

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

International Student Centre (ISC)

Issue 7



NEWSLETTER March 2011

Latest News from ISC for all the EU/International Students



SPEAK UP

**the National
Student
Survey**

www.thestudentsurvey.com

Student Surveys 2011

If you are in your final year of study on an undergraduate award and due to graduate in July 2011 then please complete the National Student Survey (NSS). This survey gives you the opportunity to report on your overall student experience. Your views will also help to inform the choices of prospective Higher Education students about where and what to study. The survey is open now at www.thestudentsurvey.com but HURRY as this survey closes on Thursday 31 March 2011.

Keep checking your emails for your invitation to complete the survey .

ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE SURVEY, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE ENTERED INTO THE PRIZE DRAW FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THREE IPADS, OR A CASH PRIZE OF £350



Sunday 27th March is Census day...

You are required by law to complete the census.

What is the census?

A census is a count of the population. We have had one in the UK every ten years to find out more about who we are as a nation. We ask everyone to tell us a bit about themselves to help census users decide how best to plan and deliver the everyday services we all need – like housing, education, healthcare and transport.

Students living in halls of residence

If you live in halls, you should have received your form from your student warden. You will not be able to return your census questionnaire by post.

Your accommodation manager will either arrange for someone to collect it from you, or ask you to drop it off at a secure location.

Students living in private or university houses and flats

You'll get a standard household questionnaire in the post. Everyone living or staying at this address will need to be included on it. You'll also need to nominate someone to complete details about the accommodation itself and sign the declaration on the front of the questionnaire.

To find out more about the 2011 Census visit www.census.gov.uk





Authorised leave:

If you are thinking about going home before you have received your results for the summer, please don't forget that you will need to request authorised leave. Please get permission from your award leader before confirming any flights home.

Changed your address?

Don't forget if you have changed your address, you must ensure you tell the Information Centre so that your records can be updated.



Application Fee Increases for Tier 4 visa applications and Post-Study Work applications:

On 28th February 2011, immigration Minister Damian Green issued a statement that proposes to increase immigration and nationality application fees for all those applying to study, visit, work or stay in the UK.

These fees are due to take effect from 6th April 2011.

For applications made inside the UK, these are the proposed increases for Tier 4 applications.

Tier 4	<i>Fees Now</i>	<i>Fees from 6 April 2011</i>
<i>Main applicant - Postal</i>	£357	£386
<i>Main applicant - In-person</i>	£650	£702
<i>Dependant - Postal</i>	£100	£193
<i>Dependant - In-person</i>	£150	£351
PSW	<i>Fees now</i>	<i>Fees from 6 April 2011</i>
<i>Main applicant - Postal</i>	£550	£594
<i>Main applicant - In-person</i>	£850	£918
<i>Dependant - Postal</i>	£150	£297
<i>Dependant - In-person</i>	£250	£459

There will be new application forms (for main applicant and dependants) published to reflect these changes. The form that is used presently will only be valid for 21 days from the new one being published.

Changes to student immigration

23 March 2011

On the 23 March 2011, the Home Secretary announced a number of changes to the current student immigration system. At present, we have little information about when these changes might be implemented. UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) has provided a brief summary of the changes. You can find these by visiting their website <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>. We expect to know more when the new Immigration Rules are published on 31 March and will publish further information after this date.



Other news



Quick Cricket at Stafford Campus

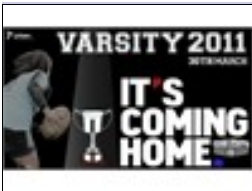
On Wednesday 16th March, Mick Williams, the Chaplain at Stafford Campus, launched a Quick Cricket session at Beaconside Sportshall.

Around 30 students came along from 1.30pm until 3.30pm, along with Hifsa Iqbal (Diversity Officer) and Becky Barker (International Student Adviser).

Mick hopes to have regular quick cricket sessions, to be held every Wednesday afternoon. The next session is on Wednesday 6th April, 1.30pm at Beaconside Sportshall.

If you are interested in coming along, there is a small charge of 50p; this includes refreshments which are available throughout the afternoon.

It's a great opportunity to spend time with friends, and maybe even meet new ones!



Let the battle commence! Wednesday 30th March 2011

Our Students' Union competes annually against Keele University - this year in 17 different sports all on one day!

Varsity has grown so big it is now held over two sites, using Fenton Manor as well as the University campuses this year.

As the score currently stands at 2-2, this year could prove to be the biggest and most competitive yet. So make sure you show our Students' Union your support next Wednesday by cheering them on as they thrash Keele!

More details from the Students' Union....

For those who don't already know, a Varsity match is a sports fixture played between rival Universities. One of the best known Varsitys is the annual Oxford versus Cambridge boat race which is surrounded by hype and tradition.

With Keele University only 5 minutes up the road we didn't really need to look far for an arch rival that would generate a level of passion and competition befitting to our students. And so in 2007 the Staffs versus Keele Varsity began.

We have since gone head to head with Keele on four occasions in what started as a small, 5 sport competition – but that's no longer the case!

This year Varsity will be spreading all over the campus, even as far as Fenton Manor sports centre to make the day that little bit more exciting.

The games during the day begin at 9am and conclude at 6pm, before the Men's Football match at Newcastle Town F.C.

All the day's events are free to get into, but to enter the Men's Football game at Newcastle Town, you'll need to buy a programme from Student Activities which costs £3.



Activities Awards Evening 2011! Saturday 9th April 2011 Kings Hall, Stoke

This award evening is open for all clubs & societies, individuals, and sports clubs. If you want to be a part of it or need more information contact the Student Union.



Badminton anyone?

Sir Stanley Matthews Sports Centre on the Leek

Rd campus is hosting social badminton sessions. Open to all students, staff and the public, costing just £2 per person which includes the use of a racket and shuttlecocks.

The sessions take place on Wed evenings 8pm-10pm and Sunday mornings 9:30am-12noon.

Other activities and News

Join us on Facebook



We are now on [facebook](#) and we will be using our [facebook](#) page to let you know about upcoming trips and events, so please go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Student-Centre-Staffordshire-University/125216904176516?ref=sgm> and like our page.

If you have problems accessing it you can get to our page by visiting <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/international/support/> and clicking on the [facebook](#) button.

Ticket booking for Graduation 2011 is now OPEN

Graduation ceremonies represent the highlight of the University year. The celebrations enable us to publicly recognise and reward the achievements of our students. They also provide the opportunity for graduates to receive well-deserved applause from parents, partners and friends. We hope that your graduation ceremony will be a special occasion that you will be able to look back on with fondness in years to come. Ticket booking is now open. Tickets are £35 per graduating student, which includes your guests (guaranteed minimum of two guests per student) at no extra cost. All finalists should book their tickets via MyPortal before 27th May 2011. Please do not wait until receiving your results to book, you must book in advance.



Please visit the Graduation 2011 website for all the information about tickets, gowns, photographs and the venue:

www.staffs.ac.uk/graduation

We look forward to seeing you at Trentham in July!

Graduation Team

Staffordshire University



Suggestions for Trips and Events

Please send us your comments and thoughts on our trips and events we organise for you.

If you have any suggestions or ideas of where you would like to visit in the UK or any events that you would like us to organise, then please let us know by sending an email to isc@staffs.ac.uk.