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Dear ,

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

Happy Diwali, Bonfire Night, Thanksgiving, St Andrews Day and International Students Day to everyone this month! Although the weather might be turning Autumnal (and by that, I mean wet, windy and colder), we've got some great events coming up in November to keep your spirits up, so hopefully we'll see you there.

All the best,  
Sue O'Hara, Cara Stokes and Sophie Meadows  
International Student Experience

### **Shubh Diwali!**

It was great to see so many students, staff and local residents at the Diwali celebrations. Many thanks to our Hindu, Asian, Indian and South Asian Societies for helping to put on such an ambitious and colourful day. Shubh Diwali everyone!



**[Cooking for Life workshop: Tuesday 5 November](#)**

Our monthly workshop is now online to book. If you are unconfident in the kitchen and want to learn a nutritious meal that's easy to cook at home book onto our workshop with Dr Frankie Phillips.



Because these are small sessions please only book if you are definitely going to come on the day! Please do not book if you have previously attended a Cooking for Life session or if you cannot attend for 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 booking page.](#)

### **Serious Fraud Alert**

We wanted to warn you about a recent serious scam that is targeting Chinese students at UK universities.



The student is contacted by a fraudster pretending to be from the Chinese Embassy or Chinese police. They will usually say that the student has been involved in a financial crime such as money laundering or other illegal activity.

They will say they must pay a large amount of money, or else be imprisoned or deported.

The callers are very convincing and will usually try to keep you on the phone and then on a video call for monitoring. Genuine officials would never do this, or prevent you from seeking advice.

If you are contacted in this way, do not pay or provide your bank details. Instead you should end the call and contact [International Student Advice](#) who can reassure you that it is a scam and advise how to report it, if you are willing to.

Don't forget, our wellbeing team is also available to help if you have worries or are upset by this. You can contact them via [the wellbeing website](#).

The police have specific Chinese Student Fraud guidance on their website in traditional and simplified Chinese - [Fraud prevention advice for Chinese students | Devon & Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](#).

Remember – the UK police, UK Visas and Immigration or banks will never ask you to transfer money or threaten you with deportation. If you receive such a call, it is not genuine.

## International Student Day Competition

International Students' Day (Sunday 17 November 2024) is a global occasion that recognises the important role students play in advocating for education and social justice. It's also a day to celebrate the diverse contributions international students make to local communities worldwide.

In honour of International Students' Day 2024, we are hosting an [Intercultural Recipe Share](#) to celebrate the diversity of our student community and to give you an opportunity to socialise with your friends and flatmates!

Food and drink are important parts of many cultures: it can mean spending quality time with loved ones, showing your appreciation for others, or simply having a nice taste of home. Sharing food, drink, and recipes can allow others an insight into your cuisine and culture.

Here's how it will work:

1. Pick a recipe that is important to you – it can be a snack, a full meal, or even a drink!
2. Invite your friends or flatmates to share your delicious dish with you.
3. Take a photo of your dish, upload the recipe, and tell us about it via the [Intercultural Recipe Share form](#) by **Sunday 10 November**.

We will be displaying the recipes and photos in The Forum (Streatham Campus) on Friday 15 November to celebrate International Students Day, and will create a digital recipe book so you can try out other students' recipes too!

## Intercultural Cafe

Join us every Wednesday and Friday during term at [Intercultural Cafe](#). Come and discover a whole new community of friends to connect with. All students welcome.

Please bring your unicond to sign in and arrive from 10am to beat the drinks queue and allow us to start the sessions on time! We can only take the first 100 students to participate. We ask that you stay for the whole session so if your class clashes please come to a different cafe time.

- Wednesday Streatham: ISCA Eats, Cornwall House, 10:30-11:30am



- Wednesday St Lukes: Cross Keys, 1:30-2:30pm
- Friday Streatham: ISCA Eats, Cornwall House, 10.30-11.30

Last admissions 11am (Isca), 2pm (Crosskeys) spaces depending.

[Connections Cafe](#) is run by our Multifaith Chaplaincy and meets each Tuesday from 2-4pm during term time in the Forum Library Entrance.

Join them for a free [Soup lunch](#) each Thursday on first floor of Staff House, St Luke's Campus from 12.30-2pm

[Globe Café](#) is a weekly event run as a partnership between Christian charities Friends International and the ECU. They meet at 7.30pm on Monday nights at Belmont Chapel, Western Way. All international students welcome. [Click here to find out more information.](#)

### Happy Thanksgiving!

We wanted to wish all our North American and Canadian students a Happy Thanksgiving this month.



