



Preparing for life at Southampton
Guidance for International Students 2016

Congratulations on receiving an offer from the University of Southampton!

Below is some guidance to help you prepare for your exciting new life at university.

Your offer

- Please make sure you respond to your offer as soon as possible either by the UCAS system (undergraduate) or by accepting your offer online (postgraduate).
- You are required to send us copies of your transcripts/ English language certificates and any other documentation stated in order for your conditional offer to become unconditional.
- Your offer letter will tell you how to send outstanding documents.
- Have you considered our English Language pre-sessional courses? The below table applies to most courses:

Length of Course	11 weeks	6 weeks
Minimum IELTS	IELTS 5.5	IELTS 6.0
Dates	30 June – 16 September 2016	28 July – 9 September 2016

Useful website:

www.southampton.ac.uk/presessional

Useful email: elaccess@soton.ac.uk

Paying your fees

- We don't require you to pay any fees up front, but if you would like to you can pay online at www.webpayments.soton.ac.uk. you can also pay by international bank transfer.
- You can pay in full by 3 October 2016 to get a 1% discount or pay in two instalments by 3 October 2016 and 9 January 2017.

- For Master's courses in the Business, Art and Law schools, a £1000 deposit needs to be paid. Details are contained in your offer letter.
- Sponsored students should provide the University with a copy of your official funding letter.

Useful website: www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/fees-funding/paying-your-fees.page

Useful email: ssc@soton.ac.uk

Visas

- A CAS statement will be issued by the University when an offer is unconditional firm or unconditional accepted. This is only sent by email at the earliest 180 days before your course officially starts.
- You must accept your offer before we can issue a CAS number.
- Please check whether your course requires an ATAS certificate. Information about this can be found on your offer letter.
- Visas can take up to 30 days to be processed so please submit your application as soon as possible.
- Remember you must have sufficient funds to cover your tuition fees and maintenance in a bank account in your name 28 days before you submit the application. The account must not be frozen.

Useful website: www.southampton.ac.uk/sais/visa

Useful email: visa@soton.ac.uk

Accommodation

- All applications are made online.
- The deadline to apply for accommodation is 1 August. You can apply after the deadline has passed but your accommodation will not be guaranteed.
- Full-time international undergraduate students are guaranteed accommodation for the whole duration of the course. Full-time international postgraduate students are guaranteed accommodation for the first year.
- After you apply for accommodation, you will receive an acknowledgement email from the accommodation team. The offer will be sent from early August by email. Please check your email regularly from this point as your accommodation offer will need to be accepted within 7 days.
- You can also find private rented housing using our accredited SASSH scheme.

Useful website:

www.southampton.ac.uk/accommodation

SASSH scheme: www.sassh.co.uk/Accommodation

Useful email: accommodation@soton.ac.uk

Make friends before you arrive

We arrange pre-departure briefings in many countries to give you an opportunity to meet new classmates as well as current students and alumni who can give you an authentic account of what it is like to study at Southampton.

See what our students think by visiting

Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/sotoncomms

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/UniSotonIntl>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/UosInternationalOffice

To find out when the next pre-departure event is taking place in your country please visit:

www.southampton.ac.uk/meetus

What should I bring?

- Average temperatures in Southampton in September are between 12-19°C, and in June and July between 15-22°C. You can buy fashionable warm clothes when you arrive.
- There are international food stores in the local area so there is no need to pack heavy foodstuff.
- Electrical appliances such as rice cookers, kettles, toasters, etc. can easily be bought in the UK. If you bring your own electrical appliances, make sure they bear European Conformity (CE) marking, and are fitted with a UK 3-square-pin plug to be used in our halls of residence.

Meet and Greet

- A free Meet and Greet service is available for new international students. University staff and students will meet you at London Heathrow (Terminal 3) and Gatwick Airport (South Terminal) and take you directly to your University halls or campus.
- The service will run this year on 21 and 22 September between 10.00 – 22.00hrs offering pick-ups from both London Heathrow and Gatwick airports.
- Information on how to register for Meet & Greet will be available from early July at www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/international/welcome.page. The deadline to register is 1 September.
- The Meet & Greet services for pre-sessional students
Pre-sessional Course A:
Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 June 2016
Book by 17:00 (BST) on 22 June 2016
Pre-sessional Course B:
Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 July 2016
Book by 17:00 (BST) on 20 July 2016
Book at: www.presesswelcome.southampton.ac.uk
This webpage also provides students with essential information on accommodation, visa, ID card, IT account and tuition fee payment.
- If you cannot make our Meet & Greet service, you can make your own way to the University. Please visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/about/visit/getting-to-southampton.page

Useful website “Are you ready?”:

www.southampton.ac.uk/areyouready

Useful contact: meetandgreet@soton.ac.uk



Southampton has a vibrant international community

Southampton Welcome

- Our Welcome events have been designed to help you settle in to university life and to introduce you to the City. They take place from Friday 23 September through to the following week (Fresher’s week).
- Key activities include campus and city tours, a guide to banking in the UK, introduction to British culture, a range of English and academic skills support services and Faculty induction sessions.
- Please visit the “Are you ready?” website for full programme details.

Useful website “Are you ready?”:

www.southampton.ac.uk/areyouready

What should I do when I arrive?

- If you have been issued with a 30-day vignette for travel, you will need to exchange it for a Biometric Residency Permit (BRP) within 10 days of arrival.
- After you have obtained your BRP, you must prepare for registration with the University. This will include a visa, passport and identity check. You will also be able to finalise your enrolment, register with the police (if applicable), and collect your ID card during registration. Details about the registration events will be emailed to you.

- If your BRP requires you to register with the police, you will need to do so within the required timeframe. Failing to do so could result in a fine and imprisonment. If you attend the Welcome programme, we will give you all the information when you arrive. Our Student Services Centre can also advise you on this process.
- If you are going to be late for your course, please email international@southampton.ac.uk as soon as possible, as there is a deadline for students to enrol on each course.

Who to contact?

Hopefully you will have all the contact details you need either in your offer letter or listed above in this document. However, if you still need further help, please contact international@southampton.ac.uk

Useful external websites:

National Express: www.nationalexpress.com

National Rail: www.nationalrail.co.uk

Southampton tourist information:
www.visit-southampton.co.uk

Winchester tourist information:
www.winchester-tourist-information.com

Radio Taxis (local taxi company): +44 (0)23 8066 6666

British Council: www.educationuk.org

Helpful checklists

Pre-departure

- Accept offer (pay deposit if required)
- Meet your English language requirements
- Receive your CAS number
- Apply for your visa
- Apply for your accommodation
- Book Meet and Greet
- Open IT account
- Apply for ID card

Check

www.welcome.southampton.ac.uk
for more information

In your hand luggage

- Passport
- Tickets and travel information
- Insurance documents
- Offer letter
- Original copies of your transcripts and English language test results
- Evidence of finances (bank statement or sponsor letter)
- Details of immunisations/medication
- Accommodation address/booking confirmation
- Meet and Greet booking confirmation

When you arrive

- Collect BRP
- Attend registration
- Pay tuition fees
- Attend Welcome activities and academic induction
- Open UK bank account
- Register with GP

www.southampton.ac.uk/international
international@southampton.ac.uk

