

GETTING U READY FOR **ULSTER**

**International Students
Pre-Arrival Guide**



ulster.ac.uk/global



- 
- 3 Pre-arrival Guide**
 - 3 Welcome Week**
 - 4 Visas & Immigration**
 - 5 Healthcare**
 - 6 Accommodation**
 - 8 Getting Here**
 - 10 Money Matters**
 - 10 English Language Assistance**
 - 11 Don't Forget**

**We can't wait to meet you!
Get prepared for your move
to Northern Ireland.**



PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE

Do you have everything you need?
Get all of the latest pre-arrival
information by clicking here.



WELCOME WEEK

Designed to introduce you to other new students, our staff and to the systems and cultural life of the University, there will be lots happening throughout Welcome Week to help you get settled into university life at Ulster. It is extremely important to have a good understanding of how the University works so you have a successful start to your studies. We strongly recommend that you attend and participate in the **Welcome Week programme** – we promise it will be fun as well as informative and a great way to meet other people.

Welcome Week begins with our Meet and Greet service on the 14th and 15th of September 2019. Complete your **Arrival Form** and **book online** to be welcomed at the airport and transferred to your campus. If you're arriving early you may want to check out **Discover Northern Ireland** for accommodation options. If you're arriving after Welcome Week please let our International Student Experience team know as soon as possible by emailing ise@ulster.ac.uk

VISAS AND IMMIGRATION

Do you need a Visa?

Check out our [website](#) to find out if you need a visa, which type of visa you might need and how to apply for one. Up to date information on rules around working in the UK as well as lots of other Tier 4 information and guidance can be found in this [Tier 4 guidance document](#). If you're studying on a Short-Term Study Visa you have no right to work (paid or unpaid) during your studies in the UK.

Need help applying for your visa?

The International Student Experience team can help you with any questions you have about completing your visa application. If you need visa immigration guidance, then contact the team by emailing ise@ulster.ac.uk and including your name / course / student ID / contact number.

HEALTHCARE

The UK's National Health Service (NHS) provides healthcare services that are free (with the exceptions of some services) at the point of use for all UK residents.

Are you studying at Ulster for 6 months or more?

If you are a Tier 4 student, you will be asked when applying for your visa to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge. You will then be able to use the NHS but you will still need to pay for some services, such as dental treatment, eye tests or prescriptions. You will need to bring your Biometric Residence Permit with you when you access healthcare in the UK.

Are you studying at Ulster for 6 months or less?

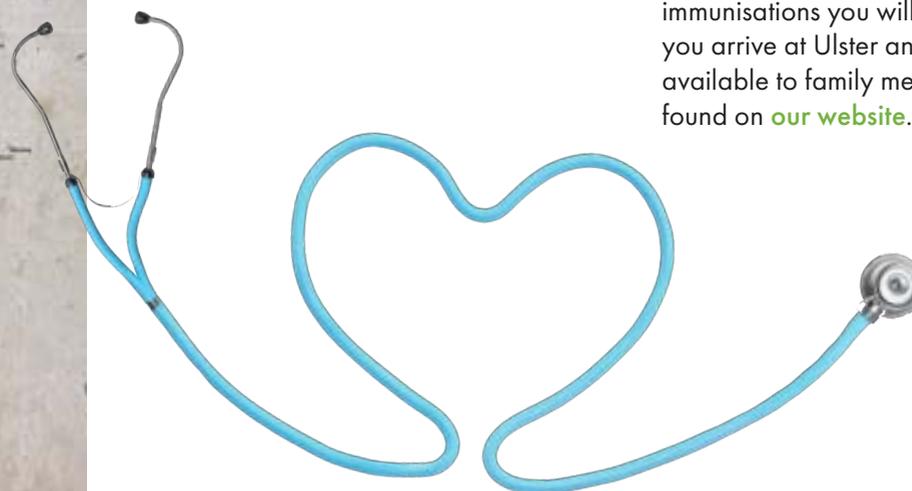
If you are studying at Ulster for 6 months or less, apart from emergency medical care, you may be charged for treatment.

Don't Forget

We strongly advise that all students purchase their own medical insurance before they travel, for the duration of their stay. Make sure you bring any prescription medication with you – and remember to pack it in your hand luggage.

Want to know more?

Visit [UKCISA](#) for further information on healthcare for international students. Advice on registering with a GP, immunisations you will need before you arrive at Ulster and healthcare available to family members can be found on [our website](#).



ACCOMMODATION

University Accommodation

We have university accommodation available at each of our campuses.

Find out more about the accommodation on offer, student rates and how to book. If you are a student from outside the EU, you are guaranteed a place provided your completed application is received by 1 August.

