

# Get ready for Northumbria



*Welcome To*  
**NORTHUMBRIA**

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# A guide for new international students

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We are delighted that you've chosen Northumbria University as your home for the next period of your life. We take a huge pride in the experience we deliver to our students, and that starts from now. You'll be joining

an international university, based in the best student city in the UK, and we're sure that your time with us will be productive, enjoyable and full of success! This guide is our way of helping you prepare as fully as possible for the journey from your old home to your new home, and we'll try to outline all the steps you need to take to make that journey as smooth as possible. We are really looking forward to welcoming you here very soon.



# Get ready: Preparation and planning

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## I. Accept your offer and get your CAS

### Deadline for requesting a Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS)

Once you have met all our conditions and paid your deposit, you should submit your offer acceptance and CAS request to the International Office by 2 September for Semester 1 entry and 10 December for Semester 2 entry. If you accept your offer and request a CAS after these deadlines please note that we cannot guarantee to process a CAS for you in time for your visa application.

### Confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS)

You must have a CAS before making an application as a Tier 4 (General) student. A CAS is an electronic document issued to you by Northumbria University once you have accepted your offer and paid your deposit. Your CAS will be valid for use Tier 4 application for six months from the date that it was generated.

We will send you the unique reference number that corresponds to your CAS and you should write this reference number in the appropriate field on your Tier 4 application form. We will also email you the information that we have used to generate your CAS – the CAS statement. The CAS statement itself is not required for your Tier 4 application, but it gives you all of the information about your course and sponsor - Northumbria University, and some

information that you need to complete your Tier 4 application form. Please check this carefully to ensure there are no discrepancies between the CAS and the information on your application form or your application could be refused.

The CAS statement should tell you:

- the 14 digit reference number for the CAS, containing a mixture of letters and numbers
- Northumbria University Sponsor Licence Number (SLN)
- the start and end dates of the course that you intend to study
- the title of the course that you intend to study
- the tuition fees for first year of the course, or the entire course if it will last one year or less. If your CAS has been issued for further study on a course that you are already partway through, the “first year of study” means the first year of this new period of study
- any tuition fees that you have already paid to Northumbria University, if a separate receipt has not been issued
- any qualifications that Northumbria University has used to make you an offer
- an assessment of your English language ability, including any formal qualifications considered
- if you have previously been granted immigration permission to study in the UK, either under Tier 4 or under the student rules that were in place before Tier 4



was introduced on 31 March 2009, it will confirm that the new course demonstrates academic progress from your previous study

## II. Apply for your visa

### How do I apply?

You will need to apply for Tier 4 entry clearance outside the UK, in the country where you live or where you have nationality. You can **apply online**, unless you are in Cuba, North Korea or Zimbabwe where you must apply in person at your nearest Visa Application Centre.

The information in the link below will take you through the application process, step by step.

[click here](#)

All applicants should read the **Home Office's Tier 4 policy guidance** before applying.

### When should I apply?

The date when you apply for entry clearance must be:

- before you have travelled to the UK; and
- no more than three months before the start date of your course; and
- no later than six months after your CAS was issued

Check the **visa processing times** in your home country for an indication of how long it will take for your application to be processed.

### How much does it cost to apply?

The cost of a visa application can be found at [www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/overview](http://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/overview).

All students applying for Tier 4 visas, whether renewing their visa from within the UK or applying for a new visa from overseas, will have to pay a Health Charge of £150 per year to enable them to access any services from the National Health Service (NHS).

All students applying for Tier 4 visas from their home country will receive a transit visa, which allows them to travel to the UK, and, when they arrive, a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), which they will receive at enrolment.

For all information on both of the above, please refer to the links below.



### What biometric data do I have to give?

You are required to provide your biometrics – facial photograph and fingerprints.

### Do I have to go for an interview as part of my application?

Yes, probably. The Home Office intends to interview most Tier 4 student applicants before granting them immigration permission to come to the UK. You will be sent an email asking you to attend an interview as part of the application process. You should check your email (including the 'junk' folder) regularly as your application is likely to be refused if you are asked to attend an interview and you do not do so without providing a reasonable explanation. Students from low-risk countries will also be interviewed.

Please click the link below for further information on how these interviews are conducted.

[click here](#)

### Do I need to have a medical check?

You'll need to have a tuberculosis (TB) test if you're coming to the UK for more than 6 months and are resident in any of these **listed countries**.

