

# WELCOME

## SOUTHAMPTON GUIDE

You belong. You matter. You are not alone. **SUCU**



**WELCOME TO SOUTHAMPTON  
AND THE UK!!**

Unilink  
Buses

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Welcome Booklet

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# WELCOME

Welcome to Southampton! As the Southampton University Christian Union, we would like to warmly welcome all the new students starting their studies at the University of Southampton. This guide includes information that will help you to smoothly integrate into life here in Southampton. We hope you have a wonderful time studying here, and we are looking forward to seeing you all around! God Bless!

## Who we are: Southampton University Christian Union

We are SUCU, a community sharing Jesus' love, hope and joy with our Campus!

Our vision is to give every student at the University of Southampton the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ. We run plenty of events throughout the year, some of which can be found in this guide. Check out our website and social media for our latest information!

## Term time weekly events (Locations : TBA - check the 'connect with us' links below!)



**Big Prayer Meeting** (BPM) @8:00  
Starting each week with a time of prayer



**Impact Group** @19:30  
Get to know people in your halls, play games and learn about the Bible together.



**Global Café** @19:30  
A place to meet international students, but all welcome! Snacks, games and discussion!



**Unite** @19:30  
Come together to Unite to worship God, pray, and learn how to apply the Bible to our lives as students.

## Connect with us!



southamptoncu

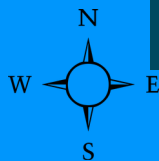


SUCU Noticeboard



sucu.org.uk

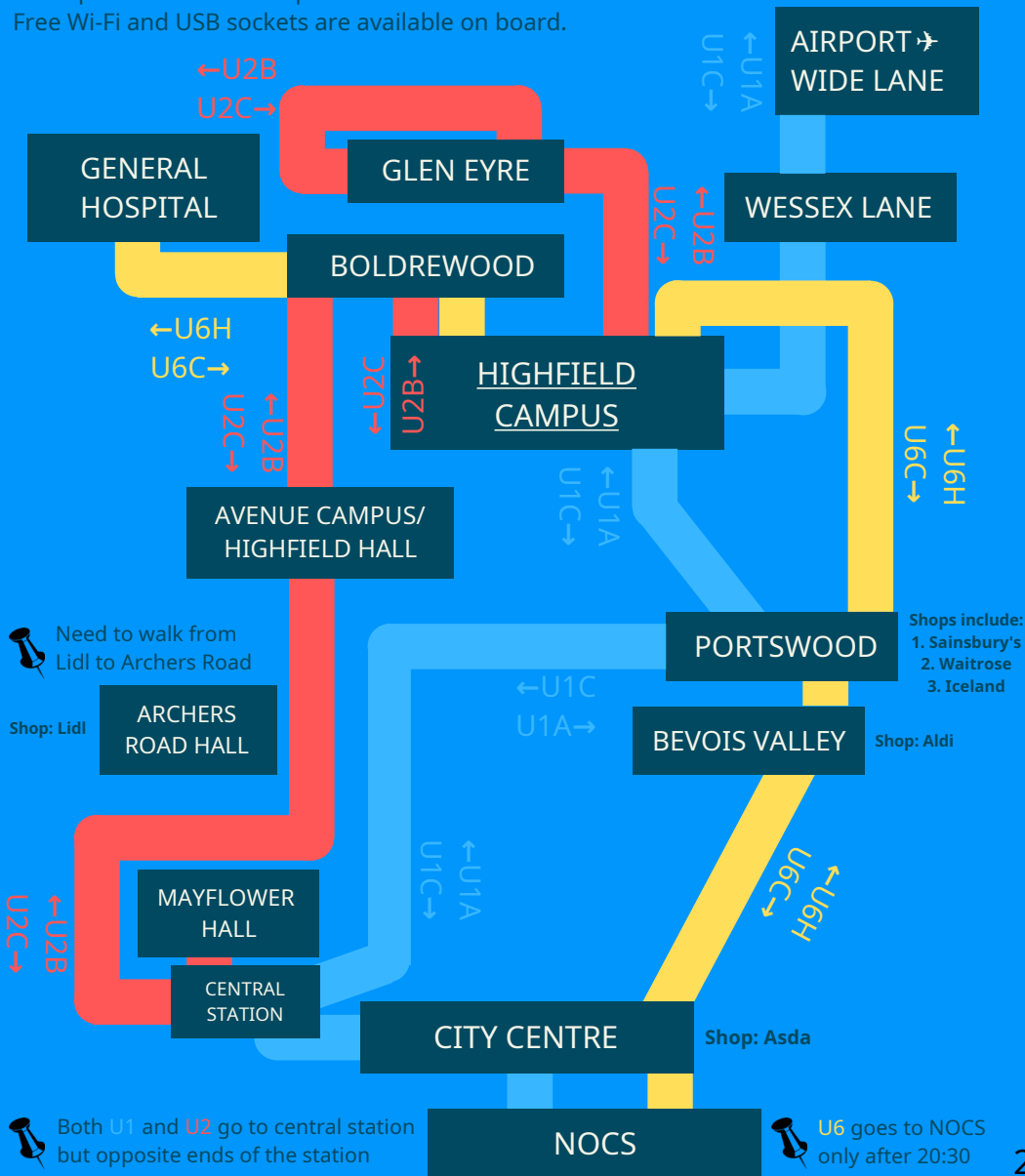
**FOR DETAILS OF  
OUR FRESHERS EVENTS  
PLEASE VISIT:  
[SUCU.ORG.UK/FRESHERS](http://SUCU.ORG.UK/FRESHERS)**



