

Preparing to travel

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD



Online Enrolment

You will receive an email notification from us once enrolment is open (approximately 3 weeks prior to your course start date) so keep an eye on your email and check your junk/spam folders regularly.

- Enrolment is completed via SIMS online
- Process should take 15 minutes
- Once you have completed enrolment you will be sent a confirmation of enrolment email within 24 hours
- You will need to confirm your programme of student after you receive confirmation of enrolment
- Once you have confirmed your programme in SIMs, you will be able to select optional modules (where applicable) – some Schools may require you to attend an induction event before selecting your modules.

You must enrol before you can collect your student ID card, access facilities, the student intranet, and attend your School induction events.

How to enrol online

Before starting the enrolment process you will need:

- your Cardiff University username and password
- your bank details, if you need to pay your tuition fees (in full or the 1st of 3 instalments)
- a clear photo or scanned copy of your [identity documentation](#)
- an electronic passport-style photo (for your student ID card)
- a UKVI Share Code (if you need a visa for the UK)

Start your enrolment process by logging into [SIMS platform](#) and completing the next steps.





Paying your tuition fees

Make sure that any external funding that you have, such as scholarships, sponsorships, grants and loans, are in place before or when you [complete online enrolment](#).

Ways to pay:

1. Global Pay
2. International Money Order
3. Bank Transfer
4. Credit and Debit Cards
5. Direct Debit

If you have paid a deposit, this is taken off the total fee amount – it is not an additional cost.

Sponsored students must provide official sponsorship letters to studentconnect@cardiff.ac.uk marked for the attention of the Finance Division.

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

Your CAS number is your unique reference number which you will need to include in your visa application.

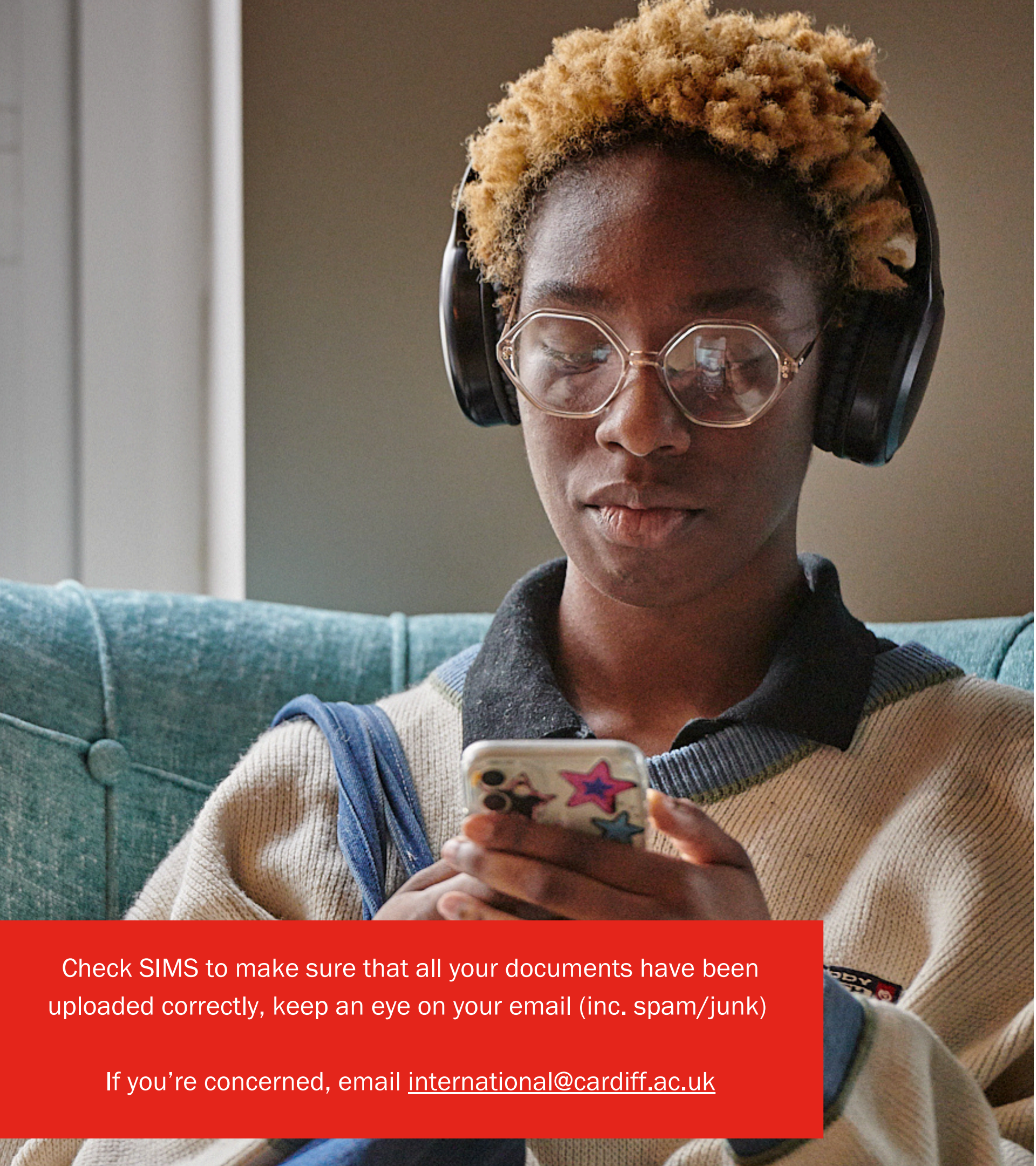
Your CAS will be emailed to you and is not required in paper copy.

