



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

PARENTS' GUIDE.

Key information to guide you through
your child's journey to university for
September 2026.

northumbria.ac.uk

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Please note: we use the terms 'parent' and 'child' throughout this booklet for simplicity, but we appreciate that many of you may be carers, legal guardians or step-parents. This information is aimed at anyone who fulfils a parenting role for a young person in the UK who is considering a university education.

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
GOOD UNIVERSITY
GUIDE 2025 | MODERN UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR

Top 10 UK student city.

StudentCrowd 2024 league table

Top 25 university for research power in the UK.

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021

Top 100 young university in global rankings.

Times Higher Education Young
Universities Rankings 2024

Top 50 UK university.

Times Good University Guide 2026, Guardian University
Guide 2026, and Complete University Guide 2026

Top 20 for the number of UK undergraduates who go into skilled jobs.*

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022/23



northumbria.ac.uk

*Based on UK domiciled first degree 2022/23 leavers

RAISING ASPIRATIONS

At Northumbria we are committed to supporting aspirations and recruiting high quality students, regardless of their background.

Destination Northumbria, our supported entry scheme, offers valuable resources, guidance and a strong support network to help develop the skills and knowledge in preparation for undergraduate study.

Find out more at northumbria.ac.uk/destinationnorthumbria

We also understand that personal social or socio-economic circumstances can impact education, experience and qualifications. We review all aspects of an applicant's profile and make an appropriate offer based on this information.

We use a range of flexible admissions options to support students to access study at Northumbria, such as:

Contextual Offers: Using both academic performance and personal circumstances from UCAS applications when assessing applications.

Aspirational Offers: Encouraging students to aim for the best results they can achieve by making standard offers to students who are predicted slightly below our standard requirements.

Dual Offers: Standard offers which include a reserved place on an extended degree with foundation year for applicants who do not meet their standard degree offer.

Alternative programmes: Offering alternative degrees where applicants do not meet the standard criteria for an offer.

Find out more about our flexible admissions options at northumbria.ac.uk/entryrequirementsinfo

FUNDING

Tuition Fees

Undergraduate tuition fees are set by Government in line with forecast inflation. Students should expect to pay tuition fees for every year of study.

Tuition Fee Loan

All full-time students from the UK, provided they have not studied for an undergraduate degree before, are eligible for a tuition fee loan which covers the full cost for each year of the desired course. The government pays Northumbria University directly in three instalments and the first is paid once your child enrolls with us.

Maintenance Loans

This loan will contribute towards your child's living costs. The money is paid into your child's bank account at the start of each term. The maximum loan your child can apply for varies depending on a number of factors, including:

- **Whether your child is living at home.**
- **Studying in or out of London.**
- **Your household income.**

Scholarships, Grants and Bursaries

Scholarships, grants, and bursaries are financial awards that are designed to help to support students financially through their studies. They can be awarded for many different reasons and this is often dependent on which organisation that is awarding the scholarship. Different organisations will have different application processes and requirements to receive the scholarship.

Northumbria University is committed to supporting students by offering a number of packages. Undergraduate scholarships will be available for students starting their first year in September 2026. For further information and to keep up to date with scholarships as they are released, please visit northumbria.ac.uk/ug-scholarships

It's not just universities that offer money to help with the costs of studying. Other organisations offer funding too - including charities, trusts and even companies. In this case, funding might be called a grant or sponsorship, as well as bursary or scholarship.

There is extra government funding available for those in special circumstances such as the Disabled Students' Allowance and the Childcare Grant. For further information about financial support at university please visit northumbria.ac.uk/financialsupport

APPLYING FOR STUDENT FINANCE

If you and your child want to apply for financial support for the tuition fee and living costs, we recommend visiting the Student Finance England (SFE) website for more information at www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance. This also includes links to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland student funding.

After your application has been processed, SFE will send a Student Finance Entitlement letter with your Customer Reference Number (CRN), which you should quote whenever you contact them. Following enrolment at university, Student Loans Company will pay the tuition fee loan direct to the university. The maintenance loan will go straight to your child's chosen bank account in specified instalments.

This simple 8 Step Guide for navigating Student Finance will help you through the process. These steps are very similar for students who live in Northern Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, however we advise checking the individual agency websites for more detailed information.

8 STEP GUIDE TO A STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATION

1. Check if your child is eligible
 2. Find out how much loan they could get
 3. Prepare the application on the SFE website
 4. Apply
 5. Update your circumstances if things change
 6. Make sure the student can be paid
 7. Check what to do while they are a student
 8. Repay from the April after graduation
- Find out more at gov.uk

TOP TIP!

Once your child has applied for university, it is wise to get their Student Finance application in as early as possible. Updates can be made if they decide to attend a different university.

