

ANTICIPATING WHAT YOU NEED!

2017
EDITION

WARWICK*

FOR

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A guide to
living the life
at Warwick!

**A GUIDE MADE
FOR
SINGAPOREANS
BY
SINGAPOREANS!**



*pronounced
War-rick, not
War-wick!

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1. Introduction

1.1 About Singsoc

The University of Warwick Singapore Society is a 160-odd-member community of Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans under the university's Student Union. Affectionately known as SingSoc, we serve to meet the social and emotional needs of Singaporeans at Warwick and effectively create a 'home away from home' for all. Beyond that, we provide opportunities for Singaporeans to break out of their comfort zones and experience new things.

We also aim to share our unique Singaporean culture with the rest of the Warwick student population. Our events calendar is packed throughout the year, with sporting events such as the annual Warwick Summer Games, festive gatherings like Christmas and Chinese New Year dinners, an annual theatre production and a ski trip.

Do visit us via the different platforms below to find out more about what we can offer you.

Website: www.warwicksingsoc.com

Facebook: Warwick Singapore Society, Warwick Singapore Offer Holders 2017/18

Email: contact@warwicksingsoc.com



1.2 Executive Committee 2017-18

Name	Position	Course	SG Contact	UK Contact	Email
Alexander Zhong	President	Philosophy, Politics & Economics	98632185	07397262292	president@warwicksingsoc.com
Okky Aryanto Tok	Vice-President	Philosophy, Politics & Economics	93381720	07397309679	vicepresident@warwicksingsoc.com
Joshua Ting	Secretary	Law	96781035	07719639091	secretary@warwicksingsoc.com
Clarice Teh	Treasurer	Economics	85331075	07857005046	treasurer@warwicksingsoc.com
Chandra Prakash	Cultural Officer	Accounting & Finance	82331695	07719606363	culturalofficer@warwicksingsoc.com
Jeremy Chin	Events Officer	Politics and Sociology	91876765	07709718200	events@warwicksingsoc.com
Serena Russell	Media Officer	Management	96305222	07397133877	mediaofficer@warwicksingsoc.com
Jodie Loke	Public Relations Officer	Philosophy, Politics & Economics	90699273	07460269706	profficer@warwicksingsoc.com
Teo Jun Jie	Sports Officer	Philosophy, Politics & Economics	96336999	07474401022	sports@warwicksingsoc.com

1.3 Warwick Singapore Office

The Singapore Office is headed by Warwick International Office's Operations Director for Southeast Asia, Ms Mavis Ow. Based in Singapore, Mavis provides assistance to incoming freshers with their application to the University and with visa-related issues. She is also supported by Mr Imran Hashim, Senior Liaison Manager for Southeast Asia.

600 North Bridge Road
#01-01 Parkview Square
Singapore 188778
Tel/Fax: 62940898
Email: sgoffice@warwick.ac.uk

2. Pre-departure

2.1 Pre-Departure Activities

Orientation 2017

Date: 29 - 31 July 2017 (Saturday – Monday)

Cost: \$35

Venue: Changi/ Pasir Ris Area

Orientation is an event planned especially for you, freshers! It is a great opportunity for you to get to know, interact and make friends with your batch mates as well as seniors from Warwick, which will make living overseas much easier and thoroughly more enjoyable.

There will be plenty of fun and games for you to bond with your orientation group mates, most of whom will stay with you throughout university, so remember to keep these dates free!

Sign-ups for the orientation programme open on the **5th of July** (during the Pre-Departure Brief) and closes on the **15th of July**. You can either sign up during the Pre-Departure Brief or online at www.warwicksingsoc.com. Please also remember to make payment in person during the Pre-Departure Brief or via bank transfer. Details for bank transfer will be provided on a later date. Please put your full name as reference for payment made.

For any enquires on orientation, please contact Jeremy at events@warwicksingsoc.com

Warwick Summer Games (WSG) 2017

Date: 26 August 2017, Saturday

Time: 0900 - 1800

Venue: TBC

Warwick Summer Games is an annual full-day sporting event organised by the Warwick Singapore Society. Each year, we invite the Singapore Societies of all the UK universities to send teams to participate in a day of friendly competition in our many sporting events, such as Basketball, Frisbee, Badminton, Table Tennis, Floorball, Netball and Futsal. We also have non-physical "mind sports" such as Monopoly Deal and Bridge.

In a day filled with fun and healthy competition, WSG seeks to promote bonding within the Singaporean student communities from the UK universities and encourage a healthy lifestyle. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to bond with the Warwick Singaporean community as well as other students studying in the UK. What better way to develop camaraderie than through sports? Play your part to bring the WSG championship back to Warwick!

For those who are not inclined to sports, fret not as there will still be opportunities for you to take part! We will be calling for volunteers to help out in the running of WSG nearer to the event; so do keep a lookout for that!

For any enquires on WSG, please contact Jun Jie at sports@warwicksingsoc.com

UK Bound 2017

Date: 9 September 2017, Saturday

Time: 1900 (TBC)

Venue: TBC

Details for this event organised by the Imperial College London Singapore Society will be given at a later date.

For any enquires on UK Bound, please contact Chandra at culturalofficer@warwicksingsoc.com

2.2 Mentoring Programme

Under the Singapore Society mentoring programme, you will be grouped with a few other freshers (preferably taking the same course as you do), and assigned to two to three seniors, who will be your mentors. They will be there throughout your freshman year (and beyond) to provide advice and answer any questions you may have about school life in general, or simply be there to offer support and encouragement as you settle in and go through a new experience. You will be allocated to a mentor by default when you register yourself during pre-departure briefing, so there is no need for you to sign up for this. However, if you wish to opt out of the programme, you may. We hope that this will help you adjust to life in Warwick more easily.

For any enquires on mentoring, please contact Joshua at secretary@warwicksingsoc.com

2.3 Important Websites

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/welcome/	<p>A step-by-step guide by the University on what you have to do pre-arrival, on arrival and post-arrival.</p>
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/international/admissions/offerholders/	<p>Information by Warwick International Office for Offer Holders. It contains information ranging from how to accept your offer to administrative issues upon arrival (e.g. opening a bank account, insurance, etc.)</p>
http://www.warwick.ac.uk/evisi on	<p>The University's platform for student records. You may use it for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viewing modules - Editing personal data - Paying tuition/accommodation fees <p>Login using your ITS account, which will be available once you complete Stage 1 of Enrolment (see Section 2.12).</p>
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/finance	<p>Student Finance website that contains information on tuition fees, and when and how to pay, etc.</p>
http://www.warwicksu.com	<p>Warwick Student Union Website, which has all the information on sports clubs and societies at Warwick, campus retail, events at the SU, etc. This is also where you will purchase your Freshers' Pass should you want one for Freshers' Week (first week of university).</p>
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1879507522332288/	<p>Warwick Freshers 2017-2018 official Facebook group.</p>
<p>Various department/course webpages</p>	<p>Access your own department/course webpage to find out what you need to do before arrival. You may also find that some departments/courses will have orientation events planned for you during Freshers' Week.</p>

2.4 Important Deadlines

Item	Deadline	Remarks	Relevant Section
Visa Application	At least 1 month before you fly off and not earlier than 3 months before the start of term.	Visa Application is done with the UK Visas and Immigration office. You need to complete your visa application successfully prior to coming to the UK, so it is vital that you get this done. Your passport will be retained during the visa processing period, so make sure that you do not make any travel plans for the two weeks after you submit your application.	Section 2.5
International Orientation	Mid-July	From 26 September 2017 to 29 September 2017. Visit the Warwick International Office website for more information, and the deadline for sign-ups.	Section 3.4
Accommodation Application	31 July 2017	It is highly important that you apply for accommodation before this date. If your application is sent late, you will not be guaranteed on-campus accommodation. You may have to live off-campus instead and miss out on the campus experience.	Section 2.6
Stage 1 of Enrolment Process	Opens approximately 2-3 weeks before the start date of your course	Remember to complete this in time so that you can log in to the various University platforms before leaving and there will be no delays in obtaining your University Card when you arrive at Warwick. *Note: You will need to have obtained your visa to complete this process.	Section 2.12
Exit Permit (for NSmen only)	Before leaving Singapore	It is compulsory for all NSmen to apply for an Exit Permit before departing for studies. It can be done within fifteen minutes via the NS portal.	Section 2.7

2.5 Visa Application

Most of you will be applying for a **Tier 4 (General)** Visa to study in the UK. Do try to get your visa application done early (up to 3 months in advance) in case of any complications. The general procedure is:

1. Prepare your required supporting documents and information – receive your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from the university, and ensure your passport is valid for the whole duration of your studies (to avoid future hassle).
2. You will need to complete payment of the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge at <https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/payment/start> first. (See **Section 3.7**) When payment is cleared, you will be given an IHS number for your application form. **Non-payment will result in a refused application.**
3. Complete the online application form at <https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/> and then submit it. Print it for reference.
4. Pay the application fee online via Visa or MasterCard. No other form of payment is accepted.
5. Book an appointment at the visa application centre operated by VFS Global Singapore, at <https://www.vfs.firm.in/sp-apptsystem/appscheduling/appwelcome.aspx>. Your appointment must be within 30 days of submission of the online application form. Print the appointment-booking letter.
6. Attend the appointment at the visa application centre in person, where your biometric data will be collected.

