

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER



INTERNATIONAL WESTMINSTER



HEATHROW
AIRPORT MEET
AND GREET
SEE PAGE 12

- PREPARING TO COME TO WESTMINSTER • ARRIVING IN THE UK
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WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

We're pleased you have chosen to study at the University of Westminster and want your time in the UK to be successful and happy. I am the International Student Adviser, one of a team of advisers who are there to help you with the challenge of living and studying in a new environment. As well as providing you with support throughout your stay at the University, I work closely with the International Education Office to organise the International Student Welcome Programme. We would really encourage you to come to the welcome programme as it will help you to meet other international and European students and settle into the University.

This brochure will give you the essential pre-arrival information you need to plan for your studies in London, and information about how to apply for the welcome programme. More detailed pre-arrival information and information on social events can be found at westminster.ac.uk/international

If you'd like somebody to talk to when you arrive or during your time at the University, then come and see me at the Counselling and Advice Service at Marylebone throughout the week, or at Harrow on Tuesdays. I hope you enjoy your time at the University.

Kirsty McPhee
International Student Adviser

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UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Instant London

The University of Westminster is at the centre of the entertainment and shopping district of London. London is home to world famous landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, and just around the corner from the University's Regent Street site is Oxford Street, London's busiest shopping street.

Along with New York and Tokyo, London is one of the three most important hubs of the global economy, and within the borough of Westminster itself are the Houses of Parliament, the seat of British Government. It is also a city of culture and the arts. You can enjoy the museums and galleries, see almost any movie or watch the street theatre in Covent Garden – all within walking distance of the University. Whatever you're looking for during your life as a student, you'll find it here in London.

The University

The University has three sites within the West End of London, as well as a fourth site in North West London – Harrow. The three West End sites are close to International Students House and other international organisations. We're one of Britain's largest universities, with more than 22,000 students and over 5,000 international students from 150 countries studying at undergraduate and

postgraduate levels. There are more than 300,000 students in London and a third of all international students in the UK study in the capital, so you'll be part of a large community of students. Studying in a big city can be a challenging experience so the University gives a high priority to your welfare, and we provide a full range of services to support you throughout your time with us. The Students' Union runs many societies covering cultural and religious interests as well as sporting and social activities. At Westminster you can always find someone to help you settle into your new life in the UK.

Once you have made the decision to study at the University of Westminster, you should ensure that you prepare carefully for the move. Three information sources are available to help you. This brochure is solely for international students and should be read in conjunction with Westminster Start and Essential Westminster. You should have received the other two brochures by the time you leave for the UK.

If you do not receive one, you can collect either of them from your school office on arrival, or can find them on the pre-arrival site. Also visit westminster.ac.uk/international for information. Please make sure you read the checklist of what to bring (page 11) before you leave home and do not forget to book a place on the welcome programme.

PREPARING TO COME TO WESTMINSTER

Securing your place on your course (your course deposit)

If the University makes you an unconditional offer of a place on a postgraduate course and you're liable to pay overseas fees, you'll have to pay a £2,000 deposit. The unconditional offer letter gives full details of the deposit system and ways to pay, and describes the refund policy. When the University receives the deposit, you'll have reached the final stage of the admission process and will be sent a letter or a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies Number, which you can use to apply for your visa. If your visa is refused, you can ask for the deposit to be refunded. You'll need to send us original documentary evidence of your visa refusal. The £2,000 deposit isn't an additional fee, but a portion of the overall tuition fee.

Immigration and visa information for people outside the UK

New rules for student visas were introduced in March 2009. You'll need to apply for a Tier 4 General Student Visa. Your visa will be linked to the University. You'll need to score 40 points to get a student visa. You'll be awarded 30 points for the visa letter from the University and 10 points for meeting the maintenance and financial requirement. Please be aware that, under the new rules,

the University of Westminster will have a duty to monitor your attendance on the course and to report unauthorised absences to the UK Border Agency (Home Office). If you need to suspend your studies for a period, it is likely that you'll have to return to your home country for this time.

You can apply for a student visa up to three months in advance and can come to the UK up to one month before your course begins. You'll need to apply on a VAF 9–PBS Migrant Form with the Appendix 8 Tier 4 General Student Self-Assessment Form, or you may be able to apply online at the British Embassy or Visa Application Centre for your country. To find out where you need to apply look at ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/wheretopply/. To print off a VAF9 form and the Tier 4 General Student Self-Assessment Form and Guidance notes, go to ukvisas.gov.uk/howtoapply/vafs

Under the Tier 4 Points Based System (PBS), you'll need to have:

1. A University visa letter/Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies Number

If you're applying for a student visa to start a course in September or October, you'll need a University visa letter (see below). If you're applying for a visa to start your course in January, you'll be given either a visa letter or a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies Number to use with your visa application.

Your visa letter will include the start and end dates of your course; the University of Westminster Sponsor License number; the title of the course and type of qualification; the fees for the first year of the course and how much of these have been paid; the primary site where you'll be studying; and a list of the academic qualifications that we have used to offer you a place on the course.

Your visa letter will be rejected if it was issued more than six months before you apply.

2. Financial evidence

It is essential to provide the correct financial evidence. If your financial evidence does not exactly meet the requirements your visa application will be refused. You'll need to provide Bank Statements, or other financial documents as listed in the Tier 4 Policy Guidance ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/Tier4migrantguidance.pdf covering a 28-day period ending no more than one month before the date of your visa application and showing that you have the required money in your account at the date of the application. At the time of writing if you are starting in January you will need to have the required funds in your account for 28 days. The statements must also show the financial institution's name and logo.

Your bank statements must show that you have the money for the whole of your first year's fees (less any deposit paid, if this is shown on your visa letter), plus the money for your maintenance (ie living costs) as set out below.

If you're studying for nine months or more, you must be able to show that you have £5,400 in your bank account if you'll be studying at the Harrow site (outside the inner London boroughs) or £7,200 if you'll be studying at any of the other sites (which are inside the inner London boroughs). If you're studying for under nine months, you'll need to show £600 per month or part of the month if studying at Harrow, and £800 per month or part of the month if is studying at any of the other sites.

Your bank statements also need your name, account number, date of statement, and the amount of money as listed above. If you use online bank statements, then every page needs to be stamped by the bank.