MONEY MATTERS

Cost of Living

Ranked among the top five most affordable cities in the UK (QS Best Student Cities 2026), Newcastle is an excellent choice for university students, offering a significantly lower cost of living than many other parts of the UK. With its vibrant culture, thriving student community, and budget-friendly lifestyle, Newcastle offers a unique blend of quality education and great value for money.

Students can access a range of resources to help them with money management from Northumbria's Student Money and Resources Hub. Students can also access the financial education platform Blackbullion to help with budgeting and planning finances. UK students can also apply to the Student Money and Support Funds, which are four funds aimed at supporting costs associated with accommodation and living costs, travel, childcare and course costs. Students can also receive one to one support on all funding and financial aspects of study from a team of advisers.

Northumbria Students' Union also offer the following support to students:

- Food Pantry - a food bank service for short-term support.
- Free hot water and microwaves - available to prepare food while on campus.
- Laptop loan scheme - offering students a short-term loan of a laptop if needed.
- Free sanitary products.



APPLYING FOR ACCOMMODATION

At Northumbria, we understand that where your child lives is a big aspect of their student experience. That's why we make sure they shape their experience from start to finish.

- Guaranteed accommodation for all first-year undergraduate students who apply before 30 June 2026.
- All bills included and no hidden costs.
- On-site support, maintenance and security teams.
- Great social spaces to relax, study and have fun.
- Exclusive Northumbria student community.
- Central and on-campus locations.

Booking Accommodation takes just 5 easy steps

1. Make Northumbria University your FIRM choice on UCAS Hub.

2. Receive your student portal login details via email, log in and go to the Accommodation section to start your application.

Top Tip: Make sure you register with your personal email address and not one associated to a school/college.

3. Choose your exact room.

4. Sign your contract.

Top Tip: Make sure you read your contract carefully as it is a legally binding contract. If you don't understand anything, get in touch, we will be happy to run through it with you.

5. Make an advance rent payment.

You will need to make an advance rent payment to complete the booking. The amount depends on the building you have selected, but is normally £250. This amount is part of the total rent payment and is deducted from the final rent instalment*.

*This applies to properties managed by Student Living by Sodexo.

Whether you are looking for a modern en-suite room, a budget friendly option, catered accommodation, or an independent studio - we have it all.

Visit northumbria.ac.uk/accommodation to learn about our accommodation guarantee and to watch our student vlogs, see 360-degree videos of our residences or learn more about our exciting offers.



*Based on 2025/26 prices, rent may be subject to change.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Northumbria has a range of wellbeing services to ensure your child has access to trained professionals with the right expertise to help support them during their time at university.

Available 24/7 during term-time, Ask4Help is the first point of contact for all student support enquiries. Students can contact the team in person, by phone or via their portal to raise queries and seek support or guidance on a range of topics.

At our service desks, there are specialist university staff who offer support and advice on the following:

- **Welfare and Health Support**
- **Financial Support**
- **Disability and Dyslexia Support**
- **International Student Support**
- **Counselling and Mental Health Support**
- **Chaplaincy and Faith Advice**
- **Change of Circumstances**

Support at the Students' Union

We are also proud to have a wonderful, supportive Students' Union. Whether it's finding like-minded friends in societies, taking part in wellness events, or speaking to one of their friendly staff members, the Students' Union are able to provide a helping hand and a different perspective.

Stay Safe

We recommend that all students download the free SafeZone app. This connects your child directly to the University's security team when they need help at City and Coach Lane Campuses. If they are off campus, it will offer to connect them to 999 emergency services.

For further information please visit northumbria.ac.uk/studentssupport

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Applying for University



- Make sure your child adds Northumbria University to their contacts to ensure emails don't disappear into their junk inbox.
- If your child may want you to speak on their behalf, about their application, make sure they give this permission verbally or via email.

Preparing for Your Child's Exams



- Revision and exam timetables help plan time and prepare for the exam season.
- Taking breaks during revision sessions is important.
- Encourage your child to sleep well, eat a well-balanced diet and keep hydrated.

Results Day



- Encourage having an early night before results day and to eat breakfast in the morning. It could be a long day for them.
- Reassure and support them regardless of the outcome. There are plenty of opportunities through Clearing.
- Be ready and understand the UCAS Clearing process. You can find out more at northumbria.ac.uk/clearing
- Ensure your child knows their Personal ID number and login details for UCAS and the Student Finance Company.

Moving checklist

- Pots and pans - check what the accommodation provides first.
- Bedding - what size bedding is needed for their new accommodation?
- Some of your child's favourite things to help make their room a home from home.
- Make sure your child registers with a doctor near their new home.
- TV license - ensure your child buys one in their new accommodation if needed.

A-Z OF UNIVERSITY

ACCREDITATION - a professional body or organisation has recognised and endorsed a particular course, demonstrating its quality and relevance.

APPLICANT PORTAL - after applying to Northumbria your child will be emailed login details for our applicant portal. Here they can track their application and upload any necessary documents.

