

International students

pre-departure information

This guide has been specially compiled to offer useful information for international students studying at the College.

Applying for your student visa

Vogue Fashion Certificate and Vogue Summer Intensive Course

You must have a valid passport and for students studying on the Vogue Fashion Certificate and Vogue Summer Intensive Course you will need to apply for a Short-term study visa. You apply for this at your nearest British Embassy, High Commission, Consulate or Visa Application Centre in your country of usual residence.

Vogue Foundation Programme, BA (Hons) in Fashion Communication and all Master courses

If you are studying on one of our longer courses then you will need to apply for a Student Visa. Details on how to do this can be found at - <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

The Admissions team will guide you through the process and can answer any questions you may have about the application.

Protecting your Student visa status & attendance

Your Student Visa immigration permission can be in the form of a visa or an entry clearance vignette which you applied for in your home country, a residence permit vignette in your passport, or a Biometrics Residence permit (BRP) card which you were issued in the UK. Your Student Visa immigration permission will be subject to certain conditions, some of which are printed on your vignette or BRP, for example, you may be required to register with Police (please see our guidance on Police Registration).

It is very important that you understand these conditions as failure to comply with them can have serious consequences for both your current permission to be in the UK and for any future immigration applications you may make.

The Home Office guidance states that you must inform the Home Office if you have been given incorrect conditions. Please report any mistakes on your BRP this can be done through the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/report-problem>

Monitoring your attendance

As your Student visa sponsor, the College is required to comply with Home Office regulations to confirm that all Student visa students are attending classes and engaging with their studies. All Student visa students must read the Absence Policy (which can be found in the

Handbooks and Policy section on CNC Global) which outlines the requirements of attendance.

Working during your studies

Short-term study visa

Student on this visa are NOT allowed to take employment, including:

- paid or unpaid work
- a work placement
- work experience in the UK
- intend to be: self-employed and/or involved in business activities or any professional activity in the UK

Student visa (longer courses i.e. Foundation, BA or MA's))

Under the conditions of this visa, international students are NOT allowed to work, be self-employed or engage in business activity. However, they are able to undertake a work placement that is part of the course.

Immigration Regulations

If you have obtained entry clearance before arriving in the UK, your conditions of stay and length of leave to remain will already be noted on the Entry Clearance vignette in your passport. You should, however, still carry the necessary documents in case the UK Immigration Officer wishes to verify any details.

Police Registration

After you arrive in the United Kingdom, you may need to register your stay with the police. If you need to register, this requirement will be written in your passport and you will need to register within seven days of your arrival in the United Kingdom. If you are staying in the Metropolitan Police area in London, you should register at the following location:

The Overseas Visitors' Records Office Southwark Police Station

323 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1JL

Opening Hours: Monday-Wednesday and Friday 09:00-16:00

UK public and bank holidays: closed

Tel: 020 7230 1208 - This is a 24 hour recorded information line, messages are not accepted.

Getting there

The nearest Underground stations are Borough tube station which is served by the Northern line and Elephant and Castle tube station which is served by the Northern and Bakerloo lines or Bus routes are 35, 40, 133, 343.

What do I need to take when I register?

- Completed OVRO Registration Proforma
- Two identical passport sized photographs (photographs must be in colour, cut to size and stapled to the completed proforma prior to attending).
- A copy of the identity page from your passport
- A copy of the Visa page from your passport as well as A copy of both sides of your Biometric Residence Permit (if applicable)

Your Police Registration Certificate

Once you have registered with the police, you will receive a Police Registration Certificate. You should keep this certificate in a safe place with your passport and your Biometric Residence Permit.

Costs

Please note that there is a registration fee, currently £34.00, which may be paid by cash, sterling travellers' cheque or most debit and credit cards. They do not accept Euros or American Express.

Registering with us for the First Time?

You will find it helpful if you complete the First Time Registration Proforma in the Related publications section and bring it along with you when you visit us:

[What to bring with you](#)

You can complete the form using Adobe Reader, but please note you will be unable to save the completed form, so please print when complete. You do not have to register with us if any of the following apply:

- There is no requirement to do so on your Visa
- You are under the age of 16
- You are not a foreign national from the list of countries shown below
- You are not living in London [register with your local police]

Regulations

When you register with the police you will be issued a Police Registration Certificate (PRC). Any changes in your circumstance will need to be reported to OVRO at the address shown above and your PRC updated accordingly. However, any change of residential, business or school address can be reported to your local police station.

This Police Registration Certificate (PRC) may be used as an identity document in the United Kingdom (UK). You are advised not to carry it with you but keep it in a safe place together with your passport/travel document. If you are asked to produce the PRC, you will be given 48 hours in which to do so at any police station.

Change Notifications

You must tell the police if any of your information that you gave them have changed - information on this can be found at - <https://www.gov.uk/register-with-the-police/change-replace>

Who needs to register

Countries remaining in the Registration Scheme can be found at - <https://www.gov.uk/register-with-the-police/who-needs-to-register>

Money

Most international students can open a basic bank account that allows you to pay money in and take money out. You are normally provided with a bank card to withdraw your money from cash points.

