

University of Essex



INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS GUIDE

Study abroad and shape
your future with a UK degree

WELCOME

Join a bold and brilliant learning community at the University of Essex, home to radical thinking and challenging ideas since the 1960s.

With Kaplan Pathways, you can take a pathway course to prepare and qualify for entry to an Essex degree. You can take your course on campus at the University of Essex International College or online, giving you the perfect introduction to life at the University.

4-9

The University

[kaplanpathways.com/
university-of-essex](https://kaplanpathways.com/university-of-essex)

Read about what you can expect at the University of Essex, what facilities and amenities you'll find on campus, and what it's like to live and study there.

10-15

The destination

kaplanpathways.com/essex-life

Find out what it's like to be an international student living in Essex, and what kind of accommodation will be available to you.

16-27

International College

kaplanpathways.com/essex

Learn about how you can gain entry to a University of Essex degree through the College, and find a handy glossary of places to go online for more information.

28-31

Next steps

kaplanpathways.com/essex-apply

See information on contacting us and how to apply, and use the accompanying **course booklet** to find details of the pathway courses and degrees available.

THIS IS ESSEX

Essex is a daring and innovative university, with a lot to offer international students like you. Read on to find out what makes the University of Essex so special.

At the University of Essex, you'll be joining an extraordinary student community, full of inspiring ideas and bright young minds from around the world. You'll benefit from a culture of questioning received wisdom, and striving to make positive change. In fact, the University of Essex was established to do just that: to be a modern university that could challenge the dominance of the traditional 'red brick' institutions.

Essex has a proud history of standing up for shared principles during times of social change. This pioneering spirit has helped Essex become an academic powerhouse, and one of the UK's leading institutions for the social sciences.

It's no wonder the University attracts so many ambitious, creative students from across the globe every year.

When you arrive at Essex as an international student, you'll become part of this story, as well as writing your own. You'll be joining all kinds of people, from all kinds of places, so you can enjoy a fun, vibrant social life and a brilliant student experience. You'll have access to excellent facilities and teachers who are leaders in their fields. All this means that you'll be well-equipped to face the future with a great degree from a university that's respected all around the world.

Learn more about the University of Essex:
kaplanpathways.com/university-of-essex

WHERE CHANGE HAPPENS

Top 15
in the UK
overall

Guardian University Guide 2026



**WHY CHOOSE
THE UNIVERSITY
OF ESSEX?**

Top 10
in the world for
international
outlook

Times Higher Education World
University Rankings 2026



Top 40
in the UK for
research intensity

Complete University Guide 2026



15th
in the UK for
teaching effectiveness

Guardian University Guide 2026



Student
community of
140+
nationalities

Source: University of Essex



EXPLORE YOUR CAMPUS

Campus life at Essex is great! You'll be able to enjoy fantastic facilities, both academic and social, and you'll be studying among fascinating people from all over the world. Find out more about the University's three campuses, and imagine what your life will be like at Essex.

