



Swansea
University

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SWANSEA UNIVERSITY

Pre-Arrival Guide



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Thank you for choosing to come to Swansea University. This guide is designed to prepare you for your year or semester abroad.

In this 'Pre-Arrival Guide' you will find information on: where to get visa advice and support; money & budgeting; accommodation; what to pack; what you need to buy when you get here and where to buy it; health information; and travelling to Swansea. We have also included a few helpful maps to assist you in finding your way around the city and the University campuses.

We hope you are looking forward to studying here as much as we are looking forward to having you with us.

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VISAS AND IMMIGRATION

Please find below a brief overview of visas and immigration. More information about visas can be found at: www.swansea.ac.uk/international-campuslife/immigration

EU STUDENTS

EU students will need a passport or national ID card to enter the UK however, they will not need a visa (at time of printing).

NON-EU STUDENTS

Non-EU Students will need a passport and a visa in order to enter the UK. It is important to check the specific visa requirements for your country by checking with UK Visas and Immigration. www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa

IMPORTANT If you are studying in the UK on a visa, you will need to show that you have sufficient funds to meet any requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration

TYPES OF VISA

TIER 4

If you are studying in the UK for more than 6 months; pursuing an Internship or wish to work you will need a Tier 4 visa. Swansea University will provide you with a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) letter for you to apply for your visa once you have met all the application requirements.

SHORT TERM STUDY

If you are studying in the UK for 6 months or less (single semester), depending on your country of origin, you may need a Short Term Study Visa. Swansea University will provide you with a Short Term Study visa support letter once you have met all the application requirements.



IMPORTANT All students should carry their Letter of Acceptance and any visa documents in their hand luggage as these will be required by UK Border Force in order to enter the UK.

All International students entering the UK must NOT use eGates for entry. You are required to see a UK Border Force officer to obtain an entry stamp in your passport.

International students who do not obtain an entry stamp will not be able to study in the UK for longer than 30 days and will be required to leave the UK and seek re-entry in the correct category via a Border Force officer.



IMPORTANT It is strongly recommended that International students do NOT enter the UK via the Republic of Ireland as you will only have entry to the UK for 3 months. For more detailed information please visit: www.swansea.ac.uk/goglobal/inbound/how-do-i-apply/under-visa-information



MONEY

CURRENCY

The currency is British Pound Sterling, it is important to ensure that you have enough to last the duration of your study period and your travel needs.



IMPORTANT The exchange rate may change and this could impact your personal finances

BUDGETING

The cost of living in Swansea is relatively low compared to many other cities in the UK. However it is still important that any potential student prepares their finances before they attend University.

On average students studying at Swansea will spend between £6000 and £9000 (over 40 weeks) on living costs. The examples given on www.swansea.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/cost-of-living are averaged out to give costs somewhere in the middle of this estimate.

The level of these costs depends heavily on lifestyle and will vary from person to person, but it's always a good idea to draw up a budget - and stick to it!

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please make sure you have adequate travel insurance to cover your belongings. Your home university should be able to advise you on this.





ACCOMMODATION

You will only be able to apply for University accommodation once you receive your official acceptance letter. There are a number of accommodation options available and a dedicated Residential Services team who can assist you.

LIVING ON CAMPUS

Living in Singleton Park or Bay Campus residences puts you right at the centre of University life. Self-catering accommodation comprises fully furnished, en suite and standard rooms with a shared kitchen and dining area – ideal for helping you to settle into student life quickly and easily.

For more detailed information please visit:
www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation

SWANSEA PRIVATE SECTOR ACCOMMODATION

If you'd prefer to live off campus, you'll be pleased to know that there is a good supply of quality private sector student houses and flats in Swansea. The University's letting agency, Student Accommodation Services (SAS) manages 145 properties in the popular student areas of Brynmill, Uplands and Sketty which are within two miles of Singleton Campus and in St. Thomas and Port Tennant, close to the Bay Campus. These areas are also close to local facilities such as shops, bars and restaurants.

STUDENTPAD

The online searchable database, Studentpad, allows you to locate available private housing in the area and takes the effort out of house hunting.

For more detailed information on private sector accommodation and STUDENTPAD please visit: www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/sas-lettings/-sas-student-houses

WHAT TO PACK

It is important to remember that you have to carry the luggage yourself, so only pack what you can carry!

 **IMPORTANT** Any item marked with an * we advise students to carry in their hand luggage.

This list is by no means comprehensive, but a guide to items you will need when studying at Swansea University.

