

Pre-departure guide for international students

2021-2022 entry



Ensuring that our campuses are safe spaces for everyone.

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Welcome to Loughborough

Congratulations on your offer of study at Loughborough University.

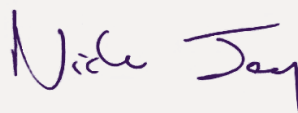
Over the past 18 months, a global pandemic has disrupted our lives. Loughborough University responded to the challenge at our Loughborough and London campuses quickly, compassionately and always in the best interests of our current and future students.

This guide provides clarity on the actions we are taking to ensure our students are safe, supported and continue to receive an unforgettable student experience – something which Loughborough is rightly famous for.

The measures we have put in place ensure our campuses and accommodation meet the highest hygiene and safety standards, you will receive socially-distanced but in-person teaching, as well as a social yet safe student experience. In many instances, we are sector-leading in how we have met the Covid-19 challenge from delivering free food and essentials to isolating students, to ensuring regular pastoral visits and collecting students prescriptions.

International students have always been vital to the fabric of the University and integral to what makes us special. This year is personally special as I will be arriving at Loughborough at the same time as you, so I look forward to starting our Loughborough journey together.

On behalf everyone at Loughborough University, I welcome you and look forward to meeting you soon.



Professor Nick Jennings CB FREng
Vice-Chancellor and President Designate



Our pledge to you

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us. At Loughborough University, our number one priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. The measures we have put in place are some of the most thorough and balanced in UK higher education. In fact, they have been issued to all British universities as a model of good practice by Universities UK. When you join us in 2021/22, we will offer you one of the best student experiences in the UK.



Hygiene measures for your safety

- **free coach collection** from airport to University accommodation
- safe isolation in University accommodation, if required
- one-way systems and barriers to aid social distancing
- hand sanitiser stations across campus
- medical centre based on campus
- 24-hour health, safety and security support from University staff

For the latest information on how we are keeping everyone safe on campus visit our [coronavirus webpages](#)



High quality teaching and learning

- safe and socially distanced face-to-face **teaching**
- virtual live lectures
- October start dates for all programmes, January start date for a number of our postgraduate programmes
- **full library access** with safety measures in place
- IT facilities and specialist software to support you on-campus



Outstanding careers support

We have the largest annual careers fair of any UK university and one-year work placement opportunities on every undergraduate study programme. There are regular **international student careers events**, support in applying for graduate jobs and legal guidance on visas for working in the UK.



Friendship opportunities

- voted University of the Year in the Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2020
- ranked first in **THE Best Student Experience** on eight occasions since 2006
- 100+ clubs and societies
- number one sports university in the UK
- International Day: an annual campus celebration of global nations and cultures
- biggest student fundraising organisation in the UK, raising £1m each year for charity



Beautiful campus and award-winning accommodation

Our superb 440 acre single-site campus offers **some of the best facilities** for every aspect of student life.

- on-site amenities include: academic buildings, laboratories, library, student hubs, restaurants, cafés, nightclub, medical centre, pharmacy, opticians, dentist, mailroom, grocery stores, hairdressers, art and design shop, open spaces, gardens and state-of-the-art sports areas.
- 90 minutes by train to London
- 5,500 rooms **on-site student accommodation**



International student support

We're here to **support you on your journey** to Loughborough University. From visa guidance, travel arrangements, airport pick-ups to accommodation and self-isolation support if needed. We aim to make your journey as smooth as possible. Once you are here, our support continues during and after your studies. You will always be a member of the Loughborough family.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit our webpages.



[Undergraduate students](#)

[Postgraduate students](#)



Loughborough campus

About our campus

At Loughborough we're lucky to have a beautiful single site campus to call our home. One of the largest in the UK, our campus provides a self-contained community with everything you need right on your doorstep, creating a bubble of convenience and an incredible experience.

Keeping you safe on campus

Campus life provides a unique opportunity for keeping our students and staff safe.