Address:

20 Cecil Street,
#11-02 to 05 Equity Plaza,
Singapore 049705
Helpline No: + (65) 66929873
Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 15:00
Email: info.sing@vfshelpline.com

Application submission (by appointment only):

Monday to Friday 08:00 – 14:00

Enquiries at visa application centre:

Monday to Friday 08:00 - 14:00

Document collection:

Monday to Friday 14:00 - 16:00

For more information, please see <http://www.vfs-uk-sg.com/applicationcentre.html>.

For the appointment, please bring along:

- Appointment booking letter printout
- Online application form printout, signed
- At least 2 recent passport-sized photographs – there are strict guidelines, check them at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/visa-photo-guidance.pdf>
- Passport
- NRIC (both original and photocopy)
- Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) email printout
- O Level and A Level Certificate or IB Diploma or any equivalent qualification (both original and photocopy); or undergraduate cert if you're starting a postgrad course
- Evidence of sufficient funds (both original and photocopy)

If you are on scholarship, your sponsor should provide you with a scholarship letter stating that they will pay for your full academic fees and living expenses.

If you are self-funded, prepare a bank statement stating that you have enough money to fund your education for at least the first year. This would include your academic fees for the first year and all other living expenses. The bank statement needs to show a 28-day period ending no more than a month before the visa application date. You may or may not be asked to show this document, depending on whether you are from a country deemed "high risk" by the UKBA.

If the money is held in your parent/guardian's account, you will have to provide their bank statement, a document showing the relationship (birth cert, adoption cert or court document) as well as a letter from your parent/guardian confirming the relationship and permission to use the funds.

- i) Your passport will be taken from you (as the visa will be stuck inside) and you should be able to collect it back within 1-2 weeks. **You cannot travel overseas in this duration!**
- ii) You can pay SGD\$3 for SMS notification service to let you know when your passport is available for collection. There is also a courier service to send your passport to your home for a fee of SGD\$18. Otherwise, you will have to track your application on your own at

<https://www.vfs.org.in/UKG-PassportTracking/ApplicantTrackStatus.aspx?Data=FgQ8IAMqAb/QtpAFrTNVBw==>.

- iii) You can take up the Priority Visa Service, which would process your application within 3-4 working days. This service will cost you an additional SGD\$218.

NOTE: Singapore is considered one of the 'low risk' countries, and as a 'low risk' applicant, you will not normally need to provide all the supporting documents, but they reserve the right to request all documents from you. We advise you to bring everything mentioned for your appointment to prevent any delays.

*If any of your supporting documents are not in English, you must additionally provide a translated copy done by a translation company.

For information on visa application:

UK Border Agency (Immigration Authority)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/singapore/?langname=UK%20English>

VFS Global Singapore (Visa Application Agent)

<http://www.vfs-uk-sg.com/>

University of Warwick webpages

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/international/immigration/>

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/immigration/tier4/applying/entryclearance/>

2.6 Applying for Accommodation

Campus accommodation

Log on to <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/accommodation/studentaccommodation/> to apply for accommodation. The deadline for submitting your application is **31 July 2017**. You will be notified of the result sometime in September, prior to your arrival. Accommodation overviews are available on the Campus Accommodation webpage. Hall reviews by Singaporean seniors are compiled in SingSoc's accommodation video, which will be available online. **For post-graduates, please refer to the above website for more information on accommodation, including those on campus.**

34-week let accommodation (does not include Easter Vacation)

Name	Bathroom	Cost	Remarks
Arthur Vick	En-suite	£156 per week, annual rent of £5,440	1 st Year Undergraduates
Cryfield	Shared	£80 per week, annual rent of £2,720	1 st Year Undergraduates
Jack Martin	En-suite	£157 per week, annual rent of £5,338	1 st Year Undergraduates

39-week let accommodation

Name	Bathroom	Cost	Remarks
Bluebell	En-suite	£176 per week, annual rent of £6,864	1 st Year Undergraduates
Claycroft	Shared	£121 per week, annual rent of £4,719	1 st Year / Final Year Undergraduates
Heronbank	En-suite	£139 per week, annual rent of £5,42150	1 st Year Undergraduates
Lakeside	En-suite	£138 per week, annual rent of £5,382	1 st Year / Final Year Undergraduates
Redfern	Shared	£97 per week, annual rent of £3,783	1 st Year Undergraduates
Rootes	Shared	£98 per week, annual rent of £3,822	1 st Year Undergraduates
Sherbourne	En-suite	£150 per week, annual rent of £5,850	1 st Year Undergraduates
Tocil	Shared	£110 per week, annual rent of £4,290	1 st Year / Final Year Undergraduates
Westwood	Shared	£104 per week, annual rent of £4,056	1 st Year Undergraduates

Whitefields	Shared	£84 per week, annual rent of £3,276	1 st Year Undergraduates
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Accommodation reviews

The Warwick Singapore Society has created several videos outlining the pros and cons for each accommodation. It is recommended that you watch these videos before making your choice. Alternatively, you can approach seniors and ask them about their experience living on campus. To watch these videos, you can visit the Singapore Society website at: <http://warwicksingsoc.wixsite.com/warwick-singsoc>

Off-campus accommodation

Most, if not all, first years usually get on-campus accommodation if you meet the principles of allocation. If you are somehow unable to get a room on campus, Warwick Accommodation also has off-campus housing for first years in Coventry. Contact Warwick Accommodation at accommodation@warwick.ac.uk and they will help you sort out your housing issues. You may also seek help from Mavis at the Singapore Office.

2.7 Exit Permit

A required exit permit can be applied for at <http://www.ns.sg> for the full duration of your course. For pre-enlisted or disrupted servicemen, please check with CMPB or MINDEF for the full details or contact the 24 hour NS Call Centre at 1800 367 6767.

Do apply for an exit permit early. There is a possibility that you can be asked to provide supporting documentation, though this is usually not the case.

2.8 Registering with MFA

Registering with MFA will allow the Ministry and its embassies/consulates to contact you and render assistance in case of any emergencies overseas (e.g. natural disasters, civil unrest, etc).

This is a free service that is entirely optional. Find out more about it and register at: <https://eregister.mfa.gov.sg/eregisterportal/common/preLoginEregisterView.action>

2.9 Medical Check-Up and Vaccinations

UK immigration law stipulates that any person staying in the UK for more than 6 months can be subjected to a medical examination upon arrival. It is strongly encouraged that you go for a medical check-up in Singapore before departing (including a chest X-ray), and carry the medical report with you to the UK so that you may produce it when demanded.

Possible places for check-up/vaccinations:

- Tan Tock Seng Hospital's Travellers' Health and Vaccination Clinic
- SATA
 - *SATA University enrolment checkup, \$51.36, 2 working days for report
- Polyclinics
- Other private clinics (e.g. Raffles Medical Group)

Report needed:

- Chest x-ray
- Evidence of Meningitis C immunization
- Evidence of MMR
- Flu jab (normally taken when you go for Meningitis C immunization)

It is important to bring this report along with you either in your hand-carry/cabin luggage as students are picked out randomly as they go through immigration at Heathrow Airport. If you are unable to present a medical report, UK immigration staff will personally escort you to your luggage to retrieve it (if you kept it there) or they will request for you to do a medical check-up on the spot and this will greatly delay your arrival at the University. You might also want to do dental and eye checks before flying over.

2.10 Certificate of Clearance

If you are thinking of volunteering with children when you're at Warwick, you will need to undergo a CRB check by Warwick Volunteers (see Section 6.6 on Volunteering) to certify that you are eligible to work amongst children. However, for that to be carried out, you will need a Certificate of Good Conduct (known as Certificate of Clearance in Singapore) from the Singapore Police Force to prove that you have no prior criminal records.

Information on how to apply for this can be found at this website: <http://www.police.gov.sg/e-services/apply/application-for-certificate-of-clearance>. There is a processing fee of SGD\$55. It is highly advisable to apply for this early and while you're still in Singapore as it takes around ten working days to process your application. If you want to get one while in the UK, it is extremely troublesome as you will have to go down to the Birmingham Police Station to get your fingerprints and it costs much more than if you have it done in Singapore.

2.11 Insurance

You may choose to get insurance from a Singapore company before you leave, or get insurance from a UK company when you first get there. Endsleigh and HSBC are 2 such insurance providers in the UK.

Endsleigh

Comprehensive information is available at:

<http://www.endsleigh.co.uk/Student/Pages/student-insurance.aspx>. An online quote facility is provided to cater to the different levels of insurance coverage that you would require.

HSBC

Information on the insurance coverage can be found at: <http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/insurance>

Note: Standard room insurance policies do not cover the loss of important documents, such as your passport, travellers' cheques, or academic certificates.