- GB Pound Sterling *

DOCUMENTS

- Passport*
- Visa documentation (where needed)*
- ID Card*
- University Acceptance Letter*
- Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS)*
- Accommodation Confirmation*

ELECTRICAL ITEMS

- Adaptor for UK 3 point square pin plug
- Mobile phone and charger
- Laptop and charger


CLOTHING

UK weather is unpredictable and changeable so layering clothing is quite a good idea. Below are some examples of items you should consider packing:

- Jumpers/hoodies
- T-shirts
- Shirts
- Trousers
- Shorts/skirts
- Waterproof coat
- Insulated coat
- Walking shoes and/or boots

MEDICATION*

If you need to bring prescribed medication with you, you must ensure that you bring documentary proof of the nature of the medication otherwise it may be confiscated at Customs.

 **IMPORTANT** It is your responsibility to make sure you have an English translation of any relevant medical documentation. We advise students to carry the translation in their hand luggage

BEDROOM/BATHROOM/ KITCHEN

Students will need to either buy the following items in local city centre shops on arrival or pre-buy from companies like: www.unikitout.com

- Duvet
- Duvet cover/pillow cases
- Sheets
- Pillows
- Blanket
- Towels
- Kitchen utensils
- Crockery

For further information on items provided in University campus and University-managed housing: www.swansea.ac.uk/accommodation/moving-in

DONATED ITEMS

Swansea University Students Union holds events at the start of each semester where students can take on useful items donated by previous students.



HEALTH CARE

NHS

In the UK we have the National Health Service (NHS). This is the state health service and provides treatment for UK residents.

CAN I REGISTER FOR HEALTH CARE?

Swansea University has a NHS General Practitioner (GP) Medical Practice based on Singleton Campus.

Students staying on Bay Campus may also use the Singleton Campus Medical Practice and also have access to the SA1 Medical Centre close to the Bay Campus.



EU STUDENTS – Can register with the University Medical Practice or local community doctor surgery but must show a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) in order to access any medical treatment.



NON-EU STUDENTS STAYING OVER 6 MONTHS – Can register with the University Medical Practice or local community doctor surgery. You must show your passport and visa to show that you are entitled to be in the UK for longer than 6 months.



NON-EU STUDENTS STAYING LESS THAN 6 MONTHS

Due to visa regulations you cannot register with the University Medical Practice. Students requiring medical treatment can attend any local community doctor surgery. You will be required to pay for consultations, prescriptions or treatments. You should be able to reclaim these expenses on your medical insurance.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

It is very important that you check with your home university to see whether you need to have health insurance in place to cover you for your period of study in Swansea.

DENTISTS

Swansea University has a dentist on the Singleton Campus. University Dental Care offers a full range of NHS and Private treatments.

HOSPITALS

Swansea has two hospitals - Singleton Hospital, which is close to the Singleton Campus, and Morriston Hospital, which is where the Accident and Emergency department is located.

TRAVELLING TO SWANSEA

AIRPORTS

London Heathrow – Meet & Greet Service

For students arriving for the first Semester on the 'Arrivals Weekend' Swansea University offers a 'Meet & Greet' airport pick-up service from London Heathrow airport.

This is the most cost effective and hassle free way of travelling to Swansea. For more information on costs and timings please visit: www.swansea-union.co.uk/greet/#!



IMPORTANT This service is only available for students arriving in September. There is no service available for Semester 2 January arrivals

Cardiff International Airport

Take the free shuttle bus to Rhooose-Cardiff International Train Station. From here you can catch one of the hourly trains to Cardiff Central Station or Bridgend. From either Cardiff Central or Bridgend Stations take a train to Swansea, approximately 1 hour. www.thetrainline.com/train-times

Bristol International Airport

Take the Bristol International Flyer Express Coach to Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. From Bristol Temple Meads take a train to Swansea, approximately 2.5 hours. www.nationalexpress.com

London Gatwick Airport

Take the National Express coach directly from Gatwick airport to Swansea. Transfer time is approximately 5.5 hours. www.nationalexpress.com

Train and Bus Stations for our Campuses

If you are arriving at Swansea Bus Station or Swansea Train Station you can either take a taxi to the University campuses or use public transport. (There are taxi ranks outside both the bus and train stations)

