

Welcome Guide

2023-2024



Top tips for
International Students



Version 05/24

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The International Student Support Team welcomes you to UWS!

We hope that this guide provides you with some useful information for settling in.

The International Student Support Team is here to support you and ensure that you get the most out of your student experience. The team offer advice and guidance in a number of areas that may be relevant to you during your studies, including:

- Immigration matters, such as complying with student visa conditions.
- Visiting Europe for a holiday, attending conferences abroad or returning to your home country.
- Working in the UK during and after your studies.
- Hints and tips on settling into life in the UK and meeting local people.
- Bringing dependants to the UK to live with you or inviting relatives to visit you during your studies.
- Liaising with academic staff regarding your studies.
- Advising on ways of resolving financial issues.



5 things to do in your first week at UWS

1) Join a Check in and Chat Welcome Session

As a new student, there is a lot of information to take on board. To help you settle in and learn about UWS support services come along to one of our New Arrivals Support sessions on campus. Dates and times of sessions are on the [International Student Support SharePoint Events page](#) (note that you need to be logged in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to view our [SharePoint site](#) and you may need to amend the date range to see all upcoming sessions).

It may take time to settle in, especially if this is your first visit to the UK, and you will probably experience some aspects of 'culture shock' – the impact of moving from a familiar culture into an unfamiliar one. Culture shock can have a significant effect on your emotions. For further information see the [UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\) website](#).

International students at UWS have access to the full range of counselling services. Counsellors aim to encourage academic success and to assist students to increase their enjoyment of study and university life, by helping to reduce the effects of stress and anxiety that may be caused by issues like homesickness & adjustment to university life.

You can contact the Counselling Service if you want to talk about anything that's bothering you. See the [Counselling Team's SharePoint page](#) to access resources and for information on how to request a wellbeing appointment (note that you need to be logged in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to view the SharePoint site).

There may also be differences in the laws governing your home country compared to the laws in the UK. See the [UK government website](#) for information on UK law. See the [Scottish Law Online site](#) for information on Scots law.

2) Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) (if applicable)

If you were granted a short stay permit to come to the UK, you will need to collect your BRP from a specified Post Office within 10 days of arrival in the UK.

Download the **BRP Collection Guide** from the **[International Student Support team SharePoint page](#)** (note that you need to be logged in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to view our SharePoint site). You will find the **BRP Collection Guide** in the **Resources for UWS Students** section.

You will have received an email with instructions from the Home Office on how and where to collect your BRP.

Contact the Student Hub team in the first instance if you experience any issues with collecting it. It is useful to take a photocopy of the personal information and visa pages in your passport and both sides of your BRP card and keep them safe in case either is lost or stolen and you have to apply for replacements during your stay here.

3) Open a UK Bank Account

To open a bank account, you will need your passport or identity card and a 'bank letter' from UWS. If you are studying at a Scottish campus, you can request this letter through the **[Hub portal](#)**. London campus students should email **london@uws.ac.uk** for this letter. Basic bank accounts are easier to open than other types of account.

It's important to note that tuition fees and UWS student accommodation fees can not be paid in cash.

Most large payments in the UK are made electronically, either by bank transfer or debit/credit card.

It is not necessary to travel to the UK with large sums of cash and this is something that should be avoided. You should come to the UK with just a small amount of cash and your debit/credit card from your home country for use until you have opened a UK bank account.

There are many **[fully online or app-based bank accounts](#)**.

Check **[Unidays](#)** and **[Student Beans](#)** for student discounts on a range of goods and services.

Check if you qualify for **discounted rail travel** with the Young Persons Railcard. Full time mature students over the age of 26 can also apply for this railcard. The railcard can cut rail travel costs by up to 1/3. Note however that **restrictions do apply** see the website for full details.

Protect Your Immigration Status as a UWS Student Visa Holder

Your student immigration permission is subject to you meeting Home Office requirements in relation to your studies. It is therefore important that you fully engage with your studies, always pay your tuition fees on time, limit travel to official holiday periods only and limit working hours to 20 hours per week in term time. If you fall behind with your studies or your fee payments, you risk being withdrawn from your course.

