



Undergraduate Offer Guide 2017-18

More than an education.
At the RAU, we discover,
we innovate, we inspire.

96% High graduate employability
Average over 5 years

A vibrant international community with
1,200 students from
48 different countries

14k
A powerful network of 14,000 alumni globally

80% of our graduates are in managerial roles within 6 months of leaving

 **University of the Year**
for Student Retention

Industry links
Our graduates have placements (and careers) with prestigious, global companies

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Your application: what to do now



1.

You have now received your offer letter and guide. Read your offer carefully to make sure you understand it fully.

See page 11 Your Offer.



2.

Go through the application checklist to complete all the key tasks from offer to results.

Application checklist page 8.



3.

If you have not yet visited the RAU why don't you have a look at the applicant days available and arrange to come and meet with staff and current students. **Visiting the University on page 25.**



4.

Choose and apply for your accommodation. Applications open in November 2016. If you hold a firm offer you can apply online.

Choosing accommodation page 24.



5.

Our Money Matters pages provide information on student finance and what support is available.

Money matters on page 21.



6.

Check all important dates and the post confirmation checklist.

Important timeline and post confirmation lists pages 8-9.

Useful web and e-mail addresses



Undergraduate Applications

<https://www.rau.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/how-apply-undergraduate-study>

Fees

<https://www.rau.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/paying-tuition-fees>
E-mail: studentfinance@rau.ac.uk

Accommodation

<https://www.rau.ac.uk/university-life/accommodation>
E-mail: accommodation@rau.ac.uk

Scholarships, Awards, Bursaries

<https://www.rau.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/funding>
E-mail: scholarships@rau.ac.uk

Student Union

<https://www.rau.ac.uk/university-life/social/student-union>

UKCISA

<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

RAU International Community

<https://www.facebook.com/RAUinternationalstudents>

RAU Campus map

https://www.rau.ac.uk/sites/files/rau/field/field_document/RAU_Map-A4-December%202016.pdf



Welcome to the RAU

Congratulations on receiving an offer from the Royal Agricultural University.

We hope you find this guide helpful when making what is, undoubtedly, a life enhancing decision. Established in 1845, we are recognised nationally and internationally as a leader in the delivery of education, research and consultancy, in and relating to, agriculture and the rural environment. Whilst we are proud of our heritage, we are also firmly

committed to the future to ensure graduates have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to forge long and successful careers in the agricultural, land, business management, food, equine and property industries.

In the 2015 Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, the RAU was named as the University of the Year for Student Retention and ranked as the 4th best University in the South West of England. We are also ranked third in the UK for graduate employability.

In the 2016 Complete University Guide, the RAU was ranked in the UK's top 10 for degree completion and investment in academic and campus facilities, and have recently received the Sustainability Project award and been runner up in the Entrepreneurship category at the 2016 Guardian University awards.

You will find all aspects of life at the RAU varied and exciting, created with you the student at the very heart. We take pride in helping every student develop, both personally and academically, and provide an integrated support network to enable every student to achieve their full potential. I do hope that you choose to come and join us at the Royal Agricultural University.

Nigel Warner

Academic Registrar





Term dates for 2017-18

25th September - 29th September 2017	Freshers' Week
2nd October - 8th December 2017	10 Weeks
8th January – 16th March 2018	10 Weeks
16th April – 22nd June 2018	10 Weeks

Your personal information

Name*	<input type="text"/>
RAU student number (found on your offer letter)	<input type="text"/>
Programme for which you hold an offer	<input type="text"/>

*(You will need to have this information to hand when you contact RAU's Admissions Office)

Contact us:

If you have questions about your offer please feel free to contact admissions at any time.
Tel: +44 (0) 1285 889912 Email: admissions@rau.ac.uk



Application Checklist

Timing	Activity	Checklist	Tick
November 2016-March 2017	Receive your offer from the Royal Agricultural University and any other choices	Read through your offer guides	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Attend a University Applicant day	Book your place via email at applicantdays@rau.ac.uk	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Research your accommodation options	Once you've confirmed your offer book early to confirm your accommodation (applications open in mid-November)	<input type="checkbox"/>
April 2017	Arrange student funding and any other additional support	If you are an EU applicant apply at www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance for tuition loan. Check eligibility for scholarships / awards	<input type="checkbox"/>
May 2017	Deadline to reply to your offer (for those that applied prior to 15 January 2017)	Enter firm and insurance choices via UCAS Track	<input type="checkbox"/>
July 2017	Students not taking A-Levels, BTECs or IB will need to send us their exam results	Send exams results to the RAU	<input type="checkbox"/>
August 2017	Receive your exam results and confirm your place at the RAU		<input type="checkbox"/>

