



University of Essex

International College



Welcome

We are so glad you have chosen to study at the University of Essex International College. This guide will help you through your next steps.

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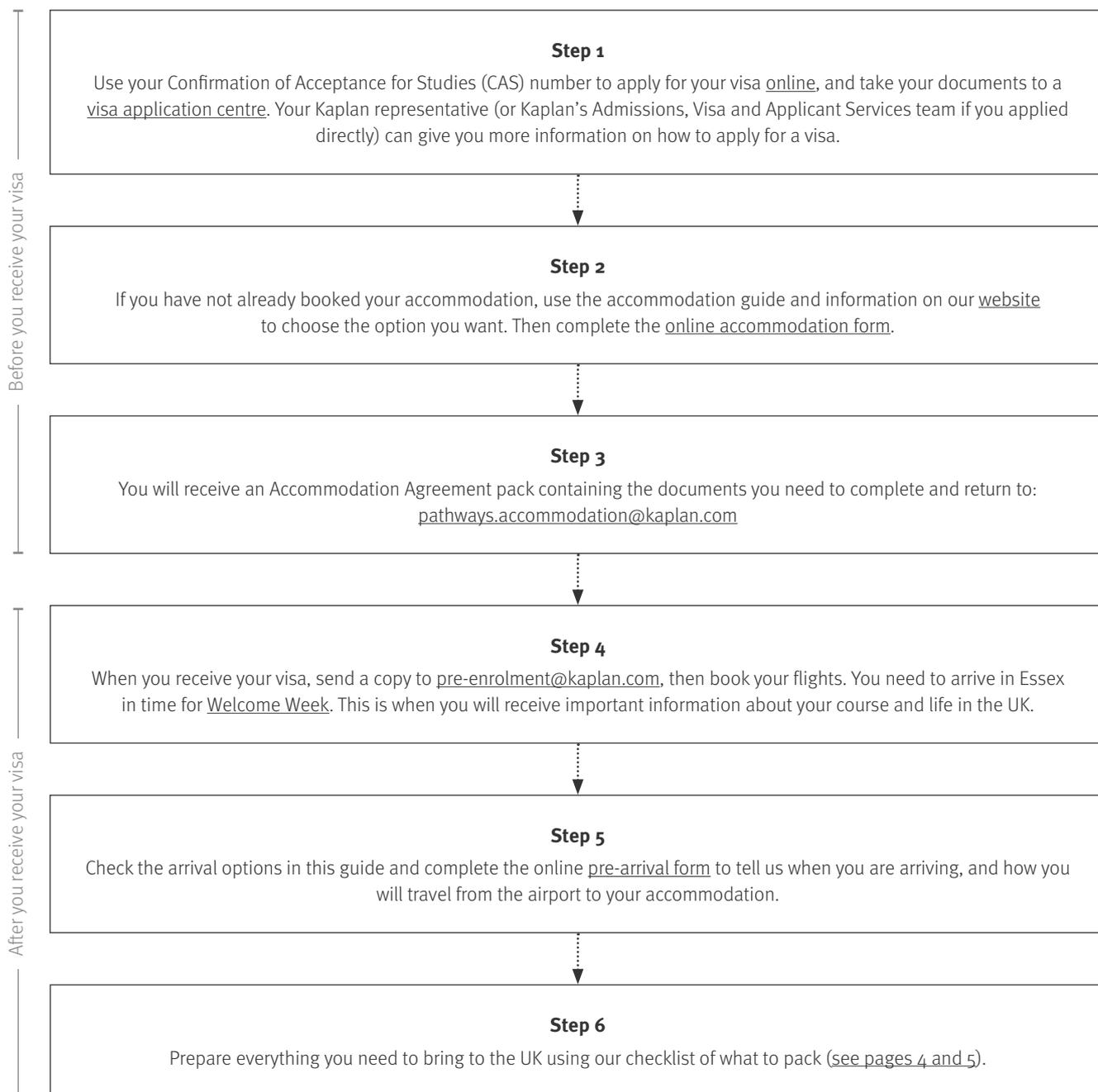
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What you need to do now



Your document list

What documents to bring with you

Please check this list before you leave your home country, keep all the documents and information in your hand luggage and bring them with you on your first day at the College. Your enrolment is conditional on you providing all the correct documents.

- The original academic qualification listed on your offer letter, with a certified translation if not in English.
- The UKVI IELTS certificate listed on your offer letter (unless you are exempt).
- A valid passport and entry clearance visa.
- The visa approval letter which tells you where to collect your biometric residence permit (BRP).
- Proof of your address in the UK (such as accommodation confirmation e-mail or signed tenancy agreement, utility bill or a letter from family member).
- If you are a sponsored student, you must bring your original sponsorship letter. Please also make at least 1 photocopy of this document.
- Medical Screening Certificate (if needed)*

Under 18s

- You must bring a copy of the Kaplan underage consent form completed by your parents. Please also make at least 1 photocopy of this document.
- The details of your transfer arrangements from the airport such as a taxi booking.
- The name and contact number for the person you will meet at the airport.
- The emergency contact number for your college ([details on page 10](#)).

* Depending on the country you are from, you may need to be medically screened for tuberculosis (TB). Your Kaplan representative will ask you to do this before you apply for your visa. Students who have a Medical Screening Certificate will need to bring this document with them to the UK and show it with their visa at the airport on arrival. For more information and to check if you need to be medically screened, please visit the UKVI website.

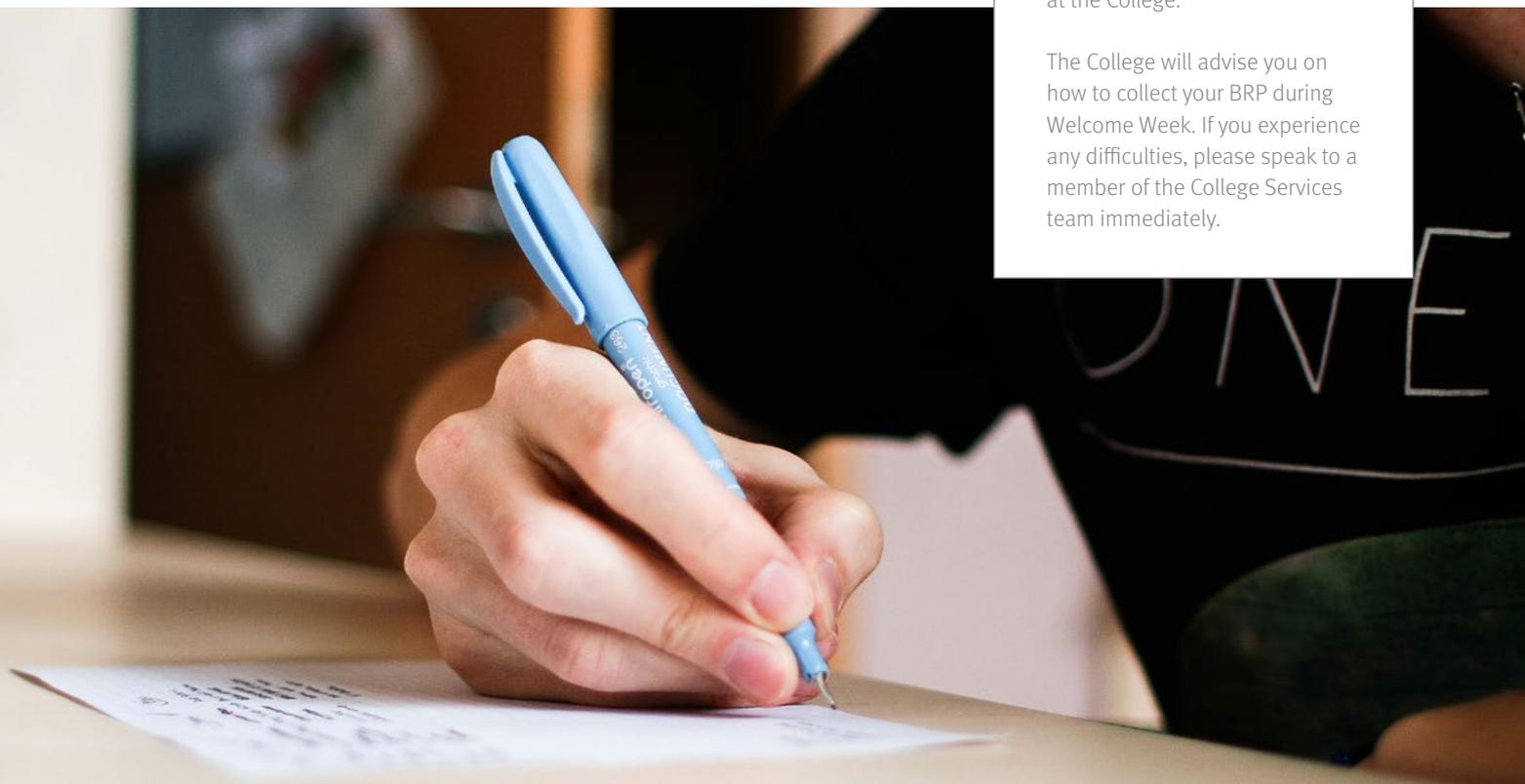
Important visa information

Students applying for a visa to come to the UK for more than 6 months will first be given a 30-day entry clearance visa in their passport. You must arrive in the UK during this 30-day period, then collect a biometric residence permit (BRP) after you arrive. This permit will be valid for the full length of your course at the University of Essex International College.

Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

You will also receive a letter telling you when and where to collect your BRP – you might be required to show this letter to immigration officials at the airport. If you have entered the correct Alternative Collection Location (ACL) code (2HE977) on your visa application, then you can collect your BRP from the College. You should collect your BRP as soon as possible because you will need it to enrol at the College.

The College will advise you on how to collect your BRP during Welcome Week. If you experience any difficulties, please speak to a member of the College Services team immediately.



What you need to pack

All the documents needed for enrolment and entry to the UK (see page 4)

Keep these in your hand luggage, along with the emergency contact number for the College (detailed in this guide), so you can easily access them when you arrive in the UK.

Suitable clothing

The UK is famous for its changeable weather. In summer, the temperature is around 20°C, and in winter between -3°C and 10°C. You can buy many of the clothes you need in the UK, but you should still bring some warm clothes and a waterproof jacket. You do not need any formal clothes (such as a suit), as students dress casually for classes.

Mobile phone

We can provide you with a local SIM card shortly after you arrive.

Laptop

It's essential that you have your own laptop for your studies.

Money

It can sometimes take several weeks to open a bank account in the UK, so we suggest you bring at least £1,000 with you to the country. Separate your money and bring £200 in cash (£10 or £20 notes), and the rest on your debit card. Please note that you might be charged a fee in the UK when withdrawing money from an international account.

Unfortunately, as the International College is a private education provider, you are not permitted to work while you are studying. This is in accordance with UK law, and Tier 4 visa rules. You therefore need to make sure you have enough money to cover your living costs while you are studying at the College.

Prescription medication (if needed)

You should bring at least a 2-month supply of any prescription medication with you. You should also check if this medication is available in the UK.

Examples of prices in Colchester

Sandwich	£2–£3.50
Meal at a restaurant	£10– £30+
Tea / coffee	£1.50+
Cinema	£11.75
Bus (single journey)	£1.50
Weekly bus travel card	£15
Mobile phone bill (monthly)	£15–£40+

Remember:

- Check the luggage weight limit for your flight(s) to the UK. This is usually around 20kg, but will depend on your airline(s).
- If you are staying at one of our residences, you do not need to bring any of the items included in the student starter pack (see page 7).



When you arrive at the airport

Border control

Make sure that you have all of your travel documents ready when you arrive at the airport. You might be asked for the address of your UK accommodation, so be sure to have this information at hand.

You can find out more information about UK border control procedures at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Free coach service

We organise a free coach service at certain times on the weekend before Welcome Week to collect students from London Heathrow airport. We'll confirm the meeting point with you in advance, and the coach will bring you directly to your College accommodation. There will be a representative from the College waiting for you at the airport to help you with the coach transfer.

If you use this service and have booked alternative accommodation, you will need to arrange travel from the College accommodation to where you are staying. Our friendly staff can help you book a taxi.

Private transfer service

If you cannot arrive on any of the dates and times covered by the free coach service, we can organise a private taxi to collect you from the airport for a fee. We strongly recommend you use this service, as it will take you straight to your accommodation.

Please use the [pre-arrival form](#) to choose your preferred date for the free coach service or to see the airports and prices for the private transfer service.

Travelling to Colchester by public transport

The College is accessible by many types of transport, and you can save money by booking in advance. There are frequent trains from London Liverpool Street to Colchester train station (also known as Colchester North). The journey takes just under 1 hour and costs around £25 one way, and you can take a taxi from the taxi rank at the train station to your accommodation. Here are some ideas of how you can travel to your accommodation when you arrive:

From London Heathrow Airport

Train

The Heathrow Express runs regularly from Heathrow Terminal 5 to London Paddington railway station. From Paddington station, you can take the London Underground to London Liverpool Street train station. From here there is a frequent train service to Colchester.

Journey time: Approximately 2.5 hours
Price: Approx. £55 (prices can vary depending on time of day)

- [heathrowexpress.com](https://www.heathrowexpress.com)
- tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey
- [nationalrail.co.uk](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Coach

National Express runs a coach service from Heathrow Terminals 2 & 3 direct to Colchester.

Journey time: Approximately 2.5 hours
Price: Approx. £30 (prices can vary depending on time of day)

- [nationalexpress.com](https://www.nationalexpress.com)

From London Gatwick Airport

Train

A train service operates from Gatwick Airport to London Bridge railway station. From London Bridge station, you can take the London Underground to London Liverpool Street train station. From here there is a frequent train service to Colchester.

Journey time: Approximately 2.5 hours
Price: Approx. £45 (prices can vary depending on time of day)

- [nationalrail.co.uk](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk)
- tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey

Coach

National Express coaches run frequently from both the South and North terminal to Colchester (includes a change at London Heathrow)

Journey time: Approximately 5 hours
Price: Approx. £50 (prices can vary depending on time of day)

- [nationalexpress.com](https://www.nationalexpress.com)

From Stansted Airport

Train

A train service operates from Stansted Airport to London Liverpool Street. From London Liverpool Street there is a frequent train service to Colchester.

Journey time: Approximately 2 hours
Price: Approx. £42 (prices can vary depending on time of day)

- [nationalrail.co.uk](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Coach

National Express operates a coach service from Stansted Airport direct to Colchester

Journey time: Approximately 1 hour
Price: Approx. £15 (prices can vary depending on time of day)

- [nationalexpress.com](https://www.nationalexpress.com)

Complete the pre-arrival form before you travel

If you've booked your flights and know your arrival details, please remember to fill in our online [pre-arrival form](#). It is important that you let us know when your flight is due to arrive and how you plan to travel to your accommodation.

Please note: even if you are planning to travel independently to your accommodation, you must still complete the pre-arrival form to let us know what your arrangements are.

When you arrive at **the College**

Welcome Week

To help you settle in, the College arranges Welcome Week, which lasts up to 5 days. It is very important that you arrive in time for this. You can enjoy a wide range of social activities, as well as tours of the area, and receive useful information about life in the UK.

You'll learn about:

- course details and academic support
- UK laws and culture
- joining societies and clubs at the Students' Union
- nearby places of religious worship
- public transport

- local shops and restaurants
- opening a bank account
- registering with a doctor*
- registering with the police (if required)

* Students from European Union countries will require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For more details, visit gov.uk

Remember your documents

Don't forget to bring your documents ([see page 4](#)) on your first day at the College. If you do not bring your passport and visa with you, then you won't be able to enroll!



Prepare for your pathway course

With Kaplan, you can gain entry to a University of Essex degree through a pathway course at University of Essex International College. You'll study on campus, and gain the skills and confidence you need to succeed.

What you will study

You will take modules in 3 main areas:

- subjects related to your degree
- projects linked to your area of study
- English language and academic skills

Preparation work

You will be developing a style of learning which means preparation work before you come to class. Please read about your pathway course and modules using the links from this page and prepare some questions to ask in the academic welcome sessions during your first week.

When you arrive at the College we will provide you with all the essential learning materials you need for your programme, so you don't need to buy any books before you arrive. During your course, your teachers may recommend supplementary materials that you may wish to purchase individually.

Links to help you prepare

College Applicants' area

This site will show you the modules you will take on your course, and will allow you to book your accommodation, prepare for a visa interview, and book your airport transfer.

🖱️ kaplanpathways.com/essex-applicants

University of Essex website

Learn more about your degree and what you will study each year at the University of Essex by visiting its website.

🖱️ essex.ac.uk

Essex events

Find out about exciting events happening in Essex and plan your social life for when you first arrive.

🖱️ visitessex.com

Connect with the College community before you arrive

Search: @UEICESsex

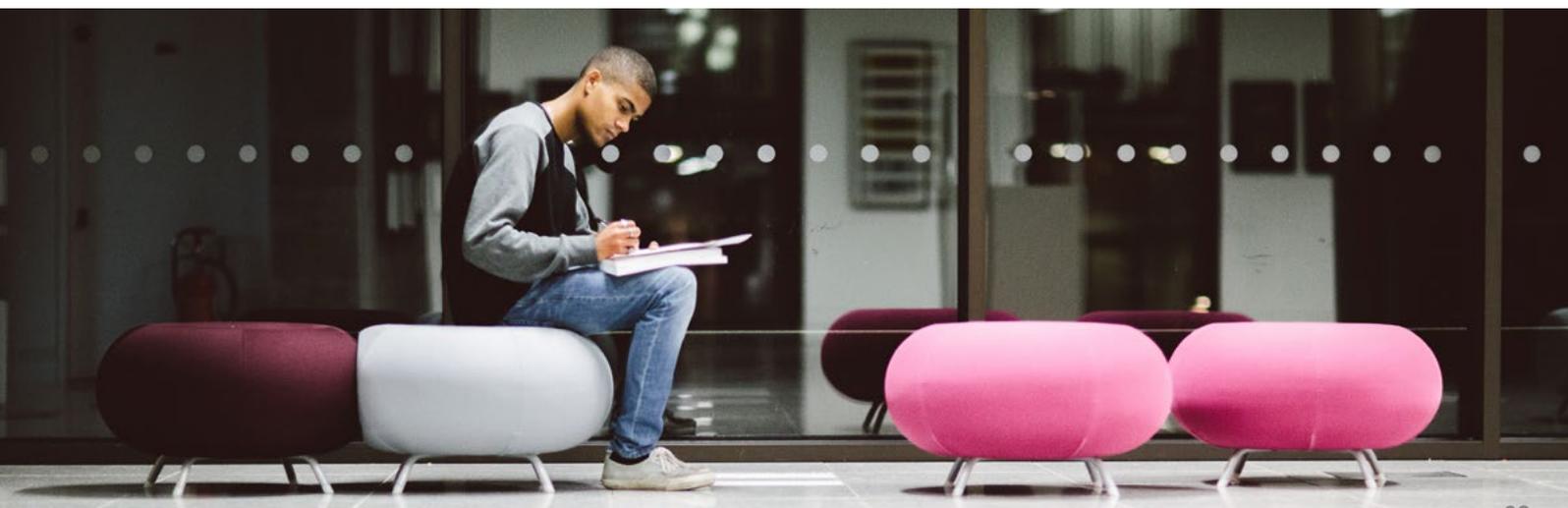
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#KaplanLife

Example timetable

Your studies will feature a mix of compulsory classes and additional activities. See below for an example of a **Foundation Certificate for Social Sciences** timetable. You'll receive your personal timetable shortly after you arrive at the College.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00–11:00	English for Academic Purposes	Extended Project	English for Academic Purposes	People, Culture and Society	Statistics
11:00–13:00	Mathematics	Extended Project	<i>Self-study</i>	Learning Support	<i>Self-study</i>
14:00–16:00	People, Culture and Society	Statistics	Logic and Critical Thinking	<i>Self-study/ Skills Workshop</i>	<i>Self-study</i>
16:00–18:00	<i>Self-study</i>	Learning Support	Mathematics	<i>Self-study</i>	Logic and Critical Thinking



Contact us

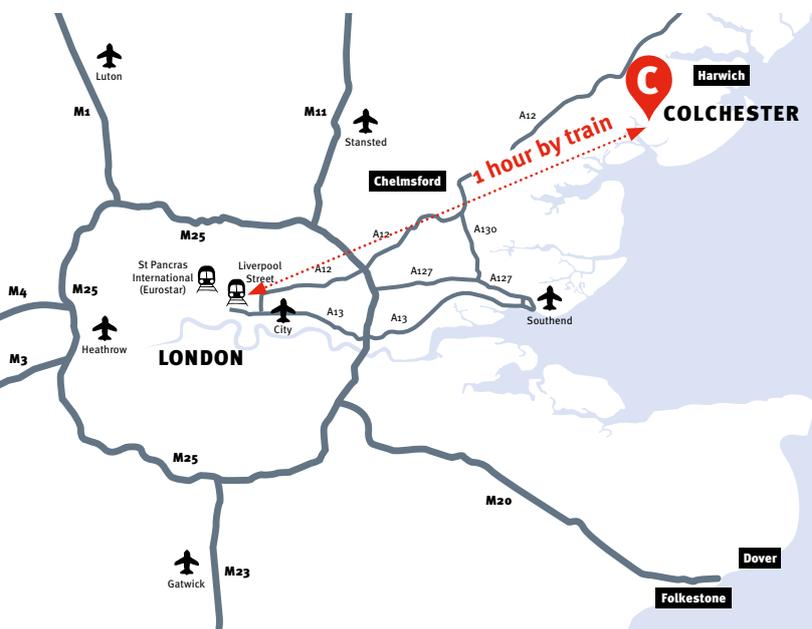
If you have any questions before you arrive in Essex, contact us and we will do our best to help. We are really looking forward to welcoming you at the University of Essex International College.

✉ **University of Essex
International College**
Constable Building
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester, CO4 3SQ
United Kingdom
☎: +44 (0)1206 873838
@ UEIC.arrivals@kaplan.com

**College emergency arrivals number
(in use during registration intakes only)**
☎: +44 (0)7741 660 659

**University of Essex emergency number
(in use 24 hours per day, throughout
the year)**
☎: +44 (0)1206 872 125

**Emergency services number
(Police, fire brigade, ambulance)**
☎: 999





University of Essex

International College

Find out more

Visit the links below or contact us for more information.

We look forward to helping you make Colchester your new home!

Click on the useful links below:

- 🖱️ [University of Essex International College pre-arrival information](#)
- 🖱️ [Accommodation at the University of Essex International College](#)
- 🖱️ [Prepare for your studies at the University of Essex International College](#)
- 🖱️ [University of Essex](#)
- 🖱️ [Guide to Essex](#)

Contact details:

✉️ **University of Essex International College**

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