



Pre-departure guide for international students

2024-25 entry



Ensuring that our campuses are safe spaces for everyone.

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Welcome to Loughborough

Congratulations on your offer of study at Loughborough University.

We are looking forward to welcoming you, and hope that you will enjoy your time studying with us. This guide has been designed to help you prepare for leaving home, arriving in the UK and your first weeks at Loughborough.

Loughborough University is a wonderful place to live and study; our campus is one of the largest in the UK yet still maintains a vibrant student community. International students have always been vital to the fabric of the University and integral to what makes us special.

During your time here you will benefit from our award-winning student experience and join our Loughborough family.

Our ambition as a University is to inspire hard-working students from all backgrounds. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus – you will find an atmosphere of determination and a will to succeed.

The community spirit and focus of learning creates an environment that motivates everyone to be the best they can be. I hope you will get involved with the wide range of opportunities outside the curriculum – we have a vast array of sports teams, clubs, and societies. We offer numerous exciting opportunities for volunteering, entrepreneurship, and development, as well as placements in industry.

On behalf of everyone at Loughborough University, I welcome you and look forward to meeting you soon.



Professor Nick Jennings CB FREng FRS
Vice-Chancellor and President





Loughborough campus

About our campus

At Loughborough we're lucky to have a beautiful single site campus to call our home. One of the largest in the UK, our campus provides a self-contained community with everything you need right on your doorstep, creating a bubble of convenience and an incredible experience.

On campus you can find all the amenities and facilities required for student life, such as a grocery store, gyms and fitness centres, sports halls and pitches, restaurants and a nightclub.

A mere two miles away in Loughborough town itself you'll find a beautiful park, a theatre, a cinema, large supermarkets, a bustling market and high street shopping.

Everything is within walking distance on campus; however if you choose not to walk, you can take the free bus to on-campus halls or lectures.

"Loughborough campus feels alive. It's a really friendly environment and has made me feel really comfortable!"

Sarah Tan-Lin-Li, from Malaysia
Social Psychology student



Preparing to study in the UK

Obtaining your visa

Unless you are a British Citizen or you already hold immigration permission that allows you to live and study in the UK, you will most likely need to obtain immigration permission before travelling to the UK to study. All students aged 18 or over who are coming to study for longer than six months must obtain entry clearance via the Student Visa route from the nearest British Embassy/High Commission.

As part of your visa application you will require a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). Information on obtaining a CAS from the University is available from lboro.ac.uk/cas

You will need information from your CAS statement to complete your visa application; the CAS statement will also help you calculate how much money you will need for any outstanding tuition fees and which documents you need to provide as evidence of how you secured your course offer.

When you receive your visa, it is advisable to check that all the details are correct before travelling to the UK, as it may be easier to have any necessary corrections made by the UK visa service in your home country rather than trying to do that after arriving in the UK.

The Student Advice and Support Service provides information on the student application process and can be contacted direct for free individual advice on this and other visa matters.

lboro.ac.uk/visas

Names on your documentation

Occasionally, problems occur with the spelling of names and addresses, especially with students from countries that use a different alphabet to English. It is best to decide on how you wish your name to be spelt in English and then use this spelling at all times. This should be the spelling that is given in your passport.





Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

Your student visa will be issued for just 30 days to allow you to travel. After arriving in the UK you must collect your BRP which contains your permission to stay longer.

Towards the end of the visa application you will be asked where you wish to collect your BRP from, the suggestions are based on the contact details you have given.

You can collect your BRP from the Student Office at the Loughborough campus by selecting the 'alternative location' and enter the ACL code '2HE857' – this option is available only for students at the Loughborough campus (including all pre-session students and their dependants); it is not possible to collect BRPs at the London campus.

Alternatively BRPs may be collected from participating Post Offices. In Loughborough, this is the Post Office located in the town centre. Its full address is 10 High Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2PY. For the London campus, the nearest Post Office is 26-28 The Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4QS.

