

'WELCOME PROGRAMME' FOR STUDENTS ARRIVING IN BRISTOL

Are you coming to study in Bristol in Autumn 2008? Yes? -then read on...

Leaving home to go and study at university can be a little daunting, even more so when the university is in a completely different country! Different language? Different culture? Different climate? Not sure what to expect? Where to go? What to do?.... that's why we are here to help.

During the month of September we run a 'Welcome Programme' to meet and greet overseas students arriving in Bristol from all over the world. In conjunction with the University of Bristol (UoB) and the University of the West of England (known as 'UWE'), we will have a team of volunteers to help you when you first arrive in Bristol. Based at 'Welcome Desks', either at UWE main reception or at the Bristol bus station, and Temple Meads train station, our aim is to make you feel welcome and assist you in getting you to where you need to go. This may be straight to your new accommodation, to the accommodation office, or maybe a guesthouse or youth hostel. We are here to help by providing transport to your location and helping you settle in, especially during your first few days in Bristol. Our service is free of charge.

The following information should help you know what to expect and the sort of help available.

Arriving at Heathrow Airport?

If you are arriving at **Heathrow** airport, there will be a **Meet & Greet** welcome scheme in operation run by an organisation called Friends International. Why not let the team know when you are due to arrive so they can arrange to meet you and help you get to Bristol? For more details log onto <http://www.new2uk.org/new2uk/index.php>, (select 'What's On' and then onto 'Meet & Greet at Heathrow airport') and contact them directly.

Arriving at Bristol Airport?



There is an express coach service called 'The Bristol International Flyer' that operates between Bristol International Airport and Bristol's bus and train stations (Temple Meads). The Flyer departs from the airport every 20-30 minutes from 05:50 hrs to 23:20 hrs, and less frequently after midnight. The journey time is approximately 30 minutes. The coach calls at Bristol Temple Meads train station, Marlborough St bus/coach station and Clifton Triangle (near to the University of Bristol). A single ticket costs from £6.00 and a return costs £8.00. There is no need to pre-book, simply pay on board. For more information or to view the timetable simply, click on 'Bristol International Flyer Timetable' from the following link:

http://www.bristolairport.co.uk/getting_to_bia/by_airport_express_link.aspx

Welcome Desk at UWE



If you are a student for the University of the West of England (UWE) BISC will have a welcome desk to greet you in the Main Reception (<http://www.uwe.ac.uk/hsv/reception/>) at UWE from **Monday 8th September until Friday 19th September** (excluding weekends) between the hours of **9.30am – 4.30pm Monday –Friday**.

If you have university accommodation, once you have collected your keys and signed your relevant papers, we will gladly transport you and your luggage to your new home. If you do *not* have university accommodation, we can help you to find accommodation, by contacting local

landlords on your behalf, and then arranging for a BISC driver to take you to view the property. Please note BISC cannot assist with this prior to your arrival.

Remember, if you are a UWE student and arrive in Bristol between 8th –19th September you will need to take a taxi (approximately £15-20) to the UWE, Frenchay Campus, and head for Main Reception and look out for our Welcome Desk.

Arriving at Marlborough Street Bus Station?

During the dates listed below we will have a welcome desk at the Bristol bus station to welcome you to Bristol. During these days, between **9.30am - 5.00pm** there will be BISC volunteers to welcome you, and help you on the next step of your journey. Look out for the BISC team wearing white t-shirts with the BISC logo on them! We will operate a welcome desk on the following days:

Thursday 18th September
Friday 19th September
Saturday 20th September

Monday 22nd September
Tuesday 23rd September
Wednesday 24th September
Thursday 25th September

Our desk will be located near to the ticket office. If you are travelling from Bristol Airport on the 'Flyer' bus service and will be arriving between 9.30am-5pm on any of the dates listed above, we recommend you get off the bus at Bristol Temple Meads Train station, as this will assist us with arranging onward transportation for you due to parking restrictions imposed at the bus station.

Arriving at Temple Meads Train Station?