4) Register with a Doctor (GP)

It is important that you register with a local doctor as soon as possible – don't wait until you need medical treatment. Student living in Scotland can find details of local doctors' surgeries and other health services on the **NHS Inform website**. Students living in England can find a GP on the **NHS website**.

Please note: For GP letters, Scottish Campus students should email: **hub@uws.ac.uk** and London Campus students should email: **london@uws.ac.uk**.

5) Meet other students

There are a number of ways to connect with other students when you first arrive in the UK and it is important that you take the time to do so. By speaking to other students you can ask questions or get help with finding things in your area. To meet up with other students, check out the induction events which are listed on the **International Student Support Team SharePoint events page**. (note that you need to be logged in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to view our SharePoint site and you may need to amend the date range to see all upcoming sessions). Visit **The Union** for information on social events. Connect with other UWS international students through the **Students' Union Facebook page**.

If English is not your first language, you'll have a lot of fun learning new words as you meet new people. Another way of practising your English is listening to **'Elementary Podcasts'**. You can listen to them on a PC/laptop, or download them to your phone.

Knowing how to act appropriately in social situations can be difficult at the best of times, especially when you are in a new country. The UK is famous for its strict etiquette rules – see [**GB Mag's article**](#) for etiquette tips.

Different people have different ideas & experiences of personal relationships. Attitudes towards relationships in the UK might be quite different to those in your home country. For information on sexual health students in Scotland can see the [**NHS Inform**](#) Also see the [**Students' Union website for information on sexual health**](#). Students in England can access sexual health information on the [**NHS Inform**](#).

Family

If you have travelled to the UK with your family, you will be keen to help settle in your family as well whilst you are studying. Please look at the [**UKCISA website**](#) which has useful information such as schooling for children. This will be different depending on whether you live in Scotland or England and you are best to contact the local authority / council that you will be residing in.

UWS may also be able to offer childcare support, please check out the [**UWS Funding and Advice information**](#).

Additional Useful Information

For information and advice on accommodation options, see the [**UWS website**](#), the [**UWS Students' Union Accommodation Advice**](#) and the [**International Student Support Team SharePoint page**](#) (note that you need to be logged in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to view our SharePoint site). From the International Student Support Team SharePoint page, you can access the [**Accommodation Advice: Private Rental Guide**](#) and the [**Accommodation quick guide for UWS international students**](#) in the [**Resources for UWS Students section**](#).

It's also worth chatting to other students in your cohort and asking if they have any suggestions of where to look for a place to stay.

See the [**Funding & Advice team SharePoint page**](#) for advice and guidance to help you manage your money (note that you must sign in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to access the SharePoint site).

Students are required to register attendance with the Student Administration team twice (2 times) each academic session for Home Office monitoring purposes. Information on where & when you need to register will be sent to you by email. If you are required to take your passport/ visa for checking on campus, please wait for instructions regarding this. You will be able to complete online enrolment prior to your passport/visa being checked.

Digital Resources

You will need a digital device such as a laptop or tablet plus headphones or earbuds for your academic study in the UK and it is expected that you have this accessible from the first day of teaching. (A mobile phone is not suitable to work from).

You should have plug and power adaptors in order to use British outlets. The UK uses type G plugs and 230 volts at 50 hertz.

In order to access UWS digital systems securely you are required to use a multi-factor authentication system (MFA) which requires you to identify yourself by more than a username and password. For details on how this works and resetting of passwords, see the [**UWS website**](#).

Remember to access your UWS email account!

UWS provides free email accounts to all students and there are many computer labs where the internet can be accessed. Emails from personal email accounts can get blocked by the UWS email system. It is therefore always better to make contact from your student Banner email address whenever possible. Wireless network access is provided in various locations on campus. If you have problems logging on, contact the IT and Digital Services team on your campus or call 0141 848 3999. You can access the internet wherever you are by using a Wi-Fi finder app. You can find PCs on any UWS Scottish campus through the UWS App. On the London campus, you can borrow a laptop from the laptop lockers by scanning your student ID on the panel.

