

Agents News

Your Monthly Update

MAY 2015

Exeter voted as UK's top university for international student experience

The University of Exeter has won a prestigious award for providing the UK's best international student experience, beating off strong competition from Cambridge, Oxford and St Andrews to secure the coveted award.

The University secured the celebrated 'International Student Choice Category' at the *Whatuni Student Choice* awards, held on Thursday, 23 April. More than 20,000 university students from across the UK cast their votes for the awards, which covered 10 individual categories.

Dr Shaun Curtis, Director of [International Exeter](#), said: "It is a tremendous honour for Exeter to win this award, voted for by international students. Exeter prides itself on providing an outstanding experience to students from more than 130 different countries". For more information, please [click here](#).

IMMIGRATION
SPECIAL

Immigration Update

Agents are reminded that the restriction of SELT to UKVI approved IELTS tests from 6 April do **not** impact on any student enrolling direct at the University, i.e. without the need for any pre-sessional or pathway programme.

The University will continue to accept the IELTS, TOEFL, PTE and Cambridge examinations as evidence that the required linguistic minimum grades have been achieved by entrants to degree level programmes including the INTO University of Exeter Graduate Diploma. In addition, the University continues to recognise a number of local qualifications for undergraduate entrants.

Students commencing their studies at INTO for pre-sessional, Foundation or International Year One **will be affected** by the new regulations unless they satisfy the agreed transitional arrangements permitting acceptance of language tests taken with previous SELT providers on or before 5 April 2015. Further to this the University has agreed special arrangements to assist pre-sessional applicants who had planned to take one of these other tests after 6 April – see overleaf.



SINGLE CAS AVAILABLE FOR ENGLISH PRE-SESSIONALS 2015 IF...

- They hold an English Language qualification that is equivalent to CEFR level B2 (IELTS 5.5 overall and no sub-score less than 5.5; Cambridge English Advanced / Proficiency overall 162 and at least 162 in all sections; TOEFL IBT 71 overall with at least 18 in all sections; PTE Academic 55 overall and at least 55 in all skills or the equivalent)
- Student has an unconditional offer for either the six or 10-week INTO University of Exeter pre-sessional programme (including payment of full fees for the pre-sessional programme) **and**
- Has met all University requirements (including payment of tuition-fee deposit, graduation certificate and/or medical check) except the language requirements for the follow-on degree programme

Please note that the availability of the single CAS is very date-specific. If a student is going to take the 10-week pre-sessional, the above issues must be satisfied by 15 May 2015; if they're going to take the six-week programme, they must be cleared by 12 June 2015. If the issues are not satisfied by these dates, the student will need to obtain two separate CAS. Single CAS students must also be prepared to satisfy different maintenance requirements.

Agents are reminded that the pre-sessional entry requirements vary according to the overall score achieved, individual subskill scores and linguistic requirements of the follow-on degree programme. For full details, please [click here](#). If you have any queries, please contact your [International Officer](#).

ONLINE PRE-CAS CHECK

From this year, UF offer-holders will receive an email providing a link to a specific, personalised and pre-populated University webpage in which they can add/correct information necessary for the University to issue the CAS. Agents are reminded that no CAS will be issued until this online form has been completed and submitted to the University.

The turnaround time for issuing CAS is expected to be five working-days (**after** receipt of above online form and providing no further queries from the

University). Please note, the University is strongly recommending that the visa appointment is not booked until **after** the CAS has been received by the student/agent.

A useful handout with a checklist and timeline can be downloaded [here](#). Additionally, agents are reminded that finances continue to be the main reason for visa refusals. Please see our video [here](#) for some useful guidance about this specific aspect of the visa application.



Reminder about translations for Tier 4 applications

Students who will need to extend their Tier 4 visa from inside the UK (following a pre-sessional programme) need to provide their original academic certificates as described in their conditional offer. If not in English, a translation is also required.

Please note that the UKVI requirements for translations submitted inside the UK are different to the requirements for entry clearance in that the **translator's credentials** are required (translation qualification). Please note this additional requirement when helping students to prepare their documents.

A certificate issued by a university in English is acceptable if original and issued on the official headed paper of the institution. If the certificate states that it is a translation, it must meet the requirements above and be accompanied by the original.

Full details of the translation requirements are found in paragraphs [14-16 of the Tier 4 Policy Guidance](#).

