



University of Essex

**Your studies**

# **Postgraduate Taught Student Handbook 2026-27**



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## Welcome



Dear Student,

Welcome to the University of Essex.

Wherever you are in your academic journey, whether you are new to Essex or continuing your studies with us, you belong to a community that is ambitious, inclusive and committed to making a positive difference in the world. Essex is a place where ideas are valued, curiosity is encouraged, and people from different backgrounds come together to learn from one another.

At the heart of Essex is our belief that education has the power to transform lives. We are passionate about supporting student success and challenging expectations. We want every student to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve their goals, contribute to their field of study and shape the future in ways that matter to them.

We are proud of our reputation for academic excellence, research with real-world impact and a culture that encourages you to think boldly and act with purpose. You'll be taught, supervised and supported by expert staff whose work is helping to address

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some of the most important challenges facing society today. At the same time, learning at Essex is about much more than academic achievement alone. It is about developing your independence, discovering new perspectives, building lasting connections and preparing for whatever comes next.

One of the things that makes Essex special is our community. People often describe us as the world in one place, and that spirit continues to define who we are. We celebrate diversity, champion equality of opportunity and strive to ensure that everyone feels they belong. Your experiences, perspectives and ambitions enrich our community, and your voice matters.

Throughout your studies, there will be opportunities to explore new ideas, challenge assumptions and engage with people whose experiences may be very different from your own. We encourage you to approach these opportunities with curiosity, openness and confidence. Some moments will be exciting, others may be demanding, and there will inevitably be times when you need advice or support. When that happens, please remember that you are not alone. The University offers a wide range of academic, personal and wellbeing support services, and our staff are here to help you make the most of your time at Essex.

This handbook is designed to support you throughout your journey with us. It brings together important information about how the University works, the regulations and procedures that govern your studies, and the services available to support your success. I encourage you to return to this handbook whenever you need guidance, clarification or advice.

I hope your time at Essex inspires you to think differently, develop your talents and pursue your ambitions with confidence. We are proud to have you as part of our community and look forward to supporting you throughout your studies.

I look forward to seeing all that you achieve during your time at Essex.

Professor Frances Bowen

Vice-Chancellor

University of Essex

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## Introduction

Your Student Handbook will tell you everything you need to know about the University, its academic policies and procedures, and the resources available to you.

At Essex we put the success of our students at the heart of everything we do and want to support you to achieve outstanding outcomes. We are absolutely determined to provide you with the best Essex education and student experience we can, while safeguarding your health and wellbeing.

We celebrate diversity and challenge inequality. We are a truly diverse community where differences are celebrated, and individuality is valued. Your contribution is welcomed and encouraged based on your own thoughts and experiences. As part of our community, you will have the freedom to explore, experiment, challenge your discipline and have your ideas shaped by peer and professional knowledge from all over the world. Essex is about more than just getting a degree: we have so much to offer our students.

Things might have to change and adapt over the year, so make sure that you're checking online and keeping in touch with your department or school for the latest updates. The [Student Directory](#) contains a wealth of other helpful sources of information which you may also find useful.

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## Practicalities and getting started

You've made it to Essex! We've outlined below the most important things you need to make sure you do as soon as possible to get your time at Essex started.

### Registration (new students)

As a new student, you must complete our [registration process](#) in order to begin your studies with us. Registration is not only a formal procedure to enrol you into the University but also connects you to vital systems which allow you to access your online Welcome and Induction information and start your studies. Because of this, you'll be asked to complete the following compulsory steps: activate your Essex IT account, provide key information about yourself as part of Online Registration (including payment of fees where required), complete an online Right to Study check and attend an in-person Right to Study check on campus, where you will collect your Student Registration Card. Once you've completed these steps, you'll be fully registered and be able to begin attending teaching and engage with your course.

You should ensure you have completed the [registration process, including payment of your fees \(where required\) by the published Latest Registration Deadline](#) for your course. If you do not do this, you may not be allowed to register and begin your course with us.

### Registration (returning students)

As a returning student, you will need to ensure you complete [Online Registration and pay your fees \(if required to do so\)](#) at the start of each academic year to be able to continue your studies with us. It is essential that you complete all required steps, by the published [Latest Registration Deadline](#), otherwise you may not be allowed to continue your studies with us. This is in line with Regulations relating to Registration 5.4.

If you are a student undertaking studies with us with a form of immigration permission, in some instances you may be required to undertake an additional Right to Study check, before being permitted to re-register. This may be the case if one or more of your documents have expired, your immigration status has changed, or you have

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changed course and have been required to obtain a new visa. You will be contacted by our International Services Team if you need to complete an additional check.

### **Right to study**

The University must ensure all students have the right to study at the University of Essex for the duration of their course. If you were born outside the UK or Republic of Ireland, your [immigration permission](#) to study in the UK will be checked via the online Right to Study system, when you first arrive on campus, and as necessary thereafter. Students have a duty to maintain valid UK immigration permission that allows study for the duration of their course, failure to do so may lead to withdrawal from the University under the [University's General Regulations](#).

### **Students with sponsored immigration permission**

The University is a Student Sponsor with a track record of compliance and must ensure we remain compliant with the UK Immigration Rules to maintain our sponsor status. Student visa holders have [additional responsibilities](#) to the University and the Home Office. There will be conditions attached to your visa that restrict what you can do in the UK, breaking any of the conditions may mean you can't remain in the UK and complete your course.

### **Student visa holder attendance**

You must attend your in-person teaching events and this will be monitored throughout your course. If your [attendance and engagement](#) falls below the Home Office expectations, or you are absent without permission for a period of time, we must take action, and this can include withdrawing our visa sponsorship. The International Services Team can provide [immigration information and advice](#) throughout your studies in relation to the UK's Student and Standard Visitor Immigration Routes.

### **Choosing your modules**

You may have module options to select as part of your course structure. If you do, you must select the modules you wish to enrol on before the academic year begins. You can view and choose your specific options through the [eNROL system](#), unless you are studying part-time, in which case you should contact your department. New students can do so from the end of August and returning students can from the term preceding the next academic year. Early module enrolment ensures that timetables can be

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scheduled effectively. We'll talk more about how you might decide which modules to take in the [Learning and Teaching](#) section of this Handbook. If you experience technical issues with the eNROL system, please contact [enrol@essex.ac.uk](mailto:enrol@essex.ac.uk) for support.

## **Explore your campus**

There is a broad range of [facilities](#) across each of our campuses to support your experience at Essex, whether in person or virtually. For the latest information, see the updates on [services on campus](#).

## **Get connected**

### **Your IT account**

You will need to set up [your Essex IT account](#). This will give you access to your Essex [email](#), [Moodle](#), campus wifi, campus computers, Library resources and account and many more digital resources. When you set up your Essex IT account, you will need to register an external email address and passphrase so that if you [forget your Essex password](#), you can also reset it using these details. If you have forgotten those, you should contact the [IT Helpdesk](#). Make sure you keep your password safe and do not share it with others.

For a quick rundown of what you need when you first start, head to the [Getting Started with IT guide](#) on the Student Directory.

### **Campus wifi**

If you are studying on any of our campuses, connect to our wifi by finding the [eduroam network](#) on your device. Use your Essex email and password to join.

### **Essex apps & Microsoft 365**

The University has a variety of online platforms, and [software and apps](#) designed to enhance your learning and help make processes, such as submitting coursework, easier. You can also enjoy full, free access to [Microsoft 365](#) — including Outlook, OneDrive, Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote — on your personal devices throughout your time at Essex.

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## **MyEssex**

[MyEssex](#) is your online account and can only be accessed via an internet browser. This is different to your applicant portal – you can use MyEssex to view your timetable, update your personal details, request replacement student cards or supporting documents, monitor your course progress, let us know if you'll miss a lecture or class, contact the Student Services Hub, and much more.

## **Find Your Way**

When on campus, we know that finding your way can be challenging to start with. Our Colchester campus in particular can be difficult to navigate with a historically complex room numbering system! [FindYourWay](#) is our interactive campus map app designed to get you from A to B on the Colchester campus with quick and easy directions.

## **Working while studying**

Many students choose to work part-time to supplement their income. Working during your course can also give you excellent skills and experience to boost your CV. Our [Career Services Team](#) can help you find part-time work. There are also many opportunities to [work in paid jobs on campus](#).

You can access recommendations on working hours, as well as guidance on rates of pay and National Insurance contributions on the [Careers Services webpages](#).

If you have a Student visa, please read our information on [working in the UK during your studies](#) before you start looking for a job. Your visa type will determine whether or not you can work in the UK. If you can work, the type of work you are allowed to undertake and the number of hours you can work will be restricted.

## **Your personal belongings**

The University does not cover costs for personal damage or loss of possessions; only in instances where the University has been negligent would a claim be viable for compensation for personal belongings. Therefore, you are strongly advised to take out personal insurance cover for your possessions. This is especially important for valuable items, such as laptops, phones and tablets.

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## **The Essex Experience**

We are proud of our inclusive and international community. Our campuses are places where every single person can feel they belong and where you can find the world in one place. We have created a [Student Charter](#) as a pledge that every student signs up to when they join us. By signing up, you promise to uphold our values and to behave in ways that strengthen and support our community. We promise to support you at every stage of your journey with us.