Many banks require evidence of your identity, your address in the UK and your address overseas. Some banks will require a letter from Condé Nast College of Fashion and Design to confirm these details. For more information, contact Admissions or Registry.

There is no limit to the amount of money you can bring into the UK, but your own country may operate exchange controls. If this is the case, you must start making arrangements for transferring money several months before your course is due to begin. It would be advisable to bring approximately £250 in British currency with you, together with travellers cheques to cover all your initial expenses, which may include a travel, food etc. Travellers cheques can be cashed at airports, banks and bureaux de change. Try to avoid carrying too much cash in case it is lost or stolen.

It is a condition of acceptance that you should not commence study at the Condé Nast College unless you have adequate funds available to finance yourself to the end of your course. Remember that in addition to tuition fees, you must take into consideration board and lodgings, books, stationery and equipment, clothing, travel and entertainment.

Council Tax

Council Tax was introduced in Britain in 1993 and is the means by which people pay for local services. Condé Nast College students on our longer courses can apply for a discount on their council tax.

Banks

To open an account, you will need your passport or ID card and evidence of your current course of study and address (please request this from the college). Depending on the bank you choose, you may be asked for other documentation. As an international student you are likely to be offered a Basic Bank Account, which will allow you to pay in and take out money only. If you require credit then you will need to apply for a Current Account.

You can transfer money from home by giving the name and address of your UK bank together with the account number and code. If you are intending to use a cash card from your own country, please check with your bank that it will be compatible with UK machines and check what the charges are applicable for withdrawals and if they charge a percentage on the currency conversion.

One pound sterling (£1) is divided into one hundred pence (100p). Coins issued are 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2 and notes to the value of £5, £10 and £20.

Bureaux de Change are open outside normal banking hours and are useful should you need to change money in a hurry at weekends.

Telephones

There are basically two types of public telephone: coin-operated and card phone. You can dial direct from either type to anywhere in the UK and to all countries to which International Direct Dialling is available. There are many companies offering international telephone cards which can be bought online or in many local newsagents. These offer varying rates for different countries so you may need to shop around to get the best deal. However, most international students prefer to use their own mobile phone. You can either bring your own with you or purchase one when you arrive.

Mobile phones

Buying a mobile phone in the UK can be confusing as there are many different types of deal. Take time to look at what is available and try more than one retail outlet. The same deal may be cheaper with another store. There are two types of contract available:

Pay As You Go

The prepaid mobile phone is a mobile phone for which credit is purchased in advance of service use. The purchased credit is used to pay for mobile phone services at the point the service is accessed or consumed. Users are able to top up their credit at any time using a variety of payment mechanisms. There is no contract involved and you will need to provide or buy the mobile.

Pay Monthly

This type of contract can often offer a free handset as part of the package but there is usually a minimum monthly payment, and a minimum term over which you must keep the contract (generally 12 months although it can be 18 or 24 months). This is a less flexible option than Pay As You Go as it is not possible to avoid the monthly contract payment, even if you do not make any calls.

For both types of mobile phone options make sure you check the rates for both UK calls and international calls – some phones offer good rates within the UK but high rates internationally or vice versa.

To dial an international call from the UK, e.g. Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) 2536781:

- First dial the international prefix 00
- Next the country code 60
- Then the area code 3
- And finally the number 2536781

Useful free telephone services

- Emergency Services: 999
- Local police non-emergency : 101
- NHS urgent medical problems :111

- Operator 100

Internet

The college has wireless internet (Wi-Fi) throughout the building for students to access with their personal devices. There are also college computers available for student use.

Post Office

Normal hours of opening are: Monday-Friday 0900–1730 and Saturday 0900–1230 but there is variation. There is no postal delivery after 1300 on Saturday until Monday morning. Postage rates are calculated based on weight, size and the service required. With a first class stamp, a letter to an address in the UK should arrive the next day; a letter with a second-class stamp will take up to three days.

Health & Insurance

The National Health Service (NHS) is the UK's state healthcare system. It provides a wide range of health care services ranging from appointments with the doctor, hospital treatment and dental care.

Students can choose to pay for UK healthcare as part of your immigration status
<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>

Medical Insurance

If you are not eligible for non-emergency NHS treatment, you need to take out private medical insurance to cover yourself as UK private medical treatment is very expensive. Even if you do qualify for free treatment, you may wish to also consider taking out comprehensive health insurance as you may want a quicker service than the NHS can deliver.

If you already have medical insurance in your home country, check whether you can extend it to cover your stay in the UK, as well as looking at options available from UK insurers. Endsleigh Insurance have produced a special health insurance policy for international students and their spouses or civil partners and children in the UK. Details of the policy can be found on the Endsleigh website at [endsleigh.co.uk](https://www.endsleigh.co.uk) Please contact Endsleigh for further details.