EASTLEIGH

If you live in a university hall of residence, your bus pass (also called 'the Key') covers all the Unilink services. It also covers the Bluestar buses that operate in the Southampton zone. If you live in private accommodation, you can purchase a bus pass at the student price either online or at the Unilink office. Free Wi-Fi and USB sockets are available on board.

←U1E  
AFTER  
18:00



# U1

## Airport - Wessex Lane - Highfield Campus - Portswood - Lidl - Central Station - City Centre - NOCS

Full stack bus. Connects Wide Lane Sportsground, the Airport, Wessex Lane, Highfield Campus, Portswood Highstreet, Inner Avenue, City Centre, Central Station and NOCS.

If you are going to West Quay, it is fastest to get off at Civic Centre.

U1C goes to City Centre, U1A goes to the airport and U1E goes to Eastleigh

Full route and timetable: <https://www.unilinkbus.co.uk/services/UNIL/U1C>



# U2

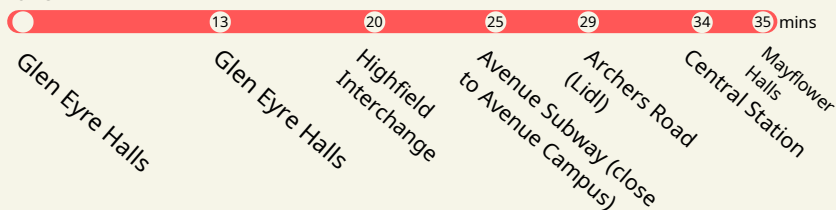
## Chamberlain - Glen Eyre - Loop - Glen Eyre - Highfield Campus - Boldrewood Campus - Avenue Campus - Central Station - Mayflower Halls

Shortcut to the Avenue and Central Station (Not West Quay) from the Interchange.

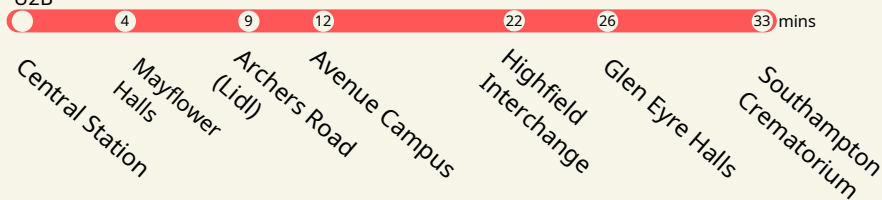
U2C goes to city centre, U2B stands for Bassett (Glen Eyre area) but their route is not the same around Avenue Campus and Glen Eyre Halls.