Loughton Campus

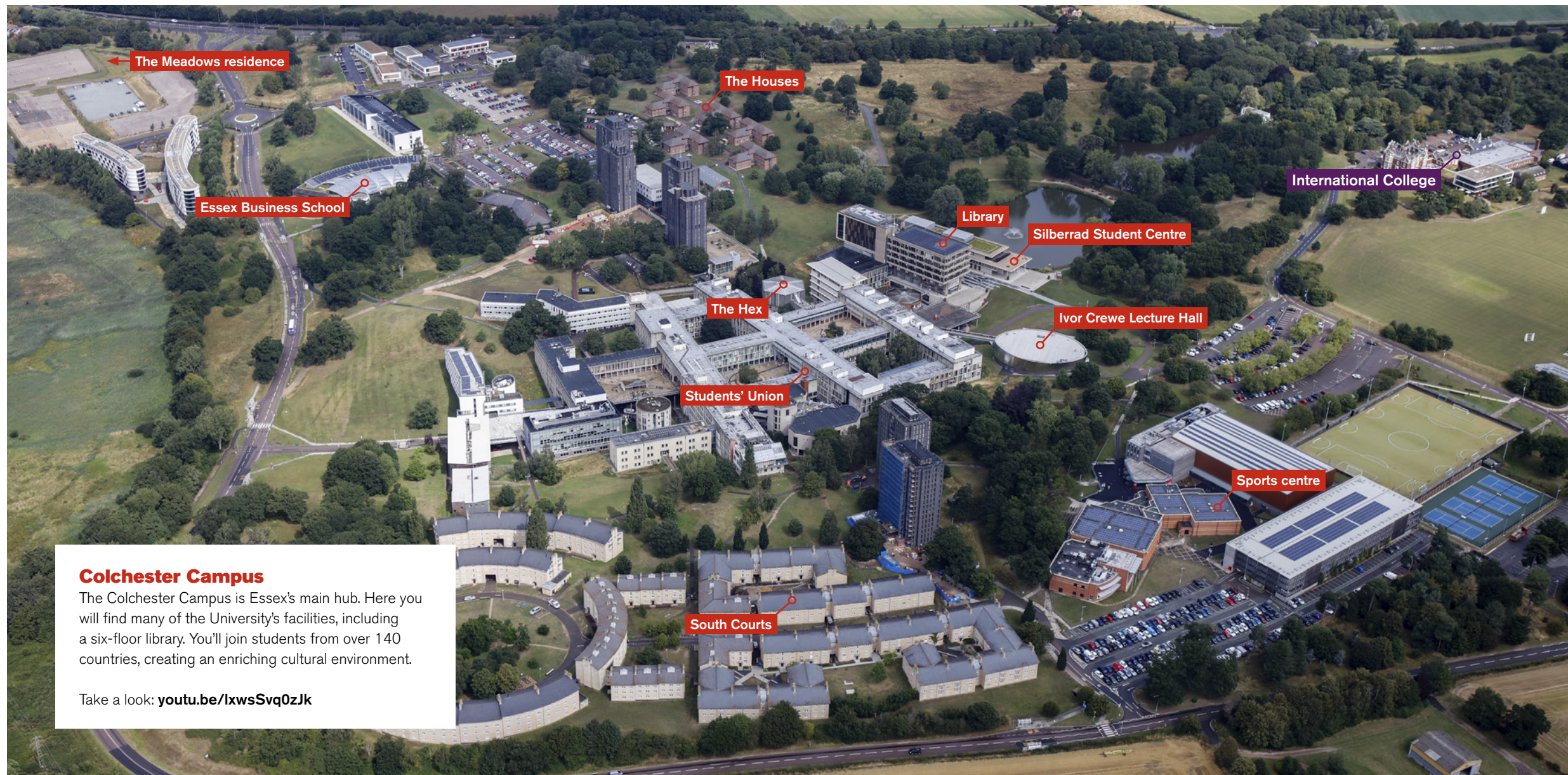
With excellent amenities that include a theatre, rehearsal spaces, and costume and prop departments, it's easy to see why the Loughton Campus is considered a premier study destination for performing arts students.



Join the club

Outside the classroom, you'll enjoy plenty of opportunities for fun, socialising and personal development. In fact, there are over 160 clubs and student societies to get involved with, covering interests as varied as anime and manga; current affairs; make-up; veganism and vegetarianism; and football. There are also lots of international cultural societies, from Arabic to Vietnamese, perfect for students from overseas who want to meet people from their home country.

A different kind of club is also a great campus asset at Essex: the award-winning Sub Zero night club. Sub Zero has a long and proud history of attracting major music artists and performers. Over the years, some of the world's biggest bands have played at Sub Zero, including Pink Floyd, AC/DC and Blur. You'll also benefit from a recently built sports arena and a £1.4 million gym — a great way for students to keep active!



Colchester Campus

The Colchester Campus is Essex's main hub. Here you will find many of the University's facilities, including a six-floor library. You'll join students from over 140 countries, creating an enriching cultural environment.

Take a look: youtu.be/lxwsVsq0zJk

WELCOME TO ESSEX

The University of Essex takes its name from the county of Essex and is located on England's south-east coast. This is a truly beautiful part of the country, with lots to see. And London is just an hour's train ride away!

Colchester, coastlines and cuisine

Essex is a beautiful part of England, with a fascinating history that goes back thousands of years. Colchester, home of the University of Essex's main campus, although a modern and vibrant city, is the oldest recorded town in England. It goes all the way back to Roman times!

When you explore Essex, you'll discover luscious countryside, pretty villages and historic sites. There's also a long and picturesque coastline, with some lovely seaside spots and the world's longest pleasure pier in Southend.