Travel to campus

For information on public transport in the UK, see the [**Traveline website**](#).

If you are under 22 years old and living in Scotland for more than 6 months of the year, you can [**apply for a free bus pass**](#). You can use this to travel on most bus services in Scotland for free.

London campus students – see page 18 of this guide for information on the Oyster Card.

Council Tax is set by local authorities to pay for local services they provide, such as schools, roads and refuse collection. You can **apply for a council tax exemption** if you are a full-time student and you are living on your own or with other students.

Insuring your personal belongings

Insuring your personal belongings (this can include valuables like laptops/PCs and mobile phones/device) against theft, loss and damage (including due to accidental fire damage) is recommended. To find out more, see the **Save the Student webpage** which explains how Contents insurance works and where you can arrange affordable insurance cover.

Stay Safe at University and avoid fraud or money scams!

Be vigilant about being targeted by fraudsters. Unfortunately, some criminals specifically target international students telephoning them and pretending to be from a legitimate organisation such as UKVI or an Education Agent. They may demand money (calling it a fine for an immigration problem that doesn't exist) and claim that if you do not pay your visa will be cancelled!

Tips to stay safe

- Never share your bank account or debit/credit card details or passwords with anyone unless you know and can trust them.
- Never email your credit or debit card details to anyone, even the University.
- Be wary of offers of easy money. If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.
- Be observant for communications like ads and emails with bad spelling and grammar.
- Don't allow someone that you do not know or trust to transfer money through your bank account. If in doubt, end the call.
- If you receive suspicious texts, do not reply or click any links.

Where to get help if you are a victim of fraud:

Action Fraud Support
Victim Support

For Information for international students see the **UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website** (Frauds and Scams).

5 things to do in your first month at UWS

1) Get to know your local area

With a friend why not visit some of the sights that are local to you? Try a new cafe, visit a park or explore the local shops.

2) Join a society or team

The UWS Student Union runs a wide variety of societies and sporting teams open to all students. Check the Student Union website www.uwsunion.org.uk/ for further information. If you don't see anything you like, you can always set up your own society! See the [UWS website](#) for information on sport and fitness facilities and also the [Team UWS Facebook page](#) for information on how you can get involved.

3) Find a place of worship

There are many places of worship in the UK, representing all religions, and the different branches of Christianity. Search online for places of worship close to your campus/accommodation. The following websites may also help you find a place of worship. For information on local churches or UWS student worship groups, see the notice boards in the University and Students' Union, or visit the [University's Multifaith Chaplaincy webpage](#).

The following websites may help you find a place of worship:

Hinduism:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Hindu_temples_in_the_United_Kingdom

Islam:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mosques_in_the_United_Kingdom

Judaism:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_synagogues_in_the_United_Kingdom

Sikhism:

<https://www.worldgurudwaras.com/>

4) Take part in our events

Our events are your chance to meet the International Student Support team and other UWS international students.

To find out what's happening, see the **International Student Support team events calendar** (note that you must sign in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to access the SharePoint events page and that you may need to amend the date range to see all upcoming events). All induction/welcome events, on campus drop in sessions, immigration information sessions and Discover Scotland trips are listed in the events calendar and are shared on our social media channels. See links below to the main UWS social media accounts and see also page 25 of this guide for links to the International Student Support team social media accounts.

5) Find out about the different ways UWS can support you

If you have any problems during your stay here or are worried about something, there are many sources of help within the University. The International Student Support team can help overseas students with general welfare issues as well as visas, immigration, work and financial queries. Telephone or video call appointments can also be arranged easily. Contact details for the team are at the back of this guide.

The Counselling, Disability, Funding and Advice teams offer support to all UWS students. You can also speak to your personal tutor, doctor (GP), staff at the Students' Union and the Residence Life team in the University accommodation. There is a range of **self-help resources** online.