Mobile phone insurance can also be provided by your mobile phone service provider, and can normally be purchased together with your mobile phone.

You may also want to consider getting travel insurance before you leave Singapore to cover your journey to the UK and travels around Europe.

2.12 Completing Stage 1 of Enrolment

1. Upload photo for student card
2. Enrol on the enrolment portal
3. Print the certificate of enrolment (You will need it to collect your University card upon arrival)
4. Register your ITS account (This will be used for all logins – Start.Warwick, Student Union account, Wifi access on campus, etc)

Detailed instructions can be found here:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/welcome/beforearrival/enrolment>

2.13 Phone Lines

All mobile phone lines have free incoming calls when you are in the UK. Price plans often change but as a start, prepaid SIM cards are available. You can easily transfer your number from one mobile phone network operator to another by requesting for the PAC code.

The leading network operators with the best reception and network coverage are Vodafone and O2. Other network operators widely used in the UK are 3 Mobile, Orange, T-Mobile, and Virgin Mobile.

GiffGaff

Most Singaporeans here use GiffGaff, as it is the cheapest and most flexible. It is connected to the O2 network. It also offers free GiffGaff to GiffGaff texts and calls, which is a plus point as most Singaporeans use GiffGaff. You may choose to purchase airtime credits and pay per use, or purchase one of their monthly 'goodybags'. Check out their rates and 'goodybag' options online at <http://www.giffgaff.com/>.

We will be distributing GiffGaff SIM cards during pre-departure briefing and orientation. If you do not have one, just approach any Exco member or message/email and we will be happy to provide you with one. We have both micro and nano SIM cards (whilst stocks last).

You may want to activate your GiffGaff SIM and purchase a 'goodybag' a day before you leave so that you can use it the moment you arrive in the UK. Follow the instructions on the card and set up your account on the GiffGaff website. Your UK number will be shown on your account so you can inform your friends and family of your new number.

You may also choose to change your SIM card in your phone to the GiffGaff prior to your departure, **and contact your** friends over WhatsApp with wifi so that you won't have to change SIM cards in the UK. Once you reach the UK, you may have to change your network settings to use the data plan.

Calling home

There are numerous options for calling home. Free ones that use internet/data include Skype, Oovoo, Hangouts, Viber, WhatsApp etc. DialWise UK allows you to make calls to Singapore landlines and mobile lines for 0.5p/min by dialling 08 442 001 010. Key 0065 followed by the number you wish to call.

Your current phone line

You may choose to either deactivate your phone number temporarily for a monthly fee or suspend your phone line. Check with your provider for options.

2.14 Finances

Bank Draft

This should be under your name and is usually valid for 6 months. The amount stated should cover at least Term 1's academic fees, accommodation fees and living expenses. This amount can then be banked into your newly set up account once activated.

Cash

Bring along an adequate amount of cash to tide you over your first few weeks in UK while you are waiting for your bank account to be set up and activated and your money to be banked in. An approximate amount of cash to carry in hand would be £1000.

Telegraphic Transfer (TT)

Subsequently, should you wish to transfer money from Singapore to your UK account, you can get someone in Singapore to TT funds over, and they will require your bank account details (name, swift code, IBAN).

2.15 Packing

You can generally find everything you need in the UK, so please do not feel the urge to bring everything! Remember that the more things you bring, the more troublesome it is for you to travel to campus, the more cluttered your room will be and the more pain you will feel when moving out of your room at the end of the academic year.

You will also realise that you can buy many things (textbooks, electrical equipment, etc.) off other Singaporeans currently studying there, which helps you to save money and save the environment!

Apparel & Footwear

You don't have to bring your entire wardrobe as the UK is a shopping haven, especially for online shoppers. Many shops have 10% discounts for students as well. Do bring one or two sets of formal clothing for interviews, presentations or formal events. It's alright to bring just enough warm clothing to tide you over for the first two weeks in the UK.

Warm clothing can be bought easily and cheaply in UK and you'll find that the variety in UK is much better. The only thing you might want to get here is Heat Tech from Uniqlo as it is cheaper in Singapore and not available in Warwick's vicinity. **We will be organizing a shopping trip to an outlet mall (Cheshire Oaks) in Term 1 for you to get your winter supplies cheaply!**

Bags

A good and hardy bag for carrying your textbooks and files is the most important! Also, a backpack is really useful for travelling around UK and Europe.

Toiletries

Lip balm and skin moisturizer are essential especially during the winter months. Most toiletries you need can be purchased in the UK, unless you require specific brands. Certain brands such as Shokubustu, Kose and Darlie are not readily available in the UK.

Contact lenses / contact lens solution / spare spectacles are much cheaper in Singapore and Malaysia so you may want to bring a year's supply along. It's relatively troublesome and costly to get new supplies from opticians in the UK, but contact lenses can be purchased online without prescription.

Medication

Medication is easily available at pharmacies and supermarkets but many students bring their own for convenience. Just ask your GP to prescribe you the basic medication that you will need for studying overseas. A Pharmacy is available on campus in the students union as well as Cannon Park Shopping Centre behind Campus (Boots)

This will allow you to avoid making appointments at NHS and having to wait long hours (or even days) just to see a doctor as well as having to drag yourself to the nearby supermarkets and pharmacies while sick.

Stationery

Stationery can be easily bought in the UK and you will get many for free in the first few weeks/throughout the year. Some of these pens are of reasonable quality and are enough for your day-to-day lessons. However, you might want to get some quality pens for examinations from Singapore as they are better and much cheaper than in the UK.

If you are particular about the stationery you use and have favourite brands, e.g. Uniball Signo 0.38, then you might want to bring a healthy supply over. Correction tape and refills are also not common in UK. Things like writing pads and files can be bought cheaply from Wilkinson or Tesco.

Textbooks

Textbooks can be bought at our University bookshop. A cheaper alternative would be to go to <http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/> or <http://www.amazon.com/> to see if your textbook is available there. An even cheaper alternative would be to inherit your senior's textbooks at a small price or for free. The library and learning grid (located in the University House) also contain all your required textbooks you can borrow.

Electronics

Things you should bring include your camera, laptop (best to get one with international warranty. Both Mac and Windows work fine on campus), universal adaptor (useful when you travel around Europe) and various chargers. If you are particular about the light colour of your lamp, you might want to get white light bulbs from Singapore, as they are difficult to find in the UK. Most stores only sell yellow light bulbs.

You might not want to bring things like printers as they are bulky and can be bought in the UK/from seniors, although ink cartridges for UK printers are quite expensive. Power strips/multi-plug can also be bought in the UK, though they usually do not have individual switches for each socket.

Household Items

Rice cooker, pots, pans and other kitchen equipment can easily be bought in the UK, so please do not bring them. The rice cookers sold in UK do not have multi-functions though, unlike some in Singapore.

Essential bedding items – pillows, duvets / blankets and bedsheets – are provided by the campus accommodation, but many seniors get their own from Ikea at cheaply. Bolsters are a rarity in UK so if you have a very strong preference for one you could pack it in.

Laundry can be either done via automated methods or manually: washing machines and dryers are available, or you can hand wash it in your basin. Washing detergent can be bought from Tesco, so please don't bring any over. Laundry nets are not readily available in the UK so if you are particular about your clothes being long lasting and in a good shape, pick up some laundry nets before you fly over!

Food

When in the UK, the thing you will miss most about Singapore will definitely be the food. You could consider bringing kaya, bakkwa, haebeehiam, Milo powder, PrimaTaste mixes, herbs for soup, mooncake, instant cereal etc.

The Asian shops in the UK sell some common Singapore food items but at a slightly higher price. Do not bring over boxes of instant noodles as you can easily find them there! Also, basic sauces such as soy sauce, oyster sauce, sesame oil, etc can be found in Tesco and Seoul Plaza (the Korean mart at Cannon Park) so there is no need to bring them!

General Items

It is good to bring along some extra passport sized photos as it is relatively expensive to take them in the UK.

2.16 Booking Your Flight

Note: This is accurate for Economy Class flights only and the list is non exhaustive.

Airline	Check-in Luggage	Hand Carry	General Tips
Singapore Airlines	30kg	7kg	SQ might be willing to provide students with extra check in allowance, all you have to do is call the office and request for it should it be available. SQ is not very strict, some have managed to go over 32/33 kg without having to pay but don't take it for granted! Usually proof of student identity helps.
British Airways	23kg	7kg	BA is usually very strict with regards to check-in luggage weight limit.
Emirates	30kg	7kg	Has a large check-in luggage weight allowance. However, if you exceed 30 kg, each extra kg costs another S\$100. This is even more expensive than SQ so keep to 30kg.
Malaysia Airlines	30kg	7kg	
Qatar Airways	23kg (max 2 pieces)	7kg	

Other General Tips

1. Buy a ONE-WAY TICKET to the UK this time round and buy a RETURN from UK (UK-Sin-UK). Return flights are somehow much cheaper from the UK than from Singapore.
2. Call the airline company before the flight to request for free extra baggage allowance. 30 kg is usually the limit but you can always try to get more if you need it. The earlier you call, the better, as airlines will only issue extra baggage allowance when there is extra space.
3. Weigh your luggage before going to the airport.
4. To maximise luggage space, pack your clothing in vacuum bags. These are available at Daiso for \$2.

