





Our Courses

The range of opportunities offered to students, both through the formal curriculum and through additional activities is outstanding. (OfSTED 2008)

Every year our students enjoy great success with their A Level results, the details of which you will find set out in the insert at the back of this prospectus. The majority of A Level students go on to university, with several each year going on to Oxford or Cambridge.

As well as AS/A Levels we also offer a wide range of occupational courses such as National Diplomas and NVQs. For further details of these courses, visit our website www.strode-college.ac.uk to see the range of courses on offer.

Develop Your English Language Skills

We offer English courses from beginners level to advanced level as well as GCSE English Language and an IELTS preparation programme.

How to Apply

You will find a copy of our application form in the back of this prospectus or you may apply via the website using the on-line application form. (N.B. There is other information we require you to send with your application, the details of which you will find printed on the application form.) For details of fees please refer to the insert at the back of this prospectus.



Support

Pastoral care is very good, and students benefit from a safe and caring ethos with a strong emphasis on inclusivity. (OfSTED 2008)

The College's mission is to provide high standards of education within an inclusive and supportive learning environment. The OfSTED Inspection report of October 2008 stated 'pastoral care to meet students emotional, health, financial and other needs is of a high standard'. The Student Support Centre, where our friendly team offers a wide range of support, is central to the support services to students. This is where you can find the Accommodation and Welfare Officer for international students who will help you with accommodation, registration with police, visa matters etc.

Accommodation

Homestay accommodation offers you a comfortable entry into life in Britain. Our Accommodation and Welfare Officer carefully selects families to fit in with your personal needs. We aim to place only one student of one nationality in the same family (unless specifically requested and then only if possible). This is to encourage students to use and develop English.

You can expect a comfortable single bedroom, breakfast and evening meals during the week, plus lunches on Saturday and Sunday. Staying in a British home is a great way to get to know the people, language and culture.

Please apply for homestay accommodation via our website by completing and emailing the special homestay application form. Further information about homestay can be found in the 'Homestay Accommodation' leaflet, which can be viewed and downloaded from the website. Full details of the Government of Hong Kong Overseas Education Service Allowance can be found at <http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/admin/benefits/88.html>



Enrichment Activities

The breadth and quality of enrichment activities available to students is outstanding. (OFSTED 2008)

At Strode College we are committed to your personal development. You will have the opportunity to broaden your learning experience alongside the main course you have chosen to do.

Taking part in a wide range of experiences and learning opportunities will make your time at Strode College much more enjoyable, help you to make new friends and add another interesting dimension to your UCAS application or CV.

Examples of enrichment activities include:

- Sporting activities such as basketball, hockey, volleyball and our sports academies
- Creative and performance arts such as choir, college radio, acting, media and theatrical makeup, dance and film making
- Travel such as the Gambia Project and course related trips
- Languages including British Sign Language
- Personal development such as critical thinking, communication, counselling skills and setting up a small business



Why Choose Strode College?

The proportion of students who achieve high grades on AS, A Level and advanced vocational courses is impressively high and is significantly above the sixth form national average. (OFSTED 2008)

Choosing the best college for your needs

Strode College is a registered British Government approved provider of education and is one of the top rated English colleges, having been awarded 'Beacon' status in 2004. The College provides a variety of academic and vocational courses leading to employment either directly or after a period of higher education. In outline we offer one or two-year university preparation programmes such as A Levels. We also offer modern learning environments with up-to-date information and communications technology. Over the last four years we have completed a £12m investment in new teaching and sports facilities creating a modern and exciting campus.

Student achievement

We are proud of our students' achievements. Their results place us as one of the most successful colleges in England across the full range of qualifications offered. We have a pass rate of 99% for A Level subjects and the majority of successful A Level students choose to go to university to advance their qualifications. Further details of our student achievements can be found on our website.

Friendly and personalised learning

Maintaining a modest scale of provision for international students means that learners have good personal support. International students who go to larger cities often find it tempting to spend too much time with others from their own country and miss the opportunity to maximise the development of English Language skills. Since the College is not based in a large town or city it offers dedicated learners the opportunity to undertake their studies without the distractions of city life thereby facilitating the maximum use of time for study and achievement.



Location - Central South West England

We are a medium-sized college based in rural Somerset; an attractive part of the central south-west region of England. We are located in the village of Street 30 miles south of Bristol and Bristol International Airport and two hours from London by rail (taxi transfers are required from the station to College). The campus is an easy walk from the town centre and facilities include Strode Theatre and Strode Sports Centre. Adjoining the campus is Street Swimming Pool.