Now is a good time to familiarise yourself with the various UWS and Students' Union social media accounts. The main ones are:



<https://www.facebook.com/UniWestofScotland>



<https://en-gb.facebook.com/uwsstudents/>



<https://twitter.com/UniWestScotland>



<https://twitter.com/uwsstudents?lang=en>



<https://www.instagram.com/uniwestscotland/>

5 things to do in your first term at UWS

1) Go on a day trip with friends

Make the most of your time in the UK and get together with other students to explore somewhere new in the UK and learn about British culture.

Most cities have a local **tourist information centre** where you can get ideas on where to visit or what to do at the weekend and in the holidays. You can either go on an organised tour or arrange your travel independently.

Scottish campus students – see the **International Student Support team events calendar** (note that you must sign in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to access the SharePoint events page and that you may need to amend the date range to see all upcoming events) for details of the next 'Discover Scotland' day trips. The International Student Support Team organise a number of day trips around Scotland. The day trips offer excellent value for money and are a great opportunity for students to see more of Scotland, learn about Scottish culture and meet new friends.

2) Enhance your academic skills

Get academic advice, guidance and resources from the UWS Academic Skills Team. This support is designed to help enhance your academic and practical skills for success at university and beyond. All UWS students are automatically registered to access the **Careers and Academic Skills website**.

Academic study resources hosted in the Careers and Academic Skills website include reading skills, critical thinking, exams and revision, giving presentations, referencing, avoiding plagiarism, and writing essays, reports and dissertations.

The teaching styles, ways of learning, assessment methods and expectations universities in the UK have of their students may be very different to what you are familiar with in your home country. Adapting to these new ways of doing things may require you to approach your studies in a very different way. See the **UKCISA webpage** for study tips and information on UK academic culture. If you need help with study methods, speak to your course supervisor or personal tutor in your School, or an Academic Skills Adviser.

TextAid is a free to use reading, writing and studying literacy tool. TextAid can help to boost your academic skills and independent learning at UWS. For more information on this, and other useful study tools, visit the **Study Support Tools page** in the Popular Tools Menu of the Careers and Academic Skills website.

3) Get to know the UK

You have a great opportunity to travel around the UK, Europe or beyond during official university holiday periods. You must plan travel around your course and must not take time out of your studies to travel for any reason. If you are a Student Visa holder, it is important that you read our Travel Guide before you make plans to travel. You can access the **Travel Guide** in the **International Student Support team SharePoint site** (note that you must log in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to access the SharePoint site) – the travel guide is in the **Resources for UWS students** section.

UWS subscribes to the **HOST UK** programme. HOST UK is an organisation that links international students at UK universities with friendly approved hosts who offer an invitation to their home for a day, a weekend, or at Christmas.

This is a unique opportunity to experience real life in Britain and students who have visits agree that it is one of their best experiences in the UK.

UWS will pay the visit fee for your first visit – you just need to pay for your travel costs to the host. For further information, see the **International Student Support team SharePoint site** (note that you must log in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to access the SharePoint site).

For information and ideas on what to do and see in the UK, see the **Visit Britain Tourist Information** website. Search online for **attractions in London**.

Use review sites such as **Trip Adviser** to find out about popular visitor attractions close to your campus. See the Scotland Welcomes You website for **money saving and discount passes** for attractions and travel in Scotland.

4) Think about your future career

The UWS Careers Team is here to support you with advice and support on career topics such as career planning, recruitment processes, job searching and volunteering. All UWS students are automatically registered to access the **Careers and Academic Skills website**.

The Careers and Academic Skills website hosts a wide range of careers resources, employer videos, interactive tests and activities to help you prepare for graduate employment. The website also hosts a **Careers Guide for International Students** with specific information and advice.

5) Look for volunteering opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to gain valuable experience, meet new people and enhance your CV. Volunteering and Voluntary work can be recognised by UWS through an award. Register on Self Service Banner for the UWS Volunteer Recognition Award. For further information, email recognition@uws.ac.uk.

