

LIVE ESSEX

Get the lowdown on life at Essex



University of Essex

Hello
you





**You're just the
kind of person
we like.**

You're inquisitive, determined, and never accept the first answer, which is probably why you're looking at this.

If you want the lowdown on what it's really like to study a Masters at Essex, with content written by students for you, keep reading.

We're not ones to hold back, so get ready for an honest, no-nonsense insight into life as an Essex postgrad, and get to know us even better.

We think we're going to get on just brilliantly.

I am Essex...



Because I am passionate about making a difference.

Sarah

LLM International Human Rights Law

Because Essex accepts who I am.

Zama

MA Ideology and Discourse Analysis

Because I feel like part of the family.

Katie-Lynn

MSc Mental Health Nursing

Because I challenge the status quo.

Tessa

MBA

Because I'm rebellious.

Mohamed
LLM

Because I stand up for my beliefs.

Phebe
MSc Finance and Management

Because I'm on the road to success.

Natasha
MSc Speech and Language Therapy

Because I aim for the best.

Nichola
MSc Occupational Therapy



Because I'm bold and different and okay with that.

Dawn
MSc Psychology

Because I am ambitious!

Hussein
MSc Telecommunication and Information Systems

Because I'll be a top economist!

Alejandro
MSc International Economics

Because I wouldn't be anywhere else.

Ricky
MA Theory and Practice of Human Rights

Because it is as individual as I am.

Fiona
Graduate Diploma in Psychodynamic Approaches

Because it's a home away from home.

Georgia
MA TEFL/TESOL

Because I am a 50 year old who is finding her way out of her mid-life crisis by expanding her mind!

Claire
MSc Conversion Psychology



Applying to Essex

Applying for a postgraduate course is different to your undergraduate application experience, so here's a few tips to help you.

How to apply

Unlike undergraduate study, there is no centralised application system for master's degrees. This means you have to apply to us directly. You can apply for a Masters Course by filling in our online application [form](#).

You'll need:

- Your academic qualifications
- Supporting documents e.g. English language qualifications, transcripts of your university-level studies, copies of degree certificates, a personal statement or CV
- At least one academic reference

When to apply

Although there's no official deadline for applying for your Masters, we recommend you apply as soon as possible. It's worth checking your funding options as early as you can, as many of the deadlines for these are early on in the year.

For more help

If you need any advice with your application, our friendly Postgraduate Admissions team will be more than happy to help. You'll find help with applying online and useful contacts on the 'Help with your application' tab [here](#).





Why Essex?

I studied Law and Human Rights at Essex as an undergraduate, and during the course I became drawn towards the human rights side of my studies. I wanted to explore the field in more depth, and that's why I chose to do a Masters. I'm also planning to work for an international organisation, and for that, a Masters is a must-have.

Choosing Essex to continue my studies was really a no-brainer. I loved studying my undergraduate degree here – socially and academically it was a great experience, and the Human Rights Centre is one of the most prestigious in the world. If that wasn't enough, I also received a **33% discount on my fees** because I graduated from Essex with a First.

I picked my course mainly due to the world-class reputation of my department, and the opportunities this creates. At Essex I have met real human rights activists that make real changes in the world. I want to do the same.

I think there are a number of reasons that so many Essex students come back to study their Masters here. Firstly, because the University is such a brilliant place to live and learn – the Colchester Campus is like a mini town, with all you need to survive (there are shops, cafés, restaurants, bars, a post office, hairdressers, a gym... as well as all of the state-of-the-art learning facilities!). It's such a multicultural and diverse place to be, and you meet people from all walks of life, meaning you don't just learn from your course, but from the people you meet. You'll make inseparable friends here all from thousands of miles apart.

I also think that the way the way you learn at Essex is a reason people do their Masters here. You aren't just told what to read and talked at, you learn how to do things, and are given the chance to challenge why. As an Essex student, I've gained solid academic and theoretical knowledge, and have been able to apply it to real-world situations. I think having opportunities like that is another reason everyone chooses to stay here.

The best thing about being an Essex postgrad?

I get to live on campus and enjoy the Essex experience all over again. I'd heard it is even better at postgraduate level (I didn't think it could get any better), and it is. It's a more grown-up and professional environment, and the academic level is even higher.

