International Parents Guide.
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Welcome to the University of Sheffield.

With over 25,000 students and 7,000 staff, our mission is to advance understanding, influence policy, power industry and improve lives.
New beginnings

The next few years will be amongst the best in their lives. For many it's the start of independent living away from familiar people and places, and this can be a big adjustment for everyone.

This guide will provide useful information and advice to help you assist your son or daughter with their move to university. It will answer your questions about study opportunities in the UK and specifically at Sheffield. It will also provide details of how a degree from Sheffield can enhance their career.

There’s also further information on our Parents’ website, which covers everything in this guide and more:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/parents

For the purpose of this guide, we've used the terms 'parent', 'child', 'son' or 'daughter' in the main to describe the relationship of your role, whether you’re a parent, step-parent, guardian, carer or supporter.

The information in this guide applies to international students wishing to study in the UK. All information correct at time of production.
Why study in the UK?

UK courses have a global reputation for quality and give students the skills, qualifications and connections they need to succeed in their chosen career.

UK universities offer a world-class education where students benefit from excellent teaching and facilities. The teaching style helps them to develop qualities that are in great demand from employers – creativity, innovation, teamwork and leadership. This is a unique opportunity to study in a traditional learning environment that is rich in heritage. Employers worldwide recognise a UK degree as a sign of high academic standards.

International students educated in the UK achieve significantly higher salaries after they graduate, on average, than if they had been educated at home. By studying and socialising in the UK’s multicultural society, students gain an international perspective; an invaluable experience for a career in an international company.

Course fees and living costs in the UK are good value for money, and compare favourably with costs in other top education destinations.

Higher education courses in the UK are generally shorter than in other countries. A full-time bachelor’s degree typically lasts three years, compared to four years or more in other countries. This saves money on annual fees and allows students to start their career sooner.

English language skills improve career prospects and the UK is the world’s most popular destination for English language courses.
Why study at the University of Sheffield?

We’re one of the world’s top 100 Universities.

The University of Sheffield is one of the UK’s best universities. We have a global reputation as an international leader in teaching and research. Every one of our faculties is a centre of excellence and attracts some of the most talented, ambitious staff and students from all over the world. Founded in 1905, we are a member of the Russell Group of universities, often referred to as the UK’s version of the Ivy League. Rated as one of the world’s top 100 universities, we are a research-led institution with over 26,000 students including over 7,000 international students from 121 countries.

Sheffield is in the top 10 per cent of all UK universities

Research Excellence Framework 2014

99% of research at Sheffield was assessed as world leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised.

94% of Sheffield graduates are in work or further study within 6 months of graduating

The Which University Guide

Enterprise Educator of the Year

National Enterprise Education 2014

No 1 for student experience

for accommodation

for facilities

The Times Higher Education Survey 2014

No 1 for student experience

for accommodation

for facilities

The UK’s best Students’ Union


1st for facilities

for accommodation

REF stats
Employment and Careers

Our reputation for excellence means our graduates are in demand.

We work with business and industry to ensure our students benefit from an education that combines academic excellence with practical skills.

Organisations such as Boeing, Rolls-Royce and the Wellcome Trust invest millions of pounds in the University because our staff are world leaders in their fields. Our strong links with companies like these equip our graduates for careers at the cutting edge of their chosen fields.

Our Careers Service can help students at every stage throughout their course. It can improve their prospects with employers, whether they are in the UK, your home country or elsewhere in the world.

Our advisers will help students to work out the best career for them and help with CVs, job applications and interview preparation. The earlier they have an idea of what jobs interest them, the earlier they can apply for work experience, an internship or an insight day, to find out what each job is really like.

There are talks and workshops aimed at international students, a dedicated website with information about careers and job opportunities, information resources to help students find work around the world and access to a dedicated international Careers Adviser.

“One of the few universities that really understands the link between research and industrial application.”

– Sir Roger Bone, President of Boeing UK

“We target graduates from Sheffield as we find they are of consistently high quality and perform well across all operating areas of the company and within our graduate Professional Development Programme.”

– Accenture, global management consultancy

“Students from Sheffield are amongst the best in the country; we are always pleased when a Sheffield graduate decides to build their career with DLA.”

– DLA Piper, leading law company

Sheffield is in the top 11 UK universities targeted by top graduate recruiters such as KPMG, Deloitte, Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers (2012–13 High Fliers Survey)
To give students the richest, most well-rounded education possible, we encourage them to think outside of their subject area.

Achieve More is a chance to work alongside students from other disciplines, developing solutions to a range of real-life global problems. It’s a great way for students to encounter new ideas and showcase themselves to prospective employers. There are also opportunities for them to enhance their studies through languages, study abroad, enterprise, work based placements and voluntary work throughout their time at the University of Sheffield.

