



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

International Orientation

September 2025

Name

Student ID

Welcome to Birmingham City University

I am delighted that you have chosen Birmingham City University (BCU) as your place of study.

First, I would like to wish you a very warm welcome to the University. I am pleased that you are joining our growing community of students, staff and alumni.

At BCU, we believe that university should be a transformative experience. We put students at the heart of everything we do to provide you with the skills and confidence to succeed, while creating memories you will cherish for the rest of your life. As you settle into life at BCU over the coming weeks, I hope you begin to benefit from the friendly environment that our students tell us is such a special part of studying here.

We have been established in the city of Birmingham since 1843. It is an extremely young and diverse city and welcomes people from all backgrounds and nationalities. We are very proud that the BCU community reflects that of our city, with more than 5,300 international students from 100 different countries.

The location of our University, at the centre of Birmingham, means that you will be ideally placed to experience everything the city has to offer. I hope you will soon start to explore the city and our campuses, benefitting from the outstanding facilities which support your learning experience during your time with us.

In the meantime, please make the most of the International Orientation programme, which is packed with useful information. It also features opportunities for you to make friends and settle into life in the UK.

Over the last few years, we have significantly increased our student support services, all of which will be detailed in your orientation sessions. From financial advice to mental health, we want to make sure you have the help and guidance you need. You will also find many social activities to take part in to meet other students.

You are at the beginning of a very exciting and transformational journey – don't be afraid to ask questions and seek advice should you need it. We are all here to support you.

I wish you all the very best with your studies.

Professor David Mba
Vice-Chancellor

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 8 to Friday 12 September

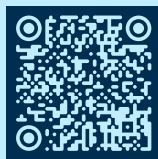
The first week of Orientation will be held entirely on-campus in the Curzon Building, City Centre Campus. Check the timetable for session start times and come along to Room C087 on the Ground Floor to join us for registration, the International Information Fair and any social activities. There will be information sessions in the morning and afternoon upstairs in Lecture Hall C192 with a social event in the evening in room 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 2-4 - Monday 15 September to Friday 3 October

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 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

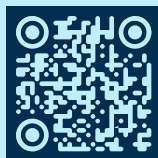
For many of our social events, you can book a ticket via our website. See what's on and never miss an event.



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

Click on the event titles to sign up for the events.

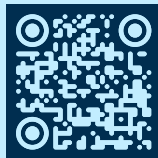
BCUSU also regularly run events in the Eagle & Ball. Check out what's on here: www.bcsu.com/whats-on



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



Week 1 8-12 September

Scan to book
on-campus events,
or join online events



On Campus (Physical tickets)



On Campus (digital tickets)



Online session

Monday 8 September	
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 C192
2 – 3pm Welcome Talk	A welcome to the university and the city of Birmingham. Meet key staff and see what's happening during the International Orientation week. Meet key staff and see what's happening during Orientation Week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Events Team Help Zone Manager Orientation Co-ordinators Birmingham City University Students' Union Student Services IT
3.30 – 4.30pm 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.
4.30 – 5.30pm BCU's Bingo	After the Welcome Reception, we will end day one of your orientation with Bingo. Come and grab some bingo cards and have chances to win prizes through this amazing event.









12 – 12.30pm
International Orientation Helpdesk













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!






Click the session title to join an online event

Tuesday 9 September		
9.30 – 10am Talk: How To - Hacks, Tips, Tricks		Watch your Student Buddies teach you some hacks, tips and tricks to help you survive student life.
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 our local Police Officer for keeping you and your friends safe.
11 – 11.30am Talk: IT Welcome – Introduction to Cyber Culture		Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.
12 – 2pm Afternoon Tunes and Games		Time to relax! Music will be playing and there will be games available.
2 – 2.30pm Talk: Library Induction		Find out the differences of studying in the UK from our expert librarians.
2.30 – 3pm Talk: BCU Students Union – How to Get Involved		Come and meet Birmingham City University Students' Union to find out how to make the most of your time at BCU and in the UK.
3.30 – 5pm 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.

