

Relocating with Family

Practical information and resources to support
your family in relocating

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We understand relocating with family has its own challenges, and it is important for you to settle your family in smoothly while you are building up your career.

1. UK education system and childcare

The education system in the UK is divided into four main parts: primary education, secondary education, further education, and higher education. For detailed information, you can visit the government's [UK education system and national curriculum website](#).

Children in the UK must legally attend primary and secondary education which runs from 5 years old until the student is 16 years old.

Once they reach age 16, they must either stay in full-time education, (for example at a college) or start an apprenticeship or traineeship until they are 18.

The 'basic' school curriculum includes the [national curriculum](#), as well as relationships, sex and health education, and religious education.

The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called 'key stages' (KS). These are [1 and 2](#) & [3 and 4](#). Your child's performance will be assessed at the end of each key stage.

a. Types of schools

All children in England between the ages of 5 and 16 are entitled to a free place at a state school. The UK also has several private schools which you would pay for your child to attend. In some cases, children can be home-schooled. Here you can find further information on the [types of schools](#).

State schools

Public authorities run these, and you do not pay fees. State schools receive their money through their local authority or the government.

Private schools

Private schools (also known as 'independent schools') charge fees to attend instead of being funded by the government and are not bound by the same regulations as state schools. However, they must be registered and are inspected regularly.

Colleges

In the UK college and university are not the same thing. Students attend college from the age of 16-18. Colleges are Further Education establishments and offer A' level and BTEC vocational qualifications. Find a [list of colleges in the UK](#) here. Access to free Further Education depends on the parent or child's immigration status. Most children and young people aged 16 to 19 can access further education and/or training for free. Some schools offer a 6th Form for students to continue their studies after secondary school.

Universities

Universities are Higher Education establishments. Check out [the list of universities in the UK](#).

Costs of attending university in the UK

The total amount of money you'll need when going to University in the UK depends on many factors. Many undergraduates in UK pay up to £9,250 per annum in tuition costs (this cost is capped by the government).

Fees cover the entire cost of tuition plus any excess services you may get from the university, such as tutoring services, information technology, and library services that they may provide.

You must be aware that tuition fees also depend on your nationality. Universities charge international students, including those from the EU, higher tuition fees.

b. Home-schooling

You may choose to educate your child at home, either full or part-time. You can get [detailed information about home schooling](#) option here. Once you have your postal code and you decide to follow home education, you can contact your local council to [get support on home-schooling](#).

c. School year, hours and holidays

[School term and holiday dates](#) vary across the UK. You can find detailed information on your local council's website.

As a rough guide, average school hours are Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 3pm, and the new school year starts at the beginning of September and runs to mid-July. There are several set holiday dates where children do not attend school. On the Southampton Council website, you can find [detailed information on school holiday dates for the Southampton area](#).

On average, there is a school holiday every 6-7 weeks. You may want to investigate additional childcare to cover these periods.

d. How can I register my child for the school?

If you want to enrol your child in a state school, you should send your application via your [local council](#). Each school has a catchment area, and it is designated according to your postcode.

If you're considering a place at a private school (also called 'independent schools'), contact the school directly.

If your child has special education needs, contact your local council, your local [Information, Advice and Support \(IAS\) Service](#) can give you advice about SEND (special educational needs and disabilities).

Deciding on the school

Each state school has a catchment area, which means you may be less likely to be accepted by a school if you live outside of the catchment area. You may decide on a school based on your address or you may look to choose your address according to the school you would like your child to attend.

You can [check the performance of schools](#) in your area and start to create your school options list.

e. Apprenticeship schemes

Apprenticeship schemes offer a wide range of choices for people who are living in the UK, are over 16 years old and who do not attend full time education.

Apprenticeship jobs provide individuals with at least minimum wage and holiday pay, the chance to work alongside experienced staff, gain job-specific skills and get time for training and study related to the role.

There are over 600 different apprenticeships, check [all types of apprenticeships](#).

f. Pre-school childcare

All 3 to 4-year-olds in England are entitled to 570 hours of free early education or childcare a year. Pre-school childcare is provided by nurseries or registered childminders. To qualify, the childcare must be provided by an approved provider.

Find [free early education and childcare available in your area](#).

You can also [apply for a place in a nursery school for children under 5](#) online. The admission procedures vary by nursery and, depending on the type of nursery you've chosen, you'll need to apply to them directly, online or by paper application.

Nurseries are usually open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm all year round.

The University of Southampton has an Early Years Centre open to children aged from 3 months to 5 years. This is open between 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. The centre follows the [Early Years Foundation Stage](#) curriculum which has a strong emphasis on learning through play. The centre offers child support and encouragement from highly trained and experienced staff.

g. Tax-free childcare

The Government provides tax-free childcare to help working parents with the cost of childcare. It's available to working parents including the self-employed. To be eligible, parents (and their partners if they have one) must earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at the national minimum wage, have an eligible child (under 12 or 17 if disabled), and earn under £100,000 each per year.

For more detailed information please visit the following websites: [Tax free childcare](#), [Childcare Choices](#), [Step-by-step](#), and [check what help you could get with childcare costs](#).

2. Support for partners

If your spouse/partner has moved with you and is looking to find a new job here in the UK, there are many resources they can use.

The [career page of the University](#), which offers opportunities from many different business lines, can be a good starting point.

a. Careers

Working for the University

The [career page of the University](#), offers opportunities for different roles within the University and can be a good starting point.

Casual Work

UniWorkforce administer [casual work assignments](#) for the University of Southampton. They offer temporary short-term and ad hoc assignments in a variety of roles, across diverse departments and faculties. Assignments provide flexibility depending on what you are looking for and can be a great opening to a more permanent role at the University.

Carlisle Staffing

The University works closely with [Carlisle Staffing](#) who supply their temporary staff. For more detailed information please contact them by UoS@CarlisleStaffing.co.uk

Recruitment agencies

There are many recruitment agencies in the UK, some of them focus on specific industries while others offer a wide range of opportunities. Here is a [list of recruitment agencies operating in the Southampton and surrounding](#).

Online Job Boards

Other job search sites that you can visit besides the University's career site are [Indeed](#), [Reed](#), [Monster](#), [Adzuna](#) and LinkedIn.

b. Courses

Learning the language and practicing is the first starting point to become integrated in the culture. There are many language courses offering tailor-made programs for adults whose native language is not English. [Check details and enroll on a language course](#).

c. Support groups and communities

Getting in contact with people with similar interests, or with expats going through the same difficulties may help. [InterNations](#) is one of the most prominent expatriate organisations worldwide and is currently the world's largest global network of expats. They organise many online and face to face events to connect its

members, provide advice and useful information to its members. [Expatica](#) is another expat community who provide tailored expat guides full of essential information on moving, working, and living abroad.