



Postgraduate Offer Guide

INTERNATIONAL (NON UK/EEA/EU) APPLICANTS



Your Offer Guide

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Your next steps

STEP 1

You have now received your offer letter and here is your guide. Please make sure you read your offer letter carefully to make sure you understand it fully.

Turn to page 6 for details about Your Offer and some handy FAQs.

STEP 2

Go through the application checklist to check the important dates and complete all the key tasks, from being offered a place at the RAU to receiving your results.

Turn to page 7 to see our comprehensive timeline.

STEP 3

Our Money Matters page provides information on the support on offer here at the RAU.

Turn to page 21 to see what you might be entitled to.

STEP 4

Choose and apply for your accommodation. We're now accepting applications for 2018 entry. If you hold a firm offer, you can apply online for your accommodation via My RAU.

Please visit <https://my.rau.ac.uk>.

Turn to page 22 for more information about choosing your accommodation.



Welcome

Many congratulations on receiving your offer to join us here at the Royal Agricultural University in September. I am very much looking forward to welcoming you into the very special community that is the RAU.

What we all love most about our University is the small, friendly, community feel and of course, our beautiful campus set in the stunning Cotswold countryside. Named the safest university in England and Wales in the 2018 Complete University Guide, the RAU is based in Cirencester, a busy town with a great sense of history.

You can be sure that you'll get a very warm welcome and all the support you need from staff, the Student Union and your fellow students to ensure that you make the most of your experience over the next few years.

You'll be encouraged to involve yourself in initiatives such as our award-winning enterprise programme, which ensures you'll gain key employability skills and become a career-ready graduate.

If you've any questions, or just want to find out more about the University, please don't hesitate to contact us by calling the Admissions Office on 01285 889912 or by emailing admissions@rau.ac.uk.

Professor Joanna Price
Vice-Chancellor
The Royal Agricultural University



What we all love most about our University is the small, friendly community feel and of course, our beautiful campus set in the stunning Cotswold countryside.



Our reputation speaks for itself



Award-winning enterprise programme providing tailored support at all levels of business start-up

High graduate employability

90%

on average over the past five years

48 student businesses launched
82% success rate, compared with 44% nationally*

*Office for National Statistics

1845

Delivering outstanding education and meeting real-world needs since 1845



Experts



Staff who are experts in their fields and visiting speakers who are captains of industry



15k

A powerful global network of 15,000 alumni



Winner of the Sustainability category at The Guardian University Awards 2016

89%

Learning Community



89% of students feel part of the RAU community

87%

Student Satisfaction



High student satisfaction



Industry links

Our graduates have careers with prestigious global companies

1st safest

Safest university in England and Wales



Your offer

You'll have received an offer letter outlining the conditions of your offer.

- If you accept a conditional offer it will remain at this stage until all of the respective conditions have been met.
- Applicants with an unconditional offer will have met all conditions required for the course.
- Applicants wishing to defer their offer must have satisfied all conditions by 31 August 2018 in order for a place to be reserved in September / October 2018 or by 14 December for entry in 2019.

My RAU

Once you receive an offer from the RAU you will be able to log into the University's applicant portal My RAU. Your username will be your eight digit student number which is printed at the top of your offer letter and your password will be your date of birth in the format ddmmyyyy. You'll be invited to change your password on your first visit.

English Language Requirements

If your Bachelor's degree is not from a UK HEI or a majority English speaking country.

HEI (excluding Canada) and you are not a national of a majority English speaking country then you'll need to provide evidence of your English proficiency.

International postgraduate taught students must provide evidence of English language competence as follows:

- IELTS 6.5 overall (with no less than 5.5 in any of the elements) or equivalent.

If there is an English proficiency condition in your offer, it will be stated in your offer conditions on the offer letter you have received from the RAU.

Booking an IELTS test

If you're planning to take an IELTS Academic test we recommend you plan and book your test early to meet the 1 August deadline.

www.ielts.org

Admissions Office +44 (0)1285 889912
admissions@rau.ac.uk



Providing verification of your qualifications

Photocopies will need to be verified by your University. Photocopies of your certificates and transcripts must meet the following conditions:

1. The document must be signed and stamped by your institution.
2. The signatory must also print their name and job title.
3. If the qualifications / results are in a language other than English then a certified official translation of the original document must also be submitted at the same time.
4. References must be provided on the official headed paper of your institution or employer and signed. Alternatively, we can accept a reference sent directly from your referee's academic or official email address.

You should submit any certified official documents as soon as they become available. For applicants requiring a study visa these should not be received later than the end of June 2018 (October entry) or November 2018 (February entry). Documents can be emailed to admissions@rau.ac.uk or uploaded on My RAU (only pdf files in colour and good definition will be accepted). The originals must be submitted on the day of your registration. If the University finds that the examinations / qualifications / results you have declared on your application are inaccurate or you are unable to verify them, the University reserves the right to withdraw the offer or cancel your application.



FAQs

Q I have changed my mind about the course I want to study. Can I change to another course?

This may be possible depending on whether places are still available, how competitive the new course is, and whether your subjects and grades are suitable. If the course you wish to study is in the same area or department as your original one, there is a good chance you will be able to change. Please contact the Admissions Office so we can advise and assist you.

