Coventry University

PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE JANUARY 2020

Ranked No.15 UK University Gold for outstanding teaching and learning

97% employed or in further study





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Welcome

Welcome to Coventry!

Our pre-arrival guide aims to prepare you for your arrival into the UK and to give you an insight into your first few weeks as a Coventry University student.

If you are an international student, once you have your CAS and other supporting documents, you can apply for your visa. We understand that this can be an intimidating prospect, however, we are here to help you every step of the way. We have a team of specialist advisers who are trained to provide immigration advice and can be contacted at visahelp.io@coventry.ac.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to Coventry University very soon.

Regards

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities Internationalisation Support Team George Eliot Building Cox Street Coventry CVI 5FB

T: +44 (0)24 7765 9172

E: international.fah@coventry.ac.uk



When should I arrive to enrol?

Enrolment is the process through which you officially join the University. You can only attend classes and access University buildings and services (such as student support services, printing, photocopying and electronic timetables) after you have enrolled, so it is vital you enrol before you arrive or as soon as possible on your arrival.

EU students

All EU students should enrol online before arriving in Coventry. You will receive an automatic invitation email from our enrolment team when online enrolment opens. Ensure you allow enough time to be in the UK ready for the start of your course.

International students

It is essential that you start making your travel arrangements as soon as possible. Allow enough time to obtain your visa, travel to the UK and start your course.

For international students (i.e. all students from outside the European Union or European Economic Area, including those with Tier 4 visas) the enrolment process can only begin once document checks have taken place at the **Student Centre**, upon arrival at Coventry University. International students can find information on the visa process and a downloadable visa guide here. If you receive an online enrolment link, do not enrol, contact the Internationalisation team as soon as possible.

To enrol, you must visit the Student Centre, in person, with your original documents. Enrolment times and dates are published at the link below near the start of the semester:

https://www.coventry.ac.uk/international-students-hub/new-students/prearrival-information/enrolment.

Key dates

Term starts on Monday 20th January 2020. It is important that you arrive in plenty of time, so that you have sufficient time to collect your ID card, complete enrolment and attend your induction sessions.

You can find term dates here. You will not be able to access your personal online timetables until after enrolment, when they will become available at https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/Timetable-main/studentportal.

Student ID Card

You will need your Student Identity (ID) Card to access University buildings and accommodation, register your attendance at classes using the Touchpoints and access printing credits.

When you enrol, you will be asked to upload a photo if you enrol online, or have a photo taken if you enrol in person. ID card collection will be confirmed nearer the start of term. When you collect your card you will be asked to show a passport or national identity card as proof of your identity.



Late arrivals

It is important that you arrive on time. Enrolment after the cut off date of 3rd February 2020 may not be permitted.

Please **do not travel** and attempt to enrol after the deadline without written permission from the University, as you may not be allowed to enrol.

If you are unable to arrive by the enrolment deadline, please contact the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Internationalisation team at international.fah@coventry.ac.uk so we can advise you on your next steps.

University Accommodation

If you have an offer of University owned or managed accommodation and have paid your deposit, you must inform FutureLets that you will be late, and they will confirm your key collection arrangements. You can contact them via email on unihalls@futurelets.co.uk (University Halls) or enquiries@futurelets.co.uk (Private Accomodation) or by calling +44 (0) 247 6158 158.



Enrolment for International Students

International students

You wil	will need to bring your original documents.				
	Passport with current visa endorsed by Coventry University,				
	Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) - if applicable				
	ould also bring all documents quoted on your visa letter, which may (depending on nationality):				

To enrol, you must visit the Student Centre, in person, on one of the given dates.

☐ Offer letter

П

- Short term study invitation letter
- □ Paper version of EVW (Electronic Visa Waiver, if applicable)
- ☐ Proof of landing in the UK (boarding pass stub, flight ticket ect.)

Due to Home Office and University regulations, you must fulfill all of the necessary conditions before enrolment, otherwise we cannot enrol you onto your course. Unfortunately, there are no exceptions to this. Without enrolling, you will be unable to attend classes or have access to University buildings and services.

Police Registration Requirements for International (Non EU/EEA) Students

Some international students MUST register with the Overseas Visitors department of the Police within seven days of their arrival in the UK. If you are required to register with the Police, this requirement will be printed on your visa sticker or Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

It is a legal requirement that you register if you are told to do so. Failure to register is a criminal offence and could lead to prosecution or a ban from the UK, so please be aware that it is a very important matter. Any family members who have the requirement to register stamped in their passport must also register with the police in person.

Where to go:

Digbeth Police Station
113 Digbeth
Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DT
T: +44 (0)12 1626 5307

For more information, please visit the West Midlands Police website here.

Health

It is important that you register with a doctor as soon as you arrive in the UK. We advise you to register with the Medical Centre in The HUB. If you have not yet registered and need medical attention, you can visit **Coventry NHS Walk in Centre**.

