

WELCOME WEEK 2012



Preparing for Welcome Week

What is Welcome Week?

Welcome Week is a time dedicated to all new students joining Royal Holloway. During this week, you will have the chance to carry out the important tasks involved in enrolling with the College, get inducted into your academic department, settle into your new living environment and familiarise yourself with the campus.

Most new undergraduate students arrive at Royal Holloway from 10 am on Saturday 22nd September 2012. Most new postgraduate students arrive from 10 am on Sunday 23rd September 2012. Welcome Week starts on Saturday 22nd September and runs until Friday 28th September.

This guide is intended to help you prepare for Welcome Week, including information about the events that are happening around campus, top tips for making the most of the week, where you can go for help and other important bits of information about what to do in advance of your arrival at Royal Holloway.

The Welcome Tent

The Welcome Tent is your first port of call for information during Welcome Week. Situated in the North Quad of Founder's Building, there will be lots of signs and plenty of volunteers to point you in the right direction. The Welcome Tent will be open until midnight on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd September, and until 9 pm during the week.

What can I do at the Welcome Tent?

- Collect your Welcome Week Guide and Passport
- Find out what's going on each day across campus and how you can get involved
- Talk to someone if you are worried or homesick
- Meet other new students
- Chill out or play games
- Enter competitions and pick up tickets to the Unismart event
- Find out who your Peer Guide is (you will have been contacted by your department if you have been allocated a peer guide)
- Ask staff and current students questions

There will be events taking place in the Welcome Tent every evening during Welcome Week, all free for new students:

Monday - cupcake decorating

Tuesday - comedy night

Wednesday - chill out

Thursday - bingo!

Friday - speedmating

And much more!

Welcome Week Guide

The Welcome Week Guide is a pull out guide to the week on a lanyard that you can wear throughout Welcome Week. You will be given your lanyard when you arrive at the Welcome Tent. Students living in Kingswood Halls will also be able to collect their Guides from the common room in Kingswood I. Your Guide will detail all the events happening in your Hall, from movie nights to speed-mating, cupcake decorating to music events.

In addition, the Guide features information about general events running across campus and a map to help you find your way around including the places you are most likely to visit during the week. There will also be space to add your academic department activities so you can be sure that you aren't missing out on anything.

Welcome Week Passport

In addition to receiving the Guide, you will also get the Welcome Week Passport. The Passport lists key locations across campus including cafes, shops and places to eat. The aim is to visit each location to obtain a sticker for your Passport. You can submit your completed Welcome Week Passport to be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes in the prize draw at the end of the week. Submit your completed Passport in the Welcome Tent.





Arriving at Royal Holloway

Living in Halls

When you arrive on campus:

1. Go to your Hall, collect your room key and find your room before you start unloading.
2. When you have unloaded, introduce yourself to your new flatmates and neighbours
3. Give yourself five minutes to take it all in: it's an exhausting day physically and emotionally
4. Visit the Welcome Tent in the North Quad of Founders to pick up your Welcome Week Guide and Passport

Top Tip: Student volunteers will be situated in all Halls to help you find your room and unload.

New Undergraduate Students: Welcome Presentations and suppers will be taking place in each Hall from 5 pm on Saturday 22nd September, so make sure that you have moved into your room before this time. The specific times and location of each Hall's presentation will be listed in your Welcome Week Guide.

New Postgraduate Students: The Welcome Presentation will take place at 6.30 pm in the Windsor Building Auditorium on Sunday 23rd September 2012. The presentation will be followed by refreshments.

Every student living in Hall will be given a Hall Social Pass when you collect your room key. You will need this Pass to gain entry into the Hall events during Welcome Week and throughout the academic year.

Living Locally or Commuting

For all students who are living in the local area or commuting to Royal Holloway, there will be a Welcome Presentation followed by supper on Saturday 22nd September 2012 at 6.30 pm in the Windsor Building Auditorium. Please collect your ticket from Founder's West 148 on the day.

Please note that if you live more than 1.5 miles from campus you are entitled to apply for a car parking permit. You cannot bring a car onto campus if you live less than 1.5 miles away and you are not able to park in the neighbouring streets. You can apply for a permit in the Windsor Building between the hours of 10 - 4 pm during Welcome Week just remember to bring your insurance, college card and V5!

Top Tip: Parking is very limited on campus so make sure you allow extra time to find a space and make your way to the building you need to be in.

