

Welcome 2021



BA International Education Top Up

Welcome to the University of Northampton

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to your studies at the University of Northampton. The purpose of this document is to help you prepare for coming to study with us and give you an opportunity to meet members of your programme team as well as other students who've chosen the same course. We want to make sure that you are inspired, anchored, prepared, and enabled to succeed.

Through engaging with our welcome and induction activities you will get to know your super-supportive tutors, have a chance to make new friends and be able to access what you need to know and do to start studying successfully. Ultimately, we want you to feel confident about how you will learn.

This Welcome Pack covers the following key areas:

- A welcome message from your Programme Leader
- Details of 2 online Welcome and Induction sessions scheduled during the first three weeks in September
- Technical information to make joining these sessions as easy as possible
- What happens during Welcome and Induction Week – meeting with your Personal Tutor and other University-wide events

Welcome – Your Programme Leader

A very warm welcome to BA International Education Top Up. We are delighted that you have chosen to study with us. Our programme is designed to support you to develop your knowledge, skills and practice to a high level which will enable you to gain employment in a range of international educational contexts, from English Language teaching in schools, kindergartens to Educational Leadership, Education Consultancy and Teacher Training. Our friendly and highly experienced staff team are eager to support you on your personal and academic journey. We hope you have a happy, successful and rewarding journey at the University. Your Programme Leader is Dr Qian Zhang and she can be contacted by email on qian.zhang@northampton.ac.uk



Welcome and Induction Online Sessions

We would like to invite you to join members of your subject and programme team, and other students joining you at the University of Northampton this year for two online welcome and induction sessions in the weeks leading up to the start of term. The details of your programme specific sessions are as follows:

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|---|-------|---|
| Getting to Know You and Introduction to Learning and Teaching on your Programme Session 1 | Date: | Tuesday 21 September |
| | Time: | 0900-1000 |
| | Link: | https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/7d72be11485743fc9042bd49e0eb0834 |
| Supporting Your Success Session 2 | Date: | Tuesday 21 September |
| | Time: | 1000-1100 |
| | Link: | https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/7d72be11485743fc9042bd49e0eb0834 |

Preparing you for Learning and Teaching at Northampton

Learning and teaching at the University of Northampton is designed to help you take control of your own learning, using small group teaching, team-working and one-to-one tutorials that allow learning to take place in face-to-face environments and using carefully crafted digital experiences. To help you prepare for this personalised approach to learning, our welcome and induction activities are designed to introduce you to our learning technologies so that you are ready to go for the start of term. Through engaging in some preparatory work before our live sessions, you can think about some of the questions you might have and have opportunities to explore the many ways in which you are supported. You can also meet the other students on your programme.

Technical Support

As part of our welcome and induction, we would like you to engage with us using our online tool, Blackboard Collaborate. It is broadly similar to using Skype or Zoom, which you may have come across before. You will be able to join your Welcome and Induction sessions as a guest, meaning that you do not need to create an account in order to participate.

Using Collaborate

- 1) [Test whether your browser will work with Collaborate](#)
- 2) Review the [student guide to using Collaborate](#)
- 3) Test Collaborate by visiting our test 'classroom' to address any technological challenges. This classroom will be available 24/7 from now until the end of September. You can [join the classroom now](#) and follow the instructions to

test your audio and video functions.

If you are still experiencing difficulties, please call our on-site team for further help: +44 (0)1604 893333.

LinkedIn Learning

Once you become a student at the University of Northampton, you will also have access to a wealth of online technical support through [LinkedIn Learning](#) so you can improve your digital skills any time, any place.



What Happens Next?

Immediately before the start of term, we will ensure that all students are allocated to a [Personal Tutor](#) group. If you are a Joint Honours student, you will be in a tutor group with other students who share one of your subject areas. You will meet your tutor on campus during the week of the 21 September, along with the other members of your group. You can find out when your Personal Tutor Welcome session is on [your online Timetable](#).

At the University of Northampton, our Personal Tutors meet regularly and frequently with their tutees, both in group and in 1-to-1 sessions. They will help you to reflect on how your studies are going and explore actions you can take to maximise your chances of success.

You will also be invited to a short (10 minute) 1-to-1 session with your Personal Tutor. This would be a good opportunity for you to discuss any questions you may have about personalised support if you haven't already contacted those teams directly. Please know that you can also get in touch with your Personal Tutor directly should you need to. Your PT will tell you more about how to do this. We will offer some additional activities during the week of the 21 September. Details of these will be available through [your online timetable](#).

Information about other Welcome and Induction events across the University during the week of 21 September will be shared with you in due course. We are planning these in line with the latest government guidance around Covid-19 and so full details won't be available until nearer the time. These are all designed to help you make a solid start to University, whether you are living on our beautiful Waterside Campus, staying locally or commuting in when necessary, or studying remotely.