



# INFORMATION FOR International Students Borders Business Programme



Borders College  
Nether Road  
Galashiels,  
Selkirkshire TD1 3HE  
UNITED KINGDOM  
+(44) 08700 50 51 52  
[www.borderscollege.ac.uk](http://www.borderscollege.ac.uk)



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## Welcome to Borders College

Making up your mind to study abroad must have been one of the most important and pivotal decisions you have ever made. Choosing a first-class institution which suits your needs might be an even more difficult decision. We are delighted that you are considering coming to study at the most successful community college in Scotland - Borders College.

Figures just published by the Scottish Funding Council show that more Borders College students successfully achieve their qualifications than any other College of its type in Scotland. This success, along with increasing numbers of students, an improving range of qualifications and excellent HM Inspectorate of Education reviews confirms Borders College as a top quality educational institution serving the needs of businesses and employers.



Borders College was formed in 1984 and operates from 3 main campuses (Galashiels, Hawick and St Boswells) and is the sole Further Education College and major provider of training in the Scottish Borders region. Each year, around 8000 students enrol for a wide range of courses and programmes, both day and evening, to HNC level and beyond, particularly in subject areas that will enable them to dovetail into employment opportunities. Partnerships have been developed with a number of Scottish universities to provide students with a seamless progression to degree level programmes. The College has developed its provision in line with local needs and has extensive links with industry and commerce by way of its industrial liaison network. Working closely with the Local Enterprise Company, the College has shaped its curriculum against the forecast needs of the local and national labour market.

We understand as an international student you will be facing a life-changing experience when you choose to come to study in Scotland – totally different culture, a new language environment, different teaching and learning styles. Thus, as one of the Scotland's most successful colleges, we are here to offer you a high quality of academic support and excellent student

services support. Our native Chinese staff will make you feel at home if you are a new student from China.

Our student charter indicates staff and students should treat each other with decency, friendliness and respect. We will do all we can to keep our promises and make your time with us exciting, enjoyable and most of all successful.

**We look forward to welcoming you to the College and Scotland.**

## **What Borders College can offer?**

Borders College can offer you a diverse, creative and inviting environment, which will encourage you to reach your full potential of studying and living in Scotland. Here's why our students choose us:



## **Our impressive modern facilities**

With our modern Scottish Borders Campus, based at Netherdale in Galashiels, the home to the majority of our wide range of full-time and part-time courses, our new Learning Campus in Hawick, and the recently enhanced Newtown St Boswells Campus, we ensure that students choosing to study at Borders College will benefit from first-class learning

and teaching resources.

The result of a multi-million pound, groundbreaking project, the Scottish Borders Campus provides a unique learning and teaching environment featuring bespoke practical training areas, a modern, well stocked library and learning resource centre, enhanced IT facilities and bright, spacious student social areas.

## **Our fantastic location**

Our main campus (your prospective campus) is located in a safe, beautiful, peaceful and rural setting – Galashiels, in the Scottish Borders. Galashiels is only a 1 hour drive from our capital Edinburgh and 1.5 hours from Scotland's biggest city Glasgow. By choosing Borders College, you will have access to all the benefits of living in a small town - hills, rivers, clouds, breeze, fresh air, sunshine, back to nature, far away from pollution and noise, enjoying a peaceful quality of life with all kinds of sports such as walking, cycling, swimming, fishing, golf and rugby.



## Our partnership with Heriot-Watt University

The Scottish Borders Campus also hosts Heriot-Watt University's world renowned School of Textiles and Design and the Borders Business Programme, the result of a unique partnership between the College and the University in creating a centre for educational excellence within the Scottish Borders region which enables both College and University students to benefit from a range of shared facilities whilst still retaining their own distinct identities.

## Award Winning

Year-on-year we win awards for our continuous and dedicated support to our students. Some of our recent awards include:

- 2010/11 - the most successful Community College in Scotland by the Scottish Funding Council
- 2011 - Healthy Working Lives Silver Award
- 2010 - Learner Engagement Award – Commended by Scotland's Colleges
- 2010 - Scottish Finalist – Enterprising Britain
- 2010 - Best Place to Work the Sunday Times Top 75
- Subject to inspection by HMIE latest report [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk)

## Before you arrive:

- FREE assistance with interview skills
- Visa application information
- Travelling information
- FREE assistance in finding Campus and local accommodation

## When you arrive:

- FREE Airport collection service
- Full induction & social programme

## Whilst studying:

- Native Chinese staff to share studying experience with you
- Guidance tutor and English language support (if required)
- Dedicated International student support team
- FREE use of college facilities – computers and internet access

- FREE careers advice and job search help
- Accommodation services
- Support with Visa and University applications
- Fun social programme with many cultural events.

## **Borders Business Programme with Heriot-Watt University**

In 2011, we are delighted to introduce our 3 year Borders Business Programme (BBP) in partnership with Heriot-Watt University.

