

# Get Ready for Southampton: a pre-arrival online transition course for all international students coming to the University of Southampton

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# Overview

- Course objectives and evolution towards a multimodal approach
- Demo/brief visit to live course
- Evaluation
- Intercultural connections
- Questions /discussion



- Online course: *optional, not tutored, not assessed*, focusing on student preparation and acculturation pre-arrival
- *Content focus*: practical aspects of living in Britain + preparation for *the University of Southampton* + taste of UK academic culture and study skills
- Open for 5 months but study pace and length of use *decided by individual student*
- Self-access *interactive learning content with feedback* (activity-based Learning Objects) and *Open Content videos and student blogs*
- *Community-building/personal contact* through Social Wall; *student-led* Conversation Forum; social networks

# Objectives of the online course

- To learn a bit about the city of Southampton and surroundings
- To find out about everyday life at a university as a student
- To provide a taste of UK academic culture and what might they expect when they begin their studies
- To make contact and friends, and communicate with other students
- To develop confidence; allay concerns and fears

# Evolution: from small scale to large scale

- 2005 -2006: closed tutored groups of 25; fixed time slots; learning from content designed as interactive learning objects and tutor-led discussion in forums.
- 2007 -2010: growth in group size (c. 80); podcast and video content - informal audio tutor scaffolding and guidance; chat sessions.
- 2010-2014: 2500+ students; Web 2.0 Open Content (student-centred videos; student blogs) social wall; quiz; student-led forums; untutored.



**Welcome to Get Ready for Southampton, a free online course that is designed to introduce international students to living and studying in the UK and at the University of Southampton. Whether you have a confirmed place at the University, are awaiting an offer or are just interested in finding out more about studying at a UK university, this course will help you.**

**Already created your account? Log in below:**

Username:   
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## **Topic 2: Arriving at the University of Southampton**








In this topic you can find out about the University of Southampton and aspects of daily life on campus.

-  [About the University of Southampton](#)
-  [Finding your way around campus](#)
-  [A place to live](#)
-  [Money matters](#)
-  [Dealing with the change in culture](#)
-  [The University's structure and your subject area](#)
-  [Student social life](#)



## **Topic 3: Academic culture in the UK**

In this topic you can explore aspects of British academic culture which may be different for you.

-  [Understanding course assignments](#)
-  [Ways of being taught on your course](#)
-  [Differences in university study](#)
-  [Managing your course work](#)
-  [Academic writing at university](#)
-  [Studying independently](#)
-  [Listening to lectures](#)





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# Student-led Conversation Forum

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**

Students from Mexico : ) reunite  
Students from Canada

MSc in Nanoelectronics and Nanotechnology

Students from Germany

Any Ugandan or East African heading to Soton

Undergrad math students!

Looking for a room mate to find a house

Students from China

Roomates to find a house

MSc Global Politics

Contacts

LLM Law

International students looking for house!

MSc Human Resource Management

MSc in Governance & Policy (Research)

MSc Corporate Risk and Security Management

MSc Transportation Planning & Engineering

MSC Web Technology

Students study foundation year

Pursuing Economics with Actuarial Science

University Accommodation for MSc students

Students from Middle east and North Africa

MSc Aerodynamics and Computation

Students from Greece

Students from India for Southampton

Hey everyone!