The National Health Service, or NHS as it is more commonly known, is the UK state health service. The NHS provides medical treatment and services for UK residents. The NHS website is an excellent resource to locate doctor, dentists, opticians and pharmacists in the UK. The site also offers a self-help guide to suggest what to do if you do become unwell.

International Students

International (Non EU/EEA) students and their dependents may need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) before their visas are issued. If your course lasts for 6 months or more, students, and their dependants up to 16 years of age (19 if in full-time education) may be entitled to government funded medical treatment on the same basis as UK residents.

You will pay a subsidised amount for medical prescriptions, dental treatment and opticians. Dental treatment can be quite expensive so you should ensure that you are treated as an NHS patient.

If you are coming for a course that is less than 6 months you may be required to pay for your health care in the UK. We would recommend you arrange your own health insurance before traveling to avoid unexpected costs.

EU/EEA students

If you are a European Economic Area national studying in the UK for less than six months, you and your family should fill out form E128 in your country of residence or bring your European Health Insurance card with you to the UK. This form entitles you and your family to full NHS treatment on the same basis as students who are studying more than six months.

The emergency number in the UK is 999. III is the national medical non-emergency number.

University induction programme

We hope you are looking forward to joining us in Coventry! There will be lots to do when you arrive. The majority of induction activities are online but your faculty will run a welcome session for your course and Coventry University Student Union (CUSU) will also be holding events throughout the semester.

This year, there will not be an induction week, so teaching will start as soon as you arrive.

It is very important to attend the first week of teaching. However, we appreciate in exceptional circumstances, such as if your visa is delayed, this may not be possible. In this case, follow the steps below once you are enrolled to catch up with everyone else:

- % Log in to the Student Portal through the Coventry University website and read the information available on the "New to CU" tab
- &" Contact your Academic Coordinator
 - H\Y'GWcc``cZ5fh'UbX'8Yg][b Hca 'B Y'g:b aa6112@coventry.ac.uk
 - H\Y'GWcc``cZ< i a Ub]hjYg Ross Graham
 bsx288@coventry.ac.uk
 - The School of Media and Performing Arts
 Una Murphy
 ad0271@coventry.ac.uk
- (" Access your Moodle (Online Learning Environment) through the Student Portal and check your module pages
-)" Access your personalised online timetable through the Student Portal and check your schedule
- *" Take a Self-Guided Tour: https://www.coventry.ac.uk/study-atcoventry/visit-our-open-days/self-guided-tour/



Choosing where to live

Coventry is a great place to live. It is really easy to get around, it has a good, simple bus system, and many of the areas popular with students are within walking distance of the University. Coventry is generally a safe city, but it is sensible not to walk home by yourself in the dark, so consider this when looking at areas to live.

City Centre

There are places to live in the City Centre that have great advantages. Close to the University, not too far to walk, close to many shops and places to eat and drink.

Earlsdon

Earlsdon is a really popular area with both Coventry University and University of Warwick students. Earlsdon is also a place where many people, including students, go to in the evening as there are nice cafes and places to eat. You can walk to the University from most places in Earlsdon in about 20 to 25 minutes. Regular buses from Earlsdon go into the City Centre as well.

Stoke

Stoke is another common place to live for Coventry students. It takes around 25 minutes to walk to campus and is on main bus routes to the City Centre and the hospital.

Spon End

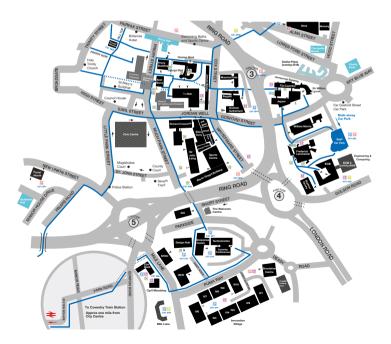
Spon End is on the fringes of the City Centre, just outside the famous ring road. This means it is really close to the University, about 10 to 15 minutes walk. There are a number of corner shops, which it is always a good idea to use, as it can help your neighbours get to know who you are and they will be able to help you stay safe. There are fewer students here than in other areas.

Lower Coundon

Lower Coundon is just outside the City Centre and close to a large Morrison's supermarket. This area is popular with students and is a 20 minute walk to the University. Again, there are some corner shops and takeaways and, as it is on a main bus route into Coventry, there are a choice of buses depending on where you live.

Chapelfields

Chapelfields is very popular with students. It takes around 20 to 25 minutes to walk to campus. There aren't many shops in Chapelfields but you can walk to Morrison's supermarket in about 5 to 10 minutes and it is also close to Earlsdon. The bus service is good here, with several services into the city center.



Applying For University Accommodation

We realise how important it is to know where you are going to live before coming to University and hope that this information assists you in acquiring all the information you need about our range of accommodation.

Living in University accommodation is a great way of making new friends and gaining a new-found independence. We would strongly recommend all exchange students University live in accommodation to help you meet new friends and to settle into university life. Many international students choose to University accommodation rather than taking the on additional responsibilities of being a private tenant.

