

International Parents' Guide

2025 entry

Supporting your child to study at Newcastle University





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Welcome to Newcastle University

Dear parents

At Newcastle University our research and teaching are world leading. Our reputation is one of the reasons we're home to 29,000 students from over 135 countries.

By choosing Newcastle, your child will join a vibrant community of learners from around the world. A community where we celebrate diversity and international perspectives. A place where we guarantee fairness of access, experience and outcomes for all Newcastle students, regardless of their background, identity or nationality.



We know that a new environment can be both exciting and challenging, that's why we offer all students tailored support - wherever it's needed to help them thrive academically and personally.

This guide explains our commitments to our international students.

We believe in a strong partnership between our university, our students and their international families. As your child embarks on this exciting experience, your support is invaluable. Together, we can ensure that their time here is enriching and fulfilling.

Ruth Valentine
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education

This publication focuses on information and advice for international parents of students considering studying at Newcastle University. Although we use the term child/parent throughout this guide for simplicity, it is intended for anyone fulfilling a parenting role.



Why study in the UK?

The UK is home to world-ranked universities, innovative teaching, post-study work opportunities and unforgettable student experiences.

A British university is a welcoming multicultural community where talented students from across the globe can thrive.

A huge choice of degrees

British universities like Newcastle offer a wide range of courses in many specialist subjects. Does your child have a career destination in mind? A particular skill they want to develop? Or perhaps a passion they want to turn into a future job? There's a course to suit almost any goal and interest.

A cultural experience

The UK has it all - from a rich history to varied and vibrant contemporary culture.

Newcastle sits in the North East of England, which boasts world heritage sites such as Hadrian's Wall, impressive art such as the Angel of the North and famous bands such as Maximo Park. With so many diverse cultures represented here, your child will meet people from all over the world too.

A career-building move

From small start-ups to global corporations, the UK is home to many different businesses. Within the ever-evolving business landscape, the North East region stands out as a hub of innovation, entrepreneurship and growth.

Working while studying or after graduation could be a great opportunity for your child to gain experience. Past graduates are working at organisations such as:

- PwC
- Deloitte
- Ernst & Young
- KPMG
- National Health Service (NHS)

You'll need to check the terms of your child's visa to find out about any restrictions on the hours or type of work they can do.



Why Newcastle University?

- We're a Global Top 130 University (QS World University Rankings 2025) and a founding member of the prestigious Russell Group of world-class, research intensive UK universities.
- We have 190 years of history, dating back to 1834.
- Our campus boasts historic red brick architecture alongside striking state-of-the-art facilities and learning spaces.
- Our teaching is research led – pioneering research with global impact will underpin your child's learning.
- 94% of our graduates go onto work or further study (HESA Graduate Outcomes 2021/22).
- We offer a wide range of free support services for students, from careers and finance, to health and wellbeing.
- We are proud to be a University of Sanctuary for people seeking safety and a better life.
- We prioritise safety and security across our facilities and accommodation - our campus security team is on call 24/7.
- We're committed to sustainability, ranked 56th in the world and 19th in the UK for Sustainability (QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025).
- On graduating, your child will be part of a community of 270,000 alumni across the globe.
- We have a global network of strategic industry partners and employers.



Why Newcastle?

At Newcastle University, your child will be studying on a beautiful campus just minutes on foot from the city centre. With historic red brick buildings sitting alongside modern and cutting-edge architecture, this is where your child will study, socialise, and become part of our vibrant and multicultural community - one in six people in Newcastle is a student.

Newcastle boasts over 30 parks and open spaces, so whether you enjoy the urban environment or an outdoor setting, the city offers the best of both.

Your money goes further here too - Newcastle has a lower cost of living than other cities in the UK. Find out more on **page 13**.



Grey Street



St James' Park football stadium



Leazes Park



Eldon Square Shopping Centre



Big city in a small place

A compact city, Newcastle can easily be navigated on foot or by bike and the coast is just 25 minutes away on our Metro transport system.

Student discounts and local travel passes make travel across the city and the region easy and cost-effective.

