

International
Office



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

January 2025

Name

Student ID

WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

Thank you for choosing Birmingham City University (BCU) as your place of study.

As Director of International and Transnational Education, I would like to offer a very warm welcome to you, on behalf of all of us at the University.

Birmingham City University is focused on making your experience here a positive and enjoyable one. We will support you through your new and exciting journey to gain a qualification that will not only increase your employability within the UK and throughout the world, but also give you the opportunity to develop your personal and social skills.

The International Office has been working hard to ensure the International Orientation programme is packed full of useful information and lots of opportunities for you to make friends and settle in to life in the UK. If you need anything, please ask any of us.

The programme includes a variety of induction sessions covering a range of topics including Health and Wellbeing, the Library Workshop, Staying Safe in Birmingham, Understanding British Culture, Where to go in Birmingham and the UK, and Money, Banking and Budgeting, including how to open a bank account.

As well as the programme providing you with all the essential information that you require during the talks, there are many fun and exciting social activities for you to take part in such as Movie Afternoons, BCU's Bingo, Activity Afternoons, and many more. For any students who are not able to join the talks or the social events, please note this is a 4-week Orientation programme, so there is plenty of time to get involved when you arrive.

If you need anything throughout the programme, there is plenty of support available to you. We have the International Welcome Desk open in the Curzon Building on Monday to Friday in week 1 from 9.30am to 5pm and in weeks 2 – 4 from 10am to 4pm.

I look forward to welcoming you and I wish you every success and happiness during your time at Birmingham City University.

Parmila Murria
Director of International and Transnational Education

OUR BUDDIES ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

We have a dedicated team of Student Buddies to help you throughout Orientation.

All our Buddies are current students at the University and are giving up their time for free to ensure you have a supported and fun-packed Orientation.

Our Buddies are here to:

- Support you during your Orientation and help you to settle in.
- Answer any questions you have about life at the University, Birmingham, or the UK.
- Help you to solve any problems you may have during International Orientation.
- Take you on Campus Tours and Birmingham City Centre Tours.
- Ensure you have the best time and make it easier for you to make new friends.
- Help you complete your 'Passport to BCU'.



HOW ORIENTATION WORKS

As students arrive from all over the world, we want to make Orientation as accessible as possible. Some students will arrive in the UK later than others but we're making sure that nobody misses out on key information and opportunities to make friends.

To register for International Orientation and collect your Welcome Bag, please visit the International Welcome Desk.

Week 1 – Monday 13 to Friday 17 January

The first week of Orientation will be held entirely on-campus in the Curzon Building, City Centre Campus. Check the timetable for session start times and come along to Room C087 on the ground floor to join us for registration, the International Information Fair and any social activities. There will be information sessions in the morning and afternoon upstairs in Lecture Hall C192 with a social event in the evening in C087. Come and meet the International Events Team and our Student Buddies, who will be able to answer your questions and help you get familiar with the campus before classes start.

Weeks 2 to 4 - Monday 20 January to Friday 7 February

The following weeks of the International Orientation programme will follow a blended approach of online information sessions and on-campus social events (in both City Centre and City South campus buildings). Please refer to the programme to check which sessions will be online and click the title to join on MS Teams.

JOINING SOCIAL EVENTS

For many of our social events, you can book a ticket via the International Office website. See what's on and never miss an event.



www.bcu.ac.uk/international/preparing-for-the-uk/iow

BCUSU also regularly run events in the Eagle and Ball. Check out what's on here: www.bcusu.com/whats-on



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- Please email any questions to international.events@bcu.ac.uk
- If you have trouble finding a session on campus, please view this guide to our City Centre Campus: www.bcu.ac.uk/cc-map



INTERNATIONAL WELCOME DESK

The International Welcome Desk will be open throughout the entire programme to answer any questions that you may have about starting your journey at BCU. Please do not hesitate to pop along and say 'Hi!' and just come for a chat and we will be happy to see you. You can ask us anything from 'How do I connect to Wi-Fi on campus?' to 'I need help to enrol'.

