



Dear Student,

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 Bonfire Night, Diwali and Thanksgiving 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.

But whilst we are on the subject of events, we wanted to ask a favour. When events are ticketed there is often a limit on the tickets due to the capacity of the venue/staff needing to prepare material or food for the event/financial constraints etc. This term we have seen many events completely sell out but then often 50% or less people show up. This means that some students will have missed out on the event who would have liked to go because they couldn't get a ticket in time and lots of wasted effort/resources/money. We realise that sometimes, unavoidably, life and deadlines get in the way of plans but if you realise you cannot attend your planned event either cancel the ticket (easy to do through event bright) or contact the organiser allowing others to come. We really want events to be the best that they can be, and we look forward to enjoying them with you.

All the best,
Sue O'Hara, Sophie Meadows and Jimena Rubio Juncal
Transition and Integration

[Diwali celebrations: Sunday 19 November](#)

Our Hindu, Asian, Indian and South Asian Societies invite everyone to celebrate [Diwali](#) on Sunday 19 November in the Forum starting at 2.30pm. Come and join them for puja, henna, activities, food, spectacular performances throughout the afternoon. Enjoy the fireworks at XFI at 6.30pm.
Shubh Diwali everyone!



Navratri on campus

The campus celebration of Navratri the 22nd of October was a vibrant and lively event that brought together a diverse community. The festivities commenced with a soulful Aarti, setting a spiritual tone for the evening. A speech followed, underscoring the significance of the nine-day Hindu festival, which honours the divine feminine energy, Shakti.



The heart of the celebration was a spirited dance known as Garba, accompanied by uplifting music that resonated with the joyous atmosphere. The rhythmic footwork and colourful attire added to the festive charm, as students and participants danced with enthusiasm.

The event culminated with Dandiya, a traditional dance with colourful sticks that added an element of fun and togetherness.

The celebration on campus was a true reflection of the cultural diversity and inclusivity, bringing people together to honour tradition and create lasting memories. Well done to everyone who organised it and attended.

Happy Thanksgiving!

We wanted to wish all our North American and Canadian students a Happy Thanksgiving. The North American Society will be holding a small gathering to celebrate in the historic Ship Inn in Exeter on Monday 20 November. [Tickets will be available here.](#)



Intercultural Cafe

Intercultural Cafe has got off to a flying start this term and we've loved seeing so many of you there. So far we've talked about language, careers, played board games and we've speed friended! But don't take it from us, here's what one of our students said:

"Attending the Intercultural Café is one of the highlights of my week. I get to meet different people from all over the world all the time and as a person that loves culture, I enjoy myself in that 1-hour we spend sharing our experiences and having free coffee."



The cafe's are getting really popular and we want everyone to enjoy and participate in the planned activities. Please do come 30 minutes before the session starts to get your refreshments and remember to bring your Unicaard with you. We will stop giving free refreshment tickets out 30 minutes after the official start of each session but you are still free to join the activity.

- Wednesday 11-12 noon: Crosskeys Cafe (St Lukes)
- Wednesday 3-4pm: ISCA Eats, Cornwall House (Streatham)

- Friday 10.30-11.30: ISCA Eats, Cornwall House (Streatham)

[International Student Day Competition](#)

17 November is International Student Day, a day to celebrate the dedication of the student community worldwide and the bravery and strength of international students specifically. And what a better way to do this than by sharing a glimpse of your experience as an international student!



The **International Student Day Competition** is a creative competition where you are welcome to submit a photo, drawing, poem or piece of flash fiction or non-fiction (up to 250 words) that expresses your international student experience. From the fear and excitement of living in a new country, to the beautiful nostalgia you might get about home, to anything that characterises your experience here.

Please submit your piece/s through [this form](#) before the 15 November midnight. On the 17 November you can find the entries exhibited on Streatham campus for other students to vote for their favourite piece. The winner will be awarded an Exeter hoodie and we will include it in the next newsletter! Good luck everyone.

[Black History Month](#)

Thank you to all of you who enjoyed the Black History Month events organised by the Guild throughout October. We hope this was a chance for you to embrace Black history and culture. Additionally, a Beyond Black History Month event will take place on Wednesday 8 November, where you are invited to join a roundtable discussion on the topic of "What can I do to change the narrative?". Book a free ticket [here](#)!



[Connections Cafe: New venue!](#)

Come and join the Chaplaincy team for free refreshments, company and interesting conversation each Tuesday in the Forum Library Entrance, 2-4pm (Go through the library gate and turn right). Everyone from the University is warmly invited and welcomed!



[Sign up to be a Global Chums mentor for students starting in January](#)

- Are you a current 2nd year student?
- Do you want to help our students starting in January to settle in?
- Do you want to add mentoring as a skill to your CV?

