

INTERNATIONAL >>>> STUDENT GUIDEBOOK



WELCOME to Bath Spa



Professor Sue Rigby Vice-Chancellor, Bath Spa University "I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to you as you embark on your educational journey at Bath Spa University. We are truly happy you are here and look forward to learning from the multitude of perspectives you bring with you.

Bath Spa is committed to providing a transformative learning experience, unlocking your potential to be confident, curious and creative professionals.

As you read the following pages and immerse yourself in our beautiful campus, you will have access to a wealth of resources to help you succeed. We are here to support you every step of the way.

I wish you success in your studies and in the adventure ahead and look forward to witnessing what you achieve." CONTENTS



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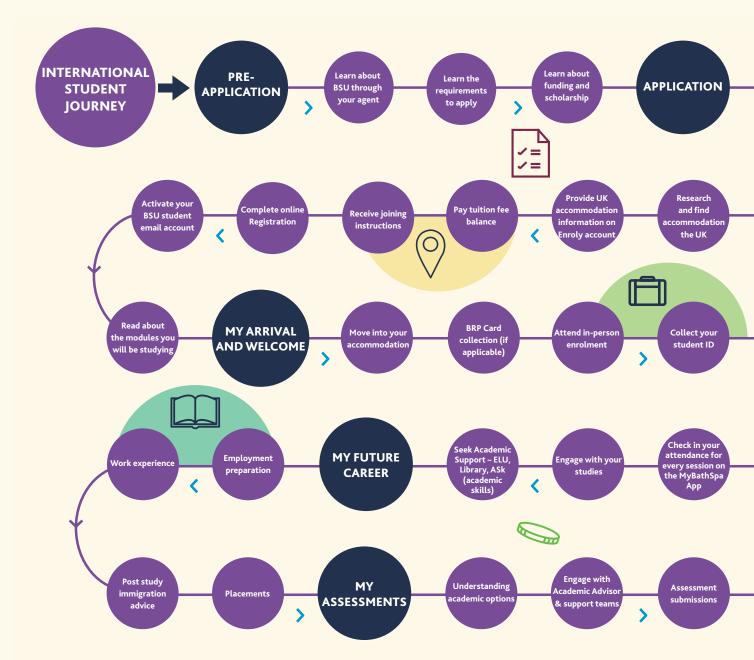
DOWNLOAD THE CAMPUS APP

The MyBathSpa App gives you access to University Services on your phone or computer. It brings together news, information and updates in one place.

You will need the app to check in to your classes and see your timetable!

Check out the international students tile for more resources for international students!

You can download the app from the App Store, Google Play, or access it on your computer at my.bathspa.ac.uk



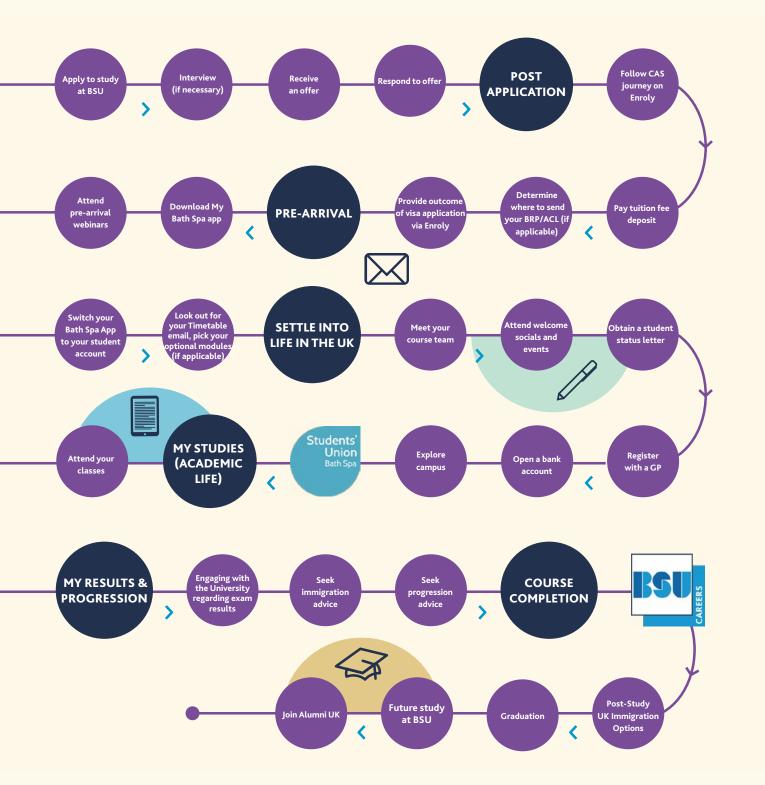


Don't forget to download the My Bath Spa App!

