



FRESHER'S GUIDE

2014-2015

Welcome Freshers!

Welcome message

Congratulations and welcome to Warwick! Your hard work has been proved fruitful and you can now feel proud of yourselves for achieving your target and grasping the opportunity to study at the University of Warwick. I bet you are buzzing, excited, jubilant and probably full of anticipation of what university life will bring? Well you should be as you are now studying at one of the best universities in the world! You are in for the best years of your life; Warwick is a place where you will work hard and play hard! 😊

I am sure questions are racing through your mind bouncing off the countless rumors which have been embedded there over the years about university life. Will I fit in? Will people like me there? Will I cope with all the hard work? I've never lived away from home before...will I miss my family and friends too much? Well don't worry; all of your concerns are absolutely normal. That's why we, the Warwick Cypriot Society, are here! To help you make the most out of your university life!

Our society is a small cultural society in the University of Warwick which aims to give its members a taste of the life in Cyprus and Cypriot culture. Cypriot hospitality attracts more and more people from all over the world to join the society over the years, expanding the society and its events. Last year's highlighted activities were the two "Greek Night" parties at Altoria Club in Leamington Spa, which have returned after a long time with greek music hitting the decks, the visit to a Greek restaurant with Greek live music and the trip to Stratford, Shakespeare's birthplace. This year we are planning to organize a trip to Alton Towers, which is a themed adventure park, our traditional dinners, more "Greek Nights", events with live Greek music and many more surprises!

Warwick Cypriot Society has prepared this guide with all the relevant information for your new start as a student at University. We have provided guidelines for the "Freshers Week" in Warwick and everything you need to know about the University of Warwick and the life there. Being in the same position with you in the past, we hope you find our advice helpful and that this guide answers any questions you may have. For any additional questions that may arise or any help you may need, all the members of the Exec are here to help you so do not hesitate to contact us! Get ready for an amazing year 😊

On behalf of the exec
Fani Anastasiou



THE EXEC

PRESIDENT

Fani Anastasiou

Accounting and Finance ~ 3rd year

F.Anastasiou@warwick.ac.uk

Tel no. 99544336/ 07446959391

VICE PRESIDENT

Elena Loucaides

Accounting and Finance ~ 3rd year

E.Loucaides@warwick.ac.uk

Tel no. 96844420/ 07453270935

SECRETARY

Stelios Alexandrou

MORSE ~ 2nd year

S.Alexandrou@warwick.ac.uk

Tel no.99286848/ 07510429531

TREASURER

Antonia Siman

Economics ~ 3rd year

A.Siman@warwick.ac.uk

Tel no. 99081701/ 07909049434

SOCIAL SECRETARIES

Natalie Hadjipanayi

Accounting and Finance ~ 3rd year

N.Hadjipanayi@warwick.ac.uk

Tel no. 99575572/ 07447522140

Sofronis Neofytou

Accounting and Finance ~ 2nd year

S.Neofytou@warwick.ac.uk

Tel no. 99021590/ 07454382628

SPORTS OFFICER

Antri Theodosiou

MORSE ~ 3rd year

A.Theodosiou@warwick.ac.uk

Tel no. 96671320/ 07849028245

Join our group “[Warwick Cypriot Society 2014-2015](#)” on facebook to stay updated, learn everything about our events and allow us to get in touch with you during the academic year!

Documents to bring with you

- Passport photos *Take at least four, and keep some on you. Also scan some on to your computer to get quick reproductions for less*
- Passport (for UK bank account)
- Details of your health insurance
- European Medical Card (you can issue your medical card to the Citizen Service Centre)
- Any necessary medical certificates
- Details of your vaccination history (make sure you have up-to-date vaccinations, especially for meningitis and measles)
- Confirmation letters of scholarship/bursary etc if appropriate
- Any information from your LEA, the SLC (Student Loans Company) or Student Finance Direct
- Any documents regarding your accommodation
- A copy of your Apolytyrion/Leaving certificate, A Levels and any other relevant certificate
- Military service completion certificate