We run training and skills sessions for aspiring entrepreneurs, and can help find funding for their ideas. We also bring business people into the University to talk to our students about potential collaborations. We even teach a module called Making Ideas Happen so they can make entrepreneurial skills part of their course.

Work experience can take the form of vacation work, internships, part-time or temporary paid work, or placements and projects. Students can even spend a year in business or industry as part of their course.

The Sheffield Volunteering Committee represents student volunteering interests and their programme is one of the biggest and best in the UK. There are hundreds of opportunities to work with the community and the range of things to do is very broad. They can also help students develop their own volunteering projects.

The Study Abroad programme allows students to come to the University of Sheffield for a semester or a year, via an established exchange programme or on a fee paying basis. Study Abroad is a great way to enrich an academic career, gain new experiences and enhance a CV.

The programme is open to undergraduates who have already completed at least one year of study at their own university and offers students the chance to spend part of their degree at a University in another country.

“Other than technical skills, I gained a large variety of soft skills and a huge amount of industry awareness. Getting the chance to help customers with projects from engineering disciplines gave me an insight to the different engineering industries and how their technologies worked.”

Shruti Vasudev, BEng in Bioengineering with a Year in Industry
Our reputation attracts some of the best minds in the world.

Our staff are highly respected writers, critics, thinkers and technical innovators who regularly publish their work in international journals.

At the University of Sheffield, students are taught and supervised by experts. These are the dedicated academics who will challenge your son or daughter to achieve their very best. Their ideas power industry, improve health care and advance our understanding of the universe. Their work drives positive change, empowering people and making communities stronger.

Architects, engineers, entrepreneurs, solicitors and surgeons – all kinds of professionals contribute to our teaching. Some of them are guest lecturers, others are co-supervisors and mentors.
Alumni

Five of our past graduates and teachers have won Nobel prizes.

1945
Lord Florey

Medicine/Physiology Prize for isolating and purifying penicillin, and discovering its therapeutic effect in infectious diseases.

1953
Sir Hans Krebs

Medicine/Physiology Prize for the development of the Krebs Cycle.

1967
Lord Porter

Chemistry Prize for the discovery of flash photolysis.

1993
Richard Roberts

Medicine/Physiology Prize for the discovery of ‘split genes’.

1996
Sir Harry Kroto

Chemistry Prize for discovering a new form of carbon, known as ‘buckminsterfullerene’.
Our facilities

We have recently invested £240m in facilities, including £4.5m in teaching and seminar facilities. That means world class equipment, resources and study space.

The Diamond is our latest development, opening 2015 student intake. This £81m building – our largest ever investment in teaching and learning – will create a fantastic place for modern interdisciplinary teaching. As well as specialist engineering teaching facilities, the building will also house a range of lecture theatres, seminar rooms, learning spaces, library services and social areas.

The Information Commons (IC) sets a new standard for libraries. It was the first UK library to open 24-hours a day has full wireless access throughout and over 500 PCs. There are over 100,000 of the most in-demand books and 1,300 study spaces in this integrated learning environment.

Our library facilities are housed in four sites on campus and together they hold over 1.4million books, journals, periodicals and DVDs, as well providing access to over 22,000 e-books and e-journals.

The Management School has recently been given an £11.5m refurbishment to provide students and staff with a world-leading facility at the forefront of research and learning. It complements the school’s coveted Triple Crown accreditation which puts us in the top one per cent of business schools worldwide.

In UK universities the Students’ Union is the centre of student life. With a £20m refurbishment in 2013 we’ve invested in an exciting new building for students to enjoy. Located in the heart of campus, this where you find all the support services, advice centres, shops and entertainment facilities.
Student support

We invest a lot of time, energy and money in our support services and we are always here to offer help and assistance to all our students.

Our International Students Support Services can help with a range of student related matters during studies, or before they come to Sheffield. The team includes four trained immigration advisers. They can provide information, help with their application and answer questions about academic, financial, immigration, personal and social issues meet them at the airport and make sure they settle into Sheffield life.

We run an extensive programme of events and activities every September to help students with their arrival and orientation on campus. This is a great opportunity for them to make friends, meet staff and find their way around the University and city.

The Student Advice Centre gives a free, confidential and professional advice service to all students at Sheffield. The centre provides advice and information on employment, money and housing as well as academic and welfare matters. There is also a dedicated International Student’s adviser available to offer help when needed.

The University has a number of chaplains representing major world faiths. Our multi-faith chaplaincy team offer guidance and support, and organises worship activities throughout the year. There are Muslim prayer rooms in three locations on campus and an Islamic Centre close to campus.

