



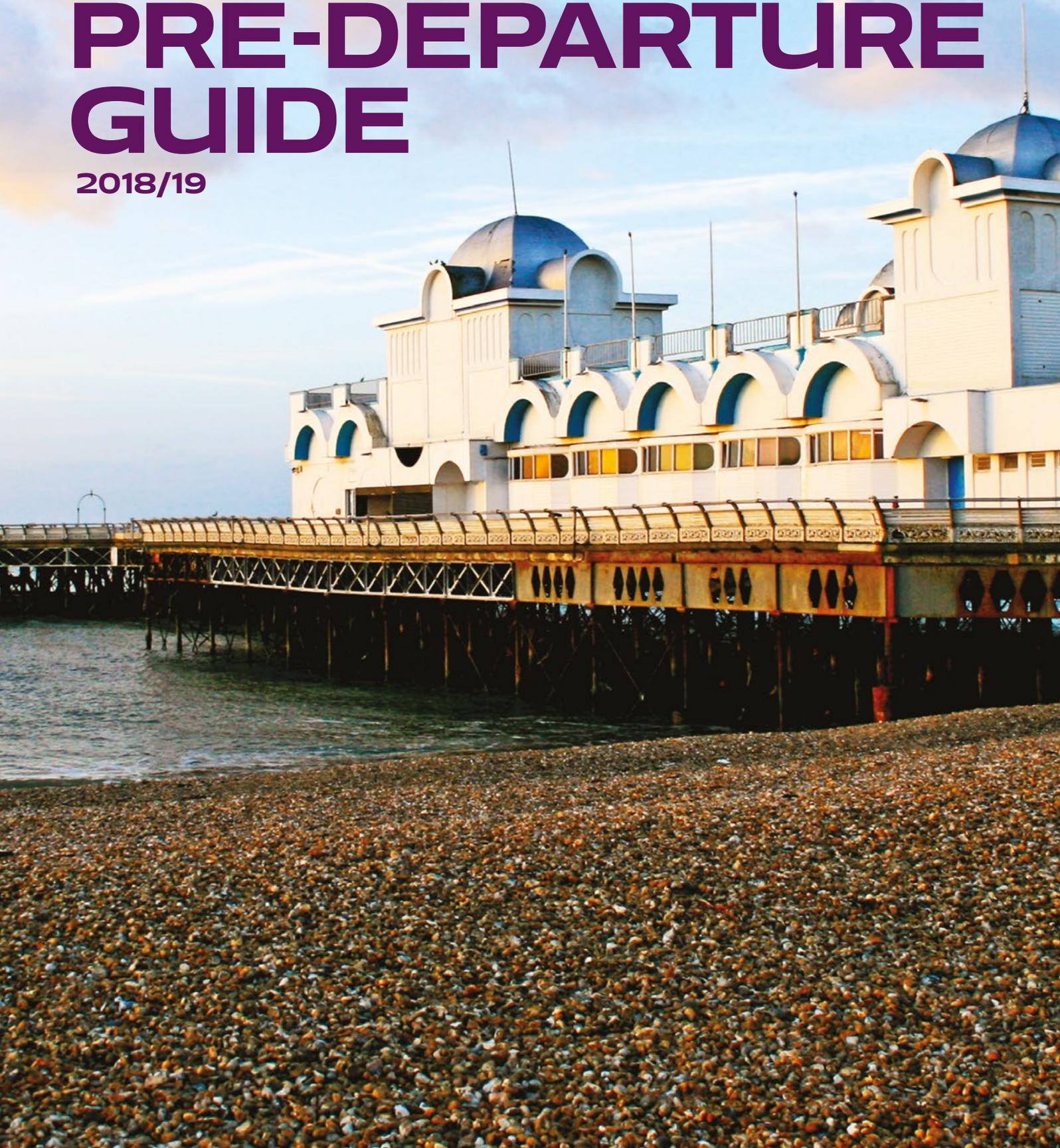
UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH



International College Portsmouth

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE

2018/19



Welcome

WELCOME TO PORTSMOUTH, AND THANK YOU FOR SELECTING INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE PORTSMOUTH. BY CHOOSING ICP YOU WILL BE JOINING HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE ALSO DECIDED TO TAKE THIS FIRST EXCITING STEP TOWARDS A REWARDING FUTURE. ICP AIMS TO DELIVER A FIRST RATE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS A TRULY ENJOYABLE ONE. THIS GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO EASE YOU INTO YOUR LIFE AS A STUDENT IN PORTSMOUTH AND AIMS TO PROVIDE THE KEY INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED TO PREPARE FOR YOUR NEW LIFE IN THE UK. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU HERE IN THE COLLEGE. SAFE TRAVELS!



Peter Venables

College Director/Principal, ICP

Contents

Preparing for your departure

Welcome	2
Student and Academic Services	3
Life at ICP	5
Entry clearance and visa guide	6
Application process	8
Preparing to leave home	9

Arriving in Portsmouth, United Kingdom

Arriving in the UK	11
Getting started at ICP	12
Orientation and Enrolment	13
Living in Portsmouth	14

Practical information

Important websites	17
Map of Portsmouth University Quarter	18





Academic and Student Services

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SERVICES ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR TIME AT ICP. THE TEAM ARE ALL GRADUATES THEMSELVES AND WILL HELP YOU TO NOT ONLY SETTLE IN BUT TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH. THEY CANNOT WAIT TO MEET YOU.



Hi, my name is Kat.

I have worked in the higher education field for five years in several different roles, both in Zimbabwe where I am from, as well as here in the UK. As a Student Services Officer at ICP, part of my role is to help prepare students to progress to the University. I also look after attendance, timetabling and referrals, among others. Having been an international student myself, I really enjoy my job as I get to help students from all over the world settle in to their new life in the UK. I love watching our students go from strength to strength in their studies, and seeing them finally graduate from the University of Portsmouth makes me really proud to have played a part in the academic journey here in Portsmouth.



