

University of  
South Wales  
Prifysgol  
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# PARENTS AND GUARDIANS' GUIDE



# Welcome to the University of South Wales

The University of South Wales (USW) is one of Britain's most exciting and ambitious universities. It is innovative, thriving and sustainable. We work to build better futures for our students, our communities and our partners economically, socially and culturally.

As a parent or guardian, we know it's important for you to know that USW places student experience at the heart of everything we do, by focusing on engagement, collaboration, and partnership work. We work alongside business, industry, and the social economy, to address identified needs and achieve the best outcomes for individual learners and organisations. We collaborate with a variety of industries to carry out research and tackle some of the biggest global challenges. This ranges from energy and health to security and sustainability.

USW is a vocationally-focused university, preparing students to support key industries now, and in the future. Employers work closely with USW to co-create a curriculum that supports their future needs. This provides graduates with the skills and relevant knowledge that employers can rely on. We are generating the workforce that employers are looking for.

With three campuses in Cardiff, Newport and Pontypridd, we are well located for our staff and students to enjoy all that South Wales has to offer. Students will be taught in an exciting environment that places student experience at the centre of everything it does. The vocational approach will help students develop the skills that they need to get a good job in the future.



**96% of USW graduates are in Employment and/or Further Study 15 months after graduation**

(Graduate Outcomes Survey, 2021/22)



**Cardiff is the second most affordable UK city for students**

(Natwest Student Living Index, 2023)



**Ranked 6th best university in Europe based on student opinion and experience.**

(StuDocu World University Rankings, 2020)







## Our Pathway Programmes

Our pathway programmes help international students to feel confident about studying in the UK. Students will receive professional guidance to improve their English language and academic abilities, to ensure preparation for their university degree. During the pathway, students will develop many transferable skills that will benefit them for a lifetime, helping students prepare for their future studies and thrive within employment.

## Courses

### International Foundation Programme

The International Foundation Programme offers an excellent opportunity to prepare students for undergraduate studies and adjusting to life in the UK. Students are guided by academics, tutors and support staff in a friendly and supported learning environment to guide them through this important transition.

On successful completion of the International Foundation Programme, students are ready to progress onto the first year of the undergraduate course they initially applied for at the university.

### International Year One

The International Year One course is a preparation programme, the equivalent of the first year of an undergraduate degree, designed to support students who want to study one of the many business degrees at USW.

On successful completion of the International Year One, students will join directly into year two of their chosen programme of study.

To ensure a suitable route is chosen for your child, our website has the most up-to-date entry requirements, fees and course information. Find out more by visiting: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/courses](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/courses)

## Studying at USW

**The Treforest Campus is set in the rolling Welsh hills. It has a friendly student-focused community with multiple social spaces where students can meet and socialise. It is well located with a train station at the foot of the campus with regular trains to the Welsh capital, Cardiff. Studying at USW means students are part of a campus community across Greater Cardiff, with campuses located in Pontypridd, Cardiff and Newport.**

All our campuses are easily reached by road, rail, and air, with an international airport in Cardiff. Wherever you come from, you're never far from home. Cardiff is a beautiful city, perfect for students looking to have a balance between culture, scenery, a bustling social life and a welcoming place to study.

For more information visit: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/studying-in-greater-cardiff](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/studying-in-greater-cardiff)

### Accommodation at Pontypridd

We have 3 campuses in the town of Pontypridd, in the heart of the South Wales Valleys. All our Pathway programmes are taught on this campus.

Of the five USW campus locations, the three in Pontypridd are in very close proximity. They are a combination of traditional university buildings and modern structures. Pontypridd reflects the university's proud history and its ambitions for the future. Here students will find everything they need, their classes, the library, cafes and bars to eat and drink, and friends to spend time with.

Take a virtual tour: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/virtual-tour](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/virtual-tour)



### Accommodation

We want your child to feel at home while they are studying at USW, so we have a range of good quality accommodation. Living in Halls of Residence is a great way for them to meet people and make new friends. They'll be close to the library, lectures, and the Students' Union, they won't have to budget for traveling costs, utility bills or water, as these are included in the accommodation costs. They can also choose to live in a privately rented house with other students in the surrounding town of Treforest. There are social spaces for students to make friends, like 'the hub' which has a pool table and other games and activities. Students also share a kitchen and social space with flatmates, which helps them make friends with the people they live with.

