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:

What you need to do now  03
Your document list  04
What you need to pack  05

When you arrive at:
the airport in the UK  06
your accommodation  07
the University  08

Prepare for your programme  09
Contact us  10

STUDY WITH CONFIDENCE
What you need to do now

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.

Step 2
If you’ve received your CAS and you know you’ll be travelling to the UK, book your accommodation using the accommodation guide and information on our website to choose the option you want. Then complete the online accommodation form.

Step 3
If you have booked your accommodation through Kaplan, you will receive an Accommodation Agreement pack containing the documents you need to complete and return to: pathways.accommodation@kaplan.com

Step 4
When you receive your visa, send a copy to pre-enrolment@kaplan.com, then book your flights. Please arrive by October 5, in time for the scheduled welcome activities, as this is when you’ll receive important information about your course and life in the UK.

After you receive your visa

Step 5
Check the transport 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
Complete your registration and become an official member of our community. Registration is a two-part online process:
1. Online Registration: 7-16 September
2. Start Your Studies – a task to confirm that you’re ready to study with us: 28 September - 4 October
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 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)*

☐ The emergency contact number for the University (details on page 10).

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 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.

* 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 entry clearance visa 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 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, as you will need it to enrol at the University. Please see the information and advice from the University on this link.

Important UK travel information

Before you travel to the UK, you must complete an online form at: www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk to provide 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
It’s essential that you have your own laptop for your 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
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.

☐ 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.

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>
When you arrive at the airport

Travelling to Bristol
We know how important it is to feel safe and welcome when you arrive in a new place. That’s why we’ll be here to support you from the moment you land at the airport. We’ll arrange a transfer service to take you to your accommodation, so there will be a friendly face waiting to take you to your new home.

Free transport service
Kaplan will organise a free transfer service from London Heathrow airport for students on:
• September 19 and 20, 2020

If you are arriving outside these dates but between September 18 and October 4, 2020, you can book a transfer with the University on this link. Before you travel, we will confirm all the details regarding your arrival and transfer from the airport. All Kaplan and University organised transport will comply with current health and safety guidelines.

Private transfer service
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.

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 by public transport:

Heathrow Airport to Bristol
Coach
Coaches travel to Bristol city centre and leave approximately every hour.
Journey time: 2-3 hours
Price: Around £20 (one way)

Gatwick Airport to Bristol
Coach
Coaches travel to Bristol city centre and leave approximately every 1-2 hours.
Journey time: 5.5-6.5 hours
Price: Around £20 (one way)

Train journey to Bristol
Train journeys from both airports Heathrow and Gatwick involve up to 2 changes to get to Bristol Temple Meads Station.
Journey time: 2.5-3 hours
Price: Around £60 (one way)

Bristol Airport to Bristol
Bristol Airport Flyer buses
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: £7 (one way)
Journey time: 30 minutes

Taxi
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

Useful links
Coach
• nationalexpress.co.uk
• uk.megabus.com.co.uk
• flyer.bristolairport.co.uk

Train
• heathrowexpress.com
• gatwickexpress.com
• nationalrail.co.uk

There is no restriction on luggage allowance

*Please check before you travel as ticket prices may vary.

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 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.

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 your accommodation

Your new home
When you arrive at your Kaplan-booked student residence, a friendly member of staff will meet you and give you your room key. You may need to self-isolate in your accommodation for 2 weeks after your arrival unless the country or territory you travelled from is exempt under the UK government’s ‘Travel Corridors’ scheme. Read more in Kaplan’s accommodation FAQs.

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.

Health and safety
Keeping all our students safe is our top priority. We will continue to follow UK government health and safety guidelines at all times, 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
• Regular and frequent cleaning routines
• Extra cleaning procedures for high-traffic points
• One-way systems
• Floor markings and signage for social distancing
• A maximum of one guest per resident to assist with moving in

Will I need to go into quarantine when I arrive? You can find out on the UK government’s travel corridors webpage and you can be sure that we’ll fully support you if a period of quarantine is required.

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Student starter pack
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.

In addition, we will also provide:
• Face mask
• Hand sanitiser
When you arrive at the University

We’re preparing the University for in-person learning, and we have a range of solutions and innovations ready to make sure you’ll get a fantastic – and safe – study experience. We’ll make sure social distancing measures are in place if needed, and we will be following all UK government guidance on health and safety.

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

* Students from European Union countries will require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For more details, visit gov.uk

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

With Kaplan, you can gain entry to a University of Bristol degree through the International Foundation Programme. You’ll study on campus, and 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**
Your blended learning experience will involve a mix of traditional in-person teaching at the University and digital learning at your accommodation. This means that you’ll experience a variety of different teaching and assessment methods to help you demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes of the modules and your programme.

**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.

When you start your programme, we 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.

**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.

[kaplanpathways.com/bristol-pathways-info](kaplanpathways.com/bristol-pathways-info)

**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.

[bristol.ac.uk](bristol.ac.uk)

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

[bristol.ac.uk/students/new/events](bristol.ac.uk/students/new/events)
[visitbristol.co.uk](visitbristol.co.uk)
[bristol247.com](bristol247.com)

**Latest University updates**
Read the latest advice and information from the University for prospective students.
[bristol.ac.uk/students/your-studies/study-2020/applicants](bristol.ac.uk/students/your-studies/study-2020/applicants)
Contact us

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

Centre For Academic Language and Development
Richmond Building
105 Queens Rd
Bristol, BS8 1LN

Arrivals number (for use only when you've arrived in the UK)
+44 (0) 7821 525 479

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

+44 (0) 117 331 8522
(monitored from September 30, 2020
10.30am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday)

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Map of Bristol with key locations marked:
- King Square Studios
- SS Great Britain
- University of Bristol
- Cabot Circus
- Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
- Cabot Tower
- Bristol Cathedral
- Bristol Aquarium
- Museum Square
- SS Great Britain
- Castles Park
- Bristol Cathedral
- Bristol Temple Meads
- Clifton Down
- Restaurants
- Small supermarket
- Cafe

Key:
- The Centre for Academic Language and Development
- Accommodation
- Train station
- University campus
- City centre
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

Social media:
Search: KaplanPathways
facebook-f twitter youtube instagram snapchat-ghos
#KaplanLife

Contact details:
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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 September 2020.