Hi I'm Chris and I'm really looking forward to meeting you. In the three years that I have worked here, I have seen hundreds of students grow into confident and happy University graduates.

I look after student finances, registration, and lead our College Enhancement Team. In Student Services, we will support you in getting to the University of Portsmouth and help with any issues that you may have while at ICP. Even if you just want to come in and tell us how your weekend was, we would love to hear about it!

My favourite hobbies are football, rugby and golf. If you have a chance to watch a Portsmouth FC match while you are here, you will definitely want to come back and watch another.

Academic and Student Services (continued)



Hello, I am Cat and I work closely with students who need support with Police Registration when they first arrive at ICP. I am a main link and closely liaise with both sponsors and sponsored students during their time at ICP. For any students who require additional Academic Support, I run a Tutorial class. For anyone who has a disability or learning difficulty I also organise support and try to ensure that the transfer process to the University itself is smooth.



Welcome to Portsmouth! My name is Thania and I love my role in Student Services. From organising Sports Events, planning our varied Welfare Weeks and keeping you up to date with all of our news and events, I am your go to person. If you're just as much of a sports fanatic as I am, please do let me know. I would love to work together to organise events that I know you will enjoy. If you ever need anything, any documents, general advice or CV tips, please let me know. We're always available to help!



Welcome! My name is Tanya and I have one of the best roles in Student Services: organising fun activities! We've hosted events from 'British Tea' to trips to the Spinnaker Tower. Let me know if there is an activity you would like to do and we'll try and organise it! If you also find you need support in your personal life, we always have our door open. Feel free to come in for a chat anytime.

Contacts

If you would like any further information or have any questions then please feel free to contact our support team via the details below.

Student Services

T +44 (0)2392 848540

E studentservices@icp.port.ac.uk

Emergency numbers

ICP Student Services offers an emergency phone number for students experiencing urgent difficulties:

+44 (0)7872 548496 (24 hours a day)

In the event of a life-threatening emergency you must phone Emergency Services on 999.

Life at ICP

WE FULLY SUPPORT THE ETHOS OF WORK HARD, PLAY HARD AT ICP. WE WILL DO OUR ABSOLUTE BEST TO WORK WITH YOU AS YOU DEVELOP INTO AN INDEPENDENT LEARNER AND SUCCEED TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES.

Learning and teaching

Your lessons will be comprised of small group lectures, seminars and field trips where applicable delivered by subject experts. Students are encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Workshops at ICP

- Tutorial
- English speaking
- English writing
- Digital Skills
- Research and Referencing
- Lab Report
- Maths Café
- Weekly support

Digital support at ICP

We work collaboratively with students, lectures and staff to remain at the forefront of innovative education and to ensure our students are prepared for onward employment.

- Virtual Learning Environment - Moodle
- Campus wide WiFi
- Dedicated computer suites
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- Digital Champions
- Student IT Support Centre
- IS Service Desk
- Academic Skills Unit
- Library Staff

Student experience at ICP

As well as a fantastic degree from the University of Portsmouth, we hope that you will leave with lifelong friends and memories. Below are some examples of life at ICP;

Weekly sport sessions

- ICP League
- Off site events (Laser Quest, go-karting, bowling, ice skating, city trips, Flip Out, Playzone etc.)
- Film Nights
- Games Night
- Competitions
- UP Students' Union
- Awards Evening

Student support

- Registration and Enrolment
- Orientation Weeks
- BRP Collection
- Accommodation
- Police Registration
- Bank Letters
- Student Council and Module Ambassadors
- Finances

Student welfare

- Welfare Advisor
- Living in the UK
- Healthy Living
- Cultural Awareness
- Finance and Budgeting
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Facts about Smoking
- Safe Sex Awareness
- Weekly under 18 meetings
- Get Active Stay Active programme

You will often find that we can help to resolve whatever is on your mind quickly and easily. So whatever problems you encounter, the Student Services team is here to help.





Entry clearance and visa guide

Do I need a visa?

To be able to travel to the UK as a degree level student you are required to pass a points based assessment to be given your 30 day entrance vignette. The score you require to be successful in your application to study at ICP is 40 points. Within 10 days of your arrival in the UK you must collect your BRP (Biometric Residence Permit).

What is BRP?

The Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) is proof of your right to study in the UK. Make sure you take your BRP confirmation letter before travelling to the UK. You need to collect your BRP within 10 days of arriving, and you will need it for your registration at ICP. In order to collect your BRP from ICP, please ensure you submit the University of Portsmouth collection number on your visa application.

How is the score calculated?

You will score 30 points for a CAS Statement from an approved education provider and 10 points if you can show you have enough finances to cover your course fees and monthly living expenses for up to nine months (known as maintenance).

What is a CAS Statement?

CAS stands for Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies and includes information about you, your sponsor, the course, and your finances.

There are eight main sections to your CAS statement:

CAS details

This section details the sponsoring institution (University of Portsmouth) and includes their sponsor license number (926WMQQ73). You will find your unique CAS number here (14 digits long and starts with an E) which you will need to make your visa application. Please note that you can only use your CAS number for one application, if you make a second application you will need to be issued a new CAS statement. CAS statements are valid for six months. ICP issue CAS statements three months before the enrolment date of the course. The sponsor's address is University House, Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth PO1 2UP.

Student's details

This section will include your personal details. Please note that these details should exactly match your passport. You will be given a unique student ID number, which is important as it will allow you to get your student card and use the University facilities.

Entry clearance and visa guide (continued)

Offer details

This section outlines details of the course you have applied for, particularly the enrolment date. Students are given a two week enrolment period. The end date of your course will be an estimated date you are due to finish your studies at the University by. As all of our students enrol into a full-time course, we do not need to state the hours of study. Students enrolling onto either MSc Mechanical Engineering or MSc Petroleum and Gas Engineering are required to have an ATAS certificate before they enrol onto their course, this section will be ticked yes if an ATAS certificate is required.

