Now that you have accepted your place, you can start preparing for your journey. Whether you are an international student already in the UK or moving from your home country to the UK, we are here to help you settle in and make your stay an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

This guide contains advice and information for international students who are preparing to study and live in the UK. We know that studying abroad can be exciting, but also daunting at times, so we hope this guide will be beneficial to prepare you for your stay.

It is important to be as prepared as possible before you leave. You should allow yourself plenty of time to apply for your visa, arrange flight details, sort out accommodation for the duration of your course and ensure that you have all the necessary travel and study documents with you to show to the appropriate authorities.

Should you have any questions please contact one of the following teams:

**Accommodation Queries**
Email: accommodation@law.ac.uk

**Immigration and Visa Queries**
Email: visaadvice@law.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1483 216588

**General Queries**
Email: international@law.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1483 216000
VISAS AND IMMIGRATION

If you wish to study at The University of Law and you are not an international student, you may require a visa in order to study in the UK.

International students requiring a visa to study should refer to the UK Visas & Immigration website gov.uk/visas-immigration. If you are unsure whether you will need a visa, please contact Student Immigration Compliance and Advice at visaadvice@law.ac.uk Please note that immigration regulations are subject to change at any time. Specific enquiries regarding the University’s sponsorship of students under the Student Route of the Points Based System can be directed to Student Immigration Compliance and Advice.

Before you can apply for a Student visa, you must receive a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from the University. We will only issue you a CAS once we have confirmed that you meet all the requirements for Student visa sponsorship.

It is the responsibility of all students to ensure they have a visa covering the full duration of their course. If your visa application is refused, please send the refusal notice to Student Immigration Compliance and Advice as soon as possible. We can then advise you further.

For further information about the visa requirements to study at The University of Law, please visit law.ac.uk/students/international/uk-visa-requirements/

HOW MANY DAYS CAN I ARRIVE IN THE UK BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS?

If you are studying a course that lasts for six months or more, then you will be able to come to the UK up to one month before the course start date.

We recommend that you arrive at least 2–3 days before your course starts. However, the sooner you arrive, the more time you will have to settle in.

You will receive an e-mail from your campus prior to your course with the exact dates for your enrolment and induction.

The course start dates will be published on our website and on ELITE at least six months before the course start dates. Please ensure you regularly check law.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information.

POLICE REGISTRATION

Some students may have to register with the Police as one of the conditions of their stay in the UK. This must be done within 7 days of your arrival in the UK. You can check whether you need to register with the Police and find more information on the registration process on these webpages:

gov.uk/register-with-the-police

law.ac.uk/students/international/uk-visa-requirements/arriving-in-the-uk-and-enrolment/
You should start making arrangements as soon as you have been accepted on your course. It is important for you to have suitable and safe accommodation while you are studying in the UK.

Our Accommodation Service can assist you in finding accommodation in the city of your chosen campus. The University has reserved accommodation for undergraduate students with some of the UK’s leading student accommodation providers who pride themselves in ensuring you have a safe, comfortable place to live while you’re studying at The University of Law. By staying in University-nominated accommodation, you’ll get to meet students studying at universities across the city, as well as live with your fellow University students.

We are here not only to help you find the right place to stay during your studies, but also to connect you with potential housemates via our Facebook page. For more information, please go to lawstudentpad.co.uk or contact accommodation@law.ac.uk

GUARANTEED ACCOMMODATION

We guarantee an offer of accommodation to all first-year undergraduate students who have accepted their offer of a place and have made us their firm choice.

You must normally confirm that you want accommodation by 31 March of the year you’re going to start your course. If you apply after this date or are coming to the UK to study one of our professional courses, we cannot guarantee accommodation. However, our friendly accommodation team are available to help you find the most suitable accommodation for you.

For more information visit our website law.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation

STUDENTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

If you are under 18 years of age and are not living with your parents or authorised guardians, the University will provide you with guaranteed student accommodation in Halls of Residence in the city where you are studying. You should confirm that you require accommodation by 31 March and will need to be 18 years of age before the end of the calendar year in which you are joining the course. After this date, do please still contact our accommodation team and they will be happy to see how they can assist with your property search.

Our Under 18 years of age Policy can be found on our website, law.ac.uk policies. Any queries relating to this should be directed to our Admissions teams, admissions@law.ac.uk
PREPARING FOR STUDY IN THE UK

Did you know that there are online resources available on ELITE (the University’s Virtual Learning Environment) to help you with your studies at ULaw? These resources introduce you to practical ways in which you can make the most of your study experience and show you how to learn quickly and effectively. We think they will be especially useful if you have been out of education for a while, or if you have never studied at a UK university before.