Based in a brand new building close to campus, the English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) is an official IELTS test centre and accredited by the British Council for the quality of its services.

Students can study English for a few weeks, or for a full year; for academic, general or business purposes.

Health and wellbeing

The University welcomes disabled students. We are committed to responding appropriately and effectively to their additional support requirements. The Disability and Dyslexia Support Service is a friendly and confidential service. It provides support and advice to help students access their studies and University services.

Students must register with a doctor when they arrive in the UK. The University’s Health Service (UHS) runs an award winning health centre on campus. Our team of doctors and nurses offer a full range of general medical services, without charge. Registering with the UHS is easy; it’s part of our University registration process.
All students have a personal tutor within their academic department who they can talk to with any questions or concerns they may have. It is normal to have at least two meetings per semester with their tutor, but meetings can be requested whenever they need to.

Encouraging your son or daughter to sign up for a Student Mentor is a good idea. Having advice from an existing student in those first few weeks can help. Our mentors are existing volunteer students. They are normally matched with a small group of year one students from their own department, and if possible, from the same course.

301 is our Student skills and development centre which offers a wide range of services and activities to support student development. It can help with exam revision planning and presentation skills. Also available is dedicated Maths and Statistics help and a comprehensive Language programme. All workshops are free to attend.

Located in the Students’ Union, the Student Services Information Desk (SSiD) is our award winning one stop shop for information, support and guidance. Friendly, knowledgeable staff can answer their questions and offer advice about a whole range of University services.

Activities and events

National holidays and festivals are recognised, and we always enjoy celebrating the different traditions and cultures from around the world.

The World Food Festival is one of the most popular events of the year and World Week is a week-long celebration of our on-campus diversity, organised by our international students.

Societies are groups of students who enjoy a common interest. Most Sheffield students are involved in societies because they’re the best way to make friends, try new things and they guarantee a worthwhile experience. The Students’ Union is home to over 300 societies and committees so we hope your son or daughter will find one (or a few!) that suit them.
Our unique city

When students choose the University of Sheffield, they’re not just coming to one of the UK’s finest universities. They’re choosing a place to live that’s the best in the UK for student life, in a city like no other.

Sheffield has a reputation for being creative, welcoming, rich in culture and history, but with a modern outlook. Sheffield is the best place for students to live in the UK. It offers all the advantages of living in a large and vibrant city, that is both safe and affordable.

Home to over half a million people, including more than 60,000 students, Sheffield is situated centrally in the UK and is England’s fourth largest city. Bordering the beautiful Peak District National Park, it is a city of stunning landscapes; the greenest in Europe.

People from all over the world have made Sheffield their home. A recent study using Home Office data found Sheffield to be England’s safest major city. Sheffield has long been recognised as one of Britain’s premier locations for business. World class expertise in advanced manufacturing and engineering, business and professional services, creative and digital industries, healthcare technologies, and low carbon opportunities have helped Sheffield to attract world renowned companies. Sky, HSBC, Capita, Siemens, Rolls-Royce, Boeing, WANdisco, Aviva and many more thrive here.

Sheffield is always developing and yet it has kept its sense of community. Our students live fully as part of the community, which means they’re entirely immersed in the day to day life of this special city. We’re proud that our city recognises its students as a real asset and offers them such a warm welcome.

Sheffield is famous for its cultural heritage. Three distinctive venues form one of the most important theatre complexes outside of London and there are a number of important galleries and museums. Sheffield is also home to many influential musicians and bands, and is renowned for its vibrant music and social scene; its busy nightlife is always popular with our students.

Sheffield was the UK’s first National City of Sport and has a long sporting tradition. The world’s first-ever football club was formed by a group of cricketers in 1857 and we are now represented in the professional football league by Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday. There are Olympic standard swimming pools and athletic stadiums, sporting arenas, ice hockey and basketball teams and the Crucible hosts the annual World Snooker Championships.
Where to stay

When you bring your son or daughter to study at Sheffield, or when you visit or attend their graduation, why not make the most of your visit and stay here? Sheffield is a great place to visit and there are many popular attractions to see.

The dramatic countryside of the Peak District National Park is nearby and covers an area of 555 square miles. It attracts an estimated 22 million visitors every year and Chatsworth House, one of the UK’s most popular stately homes, is definitely worth a visit.

Sheffield can be used as a good central base for visiting other cities and attractions.

Sheffield has a good range of hotels and accommodation, and the University even has its own boutique hotel: the Halifax Hall Hotel.