Q What happens if I have applied for deferred entry?

If your offer is for deferred entry you must still satisfy all the conditions of your offer by 31 August / Mid-December. If you're successful in meeting those conditions or if your offer is already unconditional, a place will then be reserved for you to start the following academic year.

Q I no longer want to start my postgraduate course, who do I tell?

It's important to contact the Admissions team as soon as possible if you intend to withdraw your application.

Q What happens if I have problems during the exams? Will my circumstances be considered?

Sometimes there may be circumstances that arise which may have a serious impact on how you perform during your exams. If you have serious extenuating circumstances which had an impact on your performance please let us know so we can advise you further.



Q When do I need to send you proof of my qualifications?

If you're taking qualifications that are required for you to complete your conditions, it is your responsibility to ensure that your results reach us. For applicants requiring a study visa these should not be received later than the end of June 2018 (October entry) or November 2018 (February entry). Documents can be emailed to admissions@rau.ac.uk or uploaded on My RAU.

Photocopies will need to be verified by your University.

- The document must be signed and stamped by your institution
- The signatory must also print their name and job title
- If the qualifications / results are in a language other than English then a certified official translation of the original document must be submitted at the same time.

Q I changed my email address / contact address / telephone number. Do I need to let you know?

Yes, please contact Admissions as soon as possible. It is extremely important we hold the correct contact details for you.

Q Who do I need to contact if I would like to talk to someone about special support arrangements?

The University Disability Officer Dr John Conway provides a range of services for students who have disabilities or medical conditions. If you would like to discuss anything, please email john.conway@rau.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1285 652531 Ext. 2234.

Q I have some questions about the scholarships you offer, who can I contact for further information?

You can contact our Admissions team on +44 (0)1285 889912 or email the Scholarships administrator at scholarships@rau.ac.uk.



Your timeline

Congratulations on receiving your offer!

Starting university is one of the most exciting times of your life. By now you'll already be thinking about what lies ahead and what you should do to prepare for your course and all that follows.

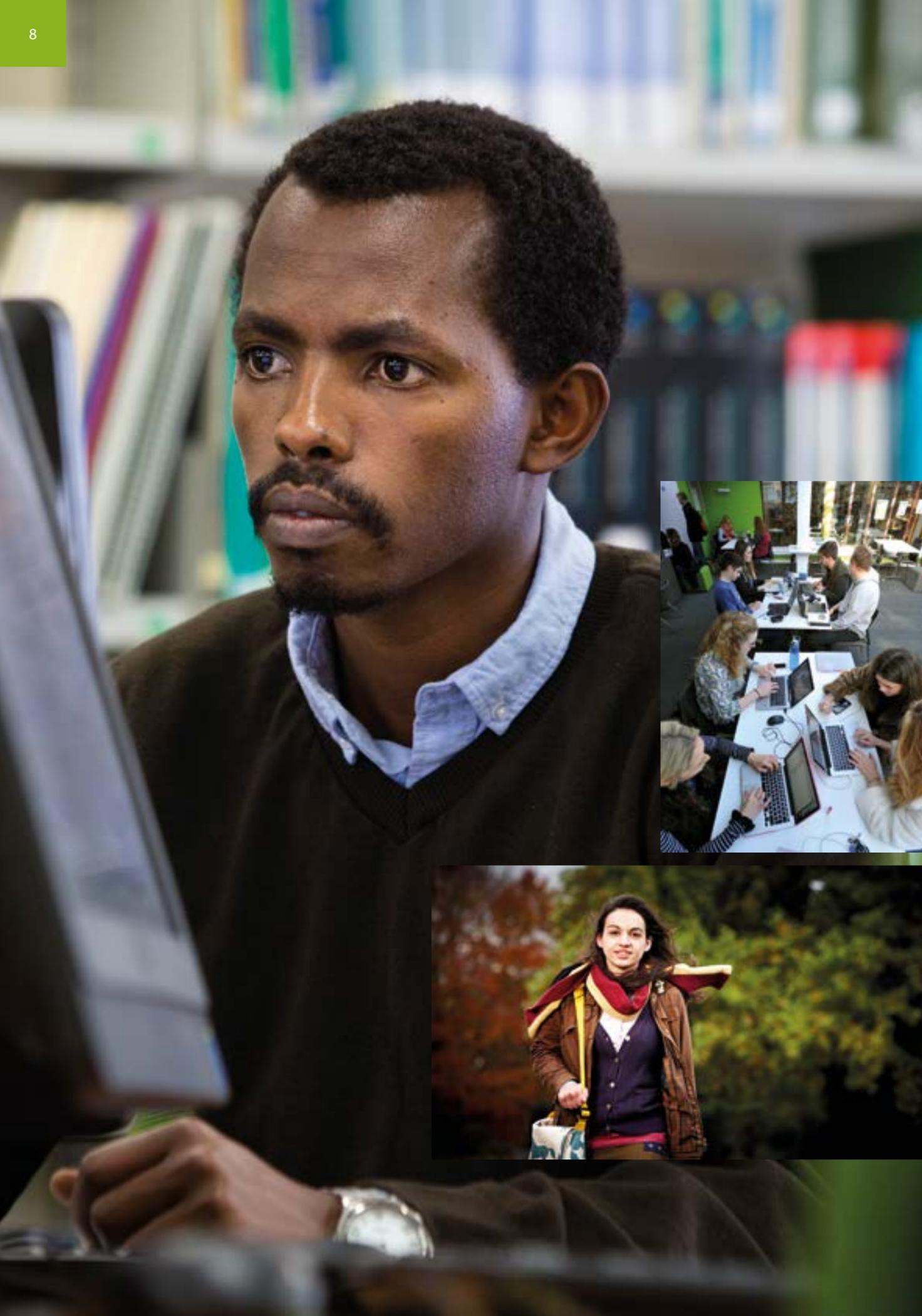
We're here to guide you along the way. This handy timeline breaks down all the important phases between now and when you start your course, and shows you the things to do next.