Immigration Health Surcharge

While agents may be aware of the Health Surcharge that now has to be paid by all non-EEA students on courses over six months, it may be that you are not aware that the fee will vary depending on the duration of the student's visa **not** the duration of their course. Given that the surcharge must be paid **before** submitting the visa application, agents might want to make use of the [calculator](#) to find out how much the charge is.

As a guideline, the charge will be £150 for 12 months, or £75 for six months or less. A student on a 12-month MSc programme will receive a Tier 4 visa for 17 months and will be charged as follows: £150 for the first 12 months and £75 for the remaining five months. Therefore, the full amount will be £225.

Once payment has been received, the student will be sent an email with their unique Immigration Healthcare Surcharge (IHS) reference number. This reference number must be written on the front of the visa application coversheet.

Students and dependants who are nationals of Australia or New Zealand are exempt from payment but they must still apply for an IHS reference number. The online form is available [here](#).

Biometric Residence Permits (BID)

Students studying longer than six months will now get a temporary visa 'sticker' in their passport and must collect their BID card covering the full length of their visa within 10 days of arrival in the UK. The BID must be collected in person and students must show their **passport** and **decision letter**, ie the letter provided by the visa application centre when collecting the visa and documents in the home country.

Students can choose to have their BID cards sent directly to the University **or** collect at a local post office. The University would recommend that the BID was sent to the University, but we are currently awaiting our Centre Number. We will supply this to the students when we send the CAS statement.

Engineering applicants get LinkedIn

Applicants to postgraduate programmes in Engineering, Mining, Geology or Mathematics are encouraged to join the University of Exeter's Postgraduate Network on LinkedIn. Through this they will be able to meet and discuss their chosen programme with other applicants, staff, current students and alumni.

The network also provides an invaluable resource to agents seeking detailed or additional information about programmes available at Exeter and can be used to keep in touch with students currently studying with us.

Join the University of Exeter's Postgraduate Study Group here or follow us on Wechat on 埃克赛特CEMPS with the account CEMPS-ExeterUni.

University accommodation – apply now

Our online accommodation portal is now open and undergraduate and postgraduate applicants are encouraged to make their application for a university residence as soon as possible. Agents and students can find further information about the wide range of available accommodation, eligibility criteria and how to apply [here](#). We also strongly recommend taking a look at the [virtual tours](#) to find out what the individual accommodation is like in more detail.

The deadline for guaranteed accommodation for unaccompanied international students is **31 July 2015**. However, please remember that undergraduate accommodation is allocated only when students become 'unconditional' which might not be until mid/late August. Postgraduate applications, on the other hand, are strictly processed in date-order of receipt and will be allocated a room even if their offer is conditional.

More information on accommodation for students who are considering bringing their family can be found in the [family accommodation](#) section of the website. This accommodation is very limited which means that students may need to secure [accommodation in the city](#). If you have any queries or would like more information, please contact sid@exeter.ac.uk.

Cornwall accommodation

Applications for accommodation for students based at the Penryn Campus opened on Wednesday 8 April. As at the Exeter campuses, the application deadline is **31 July 2015**.

For further information regarding Cornwall accommodation options, including videos and photos of the accommodation, costs and contract lengths please see our [Accommodation Guide](#). Penryn applications can be submitted online using our accommodation software 'Room Service', a step-by-step application guide which can be found [here](#). For additional information, please contact accommodation@fxplus.ac.uk.



University May Bank holiday closure dates

Agents are reminded that the University will be closed from:

17:00 Friday 1 May to 09:00 Tuesday 5 May 2015

17:00 Friday 22 May to 09:00 Tuesday 26 May 2015

Applications received during these periods will be dealt with as quickly as possible by the Admissions Office staff upon their return. Your assistance in managing the students' expectations regarding turnaround of their decisions will be greatly appreciated.

In the event of emergencies affecting current students, please note that the Estates Patrol Office will remain open 24 hours a day every day and can be reached on (01392) 723999 or, if telephoning from abroad, +44 1392 723999.

KEY DATES

1 - 2 May	International Office representative visiting Nigeria
3 - 5 May	International Office representative visiting Ghana
4 May	University closed
16 - 17 May	India Office representatives attending exhibitions in Mumbai and Pune
24 May	India Office representatives attending exhibitions in Mumbai and Kanpur
25 May	University closed
26 - 29 May	International Office representative attending NAFSA conference in Boston
29 - 31 May	India Office representatives attending exhibitions in Delhi, Pune and Chandigarh