Our friendly team can help you to find the right accommodation. Visit the Futurelets website and look through the accommodation choices available and details on how to apply. You can contact our accommodation office on:

T: +44 (0)24 76 158 158 E: enquiries@futurelets.co.uk

Once you have received your student ID number on your offer letter, you can apply online for University Accommodation. Once an offer of accommodation is made to you via email, you have three days to confirm your offer by accepting the offer and agreeing the terms and conditions, paying your deposit and initiating a payment plan.

You should check your emails regularly so you can see when you have been made an offer. You may reject the offer at this time, if not satisfied. Please note that if you reject your offer of accommodation you will not be able to re-apply. The rent will be detailed when you are offered a contract.











Private accommodation

If you are not staying in University accommodation and you choose to rent accommodation from the private sector, it can seem quite daunting when you have just arrived in the UK. Read our helpful checklist so that you know what to do when you get here.

In order to be able to find private accommodation before term starts, you should aim to arrive in Coventry I-2 weeks early You can start searching for accommodation on the internet before you arrive in Coventry or contact FutureLets, but we would not recommend that you book any accommodation before you have had a chance to see it. Please make sure there is an official contract in place with the accommodation provider and that you have read and understand the terms and conditions

FutureLets

As well as offering University accommodation, FutureLets is the University's very own lettings agency, and can help place students into private accommodation

They have a variety of properties to suit everyone's needs and you can secure a property through them prior to your arrival if you wish.

Visit the website to view properties online. Alternatively, you can contact the team to arrange viewings of properties within the first few days of your arrival. You will have to pay an administration charge when FutureLets place you into accommodation.

You may choose to rent a room in a house with other students, or rent a small flat with one bedroom. There are also options lodge within to a family home or rent a bedsit (a single room with sleeping, living and cooking facilities). The price of accommodation that you choose depends on the size and location of the property.

If you do not have University accommodation, please ensure that you arrive in plenty of time to find somewhere to live in the private sector. You will need to book a room in a hotel or guest house whilst you are looking.

Checklist for private accommodation:

- Landlords often require references or guarantors; often these will have to be UK residents. Three months bank statements are also often required as well as bank details to set up a direct debit for rent payment. If you do not have a UK guarantor, you may be required to pay around six months' rent in advance. We recommend you speak to your accommodation provider about this in advance of signing any agreement.
- Make sure you have enough money to cover the deposit. The deposit amount is usually one month's rent. Remember that in addition you will usually be asked to pay for the first month's rent at the same time so your first payment will usually be two month's rent together.

- Check your tenancy agreement and make sure you understand the document before you sign it. If you are unsure, make an appointment to speak to Coventry University Students' Union Advice Centre so they can check the contract for you.
- Check the length of your agreement. Most tenancy agreements last six months, so check your agreement to ensure that you do not sign for more than the length of your course.
- Check your inventory. Often an 'inventory' or list of items in the accommodation is provided. You should make sure that you inform the landlord if anything on the list is not included when you arrive. If you do not inform your landlord of missing items you may be liable to cover the cost of its replacement at the end of your stay.

Think very carefully before you give a landlord or an agent any money or sign anything. Make sure you have checked the property and the terms of your contract thoroughly.

Useful contacts

- We highly recommend that you take a look at Safer Students' guidelines here.
- You can also contact Coventry University Students' Union. Visit their website here.

Temporary accommodation

We advise that you book some accommodation for your first few nights in Coventry before you travel. However, if you have found yourself with nowhere to stay on your arrival into the UK, there are a number of short term accommodation options close to the University.

Please note these are not run by Coventry University and need to be booked and paid for directly with the provider.

For information on other hotels and guest houses, please click here.

Premier Inn

Belgrade Plaza Bond Street

CVI 4AH

T: +44 (0)87 1527 8272

Room per night: From £51

Ramada

The Butts

Coventry CVI 3GG

T: +44 (0)24 7623 8110

Room per night: From £52

Ibis

Mile Lane

Coventry

CVI 2LN

T: +44 (0)24 7625 0500

Room per night: From £63

Days Hotel

89-90 Holyhead Road

Coventry

CVI 3AS

GB

T: +44 (0)24 7625 8585

Room per night: From £55



Emergency contact numbers

Coventry University Protection Services

T: +44 (0)24 7765 8555 or T:+44(0)24 7765 7363

(general enquiries)

(Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm) International Student Support Team T: +44 (0)24 7765 2010

(Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm) Internationalisation Support Team, Faculty of Arts & Humanities T: +44 (0)24 7765 9172

Money matters

It is important you arrange your finances before you arrive at University as it is vital that you have sufficient funding in place before commencing a course of study. Your finances will need to cover your tuition fees, accommodation, books, stationery, food and general living costs.

You should not travel to the UK or begin a course without making sure that you have enough money to cover all of your living expenses. It is very difficult to make arrangements for financial support after you have left your own country.

Opening a bank account

It can take 2-3 weeks to open an account, and many banks charge a monthly fee for international student accounts, so it is a good idea to spend some time looking for the right bank for your needs.