For February starters

You'll be emailed separately with dates and more information about Registration.



October Start	February Start	
From November 2017	Email for availability	Applications for on campus accommodation open via My RAU. You'll receive an email once the portal is open (page 22).
January - September	January - September	Postgraduate Open Days. A perfect opportunity to visit the University and get a real feel for what life as a student is really like. For dates please check the RAU website www.rau.ac.uk/opendays
From February 2018	As soon as possible	Check for any additional support, scholarships, awards and bursaries you might want to apply for.
From May 2018	From September	For applicants holding a conditional offer – send your final results (final transcript and certificate) by email to admissions@rau.ac.uk or upload to My RAU. See FAQs page 6.
May - June	October - November	If you're an International Student needing a Tier 4 Visa you'll be sent an email asking you to complete the BIPF (Background Information Pro Forma) on the My RAU portal. This must be completed as soon as possible and no later than June.
May - June	October - November	TB screening tests – for visa applicants. If you are coming to the UK for more than six months and are resident in any of the countries listed on www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa you'll need to have a tuberculosis (TB) test.
Early June onwards	November onwards	For those applicants who need a visa, CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance) numbers are issued to unconditional firm offer holders who have submitted their BIPF (Background Information Pro Forma), confirmed their passport details with Admissions and paid their deposit. An emailissent to overseas (non-EU/EEA nationals) offer holders asking for confirmation of these details.
Late August 2018	Mid December	A confirmation email will be sent to all applicants who are holding an unconditional firm offer. This email will include a statement of confirmation and a Welcome Guide. The pre-arrival guide will be available.
September 2018	December 2018	Get vaccinated. All students – British, European, or overseas – admitted to UK universities are advised to be vaccinated against Meningitis C and to ensure all of their vaccinations are up-to-date.
September 2018	December 2018	Get your money organised. Make sure all the money you need is available and payment arranged for your tuition and accommodation fees before you arrive, or have provided details of any sponsors. For any queries contact studentfees@rau.ac.uk .
September 2018	Late January	Online self registration will open. You will need to complete this before you arrive. You will receive an email once the portal is open.
Before you arrive in the UK	Before you arrive in the UK	Obtain sufficient UK currency or an international credit/debit card to cover you until you open a UK bank account.
10 - 21 September 2018	6 - 8 February 2019	International Orientation programme (optional).
23 September 2018	February 2019	Arrivals for on-site accommodation.
24-28 September 2018	February 2019	We look forward to welcoming you for on-site Student Registration and Induction Week.
		Only Tier 4 students Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (i.e. Tier 4 Visa) from the appointed Collection point (RAU Registry Office or Swindon Post Office).
Within 10 days of your arrival in the UK		Open a UK Bank account Ask Registry for a student status letter (statethat the bank you'll use) to allow you to open a UK Bank account. As soon as you receive your Biometric Residence Permit Nationals of certain countries will need to register with the police. RAU also arranges dedicated dates for students to do so.



Visa advice for international students

For overseas (non EU / EEA) applicants, once you've been offered a place at the RAU we advise you allow plenty of time to apply for and obtain your student visa.

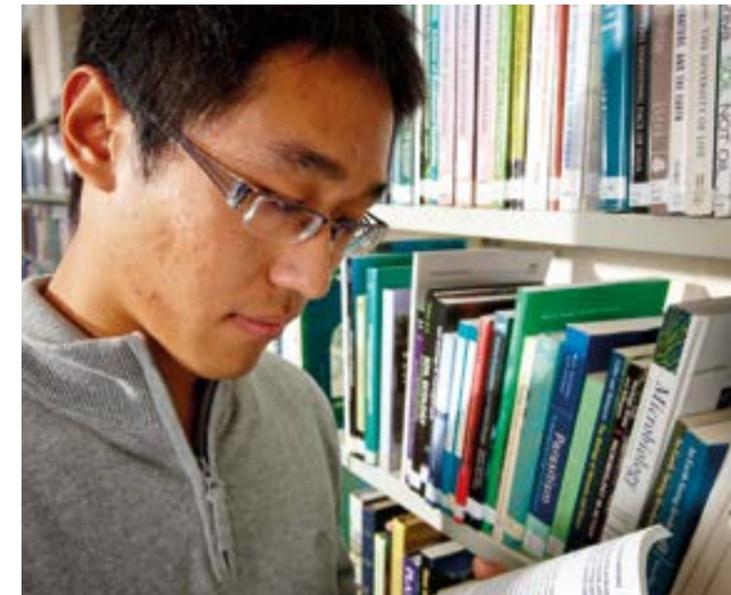
You can apply for your visa up to three months before the start of your course. Tier 4 Visa applications will cost £348 from outside the UK and £475 from within the UK. To apply, you'll need a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) number from us so that you can complete your Tier 4 student visa application.