The university has its own halls on campus at USW Treforest, so your child can live and study in a friendly community that our students love. Unlike other city locations where members of the public can book student accommodation, only USW students can live at our private halls.

### Treforest Halls

- From £112 per week\*
- Own room with private shower room and toilet
- Shared kitchen and dining area with five other people
- Fast-speed internet access
- Bills included
- 24-hour security system
- All halls have coin-operated laundry facilities and are staffed 24 hours a day

### Privately Rented Accommodation

If your child doesn't want to live in halls, private accommodation could be an option. We keep a database of registered landlords whose properties meet standard and safety regulations: [southwales.ac.uk/accommodation](https://southwales.ac.uk/accommodation)

**\*Based on 2024 prices.**



## Food, Drink and Entertainment

In Greater Cardiff, there is a lot for students to see and do in their free time. They will find a range of restaurants specialising in the best culinary tastes. There are music venues which host A-list stars and local bars. In the summer, students can take a boat taxi to Cardiff Bay (or by road in the winter), here they will find social activities including bowling, a cinema and casinos, as well as restaurants and bars nestled along the waterfront. Cardiff Bay is also home to The Wales Millennium Centre and a traditional Norwegian Church. Wales has a range of free museums to visit, for more information please visit: [whichmuseum.co.uk/place/wales-5/free](http://whichmuseum.co.uk/place/wales-5/free)

The Principality Stadium in Cardiff is where the 2017 UEFA Champions League final was hosted. The venue often plays host to many major concerts and motorsport events.

Cardiff, Newport and Pontypridd are home to a range of cultural venues and fresh food outlets, including:

- **Lily's Cheesecakes** - desserts that look too good to eat
- **Le Pub** - an entertaining mixture of food, drink, film and music
- **National Museum Cardiff** - which has the largest collection of impressionist art outside of Paris
- **Chapter Arts Centre**
- **Pho Café** - tasty Vietnamese street food
- **Everyman Theatre Cardiff** - Cardiff's liveliest and most adventurous theatre company
- **Carini's Fish and Chips** - the best of British cuisine, fresh, traditional and tasty

### Sights to see

- **Cardiff Bay**
- **Wales Millennium Centre**
- **Cardiff Castle**
- **Principality Stadium, Cardiff**
- **Castle Coch**
- **Cyfartha Castle**
- **St Fagans** – Museum of Welsh life
- **A variety of traditional markets across the region**



## Student Support

Life at university is so much more than just the academic achievements. We want your child to thrive and feel supported – which is why we also offer a range of support services to help make their time with us the best experience possible.

There's a network of people at the University of South Wales to provide your child with information and advice, no matter the issue.

Telephone: **+44 (0)1443 482083**

Or visit: **[qa.southwales.ac.uk/student-support](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/student-support)**

### International Immigration Student Advice

USW has a drop in International Immigration Student Advice (IISA) centre open Monday-Friday. This means that throughout the week, students have access to a qualified specialist for face-to-face advice and guidance. They can support with all matters related to immigration, wellbeing and support. They are well connected in the local community as well as the university to ensure your child has access to the best support. Students can also collect their BRP from IISA when they first arrive. For more information email: **[international.advice@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:international.advice@southwales.ac.uk)**

### Study Skills Service

The USW Study Skills Service exists to support your child on their academic journey. By putting on workshops covering topics that students will find useful to their course and providing one-to-one support so that they can work at their own pace. Find out more here: **[studyskills.southwales.ac.uk](https://studyskills.southwales.ac.uk)**

### USW Careers

USW Careers can help your child find their career direction, check their CV, secure a placement, provide a mock interview and more. USW students are able to access free careers advice for up to two years after they graduate.



### Pathway College

As a Pathway student, your child will receive all the guidance and help necessary to make their academic journey smooth and enjoyable. If they're struggling with a module, they can ask for an Academic Tutorial, which is a one-to-one session with their tutor. To arrange a tutorial, simply encourage your child to speak to their tutor or email them suggesting a time/day to meet – they will be happy to help. If they wish to discuss issues related to homework, assessments, their tutors, or non-academic topics, like accommodation, sport, or social activities outside of the university, they can get in touch with our Senior Student Support Specialist, a trained member of staff who will give them one-to-one support. To set up a meeting please encourage your child to contact: **[pathwaycentre@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:pathwaycentre@southwales.ac.uk)**

### Advice Zone

If your child has any questions, we have an Advice Zone located in each campus. If they need advice on a particular issue, they can book a specialist adviser, who will support them with services such as study skills and money advice. For more information call: **+44 (0)1443 482540**.

### Financial Support

Our Student Money Advice Team provides support and advice to help students budget and manage their money. Get in touch: **[qahefinancesupport@qa.com](mailto:qahefinancesupport@qa.com)**





## Health and Wellbeing

At the University of South Wales, we prioritise the health and wellbeing of our students. We offer a range of comprehensive health services to ensure your child's wellbeing throughout their time with us.

- Disability Service: helpful advice, guidance, and disability-related support.
- Wellbeing Service: free advice, counselling, and support for your child's overall wellbeing, including physical and mental health, and social welfare.

## Chaplaincy

An open and inclusive multifaith service for all students offering confidential guidance and support whether your child is religious or not, as well as volunteering opportunities and multi-faith events, seminars and social activities. The chaplaincy acknowledges all religious festivals, offering support and providing celebration events for our students. For more information visit: [chaplains.southwales.ac.uk](https://chaplains.southwales.ac.uk)

## Student Life Bloggers

Our students offer lots of advice about applying to university and how to make the most of student life, whilst also giving insight into campus life events, clubs and societies.

Your child can ask our bloggers anything - from how to make the most out of their weekend to what it's like to be a student at the University of South Wales. Find out more here: [southwales.ac.uk/student-life/student-blogs](https://southwales.ac.uk/student-life/student-blogs)

## Living in the UK

When your child moves to the UK, it is important that they are aware of how things work, to ensure their transition is as smooth as possible.

### Apply for a Visa

To study in the UK, your child will need to apply for a visa. You can find out more by visiting: [southwales.ac.uk/international/visas-and-pre-arrival/visa-applications](https://southwales.ac.uk/international/visas-and-pre-arrival/visa-applications)

### Open a UK Bank Account

It is useful for your child to open a UK bank account, as this will make life easier for students when living in the UK and it'll allow your child to get paid should they get a part-time job. It's a good idea to check if their current bank has any business relationships with UK banks.

You can find out more here: [ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Opening-a-bank-account](https://ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Opening-a-bank-account)

### Check the Course Entry Requirements

Different courses have different entry requirements; it is important to be aware of the requirements set out by the university before your child applies and you will need to have certificates and other documents evidencing your child's education history and English language testing (IELTS).

Find out more: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/entry-requirements](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/entry-requirements)

### Check Course Fees

Before your child commits to studying at university, be aware of the course fees and payment deadlines, these change per year.

### Medical Support

Once your child has arrived in the UK, they will be required to register with a local doctor (GP). Your child's GP practice is the first port of call for most of their health needs, both physical and mental. Register here: [nhsgp-online.uk/area](https://nhsgp-online.uk/area)

### Documentation

Before arrival, your child must have a valid and in date passport, a valid visa, proof of medical screenings such as tuberculosis certificates (if required). Have photocopies of these to hand, just in case.

### Budgeting

It is important to budget for your child's time in the UK and ensure they have enough funds to cover university costs, as well as living expenses. You will also need to consider the exchange rate from your home currency into pounds sterling (GBP) which is used across the UK.

The UK has a wide range of budget retailers including supermarkets, clothes shops, homeware stores and other discount chains. It's worth remembering that many stores offer additional discounts with a student card. Our Student Money Advice Team are on hand to help our students with budgeting, offering helpful advice on money management and how to make your money go further. Once your child has a student email account, they can register for UniDays account using the app, this will give them discount codes in a wide range of shops and social locations. To help our students budget, we have created a Student Budget Calculator, find out more by visiting: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/student-budget-calculator](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/student-budget-calculator)

### Culture Shock

When arriving in a new country and environment, things can seem exciting at first. However, experiencing culture shock is common among international students. There are many differences in the way things are done in the UK, compared to what they're used to at home. Whilst this can be disorientating at first, students will soon get used to their 'new' way of life and it is perfectly normal to find it hard at first. You can also find out more information on how to manage culture shock, on the UK Council for International Student Affairs website.

