



**Northumbria**  
**University**  
**NEWCASTLE**

In partnership with **QA**

# **PARENTS' AND GUARDIANS' GUIDE**

Key information to guide  
you through your child's  
journey to university.



**TAKE ON TOMORROW**

## WELCOME TO NORTHUMBRIA

In a world that is constantly changing, we believe world-leading research and outstanding education have the power to transform lives.

At Northumbria we combine pioneering research with hands-on, experiential learning, to create life-changing opportunities and unlock potential for all.

Working together, our global community of inspirational academics, students and partners creates solutions to society's biggest challenges and helps build an inclusive economy.

We don't just imagine a brighter, fairer future. We empower people to build it.

**Together, we take on tomorrow.**



### MODERN UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

(The Times and The Sunday Times, 2025)



### TOP 25 IN THE UK FOR RESEARCH POWER

(Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021)



### TOP 40 UK UNIVERSITY

The Complete University Guide, 2026



### TOP 10 IN THE UK FOR SUSTAINABILITY

(People & Planet University League table, 2024/25)

You can find out more about us by visiting: [northumbria.ac.uk/about-us](http://northumbria.ac.uk/about-us)





## PATHWAY PROGRAMMES AT NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

Our range of Pathway programmes is designed to help bridge the gap between students' current academic/English level and the level required for their chosen studies. This guide tells you more about the Pathway programmes we offer, and the support available for your child.

We have several options for your child to choose from when studying with us, including International Foundation Programmes and International Year One.

Each of these programmes have different entry requirements and your child can choose which is most suitable for them.

**Our programmes aim to:**



**PREPARE STUDENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**



**ENHANCE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS IN READING, LISTENING, WRITING AND SPEAKING**



**IMPROVE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**



**ENABLE STUDENTS TO CONFIDENTLY PRESENT TO AN AUDIENCE**

### International Foundation Programmes

Our International Foundation Programmes are degree preparation programmes aimed at students who want to study an undergraduate degree, but don't quite have the right entry requirements to gain direct entry to their chosen degree programme. We have 6 exciting pathway courses that offer your child the route to progress onto one of over 90 undergraduate degrees offered at Northumbria University.

You can find out more by visiting: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/IFP](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/IFP)

### International Year One

Our International Year One course is a degree preparation programme for students who want to study a business degree, but don't quite have the right entry requirements to gain direct entry into a year one undergraduate course.

#### This course offers:

- Progression to Northumbria University's double AACSB-accredited Business School
- Equivalent to year one of an undergraduate degree
- More support and teaching hours than a standard first year undergraduate degree
- Opportunities to build intercultural skills and integrate with UK student life
- A specialist module applicable to your child's target degree
- Completion of the degree in 3 years (4 years with a work placement year)

Upon successful completion, and subject to specific requirements, students will be guaranteed a place on the second year of an undergraduate degree at Northumbria University.

You can find out more by visiting: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/IY1](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/IY1)

### International Medical Foundation Diploma

The International Medical Foundation Diploma (IMFD) is a 9-month programme designed to prepare aspiring medical students with essential scientific knowledge, laboratory skills, and study techniques. Taught by experienced staff, it builds confidence for medical studies and offers a pathway to the Five-Year Medical Degree Track (MD Track 5) at St. George's University, starting in the UK or Grenada.

- Develop skills and knowledge to pursue a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree and gain a global perspective on areas within medical science.
- Enhance your English language proficiency, including academic vocabulary, writing skills, and independent language learning.
- As an affiliate of SGU, QA students will receive one-to-one applicant support at every stage of the admissions process for the MD Track 5 while studying in the IMFD.

You can find out more by visiting: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/imfp](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/imfp)



## DISCOVER NEWCASTLE

Newcastle is widely recognised for its vibrant student life and is ranked in the top 5 UK Best Student Cities (*QS Best Student Cities, 2026*). Its popularity is partly due to the city's compactness, which makes it large enough to be lively and exciting while small enough to feel like home.

There are a wide variety of activities and entertainment in Newcastle, offering your child an amazing student experience. From galleries and museums to theatres and music venues; along with restaurants and cafés there is so much to do within walking distance of our city campus.

