



Welcome!

You will soon be joining us at Heriot-Watt University International Study Centre, where you will have a wonderful opportunity to study in the UK, at one of Britain's finest universities.

Set in 380 acres of mature meadow and woodland to the west of Edinburgh, the campus is just six minutes from Edinburgh airport, and some 20 minutes from the city centre by car. Over 6,500 students study on this modern, spacious and green campus. It is situated in the conservation area surrounding the city and enjoys a quiet and extremely attractive location. The campus is designed for the career focused, socially engaged, sports playing individual, who also happens to love being close to one of the finest and most attractive cities in the UK.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Heriot-Watt University International Study Centre Staff

Key Facts

Head of ISC:	Dr Efreem Jones
Address of ISC:	International Study Centre Unit 2 Mercury House Research Park North Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh EH14 4AP Scotland
Telephone No of ISC:	0131 451 5243
Emergency Contact Number:	+44 (0)7827 806650

Useful Websites

If you would like to learn more about life at the ISC, Heriot-Watt University, the local area and other information, the following websites may be useful.

Visit Britain	www.visitbritain.com
UK Maps	www.streetmap.co.uk
BBC Weather Centre	www.bbc.co.uk/weather
Visit Edinburgh	www.edinburgh.org/
Heriot-Watt ISC Frequently Asked Questions	www.studygroup.com/isc/heriotwatt/frequently_asked_questions.aspx

Join us on Facebook

The ISC is now on Facebook. Connect with other new students at Heriot-Watt University ISC - see photos, ask questions, leave messages.

Not a member of Facebook?

It's free to join but you will need to click the "Sign up for Facebook" link:

www.facebook.com/r.php?

Follow the instructions on screen, and register your details.

You will then need to check your email and click on the link confirming your email address.

Once you are registered go to:

www.facebook.com/ischw

To join, simply click 'Join this Group'.

What to pack/bring

Essential items to bring with you include: your passport and visa, your enrolment and accommodation documents, passport sized photographs, photographs of friends and family to brighten up your new room, a towel, essential toiletries and medications and an alarm clock – for those early starts!

Arriving in the UK

Please ensure you ring home to inform your parents or agent that you have arrived safely – they will be worried about you and want to know you have arrived safely.

Please ensure the International Admissions Centre (IAC) have been advised of your expected arrival details in good time, on Telephone +44 (0)1273 339333 or Fax +44 (0)1273 339334.

Students are advised to check with the Head of Centre before booking their travel back home at the end of each term. In particular it is advised that you check with the Head of Centre before booking travel home at the end of the course in case it is necessary to remain in order to receive results and be advised of next steps in your study plan.

By plane

Most international students fly and are met by a taxi, which will transfer them from the airport to the University. If you are being collected by taxi, you should report to the information desk at the airport and wait there - the driver will pick you up from there.

The taxi driver should know which accommodation you are staying in, but it is a good idea to have the details of where you are staying to hand.

If there is no-one waiting for you on arrival, don't panic, just ring us on our emergency number - **07827 806650** and someone will be able to help you. Alternatively you can ring the taxi company, Edina Cars, directly on **0131 656 9888**.

Please see the attached Accommodation Guide for more detailed arrival information.

Making your own way

By train or bus

For those arriving by public transport, there are many ways of getting to the campus from Edinburgh.

For detailed arrival information and local services please go to: www.hw.ac.uk/welcome/directions.htm

Students who will be arriving in Edinburgh by train will arrive at Waverley station. This station has a large taxi rank, and it should cost approximately £18 to the University.

By car

If you are arriving by car, you can drive to the residences and unload. There is free car parking on campus, in any of the designated car parks. Visitors must use Car Park A or B.

Accommodation

Your accommodation should be available the weekend before the start of your course. Please see the Accommodation Guide included with this pack for information about the University residences.

Induction

During your first week of term we will help you settle into life in Britain, and at the University. Your first week will include: registration at the University, registration with our local/on-campus health services, setting up a bank account, and police registration.

Please be aware that all students are given an English test and a Maths test on arrival, and study plans may be changed on the basis of this test.

Medical Information

There are medical facilities located on or near to campus. Staff will ensure you are registered at the local Health Centre, and will show you where the closest pharmacy is located, where you can receive medicines on prescription.

Opening a bank account

If you are coming to the UK for at least an academic year, it is recommended that you open a bank account. Before opening an account, you should check whether money can be transferred into it from outside of the UK. To open a UK bank account you will need a letter from the ISC for the bank confirming that you are a full time student. Our staff will help you with this in your first week.

Warning: DO NOT carry large amounts of cash with you or keep large amounts of cash in your accommodation.

Police registration

If on entering the UK your visa is stamped with the words "Register with UK police on arrival" this must be done shortly after arrival. Staff at the ISC will help you with this. You will have the opportunity to register with the police during your first week with us. You will need your passport and a sum of money, currently in the region of £34. You will be given further information on registering with the police during the induction programme.

