Welcome to Newcastle

Applying to university is a very exciting chapter in your son or daughter’s life and as a parent* you are bound to have lots of questions.

At Newcastle University we recognise the important role you play in advising and supporting your son or daughter and to help you, we have produced this Guide.

This Guide summarises some of the key information that you will want to know, from university applications, to sorting out financial support and choosing accommodation.

We hope you find it useful through each stage of the process.

Why higher education?

• Enhanced career prospects
A university qualification is an advantage for your son or daughter in terms of career prospects. Employers value the high standard of learning, as well as key skills such as communication and teamwork that a university qualification demonstrates.

• Higher earning potential
By entering higher education students increase their earning potential throughout their lifetime. Graduates often earn a higher starting salary than non-graduates and can generally expect their salary to rise at a faster rate.

• Life-changing experience
Personal development is a very important part of university life. As well as being able to study a subject that holds an interest for them, studying at university will enhance students’ life experiences and help them become well-rounded, confident adults.

Visit our video wall to explore the University campus and city at www.ncl.ac.uk/video

* Please note: we use the terms ‘parent’, ‘son’ and ‘daughter’ throughout this Guide for simplicity, but we appreciate that many of you may be carers, legal guardians or step-parents. This information is aimed at anyone who fulfils a parenting role for a young person in the UK who is considering a university education.
A leading research institution
One of the UK’s top universities, Newcastle is a founding member of the Russell Group of 24 leading UK research institutions. It’s not often that a week passes without a new discovery or groundbreaking research from the University being in the news. Our research feeds directly into our teaching material and into our students’ learning experience, bringing to life exciting developments across a range of subjects.

One of the best records for graduate employment
The quality of our degrees, our focus on developing employability skills and our reputation among employers puts our graduates in an enviable position in the marketplace. We consistently have one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK.

Why choose Newcastle University?
From our origins as a School of Medicine and Surgery in 1834, Newcastle University today offers a first-class student experience in a world-class student city.

Newcastle is:
• 14th for student satisfaction (among comparable UK institutions, National Student Survey 2012)
• 17th in the UK in The Sunday Times University Guide 2013
• rated highly for graduate employment in the UK with 93.4% of our UK/EU graduates entering employment or further study within six months of graduating (Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2011)
• ranked in the top 15 in the UK for student experience (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2012)
• top 10 out of 145 for university sport (British Universities and Colleges Sport ranking 2012–13)

World-famous city, world-class campus
Newcastle is the cosmopolitan capital of the North East and our students have world-class culture, sport and shopping right on their doorstep – not forgetting the warm Geordie welcome and legendary nightlife! Newcastle is regularly voted top university city in the UK and it’s not hard to see why. Our campus is based in the heart of the city centre, making it easy for students and visitors to take advantage of all the city has to offer.

I chose Newcastle because it was everything I was looking for. A reputable course, high profile and most importantly, a stimulating, supportive and fun environment to work in.’
Clare, Modern Languages BA Honours


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Supporting our students
We do everything we can to make the move to university life as easy as possible. From the start of their course, students are assigned a personal tutor who monitors their progress and meets with them to discuss any academic or personal worries they may have.

Our Student Wellbeing team provides professional and confidential advice on many issues, including disability support. If your son or daughter has a disability or specific learning difficulty, one of our advisers will be happy to discuss any additional support they may require.

The Student Advice Centre, based in the Students’ Union, also provides independent professional support on issues such as finance, housing and academic problems.

Our graduates are in demand
We know that many students choose a course with a career goal in mind. As well as gaining a well-respected degree, at Newcastle your son or daughter will be equipped with skills and experiences to set them apart in the world of work, whatever their choice of degree programme and plans after graduation.

- 93.4 per cent of our 2011 graduates entered employment or further study within six months of graduating*
- 78.7 per cent of those in jobs achieved graduate-level positions*
- One of the top 20 most targeted universities by the UK’s leading employers
- In the UK’s top 15 for employability of our graduates*
- One of the best records for graduate employment in the UK (The Guardian University Guide 2013)

First-rate Careers Service
As a Newcastle student, your son or daughter will receive information, advice and guidance from one of the largest and most innovative university careers services in the UK. Our Careers Service was the first in the UK to be awarded the Matrix Quality Standard for the high-quality service it delivers. It provides:

- one-to-one sessions with a professional careers adviser
- drop-in CV checks
- unique online resources
- skills development workshops on topics such as succeeding at interviews

Our package of support will help your son or daughter reach their career goals in an ever-Challenging job market. Careers Service staff also work with academic staff to provide support specific to individual courses. For students who want to develop their entrepreneurial skills, our Rise Up team offers a free workspace and guidance from one of the largest and professional business start-up advice.

Work-related learning
We regularly review our degrees so that they remain relevant to the needs of the job market – and often include employers in the process. Selected programmes are developed with, and accredited by, professional organisations. Employers play an active part in a large number of degrees, delivering lectures and taking a role in professional skills modules. Many of our degrees incorporate the Careers Service’s Career Development module, allowing students to gain academic credit for work-related study. Most degrees also offer study abroad opportunities, an experience valued by employers and students alike, and we have almost 200 exchange partners worldwide.

Adding to their degree
Our ncl+ initiative brings together activities from across the University to enable your son or daughter to develop the skills and experience that will prepare them for life after university and help them to stand out from the competition. From working on the student newspaper to community volunteering, learning a language or becoming a mentor, there is a range of opportunities to suit everyone.

The University also provides paid work experience where possible through the JobsOC (Jobs On Campus) scheme and our Student Ambassador scheme.

* Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2011.
Accommodation at Newcastle: a home from home

Coming to University will probably be the first time your son or daughter has lived away from home and because of this we understand how important it is for them to find the right place to live. We work hard to meet the needs and preferences of our students so that they become part of a supportive community as they settle into university life.

Guaranteed first-year accommodation
We guarantee a room in University accommodation to all first-year undergraduates who:

• accept an offer from Newcastle as their first-choice university by 30 June of their year of entry
• apply online for accommodation by 30 June of their year of entry

Check our website for terms and conditions at www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation

We have a variety of University accommodation to suit all of our students’ needs and budgets, including:

• Universities UK-approved student accommodation, which meets nationally recognised standards
• a choice of locations, most of which are within 10 minutes’ walk of the campus and city centre
• catered and self-catered options, with kitchen facilities on all sites
• flexible payment terms to help spread the cost
• Facebook pages for all accommodation sites, helping students get to know each other before they arrive
• discounted rents and free car parking at off-campus accommodation sites
• Internet connection in all bedrooms

We also operate an affiliation scheme, which allows students living at home to use the facilities within our catered accommodation.

We take the safety of our students very seriously. Our Estate Security Officers patrol our University-owned and managed partnership sites and there are staff on call 24/7. The majority of our sites also have entryphone systems and CCTV.

How and when to apply
To benefit from our accommodation guarantee, the accommodation application must be submitted online by the deadline of 30 June of their year of entry. We process applications as soon as a student’s offer of a place becomes ‘unconditional firm’. We treat applications in order of the date we receive them, so we recommend that your son or daughter completes their application for accommodation as soon as they receive an offer to study at Newcastle University.

Private accommodation
If your son or daughter is not eligible for University accommodation or would prefer to live in private rented accommodation, our Accommodation Service offers free help and advice on all aspects of private-rented accommodation. The University also runs NUStudenthomes, our private-sector management service, which leases privately owned properties and rents them to student groups. There is a wide range of private-sector accommodation to choose from in and around Newcastle, with rents ranging from £50–£100 per week, depending on the area and type of property. The Accommodation Service is always on hand to offer advice to students weighing up different accommodation options.

For further information on the application process please visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation/students/apply

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### Choosing and applying to university: a step-by-step guide

#### Research

**March 2013**
Start researching options. If possible, attend a higher education convention to gather more information. These take place from March onwards. See the UCAS website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for details.

#### Finalise choices

**September 2013**
Finalise choices and think about information to include in the UCAS application. All applications for undergraduate degrees are made online through the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

#### Attend open days

**April – September 2013**
Narrow down the choices of courses and institutions. Attend open days at the shortlisted institutions to help inform your decision.

#### Apply for financial support

**February 2014**
Complete the relevant application forms for financial support by visiting [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance). Please note: all applicants should fill in the relevant forms, even if they don’t think they are eligible for help.

#### Application deadline

**15 October 2013**
Application deadline for courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.

**15 January 2014**
Application deadline for most courses. UCAS will then send the application to each chosen university for consideration.