You can download the App from:







KEYTEAMS

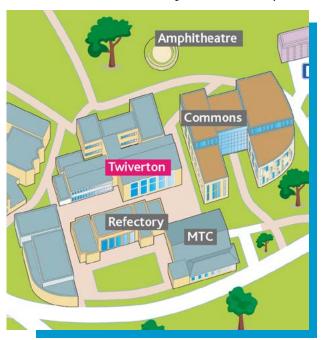
THE STUDENT INFORMATION TEAM AT THE STUDENT HUB

The Student Hubs are drop-in spaces that offer all our students the opportunity to speak to members of our friendly and experienced IT Service Desk and Student Information teams.

The Student Information Team can offer advice and support to all students, including those studying in London at our London campus, on the following areas:

- General queries and questions and helping you find your way around our campuses
- Proof of student status letters
- Making an application for exceptional circumstances
- Taking a break from your studies
- Transferring to another course
- · Changing your modules
- Withdrawing from your course

Both our IT Services Desk Team and Student Information Team can also be contacted via the MyServices student portal.



OPENING TIMES (HOLIDAY HOURS MAY BE DIFFERENT) Newton Park (Located in Ground Floor, Twiverton):

Student Information Team

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

IT Service Desk:

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Locksbrook (Located in G.18 off The Street):

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Bath Spa London 1st Floor:

9:00 - 4:00

IMMIGRATION ADVICE SERVICE (IAS)

The IAS sits within the wider Immigration Compliance and Advice team. They provide student-centred, high quality, impartial and free immigration advice and support to international applicants, students and graduates who are subject to immigration control. An overview of services, and the areas of support and advice that we offered can be found online here.

There are many ways to contact the IAS Immigrationadvice@bathspa.ac.uk +44(0)1225 875645

Learn more about in person drop-in times here:





IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE

The Immigration Compliance Team looks after the University's license to sponsor international students. They ensure that the University fulfils its sponsorship duties and remains compliant with UKVI guidance. This includes assessing CAS requests from students to extend their visas, monitoring student engagement with their studies, and notifying UKVI of student changes of circumstances such as successful course completion to apply for the Graduate Route visa.

The Immigration Compliance team are contactable at: immigrationcompliance@bathspa.ac.uk

ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNIT (ELU)

If you are a pre-sessional student, arriving in Bath for English classes before the start of your degree, the ELU will be your primary point of contact.

The ELU can also support you with your English language development throughout the duration of your degree.

They offer advice and support to improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening. Contact: Elu@bathspa.ac.uk

GO GLOBAL

If you are an exchange student from another country or on a short-term programme, the Go Global team is your primary point of contact.

- Location: Main House G02 at Newton Park Campus
- Open: 10:00 4:00pm, Monday-Friday
- Email: BSUexchange@bathspa.ac.uk

ACCOMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION

ACCOMMODATION

As soon as you confirm your place at Bath Spa University, we strongly recommend you start looking for accommodation. The UK generally has a difficult housing market and securing accommodation may take longer than you think. If you are unable to secure accommodation from your home country, you should try arrive in the UK two weeks before the start of your course. This will give you time to find suitable accommodation.

The accommodation team will contact you directly about this option if you are eligible.

Graduate students and students at Bath Spa London can expect to look for housing in the private sector. We have created an indepth private sector guide to aid you in this search. Find it in the international student tile on the app or here:

You also need to know how to get to campus and get a good understanding of how and when you will be required to be on campus. International students have an attendance requirement as part of their visa. Lacking transportation, or not being able to

afford transportation, is not an excuse to miss class. If you plan to live further away and take the train, plan carefully. Here are a few tips if you plan to live outside the city of Bath:

- Train tickets are more affordable when purchased in advance or on off-peak hours. For more information, visit the trainline website here.
- Getting a railcard can save you money if you travel frequently.
- Train fares from London can cost between £40-£80 round trip and Birmingham £70-150.
- The <u>National Express</u> bus can also be an affordable option, though the bus takes longer and has fewer places of departure.
- Trains and buses arrive in Bath City Centre. You will then take the U5 bus to Newton Park campus.