If your test shows that you don't have TB, you'll be given a certificate which is valid for six months. Include this certificate with your UK visa application. All children over 11 years old must see a clinician who'll decide if they need a TB test. You must take your child to an **approved clinic** and complete a health questionnaire. If the clinician decides not to test your child they'll give you a certificate to say your child didn't need to be tested. Include this certificate with your child's UK visa application.

### Pregnant women

You can choose between two tests:

- an x-ray with an extra shield to protect you and your unborn child
- a sputum test (phlegm coughed up from your lungs) – there may be an extra fee and you could wait up to eight weeks for results

If you don't want to be tested you can use an x-ray taken within the last three months



at a UK approved screening clinic. Ask a clinician at an **approved clinic** to review your x-ray. If it's accepted the clinician will give you a certificate to send with your UK visa application.

### **What other evidence do I have to show when I make my visa application?**

For full information on the evidence you must show, including financial information, please click the link below.

[click here](#)

### **Applications by 'low risk' students**

You are a "low risk" student if you are applying for Tier 4 (General) either as entry clearance in your country of nationality, or for leave to remain in the UK, and:

- you are a national of Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, USA or
- you hold a Hong Kong SAR passport or a British National (Overseas) passport or

- you hold a Taiwan (ROC) passport with a residence card number

If this applies to you, you do not need to provide evidence of your qualifications or money when you apply for your visa. It does not mean that you do not have to meet the requirements - just that you do not always have to prove that you do. If you do fit into one of the categories above, we advise that you prepare the evidence in case you are asked for it, which the Home Office is entitled to do.

### **What help is available when I am preparing my application?**

There is an online resource provided by the Home Office to answer queries during the application process.

[click here](#)



### Who do I contact if I have a problem with my application?

Once you have submitted your application, the process is normally straightforward and you should hopefully receive your transit visa within the timeframe normal for your home country. If, however, you encounter any problems, or if your application is rejected or refused, you may wish to speak to one of our Welfare, Immigration and Funding Advisers who will try to help you. Please see the link below to our web pages and the email address that you should send any queries to.

### Welfare, Immigration and Funding Support

[northumbria.ac.uk/internationalsupport](http://northumbria.ac.uk/internationalsupport)

Tel: 00 44 191 227 4127

Email:

[sv.welfareandinternational@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:sv.welfareandinternational@northumbria.ac.uk)

If you wish to come to the UK on a Short-term Student Visa, please follow the link below and refer to the guidelines on how to apply:

[click here](#)

### Visa conditions and sponsor duties

Your CAS lists the start and end dates of your course. As a Tier 4 (General) student, the date that your immigration permission ends will depend on the length and type of course.

If you will be studying for part of a month, this will not be rounded up to a full month.

For example, if your course will last 11 months and three weeks, it is not rounded up to 12 months.

<i>Course</i>	<i>End of immigration permission</i>
12 months or more	4 months after the end of the course
6 months or more, but less than 12 months	2 months after the end of the course
Pre-session course, less than 6 months	1 month after the end of the course
Other course, less than 6 months	7 days after the end of the course

Make a note of the date that your immigration permission ends. You must not remain in the UK after this date, unless you have already submitted an immigration application for further leave to remain in the UK.



## What conditions will be attached to my immigration permission?

### Study at your intended institution

You must enrol and study at Northumbria University only. If you change your mind before travelling to the UK and you wish to study at a different institution, you must make a new entry clearance application using a CAS from the new institution

For more information about these conditions, and the rules about changing Tier 4 sponsor after arriving in the UK, see **Protecting your Tier 4 student immigration status**.

### Work restriction or prohibition

As a Tier 4 (General) student studying in the UK you may be granted immigration permission which allows you to work outside of your studies, part-time during term-time and full-time during the vacations. For more information on the work that you will be allowed to do while you are studying in the UK, including work placements, see **Working during your studies**.

### Registration with the police

If you are required to register with the police, your immigration permission will state this. For more information about this condition, see **Protecting your Tier 4 student immigration status**.



## “No recourse to public funds”

Your immigration conditions prohibit you from accessing ‘public funds’, which means certain welfare benefits and local authority housing. To find out what counts as ‘public funds’, see **Public funds**.

