

Information For Incoming Undergraduate Exchange Students 2023/24



**UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**
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Guardian*



Contents

3	Contact Details and Information
4	Key Dates 2023/24
5	Nominations and Applications
6	Modules & Assessments
7	On-Campus Accommodation
8	Private Accommodation
9	Visas and Insurance
10	University Services
11	University Facilities
12	Campus Map
13	Birmingham

Contact Details and Information

University Information

Full Name of Institution:	Aston University
Department:	College of Business and Social Sciences
ERASMUS Code:	Aston University Birmingham UK
Address:	Aston University Aston Triangle Birmingham United Kingdom B4 7ET
Website:	www.aston.ac.uk

Key Contacts

Incoming Student Queries and Nominations

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Partnerships and Exchange Agreements

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Useful Links

www2.aston.ac.uk/international-students

<https://www2.aston.ac.uk/international-students/exchanges/incoming-exchange-students>



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Key Dates 2023/24

The academic year at Aston is split into two **Teaching Periods**:

Teaching Period 1	
Welcome Week (compulsory)	18th September—24th September 2023
Teaching	25th September—15th December 2023
Christmas Holidays	18th December 2023—6th January 2024
Exams	8th January—20th January 2024

Teaching Period 2	
Welcome Week (compulsory)	15th January—19th January 2024
Teaching	22nd January—28th March 2024
Easter Holidays	29th March - 19th April 2024
Teaching Continues	22nd April—1st May 2024
Exams	29th April—8th June 2024

Welcome Week

Teaching Period 1 Only & Full Year Students (September—January)

Prior to the start of your studies, Aston University organises activities to help you settle into your new environment. This is referred to as '**Freshers' Week**' and it is essential that you attend! The orientation is planned with you in mind and provides valuable information and guidance in preparation for your studies and life in the UK.

Freshers' Week will include School, academic and social activities, including an exchange induction session, and is a brilliant opportunity to meet your fellow students.

Teaching Period 2 Only Students (January—June)

For students arriving in January (Teaching Period 2), a programme of events to welcome you to Aston has been developed, which includes subject advice sessions, an introduction to the library, a tour of the campus and Birmingham city centre and plenty of opportunities to meet your fellow exchange students.

Nominations and Applications

Deadlines

Teaching Period 1/Full Year		Teaching Period 2	
Nominations	1 July 2023	Nominations	1 October 2023
Applications	22 July 2023	Applications	11 November 2023

Nominating a Student to Aston (Partner Schools)

To nominate a student, please use our MoveOn nomination portal:

<https://aston.moveon4.com/locallogin/5b62e1793e5d66562eb5c4e4/eng>

If you do not already have a login, please register using the right hand panel.

To complete a nomination, click 'Start a new application', read the information page and enter the nomination section. Complete the following areas for each individual student:

- Personal information (ensure names are spelt exactly as on their passports)
- Sending institution and study details

Please then click submit and a PDF will be generated. We will then contact the student/s directly with links to complete an application form.

Completing Your Application (Students)

Once you have been nominated by your home institution, you will receive a link to our online application form. Please complete it carefully and submit by the deadline above.

Admission requirements:

- Nomination from our partner school
- Transcript of results from your home university translated into English
- An official English Language test certificate (more information [here](#)) or a letter from your school confirming your English ability meets our requirements (this requirement does not apply to native English speakers).
- A clear, high quality scan of your passport

Without these documents we will not be able to accept your application.

Modules and Assessments

Module Selection

Student workload at Aston University is 60 Aston credits (30 ECTS) per teaching period. Module choices depend on *when* you are coming to study at Aston (September or January) and for *how long* (6 months or one year).

Module information will be provided by the end of June. We will inform you by email when the information is available, the deadline for submission, and how to make your selections.

Please be aware that you must submit your module choices **before you arrive at Aston** to be enrolled in your classes and receive your timetable before the first day of teaching.

Exams and Assessments

Every module at Aston is assessed differently—some may have coursework, some may have exams, and some may have both. Information about the types of assessments for each module will be available in the module information you will receive in June.

For modules assessed by exams, these are held at the end of each Teaching Period—January for TP1 and May for TP2.

Students must be prepared to be on campus during the exam periods.

After your marks have been confirmed by the exam boards, you will receive a link to GradIntel, a secure site that allows you to download and share your academic transcripts.

Please note that re-sits for failed exams are only available in the Summer.