Background Information Pro Forma (BIPF)

In early May (October entry) or October (February entry), you'll receive an email with instructions on how to submit this important form.

- The BIPF form is mandatory for those overseas students who require a CAS number, which is used to apply for a student visa. The BIPF form must be completed and returned within one week of the receipt of the email and no later than Friday 3 August 2018 (October entry) or 14 December 2018 (February entry).
- Confirm your passport details to us.
- Return a copy of the financial document to be used in support of your visa application.

If you require a student visa, you'll not be issued a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) number until the form has been completed and returned to us. The form can be accessed via My RAU.



You can apply for your visa up to three months before the start of your course.

To apply you'll need a CAS number from us so that you can complete your Tier 4 student visa application.

Visa Support Team

Our Visa Support Team are immigration / visa specialists with extensive experience. The Visa Support Team provides you with a one-to-one personalised service covering every aspect of the visa application process and is always available to give you advice in relation to your UK Study visa.

This specialist service is provided to you free of charge. When you've been given an unconditional offer by the RAU, the Visa Support Team will be in contact to guide you through the visa application process.

Please note the free student visa support is only for students who are studying with the RAU. The Visa Support Team can provide help with other visas, such as for dependents, but there would be a charge for those services.

The Royal Agricultural University has a Tier 4 Sponsor Status (previously known as HTS) and is on the Home Office's Register of Sponsors.

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

The CAS is a unique reference number issued to the RAU by the Home Office after we supply them with academic and personal details. A CAS can be assigned only once you've met the conditions below:

- Firmly accepted your unconditional offer.
- Paid the required deposit for your course (or provided evidence of your financial sponsorship/student loan).
- Completed the BIPF form.
- Confirmed your passport details to us.
- Returned the financial document to be used in support of your visa application.

- Once you receive your pre-CAS statement email you should check that the information it contains is correct, paying special attention to your name, nationality, passport details and qualifications listed. If you notice an error you should immediately contact admissions@rau.ac.uk.
- Once the CAS number has been assigned by the Home Office, the Admissions Office will email you. We'll provide your CAS statement and number to the Visa Support Team. The CAS statement lists the evidence we used to assess your application when making a decision to offer you a place. You'll need to submit evidence of these qualifications (in the form of original certificate/transcript) along with your visa application.

The Visa Support Team provides you with a one-to-one personalised service covering every aspect of the visa application process



Important:

Please keep the Visa Support Team and Admissions up-to-date with any changes to the information contained in the CAS statement (e.g. passport number) so that we can update the Home Office and avoid your visa application being rejected.

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) If you're applying online or through the premium service centre, you'll pay the IHS surcharge as part of your application or when you book an appointment.

If you're applying by post, you must pay the healthcare surcharge online before you send your application – you'll need to include the IHS reference number on your application form.

The IHS costs from £150 per year for a student (N.B. The IHS will increase to £300 in the forthcoming months). It is calculated on the basis of the length of the visa you'll be granted. The IHS is mandatory and failure to pay the correct amount could lead to a refusal of your visa. Some people are exempt, but they will still need to obtain an IHS number to include in their Tier 4 application.

To calculate how much you'll have to pay, visit www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/

checker/type

To pay for the IHS please follow the steps below:

1. Read the UKVI web pages for the up-to-date information on the IHS.
2. Find out when you need to pay the surcharge or if you're exempt from payment.
3. Calculate how much your surcharge will be using the Home Office Calculator. You should refer to your course dates as stated on your CAS.
4. Keep a copy of the email you're sent by the Home Office with your IHS number for reference. You'll be required to write the number on your Tier 4 application form.

When to apply for your visa

Our Visa Support Team will help you with your Tier 4 application. Please note that you cannot start a Tier 4 application until a CAS has been assigned by the RAU. If you apply without a CAS your application will be refused.

A CAS number is valid for six months and can only be used once. You can apply for a visa from up to three months before the sponsorship start date stated on your CAS. We strongly advise you to apply as early as possible in the 3 month window.

If you're already studying in the UK at a different institution you'll have to apply for a Tier 4 Visa for the RAU before you can register and start your course. You cannot start your programme at the RAU if you hold a Tier 4 Visa for a different institution.

You'll need to submit your passport as part of your application and attend a biometrics appointment. We strongly advise you not to arrange any other travel until your visa is granted.

Maintenance costs and financial requirements

If you're coming to study in the UK you'll need to prove that you have enough money to pay for your course fees and your living costs while you're studying here. The Home Office refers to these as the maintenance (funds) requirements.

You'll need to prove that you have tuition fees for the first year of your programme or for the entire course if it is less than a year long.

