Welcome

We are so glad you have chosen to join the University of Bristol International Foundation Programme. This guide will help you through your next steps to prepare for your arrival and ensure you have everything you need for your course in the UK.

We will do everything we can to make sure you are safe, supported and successful with us.

Click on the page links below for useful information:

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Before you receive your visa

**Step 1**
Use your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number to apply for your visa online, and take your documents to a visa application centre. If you need more information on how to apply for a visa, you can ask your Kaplan Representative or visit the University’s website.

After you receive your visa

**Step 2**
If you’ve received your CAS and you know you’ll be travelling to the UK, use the accommodation guide and information on our website to choose the option you want. You can also check the available accommodation options on our UK accommodation live availability tool, then book your accommodation online through our accommodation portal.

**Step 3**
If you have booked your accommodation through Kaplan, you’ll receive your accommodation portal login details via email when you have an offer to study. If you have not received anything, contact us and we’ll resolve the issue. In the portal you will be able select your room, sign your tenancy agreement, pay the accommodation deposit and complete your accommodation booking.

**Step 4**
When you receive your visa, send a copy to pre-enrolment@kaplan.com, then book your flights. Please aim to arrive in time for Welcome Week (20-24 September), as this is when you’ll receive important information about your course and life in the UK.

**Step 5**
Before you leave your home country, you’ll need to complete the online pre-arrival form. Check the transport options in this guide, and tell us when you are arriving and how you will travel from the airport to your accommodation.

**Step 6**
Complete your registration and become an official member of our community. Registration is a two-part online process:
1. Online Registration: 24 August—10 September
2. Fill in the Start Your Studies form to confirm that you’re ready to study: 20-26 September

Autumn 2021 accommodation and arrival support
For pathway courses starting in September 2021, we’re offering flexible arrival dates for accommodation contracts. You can arrive up to 2 weeks early (subject to availability) at no extra cost. This will give you time to self-isolate if required. If you’re travelling from a country on the UK government’s ‘red list’ and need to isolate in a quarantine hotel, you’ll also get some financial support to help cover the cost of the stay, along with comprehensive wellbeing support while you’re in quarantine. Learn more about arrival support on this webpage, and visit our accommodation FAQs webpage for more information.
Your document list

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 University. Your enrolment is conditional on you providing all the correct documents.

- The original academic qualification listed on your CAS Statement or Study Plan Confirmation, with a certified translation if not in English.
- The UKVI Secure English Language Test (SELT) certificate listed on your CAS Statement or Study Plan Confirmation (unless you are exempt).
- A valid passport and entry clearance visa.
- The visa approval letter which tells you where to collect your biometric residence permit (BRP).
- Proof of your address in the UK (such as accommodation confirmation e-mail or signed tenancy agreement, utility bill or a letter from a family member).
- If you are a sponsored student, you must bring your original sponsorship letter. Please also make at least 1 photocopy of this document.
- Medical Screening Certificate (if needed)*

If you are under 18, you must also bring the following documents:

- A copy of the Kaplan underage consent form completed by your parents (you will find a link to the form on your offer letter). Please also make at least 1 photocopy of this document for your records.
- The name and contact number of the person you will meet at the airport. (Students under the age of 18 must either use Kaplan or the University organised transfer service or be collected by a responsible adult)
- The details of your transfer arrangements from the airport such as a taxi booking.

* 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.

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 or 90-day entry clearance visa in their passport. You must arrive in the UK during the validity period of this visa, 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 Bristol International Foundation Programme.

Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
Your BRP card is your visa and proof of your right to be in the UK as a student. It is a very important document. You must look after it and keep it in a safe place. You do not need to carry your BRP card with you all the time.

You should collect your BRP as soon as possible, but only after any applicable period of self-isolation. Please see the information and advice from the University on this link.

Important UK travel information
Before you travel to the UK, you should visit www.gov.uk/uk-border-control to check the latest guidance from the government regarding the rules for arrivals into the UK. The University of Bristol will help with the costs of coronavirus testing and quarantine on first entry to the UK. For more details, please visit this webpage. You must also complete this online form: www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk to provide your accommodation and contact details. You can complete this form up to 48 hours before you travel and you must have the completed form with you when you arrive at border control (either printed or on your electronic device).
What you need to pack

☐ All the documents needed for enrolment and entry to the UK (see page 4)
Keep these in your hand luggage, along with the emergency contact number for the University (detailed in this guide), so you can easily access them when you arrive in the UK.

☐ Suitable 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.

