freshers' Guide 24/25



university of bristol

designed and written by the two amas (amaaney & amanina)

MCS committee 24/25



Hello :)
Welcome to the 24/25 Freshers' Guide specially curated for you. We hope this guide will help you navigate your time here at the University of Bristol!

As the committee, we want to help you feel at ease with some tips we've found very helpful!

First, say hello to this year's committee members:

President: Haziq Hakimi
Vice President: Esmerelda Sentia
Secretary: Eldylea
Treasurer: Amanina
Public Relations Officer: Hazeq Emir
Cultural Equalities Officer: Ridhwan Syamil
Welfare Officer: Ameera Nur
Sports Officer: Vesagan Pillaai
Social Media Officer: Amaaney Zulqarnain

Please do not hesitate to contact us because we are ready to help you!

Salam 1 Malaysia.
Dengan Tulus Ikhlas.
MCS Bristol







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ACCOMMODATION
key terms

HALF-BOARD (CATERED)
Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided throughout the week.
Some don't provide lunch.

SELF-CATERED
Cook for yourself
Shared kitchen within flat

EN-SUITE
Room with own bathroom

TWIN
2 students per room

STUDIO
En-suite with kitchen in same space

ACCESSIBLE
Students with special needs can request this when applying for accommodation

check this link to know nearby necessities

UoB Uni accommodations

Map for Accommodation Guide

Urban Students

visa

APPLICATION

1 Accept offer.

- **Choose** Firm and Insurance universities by the deadline set by UCAS
- Cooling off period (14 Days from reply date), contact UCAS if choices need to be changed.
- Check **conditions** of offer and deadline to fulfil conditions (academic and financial deposit if needed from uni only)

2 Prepare Documents

- **CAS** (Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies) from the university.
- Valid **passport** (at least 6 months validity)
- **Proof of funds**: Financial Affidavit/Statement (for sponsored students) // Bank letter and accompanying documents (privately funded)
- **Tuberculosis** (TB) clearance
- **ATAS** Certificate (if applicable)
- **Proof of qualifications**

3 Apply visa

- Apply online.
- **Info** required in the online form:
  - Personal details (refer to passport)
  - Course/study details
  - Travel history
  - Funding – sponsored/private
  - Travel plans (date arrival in UK)
  - Address in UK
  - BRP collection point
- **Book appointment** to VFS Jalan Ampang (scan fingerprints, take digital photo for BRP, surrender passport, checklist and appointment sheet)

  vfsglobalwebsite



CAS

You will receive this in your email. Make sure to check your junk or spam inboxes too. It will not be sent in proper PDF form. Print the email page to obtain it in PDF form.

This email contains important details such as:

- CAS Number
- Course details
- Address to collect your BRP (Biometric residence permit) when in Bristol.

PROOF OF FUNDS

PRIVATE FINANCE

- Savings or Current accounts / Fixed Deposits
- Cash maintained in the account for at least 28 days consecutively 28 days before VISA application submission
- Evidence – bank statements / bank letter / savings passbook
- Account holder (student/parents)
- Consent letter from parents for you to use funds
- Translated birth certificate to prove relationship

ATAS

ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY APPROVAL SCHEME

Can take up to 1-2 months for approval, please apply at your earliest opportunity and apply with a VALID passport

Some courses require ATAS certificate (Masters level – MEng, MSc)

- 🔗Online application (apply for both Firm and Insurance separately)

Information needed to include in ATAS

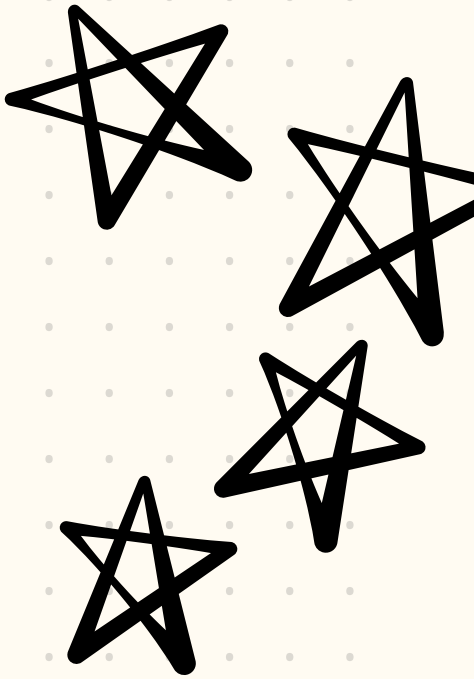
- CAH3 code (🔗UoB CAH3 code list) and course modules (check on university website according to your chosen courses
- Personal details
- Personal statement on why you want to study the course
- 2 referees (known for at least 3 yrs) – secondary school/college teachers
- Current studies
- Funding information

Approved certificate will be sent to your email, then you will send it to your university.

visa

MORE TO KNOW

- Bring multiple copies of each essential document (just in case).
- Get translated documents either by an official translator or an educational provider.
- Make sure your visa starts at least 1 week before you travel to the UK.
- Double check your forms before submitting. Get MABECS to assist.
- When paying for visa and NHS...





