



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS



www.gloscol.ac.uk/international

GC
gloucestershire college
international



WELCOME TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE



“ Welcome to Gloucestershire College.

There are many fantastic opportunities for international students here. The college provides a safe, friendly

and supportive educational environment with committed teachers and outstanding facilities. We are dedicated to giving our students the best experience Gloucestershire College can offer. Our students progress to universities both throughout the UK and in their own countries.

We have a caring supportive International Team who will help you integrate into college and life in England. We are located in the beautiful Heart of England with two main sites, one in Cheltenham and one in Gloucester, and a smaller campus in the Royal Forest of Dean.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

MATTHEW BURGESS
PRINCIPAL

”

Our mission statement:

**TRANSFORMING LIVES,
SUPPORTING BUSINESS**

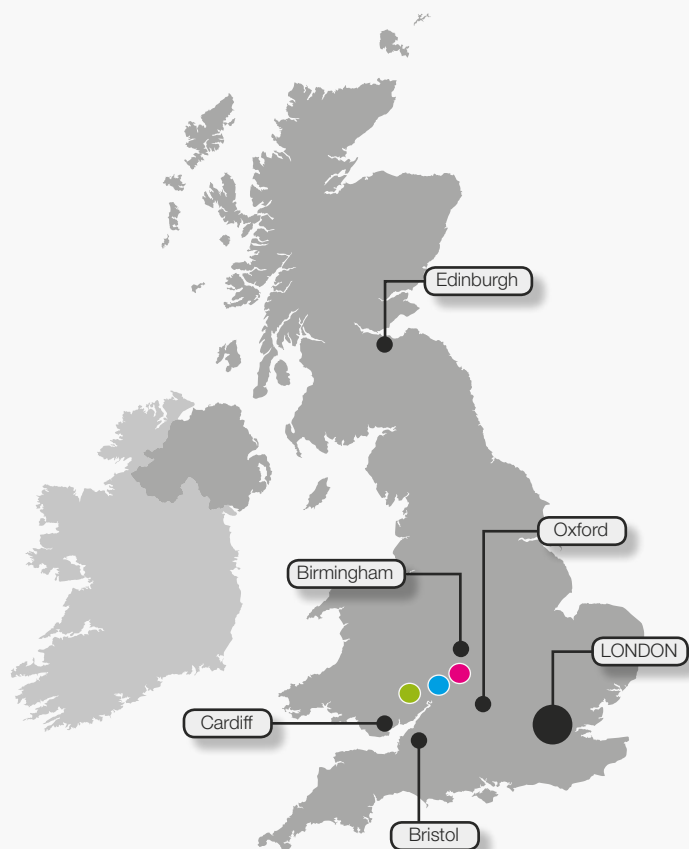
Find out more about our Leadership Team online, at
www.gloscol.ac.uk





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- Cheltenham Campus
- Gloucester Campus
- Forest of Dean Campus

Gloucestershire College has made every effort to ensure that all details are correct. However, Gloucestershire College reserves the right to change any of the information at any time and without notice. Gloucestershire College also reserves the right to close or not start any published programme. Please check online www.gloscol.ac.uk for the latest information.



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www.twitter.com/GCInternational1



Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/InternationalStudentsatGC



View our videos online at
www.youtube.com/gloscol1



See our latest photos at
www.flickr.com/gloscol

“ Gloucestershire College campuses provide inclusive and purposeful learning environments which help foster positive attitudes to study. ”

OFSTED 2013

ABOUT US

Gloucestershire College (GC) is a successful college of further and higher education with a history dating back to 1838. Each year the college enrolls almost 4,000 full-time students and more than 10,000 part-time students from the local area. In 2013 OFSTED (the office for standards in education in the UK) found Gloucestershire College to be 'good with outstanding features'.

Moving to a new country for your education is a big step and it is important to make sure you are in safe hands.

- ✓ We enrol more than 500 international students each year, including 350 on our junior and adult summer schools.
- ✓ We welcome students from more than 35 countries.
- ✓ We have been welcoming international students for more than 40 years.