Find out what else Newcastle has to offer by visiting: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/studying-in-newcastle](https://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/studying-in-newcastle)

### Our Campus

Over the last decade, Northumbria has invested in Student Central and City Campus Library - creating a secure and supportive 24/7 environment to enhance your studies, a Computer and Information Sciences Building, new Architecture Studios in Sutherland Building, a 24/7 computer hub in Northumberland Building and the refurbishment of the University Gallery.

Work is also underway to develop Northumbria's North East Space Skills and Technology Centre (NESST) - a £50m space skills, research and development centre set to transform the UK space industry, expected to open on campus in 2026. Coach Lane Campus is currently home to our healthcare and education courses. Located just three miles from the city centre, Coach Lane is an extensive site with its own Students' Union, Library and IT suites.

For travel information to our City Campus visit: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/location](https://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/location)

### Campus Facilities

Our campuses have a wide range of facilities for our students to enjoy. We know how important it is, as a parent, that you know exactly what is available on campus for your child.

We are working hard to make sure that our students can make the most of our campus and feel safe, supported and ready to make the most of life at university. As well as our classrooms, clinics, labs and studios, we have a wide array of learning spaces available where students can meet, study and collaborate.

Our University Library achieves some of the highest levels of student satisfaction in the UK and boasts an extensive collection of books, e-books and e-journals. We also have plenty of study spaces, digital hubs and outdoor spaces across the campus.

All our catering and retail outlets serve hot and cold food - which can even be pre-ordered via an app. Sport Central, our sports facility, has a gym and swimming pool. Students can enjoy a wide range of online workouts to do at home too!

To view all our campus facilities visit: [northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/campus-facilities](https://northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/campus-facilities)

## SUPPORT SERVICES

As they embark on a new adventure to university, at Northumbria we offer a variety of services to support your child and help them settle into student life. Alongside their academic studies, they will be managing day-to-day life as well as settling into a new country.

We have a range of support teams available who are here to help our students reach the end of their academic journey, feeling fulfilled and supported, every step of the way.

We have summarised some of our key student support services below, but you can find out more by visiting: [northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/support-for-students](http://northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/support-for-students)

### Ask4Help Desks

Our Ask4Help service desks are based in student central locations on campus and are available 24/7 during term-time. They are the first point of contact for all student support enquiries. Contactable in person, by phone or via their portal, our team will ensure your child receives all the support they need during their studies.

### Learning Coaches

Upon commencing their studies, every student is assigned a learning coach who serves as their primary point of contact. Our learning coaches provide valuable guidance, helping students understand what to expect when living in the UK and providing ongoing support throughout their academic journey.

Our dedicated learning coaches are also here to support with any challenges encountered during the enrolment process and will make sure your child is enrolled onto their chosen course smoothly.

### SafeZone App

Northumbria University has a SafeZone app and we recommend that all students download it for free onto their phone. The app makes it easy for our students to contact university security or the emergency services. The app has three main features which can be accessed at the tap of a button: emergency assistance, first aid and general help.

Security officers are dispatched for all emergency and first aid requests, whilst the general help button connects directly to the Campus Services Helpdesk. Students can also check-in to make security aware of their location.

For more information visit: [safezoneapp.com](http://safezoneapp.com)

## Student Life and Wellbeing

We have a wide network of specialist support teams available to assist our students with every aspect of academic and personal life, whenever they need it.

**We have teams that can support your child with:**

- ◀ FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- ◀ WELLBEING AND HEALTH
- ◀ ACCESSIBILITY
- ◀ INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT
- ◀ CHAPLAINCY AND FAITH ADVICE
- ◀ STUDENT INCLUSION
- ◀ COUNSELLING AND MENTAL HEALTH

You can find out more by visiting: [northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/support-for-students](http://northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/support-for-students)

### Accommodation

At Northumbria, we have a variety of different accommodation including ensuite rooms and catered accommodation, with all bills included and no hidden costs.

Your child can book their accommodation as soon as they make Northumbria their firm choice and can pick their exact room. The whole process can be completed easily and online in minutes, and you can rest assured knowing your child has a secure place to live on arrival in the UK.