Main study address

The main study address will be of the faculty in which you will study at the University. Please ensure when applying for your visa the main study address matches the address in this section of the CAS.

Evidence provided

This section will list the academic and English qualifications we have assessed you on. Please ensure that when you apply for your visa, you submit the original certificates that match the qualifications on the CAS statement. If you have previously studied in the UK, this information will be captured in this section.

Accommodation and fees

Students are required to pay 50% of their first year tuition fees and this payment will be reflected here. If you have paid money towards your accommodation fees, this will also be shown in this section. For more information regarding demonstrating maintenance for your visa application, please follow this link: gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/documents-you-must-provide.

Partner institution details (if applicable)

ICP is the partner institution of the University of Portsmouth, therefore the ICP address will be detailed here. You do not need to use this address on your visa application.

Proof of finance

Students are required to show maintenance for nine months of study, which for outer London is currently £9,135. Students can use a personal bank account of their parent(s)/guardian(s). If this is the case, they will need to submit a financial permission letter and birth certificate.

For further information about the documentation you need to prove availability of funds, visit the Home Office website.

How do I apply for a visa?

You are required to fill in the application form, pay your fee and include:

- a current passport or travel document
- a CAS Statement from a licensed sponsor
- documents to show you have the correct finances (maintenance) available
- documents used by your sponsors when they accepted you on to the course
- the IHS number, you get once the NHS surcharge is paid. For more information on this, follow this link: gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application.

The UKVI will also need to record your biometric details if you are applying from outside the United Kingdom.

As part of your visa application, you may be asked to attend a credibility interview. This is not something to worry about but it is best to ensure that you can explain to someone why you chose ICP and the University of Portsmouth. Our video explains what a credibility interview is: youtube.com/watch?v=Kq8hfiQGDfk

UK VISA REGULATIONS: points-based system for students (Tier 4)

As the information in this section is for guidance only, we recommend you refer to the Home Office website for the most up-to-date information: ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Credibility interviews

As part of the application process you can be invited to an interview to provide further details on your intentions to study in the UK.

This means that you may be asked to undertake a short interview when you visit the visa centre to submit your visa application. For most students this interview will last about five minutes and be conducted via a video link with a specialist team based in the UK. The interview will focus on your reasons for choosing to study in the UK – this is known as a credibility interview.

Some students may also be called for a face to face interview if the visa officer requires more information. If you are asked to attend an interview it is vital that you attend. Failure to do so will result in an automatic refusal of your visa application.

What questions will I be asked?

The questions may vary depending on the interview, however the important thing is to remain relaxed and to answer all questions honestly. Examples of some typical questions are:

- Why do you want to study in the UK?
- What are the benefits of studying in the UK compared to your home country?
- Why did you choose the University of Portsmouth?
- Which other colleges/universities did you consider?
- Where is the University of Portsmouth?
- Do you know how large the university is; how many students?
- Why did you choose this course and how does it relate to your previous study?
- How do you explain the gaps in your study history (if relevant)?
- What is the relevance of the course to your future career?
- What qualification will you receive from the University?
- How long does your course last?
- How is your course assessed?
- Did you consider any other course?
- Does this course offer any professional recognition?
- Are you planning to stay in the UK on completion to study for a higher award such as a Master's degree?
- What facilities are available at the University of Portsmouth?

Entry clearance and visa guide (continued)

Application process

STEP 1: submit application

Student submits application to Embassy/High Commission or Visa Application Centre.

It is important to submit all relevant supporting documents. If you want your BRP to be delivered in to the University use the Alternative Collection Point (ACL) code provided with your CAS statement.

STEP 2: interview

Student may be asked to undertake an interview, either in person or on the phone, to check that they are a genuine student.

Interview will last 5-10 minutes and will include a number of questions – aimed at identifying study history, intent to study and English language ability. No visa decision is made at this point.

A report of the interview will be written and attached to the Visa Application for consideration.

STEP 3: consideration

Entire visa file considered by Entry Clearance Officer against Tier 4 rules (inclusive of maintenance, CAS and consideration of the interview record).

Student scores 30 points for CAS and 10 for maintenance. ECO is satisfied that the student is a credible student who is also able to converse in English.

Student scores 30 points for CAS and 10 for maintenance but student credibility is not proven.

Student fails to achieve 30 points for the CAS and/or 10 points for maintenance.

30 day entrance vignette granted

A telephone or face to face interview may be scheduled with the ECO to obtain further information.

Visa application refused on credibility

Visa application refused on points

Travel to the UK

Send ICP a copy of the full refusal letter.

Collect BRP from the University or the local Post Office depending on the pick-up location you chose in your application form



Preparing to leave home

LEAVING HOME AND MOVING TO A NEW COUNTRY CAN BE A CHALLENGING STEP FOR ANYONE, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR YOUR NEW LIFE ABROAD. THIS SECTION SHOULD PROVIDE SOME GUIDANCE ON SOME OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER.

Important documents

There are a number of documents that are important to bring with you when you travel to the UK:

- A valid passport and a 30 day entrance vignette and decision letter
- Your CAS Statement
- Certified originals of your academic transcripts (including evidence of English proficiency)
- Personal identification (for example driver's licence, birth certificate, etc.)
- Full details and evidence of your accommodation in the UK
- Contact numbers for any family/friends in the UK
- Contact details of family/friends in the event of an emergency
- If you are under 18, your guardian must be a resident in the UK and appointed by your parent
- Your police registration certificate (if you have previously registered in the UK).

It is useful to bring a number of small (passport-sized) full-face photographs, as these are often required for various cards (such as student rail cards) and for police registration (if required). They must be standard UK passport size, with white or pale grey coloured background, and include the whole head and shoulders. Photographs can be obtained in the UK, but may be more expensive than in your home country.