You will need to take your passport containing your visa and the letter you received when your visa was issued when you go to collect your BRP.

Further details can be found here:
gov.uk/biometricresidence-permits

Students studying for less than six months

If you wish to stay in the UK for less than six months, it may be appropriate to apply for a short-term study visa rather than a student route visa: lboro.ac.uk/visas

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

In order to study a course in some science and engineering subjects, you may require ATAS clearance. Your offer letter and CAS will confirm whether ATAS clearance is required. If it is, you must apply for an ATAS certificate and include a copy of your ATAS certificate with your visa application. Further information about the ATAS clearance scheme, including the programmes that require ATAS clearance, can be found here: lboro.ac.uk/study/apply/support/atas

Tuberculosis (TB) screening

TB screening is compulsory for those from certain countries who are applying for a visa for longer than six months. Further information can be found here: gov.uk/tb-test-visa



Living in Loughborough

The types of accommodation available are University halls of residence, private halls, shared houses, flats and self-contained properties. As an international student, you will have priority for University halls of residence.

Further details can be found on our Student Accommodation website:

lboro.ac.uk/accommodation

Hall accommodation

We know it is really important to feel at home and have a space of your own to study, that's why we have a team based on campus who are dedicated to helping you find a place to live.

At Loughborough we have 17 different **halls of residence** for undergraduate and postgraduate students with catered and self-catered options for you to choose from. All of our halls offer a safe environment and are renowned for being the best place to start your university life.



Planning ahead

Where to live in Loughborough

We have 17 different halls for undergraduate and postgraduate students with catered and self-catered options for you to choose from. All of our halls offer a safe environment and are renowned for being the best place to start your university life. Further details can be found on our Student Accommodation website:

lboro.ac.uk/services/accommodation

Caring for you in halls

All halls have Hall Managers to offer advice and support during the day and a warden team who are there to support you during evenings and weekends. If you have any special needs (e.g dietary, religious), then please inform the Student Accommodation Centre after you have accepted your offer of accommodation.

Whilst we will do our best to meet your accommodation preferences, students with particular cultural or religious requirements should note that our policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunities leads to a mixed environment within our halls. Whilst some areas are specifically designated male or female, socialising is common. Please contact the Student Accommodation Centre to discuss particular requirements.

The University has residential rooms which are specifically adapted to meet the needs of students who have disabilities. If a specific room type or catering option is required for medical reasons, we will do our best to provide this. Please refer to our applicant support information pages: lboro.ac.uk/services/accommodation/applicants/support-medical-mental-health/

Accommodation starter pack

Students staying in University halls of residence may wish to order a starter pack which includes bedding (duvet and cover, sheets, and pillowcases), crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils at a very reasonable cost. This must be ordered in advance and it will then be delivered to your room prior to your arrival at Loughborough.

unikitout.com

How to apply for accommodation

Undergraduates

First-year students coming to study at Loughborough in 2024-2025 who make Loughborough their firm choice and apply for accommodation by 5am (BST) on 24 July 2024, will be guaranteed a room in university halls accommodation.

International undergraduates are guaranteed a university hall room for any two years of their study programme, provided that they stay in the same hall of residence throughout.

At Loughborough we provide an online room reservation system for undergraduate students. Once you have your academic offer and you have made Loughborough your firm choice, you will be able to register and reserve a room. You will receive an email from the Student Accommodation Centre to advise you when and how to apply.

Postgraduates

You can apply online once you have a [firm offer for your course](#) but you can register your preference for university hall accommodation using your university application number from April. You will receive an email from the Student Accommodation Centre to advise you when and how to apply.

Registering your preference does not guarantee you an offer of accommodation but priority is given to international students. Subject to room availability from June, successful applicants will receive an offer via email once their academic place at Loughborough has been accepted and confirmed.