### **Embracing our values**

We are different at Essex. We are brave, we are bold, and we embrace challenges and drive change. Our values are underpinned by this very culture. While we encourage you to challenge the status quo and explore the unknown, we expect all of our students do so respectfully, intelligently and act as true ambassadors for the University. Our [Code of Student Conduct](#) outlines the rules and regulations that help us maintain our high standards of behaviour.

### **Equality, diversity and inclusion**

The University recognises the value of diversity and is committed to providing equal opportunities for our whole community. Our students and staff are treated with dignity and respect, and solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, while still having the relevant impact and implications associated with race, ethnic or national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, socio-economic background, family circumstances, religious or political beliefs and affiliations, or any other identity-forming characteristics, taken into consideration as necessary to ensure equal opportunity.

The University is committed to a programme of action to ensure that this [policy](#) is fully effective.

### **Student communities**

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming and inclusive community. We recognise the value of diversity and are committed to equality of opportunity within the University.

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We offer a wide range of support to individuals and groups of student members – [our student communities](#) – who may have specific requirements, interests or responsibilities to help fulfil your potential. Whether you are an international student, a mature student, a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) student, or have any other requirements or needs, we want to welcome you with open arms.

You may be interested in information regarding our [postgraduate student community](#).

## **Environmental Sustainability and Responsibility**

[Watch our short video, for an introduction to sustainability at Essex.](#)

The University of Essex is on an environmental journey, aiming to reach net zero carbon emissions from our energy use by 2035. This is done through a range of projects that drive energy efficiency and on-site renewable electricity generation. The Sustainability and Estates teams work on projects such as carbon reduction, reuse and recycling, and sustainable education, in collaboration with other departments and teams.

During your time at Essex there are opportunities for you to learn more about sustainable development and equip you with the skills and knowledge that will help you in your future choices – whether that's further study or the start of your career. Be sure to check your programme modules if you're keen to take environmentally-focused course options. You can access extra-curricular activities through Chart My Path and the VTeam, plus you can join the Sustainable Students Society. Your participation in all additional events is recorded on [Higher Education Achievement Record](#) (HEAR), your online CV. You can also access a range of information and simple courses via the Sustainability page on Moodle. We encourage you to [sign up to the Sustainable Essex Commitment](#), to show how you will do your bit.

There are easy everyday habits to help you do your bit too; bring your own takeaway cup to cafes on campus for a discount, and remember your bottle to refill at one of our many water fountains. There are lots of recycling bins across our campuses so that you can correctly separate all your waste. If you're living on campus, be sure to switch off lights and electrical items when not in use, and keep windows closed in colder months when the heating is on.

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For any more information, [head to the sustainability pages on the Essex website](#). If you have questions or an idea for a sustainability event or project of your own contact the Sustainability Team: [sustainability@essex.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@essex.ac.uk). Follow us on Instagram: @uoe\_susandgrounds and [LinkedIn](#).

## **Essex Sport**

Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom. Keeping active during your studies is a great way to meet new people, help relieve stress, maintain good physical and mental wellbeing, increase productivity, and improve your employability.

Join [Essex Sport](#) and be part of something bigger. We're a community of like-minded individuals who are dedicated to enriching your experience at University of Essex. By fuelling your passion for all things active we help you make new friends, find new interests and be the best you. Whatever your sport, whatever your level, from fan to [professional athlete](#), we've got a place for you.

Visit the [Essex Sport](#) website or [download the app](#) to discover all the ways you can keep active during your time at Essex. In order to ensure the welfare of our community there may be changes to opening hours or what's available, so do check on the website and our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) for the latest information.

## **Students' Union**

We're famous for our [Students' Union at Essex](#), and for good reason. Here you are not just a member of a normal Students' Union, you are part of a family. We work hard to support our PGT community, and are here from day one to the moment you graduate to support you in any way we can.

The Students' Union is run by students for students, and you have the ability to shape what they do. From deciding who leads the SU, including the PGT rep, to shaping your own experiences at Essex, they are here to represent your views and work with you to make amazing things happen.

Not to mention you'll find everything from bars, nightclubs, shops and coffee shops, run by the SU at our [Colchester](#) campus, as well as bespoke support for SU members in [Loughton](#).

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## Get involved!

There are opportunities to join [Sports Clubs](#), and get involved with competitive sports in our [BUCS teams](#).

We have over 100 [Societies](#) where you can meet people with similar interests, challenge yourself with something new or if you can't find what you are looking for- [Start your own](#).

We also train, recruit and support hundreds of student reps each year. These reps gather feedback to share student viewpoints on academic experiences. You can find out more about student reps including how to sign up and getting trained [here](#).

Our [SU Advice](#) team are here to offer confidential, independent and impartial advice on a range of issues

We also have our very own lettings agency ([SUHomes](#)), to offer help and support to students to find off campus accommodation.

## Chart My Path

Use Chart My Path to discover a variety of extracurricular activities offered at Essex, and get recommendations personalised to you. Log into [GradIntelligence](#) to get started.

## Essex spirit, social media and what's on?

Keep up to date with important news, events and offers from across the University with our Essex spirit newsletter, delivered directly to your Essex email address.

Follow us on social:



[/uniofessex](#)



[/uniessex](#)



[/Uni\\_of\\_Essex](#)



[/@uniofessex](#)



[/university-of-essex](#)



[/uniessex](#)

Our [Events calendar](#) brings together all the events happening across our campuses, so you can make the most of your time at Essex.

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## Departmental Information

Your department will provide additional information on [Moodle](#) relating to your department, course and modules. Please check your Moodle page to stay informed of any department-specific information. Each department also has a [departmental webpage](#) where you can read more about your department, its people, and research interests.

### Meet the team

You can find a list of all staff across the University on our [people webpage](#) and can filter by department to see your departmental staff. Your department will also be able to provide information on your key contacts within their team.

Each department has a Departmental Disability Liaison Officer (DDLO). Further information on this role and the departmental officers can be found on the [DDLO webpage](#).

### Teaching staff and support

All teaching staff hold regular weekly academic support hours during term time. This is a time when you can meet with them about anything to do with your modules, from difficulties you might be having with your seminar readings, to discussions about feedback on your coursework.

Your department/school will provide details of how arrangements for academic support hours will be advertised, including the timing and format of meetings.

Please note that academic staff do not hold regular academic support hours during the vacations, and may, on occasions, be away from the University on research trips and visits. Therefore, if you need to get in touch with them during the vacation periods, you should email them in the first instance.

### Module Tutors

There are dedicated Module Tutors to support students for each module. The module tutor for each module can be found on Moodle. If you have a specific study question, please contact the relevant module tutor.

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## **Your Student Advisor**

All undergraduate and postgraduate taught students have a Student Advisor who will meet you soon after you arrive, and regularly throughout your course. Your Student Advisor will be a member of academic staff and is someone you talk to about your course or any difficulties that may encounter. They can recommend and direct you to other support services that might be able to further help and support you. You can find out who your Student Advisor is through [MyEssex](#) or [Moodle](#).

If you have a disability, long term medical condition and/or Specific Learning Difference and have not registered with Student Wellbeing & Inclusivity Service, to discuss your support needs, please email [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk).

## **Postgraduate training**

Postgraduate Taught students are provided with structured training throughout their scheme of study. Each Department/School offers a wide range of postgraduate taught modules that either explore particular fields and concepts or offer specific training in research methods and skills. Students should peruse the modules available and discuss with the Graduate Director Taught which of these modules would be suitable.

## **Departmental/school prizes**

Each year we are pleased to award prizes signifying excellence. Your department/school will provide a list of prizes available to you for each academic year.

## **Communications**

The University will predominantly use email for routine communication between staff and students. Your Essex email address will have been added to the relevant email groups specific to your department or school, course and modules to ensure that you receive the essential information relevant to you. It is recommended that you check your Essex email each day to ensure you do not miss any important updates to classes and assessment.

You will also automatically be subscribed to a small number of opt-out lists based on your course. You can always [opt in or out](#) of these communications online.

Your department/school will share any details of their social media accounts as appropriate.

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### **The use of personal devices**

You can use laptops and tablet PCs during teaching classes for purposes related to the class you are attending. You should refrain from using your mobile phone during all teaching events, except in cases where a lecturer uses a programme which requires these devices to be switched on for participation, or where your department/school has provided alternative guidance.

## Learning and teaching

The University is committed to providing equal opportunities for all our students regardless of where or how you study. Our diverse student population is considered when developing the resources, services and facilities on and off campus, when we create our courses, write publications and course materials, and set our policies and regulations.

### The academic year

The academic year uses a week numbering system that covers the 52 weeks of a calendar year but corresponds to typical term dates. So, the start of the academic year is week 1, which is Welcome week, with teaching commencing in week 2.

| Term   | Week numbers |
|--------|--------------|
| Autumn | 2-11         |
| Spring | 16-25        |
| Summer | 30-39        |

You can view the University's week numbers with the equivalent dates in the week by week [calendar](#). The University's [key dates](#) include an overview of the start and end of each term and exam periods.

You will find that all activities and events make reference to the standard academic year terms and schedule noted above. However, some courses have different term dates, which can also be found on the [key dates](#) page, listed as 'course-specific term dates'.

You are expected to be available during term time to attend teaching events, unless otherwise advised by your department or school.

### My course

Each course at the University has its own syllabus, full details of which, including the aims and learning outcomes of your course, can be found in the University's [Programme Specifications Catalogue](#).

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Your own course structure, including your specific programme specification, can be found in the MyStudy section of your [MyEssex](#) homepage.

### **Learning outcomes**

Each course has learning outcomes which need to be met in order to progress. Course learning outcomes are categorised into knowledge, intellectual, practical and key skills, and are also defined more specifically at a modular level. Having this information means that you can measure your progress against the outcomes, for example when reviewing coursework feedback.

### **Grade boundaries**

On most Masters degrees, an overall mark of 50 is a pass. An overall mark of 60 is classed as a pass with merit, and an overall mark of 70 is classed as a pass with distinction. Methods for calculating your final postgraduate award classification vary across awards and may depend on other factors. Full details are set out in the [Rules of Assessment](#).

### **Module enrolment**

Many modules taught reflect the individual research interests of members of our academic staff. New modules are regularly explored, researched and developed in collaboration with the University's Quality and Academic Development Team to expand our transformative educational offering at Essex.

The University provides [further guidance](#) on choosing modules, and meetings for non-final year students will be held by your department or school where students can discuss their choices with their Student Advisor. Your preferred choices must be submitted prior to the start of term through the [eNROL](#) system, unless you study part-time in which case you should speak to your department.

A full list of modules available can be found on this [webpage](#).

### **Changing modules**

In instances where you need to make a change to your module choice, you may do so up until the second week of term during both the Autumn and Spring terms, and until the second day of the Summer term, noting that any modules taught over both Autumn and Spring must be selected during the Autumn enrolment period. If you wish

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to change an optional module after the deadline, you should seek advice from the Department or School Office that runs the particular module that you may wish to change to.

Late changes may be permitted but will be subject to the approval of the department or school that runs the module and, in some cases, the relevant Dean. Late changes of modules that run for one term or less will not usually be permitted. Students may not change modules that are core or compulsory for the course for which they are registered.

### **Module Directors**

Module Directors are responsible for individual modules. They design, teach and examine them. They monitor student progress and can also talk to students about any related academic issues.

### **Fitness to practise**

[Fitness to practise](#) is only applicable to students on certain professional courses (such as Nursing or Social Work) and is designed to ensure and regulate that a student is suitable for engagement in the relevant profession.

### **Study and Wellbeing Intervention Policy and Procedure**

[The Study and Wellbeing Intervention Policy and Procedure](#) provides a framework to support students during their studies when it appears that their health and wellbeing is either disrupting or having a detrimental impact on themselves or on people around them. The policy applies to all students and aims to ensure students are offered appropriate intervention and support to succeed academically.

### **Employability modules**

Most department/schools have employability modules built into their curriculum. Your department/school will be able to provide information on the employability modules available for your programme of study.

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## Study Abroad

As a postgraduate student there are a variety of opportunities through Essex Abroad to have an international experience. Providing you with the chance to enhance employability, gain valuable transferable skills and develop as individuals.

[Essex Abroad](#) have a wide range of [summer programmes](#) suitable for postgraduate students including summer schools abroad, volunteering programmes, international internships and research abroad opportunities which are open to all Essex students. These programmes vary in duration, location and cost. [Find out more](#) about Essex Abroad opportunities. For information regarding your funding during a period of study abroad, you should liaise with the Funding Team – [askthehub@essex.ac.uk](mailto:askthehub@essex.ac.uk). Students with disabilities should also liaise with the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service – [include@essex.ac.uk](mailto:include@essex.ac.uk).

The University of Essex is a founding member of the YUFE Alliance. YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe) is a collaboration of 10 different European institutions, providing you with the opportunity to study across multiple partners virtually or physically; as part of your degree or in addition to it. YUFE aims to be the leading model of a young, student-centred, non-elitist, open and inclusive European University.

As a University of Essex student, you can obtain an international experience through YUFE, taking anything from academic to language courses, or even entrepreneurship courses; allowing you to go the extra mile and stand out from the crowd. Find out more about YUFE and how to apply on our dedicated section on the [Essex Abroad YUFE webpage](#) and through the [YUFE Virtual Campus](#).

Your department/school will provide information about any further study abroad opportunities available to you.

## Work Placements

Some courses have longer Professional Placements or a short placement. If placements are not available there are extra-curricular opportunities to gain work experience (please see below).

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Your department/school will provide any further information on placement options, or extra-curricular opportunities available for PGT courses that are specific to your department/school.

It is your responsibility to find a work placement, however, the Industry Engagement and Placements Team can help prepare and support you and will advertise relevant placements. If you are interested in undertaking a placement year, or other work-based opportunities that may be available to you and your course, contact the [Industry Engagement and Placements team](#). If you have a Student visa, please be aware that the Immigration Rules restrict the length of placements and the type of work you can do.

Upon successfully securing a placement you need to inform the Industry Engagement and Placements team by contacting [placements@essex.ac.uk](mailto:placements@essex.ac.uk). This is required to begin the placement approval process. Please note you must have approval from the Industry Engagement and Placement team before starting a placement.

For extracurricular opportunities, [Careers Services](#) are here to help. Use [Chart My Path](#) to find your personalised recommendations at Essex, and check out [Careers Connect](#) for part-time jobs, internships and career development support.

### **DBS checks for placements**

Some placements may require a DBS check where you are engaging in regulated activity with vulnerable groups. This may include placements that are core, compulsory or optional, depending on the relevant module. Some activities may be carried out on an ad hoc basis for research purposes only, which are not required to meet the learning outcomes of the module or course, but will help inform your learning. More information about the DBS check process can be found on the [University's DBS webpages](#).

### **Safeguarding training**

Prior to going out on placement students who are working with children or adults at risk should be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. The University offers a general [introduction to safeguarding Moodle module](#) which you are encouraged to complete at the same time as your DBS check. This training is additional to the

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mandatory safeguarding training that may be offered by your department/school and/or the placement provider.

Your department/school will provide any further information about safeguarding training as appropriate.

### **Module materials**

Online reading lists for your modules can be found via the module Moodle page alongside other information and module materials. We aim to provide essential readings digitally so that you do not need to purchase reading materials.

### **Teaching timetable**

Every student has a [personal timetable](#) published at the start of term which shows when and where your teaching is taking place, and Zoom links if teaching online. You can access your timetable on most mobile devices, including smart phones and tablets. You will need to have registered and activated your University of Essex log-in and selected all of your modules (if applicable) before you will be able to access your teaching timetable.

If you wish to report a timetable clash or request a class change, you should do so via the [online timetable](#).

During Welcome Week (week 1) you may find that your timetable is blank as teaching normally commences week 2. **Please be aware that there may be changes to your teaching during the year, so regularly check your personal [online timetable and Essex email](#) for up-to-date teaching information.**

Information about teaching timetables, including requesting a class change, reporting a timetable issue or clash, and accessing your individual timetable can be found on the [University's website](#).

### **Reading weeks**

Some courses have reading weeks. Your department/school will provide any information about these.

## Recording your attendance

We monitor your attendance at teaching sessions on campus using your [student card](#) and an electronic system of card readers. You must tap-in at a reader within 15 minutes of the teaching session start time for your attendance to be recorded accurately. Your attendance at online teaching sessions is monitored by reviewing your logins to sessions on Zoom. Once again you must log in within 15 minutes of the event start time for your attendance to be recorded. You are expected to attend all of your mandatory sessions on [your individual timetable](#) and [report an absence](#) if you are unable to do so. If you have a Student visa, you must attend all your timetabled teaching events in-person, where this is available. Remote study is not permitted for Student visa holders and attendance at a teaching event via Zoom where the session was also delivered in-person will count as failure to attend. If you fall below the Home Office expectations we **must** take action, and this can include withdrawing our visa sponsorship.

If you have a Student visa, your academic engagement will also be monitored during your dissertation period to ensure you maintain regular in-person contact with your dissertation supervisor. Further information can be found in the [Code of Practice for the supervision of PGT dissertation students](#).

It is your responsibility to remember your student registration card and to tap-in correctly. [Lost or faulty cards](#) can be replaced at the Student Services Hub.

Please contact your Student Advisor, department/school staff or the [Student Services Hub](#) for advice and support, particularly if you are going to be absent for several weeks.

## Making changes to your study

### Changing your course

If you are thinking about changing course, you will need to do so by a [certain date](#) and should first speak to your department or school, and Student Advisor. They will be able to provide advice about the things you should consider before changing your course. If you are thinking of undertaking a placement year you should check the requirements for these programmes by contacting the [Industry and Placements Team](#).

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If you are studying a course where an ATAS certificate is required and there are changes to your course, Supervisor or course length, you may need a new ATAS certificate. Please contact the [International Services Team](#) if you have any questions.

Student visa holders may not be able to change their course without first obtaining a new visa, from overseas, if eligible. You can find information on the potential visa implications of a change in course on our [immigration webpages](#). If you have any further questions, you should contact the [International Services Team](#).