The amount you must show for living costs is as follows:

£1,015 per month for living costs if you're studying outside London or anywhere else in the UK, for the majority of your study (i.e. you'll need to show 9 months X £1,015 = £9,135)

Important: You must show that you've held the required money for a consecutive 28 day period (finishing on the date of the closing balance) ending no more than 31 days before your application.

The Home Office will accept only specific documentation and it is essential that you follow the guidance given by our Visa Support Team and the Home Office policy guidance to ensure that you can use and obtain these documents in time to apply for your visa.



Sponsored students

Arrange for your sponsoring body to issue a confirmation letter. This must be received at the latest by 3 August (October entry) or Mid-December (February entry).

If you're being sponsored, evidence of sponsorship must be issued by an authorised officer of an official sponsoring body and must have a recent date of issue (within 30 days of sending). The letter should be on company / organisation headed paper and should clearly state:

- Your name and university number
- The programme for which you've been offered a place
- The level of fees that will be paid by the organisation / company in pound sterling
- The address the invoice should be sent to
- The contact person and department in the organisation / company
- That the fees (quoted in pound sterling) will be paid directly to the Royal Agricultural University

Please provide evidence of sponsorship by emailing admissions@rau.ac.uk.

Definition of an official sponsor

An official sponsor is defined in the Tier 4 policy guidance as:

- the UK government
- your home government
- the British Council
- any international organisation
- an international company
- any university
- an independent school

If you receive funding from any of the above sources, you'll need a letter from them confirming how much money they will contribute towards your course fees and maintenance. If your official financial sponsor is also your Tier 4 sponsor and they have included details of your financial sponsorship in your CAS, you don't need an additional letter. The letter must show:

- your name
- the name and contact details of the official financial sponsor
- the date of the letter
- the length of the sponsorship
- the amount of money the sponsor is giving to you, or a statement that all course fees and living costs will be covered.

If you're a 'low risk' student, you should obtain this letter and keep it safe, but you don't need to include it with your initial application. All other applicants must include the letter with their application.

If your official financial sponsor is not covering all of your course fees and maintenance, you must be able to demonstrate that you have the rest of the money required.

Consent of current or previous official financial sponsor, if they are a government or an international scholarship agency.

If you have an official financial sponsor for your proposed studies and the sponsor is a government or an international scholarship agency, their sponsor letter (which you'll need for evidence of your money (see below) should specifically state that they consent to your Tier 4 (general) application.

If you've previously received financial sponsorship from a government or international scholarship agency for your studies, and the sponsorship ended less than 12 months ago, you must also obtain and include a letter of consent from this financial sponsor.

Monies paid towards tuition costs

We'll update the Home Office CAS database with details of any tuition fee payments you make. This enables them to take such payments into account when calculating your ability to finance your studies in the UK.

Your CAS statement will list any accommodation deposits paid in advance. The maximum amount that can be taken away from the total amount of money you'll need to show for living costs will be £1,265 even if you have paid more than £1,265 in advance for accommodation.

If you make a payment towards your fees we will make updates to the Home Office database approximately 48 hours after the money has cleared with our bank. Please ensure that you also write to our Visa Support Team to inform us of any payments / additional tuition fee payments you have made. You must wait for an updated CAS statement from us before applying for your visa if you need to show that you have paid money to the RAU.

Important: It can take up to two weeks for monies to clear, so you'll need to plan for this when preparing your visa application.

You shouldn't make payments if you have a visa appointment within the next fortnight as it is likely that we may be unable to issue you with an updated CAS statement before your appointment.



What to pack if you're travelling from outside the UK

Documentation

Carry the below in your hand luggage in case hold luggage is late or lost:

- Visa and entry clearance documents
- Your offer letter
- Proof of degree (final transcript, certificate)
- Scholarship / funding information documents
- Travel and health insurance documents
- Cash, travellers cheques / credit cards
- Contact details and directions for your accommodation

Clothing

The weather in the UK is changeable. Temperatures may go down as low as -10 degrees celsius during the winter (Dec – March) and as high as 32 degrees during the summer (June – Aug). Rainfall is common but most of the time it is light.

If you arrive in September we suggest you bring a sweater and a light (waterproof) jacket or a small umbrella for the journey. A pair of comfortable waterproof shoes is also recommended. Agriculture and equine students are advised to have a pair of wellington boots.

There is no particular dress code. In general students tend to dress informally (jeans, T-shirt, trainers) whilst on campus. Formal clothes are occasionally worn either for recruitment events with employers or on social events such as the Freshers Week, the Christmas Ball and May Ball.

Electrical appliances

Electricity in the UK operates on 220-240 volts. You should check your appliance manual to ensure it will work in the UK. You'll also require a three pin plug adaptor which is available in most shops.

Mobile phone

Check with your mobile phone provider before you travel to the UK. It may be expensive to make calls in the UK and back home from your current phone. Pay as you go phones can be bought for as little as £5 although individual call and text charges may be comparatively higher. Pre-pay phones and SIM cards do not require a UK bank account or address and are easy to buy once you arrive in the UK.



Pre-departure briefings (British Council)



The British Council run pre-departure briefings in many countries for students who are planning to study in the UK.