Many European students study with us along with other nationalities including:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| ✓ Chinese | ✓ Qatari |
| ✓ Ghanaian | ✓ Russian |
| ✓ Indian | ✓ Saudi |
| ✓ Iranian | ✓ Thai |
| ✓ Japanese | ✓ Turkish |
| ✓ Kazakh | ✓ Ukrainian |
| ✓ Korean | ✓ Uzbek |
| ✓ Nigerian | |



OUR LOCATION

Gloucestershire College is located in the Heart of England in the beautiful Cotswolds. We are one hour from Oxford, Birmingham, Bristol and Bath, and two hours from London, by car or train.

The county of Gloucestershire is widely considered to be representative of 'real England' and one of the best places to live in the UK.

Our main campuses are in Cheltenham and Gloucester. Cheltenham is a traditional spa town which is famous for horse-racing as well as its many cultural festivals of music and literature. The majority of our international students are based in Cheltenham. Historic Gloucester is 2,000 years old and famous for its cathedral. Many of our higher education and vocational courses are taught in the city.

THE QUEEN VISITS GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

Gloucestershire College recently hosted Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on an official visit to our Gloucester Campus. The Queen, her husband the Duke of Edinburgh and over 100 other VIP guests enjoyed a lunch prepared by our catering students and staff.



INTERNATIONAL COURSES

at Gloucestershire College

There are many different courses and qualifications available to international students at Gloucestershire College. You can enrol to do GCSEs, A levels and Diplomas in a range of subjects as well as a pre-university Foundation course and a variety of English language courses.

Our programmes of study include support with study skills in English and one-to-one tutorials. We help you with the university application process through UCAS, as well as support and preparation for IELTS and other exams.

A-LEVELS AND GCSES

A-levels are two-year courses and are part of a typical progression route to university. International students study alongside home students and normally choose three or four subjects in the first year and continue with three subjects in the second year. GCSEs can be taken before A-levels or vocational study. These courses are available in a variety of subjects to international students from the EU. For international students they are one-year courses.

NATIONAL DIPLOMAS AND HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMAS

You can enrol on National Diplomas in a range of subjects. By taking this route you can concentrate on skills and learning in a specific area of interest, whilst also taking English classes. National Diplomas are two-year courses which lead students directly into employment, Higher National Diplomas or university.

These courses begin in September each year.

MEET ONE OF OUR TEACHERS



JOHANNA GRANVILLE-EDMUNDS

Jo has been working at the college for seven years. After studying Spanish and German at university she gained years of English teaching experience all over the world, including Colombia and Spain. She has been a great support for many of our students. She enrolled as a student herself again and last year completed the Holistic Diploma here at Gloucestershire College. She won the Star Student award! Jo loves seeing students get more and more confident with their English every week.





ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)

We have been teaching English at Gloucestershire College for more than 40 years. We have a strong team of very experienced and well-qualified English language teachers, many of whom are also teacher trainers. We teach general English and Business English, exam preparation, study skills and a wide range of other optional classes. General English classes focus on all areas of English: grammar, vocabulary, listening and speaking, reading, writing, and pronunciation. Business English classes focus on specific business language and business-related concepts.

Our study skills classes help you with aspects of everyday and academic needs. Our option classes help you focus upon a particular area of interest. These include practice in listening and speaking, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, phrasal verbs, exam classes for PET, FCE, CAE and IELTS exams.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

Gloucestershire College's International Foundation Programme is designed for international students who have finished their secondary school education and wish to continue their studies at university in the UK. The course prepares you for the demands of going on to study alongside British students in a specialist subject at university. The course includes support with the university application process through UCAS and will give you thorough English language support for the English language qualification you will need to be accepted at university (typically IELTS).

Students on the International Foundation Programme can apply for any university in the UK. If you successfully complete the course, you are guaranteed a place at either Worcester or Gloucestershire universities. Many of our students have also secured places at a wide range of other well-known universities around the UK and worldwide.