### **Thinking of leaving or taking a break?**

You may experience doubts at some point during your studies. If you're thinking about leaving Essex, we're here to support you and give you the advice you need to help you make an informed choice. You can contact your department or school, Student Advisor or Student Services Hub to speak in confidence about your concerns, and also the [different options available to you](#) and the impact they may have.

You can find information on the visa implications of your decision on our [immigration webpages](#). If you have any further questions, you should contact the [International Services Team](#).

You should also be aware of how your funding may be impacted if you choose to take a break. You can do this by contacting the Funding Team – [askthehub@essex.ac.uk](mailto:askthehub@essex.ac.uk).

The Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service also provide free, confidential help and guidance for any concerns that you might have during your time at Essex. Contact [wellbe@essex.ac.uk](mailto:wellbe@essex.ac.uk) for advice on the support available for mental and emotional health, disability support, academic concerns, financial worries, and accommodation issues.

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## Libraries and Knowledge Engagement

### Library Services

The Library aims to provide all the resources you will need to succeed in your course. Its collections include a vast assortment of digital materials and printed texts and journals, made accessible via the [Library website](#) and [online reading lists](#).

Helpdesks are available at both Colchester and Loughton libraries, where a team of friendly and experienced staff are available to assist with enquiries and support with finding and accessing resources. Our Library team can help you learn how to search effectively so you can find appropriate resources for your assignments. We can also provide advice on [referencing](#), academic integrity, evaluating sources and more. Our [Skills at Library](#) guide provides a range of online support in these areas, and our [subject guides](#) provide subject-specific guidance and resource recommendations. The Library provides specific support for PGT students through the '[On Track for your Masters](#)' series, an programme of workshops delivered annually each June to help you with a whole range of research skills, academic writing, and mathematics and statistical analysis support to help you complete your final project.

The Albert Sloman Library (Colchester) is also home to a number of [Special Collections](#) which support the delivery of object-based learning, and provide primary source material for research across many subject areas and time periods. We are home to two major art collections; [ESCALA](#) (the Essex Collection of Art from Latin America) and the [University Art Collection](#).

Both our libraries offer a range of study spaces with some [bookable in advance](#). IT facilities including printing and borrowing a laptop are also available. Our [opening hours](#) are available on our Library website, with spaces at our Albert Sloman Library open 24/7 ([watch our video on where to find them](#)). Not forgetting our digital resources are always available, also through the [Library website](#). As a postgraduate student you also have access to the [Library Postgraduate Reading Room at Colchester campus](#).

If you have any questions about library services, there are a range of ways you can [get in touch with the team](#).

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Ready to get started? See our Library website for everything you need for [Getting Started](#) with us.

## **Publish with the Essex Student Journal**

Publishing your writing with [the Essex Student Journal](#) provides the opportunity for you to develop your writing skills, showcase your work, and gain valuable experience in academic publishing. All undergraduate and postgraduate taught students can submit academic or creative writing regardless of your experience.

Our multi-disciplinary journal is run by and for students at the University, publishing the hard work of our students and giving you the ability to improve your writing through feedback from peer reviewers.

Not all universities have a Student Journal - this is a unique opportunity for you to publish a paper in your name and build your academic portfolio early in your career. We accept a wide range of submissions including creative writing, essays, case studies, research papers, dissertations, and academic blog posts.

If you are going on to be a PGR student at the University, you can become a peer reviewer for the Journal, developing vital analytical and feedback skills required for any future career.

Join our community of student writers to develop new skills and the best practices in writing. [Find out more about the Essex Student Journal](#) and embark on your academic publishing journey today. If you have any questions, get in touch with the Journal Team via [journal@essex.ac.uk](mailto:journal@essex.ac.uk)

## **Academic skills support**

### **Departmental/School support**

Your department/school will provide any further information about specific academic support they provide.

### **Proofreading services**

Before considering the use of proofreading services, all students should first discuss their work with their Student Advisors. Many students seek 'proofreading' services at

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some point during their studies, but different types of editing can occur under this name which may not be appropriate in an academic context where work is assessed and could potentially qualify as an [academic offence](#). The University is keen to ensure as far as possible that students understand what [proofreading work should entail](#) and the acceptable boundaries to which any proofreading or editing must adhere to.

All students should ensure that any agreement entered into with a proofreader conforms to the [University's policy and guidance on proofreading](#).

## **Language classes**

### **Academic English support classes**

Skills for Success provides a range of [Academic English support classes](#) throughout the year, which all 1<sup>st</sup>-year students who have English as an additional language are invited to enrol on:

- SK020: Academic Writing Skills (part 1)
- SK025: Academic Writing Skills (part 2)
- SK035: Academic Speaking Skills (Discussions and Presentations)
- SK037: Academic Speaking Skills (Pronunciation and Speaking Strategies)
- SK038: PhD Writing Support
- SK051: Grammar Review
- SK335: Academic Reading Skills

These classes are free, voluntary and designed to help students improve their language proficiency and maximise their existing language skills in an academic context. Students do not have to attend all the classes – you can choose which sessions you would like to attend. There are no assignments or homework associated with these classes.

Options include 8-week, 6-week and 4-week modules. You can register for modules via eNROL, or contact us at any time at [skills@essex.ac.uk](mailto:skills@essex.ac.uk). We also offer some online versions of these classes which you can enrol on via Careers Connect.

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## **Skills@Essex**

Skills@Essex is a bank of study skills resources on Moodle, designed to enhance your academic and personal development throughout your studies. All students have access to enrol on to [Skills@Essex](#).

This resource is designed to support your development during your time at the University. We offer a range of resources to supplement your studies, including:

### **Reading**

- Academic argument
- Digital reading
- Reading for academic purposes

### **Writing**

- Grammar
- Lab report writing for the biosciences
- Note-taking
- Process writing
- Quoting, paraphrasing and summarising
- Structuring academic essays
- Writing in the disciplines (example questions and answers)

### **Speaking, listening and presentations**

- Effective presentations
- Speaking skills

### **Mathematics, statistics and coding**

- Algebra
- Basic statistics

- Numeracy and arithmetic
- Python basics for beginners
- Scientific method

### **Research and referencing**

- Academic integrity
- Literature search
- Referencing guidance

### **Study skills**

- Critical thinking
- Digital skills at Essex
- Independent learning
- Preparing for your exams
- Revision skills
- Time management

### **General English classes for beginner/intermediate/advanced learners (GEC)**

The [School of Language, Literature, and Media](#) offers the wider University of Essex community the chance to improve their English language skills through our [General English Classes](#). These classes are available to:

- Dependants and close family members of students and staff at the University of Essex
- International staff at Essex who may want to work on their general English and fluency skills
- International students currently studying at UEIC Kaplan
- International students currently studying at both UG and PG level at Essex who wish to develop their language skills

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The classes, which take place at the Colchester Campus, will enable you to meet people from other countries and cultures and will help you develop your language skills. These classes are free and are taught at three basic levels: Beginner (A1/A2), Intermediate (B1/B2) and Advanced (C1/C2) and will focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing. Throughout the course, you will have a unique opportunity to develop your conversation skills, by reflecting on real-life examples of how language is used in context.

### **Learning a language**

Learn a language at Essex to increase your global and cultural awareness. Language learning can give you the confidence to work and travel internationally, expand your options for studying abroad, and get a competitive edge when you're looking for a job. Please see information about [Languages For All](#) on our webpage or email [lalteam@essex.ac.uk](mailto:lalteam@essex.ac.uk)).

## Assessment and Academic Integrity

All departments and schools at the University employ a variety of assessment methods designed to ensure that the learning outcomes of each module, and course, have been successfully met.

### Rules of Assessment

The [Rules of Assessment](#) are used to calculate your results. There is a main set of rules for [Masters](#) and other [postgraduate award courses](#).

Some departments or schools also have additional variations to the rules, which must be met. These variations are listed alongside the main rules on the [Rules of Assessment](#) webpage.

Your course will be made up of a certain number of credits. Each module you take has a credit value which you are awarded if you successfully complete the module. You need to obtain a certain number of credits to be awarded your degree, and the Rules of Assessment and the Framework for postgraduate courses give you more information about this.

The following is only a summary of the key points. You should read the rules and make sure you understand them. If you need advice, ask your Student Advisor, departmental administrators, or [SU Advice](#).

### Core, compulsory and optional modules

To understand the requirements to pass your course, you need to know the status of the modules that you are taking. You can find details of the status of your modules in Section C of your programme specification via [My Essex](#).

|                   |                           |                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Core</b>       | You must take this module | You must pass this module. No failure can be permitted.                                                     |
| <b>Compulsory</b> | You must take this module | There might be limited opportunities to continue on your course/be eligible for your degree if you fail it. |

|                 |                                      |                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Optional</b> | You can choose which module to study | There might be limited opportunities to continue on your course/be eligible for your degree if you fail it. |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Most modules in each year must be passed, with only a small number of credits, if any, being allowed to be failed across your degree. [The Rules of Assessment](#) set out the criteria for the condonement of failed non-core modules.