The cost of being a student

Whilst in the UK, you will need to budget carefully to cover all of your living costs, which include accommodation, clothes, transport, books, food and entertainment.

It is very difficult to estimate how much money you will need over a year as this depends on individual lifestyles and circumstances, although you should budget approximately £50 per term for books. Remember, you will spend more money at the beginning of the course as you may need to buy one-off items such as kitchen equipment, books that will last for two or more terms, and special equipment for your course. Small charges may also be made by some departments to cover supplementary materials or services.

More information about how to budget for your living expenses will be discussed during your first week of term.

Living in the UK

Social attitudes

Life in Britain will almost certainly be different from what you are used to. It is difficult to define exactly what the 'British' way of life is as attitude and outlooks vary considerably according to where you are in the country. As home to residents from many different parts of the world and a variety of ethnic backgrounds, Britain has a vibrant, cosmopolitan feel.

When you first arrive you may notice differences in the way people behave compared to your own country, however, it won't take you long before you are accustomed to your new life here and are able to adapt to a whole variety of situations; everything from understanding British etiquette and mannerisms to cooking your own food and running your own bank account.

Drinking

Alcohol is available to anyone aged over 18. It's perfectly acceptable for adults to drink alcohol in moderate amounts. For many British people, drinking is an established part of social life – 'going out for a drink' is how they relax or spend time with friends. This doesn't mean that you have to drink alcohol. If you don't want to you can always ask for a non-alcoholic drink instead.

Smoking

Many people in Britain smoke. However, in some ways smoking is less acceptable than drinking, and since summer 2007, smoking has been banned in all pubs, clubs and restaurants in England. Smoking is banned in many public places including buses and the London Underground. If you smoke in these places, you have to pay a fine. Some non-smokers find smoke unpleasant and uncomfortable. If you are eating or drinking with friends – especially at someone else's house – it is polite to ask before you light your cigarette.

Homesickness

To start with everything is new, exciting and different, but as time goes by you may start to wish that things were the way they were back home. Don't despair as this stage will pass – and much more quickly if you talk to someone about how you are feeling.

Racism

Racism is a global problem and no society is perfect. Britain isn't free from racism and while you may meet a little of it in your day to day life, it is hoped that it is very rare in the University. The ISC and the University are committed to equality and to ensuring that you do not face discrimination whilst you are studying.

Specialist and international foods

There are many shops and restaurants in the area which sell these types of foods. You may also find that some of the larger supermarkets stock some of the products that you require.



Thank you for deciding to take your course at Heriot-Watt University and for selecting residential accommodation.

The university offers university managed accommodation, all of which are on campus. Some rooms are self-catered and have en-suite facilities, others come as a catered package, with shared bathroom facilities. There is broadband access in every room, so keeping in touch with family and friends is easy.

All of our students have use of a lounge, the laundrette, 24 hour computer labs, and a warden in each hall who will be there to help you settle in and sort out any problems you may have. Self-catered facilities have the use of a well equipped kitchen.

Please note: Accommodation will be allocated according to availability. This means that you may not necessarily be given the type of room you originally requested on your booking form.

Students staying in on-campus residences must pay an Accommodation Confirmation Payment to secure their room. This payment is for £2000 and is due one month before the start of term. You will be expected to pay the remainder of your rent directly to the university as per their terms and conditions.

Arrival

When you arrive we aim to help you to settle in as quickly and as smoothly as possible. We know that when you arrive at Heriot-Watt you may feel anxious that you do not know anyone. But everyone feels the same, and living in University accommodation you soon get to meet your neighbours.

Please do not arrive more than 2 days before your course is due to start as your room may not be available.

We expect to see you arrive on Saturday 4th September 2010
Please report to the ISC on Monday 6th September at 9am

You must ensure the International Admissions Centre (IAC) have been advised of your expected arrival details in good time, on Telephone +44 (0)1273 339333 or Fax +44 (0)1273 339334.

When you do arrive at the university, you need to report to the main reception at the James Watt Centre, which is open 24 hours. You will be sent a copy of your accommodation contract, via email, shortly before the start of your course. **You must bring this contract with you and show it to reception staff in order to be directed to your room. If you forget to bring a copy of your contract you may not be allowed in your room.** If temporary guestrooms are available you may be offered one of these, at your expense.

Please ring the ISC emergency number 07827 806650, (+44 7827 8066 50 if you are phoning from overseas) if you have any questions or problems.



International Study Centre (ISC) Accommodation Guide September '10

The ISC is circled on the campus map included with this pack. You will spend your first day meeting members of staff at the ISC, and completing your student registration forms. You will be given a detailed arrival handbook and your timetable, which lets you know exactly where you should be, and when. You will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

We really hope you enjoy your time here and have a productive, integrated and enjoyable stay with us at Heriot-Watt University.