Your online study skills resources consist of two elements:

1 SKILLS4STUDY CAMPUS
Skills4Study is an online study skills package which consists of the following modules:

• Getting ready for academic study
• Exam skills
• Writing skills
• Reading and note taking
• Time management
• Critical Thinking

These modules are easy to access via any Wi-Fi enabled device (laptops, iPads, smartphones, etc.)

Each module follows the same format and includes an optional but recommended diagnostic test at the start and module assessment at the end, a range of interactive activities, a glossary of difficult terms, a tag function, and a journal function which allows you to make, save and download your own notes as you progress.

Access Skills4Study campus: https://elite.law.ac.uk and click on the Skills4Study logo

2 LEARNING SUPPORT RESOURCES AND MATERIALS
These Learning Support materials have been developed by The University of Law with our own students and their needs in mind.

You will find here:

• Helpful tips on a range of study skills issues
• Recordings of study skills workshops on a range of topics
• Refresher material on English language and maths
• Resources for dyslexic students
• Time management templates
• The OSCOLA reference guidelines
• Links to other useful study skills websites and print resources
• VARK learning styles
• MCQ technique
...and many other useful things.

Access our learning support resources and materials: https://elite.law.ac.uk, go to the ‘Student Hub’ tab and click on the Learning Support section on the left of the screen.
PACKING YOUR BAGS

Once you make your travel arrangements, please check with the airline company how much luggage you can bring. We would advise that you pack only as much as you are able to carry, as you can ship other items separately. Please remember that some airline companies charge for more than one suitcase and also charge for excess luggage. You can buy many items cheaply in the UK instead of bringing them from home.

HAND LUGGAGE

Pack in your hand luggage any valuables, passport (with visa), a small amount of British money, necessary documents you will need for immigration and the address and telephone number for the campus where you will be studying.

MONEY

Bring enough cash to cover your immediate needs (about £200). Bring a credit card, if you have one, to pay for things such as rail tickets and food. If possible, your cash should include some coins so that you can use ticket machines, and some small denomination bank notes (£5 and £10).

For further information on the costs of living in the UK please check the following links:

internationalstudent.com/study_uk/financial_aid/living_expenses


ukcisa.org.uk/Information-Advice/Studying-living-in-the-UK/Cost-of-living
CLOTHING
The British weather is known to be unpredictable, so it is best to bring layered and waterproof clothing, for all seasons. Pack lightly – there are a lot of fashionable and affordable shops in the UK.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
Electrical supply in the UK is 230 volts with a frequency of 50 hertz. If you are bringing electrical equipment with you, please make sure that it can be used in the UK. Adapter plugs can be purchased once you arrive in the UK.

OTHER ITEMS
Make sure you check with your accommodation provider if you need to bring or buy certain kitchen utensils, bedding or other household items.

DO I NEED TO BRING MY ORIGINAL ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS WITH ME?
You should bring either original or certified copies of your academic qualifications. It is advisable to have certified copies made of all important documents in case you lose the originals. Bring some certified copies with you and leave an additional copy at home.

Please note that if you are a Visa Sponsored Student, you must bring the originals of your documents. You cannot enrol at the University with copies.

SHOULD I BRING MY MOBILE PHONE FROM HOME?
You may wish to bring your mobile phone with you to the UK as your phone may accept a UK SIM card. If it doesn’t, then you can buy a mobile phone in the UK. It is important for students to have a working mobile phone in the UK as the University may need to speak to you at any time and will require a phone number to ring.

There are many mobile phone companies in the UK, many of which provide you with call packages to allow you to call internationally.

If your mobile phone is GSM compatible, you can use a UK SIM card to call your family and friends back at home. This is less expensive than using your SIM card from home. To be able to use a UK SIM card you might need to ‘unlock’ your phone – this might be better to do in your home country through your provider.

In terms of mobile phone call packages, you can choose between a contract or Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) mobiles. When you buy a mobile phone with a contract, you go through a credit check. Make sure you check the monthly payment and the call charges before signing. With PAYG, you go through no credit check, you have no contract, no commitment and no monthly bills. However, buying the phone and the call charges can be more expensive than on contract mobile phones. Please check with your chosen provider what you will need as proof of identity.

In addition, there are cheap/inexpensive ways of keeping in touch with home: international call cards, Skype, WhatsApp, FaceTime, etc.
INSURANCE

Before you leave home, you are advised to take out travel insurance to cover your journey to the UK, including medical expenses and personal possessions cover. If you are being treated for or have an on-going medical condition, it is advisable to see your doctor before you leave to get photocopies of medical records to give to your doctor in the UK. Make sure you have the full name and address of your family doctor in your home country.

