



Bournemouth and Poole College Pre-Arrival Guide

Welcome

On behalf of The Bournemouth and Poole College I would like to extend a warm welcome to international students to our friendly and cosmopolitan study environment. As a long-established provider of international study you can be assured of high quality provision, excellent facilities and well qualified teaching professionals.

Combining traditional quality standards with innovative teaching and technology, The College offers a wide range of qualifications and courses to prepare students for study at university or to enter the work place as well qualified employees.

Our dedicated and experienced International Operations team is on hand to ensure your time with us at The Bournemouth and Poole College is both enjoyable and successful. With over 20 years of international experience, our International Operations staff are able to answer any questions you may have about living and studying within the Bournemouth and Poole area.

The local region is one of natural beauty and culture, and offers many opportunities for part time working. It truly is a great place for living, and a great place for learning, and we look forward to welcoming you soon to The Bournemouth and Poole College.



Phil Sayles
Principal / Chief Executive



The College

The Bournemouth and Poole College is one of the largest Further Education colleges in the UK.

You will be taught by leading experts and supported by some of the best learning facilities in the country including extensive libraries, audio books and support materials.

With over 300 students taking English programmes we can offer flexibility, regular start dates and English language support while you study on a mainstream course.

Each year around 200 overseas students from many different backgrounds and countries choose to study with us.

Students are provided with an opportunity to learn alongside thousands of UK students and to get involved in college life, so you will have excellent opportunities to improve your English and learn about British life and culture.

From the moment you arrive at the airport to the day you leave us you can be assured of the best care and support. The College has been awarded a prestigious Beacon Award for International Student Support and we are proud of the welcome we extend to all learners.

COLLEGE SITES

Bournemouth & Poole College has 3 sites:

- Lansdowne
- North Road
- Fulcrum



College facilities

The College has excellent facilities including computer suites, libraries, study centres, learning resource centres, laboratories and workshops, state-of-the-art rapid prototyping facilities, a professional theatre, dance studios, kitchens, gym and a sports hall.

Our music centre is a specially designed facility housing fully-equipped rehearsal rooms and recording studios.

Our specialist tutors have a wealth of sector experience and knowledge and will teach you in a professional environment.

Leisure facilities

The College also offers a wide range of leisure facilities, all available to our International students, including:

- Cafeterias
- Coffee Shops
- Restaurants
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Hair & Beauty Salons
- Art Gallery



HOW TO GET TO BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE



From Heathrow Airport

By Coach: Go to the Central Bus (Coach) Station which is a short walk from Terminal 1, 2 and 3. Buy a ticket and take a 'National Express' bus to either Bournemouth or Poole. This is a direct journey; there is no need to change buses on the way. The journey takes 2-3 hours depending upon traffic conditions and £22- £35 one way.

By Train: Leave the terminal and find the collection point for the 'Rail-Air Link' bus to Woking, it is well signposted. The journey lasts about one hour. At Woking Station take a 'South West' train to Bournemouth / Poole. The journey takes about 2 hours. Fares are £76- £135.

From Gatwick Airport

By Coach: Go to the Bus (Coach) Station at the South Terminal, buy a ticket and take the bus to Bournemouth; the route takes you via Heathrow Airport. When you get on the bus check again by saying "Is this the right coach for Bournemouth and Poole please?" The journey takes 2-3 hours depending on the traffic conditions. It is about £29- £44 one way.

Taxi Transfer

Heathrow (approximately 2 hours) = £170 one way (This price may be subject to change).

Coach Fares

Fares range from approximately £35.00 from Heathrow Airport and £44.00 from Gatwick Airport depending upon the type of ticket you want. Friday is always the busiest day to travel and the most expensive!

Train Fares

Train fares can become expensive at peak travel times; early morning travel by train is to be avoided. If you travel at appropriate times and have a Young Person's Rail Card you can save money. The Rail Card is available to students aged 16-25 years – older students can also buy other railcards offering cheaper travel. These cards will save you 30% on each journey you make – well worth thinking about!