Off-campus accommodation

If you prefer to live in privately owned accommodation in Loughborough, all properties advertised by the Student Accommodation Centre have been inspected by us. Please view our available off-campus accommodation on Studentpad loughboroughstudentpad.co.uk or email findahouse@lboro.ac.uk

Contract checking service

The Student Advice and Support Service offers a free contract checking service to help you understand your rights and responsibilities when renting a property. It is highly recommended that you seek advice from them before you sign any contract or pay any money to a private landlord or letting agent. Email advice@lboro.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1509 222765 for an appointment.

Living costs

Loughborough is not an expensive town to live in by UK standards. Students (and their sponsors) must budget for their time in the UK and should allow at least £1,040 per month for the duration of their studies to cover expenses, such as accommodation, food, clothing, books and local travel.

We suggest that you bring no more than £550 in cash or travellers cheques for your first few weeks at the University and ensure you have some low denomination notes, such as £5 or £10. Try to avoid £50 notes if possible.

Students with families

There are limited circumstances in which family of Tier 4 students are allowed to come to the UK as 'dependants' and stay throughout their studies. The Student Advice and Support Service provides information on visas for family members and can be contacted direct for individual advice. lboro.ac.uk/visa-advice

Accommodation for families

Any student considering bringing their family with them to Loughborough is advised to contact the Student Accommodation Centre for advice. It may be helpful to

consider travelling to the UK alone before term starts, ahead of your family, and arrange for them to join you once you have found somewhere to live.

Contact the Student Accommodation Centre at sac@lboro.ac.uk

Loughborough Campus Nursery

There is a nursery on campus for 0-5 year old children. If you would like your child to attend the campus nursery please get in touch before you arrive to arrange a place. lsu.co.uk/nursery



Getting to Loughborough

Your safety is our main priority and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to get to Loughborough when it is safe for you to do so.

Have a safe flight

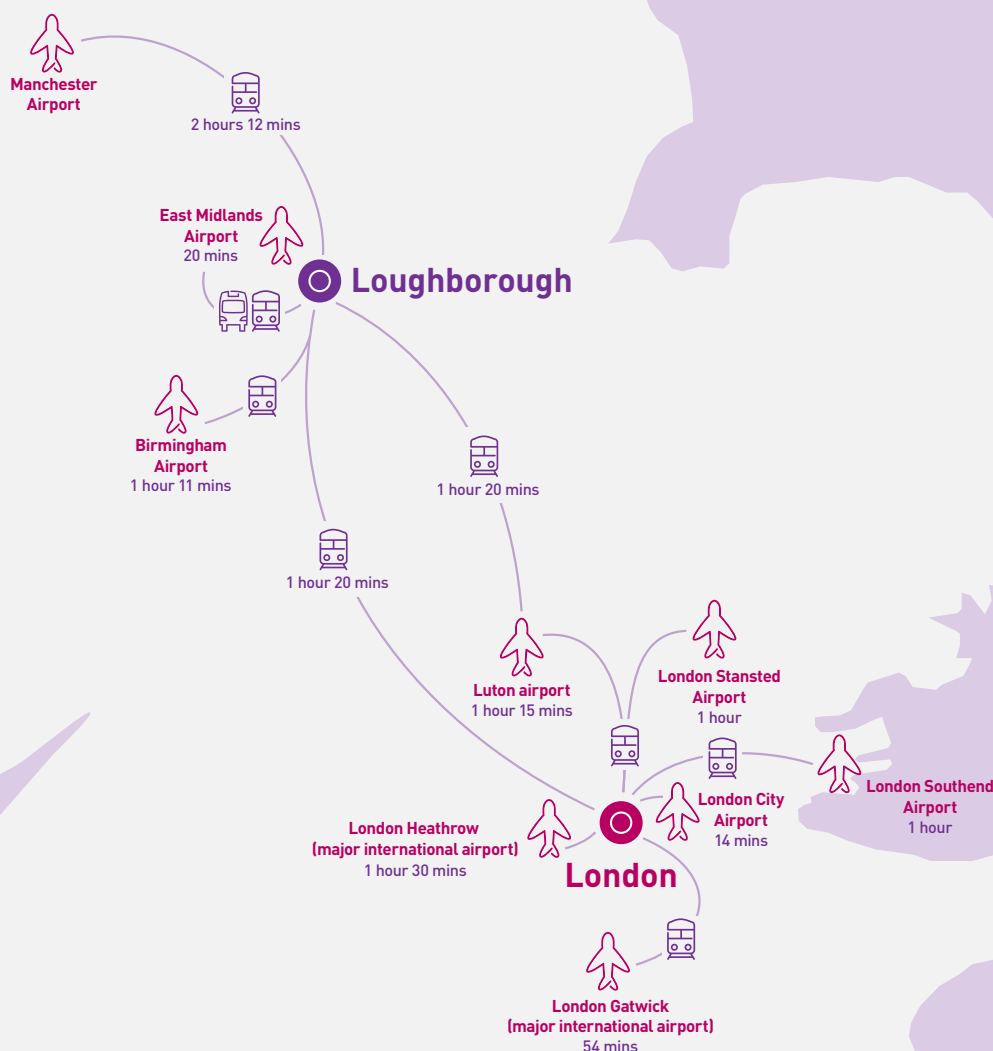
The most direct flight for many of our students would be to fly to London Heathrow Airport, but the airports of Birmingham and Manchester may also be convenient for you.