Registration

1st: Register with university and get your Student Card. This will give you access to most of the buildings on campus and our beloved library! Also, do not forget to log in to Warwick SU, using your IT details, and learn everything about the events of fresher week and what happens on campus. <https://www.warwicksu.com/freshers>. You can also buy the NUS Extra card that will give you access to several UK discounts. More information here: <https://www.warwicksu.com/shop/nusextra>

2nd: Register with NHS and Health Centre. There is a Health Centre on campus where you will be able to visit your GP. Being registered with the NHS you will be able to visit the hospital in case of an emergency for free. More information and instructions about the registration will be given to you when you arrive on campus. Note that you will be asked for any medical certificates you may have and your vaccination history.

3rd: Get a UK Student Bank Account. You can find branches of Barclays bank and Santander bank on campus; prefer to have your bank on campus for convenience reasons, to avoid travelling to Leamington Spa or Coventry for bank services. You will need your **passport, Certificate of Status** (that you can get from University), and a **proof of your new address** (e.g. your accommodation offer) to create an account.

4th: Get a UK number. You can either choose a **pay as you go plan** or a **pay monthly plan** with any of the major mobile phone companies in the UK. With pay monthly plans you are bounded by a contract (that usually varies from 12, 18 and 24 months) that includes a certain number of minutes and texts and a specific allowance of data roaming. Pay monthly plans are generally less expensive monthly than pay as you go plans but are suitable for students that will live in UK for more than 11 months. You can also get a free mobile phone, or a mobile phone at a very low up-front cost when you set-up a contract plan. **Three, O2, T-mobile and Vodafone** are some of the most known mobile phone companies in the UK. Do also take a look at **Giffgaff's** plans as it has some great deals for students!

Shopping

Now let's be honest, who does not like shopping? As a university student you will find yourselves shopping all the time, either for your daily needs like food, or for personal items like clothing and accessories. Despite everyone in Cyprus saying that Warwick is in the middle of nowhere, I can assure you that there is no single shop you may ask for and not having it in the area.

Firstly, as a classic Cypriot student, one of the first things you will do when you get your new room is to get your 'prika', and the best places with value for money items are **IKEA** and **Argos**, which you will both find in **Coventry**.



After all these are set up, it will be a good time for the amusing part of shopping to start. **Bullring** is the second largest shopping centre in Europe, located in **Birmingham**, and you can get there by train, either from Coventry or Leamington Spa, in less than an hour. There are countless shops in the shopping centre and outside as well, like H & M, Zara, Gap, Hollister, Apple Store, Sports Direct and Selfridges. A visit to Bullring at the end of every term is a 'must-do' that should always be on your list before leaving for Cyprus.



When looking for supermarkets, you find out that If you will be living on campus, you can get to **Tesco** and **Iceland** with a 15 minute walk and to **Costcutter's** with a maximum 5 minute walk, but Tesco, Sainsbury's, Iceland and Morrisons have online deliveries available as well, which you will surely appreciate during the freezing January and February, and in May and June when you will not want to waste time from studying (or maybe not? :P). Whatever your choice, you can be satisfied by any way you decide to shop.

Consequently, another activity you will practise a lot at university is online shopping for each and every single item, small or big, heavy or light, expensive or cheap. Amazon and Ebay are two websites which you are definitely familiar with, but as you will be a UK resident you can get free delivery with Amazon, and a one-month free trial of next-day delivery (take advantage of this!!!). Most of the shops I have already mentioned but also many others, accept online orders and deliver them to you at the university post room, located at Westwood, or outside your door if you will be living off-campus.

Food, Drinks and Night outs

As Cypriots, we all know that we live to eat and not eat to live, and as your 'giagia' will not be next door cooking lunch every day, seize the opportunity to taste different cuisines while studying at Warwick.