Using the National Health Service, sending your child to a state school, being exempt from the Council Tax, and paying “home” fees for study do not count as accessing ‘public funds’.

If you claim ‘public funds’, the UK immigration authorities can refuse your immigration application or remove you from the UK. You might also be barred from returning to the UK for a certain period.

### Tier 4 sponsor duties to report immigration matters to the Home Office

As a Tier 4 Sponsor, Northumbria University must fulfil specific sponsor duties. These duties are outlined on pages 74 to 79 of Annex 1 of the **Home Office’s Tier 4 Policy Guidance** and include notifying the Home Office if:

- you do not enrol on your course before the last day of the enrolment period
- you fail to attend a class or lecture, or submit work for a specific number of times, and we have not agreed to your absence or non-submission of work
- you defer, postpone or take a break from your studies for any reason
- you change to a shorter course, or you complete your studies early
- you withdraw from your studies before you have finished your course

The Home Office can bring your immigration permission to an end early if they are notified of one of these issues. This means it is very important that, as far as possible, you attend all your classes and lectures and submit coursework when it is due.



### III. Information for students with a disability

#### What do we mean by 'disabled students'?

Different countries have different ideas about what 'disabled' means. In the UK there is a legal definition:

*'if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'*

(Equality Act 2010)

In UK universities the term 'disabled students' includes students with:

- physical impairments causing gross mobility problems (such as using a wheelchair or crutches or having difficulty walking) or fine mobility problems (such as having difficulty using arms, hands or fingers)
- sensory impairments such as being Deaf, hard of hearing, blind or partially sighted
- social communication impairments such as Asperger's Syndrome or other autistic spectrum disorders

- specific Learning Difficulties such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or Attention Deficit Disorder
- long standing medical conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes or heart disease
- mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and stress
- other disabilities, impairments or conditions not listed above which have a significant and adverse impact on the ability to study

If you fit into any of the above categories and wish to know how Northumbria University can support you before and during your studies, please click the link below.

[click here](#)



## IV. Choose your accommodation

Welcome to Newcastle upon Tyne – the place voted the UK’s number one city by students!

Northumbria University boasts nearly 5,000 bedrooms within its various residential schemes from en suite, top-of-the-range accommodation to traditional student housing – so there’s a wide variety to suit all tastes and budgets.

Our residences are ideally located for students, with excellent proximity or transport links to both campuses and the City Centre, meaning that cars are unnecessary for the majority of our students. All city-based residential students are within a short walking distance of our £30m sporting facilities, the Students’ Union and the bustling culture and night life of Newcastle Gateshead.

You can find our campus map by clicking the link below

[click here](#)

Within our residences, we welcome both new and returning students, undergraduates and postgraduates and dedicate some blocks specifically to these groups so we can ensure a quieter environment for those who need it and superb social opportunities for those

looking to meet new friends. Additionally, our residences are not only a home-from-home for UK students, but for students from all corners of the world. Please see the link below for full information on Northumbria’s accommodation pages:

[click here](#)

### Planning your accommodation

When you choose your student housing in the UK:

- be clear what the options are
- be clear what you want, what you need, what you can afford and what you would be prepared to compromise on
- secure your housing in good time and get the deal confirmed.

If you opt for housing owned or allocated by Northumbria University, you can organise this before you travel to the UK via the link above. If you choose another type of housing, you will need to arrange some temporary housing before you travel to Newcastle and then arrange the longer-term housing after you have arrived.

The following pages will be useful to you:

[click here](#)



## V. Prepare to leave home

### Cost of living and budgeting

The **International Student Calculator** gives a general guide to the cost of living in the UK.

### Day-to-day expenses

Day-to-day living costs vary from one individual to another, but you should ensure that you are fully able to support yourself in the UK, which may be more expensive than your own country. You should avoid trying to live too cheaply and you should not rely on part-time earnings as a source of income.

### What you should expect

A single student is likely to need around £820 per month for basic living expenses (e.g. rent, food and travel). Married students should allow around £1,000 per month for living expenses, with a further £130 per child per month if necessary.

How much you need will vary according to where you choose to live and what your individual requirements are. Please note that these amounts are not related to the financial requirements when making a Tier 4 visa application either in your home country or in the UK. For these amounts please click the link below.