Full route and timetable: <https://www.unilinkbus.co.uk/services/UNIL/U2C>

U2C



U2B



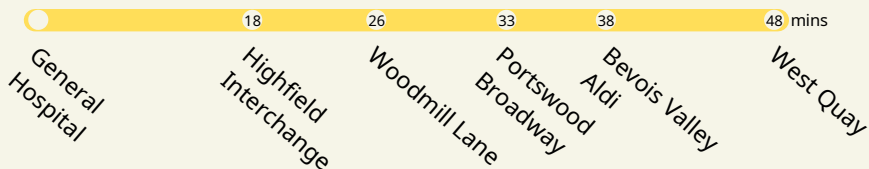
# U6

## General Hospital - Boldrewood Campus - Highfield Campus - Woodmill Lane - Portswood - Bevois Valley - City Centre

Less frequent than U1 - about every 30mins. Only useful if you live in Wessex Lane (or Hampton Square, Stanley Studio etc). Good to go to Portswood, Aldi and City Centre from Wessex Lane if the bus times suit You.

U6C goes to city centre, U6H goes to the hospital.

Full route and timetable: <https://www.unilinkbus.co.uk/services/UNIL/U6C>



Unilink introduced a mysterious U9 route. You'll be lucky to find it. Ask the driver where it takes you! If you are a fan of nights out, a night bus U1N is available outside the bus pass coverage. You'll have to pay for the U1N so another option is to catch an Uber or a taxi.