Postgraduate Students

Royal Holloway has a large population of postgraduate students. We encourage all new postgraduate students to visit the Welcome Tent if you have specific concerns or questions. As well as getting involved in the activities running throughout Welcome Week, there will be a Postgraduate Welcome Reception on Thursday 27th September from 6.30 – 8.30 pm in the Picture Gallery, which is located in Founder's Building.

Mature Students

Royal Holloway has a vibrant community of mature students. We understand that your needs may be different to other new students so please visit the Welcome Tent if you have any specific concerns. We also encourage you to get involved with as many of the activities running throughout Welcome Week as you can. There is a Mature Students' Informal Gathering on Sunday 23rd September from 3 pm in the Welcome Tent, and you are welcome to bring family with you.

Parents, Family and Friends

Arriving at university with parents and friends is exciting; they get to see where you will be living and help you move in! On Saturday 22nd September the Picture Gallery in Founder's Building will be open for parents from 10 am – 4 pm, with the Principal speaking at advertised times during the day. Parents and friends will also be able to gather information, talk to staff and get a much needed cup of tea! It can be difficult to say goodbye, so make sure you are prepared: we recommend that you plan to say your goodbyes by 4 pm so that you can settle into your new surroundings.

Top Tip: Whilst your parents, family and friends are in the Picture Gallery, why not pop over to the Welcome Tent (located outside the Picture Gallery) to start meeting other new students?





International Students

Tours of the Local Area

Shopping Trip to Staines: Current Royal Holloway students will introduce you to their favourite shops and restaurants in the nearby town of Staines, as well as giving you time to find some of your own. Meet at the Welcome Tent in the North Quad of Founder's Building. The train costs around £2 for a return.

Monday 24th September: 11 am

Wednesday 26th September: 11 am

Friday 28th September: 11 am

Trip to Windsor: Visit the beautiful town of Windsor, see the famous castle and do a little shopping. Current Royal Holloway students will accompany you on the local bus to the town. Admission to the castle is £15.50 (with student ID) or £17.00. Meet at the Welcome Tent in the North Quad. The bus costs around £5 for a return.

Tuesday 25th September: 11 am

Thursday 27th September: 11 am

Top Tip: Tours of the local area are open to all new students and are a great way of getting to know nearby areas off campus.

Airport Pick-Up

If you are arriving at London Heathrow Airport (LHR) on 22nd or 23rd September, Royal Holloway is offering a free airport pick-up service. It is essential that you book this service, so follow the link to reserve your space: www.rhul.ac.uk/international/afterapplying/pre-departureadvice/freeairportcollection

Welcome Reception

The International Student Welcome Reception will take place on Monday 24th September from 6 pm – 8 pm in Medicine Bar (near The Hub). This is a great opportunity for international students to get to know the International Student Support Team, as well as other international students from all over the world. A free welcome drink will be provided.

Orientation New Students

**Wednesday 26th September:
10.30 am – 12 pm in the Windsor Building Auditorium**

This is an important session for all new students starting a full degree programme to give you information about the various services and facilities for international students.

Visiting Students (Erasmus, Study Abroad, International Exchange)

**Monday 24th September:
1.30 – 3 pm in the Windsor Building Auditorium**

If you are studying at Royal Holloway for a semester or year as part of a Study Abroad or Exchange programme, this session will give you specific information about the support and services for visiting students.

Academic Expectations

**Thursday 27th September:
1.30 – 2.30 pm in the Windsor Building Auditorium**

This session will give international students important information about the UK academic system, including how you will be taught, how the courses are structured, and what your course tutors will expect from you. Open to all international students.





Welcome Week timetable

Friday 21st September

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
International	5 – 7 pm	International Student Welcome Evening	Sports Centre	International Students

Saturday 22nd September

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Tent	9 am – 12 am	Welcome Tent Open: come here when you first arrive, chill out, play games and meet new people. Purchase refreshments here.	Founder's North Quad	Everyone
Activity	From 10 am	Undergraduate arrivals	All undergraduate halls	New Undergraduates
Talk	10 am – 4 pm	Parent's Welcome Reception: hear from the Principal, speak to members of staff. Refreshments will also be available.	Picture Gallery, Founder's Building	Parents
Friends	8.30 pm	Welcome Social: Circus Theme!	Kingswood 8bar9	Kingswood Residents
Friends	9.30 pm	Quiz Night	Crosslands	Founder's and Off Campus Residents
Friends	9.30 pm	Quiz Night	Imagine	All halls except Founder's, Kingswood and Off Campus residents