Timeline of important dates

Mid-November 2016	Applications for on campus accommodation open (to be confirmed)
23 December 2016 – 2 January 2017	RAU closed for Christmas and New Year holidays
Feb-April 2017	Applicant Days (for undergraduate courses only) You are invited to visit RAU to discover more about the University, your chosen subject area and to meet with academic staff and students. Booking is required. Email: applicantdays@rau.ac.uk
15 Feb 2017	Applicant Day
22 Mar 2017	Applicant Day
5 Apr 2017	Applicant Day
14 April-17 April 2017	RAU closed for Easter holidays
19 Apr 2017	Applicant Day
4 May 2017	UCAS applicants only - If you have received your offer from the RAU before 31 March 2017 you need to reply using UCAS track.
Early May	If you are an International Student needing a Tier 4 visa you will be sent an email asking you to complete the BIPF (Background Information Pro Forma) on the MyRAU portal. This must be completed as soon as possible and no later than June.
May-June	TB screening tests – for Visa applicants. If you are coming to the UK for more than 6 months and are resident in any of the countries listed here you will need to have a tuberculosis(TB) test
Early June onwards	For those applicants who need a visa, CAS numbers are issued to unconditional firm offer holders who have submitted their BIPF (Background Information Pro Forma) and confirmed their passport details with Admissions. An e-mail is sent to overseas (non-EU/EEA nationals) offer holders in early May asking for confirmation of these details. (See BIPF info)
June 2017(TBC)	Open day
July 2017	If you are not taking A-levels, BTEC or IB you will need to send your results to the RAU Admissions
17 August 2017	GCE A-level, Diploma and Pre-U results are published
End of August 2017	A confirmation e-mail will be sent to all applicants who are holding an unconditional firm offer. This e-mail will include an electronic statement of confirmation and an electronic Welcome Guide. International students will also receive a pre-arrival guide.

Post-confirmation checklist

Things to do between September 2017 and your Registration at the RAU

September 2017	Get vaccinated. All students – British, European or overseas – admitted to UK universities are advised to be vaccinated against Meningitis C and to ensure all their vaccinations are up-to-date	<input type="checkbox"/>
Before you arrive in the UK (non-UK students)	Obtain sufficient UK currency or an international credit/debit card to cover you until you open a UK bank account	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 September - 22 September 2017 (non-UK students)	Attend the International Orientation events (Final dates to be confirmed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
September / October (All students)	Ensure that you pay your fees or that you have a payment plan organised. International Students need to pay the balance of their yearly tuition fees before/by enrolment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Complete your online self-registration before you arrive at the RAU for your onsite registration	<input type="checkbox"/>
25-29 September 2017	Student Registration & Induction Attend Registration – Induction Week starts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only Tier 4 students - Within 10 days of your arrival in the UK	Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (i.e. Tier 4) from the appointed Collection point(RAU Registry or a Post Office)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only Tier 4 students - As soon as you receive your BRP and no longer than 10 days from your arrival in the UK	Nationals of certain countries will need to register with the police. RAU also arranges dedicated dates for international students to do so either on campus or at the Police headquarters.	<input type="checkbox"/>



Your UCAS offer (UCAS applicants)

By now you should be able to see your offer via the UCAS Track facility.

- If you accept a conditional offer it will remain at this stage until all of the respective conditions have been met.
- Applicants with an unconditional offer will have met all conditions required for the course.
- Applicants wishing to defer their offer must have satisfied all conditions by the 31st August 2017 in order for a place to be reserved for you in September 2018.

Your Direct Entry offer (Direct entry applicants i.e. OYFC and advanced entry on degree programmes)

- If you accept a conditional offer it will remain at this stage until all of the respective conditions have been met.
- Applicants with an unconditional offer will have met all conditions required for the course.
- Applicants wishing to defer their offer must have satisfied all conditions by the 31st August 2017 in order for a place to be reserved for you in September 2018.

“My RAU”

Once you receive an offer from the RAU you will be able to log into the university’s applicant portal. “My RAU” can be found **here**, your username will be your eight digit student number which is printed at the top of your offer letter. Your password will be your date of birth in the format ddmmyyyy. You will be invited to change your password on your first visit.