PGCE Students should check with their course leader to ensure their accommodation is in a location suitable for their teaching placement. Bath Spa London is accessible via Old Town, Hoxton and Farringdon stations. BSUL Students are also eligible for a Student Oyster Card: Read the Bath Spa London Welcome brochure or ask at the BSUL Student Hub for details! TFL is a great resource to help you plan your trip around London. It is your choice and responsibility to choose where to live.

Students who have difficult housing arrangements struggle more with their academic experience. Your accommodation is an integral part of your experience in the UK and we urge you to think carefully and set yourself up for success.

PAYING YOUR FFFS

If you receive an offer from Bath Spa University you will need to pay a tuition fee deposit to confirm your place and issue your CAS. The specific amount you need to pay, and deadlines to pay it will be written in your offer letter. All remaining fees will be due upon registration.

The easiest way to make a debit or credit card payment is online or by Flywire.





BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL

Before you arrive you will be sent important information via email. These emails include:

- · Joining instructions to register online
- In person enrolment email with date and time
- Welcome activities for your course and university
- Details for a pre-departure webinar
- Where and when you will have to be to have your immigration documents checked

All of these are important, so please read them carefully!

In general, expect to do the following before your departure:

- Pay any remaining balance you owe (you cannot enrol without doing this)
- Complete your online registration and select a day to enrol in-person
- Attend a pre-arrival webinar
- Review your Welcome Handbook to familiarise yourself with the university and what to expect

more information on these tasks are below.

PRE-DEPARTURE WEBINARS

You should be notified about a pre-departure or in-country webinar for your region. This webinar will provide more details on the arrival process and what to expect when you are adjusting to the UK. You will also be given instructions on what to do at the airport. Look out our arrival pages for the most up-to-date information for the current semester.

Many teams will list their contact info with this information, and you can reach out to them directly with any questions. However, if you have a question and are not sure whom to ask, you can ask us questions at the emails below:

Bath Campuses: international@bathspa.ac.uk
Bath Spa London: bsulondonadmin_student@bathspa.ac.uk



IN-PERSON ENROLMENT

In addition to the in-person enrolment session, you will have at least one mandatory session introducing you to the University, your course, and student life in the UK. Attending this week is critical for your social and academic success so please do not ignore these invitations! Please make sure you know when these are so that you are able to attend them.

All students who are not British or Irish Citizens are subject to an in-person enrolment check to verify your immigration documents. Visit our <u>registration and enrolment</u> pages for more info.

BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE CARD (BRP) COLLECTION

If you used the Home Office's UKVI immigration ID check app during your online visa application, you may not need to collect a BRP. Your full visa is issued as an online digital status. You will be asked to provide a Share Code at inperson enrolment. You can generate and view your code via the 'View and prove your immigration status' on the Home Office website.

If you did not use the Home Office's 'UKVI immigration ID check' app during your online visa application, you must collect your BRP upon your arrival in the UK. The BRP is evidence of your legal status in the UK and will be issued until 31/12/24. You will then need to register for an eVisa after collecting your BRP. Details of how to do so can be found here.

The official expiry date of your visa should be listed on the decision letter you were given when you were informed that your application was successful.

Collection of your BRP:

- The letter that accompanies your vignette will specify where to collect your BRP. If you entered Bath Spa University's ACL code when making your application you can pick up your BRP on campus.
- BRP Collection sessions, along with details of documentation needed for collection, will be emailed to you.
- We recommend Bath Spa London students do not use Newton Park as a collection point and use a local post office near where you will be staying when you arrive.
- When using collection points outside Newton Park you
 must take your passport and collection letter with you to
 the location indicated on your decision letter. You must
 collect your BRP within 10 days of arriving in the UK, or
 the end date on your vignette, whichever is later.
- If you have questions about your BRP, or you think there is a mistake, contact <u>immigrationadvice@</u> <u>bathspa.ac.uk</u>

CULTURE SHOCK

It is difficult to adjust to a new country and culture. It is normal to feel frustrated, anxious, lonely, and sad while you adjust. You also may experience physical symptoms such as tiredness or sickness.

There are lots of good resources online to help you with your adjustment including advice from UKCISA. If you ever feel like you cannot cope, please contact a staff member at the University and we will get you help.

You can also contact Student Wellbeing Services through MyWellbeing to book an appointment to speak to someone.