Food

As you would expect from such a large multicultural city there is a wide range of international cuisine on offer. Only minutes from campus you’ll find food from all over the world; from Michelin award winning restaurants to cafes ideal for a student budget.

The University offers plenty of choice on campus and in our accommodation. There will be lots of opportunities to sample traditional British food as well as the many international options on offer. We cater for different religious and ethical needs, provide halal and vegetarian options and support students during Ramadan. We use fresh, local produce and are recognised as a Fairtrade University.

Shopping

The city centre has well-known high street stores and is good for buying food, clothes and household goods.

A 10 minute tram ride from the University is Meadowhall: one of the UK’s largest indoor shopping centres, with over 280 stores.

Europe’s Leading Destination 2013 (World Travel Awards)

#22 on The New York Times ‘52 Places to Go in 2014’

3rd in the world’s top 10 (Lonely Planet’s 2014 Best in Travel)
Accommodation

Number 1 for accommodation in the UK (Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2014-15)

University accommodation is a great way to start life as a student in the UK. It’s an affordable choice and good value for money. Students can arrange everything before they leave for the UK, so they’ll be guaranteed somewhere to live and be able to move in straight away.

Our accommodation offers much more than just a room to live in. By choosing University accommodation, students become part of a supportive and vibrant community. There are a huge range of events and activities on offer throughout the year as part of our Residence Life programme, including academic development and welfare support from Residence Mentors, who are always around to offer help and advice when needed. Our mentors are existing volunteer students that have undergone training to equip them for the role.

There are three locations to choose from: Endcliffe, Ranmoor and City.

Endcliffe and Ranmoor are purpose built complexes and are situated in one of the UK’s most affluent districts. They are within easy walking distance of central campus and close to the local shops and cafes of Broomhill and Hunter’s Bar.

Our City accommodation is located within the area between the city centre and University campus, so walking to either is very easy. By living here, students can take advantage of having all the city’s shops, cafes and restaurants close by.

Catered rooms are available at Endcliffe, but the majority of rooms are self-catered and have access to a communal area and dining facilities. There are a number of cafes and food outlets across the University and in our accommodation, and many of them have gluten-free, vegan, Halal and vegetarian options.

If students choose to live in catered accommodation, the rent includes a weekly food allowance for 31 weeks. Students receive a GeniUS card, which is automatically topped up with credit on a weekly basis to use as required.

Standard contracts are for 42 weeks which includes Christmas and Easter vacations. Rent can be paid in instalments and students don’t need to provide a UK guarantor.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities by giving the best possible support for disabled students. Once they have decided to study at Sheffield, and are planning to live in University accommodation, they can inform the Accommodation office of any specific facilities they require along with their application.

The University service propertywithUS is part of the accommodation office and can offer advice and information about private student housing in Sheffield. They maintain a private sector registration scheme of flats and houses to rent. All properties which they advertise as available have to comply with the University’s standards before being advertised with us.

Included in the rent:
- All gas, water, electricity and internet bills
- Customer services and welfare support
- Residence Life and sports activities

94% of 1st year students choose university accommodation
82% of all rooms en-suite
85% of our accommodation is in the most sought after district
Access to self-service launderettes
Fees and finance

Studying for a degree at the University of Sheffield offers a world class, high quality education and excellent value for money. It’s an investment you’re making to secure your child’s future.

Tuition fees for international students

We offer a fixed-fee guarantee for international students taking courses longer than one year. The tuition fee they pay in their first year will be the same for each year of their course. The only exception is if they are joining Medicine and Dentistry, where a clinical fixed fee will apply to the final year of their programme.

This means that you will know exactly how much your child will pay each year before they start their studies. This will make it easier to plan and budget for their time in Sheffield.

International scholarships

We believe in rewarding international applicants who show exceptional academic achievement and potential. Partial scholarships are available for students from many countries. Awards vary depending on country and level of study at the University of Sheffield. There are also scholarship schemes for University of Sheffield alumni as well as siblings and spouses of our students. In the last year the University funded over £2m in scholarships.

If students have been offered a place to study and are eligible to apply for a scholarship, we will contact them about how to apply online. Competition is strong and most scholarships are awarded on academic merit. Applications are assessed by an independent panel and students are informed of the decision before they start their studies.

Living costs and budgets

Sheffield is one of the cheapest places in the UK to live and study. Living costs in Sheffield are 90% of the UK national average (source: Creative Sheffield).

The monthly living costs recommended by the government are £820 per calendar month outside of London. Although much depends on their personal standard of living, an estimated figure of £7,400 for nine months (for an undergraduate course; September–June) and £9,600 for a 12 month postgraduate course, gives an idea of the budget needed for studying in Sheffield.