### **What is Higher National Certificate?**

Higher National Certificate (HNC) is an advanced qualification that is similar in academic demand to the first year at university in Scotland. This is a unique certificate in the UK and many universities accept students holding a relevant HNC into year 2 of their degree programmes in the universities.

### **What is BA Business Management?**

Bachelor of Art in Business Management (BA Business Management) is awarded for business management undergraduate degree course. In Scotland, it usually involves 3 years of study.



## What will I be studying?

### Borders Business Programme

BA Business Management. There is also an option to study - BA Business Management with Industrial Experience.

Students study the following courses over the 3 year degree programme:

<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Semester 1</b> Introduction to Management Professional Development Planning Introduction to Accounting Introduction to Economics	<b>Semester 2</b> Introduction to Management 2 Building an Online Presence for Business Introduction to Finance Introduction to Economics 2
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Semester 1</b> Organisational Behaviour Quantitative Methods 1 Introduction to Marketing Commercial Law 1	<b>Semester 2</b> Human Resource Management Quantitative Methods 2 Operations Management 1 Introduction to Banking and Financial Services
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Semester 1</b> Strategic Management Project Management Research Methods Employment Law	<b>Semester 2</b> International Strategic Management Commercial Law 2 Consumer Behaviour Operations Management 2 OR Industrial Placement

## **How will I learn?**

This programme provides a unique opportunity to study a degree in a small and friendly Borders Business Community, class sizes are normally in the region of 30.

You will be involved in a variety of activities including lectures, tutorials, group work, projects, presentations, role plays, case studies, meetings, team-building activities, to help you understand, learn and develop new ideas. You will have access to up-to-date technology and Library Facilities as well as to Heriot-Watt Edinburgh Campus resources to help you with your studies. These facilities are open until 10 pm most evenings and Saturday mornings.

## **How will I be assessed?**

The degree programme involves students undertaking coursework and examinations in each Semester as required for each course of study.

## **Why should I study this degree?**

This is a quality course with small class sizes and excellent academic staff and supporting staff to assist you. It will be your opportunity to further develop your knowledge and understanding of key management issues and business practices to enable you to advance your career pathway.

## **What are the tuition fees?**

The tuition fees for 2012/2013 are £5,650. Tuition fees are required to be paid in full prior to the issue of a CAS number.

## **What is the language requirement?**

You require to achieve English Language Certificate CEFR Level 2 or equivalent in order to be considered for enrolment on the BBP.

## **Am I guaranteed to be admitted to the 2nd year BA course after the first year?**

Yes. If you've got an unconditional offer for the Borders Business Programme (BBP) – BA Business Management with Heriot-Watt University from Borders College and get at least C (40 of 100 marks) in all the subjects, you shall be automatically admitted to the 2nd year BA course.

## Where am I going to stay?

All international students are guaranteed accommodation, some choose to live in lodgings near the College. This means they rent a room in someone's home. Other students live in our student residential accommodation.

## Can international students work part-time?

Yes. If you are on a course at any level at a publicly funded further education college, you are allowed to

- work for up to 10 hours per week during term time;
- work full-time during vacations;
- do a work placement as part of your course, provided your education provider is a Highly Trusted sponsor or the course is at or above NQF 6/QCF 6/SCQF 9;
- work as a student union sabbatical officer for up to 2 years; and
- Students who wish to get a part-time job whilst they are studying can get help from our student service department. This service is specifically designed to help students enrolled at the College to find suitable employment opportunities to complement their studies and support their finances.

## Visa Information

Please note that all information regarding student visas is subject to change at any time. We strongly advise that you consult the UK Border Agency website for the most up-to-date information.

## Who needs a Student Visa?

If you are classed as a visa national and you intend to study in the UK for longer than 6 months, then it is compulsory for you to apply for a Tier 4 Student Visa before coming to the UK. You will need to apply for this visa regardless of the length of time you expect to study in the UK.

## What you need to apply?

The first step is to get an Unconditional Offer from our college by passing an interview and providing the undernoted documentation. We require your original certificate(s) of qualification and the original transcript of

results, your original language test results (equivalent to CEFR Level 2), your personal statement and your reference(s). Once you have received an Unconditional Offer of study from Borders College, the College shall issue you a CAS number that you will require in order to apply for your visa. Once you receive this, you can contact the local UKBA office in your home country to start the visa process.

As well as this CAS number and the other supporting documents as described above that you need to apply for a visa, you have to show that you have enough money to live on. The UKBA advises that you need your first year student fees PLUS £5,400 and this money must have been in your bank account for 28 days prior to you applying for your visa.

Please note that it is the responsibility of the student to obtain a valid visa before starting the course. If a student stops attending a course for any reason or does not appear for classes and examinations, the College must inform immigration authorities.

## For further information

Contact International Intern Joe Zhou

[jzhou@borderscollege.ac.uk](mailto:jzhou@borderscollege.ac.uk)



