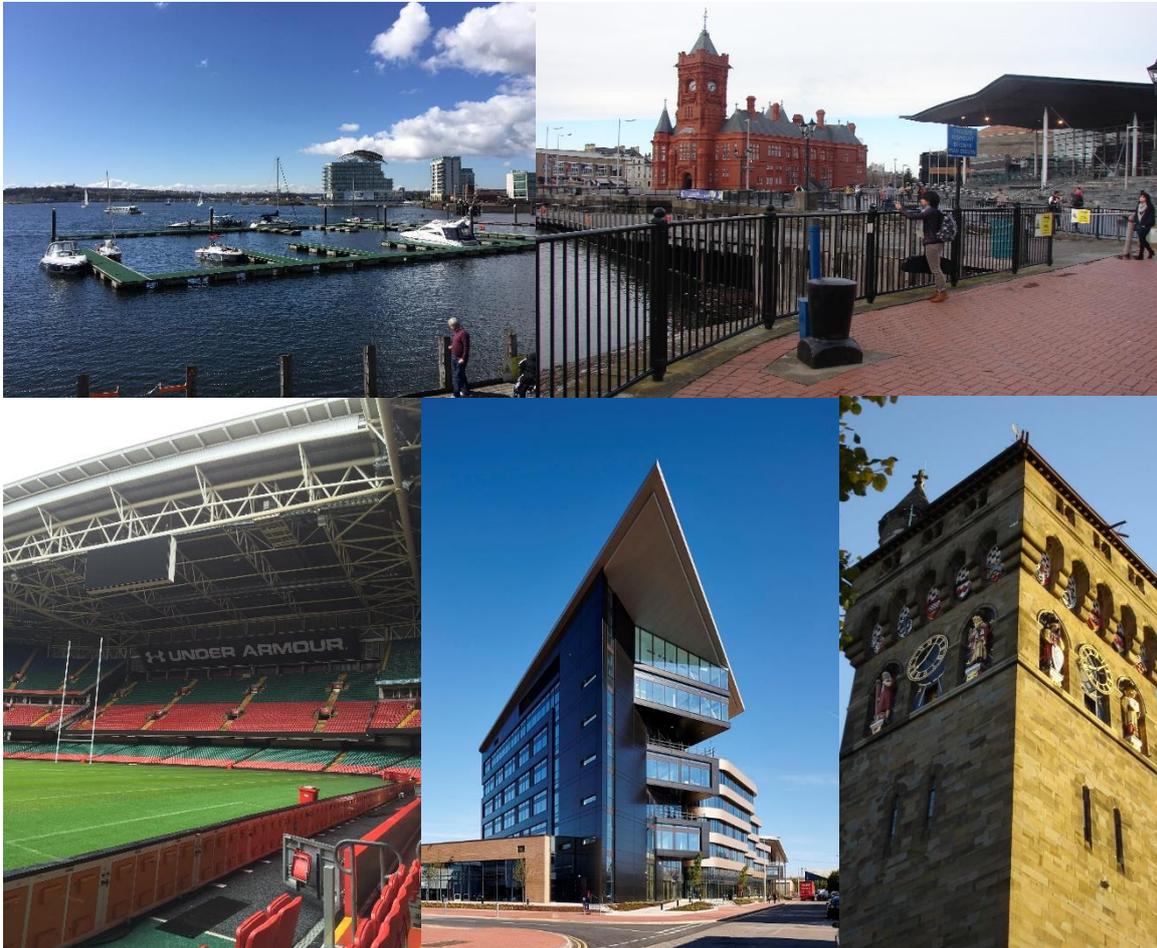


Living in Cardiff



Information for International Students



Introduction

The City

Cardiff is the capital city of Wales, one of the 4 countries which make up the United Kingdom (UK). It is located in the South-West of the UK, around 130 miles from London.

With three universities, not to mention the College, Cardiff is a real student city. In fact, around 1 in 10 Cardiff residents are students.

With world class sporting facilities and cultural events, excellent and varied shopping experiences, countless restaurants serving cuisine from around the world, and an array of city parks, Cardiff has all a student could ask for.

The College

Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) is one of the largest colleges in Wales, offering more than 1,000 courses to 21,000 students.

CAVC campuses are located throughout the city of Cardiff and the surrounding Vale of Glamorgan.

The City Centre Campus, where most of our international students study, is just minutes away from the heart of the city, where many of the aforementioned sporting and cultural activities can be enjoyed.

International students at the College are looked after by a dedicated International Office.

Here in the International Office, we understand that living in a new country is an exciting prospect. But we also know that it is an experience filled with challenges.

To assist you in preparing for and adapting to life in Cardiff, we have compiled information on the following key topics:

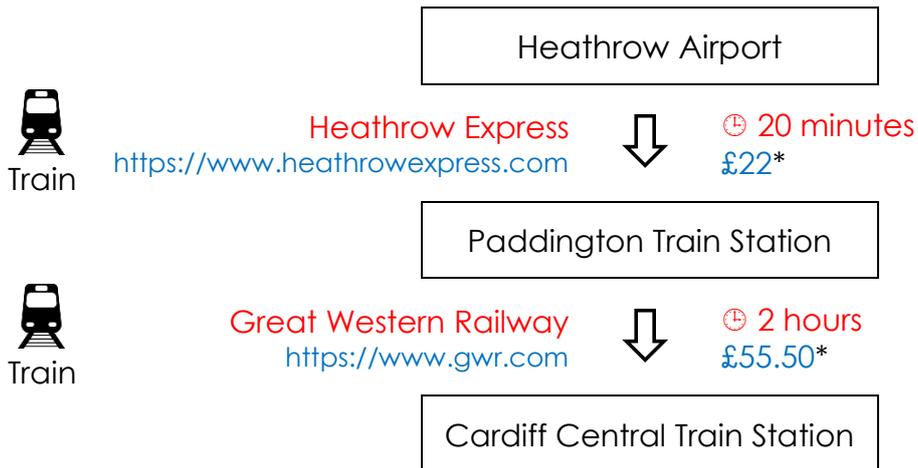
- Travel
- Money
- Healthcare & Safety
- Religion

The final page of this guide contains information on the International Office itself, including where to find it and how to get in touch with its staff.

Travel

Getting to Cardiff

From Heathrow International Airport



OR



From Cardiff International Airport



Prices correct as of June 2016

Getting Around Cardiff

Bus

The most convenient and affordable way of getting around Cardiff is by bus, as the city is home to an extensive bus network.

This network is operated by Cardiff Bus (<http://www.cardiffbus.com>).

Student Bus Guides can be picked up from the reception areas of most College campuses.

For students at our City Centre Campus, a dedicated bus (route 41) operates twice a day, once in the morning for students coming to College, and once in the afternoon for students returning home.

[Fares in Cardiff Fare Zone](#) (prices correct as of June 2016)

Fare Type	Adult	Young Person (Aged 5-18)	Payment Method
one way ride	£1.80	£1.30	Cash iff card / app
day to go	£3.60	£2.40	Cash iff card / app
week to go (7 consecutive days)	£15	£10	iff card / app
4 week to go (28 consecutive days)	£53	£35	iff card / app

Information on the *iff* card and *iff* app can be found on the Cardiff Bus website.

Other

If you can't take the bus, taxis are widely available. Some can be hailed on the street, whilst others must be arranged by phone. It should be noted that taxis are considerably more expensive than buses.

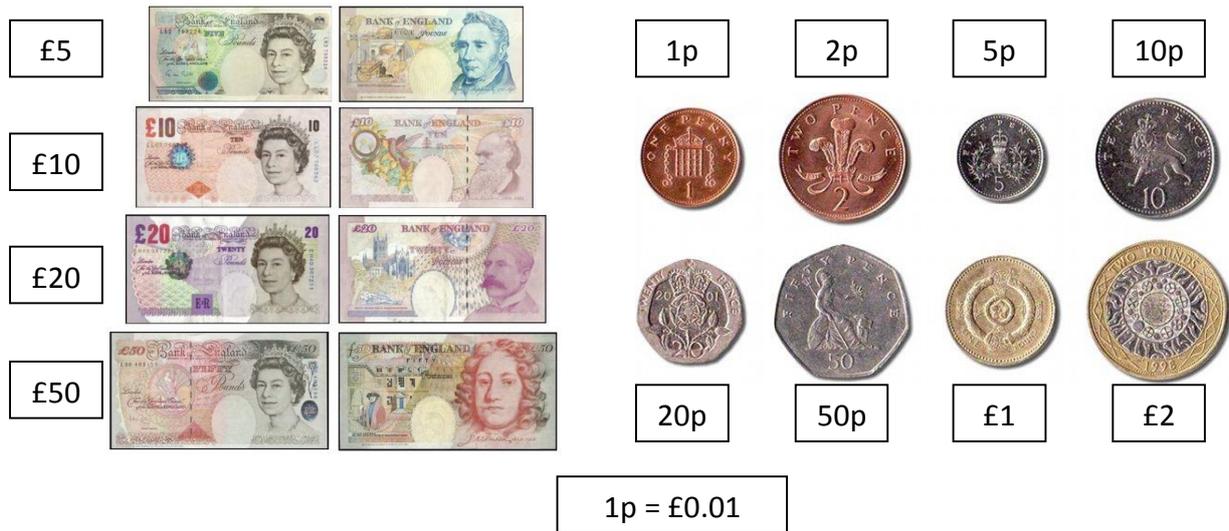
Trains are available for travel within Cardiff, but are generally more suitable for travel outside of the city. Information on trains can be found at <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>

It should also be noted that Cardiff is a relatively compact city, and many areas can be reached on foot or, indeed, by bicycle.

Money

Currency

The official currency of the U.K. is the Pound Sterling (£ / GBP).



Banks

When you first move to the UK, you are likely to want to open a local bank account. The International Office will provide you with the letter you require to do this.

There are many banks you can choose from, however we recommend opening an account at the Cardiff Met branch of Santander, as they are experienced in dealing with international students. Their details are as follows:

Address	Opening Hours	
Santander Universities Branch Cardiff Metropolitan University Western Avenue CF5 2YB	Monday	09:00 – 17:00
	Tuesday	09:00 – 17:00
	Wednesday	10:00 – 17:00
	Thursday	09:00 – 17:00
	Friday	09:00 – 17:00
	Saturday	Closed
	Sunday	Closed

If you require information on other banks in Cardiff, International Office staff will be pleased to assist you.

Healthcare & Safety

In an emergency, call 999

In an emergency, you should dial 999. This call is free. An operator will ask you which emergency service you require. You can request an ambulance, the police, or the fire service. You should tell the operator what has happened and where you are.

Safety

Whilst the UK and Cardiff are generally regarded as safe places to live, it is important that everyone is aware of the steps they can take to ensure their own personal safety.

A British Council guide on staying safe in the UK can be found at <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/49622852/Creating%20Confidence.pdf>

Other articles and guides on safety can be found at <http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/safety>

Immigration Health Surcharge

For more information on the Immigration Health Surcharge, which you may be required to pay as part of your visa application, please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/overview>

Non-Emergency Medical Care

Healthcare for residents of the UK is largely provided by the publicly-funded National Health Service (NHS).

In the UK, a family doctor is known as a GP (General Practitioner) and he/she works in a 'surgery'. If you have any non-emergency medical needs during your time in the UK, you should visit a GP.

Dental care is provided by dentists. Not all dentists accept NHS patients, so you should ask them about this before registering. NHS dental treatment is not free, but some of the cost is covered. Private dentists are also available, but they are more expensive.

When you first arrive in the UK, you should register with a local GP and dentist. **It is particularly important to register with a GP.** This is done in person at a local surgery. The International Office will provide you with a letter to take with you when registering.

For a list of local GP and dental surgeries, you can enter the postcode of your term address in the 'Find Local Services' section of the NHS Wales website at <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/>

International Office staff will be happy to assist you in finding local surgeries and preparing to register.

For a more complete overview of healthcare for international students in the UK, please refer to <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Living-in-the-UK/Health-and-healthcare>

Religion

As a multicultural city, Cardiff is home to facilities which cater to many major religions and faiths. Details of some of the area's major places of worship are provided below. Should you require further information or advice, please contact the International Office.



Buddhism

Cardiff Buddhist Centre

12 St. Peter's Street
Roath
Cardiff
CF24 3BA
www.cardiffbuddhistcentre.com/
029 2046 2492

Cardiff Tibetan Buddhist Centre

250 Cowbridge Road East
Canton
Cardiff
CF5 1GZ
www.meditateinwales.net/
029 2022 8040 / 029 2086 0054



Christianity

Highfields Church

Monthermer Road
Cathays
Cardiff
CF24 4QW
www.highfieldschurch.org.uk/
029 2065 0740

Woodville Baptist Church

Crwys Road
Cathays
Cardiff
CF5 1GZ
www.woodybap.org.uk/
029 2033 3456

St. John's Church (Anglican)

Church Street
City Centre
Cardiff
CF10 1GJ
sites.google.com/site/stjohnscityparishcardiff/
029 2039 5231

St. Peter's (Catholic)

St. Peter's Street
Roath
Cardiff
CF24 3BA
www.stpeters-roath.co.uk/
029 2048 3394



Sikhism

Sikh Gurdwara

212a Pearl Street
Roath
Cardiff
CF24 1RD
<http://sikhgurdwaracardiff.com/>
029 2046 5514

Sri Dasmesh Singh Sabha Gurdwara Bhatra Sikh Centre

97-103 Tudor Street
Cardiff
CF11 6AE
029 2022 4806



Islam

South Wales Islamic Centre

Alice Street
Butetown
Cardiff
CF10 5LB

<http://www.southwalesislamiccentre.com/>

029 2046 0243

Grangetown Mosque

2a Clydach Street
Grangetown
Cardiff
CF11 7AE

029 2023 9166

Barry Mosque & Muslim Welfare Association

332 Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4HX
01446 745822 / 01446 411504



Judaism

Cardiff Reform Synagogue

Moira Terrace
City Centre
Cardiff
CF24 0EJ

cardiffreformsynagogue.uk



Hinduism

Shree Swaminarayan Temple

4 Merches Place
Grangetown
Cardiff
CF11 6RD

<http://www.swaminarayanwales.org.uk/>

029 2037 1128

International Office Details

If you require any information or help during your time in Cardiff, the College's International Office is here for you.

Location

International Office
Cardiff and Vale College
City Centre Campus
Dumballs Road
Cardiff
CF10 5FE

Office Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday	8.30am – 5.00pm
Friday	8.30am – 4.30pm

During enrolment periods, the International Office may be open until 6.00pm, but please check in advance before attending the office outside the abovementioned times.

The office is open throughout the year except for bank holidays and 2 weeks over the Christmas period when the College is closed.

Contact Details

☎ [+44 \(0\)29 2090 8004](tel:+442920908004)

✉ international@cavc.ac.uk