Pharmacies, GP Surgeries, Walk In Centres & Hospitals

Local Pharmacies

The nearest Pharmacies to the College:

Watsons Pharmacy

1 Frith Street, Soho, London W1D 3HZ

Tel: 020 7437 2270

Boots

15-17 Tottenham Court Road, London, Greater London W1T 1BE

Tel: 020 7580 3525

GP Surgeries

The nearest GP Surgeries to the College:

Soho Square General Practice

First Floor, 1 Frith Street, London, W1D 3HZ

Tel: 020 7534 6575

Opening Hours: 9am-6pm weekdays. and Open until 8pm on Mondays

Covent Garden Medical Centre

47 Shorts Gardens, London, WC2H 9AA

Tel: 020 7379 7209

Opening Hours: 8am-1pm and 2pm-6.30pm

Gower Street Practice

20 Gower Street, London, Greater London WC1E 6DP

Walk In Centres

Soho NHS Walk-in Centre

1 Frith Street, London W1D 3HZ

Tel: 020 7534 6500

109 Lambeth Walk Day Centre

109 Lambeth Walk, London, Greater London SE11 6EE

Private General Practices

Condé Nast's Doctors Surgery

Dr Daniel's Medical Centre

Dr Alix Daniel

99 Harley Street, London, W1G 6AQ

Tel: 0207 935 7501

Freedom Health

60 Harley Street, London

Tel: 020 7637 1600

Opening Hours: Monday–Friday 8.30 am – 6.30 pm, Saturday 10.30-3.30pm

Hospitals

University College Hospital

235 Euston Road, London, Greater London NW1 2BU

Tel: 0845 155 5000

[UCLH](#)

St Thomas' Hospital

Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH

Tel: 020 7188 7188

St Mary's Hospital

Praed Street, London W2 1NY

Tel: 020 3312 6666

Utilities: Electricity, Property Insurance & Laundry

Electricity

Electrical current in the UK is 240 volts at 50 cycles. If you come from a country, which operates on a different voltage, you should ensure that you are equipped with the appropriate transformer. Alternatively, there are many discount electrical stores and supermarkets where you can buy various items (hairdryer, kettle etc.) at fairly reasonable prices.

Property Insurance

If you have not already done so before leaving your own country, you are strongly advised to take out some form of insurance policy to cover the cost of your personal property should it be lost or stolen. Make the effort to do this as soon as possible after your arrival.

Laundry & Dry Cleaning

If there is no washing machine or drying facility where you live, you can take your clothes to a "laundrette" where you will find coin-operated washing machines and dryers. You can either put the machine through its programme yourself or, at a small extra charge, the attendant

will do your washing for you. For heavier items or articles of clothing that cannot be machine-washed, there are many dry cleaners in local neighbourhoods.

Welfare - Student Support

The College provides a welfare service to assist international students during their period of study at the Condé Nast College. Please contact reception or the Director of Operations if you have any questions. They are able to help students with the practical aspects of living and studying in London and liaise with other individuals and organisations. The range of matters dealt with by the Advisers is very broad and the objective is to give sympathetic, confidential and practical help as quickly as possible.

Shopping, Tipping & VAT

Shopping

Majority of shops in London are open 7 days a week, with shopping hours on Sunday being shorter than the other days. The opening times vary with many supermarkets opening from 8am till late or 24 hours and all other stores opening from approximately 9am to 6pm and later. A few things to consider:

- Customers are expected to pay the price marked on the article; there is usually no question of bargaining.
- People are very strict about queuing and waiting their turn.
- Some supermarkets and grocers have a small charge for plastic carrier bags.

Tipping

The following is only a rough guide to how much you should tip. If the service you have received is much better or worse than you expected, you could vary the tip accordingly.

- Restaurants: 12-15% of the bill, if service is not included
- Taxis: 10% of the fare or round up the fare
- Hotels: Often your hotel bill will include a service charge of between 10% and 15%.
- Cinemas, theatres and petrol stations: Tip not expected.

Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds

If you are normally domiciled or live outside of the European Union (EU), but have a visa to remain in the UK to complete a period of study, you may be able to claim a VAT refund on certain goods that you personally export from the EU. You must comply with certain conditions in order to qualify for a refund. You will only be able to get a VAT refund on goods that you buy within three months of your departure to an immediate destination outside the EU. You will have to provide the goods, the receipts and the VAT refund document to Customs at the point of departure from the EU. You must then remain outside of the UK for a period of at least 12 months. When you go to buy goods you should take your passport with you to demonstrate to the retailer that you are entitled to buy goods under the scheme. Not all retailers operate the scheme so it is a good idea to check first. If you want to know more about the scheme and the conditions, you can contact the Customs' National Advice Service by calling a local number +44 (0)845 010 9000 – or you can visit the HM Customs & Excise

website: [HMRC](https://www.hmrc.gov.uk) where you can download a copy of VAT Refunds for Visitors to the UK to learn more about how the scheme works.

Cost of Living

Please note that the following information is only a very rough breakdown of costs per month for a single student in averagely priced self-catering accommodation. Per month:
Accommodation £800-1000, Food £180, Clothes £60, Bus, underground, taxi fares £40,
Laundry, stationery, stamps, toiletries £30, Telephone/Internet £40, Entertainment £100

Climate

The climate of London is characterised by its temperate nature. Periods of extreme heat or cold are infrequent and usually of short duration. Rainfall may occur during all seasons and rapid weather changes may take place over a period of a few hours.