The Adventure Begins.

Ulster University
International Applicant Guide
2019-2020

ulster.ac.uk/global
A leading provider of higher education

STEP 1: Understanding your offer

STEP 2: Deposit payment

STEP 3: Scholarships and sponsored students

STEP 4: Do you need a visa?
- Tier 4 (General) student visa
- What we need from you before we can issue a CAS
- Credibility interviews

STEP 5: Accommodation

STEP 6: Welcome week and orientation

STEP 7: Enrolment

STEP 8: Paying your tuition fees

STEP 9: Know your semester dates
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CONGRATULATIONS on achieving your offer of study!

The next step is completing the admission process, which is explained through this step by step guide. If you need any further support please contact internationaladmissions@ulster.ac.uk

YOU’RE JOINING a leading provider of higher education.

We’re a young, vibrant and innovative university, welcoming international students from over 100 countries across the globe. As a student you will be part of one of the most popular universities in the UK and the largest university on the island of Ireland. With a community of over 5,000 postgraduate students and approximately 20,000 undergraduate students, we are a leading provider of higher education.

A degree from Ulster can be an effective way to differentiate yourself in a competitive market, by demonstrating your commitment and dedication to enhancing your career. We hope you will meet the conditions of our offer and that we will soon welcome you to Ulster and to our international student community.

TOP 150
OF UNIVERSITIES UNDER 50 YEARS OLD
Times Higher Education 2018

TOP 25%
OVERALL RESEARCH IN UK UNIVERSITIES
Research Excellence Framework 2014

94%
94% OF OUR GRADUATES ARE IN WORK OR FURTHER STUDY 6 MONTHS AFTER LEAVING UNIVERSITY.
DHE Survey 2016/17
Carefully read your offer letter to find out the condition(s) you need to meet. Find out below what the condition(s) mean and what you will need to do.

**DIRECT ENTRY APPLICANTS**

**Conditional on an academic qualification**

This means we need to see confirmation that you have been awarded the required qualification(s) at the stated grade or mark in your offer.

You will need to send us both:

1) a scanned copy of your original transcript
2) award certificate

(If the original transcript and award certificate is not in English, you are also required to have it translated into English by a professional certified translator).

**A Statement of Purpose**

If you have been asked to provide a Statement of Purpose as a condition of your offer you need to email internationaladmissions@ulster.ac.uk with some personal information in support of your application. This is an opportunity to ‘sell’ yourself to the university.

**Key things you may want to include:**

- Why you would like to study this course.
- Your achievements and interests and how these relate to your chosen course of study.
- Work, voluntary or life experience.
- Why you would like to study at Ulster University.
- How this course will enhance your career prospects.

**Conditional on English Language qualification**

You need to provide evidence of your level of English language before you can join us for study. For most of our courses the **minimum entry requirement is IELTS equivalent (Academic version) 6.0 (with no individual band score of less than 5.5).**

Some courses require a higher level of English. If this is required, it will be stated in your offer. CLICK HERE for a list of English language tests and qualifications that we accept.

**Pre-sessional English language courses**

Our Summer Pre-sessional courses prepare you for success on your degree by developing your language skills and your understanding of UK academic culture.

Pre-sessional English language courses help you to:

- Prepare academically.
- Improve your English language level.
- Make the transition to the UK education system.
- Progress to your chosen course at Ulster University.

You will need to take a UKVI IELTS test for admission to the Pre-sessional course. CLICK HERE for more information about our Pre-sessional courses.
Conditional on Satisfactory Police Statement from your Country of Residence

Some of our courses require a criminal record check, this can be obtained from the police service in your country of residence.

Conditional on AccessNI Criminal Record Check

You are required to complete an AccessNI Enhanced Disclosure application as you have been resident within the UK/ROI. Details of how to apply for this check will be sent to you in due course. Please do not apply for this check directly with AccessNI.

Conditional on Satisfactory Health Screening

Some courses will require applicants to complete a ‘Declaration of Health Form’ which you will receive in due course. The return address for the completed form will be enclosed.

