Welcome!
Newcastle University, the City and Travel

The University

Newcastle University is situated in Newcastle city centre so it is easy to experience everything Newcastle has to offer. Further information about the University campus is available on the following website: www.ncl.ac.uk/about/campus/newcastle/

Maps of the campus and the city are available at: www.ncl.ac.uk/who-we-are/contact/maps/. These may be useful to you in the first few weeks as you familiarise yourself with the many buildings on campus. You will soon know the way to your School/ Institute office, the library, your nearest PC cluster and other facilities which will play a large part in your studies. Virtual tours of the campus and the city are also available: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/tour/

The City

Newcastle is a cosmopolitan city with many cultural, shopping and entertainment facilities. There are many websites dedicated to Newcastle and the surrounding area which can provide help with information for those new to the City. Some useful websites are:

- www.getintonewcastle.co.uk/ – information and events in Newcastle
- www.newcastle.gov.uk – Newcastle City Council
- www.newcastlegateshead.com/ – official Tourist Information

The Region

The following sites provide information on venues around the city and region so can prove a valuable source of information and inspiration:

- www.visitnortheastengland.com – for information about the entire North-East region
- www.visitnorthumberland.com – for events and days out in Northumberland

Travelling around Newcastle

The main transport methods for getting around the city are the Metro or by bus, both run frequently throughout the day and are a convenient way of travelling. Information about local travel is available on the following website along with timetables and information about ticket pricing: www.nexus.org.uk The University is located next to Haymarket Metro and bus stations.
Local Banks

All students will need a UK bank account to receive and make payments. Some banks allow you to open a bank account in the UK whilst you are in your home country. You should consult individual bank websites to see which products best meet your banking needs or visit the British Banking Association website which provides advice about bank accounts in the UK: https://www.bba.org.uk/customers/personal-banking/.

The following are the main UK banks:

- Barclays  www.barclays.com
- Halifax     www.halifax.co.uk
- HSBC        www.hsbc.co.uk
- Lloyds      www.lloydsbank.com
- NatWest     www.natwest.com
- RBS         www.rbs.co.uk
- Santander  www.santander.co.uk
- TSB         www.tsb.co.uk

The following is a checklist of what is usually required to open a UK bank account, however, requirements can vary from bank to bank:

1. Passport, OR current valid European Union National ID card, which should contain a photograph of you and your signature.

2. Your offer letter or letter of introduction from Newcastle University* confirming you are in full time Higher Education and showing your home address overseas.

   Please note, if the letter does not feature your overseas address, you must also bring one of the following, making sure that it states your name and overseas address in English:
   - original credit card or bank statement (no older than 3 months)
   - national ID card

3. Confirmation of your UK address (your accommodation contract)

* During the Arrival, Welcome and Registration period you can request a bank introduction letter from the registration venue. Outside of this period you will need to go to Student Services, King’s Gate.

Health Fayre

Our Health Fayre will incorporate a range of health care partners including GP registration. You should register with a local doctor as soon as possible when you arrive in Newcastle; staff will be on hand to help with this process at our Health Fayre.
Details of Event
Dates: 18th to 25th September inclusive
Times: 9am to 5pm
Venue: Boiler House

If you are unable to attend this event you can find details of how to register with a doctor and a dentist at https://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/medical/doctor_dental.htm

Council Tax
Most students are entitled to some form of exemption or discount, but this depends on individual circumstances. If you are exempt from paying Council Tax you will need to submit a Student Exemption application form to your local council as well as a certificate of registration providing details about your course.

You can print a copy of your certificate of registration via the student self-service portal (S3P): https://s3p.ncl.ac.uk/login/index.aspx

If you are living within the Newcastle City Council area you can complete an online exemption/discount form at: newcastle.gov.uk/services/council-tax/council-tax-exemptions/council-tax-useful-council-tax-forms

Contact Newcastle City Council - Tel:+44 (0) 191 278 7878 or online enquiry form: newcastle.gov.uk/services/council-tax/council-tax-exemptions/council-tax-useful-council-tax-forms

More information on Council Tax is available at: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/advice/counciltax.htm

Sit the English Language Assessment
Under University Regulations all new students whose native language is not English must sit the University English Language Assessment (UELA). If this applies to you, it will be shown on the ‘Registration Status’ screen on S3P when you register. Information about exemptions, locations, dates and times of the assessments are available at www.ncl.ac.uk/students/insessional/uela

You do not have to pass the UELA. The assessment helps the University support you with additional English Language classes, if required, during your studies.

