# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to Newcastle University</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why choose higher education?</td>
<td>3–4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why choose Newcastle University?</td>
<td>5–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investing in our students’ experience</td>
<td>7–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money matters</td>
<td>9–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student accommodation</td>
<td>11–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choosing and applying to university</td>
<td>13–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle: A global city</td>
<td>15–16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happens next</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find out more</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A warm welcome to
Newcastle University

Applying to university is an exciting time in your son or daughter’s life. As a parent* you want to support them as fully as possible and are bound to have lots of questions.

Here at Newcastle University, we recognise the important role you play in advising your son or daughter so, to help you, we have produced this guide.

It summarises some of the key information you will want to know, including:

- the university application process
- financial support
- choosing accommodation
- settling in

We hope you find this guide useful. If you have any questions, please contact us using the details on page 18.

*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.

“As well as being a Russell Group research-focused university, there are ample extracurricular activities available at Newcastle which enabled me to learn a lot of new things.”

Nikita, Biomedical Genetics
BSc Honours
Why choose: Higher education?

Higher education will open up many new opportunities for your son or daughter.

**Enhanced career prospects**

A university qualification gives your son or daughter an advantage throughout their career. Employers value the high standard of learning and key skills – such as teamwork and communication – that a university qualification demonstrates.

**Higher earning potential**

A degree increases a student’s 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 studying a subject in depth, going to university enriches a student’s life experience and helps them become well-rounded, confident adults.

**Lifelong connections**

University is a place where your son or daughter will make friends for life and where they will make valuable connections in their chosen field of expertise.

**Love of learning**

At university, students have the opportunity to gain an in-depth knowledge of a subject they excel at and feel passionate about. Working with top researchers and academics will inspire them to learn, grow and succeed.
Why choose: Newcastle University?

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

“When I came to an Open Day, what really stood out for me was how friendly everyone was and how everyone seemed genuinely passionate about studying here.”

Alex, Computer Science
BSc Honours
Newcastle University has an impressive reputation

We are:

- joint 1st for student support in the UK (The Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2016)
- 16th in the UK for research power (Research Excellence Framework 2014)
- a global top 200 university – 196th in The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015–16
- 9th in the British Universities & Colleges Sport league 2015–16

In addition:

- nine out of 10 Newcastle University students are satisfied with their overall experience (National Student Survey 2016)
- 94 per cent of our 2014–15 UK/EU undergraduates entered employment or further study within six months of graduating*

Campus in the heart of the city

Our campus is in the heart of the city making it easy for students and visitors to take advantage of all that Newcastle has to offer.

All of our student accommodation is either close to, or within easy reach of our campus, making life for our students as carefree as possible.

Transport to Newcastle and around the city is easy. A great bus and Metro rail network means you can be at the glorious coast, immersed in stunning Northumberland countryside, or in one of Europe’s largest shopping centres (intu Metrocentre) within 20 minutes.

Fast train links mean London is a little under three hours away and you can reach the Scottish capital of Edinburgh in an hour and a half – the scenery en route is spectacular, too!

A leading research institution

Newcastle is a founding member of the Russell Group of 24 leading UK research institutions. Groundbreaking research from our pioneering academics feeds directly into our students’ learning experiences. This helps bring to life exciting developments across a range of subjects.

Consistently high graduate employment prospects

Our focus on developing our students’ employability skills, the quality of our degrees and our reputation among employers, puts our graduates in an enviable position in the jobs market. Most of our degrees** now offer year-long work placements to help students stand out from the crowd, boost their skills and make invaluable contacts.

UK’s happiest city***

Voted the UK’s happiest city, Newcastle is the cosmopolitan capital of the North East. Our students have culture, shopping and sport on their doorstep, not to mention the legendary nightlife! The University is a firm part of the city’s cultural scene with the Hatton Gallery, Northern Stage (theatre) and the Great North Museum: Hancock all on campus.