☐ Laptop with camera
It’s essential that you have your own laptop for your in-person or digital studies.

☐ Electrical adaptor
The UK uses a 3-pin plug, so you’ll need an adaptor for your laptop and phone. The voltage in the UK is 240v. If you don’t already have an adaptor, you can easily buy one in the UK.

☐ Money and Card
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 or prepaid card. Please note that you might be charged a fee in the UK when withdrawing money from an international account.

☐ Prescription medication (if needed)
You should bring at least a 3-month supply of any prescription medication with you. You should also check if this medication is available in the UK.

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 one of our residences, you do not need to bring any of the items included in the student starter pack (see page 7).

### Examples of prices in Bristol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandwich</td>
<td>£3+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal at a restaurant</td>
<td>£10–£30+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea / coffee</td>
<td>£2.50+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema</td>
<td>£8+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus (per single journey)</td>
<td>£1.50–£3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly student bus card</td>
<td>£46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone bill (monthly)</td>
<td>£10–£25+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete the pre-arrival form before you travel
If you have booked your flights and know your arrival details, it is time to fill in our online pre-arrival form. It is important that you let us know when your flight arrives and how you plan to travel to your accommodation. Use the pre-arrival form to choose your preferred date for the free transfer service or to see the airports and prices for the private transfer service.

Please note: even if you are planning to travel to your accommodation independently, you must still complete the online pre-arrival form to let us know what your arrangements are.
When you arrive at the airport

Border control
Make sure that you have all of your travel documents ready when you arrive at the airport. Make sure you have completed the online contact details form at [www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk](http://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk) and have the completed form ready to show at the border (either printed or on your electronic device). You can find out more information about UK border control procedures at [www.gov.uk/uk-border-control/at-border-control](http://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control/at-border-control).

Travelling to Bristol

Airport transfer services
We know how important it is to feel safe and welcome when you arrive somewhere new. That’s why we’ll be here to support you from the moment you land at the airport. We offer a range of transfer options to book that will take you from the airport to your accommodation.

Transfer to accommodation
Kaplan, in conjunction with the University of Bristol, will organise a free transfer service from London Heathrow and Bristol airports on 18 and 19 September 2021.

If you are unable to use the free transfer service, or would prefer a private taxi, we can organise one to collect you from any airport for a fee. If you don’t arrive on the dates of the free transfer, we strongly recommend you use this service, as it will take you straight to your accommodation.

Before you travel, use the pre-arrival form to select your preferred date for the free transfer service or to see the airports and prices for the private transfer service. All details regarding your arrival and transfer from the airport will be confirmed in writing to you, and all organised transport will comply with current health and safety guidelines.

Public transport*
Although we recommend our transfer service as the safest option, Bristol is accessible by many types of transport, and you can save money by booking in advance. Here are some ideas of how you can travel to your accommodation when you arrive. You can read the latest UK government advice for travelling on public transport here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heathrow Airport to Bristol</th>
<th>Bristol Airport to Bristol</th>
<th>Gatwick Airport to Bristol</th>
<th>Usefulness links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✈️ Coach</td>
<td>✈️ Coach Flyer buses</td>
<td>✈️ Coach</td>
<td>✈️ Train</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaches travel to Bristol city centre and leave approximately every hour.</td>
<td>The Airport Flyer bus runs up to every 10 minutes 24 hours a day but is less frequent at night. It stops at Bristol Temple Meads Train Station and Bristol Bus and Coach Station (both in the city centre).</td>
<td>Coaches travel to Bristol city centre and leave approximately every 1-2 hours.</td>
<td>✈️ heathrowexpress.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journey time: 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Price: £8 (one way)</td>
<td>Journey time: 5.5-6.5 hours</td>
<td>✈️ gatwickexpress.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price: Around £20 (one way)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Price: Around £20 (one way)</td>
<td>✈️ nationalrail.co.uk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bristol Airport to Bristol
Coach
The Airport Flyer bus runs up to every 10 minutes 24 hours a day but is less frequent at night. It stops at Bristol Temple Meads Train Station and Bristol Bus and Coach Station (both in the city centre).
Price: £8 (one way)
Journey time: 40 minutes

Coach
In order to get to your accommodation you can take a taxi from outside Bristol Bus and Coach Station or Bristol Temple Meads Train Station.
Price: £8–£10
Journey time: 10 minutes

Train
There is no restriction on luggage allowance

*Please check before you travel as ticket prices may vary.
When you arrive at your accommodation

Kaplan-arranged accommodation
When you arrive at your Kaplan-booked student residence, a friendly member of staff will meet you and give access to your room.