## **Academic integrity and academic offences**

The University expects students to complete all assessment with honesty and integrity and to follow our [conventions for academic writing](#) (including appropriate referencing of sources) and ethical considerations. If you don't meet these expectations, then you may be charged with having committed an [academic offence](#), a matter the University takes very seriously.

It is your responsibility to make yourself aware of the regulations governing examinations and how to correctly prepare your coursework. An academic offence can take place even if you didn't mean to commit one, and examples include plagiarism, self-plagiarism, using [Artificial Intelligence](#) such as ChatGPT to write all or part of an assignment unless specifically permitted to do so, falsifying data or evidence, and communicating with another candidate in an examination. Academic integrity and academic offences procedures may vary between modules. Students should familiarise themselves with the procedures of the department responsible for each module they take.

## **Methods of assessment**

Whether a module is core, compulsory or optional, all methods of assessment are compulsory. If you do not complete coursework or attend examinations, and do not have extenuating circumstances to support your non-submission or absence, then you are at risk of being withdrawn from the University.

Your department/school will provide information about the methods of assessment they use.

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## Coursework

Coursework is compulsory in all modules and failure to participate in coursework is interpreted as evidence of lack of academic progress. Your academic progress is monitored throughout the year. In severe cases, students with poor academic progress can be required to withdraw from the University (even before the final examinations).

### Referencing in coursework

Respecting authorship through good academic practice is one of the key values of higher education in the UK. Referencing is how you acknowledge all sources used within a piece of work. You must reference all work used whether cited directly (quotes), or indirectly (paraphrasing and summarising).

Referencing allows you to give credit to other's ideas, work, research, theories, concepts, outcomes and results, and demonstrates your breadth of reading and knowledge on a subject. If you do not reference properly, this could amount to [plagiarism](#), which is an [academic offence](#).

There are styles of referencing which will determine exactly how you format your reference. Your department/school will provide information on what referencing style you must use. Guidance on your referencing style is available [online](#), including an [interactive referencing tutorial](#). You can also take the [Academic Integrity course](#) on Moodle.

### Submission of coursework

You should submit all coursework online via [FASER](#) – the University's online submission system. You are encouraged to log on to FASER at the start of the year so that you understand how it works before you reach your first deadline. There is a trial module and deadline available for you to use as a practice submission, as well as helpful guidance on [how to use FASER](#).

You can upload as many draft versions of your work as you like and are encouraged to use this as a safe and secure area to store your coursework. This can help to avoid the problem of your computer crashing at the last minute and your important files being lost. In cases where multiple versions are uploaded you will **need to make any which you do NOT want to be included in the final submission a 'draft'**, otherwise the

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most recently uploaded file will be taken as the final version. The maximum file upload size is **50MB**.

Only Microsoft word or PDF files should be uploaded to FASER unless otherwise specified by your department/school.

### **Problems with FASER**

If you have technical difficulties when submitting your coursework to FASER, you should contact the [IT Helpdesk](#). They can advise on any system or computer problems. This will count towards your claim when submitting a late coursework extenuating circumstance form should you need to. If you are confused or unsure how to upload or are having any non-technical difficulties, you should contact the professional services team.

### **Late submission of coursework**

At the University of Essex we have a single policy for the [late submission of coursework](#); all coursework submitted after the deadline will receive a mark of **zero**. No extensions will be granted. The policy states that the mark of zero shall stand unless you submit satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that indicate that you were unable to submit the work by the deadline but have been able to within the relevant Late Submission timeframe.

Where a student is unable to undertake the assessment by the deadline, and it is deemed impossible to consider a late submission request due to the nature of the assessment (e.g. absence from in-class tests, practical assignments and presentations), an [extenuating circumstances](#) form should be submitted which will be considered by the Board of Examiners.

### **Dissertation extensions**

Postgraduate taught dissertations (or equivalent) are not counted as coursework and are therefore not covered by the policy on the late submission of coursework. Students can request an extension for their postgraduate dissertation if they find that, due to extenuating circumstances, they will be unable to submit the dissertation by the published deadline. Students can request a short informal extension from their department/school. Where a longer extension is required, an application for an

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extension to a postgraduate taught dissertation can be completed via the [online form on the ESF SharePoint website](#), for consideration by the relevant Faculty Dean (Postgraduate).

### **Ethics and integrity in research**

All research involving human participants and animal subjects, whether undertaken by the University's staff or students, **must** undergo an [ethics review](#) by an appropriate body and ethical approval **must** be obtained before it commences. You should first read the [Guidelines for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Subjects](#) or [Guidelines for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Animals](#) in conjunction with the [Policy Statement on the Use of Animals in Research](#) and then submit an Ethical Approval application form via [ERAMS](#). You should be aware that ethical approval cannot be granted retrospectively so it is very important that you make your application before you start to recruit participants or collect data from them.

Further information about the research ethics process can be found on the [University's ethics review webpages](#). Studies involving the NHS (i.e. patients, their data or samples; staff, their data or samples; sites; data extracted from or through clinical systems) and studies involving human tissue or adults lacking capacity to consent are very likely to need some kind of NHS approval, such as ethical approval, governance approval or study registration. Even 'data only' studies, which do not involve direct contact with NHS staff or patients, will often require approval of some kind. Service evaluations, audits and similar involving the NHS may not require NHS ethical review. In cases where the project has not been defined as research by the HRA, ethical approval will need to be sought through the University's ethics review processes.

PGT students should complete the [student research toolkit](#) in the first instance, to check eligibility for NHS REC review. Some health and social care research applications from students working at master's level are no longer being accepted for Research Ethics Committee (REC) review; Health Research Authority and Health and Care Research Wales (HRA and HCRW) Approval; and/or R&D study-wide review in Scotland and Northern Ireland. If your study involves the NHS, you should contact the REO Research Governance Team ([reo-governance@essex.ac.uk](mailto:reo-governance@essex.ac.uk)) at an early stage for advice about the ethics review process.

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Research involving vulnerable groups may require a DBS check if you are engaging in regulated activity. More information about the DBS check process can be found on the University's DBS webpages. The University offers a general introduction to safeguarding Moodle module which you are encouraged to complete at the same time as your DBS check. This training is additional to the mandatory safeguarding training that may be offered by your department/school and/or the placement provider. Your Department/School will be able to provide further information about safeguarding training if applicable.

## **Examinations**

Examinations will either be in person in an invigilated setting on campus, or remote via FASER or Moodle. To find out whether your exam is in-person or remote, you can check the [module directory](#). Your personal exam timetable, when available, also has this information.

### **Exam timetable**

The University [publishes the dates for exam periods](#) at the start of each year, including the date on which your personal exam timetable will be issued for each period. A link to your personalised exam timetable will be sent to your Essex account when it is ready to view.

### **Attending an in-person exam**

You must bring your registration card and exam entry form to any invigilated exams on campus. You may not be allowed entry without these. You will be able to download and print your exam entry form when you view your personal exam timetable.

For exams that are more than 1 hour long, you will not be allowed to enter the examination room if you arrive later than 55 minutes after the start of the exam. If your exam is 1 hour long or less, you will only be admitted up to 10 minutes after the start of the exam. You will be able to download and print your exam entry form when you view your personal exam timetable.

Attendance at examinations, whether in-person or remote, is compulsory and if you do not attend them and do not have [extenuating circumstances](#) then you are at risk of being withdrawn.

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## Calculators in examinations

If you are allowed to use a calculator in your examinations, the only models you are permitted to use in invigilated exams are the **Casio FX-83GT** or **Casio FX-85GT** series (CW, X or PLUS).

The only exception is for certain **Finance** exams that require a **financial** calculator, in which case you may use the **Hewlett Packard 12c** (all variants) or the **Texas Instruments BAI Plus** (including the BAI Plus Professional).

## Open and closed-book exams

You should check the module directory to see whether your exam is open or closed-book. Your department or school will provide further guidance on how to prepare for your exams and on what materials can be taken into an open-book exam. You should also check the information published on the exam web pages.

## Sample and past papers

Some departments/schools may provide samples and/or examples of previous exams. Your department/school will provide information, including how to access these, if offered.

## Revision classes

Your department/school may provide revision classes. They will advise you when revision timetables are scheduled if appropriate.

## Exam stress

[Exams create stress](#) for most people, but there is a lot that you can do to prepare for them and help manage the levels of stress associated with exams. The University's Skills for Success Team offers a series of [Exam Workshops](#) which are run by specialist staff. These sessions cover revision planning and techniques, as well as sessions on relaxation and how to cope with stress. Staff in the [Student Services Hub](#) can also provide sessions on stress management if required.

## Access to your exam script

If you want to see your script for an invigilated exam, you should make the request to the department or school responsible for the module within four weeks of the exam.

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The department or school should either: let you see the script in the presence of one of the staff responsible for teaching the module or give you a copy or summary of the examiners' comments on your performance. If you need to undertake an exam as part of reassessment on a module, your department or school will provide you with written feedback on any elements being reassessed.

Feedback on your exam script will not include a discussion of the mark. The marks will have been approved by External Examiners and ratified by the Board of Examiners.

### **Moderation and marking**

The [University's Marking Policy](#) can be found online and includes our policy and procedure on the moderation of work.

### **Marking**

All student work is marked in line with the University's Marking Policy. Within this policy, moderation is the default approach to assuring the quality and standards of marking, with double marking used in certain situations. Some types of assessment may be single marked, including where they contribute only a small amount of the overall module weighting. The full procedure and assessment marking requirements and detailed definitions can be found in the [Marking Policy](#).

### **Moderation and double marking**

Moderation is a process separate from that of marking and provides assurance that assessment criteria have been applied appropriately. Moderators review a sample of the marked student work and liaise with the first markers if they believe that the marks are not at the correct level or do not reflect the assessment criteria or feedback given. In some situations, double marking is used instead of moderation. This means that two markers each mark the work and then agree a final mark for it.

### **External Examiners**

External Examiners are experienced academics from other universities, but may also be from industry, business or the relevant profession depending on the requirements of the course. They give an impartial view of the course and independent advice to ensure that modules and courses at the University meet the academic standards

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expected across UK higher education. You can find more information about the role of External Examiners on our [External Examiner webpage](#).

### Re-marking of coursework

You may, under certain circumstances, have the right to request a re-mark of your coursework. Should you feel that your work needs to be reviewed and potentially re-marked, you should first contact your department or school to advise you accordingly. The [Marking Policy](#) sets out the grounds on which a request for re-marking can be submitted.

If a request for a re-mark is accepted, your marks are **not guaranteed** to increase, however, **the mark awarded after re-marking will override your original mark**. Therefore, please be aware that in all incidences where coursework is re-marked, it is possible that your marks could go down as well as up.

### Appeals

[Appeals on academic grounds](#) can only be made following the meeting of the Board of Examiners and the publication of your results. All academic appeals should be submitted within 10 working days of the publication of your results by the Board of Examiners. You can only appeal your results on limited grounds. As such, we strongly advise all students thinking about making an appeal to contact the [SU Advice Centre](#).

### Feedback

Feedback should be provided within 20 working days of submission; working days are Monday to Friday. This applies irrespective of whether the period falls within term time or a vacation period. Non-working days are Saturday, Sunday, Bank Holidays and the Christmas closure period. You should be told in advance, in accordance with [University policy](#), when you can expect marked work to be available for collection. If for any justifiable and unavoidable reason we are unable to meet our stated deadline for the provision of feedback, you should be informed of this and advised of the revised arrangements.

Your feedback is typically returned via FASer.

If you need to undertake any reassessment on a module, your department or school will provide you with written feedback on any elements being reassessed.

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## The Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners meet at the end of the Summer Term to consider marks for taught modules and final boards meet in the Autumn. For courses which start in January the final boards are in the Spring Term, and there may also be boards in the Summer Term or September.

Boards of Examiners use the Rules of Assessment to determine whether:

- you have passed the modules you have studied and can be awarded credits;
- you have met the requirements to progress to the next year of your course (*if you are on a course which lasts more than one year*);
- you have met the requirements to pass your course;
- you are eligible to receive a merit or distinction.

If it is determined that you have not passed sufficient credits to progress to the next year of study, or, for final year students, to graduate, the Board of Examiners will also determine:

- what reassessment you could be offered and when you can take it<sup>1</sup>;
- whether you must withdraw from your course, and your eligibility for an exit award.

Student visa holders can find the visa implications for each of the possible decisions that the Board of Examiners can make on our [immigration webpages](#). If you have any further questions you should contact the [International Services Team](#)

## Publication of results

The publication schedule for results can be [found on the website](#). You will receive an email to your Essex email account as soon as your results are published online.

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<sup>1</sup> The Board of Examiners will not be aware of a student's immigration status. As a result, some reassessment options may be offered that are not compatible with individual student visa restrictions. Students should consider all options in conjunction with applicable visa restrictions.

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## Failure to pass

The following is only a summary of the key points. You should [read the rules](#) and make sure you understand them. If you need advice, ask your Student Advisor, departmental administrators, or SU Advice.

If you **fail your course**, you are not able to repeat it. The [Rules of Assessment for Postgraduate Taught Awards](#) set out what opportunities there are for reassessment. The Board of Examiners will inform you if you are eligible for reassessment once it has considered your marks.

If you **fail your dissertation** you may be permitted by the Board of Examiners to resubmit your work, provided you meet the criteria as set out in the [Rules of Assessment for Postgraduate Taught Awards](#). Alternatively, if you have obtained enough credits in your taught modules, you may be eligible for another award such as a Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate.

## Credit accumulation

You can decide if you want to [accumulate credit](#) by taking individual modules with the aim of achieving a postgraduate award; this is called [Modular study](#). The Rules of Assessment are different when you study individual modules. There are opportunities to achieve postgraduate awards through credit accumulation study in an increasing number of departments or schools, as an alternative to standard full or part-time study.

## Reassessment

You may only undertake reassessment if the Board of Examiners says that you may do so unless you are on a course with a variation to the Rules of Assessment which permits in-year reassessment.

If you must undertake compulsory reassessment, whether coursework or examination, it is really important that you do this. If you do not, it is likely that you will be unable to progress with your studies at the University.

Reassessed modules are normally capped at the pass mark of 50 unless you have extenuating circumstances which are accepted by the Board of Examiners.

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Each department/school has a reassessment strategy which sets out the format of all reassessments. Your department/school will let you know what their strategy is. If you are taking a module from another department you should be aware that they may operate a different reassessment strategy to your home department. You can ask the administering department for further information

Student visa holders with leave expiring before their reassessment will need to know whether they are required to be in the UK before requesting further sponsorship to complete their studies.

### **Resit exams**

[Resit exams](#) are usually scheduled to take place in late August and early September or 'out of residence' (without attending teaching or other sessions at the University) in the following academic year. However, please check with your department when your resit period will be as it can vary. A considerable amount of useful revision material for each module is available on Moodle. Students can contact staff, particularly Module Supervisors for the modules they are resitting, if they need help with revision or specific queries (do not leave this until the last minute as staff availability will be reduced throughout the summer). Staff can give individual feedback on summer exam performance, if requested.

### **Exit awards**

If you decide to withdraw from your course before you finish, or you do not meet the requirements to be considered for your full award, you may be awarded an exit award based on credits that have already been ratified by a Board of Examiners, if appropriate.

Student visa holders should be aware that obtaining a lesser award will impact eligibility to apply for a Graduate visa after completion of studies. Further guidance about the Graduate route and eligibility criteria can be viewed on our [immigration webpages](#).

### **Extenuating circumstances**

[Extenuating circumstances](#) are circumstances beyond your control which cause you to perform less well in your assessment than you might have expected, or in some

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instances, may prevent you from submitting coursework or attending an exam entirely. In general, valid extenuating circumstances will be of a medical or personal nature that affect you for any significant period of time and/or during assessment.

If you do need to make an extenuating circumstances claim, you should first read the guidance very carefully and seek advice from [SU Advice](#) or the [Student Services Hub](#). Please be prepared that you may need to include supporting evidence with your claim. Extenuating Circumstances claims must be submitted via MyEssex by the [appropriate deadline](#).

Your department or school will review your claim at an Extenuating Circumstances Committee and determine whether it will be accepted or rejected. The [Board of Examiners](#) will determine an appropriate course of action, such as permitting further reassessment opportunities for uncapped marks. Please note that the Board of Examiners cannot award extra marks even where there are serious extenuating circumstances.

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## Computers, learning technologies and your information

### Computers

#### Using a campus computer

Visit an IT lab to [use a campus computer](#). Many are open until late and some are open 24/7. Some labs may be booked for teaching, so it is best to check availability first. If you prefer to be on the move, you can [loan a laptop](#) from the Library for a few hours at no cost.

#### Printing, photocopying and scanning

All students can [print, copy and scan for free at Essex](#) subject to our fair use policy. You can print from a campus PC or from your personal device using our mobile print service. Campus printers can be found in or near to study spaces where there are computers. Find out how to print and how to top up your printer credit on the [Student Directory](#).

Please note that there are strict laws about [copyright](#) infringement; more information can be found on the [Library website](#) which explains what and how much you are permitted to copy. Usage is monitored and subject to a fair use policy.

#### IT help and support

For IT help and support, visit the IT Services pages on the [Student Directory](#). You can also find information on free software available to students, account storage and how to print.

If you can't find what you're looking for, or if you need to talk to someone, contact the [IT Helpdesk team](#) who can assist you further.

### Learning technologies and systems

#### Learner Engagement Activity Portal (LEAP)

[LEAP](#) is our student centred, personalised engagement tool. LEAP displays [your engagement](#) with university resources and activities. An algorithm within LEAP gives a weighting score to each activity and combines your use of these resources and

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activities to produce an overall engagement indicator. There are 5 engagement indicators (high, good, partial, low and very low) which will help you map and better understand your engagement pattern over time based on your class attendance, utilisation of Moodle etc. Full details on the resources included in LEAP, the engagement ratings and how LEAP uses your data can be found on the [LEAP webpage](#).

By providing you with a more holistic view of your studying experience, LEAP offers you the opportunity to take control of your own learning and make more informed choices about your studies, enabling you to:

- Reflect on your academic activities and overall engagement to make informed decisions about your academic studies
- Review the notes created in LEAP from meetings with Student Advisors or other university staff
- Check your attendance and ensure the information is correct

Student Advisors and other university staff may use the information in LEAP to:

- Suggest ways you could achieve better outcomes
- Check that all is well and offer information, advice and guidance
- Help you in areas of your studies that you find challenging

The University has a [Student Engagement Policy](#) which provides a structured approach based on support and mutual decision-making to maximise the success and achievement of every student.

## **Moodle**

[Moodle](#) is our online learning environment. It holds key course and module materials, discussion forums, chat facilities, quizzes, surveys, glossaries and wikis released by your lecturers.

## **FASER**

[FASER](#) is our **online coursework submission and feedback system**. Use it to check coursework deadlines, upload coursework and receive electronic feedback all in one place.

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## Online reading lists

Reading lists can be accessed [online via your module Moodle page](#). Use this service to find out the details of each week's reading and to access resources through the [Library](#).

## Listen Again

Did you miss something? Our [Listen Again](#) digital recording service lets you listen again to lectures so you grasp every detail. It's available in teaching rooms or lecture theatres where you see the sign. Lecture videos are normally uploaded on Listen Again 24 hours after the lecture.

## Zoom

You can use Zoom to join online lectures delivered by the University or attend online meetings and tutorials. If your lecture or class is going to be online, the link to join will be available in your individual timetable 48 hours before the class.

This [quick start guide](#) gives you an introduction to the essentials of joining and participating in a Zoom webinar or meeting.

## Your information

### Changes to your information

During your period of study at Essex, you may wish to be known by a preferred name or update your legal name on our student record database (ESIS) if your circumstances change. It is important you keep your information up to date including any change to your address or contact information which you can [manage and update online](#). If you have immigration permission to study with us and obtain a new passport or visa during your studies, please ensure you bring this to your [Student Services Hub](#) so a scan can be taken for University record.

### Your personal information

We collect and hold lots of information about you, your course, and your progress so that we know who you are, what you're doing, and how you are getting on. This means we can support you and also improve our services to reflect the need of our students.

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All information about you is kept securely, and access to your information is only given to staff who need it in order to do their job. You have a [right to ask for copies of information](#) we hold about you.

To find out more about what information we collect, what we do with it, who gets to see it, and your rights under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, read our [Privacy Notice for students](#).

### **How to complain**

If you are not happy with the way in which your personal data has been handled you should contact the Data Protection Officer as soon as possible, so that we can address any concerns. Complaints will be handled in line with the Data Protection Complaints Procedure.

If you are still not happy you then have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office.

### **Student Voice**

At the University of Essex, the views, ideas and feedback of our students are at the heart of what the University does. The time students take to offer feedback is hugely appreciated and this feedback, both positive and developmental, is used to help make short and longer-term improvements, both to the experience of current students, but also for Essex students of the future. You can do this in a number of ways at Essex through your [Student Voice](#).

### **Student Representatives**

You can [contact or volunteer](#) to be a [Student Representative](#) who represent the voice of fellow students in departmental/school Student Voice Groups (SVG) and other University level committees.

### **Student Voice Groups**

[Student Voice Groups](#) (SVGs) are made up of [Student Representatives](#) and members of staff. SVGs typically meet once per term and provide an accessible arena for students to discuss with staff issues connected to teaching, learning and student support. They also provide an opportunity for the department or school to consult with

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students and receive feedback on new proposals. Such proposals are recorded in SVG logs, where specific details are requested in order to facilitate the feedback.

### **Student surveys**

[Student satisfaction surveys](#) enable the University to gauge overall satisfaction amongst students. When the results have been reviewed and analysed, the University can then enhance your experience of learning at Essex by closing the feedback loop. The University runs an annual survey for all Postgraduate students.

If you have some feedback but don't know who to tell, email: [studentvoice@essex.ac.uk](mailto:studentvoice@essex.ac.uk)

Your department or school will also welcome your feedback. They will have a range of quick feedback mechanisms for you to use. Contact your departmental office if you are not sure what these are.

### **Student Module Feedback**

At the end of each term you will have the opportunity to provide feedback and comments on your modules via the University's [Student Module Feedback](#) process.

These surveys allow you to provide some information on your experience of each of the modules you have studied, to say what worked well and to give constructive feedback on how they can be further improved. This is critical for the University to understand what works well, and what could be improved, from the perspective of students. All feedback will be summarised and discussed by SVGs and will inform reports written for central University committees as part of our quality assurance processes.

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## You Matter

We know university life can throw up all kinds of concerns and questions. Everyone has [mental health](#) – sometimes your mental health may be good, other times it may be not so good. It could be stress related to deadlines, general worries or concerns about friends and family members. Whatever is worrying you, if you need some information, advice or support, the University offer a wide range of services and support to help you.

### Student Services Hub

If you need practical advice, a confidential conversation, or general information and guidance on University life, no matter what the issue is, the [Student Services Hub](#) can help. You can find out about health and wellbeing, accommodation, careers services, money matters and much more. Your questions matter and you'll get answers from our team of experts.

To contact the Student Services Hub please use this link to access our web pages and talk to us on Live Chat: [Ask the Hub](#)

### Support for students with disabilities or additional needs

We encourage all new students with a disability, long term medical condition, specific learning difference or mental health condition to disclose and register with the [Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service \(SWIS\)](#) so that we can plan how best to [support you in your studies](#).

### Support for students who are care experienced, estranged, primary carers and/or University of Sanctuary students

If you are [care experienced, estranged from your family, primary carer and/or University of Sanctuary](#) student please contact the Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service (SWIS) for further information about support that may be available to you.

The University of Essex is committed to providing an inclusive educational learning environment for all students. The [Student Reasonable Adjustment Policy](#) provides a framework for the effective implementation of a reasonable adjustment and to ensure the legal requirements of the [Equality Act 2010](#) are met.

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## **Support for students who are pregnant**

If you are pregnant, you are protected under the [Equality Act 2010](#) and are encouraged to contact your department/school or SWIS via the [Student Services Hub](#). You can talk through a variety of issues including; arrangements for maternity-related absence, financial implications, visa implications and emotional support.

## **Support for students who are parents or guardians**

There is a wide range of information, support and advice available for parents and guardians studying with us available on the [Student Directory](#). Please contact the [Student Services Hub](#) or your department for further guidance or to discuss your individual circumstances.

Children or young people under 18 who are not registered students are not permitted to attend any University teaching events so it is important that you make adequate childcare arrangements to enable you to attend your teaching and assessments. If you have emergency childcare needs or other circumstances linked to caring responsibilities that affect your availability for teaching or assessment, we have support in place. It is important that you contact your department by [reporting your absence](#) as soon as possible to let them know you won't be there and to discuss your situation and any support they can offer. The University also has an [Extenuating Circumstances Policy](#) where absence relates to missed assessment.

## **Financial Support for students with disabilities or additional needs**

UK students may be eligible for a [Disabled Students' Allowance grant](#). If you are not a UK student and you have a disability, you may be eligible for [other grants and funding](#). We would recommend that you [contact the Student Services Hub](#) to discuss all the options that may be available to you, as well as for general advice, support and information on health and wellbeing issues.

We also offer bursaries for UK students who are [Care Experienced, Estranged or have Refugee status](#).

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## **Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP)**

If you have a permanent or temporary disability that may mean you have difficulty in evacuating one or more areas, you should arrange for a [Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan \(PEEP\)](#).

## **Essex Access Forum**

The [Essex Access Forum](#) is a university-wide discussion and advocacy forum and consultation body working to support excellence in all aspects of physical and non-physical access at Essex (student education, staff employment and visitor experience). Membership is open to both staff and students, with and without disabilities.

## **Students' Union Council**

Elected representatives from the campuses meet to vote on policies and shape the direction of the SU. In the past we have discussed and voted on topics like inconsistency of laundrette prices across accommodations and implementing a transparency policy. All topics brought to council are discussed and addressed.

Council also provides us with the opportunity to ask the Student Leaders questions about their ongoing plans and projects in the 'Student Leaders Q & A session'.

[SU Council](#) is made up of:

- Student Community Officers (SCOs)
- Student Representatives
- Student Leaders
- Key SU Staff

## **Seeing a Doctor**

If you're studying on a course for more than six months, you're required to register with a local doctor. Our Colchester Campus has its own [health centre](#) or you can use the [NHS Choices postcode](#) finder to find your nearest doctor. If you require emergency medical or mental health services, there are a [number of options available](#) both through the NHS and also the University, regardless which campus you are studying at.

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## **Counselling service**

The University's counselling service is available to all registered students, including those who are intermitting on medical grounds. To learn more about the counselling service, visit the [counselling page](#) of the University website. You can also request counselling directly by completing this [form](#).

## **Digital wellbeing support**

The Wisdom App gives you access to 24/7 support via live chat and instant calling with counsellors. You can discover health plans, workouts, recipes, track your sleep, and listen to the 'Peace of Mind' podcast. Access these resources through the [Wisdom website](#) or download the App from the [App Store](#) or from [Google Play](#). Use the access code MHA307573. For more information on the Wisdom App, watch this [video](#).