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**A small number of exceptions apply, please see our website for further information.
Investing in:
Our students’ experience

As one of the UK’s leading universities, Newcastle continues to invest in supporting the learning needs of our students.

Supporting our students

We do everything we can to make the transition to university as easy as possible for your son or daughter. Our support services include:

- **Personal tutor** – who monitors their progress and will meet them to discuss any academic or personal worries they may have.

- **Student Wellbeing team** – which provides professional, 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 the facilities on campus and any additional support they may require.

- **Student Advice Centre** – which is based in the Students’ Union, providing independent professional support on issues including finance, housing and academic problems.

First-rate Careers Service

Our students benefit from a university careers service that is one of the largest and most innovative in the UK. We can help our students reach their potential by offering the guidance and advice they need to:

- plan their career
- market their skills and experience through CVs and job applications
- build contacts and networks
- develop enterprise skills or start a business
- find placements, internships or work experience
- find jobs and postgraduate courses

Graduate employers target our students

Newcastle graduates have an excellent reputation among recruiters. Over 3,000 employers advertise vacancies, work experience and placement opportunities with our Careers Service. More than 300 employers visit our campus each year to deliver presentations, hold interviews and attend recruitment fairs.

We have well-established links with some of the biggest graduate recruiters in the UK and have consistently ranked among the top 20 universities in *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers* survey**. More information is available on our website [www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/careers/skills](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/careers/skills).

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*Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2014–15
**The Graduate Market in 2012–2016 report – High Fliers Research
Work-related learning

We work closely with employers so that the skills gained on our degrees reflect those required by our students to succeed in the workplace. Many of our degrees:

- are accredited by, and developed with, professional organisations
- include industry-based assignments, study trips to local businesses, case-study analyses and work placements
- enable students to gain academic credit for work experience, volunteering, or part-time employment through the Careers Service’s Career Development Module
- have graduate employers as members of their Schools’ advisory board, ensuring our degrees remain relevant to employers’ needs

Adding to their degree

Our ncl+ Award accreditation scheme brings together activities from across the University that give our students the skills and experience they need to succeed in their careers. Opportunities include:

- improving language skills
- coaching a sports team
- working on a student newspaper
- leading a student society

We offer formal recognition for the extracurricular activities our students participate in through the ncl+ Award. This is a great way to market the skills they have gained to prospective employers.

Newcastle work experience

We believe work experience is a valuable step towards getting a job. It also helps students develop their skills and gain confidence. Opportunities include:

- **Student Ambassador** – working at a range of events such as Open Days
- **Newcastle Work Experience Scheme** – undertaking a paid work placement in a local business, or at the University during term time or summer vacation
- **JobsOC (Jobs On Campus)** – getting paid temporary or casual work on campus
- **Student media** – getting involved in our award-winning Students’ Union newspaper, radio or TV station, run by and for students

Placement opportunities

We know how important it is for graduates to stand out from the crowd in the jobs market and our work placements help them do that. Almost all of our degrees offer the opportunity to spend between nine and 12 months in the workplace. Work placements can help students:

- apply their skills and knowledge to real business situations
- try out a career choice
- gain confidence and experience when adapting to different environments
- develop commercial acumen and occupational awareness
- make contacts within the business sector

Students can apply to spend their placement year with any organisation and will receive University support to do so.

The University offers really good part-time roles through the Student Ambassador scheme and Jobs On Campus where you can decide what hours you work.

Khadija, English Language BA Honours
Money matters:
Financial support for students

Our high employability rates and low cost of living mean that a degree from Newcastle is a sound investment.

Key finance facts

- **No upfront costs for most students** – as eligible UK undergraduate students do not have to cover the cost of fees either before or during their studies.

- **Student loans are available to all eligible students** – they only start to repay 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** – all outstanding payments will be written off after 30 years.

- **Loans to cover study and living costs are available to all eligible UK undergraduate students** – the amount your son or daughter can borrow will depend on where they live and can be affected by family income.

As a general principle, you should expect your son or daughter’s tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of their course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.

