

Support for international student families at the University of Leeds

Contacts at Leeds

Claire Freeston (International Marketing Manager for South Korea):

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The generic email for the International Student Office, including pre-arrival enquiries:

internationalwelcome@leeds.ac.uk

We welcome many students and their families each year to Leeds. You are welcome to contact Claire or the International Student Office directly to enquire about your individual circumstances if you wish to.

Support from the International Student Office

Students can attend a welcome talk when they arrive in Leeds. If they are arriving in September, they will receive information about the extended services available as part of our welcome services before arrival.

Postgraduate researchers, who may arrive in Leeds at different times of the year, are able to register for a welcome talk at the University upon arrival. For more information on the University's induction for postgraduate researchers, students can visit [here](#). Students can visit our [pre-arrival webpages](#) for information on preparing for Leeds.

Students can also access our webpages for current students and researchers with [family](#) in Leeds.

Our Global Community and Coffee Connections

Our Global Community events and activities aim to connect students and researchers to intercultural opportunities here in Leeds, and give them the chance to get to know other members of the student community. Find out more about our range of events and activities [here](#). Students can also connect with us on social media, via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Our monthly Coffee Connections events provide a relaxed environment for students, their partners, and/or families to come and take a break from studies, meet with other people, and share their experiences of living and studying in Leeds. For more information about upcoming Coffee Connections events, and information about our mailing list and social media pages, visit [here](#)

Family Accommodation

The University has limited family accommodation, so it is essential to contact the University's [Accommodation Services](#) as early as possible to find out about availability. Many families also find a home in the private sector. Find out more about accommodation for families [here](#). The [Unipol website](#) has a useful tool that students can use to find out about different areas to live in Leeds, with information on how expensive it is to live there, information about the area itself and distance to the city centre and University.

Schools

Students will **need a Leeds address** before they can start the application to schools process. Therefore applicants can look at the information beforehand to be familiar with the process before they arrive, but only once they have accommodation in Leeds and have arrived here will they be able to apply to schools directly. (Unfortunately sometimes the Leeds City Council website will not work outside of the UK.)

There is a dedicated Schools section of our website [here](#).

If students are looking for childcare in their first few weeks, [Family Information Leeds](#) is a great website to use to find local childminders or childcare agencies. (Unfortunately sometimes this website will not work outside of the UK.)

[Bright Beginnings Childcare Centre](#) is a childcare centre based on the University campus that offers a range of services for students, including childcare for children between the ages of three months and five years (pre-school) and a play scheme during school holidays for children aged between three and 11 years.

Childcare can be expensive in the UK so it's important that students budget for this.

It is important to note that the information above is applicable to free, state schools. If a student wants to pay for private (also known as independent) education for their child, then they will have to apply to schools directly. Information on private education in England can be found on the [Independent Schools Council website](#).

Under the following headings, we have included information on certain age-groups.

Childcare for children under the age of 3 years

If you have children under the age of 3 years, (the age at which a child starts Nursery - also known as Kindergarten), you can find out more information about [finding childcare](#) on our website.

Children above 5 years applying to School in the UK

All children in the UK from 5 years old are required to attend school. Under current law, children in England must be in education from the term (semester) after their fifth birthday.

Leeds City Council publish weekly 'vacancy lists' indicating the spaces available at each school every week. If a vacancy is available, all children should apply through the 'In Year Common Preference' form as linked to on our Schools information page. Students who want to find information about individual schools, including the different services available, may find it helpful to visit the individual school's websites or contact them directly via [this link](#)

The Schools link on our International Student Office webpage outlines the full process [here](#).