London Waterloo to Bournemouth and Poole

Two trains operate each way every hour. This is often the quickest but not necessarily the cheapest way to travel to and from London



Pre-Departure Checklist

Before you depart

To help you with pre-departure preparations, the following checklist will provide a few reminders of the key things you will need to do before you travel:

- Apply for your visa
- Arrange accommodation
- Make your travel arrangements
- Notify International Office at Bournemouth and Poole College of your arrival details (or ask your agent to do that)

Take in your hand luggage:

- Valid passport, with UK visa (if applicable)
- A copy of an Acceptance Letter from The Bournemouth and Poole College - UK immigration at the airport will ask you where you will be studying and living, so make sure that you know the details of your course and of your accommodation
- Originals of important documents (e.g. exam certification/transcripts, travelers cheques, insurance policy, passport)
- Any prescribed drugs/medicine
- Contact lenses/glasses prescription
- Details of your destination – address and phone number
- Proof of purchase for IT equipment (for UK customs)
- British currency
- Spare passport-size photographs

Arrival in the UK

When your aircraft lands in the airport you must pass through immigration control first (before collecting your luggage).

There are usually two main queues: one for British Nationals and one All others. Make sure you join the correct queue.

An Immigration Officer will look at your passport and check your Visa/Entry Clearance. You should also have your documents relating to your studies

(Acceptance letter from The Bournemouth and Poole College) ready.

Before leaving Immigration Control, check that the Immigration Officer has put a date stamp (if you had a Visa or Entry Clearance) in your passport; or (if you are a non-Visa national coming for a course of less than six months) check that you have been stamped in as a 'Student Visitor'.

After immigration control, you will be

able to collect your luggage. At most airports baggage is unloaded on to one of a number of moving belts ('carousels') in the baggage collection area. Look for your flight number and the name of the place your flight departed from on the screens or above the carousels and wait for each item of your baggage to appear.

If any item does not come through, find a representative of the airline you travelled on and fill in a lost baggage form. When you have found your luggage you must pass through Customs control. Join the queue for the Green channel if you have nothing to declare, the Red channel if you



have goods to declare, or the blue channel if you have arrived from an airport within the European Economic Area (EEA) where you have already cleared all your luggage through customs control.

If you are travelling to the UK from a country outside the European Union and are carrying 10,000 Euros or more in cash, bankers draft or cheque of any kind (about £8,032.00 in pounds sterling or the equivalent in other currencies) you will be required to declare this at customs.

Forms on which to make the declaration will be available when you arrive and you will be given a copy of the completed form, which you should keep safely as evidence that you have made a declaration. Please note that a penalty of up to £5,000 can be imposed if you do not make this declaration or provide incorrect or incomplete information.

If you are carrying more than the permitted duty- or tax-free allowances, or any prohibited goods (e.g. drugs, offensive weapons, food or plants from outside the

European Union, etc.) you must pass through the red channel. If you are not sure about what you can bring into the UK you should check with the British Embassy or High Commission in your home country before travelling to the UK.



Useful Phrases

Here are some of the key questions that Immigration Officers can ask. Practice your answers before you arrive.

What is your name?

What is your date of birth?

How long are you staying?

What is the purpose of your visit?

Have you got a letter from The College?

Have you paid the school fees?

Have you got a return ticket?

Where are you staying?

Have you been to the UK before?

Do you intend to work in the UK?

Have you got enough money to live on?

First day at the College

If your course starts in September, you will have a one-day induction when you arrive at The College. The details of the induction will be sent to you beforehand.

If you start your course during the academic year, you need to come to our International Office which is located at Lansdowne site where you will be enrolled and get all the necessary information before you start your course.

The International Office offers a dedicated service for international students at The College.

Students can refer to the Department for matters relating to council tax payments, health registration, police registration, opening of bank accounts and UK Visa and Immigration regulation information.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The Bournemouth and Poole College
Bournemouth Campus:

The Lansdowne
Bournemouth
BH1 3JJ

PHONE: +44 1202 205161
Email: international@bpc.ac.uk

Settling in

HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION

Our role at The College is to help you settle in and make your stay as enjoyable as possible. We can help you arrange accommodation when you first arrive, but we can only offer 'homestay' accommodation, which involves living with a local host family

From a student's point of view Homestay Accommodation offers the best value for money. It represents about half the cost of the cheapest hotels offering 'Bed & Breakfast' accommodation in the area.