Once you have enrolled, you will be able to obtain a **Student Status Letter** from any Information Point at Coventry University if you wish to open a UK bank account. Make sure that the staff know that you are an ERASMUS/Exchange student. If you are in the UK for one semester, discuss this with your bank first as many accounts will want you to stay in the UK for one year.

UK law requires banks to make checks on customers opening accounts. Students will require proof of identity such as passports, proof of address in your home country, proof of address in the UK and Student Status Letter.



Transferring and travelling with money

If you are travelling from outside the EU, you will need to declare any sums of money of 10,000 Euros (approx £8,000) or more to HM customs upon arrival.

If your country restricts the amount of money you can bring out, you may need to begin the arrangements for transferring money several months before your course begins.

British banks will usually charge a handling fee (allow up to £20) for receiving incoming money from overseas, so the amount you receive may not be the same as the amount that was sent.

It may take up to four weeks before you can fully use your UK bank account, so it's best to ensure that you have enough money for your personal needs for the first few weeks of term.

We advise that you do not carry large amounts of money with you. Please email **welfare.io@coventry.ac.uk** if you have any concerns about this.

If you are going to use your bank card from an account at home in the UK, remember to inform the bank before your departure so that they do not block your card for unusual activity.

Insurance

We strongly advise you to insure your personal belongings against damage or loss, particularly electronic equipment. You will be able to obtain further advice from the Students' Union Advice Centre when you get here or contact suadvice@coventry.ac.uk.



Travelling to the UK

When travelling to the UK, we recommend you fly into Birmingham Airport, which is just 20 minutes away from Coventry. Alternatively you could fly into Heathrow or Gatwick, which are in London (2-3 hours away from Coventry).

Upon landing, **international students** should be prepared to wait to pass through immigration. You will need to ensure you have your correct documents readily available within your hand luggage to present to the Immigration Officer.

You may be taken in for a further

Documents you may need for inspection:

Passport

Offer letter	interview but please do not worry – this is standard procedure. As long as
Visa information letter	you can tell the Immigration Officer
Qualifications	clearly what course you are studying and that it is with Coventry University,
Bank statement used for your visa	the process should be smooth. For more information about this.
application	please refer to the website.
The visa decision letter from the Home Office telling you where to collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)	
Health documents, e.g. TB screening	

In the unlikely event that an Immigration Officer refuses you entry, you may be removed immediately or given a very short period of temporary admission.

If this happens, you can telephone the International Student Support Team in the International Office on **+44 (0)24 7765 2010**. If they are not available, ask the Immigration Officer to contact Coventry University.



Getting to Coventry

Getting to Coventry University from Birmingham Airport If you are not taking advantage of the FutureLets free or premium meet and greet service (see page 32) we recommend using public transport to get to the University safely.

By train

Follow the signs from your terminal to the Air-Rail Link that will take you to Birmingham International Train Station. The Air-Rail is free and operates between 5.15am and 2am daily. You can purchase train tickets on arrival at the train station via ticket machines or the ticket office. Trains depart to Coventry train station regularly during the day.

A train ride to Coventry will take 15 minutes depending on the service you choose and cost between £2-£5 depending on when you travel. The University is a 15 minute walk from the train station.

By bus

The 900 bus route to Coventry City Centre operates outside the Airport terminal, with a regular half hourly service running throughout the week. It costs approximately £2.30 and will take you approximately 40 minutes to reach Pool Meadow Bus Station. The University is a 5 minute walk from the Bus Station.

By taxi

Licensed Black Cabs operate a 24 hour, 365 day service from directly outside the arrivals area of the airport. During daylight hours, you can find a customer services representative at the taxi rank to assist passengers with their taxi journey. For journeys in Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull a metered fare will be displayed during the trip.

All cabs accept major credit and debit cards, provide receipts and are the only cars permitted to operate from the Airport Rank. A taxi ride to Coventry will take 20 minutes and cost in the region of £30.

National Express coaches

To use National Express, you must buy your coach tickets in advance online at www.nationalexpress.com. The best journey deals are released in advance, with prices going up as you get closer to your travelling date. Tickets can be emailed to you.

From Heathrow or Gatwick Airports

Take a National Express coach service direct from Heathrow or Gatwick Airport to Coventry. Students will arrive at Pool Meadow Bus Station, opposite Priory Hall. Coach tickets are priced from £22 per person.



Airport meet and greet service

FutureLets and Coventry University Student Ambassadors are available to support you with your arrival. During the busiest arrival times, FutureLets provide a free meet and greet and transfer service to the main Coventry University campus. The service is available for first year exchange students arriving at Birmingham or Heathrow airports.

If you would like to use this service, you must book at least 3 working days in advance of your arrival to the UK, and provide the following information:

- · Date and time of your arrival
- Flight number
- · Airport and terminal
- · Number of bags you will be travelling with
- Your term time accommodation address whilst in the UK

For more information or to book your place, visit the FutureLets website.

Premium meet and greet service

Alternatively, why not arrive in style and book the FutureLets premium meet and greet service? A private chauffeur will meet you at the airport and take you directly to your accommodation.