Packing your things

Student dress codes in the UK are casual. The general rule is to wear something you feel comfortable in. Most students wear jeans and trainers to lectures.

Spring/summer – summers can be quite warm in coastal regions like Portsmouth, but it is advisable to have warmer clothing just in case, as the UK does not have a tropical climate. Medium weight clothing such as sweatshirts are appropriate throughout the year but t-shirts are more useful for the summer.

Winter – warmer clothing and footwear including rainwear is needed. It is recommended that you have a light waterproof jacket for all year.

You can pick up most of these things relatively cheaply in Portsmouth, or you may wish to travel into London to enjoy all the benefits of one of the fashion capitals of the world.

It may be a good idea to bring some personal items (basic toiletries: toothbrush, soap, towel, etc.) so that you do not need to go shopping as soon as you arrive. If you are struggling to get your suitcase within the luggage limits or forget anything, much of what you may need can be bought in Portsmouth.

Preparing to leave home (continued)

If you need glasses or contact lenses, we advise that you bring a spare pair and a current optical prescription, as these items are expensive in the UK.

Accommodation

ICP has a range of accommodation options to suit you. It is recommended that you research and reserve your accommodation in good time before you travel to the UK.

For students arriving in the September and January intakes, ICP offers accommodation at our Halls of Residence located at the seafront, just a 10-15 minute walk from the College. Overlooking Southsea Common, our Halls offer some of the best views in Portsmouth. All rooms are fully furnished, secure and include access to modern kitchen facilities and communal areas with Wi-Fi and flat screen TVs.

ICP also works with a number of local housing providers to offer a range of additional accommodation options for new students to suit any budget. For further information and to register your interest, visit our website or e-mail accommodation@icp.port.ac.uk.

Currency

Cash

You should make sure you bring a small amount of cash with you for your day-to-day expenses until you have registered at ICP and opened a bank account. We recommend £200 in small denominations (£5, £10 and £20 notes), as change can be a problem in some of the smaller stores. Please note if you have not previously booked accommodation, you will need money available for a deposit.

The UK is predominantly a 'card culture' with most purchases being made with a debit or credit card. It is always beneficial to carry a small amount of cash but please do not carry large sums of money when you travel to the UK. Whatever amount of cash you bring with you, make sure:

- you bring sterling (GBP). In the UK you will not be able to use US Dollars or any other currency to pay for things
- you keep the cash on your person when travelling. Use a body belt or similar to carry cash and other valuables and do not under any circumstances place money in your check-in baggage
- you contact the ICP office if you do have a large amount of cash. We cannot store it for you but will advise you on how to open a bank account. In the UK you will not normally be able to open a bank account until you have registered with ICP as a student and have arranged permanent accommodation.

Please note that ICP cannot take responsibility for cash lost by students. It is your responsibility to keep it safe.

Travellers' cheques

Travellers' cheques are a good alternative to carrying cash as they can be converted into cash when you need it. Unlike a personal cheque, you do not need to have a UK bank account in order to use them. If you lose them or they are stolen you can apply to have them replaced. You should normally try to get sterling (GBP)-based travellers' cheques as these are the easiest to cash. GBP travellers' cheques may be used to pay for purchases in larger shops in major towns and cities, but not all shops will accept them. If you bring travellers' cheques in any other currency, most banks and bureaux de change will impose a charge for converting them to GBP.

Credit cards

ICP can accept payment for tuition fees and accommodation charges via most major credit cards (N.B. there is a three per cent handling charge for this). Before you leave home, check with your bank or credit provider to ensure your credit limit is sufficient to make this payment. You should also make sure that you give someone at home authority to pay money into your credit card account whilst you are in the UK.

Debit cards

If you have a debit card (Maestro, Visa or Cirrus) you can use it to pay your tuition fees and accommodation charges (there is no handling charge for payment by debit card), as well as for shopping and other expenses. Before you leave home, check with your bank or credit provider to ensure your credit limit is sufficient to make this payment. You should also make sure that you give someone at home authority to pay money into your bank account whilst you are in the UK.

Travel arrangements

The closest international airports to Portsmouth are London Heathrow and London Gatwick. The journey time from Heathrow and Gatwick to Portsmouth is around 70-80 minutes by car.

Many students travel to and from the UK at the beginning and end of each semester, therefore flights can be heavily oversubscribed at these times. It is advisable to make a flight booking as soon as you have confirmed your registration with ICP.

Students who have chosen not to use ICP's accommodation service and who wish to organise private accommodation will need to have this confirmed prior to arriving in the UK. ICP staff will be on hand to help with any problems during this time. If your accommodation is not arranged in advance please expect to stay in a hotel or bed and breakfast for three to five days while the accommodation is arranged. This will be at your own cost. Students who arrive in the UK late and miss Registration will find it more difficult to adjust and will miss out on vital information about studying and living in Portsmouth.

If students do not arrive by the first day of teaching, they must contact ICP as soon as possible as they may miss valuable introductions to their modules/programmes.

Please ensure that you contact us with your flight details as soon as your flight is booked. Please contact Student Services on +44 (0)2392 848540 or e-mail student.services@icp.port.ac.uk.



Arriving in the UK

Customs

Students arriving in the UK will have to undergo a number of formalities before they can enter. You will need to pass through immigration controls and customs. You should ensure that you have the following available in your hand luggage when you arrive in the UK:

- Valid passport
- Valid 30 day entrance vignette and decision letter
- Proof of residency
- You may be asked for additional information regarding your proposed studies in the UK

Immigration procedures at British airports can be stringent and may result in a considerable delay at the end of your flight, especially during peak traffic periods (at the start of term and at UK holiday periods). To assist the immigration officials, keep all your documents available and be prepared to wait patiently.