Homestay also encourages you to speak and develop your English Language skills and helps you settle into the British way of life. It gives you the opportunity to become a member of an English family; this offers good family support but also means that you will need to adjust to the family's timetable which may include, for instance, arriving home at a set time in the evening, being prompt for meals, and not smoking in the house.

Students will always be offered their own room. Students will be provided with breakfast and dinner Monday to Friday and full-board at weekends.

You will be expected to be punctual at mealtimes. If you are not going to be back for dinner you should let the family know the night before, or in the morning before you go to College. If you do not like a particular food please let your family know; they will not be offended. If you want extra snacks and drinks in the home, you must provide them yourself.

You can expect to have a daily bath or shower, although not all English homes have shower facilities. You must provide your own personal toiletries, e.g. shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.

Some families may do your laundry for you or allow you to do your own laundry in their home. This is generally done once a week.

All electricity, water and gas charges are included in the price. If you wish to use a laptop, TV, stereo or other equipment not provided by the family, please check that it is OK with them first.

Use of the telephone is not included in the price of homestay, and it is up to the individual family whether or not they let you use their telephone to make outgoing calls, and at what cost. You should be allowed to receive incoming calls at a reasonable time of day. You should always ask your homestay family if you can bring a guest home.

Local families offering homestay are carefully selected and will vary enormously. You may stay with one single person (i.e. the house owner), or with a family of husband, wife and children. The family may include pets and some will only take non-smokers.

We will endeavour to match you to a family that suits your needs and preferences, and you will need to learn the family routine in order to be happy there. You will be treated, as far as possible, as a member of the family so it is important that you try to contribute as other family members do. For instance, volunteer to take your turn with the washing up.

Please ask about use of equipment in the home - do not risk breaking items due to lack of knowledge. Your homestay family will need access to your room to change the bed linen, and will usually make you aware of a regular time when they will do this. You will be expected to keep your room clean and tidy, though the family may wish to give it a thorough clean from time to time.

Room Furnishings

You can expect a furnished room to include:

- Single or double bed
- Adequate storage space (e.g. wardrobe, chest of drawers)
- Study table/desk and chair (or suitable study area in the house, e.g. at the dining table)
- Adequate heating, i.e. a radiator
- Adequate lighting, e.g. a good room light and side lamp
- Adequate soft furnishings, e.g. carpet, curtains, lampshade, bed linen, etc



Police Registration

Some nationalities that come to the UK for more than six months to study are required to register with the Police. If you are required to register, the condition will always be printed on the visa in your passport. To register you will need: your passport, two recent passport size photos and £34 cash.



Money

When you arrive in the UK, you should bring about £300 in cash for your immediate needs. We advise our students to open a bank account. You will need a letter from International office to do that.



Health and Healthcare

If you are using the 6-months 'student visitor' route you should make sure you have private health insurance from the beginning of your stay.

If you are using the 11-months 'student visitor' route and you paid the immigration health surcharge when you made your entry clearance application, then you will be entitled to free hospital treatment. You should register with a GP (General Practitioner) when you first arrive to the UK. You will need a letter confirming you are studying at The College.

Useful Information

The Weather

The weather remains the most frequent topic of conversation in the UK as it is rather changeable and difficult to predict, due to the fact that the UK is an island country and surrounded by sea. The weather is quite variable, with quite warm summers but colder winters, although how you find this depends on what you are used to in your own country. In the summer it can occasionally be as warm as 30°C but in winter temperatures can drop to 0°C or lower.

It also rains regularly and we usually achieve a minimum of 60mm per month with much more in winter. Therefore it can seem quite chilly and we advise you to bring warm and waterproof clothes. You may want to bring an umbrella with you to prepare for an unexpected shower.

