Welcome to Parents and Guardians

As a parent or guardian of a student considering university, we understand that you may be wondering what the next three or four years will hold for your son or daughter and how you can help.

This guide aims to provide the information that you need to help your son or daughter have the best experience possible before, during and after their studies at the University of Lincoln.

We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have so please feel free to contact us on 01522 886644 or by emailing enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk.

A Life-changing Experience

Universities are all different. At Lincoln, we are proud of our high student satisfaction, excellent graduate employment rates and research-engaged teaching. However, what you may want to know is that we are a small and friendly university and that students feel safe and happy here.

As a parent, you will appreciate that going to university is a life-changing opportunity. Your son or daughter will find the experience challenging but rewarding.

Having a degree boosts career potential and is becoming increasingly important in today’s jobs market. For certain professions, including architecture, law and nursing, having a degree is an essential requirement.

Lincoln graduates enjoy employment prospects above the national average, with over 91% of our graduates in work or further study six months after completing their course. * They can also expect to earn more over their career than someone with A Levels alone – the average graduate increases their potential salary over their lifetime by £150,000.

However, going to university is about more than gaining a qualification. At Lincoln, we believe that it’s a chance to broaden horizons, meet people from all walks of life, develop initiative and independence, and form friendships that often last a lifetime. In short, university is a major step on the road to a fulfilling and successful future for your child.

*According to the latest Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey.
What Can I do to Help?

There are a number of important ways that you can support your son or daughter to make their transition from home to university as smooth as possible.

We have included these frequently asked questions as a guide to how you can help your child in the next exciting stage of their life.

Before Applying

How should they choose a university?
The university your son or daughter chooses will depend on a number of factors, including available courses, accommodation and location. Encourage them to think about the kind of university they would like: would they like to live closer to home? In a campus-based university or one located in a city?

What course should they study?
Encourage them to think about the course they would like to do. They may have a particular career path in mind but, if not, is there a subject that they particularly enjoy or are interested in? Think about a degree that could be transferable to a range of careers.

While Applying

How should they apply?
Applications are made through UCAS (you can find more information on the process on pages 5-6 of this guide). Your son or daughter will be able to check on the progress of their application online via UCAS Track. Encourage them to log into their account frequently, as they will be able to check on the progress of their application online via UCAS Track.

Should I attend Open Days with them?
We recommend that you attend Open Days with your son or daughter. There can be a lot to take in on an Open Day so it's good to have someone else there and to talk to afterwards. Most Open Days offer specific talks for parents and seeing the campus for yourself can help reassure you during this period of change.

How can I find out about the support available for them?
You can find information on student support and welfare on pages 17-18 of this guide or on our website. Help make sure that your son or daughter is aware of the services available to them before they leave for university.

Where will they live?
You can help them to decide on the type of accommodation they'd like to live in. For example, student halls of residence based on campus or private rentals in the city. You can find out more about the options available at www.lincoln.ac.uk/accommodation

How else can I support them?
Deciding which universities and courses to apply for is a big decision and your son or daughter will appreciate your advice and having someone with whom to weigh up the options. The best thing you can do is to be there to listen throughout the process—both before and after they have moved away from home. Don't forget to ask any questions you may have when you visit universities, no matter how trivial you may think they seem.

Before they Arrive at University

What do they need to bring to university?
Check what's included in your child's accommodation. For example, will they need to bring pots, pans and utensils with them? Would they prefer to bring their own computer with them or use those on university premises? You may also want to look into possessions insurance, which many universities offer free for on-campus accommodation.

How can I help them manage their money?
Help your son or daughter to establish a budget and ensure they have a bank account set up. Many high street banks offer tailored student accounts that include additional benefits.

What will they do if they get ill?
Encourage them to register with the on-campus University Health Centre for access to GP and nursing services. Lincoln has an NHS Walk-in Centre and plenty of chemists in the city centre. It's a good idea to pack some basic medicines for when they first arrive at university.

What will they eat?
Most universities have a range of places to grab a bite to eat, both on campus and nearby. At Lincoln, there are cafes and restaurants on campus, as well as lots of places to eat and supermarkets a short walk away. Encourage your son or daughter to learn a few recipes and some cooking basics before they leave so they can enjoy freshly prepared food.