HEALTHCARE

The National Health Service (NHS) is the UK’s state healthcare system providing a wide range of healthcare services including appointments with a doctor, hospital treatment and dental care. You should register with a doctor as soon as possible after your arrival in the UK. If you are a national of a country outside of the European Economic Area (EEA), and are applying for a visa (for 6 months or more), you will usually need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge. This qualifies you for free NHS treatment, however you may have to pay for prescription products, as well as any treatment through dentists or opticians.

You cannot take out private healthcare insurance as an alternative to paying the Immigration Health Surcharge, as this is a mandatory fee included as part of your visa application. It is a personal decision whether you also have private healthcare insurance. You may wish to consider this to cover the following potential health-related costs:

- Loss of fees if you are unable to complete your course
- Costs incurred returning to your home country for treatment
- Private medical treatment

If you already have medical insurance in your home country, you may wish to check whether this can be extended to cover your stay in the UK.

If you are from an EEA country outside of the UK or are a Swiss National, you are entitled to a European Health Insurance Card. The European Health Insurance Card is a free card that gives you access to state-provided medical treatment at the same cost (or in some countries for free) as people insured in that country. In the UK, this proves your eligibility for free NHS treatment. Make sure you apply for the card before leaving your home country – it is issued by your national health insurance provider. For more information, please take a look at the following link:

ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559

REGISTRATION WITH A DOCTOR

In order to access the NHS, you must register with a local General Practitioner (GP) Surgery (Doctor Surgery) where you live. When you are registered as a patient, you can ask to see the Doctor if you need medicine or feel unwell. Please, make sure you register with a GP promptly when you arrive to the UK.

Use the following website to locate medical services in your area:

nhs.uk
nhs.uk/service-search

Once you have found a surgery you will need to take a letter from the University to show you are an international student. This letter can be requested from the Student Information team at your campus after you arrive in the UK.
ARRIVING IN THE UK

If you travel to the UK by air, you will probably arrive at one of the main international airports: Heathrow, Gatwick or one of the big regional airports, such as Manchester or Birmingham. It is also possible to arrive in London on the Eurostar train, which travels through the Channel Tunnel, or to bring a car through the Tunnel on a shuttle train. Please note that if you travel by Eurostar, you will go through Immigration Control in France before you board the Eurostar.

You are advised to plan your route before you travel and go directly to your accommodation. Please carry with you the address and telephone number of the accommodation you booked in advance.

If you would like to book train tickets in advance to travel from the airport to your accommodation, you can do this at nationalrail.co.uk

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS

You will be asked to fill in a landing card on the plane with your personal details. You will need to hand this to the Immigration Officer at passport control at the airport. You will also need to show:

- Your passport and valid biometric residence permit/visa
- Copy of the e-mail containing your CAS (Visa Sponsored Students only)
- All the documents (or copies) you used to apply for your visa including your financial evidence, qualifications and TB test certificate (if required)

You may need to provide the Immigration Officer with your UK address – please provide the address for your accommodation rather than the address of your study campus.

Very few students have problems at immigration. However, if you do require assistance, please contact International Student Advice on +44 (0) 1483 216588. Please note that we are available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm UK time.

CUSTOMS CONTROL

There are rules on what goods you can bring with you without paying duty and value added tax (VAT). Some items are banned or restricted by law.

For more information on customs control please visit gov.uk/uk-border-control.

You might want to send certain items by air or sea freight. In this case, make sure that you complete the customs declaration carefully, stating that these items are part of your temporary move to the UK as an international student.

UK LAW

It is important that you familiarise yourself with the laws in the UK so as you do not get yourself into trouble due to a misunderstanding:

- You must not carry drugs of any kind, unless prescribed by a registered GP, or use any illegal drugs, including cannabis, LSD, ecstasy or amphetamines
- You must not carry any sort of weapon including knives, self-defence CS gas sprays, guns or stun guns
- You must be at least 18 years old to buy tobacco or alcohol

Be careful about where and who you buy goods from. If you think that something is stolen, even if it is a great bargain, then do not buy it as you can get into serious trouble.

To find out more about the law in England visit gov.uk
If you find yourself in a position where you do need legal assistance, you can refer to various organisations for advice.

**THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**
Free, confidential and independent advice at various locations and public buildings in the UK. Advice is available face-to-face and by telephone on a variety of issues.

citizensadvice.org.uk

**THE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE DIRECT**
Offers free access to legal information and advice.

clsdirect.org.uk
Telephone: 0845 345 4345

**SAFETY**

Whilst the UK is a safe place to live, work and study, there is no harm in being safety conscious and making sure that you behave in a responsible manner to reduce any risk of harm being done to you or your belongings.