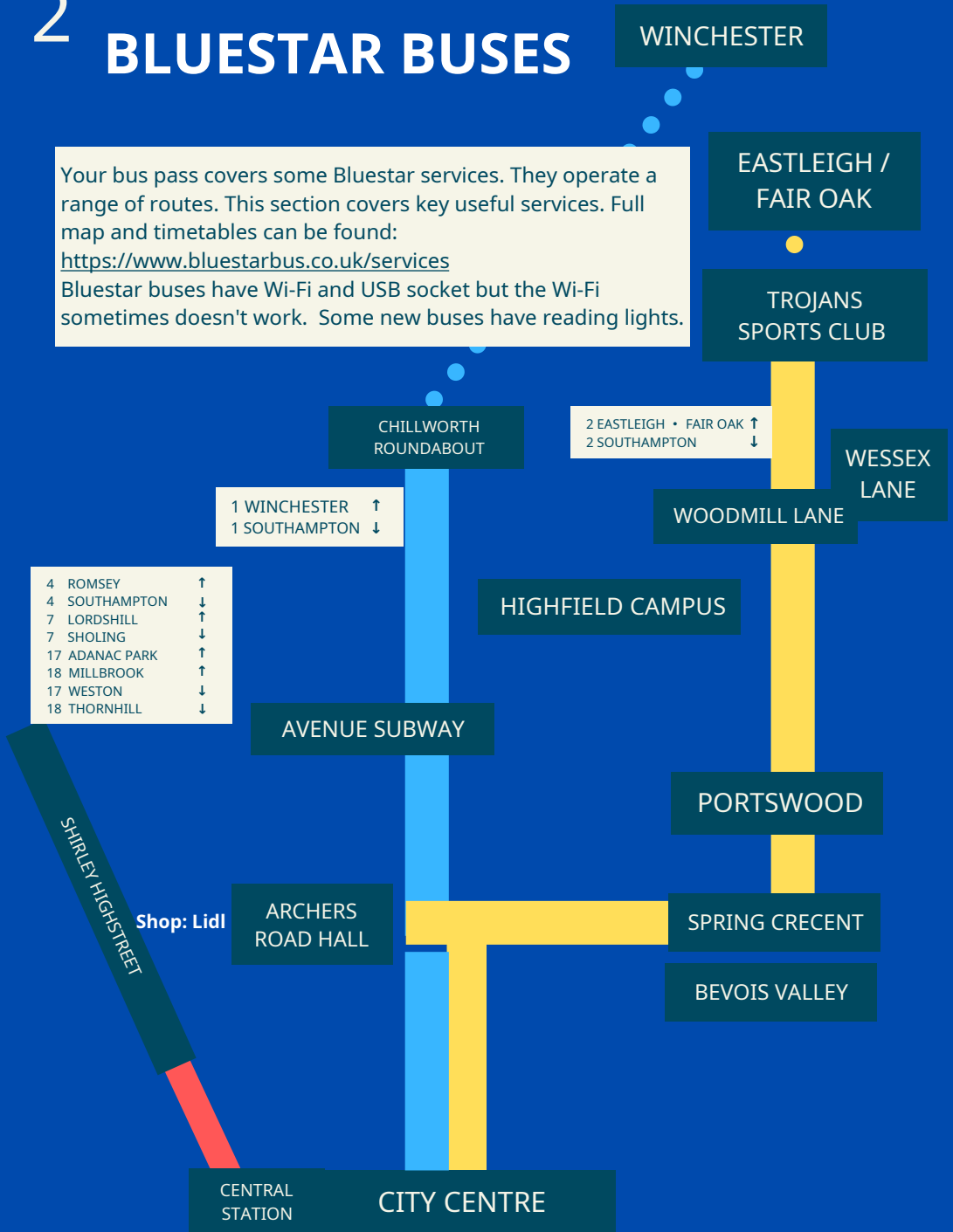


All WSA students can purchase a Bluestar bus pass which has been discounted by Bluestar and subsidised by the Faculty. A termly (90-day) bus pass can be purchased from the Unilink Office, located above the Student's Union shop on Highfield campus, for £136. Check the website for more details:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsa/about/wsa-transport.page>

# BLUESTAR BUSES

Your bus pass covers some Bluestar services. They operate a range of routes. This section covers key useful services. Full map and timetables can be found:  
<https://www.bluestarbus.co.uk/services>  
 Bluestar buses have Wi-Fi and USB socket but the Wi-Fi sometimes doesn't work. Some new buses have reading lights.





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1

## City Centre - Avenue (Lidl) - Basset - Chillworth to Winchester

The Bluestar 1 service is the longest service and it takes you to Winchester. However, your bus pass does not cover the entire route. If you go further than Chillworth Roundabout you need to pay for a ticket. It could be useful to go to Boldrewood Campus from City Centre via Avenue.

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2

## City Centre - Avenue (Lidl) - Portswood - Woodmill Lane - Trojans Sports Club to Eastleigh and Fair Oak

Feels like a mixture of U1 and U6. It could be useful to go to Portswood and Wessex Lane from City Centre and Avenue. You need to pay extra to go further than Trojans Sports Club.

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4

## City Centre - Central Station- Shirley Precinct - Rownhams to Romsey

It takes you to Shirley High Street. Your bus pass covers until Rowhams.

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7

## Sholing - City Centre - Central Station - Shirley Precinct - General Hospital - Lordshill

Bus pass covers the entire route.

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17

## Weston - City Centre - Central Station - Shirley Precinct - General Hospital - Lordshill - Adanac Park

The fastest bus from City Centre to General Hospital. Bus pass covers the entire route.

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18

## Thornhill - City Centre - Central Station - Shirley Precinct - Millbrook

Bus pass covers the entire route.

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Bluestar 3 and 4 take you to places such as Hedge End / Romsey which are not usually typical student destinations. 'Google maps' is a good tool to use to find directions and transport options and timings.

# WINCHESTER SCHOOL OF ART SHUTTLE BUS:

If you study at the Winchester School of Art, or just want to visit the old capital of Wessex, WSA Shuttle connects Southampton (Highfield Interchange and Avenue Campus) and Winchester campus. You can travel on the shuttle with your student ID even if you do not study at Winchester School of Art. It runs every hour and a half during term time on weekdays. For the timetable visit: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsa/news/2017/09/new-wsa-shuttle-bus.page>



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# BRITISH SUPERMARKETS

## Aldi

Open 8:00 - 22:00 on Mon - Sat  
9:30 - 16:00 on Sun

German family-owned discount supermarket - the cheapest supermarket chain. Their quality of groceries is fine but there is limited choice compared to other stores. Snacks and sweets are often their own brand, which can be as low as half the price of their counterparts. Great European cheese.