5. It is not advisable to check in fragile musical items or racquet bags, even if they are labelled "Fragile". You can bring them on the plane, they will not be considered as an extra hand carry item.
6. Hand carry is generally not weighed so try your best to bring as much as possible on board. Keep everything very compact to maximize space.
7. Laptops have to go through the baggage scanner at the baggage inspection area so do hand carry your laptop and ensure that it can be conveniently taken out of your hand carry.

Arrival Times for International Orientation Pick-up (refer to **Section 3.4** on International Orientation)

For those who are attending international orientation, you can book a coach pick-up service from Heathrow/ Birmingham Airport. The coach runs on several timings a day so you should check the coach schedule closer to the date.

Arrivals Weekend

If you are not attending International Orientation, you may arrive during arrivals weekend. Students are generally not allowed to move into their accommodation early if they arrive earlier but do not attend International Orientation.

2.17 Important Documents to Hand Carry

Please note that you should have the original (and a photocopy where applicable) of the following in your hand carry:

- Passport
- Visa (it will be stuck in your Passport)
- Letter of Acceptance from the University
- Details of CAS Number
- Financial Statements/Sponsorship Letter
- Address of your University accommodation
- Contact details of the University

- Academic results (O Levels, A Levels/IB/Equivalent, Undergrad cert)
- Medical Report & Chest X-ray
- Mobile numbers of people whom you can contact in case of emergency

These items come in handy in the event that immigration officials request for them. Do also be prepared to answer questions at the immigration checkpoint, as that is the way that the officers check on you. They would usually ask simple questions about your university, course of study, travelling to campus; no need to worry and just reply confidently.

3. On Arrival

3.1 Getting Through Immigration

When you arrive Heathrow Airport, there may be one immigration line specifically for foreign students coming into the UK for the first time. You will need to obtain a student immigration form at the start of the line, and fill in details such as the name of your university, accommodation address, your CAS number, etc. It would therefore be good to have a pen ready in hand, with all your relevant details.

3.2 Getting to Campus

International Orientation Pick-up

If you are attending International Orientation (the university's programme), there will be a coach pick-up service available on certain days provided by Warwick's International Office from Heathrow (Terminal 3) and Birmingham International Airport for £40/25 per person respectively. Details are subject to confirmation closer to the date.

Note also that Heathrow Airport has 5 Terminals. Your flight may not arrive at Terminal 3 where the pick-up service is. However, fret not as you may travel between the terminals fairly easily

<http://www.heathrowairport.com/heathrow-airport-guide/travel-between-terminals#table>

From London Heathrow Airport

1. Take National Express coach from Heathrow Airport to Coventry (Pool Meadow Bus Station) (approx. £15-£25, 2 hours, book online and have your ticket handy, e-ticket or printout) Then,
 - a. Take a taxi (approx. £10-£12, 15 minutes, tell the driver to drop you off at the university's Rootes Grocery Store or Warwick Arts Centre); or,
 - b. Take local bus 11 or 12 (£2 single way - no change given, approx. 25 minutes, alight at University of Warwick)
2. Take a taxi from London Heathrow to the University of Warwick (approx. £200, 1h30min, tell the driver to drop you off at the university's Rootes Grocery Store or Warwick Arts Centre) – this option is highly expensive and we advise you against it, unless you can find people to share the taxi with you.

From Central London

1. Take the train from London Euston rail station to Coventry rail station (approx. £7.50 if booked early, can go up to £20+ if booked late, 1-2 hours depending on service provider). Then,

- a. Take a taxi (approx. £10-£12, 15 minutes, tell the driver to drop you off at the university's Rootes Grocery Store or Warwick Arts Centre); or,
 - b. Take local bus 11 or 12 (£2.10 single way - no change given, approx. 20 minutes, alight at University of Warwick)
2. Take Megabus coach from London (Victoria Coach Station) to Coventry (Cannon Park) (£5-6 one way, approx. 2h20min) and then walk into campus (10-15min walk to central campus).
 3. Take a taxi from Central London to the University of Warwick (approx. £200-£300, 2 hours, tell the driver to drop you off at the university's Rootes Grocery Store or Warwick Arts Centre) – this option is highly expensive and we advise you against it, unless you can find people to share the taxi with you.

From Birmingham Airport

1. Take the train from Birmingham International rail station to Coventry rail station (approx. £2 one way, 10 min). Then,
 - a. Take a taxi (approx. £10-£12, 15 minutes, tell the driver to drop you off at the university's Rootes Grocery Store or Warwick Arts Centre); or,
 - b. Take local bus 11 or 12 (£2 single way - no change given, approx. 20 minutes, alight at University of Warwick)
2. Take a taxi from the airport to the University of Warwick (approx. £30, 30 minutes, tell the driver to drop you off at the university's Rootes Grocery Store or Warwick Arts Centre).

Useful websites

(Remember to check for the luggage restrictions depending on operator!)

Directions to University: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/directions/>

National Express Coach: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>

Megabus Coach: <http://uk.megabus.com/Default.aspx>

Rail: <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>

Local Bus: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/directions/localbuses/>

3.3 Things to Do

Here are some of the important things you should do during International Orientation or Arrivals Weekend:

1. Collect your accommodation keys and move into your assigned hall of residence.
2. Collect your University Identity Card:
 - Your University Card is required for examinations and general identification
 - It is also used for gaining entry into the library, sports facilities, and buildings
 - In addition, it doubles up as the Eating@Warwick Card, which entitles you to a 10% discount when you dine at the various campus bars and restaurants
 - You will need to add value to it either online via <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/retail/eating/>, or using the top-up machine located in the SU building
3. Register with the National Health Service (NHS)
4. Collect your Student Status Letter (required when opening bank account)
5. Open a bank account (unless you are already with HSBC)
6. Register with the local police – this is highly unlikely to be required of Singaporeans, it will be stated in your visa if you need to do so
7. Apply for various discount cards (Rail, Coach, Tesco etc.)
8. Check out Cannon Park Shopping Centre. This is where most of your groceries will be bought, with Tesco, Wilco, Iceland and Seoul Plaza all located here. It's not hard to find but it's helpful to find the fastest way here from your hall.

3.4 International Orientation

The university organizes International Orientation (now called the Welcome to Warwick Programme) in the week before term starts to allow international students to settle into life in the UK and to familiarize themselves with the campus. As all activities on the programme are optional, the onus is on you to actually participate in the International Orientation. If you go with an enthusiastic mind-set and an open mind, you will have a lot of fun meeting other international students and settling into life at Warwick during that week.

The Warwick Program is from Tuesday 26 September to Friday 29 September, and there is an option that you can pay for a pick-up service from Heathrow/Birmingham Airport for £40/25 respectively. The cost for the program varies according to what parts of the program you choose and is non-refundable. You will need to pay for it at the same time you pay the University for tuition and accommodation fees. Applications open 18th July onwards. It is not a must to attend International Orientation and you can easily get by without attending so don't feel like you're missing out.

See <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/international/events/orientation/> for more info.

3.5 Freshers' Week

Freshers' Week refers to the first week of term, which aims to give new students a chance to meet their housemates, make new friends and sort out admin tasks such as opening student bank accounts. Fresher's Week is usually based around a series of social events such as discos, live bands, parties and a Fresher's Week Ball.

For those of you intending to party it up all night every night during the Fresher's week, it is highly recommended to get the Fresher's passport. For a price of around £50, the Fresher's passport entitles you entry for all events during the fresher's week as long as you arrive before 11 p.m. Passes will be sold via the student union website. Keep a look out for them if you are interested to get one, because passes sell out very quickly!

SingSoc will also be holding some events to help you ease into life at Warwick, including tours of campus and neighbouring areas plus a social gathering to kick-start the new academic year. More information to come!

3.6 Bank Accounts

Popular bank accounts amongst Singaporeans here are Barclays, NatWest, Lloyds, Santander, and HSBC. Barclays and Santander have branches on campus.

You will need your Student Status Letter, Passport and Bank Draft to set up your bank account, which can take weeks. You will receive your debit card and cheque book within the next 2-3 weeks. Do note that banks in the UK are not as efficient as those in Singapore, so patience is the key here!

Bank staff will be on campus during International Orientation for you to open an account. If you are not around during International Orientation Week, you will have to go to a branch at Coventry, Leamington Spa or Kenilworth. There will be many students from Warwick and Coventry universities at the branches, so be prepared to wait long or sometimes the staff will only serve students at selected times of day.