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Dora Raluca Trofor

LLM Human Rights and Humanitarian Law



“Picking your Masters course

I decided to take on a Masters to enhance my career opportunities by developing vital theoretical and practical business skills, as well as using the time as an opportunity to network.

Having not studied business as an undergraduate, I wanted to find a course that would give me the in-depth knowledge and hands-on skills to tackle the challenges of the international business world. Essex welcomes people from all different backgrounds, and for my course, no previous business experience was necessary. I had a strong undergraduate degree, loads of useful transferrable skills and a lot of enthusiasm, so Essex and I were the perfect match.

Another reason I picked the course was because of its international approach, discussing business opportunities in different countries, as well as networking with staff and fellow students from all over the globe (over half of the Business School students and staff are from overseas!). I also liked the offer of learning another language by joining a free Languages for All course.

For me, Essex's close proximity to London was another selling point. Being under an hour away on the train is great for getting work experience in the city, building contacts, or just having a fun day out.

The Business School at both the Colchester and Southend Campuses has fantastic specialist facilities. Colchester is home to the brand new Essex Business School building. Carbon neutral, with dedicated postgraduate study spaces, a café, and a Bloomberg virtual trading floor – it's a truly inspiring place to study. And where I study, in Southend, there's an entire floor for Essex students, with facilities including an innovation space, a share space, and reading rooms.

On top of all this, I was impressed by the department's reputation. Essex Business School is ranked top 20 in the UK by the Association of Business Schools, and in the top 25 for research excellence – stats like that really sealed the deal.

Samuel Marburg

MSc International Business and Entrepreneurship



5

big things to consider when choosing your Masters course:

1

What kind of course do you want to do? Do you want to deepen existing subject knowledge, prepare for a career, or pick a new area of study from scratch?

2

Does the subject cover exactly what you want? Don't just go by the title – read up on the course thoroughly and make sure you'll actually be able to study the modules you want.

3

What is the department like? Are the staff celebrated and active in their areas of research? You might also want to check out research rankings and league tables such as the Research Excellence Framework, but be warned – these definitely shouldn't be the be-all-and-end-all!

4

What are the entry requirements and how do you apply? It's an obvious one, but you need to make sure you meet all the entry requirements. There might also be interviews or exams for certain courses.

5

How much will it cost? It's also worth checking to see whether you're eligible for any scholarships, grants and bursaries. If you successfully completed your undergraduate degree at Essex, for instance, you'll be eligible for the Alumni Loyalty Discount.

Best news ever?

Postgraduate Loans Scheme

Just in case you haven't heard already, the government are introducing an exciting new loans scheme for postgraduate students. Thanks to the loan, even more students will now be able to take their education to the next level.



Here are the fast facts to help you get your head around the scheme.

Who is eligible for the loan?

- All UK and EU full-time, part-time (with 50% minimum intensity in your first year), and distance Masters students are eligible for the loan as long as it's your first Masters.
- It doesn't matter whether you graduated from your undergraduate degree last year or 20 years ago, you'll still be eligible for the loan (but there is an age limit of 60).

How much can I get?

- You can borrow up to £10,000 (you don't need to take out the full amount, and if you don't borrow all £10k, you'll have the chance to take out more later).
- Payments are split over 2 years, in three equal instalments per year.
- The loan isn't means tested, so you're free to borrow as much as you need.

What can I use it for?

- The money goes straight into your bank account, so it can go on whatever you like e.g. accommodation, books, tuition fees.

And the (not so) scary bit...how do I pay it back?

- You won't need to start paying the loan back until at least April 2019.
- Repayments are monthly.
- You'll only start paying your loan back if you earn over £21,000, and the repayments are just 6% of earnings over this threshold.
- It works alongside your undergraduate loan, and combined, it'll work out as 15% of anything you earn over £21,000. For instance, if you're earning £25,000 a year, you'll repay around £50 a month in total – you won't even notice it!
- Any outstanding balance will be written off after 30 years.

Find out more about the Postgraduate Loans Scheme.

www.essex.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/masters/scholarships/default.aspx





“Managing your workload

Before I started my Masters, I was concerned about the amount of work, and the jump from undergraduate to postgraduate, but it turns out it really isn't that bad. It's pretty similar to doing an undergraduate degree – the only difference is the nature of study. Yes, it's more intense, and you're expected to do much more work on your own, but you're more specialised and the classes are smaller, so there's a more personal feel.