### Dates

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<td>March</td>
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#### Decisions begin to arrive

Official decisions from universities will be sent through UCAS, by April in most cases. If your son or daughter has applied to Newcastle, they may be invited to a post-application open day for the subject that they have applied to. This provides the opportunity to meet staff and students and to ask questions. There is usually a range of dates to choose from between November and April. See [www.ncl.ac.uk/visit/opendays](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/visit/opendays). They may also be invited to attend an interview; however this is not required for most subject areas.

#### Types of response

- **Unconditional offer:** a place has been offered with no conditions.
- **Conditional offer:** a place has been offered provided that certain conditions are met (eg certain grades obtained).
- **Unsuccessful application:** the institution has decided that it is unable to offer a place.

#### Final choices

After decisions from all universities are received, it is time to make a firm choice and an insurance choice. If an offer is not made by any of the five choices, UCAS Extra provides the opportunity to make further course choices (one at a time) through UCAS.

**Firm choice:** This should be the offer that the student would most like to accept.

**Insurance choice:** This may be used as a back-up to a firm choice. The conditions of offers accepted as insurance are usually easier to meet than those of offers accepted firmly. If an applicant is not accepted onto the firm choice course but meets the conditions of the insurance choice, the insurance choice course will accept the applicant.
We chatted to some of our current students and their parents to find out what they think about life at Newcastle University.

When choosing a university, what were the most important considerations?

Phillip: Entrance requirements, league table ranking and the quality of the course. It was important to me that the course had the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) accreditation.

What did you want to get out of your degree course?

Phillip: I really wanted to study an interesting subject but I also wanted good job prospects at the end of it.

What are your hopes for the future?

Phillip: To progress in my career and achieve chartered status with the IEEE. To progress in my career and achieve chartered status with the IEEE.

How do you feel about studying in Newcastle?

Jacob: I already lived in Newcastle before joining the University, so I knew the city really well. Staying at home meant I wouldn’t have to spend as much and I would still get my washing done and dinner cooked for me!

Do you have any financial advice for someone about to start university?

Jacob: Not at present as my exams are looming, but in the past I have worked in a nightclub to supplement my student loans.

What would you say to someone who is preparing to go to university but is feeling a little bit apprehensive?

Jacob: Try to join as many clubs and societies as possible. It’s a great way to meet people who are into the same things as you.

How do you spend your spare time?

During term time I play netball in the Intra Mural league for the Biomedical Sciences team. This is a less competitive way of getting involved in University sport than playing for the University netball team and is good for meeting people from all stages of my degree course. Away from University, I have a few other hobbies so it’s important to balance my University work with these activities, but still have fun!

What is the best thing about being at Newcastle University?

Definitely the wide range of people that I have met. People that study here come not only from all over the UK, but from all over the world too, proving that the University really is a top-class place to study.

How would you describe the city?

I have always lived in Newcastle, so I might sound biased, but it really is an amazing place to live and study. The campus and halls of residence are right in the city centre, so there is always something to do and the nightlife is really good on any night of the week.

Do you have any tips for students living in student accommodation?

Although I lived at home during my first year, I have moved into private-rented accommodation in second year with friends that I met on my course. Supermarkets just outside the city centre are a lot cheaper than those on the main shopping streets, or consider sharing online delivery charges so you don’t even have to leave the house!
Money, money, money...

Key facts
• No upfront costs as students do not have to pay any fees either before or during their studies.
• Student loans are available to all students and they only start to pay back the loan after they have graduated, are in employment, and are earning over £21,000 a year.
• Repayments are based on what graduates earn, not what they owe, and all outstanding payments will be written off after 30 years.
• Loans to cover study and living costs are available to all students, regardless of family income.
• Grants are available to students from households with incomes up to £42,620, which do not have to be repaid.
• Tuition fees are £9,000 per year for new undergraduate students starting their degrees in 2014. Our generous range of scholarships and fee discounts will benefit at least 30 per cent of new undergraduate students starting their degrees in 2014. Our main scholarship award schemes are:
  • Newcastle University Promise Scholarships* – 20 scholarships worth up to £9,000 for each year of the degree.
  • Newcastle University Opportunity Scholarships* – worth between £1,000 and £3,000, including cash bursaries, fee and accommodation discounts, for each year of the degree.
  • Newcastle University Access Scholarships* – £500 for each year of the degree.
In addition to these, we also offer subject scholarships and sports scholarships. Further information is available in our Guide to Student Finance 2014 Entry brochure or on our website at www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance.