For details of costs and how to book, please visit the FutureLets website.



British culture

We have provided some information about British culture to help you quickly fit in to life in the UK.

University studies

Whatever UK course you study, you will be encouraged to think for yourself and create your own ideas. You will have tutorials, which will be run in smaller groups compared to your main classes. They are more informal and are designed to help you participate more in the education process. You will be expected to ask questions and join in discussions and you will find that your ideas and opinions are very welcome.

The student/lecturer relationship is relaxed. You would not address your lecturer by his/her title and last name, but rather just use his or her first name so John, Alison, etc.

A lot of your information such as timetables, assignments and communication with University staff will be online. If you are not used to working in this way, ask a member of academic staff for help.

Meet-and-greet

When greeting someone. English people would often ask 'Are you alright?' (or the shortened 'You alright?"), which is not really considered a question but should be responded to with maybe 'yes, thanks'.

Queues

The English people love to queue and are very organised and patient in doing so. They form orderly queues and you are expected to take your correct turn and not push in front. Queue jumping is frowned upon.

Clothes

Fashion in England may differ from that in your home country. Coventry has a diverse culture so you will find there are lots of different styles worn by many. There are also plenty of retail shops in Coventry City Centre offering clothing for all tastes. Remember you will need warm clothes and shoes for the winter months, and it can be very cold in January and February in the UK.

The three most important phrases

It is very good manners to say "please" and "thank you". It is considered rude if you do not. You will notice in England they say "thank you" a lot and often "cheers" is used instead of thank you. The third essential word is "sorry". If you accidentally bump into someone, say "sorry". They probably will too, even if it was your fault! This is a habit and can be seen as very amusing by different cultures.

Privacy

British people hold their privacy in high regard so we advise you not to ask extremely personal questions such as "How much money do you earn?", "How much do you weigh?" or "Why aren't you married?"

Punctuality

The British are famous for being on time so you should make sure you arrive for appointments and classes at least five minutes in advance. If you are late, some lecturers may not let you in.

Politeness

British people would very rarely tell you to do something; most often they would suggest it or ask if you want to do it. A common way to request a favour is "Are you happy to do something?" or "It would be great if you could do this" or at the very least they would say "Could you please do this?" (the "please" is vital of course). If you want to ask something, you would say "Excuse me please."

British weather

British weather can be unpredictable and it can get extremely cold in January and February. You might even see snow. Avoid catching colds and flu by making sure you have warm, waterproof clothes and that your accommodation has good heating facilities if you are renting privately.



Food and Drink

Coventry Market

Queen Victoria Road, CVI 3HT T: **024 7622 4927** Mon - Wed | 8.30am - 5pm Thurs | 8.30am - 2:30pm

Fri - Sat | 8.30am - 5:30pm

Sun | CLOSED

Coventry Market has over 170 market stalls and shops selling 'All Kinds of Everything'. The stalls on offer at Coventry Market include butchers, fishmongers, florists, greengrocers, cobblers and and fancy dress stalls, to name just a few.

Supermarkets and shops

There are many large Superstores that sell food based in or around Coventry City Centre.

Sainsbury's

24-26 Trinity St, CVI IFL

Opening times Mon - Fri 7am - 10pm Sat 7am - 9pm Sun 12 - 6pm

Tesco Express

23 Shelton Square, CVI IDG

Opening times Mon - Sun 7am - 11pm

Chinese		Polish	
China Mini Market 22 Market Way Coventry, CVI IDL T: 024 7623 0850	Wah Yan Hong 71 Hertford St Coventry, CVI ILB T: 024 7655 1621	Polish Shop 124 Clay Lane Coventry CV2 4LT T: 07880 112237	Krówka 90 Far Gosford St Coventry CVI 5EA T: 02476272216

International food shops

There are various stalls in the market selling international food, including Indian, Chinese, Polish, and African food.

Indian & Pakistani

Stoney Stanton Road and the Foleshill Road have plenty of Pakistani and Indian shops, halal meat shops and restaurants. Shops/restaurants selling halal food will normally carry the HALAL sign.

Restaurants / takeaway						
Las Iguanas Coventry Cathedral Lanes CVI ILL T: 024 7623 9120 Cuisine: Latin American	China Red Restaurant 58 Hertford Street, CVI ILB T: 024 7622 9333 Cuisine: Chinese	Habibi 143 Gosford Street, CVI 5DY T: 024 7622 0669 Cuisine: Arabic. Halal*				
McDonalds 26 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CVI 1HF T: 024 7652 5745 Cuisine: Fast Food, America	Nandos Trinity Street, CVI 1FE T: 024 7663 4992 Cuisine: Portugese, Halal*	Noodle Bar Restaurant 9 Bull Yard, Coventry, CVI ILH T: 024 7655 1388 Cuisine: Chinese				
Palms Bar & Restaurant 116 Far Gosford St, Coventry CVI 5EA T: 024 7652 0522 Cuisine: African	Leave It To Esmie 13a Fargo Village, CV1 5ED T: 024 7622 1916 Cuisine: Carribean	Thai Dusit 39 London Road, CVI 2JP T: 024 7622 7788 Cuisine: Thai & Noodles				
The Quids Inn	Sultan 94-95 Far Gosford Street	* The information printed was correct at the time i				

117 Far Gosford Street,

CVI 5DL T: **024 7622 955 I** Cuisine: Pizza, Pasta, Burgers 94-95 Far Gosford Street CVI 5EA T: **024 7655 5353**

T: **024 7655 535**: Cuisine: Turkish * The information printed was correct at the time it was published. However, be aware that changes can happen without notice.