To get your CAS email you must have:

- passed all your exams and sent us copies of your qualifications or transcripts required as part of your offer
- accepted an unconditional offer for a course at Cardiff University
- paid your deposit (if applicable)
- checked that all the information on your CAS email is correct.

Before you are sent your final CAS, we will email you and ask you to check that all the details on your CAS are correct in SIMS.





Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

Make sure the following are correct:

- your personal details - for example, that your name is exactly as it appears on your passport
- all the details of the qualifications shown in the evidence section of the CAS
- details of the course that you are coming to study at Cardiff University
- course duration
- any tuition fee payment that you have made to the University is recorded on the CAS.

You will not be emailed your final CAS until you have checked your CAS online and confirmed.

Take time to check your CAS carefully and make the corrections on the Online Applicant Service (SIMS online).

Check SIMS to make sure that all your documents have been uploaded correctly, keep an eye on your email (inc. spam/junk)

If you're concerned, email international@cardiff.ac.uk

Accommodation

A reminder of the three most popular accommodation options:

University Residences

- Contract dates to match terms
- All bills included
- Locations close to campus
- Residence Life team
- Security onsite
- Social: meet other Cardiff students
- Part-catered options
- Can be en-suite or shared bathroom
- Typically single beds (standard, family accommodation and studios will have more options)
- Extra support: if something goes wrong, the university can help

Private Halls

- Can get term-time contracts or full year
- Typically include bills, exceptions apply (always check what is included before signing)
- Locations all over Cardiff
- Typically more modern than university residences
- More choice in room type and layout
- Tends to be the most expensive option
- Can have great amenities (check if there are extra costs for using them)
- Social: mix with students from other universities as well as Cardiff University

Private rentals (house or room)

- Can either rent a whole house/flat or rent a room in a shared house/flat
- Most common option for students going into their second year of living in Cardiff - more familiar with neighbourhood, and prefer to live with friends
- More choice in location and room/house style and amenities
- Bills are typically extra on top of rent and you'll need to set-up accounts for the house (some rentals include certain bills - water is common have included for flats)
- May require a deposit and/or guarantor

Arriving at your accommodation

Sort out your accommodation before you travel.

If you cannot move into your room on arrival, make sure that you have booked a place to stay until your room is available.

University residences:

- Arrivals will take place between Wednesday 23 September and Sunday 27 September. (Later arrivals are possible, but not recommended as Welcome Week commences on 28 September).
- You must book an arrival slot for university accommodation. The booking system will be open from the beginning of September and you will be emailed information then.





Arriving at your accommodation

- If you arrive unexpectedly late in the evening or early in the morning and you have not been able to inform Residences of your arrival time (eg. delayed flight), call or go directly to the 24-hour Security Office (on Park Place, next to the Psychology Tower or call +44 (0)29 2087 4444) so they can arrange access.

Check your [arrival guide](#) for your halls of residence.

Join the [Facebook group](#) for your halls of residence.

If you have questions about your university accommodation contact: residences@cardiff.ac.uk

Getting to Cardiff

There are a lot of ways to travel to Cardiff. Start with booking your flights and then choose the option that best fits your schedule.

Cardiff University free coach collection from Heathrow airport:

We will be providing free coach collection from Heathrow Airport on 23, 24 and 25 September 2026 (more information on the next slide).

Coach:

National Express, Megabus and Flixbus have regular services from most UK airports. They will be slower than the train, but cheaper. Additional discounts on tickets (15% off) can be found on UniDays, Student Beans and TOTUM.

Train:

Check train times and buy tickets on [The Trainline](#) or [National Rail](#). Book in advance if possible- tickets on the day can be a lot more expensive. Discounts available via student railcards.

Taxi or private transfer:

Most expensive option, but also the most flexible.





Coach Collection Service

We will be providing free coach collection from Heathrow Airport.

- Dates:

Wednesday 23 September

Thursday 24 September

Friday 25 September

- [Bookings are now open.](#)
- All passengers may bring two suitcases for the hold, and an additional bag (such as a rucksack, handbag or laptop bag) with them on the coach.
- You will be taken to the Centre for Student Life and then on to your accommodation.
- There may be a wait for transfers (up to 45 minutes) so you are welcome to find your own way to your accommodation.
- We will be offering drop-off services at the following locations:
Talybont (all sites), University Hall, Senghennydd Hall/Court, Student Houses
Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA's) including West Wing, Bridge
Street Exchange, The Neighbourhood.
- Visit [“International arrivals”](#) page for more information.

Email coachcollection@cardiff.ac.uk if you have any questions regarding making a booking.

Getting to Cardiff

When deciding how to travel to Cardiff, consider the following:

Transport options to accommodation

- Coach: Departs from the airport (check for terminal changes and allow time for transfers).
- National Express & Megabus: Stops at Park Place, near the Main Building, Students' Union, and Security Office.
- Flixbus: Stops on North Road (5-10 mins to Park Place) and Greyfriars Road (5-10 mins to Park Place, closer to city centre).
- Taxis: Available from all stops via app or phone booking.
- Train: Travel from airport to Cardiff Central or Cathays stations (Cathays is closest to Main Building). Taxis available at both stations (pre-booked at Penarth Road, un-booked at City Centre exit).
- Private Transfer: Meets at arrival terminal and drops off at accommodation.



Getting to Cardiff

Check your luggage allowances before you book.

- **Coach:**

Typically, one small hand luggage (like a backpack) and one large suitcase (20-23kg max). Check the policy before booking; excess luggage may be refused.

- National Express: Add extra hold bag for £10 online, £15 at station.
- Megabus: Purchase extra ticket for luggage.
- Flixbus: Book extra bag during ticket purchase (£5-£20, limited space).

- **Train:**

No luggage limit, but you must carry bags yourself and avoid blocking doors or corridors. Luggage racks are available on inter-city trains.

- **Private Transfer:**

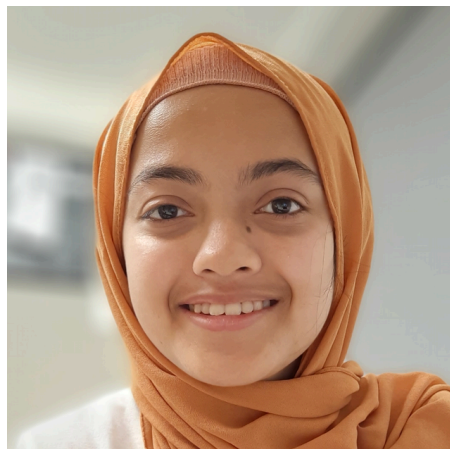
Luggage allowance depends on passengers and car size; confirm when booking.

Make sure that you can lift and move your luggage by yourself, without a trolley.

On public transport, you will have to load your own bags and move between locations.

Travel within Cardiff

- The city is compact and flat with the university located in the city centre, making it easy to walk and cycle rather than paying for public transportation.
- Cardiff Bus offers discounted fares (approx. 30% off) for under 21's – apply for '[My Travel Pass](#)' to access reduced fares.
- National Rail cards are available for students giving 30% off train tickets across the UK.
- Veezu and Uber are two of the bigger taxi companies- both have apps. It's usually better to book a taxi in advance, rather than stopping one on the street.



“ I really like how close everything is. Its nice to just be able to leave my student accommodation and just go to the library to study with a quick walk. As someone who comes from a city where you need to take a bus to go most places, I've found this really convenient.

Fatiha from Indonesia,
BSc Psychology with Professional Placement





Medical treatment

If you're coming to the UK for more than six months, you'll need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) in order to access healthcare in the UK.

