We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the University of Glasgow and also wish you a successful and happy stay in the city.

This guide will help you through most of the formalities and procedures both before and after your arrival. You will find information ranging from the important immigration regulations to instructions on how to claim a VAT refund. Also included in this handbook are the contact details of the many services which are available to support you throughout your stay.

After reading this handbook, if you have any unanswered questions, please feel free to contact the International Student Advisers for further information; email: internationalstudentsupport@glasgow.ac.uk.

Note: The information contained in this book was correct at the time of going to press in June 2015.

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Before you leave home

Applying for your student visa
If you are a non-EEA/Swiss national, please make sure before leaving your home country that you have made the necessary arrangements for your travel to the UK.

• You must have a valid passport
• Remember that entry clearance (a student visa) is mandatory for all nationals who intend to stay in the UK for longer than six months.

You apply for this at your nearest Visa Application Centre in your country of usual residence. For a full list see www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre. Applications can be submitted online, unless you are from North Korea.

To apply for your entry clearance you will need:
• The Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) which you have received from the University of Glasgow.
• Evidence of financial support: documents to show that you have enough money to cover your first year’s tuition fees and £7,380 (please check the Tier 4 guidance cover your first year’s tuition fees and to show that you have enough money to cover your initial expenses, which may include a deposit for accommodation, food and warm clothing. Travellers’ cheques can be cashed at airports, railway stations, banks and bureaux de change. Avoid carrying too much cash in case it is lost or stolen.

You should check if you require an ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme) Clearance Certificate – postgraduate students, and some undergraduates, studying or researching in certain fields must obtain this certificate before applying for a student visa. The scheme is designed to carry out security checks on those who will be researching/studying engineering, science, mathematics, technology or biomedical subjects. Applications for an ATAS certificate are made online, free of charge. For details see www.gov.uk/academic-technology-approval-scheme.

You may also need a valid TB certificate (see page 17 for further information).

If you are a non-visa national and you are coming to study for less than six months you can apply on entry to the UK for a short-term study visa. However, this type of visa cannot be extended and you will not be allowed to work.

If you are a visa national coming for less than six months you will have to apply for a short-term study visa before you leave home.

On arrival at UK Border Control, remember to have your CAS and decision letter or short-term study letter and your proof of funding with you in case you have to show them to the immigration officer (see page 14 for more information on entering the UK on a student visa).

If you are an EEA national (EU member states plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein), or a Swiss national, you will be admitted to the UK with a minimum of formalities. On arrival, you must produce a valid passport or national identity card.

You will also have to show the originals of your tuberculosis test and your TB vaccination card (if applicable). If you are from a country which is subject to a TB notification requirement, you may have to produce a TB notification certificate.

Each dependant should apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa unless they are from North Korea. Before completing the form, refer to the guidance at www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-dependants-of-uk-visa-applicants-tiers-1-2-4-5. Each dependant will have to pay the Healthcare Surcharge.

If you are a postgraduate student on a course of 12 months or longer, or if you are a new government-sponsored student on a course which is longer than six months.

Dependant visas
Your spouse/partner and children can apply for entry clearance as your dependant:
• if you are going to be a postgraduate student on a course of 12 months or longer, or
• if you are a new government-sponsored student on a course which is longer than six months.

When you first arrive in the UK, you will need money immediately for your train/plane fare to Glasgow; possibly a hotel (£50 or more per night), and meals. You should therefore bring £250–£300 in British currency, plus a credit card or sufficient travellers’ cheques to cover your initial expenses, which may include a deposit for accommodation, food and warm clothing. Travellers’ cheques can be cashed at airports, railway stations, banks and bureaux de change. Avoid carrying too much cash in case it is lost or stolen.

It is a condition of acceptance that you should not commence study at the University unless you have adequate funds available to finance yourself to the end of your course. In addition to tuition fees, you must also consider board and lodgings, books, stationery and equipment, clothing, travel, holidays and entertainment – see page 27 for advice.

If you have any questions about applying for your visa please contact the University’s International Student Advisers (see Welfare, page 18). The University of Glasgow is unable to represent individuals who have been refused a visa.

Money
If you bring £10,000 or more in cash, or the equivalent in another currency, to the UK from outside the European Union (EU) you must declare it. If you are travelling as a family you need to declare cash over £10,000. Cash includes notes and coins, banker’s drafts and cheques of any kind (including travellers’ cheques). For details see www.gov.uk/bringing-cash-into-uk.

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Medical evidence of a disability
Students who need support from the Disability Service (e.g. extra time in exams) need to provide medical or psychological evidence confirming their condition or diagnosis. Translation of evidence into English can be arranged by the Disability Service, if necessary.

Dyslexic students need to provide an educational psychological assessment report. It is better if the assessment has been done in your own home country and in your first language. If this is not possible, then the cost of assessment in the UK is £490, payable by the student or their medical insurers.

In the UK 25% additional time in exams is the standard for those who require this support because of a disability or chronic health condition. Students who feel they require more than 25% extra time need to provide evidence of exceptionally severe and complex need.

Before you leave home

Applying for your student visa
If you are a non-EEA/Swiss national, please make sure before leaving your home country that you have made the necessary arrangements for your travel to the UK.

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You will also have to show the originals of any documents named on the CAS as being used as evidence to obtain the offer.

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• Proof that you have paid the Healthcare Surcharge. For details see www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/pay.

Dependant visas
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• if you are going to be a postgraduate student on a course of 12 months or longer, or
• if you are a new government-sponsored student on a course which is longer than six months.

Each dependant should apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa unless they are from North Korea. Before completing the form, refer to the guidance at www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-dependants-of-uk-visa-applicants-tiers-1-2-4-5. Each dependant will have to pay the Healthcare Surcharge.

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Getting to Glasgow

NB: If you can, avoid arriving in Glasgow on a Saturday or Sunday as University offices will be closed. If you do have problems on arrival, go to the Main Gatehouse at the University Avenue entrance to the University. The Gatehouse is open 24 hours a day.

From 4 to 25 September the Welcome Desk will be open 0800-1700, Monday to Friday, and staff will be able to help with initial enquiries and directions. The Welcome Desk is situated on Level 1 of the Fraser Building.

As part of the Welcome Programme, a free transport service from Glasgow Airport to the campus will be provided from Friday 4 September to Sunday 6 September and Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September. For details and to register see www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/support/orientationarrival.

Arrival information for Pre-sessional students
When you arrive in Glasgow you should go directly to your accommodation. The airport pick-up service is not available for Pre-sessional courses. The English for Academic Study Unit will send you an email telling you what to do on the first day of your course.

Transport
By air
Glasgow Airport is situated approximately ten miles west of the University.
- A taxi from the airport to a Hall of Residence costs roughly £20–25.
- An airport bus goes to Buchanan Bus Station in the city centre.
- A taxi journey from the city centre to one of the Halls of Residence will cost roughly £8–£10.

British Airways fly from London Heathrow to Glasgow, and other companies fly from airports around London. Please note that Ryanair flies into Prestwick as well as Glasgow. Prestwick is about 45 minutes away by train; for Prestwick travel link information see www.glasgowprestwick.com.