There may also be a check of your baggage at the Customs and Quarantine desk to ensure that you comply with import restrictions and are not carrying any banned items. For information on what goods you may bring into the UK, please go to hmrc.gov.uk/nav/index.htm, click on the link to "Travel". On that page you will see links to "Information for travellers", "How to go through Customs" and "Banned & restricted goods".

It is very important that we know when you will arrive and where you intend to stay in the UK. Please contact us with your flight details as soon as you book them and, if you are staying in private accommodation, provide details of a UK address and telephone number. We can then ensure that your arrival into the UK is as smooth as possible. A mobile phone number is also needed, in case we have to contact you when you first arrive.

Arriving from the airport

Airport pick-up

The easiest way to get to ICP is to book an airport pickup through our website. ICP work with a large airport taxi company and if you have pre-booked (by completing the online airport reception form) and have received your confirmation, then a trusted driver (with an ICP placard) will be waiting for you at arrivals to take you to Portsmouth.

The price for the airport pickup is per vehicle and if you are not travelling alone we will need to know the total number of people and number of bags you will bring with you. For more information please visit our website: icp.navitas.com/airport-pickup-options

Train

Great Britain has a very well developed train network and it is the preferred way of transportation for many people. Train services are operated by a variety of different companies. You can get a direct train from Gatwick to Portsmouth, or if you are arriving at Heathrow you get a connecting train from London Waterloo or London Victoria to Portsmouth. Portsmouth and Southsea Station (the main station for Portsmouth) is within walking distance from ICP and the main university campus. If you wish to arrive to Portsmouth by train make sure to check the train times and book your tickets in advance. For timetables and fares, see nationalrail.co.uk

Coach

National Express is an intercity coach operator providing services throughout Great Britain. The company offers around the clock airport transfers to and from all major UK airports.

Transfer times are approximately 3 hours (Heathrow) and 4.5 hours (Gatwick). If you favour this option you will need to book your ticket minimum 24 hours in advance of boarding the bus and make your own way to the correct coach pick up point at the airport (which is determined by your arrival terminal) to board the coach. All services stop at Portsmouth University which is a short walk from ICP and the main university campus.

Visit nationalexpress.com for more information.

Hotels

If you are arriving into the city during office hours you can come straight to ICP (see map on inside back cover) or to your accommodation, but if you are arriving at the weekend or during non-office hours you will need to arrange some temporary accommodation at a local hotel or B&B. Although ICP cannot recommend particular hotels, among others, three that are convenient and popular with our students are:

IBIS Hotel (1 minute walk)

Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth PO1 2LX

T +44 (0)2392 640000

W ibishotel.com/gb/hotel-1461-ibis-portsmouth-centre/index.shtml

Holiday Inn Gunwharf Quays (10 minute walk)

Portsmouth PO1 3FD

Hotel Front Desk +44 (0)2392 894240

W holidayinn-expressportsmouth.co.uk

Premier Inn Hotel (2 minute walk)

1 Isambard Brunel Road, Portsmouth PO1 2TR

T +44 (0)8715279522

W premierinn.com

Once you are in Portsmouth, you should inform us of your arrival as soon as possible.



Getting started at ICP

Registration

Attendance at registration is compulsory.

Registration covers essential matters relating to your study at ICP such as enrolment, facilities, procedures and support services, as well as the opportunity to undertake a tour of the area. It is also a great chance to start making friends.

At registration you will be issued with your timetable and an orientation pack containing your course and unit information, book lists and Student Handbook, plus other important information.

Late arrivals who do not attend the registration session must let ICP Student Services know, so we can arrange for you to attend an alternative session. Please contact studentservices@icp.port.ac.uk.

What you will need for registration:

- Current passport and BRP (distributed directly at the University of Portsmouth).
- Original documents of your previous qualifications that you have used to apply for this course (for example IELTS certificate, school diploma or certificate, references, etc.). These must be originals, and photocopies will not be accepted. If you have changed your name since the passport or visa was issued, we will need to see the original documents to prove this change.
- Tenancy agreement or proof of your residence in the UK. Please contact our accommodation officer to arrange your accommodation prior to arrival at accommodation@icp.port.ac.uk.
- Proof of payment of fees; or credit or debit card if you have not yet paid your fees in total (N.B. credit cards will have a three per cent handling charge; there is no charge for paying by debit card).
- £34 to register with the police if applicable.

You cannot attend classes until registration is completed, all fees are paid and we have received proof of residency.

ICP office hours

ICP is open Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 5.00pm.

The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday, and all national holidays.

Police registration

Certain nationalities of international students are required to register with the UK police on arrival.

Students from all the following countries will need to register with the local police:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, Hong Kong, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Palestine, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

Please note these are subject to change and an updated list can be found on the Home Office website.

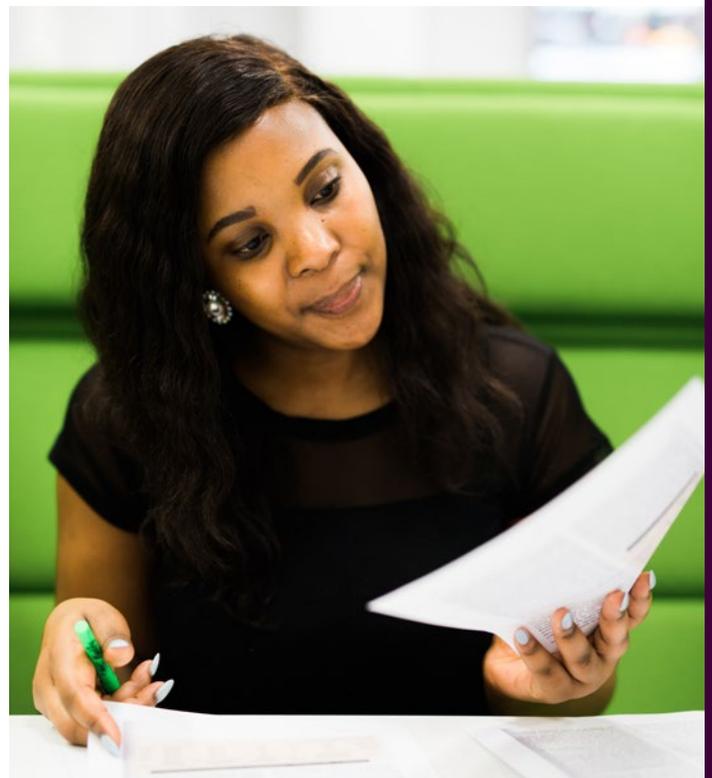
As part of the Registration and Enrolment programme you will be told how and where to register.