From the airport to Loughborough

If you fly to London Heathrow Airport you will be met by members of our International Office after clearing immigration.

A free coach service is arranged by Loughborough University to provide transport from Terminal 3, London Heathrow Airport, to the Loughborough campus for new international students at the start of the academic year. This needs to be booked prior to arrival and if you do not complete the registration, we cannot guarantee a place on the airport coach.

If you fly into other UK airports we have also provided further travel advice on our webpages.





Arriving at Loughborough

Welcome to the Loughborough family! We're delighted to have you here, and we want to help you settle in as quickly as possible. Before you head out and explore your new home though, there are a few things to do:

Register with the University

Approximately six weeks before the start of your programme of study at Loughborough, you will be sent an email inviting you to complete your online registration. You will be guided through a series of screens and asked to upload a photograph of yourself. It is important that you complete this process before your arrival, so that we can produce your university ID card and have it ready for you to collect at the International Student Registration event. **You will need to bring your passport and visa to this event.**

Further information related to registration can be found at lboro.ac.uk/welcome

In addition to registering centrally, you may also be required to register with your academic department. Each department/programme has a specific registration session and you will be informed of the date, time and venue upon arrival.

Pay your fees

So that you know how much you need to pay and when, the University will send regular statements to your student email address, which will show your tuition fees, with a deduction for any scholarship or bursary you have been awarded by the University.

Tuition fees can be paid in one sum during the first term or in three equal termly instalments. For self-funded students the easiest way to pay your fees is via our secure, online portal which can be reached from our [finance pages](#) using the online payments link at the bottom of the page.

If you would like more details about your tuition, bursaries and payment methods, please visit the Student Finance website at: lboro.ac.uk/services/finance/students

Paying through a sponsor

You should provide the University with proof of your sponsorship in advance of your arrival in Loughborough. The best way to do this is by sending a copy to the relevant Admissions Office. This should be an official letter stating who your sponsor is and how much they have agreed to pay towards your fees. Once the University has received proof of your sponsorship, your sponsor will be invoiced for your fees, however, if your sponsor is unable to pay your fees, you will have to pay them yourself.

Statements will be sent for tuition fees (for self-funding students) to your term-time student e-mail address at the beginning of each term. There are many different ways to pay your fees. If you have been awarded a bursary or scholarship by the University, this will be deducted from your tuition fees when you are invoiced. These details can be found on the Student Finance website. lboro.ac.uk/services/finance/students

Open a bank account

It can take up to five working days to open a bank account, so it is advisable to have some sterling in cash and travellers cheques on arrival to meet immediate expenses during your first weeks in the UK. To open an account you will need to provide documents showing proof of identification, your UK and home addresses and your student status. You can obtain a letter confirming your registration at the University from the International Student Registration event or Student Enquiries:

T: +44 (0)1509 222491 E: studentenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

Register with the Medical Centre

Search for and complete the "New Patient Registration" form from lborounimedicalcentre.co.uk and send it to the Medical Centre (either by post, or by handing it in when you arrive). If you are currently taking medication, please bring one month's supply of medicine with you when you leave home.