By rail
Trains to Glasgow Central from London depart from Euston Station.
- The cost of a single Saver ticket is £132.80 while a return ticket costs £133.80 (Saver tickets can be used during off-peak travel times – after 0905).
- Virgin Rail also has an Advanced Ticket which costs from £20 single, subject to availability. You must book this well in advance of your travel date and no changes can be made after purchasing the ticket. Daytime trains have a journey time of between four and a half and five and a half hours. It is possible to book a sleeping berth on overnight trains (ticket prices vary; see www.nationalrail.co.uk for full information).

By road
The cheapest way to travel to Glasgow from London is by coach, and coaches leave Victoria Coach Station morning and evening. Journey time is approximately eight hours. A limited service is available from Heathrow Airport.

If you arrive at Heathrow Airport and want to travel to Glasgow by bus from central London (Victoria Coach Station) or by rail from Euston Station, use the London transport journey planner at www.tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey; taxis from the airport to central London are very expensive.

Gatwick Airport is connected to Victoria Railway Station by a fast train link which departs every 15 minutes. Journey time is 30 minutes.

Temporary accommodation in London
International Students’ House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1W 5PN (tel: +44 (0)207 631 8300, www.ish.org.uk) offers reasonably priced overnight accommodation. Submit your booking as early as possible. The nearest Underground stations for the House are Great Portland Street and Regent’s Park. If there are no rooms available at the ISH, the staff can provide you with a list of alternative accommodation.
On arrival

Welcome and reception arrangements
If you are arriving in Glasgow in September, please look out for members of the University of Glasgow Welcome Team. From 4 to 25 September 2015 they will be based at the Welcome Desk on Level 1 of the Fraser Building from 0800 in the morning to 1700 at night, Monday to Friday. If you need any help – whether it’s a simple question about directions or if you are facing any difficulty – please make contact with the Welcome Team. They will be able to guide you and, where necessary, can offer you support by contacting other services within the University.

Registration with the police
One of the first formalities you may have to deal with, within seven days of your arrival, is to register with the police. Certain foreign nationals who are over 16 years old and are admitted to the UK for longer than six months must register at Glasgow Overseas Registration Office, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock. Glasgow G40 4HZ (Dalmarnock train station is five minutes’ walk).

Please check the stamp in your passport or the police registration letter to see if you are required to register.

You should take with you:

1. Your passport
2. One passport-sized photograph
3. £34 registration fee in cash
4. Evidence of your studies
5. Proof of address – your accommodation contract.

Opening hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 0900–1230 and 1300–1545; Wednesday 1330–1300 and 1330–1545; Friday 0900–1230 and 1330–1445. To arrange an appointment, call into the office, email sccodvrogla@scotland.pnn.police.uk or call 01786 895560. You can also check the International Student Support web page for information about the availability of an on-campus service in September.

While you are in the UK, you must inform the police within seven working days if you change your address, course, place of study, marital status, or passport, or receive an extension of ‘leave to remain’.

Accommodation
The University offers catered and self-catered student residences, as well as a limited number of self-contained family flats. Great efforts are made to ensure that a place in University-owned, leased or recommended private provider accommodation is offered to all international students studying for a full degree, provided that you apply by 22 August preceding entry to the University, and have received your unconditional offer or have met the conditions of a conditional offer.

You should apply online for accommodation at www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/residentialservices as soon as you have accepted either a conditional offer* or an unconditional offer to study at the University.

*Please note that you will not be sent an offer of accommodation until you have met the conditions of your offer.

Applicants who are unable to access the online application form should contact Residential Services, Level 1, Fraser Building, 65 Hillhead Street, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8BF. Tel: +44 (0)141 330 4743 email: accom@glasgow.ac.uk

House in multiple occupation
You may be living in what is called an HMO – a house in multiple occupation. This is a house or flat which is occupied by more than two unrelated people, using shared facilities. All HMOs have to be licensed with the local council (Glasgow City Council for properties in Glasgow).

For a landlord to operate an HMO, the property must be licensed with the local council. The licensing conditions are strict and include, for example, the need to have clear fire escape routes, safe gas and electrical appliances, adequately sized rooms and a telephone landline installed. These regulations are in place to protect tenants and ensure that the property is safe for habitation. The licence should be displayed prominently in the property. If you suspect a property is not registered (which is a criminal offence on the part of the landlord) or a landlord has breached the terms of the licence, you can get help from the Students’ Representative Council’s Advice Centre (see page 19) or Glasgow City Council’s HMO Unit, Environmental Protection Services, 231 George Street, Glasgow G1 1RX. Tel: +44 (0)141 287 6531.

It is very important to understand the implications of being in a property which has an HMO licence or is not.

Landlord Licence
All landlords letting properties in the private sector must be registered with the local council. This is to ensure that all private landlords are ‘fit and proper’, disreputable landlords can be removed from the market and tenants and neighbours can be protected from the consequences of antisocial behaviour and mismanaged properties.

You can check if your landlord is registered at www.landlordregistrationscotland.gov.uk or contact Glasgow City Council’s Private Landlord Registration Unit, Glasgow G2 4PP; tel: 0800 027 0414.

Pre-sessional students are welcome to apply for University accommodation and will be offered spaces wherever there is availability.

Private accommodation
Private accommodation is very difficult to find near the University. Looking for private accommodation is difficult and time-consuming. You should come to Glasgow well before the start of term if possible, and consult Residential Services’ Private Accommodation Database (PAD) at www.glasgowpad.org, as well as advertisements in The Herald and Evening Times newspapers.

For further information contact Residential Services; tel: +44 (0)141 330 4743, email: accom@glasgow.ac.uk

HMO Licence
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Please remember that in signing a lease or contract for accommodation you are signing a legally binding document and will be bound by the conditions for the length of that contract.

There has been concern in recent years about the increasing number of accommodation scams targeting students looking to rent in the private market who accept a flat without having viewed it. The SRC have introduced a private accommodation viewing service (PAVS) to assist students – see www.glasgowstudent.net/advice/accommodation/pavs.

Accommodation suitable for families/couples
The average rent for a one-bedroom flat in the private sector varies from £450 to £550 per month plus bills, a two-bedroom flat from £550 to £700 plus bills, depending on the area (flats near the University are expensive). Unless you have adequate funding, you may have to consider leaving your family at home. It is impossible, come alone initially, look for a suitable flat then, once you have found one, send for your family.

The University has a limited number of flats suitable for couples or families. Priority is given to couples who are both registered international students of the University of Glasgow. All applications for family flats will be considered on the basis of the student’s needs and priority, which will be assessed by Residential Services.

For further information, contact Residential Services; tel: +44 (0)141 330 4743, email: accom@glasgow.ac.uk

For details of the times when our Welcome Team members are at the airport and when our bus service will be running, see www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/support.

International orientation programme
An international orientation programme is held over four or five days in September, just before the start of term, and all new international students, undergraduate or postgraduate, are welcome to attend. The programme provides information on the University services available to you, as well as some sessions on life in Glasgow. You will be able to meet fellow students at an evening social and take part in a city bus tour. Details of the programme and registration information will be sent to you in due course. A shorter orientation also runs in January. For details see www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/support.

Any enquiries about this programme should be directed to the University’s International Student Advisors (see page 18).
Council Tax
Council Tax was introduced in Britain in 1993 and is the means by which people pay for local services and water.

- Full-time students are generally exempt if they are living with other students.
- Also, if you are living with your spouse who is prevented by the terms of his/her leave to enter or remain in the UK from taking paid employment or from claiming benefits, then you will not be charged Council Tax.
- If your spouse is a British or EEA national they will be liable to pay Council Tax.
- Students in the writing-up period of their programme will be exempt from paying Council Tax if they can provide evidence from the University that they are studying for more than 21 hours per week and for a period of more than 24 weeks.

