



Dear ,

Hello and welcome to your December edition of Your International News - a monthly update of all things we think you should know about on campus or in the city for International and EU students.

It's been a busy term and, like us, I'm sure you are looking forward to the Christmas break. There's lots to enjoy on and off campus until the end of term and things to do over the break if you are staying in Exeter. We're particularly looking forward to the annual **Christingle Celebration** with refreshments after in the Forum on Friday 6 December led by the Chaplaincy. Come and join them in the Forum from 12-4pm to make a Christingle with the celebration at 5pm. Our website will have a full list of [Guild and university events and service opening times](#). The website will be live from Friday 13 December so please do check back then.

There are also heaps of things to do in the city. Apart from the [Christmas market](#), one of my favourite is to attend [Lunchtime Carols](#) at the Cathedral. This is a free event and a great way to see the Cathedral in all its Christmassy splendour. Or why not go and see a pantomime? Pantomimes in the UK are family shows on traditional story themes but are very silly and have lots of audience participation. Exeter Corn Exchange are showing [Peter Pan](#), whilst the Northcote Theatre is showing [Cinderella](#). Why not give it a go?

Whether you are staying in the UK, going home, studying or getting out and about we are here to help you make the most of every opportunity.

Take care and we'll speak to you in the New Year,

Sue O'Hara, Sophie Meadows and Cara Stokes

International Student Experience



Christingles in the Forum



Exeter Christmas Market



Join us for lunch on Christmas day

Winter Break - opening hours and events

Most facilities and services will be available as normal until Tuesday 24 December, and will re-open for normal business hours on Thursday 2 January. Between these times there may be limited opening hours. Our [Christmas on Exeter Campus webpage](#) will have full details of specific opening times and also the great range of events for you to attend over the break. Full information on services will be available here by Friday 13 December. Please check before trying to access services over the Winter break.



[Join us for lunch on Christmas Day](#)

Are you in Exeter on 25 December? Why not join our traditional Christmas Day Lunch in Holland Hall Dining Room, arriving at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm?

Tickets are £15.00 per adult (£10.00 per child) and must be booked before 12 noon, Wednesday 18 December.

Arrival drink, 2 course lunch with all the traditional side dishes are all included. All students, their families and staff are welcome.

We normally have more than 100 people at the lunch so it is a lovely atmosphere and a warm welcome is guaranteed. Tickets are limited so book early to avoid disappointment but please only book a ticket if you are going to come. [Purchase tickets here.](#)



Celebrate Christmas through Christingles with the Chaplains

The University Chaplains will lead a [Christingle Celebration on Friday 6 December](#) in the Forum Street. Join them to make a Christingle from 12 noon - 4pm and then at 5-5.45pm by the Christmas tree they will have a Christingle gathering including Christmas music, some Christmas readings and learn about the history and meaning of Christingle. We'll finish by singing some carols with the candles lit on our Christingles and finish off with free mulled wine/non-alcoholic cider and mince pies.

Everyone welcome.



Cooking For Life workshop

Are you un-confident in the kitchen and worried about cooking for yourself in the year ahead? Why not sign up for our next Cooking for Life session on **Tuesday 3 December, 10.30am-12.30pm**

This is a fantastic opportunity to join nutritionist Dr Frankie Phillips in a small group cooking lesson.

- Get hands on experience cooking a great one pot vegetarian meal
- Learn how to turn that one meal into several different meals!
- Learn some basics of nutrition
- Recipe booklet of 4 one pot vegetarian meals
- Take one portion of your cooking and the spices we've used home with you

Tickets are £20 but you get a £20 gift card when you attend so it actually costs you nothing! As these are small sessions please only book if you are definitely going to come on the day and attend the whole session. We want to try to reach as many people as possible. Tickets are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

[Book and read full terms and conditions on our Fixr page](#)

Intercultural Cafe over the Winter Break and feedback survey

The [Intercultural Café](#) will run as usual until Friday 13 December. Over the Christmas break, we'll have two special café sessions of games and conversation:

Friday 20 December, 10.00-11.30am, at La Touche, Building One

Friday 3 January, 10.00-11.30am, at La Touche, Building One



And if you are around over the break look at all the [other fantastic events](#) you could attend!

Regular café sessions will resume on Wednesday 8 January in Isca Eats and Crosskeys.

It's great to see so many people at the cafe sessions. Please do try to come as early as you can to ease the drinks queue (doors open 30 minutes before the activities start) and bring your unicond with you. Please remember we can only accommodate up to 100 people and we will stop giving refreshments vouchers out after the first 30 minutes of the session.

We need your help!

Have you attended the Intercultural Café? We'd love to hear your thoughts! Your quick and honest feedback will help us improve and develop future sessions. Take a moment, grab a coffee, and share your input in our [short survey here.](#)

University Carol Services and Chapel Choir performances

Our annual [University of Exeter Carol Services](#) will be held on Tuesday 3 December at St. Luke's Chapel at 7pm, and Mary Harris Chapel on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 December starting at 7pm.