Why not consider being a Global Chums mentor? Global Chums only runs for 6 weeks so it won't impact greatly on your term but your impact on a new student will be great!



If you haven't been a mentor before you will need to complete the [online application by 1 December](#) and complete a 2 hour live online (or online in your own time) training session before the end of December. We will then match you with up to 3 new students in January and you can meet with them online/in person/at our special social events in the first 6 weeks of term.

[For more information on the scheme click here.](#)

Students' Guild: representing International Student Communities

The Students' Guild have launched two new exciting initiatives for international students: a new [Communities Page](#) and an [International Student Advisory Board](#).



We know how important it is to be connected with people who share similar experiences and values and the Students' Guild are here to help you find them. There are [lots of different communities](#) available. You can either view the pages and see what events and opportunities there are or sign up to multiple communities and receive a personalised monthly update from the Students' Guild.

The [International Student Advisory Board](#) is an opportunity for you to make positive change to the international student experience at Exeter. International Student Advisory Board members are eligible for payment of £30 per session they attend. Dates to be announced.

[Please express your interest here](#) (deadline Monday 13 November 9am)

Get your skates on!

Join Suzanne from International Student Support and the [Exeter Roller Derby league](#). No previous experience necessary, the team will get you rolling on 8 wheels before you know it! Monday and Wednesday nights. First session £5. [Message](#) if you need to hire kit.



Pitch up and play sports

Finding somewhere to live in the city can be tricky. You can find lots of information about options and events through the our [Move Smart Campaign](#).



Chat to Residence Life and the Community Engagement Team about finding accommodation after your first year at our next Intercultural Cafe sessions:

3 November, 10:30-11:30am, Isca Eats, Cornwall House

There's also the Flatmate Finder events: meet students seeking people to live with after the first year, with the Students' Guild, and our Residence Life and Community Engagement Teams.

15th November, 5-7pm, the Greenhouse, DH1, Streatham Campus

11 December, 5-7pm, the Greenhouse, DH1, Streatham Campus

Explore Exeter's Faith Spaces on a tour

The Multifaith Chaplaincy Team are leading a free tour of the city's faith spaces on Wednesday 15 November, 2pm to 6pm. (meet at the Student Information Office in The Forum)

We will be welcomed into four faith spaces to look round and learn about each other's faiths and practices. The tour will end with refreshments and a chance to meet faith leaders who were not represented on the tour.



The tour is open to all students, staff and friends, whether they follow a faith or not.

[Please visit Eventbrite for further information and to book your free ticket.](#)

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](#).



Shared meal fundraiser: Refugee Support Devon

Share a meal with 6 asylum seekers living in Exeter who will also be preparing the menu. A very meaningful evening sharing culture, connection and solidarity through food.

Saturday 18 November, 6.30-9pm
St Sidwells Community Centre EX4 6NN

£10 per ticket. [Click here to book](#)

[Click here to find out more St Sidwells Community Centre events in November.](#)



Live in private accommodation and confused about your collection?

Check the bin tile on the [iExeter app](#) for council collection dates at your address. You can also download your bin calendar from the [council website](#).

Free waste bags available for households who don't have wheelie bins. You can order a free seagull-proof bag to keep your rubbish bags safe from being shredded by vermin. Email the [Community Engagement team](#).

Extra recycling bags - did you know, you can leave out unlimited recycling on your recycling collection day. It must be placed in a clear recycling bag and labelled 'extra recycling', with the first line of your address.

Friends International: Conversation Cafe

Conversation Café is a weekly event for students who want to practice their English with local people. We meet at 2pm each Wednesday afternoon at St Andrew's Church, Station Road. This is near to St David's Station, and a ten minute walk from Duryard and Birk's Grange. The group is run by Friends International, which is a Christian charity, but this is not a religious event and is open to all international students. You do not need to book in advance and the event is free. For more information, contact helen.morrissey@friendsinternational.uk



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.



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.



Looking for a day trip?

If you are looking for somewhere to go on a nice and affordable day trip, Topsham might be your place! Being only a 20-minute train ride away from Exeter for under £5, this becomes an optimal day trip destination. You can stroll through its main street crammed with eclectic shops, and join its buzzing Saturday Market, while accompanied by the peaceful view of the Exe Estuary. To complete the experience, Topsham Quay Antiques Centre is the perfect place to lose yourself amidst the overflowing shelves of artefacts.



For lunch or dinner, you'll find many restaurants to choose from near the High Street itself, like Marcello if you enjoy some pizza and pasta, or The Globe if you prefer an English pub menu. As well as cosy cafes like Circle or the Boathouse.

It's a great chance for an affordable and absorbing trip as a University of Exeter student!