The UK Borders Agency does not accept financial evidence from family members, but if you'll be receiving financial support from a Government Scholarship Agency, Company, International Organisation or University of Westminster Scholarship, you'll need to provide a letter to confirm this. Please read the Tier 4 Policy Guidance for a full explanation of what is required: ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/Tier4migrantguidance.pdf

The financial requirements are very specific, and information in the application form and Policy Guidance isn't always clear. For more detailed advice and up-to-date information about the type of evidence you should supply and what it needs to include, please visit westminster.ac.uk/visas and ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/applying_home_country.php

3. Qualifications that we have used to offer you a place on the course

The British Embassy or Visa Application Centre will check that you have the qualifications that we have used in order to offer you a place on the course. You'll need to provide original certificates. Your University visa letter will list the qualifications that you'll need to send in with your visa application.

4. ATAS certificate

Some students will need to provide an ATAS certificate with their visa application. Students who need an ATAS certificate will be informed by the University. At the time of writing, it is only some students on Science or Engineering Research Masters and PhDs who need an ATAS Certificate. For information about applying and to check whether your course needs an ATAS Certificate, please visit fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/counter-terrorism/weapons/atas/

EEA national students

If you're a national of an EEA country (European Union plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) or if you're from Switzerland, you can enter the UK easily; you do not need entry clearance or a visa. You may be asked to show evidence that you have been accepted onto a course, and that you have enough money to support yourself while in the UK. You'll need to bring your passport.

Immigration requirements for Family members

There are specific conditions and requirements for family members accompanying student on Tier 4 student visas. See westminster.ac.uk/visas for more details.

Things to remember

- Do you need a Tier 4 student visa?
- Have you got your visa documents?
- Have you got enough money to study in the UK?
- Arriving early means you may not be able to use some University services.

Biometrics

All EU countries have agreed to introduce finger scan biometrics as part of their visa issuing process, and the UK is already using them. You'll be asked to go to your local UK visas or commercial partner office to enrol. The biometric data will be stored on a central government database in the UK and checked against UK government records. The British Embassy/Consulate in your country will be able to advise about biometrics, and for more information visit ukvisas.gov.uk/en/faqs/faqapplyforvisa/2967203

Tuberculosis testing

If you're coming to the UK for longer than six months and are applying for a visa in Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, Tanzania or Thailand you'll need to provide a certificate confirming that you're free from tuberculosis (TB). Certification and testing is managed on behalf of the British Embassy by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Anyone found to have infectious TB will not be issued with a certificate, but will be advised by IOM on how to get treatment that meets World Health Organisation standards. To find out more visit ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/tbscreening



Accommodation

If you're studying on a full-time course of one academic year or more, you're given a high priority for accommodation in the University's Halls of Residence for your first year. Places are limited, however and applications are processed in order of receipt. Although you should apply for a hall place as early as possible, you cannot do so until you have firmly accepted either a conditional or unconditional offer of a course place. You can apply online at westminster.ac.uk/hallsapply when the online application goes live. The guides Westminster Choice and Westminster Start, sent to UK and international students, tell you about the University Halls of Residence, where they are, costs and facilities.

If you intend to live in non-University accommodation, visit westminster.ac.uk/unilet or see Westminster Start. Here you'll find more information on Student Housing Services, along with advice about how to find private rented housing in different areas of London and details of your rights and responsibilities as a tenant or licensee. Unilet Housing also organises events to help you meet other international students wanting to share accommodation. To find a place to live, you'll need to arrive in good time before your course starts. It is best to book some accommodation on a temporary basis, either in one of the many London private hostels or in the University Halls of Residence, open until mid-September. A single room is under £30 per night and you can make a booking via Unilet Vacations at westminster.ac.uk/unilet

Organising your money

Before coming to the UK, you should organise your money to ensure you have enough for the length of your course. It's impossible to fund your studies by working part-time and there are no other sources of funding in the UK. You'll also need to investigate the best ways to transfer money into the UK. You'll need at least £800 per month plus your fees. The visa requirements also stipulate certain amounts that you'll need before you can get a visa to come to the UK.

Start-up costs

£400 one-off

You'll have to buy bedding, clothes and basic essentials at the beginning of your stay. London is, in general, milder than other parts of the UK. The summer tends to be warm; winter is usually cold and damp. £400 should be enough for additional clothing needs. If you're coming from a hot climate, you may need to buy more expensive items like a coat. If you're staying in University Halls, you'll need to bring your own bedding.

Payment of course fees

Course fees can be paid either in full when you enrol or, if the total fee is above £1,500, in three instalments. If you're starting your course in September, the first instalment of 50 per cent is due at enrolment, the second instalment of 25 per cent is due on 1 December and the remaining 25 per cent is due on 31 January. There is a prompt payment discount explained in Westminster Start.

The University accepts the following forms of fee payment:

Cheque, cash (in Pounds Sterling or euros), direct debit, Switch, MasterCard, Visa, and banker's draft. International students can also pay their fees to the University directly from their overseas bank account, usually at a charge of between £10 and £15 levied by their own bank.

University of Westminster bank details

Bank	NatWest Bank PLC PO Box 3038, 57 Victoria Street London SW1H 0HN
Account number	48303542
Sort code	56-00-33
IBAN number	GB95NWBK 56003348303542.

Please note that if fees are paid directly into the University account, you must produce evidence from your own bank of this transaction. This should include your full name and course of studies. University Halls of Residence deposits and rent cannot be paid by bank transfer, and must be paid separately from course fees. Course fees are subject to an annual increase, usually in line with the level of UK inflation. Students starting courses in January should be aware that fees increase during the year. Some European nationals who meet certain conditions may be entitled to take out a loan from the Department for Education and Skills to cover their fees. For more information, visit direct.gov.uk/studentfinance and scroll down to 'students not from the UK'.

Halls of Residence:

£80 – £150 per week

If you're offered and accept a place in a hall of residence, you'll have to pay a deposit of £250 in advance to secure your place until your arrival. EU students can choose to pay their first instalment of rent before they arrive using our fast track system. Otherwise, you must be prepared to pay your first rent instalment on arrival at your hall. This will be one third of your annual rent. Please refer to your tenancy agreement for the exact amount you'll need to pay. The fees for halls are inclusive of all bills (heating, hot water etc). All accommodation in halls is self-catered and rents vary between halls. Please note that the minimum tenancy is for one full semester.

Private rented (Zone two/three)

£85 – £150 per week

Rents will vary greatly depending on the area of London, the accommodation facilities and the number of people sharing. Please note that, as accommodation in central London is scarce and usually very expensive, students studying at central London sites should expect to have a journey time of 30-40 minutes by public transport from their accommodation to the University. The majority of students studying in central London can't afford to live within walking distance of their place of study, but there's plenty of choice and accommodation generally gets cheaper the further away from the centre you look. Weekly rents for a single room in London Transport travel zones two and three vary from approximately £85-£150, and in the Harrow area vary from approximately £75-£100, although it's possible to find cheaper alternatives. Most rents don't include bills like gas, electricity and telephone. Full-time students don't have to pay Council Tax, so you should try to live with other full-time students or you may find yourself feeling obliged to pay a share of a Council Tax bill you don't need to pay. Students renting accommodation in the private sector should also have a deposit (normally one month's rent) plus at least one month's rent available for advance payment. We recommend you bring enough money to pay for short-term accommodation while you're looking for a permanent place to live, so you should allow approximately £1,500 for initial accommodation expenses.

For more advice on accommodation and living costs, please visit studenthousing.lon.ac.uk

Public transport

£37 – £95 per month

If you have a student Oyster card then the cost of travelcards for buses and tubes is 30 per cent cheaper. A travelcard covering London Transport zones one and two costs £69.20; Zones one, two and three costs £81.10; Zones one, two, three and four costs £98.70. Bus passes are even cheaper: a monthly pass covering all zones costs £35.

See the Frequently Asked Questions section 'How can I get a student Oyster Photo Card for cheaper travel in London?' on page 20.

For the most up-to-date price information, you should visit the Transport for London website at tfl.gov.uk/tfl

Food/household shopping

£40 – £60 per week

The amount you spend on food depends on your eating habits, but sharing food shopping and meals with others will help cut costs.

Books and equipment

£50 per month

Although you'll be able to use the University libraries, you may be required to purchase certain books and texts for your modules. You can save money by looking in second-hand bookshops or buying stationery from shops with student discounts.

Telephones

Most students buy a mobile phone with a contract or they 'pay as they go'. If you're in private rented accommodation you may also need to pay for a landline. BT used to be the only public phone provider but now there are many providers with various deals for landlines and mobiles. A useful website to help you find the best deal is moneysavingexpert.com and look for the section on utilities and phones. There's also a section on calling overseas.

Entertainment

£250 per month

London hosts a wide range of entertainment venues catering for all groups of society and religions. There are also special discounts available to students throughout the city, so make sure you ask.

Student discounts

London can be a very expensive place – but it's also very student friendly. There are lots of cheap places to eat, meet and enjoy the excellent entertainment and culture the city has to offer. It's just a question of looking. Lots of shops, theatres, cinemas, museums and galleries offer student reductions, and there are special student fares available on buses and trains. Many of these discounts are negotiated by the National Union of Students (NUS), an organisation that represents the interests of all students in the UK. As a student at Westminster you automatically become an NUS member. Alternatively, ask the University of Westminster's Students' Union for details of the latest student discounts.

Things to remember

- Have you signed up for the welcome programme?
- Have you signed up for the Heathrow Airport Meet and Greet (p12)
- Do you have enough money for the first few weeks?
- Do you need health insurance?
- Have you read the checklist of what to bring?
- Have you planned your journey on arrival?
- Have you got your enrolment and induction information?

Money and exchange controls

If you're travelling to the UK from a country outside the European Union and are carrying 10,000 euros or more, or the equivalent amount in another currency, you must complete a cash declaration form.

Please visit the HM Revenue & Customs website for further information at hmrc.gov.uk/index.htm

Your home country may also have regulations restricting the amount of money you can take out. Please check if such regulations apply to you and, if they do, contact your bank or other agency to bring the sums of money you need out of the country. Setting up a bank account can take a long time and you shouldn't rely on a bank account for quick money transfers or for cashing a cheque on arrival. Instead, you'll need to have easy access to money.

Money transfer

Methods of transferring money internationally vary from country to country. Your bank at home should be able to inform you of ways of transferring or bringing money to London. The three most common ways of sending money from abroad are:

- international money order
- international money transfer
- banker's draft.

Improving your English before your course begins

If English isn't your first language, you may consider taking an English course before your studies begin, to improve your overall performance at degree level. Summer courses are available in general English, academic English, and specialised English such as English for law, business, film studies, photography, journalism or tourism. These courses are run during the summer vacation in July and August. Please note that there's a separate fee for these courses. You may also have to return home to apply for another visa for your full-time degree course. For more information, please visit westminster.ac.uk/efl or contact:

EFL Programme Administrator,
Ground Floor,
32-38 Wells Street
London W1T 3UW
Tel +44 (0)20 7915 5401

Eligibility for medical care and insurance

The UK healthcare service is called The National Health Service (NHS). Many aspects of care are free, but not everyone is eligible for it. You should check before you leave home, particularly if you have a pre-existing medical condition. You should bring written details about any physical or mental health problems, in case you need treatment while in the UK. If you're already on treatment prescribed by a doctor, you must bring sufficient supplies with you. You have to pay for dental treatment and opticians (see details on Student Health Service).

If you're studying in the UK on a course of six months or more

While in the UK, you'll be eligible to use the NHS, which includes hospital treatment, emergency care and local doctor services. On arrival you should register with a local doctor (General Practice, or GP) for free medical advice and support.

If you're studying in the UK on a course of less than six months

Your rights to free medical treatment will be very limited. You'll receive free treatment in emergencies (eg a car accident), but not on an ongoing basis. You're strongly advised to arrange medical insurance before you come. Some countries have reciprocal health agreements with Britain. These countries include European Economic Area countries (EU countries, plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein); if you're from one of these countries, you're entitled to get free NHS treatment, even if you're studying a course of less than six months. Nationals from the EEA should complete the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) form, which replaces the old E111 form. You can get the form in your own country or from a post office or the Student Health Service when you arrive in the UK (see page 17). Please visit the Department of Health website for further information at dh.gov.uk/en/PolicyandguidanceInternational/OverseasVisitors/index.htm

If your family is coming with you to the UK

Your immediate family's rights to receive free medical treatment will be the same as yours if they've come as a student dependants (for immigration purposes), but not if they've come on a visitor's visa. If your family member is from the EEA (European Union, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) they should complete the European Health Insurance Card, which they can get in their own country.

Health insurance

You're strongly advised to have health insurance, particularly if you're from the USA or a country without reciprocal agreements. Even if you're eligible for the National Health Service and you need specialist medical treatment, the waiting time can be very long; if you have a recognised health insurance policy, you could be seen within a few days. Check before leaving whether you'll need to continue health insurance in your home country. You'll be asked for a Letter of Guarantee from your insurance company prior to any investigations or treatment at a private clinic here. Please ensure you bring adequate contact details, otherwise you'll have to pay first and claim later.

Electrical equipment

Electrical voltage is 240 volts and we use three-pin plugs. If you bring your own electrical equipment, you may damage it if you don't have the correct International adaptor, and you'll also need to make sure your adaptor is safe for UK use. You'll be allowed to use your own electrical equipment at the University so long as it is safe. If on visual inspection it is found to appear unsafe, you may be prevented from using the equipment on University premises. If you have a specific enquiry about your electrical equipment you can email the Safety, Health and Environment Team for advice a.moss01@westminster.ac.uk

Checklist of what to bring:

- Our letter of acceptance
- Travellers' cheques or pounds sterling for the first few weeks you're in the UK
- Enough money for tuition fees, accommodation, deposit and living expenses
- A valid passport and visa (if necessary)
- Travel insurance and health insurance (if necessary)
- All the information we've provided (enrolment and accommodation information, Westminster Start and Essential Westminster)
- Documentary evidence of your finances and references from your bank
- Evidence of your qualifications (usually original certificates with certified translations where appropriate)
- Information from your doctor about any medical condition you have
- Driver's licence (if you have one)





ARRIVING IN THE UK

Arriving in the UK can be both exciting and frightening. The practicalities of finding your way to the University, locating your accommodation and settling in all pose certain difficulties. Nevertheless, most students settle in quickly and enjoy their time at Westminster. Just be prepared for a few initial frustrations.

Immigration and customs

When you arrive at a British port or airport, you'll pass through immigration and customs. The stamp placed in your passport dates your arrival into the UK. Customs controls the type and amount of all goods brought into Britain. Customs usually allows you to bring older, small personal effects into Britain free of charge. However, if you're staying for a year or more in Britain, customs will probably allow import without duty of one type of newer article (eg watch or camera). If you require any further information about customs regulations, please contact the British Embassy or High Commission before you leave for the UK.

It's illegal for people to bring certain food products into the UK from non-EU countries. This is because they could carry pests and diseases, such as Foot and Mouth or Colorado Beetle, which might harm British livestock and crops. Before you bring in any food products from home, make sure you know the rules. For further information visit defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegal/default.htm

If you're not able to check, or you're still not sure, there's only one way to be safe: don't pack it.

Heathrow Airport Meet and Greet

If you are flying into Heathrow Airport on either Saturday 26, Sunday 27, Monday 28 September or Friday 2, Saturday 3, Sunday 4 October you may decide to use the Meet and Greet Service.

There will be a series of coaches running from early morning until 4pm every day from Heathrow airport, taking students to their hall of residence or into Central London. For information about booking a place visit westminster.ac.uk/welcomeapplication

Oyster travelcards

Most people in London buy an Oyster card instead of individual tickets or travelcards because they're quicker, easier and cheaper to use. The cost of your journey is automatically deducted from your pre-paid Oyster or travelcard as you go through the ticket barriers – always remember to touch your Oyster card on the Oyster card pad on the way in and out. The cost of travel with an Oyster card is less than when you buy individual single tickets, so you should get an Oyster card as soon as you can. There's a small charge for the card when you buy it, but you'll very quickly cover this cost from the savings you make when you travel.

ARRIVING IN THE UK

When you're enrolled at the University you can apply for a Student Oyster Photo Card, which will allow you to get discounted travel in London. See the Frequently Asked Questions section 'How can I get a student Oyster Photo Card for cheaper travel in London?' on page 20.

Halls of Residence and their nearest tube station

Alexander Fleming	Old Street
Furnival House	Archway
Harrow	Northwick Park
International House	Lambeth North
Marylebone Hall	Baker Street
Wigram House	Victoria

Travelling from the airport to your accommodation

There are 12 different tube lines. They have names (eg Piccadilly line, Metropolitan line) rather than numbers, and are represented on the tube map by different colours. Where the lines split into two, you'll need to look at the final destination of the tube, the direction and also which tube station the tube goes via. Don't worry about asking people for information or directions as the tube network can be confusing. You can find a PDF version of the tube map at cache.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/pdfdocs/colourmap.pdf

Important travel advice

Gatwick Airport is a long way out of London, so it's very expensive to take a taxi. At the height of the rush hour (8am-9.30am and 5pm-7pm) tube trains are full of people so try to avoid travelling with bags and suitcases at these times.

Getting a taxi (black cab or minicab)

Some people may decide to take a taxi some or all of the way from the airport. We don't advise that you take one all the way from Gatwick airport as it's very expensive. If you do decide to take a cab from the airport, we recommend that you take a minicab rather than a black cab, because it's cheaper, but you'll need to ring and organise for them to collect you at the airport once you've arrived. Make sure you contact a registered firm.

If you want to take a minicab from Heathrow, ring Speed Bird Heathrow Services on 020 8897 9722 (prices are very variable. A cab to the centre of London or to the Harrow site usually costs around £35, but more at night). If you want to take a minicab from Gatwick, ring Gatwick Airport Taxi Service on 0800 1 444 551 (a cab usually costs £75-£85 into the centre of London and £70 to the Harrow site. Cabs cost more at night). Alternatively, you can find other registered minicabs that may be cheaper

at tfl.gov.uk/tfl/gettingaround/findaride You'll need to complete the 'find an operator in my area' details, by filling in the area of London you're going to and the 'type of operator' which is a 'minicab'. You'll then be given a list of registered minicabs that you can ring once you've reached the airport or another destination. Always ask how much the trip will cost.

Travelling from Gatwick Airport to Harrow (Northwick Park tube station)

Take a First Capital Connect train from Gatwick to Farringdon train station, costing approximately £9 for a one-way ('single') ticket. At Farringdon, you can change on to the Metropolitan tube line to Northwick Park. You'll need to buy a new ticket for the tube journey. This costs approximately £4 for a single. Make sure you get an 'all stations' tube train and not a 'fast' tube train. The tube will either be going to Uxbridge, Amersham, Chesham or Watford. The total journey time is one hour and 25 minutes and trains run every 15-20 minutes from Gatwick. The Halls of Residence are about three minutes from the tube station.

Travelling from Heathrow Airport to Harrow (Northwick Park tube station)

There's a local red bus, number 140, which runs from Heathrow to Harrow central bus station and takes 50 minutes. You can then take the tube one stop going southwards on the Metropolitan line to Northwick Park tube station, or you could take a black cab. Alternatively, you could go all the way on the tube by taking a tube on the Piccadilly line to Acton Town. At Acton Town, you'll need to change on to another branch of the Piccadilly line and go to Rayners Lane. At Rayners Lane, you'll need to change trains on to the Metropolitan line going south to Northwick Park tube station.

Travelling from Gatwick Airport to Alexander Fleming (Old Street tube station)

Take a First Capital Connect train from Gatwick to London Bridge (£9), then take the Northern line northwards towards Edgware or High Barnet. You'll need to get off the tube at Old Street. The Hall of Residence is a short walk from Old Street tube station, so you may need to take a taxi.

Things to remember

- Have you read the checklist of what to bring?
- Have you planned the journey for after you arrive?
- Have you got your enrolment and induction information?

Travelling from Heathrow Airport to Alexander Fleming (Old Street tube station)

You can take the tube from Heathrow to Kings Cross on the Piccadilly line. At Kings Cross, you'll need to change on to the Northern line going south; get off at Old Street tube station. You may need to take a taxi a short distance.

Travelling from Gatwick Airport to Wigram House (Victoria Train and tube station)

You can choose to take the Gatwick Express or a Southern train to London Victoria. The Gatwick Express costs £18 and takes 30 minutes. A Southern train costs £8.90 and takes 35 minutes. Wigram House is a ten-minute walk from Victoria station.

Travelling from Heathrow Airport to Wigram House (Victoria Coach Station)

The easiest way to get to Victoria is on a National Express coach. The coaches leave every 10-15 minutes from the central bus station. The journey takes 50 minutes and costs £4. Wigram House is a ten-minute walk from Victoria Coach Station.

Travelling from Gatwick Airport to Furnival Hall (Highgate or Archway tube station)

Either take a First Capital Connect Train from Gatwick to London Bridge (£9) or a Thameslink train to Kings Cross. You'll need to change on to a tube going north on the Northern line to High Barnet. Get off the tube at either Highgate or Archway tube station and get a taxi for a short distance.

Travelling from Heathrow Airport to Furnival Hall (Highgate or Archway tube station)

Take the Piccadilly line to Kings Cross and then change on to the Northern line going north to High Barnet. Get off the tube at either Archway or Highgate. You'll need to take a taxi from the tube station to the Hall of Residence.

Travelling from Gatwick Airport to International House (Lambeth North tube station)

The following directions are for International House and not International Student House. Take a First Capital Connect Train to London Bridge (£9) and then change on to the Northern line going southbound towards Morden. You'll need to get off at Elephant and Castle and change on to the Bakerloo line going north. You should get off at Lambeth North tube station.

Travelling from Heathrow Airport to International House (Lambeth North tube station)

The easiest way is to go first to Victoria coach station on a National Express coach. The coaches leave every 10-15 minutes from the central bus station and the journey takes 50 minutes and costs £4. From Victoria go to the tube station and take the Circle or District line going east to Embankment. At Embankment you'll need to change on to the Bakerloo line going south and you should get off at Lambeth North.

Registering with the police

Only certain 'relevant foreign nationals' normally need to register with the police. If you need to register you will be told to do so at the airport and this will be stamped in your passport. You'll need to visit the Overseas Visitors Office, Brandon House, 180 Borough High Street, London SE1, within seven days of arriving in the UK. They're open 9am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Take your passport and the registration charge of £35 (approximately). Registering with the police is an important condition of your visa, and you'll be in breach of your visa conditions if you don't comply.

Making phone calls

If you want to ring home, you can use the public phones, which are easily identified on the streets and on University sites. Public phones are either coin or card operated and you can buy telephone cards in most newsagents. If calling overseas, you should dial 00 and then your country code. The cheapest time to ring is between 8pm and 6am. To ring a UK number you must know the area code that prefixes the telephone number. In London there are two main area codes – the area code for London is 020. If you're dialling a London number, this will start with 7 for inner London or 8 for outer London, followed by another seven digits. If you're making international calls, you should visit moneysavingexpert.com/callchecker to find the cheapest way to call home.

Buying essentials

Prices in London vary enormously and it's advisable to check prices before buying your essential items. Although we can't recommend particular shops, a few key department stores selling household items are listed below:

- Argos is a cheap catalogue shop. Choose your item from a catalogue, pay for it and collect it from the collection desk. There is an Argos on New Oxford Street in the West End
- John Lewis is a large department store with a wide range of products. There is a John Lewis on Oxford Street in the West End
- BHS (British Home Stores) offers average to cheap prices on a mixture of goods. Located in the St Ann's Shopping Centre, Harrow on the Hill, and in Oxford Street.

Setting up a bank account

There are a number of banks and building societies in London, but banking services for full-time international students are variable and you should investigate the best options by visiting a few banks. Most students set up a current or student account. If you're studying for a year or less, you may have difficulty setting up a bank account, and setting one up can take a long time. The bank needs confirmation of a permanent address and a letter from us confirming that you're a full-time student on a long course.

You can ask for a University letter when you've enrolled, though you may have to wait a few days before you can collect it. Some banks ask for previous bank references or household bills, which is a difficult requirement for international students. You can find out more information about opening a bank account in the UK at ukcisa.org.uk/student/bank_account.php

Abbey offers an International Student Account at its branches throughout London. You can find the Abbey University branch at 164-167 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 7JE. If you're studying a diploma or a degree course you can apply for an International Student Account with your enrolment letter and your passport. Abbey has told us that the account costs £5 per month, though transfers from abroad aren't charged and there's a reasonable interest rate for all balances above £500. With an International Student account, students can have a visa/electron debit card and draw up to £300 from cash machines in one day. If you have any problems setting up an International Student account with normal Abbey bank branches, then you should consider going directly to the Abbey University branch, where expert student advisers may be able to process your applications more quickly.

Barclays Wealth has also informed the University that it can open accounts for students before they arrive in the UK, as long as they've been accepted onto a course and can provide the University letter with their overseas home address on it. For further details visit barclays.com/international/ibs_rms.html and look for the iBank Student account. The account has a monthly £5 charge, as well as a minimum deposit of £1,000. Barclays Wealth also offers a student and family account, and details are at barclays.com/studentandfamily

For more information about opening your account before arriving in the UK, you can call the International Student Helpline on +44 (0)20 7751 6516 or email KIBC.FamilyPackageNOR@barclayswealth.com

Once in the UK you can apply at your local Barclays Bank.

Please note that we don't recommend specific banks.

Things to remember

- Register with a GP (local doctor)
- Register with CaSE for part-time work
- Check your enrolment timetable to see if there are any international sessions
- Visit the International Student Adviser if you feel lonely, depressed or homesick
- Register with the police if your visa asks you to.





YOUR FIRST WEEKS AT THE UNIVERSITY

The first few weeks at Westminster can be confusing as there is lots going on. You may not know where to get answers to your questions. If you attend the International Student Welcome Programme, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and gather information. If you aren't able to attend, start by looking at Essential Westminster. If you haven't received it, you can pick up a copy from your undergraduate or postgraduate office. You can also contact the International Student Adviser. There are usually social events organised, as well as Freshers' Fairs giving you the chance to join clubs and societies.

Induction week and enrolling on your course

You should receive your specific course enrolment and induction information before leaving home. The induction week is the week before teaching starts and is when you'll enrol on your course (you must attend even if you enrol online). There are also a number of events scheduled during this week to provide essential information to help with your studies, so it's important that you come along. At your enrolment you'll need to provide original certificates of your qualifications and pay your tuition fees, if you haven't already done this online.

Admissions, School Registry Office

If you haven't received your enrolment information before induction week and don't know where to go, please contact your Admissions and Marketing Office. Please look at your offer letter for details of which Admissions and Marketing Office to contact. After you've enrolled, your details will be passed from the Admissions Office to your School Registry

Office. All your administrative needs (eg letter requests, change of address notifications, module Information) will be handled by this office for the rest of your course.

Social activities, sports and societies

The Students' Union looks after the social life for students at the University and its bases are at Marylebone and Harrow. There are bars at Harrow and Marylebone, as well as lots of events and Freshers' Fairs in September. Look out for details of the Freshers' Fairs so that you can sign up for sports clubs and societies. There are a number of national and religious societies, as well as an International Students' Society. Check the Students' Union website uwsu.com

Improving your English as part of your course

There are English for Academic Purposes (EAP) modules both for undergraduates and postgraduates.

If you're an undergraduate and English isn't your first language, you should consider taking an EAP module as part of your degree programme. All undergraduate EAP modules are credit bearing and, in some cases, count towards your final degree classification. By taking an EAP module, you'll learn how to write assignments, give academic presentations and reference your work correctly. You'll also develop your academic vocabulary and a range of other skills that you'll find very useful for your main degree subjects. You need to register for EAP at the beginning of the academic year. EAP undergraduate modules are year-long (two-semester) modules.

Postgraduate students can take the Postgraduate Academic English (PAE) module. This module is one-semester long and focuses on the particular language needs of non-native

YOUR FIRST WEEKS AT THE UNIVERSITY

English speaking students studying for a higher degree in the UK. This is a non-credit bearing module. The PAE module isn't a 'free' module (unlike undergraduate EAP modules), but most students don't need to pay anything to take this module.

You'll be given more information about English for Academic Purposes at enrolment. You can also e-mail eap-support@westminster.ac.uk or call +44 (0)20 7911 5000 ext 2318 to leave a message on the EAP Support Line.

Advice and support

The University offers support to all students. If you'd like academic advice, talk to your course leader or personal tutor. Westminster Business School students can visit the Tutorial Advice Office or Postgraduate Support Office. If you'd like practical or emotional help, visit the Counselling and Advice Service (where advisers and counsellors, the Chaplain and the International Student Adviser are available). You can find more detailed information about support in Essential Westminster or at westminster.ac.uk/canda

The International Student Adviser

The International Student Adviser (ISA) provides support for students from abroad. The ISA organises the welcome and introduction programme, the valediction ceremony and some social and cultural activities. The ISA also acts as a point of contact, together with the International Education Office, for international students. This is the right person to talk to if you need help with practical problems, or you feel lonely or homesick. The ISA is very keen to meet all international students at the beginning of the year and to provide as much support as necessary. To contact the ISA +44 (0)20 7911 5000 ext 3232 or canda@westminster.ac.uk

Visa clinics

If you need help with extending your visa or have a general immigration enquiry, then you can visit the visa clinics. These run every Wednesday in term time in the Counselling and Advice Service at Marylebone. If you need to extend your visa, you should fill in an official application form and provide a number of original supporting documents. These will be similar to the form and documents you needed for your visa application at home. Please start to organise your documents well in advance of your visa expiring and visit the visa clinic at least one month before.

Once you've completed the form and collected all the documents you need for your application, an adviser can check it and send it to the UK Borders Agency on your behalf. The fee for extending your visa is currently £295 for postal applications. For further information visit westminster.ac.uk/visas

Personal tutors

If you're an undergraduate student, you'll be assigned a personal tutor or referred to the Tutorial Advice Office (if studying at Westminster Business School). Their first concern is with your academic progress and any study difficulties that you might have. They may also be able to help with personal problems or direct you to a person who can help. It's important that your tutor knows about any problems you're having, especially if they're affecting your work or if they're likely to affect your performance in exams. The tutors are there to help you.

Student Health Service

We want to help you stay healthy and make your time at University as enjoyable and successful as possible. The Student Health Service is run by experienced nurse practitioners and is open daily during term time at Harrow and the West End sites. It's free and confidential. A doctor is available by appointment. Staff will be able to advise on any health-related issue, and refer you to other health professionals if necessary. Information and advice is available on, for example, how to look after yourself through exercise, nutrition programmes, dealing with settling in, exam anxiety, eligibility for the NHS, how to find and register with a general practitioner/physician (GP), how to get help with health costs such as dentists and opticians, travel advice and vaccinations, and sexual health.

If you have an existing medical condition, you should contact the nurses on arrival with an explanatory letter in English from your doctor at home. This should include information about investigations, such as blood tests, and any medication you're prescribed. Some medicines in this country won't be the same as in your home country, or may not be available, so please make sure you've checked before coming to the UK. If you're not eligible for NHS services, we'll support you here. If you're eligible, you must register with a local physician (GP) soon after your arrival.

For further information visit nhs.uk and westminster.ac.uk/studenthealth

Things to remember

- Do you know when and where your enrolment is?
- Do you know when and where your induction is?
- Do you know when the Students' Union Freshers' Fairs are?
- If you've enrolled online, have you got a copy of your form?
- Do you have original qualification documents?



LIVING IN THE UK

Studying in the UK

Studying in the UK can be very different from the experience that you may have had in your home country. At UK universities you're expected to take a high level of responsibility for your own work: often there are few lectures or seminars. Instead, you're given assignments and directed to work on your own or in groups. Lists of reading material are given out and you'll have to do much of the research on your own. You'll often be asked to give opinions, and as you won't always be dealing with facts, there won't be a right or wrong answer. This can come as a surprise for some students who, in the past, have had tutors organise and direct their studies.

UK institutions use a variety of teaching methods. At Westminster, you'll have a mixture of lectures and seminars. Lectures are attended by large groups of students and aren't really the place for discussion. Seminars are small group discussions. In a lecture, the lecturer presents information; in a seminar a tutor organises discussion. In seminars you're expected to join in the discussions, ask questions and put opinions forward, even if they're different from the tutor's. You'll also be asked to present papers to the group on pre-arranged topics and you'll need to reference your work. This can be very difficult for international students who are used to a different system. It is important that you follow the University's guidelines on referencing and avoid plagiarism (cheating/copying). In general, you must always reference the source of your information in footnotes within the body of text, as well as including the source in the bibliography at the end. Speak to your course leader or personal tutor for more detailed information about referencing. If you experience difficulties talking in class or

you have problems with studying, contact the Counselling and Advice Service, which runs groups and workshops to assist with these issues. All other relevant information is included in Essential Westminster and course handbooks.

Religion and belief

We value our diverse international community of students and recognise the right of individuals to wear items of clothing that reflect their beliefs. We recognise that ethnicity and culture aren't indicative of religion or belief, and that all religions have a variety and range of doctrinal beliefs, which may have different values and customs. Fair treatment for students and staff involves taking difference into account, not treating everyone the same.

Adapting to life in the UK

Moving away from home can be a difficult process and adapting to your new environment may take time. It's normal for some students to experience a degree of homesickness and 'culture shock'. Culture shock is a temporary condition caused by the many changes and uncertainties we experience when moving from one culture to another. Smells, food, climate, language, dress, study methods, customs, behaviour and social roles are just a few of the many things that international students might find different. Some of the symptoms of culture shock are poor health, lack of concentration, mood swings, a sense of disorientation and depression. To limit the effects of culture shock, it's important to recognise that you may be starting to experience symptoms. Keep in touch with home,

LIVING IN THE UK

surround yourself with familiar objects, eat familiar foods and build groups of international friends who can talk to you about your worries. You can also visit a counsellor, the International Student Adviser or the Student Health Service, who are there to help you.

Careers and Student Employment

Careers and Student Employment (CaSE) has experience in supporting international students into employment and further study. Information is available on:

- Part-time jobs, vacation work and placements
- Effective job applications
- Links to the latest regulations on work permits
- Entering the UK employment market.

Obtaining a part-time job or work placement while you're studying will provide extra money and valuable work experience, as well as the opportunity to develop skills for the workplace and, of course, practise your English. CaSE advertises a wide range of part-time jobs and placements offered by employers seeking translation, interpreting, office administration, IT and customer service support. Volunteering is a flexible way of pursuing your interests, developing new skills in a practical environment, enhancing your career prospects and improving your English. The international student section of westminster.ac.uk/careers gives you an overview of the graduate and more general recruitment processes in the UK.

Your right to work

- If you're a national of an EEA country, you have the right to work in the UK (though nationals of some accession countries will have to register under the Worker Registration Scheme, and students from Romania and Bulgaria will have fewer rights to work). For details, visit bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/
- If you have a student visa, you can normally work part-time (up to 20 hours) during term time and unlimited hours during holidays. However, postgraduate students who haven't finished their dissertation are limited to working 20 hours a week, even when the university term has finished. You'll also be allowed to do a full-time work placement if you're studying a sandwich course. For full information, including immigration conditions, visit westminster.ac.uk/visas
- You must be very careful to stick to the student rules about working. If you work more than you should, you'll be breaching your visa conditions. This is a serious offence and you would not be allowed to stay in the UK.
- If you're in the UK on a student visitor visa, you won't be allowed to work in the UK at all
- If you work in the UK, you'll need a National Insurance number. The information sheet 'Applying for a National Insurance Number' at westminster.ac.uk/page-14720 explains how and when to apply for one.

Other information

There's a lot of information for international students and we don't include all of it in this brochure. However, you should try to look at the pre-arrival information on our website before leaving home, at westminster.ac.uk/international Areas that are important to international students and that you should read about are: fee classification, Council Tax, driving licences, TV licences, British culture and customs, personal safety. You can also visit the website ukcisa.org.uk which has 20 very useful Guidance Notes for International Students as well as a frequently asked questions section. Other interesting sites are studyyuk.hobsons.com/study.jsp and ukstudentlife.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I register for the International Student Welcome Programme?

You can apply by completing the online application at westminster.ac.uk/welcomeapplication

Does it matter that I will not arrive in time for my enrolment?

Though we understand it may be difficult for some students to arrive on time for the start of the course, it is essential that you do get to the University for enrolment and induction. Essential information is given to students at enrolment and if you are late you may have missed too much of the course and not be allowed to start it. The University is also required to inform the UK Borders Agency if a student on a student visa does not register for their course.

Do I need to register with the police?

Certain nationals are required to register with the police, this will be stated on your immigration vignette (visa sticker). In London there is only one place to register, the Overseas Visitors' Records Office, Ground Floor, Brandon House, 180 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LH Tel 020 7230 1208 for recorded information or 020 7230 1286. The nearest tube station is Borough on the Northern line. For a map see multimap.com and put in the postcode SE1 1LH.

You'll need to take your passport and a registration fee of £34 (correct at the time of printing). Registering with the police may be a very important condition of your visa, so please make sure you comply.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I register with a GP (local doctor)?

You should register in the area that you live. If you're in Halls of Residence, contact the Student Health Service to arrange to register with a GP. If you live in rented accommodation visit nhs.uk/England/Doctors and, using your postcode, get a list of local doctors. You'll then need to go into the doctor's surgery and register. Do not wait until you're ill.

How do I get a National Insurance Number?

Once you start looking for a job you can apply for a National Insurance number. To apply you'll need to ring the National Insurance allocation line on 0845 6000 643.

Can I stay in the University Halls of Residence before University starts?

If you have been offered a permanent place in halls you'll be sent early arrival information on acceptance of your accommodation. However, anyone can book to stay in a University Halls of Residence up until 29 September. Further details are available on request, please contact Unilet Vacations at uniletvacations@westminster.ac.uk

How do I find private rented accommodation?

There are always a number of housing meetings held before the start of term in September at the Marylebone and Harrow sites. At the meetings you can find out about where to look for private rented accommodation and will meet other students looking for accommodation. If you want to start looking from home, read the London Student Housing Guide, available online at studenthousing.lon.ac.uk – this guide is written with many London universities and is recommended for all students intending to live and study in London.

How can I get a student Oyster Photo Card for cheaper travel in London?

Once you're enrolled at the University you can apply for a Student Oyster Photo which entitles you to student rate Travelcards. You can either apply for the Student Oyster Photo card online if you have a bank account and an up to date photograph, or you can collect a paper application form from either Central Admissions and Student Funding Office at Marylebone or your School Registry Office.

When you apply online you'll need to visit tfl.gov.uk and click on 'tickets' then look for the 'fares and ticket' section. Click 'photocards', then '18+ students'. Scroll down to '18+ Info' and select 'See if your University or College offers online applications for Student Oyster photocards' then click 'apply now'.

If applying online be careful that you do not make a mistake or provide a poor digital photograph as Transport for London may keep the £5 fee even though the online application is rejected. Digital photos can be downloaded from the student records system.

What social activities are organised for me?

There are always a number of social activities organised by the Students' Union in the first few weeks of term. Visit their website at uwsu.com and look for information about Freshers' Fairs.

Can I get extra funding in the UK?

When you apply for a visa in the UK, you have to show that you have enough money to study without working or using public funds. The basic assumption is that anybody who comes to study in the UK will have enough money to pay for their fees and living expenses. Visa requirements now stipulate the amount of money a student must have to come to the UK. Please do not risk coming to study if you're unsure that you have enough money. It is very sad when people spend a lot of money on fees but do not have enough money to live in the UK and end up leaving before they have their qualification. There is very little financial support for international students who do not budget carefully enough or bring enough money with them to the UK. It is always worth speaking to a Student Adviser in the Counselling and Advice Service if something unexpected affects your finances.

Is there an airport meet and greet service?

There is an airport meet and greet service from Heathrow Airport on Saturday 26, Sunday 27 and Monday 28 September, and Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October. For more information about the service please visit westminster.ac.uk/welcomeapplication



WELCOME PROGRAMME INFORMATION

International Student Welcome Programme

Moving to a university in another country can be both exciting and frightening. To help you get over some of your fears and meet new friends, the University of Westminster organises a welcome and introduction programme. This is an essential part of your studies, as it will help you to adjust to a new and different system.

Who is the programme for?

International and European students on degree courses, who have been accepted on to a course starting in October 2009.

Why come to the welcome programme?

- You'll meet, socialise and make friends with fellow students
- It will make moving to the UK easier and more enjoyable
- You'll learn about living in London
- You'll find out about studying in the UK and at the University of Westminster.

Where will the programme be held?

It will be held in the centre of London. The programme is free. Accommodation is available at £21 per night in an allocated Hall of Residence while the programme is running.

When will the programme be held?

The three-day programme is held on 28, 29 and 30 September, the week before the official enrolment takes place. If you're applying for accommodation, we need to receive your application form by 14 September. Otherwise we need to receive it by 20 September.

What is the schedule?

The programme starts on Monday 28 September 2009 at 5pm and is followed by an evening event. The programme then runs all day on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 September, with social events in the evening on both days. On Thursday 1 October coaches will move students to their Halls of Residence if they're staying in University accommodation. On Sunday 27 September there will be a day trip to Brighton.

Some of the sessions we cover during the welcome programme

Group discussions with existing international students

When you first arrive at the University you'll have lots of questions about living and studying at Westminster. This session will give you the chance to ask staff and existing students for their advice. In the past students have asked about the best places to shop, where to go out in London, how to organise discount travelcards, how to open a bank account and so much more.

Enrolment information

This session will look at the enrolment procedure and is aimed at trying to help you answer the many questions you have before you enrol.

Safety in London

This session looks at how to keep safe in London. Many students come from environments that are very different from London and will not be aware of how to protect themselves against crime.

Health in the UK

Most students have the right to some form of health care while they study in London. You need to know what your rights are, how to register with a local doctor and when you might need to get private health insurance.

Services for students

Many of you will need some sort of non-academic help during your time at the University. This session will look at the available support and where to find the help you need.

The Students' Union

The Students' Union organises most of the social activities at the University, including the bars, club, societies and sports activities.

English for Academic Purposes

If you would like to improve your English, or learn another language, you should come along to this session.

Culture shock and cultural differences

This session will look at the problems students may face when moving from their home to an unfamiliar country. There are many differences that take time to adapt to. Most students experience some form of culture shock (even though most do not believe they will be affected by it).

Part-time work and immigration issues

We will tell you about your rights to work during and after your course, how to get a National Insurance number and about tax in the UK. The second half of the session will look at immigration issues, such as how to extend your visa.

Evening events

Monday night

After a social at Marylebone with drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), we will continue for the rest of the evening at Inter:mission.

Tuesday night

A quiz night and chance to relax with others on the programme.

Wednesday night

(Tickets only – these can be bought for £5). A boat trip along the Thames, passing the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, the Tower of London and many other London landmarks. There will be a bar inside the boat and a disco.

Thursday morning

(For those who stay in University accommodation for the welcome programme). You'll have to move out of your welcome programme room:

- If you're moving to another hall of residence, you'll go by coach
- If you're moving to other accommodation, you'll have to organise your own transport.

Sunday daytime

On Sunday 27 September you will be able to book to go on the Brighton coach trip and have a picnic on the beach.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Once you have registered at the University you'll get free access to the Internet. However, you should look at some of these sites before leaving home. The international student website gives more detailed information.

University homepage	westminster.ac.uk
Information for international students	westminster.ac.uk/international
Counselling and Advice Service	westminster.ac.uk/canda
Student Housing Service	westminster.ac.uk/accommodation
Student Health Service	westminster.ac.uk/studenthealth

Other sites

General information for international students	ukcisa.org.uk
The British Council	britishcouncil.org/learning.htm
International Students House	ish.org.uk
London Conference of Overseas Visitors (Hostels directory and accommodation information)	lcos.org.uk
Guide to study, work and travel	ukstudentlife.com
Time Out guide (What's happening in London)	timeout.com
The Lonely Planet	lonelyplanet.com
Transport for London tubes, buses, rail and more	tfl.gov.uk
Transport for London journey planner	tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner
Your London Underground journey planner	tubeplanner.com
National Rail Enquiries	nationalrail.co.uk
First Capital Connect	firstcapitalconnect.co.uk
Southern trains	southernrailway.com
Cabwise (A website about minicabs but can only be used if you have a mobile phone).....	london.gov.uk/cabwise
British Tourist Authority	bta.org.uk
Weather forecasts	bbc.co.uk/weather
Street maps	multimap.com