Coventry University

Students' Union (CUSU)

CUSU is an active, student-led organisation that engages with, empowers and represents the diverse student population of Coventry University. CUSU is governed by the Student Council, which is elected by students. All students are encouraged to use the services and get involved.

Advice centre

Offering free, independent and confidential advice on issues including debt, housing problems and benefits. The Centre also provides personal representation for complaints and disciplinary hearings in the University.

Campaigns

CUSU runs a number of campaigns in the year to inform students of their legal rights on issues such as housing, and to raise awareness social about issues such reducing as environmental damage, or cultural awareness through events such as Black History Month. Any student can join the campaign team.

Social life

CUSU host regular entertainment and social events, from world cinema screenings to live performances. Take a look at the CUSU website and Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

Sports and societies

CUSU nearly 100 has sports clubs and societies with total membership of 3.000 students. Sports clubs compete against other universities in a number of sports at various levels. are over 60 societies representing diverse range interests from Asian film mountaineering, and all the major world faiths have their own societies. You can join as many clubs or societies as you like. There will usually be a small joining fee

Volunteering and employability

CUSU Volunteering and Employability are there to help you to gain invaluable experience, develop key transferable skills, improve your CV and test out potential career paths through volunteering in your local community. They will be able to offer information, advice, guidance support throughout your volunteering experience. Volunteering can be flexible and the time you choose to

commit is up to you, because whether you volunteer each week or just once a year, your contribution will make a positive difference to yourself and the community. All of the projects they offer are an excellent way to benefit communities locally and across the globe. You must ensure your visa conditions allow you to volunteer.

Spirituality and Faith centre

The Spirituality and Faith Centre is located at the heart of the campus and is a warm, safe environment for all students and staff irrespective of their beliefs. Facilities include a multi-faith meeting room, chapel, Muslim prayer rooms (with ablution facilities), lounge, multi-faith library and kitchen. The Chaplains who work in the Spirituality and Faith Centre are always willing to listen and can help guide or assist you in finding the right help if you need it.

Events

All events can be found through the CUSU website. One of the ways they try and assist new students is by helping them build a sense of 'community' by meeting other people and developing friendships. They do this through helping students to find places of worship, or by events such as lunches or discussion groups. They also help student societies find places to exercise their beliefs, and seek to support their pastoral care.



CUSU will host a variety of social activities throughout the semester allowing you to get involved with university life and make new friends. Further details will be launched soon on the CUSU website **here**.

You can also get in touch by phone or email to make an appointment with the Advice Centre or to speak to a sabbatical officer.

www.cusu.org T: 024 7765 5200 E: infooffice.su@coventry.ac.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/coventrysu

Enjoying your time at Coventry

To help you settle into your new home, here's some suggestions to help with enjoying your time here.

Make new friends

It will give you people to talk to and have fun with. A great place to meet fellow students is at social events like the social trips that the CUSU organise, so make sure you attend. Making friends with home students can help you settle into your new environment.

Keep in contact with family and friends at home

However, try to keep a balance between contact with home and time spent with your new friends in the UK, as too much contact can make you feel homesick. You can pick up a free SIM card at enrolment if you have not got a phone yet in the UK.

Speak to other international/EU students

You can find new exchange/Study Abroad students on your Faculty Facebook Group or at international and cultural events.

Exercise

Exercise releases endorphins, a chemical that makes you feel happy and smiley! There are many sports clubs you can join.

Eat well

Eating lots of fruits and vegetables can make you feel more energised.

Put together a photo diary of your time here in the UK

You can show it to your family when you see them next to give them a better understanding of your life in the UK.

Try not to spend too much time by yourself

Even going to a busy public place like a coffee shop, a library or a park can make you feel a lot more relaxed and positive.

Get involved in Coventry University life

Throw yourself into your studies but also join lots of sports clubs and societies which are another great way to meet new friends and try new things.

If you do find yourself feeling homesick and don't know who to talk to, contact welfare.io@coventry.ac.uk

Coventry University jargon buster

Academic

Academics include professors, readers, researchers, principal and senior lecturers, lecturers and associate lecturers and tutors who typically combine teaching, research and administration duties.

Academic dishonesty

Any attempt by a student to gain unfair advantage (e.g. extra marks) by unauthorised means. Examples of academic dishonesty include collusion, falisfication, plagiarism and cheating in examinations. See the Centre for Academic Writing or your Faculty Student Handbook for more information.