Visit the website here: [ukcisa.org.uk/information--advice/preparation-and-arrival/facing-culture-shock](https://ukcisa.org.uk/information--advice/preparation-and-arrival/facing-culture-shock)





## Finance Information

**As a student, your child will have two main types of expenses - tuition fees and living costs. It is important that you check the tuition fees for the course your child has chosen to study, as these vary between programmes and academic years.**

If you need to get in touch with our Finance Team, you can find their contact details here: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/finance](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/finance)

### **Tuition Fees:**

Our most up to date course fee information can be found on our website. Fees for the subsequent academic year are expected to slightly increase due to inflation. Find out more: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/dates-and-fees](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/dates-and-fees)

### **Scholarships and Bursaries:**

We offer a range of attractive scholarships and bursaries for self-funding international students studying with us. Your child usually does not need to apply separately for these scholarships and bursaries as they will automatically be considered for a scholarship during the application process. For more information visit: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/scholarships-and-bursaries](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/scholarships-and-bursaries)

### **Secure Payment Methods:**

We offer one of the safest ways of paying for your child's course fees. Working in partnership with Flywire, allows you to make payments in your own currency, removing the need to convert your currency before making a payment. You will receive more information about Flywire once your child's place on their course has been confirmed. Find out more about Flywire and our alternative payment methods: [qa.southwales.ac.uk/make-a-payment](https://qa.southwales.ac.uk/make-a-payment)

## Application Information

### How to Apply

Applying to study with us is easy. We have set out all the information your child needs ahead of applying on our website. We strongly recommend that students submit their application as early as possible to allow them to complete all the preparations needed to study in the UK. Find out more about how to apply and what supporting information your child needs by visiting:

[qa.southwales.ac.uk/how-to-apply](http://qa.southwales.ac.uk/how-to-apply)

### Our Recruitment Team

We have a dedicated recruitment team for each region, who are on hand to support you and your child and can answer any questions you may have:

- Africa: [QAHE.Africa@qa.com](mailto:QAHE.Africa@qa.com)
- China: [QAHE.China@qa.com](mailto:QAHE.China@qa.com)
- UK/EU: [Direct.Admissions@qa.com](mailto:Direct.Admissions@qa.com)
- Latin America: [QAHE.Americas@qa.com](mailto:QAHE.Americas@qa.com)
- MENA: [QAHE.MENA@qa.com](mailto:QAHE.MENA@qa.com)
- Russia & Centra Asia (RCA): [QAHE.RCA@qa.com](mailto:QAHE.RCA@qa.com)
- South East Asia: [QAHE.SouthEastAsia@qa.com](mailto:QAHE.SouthEastAsia@qa.com)
- South Asia: [QAHE.SouthAsia@qa.com](mailto:QAHE.SouthAsia@qa.com)

### Representative Agents

Our dedicated agents are well-equipped to assist you and your child in selecting the right course and guiding you through the application process. They will also provide support with the visa application process and furnish your child with all the necessary information they need about studying in the UK.

Find your agent here: [qahighereducation.com/trusted-representatives](http://qahighereducation.com/trusted-representatives)

### Visa Process

To live and study in the UK, students must apply for a student visa. Subject to requirements, individuals who hold a student visa can work up to 20 hours per week during term time, and full-time during off-term time. You can find out more about how to apply for a student visa, the fees and how long the application process takes on the UK Gov website: [www.gov.uk/student-visa](http://www.gov.uk/student-visa)

## Top Tips for Parents

### Before Moving

Check what your chosen accommodation provides before buying any essential items. Some items may come with the accommodation, and many can be bought on arrival in the UK. It is important to remember, UK electrical plugs are different, and a UK adapter will be required for your child to use appliances brought from home.

Check your child has packed some of their favourite things to ensure their new room is a home away from home.

### Becoming a Student

When your child becomes a student, it is important they register at a GP near to their new home. They will also need to buy a TV license for their new accommodation if they are planning to watch live TV and use TV catch-up platforms.

Most importantly, stay calm and enjoy the process. Your child is about to embark on an exciting new adventure. The university is here to support you and your child throughout their transitions to university and whilst they are studying with us.







## CONTACT US

- China: **QAHE.China@qa.com**
- UK/EU: **Direct.Admissions@qa.com**
- Latin America: **QAHE.Americas@qa.com**
- MENA: **QAHE.MENA@qa.com**
- Russia & Central Asia (RCA): **QAHE.RCA@qa.com**
- South East Asia: **QAHE.SouthEastAsia@qa.com**
- South Asia: **QAHE.SouthAsia@qa.com**

For more information visit: [qa.southwales.ac.uk](http://qa.southwales.ac.uk)  
or scan the QR code:

