

Welcome to

#UniAsItShouldBe



We are delighted that you have decided to study at the University of Bolton and look forward to warmly welcoming you.

The University of Bolton is friendly and supportive and we take pride in our teaching quality and student welfare. Being part of Greater Manchester (Manchester - the UK's second metropolitan capital city), our international students get to enjoy everything this vibrant and dynamic location has to offer, as well as the wonderful English countryside.

Whether you are new to Higher Education or returning to study, this pre-arrival guide has been prepared to assist you with University life.

Please read the information in this guide carefully. It has lots of helpful information in to help the start of your student journey at the University of Bolton.





Before you travel

Travel to England

International Students traveling to England must follow UK Government guidance. What you need to do will depend on which countries you are traveling from. You should visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for more information.

What should I bring to the UK?

You will need the following documents with you:

- Passport
- Offer letter
- Copy of your CAS
- TB Certificate (if applicable)
- The financial evidence you submitted with your Student Visa
- Original certificates for the qualifications stated on your CAS

You will also find the following useful:

Enough money in GBP to support yourself for the first few weeks, please remember there are limits (£10,000) to how much cash you can bring to the UK.

You will find the following information produced by UK Border Force useful. Please read this carefully before your travels.

Keep up-to-date:



[/UniversityofBolton](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofBolton)



[@BoltonUni](https://twitter.com/BoltonUni)



[@BoltonUni](https://www.instagram.com/BoltonUni)

Student arrivals: 10 top tips

As you prepare to study in the UK, Border Force has developed these tips to ensure your smooth arrival.





Where is Bolton?

Bolton is a friendly town in Greater Manchester. The University of Bolton is situated close to the town centre, and only 10 minutes walk from the train station.

Bolton has excellent transport links and is just 20 minutes away from the city of Manchester by train. Vibrant cities including Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and York are also not far away. Located near the West Pennine Moors, the Lake District and Blackpool, Bolton is within reach of various national parks, seaside towns and the creative hub of MediaCityUK in Salford.

The University of Bolton's central location provides easy access to cinemas, shopping, art galleries, museums, music and comedy venues and the nationally acclaimed Octagon Theatre Bolton.

UK Weather

The weather in the UK can be quite unpredictable, it is advised that you have warm clothes and an umbrella. It will be cold in the UK during the months of November until February; from March through to October, the temperature can be warm but the weather may still be wet.

Accommodation

MMcComb (Bolton) Ltd provide accommodation for University of Bolton students at Orlando Village. Orlando Village is the only accommodation approved and recommended by the University of Bolton. The rooms are offered on a self-catering basis with a communal kitchen, WC and washing facilities. Further information about Orlando Village can be found on their website:

www.orlandovillage.co.uk

Alternative accommodation in Bolton and surrounding areas can be found online or by visiting letting agents.

Search 'student accommodation in Bolton' in Google, and you will be able to find information about different types of accommodation available.. We strongly advise you to research and look for accommodation before you arrive in the UK. Please do not arrive in the UK without trying to source accommodation beforehand. This is because accommodation will not always be guaranteed on arrival and can often take some time before you are able to move into a property.



On arrival

Collecting your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

When your visa application is successful you will be issued with a visa in your passport, which is valid for one month. You should also receive a letter advising you when to collect your Biometric Residence Permit and where from, this will normally be the Post Office in Bolton Town Centre.

You will need to take both the letter and your passport to the Post Office stated on the letter to collect your BRP.

Enrolment

You will be sent your invitation to enrol very soon, this will provide you with instructions on how to complete the enrolment process. Please ensure you have the following original documents with you:

- Passport
- Biometric Residence Permit
- Certificates and transcripts for qualifications stated on your CAS

Enrolment is in two stages, the first is the online stage which can be done before you travel.

Once you have completed the online enrolment you will need to print the declaration and sign. You will need to bring this along with the documents listed above to the face-to-face enrolment sessions called ID verification; here we will check your passport, BRP and certificates and take scanned copies for our records.





Students' Union & Social Events

The Students' Union office is based in Chancellor's Mall, they provide a number of services and facilities:

- Clubs and societies
- Student representation
- Independent and confidential advice unit

The Students' Union also run The Hangout, The Loft and the SU Shop, based in the Chancellor's Building.

You can buy your Totum card from the SU, which offers a wide range of discounts on services and retailers, both online, and in the shops.

Clubs & Societies

There are a vast amount of societies offered by the Students' Union, such as the Bollywood Society or Medieval Society. If you are into sport, the Sport and Wellness Centre run a number of competitive and non-competitive sports teams such as Hockey, Cricket and Football. More information can be found here www.boltonsu.com or www.bolton.ac.uk/sport



Things to think about in your first week

Opening a bank account – you will need to open a UK bank account. Providing your course is one academic year or longer you should have no problems opening a bank account.

Below is a list of UK banks, which have branches in Bolton or nearby Manchester. You should research the banks using their website and then decide which bank is right for you.

Barclays

1-5 Market Street, Bolton, BL1 1XA | www.barclays.co.uk

The Co-Operative Bank

19 Knowsley Street, Bolton, BL1 2DG | www.co-operativebank.co.uk

Halifax

23-27 Knowsley Street, Bolton, BL1 2DG | www.halifax.co.uk

HSBC

1-3 Victoria Square, Bolton, BL1 1RJ | www.hsbc.co.uk

Lloyds Bank

9 Hotel Street, Bolton, BL1 1DB | www.lloydsbank.com

NatWest

24 Deansgate, Bolton, BL1 1BN | www.natwest.co.uk

Santander

49-53 Deansgate, Bolton, BL1 1HQ | www.santander.co.uk

TSB

Unit 55-59 Deansgate, Bolton, BL1 1HQ | www.tsb.co.uk

Virgin Money

17-21 Oxford Street, Bolton, BL1 1RD | www.uk.virginmoney.com

Bank of China

67-69 Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3JB | www.bankofchina.com/uk

Once you have decided on a bank you will need to request a bank introduction letter from the University. Letters can be requested through your student portal online.

Once you have enrolled you can access your student portal from the following website: <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/student-area/>

Once you have logged in you can request official 'To Whom it May Concern' and bank letters.

The University will issue one bank letter free-of-charge, if you need more than one bank letter please note you will be charged £5 for each additional letter.

Currency in the UK

The UK currency is GBP (Great British Pound).



Coins	Notes
1p	£5
2p	£10
5p	£20
10p	£50
20p	
50p	
£1	
£2	

Some small shops may not accept £50 notes for payment.

When using public transport it is a good idea to have the right change. Some bus drivers may not have change for notes above £10.

Cost of Living in the UK

You will need to budget for your living costs including accommodation, travel, food and other day-to-day living costs.

The British Council have produced a useful webpage, which includes a link to a student budget calculator:

study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/money-budgeting

Healthcare

The National Health Service (NHS) provides healthcare in the UK. You can access healthcare through the NHS providing your course is longer than 6 months and you paid the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) when you made your visa application.

Doctors/General Practitioner (GP)

You will need to register with a Doctor in the UK. It is advised that you register with a GP close to your accommodation.

It is important that you do this as soon as possible after arrival, please do not wait until you become unwell. If you are not registered with a Doctor and become ill, you will be delayed in getting an appointment, as you will need to register first.

Seeing your doctor in the UK is free-of-charge providing you are entitled to receive NHS treatment.

If you are unwell and need to see your doctor the only thing you will need to pay for is any medicine, the cost is £9.35 for each medicine. This information is correct in August 2022.

Pharmacy

There are a number of pharmacies in Bolton, a pharmacy is where you will be able to get medicines; whether prescribed by the doctor or medicine that you can buy without a prescription such as painkillers or cough medicine.

International Support Team

The University employs three members of staff to provide Information, Advice and Guidance to International students at the University. They can support you with requesting official letters, opening bank accounts, accessing healthcare services and signposting to specialist teams within the University. They are based in the Student Centre in Chancellor's Mall.



Hospital

The Hospital in Bolton is in Farnworth and is called Royal Bolton Hospital. There is an Accident and Emergency service at the hospital, which is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The Accident and Emergency service should be used in the event of serious illness or accident. If you are unwell but it is not an emergency, you can seek advice from your doctor or the out of hours service, by calling 111.

Dentist

You will need to register with a dentist to receive dental treatment in the UK. Dental treatment is not free-of-charge and the amount you pay will depend on whether the dentist is an NHS dentist or a private dentist. It is important to check the costs before making an appointment.

Opticians

Opticians are not free in the UK and you will need to pay for an eye test and any glasses that you may need.

Finding healthcare providers

The website below will help you find all health care services in and around Bolton. All you need to do is choose which service you want to find and put in your postcode, you can then view a list of services. www.nhs.uk/service-search

University Support Services

The University has a number of support services available, which you can access throughout your time at the University:

Student Services – Can help with academic advice and guidance, bank letters and official letters, council tax exemption and student ID cards.

Life Lounge – Brings together specialist services, free for students to access; including Counselling, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Mental Health Advisors.

Disability Services – Provide specialist advice and guidance to students who have a disability.

Careers Service – Who can help you explore your career options, applying for part-time job vacancies, writing a CV and covering letter and developing the skills that employers are looking for.

Student Liaison Officers – Provide assistance to students to develop and improve study skills. Impartial advice and guidance on a wide range of academic and personal issues, such as Mitigating Circumstances and Academic Appeals is part of the support.

Chaplaincy – The team offer free pastoral support for students irrespective of religion or belief, the service has a part time co-ordinating Chaplain and a team of volunteers. Based on the ground floor of Chancellor's Mall provides a resource area, quiet room, prayer room and washing facilities.

Library – The University Library is based in Chancellor's Mall and during term-time is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The Library provide students with access to books, journals, electronic resources, computing facilities and study areas. Laptops are available to loan for use within the Social Learning Zone from the library.



Key contacts

THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON



Deane Road
Bolton, BL3 5AB

-  www.bolton.ac.uk
-  enquiries@bolton.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 600



INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS TEAM

-  www.bolton.ac.uk/international/
-  international@bolton.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 110

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

-  internationalstudents@bolton.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 813

STUDENT SERVICES

-  studentadvisors@bolton.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 733



STUDENT LIFE

-  studentlife@bolton.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 466

STUDENTS' UNION

-  www.boltonsu.com
-  info@boltonsu.com
-  +44 (0)1204 900 850



ORLANDO VILLAGE

-  info@orlandovillage.co.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 488



LIBRARY

-  library@bolton.ac.uk
-  www.bolton.ac.uk/library
-  +44 (0)1204 903094

DISABILITY TEAM

-  disabilityinfo@bolton.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 478

LIFE LOUNGE

-  lifelounge@bolton.ac.uk
-  +44 (0)1204 903 566