Contents

British Council 6

1 Preparing to come to the UK
1.1 Countdown to departure 9
1.2 Preparing to enter the UK 11
1.3 Arranging accommodation 11
1.4 Money 13
1.5 Booking travel 15
1.6 Insurance 16
1.7 Packing 17
1.8 Further reading 19

2 Entry clearance requirements
2.1 Entry requirements 21
2.2 Your responsibilities in the UK 27
2.3 Extending your leave to remain in the UK 29
2.4 Students and employment 33
2.5 Further reading 35

3 Arriving in the UK
3.1 Immigration control 37
3.2 Customs control 38
3.3 Onward travel 39
3.4 Short-term accommodation 41
3.5 Playing it safe on arrival 42
3.6 Personal safety 43
3.7 Further reading 45

4 Accommodation
4.1 Arranging accommodation in advance 47
4.2 University or college accommodation 47
4.3 Private accommodation 48
4.4 Tenancy agreements and other legalities 52
4.5 Further reading 55

5 Transport
5.1 First steps 57
5.2 Travelling by train 59
5.3 Catching a coach 62
5.4 The London Underground 62
5.5 Tips on taking taxis 64
5.6 Cars and motorcycles 65
5.7 Bicycle basics 68
5.8 Further reading 68

6 Financial and legal matters
6.1 Fees and the cost of study 70
6.2 Cost of living 72
6.3 Scholarships and funding 73
6.4 Working in the UK 75
6.5 Banking basics 75
6.6 Managing your money 78
6.7 Insurance 79
6.8 Help with legal matters 80
6.9 Further reading 81

7 Health
7.1 The National Health Service 83
7.2 Emergency services 84
7.3 Doctors' services 84
7.4 Dentists' services 85
7.5 Opticians' services 86
7.6 Services for women 86
7.7 Services and access for disabled people 87
7.8 Sexually transmitted diseases 88
7.9 Drugs and alcohol 88
7.10 Meningitis 89
7.11 Keeping healthy 89
7.12 Health care checklist 90
7.13 Further reading 90

8 Services and facilities
8.1 Activities on campus 92
8.2 Shopping 93
8.3 Restaurants 96
8.4 Pubs and bars 97
8.5 Entertainment 98
8.6 Telephones 98
8.7 E-mail 100
8.8 Television and radio 101
8.9 Postal services 102
8.10 Water and gas 103
8.11 Education 104
8.12 Libraries 104
8.13 Further reading 104

9 UK factfile
9.1 Geography 106
9.2 People 106
9.3 Government and politics 107
9.4 Climate and weather 109
9.5 Holidays 110
9.6 Travel opportunities 112
9.7 Further reading 114

10 Studying in the UK
10.1 Teaching and learning methods 116
10.2 Organising your time 118
10.3 Coping with your course 118
10.4 Non-degree courses 119
10.5 Further reading 120

11 Cultural issues
11.1 Cultural differences 122
11.2 Living in the UK 123
11.3 Culture shock 125
11.4 Personal safety 127
11.5 Further reading 128

12 Study options
12.1 Reviewing the options 130
12.2 The home of English 131
12.3 GCSEs, A-levels and other equivalents 133
12.4 Career-based courses 133
12.5 Understanding degrees 134
12.6 Postgraduate prestige 136
12.7 Boost your career with an MBA 138
12.8 Your education options in the UK 138
12.9 Further reading 144

13 Looking forward
13.1 Staying on to work in the UK 146
13.2 Preparing to leave 147
13.3 Culture shock (again) 148
13.4 Staying connected 150
13.5 Coming back 151
13.6 Further reading 153

Appendices
A Education and qualifications 155
B Accommodation, student welfare and other general information 157
C Student hostels – London area 158
D Hostels for nationals 159
E Other hostels in the UK 160
F Acronyms 163

UK map 165
The UK experience 166
UK calendar 170
The world from the UK 172

Index 174