Traditional Foods

British food was traditionally based on beef, lamb, pork, chicken and fish and generally served with potatoes and other vegetables. The most common and typical foods eaten in the UK include the sandwich, fish and chips, meat and pastry products like pies, and meat, potato and vegetable meals. However, in the last 40 years great changes in the range of food on offer mean that the British diet is more varied and includes staples from all over the world including pasta, rice, couscous, beans and imported fruits and vegetables. It is now said that the favourite British meal is curry. Restaurants serving most cultural dishes from across the world including Chinese, American, Greek, French, Italian, Indian and Mexican can be found in Bournemouth and Poole as well as many international fast foods and take-away outlets. Many pubs, shops and bars also serve meals or snacks too. Tea is said to be the national drink in the UK. Every day we drink 165 million cups of tea and each year around 144 thousand tons of tea is imported. Coffee is also very popular and the last 20 years has seen a spread across the UK of national and international coffee chains.

Electricity

The power supply in the UK is 230/240 volts. Sockets accept only three-(square)-pin plugs, so an adapter is needed for international appliances. A transformer is also needed for appliances operating on 110-120 volts.

Clothes

Wear layers of clothing. While it can be warm when you first get onto a plane, for example, the temperature may get colder throughout the journey. Ensure that you pack clothes suitable for English winters. It can be very cold, particularly in December and January. Be sure to have a jacket in case it is raining when you arrive at the airport! You may also find the weather to be cooler than you are used to when you first arrive in the UK. In addition, if you are travelling far, or in case your luggage goes missing, you may want to bring toiletries and an extra item of clothing to change into upon arrival.

Communication

Upon arrival you should call home to let friends or relatives to say that you have arrived safely. It may be best to obtain a new sim card for your mobile phone and these are available in most shops. You can then purchase credit to be used on your phone and it should be cheaper than using your sim card from your home country.

Alternatively you can use public telephone boxes which accept many forms of payment. Make sure you check the rate of charge before you make an international call. You may be able to use internet telephone calls to stay in touch using systems such as Skype which are free if you both have internet connections. Free use of the college computers and WiFi will be available to you in college after your enrolment forms have been processed on to the college system.

Working in the UK

If you are in the UK as a short-term student, your passport sticker or the stamp in your passport will say "No work" or "Work Prohibited". This means that you are not allowed to:

- Take paid employment
- Take unpaid employment
- Be self-employed
- Do any work



Useful Links

National Express – bus and coach services
<http://www.nationalexpress.com/>
 South West Trains – rail journeys
<http://www.southwesttrains.co.uk/>
 Local bus services
<http://morebus.co.uk/>
 UK Visa and Immigration
<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>
 UKCISA – advice for international students
<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>
 Bournemouth Tourist Information
<http://www.bournemouth.co.uk/>
 Poole Tourist Information
<http://www.pooletourism.com/>
 Christchurch Tourist Information
<http://www.visitchristchurch.info/>
 National Trust – places to visit
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>
 Visit Britain – places to visit
<http://www.visitbritain.com/>
 UK Student Life – British culture and life
<http://www.ukstudentlife.com/>

First Time Student Arrivals 10 Top Tips

As part of your preparations for your studying in the UK this year, Border Force want to make sure you have everything you need to get through the UK border as efficiently as possible. Follow these top tips for a smooth journey through the UK border:

1. Have your passport ready.
2. Ensure you complete a landing card (if a non EEA National).
3. Have your Acceptance letter from The College ready.
4. Keep any medical documentation, recent bank statement and details of where you are staying in your hand luggage.
5. Do not bring in any meat or dairy products from outside the UK.
6. There are also restrictions on other food products such as fish, eggs and honey, as well as some fruit, vegetables and plants(e.g. bulbs, seeds, cut flowers and tree bark).
7. There are also restrictions on the amount of tobacco, alcohol and gifts you can bring in the UK. If you exceed your duty-free allowance and do not declare them, all of your items could be taken away from you.
8. Never bring in counterfeit goods, illegal drugs, offensive weapons or indecent or obscene material. Some items are restricted and will require a licence or permit.
9. You must declare any sums of cash of £10,000 or more (or the equivalent in another currency) if you are travelling from a country outside the European Union.
10. Never give false or misleading information (including forged or counterfeit documents).