### Pitch up and play sports

Want to participate in sport but don't want to join a club? Or maybe you want to join a sports club but want to try it first? University of Exeter Sport have a fantastic range of 'pitch up and play' sport activities you can try for free - just book onto the session. They've got everything from cricket, korfbal, womens football, water polo and ultimate frisbee to name a few. [Click here to see the programme.](#) More sessions added all the time.



### Languages Cafe Taster Sessions

Are you a language learner or enthusiast?

The Languages Café is an opportunity for you to socialise informally in various languages, while promoting cultural interactions between speakers from different walks of life. Whether you seek to revise a language after a few years of



not speaking it, put what you are studying into practice, help learners of your native language and share your culture, or simply build friendships, the Languages Café is there for you.

- Every Wednesday, Forum Seminar rooms 1, 2, 3 from 5-6pm.

No sign-up required, entry is free, and tea and coffee will be provided.

Contact info: [Samir at s.zarqane@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:s.zarqane@exeter.ac.uk) , or [Simon at sb1067@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:sb1067@exeter.ac.uk) for more information.

### Are you eVisa ready?

The BRP card system is ending in December 2024 as UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) [move to an online system](#) from 01 January 2025. If you have a BRP card but don't already have an eVisa, you will need to create an online account in order to access one. For more information see [our webpage here](#). Stuck or confused? Come see us in an eVisa drop-in: Mondays & Fridays, 2pm-4pm in The Forum. Alternatively, attend or watch a recording of one of our [eVisa webinars](#).



### Security marking

Talk to the [Community Engagement](#) team about how to keep you and your belongings safe and get your valuables registered to deter theft. This is a great way to ensure that your items can be tracked and found more easily, should they ever be stolen. This service is suitable for small valuables (e.g. mobile phones, laptops) and bicycles.

The team is in:

- The Forum: 10:30am – 13:30pm, Fri 15 November

Dr Bikes- Bicycle security marking and repairs

- St Lukes: Thurs 7 November
- The Forum: Tues 26 November

### Help with your English language skills

Are you facing your first written assignment of term 1 and wondering how to approach it?

Are you inexperienced or unconfident in academic writing?

Is English your second language?

If you answered yes to these questions, why not come to

our twice-weekly [writing cafes](#)? These free events are facilitated by experienced



English language experts and provide a great space in which to focus, learn about writing and share your experiences and questions.

If you would like to speak to a member of the team in confidence about your English language concerns, you can also [book a one-to-one appointment](#).

### **Remembrance Day: 11 November**

You might be starting to notice people selling poppies or wearing poppies on their lapels and wondering why. In the UK we remember all those who have lost their lives in battle on 11 November with a minutes silence at 11am and we also wear a poppy. The sale of these poppies goes to support service men and women whose lives have been changed by war. There may be parades on the day and services on Sunday 12 and you may see wreaths of poppies at cenotaphs in towns.



### **Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for Visitors**

The ETA scheme affects travellers coming to the UK for short stays as a Visitor (not those with visas). It is being rolled out to more nationalities from January 2025. [For more information watch this video.](#)



### **Christmas on campus**

We will be holding our annual lunch on Christmas day (25 December). It's a lovely event with full Christmas lunch, presents and people to celebrate the day with. So if you think you will be in Exeter over Christmas do look out for booking information in the December newsletter as pre booking is essential.



### **Highlighting Devon: Flaming Tar Barrels!**

For a truly unique Devon experience, head to [Ottery St Mary for the famous Tar Barrels](#) event held on Tuesday 5 November. This very unique and ancient tradition involves local residents carrying flaming tar barrels through the streets, and it's free to watch.



The West Country has a history of torchlight processions and burning barrels and Ottery was only one of the many towns and villages

following an annual tradition containing barrels which were rolled in the streets on November 5th each year. Somewhere along the line someone decided rolling was tame and carrying barrels on your shoulders was far more appealing and so the present tradition was born and now Ottery is the only Town in the country carrying full sized lighted tar barrels through the streets.

If you are lucky enough to get a coach ticket to the event then enjoy and be prepared for large crowds. We promise it will be an exhilarating experience you won't forget!

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