Barclays	A branch can be found on campus at the Students' Union. Barclays offers students a Visa debit card with interest free overdraft of up to £2000. Most students use their Student Additions Account. More information is available at: http://www.bank.barclays.co.uk/Currentaccounts/Keepitsimple/StudentAdditionsaccount/P1242557963772 .
Santander	This bank has a branch on campus at the Students' Union. Santander requires a monthly fee of £5 for the International Students Account and offers students a Visa debit card. The International Student Account does not offer overdraft. More information can be found at: http://www.santander.co.uk/uk/current-accounts/student-graduate-current-accounts/international-student-current-account
Natwest	NatWest does not require a monthly fee and offers students a Visa debit card. International students may open a Natwest Basic Account. The nearest branch is located in Coventry. More information can be found at: http://personal.natwest.com/personal/current-accounts/compare-current-accounts/student-account/student-account-international-students.html
Lloyds	Lloyds offers the best interest rates among banks. The nearest Lloyds branch is located in Coventry. More information can be found at: http://www.lloydsbank.com/current-accounts/club-lloyds.asp

HSBC	<p>HSBC provides options for setting up a bank account from Singapore, but only under certain conditions. For existing HSBC members, you will need to bring along your passport, NRIC and student visa to set up your HSBC UK account. There will be a one-time administrative fee to do so. However, if you are a HSBC Premier customer, it will be free on the condition that you maintain S\$200,000 in your account.</p> <p>For non-HSBC Premier customers, there will be a monthly fee for an initial fixed term of 12 months and is renewable monthly afterwards. You can apply online and you will receive a letter via snail mail approximately 2 weeks later telling you how to activate your account upon reaching the UK. More information can be found at: http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/personal/current-accounts/passport.</p>
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3.7 National Health Service

This is a government owned service that provides healthcare for citizens and residents in the UK. Most of you will now have to pay an additional fee (the Immigration Health Surcharge) which will enable you to access free healthcare during your stay. The fee is mandatory.

Immigration Health Surcharge

You have to pay this before you can apply for your student VISA. The amount you have to pay is calculated according to the length of the visa you will be granted if your application is approved, and not just for the duration of your course.

You can work out how much you will need to pay using the online calculator at www.immigration-healthsurcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type.

If you pay too much you will receive an automatic refund; if you pay too little you will be contacted to make a top-up payment before your visa application is considered. Non-payment will result in your visa application being refused.

Registering with NHS

At the start of term, there will be a registration counter in the Rootes Building. Submit your completed NHS registration form and you will be allocated to either the BLUE or PINK Practice and issued with a coloured NHS slip. The different Practices determine which team of doctors will serve you during your visits. The NHS slip confirms your details on file and shows which Practice you belong to. Having your slip on hand when you visit the Health Centre or an A&E unit will save time.

If you are in need of urgent healthcare, but have yet to register with the NHS, there is a possibility that paperwork and administration may delay your treatment/ consultation, or may force you to use private medical service, which is generally very expensive.

Visiting NHS

You will have to make an appointment to see a doctor in the Health Centre on campus by phone or in person, and have your NHS registration details ready when you need to do so. Also note that medications prescribed by the doctors do not come free, and that you will have to visit a private pharmacy to purchase the medicines (there is a pharmacy in the Student Union building).

There are several NHS-run hospitals in the area with Accident & Emergency (A&E) services, and these are open 24/7. The closest is the Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry. There is a public bus service shuttling between the hospital and campus. In case of an accident or sports injury, these A&E units are the right place to go to. It is useful to know where these hospitals are, especially Walsgrave Hospital, as this is the nearest complete A&E unit to the University.

For non-emergencies, there is the NHS walk-in centre at Stoney Stanton Road. This is open from 12pm to 10pm from Mondays to Fridays and 7am to 10pm on weekends and Bank Holidays.

4. Life in Warwick – Tuition and Accommodation

4.1 Tuition and Accommodation Fees

Tuition Fees

Course	Fee
Undergraduate	Band 1: £16,620 Band 2: £21,200
Medicine	Year 1: £19,400 Year 2 – 4: £33,820
Postgraduate Taught	Band 1: £17,500 Band 2: £22,340
Postgraduate Research	Band 1: £15,460 Band 2: £19,740

The band classification of the courses can be obtained from individual courses webpage or at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/studentfunding/ugfees/>. Students have the choice to either pay all of their tuition fees for the whole academic year at the start of their course or pay in installments.

Accommodation Fees

Fees vary among accommodations (See **Section 2.6**). Accommodation fees can be paid in full at the start of the year, or at the start of every term.

Payment Methods

The University charges late payment fees on all overdue payments. All University fees must be paid in Pounds Sterling.

The following methods of payment are available for paying fees to the University:

1. Direct Debit
2. Cheque/Bankers draft
3. By credit/debit card online at Student Records (You must have enrolled with the University and have setup an IT Services account to be able to pay your fees online).
4. Bank transfer (any bank charges deducted from your payment by the bank at the time of the transfer will be passed on to you)

The University's bank details:

Barclays Bank
PO Box 2

25 High Street
Coventry
CV1 5QZ

Account Name: University of Warwick
Account Number: 80113700
Sort Code: 20-23-55
IBAN No: GB15BARC20235580113700
Swift Code: BARCGB22

Do remember to include your University ID number and name on any transfer you make to the University's bank account.

5. If you're a scholarship holder, fill in the 'Sponsored Students' form online at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/pgadmissions/offerholders/sponsorshipform>. The form is labelled for postgrad students, but it's the same form for undergrads as well so use this one. Ensure you have your financial status letter from your scholarship provider in case you show it to the Finance Office.

Detailed payment instructions for each method can be found here: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/finance/makingpayments/methodsofpayment/>

4.2 Term and Vacation Dates 2017-2018

Autumn Term: 2 October 2017 – 9 December 2017 (10 weeks)

Christmas Break: 10 December 2017 – 7 January 2018 (4 weeks)

Spring Term: 8 January 2018 – 17 March 2018 (10 weeks)

Easter Break: 18 March 2018 – 22 April 2018 (5 weeks)

Summer Term: 23 April 2018 – 30 June 2018 (10 weeks)

*Note: You may leave as soon as your exams are over during the summer term. Check the University website for your personal exam dates closer to the exams.

4.3 Lesson Times

The earliest lesson at the University is 9am. Lessons are normally 1 hour long, though some lectures can run for 2 hours, depending on modules. Lab sessions for engineering modules are normally 2 hours long. The number of contact hours (lectures, seminars, lab sessions, etc) you have per week varies depending on your course. It can range from 8-9 hours for courses like literature, to 14-15 hours for business courses and 17-19 hours for courses like science/engineering.

When your day starts and ends also depends on your personal timetable; but in general, lessons end early on Wednesdays as it is the day for extra-curricular activities like sports and societies.

4.4 Exams and Assessments

Most major exams at the University fall in the Summer Term (the 3rd and last academic term). However, some half modules that run only for one term (Autumn/Spring term) may have their assessment at the end of that term.

Modes of assessment for each module also vary, with some being completely essay or exam based, and some a mixture of both. As such, you may have essays to do or assessments to study for during the Christmas break.

For more details on your course, approach your mentor or any friendly senior! (:

5. Life in Warwick – Out and About

5.1 Rail

Coventry Rail Station

Coventry Rail Station, approximately 6km from campus, is the nearest main-line train station. It is easily reached from London (Euston), Birmingham and Leicester, all of which run regular and frequent services direct to Coventry.

Canley Rail Station

Canley has a small local rail station that is approximately 2km away from the University - it is either a 25-minute walk, a short bike ride or taxi journey to main campus (Note: there isn't a taxi rank at Canley so please ring a taxi in advance). London Midland offers a regular rail service that passes through Canley Rail Station going to London, Milton Keynes, Coventry, Birmingham New Street, Birmingham International, Rugby etc.

There is also a shuttle bus service between the University of Warwick campus and Canley Railway Station. This consists of three trips to the University from Canley Station each morning, timed to coincide with train arrivals from Birmingham, London and Oxford and also three return trips back to the station each evening to connect with key train departures. Service runs from Monday to Friday, details are on webpage: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/estates/services/buses/shuttlebus/>

Rail tickets can be purchased from these websites: <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>, <http://www.thetrainline.com/>, <https://www.virgintrains.co.uk/>

16 – 25 Railcard (Highly Encouraged)

This Rail Card costs £30 (1 year) or £70 (3 years) and provides a 33% discount on train tickets that you purchase. It will be extremely useful for those who plan to travel a lot around the UK or those who plan to make frequent trips to London/Birmingham. Check out <http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/> to apply.

Alternatively, you can make a trip to STA Travel at the Students' Union to apply for your card. It is highly encouraged to get the cheaper 3-year deal and not the 1-year subscription. Do also associate your Railcard with your Oyster card if you are travelling in London as it will give you a hefty discount off public transport. This may be done at the information counter at any Tube Station.

5.2 Buses

Local buses to the University

Bus routes through the university are served by three companies – National Express, Stagecoach and Travel de Courcey. The standard fare for a single journey is around 2 pounds. Check this page for all bus services to Warwick University and their respective timetables: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/directions/localbuses/>

Note: Bus passes/return tickets for one bus company cannot be used on buses operated by another company.