**Support from Newcastle University**

We invest millions of pounds in financial support for students who choose to come and study at Newcastle. Our generous scholarships are in addition to any government support students may be entitled to and do not have to be repaid.

More information on our scholarship schemes can be found on our website [www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance)

Our Student Financial Support Team can also assist if your son or daughter needs help to manage their finances once they have arrived in Newcastle [www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/advice/managing](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/advice/managing)

**Support from the government**

There are two types of loan to help new UK undergraduate students cover the cost of university: tuition fee loans and living cost loans.

Grades start to pay back their loan(s) once they are earning over £21,000. Repayments will be calculated at nine per cent of any income above £21,000 and stop if their salary dips below that level. The loans do accrue interest which is variable and linked to the rate of inflation. Detailed information can be found at [www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk](http://www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk)

Eligible students with an adult and/or child dependents or who have a disability/learning difficulty may also benefit from additional financial support from the government [www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help)

Students from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will need to apply to their own funding body for loans and grants.

**Making the most of the student pound**

Newcastle University provides free or low-cost facilities including:

- excellent libraries
- over 2,000 networked PCs with internet access
- language learning facilities
- student advice, counselling and support
- impressive Students’ Union

The University can help students find part-time work in one of the many restaurants, bars, or shops in the city and we also have job opportunities at the University which are flexible to fit around study.
Budget planner

Living costs will vary widely depending on the type of accommodation your son or daughter opts for, its location – whether they have to factor in travel costs – and their lifestyle while at Newcastle University. As a rough guide, here’s what they might expect to spend in an average month.

**Accommodation £350–£700 per month based on a 12-month contract**
First-year students are guaranteed a place in our University accommodation, with both catered and self-catered rooms available. Energy, water bills and insurance will usually be included in the rental price.

**Food £150–£220 per month**
Newcastle has lots of shops offering high-quality, low-cost meat, fruit and vegetables, as well as specialist international food shops. For students living in catered accommodation, Monday–Friday breakfasts and evening meals are included in the rent.

**Contents insurance £25 per month**
Contents insurance is often included in the rent in University accommodation. However, you may want to consider additional insurance if your son or daughter is bringing any items of particular value with them.

**Travel costs £0–£60 per month**
Depending on where they live, your son or daughter may need to budget for daily bus or Metro journeys. Take into account, too, the cost of travelling to and from University at the beginning and end of term.

**Mobile phone £20–£40 per month**
Encourage your son or daughter to shop around for the best deals before coming to University – the cost will depend on how much talking and snap chatting they do!

**Television licence £13 per month**
If your son or daughter has a television in their room they are required by law to have a licence. Some University accommodation does include the cost of a TV licence in the rent.

**Clothes/toiletries £50–£80 per month**
Costs will vary depending on personal tastes, how much shopping your son or daughter does and where they shop!

**Social life £150–£250 per month**
Socialising is a big part of university life, so it’s important to budget for it.

**Miscellaneous £50 per month**
It’s wise to factor in an amount to deal with occasional or unexpected expenses – from getting a haircut, to buying a birthday gift, or medical and dental costs.

**Please note:** these costs are approximate, based on a 38-week period, which covers a normal academic year. They should be used as a guideline only.

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*RPiX is a measure of inflation in the UK, equivalent to the Retail Price Index, but excluding mortgage interest payments.
**The information provided relates to the level of support for 2017 entry but could be subject to change for 2018 entry.
Check our website for the most up-to-date information.

Don’t go mad in the first few weeks of term and you’ll be fine. Most importantly, apply for your Student Finance on time.

Emily, Sociology BA Honours
Student accommodation: 
A home from home

Going to university is likely to be the first time your son or daughter has lived away from home. This is why it is important they find the right place to live.

“I lived at Windsor Terrace which is University owned. I would highly recommend this type of accommodation to new students, especially in their first year when they are getting used to being away from home.”

Matthew, Physics BSc Honours
Guaranteed first-year accommodation

We work hard to meet the needs of our students so they feel part of a supportive community as they settle into university life.

