University of Essex

International College

Pre-arrival guide
Welcome

Congratulations on accepting your place at the University of Essex International College. This guide will help you through the next steps.

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What you need to do now

Before you receive your visa

Step 1
Use your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) letter to apply for a visa at a suitable Visa Application Centre. Your Kaplan representative (or Kaplan’s Admissions, Visa and Applicant Services team if you applied directly) will give you more information on how to apply for a visa, and will help you at each step of the process.

Step 2
If you have not already booked your accommodation, use the accommodation guide and information on our website to choose the option you want. Then complete the online accommodation form.

After you receive your visa

Step 3
You will receive an accommodation confirmation letter and an Accommodation Agreement. Complete both, and return to: pathways.accommodation@kaplan.com

Step 4
When you have received your visa, book your flights to the UK. You need to arrive in Essex in time for Welcome Week. This is where you receive important information about your course and life in the UK.

Step 5
Read the arrival options in this guide and complete the online pre-arrival form to tell us when you are arriving, and how you will travel from the airport to your accommodation.

Step 6
Prepare everything you need to bring to the UK using our checklist of what to pack (see page 8).

Important visa information
Students applying for a visa to come to the UK for more than 6 months will first be given a 30-day entry clearance vignette (stamp) in their passport. You must arrive in the UK during this 30-day period, then collect a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) after you arrive. This permit will be valid for the full length of your course at the University of Essex International College.

You will also receive a letter telling you when and where to collect your BRP – The letter gives details of the UK Post Office where the BRP is held for collection, based on the postcode you supplied on your visa application.* You might be required to show this letter to immigration officials at the airport.

Please contact the College as soon as you arrive in the UK for help with collecting your BRP. If you experience any difficulties, please speak to a member of the College Services team immediately.

*Use the College postcode CO4 3SQ to locate the nearest Post Office.
† U18s are required to nominate a ‘responsible adult’ to accompany them when collecting their BRP. Approval of this nomination can take up to 1 week and once approved, the nominated person will need to accompany the student to collect their BRP from the Post Office.
When you arrive at the airport

Free coach service
We organise a free coach service on certain dates to collect students from London Heathrow airport. We'll confirm the meeting point to you in advance, and the coach will bring you directly to your College accommodation. There will be a representative from the College waiting for you at the airport to help you with the coach transfer.

If you use this service and have booked alternative accommodation, you will need to arrange travel from the College accommodation to where you are staying. The friendly staff can help you book a taxi in this case.

Private transfer service
If you cannot arrive on any of the dates and times of the free coach service, we can organise a private taxi to collect you from the airport for a fee. We strongly recommend you use this service, as it will take you straight to your accommodation.

Please use the pre-arrival form to choose your preferred date for the free coach service or to see the airports and prices for the private transfer service.

Travelling to Colchester by public transport
The College is accessible by a variety of transport modes. There are frequent trains from London Liverpool Street to Colchester train station (also known as Colchester North). The journey takes just under an hour and costs around £25 one way, and you can take a taxi from the taxi rank at the train station to your accommodation. Here are some ideas of how you can travel to your accommodation when you arrive:

From London Heathrow Airport
Train
The Heathrow Express runs regularly from Heathrow Terminal 5 to London Paddington railway station. From Paddington station, you can take the London Underground to London Liverpool Street train station. From London Liverpool Street there is a frequent train service to Colchester.
Journey time: Approximately 2.5 hours
Price: Approx. £55 (prices can vary depending on time of day)
heathrowexpress.com
www.tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey
nationalrail.co.uk

Coach
National Express coach service from Heathrow Terminals 2 & 3 direct to Colchester.
Journey time: Approximately 2.5 hours
Price: Approx. £30 (prices can vary depending on time of day)
nationalexpress.com

From London Gatwick Airport
Train
A train service operates from Gatwick Airport to London Bridge railway station. From London Bridge station, you can take the London Underground to Stratford (London) train station. From Stratford (London) train station there is a frequent train service to Colchester.
Journey time: Approximately 2.5 hours
Price: Approx. £45 (prices can vary depending on time of day)
nationalrail.co.uk
www.tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey

Coach
National Express coaches run frequently from both South and North terminals to Colchester (includes change at London Heathrow)
Journey time: Approximately 5 hours
Price: Approx. £50 (prices can vary depending on time of day)
nationalexpress.com

