You will find lots of useful information within this booklet as well as links where you can find more guidance and advice online.

Use the timeline at the front of this guide (pages 4 and 5) to help you plan all the things you need to do in the next few months.
Welcome

We are delighted that you have chosen to study at the University of Sussex and congratulations on getting a place.

We are looking forward to meeting you soon.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport

Facebook: InternationalStudentSupportUniversityofSussex
Twitter: @USIntStudentSup
Instagram: @intlsupport.sussex
PREPARING FOR SUSSEX

FEBRUARY – JULY

Arrange accommodation in the UK (see page 12). Check the criteria and deadlines for applying for University managed accommodation www.sussex.ac.uk/study/accommodation/apply

MAY ONWARDS

Check if you need to apply for a visa
Do you have sufficient funds?
See page 6

JUNE

Expect to receive your CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Study) if applying for a Tier 4 visa and have met all conditions
You can then apply from up to three months before your course start date.

JUNE ONWARDS

Book your place on one of our Heathrow to Sussex coaches
https://student.sussex.ac.uk/new-students/before-you-arrive/travel-to-sussex

JULY

Prepare yourself for studying in the UK
Take a look at our overview of UK academic culture (www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/study) as well as the Prepare for Success website (www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk).

JULY – AUGUST

Organise your finances, start planning your budget and buy some currency (£ Sterling)
See pages 8 and 9

Open a UK bank account
Some banks allow you to start applying online before you arrive.
See page 9

BY 31 AUGUST

Check whether you need to provide official results of your qualifications

NOTE

The dates and deadlines shown on this timeline, and throughout the brochure, apply to students arriving and starting courses in autumn 2019.
LATE REGISTRATION

If you think that you won’t be able to complete in-person registration before the end of September you must also inform your relevant admissions office:

Undergraduate students:
ug.applicants@sussex.ac.uk

Postgraduate taught students:
pg.applicants@sussex.ac.uk

Research students:
researchstudentoffice@sussex.ac.uk

Visiting or exchange students:
sussexabroad@sussex.ac.uk

Are you planning to arrive after 22 September?

If you think you might arrive later than 21–22 September and have University-managed accommodation, you must inform the Housing Services team of the date you expect to arrive so that you don’t lose your accommodation: email housing@sussex.ac.uk

If you are travelling to the UK outside of the main arrival weekend and / or are arriving via anywhere other than Heathrow airport, then start planning your journey to Sussex using the information available on our webpages: www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/arrival

SEPTEMBER

Register online through Sussex Direct
Your registration details will be emailed to you.

Arrange to pay your fees
You can pay for fees, accommodation or set up a University payment plan online on our Sussex Direct site, or by calling Student Accounts on +44 (0)800 849 4979.
(If you pay your fees before you arrive, this makes the registration process easier. You can choose to pay in instalments or in full.)

Pre-arrival tips
Take a look at the Student Hub webpages for more pre-arrival tips and to understand what you might need to do once you arrive. https://student.sussex.ac.uk/new-students

Download the Sussex Mobile App
www.sussex.ac.uk/its/services/informationandsupport/helpdesk/sussexmobile
Use your Sussex registration username and password.
You can use the app to access your class timetable (once it becomes available) and your Sussex email account. You’ll find lots of other useful information including event listings and campus maps.

Start packing your bags!
See pages 16 and 18 for information on what you will need to bring with you.
I AM A EUROPEAN STUDENT

At the time of publishing this guide (spring 2019), the UK remains in the EU and will continue to do so until an exit date is agreed. This means that European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals continue to have the same rights and status, and are subject to the same residence requirements under EU law as was the case before the referendum.

If a deal with the UK government and EU is reached, there will be no changes to current visa requirements or entitlements until the end date of the transition period, likely to be December 31, 2020. You will also be able to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to maintain rights to live and study in the UK.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the Government has outlined the new arrangements for students arriving in the UK after this departure date to start their studies: www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-no-deal-arrangements-for-eu-citizens

For up-to-date news and advice, go to the University’s Brexit hub.

I AM AN INTERNATIONAL (NON-EU) STUDENT

The type of visa you need will depend on your course, where you are from and the length of your course. You may need to apply for a Tier 4 visa or a short-term study visa. Download our guide to completing the Tier 4 application online form (see web link below). Make sure you check the financial requirements before applying. Submitting incorrect financial documents is the most common reason for a visa refusal. If you cannot find the help you need online you can contact our team of specialist immigration advisers. Email: immigration@sussex.ac.uk

FIND OUT MORE

For EU, EEA and Swiss Nationals
University’s Brexit hub: www.sussex.ac.uk/brexit
EU Settlement Scheme: www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

For international (non-EU) students
www.sussex.ac.uk/study/international-students/visas-immigration
APPLYING FOR A VISA
Budgeting for life in the UK

Ensure you have sufficient funds for the duration of your study before you leave your home country. You will need to have enough money to cover your tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses.