Add+vantage

The Add+vantage Scheme at Coventry University offers a range of modules which help students develop work-related skills and employability competencies.

APT - Academic Personal Tutor

A member of academic staff to whom students can turn to for academic and personal advice. New students are allocated an APT after they enroll.

Assessment - formative and summative

Assessment is a generic term that refers to the wide variety of processes and methods (essays, reports, exams, presentations, exhibitions, performances etc.) that are used to evaluate, measure and document student learning. Formative assessment refers to work that is part of a developmental process and no final mark is awarded. Summative assessment receives a mark, which is recorded on the student record as a measure of achievement for a specific module.

Blended learning

Blended learning combines face to face taught classroom sessions with distance learning, typically delivered through digital and online media.

Campus

The grounds and buildings of a university. Some universities have a number of different campuses. Coventry University, for example, has UK campuses in Coventry, London and Scarborough.

CAS - Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

An electronic document with a unique reference number which is provided by a university, college or school and is required by UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) when international students apply for a Tier 4 student visa.

CATS - Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme

CATS is used by UK universities to monitor and record progress through a modular degree course. All modules at Coventry University are assigned a level and a credit value. For example, 10 credits equal 100 learning hours (including lectures, seminars, trutorials, independent study, exam revision, assessment etc.). A full time undergraduate student will normally register for 120 credits per academic year.

CAW - Centre for Academic Writing

CAW is a teaching and research centre based in the Lanchester Library which offers a range of services to students including tutorials, workshops, academic writing resources, and academic writing modules.

CGE - Centre for Global Engagement

CGE offers students a wide range of opportunities to help them develop international experience and become globally employable.

Core texts

Core texts are specified textbooks which are essential for students to study during their course.

Course Director

An academic member of staff who oversees the running and administration of an individual course.

Course Reps

Students who represent other students at course, faculty and university meetings and committees. The Student Reps department is part of Coventry University Students' Union and has three areas: Course Reps, Service Reps and Halls Reps.

CUOnline

The university platform for e learning and digital resources operates two Virtual Learning Environments (VLE), Moodle and Mahara, Moodle is the VLE that enables access to information such as lecture notes, video clips, blogs, links to websites, hand outs and assignments.

CUSU - Coventry University Students' Union

An organisation run by students for students and part of the NUS (national organisation of students' unions for the UK and Ireland). CUSU activities include an advice centre, course representation, cultural, academic and religious societies and sports clubs. The NUS Extra Card can be purchased in the SU and provides a range of local and national discounts.

DDA - Disability Discrimination Act

Deferral

When a student experiences extenuating circumstances, they may apply to defer their assessment(s). See the guidelines on extenuating circumstances on the Student Portal.

Dissertation

A dissertation is a written research project, examining a subject in detail, usually submitted at the end of the final year of a course. Not all courses require students to undertake a dissertation.

DMLL - Disruptive Media Learning Lab

The Disruptive Media Learning Lab (DMLL) is an innovative teaching and learning space based on the 3rd floor of the Library. The DMLL team works to encourage academics, researchers, learning technologists, and students to challenge approaches to teaching and learning.

E-learning

Formal and informal learning undertaken using electronic media, such as the Internet.

EO - Equal Opportunities

This is the principle of treating all people the same. The UK Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination in employment or in the provision of training and education on the grounds of any of the following characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Enrolment

This is the final stage of formally registering for a course at Coventry University.

Erasmus

Erasmus is the European Union's exchange programme that provides opportunities for UK/EU students and staff to study or gain accredited work experience in another EU university or enterprise.

Faculty Registry

The Faculty Registry are the team who support students through their studies, providing information and guidance on the rules and procedures that affect academic progress. They authorise deferrals, extensions, authorised absence requests and advise students on a range of academic matters.

Flipped learning

Flipped learning (or flipped classroom) reverses traditional teaching and learning. Typically, students are introduced to new learning material before class, usually via online lectures, videos and discussions. Classroom time is then used to deepen understanding through discussion with peers and problem-solving activities facilitated by staff.

Fresher

A new undergraduate student. GLP – Global Leaders Programme The Global Leaders Programme is an extracurricular option for undergraduates and postgraduates designed to develop you into a future world leader through advanced workshops, international experience and exposure to industry leaders.

Home student

This term is used to classify a student's tuition fee status. A Home student must meet government legislated residence criteria.

IELTS - International English Language Testing System

An English Language qualification that EU or International students may need to complete before starting a course in the UK.

IO - International Office

The Coventry University IO looks after international and EU student recruitment and applications and provides advice on non---academic issues such as immigration and welfare support.

Journal or periodical article

Journals or periodicals are like magazines and are published several times a year. Articles typically explain research results and are 5-30 pages long. You will be expected to read these as part of your studies. They are available online through Locate or as hard copies in the library.

Lecture

A lesson or presentation given by an academic to a group of students. Students usually listen and make notes, although lectures also involve interaction between the lecturer and students. Lectures may be pre-recorded for individual viewing.