Make savings on UK travel

If you think you will travel regularly within the UK, then you may benefit from purchasing a 16-25 Railcard which entitles you to travel by rail anywhere in Britain at a discount (restrictions apply between 4.30am and 10am excluding July and August). To buy a railcard you will need to provide proof of your age (e.g. passport) and a passport-size photograph. Find out more: 16-25railcard.co.uk

You can take advantage of low cost city breaks throughout the UK on the Megabus. You can book low cost coach travel to many UK cities with a further 10% discount for students available: uk.megabus.com

Student Coach Cards are available for full-time students and allow you to buy National Express coach tickets at a reduction of 33% for some tickets. Find out more: nationalexpress.com/en/offers/coachcards/young-person

Careers

Loughborough University is a top 10 UK university, and has been rated 5 stars for innovation and employability by the QS Stars University Rankings. We are one of just ten universities in the UK to receive the highest possible rating for both of these measures.

We are also one of the UK's best universities for connecting students to employers, according to the QS Graduate Employability Rankings in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022!

With so many skill-enhancing opportunities available, you can build the foundations for an exciting career during your time at university, and with our connections to leading industry employers, there's no doubt you'll be on the path to success.

Graduate Route

You may be aware from media coverage that a review of the Graduate Route Visa has recently been undertaken. The recommendation of the review was to retain the Graduate Route Visa in its current form. At the time of writing, the Graduate Route Visa therefore remains in place for eligible international students commencing their studies in September 2024. The Graduate Route Visa allows eligible students to work in the UK for two years after completing their course.

Career Network support

Our Careers Network team provides a range of services (available up to 5 years after graduation) which include:

- advice on career planning
- help with researching and applying for graduate roles
- on-campus presentations, digital resources and a comprehensive website

For further information to help you plan your career, please visit our [international students careers webpages](#)



1ST IN THE UK FOR EMPLOYER-STUDENT CONNECTIONS
QS GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY RANKINGS 2022



CONSISTENTLY RANKED AS A UK TOP TEN UNIVERSITY
THE COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2017-25



ONE YEAR PLACEMENT
OPTION ON EVERY UNDERGRADUATE COURSE



TWO YEAR GRADUATE VISA
ROUTE AVAILABLE



Student experience

Loughborough Students' Union

Loughborough Students' Union sits at the heart of our award-winning student experience. Owned and run entirely by our students, the Union continues to ensure that life at Loughborough remains vibrant, rewarding and brimming with opportunity.

We are working closely with our colleagues in Loughborough Students' Union to ensure that we will be able to offer a range of extra-curricular activities to ensure your academic, social and personal development – and most of all that you will have the time of your life!

LSU will continue to ensure that student volunteers within learning communities will champion your student voice whilst the LSU Advice Service will continue to provide free, independent, confidential and non-judgemental advice supporting you through any difficulties you may experience with your studies.

lsu.co.uk

International Student Experience

The University has a dedicated International Student Experience (ISE) team who support you as an international student to settle into life in Loughborough and help you to create a home away from home. They run a range of events, social activities, workshops and drop ins throughout the year. During the first few weeks of term the team will organise lots of orientation activities to help you settle including your International Welcome Event, tours of the Town Centre and orientation workshops to help you adjust to life in Loughborough.

The ISE team is your friendly face on campus and will provide dedicated support for the whole time you are in Loughborough. They can also answer all those questions you might have about life in the UK, such as where can I get the food I love? How do I access my bank letter? Or how do I get the cheapest train tickets. They will also send you regular newsletters with all the key information you need to know as an international student.