From Stansted Airport
Train
A train service operates from Stansted Airport to London Liverpool Street. From London Liverpool Street there is a frequent train service to Colchester.
Journey time: Approximately 2 hours
Price: Approx. £42 (prices can vary depending on time of day)
nationalrail.co.uk

Coach
National Express coach from Stansted Airport direct to Colchester
Journey time: Approximately 1 hour
Price: Approx. £15 (prices can vary depending on time of day)
nationalexpress.com

Complete the pre-arrival form before you travel
If you’ve booked your flights and know your arrival details, please remember to fill in our online pre-arrival form. It is important that you let us know when your flight is due to arrive and how you plan to travel to your accommodation.

Note: even if you are planning to travel independently to your accommodation, you must still complete the pre-arrival form so that we know what your arrangements are.
When you arrive at your accommodation

**Student residence**

When you arrive at the residence, a friendly member of staff will meet you and give you your room key.

In your room, you will find:
- welcome letter
- student starter pack (see page 8)

The accommodation has everything you need to settle in quickly. The student starter pack includes basic kitchen equipment to make simple meals, and you can buy anything extra you may need.

You will have internet access immediately, so you can contact your family to let them know you have arrived safely.

To find out more about your accommodation, [click here](#).
When you arrive at the College

Welcome Week
To help you get started, the College arranges Welcome Week, which lasts up to 5 days. It is very important that you arrive in time for this. You’ll enjoy a wide range of social activities and tours of the area, and receive useful information about your life in the UK. This includes:

• course details
• academic support
• UK laws and culture
• meeting new people and making friends
• finding places of religious worship
• public transport
• local shops and restaurants
• opening a bank account
• registering with a doctor*
• registering with the police (if required)

* Students from European Union countries will require European Health Insurance (E111). For more details, visit the E111 website.

What documents to bring with you
Please check this list before you leave your home country, keep all the documents and information in your hand luggage and bring them with you on your first day at the College. Your enrolment will be conditional until you provide all the correct documents. For any documents not in English, you must provide certified translations.

- The original academic qualification used in your visa application, with a certified translation if not in English.
- Original UKVI IELTS used for your visa application (unless you are exempt).
- Valid passport and entry clearance visa.
- The visa approval letter which tells you where to collect your Biometric Resident Permit (BRP).
- Proof of your address in the UK (such as confirmation e-mail, tenancy agreement, utility bill or a letter from family member).
- Your BRP, if you have already collected it.

Under 18s
- You must bring a copy of your under age consent form. Please also make 1 photocopy of this document.
- The current details of your guardian in the UK if you don’t have an agreement with a particular company like College Guardians.
- The details of your transfer arrangements from the airport such as a taxi booking.
- The name and contact number for the person you will meet at the airport.
- The emergency contact number for your college (details on page 9).

You only need to bring these additional documents if they apply to you:
- If you are a sponsored student, you must bring your original sponsorship letter. Please also make 1 photocopy of this document.

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Prepare for your **pathway course**

**What you will study**
You will take modules in 3 main areas:
• Academic skills
• English language
• Specific subjects

**Course textbooks**
When you arrive at the College, your teachers will provide you with information on the textbooks you need. You do not need to buy any books before you arrive. You can do general reading about your subject and its modules before you arrive, as well as revising the mathematical, scientific or English language skills that you will need on your course.

**Links to help you prepare**

**College Applicants’ area**
This site will show you the modules you will take on your course, and will allow you to book your accommodation, prepare for a visa interview, and book your airport transfer.
[kaplanpathways.com/essex-applicants](kaplanpathways.com/essex-applicants)

**University of Essex website**
Learn more about your degree and what you will study each year at the University of Essex by visiting its website.
[essex.ac.uk](essex.ac.uk)

**Essex events**
Find out about exciting events happening in Essex and plan your social life for when you first arrive.
[visitessex.com](visitessex.com)
[studentbeans.com](studentbeans.com)

**Connect with the College community before you arrive**
Search: @UEICEssex

facebook-f twitter instagram
#KaplanLife

**Example timetable**
Your pathway course timetable will contain compulsory classes and additional activities. See the table below for an example of a timetable at the College.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00–11:00</td>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td>English language</td>
<td>Academic skills</td>
<td>Independent study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00–13:00</td>
<td>Academic skills</td>
<td>Specific subject</td>
<td>English language</td>
<td>Specific subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00–16:00</td>
<td>English language</td>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td>Specific subject</td>
<td>English language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00–18:00</td>
<td>Specific subject</td>
<td>Social activity</td>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td>Tutorial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What you need to pack

☐ All the documents needed for enrolment and entry to the UK (see page 6)
Keep these in your hand luggage, along with the emergency contact number for your college (detailed in this guide), so you can easily access them when you arrive in the UK.