UCAS APPLICANTS

Conditional Offer

If you have applied through UCAS and in receipt of decisions for all your choices, you should select your Firm and Insurance choices on UCAS Track. Please make Ulster (U20) your Firm choice! We will send you an offer letter with further information on your offer.

Log into your UCAS TRACK account to check the status of your offer, and confirm your decision by emailing internationaladmissions@ulster.ac.uk

Unconditional Offer

This means that you have met the academic and English language requirements for study.

To reserve your place on your course, please confirm your acceptance via email to internationaladmissions@ulster.ac.uk

UCAS applicants are also required to Firm the Unconditional offer on UCAS Track.
All international students are required to make a minimum deposit payment of £2,000. The deposit is deducted from your tuition fees.

If you require a Tier 4 student visa the payment of the deposit may assist with your visa application. A deposit payment does not signify that we will issue you with a Certificate of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). We view it as a sign of your commitment to study, and part of a staged admissions process.

If your request for a visa is refused, the tuition fee deposit will be refunded, unless the visa refusal is due to forged documents being presented. In this case, the deposit is non-refundable. A deposit is only returned upon evidence (original) that the visa has been refused. Only pay your deposit when you meet all other condition(s) attached to your offer.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR DEPOSIT PAYMENT

We will send you a ‘Confirmation of Deposit Payment’ form to complete and return. Deposit payment can be paid in the following ways:

**Online payment portal**

You will need your student ID number (B00******) and Date of Birth (dd_mm_yyyy).

**Debit/credit card**

Call our cashiers office on: +44 (0)28 7012 4238 to make payment over the telephone.

**Bank transfer**

Transfer money to Ulster University using the following bank account details:

- **Account name:** Ulster University
- **Account no:** 80748153
- **Sort code:** 20-05-94
- **Swift code:** BARCGB22
- **IBAN no:** GB03 BARC 2005 9480 748153
- **Address:** Barclays Bank Plc
  
  Barclays
  Donegall House
  Donegall Square North
  Belfast
  BT1 5GB
  Northern Ireland

You must quote your student ID number (B00******) when making your payment.

**Sterling cheque or Bankers draft**

Sterling cheques or Bankers drafts should be sent to the Cashiers Office:

- **Ulster University**
  Cramore Road
  Coleraine
  BT52 1SA
  Northern Ireland

Cheques or drafts should be made payable to Ulster University.
STEP 3

SCHOLARSHIPS and sponsored students.

We have scholarships and funding opportunities. If you are being sponsored, you will need to send us an official letter of sponsor confirmation that complies with UKVI requirements.
Do you need a VISA?

If you are not a national of an EU/EEA country, or Switzerland, you will need immigration permission to enter the UK.

Nationals of most countries must apply for a visa in order to travel to and enter the UK. We refer to these nationals as ‘visa nationals’. If you are a visa national, you must have a UK visa before you travel to the UK.

Nationals of certain countries do not need to apply for permission to enter the UK until they arrive in the UK. We refer to these nationals as ‘non-visa nationals’. If you are a non-visa national, you do not need to have a UK visa before you travel to the UK.

**Tier 4 (General) student visa**

You will need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa if your course of study is longer than 6 months. In order to apply for a Tier 4 student visa, you must have a valid Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from Ulster University.

What we need from you before we can issue a CAS

We can only issue your CAS a maximum of 3 months before your course start date.

Before we can issue your CAS, we require the below documents

- Your completed Immigration History Check form (we will send along with the request to pay your deposit).
- Copies of your current and/or any previous UK visas (if you are or have already studied or spent time in the UK). This may be in your passport and/or on a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).
- A copy of your TB certificate (CLICK HERE to see if you require a TB certificate).
- A copy of the bank statement, official financial sponsor letter or loan confirmation letter that you are planning to submit with your Tier 4 student visa application.
- Professional and certified translations of all documents that are not in English.

Points to note:

We will send you our Tier 4 (General) student visa guide to ‘Preparing Your Finances’ for more details.