For your peace of mind, we have on-site support, maintenance and security teams to ensure your child can experience university life, safely. Our accommodation offers great social spaces to relax, study and have fun within an exclusive student community.

All our residences are within walking distance of the campus and are easily accessed through local transport links. We also have NU emergency accommodation reserved for under 18 students to ensure the safety of our students.

Book your accommodation here: [northumbria.ac.uk/accommodation](http://northumbria.ac.uk/accommodation)

## LIVING IN THE UK

When your child moves to the UK to commence their studies, it is important that they are aware of certain restrictions and things to consider to ensure their transition is as smooth as possible.

### Medical Support

Once your child is in the UK, they will be required to register with a local doctor (GP) to look after current or future health needs. Your child's GP practice is the first port of call for most of their health needs, both physical and mental.

You can find out more and register with a GP by visiting: [studentgpreg.org.uk](http://studentgpreg.org.uk)

### Students Under 18

There are certain legal requirements in the UK for people who are under 18. They might not be able to experience fully, the social aspects of studying in the UK, as it is against the law for individuals under the age of 18 to purchase alcohol and tobacco, or have someone purchase it on their behalf. The university safeguards students under the age of 18 as best as they can.

### Personal Safety

It is important for your child to be mindful of personal safety, especially in a large and unfamiliar city. In the UK we have a wide range of emergency services available to contact 24/7 on the following numbers:

- Police/Ambulance/Fire service - dial 999
- For fast medical help, that it is not an emergency - dial 111

### Before Arrival

In the UK some things may be slightly different to at home. We have put together some helpful information about things to consider before your child arrives in the UK.

**Organise a visa:** to study in the UK, your child will need to register for a visa. You can find out more by visiting: [gov.uk/student-visa](http://gov.uk/student-visa)

**Open a UK bank account:** as part of some visa conditions, a UK bank account is required. This will also make life easier when living in the UK and it will allow your child to get paid should they get a part-time job. It's a good idea to check if your current bank has any business relationships with UK banks. It's important to remember you may need to present recent bank statements and/or your proof of scholarship letter, so it's a good idea to have some photocopies of these.

You can find out more here: [ukcisa.org.uk/information--advice/studying--living-in-the-uk/opening-a-bank-account](http://ukcisa.org.uk/information--advice/studying--living-in-the-uk/opening-a-bank-account)





**Check the course entry requirements:** different courses have different entry requirements; it is important you are aware of the requirements set out by the university before your child applies, and you have certificates and other documents supporting your child's education history and English language testing (IELTS). You can find our country specific entry requirements here: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/entry-requirements](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/entry-requirements)

**Check course fees:** before your child commits to studying at university, be aware of the course fees and payment deadlines, these change per year. Full information can be found here: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/dates-and-fees](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/dates-and-fees)

**Gather relevant documents and paperwork:** before arrival, your child must have a valid and in-date passport, a valid visa, proof of medical screenings (if required) and medication prescriptions (if required). Have photocopies of these to hand, just in case.

## Budgeting

The UK is currently experiencing an inflation on living costs, resulting in higher-than-expected costs for some daily necessities. It is important to budget for your child's time in the UK and ensure they have enough income to cover university costs, as well as living expenses. You will also need to consider the exchange rate from your home currency into British Sterling (pounds) which is used across the UK.

The UK has a wide range of budget retailers from supermarkets to clothes shops, to homeware department stores to discount chains. It's good to remember that many stores offer additional discounts with a student card. Our Student Support teams are on hand to help our students with budgeting, offering helpful advice on money management and how to make your cash go further.

To help our students budget, we have created a Student Budget Calculator, find out more by visiting: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/student-budget-calculator](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/student-budget-calculator)

## Culture Shock

When arriving in a new country and environment, things can seem exciting at first. However, experiencing culture shock is common among international students arriving in the UK. There are many differences in the way things are done in the UK, compared to what they're used to at home.

Whilst this can be disorientating at first, students will soon get used to their 'new' way of life and it is perfectly normal to find it hard at first. Our Student Welfare Team offers support with culture shock. You can find out more information, as well as top tips on how to manage culture shock, on the UK Council for International Student Affairs website.

