



Fresher's Information Pack

www.gardenofthelord.org.uk/fresherspack

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Disclaimer Statement

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied herein, the material provided is intended only for information purposes and does not constitute or represent advice or guidance to be relied upon. RCCG garden of the LORD parish cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage arising from the use of this booklet and users of this booklet are required to verify its information and ensure that they consult a competent adviser for necessary advice and guidance.

Welcome

Are you new to Cardiff as a student? Congratulations on gaining a place to study in Cardiff and a very warm welcome to you. We are delighted that you have chosen to study here and trust that you will enjoy your academic experience and time in the beautiful city of Cardiff. Kindly take time to read this booklet which has a rich variety of useful resources to help you in settling down. We trust that you have a blessed and fruitful time in Cardiff. Our prayer is that during your stay here you would know more about God and His purposes for your life. God bless you richly.

Pastor Edwin Egede

<http://www.gardenofthelord.org.uk/>

The city of Cardiff

The city of Cardiff is the largest in Wales and also the capital city. In the 19th century and early 20th centuries, Cardiff was very popular for Coal exporting. Today, the City of Cardiff offers students an excellent and conducive location to live and study while also providing an opportunity to sight see historical locations.

Cardiff is a friendly and inexpensive city which provides cultural and state of the art recreational amenities available in a progressive modern capital. Currently, students at Cardiff, benefit from a stable and welcoming environment that hosts three universities namely: Cardiff University, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff and University of Glamorgan.

The city which currently has a population of about 336,000¹ also hosts national or regional headquarters of popular companies such as Admiral Insurance, 118118, HBOS, Zurich, ING Direct, The AA, British Gas, SWALEC Energy and BT.

¹ Population Estimates For Cardiff Unitary Authority 2009

In all, the city and its people are very welcoming and friendly. We hope you have a nice time studying here in Cardiff.

SOME USEFUL LINKS:

Cardiff City

- **Cardiff City Council**
www.cardiff.gov.uk

- **A guide to the City's attractions**
www.visitcardiff.com

- **Cardiff Bus**
www.cardiffbus.com

University Websites

- **Cardiff University**
www.cardiff.ac.uk

- **University of Wales Institute Cardiff**
www3.uwic.ac.uk

- **University of Glamorgan**
www.glam.ac.uk

Knowing your way around

Having come newly into Cardiff to study, it is very important you know your way around swiftly. This will help you complete your induction in time and also help you to arrive at lectures promptly.

For easy navigation around your university buildings, you could check for a university map amongst the documents you must have been given prior to arrival at the university.

Also, all the three universities currently operate a very reliable and friendly Students union as well as International Student centres, where you could always pop-in for more information.

Below, we also list some important information points that are available at each of the three universities

Cardiff University

- Student Union Building
- Graduate Center
- Admin Building

Glamorgan University

- Student Union Building
- International Office
- Careers Service

UWIC

- The International Office, Room T0.05, Llandaff Campus
- The Student Centre, Llandaff Campus

Opening a Bank Account

Opening a bank account as a student in the UK is quite straight forward. To do this, you would need a bank letter from your University, proof of Identity and a proof of your address.

In the city of Cardiff currently, there are many banks such as Barclays, Lloyds, HSBC, HBOS, NatWest and many others. For University of Glamorgan students residing at Treforest, there are also many banks in Pontypridd which you can open an account with.

However, it is important to look around and identify what accounts are available from various banks before opening an account; so as to identify which account best meets your personal financial need.

Also, it is important to understand, read through the documentation and ask questions when in doubt with regards to what your bank account offers. If unsure of what account to open, please seek further information from the international office and/or the Students Union at your University.

Registering with a GP

As a student, it is important to remain in good health as this will enable you to focus effectively on your studies.

In the UK, it is quite important that every student register with a general practice (GP) in order to provide access to appropriate care in the event of illness. The registration process varies from University to University however; all the three universities in Cardiff have health centres which will be able to provide you with further information on available GPs to register with.