Visit Us

Open Days provide a great opportunity to visit the campus, meet with academic staff, tour accommodation and, most importantly, ask questions. Talks on funding, student life and accommodation are available. To find out dates and book your place, please visit www.lincoln.ac.uk/opendays

We strongly suggest that you attend an Open Day, but if you can't make one, then informal tours of the campus are available throughout the year. Please note that this is a tour of the campus and University-run accommodation only.

While at University

How will they settle in?
Most universities run a thorough programme of events for new students during the first weeks of the term. These are designed to help familiarise them with their course, the campus and the services and facilities on offer. But be prepared for homesickness. It will soon ease once your son or daughter settles into student life.

Will they need a TV licence?
Each room counts as a separate residence in student accommodation so ensure your son or daughter has a TV licence.

Will they need a car?
Many universities discourage students bringing cars along with them and most have limited parking. At Lincoln, your son or daughter will find everything they need within a short walk of the campus, so a car is not necessary.

How will I feel?
You'll probably have mixed emotions. While you might be looking forward to reclaiming your house, it's normal to worry about how they are getting on and miss having them at home. Don't worry about them forgetting you – before too long they'll be on your doorstep with a month's worth of laundry!

In order to meet academic staff, you will need to book on to an Open Day. For more information, please visit our website.

Contact Us

We hope this guide gives you a useful introduction to higher education. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below or visit us in person at an Open Day.

General Enquiries
Telephone: +44 (0)1522 886644
Email: enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk
What do I Need to do and When?

June/July

Choose a university — Students begin researching courses and universities during Year 12 and early in Year 13. There is a variety of information available, including websites, prospectuses, university league tables and events.

What you can do — Your child may appreciate some help in sifting through all the information on offer. Look through prospectuses and websites with them, and encourage them to keep a record of entrance requirements.

If you can, attend an Open Day or similar events with them. These are a great way to get a feel for an institution, its location and the people, and many are held at weekends to make it easier for you to attend.

September

Apply — Your child will submit their application form online via UCAS. They will be able to make up to five choices. Each course counts for one choice, even if they are at the same institution.

UCAS begins accepting applications from mid September in the year before entry and the deadline for most is the following January. Applications for courses at Cambridge or Oxford university, and for some specialised courses such as Medicine and Veterinary Sciences, must be submitted by mid October. Deadlines can vary for applications to Art and Design courses.

What you can do — Ask your son or daughter whether they need any help in filling out their UCAS form. Many schools provide advice and guidance on what to include, but it does vary. Students often find the personal statement, in which they write about why they are applying to their particular courses, the most difficult part of the form. You can help by encouraging them to write a draft version separately from their application form and to think about any extra activities they participate in outside of their studies that may enhance their application. DON’T be tempted to write it for them.

November onwards

Attending interviews — Some courses, such as Art and Design or Performing Arts-related courses, may require your child to attend an interview before an offer can be made.

What you can do — Encourage your child to look up whether they will be required to attend an interview in advance and ensure they check their email and UCAS Track frequently for invitations. On the day, help them to relax. Academics want them to do well, so no one will try to catch them out.

March

Accommodation — Your child should apply for accommodation soon after making their firm choice. Policies and procedures for accommodation allocation will vary by institution, but it is normally possible to apply before exam results are released. At Lincoln, applications can be made from 1 March each year.

What you can do — Look through the different options with your child and discuss where they would like to live.

February onwards

Finance — Applications for student finance should be made by the end of May to ensure that your child has funding in place for the start of their course. Applications are typically made online. Please visit www.gov.uk/borrow/education for further details.

What you can do — Help them with their application form, as it can be quite daunting. In most cases, you will need to provide details of your household income so your child can apply for any student funding they may be eligible for.

August

Confirm — Once your child has received their exam results in August, their place will be confirmed online via UCAS. If they have not met the conditions for their ‘firm’ choice, they will automatically be granted a place at their ‘insurance’ choice. If they do not meet the conditions for either, they can apply for a new place through Clearing.

What you can do — Be supportive during this time of high emotion and celebrate your son or daughter’s achievement – getting through exams and reaching the end of their secondary studies is a wonderful accomplishment.

Further Information

UCAS
Telephone: 0871 468 0 468
Email: enquiries@ucas.ac.uk
www.ucas.com

Lincoln General Enquiries
Telephone: +44 (0)1522 886644
Email: enquiries@lincoln.ac.uk

Lincoln Admissions Office
Telephone: +44 (0)1522 886907
Email: admissions@lincoln.ac.uk

For specific dates, please visit: www.ucas.com

Parents’ Guide

www.lincoln.ac.uk
What’s the Campus like?

The combination of a vibrant atmosphere and safe, student-centred community makes Lincoln a fantastic place in which to live and study.

We are continually investing in our campus to offer student-centred spaces in contemporary buildings with access to industry-standard equipment. In addition to course-specific facilities, your son or daughter will be able to use the award-winning Great Central Warehouse Library, which contains hundreds of thousands of books as well as journals and electronic resources.

Some recent developments include the construction of a new, purpose-built Engineering Hub in partnership with global industry leader Siemens, the extension of our Art, Architecture and Design facilities to create new studio space and galleries for student and professional work, and the establishment of a Science and Innovation Park, which will provide new teaching space and laboratories for Science and Pharmacy students.

Further Information

Campus Life

www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/campuslife

What’s Lincoln like?

Historic and picturesque, Lincoln is one of the world’s great small cities, renowned for its striking fusion of old and new.

Lincoln is a lively and friendly place that has all the culture and attractions of a larger city, but with lower cost of living and crime rates than most UK university cities.

From its time as one of the most important cities in Roman Britain to the 20th Century when the first tanks were invented, designed and built here, Lincoln has a long and fascinating history.

Take a trip up Steep Hill (voted Britain’s Best Street 2012) to the cobbled lanes of the Bailgate and you’ll find the city’s Cathedral Quarter. This is where your son or daughter’s graduation ceremony will take place and it is also the location for Lincoln’s world-famous Christmas Market.

Lincoln Cathedral, which overlooks the city from its hilltop setting, is celebrated as one of the finest medieval landmarks in Europe. Adjacent to the Cathedral is Lincoln Castle, which houses one of only four surviving original copies of the Magna Carta, signed in 1215.

With its central location, Lincoln is easily accessible by road and rail. Lincoln Central railway station is less than 10 minutes’ walk from the campus with regular links to destinations across the country. It is easy to get around the city, with most attractions and facilities within a short walk, so there’s no need to run a car or spend money on bus fares.

Further Information

The City of Lincoln

www.visitlincoln.com

Did you know?

Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle have featured in popular films and TV series, including The Da Vinci Code, The Young Victoria and Downton Abbey.
Applying for Accommodation

It’s advisable that your child applies for accommodation soon after confirming their course through UCAS (they can apply before receiving exam results). At Lincoln, applying for accommodation is simple. Once your son or daughter has confirmed Lincoln as their firm choice, they will be able to make their accommodation application through our online system, which opens on 1 March each year.

On-campus Accommodation

The Student Village

Lincoln Courts is a great choice for first-year students. The stunning waterfront complex is situated on campus and your son or daughter will be close to the University’s academic buildings, Student Support Centre and the Engine Shed, with the city centre’s amenities just a short walk away.

The complex is made up of contemporary buildings of self-catering apartments, each housing five to eight students. En-suite and disabled access rooms are available. Apartments include fully fitted kitchens, furnished bedrooms and access to laundrette facilities. Rent includes heating and electricity, personal possessions insurance and WiFi.

On-campus Accommodation

On-campus accommodation is within walking distance of the campus and includes University-managed shared housing, halls-of-residence style apartments and private rentals. Our dedicated Residential Services Team is available to help with any queries or concerns.

Further Information

We understand that going to university is often the first time your son or daughter will have lived away from home. Being able to live in a secure and friendly environment will help their transition to independent living.

“I attended lots of Open Days and Lincoln had the best range of accommodation. The rooms are fitted out to a high standard and no one lives too far away.”

Bethany, student
What Would be a Typical Day at University?

It can take time to adjust to university life, but your child will quickly find themselves part of a friendly and supportive community that will help them to achieve their potential and make the most of their time at Lincoln.

The course your child chooses will determine how they learn, but a typical day at university may include lectures and seminars (discussion amongst smaller groups of students) as well as laboratory work, studio sessions, practical workshops and talks by visiting industry professionals.

A significant portion of your son or daughter’s time will be spent in independent study, exploring material covered in lectures. They will work both individually and in teams on projects and presentations that allow them to demonstrate their ability to understand and apply the theory they have learnt. This approach means students gain valuable transferable skills, such as time management and team work, which will benefit them in their future careers.