Essex boasts a brilliant food culture, with plenty of fresh seafood for the UK's famous fish and chips. And if you're feeling homesick, Essex also has cuisines from around the world, such as Indian, Chinese, Nigerian, Turkish, and much more. You'll be spoilt for choice!



Mon Mon
from Myanmar

Donald
from Nigeria

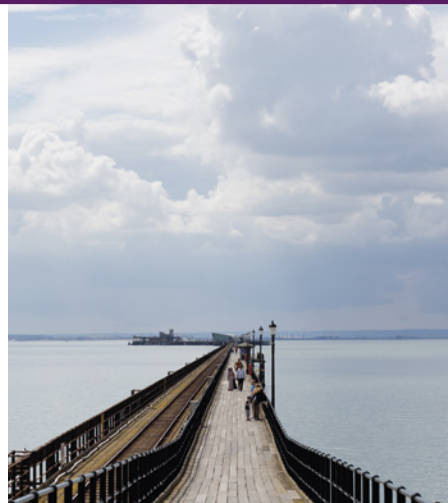
Fabian
from India

SEE AND DO

There are lots of wonderful things to see and do in Essex, whether that's in Colchester, Southend or in the rest of the county. Exploring this typically English part of the country will give you a truly authentic taste of British life.

1

Head down the longest pleasure pier in the world at Southend.



2

Go shopping in Colchester city centre.



6

See extraordinary animals at Colchester Zoo.



3

Have fun on adrenaline-pumping rides at Adventure Island in Southend.



7

Go to the beach! There are plenty of options in Essex.



8

Take a look inside Colchester Castle museum, a Norman-era keep.



4

See a live show in a beautiful, historic church at Colchester Arts Centre.



5

Enjoy some delicious, fresh fish and chips.



ACCOMMODATION IN ESSEX

While you're studying your pathway course at the International College, you can stay in safe, comfortable and convenient accommodation, typically on campus. It's easy to book your room on the accommodation portal, and our dedicated team is here to help you find a great place to live.

What's typically included?

- Comfortable private bedroom.
- Bedding pack.
- Private bathroom.
- Electricity, gas and water bills.
- Internet and WiFi.
- Access to shared laundry rooms (usage charges apply).
- Shared kitchen.
- Shared social spaces.
- Secure door entry.
- On-campus security officers at night.

Accommodation during your degree

After your pathway course, you are able to continue to live in a University of Essex student residence, in fact, the University guarantees access to accommodation for the duration of your studies, or you can find private accommodation nearby.

Example accommodation options

The Houses

You'll share a flat with up to six other students, with a private bedroom and bathroom. Ten-minute walk to the College.



South Courts

You'll share a flat with up to 14 other students, with a private bedroom and bathroom. Ten-minute walk to the College.

Accommodation options may change depending on demand and availability.



The Meadows

You'll share a flat with up to seven other students, with a private bedroom and bathroom. Twenty-minute walk to the College.

DEGREE PREPARATION

Shao-Ting
from Taiwan

Based at the University's Colchester Campus, the International College is where you will study your pathway course, helping you to meet your degree entry requirements and get ready for university.

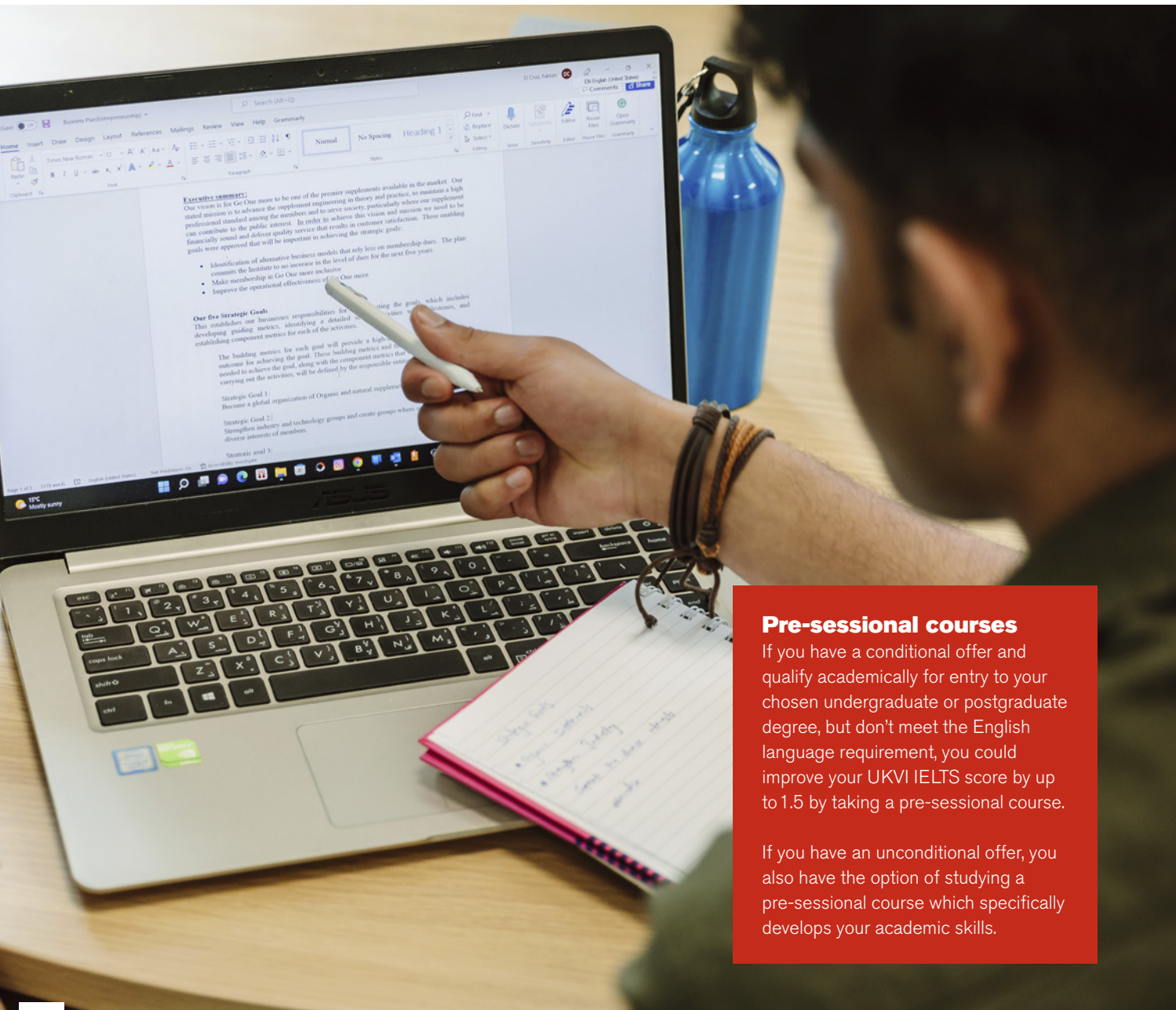
Take a pathway course

As an international student, you might need, or benefit from, a pathway course that prepares you for degree study. Sometimes a pathway course is necessary owing to differences in national education systems, or to help you improve your academic or language skills to the level needed.

You can take your pathway course at the University of Essex International College or online, with expert staff guiding you as you improve your English, academic skills and subject knowledge. During your studies, you'll also have access to all of the University of Essex's facilities and resources. When you pass your course at the required level, with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to your degree!

STUDY OPTIONS

You have a number of study options that will help you on your path to an Essex degree. While a Foundation Certificate or International Year One will enable you to enrol on an undergraduate degree, a Pre-Master's course will do the same for a postgraduate degree.



Pre-sessional courses

If you have a conditional offer and qualify academically for entry to your chosen undergraduate or postgraduate degree, but don't meet the English language requirement, you could improve your UKVI IELTS score by up to 1.5 by taking a pre-sessional course.

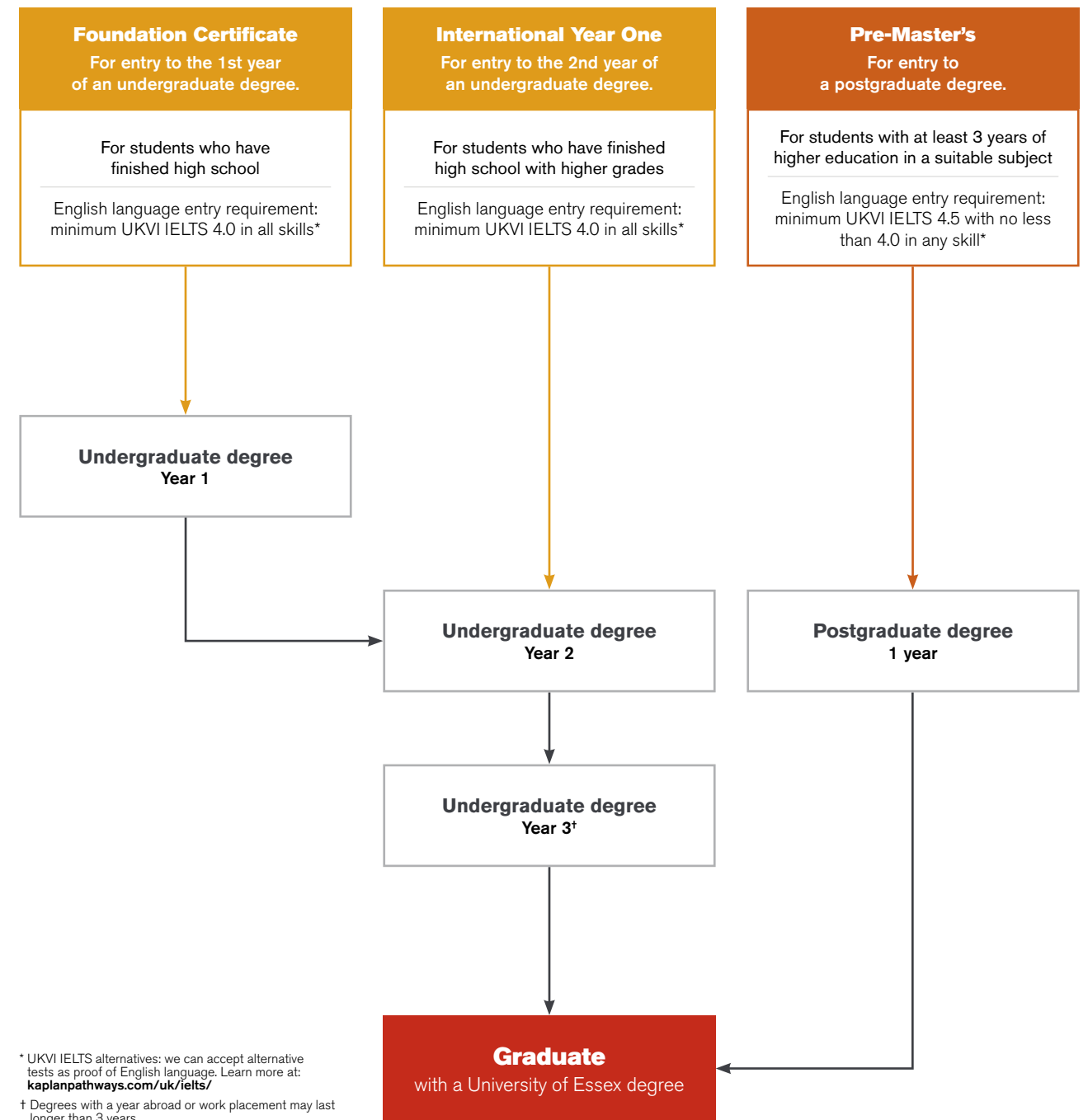
If you have an unconditional offer, you also have the option of studying a pre-sessional course which specifically develops your academic skills.

Course details

Use the accompanying **course booklet** to explore the full range of courses, degrees and online internship options.

Undergraduate pathways

Postgraduate pathway



* UKVI IELTS alternatives: we can accept alternative tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: [kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/](https://www.kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/)

† Degrees with a year abroad or work placement may last longer than 3 years

EXPERT TEACHING

Experienced staff will empower you to make the most of your time at the International College. We value both your education and your experience of living in the UK, and we want you to progress to university feeling confident and excited.

Be inspired

You'll be joining an invigorating environment at the International College, with other ambitious people from around the world who are eager to learn. Teachers at the College will encourage you to think critically and to get involved in conversations and debates about complex topics, much like a university seminar.

The course will enhance your subject knowledge, study skills and English language level, and help you become familiar with academic conventions in the UK. When you progress to your chosen degree, you will be ready to succeed at university and beyond.

Virtual internships

Many courses can be taken with an optional integrated virtual internship. This is your chance to expand your list of professional contacts and gain useful work experience before you even begin your degree.