For Erasmus students who do not fulfil the full-time student criterion of 21 hours over 24 weeks while they are in the UK, but will continue with their course of studies on return to their own university, a letter from that institution will have to be provided, confirming that the course undertaken is full-time, and including the number of hours attended per week and the number of weeks, course qualification, course programme and duration of course. Confirmation is also required that the institution has permitted the student to undertake a course of study as part of their course in the UK and provide the exact period of attendance at the UK establishment.

For non-graduating students who are registered at the University of Glasgow and meet the full-time student criterion of 21 hours over 24 weeks, a letter is required from this University to confirm the student is attending a period of non-graduating study which is linked or affiliated to their course abroad. Details of course programme, course qualification, hours and weeks attended and the exact period of attendance at the University of Glasgow must be provided.

Pre-sessional students who study for less than 24 weeks will need to pay Council Tax until their academic course begins. However, Pre-sessional students living in University of Glasgow accommodation will not be charged Council Tax.

Remember that the exemption only applies when you are registered as a student and will end when you complete your studies. You will therefore also not be covered by the exemption if you arrive early and take up private accommodation.

If you have any doubts about your eligibility for exemption, please contact the University’s International Student Advisers (see page 18).

Schools
Free schooling is available for all children over five years and under 16 years of age. Parents are legally obliged to enrol their school-age children full-time in school but please note that schools are under no obligation to enrol a child over the age of 16. For information about enrolling your children in a local school, contact the University’s International Student Advisers (see page 18). Useful information can also be found at www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8624.

Pre-school childcare
Places in playgroups and nursery schools are severely limited and it may prove impossible to find room for your child in a local authority nursery school or in the University’s nursery – www.glasgow.ac.uk/nursery. There are, however, privately run nursery schools and recognised childminders, but these tend to be expensive, at least £175 per week. Contact the University’s International Student Advisers (see page 18) for advice.

On arrival
International banks

Several international banks are represented in Glasgow:
- Allied Irish Bank, 227 West George Street (tel: +44 (0)141 226 4421)
- Bank of China, 450 Sauchiehall Street (tel: +44 (0)141 332 3354)
- Habib Bank AG Zurich, 479 Victoria Road (tel: +44 (0)141 424 3786)
- United National Bank, 11 Gibson Street (tel: +44 (0)141 341 0555)
- Habib Allied International Bank plc, 141 Norfolk Street (tel: +44 (0)141 420 1319)
- HSBC, 2 Buchanan Street (tel: +44 (0)141 226 4421)
- Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 333 Sauchiehall Street (tel: +44 (0)141 352 2200)
- National Westminster Bank plc, 276 Argyle Street (tel: +44 (0)141 226 4421)
- Standard Chartered Bank, 270 Argyle Street (tel: +44 (0)141 352 2200)
- The Bank of China, 450 Sauchiehall Street (tel: +44 (0)141 332 3354)
- The British Bank of Overseas Territories, 151 Finnieston Street (tel: +44 (0)141 341 0555)
- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 333 Sauchiehall Street (tel: +44 (0)141 226 4421)
- The Royal Bank of Scotland, 326 Byres Road (tel: +44 (0)141 226 4421)
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Telcos

Mobile phones

Buying a mobile phone in the UK can be confusing as there are many different types of deal. Take time to look at what is available and try more than one retail outlet. The same deal may be cheaper with another store. Be wary of getting into a deal before you've considered all the pros and cons. There are two types of contract available:

- Pay As You Go: This type of contract offers you the option to be in control, as you only need to 'top up' when you can afford to. The initial cost can be higher as you need to buy a handset but once you have the phone your costs may be less. If you are on a tight budget, or your finances can be unpredictable, this can be the best option.
- Pay Monthly: This type of contract can often offer a free handset as part of the package but there is usually a minimum monthly payment, whether or not you can afford it, and a minimum term over which you must keep the contract (generally 12 months although it can be longer). This is a less flexible option than Pay As You Go as it is not possible to avoid the monthly contract payment, even if you do not make any calls.

With the pay monthly options, up-to-the-minute phones are used to sell a wide range of ‘deals’. Consider what you are taking on before you sign a contract as, once you have committed to this, it is virtually impossible to change your mind – read the small print carefully. Some networks also add on an extra monthly charge if you don’t pay your bill by direct debit.

It is best to seek advice before making a decision if you are unsure about what you are signing. Once a contract has been signed it is often difficult to cancel and you may end up with a bill you cannot pay. For both types of mobile phone options make sure you check the rates for both UK calls and international calls – some phones offer good rates within the UK but high rates internationally or vice versa.

To make an international call from the UK
To dial an international call from the UK, eg Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) 2536781:
- Dial the international prefix 00
- Next the country code 60
- And finally the number 2536781

To make a call to Glasgow from outside the UK
- Dial the international code (each country has its own)
- Then the country code (UK) 44
- Followed by the area code (Glasgow) 141
- And finally the subscriber’s number (University of Glasgow) 330 2000.

In this guide, all telephone numbers are given with the international dialling code to Glasgow eg +44 (0)141. These are the figures you have to add when calling from outside that area.

Useful free telephone services
- Emergency Services 999
- Operator 100
Your GUID
All registered students have a central IT account known as their ‘GUID’ which is based on their registration number. Your GUID (username) and password are the same for all central IT services.

Services you can access using your GUID:
• MyGlasgow (student portal with links to MyCampus and other online services); email (accessible via MyGlasgow, webmail and on email clients/mobile devices); wifi – the ‘eduroam’ network is available across campus.
• Student PCs (CSCE) – there are PC clusters across campus with over 900 machines in the Library and Reading Room; central clusters contain a core build with most commonly used applications and access to your University filestore. There are also clusters in schools and colleges and these may have additional specialist software installed.
• Remote Desktop – CSCERemote lets you access your files, Office and some other core packages online from your own device.

For all the latest information on these services and more, please go to www.glasgow.ac.uk/it/forstudents. For help or advice please visit the Student IT Helpdesk on the ground floor of the Main Library.

Insurance
If you have not already done so before leaving your own country, you are strongly advised to take out some form of insurance policy to cover the cost of your personal property should it be lost or stolen. Make the effort to do this as soon as possible after your arrival. Students living in University-owned property are covered at a basic level by a block insurance policy. You should check that this will provide adequate cover for your personal belongings.

Photographs
In the first month or so, you will need quite a lot of passport-style photographs. There are automatic photo machines at mainline railway stations and some post offices. Specialist photo shops also provide this service quickly and at a price just a little higher than the photo machines.

Electricity
Electrical current in the UK is 230 volts at 50 cycles. If you come from a country operating on a different voltage, you should ensure that you are equipped with the appropriate transformer. Alternatively, there are many discount electrical stores and supermarkets where you can buy various items (hairdryer, kettle etc) at reasonable prices.

TV Licence
You can buy a licence online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk. You need to buy a TV licence if you:
• buy your own TV for your room or flat
• watch live TV online (i.e., if you watch TV online at the same time that it is being broadcast).
You do not need to buy a TV licence to watch TV in the communal area in student accommodation or use on-demand services such as BBC iPlayer.