Location: Bevois Valley, U6 route.

## Lidl

Open 8:00 - 22:00 on Mon - Sat  
10:00 - 16:00 on Sun

German international discount retailer chain. As they are in the same group as Aldi, Lidl's prices are usually similar to Aldi. More students tend to prefer Lidl to Aldi because of the location, quality and variety of products. However, the miscellaneous goods in the middle of the aisles might make you burn through your money! Lidl Plus app.

Location: Avenue, U1, U2, Bluestar 1, 2 route

## ASDA

Open: 7:00 - 23:00 on Tue - Fri  
7:00 - 22:00 on Sat  
8:00 - 23:00 on Mon  
11:00 - 17:00 on Sun

Part of the world's largest supermarket chain, Walmart. They are in the cheap range compared to the supermarkets below, but are slightly more expensive than Aldi and Lidl. Asda have the largest storage and selection, including international food. They have a toilet, a pharmacy, photo shop etc.

Location: City Centre next to West Quay, U1, U6 route. Close to Mayflower Halls. Another one in Chandler's Ford.

## TESCO

Open 6:00 - 24:00 on Mon - Sat  
10:00 - 16:00 on Sun

A middle class supermarket. There is one TESCO Superstore in Southampton, but it is not very close to the university.

TESCO Clubcard is available to get a Clubcard price deal. It can be also used in their convenience store, TESCO Express.

Location: West of Shirley, Bluestar 17, 18

## SAINSBURY'S

Open 7:00 - 22:00 on  
Mon - Sat  
11:00 - 17:00 on Sun

Large supermarket in Portswood. Though they are a middle class supermarket, a lot of their products are price-matched with Aldi. Download Nectar App for points and deals. Location: Portswood Broadway U1, U6, Bluestar 2

## WAITROSE

Open 8:00 - 21:00 on Mon - Fri  
8:00 - 20:00 on Sat  
10:00 - 16:00 on Sun

Upper class supermarket. Good variety of sausages. Good to buy a gift from for when you go to someone else's house.

Location: Portswood Waitrose, U1, U6, Bluestar 2

## M&S

Supermarket: Open 7:00 - 21:00  
Apparel: 9:00 - 21:00 on Mon - Sat  
11:00 - 17:00 on Sun

Very expensive. Good for organic products. They also have a clothing brand. Good to visit in case they have price reduction offers on!

M&S stands for Marks and Spencer. Location: Maybush for supermarket, Bluestar 1 Westquay for clothing and 'home' items, U1, U6 route.



Most supermarkets have in-store Wi-Fi

# CONVENIENCE

Convenience stores are smaller and more expensive than supermarkets. They are located in more places than the main supermarkets and are convenient when you are busy. Using meal deals may help your wallet compared to buying everything on Campus for lunch (meal deal: a set price for main, snack and drink). They usually have a cash point. Usually no toilet available.

**CO-OP** Burgess Road Open 7:00 - 23:00  
City Gateway, Mayflower halls Open 6:30 - 22:00

Archers Road Open 7:00 - 22:00

They sometimes sell local food. For example, Co-op on the Isle of Wight sell Wight Milk which is one of the local milk brands. Meal deal at Co-op is £3.50. If you have a TOTUM card you are eligible to a 10% discount. Location: Burgess Road on U1 route, City Gateway on U6 and Bluestar 2 route, Mayflower Halls on U2 route, Archers Road and etc.

**TESCO EXPRESS** Burgess Road, London Road, High Street Open 6:00 - 23:00  
Lodge Road Open 7:30 - 23:30

More stores than Co-op. You can still use TESCO clubcard. Their meal deal is £3. They also have a TESCO finest meal deal for main, side, dessert and drink which costs £10. Location: Burgess Road on U1 route, London Road on U1 route, Lodge Road on Bluestar 2 route High Street and etc.

