

Welcome to Coventry University

An introduction for the
parents and guardians of
new undergraduate students

Recruitment and Admissions Office

Coventry University, Priory Street,
Coventry CV1 5FB
Telephone **024 7615 2222**

www.coventry.ac.uk

Disclaimer

While the University makes every effort to check the accuracy of the factual content in this guide at the time of publication some changes may occur before the start of the academic year to which the document relates.

The phoenix, the symbol for Coventry University, is a mythological bird that represents continuous self-creation, opportunity and abundance.

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Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

It is a pleasure to be writing to you. You must be very pleased that your son or daughter has achieved a place at university. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them in September, helping them settle in, and then guiding them through a successful course of study here at Coventry University.

As you know, the University is in the heart of a progressive, diverse and exciting city that gives us all a real sense of identity. Combining this with an excellent learning experience and a

wide range of sports clubs, societies and events gives our students the right environment in which to flourish both academically and personally.

As you may also be aware we are a business-like university, strongly committed to encouraging student enterprise and graduate employability. We have excellent links with local, national and international organisations which provide work experience opportunities, internships and “real-world” projects for our students to work on. This gives our graduates a real advantage when it comes to taking the first step on the professional career ladder whether in the public, private or voluntary sector.

Our undergraduates have access to a wide range of student support services, the majority of them centrally based in our Student Centre, which they will get to know in their first week.

Finally, it would be very good to see you at one of the welcome sessions for parents on Saturday 20 September. An invitation is enclosed.

In the meantime should you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch. Our main phone number is 024 7688 7688. Also enclosed is a handy reference card of useful contact numbers and some key academic dates for your diary.

Professor Madeleine Atkins

August 2008



A good choice, a safe choice

There are plenty of reasons for you to be happy that your son or daughter will be coming to Coventry University.

They will be pleased to know that Coventry is one of the top ten coolest places in the world according to a leading music magazine* – but it may also be comforting for you to know that research by Endsleigh Insurance (2006) has shown it is also the fourth safest city in Britain. And that as a University we take security seriously and have campus protection officers on hand for both staff and students to call on. We also have our own dedicated community police officer.

We are a medium-sized University with a student population of around 15,000 – of which 4,000 or so will be new arrivals this September. So we know all about the problems and anxieties that new undergraduates can experience and how to deal with them. Remember that to begin with all new undergraduates will be in the same boat and share common concerns.

For most new students the adjustment into the university lifestyle happens quickly and smoothly. However for some there is a longer period of adjustment. We're here to help and can often spot the tell tale signs that lead to homesickness, worries about making friends or fitting in and even doubts about academic studies. If these problems do arise parental support can be of great benefit. Students really value the sympathetic listening skills and reassurance that only a parent can provide. So just be ready in case that phone call or text message comes.

This is a big step in their life, and yours, and together we can make it as stress-free and fulfilling as possible.

* Source: NME's 2007 'Cool List' – Top Ten 'Coolest Places in the World'

Supporting our new students

One of the first ports of call for new students will be the Student Centre, a purpose built one stop shop for help with accommodation, all things financial, including scholarships and fees, and employment and work placement through the Careers and Employability Service.

As a University we value the commercial knowledge and the relationships we develop with employers as it enables us to combine the theory we teach to our students with practical business knowledge. The Work Placement Unit offers a range of services designed to enable employers of all sizes to promote their placement opportunities to our students. In fact Coventry University places more students into work placement posts in Europe than any other university in the UK.

Many students nowadays want to work during the academic year and in the holiday periods. Being at a city centre based university means that there are lots of opportunities for part-time work to help them with their finances and also to gain valuable work experience. The University itself tries to employ its own students wherever it can and there is also an independent agency called The Future Works based on campus which can help them find a part-time job.

Help is at hand

The Student Centre is also home to the Student Enterprise Centre which gives practical help to students who have a flair for business. The University is strongly committed to encouraging student enterprise and graduate employability and this will actively help your son or daughter stand out from the crowd when they enter the competitive graduate job market later on.

