

LSI College Induction Policy for International Students

Date of policy review: August 2024

Next review: August 2025

Lead for review: Principal

Induction Policy for International Students

Introduction:

The induction policy for international students at LSI Independent College is designed to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for new international students, helping them to acclimate to their new surroundings, understand the academic and cultural expectations of the college, and integrate smoothly into the college community. This policy aims to ensure that all international students have the knowledge, resources, and support necessary to succeed both academically and socially.

Objectives:

- To provide a structured and comprehensive induction program for all new international students.
- To help international students understand the college's academic expectations, policies, and procedures.
- To support international students in adapting to life in the UK and navigating cultural differences.
- To ensure international students are aware of the support services available to them, including pastoral care, academic support, and visa compliance requirements.
- To foster a sense of belonging and community among international students.

Induction Program Components

1. Pre-Arrival Information:

- **Welcome Pack:** All international students receive a welcome pack via email before their arrival. This includes important information about the college, the local area, living in the UK, and what to expect during their studies.
- **Pre-Arrival Webinar:** The college conducts a pre-arrival webinar or online orientation session to introduce students to key staff members, explain the induction process, and answer any questions students may have.
- **Visa and Immigration Guidance:** Information on visa conditions and compliance requirements is provided to ensure students are aware of their responsibilities upon arrival in the UK.

2. Arrival and Welcome:

- **Airport Pickup and Transportation:** The college offers an optional airport pickup service to help students travel safely from the airport to their accommodation.
- **Welcome Desk:** Upon arrival at the college, a welcome desk is set up to assist students with any immediate needs, provide campus maps, and answer questions.
- **Initial Registration:** Students complete their initial registration process, including confirming their personal details, submitting copies of their passports and visas, and providing any additional documents required by UKVI.

3. Orientation Week:

- **Welcome Meeting:** A formal welcome meeting is held with the Principal and key staff members to introduce the college's ethos, rules, and academic expectations.
- **Campus Tour:** A guided tour of the campus is provided, including important facilities such as classrooms, the library, IT services, student services, and recreational areas.
- **Local Area Familiarisation:** An orientation tour of the local area is arranged, introducing students to nearby amenities, transportation links, banks, and healthcare facilities.
- **Academic Orientation:** An overview of the academic programs, course structures, and assessment methods is provided, along with introductions to the academic staff and department heads.

4. Visa and Compliance Briefing:

- **UKVI Compliance Session:** A mandatory session is conducted on UK visa regulations, including attendance requirements, reporting obligations, and how to maintain visa status. This session also covers the consequences of non-compliance with visa conditions.

- **Attendance Monitoring:** Students are briefed on the college's attendance monitoring procedures and the importance of maintaining a high attendance record to comply with UKVI requirements.

5. Support Services Introduction:

- **Pastoral Care and Well-being:** An introduction to the college's pastoral care team and available support services, including counselling, mental health support, and access to healthcare.
- **Academic Support Services:** Information on the academic support available, including study skills workshops, language support, tutoring services, and library resources.
- **IT and Digital Resources:** A session on accessing the college's digital resources, including the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), student email, and online library access.

6. Cultural Adjustment and Integration:

- **Cultural Awareness Workshop:** Workshops are provided to help students understand cultural differences, adjust to life in the UK, and engage with the local community.
- **Social Activities and Events:** A series of social activities and events are organised during the induction period to help students meet their peers, build friendships, and feel part of the college community.

7. Health and Safety Briefing:

- **Health Services Orientation:** Information on accessing health services, registering with a local GP, and understanding the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK.
- **Safety and Security Briefing:** Students are briefed on personal safety, emergency procedures, and college security measures.

8. Ongoing Support and Check-ins:

- **Follow-up Meetings:** Regular check-in meetings are scheduled with each international student throughout their first term to address any concerns, provide additional support, and monitor their adjustment to college life.
- **Peer Mentoring Program:** Students are paired with peer mentors who provide ongoing support and guidance during their transition to the college environment.

Responsibilities:

- **International Student Support Team:** Responsible for planning and delivering the induction program, providing ongoing support to international students, and monitoring their progress.
- **Academic Staff:** Responsible for introducing students to their respective academic departments, explaining course expectations, and offering academic guidance.
- **Pastoral Care Staff:** Responsible for supporting students' well-being, addressing any personal or emotional challenges, and helping students integrate into the college community.
- **Students:** Expected to actively participate in the induction program, attend all mandatory sessions, and engage with the support services offered.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Regular feedback is collected from international students about their induction experience to identify areas for improvement.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The induction program is reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and responsive to the needs of international students.

Conclusion:

The induction policy for international students at LSI Independent College is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the college and life in the UK. By participating in the induction program, international students will gain the knowledge and support they need to thrive academically and socially, ensuring a smooth transition and successful start to their studies.