...only credit cards and debit cards are allowed.

- Keep a list of all the countries you've visited in the past 10 years along with the arrival and departure dates (needed during application). #check the immigration stamps

Start Early!



Start Packing!

DOCUMENTS

Passport + visa
BRP collection letter
UCAS acceptance letter
Financial Aid Proof
IELTS Cert
Tenancy Agreement
Any relevant academic certs

CLOTHES

Bring only your essentials, and always make sure to have a few pairs in your carry-on luggage as there have been times where checked-in luggages arrived late

MEDICATION TOILETRIES

Encouraged to bring from Malaysia as it's more convenient than getting it in the UK (esp prescribed meds). just bring 2 weeks worth of toiletries

LIVING APPLIANCES

Ideally bring your own rice cooker from home. Most of your appliances can be bought here when you arrive.



Finances

E-Wallets

WISE, monzo, Revolut

Advisable to open e-wallet services, easier for daily use.

Transferring Money

WISE

One of the lowest exchange rates to transfer from MYR to GBP.

Bank Accounts

LLOYDS BANK, BARCLAYS, Santander, NatWest, HSBC

Essential Memberships

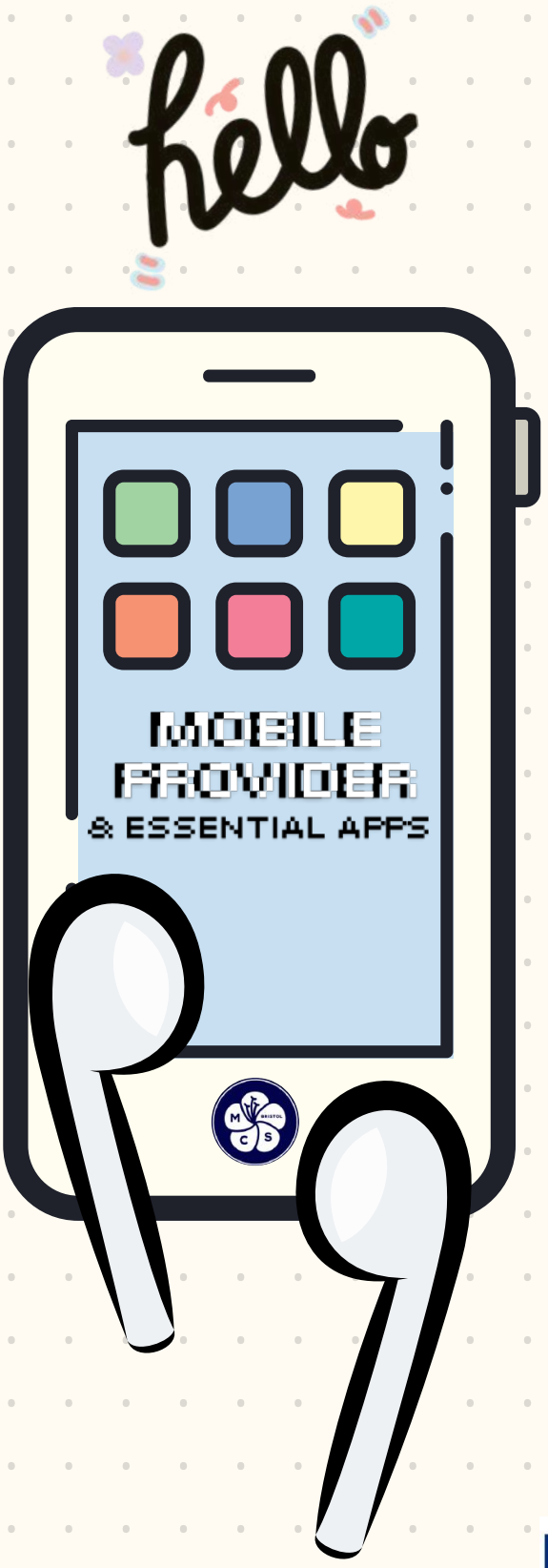
TESCO CLUBCARD, nectar, Boots, Superdrug, IKEA Family, co op

Wallets

Pay, G Pay

Digital wallets are super useful here. When you go around, all you need is your phone!

Apply for memberships for free to save money when shopping for groceries.



GET A NEW SIM CARD AND A UK NUMBER

There are lots of SIM Card providers here, you can order a SIM from Malaysia or get one when you arrive in Bristol.

CHOOSE YOUR DATA PLAN WISELY

Some £10 packages are sufficient, with some providing 40GB of mobile data. You will not need a lot of data as most places have excellent wi-fi.

SOME KNOWN PROVIDERS

VOXI, 3, EE, giffgaff

STUDENT DISCOUNTS

StudentBeans

UNiDAYS

TRAVEL APPS

national express

Uber

megabus.com low cost intercity bus travel

Bolt

Citymapper

FLiXBUS

First Bus

TRAINPAL

Google Maps



Arrival in the UK

How do I get to the city centre?