The locals are known for being friendly and welcoming – just one of the reasons our city has been placed top 40 in the world and top five in the UK in the QS Best Student Cities 2025.

With everything from world-class museums and fascinating art galleries, to vibrant live music venues and theatres, there's plenty for your child to do here.

Watch a match at the legendary St James' Park football stadium, home to Premier league team Newcastle United. Explore the many parks and open spaces. From the thriving food scene to taking part in outdoor activities, there's something to suit every interest.



As a city I feel like it's very easy to fit in, because there's people from all walks of life here. I think it's quite hard to feel out of place. Getting around is very, very easy and that's something that's overlooked quite often, but it's super convenient as a student.

Keirav

BSc Computer Science



Exploring the North East of England

Newcastle, in the North East of England, is a vibrant, bustling city surrounded by stunning countryside and coastline.

Discover the unspoilt landscapes of Northumberland National Park, with England's largest forest, cleanest rivers, clearest air and darkest skies. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Hadrian's Wall, Durham Castle and Cathedral. Enjoy unbeatable views across the sweeping moorlands of the North Pennines, a UNESCO Global Geopark.

The North East county of Northumberland is home to over 70 castle sites – more than any other county in England. Famously, Alnwick Castle starred as the magical Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in two of the Harry Potter films.

Because our region borders Scotland there's even more to explore if your child wants to travel further.



Angel of the North



Tynemouth



Hadrian's Wall



Alnwick Castle



Destination Newcastle

It's quick, easy and affordable to get to Newcastle however your child prefers to travel.

Direct road and rail links to the rest of the UK, flights to domestic and global destinations from Newcastle International Airport, and direct ferries to parts of western Europe mean there are plenty of ways to reach our northern city.

Find out how well connected we are [here](#).

Travelling by rail

Fastest journey times by train ([trainline.com](https://www.trainline.com)):

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Edinburgh: | 1 hour 25 minutes |
| London: | 2 hours 35 minutes |
| Manchester: | 2 hours 15 minutes |
| York: | 55 minutes |

Travelling by air

Popular international hub airports with direct flights to Newcastle include:

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Amsterdam: | 1 hour 20 minutes |
| Dubai: | 6 hours 50 minutes |
| Dublin: | 1 hour |
| Paris: | 1 hour 50 minutes |

Travelling by sea

Newcastle has an international ferry port nearby in North Shields, connecting the region with an easy link to mainland Europe:

Netherlands (Amsterdam)





Your child's future

From building employability skills to gaining real-world work experience, we'll help your child prepare for future success. As a graduate of Newcastle University, your child can join our alumni network and connect with others from nearly every country on earth.

Newcastle University Careers Service

Our Careers Service is available while your child is studying with us and for up to three years after they graduate. We offer expert one-to-one advice in person or online, as well as talks, fairs, workshops and Q&A sessions to support your child whatever stage they are at in their career journey.

We'll help your child to:

- reflect on interests and priorities
- research occupations, the labour market and build commercial awareness
- gain work experience
- market their skills in CVs, applications and LinkedIn profiles
- prepare for interviews, assessments and recruitment tests

MyCareer

Your child will have access to our bespoke, interactive platform MyCareer, which will help them to keep track of their Careers Service experience.

Employer links

Offering insight into employers in the UK and beyond, our well-established links with global businesses, including Accenture, Jaguar Land Rover, PwC and IBM, will add to your child's learning journey, as well as their career aspirations. Their involvement in our career and recruitment events offer the opportunity for developing skills, gaining experience, and networking.

Bespoke support

Our International Student Support offers essential information, advice and support, tailored to each students' needs, including:

- advice about National Insurance and working entitlements during studies
- help to find work experience and part-time vacancies, with workshops designed specifically for international students
- support writing a CV that will stand out in the UK job market, and feedback on applications
- advice for seeking opportunities beyond the UK
- resources for finding work in the UK or anywhere in the world
- the China Career Gateway, an exclusive career development programme for our Chinese students, helping to prepare them for both the UK and Chinese jobs markets

Our University Visa Team can also help your child understand the immigration routes into graduate employment.