Further information is available in the ‘Support through your studies’, English Language Support section on page 22 of this booklet. Full details of the classes are available at www.ncl.ac.uk/students/insessional/english/
Register with the Police

Many international students MUST register with the Overseas Visitors section of the Police soon after they arrive in the UK. Please read the decision letter that you received when you were granted your visa or look at your visa in your passport to see if this applies to you. If you are required to register with the Police you will be able to get help and support in making the arrangements once you arrive. This information will be available during the International and EU Welcome event and from the Visa Team at Newcastle University. [www.ncl.ac.uk/students/progress/visa/police.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/progress/visa/police.htm)

Welcome and Induction Programmes

Your School/Institute welcome and induction

All students will have specific welcome and induction sessions organised for them by their School/Institute. Details will be sent separately by your School/Institute, or will be explained when you arrive. School/Institute and Faculty induction information will also be available at: [https://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/welcome/](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/welcome/). Contact details for each School/Institute, Research Student Support Team (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering) and the Faculty of Medical Sciences Graduate School are available at the back of this booklet.

New Student Induction: “Respect”

The University prides itself in showing respect for others. These sessions are compulsory for all new undergraduate and postgraduate taught students to attend. Your school will have them scheduled as part of the Welcome week. You should note that the session will include reference to sensitive issues such as sexual violence including imagery that some people may find distressing. We expect all students to attend unless you have a compelling reason to be excused.

New Beginnings: Your academic headstart

Whatever subject you’re studying, you will be joining an exciting academic community of people who are just as passionate about learning as you are. Explore what to expect, where to find the information you need and how to feel part of your academic community with our short online course Newcastle Beginnings: Your academic headstart. Our team of student presenters and mentors will introduce you to some of the people and activities you might encounter, give you a heads up on what to expect and some tips to try out when you get here. Sign up here: [http://bit.ly/headstartSP2](http://bit.ly/headstartSP2)
Postgraduate Research Inductions
Postgraduate Research students will have additional Faculty level welcome and induction sessions. Full details will be sent to you closer to the time and key dates are listed below.

Humanities & Social Sciences:
Year 1 induction – Part 1 - Wednesday 25th September (10am – 3pm); Doctoral Training Suite (5.65), Daysh Building
Year 1 induction – Part 2 - Thursday 26th September (10am – 12pm); Doctoral Training Suite (5.65), Daysh Building
Year 2 / year 3 induction – Wednesday 25th September, 2pm-4.30pm; Doctoral Training Suite (5.65), Daysh Building
PGR Community: Faculty Welcome Party for all PGRs – Wednesday 25th September (4:30pm – 6:30pm); Doctoral Training Suite (5.65), Daysh Building
Faculty Induction (Non-PhD students) – Thursday 26th September (12pm – 1pm); Doctoral Training Suite (5.65), Daysh Building
PG Certificate enrolment meeting – Monday 30th September (2pm – 3pm); Room TBC
MLitt Welcome meeting - Monday 30th September (3pm – 4pm); Doctoral Training Room (5.68), Daysh Building

Science Agriculture & Engineering:
Monday 30th September 2019, King’s Hall, Armstrong Building

Medical Sciences:
Tuesday 1st October 2019, 09.00-14.00 MED L2.8, followed by Research Student Reception (including lunch) 12.00-14.00 Dental School Lecture Theatre C.