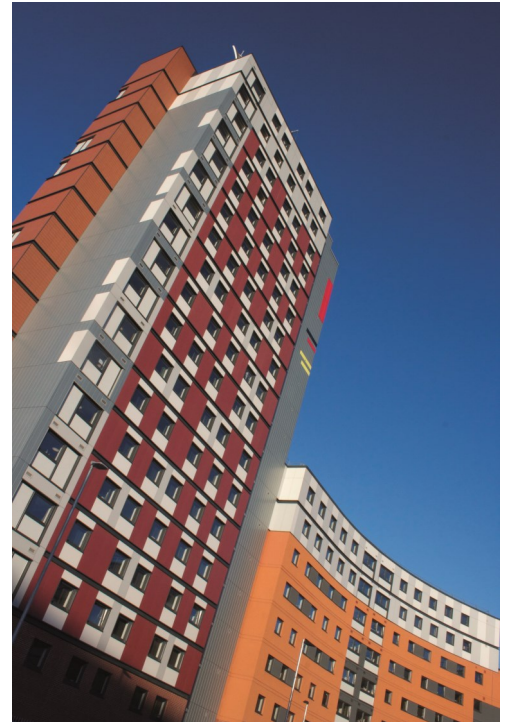
On-Campus Accommodation

Full Year Students

Aston University guarantees accommodation in the Aston Student Village (ASV) to the first 40 full-year Erasmus and Exchange applicants fulfilling the criteria:

- You have applied to Aston as a full-year student by 16th June 2023.
- Aston has confirmed your application by 30th June 2023.
- You have applied for accommodation by 21st July 2023.

Full time Exchange and Erasmus applicants may choose a 44-week tenancy only. Further details can be found at www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation.



Teaching Period 1 or 2 Only Students



Aston University guarantees accommodation in the Aston Student Village (ASV) to the first 25 part-year Erasmus and Exchange applicants starting in September fulfilling the criteria:

- You have applied to Aston as a part-year student by 16th June 2023.
- Aston has confirmed your application by 30th June 2023.
- You have applied for accommodation by 21st July 2023.

These 25 rooms will be available to TP2 students in January. Further details can be found at www.aston.ac.uk/accommodation.

The rooms in the ASV are available on a **first-come, first-served basis** so please apply as soon as possible if you are interested. Unsuccessful applicants will not be able to be housed on campus.

This information is correct as of 10th April 2023 but may be subject to change.

Private Accommodation

Aston Student Homes



The Aston Students' Union (SU) operates **Aston Student Homes** (ASH) to support students looking for privately rented accommodation in Birmingham.

ASH checks and maintains copies of safety certificates and licenses provided by landlords advertising on the platform so that you can have confidence in the property you are renting.

Find out more at

www.astonstudenthomes.org or contact them at astonstudenthomes@aston.ac.uk.

General Advice

Birmingham has a wide range of accommodation for students in the city centre. There is also plenty of affordable accommodation outside the city that is well connected by bus, tram, and rail links.

Accommodation types:

- Private student halls—similar to university accommodation but run by commercial companies.
- Shared houses – sharing a house with other students in Birmingham.
- Private apartment or house—living on your own in Birmingham and the surrounding areas.

ASH recommends that students search for accommodation in advance of arriving, but does not recommend signing any contracts until you have viewed the property for yourself. Because of this, it is advised that you arrive in the UK early to view properties and make these arrangements in person.

It is your responsibility to secure accommodation and find out what options are available to you.

If you have issues with accommodation or housing rights, whether you are living on-campus or off-campus, you can contact the SU's independent student advice service (known as the Advice and Representation Centre (ARC)) via email advice@aston.ac.uk.

Visas & Insurance

Visas & Travel Documents

You will need a passport that is valid for the entire duration of your studies at Aston, including the exam periods. If you do not already have a passport, or if you need to renew it before travelling, **please apply for it as soon as you receive your offer letter from us** to ensure it has arrived before you are due to travel.

Most students will require a visa to study in the UK for a **full year**, including EU and EEA nationals (excluding Ireland). Information about visas, including whether you need one and what to apply for, can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

Exchange students joining Aston for 6-months will apply for a Visitor Visa.

Additional information on this can be found at: <https://www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/support-services/international/prospective-students/study-visa>

If you accept an offer to study with us, our team of qualified advisers will be able to advise you on a range of visa and immigration issues, and help you to apply for the appropriate visa. This is a free service, and the team can be contacted at

issu@aston.ac.uk.

Health Care & Insurance

Students entering the UK on a Tier 4 or Student Visa will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge as part of their visa application. Students coming for less than 6-months will not be required to pay this, but this does mean that you will be liable to pay for certain healthcare services, such as hospital aftercare, if you require it whilst you are here.

We **strongly** advise students to arrange private health insurance to cover medical costs should you require it while you study with us.

Information about the healthcare system in the UK, including how to register with a GP, accessing a dentist and more, can be found at www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Health-and-healthcare. Please ensure you are looking at the information for **England**.

University Services

Support Teams

Aston University provides a range of services offering outstanding support in a friendly, welcoming environment to assist with both academic and personal issues. Every student is assigned a personal tutor, and further assistance is available from the College Office, the student Hub, and the Students' Union.

We also offer a free Counselling and Wellbeing service, a multi-faith Chaplaincy, have a dedicated Disability and Academic Support Team to support disabled students, and offer a peer mentoring service.

More information about the student support and student Welfare services we offer can be found at;

www.aston.ac.uk/current-students/support-services and www.aston.ac.uk/studentwelfare



Careers + Placements



Aston University's Careers Service is available to all students, and offers careers guidance, support in creating CV's, completing application forms and preparing for interviews.