Before you travel to the UK, you should make a photocopy/record of all important documents, such as your passport (personal details and immigration stamps), travel insurance, plane tickets and your CAS Statement from the University. You should leave these with friends or family at home who will be able to help should you lose the originals. It is useful to carry a copy of your passport in your suitcase as well.

Carrying your passport, plane tickets, travel insurance and money in an inside pocket or hidden money belt is a good idea.

It is unlikely you will feel unsafe in the UK, however if you do then you can speak to a member of the Student Information Service at your campus for reassurance and advice. If you are outside of the University and require immediate assistance, you are able to approach a member of the Police or a Community Support Officer who patrol the streets. They will be able to advise, reassure and assist as necessary.

If you need to report an incident in an emergency then you can call 999 for free from any telephone. This will put you through to the Emergency Services (Fire, Police, and Ambulance) who will respond. The telephone number 999 is only to be used in an emergency. For non-emergency crimes, you can contact the local police on the telephone number 101.

**LIVING AND SETTLING IN THE UK**

‘CULTURE SHOCK’

Moving to a new country can bring up many different emotions, from excitement to occasional feelings of loneliness. Differences in the way things are done can leave some students feeling confused and frustrated. This is known as ‘culture shock’, caused by the different way of living (such as different language, clothes, behaviours, values, teaching and learning styles, etc.). It is usually temporary, and can affect everyone at any time while adjusting to the new culture and environments.

Some hints and tips to deal with ‘culture shock’:

- Understand that this experience is normal
- Keep in touch with home
- Have familiar and personal things (i.e. photos, ornaments, etc.) around you
- Make friends with students, both local and international
- Meetup groups, societies and activities based on your interests will bring new people to your life
- Even if you feel like you’d like to be alone,
don’t isolate yourself

For more information on ‘culture shock’, take a look at this link:

ukcisa.org.uk/Information-Advice/Preparation-and-Arrival/Facing-culture-shock

CULTURE AND SOCIAL ATTITUDES

The UK has a rich history and culture – one that is worth exploring while you are studying in the country. There are many traditional places and events to go to, food to experiment with, festivals and celebrations to attend. Most of the big cities are quite cosmopolitan and people are generally very tolerant.

There are many aspects of the British culture as well as some unspoken rules that you will pick up as you live in the UK. You might find that most of the British people are quiet, reserved and polite and you might see the social contacts more or less formal than in your home country.

YOUR FIRST DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY

On your first day at the University you will need to:

• Show your passport and biometric residence permit / visa to the Student Information Service at your campus. Your biometric residence permit / visa must be valid for the full duration of your course. If you have a Student visa, it must have been issued with a CAS from The University of Law
• Show your degree certificate or original transcript and evidence of English language ability (if this is one of your offer conditions)
• Provide confirmation of your current UK contact details to include a full postal address and telephone number, your next of kin and emergency contact details

You will be given the Information for International Students booklet, which contains useful information on living in the UK. If you would like a copy of this booklet before your arrival, please contact Student Immigration Compliance and Advice.
Living and studying abroad might come with some new academic and personal challenges. Your health and wellbeing while studying is really important. Our confidential Support Services were designed with you in mind. We have friendly teams to ensure that you get help and practical advice on a whole range of issues, whenever it is needed.

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES OR DISABILITIES**

The Disability Support and Inclusion Service is an approachable and helpful service offering support, course and exam adjustments for disabled students. The University of Law takes a wide view of disability and includes Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLds), medical conditions and long-term illnesses, mobility limitations, as well as mental health conditions. If you have a medical condition or disability, please do get in touch – our friendly team is happy to help.

**Email:** disabilitysupportandinclusionservice@law.ac.uk

**Telephone:** +44 (0)1483 216657

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**WELLBEING**

There is a Welfare Officer on each University campus who can assist you with any questions related to your general wellbeing and put you in touch with specialist support where this is needed.

You can download our ULaw BeWell App for free from your App Store for help and support including how to look after your own wellbeing.

You can also sign up to Blackbullion at blackbullion.com and take part in fun challenges to enhance your financial wellbeing.

**COUNSELLING SERVICE**

The Counselling Service provides a confidential space where you can talk about any difficulties and concerns that may arise while you are studying at The University of Law. Counselling is a therapeutic and psychological approach to exploring difficulties and concerns.