Volunteering (does not count towards your hours of paid work)

- volunteers do not have a contract – they must not be a substitute for an employee, and they must not be doing unpaid work – for example, receiving payment in kind (although they are sometimes reimbursed for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses)
- volunteers usually help a charity or voluntary or public sector organisation

Voluntary work (must not exceed the total number of permitted hours you can work in a week)

A Student can do voluntary work if they are permitted to work, but this work and any paid work must not exceed the total number of hours they can work during term time. For example, if a student is permitted to work 20 hours a week during term-time and has paid work of 15 hours a week, they cannot do more than 5 hours voluntary work. If they are not permitted to work, they cannot do voluntary work.

- voluntary workers usually have a contract (for example to attend at particular times and carry out specific tasks) with the employer being contractually required to provide the work

Have a look at the suggested websites if you wish to find volunteering opportunities near you: [London Campus students](#) or [Scottish Campus students](#).



Podcasts

Hear International Student Adviser Sarah speaking about **the work the International Student Support team do** to support our students.

Hear International Student Adviser Ana speaking about **working in the UK during your studies**.

Ayr Campus

Catering

Catering services operate from the Atrium and the Student Union as well as vending machines in the Atrium.

Entertainment

The '**Odeon' multi-screen cinema** is a short walk from the campus. See the website for advance bookings and programme information.

The **Gaiety Theatre** is a multi-purpose venue with a range of performances including, plays, live music and the traditional pantomime at Christmas time. The popular restaurant, Stage Door Cafe, is on site. Local newspapers will have details of local events and '**The List**' has details of what's on throughout the UK.

Glasgow city centre is 1 hour from Ayr by train and is one of the most vibrant and popular cities in the UK. There is a lot to do and see – cultural events, museums, art galleries, parks, monuments, live music, cinema, theatre and a lively night life. See www.peoplemakeglasgow.com/ for information on attractions and events in Glasgow.

Shopping

Ayr town centre has a wide range of shops including specialist independent stores and national retailers. **Ayr Central** is a covered shopping area adjacent to the train station. There are also shops in the town centre.

Every Sunday a large well established **market** is held at Ayr Racecourse. Stall holders sell clothing, food and household items at reasonable prices. As well as the traditional market, there is also a large 'Car Boot Sale' where second hand goods are sold.

Food Shopping

For general food shopping, the nearest supermarkets are 'Morrisons' adjacent to the train station and 'Tesco' on Whitletts Road. Budget supermarkets 'Lidl', 'Aldi' and the mainly frozen food stores 'Farmfoods' and Iceland' are also close to the campus. The larger supermarkets may offer a delivery service in your area – check online.

A '**Farmers Market**' is held on the first Saturday of each month (except January) at the bottom of the High Street. Local farmers sell their produce including a variety of good quality organic food. Expect to pay more for some items.

Most supermarkets sell halal, vegetarian and vegan food. There are a number of local butchers and bakers selling fresh produce. Local supermarkets and shops sell some international food items. Search online for details of specialist stores.

Sport & Fitness

The **Students' Union** runs a wide variety of sporting clubs open to all students. Check at the Students' Union or email sp@sauws.org.uk for an up to date list of teams and societies. There is a fitness suite on Ayr Campus in room 2.090 just off the atrium. Further information available online including membership, charges and opening times.

The **Citadel Leisure Centre** on South Harbour Street, KA7 1JB in the seafront area has a swimming pool, spa facilities and also offers a range of indoor sports. The HUB Ayr promotes active travel – email: activetravelhubayr@gmail.com for information.



Dumfries Campus

Catering

There is a Costa Coffee outlet, a food court and a shop in the Dumfries and Galloway College Building with a further coffee bar located in the Rutherford McCowan Building. There are vending machines throughout the campus.

Entertainment

Dumfries has all of the facilities enjoyed by students in larger towns and cities but on a smaller scale. There is a variety of pubs and clubs – check with other students which ones are popular. There is a cinema and restaurant in the **Robert Burns Centre**. The **Lonsdale Cinema** in Annan is about 15 minutes by train from Dumfries. The **Vue Cinema** in Carlisle is around 40 minutes by train from Dumfries. For more information visit <https://www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/dumfries/see-do/> and see local newspapers for details of local events. **The Stove Network** in the centre of the High Street is an artist-led organisation which has many connections with the local community and regularly hosts cultural and artistic events.