In light of COVID-19, we have implemented new processes and invested heavily in the services and support available for the health and wellbeing of our staff and students. The health and safety of students remains our priority. We have put in place a range of measures on campus to minimise the risks presented by COVID-19 and to ensure you are safe.

These measures are some of the most thorough and balanced in higher education and have been issued to all UK universities as a model of good practice.

We comply with social distancing requirements, implementing one-way systems throughout buildings, ensure hand wash stations and hand gel dispensers are available, and continue an intense cleaning regime across campus and our accommodation. We also have on-site testing and a notification system, to make the campus as safe as possible.

“Loughborough campus feels alive. It’s a really friendly environment and has made me feel really comfortable!”

Sarah Tan-Lin-Li, from Malaysia
Social Psychology student



Preparing to study in the UK

Obtaining your visa

Unless you are a British Citizen or an EEA or Swiss national, or you already hold immigration permission that allows you to live and study in the UK, you will most likely need to obtain immigration permission before travelling to the UK to study. All students aged 18 or over who are coming to study for longer than six months must obtain entry clearance via the Student Visa route from the nearest British Embassy/High Commission.

As part of your visa application you will require a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). Information on obtaining a CAS from the University is available from lboro.ac.uk/cas

You will need information from your CAS statement to complete your visa application; the CAS statement will also help you calculate how much money you will need for any outstanding tuition fees and which documents you need to provide as evidence of how you secured your course offer.

When you receive your visa, it is advisable to check that all the details are correct before travelling to the UK, as it may be easier to have any necessary corrections made by the UK visa service in your home country rather than trying to do that after arriving in the UK.

The Student Advice and Support Service provides information on the student application process and can be contacted direct for free individual advice on this and other visa matters.

lboro.ac.uk/visas

Names on your documentation

Occasionally, problems occur with the spelling of names and addresses, especially with students from countries that use a different alphabet to English. It is best to decide on how you wish your name to be spelt in English and then use this spelling at all times. This should be the spelling that is given in your passport.





Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

Your student visa will be issued for just 30 days to allow you to travel, after arriving in the UK you must collect your BRP which contains your permission to stay longer.

Towards the end of the visa application you will be asked where you wish to collect your BRP from, the suggestions are based on the contact details you have given.

You can collect your BRP from the Student Office at the Loughborough campus by selecting the 'alternative location' and enter the ACL code '2HE857' – this option is available only for students at the Loughborough campus (including all pre-sessional students and their dependants); it is not possible to collect BRPs at the London campus.

Otherwise BRPs may be collected from participating Post Offices. In Loughborough, this is the Post Office located in the town centre. Its full address is 10 High Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2PY. For the London campus, the nearest Post Office is 26-28 The Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4QS.

You will need to take your passport containing your visa and the letter you received when your visa was issued when you go to collect your BRP.

Further details can be found here:
[gov.uk/biometricresidence-permits](https://www.gov.uk/biometricresidence-permits)

Students studying for less than six months

If you wish to stay in the UK for less than six months, it may be appropriate to apply for a short-term study visa rather than a student route visa: lboro.ac.uk/visas

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

In order to study a course in some science and engineering subjects, you may require ATAS clearance. Your offer letter and CAS will confirm whether ATAS clearance is required. If it is, you must apply for an ATAS certificate and include a copy of your ATAS certificate with your visa application. Further information about the ATAS clearance scheme, including the programmes that require ATAS clearance, can be found here: lboro.ac.uk/study/apply/support/atas

Tuberculosis (TB) screening

TB screening is compulsory for those from certain countries who are applying for a visa for longer than six months. Further information can be found here: [gov.uk/tb-test-visa](https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa)



Living in Loughborough

The types of accommodation available are University halls of residence, private halls, shared houses, flats and self-contained properties. As an international student, you will have priority for University halls of residence.

Further details can be found on our Student Accommodation website:
lboro.ac.uk/accommodation

Hall accommodation

University accommodation will be open. If you are required to self-isolate at any stage, we will make sure that the appropriate facilities and support are available to you.

We have a rigorous cleaning regime and have introduced a number of measures to ensure your time with us is safe. For the most up-to-date information on accommodation, please keep a look out on our [accommodation announcements webpage](#).



