

Dear Student

We hope you are having a Fabulous February and enjoying the unpredictable Welsh weather!

We know it is a very busy time for students with many of you in the middle of assignments and examinations and lots of new students just finding out more about their course and their new country of residence. We wish you all the best with your new and continuing academic work and, for all new students, a very warm welcome to Wales. This month's newsletter is full of fun and interesting information and things to do - we hope you will be able to take advantage of some free time and join us and the Global Assistants on some of the trips and activities we have planned for you.

Emma, James, Kath, Sarah, Sue and Tim
Immigration and International Student Advice



February International Welcome Programme

Our successful February International Welcome Programme has just come to a close.

Supported by the Global Assistants, a good time was had by all with new students having the opportunity to try new activities such as Zumba and Drumming alongside settling in to their new homes. New students also got the chance to explore Pontypridd, Cardiff and Cardiff Bay, learning more about the area and its history. During the Welcome Programme lots of new friendships were secured and, so that our new students have the opportunity to meet more of their peers from across the University, both new and old students will now have the opportunity to join the Global Assistants on trips over the next few weeks.

Who's Who?!

Let's meet the student who is Secretary to the South Wales International Society (SWIS)



Q: What's your name?

A: Sebastian Beger

Q: Where are you from?

A: Hardheim, Germany

Q: What do you study?

A: BSc Engineering Technology Management

Q: Why did you decide to study at the University of South Wales?

A: My University at home has a partnership with the University of South Wales and I was looking forward to finding out more about the culture in the UK.

Q: What do you like most about the UK?

A: The possibility to travel and see so many new things and meeting new people both students and residents outside of the University.

Q: What has been the biggest adjustment for you coming to the UK?

A: The food.

Q: What's the coolest thing you've done since coming to the University of South Wales?

A: Meeting so many new people from different cultural backgrounds and, of course, the International Welcome Programme which made me interested in becoming more involved with the SWIS.

Q: If I were to travel to your country, where should I visit?

A: You should see the capital city Berlin and look at the beautiful countryside of southern Germany, especially around the Baden area.

Q: Why should students join the South Wales International Society?

A: It is a great place to meet new and interesting people from all over the world, get to know new cultures and broaden your view on the world. The society welcomes new members (including UK students) who are interested in being more international. We also organise lots of exciting trips and activities.

Q: How can students join the society?

A: Students just need to come along to one of our publicised events - see our facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/uswinternationalociety/ or talk to one of the committee members for more information, also, you can email the president on: uswinternationalociety@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

2015 is the Year of the Sheep and there will be lots of exciting activities held around the country that you can join in with and celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Here are some examples of events you might like to attend:

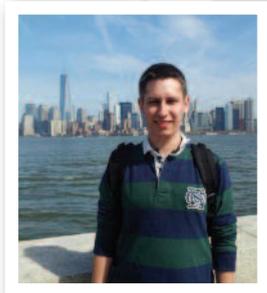
Cardiff – Thursday 19th February, Red Dragon Centre. There will be Lion Dancers, Chinese Craft fair, Chinese restaurant and lots more – for more information go to www.threddragoncentre.co.uk/events/chinese-new-year-3/

Birmingham – Sunday 22nd February a little further afield but easily reached by train from Cardiff. This event attracts over 30,000 visitors annually and there will be Lion Dancers; Cultural performances; Craft fair; Food stalls and a Fair ground – for more information go to www.cnybirmingham.org.uk/



My Home Town

Our GA's met with a UK student and asked them about themselves and where they come from...



Name: Tim Newth
Course: MSc Conservation and Geographical Information Systems
Home town: Bristol
Distance from Cardiff: 50 miles by car

Why did you choose to study at USW?

The University of South Wales was only one of a few that offered my course at the time I applied for my undergraduate studies. I also chose it as it is not far away from my hometown making it easy to travel there and back.

Tell us a little bit about your home town

Bristol is a city in the South West of England with a population of about 400,000 people. The city is built around the River Avon which was once used as one of the busiest shipping routes to the harbour which is a very popular tourist spot. Bristol has two football clubs; Bristol Rovers and Bristol City. It has a world renowned university called the University of Bristol as well as the University of the South West of England.

What is there to do and see?

Floating Harbour, Museums, Clifton Suspension Bridge, Zoo, Clifton Downs, Shopping, Restaurants, Parks, Colston Hall, Bristol Hippodrome

The best thing about Bristol is...?

The best thing about Bristol is its culture, each year Bristol holds a wide range of festivals. The best one is the Bristol Harbour festival in the summer.

Why should international students visit Bristol?

A whole range of different cultures and a lot of things to do.

Travel details from Cardiff

Train from Cardiff which takes 50 mins. About £10 for a single trip. Trains run daily every 30 minutes.





IISA Trips

Trips are open to all students but, as this is as part of a series of events to welcome our new students who are just starting their courses with us, the new intake of February students will get priority.



Saturday 21st February – we are going to the beautiful and historic Roman town of Bath. Whilst in Bath you will be free to do your own thing – go on a free walking tour, visit the Roman Baths, or explore the city's many other attractions, museums, art galleries and shops.

You can also take part in a hop on hop off bus tour which is a good way to see the city and learn some of its history. Wrap up warm if the bus is open topped though!

Sunday 1st March – we are going to St. Fagans which is our National Museum of Welsh Life. You may know that March 1st is a very special day in Wales as it is St. David's Day and St. David is the patron saint of Wales. You might see people walking about with either a leek or a daffodil (2 of our national emblems) pinned to their clothes in celebration. As it is our national day there will be lots of free activities going on at St. Fagans including Welsh Dancing and Welsh cake baking- so it's a really great day to go and find out a little more about this wonderful country you are currently living in!



Saturday 7th March – we will be going on an informal trip to the beautiful English city of Oxford. Oxford is a very historic city which is famous for its University and fantastic architecture. There are also several museums such as the

Ashmolean (which was the first public museum in the world!) and the Pitt Rivers which you could visit. You could have a look inside the Castle or take a trip on a boat down the River Thames. There is also a large covered market and plenty of shops for you to do some shopping and a vast array of pubs and restaurants for you to have your lunch and relax. You would have the freedom to visit any of the attractions or just to wander around and have a look- it's such a beautiful city!

Meet the Global Assistants

Have you ever wondered who and what the Global Assistants are and where they come from? Read on to meet one of them and find out...



Name: Ana Enache

Course: BSc Software Engineering

What is your nationality? Romanian

Which campus are you based on? Treforest Campus

Why did you choose to study at USW? I chose the University of South Wales because of the many opportunities provided by my course.

Why did you decide to become a GA? When I arrived at the university in September for the International Welcome Programme, I've received a lot of help from the helpers and the staff. After receiving this assistance in September, I decided that I wanted to repay for that help by offering the same hospitality to new students. In February I had the opportunity to help with the International Welcome Programme. This week was fun and I had the opportunity to help others.

What do you do as a GA? My responsibility as a Global Assistant is to not only help current students, but to also assist new upcoming prospects to the university.

The best thing about being a GA is....? Being a Global Assistant gives me the opportunity to meet new people and have fun through different activities.

Why should students become a GA? Students should become a Global Assistant because it offers the opportunity to meet new friends and looks great on a C.V.

Any USW student can apply to become a Global Assistant. If you are interested in becoming one please e-mail the IISA team at: international.advice@southwales.ac.uk