Glasgow city centre is 2 hours from Dumfries by train and is one of the most vibrant and popular cities in the UK. There is a lot to do and see – cultural events, museums, art galleries, parks, monuments, live music, cinema, theatre and a lively night life. See <http://peoplemakeglasgow.com/> for information on attractions and events in Glasgow. **'The List'** has details of what's on throughout the UK. Additionally, the city of Carlisle is only 40 minutes by train from Dumfries.

Shopping

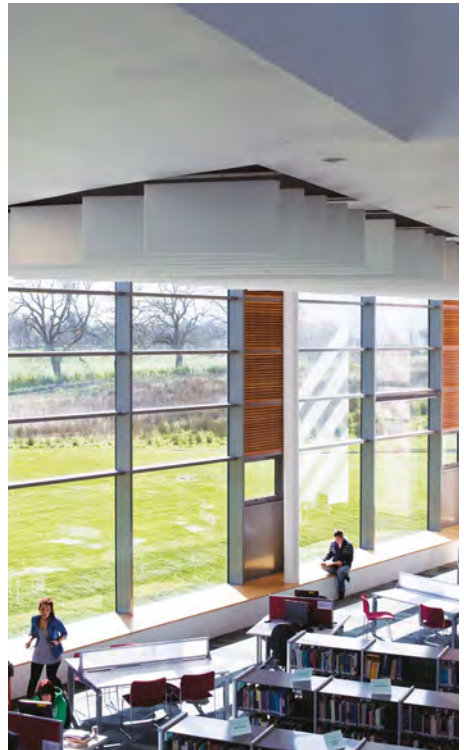
Dumfries has some shops on the High Street and in the **Loreburne Shopping Centre** (DG1 2BD). Carlisle is a short train journey away and has a selection of stores. Alternatively, travel into Glasgow city centre by train or bus.

Food Shopping

For general food shopping, the nearest supermarkets to the campus are 'Morrisons' and budget supermarket 'Lidl'. There are also 2 'Tesco' stores on the outskirts of Dumfries at the Cuckoo Bridge Retail Park, DG2 9BF and the Peel Centre in Lockerbie Road, DG1 3PF. Most supermarkets sell halal, vegetarian and vegan food. There are a number of local butchers and bakers selling fresh produce. Local supermarkets and shops sell some international food items. Search online for details of specialist stores.

Sport & Fitness

The Dumfries and Galloway College building has sports facilities including games hall, gym and fitness studio which are free to university students and staff after an induction. Neuros Spa offers discounts for students and includes a swimming pool – see www.easterbrookbistro.co.uk/swimming-pool-and-spa/ for further details. [DG One leisure complex](#) (Loreburn Hall, Dumfries, DG1 2HT) has a fitness suite, classes, a games hall and swimming pool. There are also opportunities locally for mountain biking, running, walking and golf.



Lanarkshire Campus

Catering

Lanarkshire campus has numerous catering outlets as well as vending machines available for drinks and snacks 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Entertainment

There is a range of entertainment options in various towns close to Lanarkshire campus and in nearby Glasgow. Check with other students on what the popular options are locally. The [Students' Union](#) runs a wide variety of events for all students on campus.

The ['Vue' multi-screen cinema](#) complex is located at the Palace Grounds area. See the website for information. Hamilton Town House Theatre (103 Cadzow Street ML3 6HH) and Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre (Civic Centre ML1 1AB) host a variety of events. ['The List'](#) has details of what's on at both of these venues as well as other venues throughout the UK. Local newspapers will also have details of local events.

Hamilton Park Racecourse (Bothwell Road ML3 0DW) hosts regular racing events throughout the season and is good for a day out. See <https://hamilton-park.co.uk/> for details. Strathclyde Country Park has a range of activities available including sailing, walking, cycling and running. Located within Strathclyde Park is M&D's Theme Park with lots of rides and attractions. See www.scotlandsthemepark.com for details.