The Wellbeing Helpline is provided by Student Wellbeing offers professional and free additional wellbeing support. The service is also available in over 200 languages, just state which language you would like to use and a practitioner will call you back.

For immediate support call the Student Wellbeing Helpline on

0800 028 3766

You may also find some of the resources on the **Wisdom App** useful:

Download the app using code MHA173635 to be able speak or chat to someone and access many useful tips on maintaining your wellbeing while adjusting to life in the UK.

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

The British Council provides information and advice on living in the UK and accessing support while you study. The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) also offers lots of advice on studying and living in the UK.

For more information, visit the UKCISA website <u>here</u>.







Settling into Life in Bath

STUDENT STATUS LETTERS

After you arrive and have fully enrolled, you may need a student status letter to provide confirmation of your enrolment at Bath Spa University. Student Status letters are used for several reasons including bank accounts, council tax exemption and academic verification. You can download a Student Status letter with or without term dates through e:Vision.

BANK ACCOUNTS

There are various banking services in the UK and your choice to determine which type of bank is best for you. Each bank has different rules and requirements for opening an account. For example, Santander requires your course to be at least two years in length. Typical documents required to open a bank account include:

- 1. Passport and valid visa
- 2. BRP card (if applicable) or National ID
- 3. Student Status letter you can download this letter through e:Vision
- 4. Proof of address in the UK
- Your student ID card

You can also find a handy vocabulary guide for banking here.

HIGH STREET BANKS

The main high street banks in the UK are Barclays, HSBC, Halifax, Lloyds, Metro Bank, NatWest and Santander. All banks will normally offer you a basic account to begin with and may offer you further services after you have banked with them for some time. The basic account will allow you to withdraw cash for free from most cash machines, set up a direct debit payment, and use online and telephone banking.

<u>This article</u> outlines different High Street bank accounts that may be suitable for your situation.

DIGITAL BANKS

Digital banks are usually more flexible with how you open an account and there has been a recent rise in mobile-only banking in the UK. It is important to note that there is no inperson or telephone banking with these banks, and they are purely app-based. Some of the main digital-only banks include Monzo, Monese, Revoult, Starling, Atom Bank and Wise.

This article outlines different digital banks and what they offer:





SAFETY

Bath is one of the safest cities in the UK! Still, in case of emergency it is best to be prepared. Student Wellbeing Services works closely with Security and our Accommodation team to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of students - this includes out of hours. There are many ways you can get support and you can find each of these on our website:





CAMPUS EMERGENCY NUMBER If you are on campus and need urgent help, please call security on +44 (0)1225 875555.

CALL 111 for medical advice that is not life threatening. This is free and is a service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also visit 111.nhs.uk

CALL 999 if someone is seriously injured or in distress.

HEALTHCARE AND REGISTERING WITH A GP

If you are on a student visa, you will have paid the NHS surcharge and can access all NHS services. Your healthcare, including mental health and sexual health, is completely confidential. Your records will not be shared with anyone unless you give permission.

You will be exposed to stress and new illnesses and at some point, you may need a doctor. You should register with a GP (General Practitioner) as soon as you can so that when you need this service, you can access it. UKCISA provides a good overview on UK healthcare and how the system works.

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SERVICE

Bath Spa has a University Medical Service. If you live in Bath, you can register for this in-person in the Sophia building or online.

If you do not live in Bath, you can register with a GP close to your home. Most have information on how to register with them available on their website. Sometimes the process can take a couple of weeks to complete, so again, we urge you to do this early. If you need further help the NHS has guidance on their website. After paying the NHS surcharge, all appointments and treatments are free, including urgent and emergency services.



Tip: Look up your closest hospital and how to get to it so you know where to go in case of an emergency.

DENTISTS

Depending on where you live, you may or may not be able to find an NHS dentist as many NHS dental surgeries do not have capacity to take on new patients at this time. If you cannot find an NHS dentist, you should be able to find private care. There may be a waiting list to join the surgery, so again, we suggest you do this as early as possible.

If you do not register with a dentist and have a dental emergency call 111 and ask for assistance. More information on 'what to do with a dental emergency' is available on the NHS website.

Please note that dental care and prescriptions are not free in the UK (with the exception of dependent children). Most prescriptions are less than £20 and dental costs will be listed on the dentist's website.

BEWARE OF SCAMS!