Outside of the classroom, an array of social, cultural and sporting activities are on offer. The campus is small and friendly, with a number of student-centred spaces and places to meet with friends and to grab a coffee or a bite to eat.

The Students’ Union brings together people with common interests through sports teams and societies, offering opportunities to try something new and meet like-minded people. Students have access to the University’s Sports and Recreation Centre and can use the fitness facilities and sports pitches, as well as take part in numerous exercise classes.

The Lincoln Performing Arts Centre and the Engine Shed are both situated on campus and host live music, dance, theatre and comedy throughout the year.

At Lincoln, we are conducting research that is shaping our world across a broad range of disciplines: changing the way we treat cancer, challenging our understanding of animals and developing more sustainable ways of living.

Your son or daughter will be involved in our research, either by learning from the experts or through opportunities to work alongside academics and make a difference themselves.

The University of Lincoln challenges students to become active partners in their education. In addition to taking part in research, your son or daughter will also have the opportunity to contribute to the content and delivery of their degree and shape the way the University is run.

Our aim is to foster a supportive academic community that encourages critical debate and personal development to help our students make the most of their unique talents. This ethos of engagement and responsibility produces reflective, critical thinking graduates who are highly sought after and valued by employers.

Developing New Treatments for Cancer

Biomedical Science student Tammy Wiltshire took her interest in the field beyond the textbooks when she took up an opportunity to work alongside academics on a research project that is developing innovative treatments for cancer. She went on to present her work at the annual British Undergraduate Research Conference.

Tammy says: “It was a wonderful opportunity to develop my research skills and knowledge in my field. I had the chance to use new equipment and see how experiments are conducted from the outset. I’d recommend getting involved in research to other students.”

Further Information

Student As Producer
studentasproducer.lincoln.ac.uk

See what’s on at the Engine Shed and Lincoln Performing Arts Centre
www.engineshed.co.uk www.lpac.co.uk
Will They Get a Job at the End of it all?

The University of Lincoln is committed to helping our students achieve their career ambitions. We offer a range of information and services, both before and after they graduate.

Real-world Experience

Our excellent links with industry mean that your son or daughter will have opportunities to undertake relevant work placements, get careers advice and guidance specific to their course, hear from the experts and take part in relevant trips and visits. These experiences will enhance their CV and better prepare them for the world of work.

The University runs a number of services to help your child as they consider their future. These include information and advice on job hunting, interview techniques and writing a CV, as well as employer mentoring schemes and an annual student and graduate recruitment fair.

For budding entrepreneurs, Sparkhouse, the University’s award-winning business incubation centre, can support the development of innovative and creative ideas. Sparkhouse has so far helped more than 100 companies become established.

Further Information

Careers & Employability Team
Telephone: +44 (0)1522 837828
Email: careers@lincoln.ac.uk
www.uolcareers.co.uk

A Practical Education

Media Production graduate Liam Juniper found his voice at Siren FM, the community radio station based on campus. His work now reaches a much larger audience through his job as a Studio Manager at BBC World Service and Radio 5 Live.

Liam is one of many to benefit from the University’s ongoing commitment to fostering and maintaining links with industry. The Lincoln School of Media’s close ties with the BBC, and its BBC Education Partner Status, helped him obtain a placement with the broadcaster during his studies, which led to a full-time job after graduation.

Will I be Invited to Graduation?

Your son or daughter’s academic achievement will culminate in their graduation ceremony, held in the stunning Lincoln Cathedral. Family and friends are welcome to join us to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Our graduates go on to successful careers around the world at companies including:

- BBC
- BP
- Canon
- Credit Agricole
- Disney
- Environment Agency
- Erst and Young
- ESPN
- NHS
- National Grid
- Rugby Football Union
- Reuters
- Siemens
- Sony
- The Guardian
- Manchester United FC
- The Guardian
- The Guardian
- UNICEF
- Unicef
- Lloyds TSB
- RAF
- Rolls-Royce
- Sony
- Nintendo
- Siemens
- EM Revenue & Customs
- BMW
Can we Afford it?

Recent news coverage may have left you unsure whether university is an affordable option for your son or daughter. These pages aim to dispel some common misconceptions and reassure you that your child can afford to go to university.

**Student Funding**

Student funding has undergone exponential changes in recent years, but the bottom line is that the increase in tuition fees does not mean an increase in costs. In fact, unlike the previous system, the new funding structure does not require any tuition fees to be paid upfront and, for the first time, part-time students may also be eligible for financial support.

**Tuition Fees**

The principal cost of going to university is the fee for tuition, which covers your son or daughter’s teaching, academic facilities and some costs associated with their course (a lab coat for a science course, for example). Home and some EU students are eligible for a Tuition Fee Loan from the government to meet the cost of tuition fees, which is paid directly to the university. There are no upfront tuition fees to pay and your child will only start to repay their loan once they have completed their course and are earning more than £21,000 per year (circumstances are different for part-time students. Please see our website for further information).

The amount your son or daughter will repay after they start work is dependent upon their salary and not on the final amount of their loan. This is currently calculated at 9% of any income over £21,000, so a graduate earning £25,000 a year would repay less than £7.50 per week. If their income fell below the threshold, repayments would cease until they were earning over £21,000 again. If the loan has not been repaid within 30 years, the remainder is written off.

**Living Costs and Government Support**

Full-time students can also apply for a government loan to help cover living costs such as accommodation, study materials and transport. Known as maintenance loans, these are typically paid into the student’s bank account in termly instalments. Students from lower-income families may be eligible for a maintenance grant, the amount of which will depend on your household income. These reduce the amount of loan your child is eligible for, but do not have to be paid back.

**University of Lincoln Support**

Students from lower income families may be eligible for one of two University-run support packages.

The University participates in the National Scholarship Programme (NSP) which aims to help UK students from less advantaged backgrounds by providing a £3,000 support package in the first year of their degree programme. As the number of NSP awards is limited, the University of Lincoln provides the additional funding to ensure that all eligible UK students receive support.

**Bursaries and Scholarships**

A number of specific bursaries and scholarships are currently available at Lincoln:

- The Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship
- Engineering bursary
- Sports scholarship
- Blackburn Bursary, for students who have previously been in care
- NHS Bursary, for students on certain courses.

Further details and the latest list of bursaries and scholarships can be found on our website.

**Job Shop**

Many students choose to earn while they learn. The Job Shop offers a central place on campus to find part-time employment. We offer help and advice to increase the chance of securing these positions and to manage work alongside studies.

Further Information

**Student Funding**

www.lincoln.ac.uk/fees
www.moneysavingexpert.com/students
www.gov.uk/browse/education
www.slc.co.uk
Will Someone Help if Things go Wrong?

The University is here to support your son or daughter throughout their studies and to make their time with us as successful and enjoyable as possible.

We aim to make your son or daughter’s learning experience go as smoothly as possible but sometimes things don’t go quite as expected. If there’s a problem with work, accommodation or welfare, we can help get things back on track.

Dedicated staff are on hand to offer personalised and confidential advice on an array of issues affecting students, including University systems and procedures, funding, housing and personal support. A medical centre located on campus offers access to GP and nursing services.

Our services include:
- Advice Service
- Student Funding Team
- DART (Disability Service)
- Counselling Services Team
- Student Health Centre
- English Language Centre.

The Students’ Union offers a wide range of services and activities to support your son or daughter and enhance their student experience while at university. Run by students, the Union offers support with welfare or academic issues and ensures that students are represented in all aspects of the direction and development of the University.

Further Information

If you would like to speak to a member of our team about the support available, or if you have a specific enquiry, please contact us.

Student Support
Telephone: +44 (0)1522 837080
Email: studentsupport@lincoln.ac.uk

DART (Disability Service)
Telephone: +44 (0)1522 886400
Email: dart@lincoln.ac.uk

University of Lincoln Students’ Union
Telephone: +44 (0)1522 886006
Email: su@lincoln.ac.uk
www.lincolnsu.com

“I understand that as a parent or guardian you will be thinking about your son or daughter’s welfare and how they can find help, as they leave home for what might be the first time.

“At Lincoln, we care about our students. Their success and wellbeing are the most important considerations for us.

“Students join a close-knit community at Lincoln, founded on mutual respect. Staff across the University work together to provide a stimulating and supportive environment that allows our students to grow and gain confidence.

“You too play an important role in this process. Your trust and reassurance will go a long way in empowering your child to make their own decisions and face the challenges that may arise during their studies.

“Remember, if you or your son or daughter have any questions, we are here to help.”

Judith Carey
Director of Student Affairs