Glasgow city centre can be reached by public transport from the Lanarkshire area and is one of the most vibrant and popular cities in the UK. There is a lot to do and see – cultural events, museums, art galleries, parks, monuments, live music, cinema, theatre and a lively night life. See <http://peoplemakeglasgow.com/> for information on attractions and events in Glasgow.

Shopping

There are many shopping areas in Lanarkshire and in Glasgow. [The Regent Shopping Centre](#) (ML3 7DZ) has many high street chain stores and Quarry Street has independent shops. The town square shopping area and the Douglas Park Retail Park have many large stores as well as restaurants and leisure facilities.

Food Shopping

For general food shopping, there are many supermarkets in the Lanarkshire and Glasgow areas including Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco. Search online for stores near your accommodation. Large supermarkets may offer a delivery service in your area – check online. Most supermarkets sell halal,

vegetarian and vegan food. There are a number of local butchers and bakers selling fresh produce. Local supermarkets and shops sell some international food items. Search online for details of specialist stores.

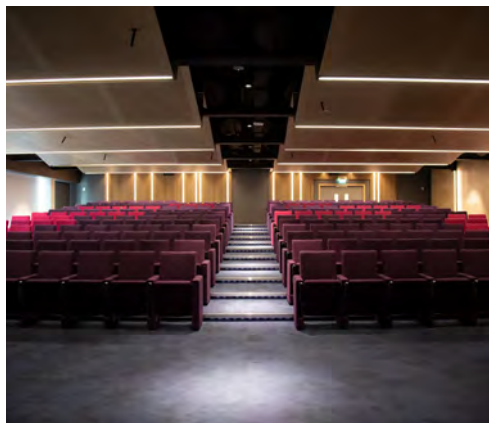
Sport & Fitness

The Students' Union runs a wide variety of sporting clubs open to all students. Check at the Students' Union building or email sp@sauws.org.uk for an up to date list of teams and societies. Lanarkshire campus has a fitness studio.

For further information see www.uws.ac.uk/university-life/sports-social.

Hamilton Water Palace has a 25m swimming pool, fitness studio and health suite. A variety of fitness classes are run at the centre. For further information, see www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/161/hamilton_water_palace.

There are outdoor 5-a-side football pitches at Hamilton Palace Sports Ground (Motehill ML3 6BY). For information see www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/38/outdoor_sport.



London Campus

For comprehensive information on entertainment, eating out, sport and much more, see the [London Campus website](#).

If you live in a London borough, see the [Transport for London](#) website for information on the student Oyster card for discounted travel in London.

Catering

There are many restaurants, cafes and coffee shops close to London Campus with plenty of places to get a wide range of high-quality food and refreshment.

Entertainment

There are many small, independent music venues close to the campus as well as much larger venues such as the O2 Arena. London is also home to five permanent symphony orchestras and many iconic classical music venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Wigmore Hall and the Royal Opera House.

If you enjoy eating out, Covent Garden and Soho are the place to go if you like a wide range of different types of food. From pop-up BBQ and burger stalls, to Japanese, Spanish and Peruvian restaurants, there is something for everyone. Brick Lane is the number one destination for South Asian food, with curry houses and street food stalls from Bangladesh, India and beyond.

Shopping

There are loads of fantastic places to go shopping in London including Oxford Street, Carnaby Street, Covent Garden, Harrods department store and Westfield shopping centre. For places to get student discounts, check out www.studentbeans.com.

Food Shopping

There are a number of small independent shops and supermarkets including Nisa, Tesco Express and Simply Fresh within a short walk of the campus so you will never be too far from everything you need to feel at home.

Sport & Fitness

London campus features a wealth of calming spaces, including a water garden and lake.

You can also take advantage of the [on-site gym](#) or grab a hire bike and cycle around London.