At these events, British Council staff give you advice about what to pack, travelling to the UK, settling in and much more. More information is available on the British Council website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/ihe/what-we-do/international-mobility/preparation-study-work-uk>.

International Orientation Mid-September to October

This two-week programme is designed for non-UK students who will be commencing degree studies in October of every year here at the RAU. It provides an opportunity to explore the local area and places of interest, such as Oxford, Bath, or London, helps with the practicalities of establishing a presence in the UK and incorporates daily English for Academic Purpose sessions.

The cost of the International Orientation programme is approximately £350 and is inclusive of accommodation, meals, transport fees, entrance fees and airport pick-up at arrival service.

Detailed information is available on the RAU website <https://www.rau.ac.uk/university-life/international/international-orientation>. You can book your place on My RAU.

The RAU International orientation is a two week programme that includes a variety of formal and social activities to introduce you to the University, your School and to help you settle in to your studies.



A student experience like no other

Join our friendly and supportive student community.

Whether you're a sports fan, budding entrepreneur, talented singer, or enjoy a good board game, you'll find something and someone to help you make the most of student life here at the RAU.

Take your pick from the Board Games Society, Brewers' Club, Choir, Christian Union, Engineering, Enterprise Society, Environmental Society, Food and Wine Club, Officer Training Corps, Racing Club, Real Estate Society, the annual Ski Trip and much more.

If you're into sports, there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved, whatever level you're at. We have teams for cricket, croquet, darts, football, hockey, lacrosse, netball, rugby, tennis and water sports, to name a few. While our clubs include equestrian, fishing, polo, snow sports, rowing, sporting rifle, team chasing and walking.

Find out more about social opportunities at the RAU on our website. www.rau.ac.uk/social



“My time here has been absolutely brilliant. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming. Whilst the course is intense it is well managed and delivered and the teaching staff make time for you. The presentations in my first term were excellent and made the job application process much less daunting. Being able to listen and speak to potential employers and see what they have to offer before applying, is a real benefit.”
Robert Jones, MSc Rural Estate Management



“I chose the University for its excellent facilities, warm and sociable atmosphere and its reputation for being the best university of its type in the country. The variety of teaching styles by lecturers and guest speakers from different industries help to provide varying perspectives. You can tailor your studies to suit your interests by choosing your modules. I know I made the right decision to continue my learning at the Royal Agricultural University to a postgraduate level.”
Katherine Hannam, MSc Business Management

Did you know

Hear more from our students in a series of RAU experience films on our Royal Agricultural University YouTube channel. www.youtube.com/user/RoyalAgUni



Discover Cirencester

Set within 25 acres of beautiful countryside, the RAU campus has a rich academic and social culture.

Our location in Cirencester, otherwise known as the capital of the Cotswolds, provides the perfect base from which to explore this spectacular region of South West England. With Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham and Oxford all an hour's drive away, and a direct train to London in 90 minutes, Cirencester is the perfect place to call 'home'.

The University is an integral part of the town, with its lively social scene right on your doorstep. Cirencester has a great sense of history and is awash with museums, art galleries, boutiques and high street favourites, with plenty of cafés and restaurants to unwind in along the way.

For the sportier individuals, Cotswold Water Park offers kayaking, canoeing, sailing, rowing, wakeboarding, and windsurfing across its magnificent 150 lakes. All these high speed, wet water, white-knuckle rides are just 15 minutes' drive away from the University campus.

Find out more about Cirencester and everything it has to offer on our website.

www.rau.ac.uk/Cirencester

Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham and Oxford are all within an hour of the University



90 minute direct train to London



Make your mark

Your success is our priority. Whatever your ambitions, we can help you get there.

Solution focused

Our courses will equip you with the skills and experience to meet the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century.

Outstanding facilities

Our Farm491 agri-tech incubator provides start-up businesses with the facilities and support they need to get off the ground running. In a vibrant business community, students, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and innovators work together to make a difference.

Farm491 membership is free to any full fee-paying RAU student wishing to start an agri-tech business.

www.farm491.com

Our award-winning Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Programme (EEP) provides an inspiring and supportive environment in which you can share, develop and launch your business ideas. Guided by lawyers, business mentors, marketing professionals and accountants, this is your chance to realise your ambitions in a professional and rewarding environment. Since its launch in 2007, the EEP has helped 163 students transform their ideas into a winning business plan. 45 of those students are now working on their own business professionally. 48 student businesses have been launched, with a 82% success rate (compared with 44% nationally*).



Find out more on our website. www.rau.ac.uk/enterprise

The support we provide takes place at four levels:

- **Think it** for when you're just starting out
- **Try it** proof of concept, gaining market research, and starting to formulate your business model
- **Launch it** take action and get ready to start trading
- **Grow it** for developing your new business

*Source: Office for National Statistics.



Business support

We're building a new £4.2m project which will support both rural and agri-tech businesses. Over £3m funding was provided by the GFirst LEP Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership. It will be home to Farm491 as well as the Cirencester Growth Hub, which will assist local businesses to accelerate growth, create new jobs and achieve their potential. We recently launched five workshops at our Rural Innovation Centre at Harnhill Farm, for Farm491 members to research, test and refine their ideas.