In addition to these sessions Medical Sciences also have a more practical focused induction workshop called ‘Managing your PhD/MD/MPhil’ which is mandatory for students starting their degree programmes. There are several variations of this session:

Managing Your PhD/MPhil for students NEW to Newcastle: Monday 1st October 2019, 14.00-15.00 MED L2.8
Managing your PhD/MPhil for former Newcastle Masters students: Monday 1st October 2019, 14.00-15.00 Graduate School Training Suite
Managing your MD: Tuesday 8th October 2019, 14.30-16.00 RIDB2.1.58
Managing your PhD/MPhil for part time/staff candidates: Tuesday 8th October 2019, 14.30-16.00 RIDB2.1.58
Managing your PhD/MPhil for Applied Health students: Tuesday 8th October 2019, 14.30-16.00 RIDB2.1.58
Students should attend the session most appropriate to their circumstances but if this is not possible, they may attend one of the other dates.

**International & EU Welcome**

All new international and EU students are invited to take part in the University’s **International Welcome** which starts on 16th September. This event consists of:

- **Free information sessions** (18th – 20th September)
- **Social Programme called ‘Early Arrivals’** during International Welcome
- **An optional social programme for ALL students called ‘Freshers’ Week’** (22nd September). Tickets for this are available from the Students’ Union Reception, in advance via the NUSU website or by contacting freshers.week@ncl.ac.uk.

Further events will be added so check our website ([https://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/international/](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/international/)) regularly for the latest information. Further information about the International and EU Welcome is also provided in the International Students’ Handbook. If you want to know more about the International and EU Welcome, please email InternationalWelcome@newcastle.ac.uk.

### Your personal academic timetable

Once registered on your programme, you can view a personalised timetable on the University app ([https://services.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/teaching-services/mobile/universityapp/](https://services.ncl.ac.uk/itservice/teaching-services/mobile/universityapp/)) which also has information on moving around campus, managing your Library and print accounts and finding places for private study. You may also view module, programme and individual timetables on the student timetables website ([www.ncl.ac.uk/timetable](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/timetable)) where there is also a guide for on how to understand your timetable ([www.ncl.ac.uk/timetable/StudentTimetableGuide.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/timetable/StudentTimetableGuide.pdf)) and links to maps of the teaching campus.

If your degree programme allows the choice of modules or options, your personal or stage tutors will advise you on the best module options to suit your particular academic interests.

Contact hours and the amount of self-directed study can differ between subjects, but you should expect to attend classes on most days and between the hours of 9am and 6.30pm Monday to Thursday and 5.30pm Friday. Wednesday afternoons 1.30pm onwards are kept free for sports, volunteering and participatory activities.
Please note that timetables can change during the year, especially at the beginning of each semester – so please check the website and your app regularly.

**Freshers’ Week and Welcome events**

Arriving early? Newcastle University Students’ Union (or NUSU to our students) runs a number of welcome events for all students arriving in Newcastle. If you are arriving in Newcastle between Tuesday 17th September and 22nd September, you can get involved with our Early Arrivals events. These are primarily aimed at Internationals, local students and any students who are on campus during this week in the lead up to your main Freshers’ Welcome Events.

NUSU runs your official Freshers’ Welcome Events and this year we’re spreading it over 10 days! Yes, that’s right Freshers is now 10 days! Your main programme for social activities will be held between Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th of September, when you arrive on campus. With a vast number of daytime and night-time activities, Freshers promises to be something you won’t have experienced before. We will introduce you to our Students’ Union, the University and the City which you’ll soon come to call home. Get to know your new surroundings and make lifelong friends on the way. Want to get to know the city and campus before you get here? Head to [nusufreshers.co.uk](http://nusufreshers.co.uk) to see all our blog posts. Participation in Freshers’ Welcome Events is optional, but if you wish to join us all you need to do is purchase an official Freshers’ wristband – which can be purchased [www.nusufreshers.co.uk](http://www.nusufreshers.co.uk)

If you are a Postgraduate student, you can sign up for the for events hosted by NUSU specific for you as well as purchasing an official Newcastle University Fresher’s Welcome Events wristband.

You will have compulsory induction lectures and events during the 10 days Fresher’s Welcome Events take place, but don’t worry about missing out because our daytime activities are offered over and over again throughout the week. Aside from this, we also have great evening & night-time events for you to properly immerse yourself into heart of Newcastle.

For further details about Freshers’ Welcome Events and to purchase your wristband visit [www.nusufreshers.co.uk](http://www.nusufreshers.co.uk)