Support from the government
There are two types of loan to help new students cover the costs of university: tuition fee loans and living cost loans. Both are available to all students, regardless of their family income. Graduates will start to pay back their loan once they are earning over £21,000. Repayments will be calculated at nine per cent of any income above £21,000 and will stop if their salary dips below that level. Eligible students may also be able to benefit from additional financial support from the government, including:
  • non-repayable grants (up to £3,387 per year) designed to help with living costs such as food, accommodation and travel
  • partial grants for students from households with incomes up to £42,620
  • extra financial help for disabled students and students with dependants.

Support from Newcastle University
We are investing £32 million over the next five years into financially supporting UK students who choose to study at Newcastle. Our generous range of scholarships and fee discounts will benefit at least 30 per cent of new undergraduate students starting their degrees in 2014. Our main scholarship award schemes are:
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  • Newcastle University Opportunity Scholarships* – worth between £1,000 and £3,000, including cash bursaries, fee and accommodation discounts, for each year of the degree.
  • Newcastle University Access Scholarships* – £500 for each year of the degree.

Money management
Changing spending patterns is a learning curve for students. This checklist will give your son or daughter (and you!) a rough idea of how much money they will need over an average month at university.

There are also many ways students can make their money go further. The University provides many free or low-cost facilities including: excellent libraries; 1,400 networked PCs with Internet access; language learning facilities; extensive sports facilities; and the outstanding Students’ Union.

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The cost of living is reasonable and town-gown relations better than in many cities.

Tuition fees
Newcastle University will be charging tuition fees of £9,000 a year for new undergraduate students entering the University in 2014. Students will not have to pay any tuition fees up front or while they are studying.

* Subject to approval

Budget planner

Accommodation:
£260–£400 per month
Rent: Varies depending on distance from the University, room type and facilities. Energy and water bills are usually included in your rent.

Food:
£120–£140 per month
If you live in a catered hall of residence, some meals will be included in your rent.

Study costs:
£45 per month
Depends on the subject you are studying and can include books, stationery, photocopying, field trips, specialist materials or equipment.

Social life:
£120–£140 per month
An important part of university life; how much you spend will depend on your interests and how much socialising you do. If you want to make use of the University’s sports facilities, membership charges range from just under £5 to around £16 per month.

Travel costs:
£82–£250 per month
Depending on where you live, you may need to budget for daily bus or Metro fares. You may also need to consider the cost of travelling to and from University at the beginning and end of term.

Insurance:
£50 per month
In University accommodation, contents insurance is included in your rent – although you may want to consider additional insurance if you are bringing any items of particular value with you.

Clothes and toiletries:
£60–£75 per month
All depends on your personal tastes and how much shopping you do!

Mobile phones:
around £30 per month
The actual amount you spend is up to you.

Television:
£13 per month
If you decide to have a television in your accommodation, you are required to have a licence.

Miscellaneous:
£26 per month
Covers occasional expenses such as haircuts, gifts and medical and dental costs.

Our website provides lots of advice and information to help students manage their budget:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance/our-financial-advice
City life: a global city with a local welcome

Newcastle’s popularity with students isn’t just down to the warm welcome from the locals and the exciting night life. Newcastle is a vibrant, cultural city, with a low cost of living and enviable proximity to the coastline and spectacular Northumberland countryside.

Undoubtedly one of the best university cities in the UK (if not the world!), Newcastle is friendly and dynamic, and there is always something to do. The iconic Quayside brings together a range of cultural and architectural developments, including the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art (the biggest gallery of its kind in the world) and The Sage Gateshead music centre, which draws musicians from around the globe.

With a fantastic range of restaurants, bars, music, cinema and theatre venues, as well as festivals and events throughout the year, it’s not surprising that Newcastle was rated as joint first in the UK for student social life.*

Newcastle is also one of the best shopping destinations in the North of England, with the recently extended Eldon Square, one of the UK’s largest city-centre shopping complexes, and the Metrocentre, which is just a 10-minute ride away. For a more leisurely pace, visit the breathtaking, unspoilt Northumberland countryside, ancient castles and market towns that line the coast and spectacular beaches close to the city. These offer the ideal opportunity to escape the crowds and take in beautiful scenery.