Smoking
Smoking is not allowed in any public building or vehicle in the UK, including all University buildings, student accommodation, pubs, restaurants, shopping malls, buses, trains and taxis. If you wish to smoke you must do so outside. Smoking in any public enclosed space is a criminal offence and you could be fined £50 in Scotland.
Immigration regulations

On entry

The documents already mentioned in the Before you leave home stage are essential to help smooth your passage through immigration control. It is possible, however, that non-EEA nationals may be questioned by an Immigration Officer.

Please note that from 31 July 2015 everyone applying for a visa for more than six months will receive a vignette (sticker) in their passport which will only be valid for 30 days. (Some countries may require a passport validity of 6 months — for details please see [https://go.gla.ac.uk/s0QwTX].)

The 30 days will start from the date you entered on your visa application form as the date you intend to travel to the UK (or from the date that your visa is issued, if this is after your intended travel date). If you do not travel to the UK during this 30-day period then your vignette will expire and you will have to apply for another 30-day vignette if you still wish to travel to the UK. You will have to pay a fee for this new application and provide your biometric information again, but you will not have to submit a new Tier 4 application.

Your 30-day vignette will be accompanied by a decision letter. When you enter the UK you should show the Border Force officer your 30-day vignette and this letter, so make sure you have it in your hand luggage.

You must collect your biometric residence permit (BRP), which will cover the full duration of your studies, within ten days of arriving in the UK. At the time of going to press, it is the University of Glasgow’s intention that students and their dependants will be able to collect their BRPs at the University rather than at a Post Office. As details have not yet been finalised, please check your CAS letter for the information necessary for inclusion in your visa application. Please remember that if you do not collect your BRP within ten days of arriving in the UK you may have to pay a fine and/or your visa may be cancelled.

Please check the details on your vignette and BRP carefully in case of errors.

EEA and Swiss students are subject to different arrangements. Your passport will not be stamped when you come through immigration.

During your studies

Student responsibilities under Tier 4

As the University issued you with a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) to obtain your student visa, the University must comply with UKVI regulations regarding attendance monitoring and absence reporting as well as checking that you have the necessary documentation and permission allowing you to undertake study in the UK. You will therefore have:

• collect your BRP (if applicable) within ten days of arriving in the UK
• register at the appointed time
• provide appropriate documents, eg passport and UK biometric ID card
• ensure that you attend your course and, if you can’t, make sure your college or school know why you are not attending
• apply for visa extensions in good time and before your current visa expires, and pass details of any visa extensions to the University’s Tier 4 Compliance Team in Registry
• notify changes of address to the University via MyCampus, UKVI and the Immigration & Nationality Police if you have a Police Registration Certificate.

For full details of these responsibilities check [www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/registry/tier4] and [www.ukvisas.org.uk/studentinfo_sheets/protect_14_status.php]. If you need any advice on any of these matters please contact the International Student Advisers — see page 18 for contact details.

Extension of ‘leave to remain’ (non-EEA students)

Please keep a regular check on the date when your ‘leave to remain’ expires, as any application for an extension must be submitted well in advance of your permission running out (ideally two months before the date of expiry of your current visa).

Please note that if you are applying to extend your visa for a new course, you can only apply if your current visa expires within 28 days of your new course starting. If your current visa ends more than 28 days before your new course begins, you will have to return home to apply for the visa.

Applications to extend a visa must be submitted online on the appropriate form, Tier 4 (Q). Information on the application process can be found at [www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa].

Remember you (and any dependants) must pay the Healthcare Surcharge before you submit your visa application. The International Student Support has prepared a Tier 4 (General) information booklet to help you complete your application; see [www.glasgow.ac.uk/media/media_106841-en.pdf] or a paper version is available from the Student Service Enquiry Desk on Level 2 of the Fraser Building. Currently the cost of a Tier 4 (General) application is £349 or £399 if applying in person.

If you have dependants, they must also complete PISs (Dependant) applications online. Dependant applications will incur a fee of £349 or £399 (in person) per dependant.

Under the Points Based System, you must obtain 40 points for your student visa application to be successful. The points are awarded for the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) (30 points) and your financial documentation (10 points). You must ensure that you provide the Home Office with originals of the documents requested and remember that you need to allow time to collect the documentation required. For instance, requests for CAS may take time to process and ATAS applications can take weeks to process.

Please note: if you have entered the UK on a Tier 4 student visa for up to six months, you will not be allowed to extend your stay.

If you have any difficulty completing the form or need advice on any of the immigration matters discussed in this section, please contact the University’s International Student Advisers (see Welfare).

If you will advise from the UKVI itself, you may call their Contact Centre on +44 (0)300 123 2241.

Vacation and part-time employment

If you are from a non-EEA country, you will probably find one of the following restrictions stamped or noted in your passport or ID card: ‘Work (and any changes) must be authorised.’ or ‘Applies only if you are employed by a person registered with the Secretary of State.’ or ‘Restriction Work – P7’ or ‘Tier 4’. ‘P7’ Vacation or Work 20 hours max in term time. Anyone on a degree-level course with these restrictions stamped in their passport can work up to 20 hours per week during term time and full-time during vacation periods. Please note that times when you are writing up your dissertation or thesis or you are studying for exams are not considered vacation periods. If you are studying any other type of course or you are a Tier 4 (child) student, you will only be allowed to work 10 hours per week during term time.

Alternatively, you may have the following prohibition endorsed in your passport: ‘No work or recourse to public funds.’ If you are coming to the UK for less than six months as a short-term student you will have this stamp, which means that you cannot work. Please remember that working while you have a prohibition stamped in your passport is illegal.

EEA and Swiss nationals are free to take employment without requiring a work permit. However, if you are in the UK as a student and you are a Croatian national, you must obtain a registration certificate as a student before you can start work, unless you meet the criteria for any of the exemptions. The usual permissions granted on the registration certificate are for employment to be permitted for up to 20 hours a week during term time, with full-time employment being permitted in vacation periods. The relevant application form is the CR1(1) form, which you can find at the UKVI website along with the full details on this application category. The application costs £55 and must be made by post.

Arrival via the Republic of Ireland without prior Entry Clearance

When you arrive in the UK from the Republic of Ireland, an Immigration Officer will check that you are in the UK. You will therefore not be allowed to extend your 'leave to remain'. EEA nationals and nationals of certain other countries with reciprocal agreements can claim Child Benefit, as long as they do not have a public funds restriction.

As there may be changes to this list, please consult the University’s International Student Advisers (see page 18) before making any claim for public funds.

Spouses/partners of Tier 4 students

Under current immigration rules, you will not be able to bring family to the UK with you unless you are taking a course which is 12 months long or more, and you are a postgraduate student, or if you are a government-sponsored student on a course of longer than six months. Your dependants will be allowed to work if you are applying for leave for 12 months or more and your course is at degree level. If your spouse/partner is travelling later, please make sure he/she has a photocopy of your passport and ID card, if you have one.
Travel abroad (non-EEA nationals)

Before leaving the UK, please note carefully the following points:
1. Check that your passport is valid for the period you will be away. If it is going to expire during this time, you must apply for a new one well in advance of your trip.
2. Check that your ‘leave to remain’ will not expire before your return to the UK. If it will expire, you should apply for an extension of stay before you go.
3. Please remember to take your passport and Biometric Residence Permit safe as both documents are vital to your stay in the UK and to any travel abroad. We advise that you keep a copy of both documents in a safe place (perhaps ask your family or friends to store copies for you) as well as storing the originals safely. Please take extra care of these documents when you are travelling in countries or cities which are unfamiliar to you.
4. It is important that you keep your passport and Biometric Residence Permit safe as both documents are vital to your stay in the UK and to any travel abroad. We advise that you keep a copy of both documents in a safe place (perhaps ask your family or friends to store copies for you) as well as storing the originals safely. Please take extra care of these documents when you are travelling in countries or cities which are unfamiliar to you.