Even if Bath is one of the safest places to live, the UK has seen a rise in sophisticated, digital scams, particularly targeting international students. Scams usually start with attempts to obtain your personal information and a request or requirement for payment that can seem quite urgent and important. This could be related to your tuition, visa, or accommodation. The University and UK banks will never ask you to give bank details, your login or passwords – especially over the phone or email. If you are concerned that you are being targeted by a scam and wish to check with a member for staff, please contact immigrationadvice@bathspa.ac.uk

Scams the Home Office is aware of:

Scam guidance and advice from Bath Spa: scams targeting students:









Scam prevention guidance from Avon and Somerset Police for Chinese students:

WORK DURING YOUR COURSE OR DURING VACATIONS

Work rights are a condition of your <u>immigration permission</u> so it is important that you are clear about what you can and cannot do.

The Careers team also have created this brief guide to help you find part-time work in the UK. Part-time jobs are also posted on the MyCareer platform.

Your student visa will indicate how long you are permitted to work each week (Monday-Sunday) during term time. For most students, the work allowance is 20 hours per week during term time with the ability to work full-time outside of term time. You will also be able to work full time after your course end date on your CAS during your 'wrap up period'. Please refer to our <u>term dates web page</u> for specific dates.

RESTRICTIONS ON WORK

- · You cannot be employed on a permanent full-time contract.
- You cannot be self-employed or set up your own business
- You cannot be employed as a professional sports person (including coach) or entertainer.

For full details about the Student work conditions, we recommend visiting:





We also recommend that you read the UKCISA Blog

'<u>A working definition</u>', a blog for students which looks at some of the most common questions and conundrums about working with Student immigration permission.

RIGHT TO WORK CHECKS

Your employer will also be required to submit a Right to Work check to confirm it is legal to employ you. You will need to obtain a share code for your employer.

Full details can be found here:





PLACEMENTS

You are also permitted to take up any work placements that form an assessed part of your course, providing the work placement does not amount to more than 50% of the course. You must give the Placements Team placements@bathspa.ac.uk details of your placement before it starts. If you did not originally apply for a course with a placement element but are considering having one added, please contact immigrationadvice@bathspa. ac.uk for guidance before officially requesting a change of course. Work placements can be paid or unpaid and can be full-time, even in term time. The work endorsement in your passport or on your BRP card will not state this, but the Home Office guidance for employers explains it. You can work your permitted hours in addition to the hours you work on your placement.

Please note: For PGCE students the school based placement does not apply as a work placement.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE UK

You may want to travel outside the UK during vacations. It is your responsibility to check the entry requirements of the country you are visiting. In addition, to be admitted back into the UK after your visit to another country you must have proof of your immigration status (for example, your valid BRP card).

You are not permitted to travel during term time and are expected to attend and engage with your studies at all points during your course. We understand that there may be exceptional personal circumstances as well as festivities and celebrations held in your home country or culture that may fall at times of the year when you are expected to be in full-time study. We have extensive guidance on authorised absences listed on the website under 'Authorised absence'

If you need to leave the UK for a field trip or part of your course or research, please contact immigrationadvice@bathspsa.ac.uk ahead of departure so we can ensure you are fully prepared.

SCHENGEN VISA

If you would like to travel around Europe, the Schengen visa will grant you entry to most countries. The Schengen Area is the area including 26 European countries that have abolished passport and border control at their mutual borders, thus travel is simple once you have obtained the Schengen visa.

Please note: The Republic of Ireland is NOT included in the Schengen Area.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

UK ACADEMIC CULTURE

Email is the official means of communication from the University. It is your responsibility to check your email daily, as well as <u>Ultra</u>, the University's virtual learning platform. Read the newsletters you receive as they often contain important information!

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in class is a mandatory requirement of your student visa. All students will use the MyBathSpa app to checkin to classes.

Your attendance is regularly monitored by the Immigration Compliance Team, and you will receive warning emails if you miss too many classes. Your visa will be cancelled if you have excessive absences without good reason.

It is our duty to the Home Office to report attendance and engagement. If you are struggling to engage with your studies, you can contact the Student Engagement Team for advice and assistance.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Current international students say that the academic culture of the UK was one of the most difficult aspects to adjust to. There are a lot of resources available online discussing UK academic culture, particularly Skills for Study tool kit, Prepare for Success and UKCISA resources.

Generally you can expect a mix of:

- Written assignments
- Exams
- Group work
- Assessments
- Dissertation

The UK emphasises independent learning and critical analysis which may be quite different to your previous education. We strongly encourage you to go to your course's welcome session to get a better understanding of your specific course expectations.

