

Welcome to the International Orientation programme at the Royal Agricultural University.

We are delighted to have you here and hope that this will be an enjoyable experience. Our intention is to provide you with a warm, friendly atmosphere and an excellent level of support.

We understand that you may feel nervous and apprehensive about studying abroad, as you are away from your family and friends. The aim of the International Orientation programme is to help you feel prepared to begin your time studying at the Royal Agricultural University; to give you the chance to meet new people and make friends, get settled and organised, become familiar with the RAU campus and staff and the local area, to improve your oral and written academic English language skills, become a little more acclimatised to life and the culture in the UK and have fun and visit some famous places – all ahead of term beginning.

The Academic Orientation sessions throughout the 2 week period will focus on the following skills to prepare you for your studies:-

- How to plan and organise your study time
- How to listen and read effectively and take good lecture notes
- How to plan and structure your academic writing
- How to summarise and paraphrase
- How to locate research materials and reference your sources
- How to deliver presentations and take part in seminar discussions



PLEASE NOTE: *there is always the possibility that some events may have to be amended or cancelled due to inclement weather*

MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

Room: EJ PG1

- 08.00 – 09.00** *Breakfast - Dining Hall*
- 09.15 – 10.15** **Meet Michelle outside the Porters' Lodge**
EJ PG1- Welcome & introduction session
- 10.15 – 10.45** **Student Services Hub**
Coffee-break – Meet the student welfare team
- 10.45 - 11.30** **Finance Office & Registry, George Wing** - University fees information update with Student Ledger Clerk Mark and issuance of Biometric Residence Permits by Asst. Registrar Katerina
- 11.30 – 12.30** **Introduction to IT at the RAU**
Introduction to using the RAU's *Gateway* and IT services with RAU IT technician Leigh; includes any self-registration queries and uploading of photographs for ID cards.
- 12.30 – 13.30** **Bathurst Dining Room - Welcome Lunch**
With the RAU Vice Chancellor Professor Joanna Price, RAU Centre Heads, Student Support team, STARS, Student Union Chief Exec. , International Officer and Social Secretary, and Head of the RAU Chinese Students' Assoc. and the STARS
- 13.30 – 14.30** **SU Campus Orientation: Group Challenge & Treasure Hunt**
With Alice Wescombe – SU International Officer
- 14.30** **Meet Michelle outside the Porters' Lodge** to walk into town
Open bank accounts at Lloyds Bank in Cirencester town centre
- 16.00** **STARS** – introduction to Cirencester shops and supermarkets; walk back to campus and meet the Security staff
- 18.00 – 18.30** *Supper – Dining Hall*

TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Room: EJ PG1

08.00 – 09.00 *Breakfast - Dining Hall*

09.00 - 10.00 EJ PG1 - Academic Orientation session

10.00 - 1030 *coffee-break & Accommodation on & off-campus:*
meet our RAU Accommodation Officer, Sarah, who will answer any questions you may have and facilitate meeting local agents for those without pre-arranged on campus accommodation.

10.40 – 11.10 **Meet Mark outside the Porters' Lodge**
Sports at the RAU: A tour of the gym and sporting facilities

11.15 – 12.15 EJ PG1 - Academic Orientation session

12.15 – 13.15 *Lunch - Dining Hall*

13.20 – 13.50 **Meet outside the Porters' Lodge for the Labs:**
Speaker: RAU Centre for Equine Mgmt. & Science



Simon Daniels, Lecturer in Equine Nutrition & Parasitology, Centre for Equine Management & Science, whose research interests include Equine parasitology; Anthelmintic resistance; Sustainable parasite control methods; Parasites and intestinal health; Equine nutrition and gastrointestinal health; Oxidative stress

14.00 – 15.30 **Meet RAU nurse Anna Thompson at the RAU Clinic** for your introduction to the NHS, RAU Clinic, and Phoenix Surgery
Bring your completed Medical Registration forms - Anna will walk you to the Phoenix Surgery to familiarise you with the route and the surgery reception, and hand them in to surgery staff

18.00 – 18.30 *Supper – Dining Hall*

WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER DAYTRIP TO MONMOUTHSHIRE & RIVER WYE

08.00 – 08.30 *Breakfast - Dining Hall*

08.30 **Meet Michelle outside the Porters' Lodge** to depart

10.00 – 12.00 **THE AQUAPONICS SOLAR GREENHOUSE** - *an essential resource for studying sustainable food production and aquaculture, see this pioneering technology first hand! The Aquaponics Solar Greenhouse - the first of its kind in the UK – employs sustainable food growing techniques using aquaculture, farming fish, and hydroponics creating a hugely productive and efficient farming system with few inputs and many, high value outputs. Fish are grown and the nutrient rich water is then recycled into soilless vegetable production cleaning the water in the process so it can be constantly reused. This productive, edible ecosystem is housed in a purpose built passive solar greenhouse and combined with a variety of other complementary farming techniques such as producing fish and poultry food from insects, and growing quail, fed from by-products of the system.*



12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch - Symond's Yat Rock - packed lunch provided – an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

13.30 – 16.00 **Canoeing on the River Wye**



18.00 – 18.30 *Supper – Dining Hall*

THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

Room: EJ PG1

08.00 – 09.00 *Breakfast - Dining Hall*

09.00 - 10.30 **Academic Orientation session**
Including student presentations – *Aquaponics & Canoeing*

10.30 – 10.45 *coffee-break*

10.45 – 12.30 **Meet outside the Porters' Lodge**
Visit to Fossehill Farm Equestrian Centre

12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch - Dining Hall*

13.30 – 14.15 **Meet in the Library Foyer**
RAU Library Orientation

14.30 – 15.30 **Meet outside the Porters' Lodge**
An introduction to croquet - *drinks served on the lawn*