We also offer help to students with those first rather scary essays through our Centre for Academic Writing. And for help with maths there is our award-winning Mathematics Support Centre called Sigma which has a full-time drop-in centre for all levels of support.

We are conscious too that having a son or daughter at university can be a costly business so don't forget that even at this stage there is still financial support available. This includes Academic and Opportunity Scholarships for students gaining 300 or more UCAS tariff points and means tested Bursaries worth £310 per year. There is also the facility to spread the payment of tuition and accommodation fees. So it's well worth having a look at our web pages on student funding at www.coventry.ac.uk/fundingsupport



A city centre campus

Another benefit of studying at Coventry is being in the centre of a varied and lively city which contributes greatly to the overall student experience. Town and gown most definitely mix well here. As all first-year accommodation is in the city centre there's often no need for a car as first year students can walk or cycle to all their lectures and also be very handy for nights out with their friends.

As you probably know the centre of Coventry has been the focus of a lot of ground-breaking architecture including Basil Spence's magnificent Cathedral and the University's own award-winning Frederick Lanchester building which houses the library. Development work in the city is a non-stop process. With projects like Priory Place, Millennium Square and The Herbert now completed the focus has moved to Belgrade Plaza and Friargate. You can find out more about the city council's plans for the future at www.coventry.gov.uk

A 21st century learning environment

The Lanchester library provides a focal point for student learning on campus and is at the heart of our fast developing 21st century learning environment. It has over 400 PCs and a wireless network which is available to all university members. In fact, all of the campus is covered by WiFi access making flexible working easy. And just for the record: there are more than 1,200 study places; 350,000 books; 2,000 print journals and 8,000 electronic journal titles. The library also has a Learning Lounge for social and group study which is very popular with students.

The library's award-winning design attracts many visitors. It has no need for air conditioning as it is completely naturally ventilated and uses natural light with innovative technology to reduce energy consumption.

To see plans for the exciting further developments in the University infrastructure please visit www.coventry.ac.uk/university/masterplan/Pages/TheMasterplan.aspx



Don't forget

Your son or daughter will have their own ideas about what to bring with them to university but it may be as well to check that they have a good insurance policy for their personal property and that if they are bringing a TV that they have a licence. They should also bring some form of ID (driving licence or passport) and their medical card. Passport sized photos are always handy as well. Students will also need to bring their own bedding and clothes hangers.

For students moving into self-catered accommodation the following check list of kitchen items might be useful. This information can also be found online at www.coventry.ac.uk/cu/hospitality/survivalguide

Basic Essentials

Dinner Plate, Pudding/Sweet Bowl, Dinner Knife, Dinner Fork, Dessert Spoon, Tea Spoon, Mugs/Cups, Glasses/Tumblers, Two Small Pans, Baking/Roasting Tray, Kettle, Wooden Spoons, Tin Opener, Chef's Knife, Paring Knife, Vegetable Peeler, Chopping Board, Storage Containers, Oven Glove, Tea Towel, Cling Film and Foil, Salt and Pepper Pots.

Additional Items

Toaster, Frying Pan, Weighing Scales, Spatula, Perforated Spoon, Ladle, Wok, Grater, Whisk, Mixing/Salad Bowl, Measuring Jug, Potato Masher, Colander.

Luxury Items

Steamer, Coffee Maker, Smoothie Maker, Food Processor.

Parents welcome event

If you are planning to bring your son or daughter up to Coventry on the Saturday of arrivals weekend (20 September) then do try and make it to the welcome session for parents and guardians of new students in the afternoon. Your invitation is enclosed. It would be great to see you there.

And finally...

If there's anything else you need to know you may find your questions answered in the 'Guide to Student Life at Coventry University' that has been sent to your son or daughter. So try and have a quick look at it when they're not reading it. Information for new students is also available online at www.coventry.ac.uk/newstudents

Alternatively you can get in touch with us and to make this easier we have included a handy card containing some useful numbers and a few important academic dates.

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