English Language Requirements

All applicants must be competent in the English language and all courses require at least GCSE English at grade 4(or C) or an equivalent qualification.

International undergraduate students for whom English is not their first language must provide evidence of English language competence equivalent to IELTS Academic 6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any band.

If there is an English proficiency condition in your offer, it will be stated in your offer conditions as shown on UCAS Track and on the offer letter you have received from RAU.

Booking an IELTS test

If you are planning to take an IELTS Academic test we recommend you plan to take it early and in time to meet the 1st August deadline. Test dates in the summer are often full so plan and book your test early. Applicants for the Foundation degree courses will need to take a SELT IELTS (for UKVI). More information can be found at **ielts/org**.



Providing verification of your qualifications

The University will request to receive officially verified copies of your qualifications. If you are taking an overseas or European qualification you will need to provide us with certified copies of your results. The University may also request verification of British, Irish or A level qualifications taken prior to 2017.

How to ensure that copies of your qualifications are correctly certified

Photocopies will need to be verified by your School or by a British Council official. Photocopies of your certificates/results must meet the following conditions:

1. Each page must be signed and stamped by your school (or by a British Council official)
2. The signatory must also print their name and job title
3. If the qualifications/results are in a language other than English then an official translation of the original document must also be submitted at the same time

You should submit any certified official documents as soon as possible to be received no later than 4 August 2017. These can be e-mailed to admissions@rau.ac.uk (only pdf files in colour and good definition will be accepted). The originals must be submitted on the day of your registration.

If you are an international student you should send us your documents as soon as possible as we cannot issue a CAS until you receive an unconditional offer. Non-EEA students who require a Tier 4 visa must also send a verified copy of their English Language proficiency as it is required by the UKVI regulations. Applicants for the Foundation degree programmes will need to have a SELT IELTS qualification (for UKVI).

If the University finds that the examinations/qualifications you have declared on your UCAS or Direct entry form are inaccurate or you are unable to verify them, the University reserves the right to withdraw the offer or cancel your application.



Visa advice for international students

Overseas (non-EU/EEA nationals) applicants who hold offers of a place at the Royal Agricultural University are advised to allow plenty of time to apply for and obtain their student visa. You can apply for your visa up to three months before the start of your course. To apply you will need a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) number from us so that you can complete your Tier 4 student visa application.



Background Information Pro Forma (BIPF)

Starting in early May, all overseas offer holders who have accepted their offer will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to submit this important form.

- The BIPF form is mandatory for those overseas students who require a CAS number, which is used to apply for a student visa. The BIPF form must be completed and returned within 1 week of the receipt of the e-mail and no later than Friday 4 August 2017.
- Confirm your passport details to us
- Return a copy of the financial document to be used in support of your visa application

Overseas students who require a student visa will not be issued a CAS number until the form has been completed and returned to us. The form can be accessed via the new MyRAU (My application, Forms).



Visa Support Team

Our Visa Support Team are immigration/visa specialists with extensive experience. The Visa Support Team provides you with a one-to-one personalised service covering every aspect of the visa application process and is always available to give you whatever advice you need in relation to your UK Study visa.

This specialist service is provided to you free of charge. When you have been given an unconditional offer by the RAU, the Visa Support Team will be in contact to guide you through the visa application process.

Please note the free visa support is only for student visas of students, who are studying with the RAU. The Visa Support Team can provide help with other visas, such as for dependents, but there would be a charge for those services.

The Royal Agricultural University has a Tier 4 Sponsor Status (previously known as HTS) and is on the Home Office's Register of Sponsors. For all visa enquiries please contact **visa.support@rau.ac.uk**.

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

The CAS is a unique reference number issued to the RAU by the Home Office after we supply them with details regarding your programme of study, admissions and personal details. A CAS can be assigned only once you have met the conditions below:

- Firmly accepted your unconditional offer
- Paid the required deposit for your course (or provided evidence of your financial sponsorship/student loan)
- Completed the BIPF form
- Confirmed your passport details to us
- Returned the financial document to be used in support of your visa application



Once you receive your pre-CAS statement e-mail you should check that the information it contains is correct paying special attention to your name, nationality, passport details and qualifications listed. If you notice an error you should immediately contact visa.support@rau.ac.uk.