Receiving treatment

- To receive treatment you first need to register with a GP practice or dental surgery – ideally you should do this within a few weeks of arrival
- GP surgeries have catchment areas. You can search for your local GP using your postcode at: 111.wales.nhs.uk/localservices

NHS coverage

- You do not have to pay for GP appointments
- Prescriptions issued by your GP are filled for free in Wales
- There is no charge for treatment in a hospital (both emergency and non-emergency treatment)

Likely to pay extra for:

- Dental Treatment
- Private healthcare
- Optical treatment (you can get free or reduced-price optician services through the School of Optometry)

Getting medical help

If you are experiencing a medical emergency that is life-threatening or requires an ambulance, call 999.

Pharmacy:

UK pharmacies offer advice and treatment for common conditions like earache, sore throat, cough, fever, allergies, UTIs, digestive issues, and more. No appointment is needed. If necessary, the pharmacist will refer you to a GP or urgent care.

Doctor's Surgery (GP):

For ongoing conditions, repeat prescriptions, vaccinations, or health issues not treatable by yourself or a pharmacist, book an appointment with your GP. Appointments are usually made by phone (some surgeries offer online booking). You'll need to provide the reason for your visit. Some surgeries offer phone or video consultations, but you can request an in-person appointment.

Call 111 for Urgent Care (Non-Emergency):

If you need urgent care but it's not life-threatening, or if your GP, pharmacy, or dental practice is closed, call 111 for assistance. The service is available in multiple languages.

The NHS website has advice on many conditions and medications, as well as a symptom checker.



If you have a regular prescription, have it filled before you travel so that you have enough medication for your first month or so.



What to pack

- A few sentimental items
 - Phone charger and small electrical items such as laptop or mobile phones. Please make sure they are compatible with the UK electric voltage. (Unless you plan to purchase them here)
 - Adapter for UK sockets
 - Money: Enough to cover you for up to 4 weeks – recommend you have access to this with international debit or credit card
 - Any essential medication for at least the first month, along with anything uncommon that may take longer to find in the UK
 - Casual clothes – students in the UK typically wear jeans, t-shirts, jumpers
 - A suitable outfit(s) for formal social occasions and interviews (you can also buy these in the UK, but may prefer to bring something you know you love and fits well)
- Traditional dress

What to buy in the UK

The UK is generally good place to shop, and Cardiff in particular has a lot of options!

- **Bedding, linens and towels:**

you can buy it once you're in Cardiff, or order it online and have it delivered for when you arrive. Don't bring bedding, linens or towels with you.

- **Toiletries:**

you will be able to buy most brands in the UK.

- **Winter clothing:**

if you're coming from a warm country and don't already have winter-appropriate clothing, save your luggage space and buy the bulky bits here.

- **Kitchenware:**

check what is on your accommodation before shopping. You may want to share with flatmates or find that it is already supplied.

Don't bring:

- Bedding
- Cookware
- Food
- Large bulky items!



University accommodation

If you are staying in university accommodation, the following is supplied in your flat:

- Bed with mattress
- Blinds/curtains
- Bookshelf
- Cooker
- Desk and chair
- Dustpan and brush
- Fridge/freezer
- Ironing board
- Kitchen bin
- Microwave
- Mop and bucket
- Noticeboard
- Toaster, kettle, iron
- Vacuum cleaner
- Wardrobe
- Waste paper bin

All university residences have high speed Wi-Fi connections, but you may want to purchase an ethernet cable (you can buy this in the UK)





Avoiding scams

Unfortunately, international students are sometimes targeted by scammers.

If you are unsure whether an interaction related to your application is genuine, please email international@cardiff.ac.uk and we will verify it for you.

- We will never ask you to confirm bank details or share sensitive data, except through secure platforms like SIMS. Always verify links on our website (e.g., for tuition fee payments).
- We will never ask for your passwords or request you to validate accounts via email.
- We will never pressure you to take immediate action, such as transferring money, while on the phone.
- If you receive a call or email claiming you're a victim of fraud, facing an immigration fine, or about to have your visa revoked unless you make a payment or provide personal info, it's likely a scam.

Stay calm, don't send money or share personal details, even if the name used seems legitimate. Always ask for a reference number and verify the information yourself. Avoid clicking links in suspicious emails or texts.

Contact us

We are here to help



international@cardiff.ac.uk



www.cardiff.ac.uk/international



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