We guarantee a room in University accommodation to all first-year undergraduates joining us in 2018, providing they:

- are coming alone to the University for the full academic year
- accept an offer from Newcastle as their first choice university by 30 June 2018
- apply online for accommodation by 30 June 2018

Full terms and conditions are on our website www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation

Applying for accommodation

To benefit from our accommodation guarantee, the accommodation application must be submitted online by 30 June of the year of entry.

We process applications from July onwards, once a student’s offer of a place becomes ‘unconditional firm’. We allocate accommodation using a randomly generated number, not the date when the application was submitted, and endeavour to allocate accommodation based on a student’s preference.

More information about the application process is available on our website www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation/new-students/apply

Private accommodation

The majority of our undergraduate first-year students live in University accommodation. If your son or daughter would prefer to live in private rented accommodation, our Accommodation Service offers free 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 or individual students. There is a range of private sector accommodation to choose from in Newcastle, with rents starting from approximately £60 per week for flats/houses in student-designated areas of the city and £125–£180 for purpose-built private blocks.

The Accommodation Service is always on hand to offer advice to students weighing up different accommodation options.
Choosing and applying to university:
A step-by-step guide

1. **Research**

Encourage your son or daughter to research their options as early as possible and, if they can, attend a UCAS higher education convention to gather more information. These take place March to September. For details go to the UCAS website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

2. **Attend open days**

Attending open days at the shortlisted institutions will help your son or daughter narrow down their choice and inform their final decision. Open days are also valuable opportunities for parents to discover more about the whole university process. Find out more about our Open Days [www.ncl.ac.uk/openday](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/openday)

3. **Finalise choices**

Your son or daughter should be finalising their choices by September 2017 and thinking about what information to include in their university application. All applications are made through UCAS.

4. **The UCAS application**

Students can list up to five course choices on their UCAS application (only four can be for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science courses).

5. **Application deadlines**

- **15 October 2017** – application deadline for courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science; application deadline for Oxford and Cambridge.
- **15 January 2018** – application deadline for most courses.

On receiving your son or daughter's application, UCAS will then send it on to each university they have listed for consideration.

6. **Apply for financial support**

**February 2018** – complete the relevant application forms for financial support [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.

7. **Decisions begin to arrive**

**October 2017 – April 2018** – official decisions from universities will be sent through UCAS, by April 2018 in most cases. If your son or daughter has applied to Newcastle, they may be invited to a post-application visit day specific to the subject they have applied to. Prospective students can meet staff and current students to ask questions. There is usually a good range of dates to choose from between November and April [www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/visit-days](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/visit-days)

**Types of offers**

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

8. **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 your son or daughter 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 on to the firm choice course, but meets the conditions of the insurance choice, the insurance choice course will accept the applicant.

9 Results Day

Summer 2018 – results for different qualifications are issued at different times throughout the summer, but 16 August is when A level results come out. If the conditions of the firm offer are met, UCAS will confirm a place. If your son or daughter does not quite meet the firm choice offer conditions, they may still get accepted and UCAS will inform them of this.

If they are not accepted on to the firm choice course, but meet the offer conditions of the insurance choice course, a place on this course will be confirmed by UCAS.

10 Clearing

The UCAS Clearing Service can provide additional options for applicants who do not gain a place at either their firm or insurance choice course. During the Clearing period, information about course vacancies at Newcastle University can be obtained from our website, or by calling our Clearing Helpline number which will be advertised on our website www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
Newcastle: A global city with a local welcome

Newcastle is officially the happiest city in the UK* and it’s easy to see why when you experience the warmth of our Geordie welcome.

“"In Newcastle there’s a wealth of great places to eat, go shopping or clubbing, and it’s pretty cheap to boot.”

Ollie, Biology BSc Honours
One of the UK’s favourite cities... see for yourself!

Friendly, fun and fantastic value, Newcastle offers a relatively low cost of living combined with an unforgettable student experience.