Most important early preparations!

Make sure you have data (Roaming using your MSian number / buy Sim card at airport). This is much needed for navigation when you arrive. By now, you should have already memorised your accommodation's name or address. Use Google Maps/Citymapper to find your way. Activate your free bus pass (for those who are staying in Uni accommodations) by following the instructions given by the university. Have some money in GBP prepared in your Wise account. [note: the U1, 3, 4 and 72 buses are free with your free bus pass!]



Landed in Bristol Airport

First Step :

Take the Airport flyer bus either to the City Centre or the Bristol Bus and Coach Station - depends on which is closer to your accommodation. (there is student price of around £7).

Second Step :

Check your preferred travel app (Google Maps/Citymapper) and use it to navigate your way to your accommodation. Some may be within walking distance from the centre/bus station but some might be easier to access using the local buses.

Third Step :

Check-in at your accommodation.



Landed in London Airports

First Step :

Check the travel app and identify the earliest bus from your arrival. Most of the coaches are able to reach Bristol City Centre. Buy the ticket to Bristol from their website or download their app (You can buy in advance before your arrival, however this is a bit risky as sometimes immigration queues can get very long and you might miss the bus)

Based on the bus you are taking, choose these stops :

- NATIONAL EXPRESS : Bristol Bus and Coach Station
- FlixBus : Bristol Bond Street North/South
- MegaBus : Bristol Bond Street

There are also trains from Heathrow, but using coaches are more preferable as they stop directly at Bristol's City Centre. Trains may require a few changes before reaching Bristol and it will be a hassle to walk around with all your luggage. However, in the case where you would prefer to use the train, the Bristol train station is Bristol Temple Meads.

make sure you check your terminal number

Second Step :

Check your preferred travel app (Google Maps/Citymapper) and use it to navigate your way to your accommodation. Some may be within walking distance from the bus/train station, but some might be easier to access using the local buses. If you used the train, certain buses stop at Temple Meads, but among the free buses (that come with your free bus pass), only the 72 stops at Temple Meads.

Third Step :

Check-in at your accommodation.

To-Do List

first few weeks in Bristol

Collect your BRP card, student card (UCard) and book a slot for a document check

Set up your bank acccounts
Some banks need a referral letter from the uni
Go to the bank physically or set up your account online

Before arriving you MUST do your registration online before 9th Sept 2024

Register with the Students' Health Services (NHS) register online

Join Fresher's Week! Stay tuned to the Bristol SU instagram for updates :)

Come and visit us at the Fresher's Fair on 13th Sept 2024!

MCS Siblings Scheme

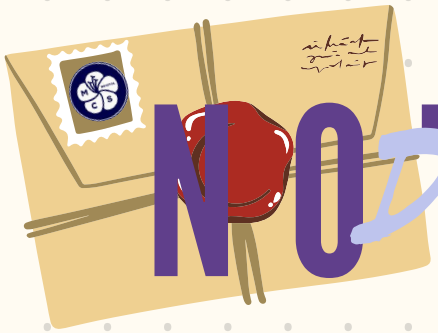
An MCS tradition where freshers can sign up to be "adiks" and assigned to a pair of senior students (abangs/kakaks). Family usually consist of 5 freshers and 2 seniors

Siblings will do regular meet ups throughout the year (food and any events)

They'll be there to support and guide you during your first year in Bristol

Very recommended to make connections and get to know what it's like to be a Malaysian student in Bristol..

Signups start during summer break. Keep an eye out for our Instagram updates @mcsbristol and join our 🔗 Freshers' WhatsApp Groupchat !



NOTES TO Dear Self

I need to familiarise myself with the Uni grounds and with my accommodation. Especially the grocery stores and bus stations!

I must memorise the routes to my classes, because I don't want to be late.

Any important documents, I must keep safely, as anything can happen anytime.

I want to live comfortably, therefore I need to make sure I manage my expenses so that I have extra change for emergencies.

I am a student, so I'm gonna take advantage of that by getting student discounts. I only need to bring my UCard everywhere I go or use UniDays/StudentBeans.

I'm gonna make new friends so that I won't feel lonely here by going to the events hosted by MCS, and maybe I can go travel with these new friends I'm gonna make. Maybe they'll be my housemates for the upcoming years!

I must get out of my comfort zone and not be afraid to ask for help when needed. I have a caring Malaysian community here that is always willing to welcome me and guide me with open arms.

thank you

This marks the end of your 24/25 Freshers' Guide! We hope that it helped you, even if it's just a little bit ;)



You can contact us at our official MCS instagram account at @mcsbristol or you can even get in touch with our committee members directly.

Please also check your emails and look at the University of Bristol website for more up-to-date information. And while you're at it, join the MCS Fresher's WhatsApp group chat posted in our Instagram linktree.

Good luck, because we are all very excited to meet you in September!!
Salam 1Malaysia, Dengan Tulus Ikhlas,
MCS <3