I like to make sure I start my assignments as early as possible to stay ahead of the game. It's important to understand how you work best. I like to study on my own in either the computer labs or the new Silberrad Student Centre, but some people prefer to work in groups and there are fantastic

spaces all around campus, such as the Limehouse or the booths in the Student Centre to debate, throw ideas about, and collaborate.

As a Masters student at Essex, you can't expect to be spoon-fed – it's very much up to you to organise your time, complete your work, and research outside of your studies. That said, there is still sufficient support available if you need it, all designed to enable you to become more independent.

The biggest challenge for me is probably the constant need for new research ideas, and developing a research interest for my dissertation. I've found that routinely discussing my thoughts with my friends, course peers, and lecturers really helps.

My top tip for postgraduate success at Essex:

Vanilla Americanos from The Kitchen on Square 3. That and starting your assignments well before they're due in. You're unlikely to get away with leaving things until the last minute anymore, so don't risk it!



Chris White
MA Sociology and Management

How we can help

Student Services Hub

The Hub is here to help you with everything from course admin queries (such as changing your course or modules) to advice on your health and wellbeing. It's a confidential service and you can email, call, or visit their desks.

Talent Development Centre

Be the best you can be by visiting the Talent Development Centre. With their help, you'll identify your talents, strengthen areas for development, and gain the skills and confidence to take you beyond your studies. Choose from classes, one-to-ones with academic advisers, online resources, or even take part in their peer-assisted learning scheme.

24-hour facilities

Whether you need to cram in some last minute reading, or want to work into the early hours on a group project, we've got the perfect spaces for you to study.

Head to the Silberrad Centre's 24-hour reading room or the dedicated postgraduate study area in the Albert Sloman Library for some peace and quiet, then throw around some ideas, debate, and collaborate in the Orangery at our Colchester Campus or in the Learning Hub at the Forum, Southend.

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Returning to study

I took a few years out after completing my first degree, so applying for postgraduate study felt a bit daunting – it was just such a different experience to applying at undergraduate level. But I needn't have worried; the Postgraduate Admissions Team are an invaluable resource, always friendly and happy to help out. If you're having a crisis of confidence or are just a bit stuck, they are always on hand with useful advice.

My MA is completely different to the subject I studied before, so I was a little worried I'd be out of my depth. However, our reading lists were available on the library website, so I was able to do a bit of background reading before we started. It made me feel better knowing I was prepared.

The first lot of deadlines were pretty scary, but my fellow course mates were great. We were all experiencing the same challenges, so it was fab to get together in the common room for a coffee and a vent, which is actually much more productive than you'd think!

I'm so impressed with how much is on offer for mature and part-time students. From the SU's PG mixer, to the over 21's night – I can have fun dancing to old-school tunes without worrying I'm the only one who remembers the tracks first-time round...

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Sarah Colley
MA Creative Writing



“ Life as a mature student

I found settling into university life surprisingly easy – much easier than I was expecting. I think that I definitely handled the pressures of university much better as a mature student than I would have done when I was younger. Essex is such a friendly place, so I never found it hard to make friends and get involved; nobody cares where you're from or how old you are. That's one of the best things about Essex.

The biggest challenge for me has been fitting university around being a parent. There have been times when my daughter has been ill and I haven't been able to go to classes, and I've been up all night with her and then had to write an essay on half an hour's sleep. I guess everyone gets used to their own challenges.

The Mature and Part-time Students' Association (MAPSA) is a fantastic resource for mature students. It gives you the chance to meet other people who understand your circumstances, as well as helping to point you in the direction of academic support. There's also a Postgraduate and Mature Students' Common Room, which is brilliant, as it gives you a space on campus to relax, do some work, and meet other students.

The one piece of advice I'd give to a mature student? Get involved! One of the best things about Essex is how friendly and inclusive it is, with plenty to see, do, and get involved in. Mature students are just another facet of its wonderful diversity, so you will never feel alone or out of place. Enjoy yourself and welcome to Essex!

Jennifer Tranham
MA American Literatures

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Are you a mature student?

Good news! You're in the majority. On average, 69% of our postgraduate community is made up of mature students, so you certainly won't be on your own.