Hands-on experience

With two of our own farms, an equestrian centre, a rural skills training programme, Farm491 and the Growth Hub, you'll gain practical experience while developing your theoretical expertise.

Diverse perspectives

Our 15,000+ strong global alumni network of agri-tech innovators, politicians and entrepreneurs offers fantastic opportunities for socialising, networking and professional development.



Your future starts here

The RAU will help you develop a lifetime's worth of skills and connections.

Practical hands-on experience is as important as desk-based research and classroom teaching, which is why you'll have the chance to take part in study trips abroad and complete work placements with industry partners.

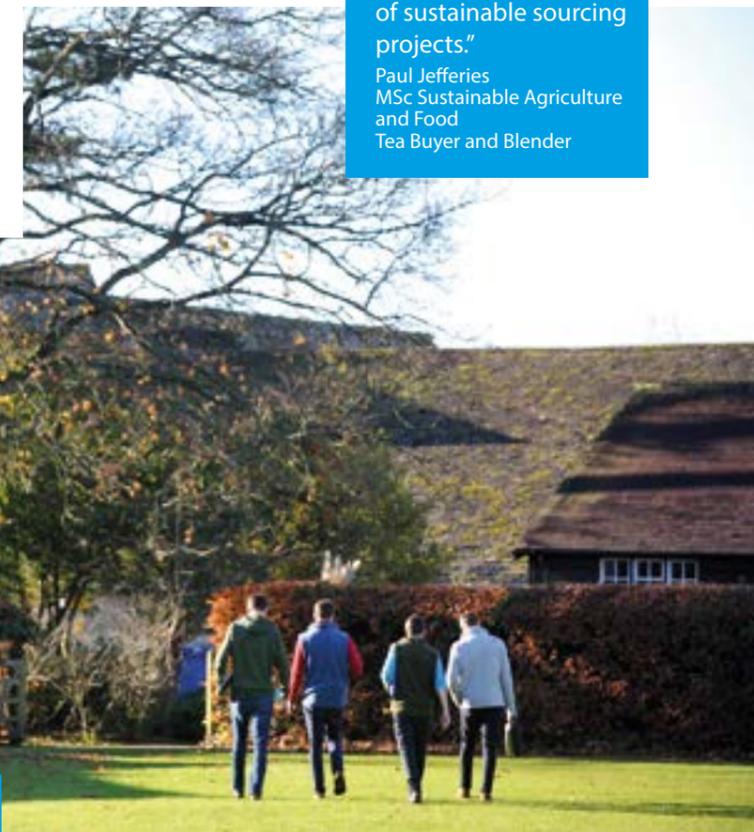
You could find yourself expanding your employability skills and building a portfolio of contacts in a range of industries including accountancy, agrochemicals, equine sports

and management, farming, food supply chain, horticulture, journalism, land agency and poultry production.

Former RAU students have travelled as far afield as Australia, the Philippines, South Africa and Uganda for work placements, while others have found themselves honing their professional and cultural skills in places including Brussels, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, Finland and Mexico.

Did you know

On average over five years, 90% of RAU postgraduates have secured employment or further study within six months of graduating.



The University has an outstanding reputation, excellent facilities and lecturing and a valuable network of industry contacts. Look forward to utilising the skills gained during my degree to support start-up businesses within the growing agri-tech sector."

Verity Payne
MSc Business Management Farm491 Centre Coordinator



I was looking for a Masters course to add an additional layer of academic expertise to my professional experience. The course itself is led by passionate teachers with a wide range of specialist knowledge. I now work for Typhoo as a Tea Buyer and Blender, where I have been working on implementing a range of sustainable sourcing projects."

Paul Jefferies
MSc Sustainable Agriculture and Food
Tea Buyer and Blender

Key dates

Semester dates for 2018-19

Induction Week 24 September – 28 September 2018

Semester 1

1 October – 7 December 2018

Christmas break 8 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

7 January – 8 February 2019

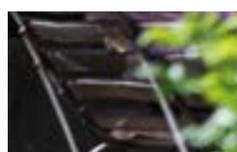
Semester 2

11 February – 29 March 2019

Easter break 30 March – 28 April 2019

29 April – 21 June 2019

Please note the University is closed for the Easter holiday 30 March – 2 April 2018.



Registration

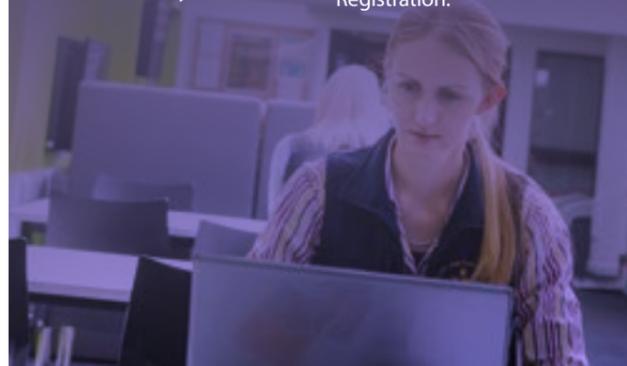
To complete your formal enrolment at the RAU you must register with the central administration. Here at the RAU, this is a two part process.