Before you arrive you will receive information of Welcome activities delivered by the team but you can also find out more information at lboro.ac.uk/services/student-services/topics/making-loughborough-feel-like-home

“Starting university is always daunting and coming from an international background myself I understand the weight of coming to a different country with a different language and culture. However, this is an exciting new environment with endless possibilities and opportunities that might otherwise have not been possible. Our union is committed to ensure that you have the best student experience by empowering and representing you, being the home away from home. We aim to uphold our values by promoting mutual respect and truly praising individuality and difference, we are here to recognise and celebrate the positive impact of diversity and are dedicated to welcoming all students into a warm, friendly, and inclusive environment at LSU. Don't forget you always have a place at your Loughborough Student Union.”

Molly Page

LSU President 23-24

Sport

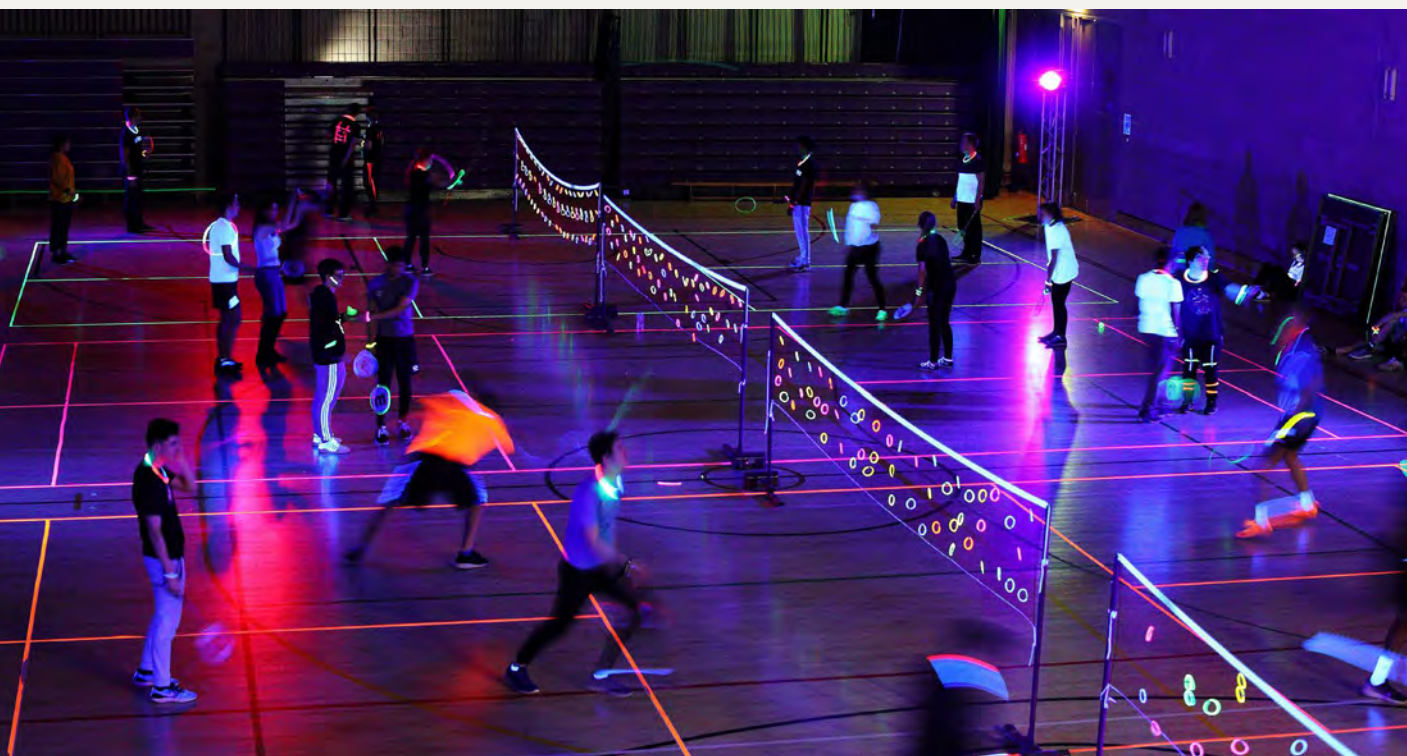


At Loughborough we are proud of our reputation for sporting excellence and our constant focus is on ensuring every student has the opportunity to get involved, regardless of ability or interest.