Sunday 22nd September

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Tent	9 am – 12 am	Welcome Tent Open: open all day so you can chill out, play games and meet new people. Purchase refreshments here.	Founder's North Quad	Everyone
Activity	From 10 am	Postgraduate arrivals	Mainly North A30 Halls	New Postgraduate Resident Students
Activity	From 10 am	Returning student arrivals	Various	Returning Students
Walking	11 am	Walking Tour of the Local Area	From the Hub	Everyone
Activity	12 - 3 pm	Rush Hockey Taster	Tennis Courts	Everyone
Walking	1 pm	Walk from Kingswood to campus and back	From Kingswood Reception	Kingswood Residents
Friends	2 pm	Meet your Neighbours: student volunteers will help you get to know your new neighbours	Outside your hall	Residents living on campus
Friends	3 pm	Mature Students Informal Meeting	Welcome Tent	Mature Students
Walking	4 pm	Walking Tour of the Local Area	From the Welcome Tent	Everyone
Walking	5.30 pm	Walk from campus to Kingswood	From the Welcome Tent	Kingswood Residents
Talk	6 pm	Welcome Introduction: making the most of your time at Royal Holloway. Followed by refreshments.	Windsor Building Auditorium	New Postgraduate Students
Friends	6pm	Service of Welcome	Chapel	Everyone
Friends	8 – 11 pm	Informal chill out and socialising	Highfield Common Room	Everyone
Friends	8 pm	Movie Night	Windsor Building Auditorium	Everyone
Friends	8 pm	Speedmating – The Fastest Way to Make a Friend!	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	8.30 pm	Bingo!	Founder's Common Room	Founder's Residents

Key:

	Friends		Tent
	Talk		Walking
	Activity		International

Monday 24th September

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Tent	9 am – 9 pm	Welcome Tent Open: open all day so you can chill out, play games and meet new people.	Founder's North Quad	Everyone
Activity	From 9 am	Sign up for Orchestra (Auditions Tuesday and Thursday)	Wettons Terrace 002	Open to all
Activity	10 – 6 pm	Media Fayre: Meet the media teams for your student newspaper, radio and TV stations	Tommy's Bar	Everyone
Walking	11 am	Shopping Trip to Staines: buy your ticket at the station	From the Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	11 am	Free coffee hosted by the Counselling Service	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Talk/International	1.30 – 3 pm	Orientation for all Visiting Students	Windsor Building Auditorium	Erasmus, Study Abroad and International Exchange students
Friends/International	6 pm	International Students' Welcome Event	Medicine	International Students
Friends	7 pm	Cupcake Decorating (£1)	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	8.30 pm	SingStar	Crosslands	Everyone
Friends	9 pm – 2 am	Freshers' Welcome Party (£5)	Students' Union	Everyone

Tuesday 25th September

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Tent	9 am – 9 pm	Welcome Tent Open: open all day so you can chill out, play games and meet new people.	Founder's North Quad	Everyone
Activity	From 9 am	Orchestra Auditions for woodwind and brass	Woodlands Room 2	Open to all
Activity	10 – 6 pm	Media Fayre: Meet the media teams for your student newspaper, radio and TV stations	Tommy's Bar	Everyone
Walking	11 am	Trip to Windsor: remember to bring bus fare	From the Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	11 am	Free coffee hosted by the Counselling Service	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Activity	12 – 4 pm	Sports Clubs and Societies Taster Sessions	Sports Centre and Medicine	Open to all
Friends	7.30 pm	Comedy Night	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Activity	8 – 10 pm	Drop-in Badminton: free taster session	Sports Centre	Open to all
Activity	8 – 10 pm	Drop-in Basketball: free taster session	Sports Centre	Open to all
Friends	9 pm	Movie Night	Windsor Building Auditorium	Everyone
Friends	9 pm – 2 am	End of Summer Beach Party (£5)	Students' Union	Everyone