MAPSA

Mature and Part-Time Students' Association (MAPSA) is part of the Students' Union, and is designed to make sure you feel fully supported and happy at Essex. You don't need to sign up to it – you'll automatically become a member when you arrive, and it's completely free!

www.essex.su/mapsa





Studying part time

I currently work full-time and am studying my MBA around my job.

I decided to do a Masters for the love of learning. I was quite nervous about maintaining a work/life balance but was excited to try something new – luckily my course has a modular pathway option, which is very flexible, and easy to fit around my other commitments. Despite being nervous before I started, I reminded myself of my reasons for choosing to study, and tried to take a relaxed approach.

Juggling my workload can be difficult, so I use an online to-do list for each module to keep on top of weekly reading deadlines and assignments. I think it's really important not to overwork myself, so as well as scheduling in weekly study time, I also block out nights off to relax – it gives me time to recharge.

The best way to ensure successful studies? Don't be afraid to ask for help. Take advantage of the help available and schedule meetings with your lecturers to make sure you

understand everything fully – time is of the essence when you're studying part-time so being clear about the task at hand is vital. It's worth preparing a plan of how you want to approach each assignment, and then run it past your lecturer, and remember, don't be afraid to ask questions!

If I had to describe my postgraduate experience at Essex in three words, I'd say "eye-opening", "stretching", and "busy".

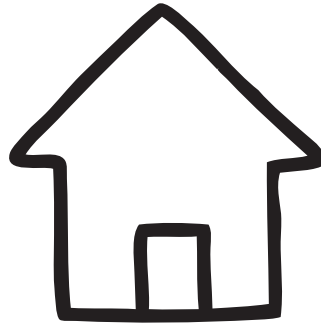


April Hatcher
MBA

Accommodation

Our wide range of award-winning accommodation provides a perfect base for postgraduate students. Take advantage of living just a stone's throw from University facilities, with the flexibility to study on campus as-and-when you like, in a sociable and supportive environment.

To help you settle in to life as a postgraduate, we guarantee all our full-time PG students university-provided accommodation for their first year of study. Find out all you need to know about the guarantee at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/apply.





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The Towers couldn't be any closer to the centre of the Colchester Campus, so you can get to class, head to the library, or be sweating it out the gym in less than five minutes (and have time to grab a coffee on the way!)

Stefan Stoican
MSc Psychology, The Towers

The Quays overlook the picturesque river Colne and form its own diverse community of students. With regular social events and hundreds of other students living beside you, you're bound to feel at home.

Claire O'Callaghan
MSc Occupational Therapy, The Quays

The best part about the Meadows is that they provide the right balance of privacy and social life. Making friends is easy in the large kitchen, or the Pavilion, which includes a common room, café, and launderette.

Shagun Garg
MA International Relations, The Meadows

It felt like home right from the day I moved in. I made friends really easily and have grown to love the town. It reminds me a bit of my hometown, except, rather than the sea, we have the River Danube!

Zsolt Gergely,
MSc International Business and Entrepreneurship, University Square in Southend

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Discover more about our accommodation.
www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/apply
www.vimeo.com/channels/ourcampuses



Your
SU

We're famous for our Students' Union at Essex and for good reason... it's completely different to anywhere else.



Adrian Chira
President of the
Students' Union
from Hunedoara,
Romania

The Students' Union is all of us at Essex. We're all equal members and in total there are almost 14,000 of us. We're an incredible force and we can achieve pretty much whatever we want.

Together we run bars, cafés, shops, sports teams, societies, even a cinema – anywhere you see our house shape this is a space owned by students, that students control.

We talk about being a family because that's what it's like. Not a normal family though, an unconventional family; one that has this incredible mix of students from every nationality, age, gender, sexuality, religion. One that isn't going to tell you what to do or what to think, that allows you to be whoever you want to be and has 100% got your back.

We make every student four promises while they're at Essex. It forms the basis of all the work we do. We promise to help you get an amazing degree and job, give you a kickass membership, shape everything around you, and benefit everyone.

Over the year we run a tonne of events on campus, from nights out, cinema showings, and a fireworks show for 5th November. The biggest is the end of year Summer Ball.

It's where about 3,000 students get dressed up in tuxedos and dresses and have a party on a field with great live music and fairground rides.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
STUDENTS*
UNION



For more information,
visit the SU website:

► www.essex.su

Notes





LIVE ESSEX

The content in Live Essex has been provided by students for the Essex Marketing and Student Recruitment team.