Immigration advice

Within the University of Glasgow advice on matters related to these or other immigration issues should only be obtained from the University’s International Student Advisers.

If your passport or Biometric Residence Permit is stolen or lost, please refer to the information on the International Student Support webpages of www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/support/lostpassports.

Immigration regulations

Before leaving the UK, please note carefully the following points:
1. Check that your passport is valid for the period you will be away. It is important that you keep your passport and Biometric Residence Permit safe as both documents are vital to your stay in the UK and to any travel abroad. We advise that you keep a copy of both documents in a safe place (perhaps ask your family or friends to store copies for you) as well as storing the originals safely. Please take extra care of these documents when you are travelling in countries or cities which are unfamiliar to you.
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Eye treatment

If you want to have your eyesight tested, make an appointment for a test with any qualified optician. The optician will supply spectacles if required but the cost will depend on the type of frame and lenses you choose.

When you are leaving Glasgow

Remember that when you complete your studies and leave Glasgow you must let the NHS know. It is important to do this as it allows your name to be removed from the NHS register and you will stop letters and circulars being sent to your address. Contact your GP surgery and inform them or, if you are registered at the Barclay Medical Centre in the Fraser Building, simply email gg-uhb.barclaymedical-centre@nhs.net with a note of your name and date of birth and they will process this for you.

Medical services

Since 6 April 2019 those submitting applications for entry clearance to come to the UK, as well as those applying in the UK for an extension of stay, will be required to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of the visa process. The payment of this charge will allow access to free hospital treatment. This also applies to your dependants here with you in Glasgow. There are certain types of treatment which remain free for everyone and there are also certain exemptions. For details, please see http://goo.gl/qVUNi6.

If you are coming to Scotland on a short-term student visa for six months or less and will be studying a full-time course, access to healthcare in Scotland will be free and you do not have to pay the healthcare surcharge. Please note this is not the case if you are going to be studying in England or Wales, where it is advisable to take out private medical insurance.

Shortly after you arrive in Glasgow, you must register with a doctor or GP (General Practitioner) near your accommodation. Please do not wait until you are ill. The Barclay Medical Centre is based on Level 1 of the Fraser Building on campus. Please see www.barclaymedicalcentre.org. If your doctor issues you with a prescription for an item of medicine, you will not have to pay a charge at the dispensing chemist (pharmacy). Chemists’ shops are open during normal business hours, but they also operate a rota system to cover late opening, Sundays and public holidays.

If your income is very low, it may be possible to get help with other health costs. You should complete an HC1 form, which can be obtained from your doctor’s surgery.

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International Student Advisers – International Student Support

The University provides a welfare service to assist international students during their period of study. The International Student Advisers can help students with the practical aspects of living and studying in Glasgow and liaise with other individuals and organisations listed in this handbook. The Advisers aim to give sympathetic, confidential and practical help on a wide range of matters as quickly as possible; they also organise orientation programmes, regular workshops and webchats and activities for students and their families.

The Advisers are located in the Fraser Building and the office is open 0900–1700 on weekdays. To make an appointment, call into Level 2 of the Fraser Building or email international@glasgow.ac.uk or tel: +44 (0)141 330 7000. Alternatively, drop-in sessions for short enquiries are available Monday and Friday from 0930 to 1200 and Wednesday from 1400 to 1630. For more information see www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/support.

Counselling & Psychological Services

A confidential service is available to all registered students experiencing emotional and psychological issues. A range of help is offered, including short-term individual counselling and psychotherapy, group counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy, psychological services and a daily drop-in service.

The office is located at 87 Southpark Avenue and is open 0900–1700 on weekdays, with late opening on Thursday to 2000. To make an appointment, complete an online form or call into the office. For more information see www.glasgow.ac.uk/counselling, tel +44 (0)141 330 4528 or email studentcounselling@glasgow.ac.uk.

Careers support

Our Careers Service offers a wide range of support to students:

- confidential and impartial one-to-one guidance appointments
- CV and application checking
- mock interviews
- an email alert service offering hundreds of graduate, temporary, part-time and vacation jobs around the world
- in-college job-hunting and skill development sessions
- events and workshops hosted by a wide range of companies designed to develop students’ skills
- job-seeking skills workshops (eg CV writing, interview techniques)
- recruitment fairs and other employer networking events.

We have a careers adviser and an international opportunities manager who develop resources designed specifically for our international students, including intensive job-hunting and interview practice and virtual recruitment events linking our students with employers across the globe.

The Careers Service website, www.glasgow.ac.uk/careers, stingposts students to information on visas. Advice on individual applications is handled exclusively by the University’s International Student Advisers: www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/support.

Careers Service, Level 2, Fraser Building, tel +44 (0)141 330 7000 or email careers@glasgow.ac.uk

Advisers of Studies

Every undergraduate student is allocated to an Adviser of Studies who guides students in the choice of an appropriate syllabus. The Adviser can also counsel students on more general matters relating to their progress, such as examination regulations, absences due to ill-health and any other routine difficulties. More serious problems will be referred to the Student Counsellor or the International Student Advisers (see above).

Pre-sessional students do not have an Adviser of Studies but can speak to the class tutor instead, or the English for Academic Study Unit’s Student Support Team.

Disability Service

The Disability Service is a service for students who have a disability or a chronic health condition. We arrange support for these students on their courses.

Students who use this service may have:

- dyslexia or other learning difficulties like ADD or ADHD
- a chronic medical condition (eg arthritis, Crohn’s disease, epilepsy)
- a long-term mental health condition (eg long-term depression, bipolar disorder)
- a sensory impairment, either with vision or hearing
- a physical disability: difficulties with walking around or writing or typing because of a physical impairment.

For more information and examples of support, please see www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/disability/support/implementations

Please make an appointment with a disability adviser as early as possible and as soon as you arrive in the UK. Information about your disability or health condition will be treated sensitively and confidentially. We will not pass on any information to academic staff or supervisors without your explicit consent and agreement.

Please bring medical or psychological evidence confirming your condition or diagnosis to the appointment with the disability adviser. This evidence should explain how you are affected in a study context. We will arrange a translation into English, if necessary.

Dyslexic students need to provide an educational psychologist’s assessment report. It is better if the assessment has been done in your own home country and in your first language. If this is not possible, then we will arrange an assessment in the UK, which costs £450, payable by yourself or your medical insurers.

The disability adviser will meet you to assess your needs on your course, including exam provisions. In the UK, 25% additional time in written exams is the standard for those who require this support because of a disability or chronic health condition. Students who request more than 25% need to provide evidence of exceptionally severe and complex need.

The Disability Service is located at 65 Southpark Avenue and is open 0900–1700 Monday–Friday.

Please phone +44 (0)141 330 5497 or email disability@glasgow.ac.uk to book your appointment with a disability adviser.