Locality

Whilst the village of Street is relatively small it has a busy shopping centre attracting people from many miles around. Street is probably best known as the home of the Clarks Shoe Company. The origins of the College can be traced back to 1871 when Clarks required training for boot and shoe manufacturing. Many older buildings in Street were built by the Clarks organisation for company workers. More recently a major distribution centre has been built underlying the commitment of Clarks to the village of its origins.

Should you wish to explore further there are several major towns or cities within 30 miles including Bath, Bristol, Taunton and Yeovil. London and Birmingham are each about three hours away by car. For those interested in English heritage, Glastonbury, home of the world famous festival and a number of sites of historical interest, is 1½ miles away. In the neighbouring county is Stonehenge, a World Heritage Site, with origins dating back 5000 years. There is a wide, sandy beach at Weston-Super-Mare.



The Royal Crescent in Bath, Somerset.



The Houses of Parliament in London.



Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol, Somerset.



Stonehenge in Wiltshire.

Why Choose Strode College?

Quality

- Students are our number one priority - the quality of teaching is high
- Strode College is publicly funded, registered and accredited by the British Government Department for Children, Schools and Families
- Our teachers are fully qualified with relevant degrees and professional teaching qualifications and have extensive experience in their fields
- Our library, laboratories and classrooms are modern and up-to-date, utilising the latest technology for teaching and learning
- Information, advice and guidance is provided through professional and academic staff who are focussed on support and student success
- Total cultural immersion into British academic life with less than 1% of international students on campus
- Our student success rates are consistently higher than the English colleges' national averages
- Many teachers have outstanding academic reputations and are well known in their fields

Programme Choice

- We offer over 40 A Level subjects and have a national reputation for Maths and Science teaching and learning
- We offer nearly 20 enrichment activities to students ranging through sport, performing arts, art, modern foreign languages, community and voluntary work
- AS Critical Thinking is offered to students planning to apply to university
- A gifted and talented support programme is offered free to students who demonstrate the appropriate potential

Cost

- Tuition fees are competitive at £5990 per academic year
- Basic materials and texts are supplied, though some text books and supplies will need to be purchased at an estimated cost of £250 per year

Location

- In the historic village of Street on the ancient Somerset levels in south-west England
- The Somerset levels are an area of outstanding natural beauty
- A temperate climate - summer daytime highs of 25°C, winter daytime highs of 8°C
- English is the language of communication
- Within one hour's drive of Bristol International Airport for domestic and international direct daily flights from around the globe
- Welcoming and safe community of 11,000 people
- Great outdoor opportunities - golfing, beach walks, climbing and lots more
- Vibrant local arts community - music, dance, theatre, film and visual arts
- Historic locality with many sites of interest
- Outstanding natural environment
- 45 minute drive from the city of Bath which has ambitions to be the most China-friendly destination in the UK

- Within 3 hours driving distance from London
- Access to air and rail links to London
- Within one hour's drive of the city of Bristol
- Easy access to world and national heritage sites such as Stonehenge, Glastonbury and the Jurassic coastline

Accommodation

- Homestays available with English families at approximately £110 - £120 per week
- One bedroomed apartments can be rented for approximately £400 per month
- Room rentals in private homes from £60 per week

Fast Facts

- Strode College opened as a tertiary college in 1973.
- The College's main campus is in Street where international students will be located; the College operates through a number of other venues in Mendip and the south-west.
- Since 1999 Strode College has been an accredited college for quality.
- In 2004 the British Government Department of Education awarded Strode College 'Beacon' status in recognition of its outstanding work.
- Strode College has consistently exceeded the national averages for student success. In 2009 the A Level pass rate was 99% of entries.
- Approximately a third of A Level students who apply to Higher Education obtain places at Russell Group Universities. This group includes Oxford and Cambridge as well as Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London Imperial, Leeds, Liverpool, London School of Economics, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Southampton, London University College and Warwick.
- Since 2004 around £12 million has been invested in new teaching and sports facilities.
- In 2008 1549 students enrolled on full-time courses and around 2158 students on shorter courses (including part-time vocational, contract and community education).
- Approximately 60% of the students are female and 40% male.
- Strode College has welcomed international students from the People's Republic of China, Philippines, Turkey, various European Union countries, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, United States, Japan, Bahrain and South Africa.
- Strode College offers over 40 A Level subjects and over 45 vocational courses to full-time students.
- The quality of Strode College's information, advice and guidance services has achieved national accreditation by meeting the Matrix standards. These services are provided through local agents and in-country representatives.
- Strode College employs over 900 staff.
- Strode College has been awarded Investors in People status. Investors in People is a national standard which encourages organisations to train and develop its personnel both professionally and personally.
- We have received several awards from the prestigious 'Good Schools Guide' and Ofsted have judged areas of our work to be 'outstanding'.