Once the CAS number has been assigned by the Home Office, the Admissions Office will e-mail you to let you know and we will provide your CAS statement and number to the Visa Support Team. The CAS statement lists the evidence we used to assess your application when making a decision to offer you a place. You will need to submit evidence of these qualifications (in the form of original certificate/transcript) along with your visa application.

Important:

Please keep the Visa Support Team and Admissions up-to-date with any changes to the information contained in the CAS statement (e.g. passport number) so that we can update the Home Office and avoid your visa application being rejected.

A new Immigration Health Surcharge(IHS) was introduced on 6 April 2015. If you're applying online or through the premium service centre, you'll pay the IHS surcharge as part of your application or when you book an appointment.

If you're applying by post, you must **pay the healthcare surcharge online** before you send your application - you'll need to include the IHS reference number on your application form.

The IHS costs £150 per year for a student. It is calculated on the basis of the length of the visa you will be granted. To calculate how much you will have to pay visit the website **here**. The IHS is mandatory and failure to pay the correct amount could lead to a refusal of your visa. Some people are exempt, but they will still need to obtain an IHS number to include in their Tier 4 application.

To pay for the IHS please follow the steps below:

1. Read the **UKVI web pages** for the up-to-date information on the IHS;
2. Find out **when you need to pay** the surcharge or if you are exempt from payment;
 - Calculate how much your surcharge will be using the **Home Office Calculator**. You should refer to your course dates as stated on your CAS.
3. Keep a copy of the email you are sent by the Home Office with your IHS number for reference. You will be required to write the number on your Tier 4 application form.





When to apply for your visa

Our Visa Support Team will help you with your Tier 4 application. Please note that you cannot start a Tier 4 application until a CAS has been assigned by the RAU. If you apply without a CAS your application will be refused.

A CAS number is valid for 6 months and can only be used once. You can apply for a visa from up to 3 months before the sponsorship start date stated on your CAS. We strongly advise you to apply as early as possible in the 3 month window.

If you are already studying in the UK at a different institution you will have to apply for a Tier 4 visa for the RAU before you can register and start your course. You cannot start your programme at the RAU if you hold a Tier 4 visa for a different institution.

You will need to submit your passport as part of your application and attend a biometrics appointment. We strongly advise you not to arrange any other travel until your visa is granted.

Maintenance costs and financial requirements

If you are coming to study in the UK you will need to prove that you have enough money to pay for our course fees and your living costs while you are studying here. The Home Office refers to these as the maintenance (funds) requirements. You will need to prove that you have:

- Tuition fees for the first year of your programme or for the entire course if it is less than a year long
- £1,015 per month for living costs if you are studying outside London or anywhere else in the UK, for the majority of your study (i.e. you will need to show 9 months X £1,015=**£9,135**)

Important: You must show that you have held the required money for a consecutive 28 day period (finishing on the date of the closing balance) ending no more than 31 days before your application.

The Home Office will accept only specific documentation and **it is essential that you follow the guidance given by our Visa Support Team** and the Home Office policy **guidance** to ensure that you can use and obtain these documents in time to apply for your visa.

Financially sponsored students

Arrange for your sponsoring body to issue a confirmation letter. This must be received the latest by 3rd August.

If you are being sponsored, evidence of sponsorship must be issued by an authorized officer of an official sponsoring body and must have a recent date of issue (within 30 days from sending). The letter should be on company/organisation headed paper and should clearly state:

- Your name and University number
- The programme for which you have been offered a place
- The level of fees that will be paid by the organisation/company in sterling pound
- The address the invoice should be sent to
- The contact person and department in the organisation/company
- That the fees (quoted in in sterling pound)will be paid directly to the Royal Agricultural University

Please provide evidence of sponsorship by emailing **Admissions@rau.ac.uk**

Definition of an Official sponsor

An **official financial sponsor** is defined in the Tier 4 policy guidance as:

- the UK government
- your home government
- the British Council
- any international organisation
- an international company (N.B. the Home Office has not defined 'international company' but it seems to mean a company with a trading presence (an office) in more than one country)
- any university
- an Independent School

If you receive funding from any of the above sources, you will need a letter from them confirming how much money they will contribute towards your course fees and maintenance. If your official financial sponsor is also your Tier 4 sponsor and they have included details of your financial sponsorship in your CAS, you do not need an additional letter. The letter must show:

- your name
- the name and contact details of the official financial sponsor
- the date of the letter
- the length of the sponsorship
- the amount of money the sponsor is giving to you, or a statement that all course fees and living costs will be covered.