**PREMIER** Portswood Road  
Open 5:30 - 22:00 on Mon - Sat  
6:00 - 21:30 on Sun  
Addis Square Open 6:00 - 24:00  
Lodge Road Open 6:00 - 23:00  
Swaythling Open 8:00 - 21:00  
close on Sunday

They sell more alcohol. You can collect your parcels here. Location: Portswood road on U6 and Bluestar 2 route, Portswood Addis Square on U1, U6 and Bluestar 2 route, Swaythling on U6 and Bluestar 2 route, Lodge Road on Bluestar 2 route etc.  
The Swaythling one has a post office.

**SAINSBURY'S LOCAL** Open 7:00 - 23:00

Not many stores but you can still use the nectar app. Meal deal is £3.50. Location: Burgess Road on U1 route, Hill Lane on U6 route, Bedford Place on U1 and Bluestar 1, 2 routes etc.

A selection of international food shops are readily available across Southampton. Chinese shops are the most common, though there are more regional specific shops. Here is a selection of international shops that are near to Portswood. Note that there are more international shops near Portswood that are not listed.

**ICELAND** Open 9:00 - 19:00 on Mon - Sat  
10:00 - 16:00 on Sun

They mainly sell cheap frozen food. More supermarkets than convenience stores. Location: Portswood Waitrose on U1, U6 and Bluestar 2 routes

**ORIENTAL FOOD** (PAYMENT: CASH ONLY)  
OPEN 11:00 - 21:00 ON MON - SAT  
11:00 - 19:00 ON SUN

**International Foods Ltd** OPEN 8:00 - 21:00  
ON MON - SUN



Try the farmer's market in Portswood. Whilst most of the supermarkets and convenience stores accept card payment, the farmer's market often only accepts cash. A farmer's market came to Highfield Campus every Monday in 2021/22 academic year, they accepted card.

# 6 HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Before investing lots of money into Netflix etc., the University already has something for you!

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## BOX OF BROADCASTS (BOB)

In the UK, you need a TV licence to watch live broadcasts. BoB, or 'box of broadcasts', is an on-demand TV and radio service. They also have films, so it is worth looking at: <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand>

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## NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY

Love classical music? NAXOS is one of the largest classical music record labels and NML (NAXOS Music Library), is their subscription music streaming service. You can access lots of recordings of various players and composers. You can access it on your computer using the University's VPN or download the app which enables you to make your own playlists and download for offline listening. <https://soton.nml3.naxosmusiclibrary.com/>

## MEDICI.TV

Medici.tv is another classical music platform. Medici.tv offers over 1,200 films of classical music concerts, documentaries, operas, ballets etc. The quality of audio and video is much better than on YouTube. <https://edu.medici.tv/en/>

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## Radio: BBC Sound, Classic FM

Listening to radio does not require a TV licence. BBC 3 is for classical music with commentaries and BBC 4 has famous radio dramas. You can listen on air, online and on mobile by downloading the BBC Sound app. Classic FM delivers classical music all day with news briefings throughout the day as well. Likewise with the BBC, you can listen to them by radio, online website and mobile app.

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You need to use university's VPN to access to the services above apart from the radios.

For more information about installing VPN visit:

<https://knowledge.soton.ac.uk/Articles/KB0011610>

Fancy good music? On Highfield Campus, Turner Sims hosts music concerts mainly for jazz and classical music. The price is usually affordable for students, less than watching films in the movie theatre! Also, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is one of the Classic FM orchestras, providing recordings to Classic FM to be broadcasted over the radio.

# PHONES

Assuming you have access to Wi-Fi at home and on campus, and provided that Unilink offers on-board Wi-Fi, mobile network may not be a big concern. However, having a UK phone number will be beneficial at times such as booking a dentist's appointment and opening a bank account. This page introduces Three mobile's data reward SIM which you can get free!

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## THREE

Three mobile offers a free data SIM card which you can order by visiting [https://www.three.co.uk/Free\\_SIM\\_MBB/Order](https://www.three.co.uk/Free_SIM_MBB/Order). The SIM card will arrive in around 3 working days. Although it only gives you the free monthly 200MB of mobile data, you can receive texts and calls without paying. If you need more data, calls, or texts, you can always top up the credit. For full details visit: <https://www.three.co.uk/terms-conditions/data-reward-sim>.