An official financial sponsor letter must show the length of your sponsorship and the amount, the sponsor is giving you. This should cover your full/remaining tuition fees, plus living costs for the duration of your studies.

A loan confirmation letter must show that the loan covers your full tuition fees, plus living costs.

When we have checked your documents and we are satisfied that you will meet the Tier 4 student visa regulations, we will email you a CAS from casstatements@ulster.ac.uk. You can apply for your Tier 4 student visa as soon as you receive your CAS.

For the most up-to-date information on Visas and Immigration please refer to our website CLICK HERE

**Credibility interviews**

You may be invited to attend a credibility interview as part of your Tier 4 student application. Interviews are conducted to ensure that only genuine students are given visas to study in the UK.

The interview will be conducted in English and so your ability to communicate in English will be assessed. You will be asked to explain questions like the below:

1. Why did you choose Ulster University?
2. Why did you choose your course and how will it fit in your career plan?
3. How will you fund your studies?
4. If the cost of studying in the UK is higher than in your home county you may be asked to explain why you are happy to incur this extra cost.
5. If you have had a considerable break in your studies – why have you decided to return to study now?
6. If you have previously studied in the UK – why have you chosen to return?
STEP 5

Accommodation.

We offer state-of-the-art accommodation across our Coleraine, Magee, Belfast and Jordanstown campuses. You will need to book your accommodation using the online booking form when you meet all the conditions to study here (Tier 4 students can only do this when we have issued your CAS).

When you make a reservation for accommodation you will be asked to pay a £100 booking fee.

STEP 6

Welcome Week and ORIENTATION.

Welcome Week and Orientation will commence on Monday 16 September 2019 (we advise you to arrive by Sunday 15 September 2019).

A bus shuttle service will operate to our campuses from both the George Best Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport on:

- Saturday 14 September 2019
- Sunday 15 September 2019

Details of this service will be sent to you and will be available on our website.

It is essential that you attend Welcome Week to complete registration and meet with your Course Director. This will also give you the opportunity to meet new friends on your course. To find out more about what happens during this week [CLICK HERE](#).
Enrolment.

At enrolment you should bring the original, official certificates that you listed on your application form and, if you are a Tier 4 student, listed on your CAS.

REMEMBER: If these are not in English, they need to be officially translated and both translations presented at enrolment.

REMEMBER: If you do not have your original certificates, you should contact the institute(s) where you achieved your qualifications and request new issues of your certificates.

You may not be allowed to join your course until you have provided them.
STEP 8

Paying your TUITION FEES.

When registering online you will be asked to pay your tuition fee in full or set up a recurring card payment plan.

When registering on campus you will be required to pay £2,000 (if you have not already had to pay a £2,000 deposit) and you can then pay the remaining fees in five equal instalments.

If you choose to pay your fees by instalments, you are required to set up an instalment plan (via recurring card payment or direct debit) with the Finance Office on arrival. We will assist you in opening a UK bank account.

CLICK HERE for further information on how to pay your tuition fees.
### Semester Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Key Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-sessional PLUS</td>
<td><strong>14 June- 6 September 2019</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>17 July-6 September 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-sessional Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction Period</td>
<td><strong>Monday 16 September 2019 - Friday 20 September 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn Semester</td>
<td><strong>Monday 23 September 2019 - Friday 24 January 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Christmas Vacation</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Monday 16 December 2019 - Friday 3 January 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Examinations</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Begin Monday 6 January 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td><strong>Monday 27 January 2020 - Friday 29 May 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Easter Vacation</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Monday 6 April 2020 - Friday 17 April 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Revision Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Tuesday 5 May 2020 - Friday 8 May 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Examinations</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Begin Monday 11 May 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Semester</td>
<td><strong>(INTENSIVE)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Monday 20 July 2020 - Friday 11 September 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Examinations</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Begin Monday 31 August 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Supplementary Examinations</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Wednesday 12 August 2020 - Thursday 20 August 2020</strong></td>
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