Planning ahead

Where to live in Loughborough

We have 18 different halls for undergraduate and postgraduate students with catered and self-catered options for you to choose from. All of our halls offer a safe environment and are renowned for being the best place to start your university life. Further details can be found on our Student Accommodation website:

lboro.ac.uk/accommodation

Caring for you in halls

All halls have Hall Managers to offer advice and support during the day and a warden team who are there to support you during evenings and weekends. If you have any special needs (eg dietary, religious), then please inform the Student Accommodation Centre after you have accepted your offer of accommodation.

Whilst we will do our best to meet your accommodation preferences, students with particular cultural or religious requirements should note that our policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunities leads to a mixed environment within our halls. Whilst some areas are specifically designated male or female, socialising is common. Please contact the Student Accommodation Centre to discuss particular requirements.

The University has residential rooms which are specifically adapted to meet the needs of students who have disabilities. If a specific room type or catering option is required for medical reasons, we will do our best to provide this. Please refer to our frequently asked questions for further information:

lboro.ac.uk/accommodation/faqs

Accommodation starter pack

Students staying in University halls of residences may wish to order a starter pack which includes bedding (duvet and cover, sheets, and pillow-cases), crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils at a very reasonable cost. This must be ordered in advance and it will then be delivered to your room prior to your arrival at Loughborough.

lboro.ac.uk/starter-packs

How to apply for accommodation

Undergraduates

First-year students coming to study at Loughborough in 2021-2022 who make Loughborough their firm choice and apply for accommodation before the end of July 2021 will be guaranteed a room in university halls accommodation.

International undergraduates are guaranteed a university hall room for any two years of their study programme, provided that they stay in the same hall of residence throughout.

At Loughborough we provide an online room reservation system for undergraduate students. Once you have your academic offer and you have made Loughborough your firm choice, you will be able to register and reserve a room. You will receive an email from the Student Accommodation Centre to advise you when and how to apply.

Postgraduates

You can apply online once you have a **firm offer for your course** but you can register your preference for university hall accommodation using your university application number from April. You will receive an email from the Student Accommodation Centre to advise you when and how to apply.

Registering your preference does not guarantee you an offer of accommodation but priority is given to international students. Subject to room availability from June, successful applicants will receive an offer via email once their academic place at Loughborough has been accepted and confirmed.

Off-campus accommodation

If you prefer to live in privately owned accommodation in Loughborough, all properties advertised by the Student Accommodation Centre have been inspected by us. Please view our available off-campus accommodation on Studentpad loughboroughstudentpad.co.uk or email findahouse@lboro.ac.uk

Contract checking service

The Student Advice and Support Service offers a free contract checking service to help you understand your rights and responsibilities when renting a property. It is highly recommended that you seek advice from them before you sign any contract or pay any money to a private landlord or letting agent. Email advice@lboro.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1509 222765 for an appointment.

Living costs

Loughborough is not an expensive town to live in by UK standards. Students (and their sponsors) must budget for their time in the UK and should allow at least £1,040 per month for the duration of their studies to cover expenses such as accommodation, food, clothing, books and local travel.

We suggest that you bring no more than £550 in cash or travellers cheques for your first few weeks at the University and ensure you have some low denomination notes, such as £5 or £10. Try to avoid £50 notes if possible.

Students with families

There are limited circumstances in which family of Tier 4 students are allowed to come to the UK as 'dependants' and stay throughout their studies. The Student Advice and Support Service provides information on visas for family and can be contacted direct for individual advice. lboro.ac.uk/visa-advice

Accommodation for families

Any student considering bringing their family with them to Loughborough is advised to contact the Student Accommodation Centre for advice. It may be helpful to

consider travelling to the UK alone before term starts, ahead of your family, and arrange for them to join you once you have found somewhere to live.