There is always something to do in this vibrant, cultural city and if you think Newcastle is an exciting place for students, it’s also a great weekend break destination for visiting parents!

City-centre culture

The iconic Newcastle/Gateshead Quayside brings together a range of architectural and cultural developments including the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and the Sage Gateshead music centre. It is also home to the ‘quayside seaside’ during the summer months.

In Newcastle, a new restaurant seems to spring up every week. Big names, such as Jamie’s Italian, Byron, and Chaophraya Thai Dining, sit alongside local favourites, such as Uno’s Trattoria, the Michelin-starred House of Tides and the effortlessly cool Quilliam Brothers’ Teahouse.

With a huge choice of bars, music venues, theatres and cinemas, as well as festivals and events staged throughout the year, it’s not surprising that Newcastle’s social life is top rated by students.**

Shop, shop, shop

Newcastle is one of the best shopping destinations in the North of England, with intu Eldon Square just two minutes from campus boasting all the big high street stores and quirky independents. intu Metrocentre, one of Europe’s largest shopping complexes, is a 10-minute bus/train ride away and is home to hundreds of shops, more than 50 restaurants/cafés and an IMAX cinema.

Spectacular scenery

For life at a more leisurely pace, visit the unspoilt Northumberland countryside with its ancient castles and historic market towns. Explore Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site, or strike out for the North East’s spectacular coastline and impressive beaches – all within easy reach of the city.

Getting around

One of the great things about Newcastle is its compact nature. The main shopping areas and nightlife are all within walking distance of the campus, while the Metro rail system connects Newcastle with nearby suburbs and the coast.

Closer than you think

Fast road and rail links put other major UK cities, like Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Edinburgh, within easy reach. With Newcastle International Airport just a 25-minute Metro ride from the city centre, the rest of the world is also closer than you think.

Find out more about what the city has to offer www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/newcastle or www.newcastlegateshead.com

*Flash Eurobarometer survey, The European Commission, February 2015
**The Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey – joint 1st in 2015 and 2016
What happens next:

Adjusting to university life

If your son or daughter is accepted on to a course at Newcastle, we will do everything we can to help them adjust to university life.

In August 2018, 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 have an interactive website and secure Facebook groups they can access to help them meet future course mates and make friends before they arrive.

Freshers’ Week fun

We want our students to feel at home as soon as possible and the social activities that take place during their first week aim to achieve just that.

Freshers’ Week, organised by students, is an excellent introduction to student life at Newcastle. With a variety of events to suit everyone, it is 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 them with any concerns and queries they may have.

Our student volunteers ‘meet and greet’ new students arriving in Newcastle and at their University accommodation, to make sure they know where to go.

During Fresher’s Week, new students have time to register at the University and familiarise themselves with the academic and support services we provide, as well as meet other students on their course. This friendly, supportive welcome ensures our students are relaxed and settled in before teaching starts, and looking forward to their time with us.

Student safety is our priority

Newcastle is a safe city and 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.

Settling in

We support our students as they settle in to university life in a number of ways:

- peer mentoring – our aim is for all students to become 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 personal and academic development
- clubs and societies – getting involved is a great way for students to settle in and make friends, as well as gain valuable skills and experiences they can add to their CVs. Our Students’ Union supports more than 200 clubs and societies
Find out more

There are a number of opportunities to find out more about Newcastle 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
• more information for parents is available on our dedicated web pages www.ncl.ac.uk/parents
• attend one of our Open Days www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
• book one of our campus tours www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/tours
Tours take place from mid-May until the end of November
• take a virtual tour online www.ncl.ac.uk/tour
• check out videos of our campus and the city www.ncl.ac.uk/video

facebook newcastleuniversity
twitter @StudentsNCL

Contact us

If you have any further questions, or you require this brochure in an alternative format, please contact us at:

Student Services
Newcastle University, King's Gate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU
United Kingdom

www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries

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Full details of Newcastle University’s terms and conditions, including reference to all relevant policies, procedures, regulations and information provision, are available at www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations

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