Welcome Week timetable continued

Wednesday 26th September				
Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Tent	9 am – 9 pm	Welcome Tent Open: open all day so you can chill out, play games and meet new people.	Founder's North Quad	Everyone!
Talk/International	10.30 – 12 pm	Orientation for all International Students	Windsor Building Auditorium	International students on full-time programmes
Walking	11 am	Shopping Trip to Staines: buy your ticket at the station	From the Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	11 am	Free coffee hosted by the Counselling Service	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Activity	12 – 4 pm	Sports Clubs and Societies Taster Sessions	Sports Centre and Medicine	Open to all
Activity	5 pm	UniSmart: The live survival guide to university with BBQ and Pizza after the event	Windsor Building Auditorium	Everyone
Friends	8 pm	Cheese & Wine Night (£2.50)	Highfield Common Room	Everyone
Friends	8 pm - late	Insanity Radio Present Live Music	Medicine	Everyone
Friends	9 pm – 2 am	Coolio: That's right, former chart topper Coolio plays the SU! (£5)	Students' Union	Everyone

Thursday 27th September				
Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Tent	9 am – 9 pm	Welcome Tent Open: open all day so you can chill out, play games and meet new people.	Founder's North Quad	Everyone!
Activity	From 9 am	Orchestra Auditions for strings	Woodlands Room 2	Open to all
Activity	9 – 5 pm	Fitness Suite Taster Session (£10 from Sports Fayre)	Sports Centre	Open to all
Activity	10 – 5 pm	Sports & Societies Fayre	Students' Union and Sports Centre	Open to all
Walking	11 am	Trip to Windsor: remember to bring bus fare	From the Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	11 am	Free coffee hosted by the Counselling Service	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Talk/International	1.30 pm	Academic Expectations presentation	Windsor Building Auditorium	International Students
Activity	3 – 6 pm	5-a-side Football Festival	Sports Hall Field	Open to all
Talk	6.30 pm	Postgraduate Student Welcome Reception	Picture Gallery	Postgraduate Students
Friends	8 – 10 pm	Karaoke	Imagine	Everyone
Friends	8 pm	Bingo!	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	8 pm – late	Dangerous Minds: if club nights aren't your thing, come and enjoy some poetry, spoken word and live music to launch the SU's Defend Education campaign (£3)	Tommy's Bar	Everyone
Friends	9 pm – 2 am	Thirsty Thursdays	Medicine	Everyone

Key:

	Friends		Tent
	Talk		Walking
	Activity		International

Friday 28th September

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Tent	9 am – 9 pm	Welcome Tent Open: open all day so you can chill out, play games and meet new people.	Founder's North Quad	Everyone!
Activity	9 – 5 pm	Fitness Suite Taster Session (£10 from Sports Fayre)	Sports Centre	Open to all
Activity	10 – 5 pm	Sports & Societies Fayre	Students' Union and Sports Centre	Open to all
Walking	11 am	Shopping Trip to Staines: buy your ticket at the station	From the Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	11 am	Free coffee hosted by the Counselling Service	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Activity	12 – 3 pm	Rush Hockey Taster	Tennis Courts	Everyone
Friends	7 pm	Movie Night	Windsor Building Auditorium	Everyone
Friends	8.30 pm	Speedmating – The Fastest Way to Make a Friend!	Welcome Tent	Everyone
Friends	8.30 – 11 pm	Live Music	Crosslands	Everyone
Friends	8.30 – 11 pm	Escape Presents: Super Heroes versus Super Villains: one of the SU's many fancy dress nights of the year! (£5)	Students' Union	Everyone

Saturday 29th September

Please note that campus will be busy today as it's an Open Day for prospective students

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Walking	12 pm	Walking Tour of the Campus and Local Area	From the Hub	Everyone
Activity	12 – 5 pm	Sports Clubs Team Trials	Various	Open to all

Sunday 30th September

Theme	Time	What?	Location	Who?
Activity	12 – 5 pm	Sports Clubs Team Trials	Various	Open to all
Friends	7.30 pm	Music Department Induction Concert (free for students)	Windsor Building Auditorium	Open to all



All Things Academic

Information

During Welcome Week, your academic department will be holding inductions and receptions. Your department will contact you directly about the induction schedule, but the team in the Welcome Tent will know the dates and times of when you have first contact with them. The team can also show you how to find your department, but remember that your first meeting may not be in the same building! You will receive information from your department in the post, via email or on the department web page before you arrive.