Paisley Campus

Catering

Catering facilities can be found in the Hub and at the Atrium and offer a variety of hot and cold food. The campus is only a 5 minute walk to the town centre which also has a wide choice of cafes, restaurant and takeaways. There are vending machines throughout the campus including at the Neuk, selling drinks and snacks.

Entertainment

The **Students' Union** runs a wide variety of events for all students on campus – see the website or visit the Student Union building on Storie Street.

The **'Showcase'** multi-screen cinema complex is located at Phoenix Retail Park, Linwood Road, Paisley. See the website for advance bookings and programme information. Buses leave from Paisley Cross for Linwood Road. There are also multi-screen cinemas at Braehead and Silverburn shopping centres. Paisley Arts Centre in New Street, PA1 1EZ and Paisley Town Hall, in Abbey Close PA1 1JF host musical and theatrical events. For tickets and information see www.whatsonrenfrewshire.co.uk/. Local newspapers will have details of local events and **'The List'** has details of what's on throughout the UK.

Paisley also has a variety of pubs and clubs – check with other students which ones are popular. Glasgow city centre is 10 minutes by train and is one of the most vibrant and popular cities in the UK. There is a lot to do and see – cultural events, museums, art galleries, parks, monuments, live music, cinema, theatre and a lively night life. See <http://peoplemakeglasgow.com/> for information on attractions and events in Glasgow.

Shopping

Paisley town centre has a range of shops. See www.paisleycentre.co.uk and www.piazzapaisley.co.uk for more details. A greater selection of stores can be found nearby at **Braehead Shopping Centre** and **Silverburn Shopping Centre**. Buses run from Paisley to Braehead and Silverburn regularly throughout the day. Alternatively, travel into Glasgow city centre by train or bus.

Food Shopping

The nearest supermarkets to UWS student accommodation are 'Morrisons' at Anchor Mills or Falside Road, 'Tesco' at East Lane and 'Asda' at Phoenix Retail Park on Linwood Road. Budget supermarket 'Aldi' is also on Neilston Road and on Ferguslie Main Road and 'Lidl' is located on Renfrew Road. These supermarkets are located on bus routes with buses leaving from Paisley town centre. Tesco and Asda may offer a delivery service to your area – check online.

A 'Farmers Market' is held on the second and the last Saturday of each month in Paisley Town Centre. Local farmers sell their produce including a variety of good quality organic food. Expect to pay more for some items. Local supermarkets and shops sell some international food items. Search online for details of specialist stores.

Sport & Fitness

The **Students' Union** runs a wide variety of sporting clubs open to all students. Check at the Students' Union building in Storie Street or email sp@sauws.org.uk for an up to date list of teams and societies. The gym on level 3 of the Students' Union building is free to all UWS students and has a wide range of equipment.

The **Lagoon Leisure Centre**, 11 Christie Street, PA1 1NB has a swimming pool and a fitness suite. Various fitness classes are also held there.

Pure Gym offer gym access and fitness classes and no contract membership. The gym is located a 15 min walk from campus on Renfrew Road PA3 4BX.



Contact the Student Hub Team

If you require support, see the [Student Hub team webpage](#) for up to date contact details and opening hours.

Contact the International Student Support Team

See the [International Student Support team SharePoint page](#) for information on how to get in touch with us (note that you must sign in to your UWS Microsoft 365 account to access our SharePoint site).

Follow us on social media:

X (Twitter): @UWS IntSupport

Instagram: www.instagram.com/uwsstudentservices

In the event of any immediate emergency, the Emergency services (the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance) can be reached by phoning 999. (After dialling 999, if you are in too much danger to speak, dial 55).

Contact the Police by dialling 101 for any non-emergency matter.

Term Dates 2023/2024

Term 1

Monday 4 September – Friday 15 December 2023

Official Vacation Period

Saturday 16 December 2023 – Sunday 7 January 2024

Term 2

Monday 8 January – Thursday 28 March 2024

Official Vacation Period

Friday 29 March – Sunday 7 April 2024

Term 2 Continues

Monday 8 April – Friday 3 May 2024

Term 3

Tuesday 7 May – Friday 16 August 2024



Student
Services



International Student Support