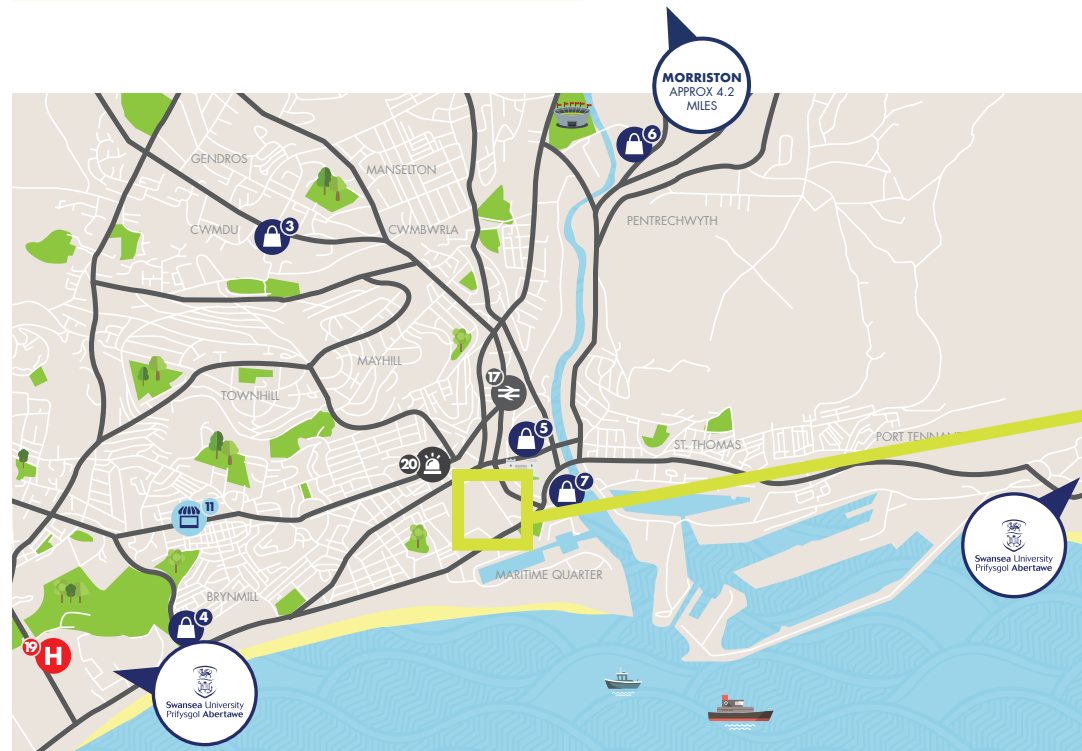
Swansea First Cymru operates a bus service No. 4 that departs from the train station and central bus station. This will bring you directly onto our Singleton Campus. Bus service No.8 departs from the central bus station to both campuses.

Directions to Hendrefoilan Student Village:

From Swansea Bus Station, either take a taxi to the Student Village or catch Bus No.8 which departs from the main bus station and will take you to Hendrefoilan Student Village. www.firstgroup.com/south-west-wales



SWANSEA CITY MAP



Q CITY CENTRE



Q MORRISTON AREA MAP



🛒 SHOPPING

Swansea's main shopping areas are Oxford Street and the Quadrant Shopping Centre:

1. Quadrant
2. Oxford Street

🛒 SUPERMARKETS

Swansea has a number of supermarkets these can be found on the map opposite:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 3. Aldi | 7. Sainsbury's |
| 4. Co-op | 8. Tesco |
| 5. Lidl | 9. Asda |
| 6. Morrisons | |

🛒 MARKETS & SHOPPING ARCADES

Swansea has 2 markets where good deals can be found for fresh produce.

10. Swansea Indoor Market
(Monday - Friday 8:00 - 17:30,
Saturday 7:30 - 17:30, Sunday Closed)
11. Uplands Market
(Last Saturday of every month 9:00 - 13:00)

£ BANKS

There are a number of banks in Swansea City Centre and there is a Santander on both of the University's campuses.

12. Santander
13. NatWest
14. Lloyds
15. HSBC



IMPORTANT – You can only register for a bank account once you have enrolled as a Student

📧 POST OFFICE

There are a number of Post Offices across Swansea. The main Post Office can be found at the Quadrant Shopping Centre, however there is also a branch in Costcutter on the Singleton Campus.

16. Post office

BUSES

There are a number of Unibus services which link the University's campuses, the City Centre, the railway station and Morrision Hospital. More information on the routes and timetable can be found here: www.firstgroup.com/south-west-wales/routes-and-maps/unibus-student-bus-travel-teithio-ar-fysiau-i-fyfyrywyr/unibus-0

🚆 TRAINS

Swansea Railway Station has direct train services to Cardiff, London and Manchester and connecting trains to many UK destinations.