If you feel that your wellbeing and effectiveness is being affected or compromised by your difficulties, you can talk with a counsellor in confidence. Through counselling, you may deepen your understanding of issues, develop coping strategies and confidence in making choices.

Information on how to book an appointment can be found on the Counselling Service page on ELITE in the Health and Wellbeing section of the Student Hub.
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Association has been created to enhance both the academic and student experience at the University. Every student at the University is a member of the Association and the structure of the Association allows members to be represented at all levels to ensure that your voice is heard. We encourage students to apply for various roles within the Association, including; Vice President, Course Representative, Student Member of Committees, Student Trustee and International Student Representative. These elected students also form part of the Student Parliament which meets three times a year as the major representative and decision making body of the Association.

You may also be interested in forming part of the Student Association Events Committee on your campus as well as joining student-led clubs and societies. Look out for further information about the exciting opportunities for you to get involved in throughout the year by checking your student email account and visiting our website, Atticus (access via Elite – law.ac.uk/student-association/international-students).

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to e-mail Student-Association@law.ac.uk

REGISTRATION AND FRESHERS WEEK

Registration and Freshers Week (Undergraduate students only)

The LLB course starts with a compulsory two-week induction – a Registration and Fresher’s Week, followed by a Foundation week that covers study skills, how you learn on the course and an introduction to employability and legal skills.

Registration and Fresher’s Week is your opportunity to settle in, make new friends and get to know your new surroundings before you start your course. Fresher’s Week is made up of a variety of events to help you get to know the University tutors and fellow students. Running for the first week of term, there are lots of events and activities to get involved in, ranging from introductions to the University facilities and lunch with your personal tutor, to quizzes, comedy nights and the Fresher’s Fair. And, of course, no Fresher’s Week would be complete without the Fresher’s Party.

You will be able to download a Fresher’s Week guide from the LLB welcome website once you have accepted your offer on the LLB and made us your firm choice.

A separate induction is organised for students under 18 years of age to inform them, if necessary, about registration with a doctor, how to open a bank account, information on council tax etc.
BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Business School courses start with a compulsory registration and induction. On completion of enrolment you will then be able to access all the facilities and services you are entitled to as a student at ULaw. Induction is made up of a variety of events to help you get to know the University staff and fellow students. There are events and activities to get involved with, ranging from introductions to the University facilities, lunch with faculty staff, business games and introduction to the Business School and your course, an introduction to employability and career development and the Student Association.

The week is your opportunity to settle in, make new friends and get to know your new surroundings before you start your course.

We will introduce you to the resources that you will be using on your course such as the Financial Times, the Chartered Management Institute, Vital source (eBooks) and the Library. We will help you make new friends by speed friending and tweeting fun ways to find out interesting facts about your fellow students. The week concludes with social activities organised by the student reps.

You will be able to access information about induction using the link in the email sent to you when you have made us your firm choice.

USEFUL WEBSITES

UKCISA – The UK Council for International Student Affairs
Offers advice and comprehensive guidance notes on aspects of studying in the UK for international students.
ukcisa.org.uk

ukstudentlife.com
Information about keeping yourself and your belongings safe.
ukstudentlife.com/Personal/Safety.htm

Student Accommodation
A directory of student accommodation and associated links.
studentaccommodation.org

International Students House
ish.org.uk

British Transport Police
Provides a policing service on the railways throughout Great Britain, the London Underground, the Docklands Light Railway, the Midland Metro tram system and the Croydon Tramlink.
btp.police.uk

NHS Direct
NHS Direct offers confidential health advice and information, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
nhs.uk

Transport for London
Information and advice on travelling in London.
tfl.gov.uk

British Tourist Board
visitbritain.com

Time Out
Weekly listings magazine for London.
timeout.com/london

Google Maps
maps.google.co.uk

Studentpad
Accommodation service for all University of Law students to find accommodation.
lawstudentpad.co.uk/Accommodation
STUDENT IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE AND ADVICE

The University has a dedicated department called Student Immigration Compliance and Advice (SICA), which comprises of the English Language Assessment, International Student Advice and Visa Compliance teams.

The English Language Assessment Team is responsible for the University’s English Language Policy and the assessment of international students’ level of English.

International Student Advice is responsible for providing advice and support to prospective and current students on student immigration and visas.

The Visa Compliance Team is responsible for ensuring the University retains its Home Office Licence and complies with our mandatory duties as a Student Sponsor.

You can contact the teams as follows:

English Language Assessment
englishassessment@law.ac.uk

International Student Advice
visaadvice@law.ac.uk

Visa Compliance Team
visacompliance@law.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 1483 216588