Luckily, Bath Spa has many resources to help you with your academic journey which can be read about on our website or in the *Welcome Handbook* for all new students.



The *English Language Unit* offers one-toone support, group workshops, and dropin sessions for English language support.



The Library has a wide range of resources to help you with your academic journey, including help with referencing and research.



The Academic Skills team (ASk) also offer workshops on academic writing, critical thinking, presentations, and various digital literacy skills. They can also help you with assignments in individual appointments.



DIGITAL EXPECTATIONS:

- ☐ You will need to bring or purchase a laptop for your course
- You will need to check and respond to your university email every day as well as Ultra our virtual learning environment.

Official communication from the university will be sent to your university email. You will also receive newsletters with events, opportunities and student updates. You will also get notifications on events and reminders, as well as check into your classes using the MyBathSpa App.

Bath Spa has reliable Wi-Fi and you will get information on how to access it, as well as how to activate your university email at your in-person enrolment.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Bath Spa uses the term academic misconduct to refer to any unfair academic practices. Honesty and integrity is expected, including when it comes to acknowledging the work of others (referencing). The concept of plagiarism and other academic misconduct can be confusing, and to avoid a violation, we strongly encourage you to use the academic resources outlined on the last page.

There may be consequences that impact your ability to study in the UK if your are found to have acted dishonestly. You must complete your assessments independently, all work must be your own. More information can be found on the University website about what is considered academic misconduct.

If you are accused of <u>academic misconduct</u> and are confused by the process, we encourage you to reach out for help. The Students' Union offers an advice service that can explain the process and help you respond to the accusation. If you are here on a student visa then your permission to remain in the UK depends on your continued engagement with your programme. If you leave your course of study early for any reason (including academic failure or misconduct, suspension or withdrawal) then your student visa will be cancelled, and you will need to leave the UK within 60 days of sponsorship being withdrawn.

With the introduction of AI, Chat GPT and many other AI applications, academic misconduct becomes even more confusing. We suggest you read the <u>University's policy</u> around AI to better understand how you can and cannot use it in your studies. You can ask your tutor for clarification as well.

THE STUDENTS' UNION

The Students' Union (SU) is an independent organisation from the University that is located on the Newton Park campus. Their role is to represent Bath Spa's student interests and advocate for change when needed. In doing so, they offer a variety of advice and support. They also facilitate activities, clubs and societies and other opportunities for students to meet each other and enjoy university life. There is also a bar – serving food during the day, hot drinks, soft drinks and alcoholic drinks, and gym, within the Students' Union building itself at Newton Park.

The SU is a great resource to go to for help if you want independent advice on university processes or even housing help.

Check out their website for more information





EVENTS AND SOCIAL LIFE

We are proud to have international students at our university and want to make you feel welcome. We regularly celebrate international holidays, including Diwali, Lunar New Year, and Holi as well as UK holidays like Christmas and Easter. You should also look out for our international photo competition every year! These events are a collaborative effort across many teams, but you will receive information on upcoming events in the International Student Newsletter and through the MyBathSpa App.

Want to provide ideas or organise events yourself? Join the international student network!

GRADUATION AND BEYOND

GRADUATE ROUTE

After successfully completing your studies, you may be interested in applying for a graduate visa.

After successfully completing your studies, you may be interested in applying for a graduate visa.



This is a post-study work visa that allows you to stay in the UK for two years (three years for PhD students) after successfully completing your course of study to work or seek employment. To qualify for this visa, you must successfully complete your course: you cannot apply for a Graduate visa if you fail your course, voluntarily withdraw, or finish with a lower award.

Having to re-sit modules can also affect your eligibility for a Graduate visa, as it may mean that you cannot successfully complete your course before your current visa expires.

Bath Spa University will inform you by e-mail after your course has finished if you are eligible to apply for a Graduate visa. You must not apply before receiving this e-mail. If you need further guidance, please contact immigrationadvice@bathspa.ac.uk

SKILLED WORKER VISA

If you have been offered a job after completing your studies, you may be eligible to apply for a Skilled Worker visa.

If you have been offered a job after completing your studies, you may be eligible to apply for a Skilled Worker visa.



To be eligible for this, you need to have an offer for a specific job with a licensed employer. The job must also be at the appropriate skill level and salary.

You can only switch to a Skilled Worker visa from within the UK if you have successfully completed your studies, or after 24 months of your course if it is at PhD level.