18.00 – 18.30 *Supper – Dining Hall*

FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

DAYTRIP TO AVEBURY HENGE & MANOR

08.00 – 08.30

Breakfast - Dining Hall

08.45

Meet outside the Porters' Lodge - Depart for Avebury

Neolithic henge monument: the largest prehistoric stone circle in Europe

10.30 – 11.30

guided walking tour of the stone circles



❖ *Packed lunch provided*

11.30 – 14.15

explore the Manor and Gardens, Alexander Keiller Museum

Avebury Manor was refurbished for each room to reflect a period in which the residents lived, the furniture and objects were either recreated by modern craftsmen, or genuine antique furniture restored, and made strong enough to be used, sat on and touched. Uniquely, visitors are encouraged to sit on the furniture, lie on the beds and play snooker in the Billiard Room.

The Alexander Keiller Museum, in the Stables Gallery, houses one of the most important prehistoric archaeological collections in Britain

14.15 - 14.30

Meet at the coach park to return to the RAU

18.00 – 18.30

Supper – Dining Hall

SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER

MLB Room 1

08.00 – 09.00

Breakfast - Dining Hall

MORNING FREE

12.00 – 12.30

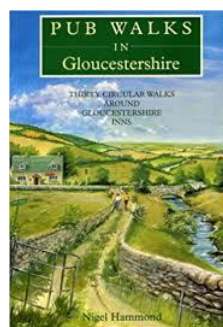
Lunch - Dining Hall



12.40 – 16.00

an introduction to 'rambling' English style by Richard Holmes of Cirencester Ramblers:

- Footpaths & Rights of Way
- The *Kinder Scout Trespass* story
- Using Ordnance Survey Maps and compasses
- Ramblers & walking groups



...followed by a local country walk finishing at a local pub, The Tunnel House.

Return to the RAU campus by coach.

Please wear stout shoes and clothing appropriate for, at times, potentially muddy paths

18.00 – 18.30

Supper – Dining Hall

SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

FREE DAY

08.00 – 09.00: Breakfast; **12.00 – 12.30:** Lunch; **18.00 – 18.30:** Supper

TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

Room EJ PG1

09.30 – 10.00

Breakfast - Dining Hall

(A later breakfast today - as last night was a late one!)

10.00 – 10.15

coffee-break

10.15 -12.00

Meet outside the Porters' Lodge – depart for RAU Harnhill farm tour



12.15 – 13.15

Lunch- Dining Hall

13.30 – 14.30

Academic Orientation session - Including student presentations –
Fossehill; Avebury; Rambling; Stratford

14.30 -15.00

Speaker: RAU Centre for the Environment



Dr Ian Grange; Senior Lecturer in Countryside and Environmental Management in the Centre for Environment at the Royal Agricultural University. Academic expertise in soil science with research experience in the UK, Australia and Thailand. Current teaching and research interests include habitat management and ecological connectivity at the landscape scale.

<https://www.rau.ac.uk/about/news-and-events/news/raus-very-own-springwatch>

18.00 – 18.30

Supper – Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

DAYTRIP TO WINDSOR CASTLE

08.00 – 08.30

Breakfast - Dining Hall

08.45

Meet outside the Porters' Lodge - depart for Windsor



11.00

Windsor Castle: Changing of the Guard

11.30 – 14.15 Audio-guide tour of the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world: originally built by William the Conqueror in the eleventh century, today this is the official residence of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the richly furnished State Apartments house some of the finest works of art in the Royal Collection. Enjoy the castle, its grounds and the town.

❖ *Packed lunch provided*

14.15 - 14.30

Meet at the Coach Park to depart Windsor to return to the RAU

18.00 – 18.30

Supper – Dining Hall

THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

Room: EJ PG1

08.00 – 09.00 *Breakfast - Dining Hall*

09.00 - 10.00 Academic Orientation session
Including student presentations – *Harnhill; Windsor*

10.00– 10.30 **Speaker: Centre for Rural Land Management**



Dr Rhiannon Naylor a Senior Lecturer on various aspects of land management, including environmental, planning and agricultural policy, in addition to her research Rhiannon is also particularly involved in work relating to farmer behaviour and animal disease and welfare.

10.30 – 10.45 *coffee-break*

10.45 - 12.30 Academic Orientation session

12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch - Dining Hall*

13.30 – 19.00 **Clay pigeon shoot with STARs – Hollow Fosse**

...this is the art of shooting a firearm at special flying targets, known as clay pigeons or clay targets. The terminology relates to times past, when live-pigeon shooting competitions were held.

A joint outing with the STARs, after the shoot we will drive to Selsley Common, near Stroud, for a sausage-sizzle campfire supper with a view.



FRIDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Room: EJ PG1

- 08.00 – 09.00** *Breakfast - Dining Hall*
- 09.00 - 11.00** Academic Orientation session
- 11.00 – 11.15** *coffee-break*
- 11.15 – 12.30** Group work session: final preparation for your group presentation
- 12.30 – 13.30** *Lunch - Dining Hall*
- 13.30 – 14.00** **Kenneth Russell Room, Bathurst Wing:** Group work session and presentation set up
- 14.00 – 14.45** **Kenneth Russell Room, Bathurst Wing:** RAU IO 2017 closing reception & students' presentation

International Orientation 2017 – a reflection on our experience as international students arriving at the RAU



- 18.00 – 18.30** *Supper – Dining Hall*

SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

08.00 – 09.00

Breakfast - Dining Hall

Students moving off-campus move out today by 09.30am

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

FREE DAY



MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

RAU INDUCTION WEEK BEGINS