Contact the Student Accommodation Centre at sac@lboro.ac.uk

Loughborough Campus Nursery

There is a nursery on campus for 0-5 year old children. If you would like your child to attend the campus nursery please get in touch before you arrive to arrange a place. lsu.co.uk/nursery



Getting to Loughborough

Your safety is our main priority and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to get to Loughborough when it is safe for you to do so.

Have a safe flight

The most direct flight for many of our students would be to fly to London Heathrow Airport but the airports of Birmingham and Manchester may also be convenient for you.

From the airport to Loughborough

If you fly to London Heathrow Airport you will be met by members of our International Office after clearing immigration.

A free coach service is arranged by Loughborough University to provide transport from Terminal 3, London Heathrow Airport, to the Loughborough campus for new international students at the start of the academic year. This **needs to be booked prior to arrival** and if you do not complete the registration, we cannot guarantee a place on the airport coach.

If you fly into other UK airports we have also provided further travel advice **on our webpages**.





Arriving at Loughborough

Welcome to the Loughborough family! We're delighted to have you here, and we want to help you settle in as quickly as possible. Before you head out and explore your new home though, there are a few things to do:

Register with the University

Approximately six weeks before the start of your programme of study at Loughborough, you will be sent an email inviting you to complete your online registration. You will be guided through a series of screens and asked to upload a photograph of yourself. It is important that you complete this process before your arrival, so that we can produce your university ID card and have it ready for you to collect at the International Student Registration event. **You will need to bring your passport and visa to this event.**

Further information related to registration can be found at lboro.ac.uk/welcome

In addition to registering centrally, you may also be required to register with your academic department. Each department/programme has a specific registration session and you will be informed of the date, time and venue upon arrival.

Pay your fees

So that you know how much you need to pay and when, the University will send regular statements to your student email address, which will show your tuition fees, with a deduction for any scholarship or bursary you have been awarded by the University.

Tuition fees can be paid in one sum during the first term or in three equal termly instalments. For self-funded students the easiest way to pay your fees is via our secure, online portal which can be reached from [finance pages](#) using the online payments link at the bottom of the page.

If you would like more details about your tuition, bursaries and payment methods, please visit the Student Finance website at: lboro.ac.uk/international/finance

Paying through a sponsor

You should provide the University with proof of your sponsorship in advance of your arrival in Loughborough. The best way to do this is by sending a copy to the Admissions Office. This should be an official letter stating who your sponsor is and how much they have agreed to pay towards your fees. Once the University has received proof of your sponsorship, your sponsor will be invoiced for your fees, however, if your sponsor is unable to pay your fees, you will have to pay them yourself.

Statements will be sent for tuition fees (for self-funding students) to your term-time student e-mail address at the beginning of each term. There are many different ways to pay your fees. If you have been awarded a bursary or scholarship by the University, this will be deducted from your tuition fees when you are invoiced. These details can be found on the Student Finance website. lboro.ac.uk/international/finance

Open a bank account

It can take up to five working days to open a bank account, so it is advisable to have some sterling in cash and travellers cheques on arrival to meet immediate expenses during your first weeks in the UK. To open an account you will need to provide documents showing proof of identification, your UK and home addresses and your student status. You can obtain a letter confirming your registration at the University from the International Student Registration event or Student Enquiries:

T: +44 (0)1509 222491 E: studentenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

Register with the Medical Centre

Search for and complete the "New Patient Registration" form from lborounimedicalcentre.co.uk and send it to the Medical Centre (either by post, or by handing it in when you arrive). If you are currently taking medication, please bring one month's supply of medicine with you when you leave home.

Register with the police

Certain nationalities who come to the UK for over six months will be required to register with the local police. This may be confirmed on your initial visa UKVI decision letter and/or Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) issued in the UK. If this applies, you must register to comply with visa requirements. The Student Advice and Support Service provides information on police registration and may be contacted direct for individual advice:

lboro.ac.uk/police-registration



Make savings on UK travel

If you think you will travel regularly within the UK, then you may benefit from purchasing a 16-25 Railcard which entitles you to travel by rail anywhere in Britain at a discount (restrictions apply between 4.30am and 10am excluding July and August). To buy a rail card you will need to provide proof of your age (leg passport) and a passport-size photograph. Find out more: 16-25railcard.co.uk