For more information and advice, including information about working while studying, and right to work in the UK, [click here](#).



5 QS Stars for employability
(2024)





Finances

Scholarships

We understand financing your child's studies plays a key role in deciding where to pursue their education.

That's why we offer over **1,000 scholarships** designed to support **talented, well-rounded individuals** from all over the world. These scholarships aim to foster not only academic excellence, but also encourage your child to become a future leader and ambassador of our diverse, global community. They provide an opportunity for your child to focus on their studies, without financial burden.

[Check our website](#) for more information about scholarship eligibility.

Finance support

Our student support teams can provide [advice and resources](#) to help your child manage their money when they join us. Through in-person and online appointments our student finance advisers will be there to help every step of the way.

We also offer:

- £1 hot meals in campus cafés
- Make It Happen Fund to meet career-related costs
- Give It A Go scheme run by the Students' Union offering free or discounted activities and trips
- Subsidised laundry on campus
- IT Hardship Fund for access to essential technology equipment
- Financial Assistance Fund for international students for discretionary financial assistance

Essential costs

Don't forget to budget for some of the essential costs your child will need to pay before arriving and while living in the UK. These include:

- [visas](#)
- the [Immigration Health Surcharge](#) to access our National Health Service
- course fees
- money set aside to [demonstrate your child can support themselves each month](#)

If you need more advice about any of these costs, our support team will be happy to help.



Cost of living

Living costs in the UK are lower than other countries popular with students such as the USA, Canada, and Australia. Living in Newcastle makes studying in the UK even more affordable.

Within the UK, Newcastle ranks within the **top 10 cities for affordability (QS Best Student Cities 2025)**. In fact, the North East of England is the second most affordable place in the UK for student living costs – excluding rent, average living costs are around 27% cheaper than London. Private rental prices are 66.6% lower than the capital, and grocery prices are 14.6% lower.

See our comparison of some typical expenses:

| Expense* | London price | Newcastle price |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Single person estimated monthly costs (before rent) | £1,087.10 | £791.90 |
| Cappuccino | £3.59 | £3.25 |
| Meal at inexpensive restaurant | £18.00 | £13.50 |
| Rice (1kg) | £1.99 | £1.62 |
| 12 eggs | £3.31 | £2.82 |
| Monthly transport pass | £200 | £65.11 |
| Fitness club (monthly) | £47.98 | £26.42 |

*Numbeo.com December 2024



[Watch our video](#) for more information about living costs.



How we support our students

From advice on applying to Newcastle, preparations for arrival, and offering information, help and support throughout your child's studies and beyond, we're here to make sure our students get the support they need for success.

As well as assigning students a personal tutor, we have a wide range of free services designed to help them make the most of their academic experience.

We'll make sure your child knows who to talk to and where to go for support that meets their needs.

Student Services helpdesk – phone +44 (0) 191 208 3333

This is a good first point of contact if your child doesn't know who they need to speak to for help. The helpdesk can direct your child to information about visas, wellbeing, accommodation and financial support.

Academic support

For support with their studies, your child can talk to our Academic Skills Team, ask Maths-Aid tutors for support with maths and statistics, and use resources and services at the University Library.

Don't worry if English isn't your child's first language. They can visit the Language Resource Centre for resources in over 100 languages, including English. The Centre also hosts a film archive of more than 8,000 titles in many languages.

We also offer free English language courses to help your child build confidence and skills while they're studying.

Wellbeing support

To help your child with other aspects of student life we offer:

- student wellbeing advisers who offer guidance and practical resources
- multi-faith spiritual and pastoral care through our Chaplaincy team
- support for disability and specific learning difficulties
- mental health advice and counselling
- wellbeing workshops
- online wellbeing tools and apps for support 24 hours a day

Transition support

We also have support designed specifically for overseas students arriving in the UK, including:

- our airport meet-and-greet service
- free English language support (In-Sessional Programme)
- a dedicated visa team

Find out more about our support services in this [blog post](#).

