



# A guide for **PARENTS**



University  
of Exeter

[exeter.ac.uk](http://exeter.ac.uk)

# A LOCATION LIKE NO OTHER

## Exeter and Devon

Our unique Exeter campuses have the best of campus life whilst also being connected to our vibrant city, with a rich mix of culture, food and arts, all within walking distance. With fabulous coastline and national parks, Devon is consistently recognised as offering the best quality of life in the country.

## Also Penryn and Cornwall

Located in the beautiful county of Cornwall with its stunning beaches and dramatic cliffs, our Penryn campus is set in 100 acres of countryside, close to the waterside town of Falmouth, with beautiful views over the Fal estuary. It offers peace and tranquillity as well as a lively student community with a vibrant mixture of students from science, engineering, humanities and arts backgrounds.



## Train times from Exeter to:

Bristol	1 hr	York	5 hrs
Falmouth	3 hrs	Edinburgh	7 hrs
Manchester	4.5 hrs	Cardiff	2.5 hrs
Durham	6 hrs	Birmingham	2.5 hrs
London	2.5 hrs		

# BEING AT UNIVERSITY IS HUGEY EXCITING AND LIFE-CHANGING

The decision to go to university is a big step for students, and finding the most suitable course and place to study can be a daunting task.

We recognise that parents, guardians, carers and relatives all play a vital role in a student's decision making when they're applying for university. To support families during this process, whether you have some or no experience of higher education, we've gathered the key information that you will need to help guide a young person through the application journey.

## Before they arrive

We are delighted that your young person is thinking about studying at the University of Exeter. Our University is a member of the prestigious Russell Group which represents the 24 leading universities in the UK. Delivering world-class research and education, our research-led degrees are highly regarded by potential employers. If your young person does come here there are a number of tasks they will need to complete before they arrive – including obtaining a visa, applying for accommodation and booking our airport collection service. Our International Student Support team has put together a helpful guide on our website: [ex.ac.uk/aNr](http://ex.ac.uk/aNr)

## How to apply

You should encourage your young person to apply as early as possible via UCAS [ucas.com/undergraduate](http://ucas.com/undergraduate)

Students who may be assessed as a 'Home/EU' student for tuition fees purposes should apply by late January. We continue to consider applications from international students until late June if places are available. After this date applications will need to go through Clearing for any vacancies we still have. Key dates you should consider can be found here: [exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/keydates](http://exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/keydates)

If English is not your young person's first language, and they haven't completed their education in an English-speaking country, evidence of a good command of the language will need to be submitted before they start their degree programme.

Further details on the application process can be found here: [exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply](http://exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/howtoapply)



## Accommodation

As far as packing is concerned, resist the urge to over-pack. Moving-in checklists produced by our Accommodation Office set out what our residences provide and suggest additional items to pack:

Exeter: [exeter.ac.uk/v8media/specificsites/accommodation/docs/2024FICS061\\_A5\\_Moving-in\\_Checklist\\_v3.pdf](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/v8media/specificsites/accommodation/docs/2024FICS061_A5_Moving-in_Checklist_v3.pdf)

Cornwall: [exeter.ac.uk/study/cornwall-accommodation/movingin](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/cornwall-accommodation/movingin)

The kitchens in our residences, for instance, are typically very well-equipped shared spaces; your young person should wait until after they arrive to buy any additional appliances, when they and their flatmates can identify together what they are missing as a group. A few key mementoes of home, family photos, a favourite cuddly toy are likely to be a much better use of their luggage allowance than blenders, cutlery and crockery – and won't make their suitcases so heavy they are unable to lift them!

In addition, their academic department will let them know if there are any specific tasks or pieces of work which need to be completed before their course begins, such as reading welcome emails or looking at the reading lists for their course.

## Help them become independent

Help your young person brush up on basic life skills before they arrive to lessen the impact of independent living on arrival. These basic life skills include: using a washing machine, doing the household shopping, doing the washing-up, cooking (at least a few basic recipes) and living on a budget.

It is also really important that they understand how and when to pay their university fees.



'Prepare for Success' [prepareforsuccess.org.uk](https://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk) is a useful interactive web learning tool for international students getting ready to come to the UK for study. It explores some of the differences international students encounter between studying in their own countries and in the UK, and introduces them to concepts such as critical thinking and independent study.

It would be worthwhile visiting the University with your young person as preparation for what will be expected of them as a university student in the UK. If this is not possible, we have online open days / or virtual tours that can help you find out more information.

## After they arrive

Your young person will have a number of tasks to complete once they are here, including attending orientation activities, registering with a health centre, and opening a UK bank account. Our International Student Support team provides advice on our website here: [exeter.ac.uk/students/newstudents/whenyouarrive](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/newstudents/whenyouarrive)

## Keeping in touch

Agree when and how often you will keep in contact and trial texting, emailing, video calls and social media if you are not already familiar with communicating in this way. We recommend all new students make contact with home within 24 hours of their arrival in the UK. Welcome Week can be very busy, so be realistic about how often you will be able to speak with each other during this crucial integration and organisational period. When they've settled in they will be keen to share their news and experiences.