During the dates listed below we will have a welcome desk at Temple Meads Train station to welcome you to Bristol. *(We regret that there will be no welcome desk at Bristol Parkway Train station).* During these days, between **9.30am - 5.00pm** there will be BISC volunteers to welcome you, and help you on the next step of your journey. Look out for the BISC team wearing white t-shirts with the BISC logo on them! We will operate a welcome desk on the following days:

Thursday 18th September
Friday 19th September
Saturday 20th September

Monday 22nd September
Tuesday 23rd September
Wednesday 24th September
Thursday 25th September

At the train station, we will be located at the entrance/exit of the train station, near to where the Bristol International Flyer bus service operates from Bristol Airport.

Do you know when you plan to arrive in Bristol?

If you know the date and time that you are due to arrive in Bristol, and would like some help upon your arrival, then please let us know. Simply click on the [here](#) to submit your details -

<http://www.bisc.org.uk/welcontact.htm>. Please note, we can only meet you within the times and dates that our welcome desks are in operation.

If your travel details change nearer the time, please remember to update us. We will then be able to look out for you at the bus/ train station when you arrive.

Getting Started

For information about studying and living in the UK we recommend the following websites:

1) Friends International: A practical guide to living and studying in the UK

http://www.new2uk.org/new2uk/life_in_the_uk/intro.php

2) UKCOSA: Advise for students studying in the UK:

http://www.ukcosa.org.uk/student/studying_living.php

You can access other useful information about Bristol by clicking onto our 'Coming to Bristol' page at <http://www.bisc.org.uk/bristol.htm> If you can't find the answer to your question at any of these places, please email us (bisc@bisc.org.uk) or speak to us when you arrive. We think you'll find the 'Useful Information' section helpful, this includes information about where to buy bedding/crockery etc, how to get connected to a telephone, where to buy a UK sim card for a mobile phone, how to get part time work, where to buy a bike etc. Take a look.

Bedding: If you are a UWE Student, we recommend that you pre-order (or buy on your arrival) a bedding pack which includes duvet, pillow, duvet cover, sheet and pillow case. Also you can purchase a crockery pack including plate, bowl, knife, fork, spoon, frying pan etc. It is possible that you may be able to get these items cheaper elsewhere but this is a helpful service and ensures you have some bedding when you arrive as it can be cold at night in September, particularly if you are from a warm climate.

Welcome Meals

We realise that as a newcomer to the city you may feel a bit lonely in the early days. Therefore, at BISC, we will be serving evening meals in our centre to welcome you, provide you with some good food, and an opportunity to meet other newcomers as well as local people. Your first meal is free! -after that each meal costs £2. Meals are served between 6.30-8.30pm and operate on a ticketed first come, first served basis. There is no need to book, just turn up. Vegetarian options are available. Meals served on the following dates:

Thursday 18th September

Friday 19th September

Saturday 20th September

Monday 22nd September

Tuesday 23rd September

Wednesday 24th September

Thursday 25th September

Friday 26th September

Monday 29th September

Tuesday 30th September

Guided Walks

BISC will be arranging guided walking tours to help you find your way around. Get to know Bristol! Learn about the city's history! Do some sightseeing! Make new friends! If you'd like to get to know a bit more about Bristol and meet some other people whilst doing so, why not join

us for one of the guided walking tours (dates tbc). The walks are free, but you must book your place in advance as there are limited places available (maximum 25 people per group). All walks start promptly from the BISC centre and last approximately 1½ hours. Book through the BISC office or online.

Tuesday 16th September - Start at 3pm

Thursday 18th September - Start at 5pm

General Information

Our service is free of charge and operated by a friendly team of volunteers made up of people from the following organisations: Bristol International Student Centre, the Christian Union's from the University of Bristol (UoB) and the University of the West of England (UWE), University Chaplains, Globe Café Team, and people from local Churches within the city.

And finally...

We look forward to meeting you in September, and wish you a safe and pleasant journey to the city of Bristol. If you have any queries in the meantime, then email bisc@bisc.org.uk and we will do our best to help. Please note that we are closed for some of the summer so your email may not be answered straight away, please be patient.