CAMPUS - the area containing the university's main facilities, including student accommodation, teaching buildings, and leisure areas.

CLEARING - this period, from July, allows universities to offer places on undergraduate courses outside of the standard application process. Places may be limited and entry requirements may differ to standard entry requirements.

CONDITIONAL OFFER - an offer made by the university on the basis that your child still needs to meet the requirements - usually exam results.

CONTEXTUAL OFFER - a reduced UCAS tariff point offer which is less than our standard entry criteria. This may be offered based on information provided in the application.

DESTINATION NORTHUMBRIA - this is a programme designed to prepare and support with the transition to studying at university.

EXTENDED DEGREE - a four or five year study route designed for students who have not achieved the entry requirements for their chosen course. Following successful completion of the foundation year, your child can progress onto the first year of their degree.

FIRM CHOICE - this is your child's first-choice university - as long as they meet the conditions of their offer, they'll get a place on their course.

INSURANCE CHOICE - this is your child's back-up option if they don't meet the conditions for their first choice. It makes sense to pick somewhere with lower entry requirements just in case they don't get their expected grades.

MAINTENANCE LOAN - this is a loan that is paid directly to students and helps to cover living expenses while studying.

NOMINATED CONTACT - your child can choose a nominated contact (this may be you) who can speak to the university about their application. This must be confirmed either verbally or in writing.

NU EXPERIENCE DAY - our events for offer-holders to experience life on their course at Northumbria.

OPEN DAY - our events to see the facilities at Northumbria and find out more about our courses before applying.

PERSONAL STATEMENT - This part of the application is your child's chance to tell universities and colleges why they'd like to study with them, showing their passion for the subject, and demonstrating skills and experience.

PLACEMENT - an opportunity to spend time working in a relevant field to gain industry experience.

PORTFOLIO - some courses may require a portfolio in the application process as a way for your child to provide evidence of their work, demonstrate creativity and share interests and inspirations.

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE - this is a higher-level course such as a Master's degree or PhD often studied after an undergraduate degree (typically a Bachelors).

REFERENCE - This part of the application is a piece of text ideally written by someone who can comment on your child's academic ability.

SAFEZONE APP - this app is available at Northumbria and provides direct contact between the user and the university Security Team.

STUDY ABROAD - the opportunity to study at a partner university in another country.

TUITION FEE LOAN - this loan covers the cost of tuition fees charged by universities and is paid directly to the university.

UCAS TARIFF POINTS - UCAS allocate points to different grades for post-16 qualifications (A-Levels, BTECs etc), and some universities, including Northumbria, base their undergraduate entry requirements on these points.

UCAS HUB - this is where your child will be able to start, submit and track their application.

UNCONDITIONAL OFFER - an offer given by a university based on the information in your child's application, although there might still be a few things to arrange.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE - refers to a Bachelors degree and is usually the first degree after school or college.

KEY DATES

At Northumbria University we are committed to providing the best possible support to all our students. We recognise the vital role you play in advising, reassuring and supporting your child during their time preparing for, and then experiencing, university life. Below, we have listed key dates* that are important for those on a journey to Northumbria University:

DATES 2025/2026	EVENTS
25 October 22 November	Northumbria Open Days
14 January	UCAS application deadline for undergraduate courses
January – March	Northumbria Experience Days
May – July	Exam Period
3 June	UCAS deadline for accepting university offers
13 August	Results Day
	Clearing Hotline opens
September	Likely to be when your child will move into their new accommodation
	Freshers' Week and induction to university Semester One teaching commences
Dec – January	Winter Break

*All dates are subject to change

This is a quick guide to your UCAS application journey. For more information on applying to Northumbria, visit our website. Remember to do your research on universities and attend Open Days and recruitment visits.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Apply to Northumbria through UCAS.com
DEADLINE 14 JANUARY 2026

EU and International students can also apply direct on our website

Made an offer?

ATTEND NU EXPERIENCE DAY

ACCEPT YOUR OFFER

Accept your **firm** (1st) or **insurance** (2nd) choice offer via the UCAS hub

We'll send you information on

HOW TO BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION

GET YOUR RESULTS

Met all of your conditions?

Not met your firm offer but met your insurance offer at Northumbria?
Your insurance choice will be automatically accepted

Missed your insurance offer or done better than expected?

Call us on our Clearing Hotline **0800 085 1085**

CONGRATULATIONS YOU'RE COMING TO NORTHUMBRIA!

If you are an EU or International student book your free Meet and Greet service to take you directly to your accommodation from Newcastle airport

Complete your self registration online before you arrive

WELCOME TO NORTHUMBRIA!

Attend induction and welcome week



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THE SUNDAY TIMES
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**GOOD UNIVERSITY
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OF THE YEAR**

Please note that the information in this guide is accurate at the time of printing, October 2025, but could be subject to change. Our website is the most up to date place to review our information.

northumbria.ac.uk