PLEASE NOTE: disabled EC and international students are NOT eligible for Disabled Students’ Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments. These welfare benefits are only available for UK students.

The University cannot provide support during the evenings and weekends, so either you need to be independent – to be able to shop, cook and travel independently – or you need to fund your own helper for domestic and social support needs. You need to be able to walk from your hall of residence to campus independently or fund a taxi or your own car to get to campus.

It is your own responsibility to arrange your own medical, psychological or psychiatric care after arrival in Glasgow. All students should register with an NHS doctor when they arrive in the UK.

See: www.glasgow.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/supportservices. Please note, an NHS referral for a psychiatric assessment may take several months in the UK.

Students’ Representative Council

The Students’ Representative Council (SRC) represents the interests of the students on campus and provides support services and development opportunities to individual students. Each year a President and around 46 others, including an International Officer, are elected to the SRC Council. Any University of Glasgow student is eligible to stand in these elections. See www.glasgowstudent.net.

The SRC operates the following services:

- The Advice Centre is staffed by trained professional staff. Drop in between 1130 and 1600 on weekdays to discuss any issues that are bothering you; email: advice@src.gla.ac.uk or see www.glasgowstudent.net/advice.
- The Advice Centre also offers advice and representation for a number of problems, including academic appeals, housing, problems with landlords, consumer rights, entitlement for benefits and University Conduct procedures and formal complaints.
- Nightline (tel: +44 (0)141 334 9516) or gumline.org for instant messaging – a free, confidential hotline which is run by trained student volunteers, operating between 1900 and 0700 during term time.
- Second-hand bookshop – see page 25 for details.
- Free campus-to-halls minibus service in mornings and evenings during term time - timetables at: www.glasgowstudent.net/services/minibus. We regret that this service is not available in the summer.
- Gleicher Postgraduate Club – a dedicated space for postgraduate students to socialise and study; see www.gleicherpgclub.org
- Photocopying, printing, binding and faxing services
- Student Volunteer Service Support – see page 26 for details.
- Student media – the SRC runs the student newspaper, Guardian; Glasgow University Magazine, Glasgow University Student Television and Subby Radio. Any student is welcome to get involved.
- Jobshop – local job vacancies are displayed at www.glasgowstudent.net/services/jobshop
- Flatshare – a web-based service to help students find accommodation. Visit www.glasgowstudent.net/services/flatshare

You can find out more or ask questions at www.facebook.com/glasgowuniversitysrc, Twitter at twitter.com/gusrc and at www.glasgowstudent.net.

Police Scotland

The Chief Inspector of this area is committed to investigating all racial incidents or harassment involving individuals or ethnic groups reported to the police. Specially trained officers will listen to any grievance you may have. You can make contact via the University’s International Student Advisers (see page 18) or at Glasgow West End Police Office, 629 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow G11 6HY (tel: 101).

For emergency services (Fire, Police, Ambulance) call 999 (or 4444 from a University phone).
English language

English language courses
The English for Academic Study Unit (EAS) offers:
• courses to prepare you for study, and
• courses to support you while you study.

Preparation for study: Pre-sessional courses
EAS offers Pre-sessional courses throughout the year. Pre-sessional courses aim to bring your English language and study skills up to a level required for entry to your academic programme. They help you to develop your academic English and adapt to the style of learning and teaching at the University.

Courses can last from 5 to 40 weeks depending on the starting level of language skills. There are eight entry dates throughout the year, so you can join when you are ready. Throughout the course you will have access to the library, sports and other student services. There is also a social programme to help you make the most of living in Glasgow.

The final five weeks of the Pre-sessional course consist of specialist summer bridging programmes in Law, Medical Science, Technology & Engineering, Management, and Accounting & Finance. This final period of study gives you the opportunity to practise using academic language and skills in your subject area. Successful completion allows you to progress to your academic programme without the need to take IELTS again.

To apply for the Pre-sessional course you will need to show your current level of English with a UKVI IELTS (SELT) certificate. You may be eligible for a Joint Pre-sessional and Academic course (CAS) if you meet the EAS Unit’s requirements for the five- or ten-week course.

Courses to support you while you study
EAS offers a number of 20-credit courses in academic English and study skills for exchange students and 10-credit courses for postgraduate students. Some schools also offer English language support programmes as part of their academic courses. (Information will be provided at programme induction). The aim of all of these courses is to help students develop their ability to use English for academic purposes and to develop the skills they need to effectively manage academic study.

Our Library in the Hetherington Building also holds academic English and study skills materials and there are useful links on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/efl.

For details and guidance on all of our courses see: www.glasgow.ac.uk/efl or contact EAS directly at:
School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Hetherington Building, Bute Gardens, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8RS, tel: +44 (0)141 330 6521, email: arts-languages@glasgow.ac.uk.
Libraries

The University Library
The University Library on Hillhead Street is open every day from 0715 to 0200 (except 25–26 December and 1–2 January) and contains more than 2.5 million printed books and journals and tens of thousands of e-journals and e-books, covering the full range of academic subjects.

You can access the Library 24 hours a day online at www.glasgow.ac.uk/library.

For smartphones or other mobile devices, see www.glasgow.ac.uk/library/mobile.

Staff at the Welcome Desk on Library Level 2 can help with general enquiries; College librarians are available to help with subject-specific enquiries and can guide you to the best sources of information or show you how to use the wide range of electronic resources effectively.

Once you are registered, you can start using the Library immediately because your Student ID card is also your Library card.

To borrow books or journals, take them to the self-issue machines on Level 2. Multiple copies of important books for essays and projects are available, with shorter loan periods depending on demand.

On Level 3 there’s a cafe with a social learning and study space. There are also group study rooms, photocopying facilities and hundreds of PCs throughout the building. If you prefer to use your laptop, the Library building has wi-fi access.

For more information, tel: +44 (0)141 330 6704

Facebook: www.facebook.com/uofglibrary

Instagram: http://instagram.com/uoglibrary

Twitter: www.twitter.com/uofglibrary.

Other libraries in the Glasgow area
University of Glasgow students can access Strathclyde University Library and Glasgow Caledonian Library through the SCONUL Access scheme: www.glasgow.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/informationforteachers/usingotherlibraries.

The Mitchell Library on North Street at Charing Cross is the largest public reference library in Europe. For details of the services at the Mitchell Library and other public libraries in Glasgow visit: www.glasgowlife.org.uk.

Religion

Chaplaincy publishes a very useful Religion and Belief Guide. The guide includes the University’s Religion and Belief Policy and is freely available across the University. Copies are also available from Chaplaincy and at www.glasgow.ac.uk/chaplaincy.

The following is a list of places for worship in Glasgow within easy reach of the University.

University Chapel
• University services led by students, staff and special guests. Times: Monday–Friday during term time 0845

Roman Catholic
• Turnbull Hall, 15 Southpark Terrace. Times: Monday–Friday 1305; Sunday 0900, 1130 and 1815

Baptist
• Hillhead Baptist Church, 53 Cresswell Street (off Byres Road). Times: Sunday 1100 and 1900

Central Gurdwara Singh Sabha
• 134–138 Berkeley Street, tel: +44 (0)141 221 6686

Muslim
• Jumaa Prayer For Hall/Interfaith Room, 1300–1600

Dawat-al-Islam, 31 Oakfield Avenue
• Al Furqan Masjid & Islamic Centre, 69 Carrington Street

Central Mosque, 1 Mosque Avenue, Gorbals

Jewish
• Meetings and services in the Chaplaincy Interfaith Room
• Jewish Orthodox Synagogue, Garnethill, 129 Hill Street, Glasgow G3

Greek Orthodox
• St Luke’s Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 27 Dunonald Road, G12

Quaker (Religious Society of Friends)
• Quaker Meeting House, 38 Embankment Crescent. Times: Sunday 1100

Hindu Temple
• 1 La Belle Place, tel: +44 (0)141 332 0482

Buddhist
• Chaplaincy Interfaith Room – Thursdays
• Glasgow Buddhist Centre, 329 Sauchiehall Street, tel: +44 (0)141 333 0524

Glasgow Chinese Christian Church
• 2 Melrose Street, tel: +44 (0)141 332 8385

Church of Scotland – Presbyterian
• Wellington Church, 77 University Avenue. Times: Sunday 1100

St Mary’s Cathedral, 300 Great Western Road. Times: Sunday 0830, 1030 and 1830

The University of Glasgow follows the European week (which may include Saturdays) in relation both to teaching and examining. Students are referred to the separately published Information Sheet which is issued to all new entrants and are reminded that the Registrar should be informed of foreseeable difficulties.
Transport and motoring

Subway
The Glasgow Subway is an underground train system which links 15 stations. Trains are frequent (around one every five minutes) and a flat fare operates – £1.60 for any number of stops, unless you register online for a Smarctick and the fare will be £1 - 40. See www.spt.co.uk/kart. Tickets must be bought in advance either from a machine or from the ticket office at the station. The nearest station to the main University Campus is Hillhead in Byres Road. Hours of opening: Monday-Saturday 0630-2345 and Sunday 1000-1800.

Buses
Buses are usually of the double-decker type and can be of any colour. Numbers 4 and 4A stop on University Avenue. Fares vary according to the distance or stages travelled. Carry plenty of loose change as you must have the exact fare ready to put into the box next to the driver; no change is given. Keep your ticket during the journey as sometimes inspectors carry out checks. When you are near your destination, move towards the door near the driver indicating that you wish to get off at the next stop. Use the same door for ascending and descending on most buses.

Trains
There are two British Rail mainline stations – Central Station and Queen Street Station. With a Student Railcard (available from these companies or see www.nationalrail.co.uk). To plan any public transport journey in Scotland, tel: +44 (0)871 200 2233. www.travelinescotland.com.

Zonecards
For unlimited travel by rail, buses and the subway, you can buy a Zonecard; available for one, four or ten weeks, it might save you time and money if you travel frequently. To buy a card, take one passport-size photo to most ScotRail stations or SPT travel centres; see www.spt.co.uk/travelcards/zonecard.

Travel information
• To plan any public transport journey in Scotland, tel: +44 (0)871 200 2233. www.travelinescotland.com.
• STA Travel, 184 Byres Road (tel: 0871 702 9821) for information on student flights, rail passes in Europe, etc and to obtain International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) and travel insurance.

Motoring
The car
All cars must be registered, insured and taxed. If your car is over three years old, you will need to have it tested annually by a garage displaying the MOT testing sign. If satisfied, the garage will issue you with a Ministry of Transport (MOT) test certificate of roadworthiness. Having a car in the UK is useful but expensive.

Importation of cars
If you intend to bring your car with you, please check very carefully the regulations governing importation of cars. It is possible to bring your car into Britain free of duty and tax provided it is for your use only and it is exported at the end of your course. You must contact HM Revenue & Customs before coming to the UK to check the details.

The driver
In the UK you must have a valid driving licence and insurance cover; the minimum age at which you can hold a driving licence for a car or motorcycle is 17. Your own overseas driving licence or International Driving Permit will qualify you to drive in the UK for one year; during this time you should apply to sit the UK test unless you are an EU national or from a country which has an exchange agreement with the UK. If, after a year, you have not passed the UK driving test, you will have to take out a provisional UK licence, display ‘L’ plates (to show that you are a learner driver) and always ensure that you are accompanied by a driver with a UK licence. Application forms are available from the Post Office.

If you are a driver or a passenger on a motorcycle or moped you are obliged by law to wear a regulation crash helmet. In cars, all occupants must wear seatbelts.

For full information see www.gov.uk/driving-nongb-licence.

Car hire
Hiring a car for a group of friends can sometimes be cheaper and more flexible than public transport. You will need either a current UK driving licence or your own valid licence. Some hire companies will also ask for an international licence. You must have held a licence for at least one year and companies often insist on drivers being 25 years of age or more.

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Transport and motoring

Shopping and services

Shops
Most shops open weekdays 0900-1730 and Saturdays 0900-1800; some close on Sundays. Larger stores are open later on Thursdays and/or Fridays. Most supermarkets are open late.

Although Byres Road has a wide selection of shops, the big department stores are in Argyle Street, Sauchiehall Street and Buchanan Street in the city centre. For cheaper food supermarkets look for Lidl or Aldi.

There are several international food stores:
• See Woo, The Point, 29 Saracen Street, Glasgow G22 – for Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Malaysian, Korean and Japanese products
• several shops on Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3, for Asian and Halal products
• Solly’s African Village, 381–383 Great Western Road, Glasgow G4, for African and Caribbean products.

In the UK generally:
• Customers are expected to pay the price marked on the article; there is usually no question of bargaining.
• People are very strict about queuing and waiting their turn.
• Supermarkets, grocers’ shops and take-away food shops have a small charge for plastic carrier bags.

VAT refunds
If you are normally domiciled or live outside the European Union (EU), but have a visa to remain in the UK to complete a period of study, you may be able to claim a VAT refund on certain goods that you personally export from the EU.

You must comply with certain conditions in order to claim the refund:
• You will only be able to get a VAT refund on goods that you buy within three months of your departure to an immediate destination outside the EU.
• You will have to provide the goods, the receipts and the VAT refund document to Customs at the point of departure from the EU.
• You must then remain outside of the UK for a period of at least 12 months.

When you go to buy goods you should take your passport to show the retailer that you are entitled to buy goods under the scheme. Not all retailers operate the scheme so it is a good idea to check first.

For details, call the Customs’ National Advice Service on +44 (0)300 200 3700 or see www.gov.uk/tax-on-shopping.

Bookshops
There are several bookshops in Glasgow. John Smith & Son, located in the Fraser Building on campus, stocks most of the set textbooks and a general selection of paperbacks and reference books; staff can order books not in stock.

You can buy and sell used course texts at the SRC Second-hand Bookshop on campus. Please check our website for opening times and stock availability. www.glasgowstudent.net/services/bookshop.

For other second-hand textbooks, try Caledonia Books, 483 Great Western Road, or Voltaire & Rousseau, 12-14 Otago Lane.

Clothing
You may wish to buy suitable clothing when you arrive in Britain. If you have them, you should bring cold-weather clothes, rainwear, and lighter clothes for summer. Student dress is informal but you will need something formal or smart for functions or social evenings. Your traditional or national dress is perfectly acceptable on the campus or in the shops, but you will need to wear a pullover, jacket or coat over it during the winter, colder months.

Laundry and dry cleaning
Most University residences have laundry facilities. If there is no washing or drying facility where you live, you can take your clothes to a ‘laundrette’, where there are coin-operated washing machines and dryers. You can operate the machine yourself or, at a small extra charge, the attendant will do your washing for you. There are also many dry cleaners in the University area – look in the Yellow Pages directory.

