are now unable to take up your place at Sussex please let the Admissions Office know as soon as possible – please see contact details below:

**Postgraduate Admissions:**

Telephone: +44 1273 877773

Fax: +44 1273 678545

Email: [pg.applicants@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:pg.applicants@sussex.ac.uk)

**Undergraduate Admissions:**

Telephone: +44 1273 678416

Fax: +44 1273 678545

Email: [ug.applicants@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ug.applicants@sussex.ac.uk)

We shall be contacting you again in August by email with further information about your arrival, but please do get in touch with us in the meantime if you have any questions.

With best wishes

Sara Dyer  
Head of International Students' Support

### When and how to arrive

You should aim to arrive at the University during the weekend of Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September (unless your programme starts before that date). There are induction events organised from the Saturday onwards which will provide the opportunity to meet with your department, meet students from a range of courses and to familiarise yourself with the campus and surrounding area. The complete programme will be sent to you electronically in August.



For most courses the academic year starts on **Thursday 20 September**.

The term dates for the 2012/13 academic year can be seen at:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/governance/termdates](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/governance/termdates)

The closest airport to the University is London Gatwick which is about 28 miles away and easily reached by public transport. The journey from London Heathrow takes about two hours by coach. Full details about arrival in the UK and travel to the University are given on pages 23-29 of the *International Students' Handbook*:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/international/pdfs/ISHandbook.pdf](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/international/pdfs/ISHandbook.pdf)

### Meet and Greet at Heathrow and Gatwick airports

On Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September there will be University of Sussex representatives at both airports to welcome you to the UK, answer questions and direct you to the coaches or trains to Brighton. All student helpers will be wearing blue t-shirts and carrying a 'University of Sussex' placard, so if you see them, do introduce yourself as a new Sussex student. We will let you know the timetable and location of your representatives when we email you in August.

The University will also be offering a free coach service from **London Heathrow only** on 15 and 16 September 2012. Coaches will take you directly from London Heathrow Terminal 5 to the University campus and will also stop at King's Road residence, for off campus housing, if necessary. Places are limited and it is necessary to pre-book. You can find more information and book on-line at the following link from 1 July 2012:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/meetandgreet](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/meetandgreet)

### Housing

Information about University managed and private housing can be found on pages 31-35 of the *International Students' Handbook* and on the Housing Office web pages:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices/](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices/)

If you have applied for University managed housing, you will be notified by the Housing Office by email in mid August whether you have been allocated housing.



## International & Study Abroad Office

T +44 1273 678442, E [international@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:international@sussex.ac.uk)

Please note that University managed accommodation (either on or off campus) will **not** be available before 15 September (*unless you are enrolled on a pre-sessional programme*). Therefore, if you are planning to arrive in the UK before this date you will need to make your own arrangements for temporary accommodation.

***In fairness to your fellow students, rooms not occupied by 4pm on Wednesday, 19 September, will be reallocated unless you have made appropriate arrangements with the Housing Office in advance.***

In addition to the coach service available on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September, the University will be operating a minibus service from the local train stations over the arrival weekend. Further details will be included in the email we send you in August.

### **Students with families**

University managed accommodation for students wishing to bring their family to the UK is very limited. Please read page 32 of the *International Student's Handbook* for further details or the Housing Office web page: [www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices/residences/families](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices/residences/families)

Please make sure you also read the immigration document that accompanies this letter (and page 13 of the handbook), for more detail on the rules about bringing your family to the UK.

### **Private accommodation**

Many students prefer to find their own accommodation in the private sector and information can be found on pages 33-34 or on:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/residentialservices/privatesector>

## University registration and fees

You are required to register with the University in order to obtain a University registration/ID card, and to be allowed access to courses and University facilities. Registration includes payment of fees and rent. Information on registration can be found on pages 44-45 of the *International Students' Handbook*.

