

investing in their future



University
of Worcester

www.worcester.ac.uk

The Parents' Guide
The benefits
of a University
of Worcester
education.



“All I really want for my girls is for them to be happy, so I want to help them ask all the right questions.”

Chris

when
standards
support
how
living

surroundings
why
guidance
where
costs
safety
what



We've met with lots of parents over the last few months. Many of them, like Chris, shared their thoughts with us. If you'd like to read more of their comments, visit our website at www.worcester.ac.uk/parentsguide



Helping your son or daughter make the right choices

As the parent or guardian of someone thinking of applying to university, you are in a position to offer invaluable support and advice. Choosing a university and possibly living away from home for the first time is an exciting and sometimes daunting experience.

Many young people benefit tremendously from the input and support of their families as they prepare to take this important step.

Most parents are proud that their child is starting university and want to help them make the right choices. We've prepared a few key facts to guide you through the process and answered some of the questions that parents often ask us.

What could higher education do for my child?

Higher education is about your child taking their education to the next level and fulfilling their potential. As well as opening up new career options, higher education means opportunities to meet new people and take part in a wide range of social and sporting activities.

It can also help develop a sense of independence – without the immediate pressures of full-time work.

More and more, employers are looking for skilled and educated workers. A higher education qualification can help your child get into a wide and varied range of careers.



If you can't find the information you are looking for, get in touch with us on 01905 855 111 or email admissions@worc.ac.uk – we're here to help.

What can my child study?

There's a huge range of courses on offer, from History to Business to Psychology.

It's important that your child studies subjects they enjoy, but if they're planning to go to college or university they should check what qualifications they'll need to get on the course they want.

For example, if they're interested in studying science at university they may need GCSEs, A levels or equivalent qualifications in science subjects.

You'll be able to find out more about specific entry requirements from UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), or from individual university websites and prospectuses.

If you want to explore options here at Worcester, you can check our prospectus or visit our website at www.worcester.ac.uk. On our homepage, you'll see our *Course Finder* and our *'Inspire Me'* tool – where we match courses based on areas of interest.

If you'd like to receive a copy of our prospectus, get in touch with us at study@worc.ac.uk or telephone 01905 855 141.



Welcome to Worcester

“A fast-growing university that is well loved by students. Worcester is going places.”

Sunday Times, 2010

We're recognised for giving our students an outstanding education as part of a friendly, supportive community, living and learning in a beautiful riverside city.

Quality degrees

Established in 1947, we have a long history of quality teaching. Founded in a set of buildings vacated by the Air Force just after the Second World War, we have grown into a flourishing institution with excellent, relevant courses.

Our qualifications are rigorous and our staff have a reputation for new thinking and doing things differently. Organisations such as Ofsted and the Nursing and Midwifery Council have rated the quality of teaching here as outstanding. Through innovative lecturing and the fostering of a positive learning environment, we help our students become the leaders, professionals and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Outstanding graduate employment

We are proud of our graduates and their outstanding employment record. The University of Worcester has achieved the highest overall graduate employment rate for any university in the West Midlands for the past three years, and 15 out of 16 Worcester graduates go into work or further study within six months of graduating – well above the national average.

Excellent facilities and a safe environment

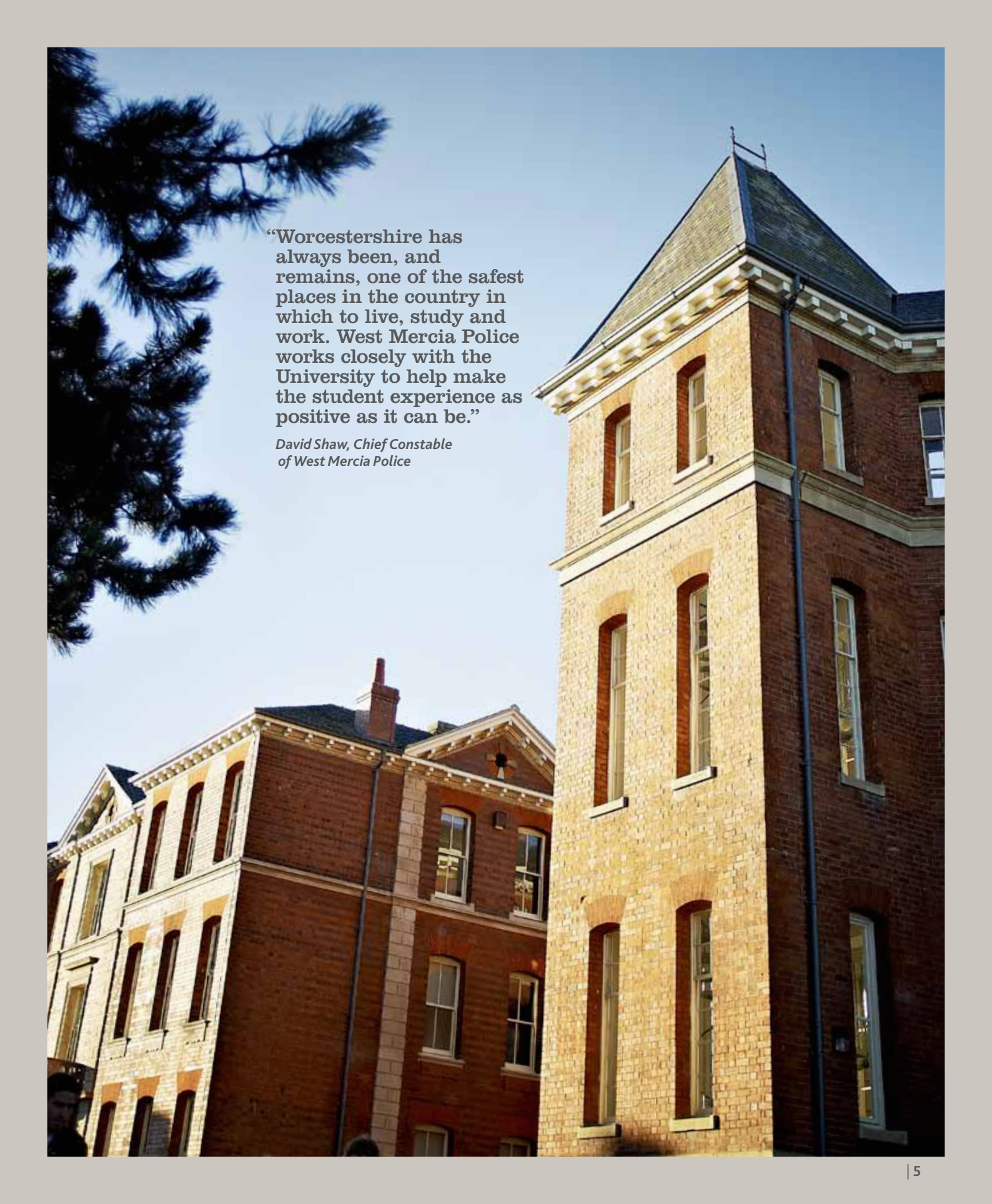
Living and learning in first-class facilities is another advantage of studying at Worcester. We are the fastest growing university in the country, with applications more than trebling in the last seven years. We've invested the money we've gained from this growth straight back into facilities for students.

As a campus university, our sites provide a welcoming and secure environment for students. Academic and leisure facilities are all within easy walking distance of each other and most of our Halls of Residence are right on campus.

There are a number of CCTV cameras on site and security staff are on duty 24 hours a day, making the University a safe place.

The environmentally friendly nature of our campus is also very important to us. We have won many awards for our forward thinking sustainability programme, and have been named as the third greenest university in the UK*.

* Source: 2011 People and Planet Green League



“Worcestershire has always been, and remains, one of the safest places in the country in which to live, study and work. West Mercia Police works closely with the University to help make the student experience as positive as it can be.”

*David Shaw, Chief Constable
of West Mercia Police*

“We want to be sure that Millie can settle somewhere, so we are looking for a cosy and welcoming place.”

Lesley

“I’m a mum. I’m looking for all the mum things – where’s the nearest Tesco, where’s the launderette – will he be OK?”

Mandy

**safe
exciting
historic
thriving
secure
welcoming
supportive
friendly**

Facilities in and around campus

St John's Campus

Our home for 60 years, the St John's parkland campus houses everything from a state-of-the-art digital arts studio to brand new science laboratories.

On campus, we have high quality accommodation, a library, a sports hall and specialised teaching facilities, equipped with the latest technology.

All first year students who apply for accommodation for 2012 are guaranteed a place in University-managed accommodation if they apply by 31 May. We have a wide range of Halls to choose from – many of them with en suite facilities. Visit our accommodation pages at www.worcester.ac.uk/accommodation to view image galleries, check prices and learn more about all the facilities available.

Riverside and The Garage

Just around the corner, you'll find The Garage, a renovated industrial building with an art studio and workshop spaces. The adjacent Riverside building offers specialised amenities for the University's work in sport and dance. We're also planning to build the 2,000 seat Worcester Arena, set to open in 2012.

City Campus

The Worcester Business School has now moved to its new home – a stunning multi-million pound development in the centre of Worcester. Housed within beautifully restored Georgian buildings,

the new campus offers high-tech, flexible and inspirational learning spaces.

It's an easy walk from St John's and a network of footpaths, cycle routes and public transport link the two campuses.

Students are also enjoying living in our new high quality Halls, right in the centre of Worcester.

The Hive – Europe's first joint university and public library

A new multi-million pound library and history centre will open in Worcester in 2012.

The beautifully designed centre will create a vibrant learning and meeting space next door to the City Campus.

A partnership project between the University of Worcester and Worcestershire County Council, this will be the first fully integrated University and public library in Europe and will offer a rich variety of resources for students and researchers.

It will also offer students opportunities for volunteering, work placements and part-time employment.

The Hive will include around a quarter of a million books, as well as an extensive range of electronic books, databases, journals and multimedia, accessible on and off campus.

You will be able to find a comfortable place to study in the centre, from the informal meeting spaces on the lower ground area by the café, to the silent study rooms on the top floor of the building.



For further information on visiting Worcester and its many attractions, you might like to visit:

www.visitworcester.com

www.visitworcestershire.org

Facilities around campus and in town

Most things required for everyday living are available on campus, including a convenience store, canteen, coffee shops, fitness centre, launderette, music rehearsal rooms, quiet study areas, Students' Union (SU) bar and all weather sports pitches.

Worcester is a student friendly city with a strong sense of community. There are plenty of useful amenities right on our doorstep, including a Tesco Express, banks, pharmacies, a doctors' surgery, a post office and plenty of local pubs and restaurants. Worcester's busy high street, which offers most big name shops and department stores, along with a cinema and plenty of places to eat and drink, is an easy walk from St John's and is just minutes away from our City Campus.

Worcester is an easy city to get around – most students don't need a car as it's so convenient to travel on foot. There are two nearby train stations, a coach terminal and the 31 bus (which runs across the city and stops outside the Students' Union, on the St John's Campus).

Value for money:

A full-time student with a household income of less than £25,000 and living away from home could receive

£16,850

pa in support

A full-time student with a household income of more than £25,000 is entitled to both the tuition fee loan and the maintenance loan – equating to £13,600 pa in support.

Tuition fee loan
£8,100*
pa

Available to the majority of all new full-time students

Day-to-day living expenses
Maintenance loan
£5,500
pa

If you live at home you could receive
£4,375 pa

Government maintenance grant
£3,250
pa
(if household income is less than £25,000 per year)

*Equates to 2012 figure for tuition fees for entry into University of Worcester. The tuition fee, and therefore the loan available at other universities will differ.

Repayments start only when you are earning above

The repayment will be only a small percentage

£21k
per year

No upfront costs

Course fees don't have to be paid upfront – your son or daughter can get a loan to cover the cost of their tuition, which they only start to pay back when they're earning over £21,000 a year.

Getting to grips with student finance

It can be a challenge to understand continually changing systems, but we hope the information here will help you support your son or daughter in managing their money.

Investing in their future

By going into higher education, your child will be making a long-term investment in their future.

Not only could it open up a wider choice of careers, they may earn more too. Based on the value of money today, over their working life the average graduate will earn around £100,000 more, after tax, than someone with A levels who hasn't been to university*.

There are costs your child will need to cover during their study – but there's also financial support available to help them, including student loans, grants and bursaries.

Changes for 2012

You may have heard lots of talk in the media about the impending increase in tuition fees.

From 2012, the Government will introduce new funding arrangements. This means the withdrawal of the great majority of public funding for higher education.

Tuition fees at the University of Worcester

The University of Worcester is one of the very few universities known for their high-quality qualifications who are charging the actual cost rather than the maximum amount established by the Government.

The fees at Worcester reflect the cost of efficiently providing an excellent education. We believe that once a student is selected to study here, they become a member of our community. This informs everything we do.

At Worcester, we are committed to providing our future students with the same world-class education and state-of-the-art facilities available to our current students. We will be introducing a raft of measures to ensure that we continue to attract the most talented, ambitious students regardless of their financial circumstances.

- The standard annual fee for full-time undergraduate study for UK/EU students enrolling in 2012 will be £8,100 per year. Full-time undergraduate courses will normally take three years to complete.
- Varying fees will apply for Foundation Degrees and HNDs. For the majority of Foundation Degree courses which are completed over two years an annual tuition fee of £6,000 will apply. For a complete list of Foundation course fees, visit our website www.worcester.ac.uk.
- If you're interested in becoming a teacher or nurse, grants are available.
- The University proposes to charge on a pro rata basis for part-time study.
- If you are an International student, please see our website at www.worcester.ac.uk/international for detailed information.

*Source: direct.gov.uk, March 2011

Financial help and support for students

What financial help is available to full-time students?

There are three main sources of financial support available to new full-time students – student loans and grants from the government, and bursaries and scholarships from universities and colleges.

Student loans have to be repaid when your child has left their course and started work, but grants and bursaries don't – regardless of how much your child receives.

Student loans

There are two different types of student loan. The Tuition Fee Loan covers the fees charged by the university or college.

The Maintenance Loan helps towards day-to-day living costs such as rent and travel. All eligible students can get a Maintenance Loan – whatever their household income.

Your child won't have to start repaying student loans until they have left their course and are earning more than £21,000 a year.

Maintenance Grants

Your child may also be able to get help with living costs through the Maintenance Grant, dependent upon household income. It's worth up to £3,250 for the 2012 academic year.

Around 40 per cent of new, full-time students are expected to qualify for a full grant – and many more could get a partial grant.

For some groups of students, the Maintenance Grant is replaced by the Special Support Grant – meaning that students on lower incomes may be able to get a higher Maintenance Loan.

£150 million National Scholarship Programme

A new National Scholarship scheme, worth £150 million a year by 2014/15, will be introduced from 2012. It will help students from lower income households. More details will be published on UCAS and university websites when they are made available.

Additional financial benefits at the University of Worcester

Scholarships

Scholarships are financial awards that you don't have to pay back.

One of Worcester's largest employers is to sponsor student scholarships at the University of Worcester. The Bosch Scholarships will be in addition to the University's existing scholarship scheme, which continues to grow with the support of local businesses.

Additionally, local philanthropist Clive Richards has donated a significant amount of money through the Clive Richards Charity to allow the University of Worcester to offer a further 100 scholarships of £1,000 each.

Students can also apply for funding to help with voluntary projects or activities related to their hobbies and interests. You can read about our students' successes at www.worcester.ac.uk/news

Earn while you learn

Students can gain valuable experience from voluntary or paid work during their studies.

It's an opportunity to build confidence and learn new skills as well as grow and develop as a person. It's the perfect stepping-stone from studies to a career.

There are many different ways to gain experience, including:

- Course placements
- Work experience
- Part-time employment
- Voluntary work

Part-time work

Many students choose to subsidise their studies with a part-time job. On campus, part-time work is often available through the Student Ambassador Scheme. The Scheme offers flexible hours and competitive rates of pay, currently £7.37 per hour, for students who represent the University at open days, campus tours and other events. The scheme provides students with an enjoyable and rewarding experience that looks great on their CV.

Many students are also employed in the Students' Union and by our Student Services team. Hourly rates will vary depending on the job.

Worcester is a thriving university city and there are often many vacancies within easy reach of the campus. For further information visit www.worcester.ac.uk/getwork

“My daughter is less likely to think about the financial side of things, so I am here to make sure she asks the right questions.”

Tracey



The application process



Applying for higher education courses has never been easier.

All the information needed is available on the UCAS website www.ucas.com

Once your son or daughter has made their choices, they should be ready to start their application.

Making an application

If they are studying full-time, they will apply through UCAS. If they are studying part-time, they'll apply direct to the University.

Applying for higher education courses has never been easier. All the information needed is available on the UCAS website www.ucas.com

All schools and colleges offer the opportunity to apply, using a personal computer, if internet access is not available at home. There are online centres that also offer computer access to people who are not studying at a school or college.

Visit www.ukonlinecentres.com to search for your nearest centre.

For 2011 entry, the application fee was £21 for a maximum of five choices and £11 for a single choice.

A maximum of five choices are available. Some students make just one choice at one university; others go for two different courses; the majority of students choose the same subject at five different places.

Personal statements

The personal statement is your child's opportunity to tell universities and colleges about their suitability for the course. They need to demonstrate their enthusiasm and commitment and above all, ensure that they stand out from the crowd.

Getting ready to apply: useful dates...

Everyone does their research and makes their application in slightly different ways and at different times, but here are a few guidelines for your calendar:

Year 12
& beginning of Year 13
AS & A Level years

From October the year before to UCAS deadline of 15 January

October onwards

Year 12 and beginning of Year 13

Decide what course and where

Visit university websites, look through prospectuses, attend open days, visit UCAS website (www.ucas.com), and talk to the school's or college's careers advisor.

From October in the year before study to UCAS deadline of 15 January

Complete the application form

Write a personal statement, gather references, complete UCAS application form.

Some courses (such as Medicine) have earlier deadlines, so check UCAS well in advance of making an application.

October onwards

Attend an interview

Many courses invite applicants to attend an interview – it's a good opportunity for academic staff to meet applicants and for students to ask detailed questions about the course.

Wait for decisions

Receive confirmations from universities.

Accept/decline offers

Decide on a firm choice and an insurance (second) choice. Respond to UCAS – they will inform your son or daughter of the deadline that they need to reply by.



Along with their predicted grades, the personal statement provides a valuable opportunity for your son or daughter to describe their own strengths. They may want to personalise their application with details of their extracurricular activities, work experience, achievements and abilities.

You can get help from a careers adviser at school, from the UCAS website or from the university your child is applying to. If you'd like help from us, contact our Admissions Team on admissions@worc.ac.uk or **01905 855 111**.

What happens next?

Once UCAS has received a completed application, the next steps are:

1. UCAS process the application.
2. They send the applicant a welcome letter confirming their personal details and choices.
3. The chosen universities and colleges can view the application online.
4. The universities and colleges decide whether to make an offer or not.

Your son or daughter will then be able to access their application in 'Track'. Track is an online system which allows applicants to view their application, make changes to their personal details, view decisions made by the universities and colleges and reply to any offers received. Nearly all communication about applicants and their places will come via UCAS, rather than direct from the university.

An unconditional offer means that your son or daughter has got a place, if they want it, with no conditions attached. A conditional offer means your son or daughter may have to get certain grades to get a place.

mid-August

On or after mid-August's Results Day

mid to end of September

Mid-August

Results day

If your son or daughter has met their required grades, they should wait for a firm confirmation from their university of choice from UCAS. If they haven't obtained the required grades, they'll need to contact the university to see whether they may still be offered a place. If not, they should then contact their insurance university. If they are not accepted here, they will need to go through Clearing.

On or after results day in mid-August

Clearing

This is the process by which students who are not holding an offer at universities may be offered a place at another university. This can be a stressful period for students, but we are here to help guide them through the process and help in exploring their options. You can read more about the Clearing process on the UCAS website.

Mid to end of September

Start of term

Move in day, registration and induction take place before teaching begins.



Offering support from the start



To subscribe to our newsletter send your email address to: study@worc.ac.uk

As a parent, you'll be rightly concerned about your son or daughter's welfare. You can be assured that we provide practical advice, help and support to ensure your child is well cared for during their time here.

Student Services

The move into higher education can require a period of adjustment. Our Student Services team offer advice on everything from wellbeing, study skills and finding part-time work. Staff are friendly, knowledgeable and most of all, there to help with queries or provide information.

Disability and Dyslexia

We have a dedicated Disability and Dyslexia team who provide individual advice to students. We make obtaining appropriate support as straightforward as possible and are always keen to meet with students and discuss available options.

IT and library support

Our Information and Learning Services team run a series of workshops each semester, so that students know how to get the best out of all our learning resources – including the library and Blackboard (the online learning system).

Academic tutors

Students will be matched up with an academic tutor within their first few weeks on campus. Academic tutors guide their studies and are a source of encouragement and advice on all academic matters.

Counselling

If things get particularly tough and your son or daughter feels they need extra support, the University has an excellent free counselling service.

Students' Union

The Students' Union provides a free, independent, confidential and impartial advice service to all students at the University of Worcester (including help with money advice, academic concerns and housing).

Going to university: the first few weeks

A warm welcome

After all those months of revision, exams and waiting for the results, your child is finally ready to begin life as a university student. We send all students a pre-arrival welcome pack, which covers what to expect and what must be done during their first days at university. It also includes move in dates.

One of the best things about beginning university is that most new undergraduates

are in the same boat. Your son or daughter will meet people from all walks of life who are sharing the same experience at the same time and this is perhaps why friendships made at university often last a lifetime.

With a whole host of welcome events to enjoy, most students settle into university very quickly. Our academic induction programme introduces students to their course, giving them a chance to meet their tutors and fellow students before teaching begins. Freshers' Week, run by the Students' Union, features numerous social events as well as opportunities to join a range of sports clubs and societies.

Staying connected

Most students value the ongoing support of their families. Just being there at the end of the phone can prove tremendously reassuring. All rooms in University accommodation are connected to broadband too, so it's easy to keep in touch.

If you're interested in what's happening on campus, you can also subscribe to our newsletter. We'll send you a monthly update via email, with a round-up of all the latest University highlights. For further details visit www.worcester.ac.uk/news



You can also visit our online news and events sections, any time you want to catch up with us at www.worcester.ac.uk

Visit us

Open Days:

It's worth encouraging your son or daughter to visit a university before applying.

It's likely that they will be living and studying here for at least three years, so it's important that it feels right for them. While a prospectus and website give a good flavour of a university, it's often useful to visit in person to meet current students and staff.

Open days give you the chance to find out more about the type of academic and social life your son or daughter can expect here. They'll have the opportunity to learn about subject areas of interest, meet current students and staff, tour the campus and facilities and gather information on all aspects of the University and the city.

Our 2011/12 Open Events will be held on:

Open Afternoon: 27 October 12-4pm

Open Afternoon: 28 October 12-4pm

Open Afternoon: 16 November 1-5pm

Open Evening: Thursday 12 January 5-7pm

To book a place, visit our website at www.worcester.ac.uk/opendays

Campus tours

If you're unable to attend an Open Event we offer personalised campus tours throughout the year. You'll need to book in advance, but we'll do our best to find a time and a date that suits you and will try to plan a tour that covers everything that you need to see. Contact us on study@worc.ac.uk or call 01905 855 141 to book a tour.

inspired for life



University of Worcester
Henwick Grove
Worcester WR2 6AJ

50% Recycled Fibre

The University of Worcester
supports the responsible
use of our forest resources

www.worcester.ac.uk

Helpful contacts

University of Worcester contacts

University of Worcester Admissions Office

Information on applications, entry
requirements and term dates

01905 855 111

admissions@worc.ac.uk

Communication Department

To book a place at an Open Event, arrange
a campus tour or request a prospectus

01905 855 141

study@worc.ac.uk

Accommodation Office

Queries about accommodation,
both on and off campus

01905 855 300

accommodation@worc.ac.uk

Student Services

Incorporating: academic, financial
and disability support

01905 855 502

studentinfo@worc.ac.uk

Worcester Students' Union

SU activities and welfare advice, clubs
and societies, volunteer opportunities

www.worcsu.com

External contacts

Directgov

Information on all aspects of higher
education and financial support for students

Tel: +44 (0)845 300 5090

web: www.direct.gov.uk

NUS

National Union of Students

Information about all aspects
of university life

web: www.nus.org.uk

UCAS

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

- Applications
- General advice and guidance regarding
university entrance, choice of degrees, etc

Tel: +44 (0)871 468 0468

web: www.ucas.ac.uk