

# STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

## International Student Centre (ISC)

February 2010



### NEWSLETTER 2010

Latest News from ISC for all the International Students

## Welcome to all New students



The International Student Centre would like to say a warm welcome to all the new students joining us in January 2010.

During the last month, we have welcomed nearly 200 students to the University. We would like to thank all those students who came to our coffee morning and sampled some of the finest cakes the UK has to offer! Also, 100 new students enjoyed a day trip to Chester on Saturday 6th February which saw the sun shining once the fog had cleared!



If you have any comments, suggestions or feedback on the welcome you received at the University, please email [isc@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:isc@staffs.ac.uk)— The ISC would like to wish you every success with your studies.

## Chinese New Year Celebrations and Events

The upcoming Chinese New Year falls on February 14, 2010, when Chinese people all over the world will be celebrating the Year of the Tiger.

**Date: Sunday 14th February**

Times: 11am – 4pm

Location: The Potteries Shopping Centre,

Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Cost: Free

*Celebrate the Chinese New Year with acrobats, magicians and lion dancing. There will be twelve performances taking place between 11am and 4pm.*

**Date: Saturday 20th February**

Times: 10.30am - 4pm

Location: The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery,

Stoke-on-Trent, Bethesda Street, Cultural Quarter,

Cost: Free admission, small charge for some activities

*Enjoy the sights and sounds of Eastern culture as the Chinese New Year is celebrated with traditional festivities. See the colourful lion and dragon dance and much more.*

Plus the Students' Union will have BOGOF (Buy One Get One Free) offers on a range of Chinese foods in the Student Union shops from 8th–21st February 2010.



## Forthcoming events ...

### Visa Extension Workshop

3rd March 2010

24th March 2010

5th May 2010

9th June 2010

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

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

17th February 2010

24th March 2010

### Students' Union Events

See website for details of all forthcoming events

[www.staffsunion.com/whatson/](http://www.staffsunion.com/whatson/)

Also, don't forget to pick up your free copy of PLUGGED for more information.



## Visa and Immigration Information

### Important Information regarding changes to the visa extension process

Please note that there is an important change coming that will affect all future student visa extensions.

With effect from the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 it will no longer be possible to use a visa letter when applying for a visa extension; instead you will need a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) number.



Due to these changes the last day you can request a visa letter from the University is the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010, after that date you will need to request a CAS and use the number given when you apply for a visa.

You will need to pay £10 for the CAS, this is the fee that the UKBA charges for each CAS that the University uses.

Further information on how you can apply and pay for this CAS will follow via e-mail, it is important that you check and read e-mails in your student inbox.

If you are applying for a visa extension in February, it is very important that you do not send a visa extension application with a visa letter to the UKBA after the 21<sup>st</sup> February as this will result in your visa application being refused. After the 21<sup>st</sup> February only a CAS will be accepted by the UKBA.



### Have you recently renewed your visa and received your new ICFN (Identity Card for Foreign Nationals)?

If the answer to this is yes, and you did not post your application via the Student Batch Scheme then please note that it is a legal requirement that, as your sponsor to study in the UK, we have copies of your passport and visa.

If you have recently received a new visa and we don't have a copy, then it is very important that you call by the International Student Centre in Stoke or Stafford with your new identity card and allow us to take a photocopy of it.

In the next few days we will be e-mailing students about this issue and we would ask you to please ensure that you come into our office as soon as you can with your new visa to enable us to update our records.

## FAQ

### Should I keep a photocopy of my passport?

Yes, keep photocopies of every page of every passport that you ever use to enter the UK (except for the blank pages). You may need to refer to them for future immigration applications, or in case your passport is lost or stolen. Remember to update the photocopy each time it shows a new journey.

Also keep all the paperwork and documents you have that evidence each of your journeys to and from the UK. You might need these for future immigration applications, too.



Visa & Immigration Information



## Satisfied...?

Complete the online survey for a chance to win one of two £500 cash prizes.

Tell us what you think of Staffordshire University in our Student Viewfinder Survey 2010 and you could win one of 2 cash prizes of £500 each!

The Student Viewfinder Survey is open to all students who are not due to graduate in July 2010.

We want to know how you are enjoying your studies and how we could improve our services to you.

Previous surveys have led to real improvements for students such as:

- - better timetabling of assignments;
- - longer library opening hours;
- - more student areas

Check your University emails from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 where you will find your link to the online survey or visit [www.staffs.ac.uk/survey](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/survey).

Make sure your opinion counts and it could be you who scoops one of our £500 cash prizes!



## Immigration Information Sessions (Knights Solicitors) Staffordshire University Students' Union, Stoke Campus

Knights Solicitors are holding immigration information sessions for international students in the **Students' Union Boardroom** at College Road, Stoke campus at **2pm** on the following dates:

- 24 Feb 2010
- 24 March 2010
- 21 April 2010
- 26 May 2010
- 30 June 2010

Sessions with  
Immigration  
Solicitors

The sessions are free and you do not need to sign-up. We would encourage you to attend the sessions if you have queries or concerns about Tier 1 Post-Study Work. Vincent Fox (Solicitor) will deliver the session and there will be a time for questions at the end.



## Introduction to 'Futsal' Workshop For International Students at Staffordshire University

**Where** Stanley Matthews Sports Centre  
**Time:** 2:00pm - 4:00pm

**When:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
**Cost:** FREE (maximum of 16 places)



### To book a place on the workshop:

If you would like to book a place on this workshop, please email Jonathan Pace at email addresses: [J.Pace@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:J.Pace@staffs.ac.uk) or complete and return the enclosed application form.



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 9.30am 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):

## ISC Opening times

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.

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

[internationalstudentadvisor@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:internationalstudentadvisor@staffs.ac.uk)

All other enquires can be sent to: [isc@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:isc@staffs.ac.uk)



## Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day) - 16th February 2010 - Traditional English custom

This is the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Traditionally it was the day when people would eat all the food that they were not allowed to eat during Lent and is very much still a part of British Culture today.

Very often on Shrove Tuesday, Pancake races are organised which involves a race with people running, while carrying and tossing a pancake in a frying pan.

If you are in Stafford on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00am in the Market Square you can go and watch the annual pancake race. If you are really brave you could enter the race <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/static/page6723.htm>

Alternatively, you may like to make and try your own pancake! We've put the recipe below so you can give it a go! Happy Pancake making!!

### Ingredients For the pancake mixture:

- 100g (4oz) plain flour
- 1 egg
- 300ml (1/2 pint) milk
- optional pinch salt
- sugar and lemon juice to serve

Oil for frying

To make the pancake batter, add the milk, egg and then the flour and blend using an electric blender or food processor. Or if a blender is not available, sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Add the egg and beat well. Then add the milk gradually and beat to make a smooth batter.

Heat a little oil in a large frying pan until hot and then pour enough batter to thinly coat the base of the pan. Cook for a couple of minutes each side. Serve sprinkled with sugar and lemon juice. Alternatively drizzle with golden syrup or jam, or maybe spread nutella on the pancake!