If you are a "low risk" student, you should obtain this letter and keep it safe, but you do not need to include it with your initial application. All other applicants must include the letter with their application.

If your official financial sponsor is not covering all of your course fees and maintenance, you must be able to demonstrate that you have the rest of the money required.

Consent of current or previous official financial sponsor, if they are a government or an international scholarship agency

If you have an official financial sponsor for your proposed studies, and the sponsor is a government or an international scholarship agency, their sponsor letter (which you will need for evidence of your money, see below) should specifically state that they consent to your Tier 4 (General) application.

If you have previously received financial sponsorship from a government or international scholarship agency for your studies, and the sponsorship ended less than 12 months ago, you must also obtain and include a letter of consent from this financial sponsor.

Monies paid towards tuition costs

We will update the Home Office CAS database with details of any tuition fee payments you make. This enables them to take such payments into account when calculating your ability to finance your studies in the UK.



What to pack if you are travelling from outside the UK

Documentation

Carry the below in your hand luggage in case hold luggage is late or lost:

- Passport
- Visa & entry clearance documents
- Your offer letter
- Proof of degree (final transcript, certificate)
- Scholarship/funding information documents
- Travel and health insurance documents
- Cash-Travellers cheques-credit cards
- Contact details and directions for your accommodation

Clothing

The weather in the UK is changeable. Temperatures may go down as low as -3 degrees Celsius during the winter (Dec-March) and as high as 32 degrees during the summer (June-Aug). Rainfall is common but most of the time is light.

If you arrive in September we suggest you bring a sweater and a light (waterproof) jacket or a small umbrella for the journey. A pair of comfortable waterproof shoes is also recommended. Agriculture and Equine students are advised to have a pair of wellington boots.

There is no particular dress code. In general students tend to dress informally (jeans, T-shirt, trainers) whilst on campus. Smart clothes are occasionally worn either for recruitment events with employers or on social events such as the Freshers, the Christmas and the May ball.

Electrical appliances

Electricity in the UK operates on 220-240 volts. You should check your appliance manual to ensure it will work in the UK. You will also require a three pin plug adaptor which is available in most shops.

Mobile phone

Check with your home service provider before you travel to the UK. It may be expensive to make calls in the UK and back home from your current phone. Pay as you go phones can be bought for as little as £5 although individual call and text charges may be comparatively higher. Pre-pay phones do not require a UK bank account or address so they may be easier to buy if you are waiting to open a bank account. Do shop around to get the best deal before you decide!



Pre-departure briefings (British Council)

The British Council runs 'pre-departure briefings' in many countries for students who are planning to study in the UK. At these events, British Council staff gives you advice about what to pack, travelling to the UK, settling in and much more. More information is available on the British Council website:

<http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/predeparture-briefings/>

International Orientation

The RAU International orientation is a 2 week programme that includes a variety of formal and social activities to introduce you to the University, your School and to help you settle in to your studies.

During this time you are invited to attend events run by the University, your School and by the Student's Union.

International Orientation events begin on Monday 11 September 2017(dates to be confirmed).

Detailed information will be made available on the RAU website **here**. The cost of the orientation programme to be confirmed (includes airport pick up, accommodation, food, travel fares for orientation programme visits & entry fees). You can book your place on MyRAU.



Registration

To complete your formal enrolment at the RAU you must register with the central administration. This is a 2 part process here at the RAU:

- Part 1 Online Self Registration- completed online on MyRAU
- Part 2 Onsite Registration – you will complete this on Monday 25th September here on the RAU campus.

We will send you a contact e-mail towards the end of August/beginning of September with joining instructions.

Registration is a straightforward process which involves you providing proof of your identity and eligibility to study in the UK.

During registration you will be issued with your student card which will confirm your status as a registered RAU student and allow you to use restricted access buildings, such as the Library.

Onsite registration is scheduled for Monday 25 September 2017.

Documents to bring with you to Registration

All students

Photo ID and originals of the qualifications you used to gain admission to your programme of study.

For EEA nationals

Photographic identification that verifies your EEA nationality, such as your passport or national identity card. Please note that the University is required to take a copy of your documents at registration.

For non- EEA nationals entering the UK with a student visa

Your passport showing evidence of your right to study at the RAU and the period for which you have permission to remain in the UK. Please note that the University is required to take a copy of your documents at registration.