[click here](#)

Books and stationery in the first year	£240–£356
Clothes (in the first year)	£280–£310
Newspaper	25p–£1.00 each
Magazines	£1.00–£3.50 each
Paperback books	£5.00–£10.00 each
Cigarettes	£3.50–£8.00
Inexpensive restaurant meal	£6.50–£12.00
Meal on campus	£2.00–£6.50
Coffee	£1.50–£2.50
Tea	£1.50–£2.00
Soft drinks	£1.50
Spirits per measure	£2.00
Beer per pint	£2.00–£3.50
Glass of wine	£2.50–£4.00
Cinema ticket	£5.50–£8.50
Theatre ticket	£5.00–£50.00
Concert ticket	£5.00–£65.00
Monthly bus pass	£30–£70
Metro pass	£30–£70



## Health and healthcare

### Who is entitled to free healthcare?

All migrants, including students, must pay an annual health charge for the duration of their study in the UK. For students and their dependants this is currently £150 per person, per year. Further details will be available when you apply for your visa in your home country but you can find more information in the links below.

The NHS (National Health Service) is the UK's state health service which provides treatment for UK residents through a wide range of health care services. Some services are free and some have to be paid for.

The following NHS treatment is free for everyone:

- emergency treatment (but not follow-up treatment)
- family planning services (contraception)
- diagnosis and treatment of certain communicable diseases
- compulsory psychiatric treatment

If your course of study is for six months or more you will qualify for NHS treatment from the beginning of your stay on the same basis as anyone who is ordinarily

resident in the UK. If you bring your spouse or children with you to the UK, they will also be entitled to NHS treatment. To receive free hospital treatment, your family members must be in the UK as your dependants and not, for example, as visitors. 'Family' in this situation means your spouse, civil partner, and your children aged up to the age of 16 (or up to the age of 19 if they are in full-time education).

### Reciprocal Health Care Agreements

The UK has reciprocal health care agreements for the following people:

- nationals of countries in the European Economic Area
- nationals of: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Moldova; New Zealand; Russia; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Ukraine; and Uzbekistan
- residents of Anguilla; Australia; Barbados; Bosnia and Herzegovina; British Virgin Islands; Channel Islands; Croatia; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Isle of Man; Macedonia; Montenegro; Montserrat; Serbia; St Helena; and Turks and Caicos Islands

Please note that this list changes, as new arrangements are agreed, or existing agreements end.

If you are covered by a reciprocal health care agreement, you will be eligible for some NHS treatment even if your course lasts less than six months. Reciprocal health care agreements generally cover hospital treatment, the need for which arose during your stay, but do not always cover treatment of an existing condition. Before you travel, you should seek advice from the health authorities in your home country about what treatment will be covered. You may still need to take out limited medical insurance.

If you are entitled to NHS treatment, the following services will be free of charge:

- consulting a doctor (or General Practitioner, which is the more commonly-used term in the UK and is abbreviated to GP), and most other GP services (e.g. visiting a clinic)
- treatment in a hospital (both emergency and non-emergency treatment)

You may need to pay for:

- medicines prescribed by your GP
- some GP services (e.g. vaccinations for travel, getting a sickness certificate)
- dental treatment
- optical treatment

For details of NHS charges, see the NHS leaflet HC12 in the 'downloads' section of the NHS website

[click here](#)

## Medical insurance

Even if you are entitled to free NHS treatment whilst in the UK, you should consider taking out insurance which covers other medical-related costs. An insurance policy may cover, for example:

- lost fees if you are unable to complete your course
- costs of returning home if a relative is ill

- costs of a relative visiting you in the UK if you fall ill
- cost of returning to your home country for treatment
- or in the worst possible situation, returning a body home for burial

There can be a long wait for NHS treatment, sometimes many months. An insurance policy which gives you access to private medical care could give you much quicker access to the treatment you need. If you already have medical insurance in your home country, check whether you can extend it to cover your stay in the UK, as well as looking at options available from UK insurers.

Endsleigh Insurance has produced a special health insurance policy for international students and their spouses or civil partners and children in the UK. Details of the policy can be found on the [Endsleigh website](#). Please contact Endsleigh for further details.

## Meet and Greet

If you are a new student coming to Northumbria University from outside the UK and flying into Newcastle International Airport, why not make use of the University Meet & Greet service? As part of this service, our Meet & Greet team will meet you at the airport and provide transport to your chosen accommodation free of charge. Click the link for more information.