## **Student Wellbeing Support Line**

Open 24-hours a day, including at weekends and bank holidays. Ring **0800 028 3766** for emotional support at any time.

## **Wellbeing Appointments for Students**

Our team of Wellbeing Assessors offer a welcoming and friendly space where you will be able to talk about anything that is happening in your life.

We can help guide you to develop the personal resources and skills you need to navigate the challenges and opportunities of student life.

Our support is designed to be short term and intended to guide you on your next steps. If you need longer term support, we can help to signpost you to external health/wellbeing services and partnerships.

You can make an appointment, either in person, online via Zoom or by telephone, by emailing [wellbeing@essex.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@essex.ac.uk) or calling 01206 873133.

## **UK immigration advice and guidance**

[Immigration advice and guidance](#) is regulated in the UK by the [Immigration Advice Authority \(IAA\)](#) and can only be given by those that are authorised and competent to do so. We publish lots of information and guidance on our website for students and

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you can contact one of our authorised advice services via the 'ask us a question' section for further advice about the UK's student Immigration Rules.

### **Money management**

Financial Support Officers in our [Student Services Hub](#) and our independent [Students' Union Advice](#) can provide [money management and budgeting advice](#) and can talk through any financial issues that you may be experiencing and how best to tackle them.

If you get into financial difficulty, you should get help and talk to someone **as soon as possible**. The sooner your problem is identified, the sooner it can be solved. You may be eligible to [apply for financial support](#) to assist you with short-term unexpected and unforeseen costs while studying at Essex.

### **Funding opportunities**

There are lots of funding opportunities available to UK and International students offered by the University and by external companies and organisations. This may be in the form of a student loan, a scholarship, or a bursary. You can find out more information, including what you may be eligible for on the [PGT Scholarships and Funding webpage](#).

### **Students' Union Advice**

Our [SU Advice](#) service also offers free, confidential, independent and impartial advice on many issues that might be affecting you. Our friendly, trained staff are on hand to support you throughout your time at Essex. You can speak to us about Academic processes and procedures, representation at University meetings, student UK visa extensions, housing, complaints, welfare and consumer issues.

**Colchester students** – [suadvice@essex.ac.uk](mailto:suadvice@essex.ac.uk); 01206 874034

**Loughton students** – [suaclo@essex.ac.uk](mailto:suaclo@essex.ac.uk); 01206 874034

We also have our very own letting agency [SU Homes](#) designed to offer help and support for students to find off campus accommodation.

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## Religion, faith and beliefs

We're proud of our vibrant and diverse multicultural community and welcome everyone, of all faiths and none. The calm, friendly and supportive atmosphere in our [Faith Centre](#) is a welcoming place for staff, students and the wider community to meet, interact and engage with each other.

## Harassment support

We are Essex. We pride ourselves on being a [welcoming and inclusive student community](#). We offer a wide [range of support](#) to individuals and groups of student members who may have specific requirements, interests, or responsibilities – to help you fulfil your potential.

We encourage a culture of dignity and respect. We're committed to upholding an environment that's free from any form of harassment or bullying. Though rare, these incidents can occur and if they do our [Report and Support Service](#) is on hand to help.

## Health and safety on campus

Our campuses are generally very [safe environments](#). We want to ensure that things stay this way. In order to achieve this, we work closely with local agencies including the police and borough councils. Take a look at our website for [general information and advice](#).

Please familiarise yourself with [fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures](#) for your accommodation, work or study location. If you have a permanent or temporary disability that may mean you have difficulty in evacuating one or more areas, you should arrange for a [Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan \(PEEP\)](#).

Please take note of our [advice on the safe use of electrical items and prohibited electrical items](#) in residential and non-residential areas.

All students residing on campus **must** complete the Moodle [Fire Safety Course for Residents training](#).

If you have any health and safety concerns or need to report an incident, please use the [University's reporting service](#) to notify us.

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## **Making a complaint**

The University is a large community engaged in many activities of both an academic and non-academic nature. From time to time, you may feel dissatisfied with some aspect of your dealings with the University and, when that happens, it is important that the issue is dealt with constructively and as quickly as possible without risk of disadvantage or recrimination.

The University aims to resolve complaints quickly and informally in accordance with the [Student concerns and complaints procedure](#) which can be found on our website.

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## Student Development

### Careers Services

The [Career Services](#) team offer a programme of information, advice, guidance and support through events, workshops and one-to-one sessions. With teams dedicated to supporting work-based learning, placements, internships and professional development, we'll provide the information and support you need to thrive.

### CareerHub

Book on to careers events, take career assessments, practice your interview skills, build your CV, and connect with employers on [Careers Connect](#) the online Essex careers and jobs portal. You will find hundreds of live opportunities from part-time jobs, internships & placements to graduate vacancies on the jobs board. You can login to [Careers Connect](#) with your Essex username and password.

### Get experience

There are lots of ways to gain experience and develop your skills through our extracurricular offer, explore what is right for you via our [Get Experience](#) webpages.

### Volunteering

Join the [vTeam](#) and be the difference. There are plenty of opportunities to **volunteer** during your time at Essex. The vTeam, run by the Students Union, is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, make friends, give something to the local community, and gain valuable skills.

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## You Are Essex

### Graduation and Awards

Once the Board of Examiners has met, it can take between 7-10 working days, or longer, for your results to be published. The University's [publication of results schedule](#) can be found online and you will be notified once this information is available. As soon as your results are ready, you will be sent an email and directed to a password protected web page. You will be able to see your marks obtained and any decisions that you must make in order to progress to the next stage of study.

### Award documents

Award documents are issued after each year of study and upon final completion of an award. Digital copies of Award documents will be uploaded to your [GradIntelligence](#) account, which you will be able to access for free even after Graduating. You will be able to log into your account at any time in your career and access these documents.

Your full academic transcript will be available electronically via your [Higher Education Achievement Record \(HEAR\)](#). Your HEAR will be updated after the successful completion of each year of study, and a final HEAR will be issued upon conferral of your final award. If you are studying an award for which the University is currently unable to issue a HEAR, then you will receive a printed copy of your Transcript.

Upon conferral of your final award, your final HEAR and Award Certificate will be available on your [GradIntelligence](#) account within 7 working days. In addition to your digital Award Certificate, you will also receive a physical embossed and crested Award Certificate either at Graduation or posted to you. You will be contacted by the Graduation and Awards team regarding issue of your printed Award Certificate.

### Graduation ceremonies

The culmination of all your hard work! [Graduation](#) ceremonies take place at our Colchester Campus in the Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall with a departmental Reception held afterwards in the Sports Arena. All eligible students will be invited to attend a ceremony at the next available Graduation. Confirmed dates for future graduation ceremonies are [published online](#). It is essential that all students book their place at Graduation by the deadline provided.

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The Graduation and Awards team will contact eligible students directly with more information, including eligibility and how and when to book their place at Graduation.

## **Documents and References**

### **Getting documents**

If you require a document to confirm your status as a student, a term date letter or a No Objection Letter for a visa, these are available via your Gradintelligence account. Full details on the documents that are available and how to access them can be found on the [getting documents webpage](#).

### **Academic references**

If you require an academic reference confirming that you have studied or are studying here with your course details, please contact the [Higher Education Degree Databank \(HEDD\)](#), prospective employers, educational institutions, embassies and government offices can all use this service.

### **Requesting personal references from members of staff**

If you require a personal reference, always ask permission from a member of staff before giving their name as a referee. You should consider from whom it is most appropriate to request a reference and who will be best equipped to evidence your character and performance in the subject.

For example, final project or dissertation supervisors, year organisers, and core course supervisors are likely to be more suitable than lecturers that have taught you on an introductory option course. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet a request for reference for a student who has undertaken study within our department. Requests received from students who have graduated from the University within the last three years will be prioritised. Requests received outside of this period may, of course, be met if a member of staff is equipped with the necessary information and is willing to provide a reference.

It is always helpful if you can provide the member of staff with details about the course or job you have applied for and, if relevant, a CV or other summary of your qualifications and experience. Please try to ask for references in good time – it is not always possible for a member of staff to write a reference immediately.

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## Copies of references

A copy of any reference provided will be retained within your department/school for no longer than three years for taught students. Your department/school will provide information on any exceptions to this.

## Alumni

Essex is forever and although your time here will fly by, you'll be part of the Essex family for life. When you graduate, you'll join a community of over 130,000 fellow graduates around the world. No matter where life takes you, we always want you to feel part of our community by keeping you up to date and involved with the University. You'll receive invitations to our alumni events, be given opportunities for networking and volunteering and receive special alumni benefits like generous discounts on postgraduate study. Want to know more? Visit [our website](#).

We will be here for you wherever life takes you next. You might know the path you wish to take, but if you need help to reach your goals, our Careers Services Team offer information, guidance and advice on your different options after graduation. Careers support is for life as an Essex graduate and we'll be with you every step of the way. We will be in touch 15 months after you graduate with reminders about the Graduate Outcomes survey which is your opportunity to tell us how you're doing and give us feedback on your university experience.

Whatever you choose to do, please stay in touch. We'd love to hear where your Essex degree takes you.