Private Rented Accommodation

Whilst a room in shared private accommodation may seem less expensive than University accommodation it is important to consider what the rent includes. The cost of University accommodation includes your utilities (heat, electric, etc.) plus insurance and Wifi, whereas your private accommodation may not, remember to check with your landlord. With private rented accommodation you will also be responsible for finding and inspecting the property, ensuring it is clean and safe, signing the contract and paying the rent and bills.

Whilst we cannot endorse individual private accommodation providers, you may find the below accommodation websites useful:

- [Housing Executive Student Accommodation](#)
- [StudentPad](#)
- [NI Direct](#)
- [Housing Advice NI](#)
- [PropertyPal](#)
- [Accommodation for Students](#)
- [SpareRoom](#)
- [GumTree](#)



TAKE A 360 TOUR!



GETTING HERE

Preparation is everything. Take time to find out what you need before you travel and it will make your journey and stay at university much less stressful.

When can you arrive in the UK?

The “valid from” date on your visa is the date from which you can legally arrive in the UK (generally one month before your course starts if you are coming for six months or longer, or one week if you are studying for less than six months).

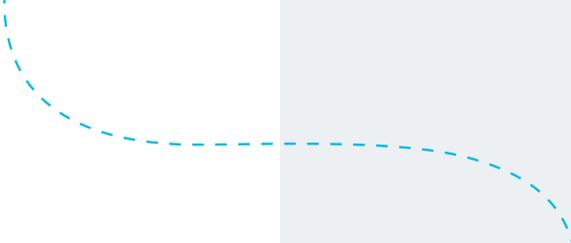
When should you arrive on campus?

We will be in touch by email with you about a month before Welcome Week to provide you with lots of information including our **Meet & Greet Service**, the programme for **Welcome Week** and advice on travelling to your campus. **Find out more** about what to think about when making your travel plans.

What should you pack?

You’ll get information **here** on what you should carry in your hand luggage. On campus everyone dresses pretty casual. Students generally wear jeans, t-shirts, casual tops and sweaters. We recommend that you bring a warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves, socks, strong waterproof shoes and things you can layer to keep warm.

Remember: Make sure to check the size and weight restrictions of your luggage with your airline. Only pack what you can carry – you’ll be able to buy most things easily and cheaply when you arrive. Don’t bring anything into the UK/Northern Ireland that is **prohibited** or **restricted**.



Lost/delayed luggage

If your luggage is lost or delayed speak to the staff at the airport information desk. A staff member will take your details, including your term-time address and give you a reference number. Leave the luggage hall and continue your journey through customs control. The airport will keep in touch with you about when you can expect to receive your luggage. It’s a good idea to keep a note of what’s in your luggage and take some photos of your suitcases just in case.

Travel Insurance

It’s very important that you purchase travel insurance before your journey to the UK. You can purchase insurance through a travel agent or an insurance company in your home country.

Point of Arrival

Most students travel to Northern Ireland through **Heathrow** or **Gatwick** airports. Unless you are an EU student or hold a Tier 4 visa we advise that you do not enter Northern Ireland through the Republic of Ireland as you will not be able to get your passport checked or stamped for the UK and so will not have permission to enter the UK. If you have already booked your travel through an airport or port of entry in the Republic of Ireland, please contact the International Student Experience team member for your campus and let us know of your plans.

MONEY MATTERS

Northern Ireland is one of the best value regions in the UK to live and is more affordable than other major student cities in the UK. However, it's still very important to plan and budget your money so that you do not have any financial difficulties during your studies in the UK. The [British Council Education UK website](#) has advice on [budgeting](#), including tips on how to budget when you first arrive, how to map a budget, eating on a budget, etc.

Visit [here](#) for more information about the cost of living in Northern Ireland.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

Pre-sessional and in-sessional English courses are offered to help those students who have English as an additional language to improve their skills even further. This service is open to all international students and is provided through the Centre for English Language Teaching (CELT). [Find out more](#) and how to apply.



IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT ULSTER

- Inform your parents you have arrived
- Check your emails or social media for updates on Welcome Week
- Decide which events you are most interested in attending (Top tip: go to all of them to make friends, don't be shy!)
- Double check your documents to see if you've got everything.
- Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
- Activate your university account
- Open a bank account
- Register with Police (Registration day will cover this)
- Register with a GP (a local doctor)
- Remember, everyone is feeling the same way as you



Get in touch

E: ise@ulster.ac.uk

W: ulster.ac.uk/global



Correct at time of print (Aug 2019). Visit ulster.ac.uk for up-to-date information on courses, fees and facilities.

ulster.ac.uk