Employability skills

Preparing you for a successful career is an important part of getting an education. Our pathway courses include many opportunities to build career skills, such as live careers events with businesses and entrepreneurs, practical projects and help expanding your professional network. You'll even be able to gain impressive professional qualifications while you study.

Read more about careers:
kaplanpathways.com/essex-employability

Bespoke curriculum

Your course has been carefully crafted to help international students adjust to the UK education system. It will contain modules based on your degree subject, and it will typically include projects allowing you to cover topics that interest you.

You'll also be able to learn at your own pace, with teaching support tailored to the needs of each individual student. Depending on your circumstances, we may be able to offer flexible study solutions, so you don't have to miss out on the life-changing opportunity to study abroad.



100%
of students who
successfully passed
their course received an
unconditional offer
from the University of
Essex in 2024

See the full progression rates:
kaplanpathways.com/essex-progression



Shu
from China

STUDENT SUPPORT

When you study at the University of Essex International College, you'll benefit from fantastic support from the very start. If you ever need anything or have questions, all you have to do is ask!

Support early on

From the moment you enquire about a pathway course, you'll benefit from the fantastic support on offer when you study with Kaplan. We'll give you guidance on the visa process, and you'll also be able to get an advance look at your study materials with Pathways Preview. And, if you're under 18, Kaplan can help arrange a comprehensive guardianship service from a recognised and established guardianship company. When you land in the UK, we can often meet you at the airport and arrange a transfer service, and we'll make sure you're settled and comfortable when you arrive at your new home in Essex.

We're here for you

While you're at the College, your safety, wellbeing and happiness are all extremely important to us. The first few days of term are Welcome Week: a fun introduction to College life, the staff and your fellow students. After that, we'll continue to organise great social events, activities and day trips to make your time here is rich and rewarding. We'll also help you set up a bank account, register with a doctor and make sure you have everything you need for life in the UK. If you ever want to discuss anything, our friendly support team will always be there for you. When your course ends, you will even be able to carry on building employability skills and working on your Kaplan portfolio with Pathways Extra.

“We make sure that you'll not only get the most out of your education, but also out of your experience of life in the UK as a student. It's really important to us that you are happy, having fun, and feel that the International College is an open, welcoming environment to study and spend time in.”

Beth, College Services Administrator (pictured left)

96%
of students surveyed in 2023 agreed it was easy to ask for advice and support from College staff

See what else our students think:
kaplanpathways.com/essex-satisfaction/

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS

Find out what student life abroad is like from people who have already had the experience: our students!

Life as a student

If you are curious to know more about what it's like to live and study abroad in the UK, the best way is to learn from people who have been there themselves.

Our Student Content Creators are international students just like you, and they're here to provide all the guidance

you need. They have created all kinds of video and written content that offers useful advice about studying abroad.

This could include things such as good places in Essex to visit, what campus life is like, handy tips on what to bring to the UK, and ways to adapt to a different culture. Maybe you'll follow in their footsteps and become a Student Content Creator yourself one day!

“You will enjoy walking around Essex — it's such a green county!”

Navid from Afghanistan

To hear more from our Student Content Creators, just visit:

kpln.org/ueic-content-creators



FIND MORE ONLINE

There's so much more to find out about the University of Essex. Below you can find where to go online for more information, including about other routes to an Essex degree and how to contact us if you have any questions.

The University

About Essex:

kaplanpathways.com/university-of-essex

Degree options at Essex:

kaplanpathways.com/essex-degrees

The University's website:

essex.ac.uk

Important information

Student visa:

www.gov.uk/student-visa

Student insurance:

kaplanpathways.com/insurance

College guardians for under-18s:

www.collegeguardians.co.uk

Information for parents and guardians:

kaplanpathways.com/parents-and-guardians/

The College

About the International College:

kaplanpathways.com/essex

Student accommodation:

kaplanpathways.com/essex-accommodation

Employability resources:

kaplanpathways.com/essex-employability

Tuition fees and living costs:

kaplanpathways.com/essex-fees

Further questions?

Get in touch:

kaplanpathways.com/essex-contact

Meet us in your country or region:

kaplanpathways.com/kaplan-in-my-country

Other study options

Take a degree online

With Kaplan, you can study a University of Essex Bachelors or Masters degree online and part-time. This will give you flexibility and convenience around your current schedule, and it's a really cost-effective way to get a great degree. You'll benefit from engaging, interactive learning materials, delivered using cutting-edge digital technology. You'll also have access to dedicated student advisers who will be there for you from enrolment right through to graduation. Your degree will be fully accredited, so you'll leave with the same impressive qualification as on-campus students.