KAREN CHAN, 18, HONG KONG CATERING AND HOSPITALITY NATIONAL DIPLOMA

“ I have loved my time at Gloucestershire College. The tutors are supportive and listen to our ideas about making the classes even better. I learnt that it is ok to make mistakes, and improved my

English. My tutors were also kind and I always knew I could chat to them. I love to meet people, see how they live, understand their culture- that is why I chose to live in a host family. I do not regret my choice! We spent a lot of time together talking about their lives, their culture as well as mine. I also made friends in College that I hope will be friends for life! ”





FACILITIES

Gloucestershire College offers you some of the best educational facilities in the country.

Our campuses have been purpose-built and offer modern, advanced learning resources, both inside and outside the classroom. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards, which teachers are specially trained to use. There are over 2,500 computers throughout the college for students to use. Individual departments offer industry-standard resources, giving students access to professional-level facilities while they learn.

Our facilities include a fitness studio, full size gym, sports hall, TV and sound studios, engineering labs and workshops, hair and beauty salons, graphic design suites and a theatre. Each campus has its own library. There are also plenty of dining options on campus, including sandwich bars, cafes, canteens and a fine dining restaurant. International students have access to computers, self-study resources and other materials in the international and languages department.



The college provides an extremely attractive environment for students and is welcoming and spacious with a range of very good facilities

British Council 2013



LIBRARIES – We have thousands of books, magazines, journals and newspapers as well as online access (using our iMacs) to eBooks, and newspapers from the last 400 years! You can study on your own or as part of a group. Our Library Teams can help you find whatever you need. There is also an e-Library which allows access 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



FITNESS - Keep fit and have fun with our sports hall, tennis courts, the GC Gym and with our Sports Academies.



FOOD AND DRINK - There is a wide variety of choice in The Food Central in Cheltenham and Gloucester. As well as breakfast options, snacks and hot

lunches, Starbucks Coffee is available in Cheltenham and Gloucester. The Cheltenham campus has a commercially run restaurant which is open to the public too.



COURSE EQUIPMENT - All students can use our up-to-date PCs and Macs with high speed internet access. We also have engineering workshops, kitchens, TV and recording studios, editing suites, and a theatre – all with industry-standard equipment.



STUDENT SUPPORT

We are very proud of the support we offer to our international students. The International Team, your personal tutor and your other teachers will be interested in you as an individual to ensure you are happy and making good progress.

We really understand the challenges that international students have when studying away from home. We have a dedicated International Team with many years of experience who will help you from the very start until your last day with us. Before you arrive, we help you with your application, course selection, visa, finding accommodation, and preparing to travel here.



When you arrive, we'll give you support to settle in. All international students attend an international induction which will help you become more familiar with UK culture and the college. It includes team-building activities to help get to know other students and to feel more at home. You'll find out your timetable and we'll give you advice with everyday practicalities like bank accounts, registering with a doctor, etc.

Throughout the year, as well as giving you academic support, we can advise on medical concerns, visa renewals and other matters. We monitor attendance and progress very closely and we keep in regular contact with parents and agents. We want to help you enjoy yourself while you are here and help you to do whatever you would like to do next. We want to help you achieve in your studies while preparing you for a highly successful future.

TRACEY POUNTNEY



“ I am fortunate to have a role where I have contact with the students from the day they arrive until the day they move on to continue with their education elsewhere. It is very rewarding to see our students settle into their studies, make friends and progress so well. Being here for the students allows me to build good relationships with them and I love providing the support and advice they need.

”

SOCIAL LIFE AND ENRICHMENT

Students at Gloucestershire College have a lot of different opportunities for enrichment and social life.

Throughout the year the International team organises trips to places such as Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Cotswold villages, London, Oxford, Stonehenge, Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick Castle. We have welcome evenings, international gatherings, cultural evenings, barbecues, bowling, country walks and more.

