

Pre-arrival information for international students regarding living in the UK

The Bedfordshire College is an international centre of learning with a reputation. We are offering professional degrees, masters courses and vocational program. Our Office can provide all the information you need about applying for a course at the college as well as advice on scholarships, English Language program and acceptability of international qualifications. Representatives of the College visit many different countries each year to advise prospective students by attending Education Fairs, visiting schools and colleges or giving presentations.

Our International Students' Advisers offer support to international students on issues such as visas, employment, finance and cultural adjustment. We hope you will enjoy your visit to our website. If you cannot find the answers to your questions or need more information please do not hesitate to email us to info@bedfordshirecollege.co.uk

Living expenses

The cost of living in Luton is very reasonable compared with many other cities in the UK. It is very difficult to estimate living costs, as every student has different expectations! We think that, for 2008-09, £500-600 per month would cover living costs for a student lifestyle, including accommodation, lighting, heating, food, daily local travel, books/stationery and modest clothing, leisure and personal expenses. Your expenses could be significantly higher if, for example, you are accompanied by dependent family members, intend to own a car, use a mobile phone extensively, or travel, other than locally.

Working and studying

Many students take part-time jobs. However, your priority is to be successful in your studies, so you need to balance working with the demands of studying. Students whose course lasts more than six months are allowed to work for up to 20 hours a week in term-time and full-time during vacations. You can find all kinds of casual jobs on- and off-campus. The

international student advisor can provide more information and advice.

Weather

Britain has a temperate climate. It is not too cold in winter, though it can be damp and windy, and not too hot in summer. It can rain at any time. For advice on coping with the London weather and tips on what to bring with you.

Banking

In order to set up a bank account in the UK you will generally need the following documentation:

- Passport or EU identity card
- If we have not previously written to you at your home address you will need to provide other proof of your home address, ideally a credit card or bank statement clearly showing your name and home address – this must be dated no more than 3 months previous to the day you are opening the account.

If you send through bank transfers or sterling cheques to your UK account from your home country, you will need to ensure that the name on the transfer exactly matches the name on the UK account. There are a many high street banks in the UK that offer a wide range of options to international students, with the right identification.

Safety and health care

Britain is a relatively well-ordered and safe society. As in any major city, crime does occur in London, but it is important to remember that serious crime is rare.

For information on keeping healthy, on the college health centre and on access to the UK's National Health Service treatment, among other general health enquiries.

Advice and Counseling Service

The Advice and Counseling Service provides free and confidential services of support in three areas:

- Advice and guidance for students
- Counseling
- Advice and Support for disabled and dyslexic students

The Service is the first port of call when discussing various issues both during and before your arrival in the UK.