Wednesday 10 September		
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.
11am – 12pm Talk: Crooks on Campus		Learn about the campaign called Crooks on Campus to help you understand what money muling is and how to protect yourself against financial fraud.
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, register with your GP (General Practitioner) and get some freebies here.
2.30 – 3pm Talk: Graduate+ Induction		Learn about the fantastic Graduate+ Award scheme and how to stand out to future employers.
3.30 – 6pm 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 11 September		
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 Visa.
10.30 – 11.15am Talk: 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.
11.15am – 12pm Talk: Where to go in Birmingham and the UK		Join the Student 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 Tea Afternoon		Come and enjoy a traditional British Tea Afternoon with plenty of tea and cake.
2 – 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 • Basketball • Squash • Football • Traditional British Games • Indoor Board Games

Friday 12 September		
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.
10am – 1pm Birmingham City Tours and optional lunch		Meet up with Buddies for a tour of Birmingham city centre either from Curzon Building (City Centre Campus) or Seacole Building (City South Campus). 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.
1pm 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? • Have you found out about the Students' Union and all the fun stuff you can do during your time at the University?
3 – 6pm 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.

12 – 12.30pm
International Orientation Helpdesk 

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 2

15-19 September



On Campus (digital tickets)



Online session

Scan to book

on-campus events,
or join online events



Monday 15 September

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, where you can hear about their experiences at BCU and ask any questions you have. This tour is available at both the City Centre Campus (meeting point: Curzon Building, International Orientation Helpdesk) and the City South Campus (meeting point: Seacole Building reception).
1 – 2pm 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.
2 - 3pm Talk: Health and Wellbeing		Find out how to look after yourself during your time in the UK.
3 – 4pm Talk: IT Welcome – Introduction to Cyber Culture		Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.
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.

Tuesday 16 September

9 – 10am Campus Tour		If you missed your campus tour, don't worry. Come along to this session where our buddies can show you around either the City Centre Campus (meeting point: Curzon Building, International Orientation Helpdesk) or the City South Campus (meeting point: Seacole Building reception).
10am - 3pm BCUSU City South Social		BCUSU, your Students' Union, will be hosting the City South Social - a chance for you to find out societies, meet your Officer Team 2025/2026, grab freebies and more. Visit www.bcsu.com for more details.

Wednesday 17 September

10.30am – 3.30pm
BCUSU Big 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.bcsu.com for more details.

Thursday 18 September

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 Visa.
11am - 12pm British Tea Afternoon		Come and enjoy a traditional British Tea Afternoon with plenty of tea and cake. Event at City South Campus - Seacole Building.
2 – 3pm Talk: 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.
3 - 4pm 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.
4.30 - 6pm 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 Campus - Seacole Building.

Friday 19 September

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, 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 either from Curzon Building (City Centre Campus) or Seacole Building (City South Campus). 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.
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.

12 - 12.30pm
International Orientation Helpdesk



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!



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

Click the session title to join an **online event**

Week 3

22-26 September

Scan to book

on-campus events,
or join online events



On Campus (digital tickets)



Online session

Monday 22 September

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, where you can hear about their experiences at BCU and ask any questions you have. This tour is available at both the City Centre Campus (meeting point: Curzon Building, International Orientation Helpdesk) and the City South Campus (meeting point: Seacole Building reception).

2 – 3pm
Talk: IT Welcome – Introduction to Cyber Culture



Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.

3.30 – 5pm
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.

Tuesday 23 September

9.30 – 10.30am
Campus Tour



If you missed your campus tour, don't worry. Come along to this session where our buddies can show you around either the City Centre Campus (meeting point: Curzon Building, International Orientation Helpdesk) or the City South Campus (meeting point: Seacole Building reception).

11am – 12pm
Talk: 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.

1 – 2pm
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.

2 – 3pm
Talk: BCU Students' Union – How to Get Involved



Come and meet Birmingham City University Students' Union to find out how to make the most of your time at BCU and in the UK.

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 Campus – Seacole Building.**

Wednesday 24 September

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 Tea Afternoon



Come and enjoy a traditional British Tea Afternoon with plenty of tea and cake.

2 – 3pm
Talk: Staying Safe in Birmingham



Top tips from our local Police Officer for keeping you and your friends safe.

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 25 September

9.30 – 10am
Talk: How To – Hacks, Tips, Tricks



Watch your Student Buddies teach you some hacks, tips and tricks to help you survive student life!