Generally, you will be required to provide information about yourself and also fill in a health history questionnaire, to enable health practitioners understand how best to treat you in case of sickness.

We provide below, the address of all the health centres in the three universities.

Cardiff University Health Centre

■ 47 Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3AT

Glamorgan University

■ The University Health Centre in Treforest (T Block) and Atrium in Cardiff.

UWIC

■ Medical Centre located in Warwick House on the Cyncoed Campus

Working as an International Student

Under the immigration rule as at publication of this document², international students are allowed to work up to 20 hours during term time and full-time hours during the holidays. However, immigration rules change regularly and we would advise you check with the **Home Office** and your university careers service to confirm the latest immigration rules.

If you have student immigration permission that allows you to take employment during your studies, you would need to register for a National Insurance Number with the Department for Work and Pension.

For student jobs, there are various agencies such as Acorn, Reed, Abacus, Brook Street and many others located in Cardiff city and Pontypridd where you could easily look for jobs. Also, your school's student union website and various other student Job boards such as Propsects.ac.uk and gowales.co.uk could also be searched for part-time and student jobs.

Useful Links

Home Office Website

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/>

Department of Work and Pensions

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>

² Tier 4 of the Points Based System as at 23/07/2010

The Student Fellowship Network

The Student Fellowship Network is a network of student fellowships organised by The Redeemed Christian Church of God, garden of the LORD, Cardiff. The network is made up of various university fellowships in Cardiff and its surrounding towns, as a platform to spread the word of God to students.

Currently, the network consists of three university fellowships namely, the Timothy Bible study (for Cardiff University Students), Wells of Salvation (for University of Glamorgan Students) and the True Vine fellowship (for UWIC students).

From time to time, various programmes are organised that bring together students from various individual fellowships to share the Word of God together and also learn from each other. Furthermore, the Student Fellowship Network also offers a platform for people from various backgrounds, to easily settle into Cardiff; as you will meet other students who will be able to share their personal experiences with you and provide you with useful tips that will help you to settle into your new student life.

Joining the Student Fellowship Network

To Join the Student fellowship network, or for any further information about the Fellowship's programs, kindly contact us

on **07506743683** or **07852256518** or call one of the current student fellowship leaders

Timothy Bible Study (TBS) –

Funmi 07810597617 (Cardiff University)

Wells of Salvation –

Isaiah 07828013510 (University of Glamorgan)

True Vine Fellowship –

Yemi 07733724029 (UWIC)

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get accommodation?

Answer: Each University has provisions for Halls of Residence if you are looking to live within the premises, details on residency, costs and applications can be found on the websites using the residences/living and accommodation links. You can also contact the student offices for more information.

Also, there are a lot of accommodations in Cardiff and Treforest let out by private landlords such as shared houses and flats whereby cost varies depending on the location, facilities and bills. The Students' Union Advice Centre has and keeps updated lists of private accommodation and can help with advice on what to look out for and consider.

How do I get a job?

Answer: You are able to work part time whilst you're studying, up to 20 Hours a week during term time and any number of hours during vacations. To get a job, you can start by contacting and registering with your University's JOBSHOP/ADVICE CENTRE where you can get help in finding a part- time, temporary, vacation or casual work; also you can register with the student union website to get regular emails on job vacancies sent to you directly. Several Job agencies are also available within Cardiff and Treforest where you can work in to register and get job assignments.

■ Where do I get the best deals?

Answer: There are so many deals available to students ranging from clothing, mobile phones, cinemas, travel etc. and getting these via discount codes, vouchers, offers are all ways to ensure you get the most for your money. Students' deals and offers are available on the net and in shops (Queen Street in Cardiff and Pontypridd in Treforest). There are also Travel Companies like National express and Mega Bus that have some money saving student deals and travel offers for those looking to shuttle from Cardiff to other cities. And don't forget to get your NUS student Card from your respective Universities and you can be rest assured to get the cheapest and best deals!