

NSCG | STAFFORD
COLLEGE

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Your Student Essentials Guide

It begins at
NSCG



Welcome Stafford College

I am delighted that you have decided to study at Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG), the college of first choice in Staffordshire, and we're excited to help you achieve and contribute during your time here.

Our supportive team is keen to make sure that your transition from school to college is smooth and stress-free, so to help you settle in as quickly as possible, we've produced this Student Essentials Guide, packed with lots of useful information on life at NSCG.

The guide will give you an overview of the top-class support available here, financial hints and tips, useful information on general housekeeping, and much more - there's more information at the back to help you navigate around the campus in your first few weeks.

Our last Ofsted report rated the Stafford College support team **OUTSTANDING**, so if you have any queries about the information you find in this guide, just contact our Student Services team. They will be happy to help.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Hodgson".

Craig Hodgson
Principal & Chief
Executive, NSCG



to

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Here to help.

Your Student Services Team

Our Student Services team are here to help and ensure all students are treated with respect. The team offers lots of support to help keep you on track with your studies and to help you stay safe and healthy during your time at Stafford College and beyond. Above all, we want you to enjoy your time with us and achieve your goals.

From extra help with your studies, through to worries about money, your course or personal life there is always someone in Student Services who can help. We can even help you to organise events or take part in extra activities during your free time.

Student Assistance Programme

Sometimes it can be difficult to balance the pressures of studying and home life.

We work with Health Assured to provide 24/7 support so you can give your best. Health Assured offer a free 24-hour confidential helpline, so you can get help and advice when you need it.

Assistance is available through the app. Use code **MHA255951** when you sign up.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing Officers

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officers are here to help. If you're struggling with any elements of your course or you have problems in your personal life that are affecting your wellbeing, we can help by speaking to tutors on your behalf, helping you to find useful coping strategies and giving you straight-talking, no-nonsense advice.

Your course will have a named Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officer, so there's always a familiar face around to help.

Install the
'My Healthy
Advantage'
app now:



A photograph of three young people, two women and one man, smiling and looking towards the right. They are wearing lanyards with 'Kule of Law' written on them. The background is blurred greenery.

If you're concerned about your health

The College is a smoke free zone and the Student Services Team can signpost you to services should you wish to stop smoking.

They can also signpost for a range of other services, including Sexual Health, and are equipped to support you both before and during any referral.

There are opportunities provided throughout the year for you to receive information on a range of health and wellbeing topics.

How to get in touch

For further advice from the Student Services team or to book an appointment with a Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officer, email us at help.stafford@nscg.ac.uk or call our helpdesk on **01785 275472**



Additional support.

NSCG is an inclusive college, where everyone has the chance to achieve their potential and feel valued. We are open and welcoming towards students who may have a physical or learning disability or mental health issue, and recognise the rights of all students to be treated equally regardless of disability.

The College is committed to ensuring that disabled people, including those with learning difficulties, are treated fairly. All reasonable adjustments to provision will be made to ensure that disabled students and other disabled people are not disadvantaged.

If you need extra learning support

Our Additional Learning Support (ALS) team is here to help you achieve your true potential. We can provide tailored support to meet your needs, including one-to-one support and, in some cases, in-class support. Support includes specialist and discreet help with:

- Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)
- Visual or hearing impairment
- Medical conditions or hidden difficulties
- Social or emotional behaviour problems
- Controlling feelings of anger

If you need help with a physical disability in addition to the support outlined above, we can also make arrangements to provide help such as:

- Personal assistance
- Specialist equipment
- Adapting materials

We support the Sunflower Lanyard scheme for those with invisible disabilities to show that they may need assistance.

The College has an LGBTQ+ support network with our partner SAGE. NSCG is here for students of all faiths, our campus has a prayer room and an ablution station.

Specialist Equipment

Depending on your needs, the College provides a range of assisted technology and specialist equipment including:

- Read & Write Gold Software to support students with dyslexia
- Dictaphones and electronic voice recorders
- Laptop computers
- Text in different formats such as braille, large text, or on tape or disk
- Magnification software/equipment
- Radio aids
- Digital photography
- Disabled parking for blue badge holders
- Accessible toilets and bathroom, including hoisting equipment

We have induction loops at all Reception points, in the Library and the Auditorium. We also have a portable loop system communicator for hearing-impaired students available for classrooms.

Accessing College Buildings

All the main college buildings are accessible to students with mobility difficulties.

You can make an enquiry about Additional Learning Support (ALS) by emailing help.stafford@nscg.ac.uk or calling **01785 275472**

Money matters.

If you are struggling financially and want to know about the support available, please visit us in Student Services.

About our financial support

NSCG is pleased to be able to offer financial support to help students meet the costs of attending college.

There are two types of financial support: College Maintenance Allowance (CMA) or Vulnerable Student Bursary (VSB). Both include support for food, travel and essential course costs, e.g. print credits.

Financial support payments can be used to purchase bus passes directly from the bus operators.

Student Discount

Show your student ID card in certain shops to receive up to 25% discount. You can get additional discount by purchasing a TOTUM card.

Visit www.nus.org.uk for more information.



College Maintenance Allowance (CMA)

The College has its own means-tested allowance scheme called CMA for anyone with a household income of £26,000 or less per year. Financial support awards are based on individual circumstances and are allocated to best suit individual needs. This will be sent directly to your student card or bank account.

Depending on your course, you may be eligible for additional help towards the cost of compulsory equipment, uniform and trips. There is also a range of support available to help with childcare costs.

The Application Process

You need to complete an application form for financial support, which can be found on our website.

You will need to provide supporting evidence with your application. Once approved, you will receive a payment schedule showing payment dates and the maximum amount you could receive.

Get in touch

For more information about financial support, please contact the Student Finance Team or visit our website: nscg.ac.uk/finance

E: studentfinanceteam@nscg.ac.uk

T: 01785 275494

Vulnerable Student Bursary (VSB)

VSB is available to students aged 16-18 who are in care, are a care leaver, living independently and claiming a qualifying benefit or claiming qualifying disability benefits in their own name. Eligible students can receive up to £1,200 per academic year, equating to £30 a week.

Please speak to the Student Finance Team for details of how VSB will be paid.

Free Breakfast

If you arrive at the College bright and early, you can get free toast and a hot drink between 8 and 9am in the Food Hall.

Apply for financial support:



nscg.ac.uk



Making payments.

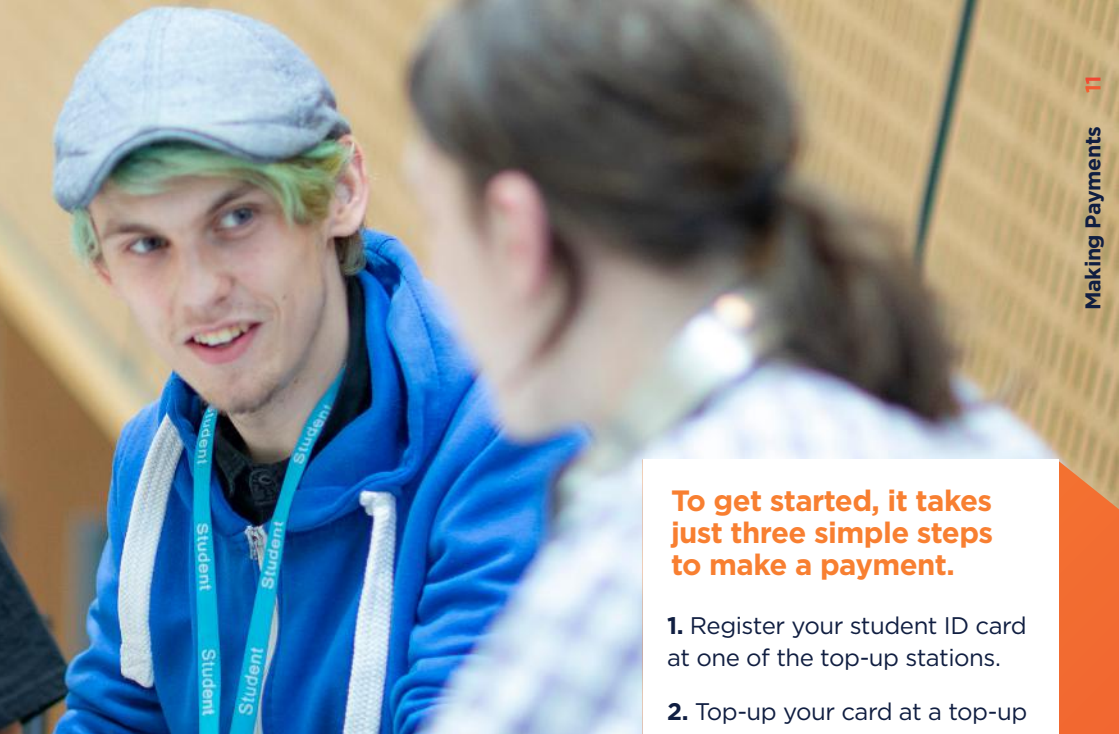
To make a payment to the college, for example when purchasing item at one of our food and drink outlets, you will be asked to pay using your student ID card.

You should have received your ID card during enrolment. This also doubles up as your payment card, which you can easily top-up at one of the top-up stations within the College.

Our food and drink outlets also accept contactless payments.

Parents or guardians can also top-up your card for you by using the WisePay system. There will also be the need to use WisePay to pay for college trips or activities that incur a cost.

For more information and to access WisePay, visit nscg.ac.uk/wisepay



Hairdressing & Beauty Salon

Whether you're looking for a quick manicure, a new hairstyle or a relaxing massage, the College's state-of-the-art hair and beauty therapy salon offers a wide range of services in sophisticated surroundings at a discounted price for Stafford College students.

The trainees working in the salon are fully supervised at all times by qualified tutors with vast industry experience. The salon is equipped to the highest standard in order to give you a great service in a modern environment, while providing great value for money. All salon services are open to the general public, as well as Stafford College staff and students.

For more information or to see our price lists, pop into the hair salon reception.

To get started, it takes just three simple steps to make a payment.

1. Register your student ID card at one of the top-up stations.
2. Top-up your card at a top-up station using cash or online by going to **nscg.ac.uk/wisepay**
3. You're done! Your ID card will now be accepted when making payments.

Find
out
more
at:



nscg.ac.uk

Get involved.

Your time at NSCG

To enhance your wider experience of college life, there is a diverse programme of events including fundraisers and college day trips. There is also a range of activities to help you with your development and next steps.

Guest Speakers

During your time in college, you will see a range of guest speakers covering a range of topics. We have regular speakers covering Driver Awareness, Knife Crime and Gangs, Motivation and Resilience and Money Management, Bullying and Harassment. You will also have course specific speakers. As well as this, we have regular drop-ins from the Sexual Health Team and advice on substance misuse.

Academy of Sport

Want to flex more than your mental muscles? Indulge your sporty side while you study with the incredible facilities in our Academy of Sport, available for all students.

With the opportunity to become a member of TEAM:NSCG, you could be representing us in the Association of College (AoC) regional and national competitions, leagues and cups.

Contact sport@nscg.ac.uk for more information.

Equality & Diversity

We celebrate Equality and Diversity Day annually in May. We celebrate culture and pride with a carnival atmosphere led by our Students' Union. On these days we have guest speakers, workshops and drop-ins to celebrate equality and diversity. The College has an LGBTQ+ support network with our partner SAGE. Both of our campuses have a prayer room.

Next Steps Fayre

The Next Steps Fayre is an annual event taking place in March, where we have over 50 Universities and 40 Employers attend to discuss your next steps after college. All Universities and employers have stalls where you can discuss the range of courses, apprenticeships and careers on offer. We also have a timetable of talks that you can attend.

Careers Advice

You can get careers advice by arranging an appointment with one of our Careers Advisors.

Book yours now by emailing:
help.stafford@nscg.ac.uk



Become an Xtra

Volunteer as an Xtra (Student Ambassador) for the College and you will help your fellow students settle into college life.

Xtras can take part in lots of different activities, including:

- Helping at open events which could involve talking to prospective students and their parents about your experience at the College or developing digital content for events.
- Improving the College community and utilising the facilities available.
- Offering support to new students.
- Taking an active role in fundraising events.
- Visiting your old school to tell potential students about your experiences.

There is also a wide range of benefits to being an Xtra. Not only will you get to meet lots of new people, but it's a great opportunity to boost your CV or university application.



Here for You

If you feel like you've made a wrong course choice, we are here to listen and help. The Student Services Team can help you decide on your next steps, with course advice, how to change courses and providing 1-to-1 support.

Have a chat with your Personal Tutor or member of teaching staff to talk about your options. They'll be happy to help and are there to support you.

Student of the Month

The college holds a monthly Student of the Month awards presentation. Each faculty nominate one student as their Student of the Month. Presentations are made in the Boardroom with the Principal and Management Team and Core Planning Team as well as special guests. Staff members present their Student of the Month by explaining why the student was nominated. All Student of the Month award winners receive a certificate and voucher.

Student Mentors

Student Mentors are second/third year students who are here to support first year students with their transition to college life.

Mentors can support you with helping to make friends, taking part in activities, low level mental health such as anxiety, and helping with your studies such as how to structure assignments. If you would like a mentor, either speak to your Personal Tutor, come to Student Services or speak to one of our mentors in the grey hoodies.

The Apprenticeship Hub

The Apprenticeship Hub is a free service available to Stafford College Students. Visit the team in the Science & Technology Centre, where you can find an apprenticeship and get advice on all aspects of employment, including writing a CV, interview preparation tips and how to find the right apprenticeship for you.