Find out more:

online.essex.ac.uk

MEET BENAZIR

Benazir has come from Nigeria to study in the UK and is on her path to an Essex degree.



A few years ago I became really fascinated by the brain and how it works. I was on the internet and I was reading about the brain, and it mentioned that less than 3% of the brain had been studied and there's still a lot to be known, and I just wanted to discover what's still unknown! That's why I decided that I wanted to do something related to neuroscience.

Although I'm from Nigeria, I used to live in Saudi Arabia, and while I was there I studied the British curriculum. That's why, when I was looking for universities, my parents thought it would be better for me to apply to a British one. I chose the University of Essex because it offers neuroscience and psychology together, and it's close to London.

When I first got here I was nervous, but everyone was very friendly. The teachers and the staff were really helpful, so this contributed to me getting used to my surroundings very quickly. I was surprised by how fast I adapted!

I've made quite a lot of friends here. That was also one of my worries, that I wouldn't be able to get along with people because it's a more international community than I'm used to, so I thought I might have problems with communication. But I really didn't! Everyone here is new and trying to make friends, so that made it easier for us to get to know each other. And now it's like a family — we help each other and we go out. It's really nice!

**“IT'S LIKE
A FAMILY —
WE HELP EACH
OTHER AND WE
GO OUT. IT'S
REALLY NICE!”**

My University of Essex degree is Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience, and one of the modules I took here at the College is called People, Culture and Society. I think that helped me with the psychology part of my degree because it's about trying to understand people in a society — it's from a more cultural point of view, but it's closely linked to psychology.

Studying abroad is such a fun experience. I think it helps you grow as a person, and you learn more about yourself and you get to be independent. And it's always nice to experience something new, so I would recommend studying abroad to other people.

This is my path so far



APPLICATION PROCESS

Applying to study in Essex with Kaplan is quick and easy. Choose a course, and then just follow the steps opposite!

Bryan
from Nigeria

Digital pathways

To ensure everyone can get a great education, you can also take your course online.

Step 1

Submit your application form

We'll guide you through the entire application process, including what documents you'll need to send with or after your application. Just get in touch, or apply via the link below. kaplanpathways.com/essex-apply

Step 2

Receive offer and book accommodation

Once your complete application has been reviewed, you'll receive either an unconditional or conditional offer, or we can explore other options with you. You can also book your accommodation via our online portal.

Step 3

Accept your offer

You'll do this by paying your deposit to study and the admin fee, or sending your financial guarantee.

Step 4

Obtain your student visa

To study a pathway course in the UK, you'll typically need to obtain a student visa. We'll advise you on this important process and provide the supporting documents you'll need for your visa application.

Step 5

Book your flight and begin your studies

The most important step: arrive in the UK and begin your life-changing adventure as an international student!

CHOOSE YOUR PATH

The best way to decide on your path to the University of Essex is to get in touch! Just follow the link below, and we'll be more than happy to help.

Contact us

kaplanpathways.com/essex-contact

Course information

You can use the **course information booklet** to find out more about the pathway courses at the University of Essex International College and the available progression degrees. Alternatively, find an online version of the booklet on our website:

kaplanpathways.com/essex-course-info



Where is Essex?



Who's on the cover?

Li Lin from China (left) and Benazir from Nigeria (right) on their path to a University of Essex degree.

Find out more

kaplanpathways.com/university-of-essex

Explore more study options

Kaplan offers international students a wide range of education options in English-speaking countries.

Learn more: kaplanpathways.com

Join in online

@KaplanPathways     

Office for Students (OfS)

The University of Essex International College is #OfSRegistered. That means we meet the @officestudent requirements for course quality, academic standards, student support, student protection and more.

For more information see: officeforstudents.org.uk/register

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publishing, but some changes (for example to university rankings, accommodation and course options, course delivery, etc.) are likely to occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check the website or contact us for any updates before you apply. Once you have applied, any change which has an impact on the terms and conditions of your offer or a significant part of your programme will be communicated to you.

The University of Essex International College is operated by Kaplan Essex Limited (company number: 10846169), with registered address: Palace House, 3 Cathedral Street, London SE1 9DE, United Kingdom.

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Visit our University of Essex webpage!