Remember to pop by as soon as you arrive to collect your International Welcome Bag containing all sorts of free goodies and useful items to help you get settled in to life at BCU and the UK!

Where To Find Us

Look out for the purple International Welcome Desk signs!

The International Welcome Desk will be based in the Curzon Atrium space opposite the main entrance barriers for the entire Orientation programme (except 23rd and 27th of January, and 4th and 5th of February).

You can find us at Atrium 3, outside Room C087 on the 23rd January and at Curzon B on the 27th January and 4th of February.

Note: We don't have the desk space on the 5th February due to a University Open Day.

Opening Times

Week 1 – Monday 13 January to Friday 17 January
9.30am – 5pm, Curzon Atrium

Weeks 2 to 4 – Monday 20 January to Friday 7 February
10am – 4pm, Curzon Atrium

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION HELPDESK

For those students who have yet to arrive, we will also be hosting a daily Virtual International Orientation Helpdesk to provide any support that you need every weekday throughout the programme at 12 – 12.30pm. Please scan the QR code below or click on the helpdesk title to join.



www.bcu.ac.uk/international/welcome

WEEK 1

13 – 17 JANUARY

SCAN TO BOOK

on-campus events,
or join online events



On Campus (Physical tickets)

On Campus (digital tickets)

Online session

Monday 13 January	9.30 – 11am Main Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration Collect your free welcome bag Meet your Buddy Group International Welcome Desk
	Registration onwards Buddy Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet your Buddy (Current Students) Meet other students Register with the doctor Tours of campus
	1 – 1.45pm The Colour Campus Hunt	Follow your Buddy to join the big hunt! Yellow: Curzon C087 Blue: Curzon C140
	2 – 3pm Welcome Talk	<p>A welcome to the University and the city of Birmingham. Hear from our Vice Chancellor as he welcomes you to the university. Meet key staff and see what's happening during the International Orientation week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Events Team Orientation Co-ordinators Student Services Help Zone Manager Birmingham City Students' Union IT
	4 – 5pm Welcome Reception	After the Welcome Talk, we will have non-alcoholic drinks reception where you can come and mingle with new students, Buddies and staff from the University.
Tuesday 14 January	9 – 10am Talk: Essential Information Session	Don't miss this one! This talk will give you the information you require to get settled into life in the UK and at Birmingham City University.
	10 – 10.30am Talk: Health and Wellbeing	Find out how to look after yourself during your time in the UK.
	10.30 – 11am Talk: Staying Safe in Birmingham	Top tips from a local police officer for keeping you and your friends safe.
	12 – 1pm Lunch Hour	Bring your own food, relax, listen to music, play some games make new friends and talk with our buddies for lunch hour.
	1 – 5pm Sports Afternoon	<p>Your chance to take part in a fun packed afternoon of various sports and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badminton Indoor football Indoor board games Basketball Table tennis Traditional British games <p>(Please remember to wear comfortable clothing and footwear)</p>

Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday 15 January	9.30 – 10.30am Talk: Careers+ - Finding Part Time Work in the UK	Careers+ is the careers service for all BCU students and graduates. This talk will provide you with information on the services they offer, tips for finding a part-time job and UK CV advice. The team will also advise how you can make the most of your time here and how to contact them.
	10.30 – 11.30am Talk: IT Welcome – Introduction to Cyber Culture	Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.
	12.30 – 2.30pm International Information Fair	Come along and meet your professional services and find out how they can support you during your studies.
	2.30 – 3pm Talk: Graduate+ Induction	Learn about the fantastic Graduate+ Award scheme and how to stand out to future employers.
	3 – 3.30pm Talk: How To – Hacks, Tips and Tricks	Watch your student Buddies teach you some hacks, tips and tricks to help you survive student life!
	4 – 6:30pm The British Barn Dance	This is the opportunity of a lifetime! Students always talk about this event. You'll learn a traditional British dance and have a lot of fun. Prizes to be won for the best moves.
Thursday 16 January	9.30 – 10.30am Talk: International Advisers and UKVI Compliance	Find out about Visas and other legal requirements including protecting your Student Visa and Graduate Route.
	10.30 – 11.30am Workshop: Understanding British Culture	A fun talk presented by our Student Buddies, designed to help you understand the British culture, social rules, food, and Birmingham slang.
	11.30am – 12.30pm Talk: Where to go in Birmingham and the UK	Join the buddies as they present an overview of the many things to do and see in and around Birmingham, from tourist attractions to restaurants.
	12.30 – 1.30pm British Afternoon Tea	Come and enjoy a traditional British Afternoon Tea with plenty of tea and cake.
	2 – 2.30pm Talk: Library Induction	Find out the differences of studying in the UK from our expert librarians.

Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

WEEK 2

20 – 24 JANUARY

SCAN TO BOOK
on-campus events,
or join online events



On Campus (digital tickets) Online session

Thurs 16 Jan	2.30 - 3pm Talk: BCUSU Students' Union – How to Get Involved	Come and meet the Birmingham City University Students' Union to find out how to make the most of your time at BCU and in the UK.
	3.30 - 6pm The Activity Afternoon	Join us for an exciting afternoon of friendship-building games and activities with the opportunity to win prizes. The perfect way to make new friends, try activities, and have lots of fun.
Friday 17 January	9 - 10am Talk: Money, Banking, Budgeting	This talk will help you to understand the British currency, costs of living, how to open a bank account and tips on saving money and student discounts.
	10 - 11am Talk: Centre for Academic Success	This talk will cover information about how the Centre can support you through study guides, workshops, resources, and tutorials.
	11am - 2pm Birmingham City Tours and optional lunch	Meet up with Buddies for a tour of Birmingham city centre. The Buddies will show you all the best places to visit, eat, drink, shop, and party. The Buddies will suggest some places for lunch if you would like to eat together – food and drinks charged as ordered. We suggest that you wear comfortable shoes.
	2pm - onwards: Free time End of Week Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you enrolled? • Do you know what you are doing next week? • Have you joined in, made friends and had lots of fun this week? • Do you know where International Office are and how they can help you? • Have you found out about the Students' Union and all the fun stuff you can do during your time at the University?
	5 - 7pm The Main Event	The finale for this Orientation with awards, music, performances and dancing. Find out which colour team has won this year's International Orientation Week Trophy.

Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

International Orientation Helpdesk
12 - 12.30pm

We will also be hosting a daily Virtual International Orientation Helpdesk to provide any support that you need every weekday throughout the programme. Just click the title or scan the QR code to join!



Monday 20 January	9.30 - 10am Orientation Welcome	A welcome to the university and the city of Birmingham. A welcome from the Orientation team telling you about the exciting activities and talks throughout the week and how you can get involved.
	11am - 12pm Buddy Time	Meet your Student Buddies who will take you on a campus tour at either City Centre Campus or City South Campus , where you can hear about their experiences at BCU and ask any questions you have.
	12 - 1pm Lunch Hour	Bring your own food, relax, listen to music, play some games make new friends and talk with our buddies for lunch hour.
	2 - 3pm Talk: Centre for Academic Success	This talk will cover information about how the Centre can support you through study guides, workshops, resources, and tutorials.
Tuesday 21 January	3 - 3.30pm Talk: How To – Hacks, Tips, Tricks	Watch your student Buddies teach you some hacks, tips and tricks to help you survive student life!
	4.30 - 6pm Games Afternoon	Come along for a relaxed afternoon of board games, gaming apps and more. Make friends and show your competitive side in this great event.
	9.30 - 10.30am Campus Tour (Repeated)	If you missed your campus tour yesterday, don't worry. Come along to this session where our buddies can show you around either City Centre Campus or City South Campus .
	10.30 - 11.30am Talk: Careers+ - Finding Part Time Work in the UK	Careers+ is the careers service for all BCU students and graduates. This talk will provide you with information on the services they offer, tips for finding a part-time job and UK CV advice. The team will also advise how you can make the most of your time here and how to contact them.
	1 - 2pm Talk: Health and Wellbeing	Find out how to look after yourself during your time in the UK.
	2 - 3pm Talk: IT Welcome - Introduction to Cyber Culture	Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.
	4 - 6pm The Activity Afternoon	Join us for an exciting afternoon of friendship-building games and activities with the opportunity to win prizes. The perfect way to make new friends, try activities, and have lots of fun. Event at City South.





Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday 22 January	9.30 - 10am Talk: Essential Information Session		Don't miss this one! This talk will give you the information you require to get settled into life in the UK and at Birmingham City University.
	10 - 10.30am Talk: BCUSU Students' Union - How to Get Involved		Come and meet the Birmingham City University Students' Union to find out how to make the most of your time at BCU and in the UK.
	12 - 2pm British Afternoon Tea		Come and enjoy a traditional British Afternoon Tea with plenty of tea and cake. Get to know your fellow students and Buddies. You will be joined with BCUIIC and the International Events Team who are hosting this event.
	3 - 3.30pm Talk: Library Induction		Find out the differences of studying in the UK from our expert librarians.
	3.30 - 4pm Talk: Staying Safe in Birmingham		Top tips from a police officer for keeping you and your friends' safe.
4 - 5pm Afternoon Tunes and Games		Time to relax! Music will be playing and there will be games available.	
Thursday 23 January	9.30 - 10.30am Talk: International Advisers and UKVI Compliance		Find out about Visas and other legal requirements including protecting your Student Visa and Graduate Route.
	10.30am - 12.30pm Badminton		Your chance to take part in a fun and free badminton afternoon. Equipment is ready to borrow!
	2 - 2.45pm Workshop: Understanding British Culture		A fun workshop presented by our Student Buddies, designed to help you understand the British culture, social rules, food, and Birmingham slang.
	2.45 - 3.30pm Talk: Where to go in Birmingham and the UK		Join the buddies as they present an overview of the many things to do and see in and around Birmingham, from tourist attractions to restaurants.
4 - 5.30pm BCU's Bingo		Join us for a social evening of Bingo! Grab your bingo cards and have chances to win prizes through this amazing event.	

Click the session title to join an online event. 

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

Friday 24 January	9 - 10am Talk: Graduate+ Induction		Learn about the fantastic Graduate+ Award scheme and how to stand out to future employers.
	10 - 11am Talk: Money, Banking and Budgeting		This talk will help you to understand the British currency, costs of living, how to open a bank account and tips on saving money and student discounts.
	11.30am - 3pm Birmingham City Tours		Meet up with Buddies for a tour of Birmingham city centre from either the City Centre or City South campuses . The Buddies will show you all the best places to visit, eat, drink, shop, and party. The Buddies will suggest some places for lunch if you would like to eat together - food and drinks are charged as ordered. We suggest that you wear comfortable shoes.
	4 - 6pm End of Week Event		The finale for this Orientation week with music, dancing and refreshment. Come and see or show off your own talents at this event.

Click the session title to join an online event. 

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

International Orientation Helpdesk

12 - 12.30pm

We will also be hosting a daily Virtual International Orientation Helpdesk to provide any support that you need every weekday throughout the programme. Just click the title or scan the QR code to join!