Money matters

Fees 2017-18

Home/EU students **Fee p.a.**

Home/EU taught undergraduate **£9,250 per year.**

Please note that you won't be required to pay this up front as a tuition fee loan is available to all UK and EU students for any amount up to the full fee. EU students can obtain further information on the subject on the SLC website here.

Overseas (non-EU) students **Fee p.a.**

All new Non-UK/EU taught undergraduate **£10,000**

(Course specific charges are additional to this fee)

One Year farming **Fee p.a.**

Home/EU **£10,500 p.a.**

For part time fees please consult the University specific course webpage and the RAU website.

Course specific charges

BSc (Hons) International Equine and Agricultural Business Management has a supplement of £3,500 for the international study visits, normally charged at £1,750 at the beginning of Year Two and Year Three.

Further information on fees, financial support and how to pay can be found on our website.

Student Finance

Students can find information on how to apply for financial support, create an account with the Student Loans Company on **the SLC website here.**

N.B. the One Year Farming course is privately-funded. Applicants for this course will not have access to student loans from the Student Loans Company or other government funding initiatives. Fees must be paid in advance at the start of each term.

Additional Support

The government has a range of funds available for those in particular circumstances who may need additional financial help. These include the:

- Childcare Grant
- Parents' Learning Allowance
- Adult Dependents' Grant
- Disabled Students' Allowance which provides eligible students with both general allowance and specific help for equipment and non-medical helpers.

Find out more at **the SLC website here.**

Cost of living

On Campus accommodation costs

The charges opposite are given as a guide only. Please visit the RAU website for the most-up-to-date information

Room type	Fully catered	Dinner B&B	Self-catered
	Annual rate £	Annual rate £	Annual rate £
Large en-suite single	£8,028	£7,020	N/A
En-suite single	£7,848	£6,840	£5,071
Small en-suite single	£7,668	£6,660	N/A
Standard single	£6,552	£5,508	N/A
Large standard single	£6,732	£5,760	N/A
En-suite twin	£4,932	£3,960	N/A



Off Campus Living Costs

Off-campus accommodation charges vary depending on the type of room or house rented. Charges for a one-bedroom flat or room in a shared house range from £350 - £450 per month. Utilities such as gas, water and electricity may be an additional cost.

The table below gives an estimate on other living costs in addition to accommodation costs that you may occur while at university. Remember that costs vary depending on your lifestyle and you should also take into account flights or transportation to and from the UK.

If you are an overseas student you may want to use the **International Student Calculator** to help with budgeting before you come to the UK.

	Monthly Cost	Academic Year Cost
Gas / Electricity	£50	£450
Water	£45	£405
Internet	£20	£180
Mobile Phone	£25	£225
Laundry / Household Items	£35	£315
Leisure (meals out, cinema, bars, etc)	£135	£1215
Photocopying / Printing	£18	£162
Food	£200	£1800
Course Books / Materials	£75	£675
Insurance	£5	£45
TV Licence	£16	£144
Total	£674.00	£5616.00

RAU Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

The Royal Agricultural University has a wide range of funding opportunities. The Scholarship Scheme was established to provide worthy students with the support necessary to work towards achieving their full personal potential during their period of study at the University. To find out whether you're eligible for one of our scholarships, award or bursaries please visit our website [here](#).

Only one Royal Agricultural University managed scholarship can be held at one time*. These funding opportunities should be applied for once a firm offer at the RAU has been accepted.





Choosing your accommodation

Student Accommodation at the RAU

At the RAU we have 320 student bedrooms that we offer to First Year Undergraduates, but we also offer a limited number of rooms to returning and postgraduate students. We have a mixture of Catered and Self-Catered accommodation with the Dinner Bed and Breakfast option as standard, however, you have the opportunity to upgrade to a fully catered package. We also offer “quiet bedrooms” for students who prefer the more tranquil environment. The bedrooms are a mixture of standard rooms with shared bathroom facilities, en-suite rooms and twins

How to apply for accommodation at the RAU

Applications for on campus Accommodation are expected to open mid- November 2016. All applications will need to be made via the My RAU portal. International applicants may need to contact the accommodation office to book a place.

Applications are dealt with on a first-come first-served basis so to ensure that you get the room of your choice you will need to apply as early as possible, after the Portal has opened.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Accommodation Office at accommodation@rau.ac.uk or call 01285 652531.

Accommodation Guide

If you'd like to read more about the Halls of Residence available for both Undergraduate and Postgraduate students, please download our Accommodation Guide.