For specific advice about whether a job you have been offered is eligible to be sponsored under the Skilled Worker route, please speak to your prospective employer.

EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT

As a Bath Spa Student, you have access to Student Circus to help you prepare for and find jobs in the UK, back home and many other countries!



You can also look at the International Student Pathway on the MyCareer platform to explore tips on finding a job.

FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINTS

Like any new experience, things may not always go exactly as planned or expected. We encourage you to embrace minor bumps in the road with humour and patience and view them as part of the learning process. However, if you feel strongly about a particular experience you encountered at the university, you have a right to offer feedback or formally complain.

<u>Unitu</u> is our online student feedback platform. Any student can offer anonymous feedback or ideas on this platform and a representative from the University or Students' Union will respond.

You may also choose to submit a formal complaint relating to a specific issue around the delivery of teaching or another service provided by the University. The complaints section of the website has more information on the process.

International students may be hesitant to submit feedback or complaints for a variety of reasons. While we certainly hope that your experience is positive, if there is information that you wish to share, it is okay to do so. It will not affect your student visa or degree and may help improve teaching and services. If you would like guidance on filling out the forms or with the process, the SU Advice Centre can help.

RIGHTS, REPONSIBILITIES AND RESTRICTIONS

YOUR RIGHTS ON A STUDENT VISA

- You have a right to part-time work
- You have a right to use the National Health Service (NHS)
- You have a right to be exempt from <u>council tax</u>, like other students
- You have a right to complain, appeal, and give feedback on your experience
- You have specific educational rights (check out the <u>SU</u> website for more info).

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ON A STUDENT VISA

- You must collect your BRP card (if applicable) within 10 days of arrival in the UK or by the expiry date of your vignette (whichever is later)
- You must ensure the dates on your immigration documents are accurate and report any mistakes.
- You must attend your classes.
- You must keep your address updated with the University
- You must speak with immigration advice about any change in circumstances that may affect your visa (for example, extending your course, withdrawing from studying, or a work placement).
- You must request authorisation from both your Course Leader and the Immigration Compliance Team for an absence of more than 10 working days during term time.
- You must check your email to keep up to date with University information or immigration and compliance updates.
- You must submit all assessments and exams and any other requirements of your course.
- You must re-enrol on time for your course each year

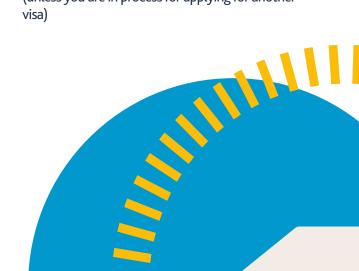
YOU MUST NOTIFY THE HOME OFFICE IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGE:

- Address
- Name
- Nationality (change of citizenship)
- Date of birth
- Gender
- New passport
- Criminal conviction
- Changes to dependants



YOUR RESTRICTIONS ON A STUDENT VISA

- You are restricted in how much you can work.
- You cannot apply for public funds.
 - » Public funds are certain specific welfare benefits, such as certain housing, childcare benefits, or disability allowance. For information on what is a public fund in the UK, see <u>here</u>. If you claim public funds it may impact your ability to stay in or visit the UK in the future.
- You cannot stay in the UK indefinitely. You must depart the UK before your student visa expires (unless you are in process for applying for another visa)



THE UNIVERSITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

As your sponsor, Bath Spa University is expected to ensure that we and our students are compliant with the immigration rules. If we fail to comply, we are at risk of losing our ability to recruit other international students. Thus, we take the following duties very seriously:

- We must have a copy of your current passport and current immigration documents
- We must keep up-to-date contact details including address in the UK and telephone number
- We must monitor your engagement (attendance) with your studies.
- We must notify the Home Office if you do not arrive as expected
- We must notify the Home Office if there is a change in circumstances with your studies
- We must notify the Home Office if you are breaching the conditions of your student visa (including lack of attendance).

TOP TIPS AND TAKEAWAYS FROM THE EXPERTS

(STUDENTS LIKE YOU!)

- Expect the culture to be different, lean into the experience and learn from it.
- Find accommodation early and consider all costs before signing any agreement.
- Use the University resources, there are a lot of them that are very useful in helping you adjust to your experience abroad.
- Get involved in your community or in campus clubs and societies. This will help you make friends and feel more at home.
- Ask for help if you need it! The university community is a very friendly place.



THE CITY OF BATH

as seen through the eyes of international students like you!