Tipping
The following is only a rough guide to how much you should tip. If the service is much better or worse than you expected, you could vary the tip accordingly.
• Hotels: Service charge of between 10% and 15% is often included in your bill. If not, you can divide 10%–15% of the bill among the staff who have been helpful to you.
• Restaurants: 12–15% of the bill, if service is not included
• Porters: 50p per suitcase
• Taxis: 10% of the fare
• Hairdressers: £2 to the hairdresser; £1 to the assistant who washed your hair
• Cinemas, theatres and petrol stations: Tip not expected.
**Sport and leisure**

**Sport & Recreation**

Whether you’re new to exercise or a world-class athlete, we have the facilities and expertise to get and keep you motivated. Our programme offers a range of indoor and outdoor sports for fitness, fun, team players and talented athletes.

Our two facilities are open seven days a week, early until late, and include:

- a six-lane, 25m heated swimming pool
- sauna and steam room
- squash courts
- strength, cardio and fitness suites
- exercise studios
- activity halls
- exercise studios
- strength, cardio and fitness suites
- tennis courts.
- cricket oval
- pitches
- six grass and two all-weather synthetic pitches
- three tennis courts.
- squash courts
- a six-lane, 25m heated swimming pool
- late 2015 will see the opening of our new sports facility on the main campus that will include:
- sports hall with viewing gallery
- expansion of our cardiovascular, muscle-conditioning and stretching facilities
- increased exercise space including a martial arts studio

Our programme offers a range of indoor and outdoor sports for fitness, fun, team players and talented athletes.

**Student volunteering**

The Student Volunteer Support Service is run by the SRC and offers a great number of volunteering opportunities for students – including sports coaching, visiting elderly people, working in charity shops, working with people who have additional support needs or who are homeless, and much more. The service can also help you improve your English by pairing you with a fluent English-speaking student as part of the Conversational English programme; social and cultural events are held throughout the year, such as Burns Suppers and Chinese New Year celebrations.

Volunteering is a great way to support various groups across the city, make new friends and see a different side to Glasgow and its culture. Some volunteering projects can also be officially recognised by the University when you graduate.

Email volunteer@src.gla.ac.uk or see www.glasgowstudent.net/volunteer.

**International Family Lunch Group**

Every Wednesday during term time this group meets at 12:15 in the Fraser Building. Spouses/partners of international students and their pre-school-age children are invited to come along to the lunch group.

For information email: internationalstudentsupport@glasgow.ac.uk.

**International Family Network**

Throughout the year family events are organised, bringing together international students and their families and local families. For information, contact the International Student Advisers or see www.glasgow.ac.uk/international/support/familynetwork.

**Useful information**

**Consulates and High Commissions**

**Countries represented in Glasgow**

- Danish Consulate, 74 Kirkintilloch Road, Bishopbriggs G64 2AH (tel: +44 (0)141 762 2288)
- Greek Consulate, 1 Kirkklae Quadrant G12 0TR (tel: +44 (0)141 334 0560)
- Icelandic Consulate, Green Gables, Moor Road, Strathblane G83 9EX (tel: +44 (0)1360 771741)
- Italian Consulate, Queen’s House, 19 St Vincent Place G1 2OT (tel: +44 (0)141 225 3817)
- Norwegian Consulate Royal, 18 Woodside Crescent G3 7UL (tel: +44 (0)141 333 0516)
- Pakistan Consulate, 45 Maxwell Drive G41 2JF (tel: +44 (0)141 427 5755)
- Spanish Consulate, 186 St Vincent Street G3 9DJ (tel: +44 (0)141 204 4041)
- Thai Consulate, 4 Woodside Place, Charing Cross, Glasgow G3 7GF (tel: +44 (0)141 353 5066)

**Countries represented in Edinburgh**

- American Consulate General, 3 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BW (tel: +44 (0)131 556 8135)
- Australian Honorary Consul, Mitchell House, 5 Mitchell Street, Leith EH6 8BD (tel: +44 (0)131 538 0582)
- Belgian Consulate, 2 West Street, Perth, P32 5NL (tel: +44 (0)1968 679969)
- Chinese Consulate General, 55 Crawforthouse Road EH2 2GG (tel: +44 (0)131 337 1700)
- French Consulate General, 11 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7TJ (tel: +44 (0)131 225 7954)
- German Consulate, 16 Eglinton Crescent EH12 5DG (tel: +44 (0)131 337 2323)
- Indian Consulate, 17 Rutland Square EH1 2BB (tel: +44 (0)131 229 2144)
- Japanese Consulate, 2 Melville Crescent EH3 7AY (tel: +44 (0)131 225 4777)
- Netherlands Consulate, 38 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HA (tel: +44 (0)131 510 0233)
- Polish Consulate, 2 Kinneil Road EH3 8PE (tel: +44 (0)131 562 0281)
- Russian Federation, 58 Melville Street EH3 7AF (tel: +44 (0)131 225 7098)
- Spanish Consulate, 63 North Castle Street EH2 2LJ (tel: +44 (0)131 220 1843)

**Cost of living**

We recommend allowing £122.10 for a single student per week and a minimum of £18,000 for a married couple. For each child add £3,000 per year.

Please note that the following information is only a very rough breakdown of costs per month for a single student in averagely priced self-catering accommodation.

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In addition to the above figure of £11,400, you should include the following amounts annually: books – £400; UK travel – £300.

**Climate**

The climate of Glasgow is characterised by its temperate nature. Periods of extreme heat or cold are infrequent and usually of short duration. Rainfall may occur during all seasons and rapid weather changes may take place over a period of a few hours.

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George Square
Glassford St
Queen Street Station
Central Station
Buchanan Bus Station

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011

St Enoch Subway Station
Cowcaddens Subway Station
St George's Cross Subway Station
Kelvinbridge Subway Station
Hillhead Subway Station

M8 Motorway
Sauchiehall Street
Argyle Street
Buchanan Street

The Stand Comedy Club is a great place to see new talent or catch big names testing new material.

Arctic Monkeys, Calvin Harris and Jessie J have performed at the SSE Hydro.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum is one of the most visited museums in the UK outside London.

Visit the CCA for visual art, performance, live music, spoken word and other events.

From art-house cinemas to late-night cult screenings, there’s something for everyone at the GFT.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum is one of the most visited museums in the UK outside London.

Central Station
Buchanan Street Subway Station
Queen Street Station

Kelvingrove Park
Cairncross House

The biggest night-out in Scotland, The Garage in Queen Street plays over 200 gigs a year.

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Explore Glasgow’s collection of contemporary art at the Gallery of Modern Art.

The People’s Palace on Glasgow Green is over three centuries.

Ski on a real snow slope, play adventure golf or go rock climbing at Soar, Braehead.

Glasgow’s three main shopping streets are known as the ‘Style Mile’.

The Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome attract major sporting events.

Glasgow has more than 90 parks and gardens, including the Botanic Gardens in the West End.

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Glasgow's Subway provides a quick way to travel around the city.

Get comfy on a sofa at the Grosvenor, Glasgow’s oldest cinema.

At 62m high, Glasgow Cineworld is currently the tallest cinema in the world.

The Barrowland Ballroom is a 1930s dance hall turned legendary rock concert venue.

Tennis courts, bowling greens and a skate park are situated in Kelvinbridge Park.

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