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## How to set up Three Data Reward SIM

Once the SIM has arrived, unpack and insert it into your phone. Then, restart the phone and open the APN (Access Point Names) setting. All you need to do is modify 'APN' to '3internet'. It could be three.co.uk at first but this is not right. Leave other parameters as default. After you have successfully changed APN, access the website mentioned in the post with your SIM card. You need to complete the registration with mobile data.

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## Other providers

		<b>LYCA MOBILE</b>
<b>EE</b>	<b>VODAFONE</b>	
		<b>VIRGIN MEDIA</b>
<b>TESCO MOBILE</b>	<b>O2</b>	<b>VOXI</b>
		<b>GIFFGAFF</b>



If you need a SIM card or phone number immediately, you can find one in supermarkets (but not Aldi or Lidl) or discount stores such as Poundland which are located in Portswood and the City Centre. O2 sponsors England Rugby. Vodafone sponsors Ireland Rugby Football Union and adverts on Classic FM along with TESCO Mobile

# 8 ONLINE BANKS

Opening a bank account is a bit of a hassle. Online banks are much easier to open while main banks offer various financial services as well as depositing / withdrawing cash at branches.

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**REVOLUT** Free monthly fee  
Good international exchange  
Referral scheme  
\* not a registered bank

Revolut is one of the UK's online banks. It is easy and fast to transfer money from abroad. Please check full supported currency at <https://www.revolut.com/help/adding-money/with-card/what-cards-and-currencies-are-supported>.

All you need is your phone and your BRP (or UK full driving licence etc). Download the app and follow the instructions to verify your Identity.

It is free to manage an account, but you can choose premium plans if needed.



Revolut requests £4.99 to order a card, though the standard account is free. If you would like to open a Revolut account, ask a CU member who uses Revolut and we will use a referral scheme to get your £4.99 back!

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**MONZO** Earn interest  
No fee for card order  
Free monthly fee

Monzo offer interest on savings, unlike Revolut. No card fee is needed to open an account. They have a free account as well as some paid plans.

It is easy to open an account. Download the app and verify your identity by uploading a picture of your passport. If you receive a planned payment, such as wages, you can receive the money at 4pm on the day before the payday without a fee. Full details:

<https://monzo.com/features/get-paid-early/>

**STARLING BANK** Free monthly fee  
Good Europe service  
Best Bank award in 2021

One of the first online banks in the UK, good service and support. It is easy to open an account, download the app and upload the photo of your passport.

Though Starling Bank have an international bank transfer service, Revolut tend to do a better job. They also offer interest on savings which is at a lower rate than Monzo, but it is simpler to use.

The founder of Starling Bank, Anne Boden, speaks in 20MINFOUNDERS at Future Worlds\*. <https://futureworlds.com/20minfounder-anne-boden/>

\* Future Worlds is a student enterprise accelerator at Southampton University

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Bank transfer in the UK is free and fast. It's usually completed in a few seconds.

Your money in the bank is protected by Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) up to £85,000. Revolut is not registered as a bank in the UK yet and your money is not eligible for FSCS protection.

Money withdrawal is usually free at cash points. However, some cash points take transaction fees. If it says 'Free Balance', the ATM would be likely to charge you.

# MAIN BANK

Opening a main bank account needs more documents. Make sure you have your phone number, passport, BRP card, proof of enrolment letter and bank letter which you can obtain from the student office to avoid stress.

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## **BARCLAYS** On-campus branch

If you have a UCAS account, you can apply to open an account online through the mobile app. If you don't, you need to book an appointment at the nearest branch. They are located in Highfield Campus, City Centre and Winchester.

Barclays are a large internationally recognised financial company.

## **HSBC** Largest bank in the UK Earn interest

HSBC lead Europe's financial industry. They have a dedicated page for international students (<https://www.hsbc.co.uk/current-accounts/products/international-student/>).

You need to apply online and bring your documents to the branch. The closest branch is located on Above Bar Street in City Centre. They also have a branch in Winchester.