Not only do we pride ourselves on our inclusive sporting environment and track-record on the field, but Loughborough has also been named the world's best university for sports-related subjects for eight years running by QS World University Rankings.

Whether you want to try something new or are dedicated to your chosen sport, there are always lots of opportunities to get involved. From water polo to snow sports, we have over 50 sports to choose from. Loughborough University is also home to the country's largest concentration of world-class facilities, across a wide range of sports. As a Loughborough student you can access everything from high performance training venues to free recreational areas.

lboro.ac.uk/sport



Checklist

Before you leave home, please remember when you're packing your suitcase that you will have to carry your bags around the airports and to your accommodation building. A key rule is if you cannot carry it, do not pack it!



Don't forget your important documents

- ✓ Your valid passport (or recognised travel document/card)
- ✓ Entry visa certificate
- ✓ Photocopies of your UK visa and your passport's personal details page
- ✓ Unconditional offer letter from Loughborough University
- ✓ Documentary evidence of financial support for fees and maintenance
- ✓ If your fees and living expenses have been paid in advance into the University's bank account, a letter from the person who has made the transfer authorising the University to refund to you the amount allocated for your living expenses
- ✓ TB test certificate or other medical certificates, if necessary
- ✓ Enough cash/travellers cheques/a travel debit card to support yourself until you can open a bank account in the UK
- ✓ Travel insurance documents

Personal items

- ✓ Clothes (don't forget a warm jumper and a waterproof coat)
- ✓ Toiletries for your first few days
- ✓ Medicines and a first-aid kit
- ✓ English dictionary
- ✓ Photos of friends and family
- ✓ National or traditional dress for formal occasions and activities



Prohibited items

There are certain goods that are prohibited or restricted in the UK. For information on these please see the border control information here: gov.uk/uk-border-control

Useful contacts



Admission enquiries relating to your application

Undergraduate Admissions Office

T: +44 (0)1509 274403
E: admissions@lboro.ac.uk

Postgraduate Taught Admissions Office

T: +44 (0)1509 222496
E: pgtaught@lboro.ac.uk

Doctoral College Office

T: +44 (0)1509 228292
E: pgresearch@lboro.ac.uk



Useful contacts for other enquiries

International Student Experience

Your dedicated service to help make Loughborough feel like home. They can answer any questions you have about life in the UK including the Heathrow Airport pick up service.

T: +44 (0)1509 222765
E: ise@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/services/student-services/topics/making-loughborough-feel-like-home

General postgraduate enquiries

For enquiries relating to any aspect of postgraduate study.

Postgraduate Enquiries
T: +44 (0)1509 222496
E: pgenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

Student enquiries

For enquiries relating to university administration, registration and programme of studies.

T: +44 (0)1509 222491
E: studentenquiries@lboro.ac.uk

Accommodation enquiries

To help you find a place to live.

T: +44 (0)1509 274488
E: sac@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/accommodation

Student Advice and Support

Offering confidential and impartial advice.

T: +44 (0)1509 222765
E: advice@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/sass

Academic Language Support

Preparation for academic study and English language pre-session courses.

T: +44 (0)1509 228325
E: alss@lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk/alss

Student Finance

Financial enquiries and fee payment information.

T: +44 (0)1509 223538
E: studentfeepayments@lboro.ac.uk

Global Engagement Team
Loughborough University
Leicestershire LE11 3TU UK
T: +44 (0)1509 222201
E: global.engagement@mailbox.lboro.ac.uk
lboro.ac.uk