Staying safe on campus

We work hard to make sure our campus is a safe space for students and staff. We have secure access to buildings, including accommodation, libraries and laboratories, and a friendly security team on duty 24 hours a day, every day.

We even have our own police officer who offers drop-in sessions for advice on crime prevention and personal safety.

Your child can also download the SafeZone app to their phone, which will allow them to connect directly to our security team in an emergency.

Find out more about [how we keep students safe](#) on our website.





State-of-the-art facilities

5 QS Stars for facilities 2024

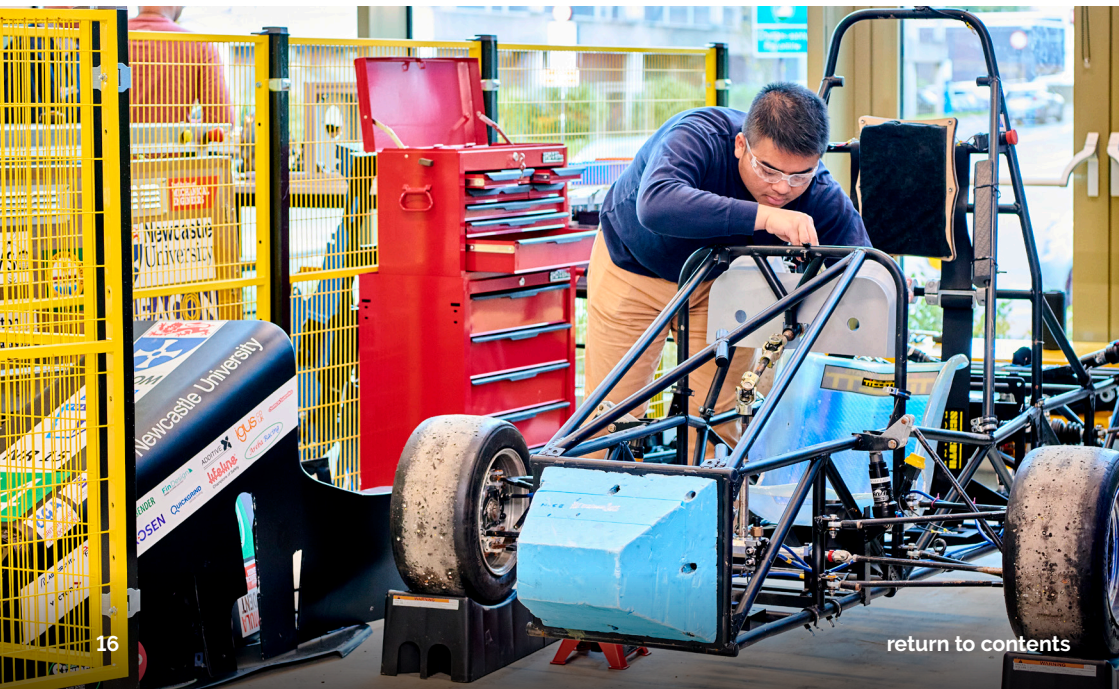
At Newcastle University your child's education will be conducted in 5-star facilities.

From one of the largest integrated teaching and hospital complexes in the UK to our next-generation engineering hub featuring a Maker Space dedicated to student creativity and entrepreneurship, they'll learn in an exciting, state-of-the-art environment.

Our specialist subject facilities range from a museum and art gallery, to industry-standard labs and studios for multiple disciplines, two commercial farms and a sea-going research vessel.

Their learning will be enhanced by our partnership in global innovation district Newcastle Helix where academia and industry are pushing the boundaries of knowledge.

And it'll be supported by our award-winning library service, digital resources and virtual learning environment.





Newcastle University Students' Union

Run by students, for our students, our Students' Union (NUSU) is a hub of events, activities and campaigns. It's a great place for your child to make friends and explore new and existing interests.

NUSU has over 160 different student societies and over 60 sports clubs to take part in.

The Union also offers welfare support and advice on things like finance, housing and academic issues.