Living off campus

If you plan to live off campus visit the Urban Fox website. It is a website created by the RAU in collaboration with Gloucestershire Police and Cotswolds District Council. The website has information to help present and future students integrate into the local community providing useful information and practical tips about living in private rented accommodation and how to find appropriate accommodation off campus in the area. And remember you can always ask the “Vixen” aka Julie Tottle our Student Support Services Manager.

Visiting the University

Applicant days

The best way to find out what the student experience is like at the Royal Agricultural University is to visit, explore, ask questions and meet current students and staff. As an offer holder you are invited to attend the University for an applicant day. It is important that you take the opportunity to attend one of these events, especially if you have not visited our campus before.

We would advise confirming your attendance early as many of the dates do become fully booked. Please select a favoured date and a reserve date to ensure you don't miss out.

To book your place please email applicantdays@rau.ac.uk

Meet us in your own country

The international team visit a number of countries throughout the year to meet our offer holders. We advertise our visit locations and dates on our [website](#). You can also e-mail the International Team at: international@rau.ac.uk

If you are unable to visit us on any of our open days we would be delighted to welcome you to the campus at another time – please email admissions@rau.ac.uk with your suggested date.

NB Private visits can be arranged during weekdays only.





Cirencester and further afield

The university campus is set on 25 acres of magnificent grounds amid the beautiful Cotswold countryside.

Off campus there is plenty to explore. The busy Roman town of Cirencester, referred to as the capital of the Cotswolds, is just a mile away. Cirencester has many shops, bars and restaurants to choose from. Remember to take your student card to take advantage of discounts available to students at a range of stores.

The Cotswold Water Park is 15 minutes drive away and offers 150 lakes set over 40 square miles offering activities such as kayaking, canoeing, sailing, rowing, wakeboarding and windsurfing.

Bath, Bristol, Oxford and Cheltenham are all within an hour of the University and promise an exciting day out. Alternatively, London is just 90 minutes by direct train, the perfect distance for a day trip.



The Student Union

The Student Union (SU) team are always busy developing fantastic activities, clubs, societies and some of the country's finest event weeks and balls. You'll be able to meet the SU team at the applicant day and find out what they can offer you.

You can also view the list of societies and clubs at the RAU [here](#).



FAQs

What happens if I experience difficulties at examination time?

We understand that circumstances can arise which have a detrimental impact on exam performance. If you marginally miss the conditions of your offer at Confirmation, the University will consider severe extenuating circumstances in mid-August. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that we will be able to confirm your offer.

I am not taking A-levels. Will you get my results automatically?

We receive results for BTECs and for most International Baccalaureate students automatically from UCAS. However, we are not sent results for many other qualifications, including English language tests and any GCSEs you might have been asked to take. If you are taking one of these qualifications it is your responsibility to ensure that your results reach us. You should send them to the admissions office admissions@rau.ac.uk as soon as you receive them; and by 31 August 2017 at the very latest.

I have changed my mind about the course I want to study. Can I change to another course?

Please contact us to discuss this. It may be possible, but it will depend on whether places are still available, how competitive the new course is, and whether your subjects and grades are suitable. If the course you wish to study is in the same area or department as your original one, there is a good chance you will be able to change, but this cannot be guaranteed.

I have changed my postal and/or email address. What should I do?

Please notify UCAS and the Undergraduate Admissions Office of your new address in writing as soon as possible.

What happens if I have applied for deferred entry?

If your offer is for deferred entry (i.e., you are intending to take a gap year), you must still satisfy all the conditions of your offer by 31 August 2017. If you are successful in meeting those conditions, or if your offer is already unconditional, a place will then be reserved for you to start in September 2018.

I no longer want to go to University, who do I tell?

It's important to contact UCAS who will inform your chosen universities that you do not wish to proceed with your application to University. If you decide to not take your place and you hold an unconditional firm place (UF) after confirmation please write to admissions@rau.ac.uk to advise us of your decision.

Who do I need to contact if I would like to talk to someone about special support arrangements?

The university Disability Officer Dr John Conway provides a range of services for students who have special needs, disabilities or medical conditions. If you would like to talk to John you can contact him at john.conway@rau.ac.uk or phone 01285652531 ext. 2234

I have some questions about the scholarships you offer, who can I contact for further information?

You can also contact our Admissions team on 01285 652531, or scholarships@rau.ac.uk.

More FAQs can be found in the My RAU website