[click here](#)

## VI. Checklist

Now you are ready for departure, make sure you have arranged or done the following:

- entry clearance (transit visa) as a Tier 4 (General) Student (or a Short-term Student Visa)
- accommodation in Newcastle
- finances – remember to bring sterling cash with you, but keep it safe!
- Meet and Greet pick up at Newcastle International Airport
- travel insurance to cover lost luggage
- health insurance – if you need it

## VII. Useful links and contacts

### Questions about your course and your offer:

**Email:** [internationaladmissions@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:internationaladmissions@northumbria.ac.uk)

### Faculty phone numbers

Arts, Design and Social Sciences  
+44 191 227 3451 or +44 191 227 4913

Business and Law  
+44 191 227 4494 or +44 191 227 3322

Engineering and Environment  
+44 191 227 4722 or +44 191 227 4342

Health and Life Sciences  
+44 191 215 6178 or +44 191 227 3571

## Useful websites

### Pre-arrival guidance for Northumbria University students

Studying in the UK and Scholarships

[britishcouncil.org](http://britishcouncil.org) and [ukcisa.org.uk](http://ukcisa.org.uk)

Entry clearance (visas) for students

[ukvisas.gov.uk](http://ukvisas.gov.uk)

Newcastle International Airport

[newcastleairport.com](http://newcastleairport.com)

Accommodation in Newcastle

[northumbria.ac.uk/accommodation](http://northumbria.ac.uk/accommodation)

### Useful information

#### Meet and Greet

Information and booking form

[northumbria.ac.uk/meetandgreet](http://northumbria.ac.uk/meetandgreet)

# Departure: Your journey to the UK

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## I. What to bring with you

### Luggage – don't bring too much!

Be realistic about what you need to pack as excess luggage charges can be expensive. Pack warm, waterproof clothes in preparation for the unpredictable UK climate. Do not be tempted to pack meat and fish from home, as it is illegal to bring these into the UK from outside the EU. Ensure you attach luggage labels with your contact details in the UK to each piece of luggage.

### Documents relating to your course

Please ensure you have all of the documents relating to your course – including your CAS letter and decision letter – in your hand luggage or handbag. You will be asked to produce these at immigration control in London or Newcastle.



### Money

When you arrive in the UK you will need some cash and so should bring about £250 in cash and travellers' cheques for your immediate needs (meals, food shopping, local transport, etc.). Avoid carrying any more cash in case it gets lost or stolen. Most shops and hotels will accept credit cards, and some will also accept payment in sterling travellers' cheques. If you intend to bring more than £8000 with you in cash, cheques or a bankers draft you will need to declare this to customs when you arrive in UK.

Shops and services in the UK will accept payment in UK currency only. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted and you will be able to withdraw money from cashpoint ('ATM') machines if you have a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for that card.

## II. Arrival in the UK

### Immigration control

When you arrive at an airport, you pass through immigration control before collecting your luggage. There are usually two main queues: one for European Economic Area and Swiss nationals, and one for everyone else. Make sure you join the correct queue. A Border Force Officer will look at your passport and check your Visa/Entry Clearance.

When you enter the UK with a Tier 4 visa, the Border Force Officer must be satisfied that you speak English at the required level without needing an interpreter. This will not be a test or interview as such but you may be





asked several questions if he thinks that your English is not up to the required standard.

Before leaving Immigration Control, check that the Border Force Officer has put a date stamp (if you had a Visa or Entry Clearance) in your passport; or if you are a non-visa national coming for a course of less than six months and do not have Entry Clearance check that you have been stamped in as a 'short-term student'. After immigration control, you will be able to collect your baggage. If any item does not come through, find a representative of the airline you travelled on and fill in a lost baggage form.

## Customs

When you have found all your baggage you must pass through Customs Control. Join the queue for the green channel if you have nothing to declare, the red channel if you have goods to declare, or the blue channel if you have arrived from an airport within the European Union (EU) where you have already cleared all your baggage through Customs Control.

Please complete a declaration form if you have more than £8,000 in cash. You will be able to keep a copy of the completed form which you should keep safely as evidence that you have made a declaration. Please note that a very large fine can be imposed if you do not make this declaration, or provide incorrect or incomplete information.