Visit the website here: [ukcisa.org.uk/information--advice/preparation-and-arrival/facing-culture-shock](http://ukcisa.org.uk/information--advice/preparation-and-arrival/facing-culture-shock)

## FINANCE INFORMATION

When coming to study in the UK, there are some financial implications that come along with it. It is important that you check the tuition fees for the course your child has chosen to study, as these vary between programmes and academic years.

If you need to get in touch with our Finance Team, you can find their contact details here: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/finance](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/finance)

### Scholarships and Bursaries

We understand that sending your child to the UK for undergraduate studies is a big financial commitment. We would like to help you explore potential scholarship options which may be available based on your child's academic performance and country of origin. You will find region specific contact details at the end of this guide.

Find out more about scholarships and bursaries: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/scholarships-and-bursaries](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/scholarships-and-bursaries)

### Secure Payment Methods

We offer one of the safest methods for making your child's tuition payments. Our payment method, in partnership with Flywire, allows you to make education payments in your own currency, removing the need to convert your currency before making a payment. You will receive more information about Flywire once your child's course place has been confirmed.

Find out more about Flywire and our alternative payment methods:  
[pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/finance](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/finance)



## APPLICATION INFORMATION

### How to Apply

Applying to study with us is easy. We have set out all the information you need ahead of applying on our website. We strongly recommend that students submit their application as early as possible to allow them to complete all the preparations needed to study in the UK.

Find out more about how to apply and what supporting information you need by visiting: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/how-to-apply](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/how-to-apply)

### Visa Process

To live and study in the UK, students must apply for a Student Visa.

Subject to requirements, individuals who hold a Student Visa can work up to 20 hours per week during term time, and full-time during off-term time.

You can find out more about how to apply for a Student Visa, the fees and how long the application process takes on the UK Gov website: [gov.uk/student-visa](http://gov.uk/student-visa)

### Course Entry Requirements

Entry requirements vary depending on the course. It is important that your child has the correct entry requirements (or equivalent) when applying for their chosen course.

We have detailed all the entry requirements for our International Foundation Programmes and our International Year One courses, with country specific entry requirements broken down by region.

You can view this information here: [pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/entry-requirements](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/entry-requirements)

### Our Recruitment Team

We have a dedicated recruitment team for each region, who are on hand to support you and your child and can answer any questions you may have.

Find out more by visiting: [qahighereducation.com/regional-teams](http://qahighereducation.com/regional-teams)

### Guardianship

The UKVI require an original (not electronic) signature from a parent/legal guardian in order for students under the age of 18 to travel to and study in the UK.

Our recruitment team will request this before the offer to commence studies is confirmed.





## TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

We have put together some of our top tips, to help you ensure your child has a smooth transition to university life.

### Important Information

Make sure your child adds Northumbria University to their mobile phone contacts. This will ensure our emails don't disappear into their junk mailbox, and no key information will be missed.

Encourage your child to attend one of our NU Experience days. Information will be sent via email, once they have been made an offer.

View our enrolment information here:  
[pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/enrolment-information](http://pathway.northumbria.ac.uk/enrolment-information)

### Before Moving

Check what your chosen accommodation provides before buying some essential household items. Some items may come with the accommodation and many can be bought on arrival into the UK. It is important to note what size bedding is needed for their new accommodation too.

It is also important to remember, UK electrical plugs are different and a UK adapter will be required for your child to use appliances/electronics brought from home.

Check your child has packed some of their favourite things to ensure their new room is a home from home! And most importantly, remember to make a note of the date your child can move into their new accommodation - to ensure it doesn't clash with any holidays or key dates.

### Becoming a Student

When your child becomes a student, it is important they register at a GP near to their new home. They will also need to buy a TV license for their new accommodation if they are planning to watch live TV or use TV catch-up platforms to stream live programmes.

Most importantly, stay calm and enjoy the process. Your child is about to embark on an exciting new adventure. The university is here to support you and your child throughout their transition to university and whilst they are studying with us.



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[northumbria.ac.uk/pathway](http://northumbria.ac.uk/pathway)