Firstly, **on campus**, there are four different restaurants, **Varsity**, **The Dirty Duck**, **Xananas** and **Le Gusta** where you can choose from burgers, pasta, or Mexican food, and of course some DELICIOUS desserts. 😊



Moreover, there are four cafes on campus, including **Costa Coffee**, **Curiositea**, with the best hot chocolate you have EVER tried, and the **Library Café** and the **Arts Centre Café**, with snacks and drinks to grab between lectures and seminars. At the two latter ones, you can get a loyalty card, giving you a free coffee, tea or hot chocolate after you buy 8 drinks and your university ID card can be topped-up through **Eating@warwick** at the university website, and then be used to get a **10% discount** at all university cafes and restaurants. But what about when you need a drink after a day full of lectures? Well, you can visit **Terrace bar** on campus and enjoy your beer at a chilling atmosphere!

However, we have to admit that staying on campus all the time is quite boring, and everyone needs some fresh air and a different environment at some point. Therefore, we have some suggestions for you in the nearest cities of Coventry, Leamington Spa and Birmingham. At **Coventry**, there is **Pizza Express** and **Bella Italia** which are two of the best Italian restaurants around the UK, but also the **Cosmos** "All-you-can-eat" where you can choose among several cuisines from all over the world. In **Leamington Spa**, you can find many Italian restaurants as well, with the best ones being **La Coppola** and **Prezzo**. There is also a new Caribbean restaurant, **Turtle Bay**, with cocktails you should definitely try and **Las Iguanas** is a famous Mexican restaurant which has just opened in town, and all of us should definitely try it.



As England's second largest city, **Birmingham** hosts any restaurant you can imagine, ranging from Italian, to Japanese, American and Mediterranean cuisines. **Brindley place** is a picturesque canal area with restaurants, bars and cafes including Piccolinos, Handmade Burger & Co, and Slug and Lettuce, where you can enjoy a relaxing dinner and an after drink with friends.

But we are sure everyone's question is where can I party and which are the best clubs around Warwick Uni? Well, firstly you can find **Cooper rooms** on campus where there are several events during the week, such as SKOOL DAYZ every Saturday night. There is also **Altoria** and **NEON** at Leamington Spa, **Kasbah** at Coventry and the legendary **Gatecrashers** at Birmingham!

Transportation

Living in the UK means: FORGET YOUR OWN CAR AND USE THE PUBLIC MEANS OF TRANSPORT, something that is pretty unusual for Cypriots as we are all used of getting in the car and travelling, the maximum for an hour or so, to get to our final destination! This does not happen in the UK. Unfortunately, you do not have your own car and taxis are quite expensive so the better option is to use the busses and trains for transportation. But do not worry! The public means of transport in the UK are more consistent than in Cyprus. Public transport is always on time (yeah, alright delays do happen; let's not be ignorant). So, what do I need to know when I first get out of the plane and head for the university?

Firstly, we recommend travelling to the **Birmingham International airport** as it is the closest airport to the university. The usual (and cheapest) air travelers that fly to Birmingham from Cyprus is Monarch, Thompson Fly and Thomas Cook. After landing you could take a taxi directly to campus for £33 and 25 minutes of your time or you could choose to take the electric train (which is absolutely free!) from the airport to the Birmingham International train station, then from there buy a train ticket to Coventry train station which will cost roughly £3, 50 (it depends on the train company; the Virgin train is cheaper) and lastly you will have to get a bus to the campus which will roughly cost £2.

Note that if you would like to get the **National Express bus number 11 or 12** you will have to have the exact amount of money which for 2013/2014 season was £1, 90 as the driver is unable to give change! Note that bus number 11 continues its journey to Leamington Spa whereas bus number 12 finishes its journey at the University. The other main bus provider is **Stagecoach** which passes also through the campus (**Bus number U1**) and costs £2.20. Another good idea would be to travel to the Coventry train station and get a taxi from there which will roughly cost £11 to bring you to Uni. Using the second method will require much more time and that depends on the departure time of the trains and buses but will save you 15 quids!