You can take advantage of low cost city breaks throughout the UK on the Megabus. You can book low cost coach travel to many UK cities with a further 10% discount for students available. uk.megabus.com

Student Coach Cards are available for full-time students and allow you to buy National Express coach tickets at a reduction of 33% for some tickets. Find out more: nationalexpress.com/en/offers/coachcards/young-person

Teaching and learning

Teaching will commence in October for all programmes at all levels of study. An extensive range of Masters programmes will also offer a January 2022 start date. We have taken an innovative approach and can blend face to face seminars with virtual lectures, workshops and tutorials to ensure your learning experience is to the same high standard that Loughborough University is famous for.

Flexible options

For our suite of master's programmes we have developed an innovative 'teaching' model which enables our international students to, should they need to, begin their studies online and transfer to campus at any point in the first semester. We also have a range of programmes that have the option to [begin your programmes from January](#).

Face to face teaching and learning

We will be delivering face-to-face learning for all our programmes, taking into consideration relevant social distancing guidelines and best practice at the time. Face-to-face learning is critically important, and our students will still get time with their personal tutors, in seminars and of course in lab sessions.

Virtual learning

Loughborough University students have access to state-of-the-art technologies to enable virtual interactive learning experiences. As Government guidance is changed, we will be ready to respond appropriately. For the very latest information, we recommend visiting our [information pages for students](#).



Careers

Careers Network and COVID-19

We know that many of you will be anxious about how COVID-19 could affect your career opportunities.

We want to reassure you that we will continue to support and guide all students. All opportunities will be widely promoted.

We have a programme of virtual fairs, so that you will not miss out on connecting with potential employers. We are home to one of the largest two-day careers fair in the UK and we are looking to provide a virtual event in the autumn.

Businesses value skilled people more than ever. This year large and small employers are still offering graduate roles. Recruitment will not stop.

We have a lot of advice available to you on our [international students careers webpages](#) including [virtual work experience](#) and how [universities are changing](#) in the wake of COVID-19.

Graduate Route

In September 2019, the UK Government announced it plans to reintroduce the two-year Graduate Route visa for international students, most commonly referred to as the Post Study Work Visa. This will allow eligible students to work in the UK for two years after completing their course.

Career Network support

Our Careers Network team provides a range of services (available up to the 3 years after graduation) which include:

- advice on career planning
- help researching and applying for graduate roles
- on-campus presentations, digital resources and a comprehensive website

For further information to help you plan your career, please visit our [international students careers webpages](#)



QS GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY RANKINGS 2020
1ST IN THE UK FOR EMPLOYER-STUDENT CONNECTIONS



THE COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2021
TOP TEN IN THE UK FOR GRADUATE PROSPECTS



1-YEAR PLACEMENT OPTION ON EVERY UNDERGRADUATE COURSE



GRADUATE VISA ROUTE PLANNED TO BE INTRODUCED FOR GRADUATES FROM SUMMER 2021



Student experience

Loughborough Students Union sits at the heart of our award-winning student experience. Owned and run entirely by our students, the Union continues to ensure that life at Loughborough remains vibrant, rewarding and brimming with opportunity.

We are working closely with our colleagues in Loughborough Students' Union to ensure that we will be able to offer a range of extra-curricular activities to ensure your academic, social and personal development – and most of all that you will have the time of your life!

All the sections (such as Athletic Union, Action, Rag, Enterprise, Societies, Welfare & Diversity and Media) in the Students' Union will be running appropriate activities depending on government guidelines. LSU will be working all summer to ensure any activities that are ran are safe.

In relation to their night-time venues, LSU will follow the government's advice at the time.

LSU will continue to ensure that student volunteers within learning communities will champion your student voice whilst LSU Advice will continue to provide free, independent, confidential and non-judgemental advice supporting you through any difficulties you may experience with your studies.

lsu.co.uk

“University marks a significant new chapter in all our lives, but even more so for those joining us from overseas. At LSU we are passionate about helping all students find their ‘home away from home’, be that through your course or extra-curricular opportunities. We’re proud of the partnership we have created with Loughborough University on both our campuses, and look forward to welcoming you to them in the new academic year.”