These are beautiful candlelit carol services, featuring Christmas readings, carols and festive choral works performed by the University of Exeter Chapel Choir are free to attend and will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Are you travelling abroad over the Christmas break? BRP Cards Ending: E-Visas from 2025

The BRP card system is ending in December 2024 as UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) [move to an online system](#) from 1 January 2025. The UKVI have advised that students should keep their expired BRP card, as it may be helpful for future applications to stay in the UK.

From 01 January 2025, you'll be able to prove your [immigration status](#) online, without a BRP card. Make sure you have created your UKVI account, so that you can access your [eVisa](#). This is particularly important if you are travelling back into the UK after 1 January. You may need to prepare for some delays at UK immigration too.

Proof of age PASS card

If you've ever used your BRP card to prove your age when visiting pubs, bars and other age-restricted venues, you will need to use a different form of ID now that the UK government is phasing out BRPs and moving to the [eVisa](#) system. We would strongly discourage students from carrying their passport around with them, so a good alternative is the PASS card. It's issued by [CitizenCard](#) and is an identity card that you can use to prove your age or identity. It only costs £18 and you can [apply online](#). You'll just need your passport to verify your identity for the application process. The best part is, it's easy and affordable to replace if you do lose it.



International Students' Day Highlights

On 17 November we celebrated International Students' Day, a tradition that honours the bravery of students who stood for their rights during WWII and acknowledges the courage and resilience of international students today.

This year, we launched the Intercultural Recipe Share, celebrating the diverse flavours and stories from our global student community.



Explore the [recipe collection here](#)

Additionally the [English Language Skills Development](#) team featured [inspiring stories](#) from students, reflecting on their journeys of self-discovery, overcoming challenges, and embracing diversity.

Calling international students with families!

Are you an international student who arrived in the UK with family? We're keen to learn about your experiences! We're working to improve the support we offer to students with dependents, and your insights will be invaluable. If you're studying here with your family, please take a few moments to complete our survey and help us create a more family-friendly community.

[Complete the survey here.](#)

Happy Thanksgiving

We wanted to wish Happy Thanksgiving to all our American students and belatedly to our Canadian students. This week we are having lots of fun thinking what we're grateful for at Intercultural Cafe.



Winter Graduation Lunches at Reed Hall

Are you graduating this winter? Celebrate in style with a memorable lunch experience in picturesque surroundings. Choose from a 2-course or 3-course menu, which features a variety of dishes to suit all tastes, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Lunches are between Thursday 12th and Saturday 14th December, 11.30-2.30pm.



[Book your place now!](#)

Assignment stress? Study Zone is here to help

Thinking about your assignment, or looking for support with your studies? [English Language Skills Development](#) (Insessional) and [Study Zone](#) offer a range of guidance on study and writing skills.



Check out their blog series for helpful advice, including [7 super things that can make your essays better](#) and [top tips for effective group work and seminar discussion](#).

For online resources and more information about how Insessional and Study Zone can support you, visit [Guided Independent Learning](#) and [Study Zone Digital](#).

Career Zone update

Hi, my name is Zhaniya, I am from Kazakhstan, and I work in Career Zone. As an international student, I understand how challenging it can be to search for job opportunities in the UK and make your application stand out. I would recommend visiting virtual and in-person employability and employer events run by the Career Zone that can help you develop your skills. You can find a list of upcoming events below:



- [Professional Pathway Information Session for International Students](#) | Handshake (Virtual) – 3rd of December 13:30
- [Commercial Awareness Workshop with Michelmores](#) | Handshake (Virtual) - 10th of December 16:00
- [Creating a Successful CV](#) (ONLINE SESSION) | Handshake (Virtual) – 12th of December 17:30
- [Master the KPMG Application Process](#) | Handshake – December edition (Virtual) – 17th of December 16:00

Can you help Maria with her survey?

Maria Suleimani is a final year Environmental Science student. She is surveying sustainable practices in international student travels. Can you take a few minutes to complete [her survey](#)?

Festive Day Trip Tip!

And finally... Now that we're entering December, Christmas markets are starting to pop up everywhere. So, if you are looking for a short trip to embrace this time of the year, consider hopping on a train to Totnes any Tuesday evening (excluding the 24 Dec). For under £13 return with a [railcard](#), you'll get to experience the bubbly energy at its local market full of artisan stalls, from which to choose the most original gifts, like handmade toys, chilli chocolate, mosaic art, pet accessories, and much more. All while accompanied by the sweet sound of carols sung live by local schools and community choirs.



And, since there are no festivities without food, you'd get to choose from a variety of street food vendors, selling cakes, chocolate, wraps, curry, nachos, churros, etc.

Don't miss the chance to bath in Totnes' Christmas spirit! Feel free to check [their website](#) for more information. Totnes is a great place to visit at any time of year so add it to your bucket list now!