Destination - University

Between 2005 – 2008 around 1000 level 3 (A Level and Vocational) Strode students progressed to honours degree places at universities around Britain. A further significant group progressed to pre-degree studies in the field of art and design. Many Strode students take gap years prior to attending university and travel, work or undertake voluntary work.

Around 27% of former Strode students have obtained places at universities in the Russell Group of research-based institutions. This group includes Oxford and Cambridge as well as Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London Imperial, Leeds, Liverpool, London School of Economic, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Southampton, London University College and Warwick.

Strode students' favourite top 5 universities during 2005 – 2008 were Plymouth, West of England, Bath Spa, Cardiff, and Bournemouth. In addition to the top 5 universities above, the top 10 universities for Strode students also included Exeter, Southampton, Bristol, Reading and Bath.

Strode College encourages former students, who have taken gap years without applying to university, to make an application. For 2008 university entry, around 70 Strode students returned to receive UCAS application support and guidance from the careers team.

No.	University
1	Aberdeen
2	Aberystwyth
3	East Anglia
4	Anglia Ruskin
5	Aston
6	Bangor
7	Bath
8	Bath Spa
9	Birmingham
10	Bournemouth
11	Brighton
12	Bristol
13	Bristol Academy of Dramatic Arts
14	Bristol & West
15	Brunel
16	Buckinghamshire
17	Buckinghamshire-Chilterns
18	Cambridge
19	Canterbury
20	Cardiff
21	Birmingham City University
22	Central Lancashire
23	Chelsea College
24	Cheltenham
25	Chichester
26	City
27	Coventry
28	Dartington College of Arts
29	De Montford
30	Derby
31	Duchy College
32	Durham
33	Edge Hill
34	Edinburgh College of Art
35	Edinburgh
36	Essex
37	Exeter
38	Falmouth College
39	Glamorgan