Types of Events

Different departments offer different types of events, but it is important that you attend everything that has been organised for you. Events might include:

- Enrolment: official sign-up with College. Make sure you bring your passport and visa with you for the identity check.
- Welcome Reception: meet and greet with members of academic and administrative staff, other new students and students already studying at Royal Holloway
- Sample Lecture: a taster of university style teaching on a general topic relating to your degree

Top Tip: Find out where your first lecture is going to be held during Welcome Week so that you are more confident on your first day.

UniSmart Presentation

**Wednesday 26th September, 5 pm,
Windsor Building Auditorium**

UniSmart is the live survival guide to university life. The interactive presentation will deal with life at university and tips for making the most of the experience. This will be followed by a reception with the Support & Advisory Services staff, during which you will have the opportunity to ask questions, gather information and pick up some freebies! Refreshments and entertainment after the main event.

It's free to attend but you will need a ticket. You can get your ticket from the Welcome Tent when you arrive or by emailing SupportAndAdvisory@rhul.ac.uk





Things You Should Do

WELCOME

Wear your Welcome Week Guide lanyard

Enjoy yourself

Love your campus

Come to as many events as possible

Organise yourself so you are ready for lectures starting the following week

Meet new people and make new friends

Explore what Royal Holloway life is all about and how you can make the most of it

Checklist

- ☐ Sign-up online
- ☐ Pay my tuition fees
- ☐ Pay my accommodation fees
- ☐ Attend an ID check
- ☐ Attend my department induction

10 Things to Bring

1. Identification (Passport, ID Card, Visa): you will need this to enrol
2. Camera: to capture all your memories
3. Stamps: do it the old fashioned way and write a letter to your parents
4. Phone SIM Card: to use your mobile in the UK
5. Comfy shoes: for walking around our beautiful campus
6. Home comforts: make your room your own with your favourite items from home like photographs and posters
7. Something to share: whether it's tea bags or sweets, sharing is a great way to start conversations
8. Campus Connect username & password: you will need this to logon to the internet on campus
9. Emergency cash: stash some away for a rainy day, or when you don't want to walk up the hill from the train station!
10. Useful items: batteries, plasters, pain-relief...

Bank

If you haven't yet opened a student bank account, you can do this when you arrive. You just need identification and a letter from Royal Holloway or UCAS with your name, address and course details. What's more, if you register with Santander, which is located on campus, you don't even need your letter as your College card and photo ID are sufficient evidence of your status as a student.

Police

Some nationalities will need to register with the police whilst in the UK. If you need to do this, it will be clearly stated on your visa. Email internationaladvice@rhul.ac.uk to book an appointment with the police on the following dates:

Wednesday 26th September

Wednesday 3rd October

Wednesday 10th October

Health Centre

You can register with the Health Centre during Welcome Week. The Health Centre is located on the first floor in Founder's Building. Registration for the Health Centre will take place in the Windsor Building, from 9 am – 5 pm. All forms will be available when you arrive. You will need to bring:

- Health Centre Registration Card (Yellow)
- Family Doctor Services Registration Form (Purple and White)
- Passport sized photo
- Passport and valid visa with course dates (Non-EU only)



Top Tips

Top Tips Content

- Don't panic: You will be spending the next year or more with us, so you don't have to do everything in your first week!
- Talk to people: everyone is in the same situation so use this bond to make friends
- Get a routine: you have to manage your own time and keep yourself motivated at university. Keep focused, but if you feel it slipping make sure you ask for help.
- Cope with homesickness or culture shock: you might not realise you are experiencing this, but if you feel unhappy or uneasy then there are plenty of people who can help.
- Ask sooner rather than later: it's a sign of maturity, not a sign you can't cope. Sharing a problem makes it easier to find solutions.
- Not what you thought? If you have spent a long time imaging what university is going to be like, it might not be exactly as you thought. Seek help to manage this and discuss your options.

Above all, enjoy yourself! University can be the best years of your life but you have to put in to get something out. Grab all the opportunities you can: the adventure starts now.

Contact Information

If you have any concerns or queries about your arrival or joining us in September please contact us at **WelcomeWeek@rhul.ac.uk** or **SupportAndAdvisory@rhul.ac.uk**

You can also join us on Facebook – RHUL Welcome Week

All the information about what's happening across campus in Welcome Week will be available in your Welcome Week Guide Lanyard when you arrive on campus, so please think about the environment before printing this document off.

