

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

International Student Centre (ISC)

December 2009



NEWSLETTER 2009

Latest News from ISC for all the International Students



University Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday, 9th December 2009

Stoke Minster

Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Glebe Street, Stoke

You are warmly invited to the University Christmas Carol Service. The service will take place on the 9th of December at 11.00am in Stoke Minster. Join us as we celebrate together the festive season with hymns and readings. Light refreshments will be provided afterwards.

We are looking forward to a great turn out from Staff, students, Governors and members of the wider community and faith community, so please do come and enjoy the carols, celebrate the end of a successful term and hear the wonderful story of Christmas. The Carol Service forms part of a programme of University events, which celebrate the festivals of various faiths.

Please note - other than pay and display car parks in the centre of Stoke town centre, there is no available car parking near to the Minster. The distance from the Leek Road campus to Stoke Minster is approx. ½ mile so we encourage you to park on the campus and walk the short distance to the church.

Christmas Carol Singing

Christmas Carols around the Tree

Come and join the carol singing around the tree, or simply come and listen to the choir and get into the festive spirit.

Dalc.he. Vita Beacon Stafford

On Tuesday 8th December 2009 at 11.00 am

Forthcoming events ...

Visa Extension Workshop

6th January 2010

3rd February 2010

3rd March 2010

You must sign up for the workshop at the site you are studying

Deadlines for Visa Extensions through the Student Batch Scheme Submission: -

10th December 2009

21st January 2010

17th February 2010



Invitation to Traditional Christmas Lunch

Monday 21st December 2009

Share in the festive season with other international students & University Staff

Pavilion Restaurant, College Road, Stoke Campus

Tickets cost £2.50 available from ISC office

Trip to London

12th December 2009

This trip is not organized by ISC, for any information please contact Lorenzo Ball at :- l.ball@staffs.ac.uk



Visa and Immigration Information

Important Announcement

Tier 4 applicants need to have enough money to cover their course fees and maintenance. They must normally show that they have held this money for a 28-day period ending no more than one month before their application, but until now the UKBA have operated a concession allowing students to show only that have the required funds in place **on the date when they apply**. This concession ends 31 January 2010 for all Tier 4 applications made **within** the United Kingdom. Students who make a Tier 4 application from inside the United Kingdom before February 2010 will only need to show that they have the money needed on the day when they apply. They must still provide the correct documents to support their application.



***** With effect from 1st February 2010 you will need to have enough money in your bank account to cover maintenance and outstanding fees and it needs to have been maintained in your account **for 28 days**, so it is a very good idea to **plan ahead** and make sure you have this money in your bank before you receive the bank statement *****

Visa & Immigration Information

Visa renewals and bank statements

| DATE | DESCRIPTION | DEBITS | CREDITS | BALANCE |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | Balance brought forward | | | 35.00 |
| 6 May | CD07 High St | 10.00 | | 25.00 |
| 8 May | DC07 Pet Care Plc | 3.00 | | 22.00 |
| 11 May | BACS Regular Times | | 46.50 | 68.50 |
| 19 May | CH007 | 2.70 | | 65.80 |
| 19 May | DD Gas & Co | 16.50 | | 49.30 |
| 22 May | SO TV Licence Company | 21.00 | | 28.30 |

When it comes to extending your visa one of the things you need to send along with your application is a bank statement covering 28 days, showing that you have enough funds in your bank account. The UKBA is very particular about bank statements and the best bank statement you can send with your application is the original one you receive through the mail.

If you do not receive monthly bank statements from your bank it would be a good idea to talk to your bank and arrange to have this facility set up. Before you set it up, take a look at the date your visa expires and if it is at the end of a month then try to make sure that you receive regular bank statements that show a closing balance at the start of the month. That way you should be able to send the original bank statement along with your application, and you won't have to go rushing to the bank to ask for a bank statement or letter. The bank statement you send should be no more than one month old at the time of your application being sent.

If you need to request a statement from the Bank, it is very important that you allow plenty of time for this. Please

FAQ

Can I work full time after I have handed in my dissertation?

We have been asked this question a lot recently by students who are about to hand in their dissertation and we would like to clarify the matter.

NO, you cannot work full time once you have handed in your dissertation because you have not yet completed your course.

We define completion of course as being the **award board date**, which is the date we use on your visa letters. So until the award board has met, we consider you to be a student and therefore only allowed to work 20 hours a week, except during a vacation period when you can work full time.





A fantastic opportunity to win a prestigious and unique award

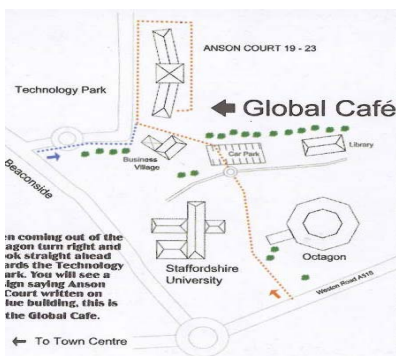
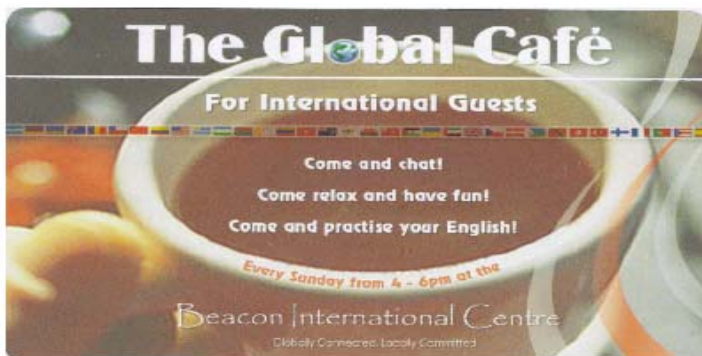
If you are having a fantastic time in the UK, have developed new interests, overcome personal challenges or achieved long-held ambitions or goals or played an active part in institution life then by sharing your experiences could put you in line for an award that could help you on your way to a brighter future.