This figure will cover accommodation, food, books, equipment, insurance and local transport costs. Students with dependants will need to budget for additional expenses. They should budget for £460 per month for each dependant (spouse or child).

The UK government states that students must show proof that they have these living cost funds, including funds for any dependants, plus the first year’s tuition fee in their bank account for at least 28 days before making their visa application.

Figures correct as of February 2015. See our website for up to date information.
How to apply

We advise students to start researching their choices 18 months before they want to come to Sheffield. After students have decided which course is best for them, applying to the University of Sheffield is straightforward.

In some countries, our overseas representatives can help with making an application on a student's behalf.

All applications for undergraduate courses must be made through the centralised University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Students can apply for up to five universities on their UCAS form. We recommend that they apply as early as possible because some courses are very popular and fill up quickly.

Receiving an offer

Offers can be conditional or unconditional. A conditional offer means that we will offer students a place if they meet certain conditions. These are usually based on their examination results, but may also include evidence of English language ability (IELTS or TOEFL results) and other supportive documentation, such as reference letters.

An unconditional offer means that students have met the entry requirements and we are happy to accept them.

Glossary

| Bachelors degree | An undergraduate degree is referred to as a Bachelors degree. |
| Degree Classifications | There are four classifications of Bachelors (Honours) degrees: First Class (usually requiring an overall score of 70% or above) Upper Second-Class (usually requiring 60%) Lower Second-Class (usually requiring 50%) Third Class (usually 40%) |
| Faculty | The pass mark for undergraduate degrees is usually 40%. |
| Foundation | There are five faculties in the University. Each faculty contains a number of related departments |
| Integrated masters | A programme where the bachelors degree and masters degree are taken one after the other. Normally lasting four years in total |
| Joint honours | Students divide their time between two subjects. |
| Lecture | A formal talk to a large group of students |
| Modular structure | Our courses adopt a modular structure that provides a flexible way to study a combination of subjects and allows students to shape their degree to suit their individual interests. |
| Module | A unit of study, usually lasting one semester, and assessed individually on completion. |
| Postgraduate masters degree | Students on a taught master's degree (MA, MSc, MEng) usually study for 12 months. |
| Postgraduate research degree (PhD) | A Doctor of Philosophy, or doctorate (PhD/DPhil) is the highest academic level a student can achieve. These degrees often lead to careers in academia. |
| Pre masters | A programme of study taken before a student can enrol on a full masters course. |
| Semester | A self-contained period of teaching and assessment of around 14 to 16 weeks in length. The academic year is divided into two semesters and examinations usually take place at the end of each semester. |
| Seminar | Similar to tutorials, but involving larger numbers of students who discuss work presented by their peers. |
| Single honours | Students follow courses related to one subject. |
| Term | The periods of time when students are expected to be present at the University. The academic year is split into three terms, often known as autumn, spring and summer terms, which are separated by vacations. In the UK, the standard |
| Tutorial | A small group of students meet with a tutor to discuss work assignments and academic progress |
| Undergraduate bachelors degree | This normally takes three years to complete (four in some cases). There are different titles of degree, such as Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), and Bachelor of Engineering (BEng). |
Find out more

International Office

The International Office team is here to help. We are always happy to give advice and help anyone interested in studying here.

We can put your child in contact with a current Sheffield student from your country, so they can put their questions to them, and get their views on student life in Sheffield.

We realise that it helps to make a decision easier if students can talk to someone face to face. This is why we travel overseas throughout the year to meet with them. In the past 12 months we have visited over 30 different countries.

Student ambassadors

We employ around 40 international student ambassadors every year to represent the University. Our ambassadors are current students who are trained to provide help and assistance to our international offer holders. They contact all offer holders, from their home country where possible, by telephone or email, to offer any support and guidance that may be required.

Local support

When we can’t be there in person to answer questions, our representatives in your country are there to offer advice and support. Our representatives are trained counsellors who know all about our courses, entry requirements and application procedures. Many of them offer a visa counselling service to help students with UK entry clearance preparation.

We work closely with our overseas representatives. We want to make sure students are supported from the start of their application to the beginning of their studies. We have offices in Lagos, Nigeria and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. They can also contact their local British Council Office for information and get advice about studying in the UK.

Visit us

The University runs a number of open days, so you will have opportunities to visit us. We do appreciate however, that you may be travelling from afar, and your visit may not coincide with one of our structured open days. In this case you can contact the International Office to arrange your own visit with us.

The University of Sheffield

on social media

Twitter /iosheffielduni
Weibo /sheffielduni
Youtube /uniofsheffieldinternational
Vimeo /uniofsheffieldinternational
VK /sheffielduniversity