☐ Clothing
The UK is famous for its changeable weather! In summer, the temperature is around 20°C, and in winter between -3°C and 10°C. You can buy many of the clothes you need in the UK, but you should still bring some warm clothes and a waterproof jacket. You do not need any formal clothes (such as a suit), as students dress casually for classes.

☐ Mobile phone and laptop
We can provide you with a local SIM card shortly after you arrive.

☐ Money
It can sometimes take several weeks to open a bank account in the UK, so we suggest you bring at least £1,000 with you to the country. Separate your money and bring £200 in cash (£10 or £20 notes), and the rest on your debit card. Please note that you might be charged a fee in the UK when withdrawing money from an international account.

Unfortunately, as the International College is a private education provider, you are not permitted to work while you are studying. This is in accordance with UK law, and Tier 4 visa rules. You therefore need to make sure you have enough money to cover your living costs while you are studying at the College.

☐ Prescription medication (if needed)
You should bring at least a 2-month supply of any prescription medication with you. You should also check if this medication is available in the UK.

☐ Medical Screening Certificate (if needed)*

Remember:
• Check the luggage weight limit for your flight(s) to the UK. This is usually around 20kg, but will depend on your airline(s).
• If you are staying at our residences, you do not need to bring any of the items in the student starter pack listed on this page.

Examples of prices in Colchester
Sandwich £2–£3.50
Meal at a restaurant £10–£30+
Tea / coffee £1.50+
Cinema £8.50+
Bus (single journey) £1.50
Weekly bwus travel card £12.50
Mobile phone bill (monthly) £15–£40+

* Depending on the country you are from, you may need to be medically screened for tuberculosis (TB). Your Kaplan representative will ask you to do this before you apply for your visa. Students who have a Medical Screening Certificate will need to bring this document with them to the UK and show it with their visa at the airport on arrival. For more information and to check if you need to be medically screened, please visit the UKVI website.

Student starter pack
Bedding
• Duvet with duvet cover
• Pillow with pillow case
• Fitted sheet

Cooking equipment
• Stainless steel frying pan
• Stainless steel saucepan
• Slotted flat turner
• Nylon ladle
• Vegetable peeler
• Plastic colander
• Solid nylon spoon
• Slotted nylon spoon
• Tin opener

Tableware
• Cutlery (fork and spoon)†
• Dinner plate
• Side plate
• Cereal bowl
• Mug
• Glass tumbler

Other
• Toilet roll
• Small hand towel
• Welcome toiletries pack (a sealable pouch with miniature bath & shower gel, hand & body lotion, shampoo / conditioner, and soap)

Please note: actual contents of the student starter pack may vary.

† For legal reasons, the College is not permitted to provide knives to students.
Contact us

If you have any questions before you arrive in Essex, contact us and we will do our best to help. We are really looking forward to welcoming you at the University of Essex International College.

University of Essex International College
Constable Building
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester, CO4 3SQ
☎ +44 (0)20 7045 4925
✉ UEIC.Arrivals@kaplan.com

College emergency arrivals number
(in use during registration intakes only)
☎ +44 (0)7741 660 659

University of Essex emergency number
(in use 24 hours per day, throughout the year)
☎ +44 (0)1206 872 125

Emergency services number
☎ 999 (Police, fire brigade, ambulance)

1 hour by train
Find out more
Visit the links below or contact us for more information. We look forward to helping you make Colchester your new home!

Click on the useful links below:
- University of Essex International College pre-arrival information
- Accommodation at Essex International College
- Prepare for your studies at Essex International College
- University of Essex
- Guide to Essex

Contact details:
- University of Essex International College
  - Constable Building
  - University of Essex
  - Wivenhoe Park
  - Colchester, CO4 3SQ
  - UEIC.Arrivals@kaplan.com
  - +44 (0)20 7045 4925

All information is correct at time of publication and is subject to change.
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