If you are carrying more than the permitted duty/tax-free allowances, or any prohibited goods (e.g. drugs, offensive weapons, food or plants from outside the European Union, medicines made from endangered species, etc.) you must pass through the red channel.

If you are not sure about what you can bring into the UK you should check with the British Embassy or High Commission in your home country before travelling to the UK. Before you contact them, you can obtain some very basic information from the leaflet **Travelling to the UK – what you can bring, what you can't, what you must declare**

## Arriving via Republic of Ireland

You can come to the UK via the Republic of Ireland. However, it is important to understand that the UK and Ireland are part of a Common Travel Area (CTA) which streamlines arrival from Ireland for most travellers because there is no immigration control on arrival in the UK, and this can cause a problem for non-visa nationals on short courses.

There is no problem for someone who has applied in their home country for UK Tier 4 or a Short-term student entry clearance (visa) before travelling. Your UK visa will not be date stamped on entry to the UK, but this is fine. You should keep evidence of your travel in case your date of entry ever becomes important or relevant. Furthermore, if you do travel and re-enter the UK later, for example for a short trip elsewhere in Europe (other than Ireland), your entry clearance will simply be date stamped on re-entry.



If you are a non-visa national, (see link below to check your status) you can normally travel to the UK and apply on entry for immigration permission to enter as a short-term student for up to six months. Non-visa national students on short courses often choose to do this rather than applying for entry clearance before travelling. However, if you arrive in the UK from elsewhere in the CTA, including Ireland, you will not have the opportunity to do this because there is no immigration control at your UK arrival point. If you plan to travel via Ireland you should therefore always apply for UK entry clearance (a visa) as a student or short-term student in your home country.

If, despite the above advice, you do enter the UK from Ireland with no specific UK immigration permission, and you are a non-visa national, you will, in most cases, automatically have permission to be in the UK only for three months, not for six months. This may not be enough time to complete your short course, but you cannot extend your stay in the UK. If you need to be in the UK for more than three months, you will need to leave the UK within the three month period, then re-enter asking for immigration permission to enter as a short-term student, for a maximum visit of six months.

Note also that any immigration permission you are given on arrival in Ireland is for Ireland only, not for the UK.

### III. Leaving the airport

If you are travelling outside of the Meet and Greet period and will travel to your accommodation from the airport by yourself, please click on the link below to find out how you can do this:

[click here](#)



## V. Checklist

In your hand luggage you will need:

- your entry documents into the UK – passport, bank statements, offer letter, decision letter
- a small amount of sterling cash
- the address of your accommodation
- the phone number of your flatmate, if you are sharing
- keys, if you are in private accommodation

Don't forget:

- to phone a day or more before you arrive so that people are expecting you
- to label your luggage clearly with your name and accommodation address in Newcastle
- that you cannot bring raw foodstuffs from home

## IV. Arrival at your new address

If you are using our Meet and Greet service you will be taken to your chosen accommodation and the Meet and Greet officer will ensure you gain access to the building or house before he or she leaves you. If you are travelling outside of the Meet and Greet dates, you should plan your arrival beforehand so that you do not encounter any problems when you arrive.

If you are in University accommodation, please ensure you have informed us of your approximate arrival time, especially if you intend to arrive in the evening or very early morning. Store the address in your phone or on a piece of paper so that you do not forget it and can show it to a taxi driver or member of staff if you need help. Find out the name of the house manager or the phone number of the reception in the building; make a note of these too. If you are in private accommodation make sure you have keys in a safe and easily-accessible place so that you do not have to search through your luggage

when you arrive. Take down the phone numbers of anyone you will be sharing with and let them know when you are likely to arrive.

## VI. Useful links and contacts

All enquiries regarding student accommodation should be sent to:

[rc.accommodation@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:rc.accommodation@northumbria.ac.uk)

Telephone: +44 (0) 191 227 4209

Accommodation address details can be found on the individual **residences** pages.



# Arrival:

## Your first few days in Newcastle

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### I. Your first few days

#### Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

Upon arriving in the UK, you will have to enrol on your course as soon as you can. You will receive your new BRP card at enrolment. If it is not available you will be informed of what, if anything, you need to do. Normally you will just have to wait a few days until we receive it.