For an estimate of the expenses you can expect based on a single self-supporting student (with no children) we recommend you budget for at least £144–£263 per week if living in University accommodation, or £163–£260 per week if renting in the private sector.

Top tip! See the ‘Student living costs’ sections of our webpages for more details about the typical expenses which you should budget for, and tips on budget planning.

The Student Life Centre at Sussex offers a 1:1 budget planning service. See their webpages for Sussex Top Money Tips and Budget Travel Advice.

You can pay your tuition fees by debit or credit card on a termly instalment plan.
PROOF OF FUNDS

If you require a visa to study in the UK, you will need to show you have enough money to meet the maintenance requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration. Note that actual living costs are likely to be higher than this amount.

PAYING YOUR TUITION FEES

If you are starting a course in the autumn term, you can pay tuition fees (and University-owned accommodation charges if you have them) either in full by credit or debit card, or alternatively you can set up a termly credit or debit card instalment payment plan. There is also a Western Union payment option. If none of these payment methods suit you, you should contact Student Accounts.

Top tip! European Union students can currently apply to Student Finance England to see if they qualify for a tuition fee loan. For more information visit: www.gov.uk/student-finance

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Find out about grants and scholarships which are available from the University of Sussex and other organisations in the UK or overseas. You could also contact the local British Council or the education department of your own government for information on financial aid.

OPEN A UK BANK ACCOUNT

We recommend opening a UK bank account to help you manage your money. The accounts available to you will depend on the length of your course. Our webpages have useful information on which banks offer accounts to international students, and tips for ensuring that you can open an account quickly. See ‘Opening a UK bank account’ below.

FIND OUT MORE

Tuition fees
www.sussex.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/tuition-fees
www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/livingintheuk/feesandfinances

Living expenses and budget planning
www.sussex.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/living-costs
www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/livingintheuk/feesandfinances

Student Life Centre
www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/funding

Proof of funds required for visa holders
www.sussex.ac.uk/study/international-students/visas-immigration/tier-4-student-visa

Grants and scholarships
www.sussex.ac.uk/funding

Opening a UK bank account
www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/money

Student Accounts
www.sussex.ac.uk/finance/services/feesandincome/studentaccounts
Health and insurance

ARRANGING HEALTHCARE

As a student in the UK you may qualify for free NHS (National Health Service) treatment – see our ‘Health and welfare’ webpages. If you don’t qualify you will need to have private medical insurance. If you already have medical insurance in your home country, check whether you can extend it to cover your stay in the UK.

Important! For up to date information about how Brexit may change current healthcare arrangements for students from EEA countries, including information about the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC): www.ukcisa.org.uk/EU-Healthcare

GET TRAVEL INSURANCE

See page 16 for more information.

FIND OUT MORE

Health and welfare
www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/livingintheuk/health

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
www.ukcisa.org.uk/EU-Healthcare

GET ANY IMMUNISATIONS YOU MAY NEED

If you are applying for a visa there may be requirements for you to have any medical checks or vaccinations before you leave home:
https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/overview
Where do you want to live?

If you are guaranteed University-managed accommodation you can apply to live in residences which are located both on and off campus. When applying you can state your preferred accommodation, although this is not guaranteed.

UNIVERSITY-OWNED ACCOMMODATION

To find out if you are guaranteed University-managed accommodation please see the ‘Accommodation guarantee’ section of the Housing Services webpages. If you meet the criteria and wish to apply, then the application deadline is 30 June for undergraduates and 1 August for postgraduates.

If you are guaranteed a place you will receive your housing offer email between July and September. This email also contains your residence guide, accommodation agreement and start date.

**Top tip!** Join your residence’s Facebook group – it’s a great way to meet people before you arrive.

PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOMMODATION

Housing Services have lots of useful information on their webpages and can answer any questions you may have via email: housing@sussex.ac.uk

FIND OUT MORE

Housing Services
www.sussex.ac.uk/study/accommodation

How to apply for university-owned accommodation
www.sussex.ac.uk/study/accommodation/apply

Privately rented accommodation
www.sussex.ac.uk/study/accommodation/off-campus/privately-rented
Bringing your family to Sussex

IMMIGRATION

If you are a Tier 4 student and would like to bring family members with you to the UK then you must check whether or not you are eligible to do so, and this will depend on the length of your course and level of study. In order for them to qualify you must be in one of the following situations:

• be taking a postgraduate course which lasts 12 months or more, OR
• be a government-sponsored student taking a course which is over six months long.