MSc Systems and Signal Processing

Student from Iran

# Student feedback

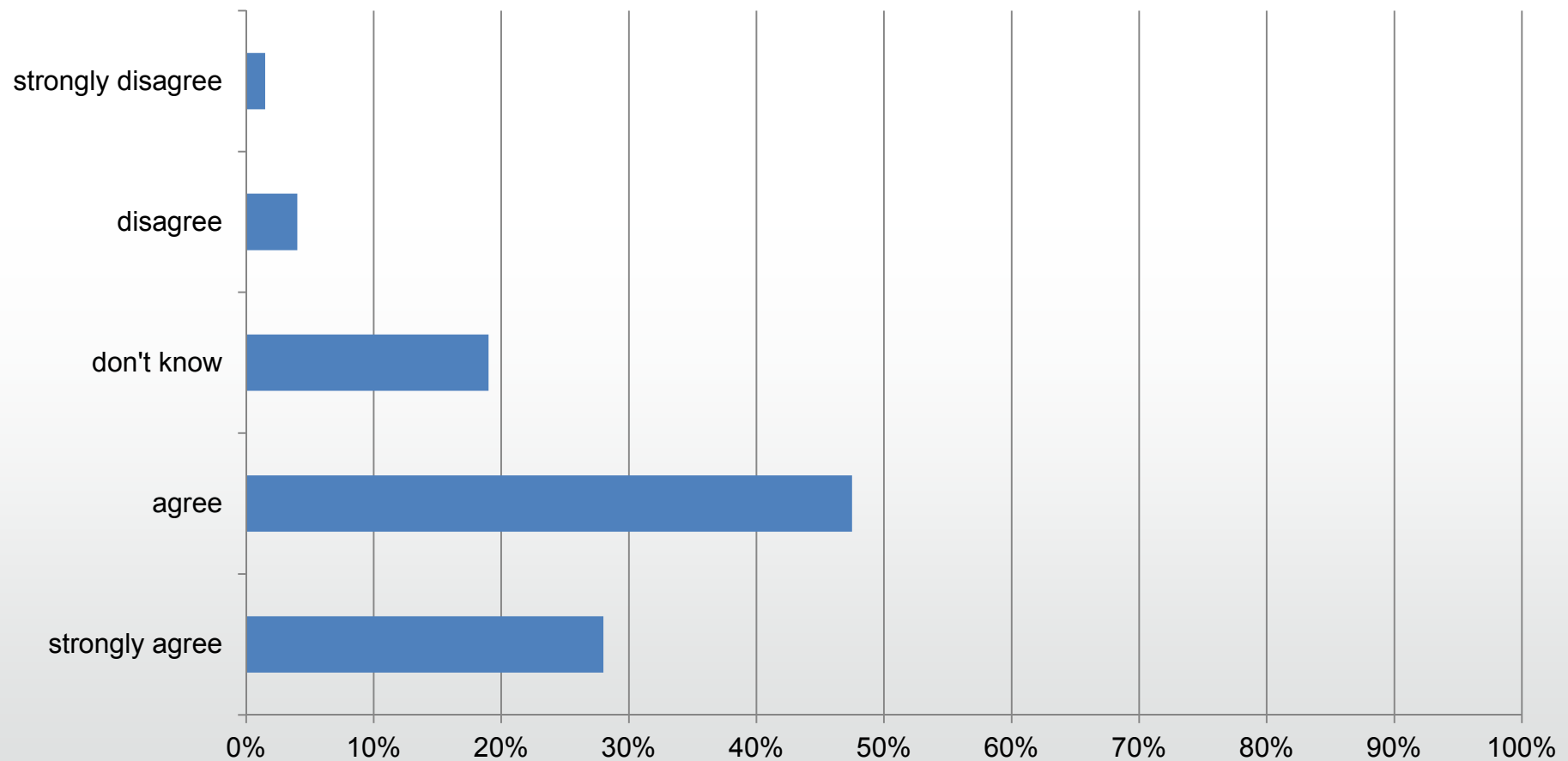
*I found it very useful and **reassuring** and [it] gives me **self-confidence and sense of ease**. (student, 2011 course)*

*It is a really helpful effort made by the University of Southampton to **make newcomers feel welcome** and guide them in the tough beginning where everything is supposed to be done in short time. (student, 2012 course)*

*I found it very helpful, I **met course mates** there, **prepared my mind** for it. I think Get Ready for Southampton is what has **prevented me from having culture shock**. (student, 2013 course)*

*Overall, I loved the course. It was a truly **unique experience in the sense that Southampton is the only university that has such a programme** (at least out of all the universities that I've contacted). Great job 😊 (student, 2013 course)*

*'I think GRfS has helped me prepare for Uni in the UK'*  
(543 respondents)





# Intercultural connections

- Challenges with YouTube, Facebook etc global accessibility; different social networking preferences
- Last year interactions among 136 different nationalities both on- and off-course
- Links to UoS student clubs and societies offer potential for contact with home students
- Moving from small to large scale and closed to more open model has made it difficult to know how much activity is going on off-course but student reports are v. positive.

Thank you

Questions or comments?

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More info:

[https://www.elanguages.ac.uk/get\\_ready\\_for\\_southampton.  
php](https://www.elanguages.ac.uk/get_ready_for_southampton.php)