Sports

Sport at Newcastle is for everyone. Whether your child wants a friendly game, a structured fitness class, or a professional-level competition, there are lots of ways they can get active.

We've invested £32 million in facilities including a 180-station gym, two multipurpose studios, a spin studio, and a mind and body studio.

We're consistently in the top 10 ranked universities for sport in the UK (BUCS).



The community here is vibrant and diverse, with numerous societies and clubs that provide a sense of belonging and opportunities to meet people from all over the world.

Hosni
PhD Chemical Engineering



Accommodation

From characterful Victorian houses to modern city-centre apartments, Newcastle University offers a wide range of accommodation for students. Wherever your child lives with us, we'll help make sure they have the best possible experience.

Our residences

New students looking to study at Newcastle University are able to apply for accommodation with us – living in residences either owned by the University, or managed by our partner accommodation providers. Accommodation applications open in the spring, so keep an eye on our website for information on the routes to applying.

All our residences are self-catering, and located within a 20-minute walk to campus and are close to public transport links - giving easy access to the University and city centre.

Facilities range from rooms with private washbasins that share toilet and shower facilities, to rooms with en-suite facilities. Rooms are clustered into flats with contemporary kitchens and comfy chill-out areas as standard.

All residences have designated laundry rooms with some featuring study zones, games areas, communal spaces and other great facilities.



Affordable, supported living

Our accommodation suits a variety of budgets, with all-inclusive rents covering the cost of utility bills, such as heating, electricity and water charges (some exclusions apply), personal possessions insurance and wifi.

Our reception teams offer support in University-owned accommodation (office hours only) and our ResLife team runs social events and life skills sessions to help your child settle in and make new friends.

Our campus security team is also on call 24 hours a day, with our SafeZone mobile app offering a simple way to contact them if needed.

NUSU's Student Advice Centre and our student support services are on hand to help and advise students on their accommodation options after their first year. With a wide range of student-friendly housing in both the city-centre and local communities, your child is sure to feel at home your child is sure to feel at home in Newcastle.



The ResLife Social Space is a highlight for me, providing a venue to mingle with fellow residents, play games, and just enjoy ourselves.

Abubakar

MSc Advanced Computer Science





Things to consider before applying

Qualifications and entry requirements

At undergraduate, our typical minimum requirement is ABB at A Level or the equivalent for your country. [See our website](#) for undergraduate entry requirements.

For postgraduate degrees, most of our taught Master's courses ask for a 2:1 at Bachelor's level, or equivalent for your country. Usually they are also full-time and take 12 months to complete. [See our website](#) to find out how to apply for postgraduate courses.

Visa requirements

We're always here to help if you have any questions about visas. Visit our website to [learn about next steps](#) and remember to check the [UK Government website](#) for the latest information.

We have a dedicated Visa Support Team if you or your child have any questions.

English language requirements

We teach all our courses in English. If your child's first language is not English, they'll need to have a recognised English language test or qualification. You can find details of the tests and overall scores we require in the course profile of their chosen degree.

If your child would like to improve their language or study skills to reach the academic standard needed for degree-level study, our International Study Centre, in partnership with [INTO](#), offers [language support and pathway courses](#) to help students.

We also offer language support throughout their time at Newcastle.



Getting settled in

We want your child to enjoy their time at Newcastle from the minute they decide to study with us. To help them get settled in, we offer:

- a series of pre-arrival webinars offering practical advice and information
- a meet-and-greet service from Newcastle International Airport to help your child travel to their accommodation
- an International Welcome Week (your child will receive an invite once they have a place confirmed with us)
- social activities to help your child meet others and make friends
- information sessions about being a new student here
- advice if your child needs help registering with a doctor and the NHS

We're also here for any help and advice you need to support your child during their move.