But I am sure that the most of you do not really care about how to get to uni; the real question is "How can I get to London mate?!" As I already said the UK transportation system is almost brilliant! So do not worry about how to get to London. As soon as you get used of using the trains and buses, the journey of getting onto a bus, and popping down to the train station to go down to London, which should approximately take 1 to 1 1/2 hours will be pretty routine to some of you. I am sure you will figure it out yourself pretty quick.

But because these kind of journeys may be costly let's have a look at some ways to save money:

- (1) 16-25 **Railcard** which costs £30 for one year and £70 for a 3 year bundle and saves you round about a 1/3 of your ticket price. Just to note that you will need a passport in order to be able to get a rail card and a passport size photo will also be required.
- (2) **Bus passes** also exist but there are not worth of purchasing if you do not live off campus.
- (3) Regular trips to London may not be such a good idea but if you decide to do so, an Oyster card for the London underground might be money saving.
- (4) There are many trips you can take in the UK that can be done really cheap using the **MEGABUS**. The bus picks you up from the Canley bus stop and takes you to most cities over the UK for as cheap as £1 for some trips!

Busses (excluding MEGABUS and predetermined journeys) stop travelling at 1 o'clock early morning so any night out return journey should be pre-organized in order to save money from taxis or a better idea would be travelling as a group so you will have to share a cab (Note : Taxis and busses increase their prices after midnight)

Useful links:

National express: <http://nxbus.co.uk/coventry/information/buses-to-from-university-of-warwick>

Stagecoach:

<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables.aspx?serviceid=1043&locationId=52&from=&to=&local=213>

General information can be found also via the university website:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/directions/localbuses/>

[Warwick SU – Societies](#)

Warwick SU is a non-profit organisation that runs nightclub events, bars and food outlets in order to fund student activities e.g. academic representation, student advice and several job and volunteering opportunities. It has over 250 societies including cultural, performance, music, charity, food and drink societies etc. You can buy **Societies Federation Membership** (£19 for undergraduate and £10 for postgraduate students) and become a member of any society that fits your interests by buying its additional membership, e.g. Warwick Cypriot Society, additional £1. You can learn more about SU and the societies at <https://www.warwicksu.com/yourunion/> and at the annual Societies Fair.

[Warwick Sports](#)

Going to university can be a nice opportunity to take up a new sport or hobby. With more than 70 sport clubs, Warwick offers a huge variety of activities for everyone to choose from. You can start from the beginning or if you are already a pro you can join any Warwick team. The newly renovated sports center offers not only a high tech **Gym**, but it also offers facilities like a huge **climbing** wall, squash, volleyball, basketball and other indoor **courts** to practice. There is also a **swimming pool** and of course activity **classes** to help you relax from the stress, for example Yoga, Body Pump, Body Balance, Pilates etc. Westwood also offers sports facilities like Tennis courts and a Running Track.



The **Standard membership** to enter the Sport center and be able to book a court, use the swimming pool and get a discount at the classes costs £58. The **Climbing membership** that also includes unlimited use of the climbing wall is £133 and the **Gym membership** for a year is £198. To attend any class having the Standard membership costs £2-3 and without it around £5-6 and the fee of joining any sport club is £6 each. For more information check <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/sport> and visit the Sports Fair!