Inter-city buses

If you want a cheaper option for traveling to other cities, you may consider Megabus, which has a stop at Cannon Park Shopping Centre, or National Express, which has a stop at Pool Meadow Bus Interchange in Coventry.

Megabus: <http://uk.megabus.com/Default.aspx>

National Express: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>

5.3 Driving

Driving in the UK as a student

If you are holding a Singapore driving licence, you may drive in the UK for a year without converting to a UK licence. If you don't have a licence you must study in the UK for at least 6 months before taking a driving test or applying for a full licence. To obtain a UK driving licence, you need to apply for a provisional licence and pass a driving test.

Applying for the exchange of your foreign driving licence

If you want to change your driving licence to a UK driving licence, you must complete the application form D1, along with your passport, passport photo, Singapore (or other foreign) driving licence and £50 cheque. The D1 form is available from any Post Office branches and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) form ordering service online at: https://www.dvla.gov.uk/dvla/onlineservices/order_forms.aspx?ext=dg The entire process takes about 3 weeks. Your foreign licence will not be returned to you.

Learning how to drive in the UK

Step 1: Applying for a Provisional Driving License (PDL)

Complete the D1 application form and submit it with your passport, passport photo and £50: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/Motoringtransactions/BeforeyouapplyA/DG10032690>. It takes about 2 weeks to receive your PDL.

Step 2: Book your theory test

Book your driving theory test at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Diol1/DoItOnline/Doitonlinemotoring/DG_197297

Step 3: Taking lessons

In general, driving instructors recommend min. 30hrs of practical lessons before the practical test. You can also ask about recommended tutors from seniors who have learnt driving in the UK. There is a driving school in Coventry called 'The Driving Force' (around £20/hour):

<http://www.thedriving-force.co.uk/>.

Step 4: Booking your practical test

Once you pass your theory test, book your practical test online at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Diol1/DoItOnline/Doitonlinemotoring/DG_197299)

Step 5: Test date

Things to bring to your practical test:

- Theory test pass certificate
- Both parts of your PDL (photocard and paper counterpart)
- If you have an old-style paper licence, you must take your signed driving licence and you must also bring a valid passport.

If you pass your test the examiner will give you a pass certificate and ask if you want your full licence sent to you automatically. Once you have passed, you can start driving right away without waiting for your full licence to arrive.

Other useful information

After you pass your driving test, you need a year on your licence before you can rent a car to drive in the UK. Only some car companies such as Europcar and Fifth Gear rent to under-23s. To convert your UK licence to a Singapore licence, you have to take the Basic Theory Test, and convert to a Singapore licence with the pass slip. You can also refer to our 'Buying a car' guide on our society's website

5.4 Places Around Campus

Coventry

Appearance-wise, the city of Coventry is admittedly far from attractive – most buildings are plain concrete structures – since the city centre was heavily bombed during WW2, destroying much of the heritage sites. However, there are some places that are worth visiting, plus shops and eateries to patronise. Warwick students can travel to Coventry by public bus from campus.

Perhaps the most famous story to originate from Coventry would be that of Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom. To commemorate this legend, a statue of Lady Godiva on a horse stands in the city centre, and a nearby clock showcases moving figures of Lady Godiva riding and Peeping Tom looking on every hour.

Also worth visiting are the Cathedral Quarter, comprising the new cathedral and the ruins of the old cathedral, as well as the Coventry Transport Museum, which houses the largest collection of British road transport in the world (admission free).

For shopping, one can easily find popular brands available in the city centre, such as New Look, Topshop, River Island and Primark; or IKEA and Argos for household and other items. Food outlets are numerous and sell a variety of foods; of note are Noodle Bar (authentic Chinese cuisine, a large bowl of noodles costs about £7) and Cosmo which serves an oriental buffet spread for £7 (lunch) or £13 (dinner).

As for nightlife, Kasbah is a popular nightclub amongst Warwick students, with cheap drinks and a huge dance floor.

Royal Leamington Spa

The town of Leamington Spa is accessible by train to the Leamington Spa rail station, by coach, or by public bus 12 / U1 / U2 from Coventry or the University of Warwick. Running through the middle of the town is the Parade, a main street lined with popular shop brands and is next to Royal Priors, an indoor shopping centre. Warwick students enjoy shopping in Leamington Spa, which offers a wider range of shops and nicer shopping environment than Coventry. There are also many good Asian restaurants such as Thai Elephant and Sabai Sabai.

The main attraction in Leamington Spa would be the Royal Pump Rooms, a spa bath opened in 1814 which is now converted to a museum, art gallery and library. Next to the Royal Pump Rooms is the Jephson Gardens which runs along the river Leam, a 180-year old park that is a recognised Green Heritage Site. Leamington's nightspots, such as Smack and Evolve, are popular amongst University of Warwick students, both for groups of friends heading for a night out or societies and sports clubs holding socials.

Kenilworth

Kenilworth is a small traditional English town, with quaint teahouses and scenic parks. The town is known for the ruins of Kenilworth Castle, a stronghold founded in the 1120s and currently regarded as one of the best castle ruins in the UK. The re-created Elizabethan Garden was originally built by the 1st Earl of Leicester, the love interest of Queen Elizabeth I, and Kenilworth Castle was frequented by Queen Elizabeth I during which lavish parties were thrown. The castle is also the site of historically significant events, such as the abdication of King Edward II and the six-month long Siege of Kenilworth, believed to be the longest siege in English history. Admission to the castle costs £8.20. Kenilworth can be reached by coach, or by public bus from Coventry, Leamington Spa or the University of Warwick.

Stratford-upon-Avon

The town of Stratford-upon-Avon is a must-go to learn about a key part of English culture, whether you are a Shakespeare enthusiast or not. The town has become synonymous with all things Shakespearean, becoming a tourist hotspot. Stratford-upon-Avon is accessible by train to its rail station, by coach, or by public bus from Coventry, Leamington Spa or the University of Warwick.

When in Stratford-upon-Avon, visit Shakespeare's Birthplace to see the house that young Shakespeare lived in. Entrance costs £12.50 (students) or you can buy the Five House Ticket for £19 to visit the other Shakespeare-related houses such as Anne Hathaway's Cottage, plus the tickets last for a year so you can pass it on. It would also be an experience to catch the Royal Shakespeare Company put up a performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Ticket prices range from £14 to £60, though if you're lucky you can snap up some of the fifty £5 tickets available for 16-25 year olds for each show.

Royal Shakespeare Company Key

The RSC Key is a new scheme free for all 16-25 years olds that gives you benefits such as £5 tickets to RSC productions (while stocks last) and various discounts in RSC shops and shops in Stratford. Apply online at:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/signup/?type=rscopy> Or fill out a form and submit it at the RSC Box Office in Stratford. A card that entitles you to all these privileges will be mailed to you.

More information at:

<http://www.rsc.org.uk/support-us/key/>

Birmingham

The 2nd largest city in the UK after London, a trip to Birmingham is an experience in itself. Birmingham is a 20 to 30 minute train ride from Coventry Station. Alight at Birmingham New Street Station, which is close to everything you will ever need in Birmingham.

Birmingham's massive shopping centre, the Bullring, is home to over 160 of the most imaginative shops and stores for you to explore including Selfridges and FCUK. Another

popular place is Cadbury World located in the area of Bournville, where you'll get to try various forms of Cadbury chocolate, tour the factory, get a lowdown on the history of Cadbury and how their chocolate is made and even go for a joyride, all for only £10.50. Birmingham Chinatown also provides authentic Asian food unavailable in Coventry, such as dimsum at Chung Ying Gardens and South-east Asian cuisine at Malaysian Delight.

5.5 Travelling Within Campus

Campus Map

The map is updated regularly and copies are available around campus including University House reception or downloaded at:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/maps/campusmap/>.

From here, you can see where all the academic buildings are and the relative positions of the accommodations.

Getting to classes

Most lessons are conducted on central campus. If your accommodations are not on central campus, you could consider getting a bicycle but that's optional as the walk is not very long. Also, cycling in winter can be quite torturous with the wind blowing at your face.

6. Life in Warwick – Lifestyle

6.1 Culture

The University is very modern due to the fact that it was only built in the 1960s. English is the primary language spoken; this comes as no surprise as the people are predominantly British. Warwick also has a high percentage of international students, giving the campus lots of diversity and vitality. It is peaceful during the daytime as it is isolated from the city and generally surrounded by greenery.

However, certain areas can get rather noisy at night. The *Copper Rooms* at the Student's Union (SU) holds events every night from Monday to Saturday and so music can be heard around the SU until 2am daily. Students also tend to drink at the piazza when the weather gets warmer, and drunken students may make a racket around the accommodations. The drinking and partying culture is omnipresent in the UK, though you have free will in your choice to participate.

For many of the locals, it is their first time living away from home and having to take care of themselves. They do not necessarily share the same standards of cleanliness or behaviour as you do, so be prepared to accommodate differences. The kitchens tend to get very dirty as the locals usually do not have the habit of washing up immediately after they cook. Most times, the pans and plates are just left on the table tops. It takes a while to get used to but once you get used to it it's not so bad.

