

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

International Student Centre (ISC)

October/November 2009



NEWSLETTER 2009

Latest News from ISC for all the International Students

ISC will be open for all the International students from Monday to Friday between 8.45 am to 4.30 pm. We are located in Cadman B4 (Stoke) and Beacon CO61 (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**

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 International Student Advisors cannot check Tier 1 Post Study Work application forms at this time. If you need advice regarding PSW, please refer to the website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/tier1/poststudy/applying/ or contact an immigration solicitor.



Trips

The ISC organizes monthly trips to destinations throughout the UK.

The next trip is to the **Lake District on 14th 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...

More trips to follow... keep checking your emails.

Forthcoming events ...

ISC trip to London
on **12th December 2009**.

Sign-up from 18th November

Traditional Christmas Lunch

21st December 2009

Share in the festive season with other international students & University staff.

Further details to follow...

Students' Union Events

See website for details of all forthcoming events

www.staffsunion.com/whatson/



If your passport and visa are currently with the Home Office, you should not make any travel plans, as there is no guarantee when they will be returned. It can take anything from 4 to 14 weeks to have the visa issued.

Visa Extension Workshop

In November we have two visa extension workshops at both Stafford and Stoke campuses.

If you wish to submit your Tier 4 visa application via the Student Batch Scheme you **must** attend a workshop:

4th November 2pm -4pm
Stoke (S002—Mellor) /Stafford (D105—Beacon)

27th November 10am - 12noon
Stoke (B165—Brindley) /Stafford (C346—Beacon)
(please note if your visa expires in November you need to attend the first workshop on 4th November).

To attend you must sign up for a workshop at the site you study at.

You can sign-up at the ISC in Stoke or in our office in C061 at Stafford. We issue appointment cards for the workshops, so please ensure you have one of these before attending.

Before you attend you need to download a Tier 4 (G) visa form, from <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/adult-students/> and must bring this form with you to the workshop.

Session with Immigration Solicitors

Lynne Ingram & Vincent Fox (Knights Solicitors) are holding sessions for international students in the Students' Union Boardroom at College Road, Stoke campus on: **28th October and 25th November at 2.30 pm**. 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 PSW.



Cultural Diversity Event



The 'Going Global' Cultural Diversity event which was due to take place this month has been postponed due to lack of interest. The event has been rescheduled for next semester, and further details will follow. We look forward to your participation in the programme next semester, and encourage you to share your culture with others through such events.





After you arrive in the United Kingdom, you may have to register your stay with the police. If you need to register, this requirement will be written in your passport or on your identity card. You must register within seven days of arriving in the United Kingdom.

If your passport or identity card does not tell you to register with the police, you do not need to do this

If you forget to register with the police, this could have serious consequences for any future entry clearance applications that you make abroad. You could be barred from coming back to the UK for one year (and in some cases five or ten years). It will also cause problems for you obtaining immigration extensions in the UK.

The Police Registration Certificate is valid for the length of your stay in the UK and you will need to renew it if you are granted a visa extension. You will need to update your certificate if you change:

- your address
- your immigration conditions (eg. from Tier 4: Student Visa to Tier 1: Post Study Work)
- any passport changes (if you get a new passport)
- your name
- your marital status (eg. if you get married, divorced)
- your occupation

If you change your address at any time within Campus or outside of Campus or get a visa extension or any other changes which must be reported, then you have to inform the Registration Officer within 7 days at the address below.

Overseas Visitors Registration Office (OVRO)

Block 6, Room 120

Weston Road Police Complex

Weston Road

Stafford

ST18 0YY

Tel: 01785 235281



When registering with the police, you should take with you the following items:

- Your offer letter (or visa letter) from the University
- Proof of address
- Your Passport
- Two passport-sized photographs
- Registration Fee: £34 in cash EXACTLY



NEW TO STAFFORDSHIRE OR JUST WANT TO MEET NEW PEOPLE?

Join the International Students' Society where you can meet new friends from around the world, go on trips, nights out and learn more about the local area and beyond for just £7 per academic year.

For further information go to www.staffsunion.com/activities/clubsandsocs/ or email mu001059@student.staffs.ac.uk



ATAS Requirements

ATAS certificates – If you are on one of the following courses it is very important that you have an ATAS certificate. If you do not have one and only if you are studying one of the courses listed below, please contact us at internationalstudentadviser@staffs.ac.uk immediately.

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| MPhil/PhD MATHEMATICS |
| MPhil/PhD COMPUTING SCIENCE |
| MPhil/PhD MECHANICAL ENGINEERING |
| MPhil/PhD DESIGN TECHNOLOGY |
| MPhil/PhD ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING |
| Pg Dip/MSc ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING |
| MSc MECHANICAL ENGINEERING |
| MSc AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING |
| MSc AUTOSPORT ENGINEERING |
| MSc MECHATRONICS |
| Pg CERT MECHANICAL ENGINEERING |
| MPhil/PhD BIOLOGY |
| MPhil/PhD BY PUBLISHED WORK - SCIENCES AREA |
| MPhil/PhD ECOLOGY |
| MPhil/PhD CHEMISTRY |
| MPhil/PhD GEOGRAPHY |

Events in the Local Area...

Stoke

30 - 31 Oct 2009 Haunted Evening Walks

Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke - dare you join to hear chilling tales while you walk around the museum by lamplight? Fancy dress encouraged, opens 6.30pm. Timed tours from 7pm, £6.95 (includes free day time to museum in November). Tickets on sale - please call 01782 237777 or visit the museum to book

5 Nov 2009 Fireworks Display, Fenton Park, Stoke

12 Nov 2009

Stoke-on-Trent City Centre **Christmas Lights Switch-On Event**.
Location: Fountain Square, Stoke-on-Trent City Centre
2pm - 9pm (free)

Stafford

7 Nov 2009 Shugborough Fireworks Display

Shugborough Estate (near Stafford)
Shugborough, Milford, Staffordshire ST17 0XB. 4-9pm **Cost:** £6

21 Nov 2009 Stafford Christmas Lights Switch-On

Stafford Town Centre 11am - 5pm
From the fun of the Santa Parade at 11 am, to the dramatic Christmas Lights Switch-on and Firework Spectacular at 5pm, there's something for the whole family.

28 Nov 2009 Traditional Christmas Victorian Market

Stafford Town Centre 9am - 4pm
Market with Victorian Carousel, stall holders in Victorian costume, arts and crafts, antiques, fresh farm produce, charity products, Christmas gifts and much, much more.