If you have any questions about fee payments please refer to the finance web pages for further information:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/finance/students](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/finance/students)

or contact Student Accounts:

tel: +44 800 849 49 79;

email: [studentaccounts@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:studentaccounts@sussex.ac.uk);

fax: +44 1273 877367;

or write to: Student Accounts, Sussex House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RH, UK.

## Banking

Information about opening a bank account in the UK can be found on pages 36-40 of the *International Students' Handbook*. Please read carefully so that you know the documents required to open an account.



### Health matters

#### Eligibility for National Health Service (NHS) treatment

Information about health care can be found on pages 48-50 of the *International Students' Handbook*. If you are not from the EEA, or a country with a reciprocal health care agreement, and are studying in the UK for less than six months, you *must* arrange private medical insurance.

#### Meningococcal infection

We advise you to read page 50 of the *International Students' Handbook* which gives important information about ensuring that you have been immunised with the Meningitis C vaccine before arriving in the UK.



### English language and study skills

We would like to draw your attention to our Pre-Sessional English courses which are offered from July to September by the University's Sussex Centre for Language Studies. These courses, in addition to focusing on English for Academic Purposes and study skills, introduce students to the University of Sussex in the broadest sense – both to its facilities, such as the library and computing service, and to the academic culture and traditions of higher education in the UK. Further information can be found on our website at:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/presessional](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/presessional)

### Useful information

UKCISA (the Council for International Student Affairs) has useful information for international students coming to study in the UK on its website at

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/index.php](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/index.php)

There is also advice on packing and other practicalities on the British Council website at

[www.educationuk.org/UK/Getting-to-the-UK](http://www.educationuk.org/UK/Getting-to-the-UK)

Prepare for Success ([www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk](http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk)) is an interactive pre-arrival learning tool for international students who are getting ready to come to the UK to study. These learning resources about different aspects of academic life in the UK help you to find out what British academic life is like and the academic skills you need for effective study.

In addition to our website at [www.sussex.ac.uk/international](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/international), the International and Study Abroad Office also has a facebook page which you can find by searching 'International and Study Abroad Office, University of Sussex'. By liking this page you will be able to follow any useful updates we post or send us your queries.



## Immigration information for international students

*This information does not apply to you if you are an EU/EEA citizen or you hold an immigration document that does not require you to obtain a visa/entry clearance for the UK.*

If you need to get a visa or entry clearance from your home country please make sure that you have read carefully pages 7-14 of the *International Students' Handbook*. This information is also available on our website at

[www.sussex.ac.uk/International/admissions/immigration.shtml](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/International/admissions/immigration.shtml)

You will need to allow plenty of time to apply as some embassies and high commissions can take several months to process student applications. This year will also be particularly busy due to the London Olympics.

If you are making an application from within the UK please read pages 74-78 of the handbook, paying close attention to the section on '*switching institutions*'. This information is also available on our website

[www.sussex.ac.uk/International/admissions/uk\\_immigration.shtml](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/International/admissions/uk_immigration.shtml)

UKCISA (the UK Council for International Student Affairs) have produced useful and detailed student guides to applying for a Tier 4 student visa and a student visitor visa:

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info\\_sheets/immigration\\_uk.php](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/immigration_uk.php)

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info\\_sheets/immigration\\_student\\_visitor.php](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/immigration_student_visitor.php)

### Other important information for student visa holders

Page 14 of the *International Students' Handbook* contains details of the *mandatory pre-arrival TB screening* for students from certain countries. In May 2012 (after the handbook went to print), the UK Border Agency (UKBA) announced that they are going to increase the number of countries included in this screening, from 15 to over 80. Please see the following link for more details and to check if your country is on the list being considered:

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/may/42-tb-test](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/may/42-tb-test)

The UKBA have not yet set a date to implement this policy but it could be as early as summer 2012. You are advised to check the above website for updates and check the visa application procedures in your home country to see if screening has been introduced. If you are required to undertake screening before applying for your visa, there will probably be an additional cost to consider and also be aware that it will lengthen the visa application process.

*Remember you can apply for your visa up to three months in advance of your course start date.*