Locate

The Coventry University Library's online catalogue and resource discovery system. If your book loan time is running out you can use Locate, the online Library catalogue system to keep it longer. You can also use Locate to reserve a book if all copies are already out on loan to other people. You cannot renew a book if someone else has reserved it.

Mode

Mode of study refers to full-time, part-time or sandwich (a course that includes a year in industry or working/studying abroad).

Module

Each module has its own code, title, and credit value. A module descriptor sets out learning outcomes, teaching methods and assessments.

Module leader

An academic who designs, organises and leads a module

MOOC - Massive Open Online Course

An online course aiming at large scale participation and open access via the web.

OIL - Online International Learning

OIL projects involve online interactions between Coventry University students and peers at non-UK universities, so they can work together on subject specific learning tasks or activities while developing key attributes of global graduates, intercultural competence and awareness and digital skills.

Overseas student

Students who do not meet the government residence requirements for Home or EU fee status are classified as overseas students, even if they live in the UK.

PDP - Personal Development Planning

A structured process that helps students reflect on their learning and plan for their personal, educational and career development.

Placement

A period of time in which students gain workplace experience as part of their studies. Placements may also be referred to as work placements or internships.

Plagiarism

The act of using other people's words, images etc. without reference or acknowledgement as if they were your own. Plagiarism is an example of Academic Dishonesty.

Postgraduate

A student who is studying for a postgraduate degree, such as a Master's degree, a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) or a doctorate (PhD).

Refworks

A piece of software that allows you to electronically store and manage your list of references at the end of your written work.

Referencing your work properly helps you avoid plagiarism. EndNote is another popular piece of referencing software.

Registry

The administrative hub of Coventry University is responsible for a wide range of functions, from governance to student administration. The Registry consists of Academic Registry, Tier 4 Compliance, Group Quality Unit and the Policy Unit. See also Faculty Registry.

Sandwich year

A course of study which includes a year of practical work in an organisation outside the university or a year abroad at a partner university. The sandwich year is usually the penultimate (last but one) year of a degree course.

Seminar

This is a teaching method in which a group of students meet with an academic or tutor to discuss a subject, or specific readings, in more detail. Seminars are smaller and more interactive than a lecture and are often student led

Sigma

Sigma provides maths and statistics support for Coventry University students and is located on the ground floor of the Library. To find out more go to Sigma Maths and Stats Support.

SOLAR - Student Online Academic Record

Students can access their results through SOLAR. Study abroad student. A visiting student (including non-European exchange students) who has been accepted onto a course for a semester or full academic year as part of their home university course.

Subject librarian

Each course has a dedicated subject librarian, based in the DMLL on the 3rd floor of the Library, who helps students find specialised subject information for their studies.

Tier 4 Visa

A type of visa that non-EU international students must obtain to study a course that is longer than six months. The Coventry University Registry Tier 4 Compliance Team ensure that international students meet their visa and attendance requirements.

Turnitin

A software programme which enables electronic submission of coursework and the detection of plagiarism, comparing the content of student assignments against a large resource of existing materials.

Tutorial

Tutorials can be one-to-one or small group. They might focus on module, course or academic issues, careers and employability or on wider concerns.

UKVI - United Kingdom Visas and Immigration

The Home Office government department that runs the UK's Visa Service, monitors Tier 4 visas (including student enrolment, attendance and withdrawal) and ensures compliance with immigration regulations.

Undergraduate

A person who is studying for an undergraduate or Bachelor's degree.

VLE - Virtual Learning Environment

A VLE enables students to study and learn online, access learning resources, and interact with fellow students and staff. Coventry University operates two VLE, Moodle and Mahara.

Contact Us

If you require any support or assistance in please contact one of the relevant teams below:

Coventry University Protection Services: T: +44 (0)24 76888555

The Protection Service is a dedicated crime prevention team based on campus. The team has a 24/7 response to incidents on campus or in University-owned accommodation and they staff a campus-wide CCTV surveillance system.

Internationalisation Support Team Faculty of Arts and Humanities

GE432, George Eliot Building, Coventry CVI 5FB

T: +44 (0)24 7765 9172

E: international.fah@coventry.ac.uk

Your Faculty Support Team are here to support you with most of the day-to-day questions which you might have during your time at Coventry University. If they are unable to answer your question they will signpost you to someone who can.

Enrolment Management Team T: +44 (0)24 7765 2152

E: enrol@coventry.ac.uk

The Enrolment Team can support you with questions about your enrolment.

International Office Student Support Team (Welfare and Visas)

T: +44 (0)24 7765 2010

E: welfare.io@coventry.ac.uk

The International Office Student Support Team provide welfare and visa advice to international (i.e., non EU or UK) students.

FutureLets

145 Charles Ward

Coventry University Priory Street Coventry CVI 5FB

T: +44 (0)24 7615 8158

E: enquiries@futurelets.co.uk

FutureLets are the University's own accommodation service and can help you find a room in University halls or in a private house.

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