It's easy to enter. Simply write a letter telling all about your time in the UK and how the UK has challenged and excited you. The panel of judges – NUS representatives, education professionals and British Council colleagues – will choose the best letters to become shining examples of UK life for future international students.

For more details please go to: www.educationuk.org/shine.

British Council Shine

Global Café, Stafford.



The Global Café
Welcome!

Every Sunday from 4 - 6pm at the Beacon International Centre
2 minutes walk from the University

Unit 19 - 23 Centurion House
Anson Court
Staffordshire Technology Park
Beaconside
Stafford ST18 0GB
Tel: 07930 184 721

For more information visit
<http://www.BeaconInternationalCentre.org.uk/Globalcafe/Globalcafe.htm>

International Students – Stafford Campus

Every Tuesday lunchtime from 12noon - 2pm, why not pop into the Multi-faith Chaplaincy for a chat and some lunch. Come meet some new faces and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and some snacks. Alternatively, you can bring your own lunch and just chill out with other students.

Multi-faith Chaplaincy Team looks forward to seeing you there.



Childcare whilst you Study—Staffordshire University Nursery

If you have young children, you might be interested in Staffordshire University Nursery for 0-5 year olds. The nurseries on the Stoke and Stafford campuses provide a friendly, happy place for children to play and learn.

The nursery is able to understand your needs as parents who are studying. They offer student discounts, have great holiday reductions, and there is car parking available for drop off and picking up. The nursery is open from 8:00am-6:00pm all year round

If you are interested in taking up a place, you can get more information on www.staffs.ac.uk/nursery or call 01782 294981 (Stoke) 01785 353371 (Stafford) to arrange a tour of the nursery.



ISC NEWSLETTER 2009

ISC at **Stoke** will be open for all the International students from Monday to Friday between 8.45 am to 4.30 pm and at **Stafford** on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 8.45 am to 4.30pm. We are located in Cadman B4 (Stoke) and Beacon C061 (Stafford). Please make sure you see our advisors or any other ISC staff at the following times according to your issues:-

- Appointments with our International Student Advisors (Julie & Deb):

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at both Stoke and Stafford campuses between 10 am - 12.45 pm. Appointment days are subject to change and may vary during certain times of the year. You must make an appointment at the site that you study at, regardless of where you live.

- Drop-in Sessions from 2 pm - 4 pm, for any quick questions
- No appointments available on Mondays and Fridays
- ISC will be closed every Friday, but if you have any queries please go to the Information Centre (Flaxman, first floor) and see **Divya Mahalingam**
- **STAFFORD - Appointment with International Student Advisor**
If you wish to make an appointment with the Advisor in Stafford, you need to book this in advance. You can do this by either:
If the Advisor is on campus, then you should go to **C061** to sign up for an appointment
If the Advisor is not on campus, then **please go to the Information Centre** (Beacon Building) to sign up for an appointment, or to sign up for a visa extension workshop.

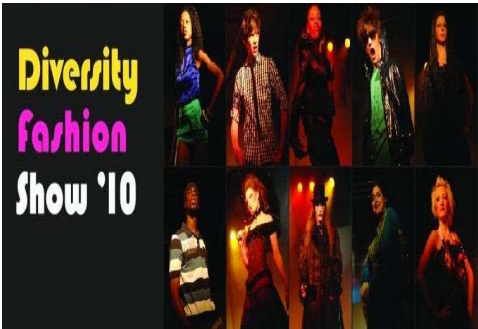
ISC Opening times

Any enquires regarding passport or visa issues please contact us on our new e-mail address:

internationalstudentadvisor@staffs.ac.uk

All other enquires can be sent to: isc@staffs.ac.uk

Please note that the University will close for the Christmas Vacation at mid-day on Thursday 24th December 2009 and re-open on Monday 4th January 2010.



Get dressed up for the Diversity Fashion Show 2010

The Students' Union is looking for International students to model in our Diversity Fashion Show - an annual event that celebrates diversity, style and the varied backgrounds of our students here at Staffordshire University.

The Diversity Fashion Show is a Union event that celebrates the huge diversity we're lucky enough to have here at Staffordshire University. We want to challenge stereotypes, excite people's creativity and put on a night to remember. Now we need your help!

If you can see yourself on our catwalk, if you have an alternative lifestyle or style of dress that you'd like to show off, or if you'd like to display and model your traditional cultural dress, then we want to hear from you. Last year we had students from China, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Pakistan to name just a few. This year, we want even more countries to get involved.

This show seeks to embrace the diversity of our students, and of our society, so absolutely everyone is welcome.

If you're interested in getting involved, then to find out more email theunion@staffs.ac.uk



**The International Student Centre wishes all students
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year**