#### Discovering your new home

Once you have settled in to your accommodation you should wrap up warm and go out and explore the University campus and the city of Newcastle. Ask if any new students in your accommodation want to join you as this is a great way of making friends and discovering all there is to know about your new home. For more information on the many exciting things about Northumbria University and the city of Newcastle, please browse the site below.

[click here](#)

#### Opening a bank account

One of the most important first steps is to make sure your money is safe and that you have easy access to it whenever you need it. You can ensure this by opening a bank account. Northumbria University does not endorse or recommend any particular bank but instead encourages you to look at what is available and make the choice yourself. There is a branch of Santander UK in the Students' Union Building on City Campus. Once you have enrolled on your course you will be able

to obtain a letter via My Northumbria which will help you open an account with your chosen bank.

You can find information about choosing and opening a bank account in these documents:

**International students: opening a UK bank account – British Bankers Association**

**The Money Advice Service – Basic Bank Accounts**

#### Useful information when opening a bank account

If you want an account based on Sharia principles, check banks' websites and publicity materials. Some mainstream banks offer accounts and services that meet these principles and there are also a few specialist banks that operate in accordance with them. You might be able to prevent tax being deducted from your interest – ask your bank or building society for form **R105** when you open your bank account.

#### Proving your identity

The Money Advice Service website gives you the **identity requirements** needed for basic bank accounts.

#### Food

Whether you are in self-catering or catered halls of residence or a private apartment with friends, at some point you will need to buy and prepare food for yourself. Newcastle has many places to buy fresh produce, some more expensive than others – you just



need to find your preferred place to do the weekly shopping. Most British students shop in supermarkets and Newcastle has many to choose from, from the more expensive – Waitrose in Eldon Square – to the more budget-friendly such as Morrisons or Asda. If you prefer to shop in a market then the Grainger market is for you.

Look at the links below then go out and explore the possibilities for creating exciting new dishes or comforting home-style food; it probably won't be what you are used to back home but shopping for food is one of the most exciting things about living in another country – you will discover tastes you never knew you had!

Grainger Market

[click here](#)

Get into Newcastle

[click here](#)

Asda

[click here](#)

Morrisons

[click here](#)

Waitrose

[click here](#)

### Local transport

Newcastle is well served by local transport with a Metro system and extensive bus service. Please see the links below for further information.

Nexus

[click here](#)

Arriva

[click here](#)

### Be aware of culture shock and how it may affect you

“Culture shock” describes the impact of moving from a familiar culture to one which is unfamiliar. It is an experience described by people who have travelled abroad to work, live or study and it may affect you when you arrive in Newcastle, especially in the first few days and weeks. It includes the shock of a new environment, meeting lots of new people and learning the ways of a different country. It also includes the shock of being separated from the important people in your life, maybe family, friends, colleagues, and teachers: people you would normally talk to at times of uncertainty, people who give you support and guidance. If you feel that you may be affected by culture shock, have a look at the link below to see how you can help yourself and how we at the University can help you too.

[click here](#)

### An introduction to academic culture in the UK

In the UK the teaching and assessment methods used in universities are probably very different to those used in your home country. It is therefore advisable that you familiarise yourself with them before you arrive. The links below explain what these different methods



are, as well as outlining expectations and attitudes to study in the UK.

Northumbria's guide to study skills

[click here](#)

A guide for international students studying in the UK

[click here](#)

UKCISA Study methods in the UK

[click here](#)

## II. Enrolling on your course

At the enrolment session we will need to confirm a few important details, so please ensure you bring the following with you:

- passport – showing a valid visa issued for study at Northumbria. If you have a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa it should show the Northumbria Sponsor Licence Number which is 4NPV8B1G7.
- fee information such as letter from sponsor, or a bank transfer receipt if you are paying your own fees
- your original qualification certificates
- our Confirmation of Acceptance of Study (CAS) letter
- The decision letter given to you following your visa appointment

Further information on enrolment will be available at a later date.

### III. Checklist

- Once you have enrolled on your course, request a bank letter and open an account
- Attend the Central Welcome Event

### IV. Useful links and contacts

Click the link for a guide to banking for international students:

[click here](#)

## The Next Step

### Welcome to Northumbria Programme

We hope you found this information useful. In August you will also receive an email with a link to the *Welcome to Northumbria* online programme, which will provide you with further details in preparation for coming to university as well as all the information you need to know once you arrive on campus.

**Welcome TO  
NORTHUMBRIA**