## Keeping safe

By international standards, the UK is quite a safe country, with low levels of violence and street crime. As a small city, Exeter is not very busy at night and Penryn is also not highly populated, so it is important your young person uses safe routes around town, such as lit paths and safe taxi drop-off zones.

Exeter and Falmouth are fairly compact places with a high student population, and local populations who are broadly welcoming of international students.

The University itself has its own campus security service: the Estate Patrol in Exeter, and Penryn Campus Safety and Support in Cornwall. Uniformed officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can find full details of our security services on our websites:

Exeter: [exeter.ac.uk/departments/campuservices/campussecurity](https://exeter.ac.uk/departments/campuservices/campussecurity)

Cornwall: [fxplus.ac.uk/campus-information/campus-security](https://fxplus.ac.uk/campus-information/campus-security)

During Welcome Week or January Orientation, your young person can also attend a safety talk by the police.

## Keeping healthy

We place a high priority on the health and wellbeing of our students and provide a range of services, including counselling, around areas such as housing issues, money, academic support and students' general well-being. You can find details about the full range of health and welfare services on offer on our website: [ex.ac.uk/aNv](https://ex.ac.uk/aNv)

We hope your young person will enjoy their time at the University of Exeter. However, if at any time they encounter problems of a personal, emotional nature, they need never face these alone. Please encourage them to seek help if required. Our International Student Support team offers advice on a range of issues, including transition, immigration, and pastoral issues. They can be contacted at [sid@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:sid@exeter.ac.uk) (Exeter) or [sidcornwall@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:sidcornwall@exeter.ac.uk) (Penryn) or can be visited on campus.



## Food and drink

The South West is renowned for its contribution to the UK's food and drink culture, with regular farmers markets and food festivals celebrating local produce. Exeter and Falmouth also have an array of restaurants, cafes and shops catering to multinational cultures and cuisines.

These sites give you information about eating out and food shopping in Exeter: [exeter.ac.uk/thesouthwest/exeter/foodanddrink](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/thesouthwest/exeter/foodanddrink) and in Cornwall: [exeter.ac.uk/thesouthwest/cornwall/foodanddrink](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/thesouthwest/cornwall/foodanddrink)

The public house or 'pub' is culturally unique to the UK and is an important part of British life. People like to meet, drink, talk, eat, and relax at their local pub. Pubs serve alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Whilst alcohol can be readily purchased in the UK (by over 18s) it is important to remember that not everyone drinks and over 85% of Welcome Week events don't include alcohol. You can remind your young person that it is perfectly acceptable to decline an alcoholic drink in favour of a soft drink and that if they do choose to drink they must recognise their own personal limits.

## Cost of living

We understand that the cost of living in another country can be a real concern for students and parents. You can find out what budgeting tips and tricks our students use to make their money go further by visiting our Student's Blog site and reading their Cost of Living stories here: [sites.exeter.ac.uk/students/category/budgeting-and-finance](https://sites.exeter.ac.uk/students/category/budgeting-and-finance)

## Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching at the University of Exeter will be via lectures, seminars, tutorials and presentations. Your young person will be expected to have strong essay-writing, presentation, time-management, note-taking and exam skills. Much of their study will be independent; students will be responsible for their own reading and research around a subject.

Students will be assessed and receive feedback and guidance whilst each module is being taught, to improve their learning, but this won't contribute towards their final grade. When a module is completed their work will be assessed again and this will count towards their final mark.





## Future employability

University study offers students the chance to build a portfolio of skills valued by employers, in addition to the academic knowledge they gain directly from their degree. It would be useful for you to encourage your young person to start thinking about their career options early on in their degree: to think beyond their studies to their professional career.

## The Career Zone

The University's Career Zone is a valuable resource to help your young person with their career planning.

[exeter.ac.uk/students/careers/  
jobsandworkplacements/  
internationalstudents](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/careers/jobsandworkplacements/internationalstudents)

The Exeter Award [exeter.ac.uk/  
exeteraward](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/exeteraward) will give them the chance to stand out from the thousands of other students graduating from UK universities each year, to catch the eye of potential employers. Our Global Employability team will offer help and advice throughout the year and for up to three years after

graduation. Encourage your young person to engage with the team and participate in their events.

## Returning home

After having spent a considerable amount of time living and studying abroad, and after having made friends from all over the world, it is only to be expected that your young person may initially experience some adjustment issues when they return home for holidays or when they have completed their course. They may feel frustrated, as their experience overseas will have broadened their horizons considerably, while everything at home may feel the same. You should be prepared for them to experience a range of emotions and requests for change or personal space.

It is important to be patient, and to allow your child to share stories, memories and experiences of their time at the University of Exeter. With time, often several months, they will adjust to life back home, as they face new and exciting challenges.

## International scholarships

We have a variety of scholarships available for international fee-paying students applying to study with us, including Global Excellence Scholarships.

Undergraduate Global Excellence Scholarships worth £7,500 have been created to support those wishing to develop their academic potential and contribute to our thriving University community of students and staff from over 150 countries.

These scholarships recognise high academic achievement and can assist your young person in accessing our exceptional teaching and learning, whilst taking advantage of all that University life offers to support their ambitions for the future.

We encourage prompt submission of scholarship applications once an eligible programme offer has been received.

You can find out more about our Global Excellence Scholarships here: [exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/globalexcellence](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/globalexcellence)