Getting around

Newcastle is a very compact city and many places are within walking distance of the University campus, including the main shopping area and night life. The quickest way to get around is via the Metro rail system, which has a station near the University and connects the city to nearby suburbs and coastal towns.

We also have excellent links to the rest of the UK, with easy access to major cities such as London, Manchester and Edinburgh via train or fast motorway links. Newcastle International Airport is a 25-minute Metro journey from the city centre.

While Newcastle is an exciting place to be a student, it’s also a great weekend break for parents visiting from further afield!

* THE Student Experience Survey 2013.

‘Newcastle is a wonderful city with so many different things to do, beautiful architecture, friendly people and a great night out.’

James, Dental Surgery BDS Honours

Visit our website to find out more about the city or take one of our virtual tours: www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/newcastle

‘Newcastle is a global city with a local welcome’
A warm welcome

If your son or daughter is accepted onto a course at Newcastle, we will do everything we can to help them adjust to University life as soon as possible.

In August 2014, they will receive a copy of our Welcome booklet which details everything they need to know about registering as a student at Newcastle University. They will also receive information about the range of social activities that are available to help them settle in. We even have an interactive website for new students to help them meet future classmates and friends before they arrive, which includes messaging facilities, advice on University life and an online student store.

Student safety is our priority

The safety of our students is of paramount importance to us. We operate cross-campus CCTV and security staff are on duty on campus at all times. We also provide a minibus to take students home from campus on weekday evenings. Beyond the campus, our students live in a city that is ranked as the 8th safest in England and Wales (The Complete University Guide 2012).

Settling in

We have a number of ways to ensure our students settle in to their course and really get the most out of University life:

• Peer mentoring – we aim to enable all students to be fully integrated into the University through the advice and support of an experienced student ‘peer’
• Personal tutor – all students have a personal tutor to oversee their academic and personal development
• Clubs and societies – our Students’ Union supports more than 200 student clubs and societies, helping our students to make new friends, gain valuable skills and add experience to their CV

Freshers’ Week

We want our students to feel at home as soon as possible, and the social activities that take place during the first week aim to do just that. Freshers’ Week, organised by students, is an excellent introduction to student life in Newcastle, with a variety of events to suit everyone’s taste, and a great way of making new friends.

Over 300 student volunteers are involved in looking after new students, ensuring they’re included in what’s going on, and helping with any concerns or queries they may have. Our student volunteers will even ‘meet and greet’ new students arriving at Newcastle and at their University accommodation, to make sure they know where to go.

During Freshers’ Week new students have time to register at the University, attend induction sessions, and familiarise themselves with the range of academic and support services that we provide. Academic schools also hold sessions so that new students can meet other students on their course. This friendly, supportive welcome ensures that our students are relaxed and settled in before teaching starts, and looking forward to their University experience.

‘There’s a diverse range of students and everyone is really friendly. The University is really supportive and there are also fun societies where you can keep up hobbies.’

Emily, Surveying and Mapping Science BSc Honours
Find out more

As well as attending our Visit Days, there are other opportunities to find out more about the University:

• Information on all aspects of studying at Newcastle can be found in our Undergraduate Prospectus or on the University’s website:
  www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
  www.ncl.ac.uk/parents

• Our campus is open throughout the year for independent visits

• Take a virtual tour online by visiting
  www.ncl.ac.uk/tour

• Check out videos of our campus and the city at
  www.ncl.ac.uk/video

• Book one of our campus tours. Tours take place from the end of May until mid-November

• On Course To University is a community for students applying to university in the UK. Keep up to date on all the things you need to know about the application process – hop on board!

Contact us

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions:
Student Services
Newcastle University, King’s Gate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU
United Kingdom
www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries
Telephone: (UK) 0191 208 3333
(International) +44 191 208 3333

Disabled students

We welcome applications from students with disabilities. Our Student Wellbeing team is here to provide help and advice while you are at the University, and makes every effort to provide a suitable learning environment. To discuss the facilities on campus and any specific requirements you may have, or to request this brochure in an alternative format, please contact our Student Services (details above).

www.facebook.com/OnCourseToUni
@OnCoursetoUni

Details are correct at the time of printing (June 2013) but should be checked against the University’s website. This brochure is for information and guidance purposes only.

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