WEEK 3

27 – 31 JANUARY

SCAN TO BOOK
on-campus events,
or join online events



On Campus (digital tickets) Online session

Monday 27 January	9.30 - 10am Orientation Welcome		A welcome to the university and the city of Birmingham. A welcome from the Orientation team telling you about the exciting activities and talks throughout the week and how you can get involved.
	11am - 12pm Buddy Time		Meet your Student Buddies who will take you on a campus tour at either City Centre Campus or City South Campus , where you can hear about their experiences at BCU and ask any questions you have.
	1.30 - 2pm Talk: Essential Information Session		Don't miss this one! This talk will give you the information you require to get settled into life in the UK and at Birmingham City University.
	2 - 3pm Talk: IT Welcome - Introduction to Cyber Culture		Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.
	3 - 5pm Badminton Afternoon		Your chance to take part in a fun and free badminton afternoon. Equipment is ready to borrow!
Tuesday 28 January	9 - 10am Campus Tour (Repeat)		If you missed your campus tour yesterday, don't worry. Come along to this session where our buddies can show you around either City Centre Campus or City South Campus .
	10am - 3pm BCUSU Welcome Fair		BCUSU - your Students' Union will be hosting the welcome fair - a chance for you to find out societies, university services, Birmingham, get some freebies and more. Visit www.bcusu.com for more details.
Wednesday 29 January	9.30 - 10.30am Talk: Money, Banking, Budgeting		This talk will help you to understand the British currency, costs of living, how to open a bank account and tips on saving money and student discounts.
	10.30 - 11.30am Talk: Careers+ - Finding Part-Time Work in the UK		Careers+ is the careers service for all BCU students and graduates. This talk will provide you with information on the services they offer, tips for finding a part-time job and UK CV advice. The team will also advise how you can make the most of your time here and how to contact them.
	1 - 2pm British Afternoon Tea		Come and enjoy a traditional British Afternoon Tea with plenty of tea and cake.
	2 - 2.30pm Talk: Staying Safe in Birmingham		Top tips from a police officer for keeping you and your friends' safe.
	3.30 - 5pm Movie Afternoon		Take a seat and enjoy the afternoon watching a film. We're keeping the film a secret until the unveiling on the afternoon! Hope you enjoy!

Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

Thursday 30 January	9.30 - 10am Talk: How To - Hacks, Tips and Tricks		Watch your Student Buddies teach you some hacks, tips and tricks to help you survive student life!
	10.30 - 11am Talk: Library Induction		Find out the differences of studying in the UK from our expert librarians.
	11.30am - 2.30pm Lunar New Year		Come and join us at the BCU City South Campus - Seacole Building to celebrate the Lunar New Year, take part in activities, enjoy traditional cuisine and a special Lion Dance performance.
Friday 31 January	3 - 4.30pm BCU's Bingo		Join us for a social evening of Bingo! Grab your bingo cards and have chances to win prizes through this amazing event. Event at City South.
	9.30 - 10.30am Talk: Graduate+ Induction		Learn about the fantastic Graduate+ Award scheme and how to stand out to future employers.
	10.30 - 11.30am Talk: Health and Wellbeing		Find out how to look after yourself during your time in the UK.
	11.30am - 3pm Birmingham City Tour		Meet up with Buddies for a tour of Birmingham city centre from either the City Centre or City South campuses . The Buddies will show you all the best places to visit, eat, drink, shop, and party. The Buddies will suggest some places for lunch if you would like to eat together - food and drinks are charged as ordered. We suggest that you wear comfortable shoes.
	3 - 5pm Games Afternoon		Come along for a relaxed afternoon of board games, gaming apps and more. Make friends and show your competitive side in this great event.

Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

International Orientation Helpdesk
12 - 12.30pm

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WEEK 4

3 - 7 FEBRUARY

SCAN TO BOOK
on-campus events,
or join online events



On Campus [digital tickets] Online session

Monday 3 February	9.30 - 10am Orientation Welcome	A welcome to the university and the city of Birmingham. A welcome from the Orientation team telling you about the exciting activities and talks throughout the week and how you can get involved.
	11am - 12pm Buddy Time	Meet your Student Buddies who will take you on a campus tour at either City Centre Campus or City South Campus , where you can hear about their experiences at BCU and ask any questions you have.
	2 - 2.30pm Talk: BCUSU Students' Union - How to Get Involved	Come and meet the Birmingham City University Students' Union to find out how to make the most of your time at BCU and in the UK.
	2.30 - 3.15pm Talk: Library Induction	Find out the differences of studying in the UK from our expert librarians.
	3.30 - 5pm Movie Afternoon	Take a seat and enjoy the afternoon watching a film. We're keeping the film a secret until the unveiling in the afternoon! Hope you enjoy it!
Tuesday 4 February	9.30 - 10am Talk: Essential Information Session	Don't miss this one! This talk will give you the information you require to get settled into life in the UK and at Birmingham City University.
	10 - 11am Talk: IT Welcome - Introduction to Cyber Culture	Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.
	11am - 12pm Tunes and Games	Time to relax! Music will be playing and there will be games available. Event at City South.
	12.30 - 1pm Talk: Staying Safe in Birmingham	Top tips from a police officer for keeping you and your friends' safe.
	3 - 5pm Badminton Afternoon	Your chance to take part in a fun and free badminton afternoon. Equipment is ready to borrow!

Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

International Orientation Helpdesk 12 - 12.30pm

We will also be hosting a daily Virtual International Orientation Helpdesk to provide any support that you need every weekday throughout the programme. Just click the title or scan the QR code to join!



Wednesday 5 February	9.30 - 10.30am Talk: Health and Wellbeing	Find out how to look after yourself during your time in the UK.
	10.30 - 11am Talk: International Advisors and UKVI Compliance	Find out about Visas and other legal requirements including protecting your Student Visa and Graduate Route.
	12 - 1.30pm Games Afternoon	Come along for a relaxed afternoon of board games, gaming apps and more. Make friends and show your competitive side in this great event.
	2 - 3pm Talk: Centre for Academic Success	This talk will cover information about how the Centre can support you through study guides, workshops, resources, and tutorials.
	3.30 - 5pm Quiz Afternoon	Join us for a Quiz afternoon. Chat with fellow students and answer quick-fire questions. There are great prizes for the winners.
Thursday 6 February	9.30 - 10am Talk: How To - Hacks, Tips and Tricks	Watch your Student Buddies teach you some hacks, tips and tricks to help you survive student life!
	11am - 12pm British Afternoon Tea	Come and enjoy a traditional British Afternoon Tea with plenty of tea and cake. Event at City South.
	1 - 2pm Workshop: Understanding British Culture	A fun workshop presented by our Student Buddies, designed to help you understand British culture, social rules, food, and Birmingham slang.
	2 - 3pm Talk: Where to go in Birmingham and the UK	Join the buddies as they present an overview of the many things to do and see in and around Birmingham, from tourist attractions to restaurants.
Friday 7 February	3.30 - 5.30pm The Activity Afternoon	Join us for an exciting afternoon of friendship-building games and activities with the opportunity to win prizes. The perfect way to make new friends, try activities, and have lots of fun. Event at City South.
	9.30 - 10.30am Talk: Graduate+ Induction	Learn about the fantastic Graduate+ Award scheme and how to stand out to future employers.
	11am - 2.30pm Birmingham City Tours	Meet up with Buddies for a tour of Birmingham city centre from either the City Centre or City South campuses . The Buddies will show you all the best places to visit, eat, drink, shop, and party. The Buddies will suggest some places for lunch if you would like to eat together - food and drinks charged as ordered. We suggest that you wear comfortable shoes.
	4 - 6pm End of January 2025 Orientation Event	The finale of International Orientation January 2025 with food, music, and a chance to reflect on the past 4 weeks of our Orientation Programme. Come along to this event, get involved and have fun!

Click the session title to join an online event.

All in-person events are held at the City Centre Campus, unless otherwise stated.

PASSPORT TO BCU

Throughout the International Orientation please complete the checklist below.

- 1.** Complete your online enrolment and book an enrolment appointment through MySRS.
- 2.** Register with a GP (doctor). Drop in the International Welcome Desk for the GP Register link and instructions.
- 3.** Find your Faculty Student Centre.
- 4.** Visit the Library and set up your PIN number.
- 5.** Register and attend our social Orientation events.
- 6.** Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with our opportunities and free events for this new academic year.
- 7.** Upload a selfie from any evening event to our Facebook or Instagram pages using the hashtag #IOWJan25

 www.bcu.ac.uk/iow

 www.facebook.com/groups/iojan2025/

 www.instagram.com/bcu_international_events/