17. Swansea Station

H HOSPITALS

18. Morrision Hospital
19. Singleton Hospital

🚓 POLICE STATION

20. Swansea Central Police Station

SINGLETON PARK CAMPUS



BUILDINGS

- 1 Finance Building
- 2 Singleton Abbey
- 2.1 Singleton Abbey, Stable Block
- 3 Keir Hardie Building
- 4 James Callaghan Building
- 5,7 Singleton Park Library
- 6 Mosque
- 8.1 Faraday Building
- 8.2 Faraday Tower
- 8.3 Talbot Building
- 9 Wallace Building
- 9.4 Margam Building
- 10 Botanic Compound
- 11.1 Glyndŵr Building
- 11.2 Vivian Tower
- 11.3 The Shed
- 11.4 Data Science Building
- 12 Grove Building
- 13 Grove Building Extension
- 14 Richard Price Building
- 15 Amy Dillwyn Building
- 16 Haldane Building
- 17 Fulton House
- 18 Union House
- 19.2 Energy Centre
- 24 Digital Technium
- 28 Standby Generator
- 32 Taliesin Arts Centre
- 32.1 Egypt Centre
- 33 Institute of Life Science 1
- 34 Llŷr Building
- 36 Institute of Life Science 2/ Centre for NanoHealth
- 40 Porters' Traffic Control Lodge
- 43 ORACLE

STUDENT RESIDENCES

- 19.1 Kilvey
- 20 Preseli
- 21 Cefn Bryn
- 21.2, 21.3 Rhossili
- 22 Penmaen
- 23 Horton
- 25 Oxwich
- 26 Langland
- 27 Caswell

ACADEMIC AREAS

- 3 Adult Continuing Education
- 4 American Studies
- 34 AquaCulture
- 9, 9.4, 11.2 Biological Sciences
- 13 Chemistry
- 11.2 Childhood Studies
- 3 Classics, Ancient History & Egyptology
- 14 Criminology
- 3 Cymraeg / Welsh
- 24 Education
- 3 English
- 3 French
- 9 Geography
- 3 German
- 11.1, 11.2, 16 Health Science
- 3 Hispanic Studies
- 4 History
- 3 Italian
- 14 Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law
- 3 Media, Communication and Public Relations
- 12, 33 Swansea University Medical School
- 11.2 Physics
- 4 Politics and International Relations
- 11.2 Psychology
- 11.1 Social Policy / Work
- 4 War and Society

SERVICES / FACILITIES

- 2.1 Academic Services
- 8.3 Admissions Office
- 17, 18, 32 Bars
- 17, 18 Cash Points
- 17 Catering Office
- 7 Careers and Employability
- 2 Central Administration
- 11.1 Centre for Academic Success
- 17 Conference Office
- 30 Crèche / Nursery
- 23 Dental Surgery
- 2 Development and Engagement
- 13 Disability / Special Requirements Office
- 13 Disability Office - Assessment and Training Centre
- 17 Discovery - Student Volunteering
- 32.1 Egypt Centre
- 9.4 English Language Training Services (ELTS)
- 17 Estates Department
- 1 Finance Department
- 2 Global Advancement
- 13 Human Resources
- 8.3 International Development Office
- 3.1 International Student Advisory Service
- 5 Richard Burton Archives
- 7 Singleton Park Library
- 3 Media Resources
- 2.1 MyUniHub
- 3.1 Money Advice & Support Office
- 6 Mosque
- 22 Occupational Health
- 17 Refectory
- 8.3 Research, Engagement & Innovation Services
- 22 Residential Services
- 17 Santander
- 17 Shops
- 13 Staff Development Unit
- 23 Student Counselling Service
- 3.1 Student Support Services
- 8.2, 24 Students' Union
- 32 Taliesin Create
- 32 Theatre (Taliesin)
- 15 Transcription Centre
- 17 Travel Shop
- 23 Wellbeing Services

BAY CAMPUS



- 1 Energy Safety Research Institute (ESRI)
- 1.1 Oracle II
- 2 Institute of Structural Materials (ISM)
- 3 Engineering East
- 3.1 Service Goods Yard
- 4 Engineering Central
- 5 Bay Library
- 6 Great Hall

- 7 School of Management
- 8 Student Residences
- 8 Students' Union
- 9 Tower Information Centre (TIC)
- 9 Estates and Facilities Reception
- 9 St Modwen Student Living Reception
- 9 MyUni Hub
- 10 Computational Foundry



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