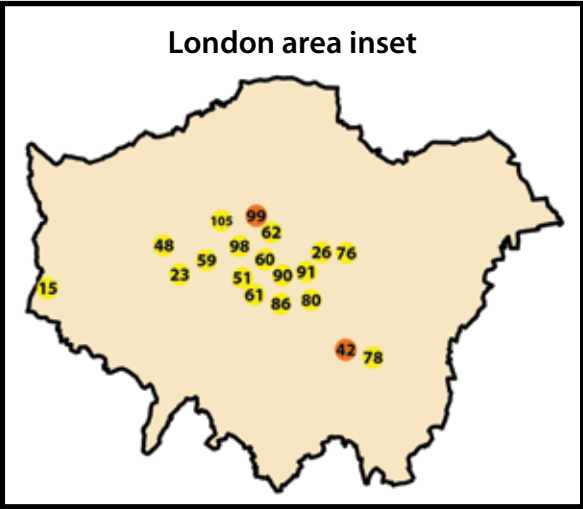
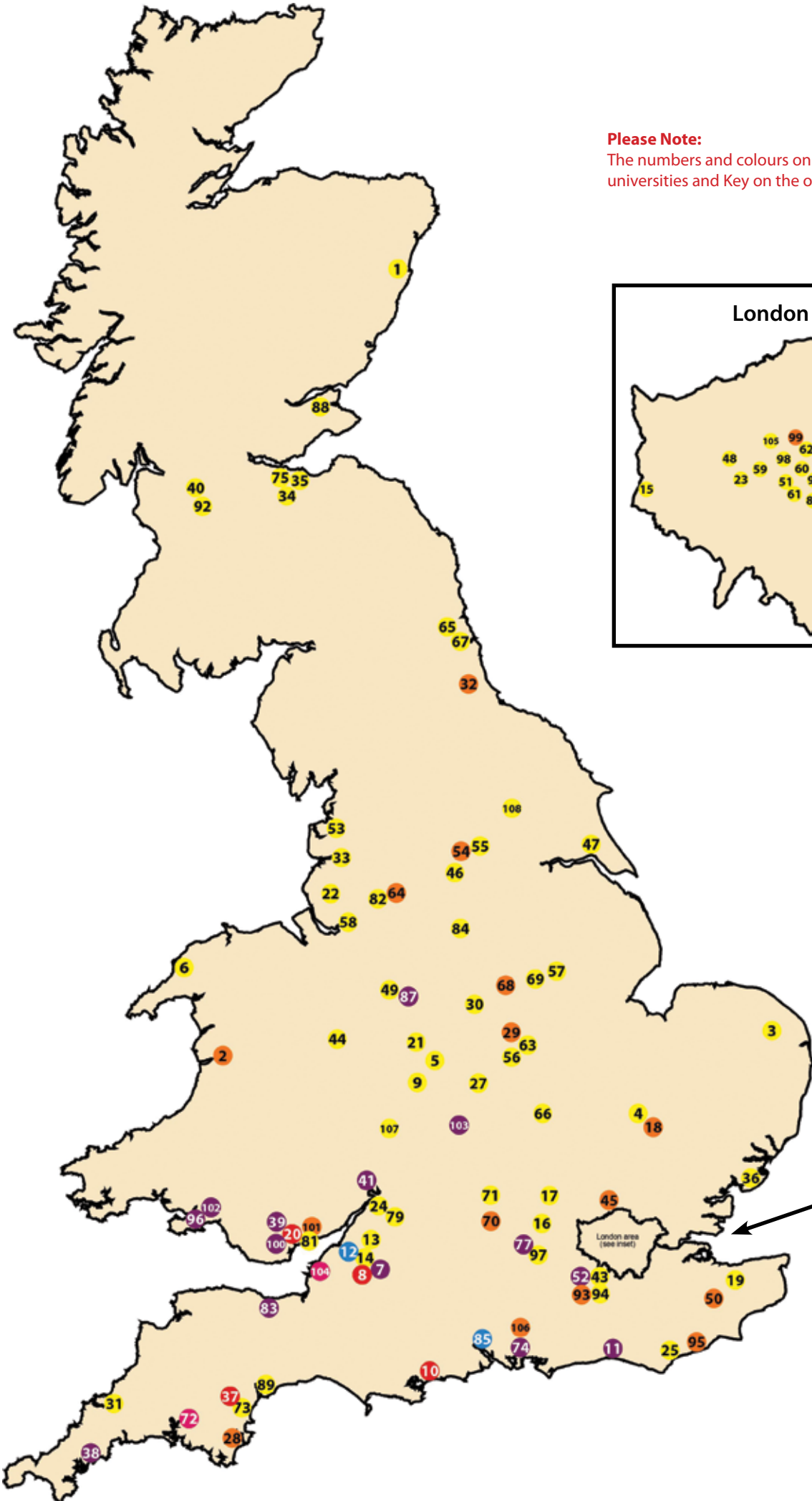
40	Glasgow
41	Gloucestershire
42	Goldsmiths, London
43	Guildford Academy
44	Harper Adams
45	Hertfordshire
46	Huddersfield
47	Hull
48	Imperial College, London
49	Keele
50	Kent
51	Kings, London
52	Kingston
53	Lancaster
54	Leeds
55	Leeds College of Music
56	Leicester
57	Lincoln
58	Liverpool
59	London
60	London College of Fashion
61	London Metropolitan
62	London School of Economics
63	Loughborough
64	Manchester
65	Newcastle
66	Northampton
67	Northumbria
68	Nottingham
69	Nottingham Trent
70	Oxford
71	Oxford Brookes
72	Plymouth
73	Penninsula Medical School
74	Portsmouth
75	Queen Margaret University College
76	Queen Mary College, London
77	Reading
78	Roehampton
79	Royal Agricultural College

80	Royal Holloway, London
81	Royal Welsh College of Music
82	Salford
83	SCAT
84	Sheffield
85	Southampton
86	South Bank
87	Staffordshire
88	St Andrews
89	St Mark & St John
90	St Marys Twickenham
91	St Bartholomews, London
92	Strathclyde
93	Surrey
94	Surrey Institute
95	Sussex
96	Swansea
97	Thames Valley University
98	University of the Arts
99	University College, London
100	Wales, Cardiff
101	Wales, Newport
102	Wales, Swansea
103	Warwick
104	West of England
105	Westminster
106	Winchester
107	Worcester
108	York
109	Harvard, USA

Key	No. Students
Yellow	1-5
Orange	6-10
Purple	11-20
Green	21-30
Blue	31-40
Red	41-70
Pink	71-100

Please Note:

The numbers and colours on this map refer to the listed universities and Key on the opposite page.



Courses at Strode College

Why Study A Levels at Strode?

99% of all subjects taken at A Level are passed with 57% of all entries taken graded at A or B grades. The majority of A Level students go on to university, with several each year going on to Oxford or Cambridge.