Please note that dependant on your study plan, you may be required to move rooms during your course, and may have to sign separate contracts for each tenancy period.

Settling In

A bedding pack will be provided for you on arrival. It will consist of a duvet, duvet cover, pillow, pillow case and bed sheet. Please note there is no towel provided and you should bring your own.

Students in self-catered accommodation will need to provide their own cutlery and pans. These can be bought cheaply from local shops.

There are telephones in each room, which will already be connected when you arrive. To make an outgoing call, you will need to purchase a phone card from the campus shop. When you arrive you will find out your extension number, and details of how to receive incoming calls.

There are shops both on campus and very close to campus, which sell everything you'll need to help you settle in. Please check with your airline before flying what you are allowed to bring on to the flight, particularly in reference to food products.

Please note that tap water in Britain is safe to drink. If you feel wary of this, water filters are readily available at most supermarkets, which you could buy on arrival.

Please see the ISC Frequently Asked Questions Page to answer any other queries you may have - http://www.studygroup.com/isc/heriotwatt/frequently_asked_questions.aspx

Please see the Heriot-Watt accommodation 'allocation policy' webpage for more details: <http://www.hw.ac.uk/welfare/edinburgh/index.htm>

You may also find it useful to look at Heriot-Watt University's own pre-arrival pack dedicated to international students:

<http://www.hw.ac.uk/documents/PDF/international-student-guide.pdf>



Your course is due to start on Monday 6th September 2010. Please do not arrive more than 2 days before this, as your accommodation will not be ready for you. Therefore we'd expect to see you on Saturday 4th or Sunday 5th September.

Arrival

If you are arriving by plane and have asked for a taxi pick up from Edinburgh, you should report to the information desk at the airport and wait there - the driver will pick you up from there.

If there is no-one waiting for you on arrival, don't panic, just ring us on **07827 806650** and someone will be able to help you.

Alternatively you can ring the taxi company, Edina Cars, directly on **0131 656 9888**.

The taxi will take you to the James Watt Centre to pick up your keys. You must show your accommodation contract in order to collect your keys.

Induction activities

In this pack, you will find a draft timetable for your first week at university. Don't worry if there are some things you don't understand, as there will be opportunities for you to ask questions about anything related to the ISC or the university on the day you arrive.

The induction programme is designed to help you settle down within the university so that you can concentrate on your studies. The programme also aims to complete your registration and make sure you have all of the documentation necessary to begin your studies in the UK.

In your first week you will have both lessons and introductions to the UK and university life. There may also be a chance to get involved with social activities planned by the university. Finally you will receive information about starting your individual courses, including timetables and academic information.

During your first week you will have a complete introduction to the UK, the university, and the ISC. You will:

- Register with the library
- Get set up and logged onto the university internet network
- Learn about the programme that you have registered for including information relating to progression to the university
- Learn the rules and regulations of the ISC and the university
- Open a bank account
- Register with local health services
- Ask questions about accommodation issues
- Learn about visa applications
- Register with the UK police, if necessary

Your first day

You will need to report to the ISC at 9am on Monday 6th September, where you will start your induction programme.

The ISC is circled on the campus map included with this pack. You will begin the day by meeting members of staff at the ISC, and completing your student registration forms. You will be given a detailed arrival handbook and an updated induction week timetable, letting you know exactly where you should be, and when. You will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

We really hope you enjoy your first weekend here and have a productive, integrated and enjoyable stay with us at Heriot-Watt University.

**International Study Centre
Unit 2, Mercury House
Galileo Centre
Heriot-Watt University
Research Park
Research Avenue North
Edinburgh
EH14 4AP**

07827 806650



International Study Centre (ISC) Induction Timetable - September 2010

This is a provisional timetable of activities during the first week after arrival. It is subject to change and students will be given an updated timetable on arrival.

	Monday, 6 Sept	Tuesday, 7 Sept	Wednesday, 8 Sept	Thursday, 9 Sept	Friday, 10 Sept
10 – 10.50	- Welcome from Head of Centre - Fire/Health & Safety	- Registering at the University medical centre	Briefing from link tutors Presentation by Head of HWU Recruitment & Admissions	English Language and Mathematics Placement testing & individual student interviews – times to be confirmed	English Language and Mathematics Placement testing & individual student interviews – times to be confirmed
11:10 - 12	- Passport/Visas to be copied - ISC/HWU registration - Medical/Bank Account forms				
12 – 13	Ice-breaker activities to help you get to know other students	Library induction session (Anderson Room)			
13 – 14	LUNCH at ISC	LUNCH at HW Students' Union			
14 – 15		Introduction to Academic programme			
15 – 16:30	Campus walking tour				
16:30 – 17	Free time for students to organise their rooms, prepare for rest of week etc.				



Location map for International Study Centre Students

ISC emergency number: 07827 8066 50

N.B. Point A on the map is the Main University reception (opposite bus terminal)