Once enrolled, all students are able to access Aston Futures, an extensive database of work placements and graduate opportunities in the UK and overseas.

JobShop, part of Careers and Placements, advertises reliable part-time work exclusively for Aston students to combine your academic career with paid employment. Please be aware that the University's policy is for students to work no more than 20-hours per week during term time.

Erasmus Programmes

For accurate and up-to-date information, please see the Brexit Updates section of the university website. The University updates this regularly, but if students have any questions about the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, our Erasmus team are available at erasmus@aston.ac.uk

University Facilities

Library



The Library provides free access to thousands of books, eBooks, journals, articles and more. There are dedicated study spaces, workshops, and printing facilities.

Every school has a dedicated Specialist to offer specialised subject advice to help with your studies.

Sport Aston

Aston University students have excellent sports facilities right on their doorstep! Whether you want to train, compete, keep fit or just have fun with friends, there's a great range of opportunities. All facilities are staffed by trained first-aiders and lifeguards.



Students' Union



The Students' Union building includes a student kitchen, pool tables and games consoles, relaxation spaces, a dedicated prayer room, and more!

The SU also offer over 130 student led clubs and societies for Aston students to join, including a Women in Business society, amongst other academic based societies, faith and culture based societies, and a huge variety of sport and hobby clubs.

The SU also offers a independent student advice service to all students, offering confidential, free support on a variety of academic and personal issues.

Aston's 'Student Voice' ensures your opinions are heard. You can nominate yourself to become a Student Rep for your course enabling you to work with academic and support staff to make your classes the best they can be.

Aston University buildings


- 1 Main Building and reception
- 2 South Wing (Main Building)
- 3 North Wing (Main Building)
- 4 Students' Union
- 5 Aston Business School and Conference Aston
- 6 Library
- 7 Aston University Day Hospital
 - Optegra
 - BCH Cochlear
 - Life & Health Sciences
- 8 Aston Brain Centre
- 9 Vision Sciences
 - Aston Eye Clinic and Aston Optometry School
 - Aston Medical School
 - Audiology department and Audiology clinics
- 10 Sir Doug Ellis Woodcock Sports Centre and pool
- 11 Gosta Green five-a-side sports pitch
- 12 Sports pitch
- 13 Aston University Nursery and Pre-school
- 14 Energy & Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI)
- 15 Martin Luther King Multi-Faith Centre
- 16 Aston University Engineering Academy

Student accommodation

- 17 Residences reception
- 18 Harriet Martineau Residences
- 19 Mary Sturge Residences
- 20 James Watt Residences
- 21 William Murdoch Residences
- 22 Lakeside Residences

Campus car parking

- 23 Car Park 1
- 24 Car Park 2
- 25 Car Park 3 (unloading)
- 26 Car Park 4
- 27 Car Park 5 (accessed from Holt St)
- 28 Car Park 6 (evenings and weekends)
- 29 Car Park 7
- 30 Car Park 12 (underground car park)
- 31 Car Park (Millennium Point pay parking)

 Walking route from Millennium Point car park to Aston University main reception

Other buildings

- 32 Sacks of Potatoes pub
- 33 Gosta Green pub
- 34 Innovation Birmingham Campus
- 35 Birmingham City Council offices
- 36 Birmingham Metropolitan College
- 37 The Old Fire Station
- 38 Shops on campus
 - Tesco Express
 - Costa Coffee
 - Ryman Stationery
 - Greggs
 - Wok & Go

For information about accessibility on campus, visit: aston.ac.uk/about/directions



Birmingham



Birmingham is the UK's second city and the home of Aston University. Our campus is located in the heart of the city, just a 10-minute walk from the centre of town and in close proximity to a variety of shops, attractions and tourist spots!

It's also one of the best connected cities in the country; there are three central train stations and an international airport. It's just a two hour train journey to London, Manchester, Bristol and Liverpool, and there are direct services to Wales and Scotland.

Music

The Resorts World Arena and the Utilita Arena regularly host world famous artists, and the many bars, pubs and clubs host a variety of live events to suit all tastes. Symphony Orchestra regularly perform nearby.

Shopping

There's over 200 shops across the Bullring & Grand Central alone! We have the world's biggest Primark, The Mailbox hosts a range of designer stores, and the famous Selfridges is just around the corner.

Cuisine

Our hugely diverse community means there's a great range of food. From the international street food of Digbeth Dining Club to Michelin Star restaurants, the Chinese Quarter to the Balti Triangle, Birmingham lets you eat your way around the world.

Arts and Culture

Venues including the Ikon Gallery and Birmingham Museum are a short journey from campus. As well as the theatres and comedy clubs, the Birmingham Royal Ballet are regular performers at Symphony Hall

Sports

Villa Park, home of Premier League football club Aston Villa FC, is a stone's throw away from our campus. There's also The Belfry for golf, Edgbaston Ground for cricket, and Alexander Stadium for athletics.