10.30 – 11.30am
Talk: Library Induction



Find out the differences of studying in the UK from our expert librarians.

11.30am – 12.30pm
Talk: International Advisers and UKVI Compliance



Find out about Visas and other legal requirements, including protecting your Student Visa and Graduate Visa.

2.30 – 4.30pm
Badminton Afternoon



Your chance to take part in a fun and free badminton afternoon. Equipment is ready to borrow!

Friday 26 September

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.

12 – 3pm
Birmingham City Tours



Meet up with Buddies for a tour of Birmingham city centre either from Curzon Building (City Centre Campus) or Seacole Building (City South Campus). 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.

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.

12 – 12.30pm
International Orientation Helpdesk



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!



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

Click the session title to join an **online event**

Week 4

29 September – 3 October

Scan to book

on-campus events,
or join online events



On Campus (digital tickets)



Online session

Monday 29 September

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, where you can hear about their experiences at BCU and ask any questions you have. This tour is available at both the City Centre Campus (meeting point: Curzon Building, International Orientation Helpdesk) and the City South Campus (meeting point: Seacole Building reception).
1 – 2pm Talk: BCU Students Union – How to Get Involved		Come and meet Birmingham City University Students' Union to find out how to make the most of your time at BCU and in the UK.
2.30 – 3.30pm Talk: Library Induction		Find out the differences of studying in the UK from our expert librarians.
4 – 6pm 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!

Tuesday 30 September

9.30 – 10.30am Campus Tour		If you missed your campus tour, don't worry. Come along to this session where our buddies can show you around either the City Centre Campus (meeting point: Curzon Building, International Orientation Helpdesk) or the City South Campus (meeting point: Seacole Building reception).
10.30 – 11.30am Talk: IT Welcome – Introduction to Cyber Culture		Find out about the many services available from the IT Team.
11.30am – 12.30pm Tunes and Games		Time to relax! Music will be playing and there will be games available. Event at City South Campus – Seacole Building.
12.30 – 1.30pm Talk: Staying Safe in Birmingham		Top tips from our local Police Officer for keeping you and your friends safe.
2.30 – 4.30pm Badminton Afternoon		Your chance to take part in a fun and free badminton afternoon. Equipment is ready to borrow!

Wednesday 1 October

9.30 – 10.30am Talk: Health and Wellbeing		Find out how to look after yourself during your time in the UK.
10.30 – 11.30am Talk: International Advisers and UKVI Compliance		Find out about Visas and other legal requirements, including protecting your Student Visa and Graduate Visa.
12 – 2pm 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.
3 – 4.30pm 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 2 October

9.30 – 10am Talk: How To – Hacks, Tips, Tricks		Watch your Student Buddies teach you some hacks, tips and tricks to help you survive student life!
11am – 12pm British Tea Afternoon		Come and enjoy a traditional British Tea Afternoon with plenty of tea and cake. Event at City South Campus – Seacole Building.
1 – 2pm Talk: 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.
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.
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 Campus – Seacole Building.

Friday 3 October

9.30 – 10.30am Talk: Graduate+ Induction		Learn about the fantastic Graduate+ Award scheme and how to stand out to future employers.
11am – 3pm Birmingham City Tours		Meet up with Buddies for a tour of Birmingham city centre either from Curzon Building (City Centre Campus) or Seacole Building (City South Campus). 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 September 2025 Orientation Event		The finale of International Orientation September 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!

12 – 12.30pm
International Orientation Helpdesk



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!



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

Click the session title to join an online event





International Welcome Desk

Scan to book
on-campus events,
or join online events



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 enroll!'.

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 settle in to life at BCU and the UK!

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.

Week 1 - Monday 8 September to Friday 12 September
9.30am - 5pm, Curzon Atrium

Week 2 to 4 - Monday 15th September to Friday, 3rd October
10am - 4pm, Curzon Atrium

International Orientation Welcome Desk

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.



Click the session title to join an **online event** ✨

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 School Office. ☐
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 **#IOWSept25** ☐

➤ www.bcu.ac.uk/iow

📘 www.facebook.com/groups/ioseptember2025

📷 www.instagram.com/bcu_international_events