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## OTHER BANKS IN SOUTHAMPTON:

**SANTANDER**

**NATWEST**

**NATIONWIDE**

**BUILDING  
SOCIETY**

**TSB**

**LLOYDS BANK**

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If you need help opening a bank account, feel free to talk to the CU members!



## **GP: General Practitioner**

Your first point of call for non-emergency medical needs should be a General Practitioner (or GP). GPs are funded by the National Health Service (or NHS), and are free to anyone living in the UK. To make appointments with your GP you should register with them online. You can find your nearest GP by entering the post code of your accommodation into the NHS Website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp>. There is also the University Health Service, a GP based on Highfield campus, based in Building 48. You can find out more and register with them here: <https://www.unidocs.co.uk/index.php>. Once you have registered with a GP, you book appointments with a doctor online or over the phone to discuss health concerns and be prescribed medication.

## **NHS 111**

Appointments with a GP can be in high demand, so if you need medical advice or a prescription urgently and can't get an appointment quickly, this service can help. It can be accessed by dialling 111 with your phone, or online at <https://111.nhs.uk>. This is a remote service that can't offer in-person treatment, but it can give advice on where to receive treatment, how to treat conditions at home and it can prescribe medication if needed.

## **NHS 999**

999 is the emergency phone number in the UK. This number should only be called if human life is at risk, in cases such as a heart attack, a stroke or a serious car accident. Calling 999 is the only way to call for an emergency ambulance. This number can also be used to access other emergency services, such as the police or the fire brigade, who should also only be called in an emergency.

## **Southampton General Hospital**

The largest hospital in Southampton is Southampton General Hospital. This is located on Tremona Road in Shirley, to the West of Highfield Campus and Southampton Common. Unilink offer a bus route, the U6H, which stops at this hospital. After you have had an appointment with a GP, they may refer you to Southampton General Hospital for tests, scans, assessments, treatments or operations if they deem it necessary for your health. You may also be referred to Southampton General Hospital if you use the NHS 111 service. Waiting times at hospitals can be long, so if you need to visit it is advisable to bring a drink, snacks and something to occupy your time.

## **Dentists**

As well as registering with a GP, it is wise to register with a dentist in Southampton. While a GP is responsible for general health, a dentist specialises in teeth, mouth and gum health. Essential healthcare at a dentist is usually free with the NHS, but more specialist or cosmetic treatment will have to be privately funded. You can find your nearest dentist by entering the post code of your accommodation into the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist>.

## **Mental Health**

The UK has a strong cultural understanding of the importance of mental health, which makes it easier to seek help for mental health struggles. The University Student Services Department is the best place to start if you need mental health support, but you can also discuss your mental health with your GP.

We hope that this booklet is helpful and that you have a wonderful time studying in Southampton!

If you do not already have a 'buddy' and would like to be introduced to someone from the Christian Union please email us at: [sucuinternational@gmail.com](mailto:sucuinternational@gmail.com) or message one of the socials on the welcome page.

We would love to get to know you!

We would also like to give you the opportunity to meet up with someone to look at the Bible or attend church. If that is something that would interest you, please let us know at the email address above.



Friends International are a Christian charity who work with International students. They put on lots of events such as trips and meals! If you would like more information or to get involved please consider downloading their app which gives you more information about all upcoming events. It can be found on the Google Play store or by simply searching 'Friends International App' on Google.

## REFERENCES:

1. Friends International Southampton and Winchester. Friends International Southampton and Winchester logo. [Image on internet]. [No date of publication/last update; cited 2022 August 29]. Available at: <https://www.fisuk.org>  
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## DISCLAIMER:

Please note that this booklet has been produced purely for informational purposes for the benefit of international students studying at the University of Southampton. It is not intended for promotional or advertising purposes and cannot be sold itself. The information given in this booklet represents the opinions of the author and not necessarily of Southampton University Christian Union. The information in this booklet is correct as far as the author is aware at the time of printing.

All the best for your studies!  
God Bless!



Please scan the QR code or  
visit [sucu.org.uk/freshers](https://sucu.org.uk/freshers) for all  
the information

**SUCU**