- Part 1 Online Self Registration: to be completed online.
- Part 2 Onsite Registration: you'll complete this on Monday 24 September here on the RAU campus.

Onsite registration is a straightforward process which involves you

providing proof of your identity and eligibility to study in the UK. You'll be issued with your student card which will confirm your status as a registered RAU student and allow you to use restricted access buildings, such as the Library.

We'll email you towards the end of August (October entry) / Mid-January (February entry) with joining instructions and advise you on which documents you must bring with you to Onsite Registration.



Money matters

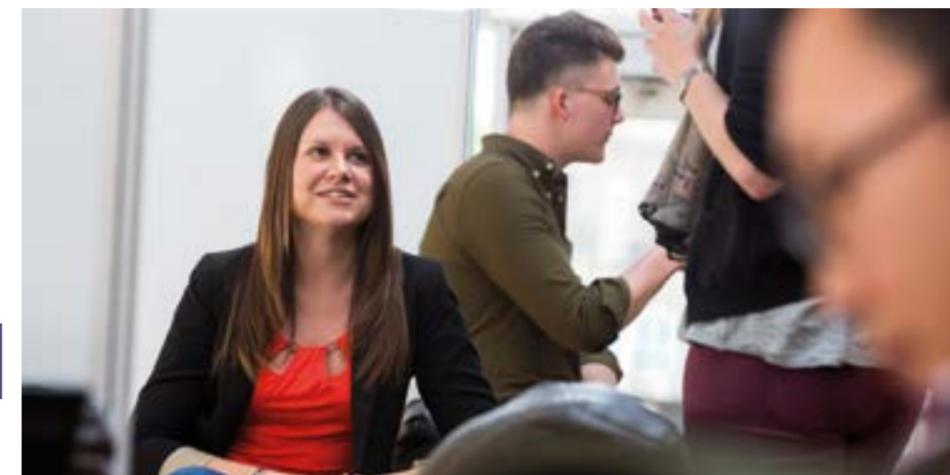
We believe in creating equal opportunities for all, and offer a number of scholarships to reward the brightest students, as well as bursaries for those who need additional support.

We have scholarships for sports students and outstanding achievers, as well as a range of other scholarships available to students who are undertaking particular routes of study and research.

Visit our website to find out how we could help you make the right start.

www.rau.ac.uk/scholarships

All RAC/RAU alumni who are accepted for postgraduate study at the RAU are eligible for a 20% reduction in tuition fees. The 20% reduction in fees is also available to visiting students who have completed a minimum of one term of studies at the RAU campus. For more details on this offer visit our website.



Your home from home

At the RAU there is a place for everyone and everyone has the chance to find their place.

There are 320 bedrooms across our campus accommodation for you to choose from, including standard rooms, twin rooms, en-suite rooms or rooms with shared bathroom facilities. You can opt for self-catered or catered.

Applications for on-campus accommodation are now open. Log on to My RAU to submit your application.



How to apply for accommodation at the RAU

Applications are dealt with on a first-come first-served basis so to ensure that you get the room of your choice you'll need to apply as early as possible. Applications can be made via the My RAU portal but will require a payment of £200 using a valid debit or credit card. For international applicants we give the added option of contacting the Accommodation Office directly to apply.

Prefer to live off campus?

We've teamed up with Cotswold District Council to provide practical tips and tools in helping you to find accommodation within the local community.

Visit the Urban Fox website for more information.

<https://urbanfox.info>



Off campus Living Costs

Off campus accommodation charges vary depending on the type of room or house rented. Charges for a one-bedroom flat or room in a shared house range from £350 – £450 per month. Utilities such as gas, water and electricity may be an additional cost.

The table opposite gives an estimate on other living costs in addition to accommodation costs that you may occur while at university. Remember that costs vary depending on your lifestyle and you should also take into account flights or transportation to and from the UK.



Estimated off campus living costs	Monthly Cost	Academic Year Cost
Gas / electricity	£50	£450
Water	£45	£405
Internet	£20	£180
Mobile phone	£25	£225
Laundry / household items	£35	£315
Leisure (meals out, cinema, bars, etc)	£135	£1,215
Photocopying / printing	£18	£162
Food	£200	£1,800
Course books / materials	£75	£675
Insurance	£5	£45
TV licence	£16	£144
Total	£674	£5,616

If you're an overseas student you may want to use the International Student Calculator to help with budgeting before you come to the UK.

www.international.studentcalculator.org



Did you know

You can view our accommodation guide online. <http://publications.rau.ac.uk/accommodation>

You can also speak to one of our advisers in the Accommodation Office. +44 (0)1285 889823 accommodation@rau.ac.uk

Useful web and email addresses

Postgraduate applications

www.rau.ac.uk/pg-admissions

Fees

www.rau.ac.uk/pg-fees

Email studentfees@rau.ac.uk

Accommodation

www.rau.ac.uk/accommodation

Email accommodation@rau.ac.uk

Scholarships, Awards, Bursaries

www.rau.ac.uk/pg-funding

Email scholarships@rau.ac.uk

Student Union

www.rau.ac.uk/social

RAU International Community

www.facebook.com/RAUinternationalstudents

RAU Campus map

www.rau.ac.uk/RAUmap



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