Terminology

Here is a guide to some of the most common words or phrases used by universities in the UK.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accreditation | The process of examining various aspects of a course, such as teaching methods and facilities, to ensure they meet agreed standards. |
| Admissions | This is the team within the University that receives applications and makes offers to students. |
| Applicant portal | Newcastle University's online portal to apply for Postgraduate Taught or Postgraduate Research courses. |
| Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) | If a student is applying for undergraduate or postgraduate (taught and research) study in certain subject areas they will need to apply for ATAS clearance before they can study in the UK. The ATAS is mainly needed in science, engineering and medical subject areas. Their offer letter will state if their course requires ATAS clearance. |
| Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) | BRPs are being replaced by eVisas. An eVisa is an online record of a student's immigration status. |
| Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) | A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) is an electronic document that contains a unique reference number that a student needs to apply for a student visa to study in the UK. |
| Conditional offer | A conditional offer of a place on a course means there are one or more conditions a student needs to meet to be accepted. These may relate to the grades they need to achieve, their level of English, or to finances. |
| Degree | A degree is a university qualification awarded on successful completion of a period of study. |
| Entry requirements | The requirements a university sets for students to be accepted onto a degree course. |
| Fee status | The status that determines what tuition fee a student will pay when they apply to university in the UK which is either Home or International. |
| Graduation | The successful completion of a degree. Also the ceremony where students are officially given their awards. |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) | Paying the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) entitles a student to use the NHS (National Health Service) while in the UK. A student will pay this as part of their visa application. |
| Placement | The part of a course that gives students the opportunity to gain practical experience of working in their chosen profession before graduation. Students may spend up to a year on work placement as part of their degree. |
| Postgraduate | Postgraduate students are those studying at higher levels than Bachelor's degree, so they include Master's and Doctorate students. |
| Proof of funds | A student must have enough money to pay for their study and support themselves in the UK. |
| Registration | This is when a student officially starts at a university and is given all essential information (ie timetable, ID card, documents). This happens at the start of a course. |
| Russell Group | The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities. Newcastle University is a Russell Group university. |
| Semester | The academic year is divided into several semesters that each serves as a period of study. Newcastle University has three semesters. |
| Seminar | Seminars vary in format, but the essential idea is that students are expected to actively participate. A seminar might include some or all of the following: short presentations; discussion among the whole group; the whole group dividing into smaller groups for discussions. |
| Term | In many universities, including Newcastle University, the academic year is divided into three terms. |
| Tuition fees | Tuition fees are the cost of a student's study/degree. |
| Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) | Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), the organisation that handles most university applications in the UK for undergraduate study. |
| UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) | UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is a division of the Home Office responsible for the UK's visa system. |
| Unconditional offer | If a student has met all the conditions related to their offer, their offer becomes unconditional, which means that they have been fully accepted onto their course. |
| Undergraduate | An undergraduate is a student who is studying for a first degree, a bachelor's degree. |
| Student Visa | If a student wants to study in the UK at a university, they will most likely need to apply for a student visa through the Student Route. |

For a wider glossary of academic terms and phrases, click [here](#)



What's next

Get to know us

Ready to see what Newcastle is like for yourself? There are plenty of opportunities to get to know us better as your child considers their study options.

We hold Open Days throughout the year when you and your child can join us on campus to explore our facilities and accommodation.

Our dedicated International team visits countries around the world, bringing a taste of Newcastle University to you, while our webinars, online tours and virtual open days, can help you learn more about us.

Visit ncl.ac.uk/study/meet for more information.

Talk to us

Have further questions? [Contact us](#) and we'll put you in touch with the right people.

Further information

Read our [Belong Blog](#) for more insights into what it's like to study at Newcastle.

Find out more about [academic culture in the UK](#) so your child knows what's expected of them during their studies.

Learn how [your child's wellbeing](#) will be supported when they move to the UK to study.

-  newcastleuni
-  newcastleuni
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-  school/newcastle-university
-  newcastleuniversity
-  @uniofnewcastle
-  英国纽卡斯尔大学微博
-  英国纽卡斯尔大学
-  英国纽卡斯尔大学

Details included in this guide are correct at the time of publication in January 2025.

Full details of the University's terms and conditions are available at
ncl.ac.uk/student-contract

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The University of Newcastle upon Tyne trading as Newcastle University.