



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE

# **Your Guide to Student Life and Wellbeing**





## Welcome

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**As a student at Northumbria University we want you to get the most out of everything that life here has to offer.**

Studying at university brings a wealth of opportunity to learn and meet new friends. At the same time, alongside your academic studies, you will be managing your day-to-day life including money, budgets, settling into a new city or country, relationships, friendships and new responsibilities.

Student Life and Wellbeing offers advice and guidance to support you during your time at university. Our work is complemented by digital platforms which means that whether you study from home or on campus in Newcastle, London, Amsterdam or anywhere in the world, we are here for you.

**Student Life and Wellbeing encompasses specialist teams which offer free, impartial and confidential advice on the following:**

- **Accessibility and Inclusion**, encompassing:  
Support for disabled students and those with additional support needs
- **Wellbeing and Mental Health**, including:  
Counselling and mental health support and guidance around self-help
- **Student Life**, including:  
Financial support; Wellbeing and health advice; International student support; Chaplaincy and faith advice

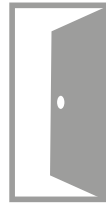
Our services complement the support provided within your academic faculty which is an important source of advice about your course and studies. We work to ensure that the educational opportunities and university experience we provide is inclusive for all students and we offer tailored support and guidance for specific student groups, such as care leavers, mature students and students with caring responsibilities.

Over half of all Northumbria students use one or more of our services during their time at university. We are here to help, and our professionally trained advisers are also happy to talk to you before you commence your studies with us.

More information on all our services can be found in this booklet.

Visit us at [northumbria.ac.uk/slw](https://northumbria.ac.uk/slw)

# Disability and dyslexia support



If you have a disability or dyslexia, or if you think you may have dyslexia, we are here to help.

**Our services are open to all disabled students and our Disabilities Advisers can provide you with advice and support if you have:**

- A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia
- A long-term medical condition
- A sensory impairment
- A mobility impairment
- An autism spectrum condition
- A diagnosed mental health condition

If you are unsure whether you are a disabled student, you are welcome to discuss this in complete confidence with a Disabilities Adviser.

**Depending on your individual requirements, we can provide a range of services, such as:**

- An early visit to the campus if you are a disabled person applying to study at Northumbria
- A discussion about study support requirements and individual study support strategies

- Advice on applying for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) to cover the costs of the disability support required during study
- Arranging individual or modified exam arrangements
- One-to-one specialist dyslexia tutorials or specialist mentoring
- Advice on adapted and accessible accommodation and on the physical accessibility of our buildings
- The use of our Support Worker Service if you require one-to-one educational support, such as the services of a notetaker in lectures or a personal assistant to assist with mobility around the campus
- Advice on assistive technology

To discover more, visit: [northumbria.ac.uk/disability](http://northumbria.ac.uk/disability)



***"A 1st! Thank you for your help. My mark would be nowhere near as high if it wasn't for the dyslexia study skills tutorials I had with you."***

Student, Faculty of Arts, Design and Social Sciences

## Financial support



**Studying at university brings new responsibilities. In addition to your tuition fees, there are many costs to consider.**

You will need to pay for course material, accommodation, household expenses, food and drink, socialising and all the other things needed to make your time at university worthwhile and enjoyable. So what can you do to make your money go further?

**Our professionally trained advisers offer information and advice on a wide range of issues relating to:**

- The University's Access to Learning Fund (ALF) – a hardship fund for home/UK students

- Scholarships
- Grants or loans to help with living costs
- Loans for tuition fees
- National Health Service (NHS) bursaries
- Benefits
- Budgeting
- Council Tax
- Postgraduate support

To discover more, visit:  
[northumbria.ac.uk/financialsupport](http://northumbria.ac.uk/financialsupport)

## Wellbeing and health support



**As well as studying, it is important to look after your health and to have an enjoyable time at Northumbria.**

**Our specialist advisers can give information to help with your safety and personal wellbeing, including:**

- Registering with a doctor or dentist
- Health issues (such as prescription costs)
- Your personal safety and security
- Insurance

- Personal and academic resilience
- Matters relating to the police
- Access to student trips, activities and events
- Registering to vote

To discover more, visit:  
[northumbria.ac.uk/wellbeingandhealth](http://northumbria.ac.uk/wellbeingandhealth)

## International student support



**If you are an overseas student you may need help with immigration issues, settling into the UK and making new friends.**

**Our professionally trained advisers offer information and advice to all international students on a wide range of topics, including:**

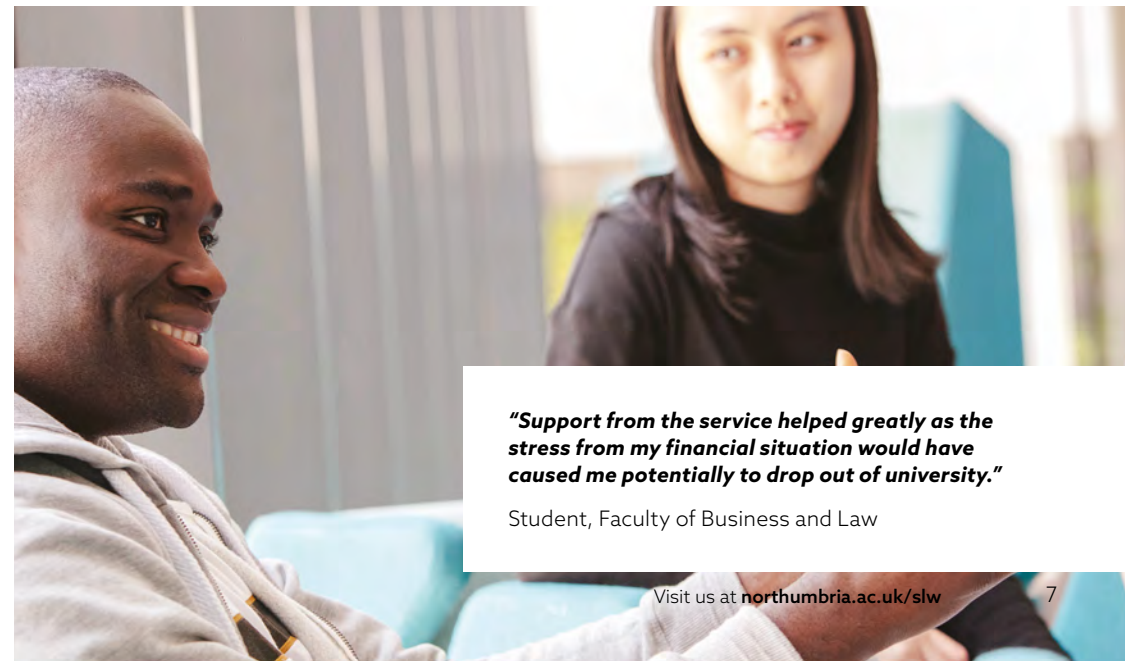
- Visa advice and representation including: Student Route, Start up and Graduate visas
- Specialist immigration advice including: change of course and the impact to your visa and requirements to extend leave
- Immigration advice relating to switching visa categories and advice for dependants
- Requirements of living and working in the UK including registering with the Police

- Advice for visitors enrolling on to short courses
- 'Meet and Greet' service (meeting students on arrival at Newcastle Airport)

### **University Compliance Team**

If you are an overseas student sponsored under our Licence you will require a Student Route visa. You may be contacted by the Compliance Team if they have any enquiries about your sponsorship under this route. The team offers information to all international students and staff on compliance matters.

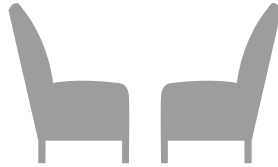
To discover more, visit:  
[northumbria.ac.uk/internationalsupport](http://northumbria.ac.uk/internationalsupport)



***"Support from the service helped greatly as the stress from my financial situation would have caused me potentially to drop out of university."***

Student, Faculty of Business and Law

# Counselling and mental health support



**We all have mental health, as we all have physical health and, like our bodies, our minds can become unwell.**

Looking after our mental health and wellbeing should be part of our everyday lives and we would always encourage you to find helpful ways to prioritise whatever methods work best for you. Sometimes mental health difficulties do arise and these can be hard to cope with. These feelings often pass, but there are options available to you if you require support.

Counselling and mental health support is a free and confidential service available to all enrolled Northumbria students studying in the UK.

**Our counsellors and mental health practitioners are here to help with a wide range of personal, emotional and mental health issues, such as:**

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Homesickness
- Relationship difficulties or sexuality
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Struggling to engage with university work
- Not fitting in

**We offer the following support services which we will tailor to meet your needs:**

- Appointments with counsellors or mental health practitioners
- Online counselling via Kooth Student
- Online guided self-help
- Therapeutic workshops
- Referrals to other support in the University and to support services in the community

To access support please complete our short online registration form by logging on to your **Student Portal** and searching for '**Counselling and Mental Health Registration Form**'. Click on the blue button at the bottom of the article to access the form. We will get back to you within two working days, either by phone, email or via the Student Portal ([myportal.northumbria.ac.uk](http://myportal.northumbria.ac.uk)), with an offer of support.

To discover more, visit: [northumbria.ac.uk/counselling](http://northumbria.ac.uk/counselling)

***"Without the counselling sessions, I'd have left university. The counsellor helped me to talk about my situation without feeling embarrassed about it."***

Student, Faculty of Engineering and Environment

# Chaplaincy and faith advice



**Our chaplains offer a listening ear and encouragement, prayer and advice for students and staff.**

**We're happy to talk to you in confidence, whatever your faith, belief or otherwise. Our work includes:**

- Helping you to explore your direction and sense of meaning in life through spiritual life-coaching or help with finding accompaniment on your spiritual journey
- Advising on quiet spaces and prayer places on campus, including the: Peace Room, Quiet Room and Muslim Prayer Facility
- Offering opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual exploration
- Giving information on local places of worship, such as churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and gurdwaras

- Arranging for groups to meet in the Chaplaincy or other parts of the University
- Running events and activities, such as lunches, trips and discussion groups
- Acting as a link between the University and student faith societies
- Promoting understanding between people of different life-stances, encouraging dialogue and respectful exchanges of views

To discover more, contact us:

**0191 227 3284**

**[sv.chaplaincy@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:sv.chaplaincy@northumbria.ac.uk)**  
**[northumbria.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://northumbria.ac.uk/chaplaincy)**





## Confidentiality

**We want you to feel comfortable when talking to us and all information provided to Student Life and Wellbeing will be treated sensitively and confidentially.**

There may be occasions when it is important for us to share information within the University. For example, we may pass information on to other university staff to ensure your academic faculty knows about any disability-related study support that you require during your course.

There are other exceptional circumstances in which confidentiality cannot be maintained, for example to ensure we comply with the law or the University's Duty of Care policies. We are happy to talk to you at any stage if you have questions or concerns.

To respect the privacy of all students and to comply with data protection law,

university staff cannot discuss matters relating to individual students with a third party, even where this third party is a close relative or friend. This extends to confirming the student status of an individual – in most circumstances, we cannot confirm to a third party whether a person is a current student or not. We realise that this may be frustrating, but hope you appreciate the reasons for this.

If you are a parent, family member or friend of a student, we may be able to contact the student and let them know that you have been in touch with us, or we may be able to provide you with some general information about student support issues at the University.

***"Receiving support from Student Life and Wellbeing throughout my time at Northumbria has had a very positive impact on my self-esteem and the way I approach my studies. I consider it one of the most valuable things I have done throughout my time at university, and will take it with me through the rest of my life."***

Student, Faculty of Arts, Design and Social Sciences

***"If there wasn't a Student Life and Wellbeing Service I probably wouldn't be at university still, as they have given me guidance on where to go to receive the help I need."***

Student, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences



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## Contact Us

Visit us at one of the following Ask4Help points:

### **At City Campus**

Student Central, City Campus Library  
Student Central, City Campus East  
Tel: **0191 227 4127**

### **At Coach Lane Campus**

Student Central, Coach Lane Library  
Tel: **0191 227 4127**

### **At London Campus**

Ground Floor  
Tel: **0191 227 4127**

### **At Amsterdam Campus**

Leeuwenburg Building  
Tel: **020 703 8280**

### **Current Northumbria students:**

Please enquire via the Student Portal:  
**myportal.northumbria.ac.uk**

### **Prospective students can contact us at:**

- Disability and dyslexia support:  
**sv.disability@northumbria.ac.uk**
- Financial, Wellbeing and health, International student support  
**sv.welfareandinternational@northumbria.ac.uk**
- Counselling and mental health support:  
**as.counsellingandmentalhealth@northumbria.ac.uk**

**northumbria.ac.uk/slw**

Please contact us if you require a copy of this publication in an alternative format.



Tel: 0191 227 4646  
**ask4help@northumbria.ac.uk**