Our range of subjects are currently:

- Accounting
- Archaeology
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Communication & Culture
- Computing
- Critical Thinking
- Dance
- Design & Technology: Product Design
- Drama & Theatre Arts
- Electronics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Studies
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- Geology
- German
- Government & Politics
- Graphics
- Health & Social Care
- History
- History of Art
- Home Economics
- Human Biology
- Information & Communication Technology
- Italian
- Law
- Mathematics
- Mathematics - Further
- Media Studies
- Music
- Music Technology
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textiles

Please note that not all combinations are possible

The A Level programme covers 33 weeks in the AS year and 32 weeks in the A2 year, term time only with no classes on Bank Holidays. Students are expected to take 4 AS Levels in the first year and 3 A2 Levels in the second year. Tutorial support is given for both academic and pastoral care. The total taught programme is 19 hours a week in the first year and 14.5 hours in the second year, with 15 hours private study expected for both years.

Occupational Pathways

As well as AS/A Levels we also offer a wide range of occupational courses:

- European Computer Driving Licence
- National Diplomas in:
 - Art and Design
 - Broadcast Media
 - Performing Arts
 - Business
 - Music
 - Public Services
 - Engineering
 - Music Technology
 - Sport
 - ICT
- Diploma Level 2/3 Hairdressing
- NVQ Level 2/3 Beauty Therapy
- NVQ Level 2/3/4 AAT Accounting
- NVQ Level 2/3 Business Administration
- NVQ Level 2/3 Customer Service
- Graded Piano Awards

How to Apply

Fees

Fees for courses commencing in the academic year September 2010 – August 2011 are as follows:

Deposit on application – 10% of tuition fee (refundable if application is refused)

Tuition fee – £5990 for each full academic year

Basic materials fee - £35.00 (students will need to purchase some books and other materials according to subject/course studied)

Accommodation – see homestay leaflet on website

Additional English Language support - minimum £6.00 per group hour, £40.00 per individual hour

Examination fees - a minimum of £50.00 per subject studied

Chaperone from airport - fee by arrangement

All tuition fees are payable in advance prior to the student arriving in the UK. Other fees will be invoiced once the learning programme is agreed. Fees quoted are for the first year of study only. The College reserves the right to increase fees for second and subsequent years.

Contacts

A Level subjects and Occupational Pathways

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Booking Conditions

1. Deposit

The deposit is non-refundable and is used to hold open a place.

2. Payment of Fees

Under the new British immigration rules, the College will now be the sponsor of the student. Therefore full payment of fees is required before an unconditional offer letter can be provided.

3. Cancellations

No refunds of tuition fees will be made once the course has started. If we cancel the course, we will refund the fees in full for the period of the course not completed.

4. Closure and Bank Holidays

Classes are available only in term time (see College website). No classes take place on Bank Holidays/weekends or in College holiday periods.

5. Homestay Accommodation

We will try to find the homestay accommodation that best suits each student's needs but cannot guarantee that all requirements will be matched in all cases. For stays of three months or less all homestay fees must be paid before arrival.

In the first week of your arrival you will be required to pay the College one term's rent and payments will be paid by the College to the homestay provider weekly. You will be invoiced at the start of each subsequent term for that term's rent.

Students staying in homestay accommodation should remember that they are a guest in the host's home and attention should be paid to the information in the homestay booklet and any information given to them by the host family.

Homestay accommodation will be booked for the academic year. The student must leave by 11am on the Saturday following the end of the course, unless other arrangements have been made. With reference to the Christmas/Easter/Summer break - accommodation for these periods can be arranged through the Accommodation and Welfare Officer.

6. Exam and Registration Fees

Examination and registration fees are not included in the tuition fees. A separate invoice will be sent for all examination and registration fees.

7. Materials Fees

Basic materials are included in the tuition fees. Also included is one text book per course but students should purchase any additional text books. They should also purchase printers cards and other materials as required.

8. Location

Courses are held at the Church Road campus. We reserve the right to change the venue of the course should circumstances require it.

9. Transfers

We can arrange a taxi transfer from the arrival airport. Please note that the student must pay the driver cash sterling pounds for any such transfers. The price indicated does not include extra waiting time due to late flight arrivals. Please give us the airline, flight number, arrival airport and arrival time when requesting a transfer.

Travel Times from Airports to Street

	Taxi	Cost	Coach*	Cost
London Heathrow:	2 h 30 m	£167	3 h 10 m	£21.40
London Gatwick:	3 hours	£204	5h 10 m	£26.50
Bristol International:	1 hour	£48	3 hours	£13.50

Train travel from London Heathrow is 2.30-3 hours (off peak) at a cost of £70 one way.

* Cost of National Express to Taunton, plus approximately £5 for bus from Taunton to Street. Travel times and prices may differ depending on the time of travel. The above is based on travel in sociable hours, correct in December 2009.

world-class learning...