In your room, you will find:
• a welcome letter
• a student starter pack (see below)

The accommodation has everything you need to settle in quickly, and you will be responsible for your own cooking once you arrive. The student starter pack includes basic kitchen equipment to make simple meals, and you can easily 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.

University-arranged accommodation
If you have booked your accommodation through the University of Bristol, you can find more information about your arrival at the residence at www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/undergraduate/arrivals/

Enhanced safety
Keeping all our students safe is our top priority. We will continue to have health and safety measures in place that go beyond government guidelines, so you can rest assured that our residences and partner accommodation providers are taking the necessary precautions to protect your wellbeing.

These include:
• Hand sanitiser stations
• Frequent cleaning routines
• Extra cleaning procedures for high-traffic points
• Floor markings and signage for social distancing

Student starter pack for Kaplan-booked accommodation
If you are staying at one of our residences, you do not need to bring any of the items in the student starter pack shown here. You will get basic bedding, cooking equipment and tableware (for legal reasons, knives are not provided).

Please note: actual contents of the student starter pack may vary.
When you arrive at the University

The University is planning to offer a blended learning experience this Autumn. As long as the official guidance allows, you’ll enjoy on-campus, interactive face-to-face sessions, together with online teaching with all the required precautions in place, so you can feel safe while you study.

Induction Week

You’ll have the opportunity to try out the different learning tools you’ll be using, and to get to know your classmates in a relaxed way. You’ll have an introduction to your new city, and the chance to take part in games and social events. This will all help you feel part of a community as soon as you get to the University.

You’ll learn about:

- programme details and academic support
- the University campus
- UK laws and culture
- joining societies and clubs at the Students’ Union
- nearby places of religious worship
- public transport
- local shops and restaurants
- opening a bank account
- registering with a doctor*
- registering with the police (if required)
- visa and BRP information

* As part of your Student visa application you will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), unless you are exempt. This entitles you to access NHS services in the UK. For more information please visit www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

Remember your documents

Don’t forget to have your documents available (see page 4), as we will need to see them before you can enrol.
Prepare for your programme

Through the International Foundation Programme you can gain entry to a University of Bristol degree. While you are studying, you’ll have many opportunities to gain the skills and confidence you need to succeed.

What you will study
You will take modules in 2 main areas:
• subjects related to your degree
• English language and academic skills

How you will study
Students on the International Foundation Programme will have a full timetable of learning activities, including a blend of in-person learning, live online interactive sessions, structured learning tasks and independent study.

Preparation work
You will develop a style of learning which involves doing some preparation work before you come to class. Please read about your course and modules using the links from this page and prepare some questions to ask in the academic welcome sessions during your first week.

Preparing to study
Applicants’ area
This site will show you the modules you will take on your programme, and will allow you to book your accommodation, prepare for a visa interview, and book your airport transfer.

University website
Learn more about your degree and what you will study each year at the university by visiting its website. Some degrees also tell you the course books used in the modules, as well as a recommended reading list.

Latest University updates
Read the latest advice and information from the University for prospective students.

Bristol events
Find out about exciting events happening at the University and in Bristol and plan your social life for when you arrive.

When you start your programme, the University will provide you with all the essential learning materials you need for your programme, so you don’t need to buy any books before you arrive. During your course, your teachers may recommend supplementary materials that you may wish to purchase individually.
Get in touch

If you have any questions, contact the university and they’ll do their best to help. We’re looking forward to you starting your programme.

Centre For Academic Language and Development

✉ Richmond Building
105 Queens Rd
Bristol, BS8 1LN

@ ifp-help@bristol.ac.uk
(monitored from 9am—5pm, Monday to Friday)

📞 +44 (0) 117 331 8522
(monitored from 20 September 2021, 9:30am—4:30pm, Monday to Friday)

Emergency services number (Police, fire brigade, ambulance)

📞 999
Find out more
Visit the links below or contact us for more information.
We look forward to helping you make Bristol your new home!

Useful links:
- University of Bristol pre-arrival information
- Accommodation in Bristol
- University of Bristol
- Student life in Bristol
- Visit Bristol

Contact details:
✉️ Centre For Academic Language and Development
Richmond Building
105 Queens Rd
Bristol, BS8 1LN
✉️ ifp-help@bristol.ac.uk

All information is correct at time of publication and is subject to change.
PUBLISHED AUGUST 2021.