During term time there is a sports and activities programme with qualified coaches who take training sessions and organise matches. The college has a sports academy for students who excel in sports and a more relaxed sports programme for those who want to play for fun.

Cheltenham and Gloucester are both culturally rich. Cheltenham hosts festivals dedicated to all kinds of activities including cricket, horse racing, literature, science, food and

music. Gloucester's historic cathedral, where parts of Harry Potter were filmed, is simply stunning. Gloucester Docks, where the Gloucester Campus is located, have recently been transformed and are now home to museums, bars and shops.

Locally you can swim, play football, basketball, badminton, tennis and a wide range of other sports. If you prefer to watch rather than play, you can go and see Gloucester Rugby or Cheltenham Town Football Clubs.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

To see what our students are up to and visit our student society search for '**International Students at GC**' on Facebook. This is a dedicated page for all International students where we share news, events and photos.

If you are an agent you may be interested in our official Facebook page, search for '**International at Gloucestershire College**'. There you will find college news, international offers and events.



ACCOMMODATION

We can arrange accommodation for long-term students either with a homestay or in the halls of residence.

STUDENT HALLS OF RESIDENCE



If you would like to live with other students, you can choose to live in our fully-furnished student residence.

It is located in Cheltenham, half way between our Cheltenham campus and the town centre. You will have a single room with en-suite facilities, including a shower and toilet.

The kitchen area is shared with up to five other students. The common area is the perfect place to play table tennis, watch television or talk with friends. Wireless internet is included.

Please note that student residences are self-catering and suitable for mature students over 18 years looking for independent living within halls. Students sign an agreement committing them to a fixed period of usually one year.



HOMESTAY



Living with a family is a great way of settling into a new country and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our carefully-selected homestay accommodation offers

the perfect environment for you to improve your English and learn about British culture. Host families offer half-board during the week and full-board on the weekend. Some host families allow self-catering within the home. Many families have pets. Rooms with a private bathroom may be available for an extra charge. Where possible, we match students with appropriate families according to specific requests and needs.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

LANGUAGE SUPPORT

English language support is a really important aspect of our programmes. We give subject specific support and offer study skills courses as well as English language classes. Before coming to the college we'll assess your levels of English and will give you a test and an interview when you arrive to establish the level of support you will need. We'll advise you on which courses and which subjects are appropriate for you.



EXTENDED COURSES

For students that need to develop their language skills in advance of the course, and for those who would like some extra help, we can offer extended courses during the summer.

These courses are offered from July, in advance of a September start. They involve up to eight weeks of intensive English language lessons during our summer school. This is especially useful for students who want to build their confidence and skills before the courses begin in September. These focus on academic English and general Study Skills, in support of the students' main academic programme.





HOW TO APPLY

Before you come you'll need to complete the International student application form and send it to the international office along with all relevant documents such as school records, English exam results, references, passport details etc.

The application is free. If your application is accepted, we'll send you a conditional or unconditional offer letter along with deposit information. Once you have paid your deposit and met any conditions, we'll issue you with a confirmation letter and/or a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) required by the UKVI. This can be used for visa purposes.

For students applying under Tier 4 of the Points Based System, you are required to prove that the correct level of funding is available to you in full for your first year in order to secure your visa. This funding plus any remaining tuition fees needs to be held in your personal bank account for at least 28 consecutive days. Some students may be required to attend an interview to obtain their study visa. You'll need to make sure that you know about the college, your course and future ambitions. Please remember to apply well in advance of the course to allow time to secure your student visa, especially if you need to book an English Language test, or if you need time for your funding to meet requirements. Most international students requiring a visa need to apply under Tier 4 of the Points Based System. Please see: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk for more information. You can also ask your local representative of Gloucestershire College or your local branch of the British Council.

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WAYS TO APPLY



WEBSITE

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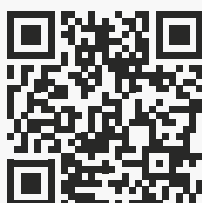
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