Checklist of stuff to take to university

Kitchen

- plates (large and medium)
- bowls
- mugs
- glasses
- cutlery (knives, forks and spoons)
- frying pan
- saucepans
- tin opener
- chopping board
- cutting knives (paring, vegetables and chef's)
- scissors
- vegetable peeler
- cheese grater
- wooden spoon
- wooden spatula
- tea towel/s
- lidded food containers
- colander/sieve
- corkscrew/bottle opener
- basic cupboard ingredients
- washing-up items
- simple recipe book
- microwaveable bowl
- potato masher
- oven gloves
- kitchen utensil set (non-scratch nylon)
- egg cups
- small casserole dish
- baking tray (non-stick)
- wine glasses
- breadknife
- chopsticks
- cling film
- tin foil
- roll of polythene bags
- tray
- shot glasses
- cleaning products
- washing powder/liquid/tablets
- kettle (if not provided)
- toaster
- toasted sandwich maker

Bedroom/ Study Room

- duvet and duvet cover/s
- pillows & pillow case/s
- sheet/s
- clothes hangers (not too chunky!)
- photos of family and friends
- desk lamp
- pin board or message board with markers
- mattress cover
- blow-up mattress (and pump)
- sleeping bag
- bed cover
- blanket
- potted plant/s
- duster
- laundry bag
- clothes horse
- posters
- non-making wall stickers (such as 'White Tac')
- poster hangers
- rugs
- floor cushion/bean bag
- door wedge
- dustpan and brush (should be provided)
- iron & ironing board
- mini fridge (only if your halls allow it)

Electricals

- mobile phone (and charger)
- UK visitors adaptor plug (for mobile phones & laptops)
- laptop or desktop computer (and all leads)
- ethernet network cable
- alarm clock radio
- calculator (simple or advanced)
- multi plug extension lead (preferably surge protected)
- USB memory drive/s
- bedside lamp
- printer (basic or advanced)
- small CD player/ music system
- small television (ideally with built-in DVD player)
- camera
- headphones
- batteries
- CDRs/CDRWs

Bathroom

- face cloth/ flannel
- hand towel/s
- bath towel/s
- toilet roll
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- deodorant
- hairbrush/ comb
- liquid soap
- shower gel
- shampoo & conditioner
- basic first aid kit
- box of tissues
- jewellery
- hair dryer
- hair straighteners
- wash bag
- nail clippers
- make up
- perfume/after-shave
- hair gel/ hair spray
- razor
- shaving cream/ gel
- lip balm
- bath mat

Healthcare

- glasses/contact lenses
- personal medication (if applicable)
- anti-allergy pills (if applicable)
- birth control
- headache tablets
- painkillers
- cold/flu remedies
- multivitamins

Special Clothing

- raincoat
- formal eveningwear (including your national dress – if appropriate)
- dressing gown & slippers
- swimwear
- flip flops (for showers / communal wash areas)

Studying

- course books
- course notes/ pre-reading materials
- diary/day planner
- dictionary
- translation book/ computer application (if applicable)
- pad of lined paper
- basic stationery (pens, pencils, etc.)
- post-it notes
- scissors
- printing paper
- sticky tape
- stapler
- hole punch
- paper clips
- files/ sleeves
- A4 folders
- sticky labels
- thesaurus
- book stand/support

Miscellaneous

- bicycle
- sports clothing
- sports gear (rackets, bats, balls, frisbee, etc.)
- torch
- fan
- extra storage (cardboard or plastic boxes)
- large suitcase
- umbrella
- spare light bulbs
- earplugs
- safety pins
- small sewing kit
- matches
- clock

Make sure you check what is included in your room and halls before buying stuff as many of the things mentioned above may be provide!

Useful Dates

iFreshers (*international student arrivals and orientation*): Tues 23rd - Fri 26th
September

Undergraduate Arrivals Weekend: Sat 27th - Sun 28th September

Freshers Fair: Sat 27th - Sun 28th September

Freshers Fortnight: Mon 29th September - 12th October inclusive (*please note that Warwick unfortunately does not have a separate week for Freshers, so all events take place during the first fortnight of term!*)

The Freshers' Party 2014 – Carnival : Fri 10th October

Term 1 Starts: Monday 29th September

Societies Fair: Wed 1st October and Thur 2nd October

Sports Fair: Fri 30th September

Postgraduate Welcome Weekend: Sat 20th - Sun 21st September

Postgraduate Welcome Week: Mon 22nd - Fri 26th September inclusive