Shops usually close around 4-5pm daily. People are generally friendly and polite (it is common practice to thank your bus driver when alighting), though it is important to remember that you are living in a foreign land and you are a foreigner. There are some rare cases of racial harassments (as with elsewhere in Europe) but if you do encounter it, just brush it off and walk away.

6.2 Weather and Time

Weather

Average monthly temperature		
	Maximum	Minimum
Jan	7°C / 45°F	0°C / 32°F
Feb	7°C / 45°F	0°C / 32°F
Mar	9°C / 48°F	1°C / 34°F
Apr	12°C / 54°F	3°C / 37°F
May	16°C / 61°F	6°C / 43°F
Jun	19°C / 66°F	9°C / 48°F
Jul	22°C / 72°F	11°C / 52°F
Aug	21°C / 70°F	11°C / 52°F
Sep	18°C / 64°F	8°C / 46°F
Oct	15°C / 59°F	6°C / 43°F
Nov	10°C / 50°F	3°C / 37°F
Dec	7°C / 45°F	1°C / 34°F

West Midlands Seasonal Chart			
Seasons	Average Temp (Max °C)	Average Temp (Min °C)	Total Rainfall (mm)
Mar - May (Spring)	12	3	155
Jun - Aug (Summer)	21	10	178
Sept - Nov (Fall)	14	6	173
Dec - Feb (Winter)	7	0	172

Time

UK is on GMT (Greenwich Mean Time), and Singapore is GMT +8. However, UK will be on DST when you arrive, which means London will be on GMT +1. DST goes by the following rule: "Spring forward, fall back". Clocks in the UK are adjusted forward on the last Sunday in March (Spring) and are adjusted back on the last Sunday in October (Fall).

<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/change/uk/london>

6.3 Shops on Campus

Eateries

Le Gusta

Located at the Warwick Arts Centre, it's a slightly upscale restaurant serving food like tapas, meat and seafood. Prices are generally higher than the other campus restaurants.

Xananas

This bistro-style restaurant located on the first floor of the Students' Union serves a comprehensive menu of freshly prepared meals, grill, light bites and a tempting array of delicious desserts!

The Bar/Bar Fusion

Located on the first floor of Rootes Building, The Bar has a great environment for relaxing and socializing with friends. The big screen is good for watching the big soccer matches. The Bar offers themed nights from Quiz Night to Karaoke so there's always something going on. A range of Asian cuisine is served.

Bread Oven

Located on the first floor of the Students' Union, Bread Oven sells cheap baguettes and made-to-order sandwich boxes. Food at Bread Oven is mostly meant to takeaway.

Dirty Duck

Dirty Duck is known as a postgraduate pub located on the first floor of the Students' Union but is of course open to everyone. A classic pub serving drinks and everything from burgers, fish and chips and lasagne to warm chocolate fudge cake and a Sunday Carvery. The Snug area is a great place to catch football matches too.

Terrace Bar

A favourite hangout when night falls, this place is bustling with students drinking their hearts out, playing pool and foosball.

Costa Coffee

Located on the ground floor of Rootes Building, Costa serves freshly prepared sandwiches, desserts and speciality coffees.

Curiositea

This cute cafe with old-school decor located beside the Piazza serves hot and cold drinks, cakes, pastries and other sweet treats.

Prices are generally cheaper than Costa as it is run by the Student Union and is a great place for a relaxing afternoon tea.

Varsity

This English Pub is some distance's walk, located nearer to Westwood. There is an exciting variety of pub food here, some even served in dog bowls! This is another good place to catch live football matches in over two huger projectors.

There are also cafes in various departments and important landmarks in the university, such as the Library, University House and Westwood, which sell sandwiches, salads, snacks and drinks throughout the day.

Takeaway

There are many different cuisines in takeaway options such as Huan Le, Abang Fuad, Chinese Kitchen, Domino's and others.

Others

Rootes Grocery Store

RGS is a mini-supermarket located just outside the SU, making grocery shopping easy for those who are too busy to make the trip to Tesco and back. Usual prices are steeper than that in Tesco, but look out for good discounts.

Post Office

Just inside Rootes Grocery Store, via the same entrance. The post office also offers money changing services.

Copper Rooms

The newly-renovated club in the Student Union, the Copper Rooms hosts popular events such as SkoolDayz and POP throughout the term.

M W Phillips (Pharmacy)

Get NHS-prescribed medicine at the counter here. Non-prescription medicines available off the shelf here as well.

Bookshop

Located at Warwick Arts Centre, it sells most of the textbooks you'll need in university, some at discounted prices. Also sells stationery and Warwick goods such as hoodies and T-shirts.

STA Travel Agency

A travel agent to help you with holidays or flights home in the SU building.

Thompson and Murray Hairdressers

A unisex hair salon in the SU building.

6.4 Students' Union Building

The Warwick Students' Union building is one of the focal points of the campus. It is situated at the centre of the campus, by the piazza. It is divided into two buildings; the Students' Union Headquarters (termed SUHQ for short), where most of the administration offices and meeting rooms are located, and the Students' Union building (SU) which is a recreational place for students to hang out.

The students' union offices are located in the SUHQ and this is where the main administration of the students' union is carried out. There is a reception where students can approach for any assistance related to student life, from housing problems to lost property, and various meeting rooms and offices. The Warwick Volunteers Office is also located in the SUHQ.

Within the main SU building you can find banks (Barclays and Santander), ATMs, hairdresser, pharmacy and travel agency on the ground floor. Many campus eateries are located in this building or the surrounding area, making it a popular social meeting place. There are many benches and chairs located in the SU as well, where students can meet to chat or study. In terms of entertainment, there are pool tables on the second floor for student use, and also a small game area with arcade games such as DDR.

6.5 Sports and Societies

Sports

Sports Facilities

The University offers a wide range of sports facilities on campus accessible via your student card. In order to use these facilities, you have to purchase a Silver Warwick Sport membership for £60. With a Silver membership, facilities you are entitled to use include badminton, squash, basketball and tennis courts, athletics track, football pitches, an indoor 25m swimming pool. In order to access the gym on campus, you have to upgrade your Silver membership to the Warwick Sport Gold: Gym membership, which cost £205 for a year. Alternatively, you can join Simply Gym at Cannon Park for £16.99 a month. For more detailed prices, check out <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/memberships/student>.

The sports centre also has locker facilities. You will need £1 to use the locker, which is **returnable**. Many seniors have mistakenly thought it wasn't and lost much money! Remember to retrieve your coin from the coin slot at the locker door before leaving.

Sports Clubs

To join any sports clubs, you first need to join Warwick Sport (see above). On top of that, you are likely to have to pay a membership fee for individual clubs, usually £6 per academic year. Finally, you will have to pay a federation fee in order to be able to join any sports club.

For many of the sports clubs, you do not need past experience to join and there are many friendly and keen people who wish to introduce you to their sports. If you have an aptitude for the sport and progress quickly, you can advance to the University teams and compete with other universities or clubs in the area. Each sport society also tries to nurture team spirit by means of practice play. Social events are often organised to foster greater friendships.

Societies

Societies Federation

The Societies Federation is part of the Students' Union. It plays host to a vast range of Societies, including the Singapore Society! With over 250 societies – the largest number in the country – there's a society for everyone. A 1-year membership in the Socs Fed costs £19, which you will need to purchase in order to join any society. On top of this Socs Fed membership, you may have to pay for each society's individual membership – SingSoc's membership for 2016-2017 will cost a mere £2. In addition to meeting new friends and taking part in the activities of a Society, being a member of a Society often rewards you with discounts for their events.

Find out more at:

<http://www.warwicksu.com/societies/>

Freshers' Fair

At the beginning of term, there will be a Freshers' Fair to exhibit the various Sports and Societies at Warwick. Each sports club and society will have a booth with information about them. Some will allow you to sign up to be on their mailing lists or to be a part of their events while you contemplate whether or not to join. Remember to look for us then!

Warwick Singapore Society

Singsoc organises many events throughout the year. Potluck, Christmas / Chinese New Year Dinner, outings and even our very own annual Production! There are plenty of things to get involved in so do look out for these events and we hope to see you around.

6.6 Volunteering

Warwick Volunteers is the main volunteering organization on campus, and they provide many opportunities for students to volunteer in a variety of roles within the local community (Coventry, Warwickshire and Leamington). They have a range of different projects – some require long-term commitment while others are more flexible and allow you to give as much time as you are able to. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to work with people from all kinds of backgrounds, such as the homeless, schoolchildren, refugees and the elderly.

For more information on how to volunteer:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/community/volunteers/>

Also, see **Section 2.10** for information on the certificate of clearance.

6.7 IT Services

The IT Services on campus provide computing and network services to all students and staff on campus. They are responsible for the network connections in campus accommodation, as well as computing services across the university.