If you have any questions please contact us at immigration@sussex.ac.uk for further advice.

ACCOMMODATION

The Housing Services team have 60 family flats located both on and off campus, and which are either one or two bedrooms. Availability is not guaranteed due to high demand.

FINANCES AND CHILDCARE

If you are a Tier 4 student and intend to bring your partner and children with you, you will need to prove to the immigration authorities that you have sufficient money to house and maintain them.

FIND OUT MORE

Nursery and pre-school on campus
www.sussex.ac.uk/childcare

Family accommodation on campus, other housing options, and further information on childcare and costs
www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/families
“Make the most of all the different activities and societies. Going out and partying is always good fun but there is SO much more going on. Don’t miss out on it! (If you don’t want to go alone, you can always join the Buddy Scheme and go with your new buddy).”

SIDONIE EAST
BA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
STUDENTS’ UNION
BUDDY SCHEME

Join the Buddy Scheme to be put in contact with a current Sussex student who will help you settle into life at Sussex.

FIND OUT MORE
www.buddyscheme.com

Meet other new Sussex international students via our Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/168040460781895

If you are based in China you can join the University’s WeChat – Chinese version.
Our ID is UniOfSussex

Look at the University’s International Student Support Facebook page for the latest news and information:
www.facebook.com/InternationalStudentSupportUniversityOfSussex

Follow us on Instagram:
@intlsupport.sussex

Follow us on Twitter:
@USIntStudentSup
What should I bring with me?

If you are using our coach service from Heathrow airport, please follow the luggage restrictions for this service in your confirmation email. If you bring more than the allowance then you may be asked to make alternative travel arrangements.

CLOTHING FOR ALL TYPES OF WEATHER

The weather in the UK can be very changeable and unpredictable so we recommend that you bring a range of clothes, including some warmer jumpers and a waterproof coat, umbrella and shoes, as well as lighter items. During the warmest months of June to September, temperatures average between 14–25 degrees Celsius but can drop down to -3 degrees Celsius during the winter months (from December to February).

Students usually dress casually at most times, including during classes and lectures. However, you might want to bring something smarter to wear for special occasions.

Top tip! Only pack what you can carry. Brighton has many great shops – with prices to suit every budget – you can pick up additional items once you arrive.

TAKE OUT INSURANCE FOR TRAVEL AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Before you leave home, it is important that you insure your luggage for the journey to the UK. After you have arrived in the UK, you can then take out a travel policy to cover you for additional travel as required.

BACK UP YOUR DATA BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Make sure you have travel insurance for yourself and your belongings.
WHAT TO PACK

HAND LUGGAGE

You will need a small amount of cash in £ sterling and either sterling travellers cheques or access to a credit card for when you arrive, and until you have set up a UK bank account. Do not carry large amounts of cash with you, it is unnecessary and unsafe.

Ensure that you have all of the essential documents you need with you in your hand luggage, including:

- your passport
- the email confirmation for your place on the University’s coach service from Heathrow (if you have booked it)
- a copy of your tenancy agreement or something with your accommodation address on it

If you are on a Tier 4 visa you will also need to bring:

- your visa
- a copy of your CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Study)
- recent bank statements (the Border Force Officer may want to see evidence that you can support yourself while in the UK)

Top tip!

Make photocopies of essential documents in case you misplace the originals.

ELECTRICAL ITEMS

The UK electrical supply works on 240 volts and most sockets take a 13-amp square-pin plug so electrical items from your home country may not be compatible. We suggest that you buy high wattage items, such as hairdryers or hair straighteners, when you arrive in the UK to avoid compatibility problems. If you do bring electrical items from home, you must check that it can be used on UK voltage or can be converted. You can purchase adaptors in the UK.

HOMEWARES AND BEDDING

You can order a bedding pack from the University’s Online Shop and collect it from your University residence reception. We also run a coach trip to IKEA – tickets will be available in late August via the University Online Shop.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

If you have to bring any medication with you that has been prescribed to you by a doctor, you are advised to bring documentary proof of the nature of the medication, otherwise they may be confiscated. Drugs such as cannabis, LSD, cocaine and heroin are prohibited and customs officers and police have the right to search for illegal drugs. The laws concerning illegal drugs in the UK are, as in most countries, very strict and penalties are heavy.

FIND OUT MORE

University Online Shop
https://onlineshop.sussex.ac.uk
“One of the best things about coming to Sussex is feeling independent but also part of a great community at the same time. So, remember to ask for help: other new students are in the same boat as you and the Welcome Team is there for you too!”

EMMA BOCARDO
BA FRENCH AND SPANISH
“Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there and socialise! Most importantly, have fun and really immerse yourself in the university culture and experience.”

RAHA AZLAN SHAIRI
BA MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS