

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

International Student Centre (ISC)

Issue 5



NEWSLETTER November 2010

Latest News from ISC for all the EU/International Students



Welcome to 5th edition of the ISC newsletter for EU/International students from the International Student Centre!

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions for items to include in the newsletter, we would love to hear from you. You can either e-mail us at isc@staffs.ac.uk or come to the office. We are located on the ground floor of Thomson Library – Room B4 Cadman Building on the Stoke campus and in Room D001a, Beacon Building on the Stafford campus. We are open between 8.45am and 4.45pm, Monday to Friday.

Trips

The ISC and Marco Polo Student Club organise monthly trips to destinations throughout the UK.

The next trip is to the Lake District on **20th November**. Tickets are available from the ISC at Stoke or from Cashiers Office at Stafford.



There are only a few places remaining so you need to hurry...

Forthcoming events ...

Staffordshire University Carol Service

Stafford -

Contemporary Carol Service
Tuesday 7 December 2010, 12pm
at The Students' Union Open Space (adj. Dol.cHe Vita)
Beacon Building
Stafford Campus

Stoke -

Traditional Carol Service with an Address
by The Bishop of Stafford
Thursday 9 December 2010, 11am
at Stoke Minster
Church of St Peter ad Vincula
Glebe Street
Stoke-on-Trent

All Students Welcome



A Traditional UK Christmas celebration

We would like to invite you to share in the festive season by joining both staff and students for a traditional UK Christmas Celebration on **Thursday 2nd December 2010** at the Stafford Campus (Gallery Restaurant) from 6.30pm to 10.00pm.

Eat some traditional Christmas food, Meet Father Christmas, join in with songs around the Christmas Tree followed by Karaoke.

Transport will be provided for students travelling from Stoke to the Stafford campus.



Tickets £7

Available from:

Stoke campus: International Student Centre, Room B4, Cadman Building

Stafford campus: Finance Office, Beacon Building



Visa and Immigration Information

Maintenance and bank statements: Please remember that when you apply for a visa extension you need to make sure that you have maintained enough money in your bank account for 28 days. During this 28 period the money must not drop below the amount needed as this will mean that you will have to start counting the days all over again. The closing balance must be the amount needed and you need to check that the bank statement clearly shows that you have held this money for the full 28 days.



The money that you need will be all outstanding fees listed on your CAS statement regardless of any arrangement you have made to pay your fees and maintenance. The amount of maintenance required can range from £1,200 to £5,400 depending on how long you have been studying. To be sure of what you need please speak to an International Student advisor.

Please be aware that it is getting harder and harder to ask the bank to print and stamp statements in branch and most now want to post them to you. This is because bank statements are produced in a central location and to prevent fraud. Please plan early to ensure you can receive a postal bank statement to send with your visa application.

Visa & Immigration Information

International Sign-in Weeks

As part of the UKBA's monitoring system which was implemented last year the University is required to ensure that you participate in your studies. On seven different occasions throughout the academic year you must bring a signed Attendance Certificate to your Faculty Office, the Information Centre or the International Student Centre.

You will receive an e-mail to inform you when you need to submit your attendance certificate. The forms available via www.staffs.ac.uk/international/support/

If you do not attend a sign-in session you will be withdrawn from the University, and it may result in being reported to the UKBA.

Authorised leave

If you are returning home before the end of semester, please ensure that you complete an International Authorised Leave form **BEFORE LEAVING** the University.

If you fail to do this, it will cause problems during International Attendance Sign-In and could result in being withdrawn from the university and reported to the UKBA.

However, if you have authorised leave, then your records will be updated correctly during the sign-in session.

Please go to your Faculty Office to obtain an International Authorised Leave form, and request permission as per the instructions of your Faculty.

Please note, if you are working on your dissertation (or you are awaiting your results), you will need to request Authorised Leave if you wish to go home for the Christmas vacation

Important – Postgraduate Dissertation Students

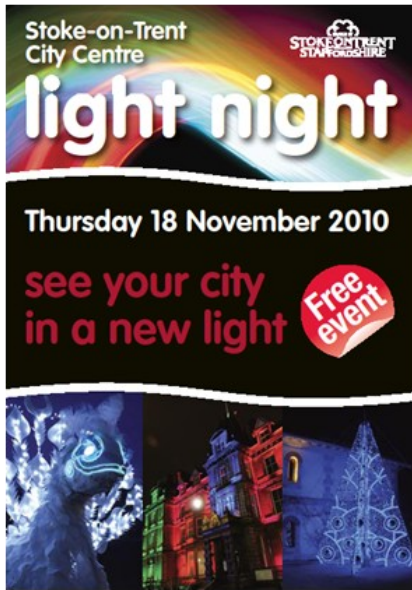
Please note that if you have a resubmission of your dissertation or 3rd attempt and plan to submit whilst staying at the University then there will be a **standard charge of £500**, this is in line with general student regulation 11.5.1. If you wish you can choose to submit your dissertation from your home country and in this case there will be no charge however you should contact your Student Guidance Advisor so your record can be recorded appropriately.

Invoices for fees

Please note that the finance department will e-mail all invoices to your student e-mail account so it is very important that you check your student e-mail regularly.



What's on — Stoke.



Light Night in Stoke-on-Trent City Centre is a free adventure with a variety of entertainment, activities, and displays all designed to be safely explored and enjoyed after dark.

Originally a continental concept, light night is about reclaiming our town and city centres for people and families to enjoy. By opening up places and spaces not normally open, particularly in the evening, and offering something new in a familiar environment, residents and visitors are encouraged to see our city in a new light. For further details go to [Light Night Leaflet](#)

Winter Ice at Trentham Gardens

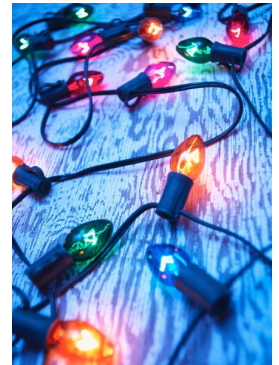
Trentham's real Ice Rink is back in its beautiful lakeside setting from the Christmas Launch on Friday 12 November 2010 to the 27 February 2011. Visit www.trentham.co.uk for further details on prices and to see what other events they have going on this festive season.



What's on — Stafford

Christmas in Stafford

At this magical time of year there is no better place to come than the beautiful County Town of Stafford. Stafford comes alive with the spirit of Christmas with twinkling Christmas lights, Santa's Parade and a spectacular fireworks show all happening on Saturday 20th November 2010. Event starts at 5pm in Stafford Market Square



Victorian Market and Italian Market

The festive Victorian Market takes place in the Market Square on Saturday 27th November, followed by the popular Italian Market making a return visit to the town from the 3-5 December. Go take a look.