In Your Room

You can connect your computer to the network directly using an RJ-45 network cable, which will be provided by Warwick Accommodation. All accommodations also have wifi access.

If you have problems connecting to the network, call the IT Services Helpdesk on 73737 (from any University phone) or 02476573737 and a student advisor will come to your rescue. Note that the University has a very strong stand against peer-to-peer file sharing, as it is normally the root of piracy and copyright infringements. In this context, it could be Bit Torrent or DC++. They have the capability to track such activities, and can come knocking at your door if they really want to check. As a general rule of thumb, any abuse or infringements in respect to the network will normally lead to a temporary suspension of your room's internet service and a hefty fine.

Student Computer Services

The Student Computer Centre is a facility that is open 24/7 to all students, with computer, software and printer services. It is located at the ground floor of the library. For departments without their own computer rooms, the computers are installed with all the software you will need for your assignments. There are various computer rooms scattered across campus. Some computer rooms are for access only by students of that department, such as the Department of Computer Science and School of Engineering.

There are Wireless Hotspots all over campus. Simply sign in using your IT Services user ID and password to tap into the school's Wifi.

6.8 Safety and Security

The university is generally a safe place, and the campus security team operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are alarms and close-circuit TV systems in major university sites. Security vans will often patrol the campus, and the security guardhouse is located near the University House in case of any emergency. The campus security team can be contacted at their non-emergency number 024 7652 2083; in the event of emergency requiring the ambulance, police or fire brigade, call 024 7652 2222.

Personal safety is still important. If you are out late, it is advisable to have a friend walk back with you, especially if you are a girl. Avoid the darker and quieter areas of campus and stick to well-lit routes. Make sure you lock your room doors when you are not in at all times to prevent theft. If you live on the ground floor, always shut and lock your window when you are not in the room - it is easy for thieves to break into ground floor rooms through open windows and students have had their rooms burgled before.

Coventry (not where the campus is) is also not a very safe place to be alone at night, and most shops tend to close by 6. Unlike Singapore, most roads in the UK lack street lamps and get very dark at night.

Emergency Numbers:

University Security Control Room	024 7652 4999
Police/Fire/Medical Services Emergency Number	999
Police Non-Emergency Number	101
NHS 24-Hour Helpline	0845 4647

6.9 Cost of Living Guide

Books

It is highly recommended that you avoid buying first hand books; instead, pick up your textbooks from seniors as they will be much cheaper. You can buy your books from your mentor or other seniors. If unavailable, the University has a platform for people to sell books. You may check with your department.

Groceries

Estimated weekly expenses on groceries from Tesco: £30-£40. This is roughly how much your standard basket should cost including cereal, meat, fruits, veg, milk, eggs, junk food, shampoo, etc.

Travel

Bus fares typically cost £2 one-way to Coventry or Leamington. Note that you need to pay your bus fare in coins, and that not all buses give change. Some buses offer group discounts.

Travelling around UK also poses additional cost. If you book the faster, more direct trains from Virgin, they could cost from the upper tens up to more than £30 for a return ticket to London. Trips to nearby areas such as Birmingham or Stratford are much cheaper, usually costing less than £5.

Clothing

Online shopping is popular and convenient for many students and the UK, especially when there are not many shops near campus. Popular online shops are Amazon and Asos, which give you free delivery in the UK and many offer free returns as well. Singsoc also organizes a shopping trip to a shopping village called Cheshire Oaks where you can get clothing from big brands at warehouse prices.

Household Items

Students usually make one big trip to Ikea at Coventry when they first get to campus to buy essentials like pots, pans and utensils. Good quality pots and pans can be as cheap as £3.00 or as expensive as £30.00. Besides Ikea, you can also get your household items from Tesco and Wilkinson at Cannon Park.

Total

Expect to spend about £9000-11000 pounds (including accommodation) for 9 months, depending on how much you travel and spend. You might want to budget for overseas travels during the holidays as well, since it is advantageous to take the chance to travel around Europe.

6.10 Groceries

For groceries, Tesco and Iceland at Cannon Park Shopping Centre (just off Westwood/Claycroft) are the best options. The former is good for fresh food and groceries in general, the latter for frozen food.

Other options for groceries include Sainsbury's in Tile Hill (a 5min bus ride from campus), Rootes Grocery Store (located on campus) and various shops around Earlsdon and Coventry, including the Coventry Market in the city centre.

For Asian food, the Korean supermarket in Cannon Park is more than sufficient, as well as other shops in Coventry city centre.

Tesco Clubcard

The Tesco Clubcard is a privilege card to be used at Tesco supermarkets, where you can accumulate points and receive discount coupons. It is free and useful since most of us mainly shop for groceries at Tesco at the nearby Cannon Park Shopping Centre.

Each subscription comes with a card and 2 tokens, so theoretically 3 people can share 1 subscription and accumulate points faster.

<http://www.tesco.com/clubcard/clubcard/>

6.11 Launderette

The washing machines and dryers on campus are card-operated. Each washing cycle costs £2.40, lasting ~30mins, while each drying cycle costs £2.00 and lasts ~50mins. You will have to transfer your clothes from the washing machine to the dryer once it's done.

Some accommodations have launderettes below their blocks while others don't. There is a shared launderette located in between Old and New Rootes, which is shared among people in Rootes, Jack Martin, etc.

When using the dryers, be sure to remove the lint (the purplish blue thing) from the wire mesh before starting the dryer; if not, your clothes will not be dried properly.

Most, if not all, launderettes are using cashless payment in the form of cards you can purchase from the machine for the first time and top-up online at circuit.co.uk.

6.12 Post

Receiving Post

Post such as letters and small postal items will be delivered to mailboxes in your halls, which are usually located on the ground floor. These mailboxes are sorted according to flats / floors and you will be given a mailbox key to access it. They will usually be delivered by 1:00pm, Monday to Saturday.

For larger parcels and registered items, they are kept at the common post room in Westwood for all halls. If such mail is sent to you, you will receive a notification card in your hall mailbox asking you to collect the item from the Student Post Room. When picking up your parcel, you will need to bring the notification card and your University ID with you to sign off your parcel.

You must bring them because you will not be able to collect your post without such forms of verification. Also, it is important that you inform all senders of your FULL postal address including the post code, in order to avoid mix-ups. The post room is open from Monday to Friday, 10:30 to 18:00, Saturday 10:00 to 15:00, and is closed on Sunday.

There is a shuttle bus that ferries students to the post room and back to central campus. More details at: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk /services/estates/services/buses/shuttlebus/>

An example of a postal address is as follows:

<FULL NAME>
Line 1: <Room number>, <Residence and block number>
Line 2: University of Warwick
Line 3: Coventry
Postal: CV4 7ES

Sending Post

The Post Office is located inside Rootes Grocery Store – you can obtain stamps or mail your post there. RGS also sells bubble wrap and specialized envelopes for mailing parcels. There is a post box outside RGS and in Westwood for you to drop mail as well.

Amazon Lockers

If you are buying anything from Amazon, there are Amazon lockers located in Rootes Grocery Store that you can send your parcel to. This will save on your walking to the post room if you live on central campus!

1. Choose 'Amazon Locker' as your pickup location.
2. Search and select locker location:

There are 4 Amazon Lockers around the University:

Zahra: Lakeside Accommodations

Noire: Westwood Campus

Matson: Sports Centre

Ivory: Rootes Building

3. Once your package is delivered to the Amazon Locker, you will receive an e-mail with instructions and a unique pick-up code. Enter your pickup code and the Locker slot with your package will open. Your package will be available for pick-up for three business days after you receive your pickup code.

6.13 Religion

There is much support for different religions at the university, from religious societies to places of worship. There are religious societies such as the Christian Union, Buddsoc (Buddhist Society), Cathsoc (Catholic Society) and the Islamic Society that aim to support students' religious life while in university.

These societies hold meetings and events regularly. The university also has a Multi-Faith Chaplaincy and a Muslim Chaplaincy on campus, behind the Warwick Arts Centre.

There are also places of worship such as churches and mosques near the university. The full of places of worship list with other information can be found on the Islamic Society's website at <http://www.sunion.warwick.ac.uk/isoc/localinfo/> and the Christian Union's website at <http://warwickcu.org/freshers/churches/>.

6.14 Jobs

Most international students coming to the UK will be allowed to work a maximum of 20h per week during term time. Unitemps, the University of Warwicks' own temporary staff agency is a good way to secure a part time job for some supplementary income. Opportunities for paid work placements include clerical work, data entry, events and hospitality, research as well as translation. Signing up with Unitemps is hassle free and easily done online.

Also, the Students' Union employs student staff in its food outlets, as security staff and part of promotional activities. Jobs will be advertised on the SU website and a diverse range of options are available from short term to longer commitments. Other miscellaneous jobs include working for the Student Union to distribute fliers or posters for events or parties.

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Contact Singapore



Overseas Singaporean Unit



University of Warwick International Office

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For more information, email us at contact@warwicksingsoc.com

To highlight any errors in this publication, email secretary@warwicksingsoc.com