Matt Youngs
LSU president

Sport

At Loughborough we are proud of our reputation for sporting excellence and our constant focus is on ensuring every student has the opportunity to get involved, regardless of ability or interest.

Not only do we pride ourselves on our inclusive sporting environment and track-record on the field, but Loughborough has also been named the world's best university for sports-related subjects for three years running by QS World University Rankings.

Whether you want to try something new or are dedicated to your chosen sport, there are always lots of opportunities to get involved. From water polo to snow sports, we have over 50 sports to choose from. Loughborough University is also home to the country's largest concentration of world-class facilities, across a wide range of sports. As a Loughborough student you can access everything from high performance training venues to free recreational areas.

lboro.ac.uk/sport



Checklist

Before you leave home, please remember when you're packing your suitcase that you will have to carry your bags around the airports and to your accommodation building. A key rule is if you cannot carry it, do not pack it!



Don't forget your important documents

- ✓ Your valid passport (or recognised travel document/card)
- ✓ Entry visa certificate
- ✓ Photocopies of your UK visa and your passport's personal details page
- ✓ Unconditional offer letter from Loughborough University
- ✓ Documentary evidence of financial support for fees and maintenance
- ✓ If your fees and living expenses have been paid in advance into the University's bank account, a letter from the person who has made the transfer authorising the University to refund to you the amount allocated for your living expenses
- ✓ TB test certificate or other medical certificates, if necessary
- ✓ Enough cash/travellers cheques to support yourself until you can open a bank account in the UK
- ✓ Travel insurance documents
- ✓ A face covering/mask and hand sanitiser

Personal items

- ✓ Clothes (don't forget a warm jumper)
- ✓ Toiletries for your first few days
- ✓ Medicines and a first-aid kit
- ✓ English dictionary
- ✓ Photos of friends and family
- ✓ National or traditional dress for formal occasions and activities



Prohibited items

There are certain goods that are prohibited or restricted in the UK. For information on these please see the border control information here: [gov.uk/uk-border-control](https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control)

Useful contacts



Admission enquiries relating to your application

Undergraduate Admissions Office

T: +44 (0)1509 223522

E: admissions@lboro.ac.uk

Postgraduate Taught Admissions Office

T: +44 (0)1509 222496

E: pgtaught@lboro.ac.uk

Doctoral College Office

T: +44 (0)1509 228292

E: pgresearch@lboro.ac.uk



Useful contacts for other enquiries

General postgraduate enquiries

For enquiries regarding to any aspect of postgraduate study.

Postgraduate Enquiries

T: +44 (0)1509 222834

E: pgenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

Student Advice and Support

Offering confidential and impartial advice.

T: +44 (0)1509 222058

E: advice@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/sass

Student enquiries

For enquiries relation to university administration, registration and programme of studies.

T: +44 (0)1509 222491/222472

E: studentenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

Academic Language Support

Preparation for academic study, English language pre-sessional courses.

T: +44 (0)1509 228325

E: alss@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/alss

Accommodation enquiries

To help you find a place to live.

T: +44 (0)1509 274488

E: sac@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/accommodation

Student Finance




Financial enquiries and fee payment information.

T: +44 (0)1509 223538

E: student-finance@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/finance

International Office
Loughborough University
Leicestershire LE11 3TU UK
T: +44 (0)1509 222201
E: international-office@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/international/offer-holders

 [@lborouniversity](https://twitter.com/lborouniversity)
 [/lborouniversity](https://www.facebook.com/lborouniversity)
 [/lborouniversity](https://www.youtube.com/lborouniversity)
 [/lborouniversity](https://www.instagram.com/lborouniversity)

 [lborouniversity](https://www.snapchat.com/add/lborouniversity)
 [lborouniversity](https://www.tiktok.com/@lborouniversity)
 [lborouniversity](https://vimeo.com/lborouniversity)