BRP collection

As long as you have provided the University's unique reference number in your visa application, your BRP will be waiting for you at the University of Portsmouth when you arrive.

Opening a bank account

ICP will provide information to help you open a UK bank account. Please note you will need to have provided proof of your UK address before you can apply for a UK bank account. Setting up a bank account will take up to three weeks after arrival so please ensure you have adequate funds to support yourself in the interim.





Orientation and Enrolment

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT ICP, YOU WILL NOT ONLY ENROL INTO A TIMETABLE OF CLASSES, BUT YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE OUR 3 WEEK ORIENTATION TIMETABLE. THESE INCLUDE FUN EVENTS, TRIPS AND TOURS RUN BY OUR STUDENT SERVICES TEAM WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE COLLEGE AND OUR GREAT CITY OF PORTSMOUTH. YOU MAY EVEN MEET SOME FRIENDS FOR LIFE ON THE WAY. SOME OF THE EVENTS WE PUT ON ARE OUTLINED BELOW.

Games Night

Play table tennis with or against friends. Can you beat our staff and lecturers in a game of one on one? How good are you at board games – we have a selection of different games to play against other students? Do you like Mario Kart or racing games? We have our own games consoles which will bring out the competitive side of you. Come along to have fun, all students are welcome and bringing in your own games are definitely encouraged.

Movie Night

Once a week during our Orientation period, our Student Services team host our famous movie night. Films ranging from action, comedy, animation, sci-fi and romantic, we have something for everyone. ICP will provide the popcorn, soft drinks and comfy chairs, all you need to do is turn up.

Spinnaker Tower Trip

One of Britain's most iconic structures, the Emirates Spinnaker Tower is Portsmouth's most famous attraction. With breathtaking views over the city and its coastline, ICP organise trips up the tower at the beginning of every semester. Do not miss out on the best way to discover your new home from above.

Tour of Southsea

To experience Portsmouth like a local, a visit to Southsea is a must. It is not just your typical seaside resort, it is the cultural heart of Portsmouth and home to many independent cafes, restaurants and shops. Our Student Services team will take you on a walking tour of Southsea to explore these beautiful sights.





Living in Portsmouth

PORTSMOUTH IS A THRIVING ISLAND CITY ON THE SOUTH COAST OF ENGLAND. IT OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, WHETHER IT IS HISTORY, NATURAL BEAUTY, SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT OR SPORT. SITUATED ON THE SOLENT, OPPOSITE THE ISLE OF WIGHT, PORTSMOUTH IS A BUSY COSMOPOLITAN CITY WITH A NAVAL AND COMMERCIAL PORT AND A POPULATION OF AROUND 210,000, OF WHICH 25,000 ARE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

The University of Portsmouth has around 4,000 international students from over 130 different countries, so there are many opportunities to make friends from around the world.

Natural beauty

Portsmouth is located on the south coast of England and within easy reach of a number of popular tourist destinations, including the South Downs (the UK's newest national park), the New Forest and the varied and often dramatic coastline which stretches away to the west and east. The resort area of Portsmouth itself has a long pebble and sand beach, adjacent to Southsea common, a huge area of parkland used for all manner of sports and recreational activities. To the south lies the Isle of Wight, a picturesque holiday destination famous for natural features such as The Needles rock formation;

countless high profile sporting and cultural events such as Cowes Week, and the round the island boat race.

Entertainment

There is entertainment for everyone in the city, including three live music venues, two theatres, a multiplex cinema, a go-kart track and an indoor climbing wall. For breathtaking views of the city and the Solent, you can take a trip up the Spinnaker Tower any time of the year. If you're keen to join in with events in Portsmouth, you can sample the local delights at the Southsea Food Festival in July, sing along to the 'Live at the Bandstand' Sunday shows from May to August, or put on running shoes for the Great South Run in October. Other events include the Portsmouth Film Festival in October and the Victorian Festival of Christmas held every November. However, the highlight for many students comes in

the summer, when the music festival season begins. The Victorious Festival takes place in the city in August, and you can catch some of the world's top artists and DJs at The Isle of Wight Festival in June or Bestival in September. Recent Bestival headliners have included Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Underworld, Shy FX, ALT-J and Snoop Dogg.



**City-based
university**

walking distance to
everything you need

Living in Portsmouth (continued)

A city rich in history

With a rich and varied history, Portsmouth boasts a range of historical attractions visited by people from around the world. A city with a proud maritime heritage, one of Portsmouth's main attractions is the Historic Dockyard, which houses some of the world's most famous warships, including Nelson's HMS Victory and King Henry VIII's Mary Rose.

Southsea Castle

Built in 1544, Southsea Castle was part of a series of fortifications constructed by Henry VIII around England's coast. The castle hosts events such as costumed role play and storytelling, as well as guided tours.

Open daily April to September from 10.00am to 5.30pm. Free admission for all visitors.

Charles Dickens' birthplace

The famous writer Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England in 1812. His house is now a museum open to the public.

Open May to September from 10.00am to 5.30pm. It is usually closed from October to April. Admission is £3.00 for students and £4.00 for adults.

Historic Dockyard (HMS Victory, Mary Rose and HMS Warrior)

April to October: last tickets to the attractions are sold at 4.30pm and the gates are closed at 6.00pm.

November to March: last tickets to the attractions are sold at 4.00pm and the gates are closed at 5.30pm.

An all inclusive ticket costs £28.80 for students and £32.00 for adults.

Website: historicdockyard.co.uk.

Portsmouth City Museum, D-Day Museum and Natural History Museum

Open daily April to October 10.00am to 5.30pm and November to March 10.00am to 5.00pm. Please note, Natural History Museum closes from 4.00pm November to March. Admission to D-Day Museum is £4.70 for students and £6.80 for adults. Admission to all other museums is free.

Spinnaker Tower

Portsmouth's skyline is dominated by the landmark Spinnaker Tower which offers stunning views over the harbour and beyond.

September to July: daily 10.00am to 6.00pm
August: Sunday to Thursday 10.00am to 7.00pm Friday and Saturday 10.00am to 6.00pm

Admission: £9.50 students, £10.50 adults

Advance online booking available at spinnakertower.co.uk/plan-your-visit/tickets-prices

Useful facilities in Portsmouth city centre

Portsmouth city centre has a large shopping high street (Commercial Road) and shopping mall (Cascades) only a few minutes away from ICP. There are a number of fast food restaurants, clothing outlets, electronic stores, supermarkets and food shops located in Commercial Road. The beautiful waterfront at Gunwharf Quays has a relaxed, cosmopolitan atmosphere and again is only a five minute walk from ICP. Gunwharf offers 95 designer outlets, 30 cosmopolitan bars and restaurants, a 14 screen cinema and a large bowling alley which is extremely popular with students and young people. Southsea offers stylish and alternative shops and restaurants, with Albert Road and Elm Grove offering a host of alternative student venues. Most bars are open until 11.00pm on Monday to Saturday and 10.30pm on Sunday. More information on Portsmouth can be found at portsmouth.gov.uk or visitportsmouth.co.uk.



Sport

The city hosts world-class sailing events and boasts its own football team – Portsmouth FC – who were the proud winners of the world-famous FA Cup in 2008. The University of Portsmouth also offers excellent sports facilities; its Athletic Union has over 40 different clubs that ICP students can join, with everything from football, tennis and cricket to skydiving, skiing and sailing.



Living in Portsmouth (continued)

Religious facilities

The University of Portsmouth has its own chaplaincy that offers a space to relax, meet friends and host religious events. The chaplaincy also has an Islamic prayer room and offers information on other support services. Friday Jumma prayers are held in Mercantile House.

In addition, Portsmouth has a number of other places of worship within walking distance of ICP, including three mosques and Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral.

Public transport

The public transport system in the UK consists of the overground rail, ferries and buses, as well as the underground trains in London, Newcastle and Glasgow. The cost of public transport depends on the type of ticket and the location. You will find that public transportation in and around Portsmouth will not be a huge concern, as just about everything is within a 20 minute walk from the University. However, if you do wish to venture further out, Portsmouth provides a reliable bus service and a train station is less than a five minute walk from ICP. Central London can be reached directly by train in just 90 minutes from one of Portsmouth's three railway stations.

Buying a bus ticket

First and Stagecoach buses operate in Portsmouth and have numerous stops all over the city, some of which will be pointed out on the orientation tour. Single and return tickets can be purchased directly from the bus driver. It is advisable to have the correct change when purchasing a ticket. Check the following bus websites for offers and promotions stagecoachbus.com and firstgroup.com.

For longer bus journeys, excursions and day trips, the National Express coach service runs from The University, on Cambridge Road (opposite the Student Union) to various nationwide locations, including coaches to London. Phone 08717 818181 or visit nationalexpress.com for more details. As a student, you may be able to apply for a coachcard that will give you up to 30 per cent off your coach tickets.

Buying a train ticket

All tickets can be purchased from the station ticket office. It is advisable to book tickets in advance for long/popular journeys or journeys at busy times (approximately 6.00am to 10.00am and 3.00pm to 9.00pm). This can be done online at thetrainline.com or at the train station. Booking in advance is nearly always cheaper, with savings up to 70 per cent. For other local train travel advice you can also phone 0845 6000 650.

If you are aged 16 to 25, and planning on using the train regularly, it would be a good idea to apply for a Young Person's Railcard. The card will cost you around £30 for one year, or £70 for three years and can save you a third on fares throughout the UK. You can get further information online at 16-25railcard.co.uk. You can purchase a railcard from this website once you are living at a UK address, have proof of age (or proof of student status if over 25) and a passport-sized photograph. You can purchase a one year railcard at any national rail station.

Using a taxi

Portsmouth has a large number of taxi companies including Aqua Cars (023 9283 8888, 023 9281 8123 or 023 9265 4321) which is one of the

largest in the UK. The easiest way to get a taxi is to phone and ask to be met at a set location. Alternatively, there are taxi ranks in Portsmouth on Albert Road and Guildhall Walk. Taxi fares are charged on a meter and prices will vary, depending on the time of day or night. Portsmouth is also one of the few UK cities that has Uber.

Taxi travel is considerably more expensive than bus or train travel but can work out relatively cheaply if three or four people ride in the taxi. For more information and contact details, please see Student Handbook.

Using the ferry

Portsmouth has one of the UK's best connected ferry ports, with regular crossings to France, Spain and the Isle of Wight.

For more information visit directferries.co.uk

Employment

Information for students on working in the UK can be found at ukcisa.org.uk. Students should not rely on part-time jobs to fund living expenses or pay tuition fees. Any income earned from part-time jobs should be seen only as a supplement to established sources of funding.

National Insurance

Everyone who works in the UK must pay National Insurance (NI) contributions. If you have a part-time job offer or can provide evidence that you are actively seeking work you can apply for a NI number.

Please contact Student Services for further information on how to apply for an NI number once you arrive at ICP.

Meet friends

for coffee and a bite to eat in one of the many cafés on campus and restaurants around the city.

Join in!

Join one of over 150 societies, clubs and athletic unions. Visit upsu.net/activities



Practical information

Climate

Season	Period	Approximate daily temperature
Summer	June to August	12°C to 25°C
Autumn	September to November	6°C to 18°C
Winter	December to February	2°C to 9°C
Spring	March to May	4°C to 16°C

Public holidays

2018	Date
Summer Bank Holiday	27 August
Christmas Day	25 December
Boxing Day	26 December

2018	Date
New Year's Day	1 January
Good Friday	
Easter Monday	
Early May Bank Holiday	
Late May Bank Holiday	

Important websites

Website	URL
British Council – Living in the UK	educationuk.org
ICP	port.ac.uk/icp
Prepare for Success	prepareforsuccess.org.uk
Student Budget Calculator	studentcalculator.org.uk
UK Home Office	ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk
UKCISA Information sheets	ukcisa.org.uk
University of Portsmouth	port.ac.uk
University of Portsmouth International Office	port.ac.uk/internationalandeustudents

Portsmouth dialling code

International: +44 (0)23
National: 023

Electricity supply

240V AC, 50 Hz, three-pin square plugs are standard.

Events and interesting activities

August	
2nd-5th	Bestival Festival Dorset
11th-12th	International Kite Festival
24th-26th	Victorious Festival Portsmouth

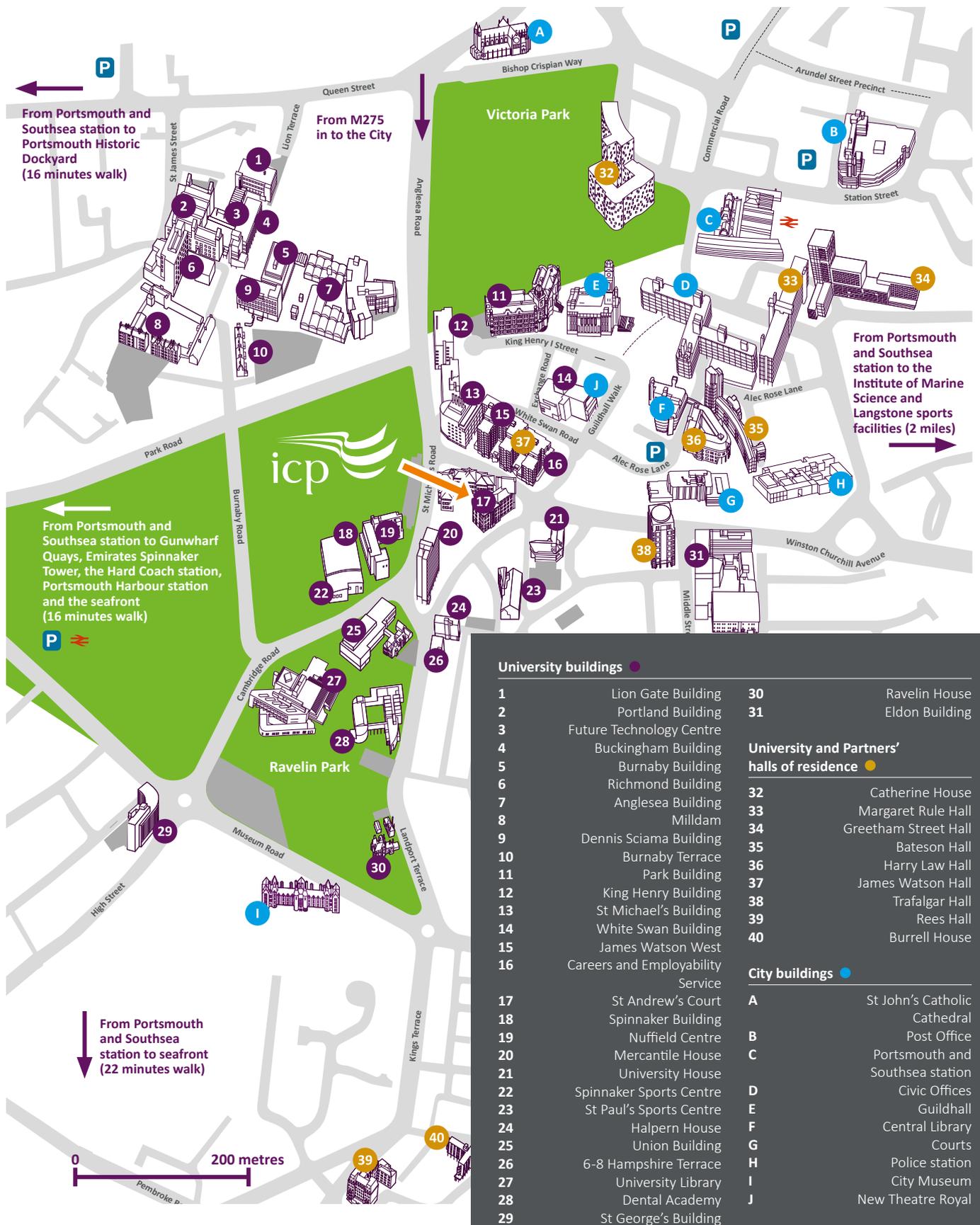
September	
TBC	Freshers' Fayre, University of Portsmouth

October	
1st	Start of autumn teaching block
20th-21st	Great South Run, Portsmouth
31st	Halloween Costume Competition, ICP Pumpkin Carving Competition, ICP

November	
7th	Fireworks display, Portsmouth Gunwharf Quays
TBC	Ice Skate Portsmouth
30th	Start of Festival of Christmas, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

December	
2nd	End of Festival of Christmas, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
15th	Christmas Jumper Day, ICP

University Quarter



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