At The Apprenticeship Hub we provide:

- Impartial career advice
- CV writing and interview hints and tips
- Help with completing application forms
- Writing cover letters

We work with over 850 employers across Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire, with key employers such as Michelin, Siemens, NHS and more. We offer a wide range of apprenticeships including Accounting, Business & Administration, Construction, Customer Service, Digital Marketing, Digital Software/Technician, Early Years, Engineering, Health Care, Hospitality and Catering, Motor Vehicle, Plant Maintenance and Teaching Assistance.

For more information, call **01785 275660** or email **apprenticeships@nscg.ac.uk**

Find
out
more
here:



nscg.ac.uk



Your Student Union.

Stand for election in the Students' Union and spend your spare time representing the views of your fellow students by attending meetings with college managers and campaigning for relevant issues.

Represent your peers

The Students' Union is a student-run group that dedicates its time and resources to give the whole college student community opportunities, events and to lead the student voice strategy. There are a number of roles within the Union:

- President
- Vice President
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Officer
- LGBTQ+ Officer
- Gender Equality Officer
- BME Officer
- Sports & Activities Officer
- Environment and Sustainability Officer
- Mature Student 19+ Officer
- Students with Disabilities Officer



ents'

The Student Conference

The Student Conference is an annual event that takes place at the beginning of February each year. Around 100 class reps are invited to take part in the conference where they take part in 8 x 10 minute workshops hosted by staff members to gain feedback on a range of topics about college life. The feedback is then actioned by relevant staff to improve the student experience of college life.

Class Reps

Class Reps are voted for by their fellow classmates. A Class Rep is student who represents the views of their class on academic and college matters to their tutors, department and faculty. Class Reps may also be chosen to be part of the Student Board or attend the annual Student Conference.

Student Board

The Student Board is a group of selected class reps from each curriculum area that meet termly to discuss college life and issues with Lesley Morrey (member of SMT Director of Student Engagement and Partnerships) and a College Governor. These meetings are chaired by the Students' Union President.



NSCG | STUDENTS'
UNION

Outside the classroom

Lanyards

Student safety is our priority and we insist all students visibly display their student ID card at all times when in or around any of the College's buildings. You should use your student lanyard that you were provided with when you were issued your ID card. You'll need your student ID card on you at all times anyway, otherwise you won't be able to enter the College building. The card also doubles up as your cashless payment card, which you will need to buy items from Costa Coffee and the Food Hall. Everyone on campus has a responsibility to wear their lanyard and ID card at all times.

Here is a guide to the College's lanyard colour coding:

● Student ● Staff ● Visitor ● HE Student

Taking care of your facilities

We continue to invest in our facilities to ensure students have a stimulating working environment. We are very proud of our College and we expect you to treat the building and facilities with the respect they deserve.

Safeguarding

Stafford College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Tutorial Newsletter

You can keep up to date with the news and events from Stafford College via the weekly tutorial newsletter which will be delivered by your personal tutor each week, as well as updates on the College Facebook and Instagram. This will include information on events happening that week or in the coming few weeks and will tell you how you can get involved.



Eating & Drinking

There are designated areas within the College for you to eat and drink. We have in-house catering facilities which are open daily from 8am to 2.15pm (Food Hall) and 8am to 6pm most days (Costa Coffee Shop).

The Food Hall provides breakfast options until 11am daily – you can grab anything from a slice of toast to a full English breakfast at reasonable prices. The lunchtime menu is available from 11.15am to 2.15pm, with snacks, healthy options, daily specials and loads more. Special dietary requirements can be discussed with the catering team.

Our Costa Coffee Shop, which is open from 8am to 6pm daily, sells all the drinks that you would find in any high-street Costa Coffee. You can also find breakfast snacks and daily meal deals. Costa Coffee is accessible to our evening students and a special evening menu is available.

Students are kindly asked not to bring in food purchased from outside retailers to eat on the premises.

Get social

We of course want you to engage with us on social media but also know you'll probably want to share your college experiences with your family and friends too. In general, you should avoid posting the following:

- Negative comments, posts or messages
- Questionable or compromising photos of yourself or others
- Offensive jokes, photos or material
- Highly emotional content

Worried or concerned?

If you are worried or concerned about yourself or someone you know, talk to a tutor or drop in to Student Services (ground floor of the Library) or call or text the Safeguarding Team on **07860 927831**.



Travelling to college.

Travelling to college has never been so easy! Whether you are cycling, taking the bus or the train, there are plenty of options and discounts available to you.

Travelling via bus

If you are catching the bus to college, the bus operators offer discounted weekly and monthly tickets for students.

Purchase your tickets directly from the operator to get the best price.

Cycling to college

Special facilities are provided for the parking of bicycles and motorcycles – please use designated areas only. You are strongly advised to use a high-security lock on your cycle, which must not be left secured to fences or railings around the site.



16 - 17 Railcard

If you are aged 16 or 17, you can enjoy 50% off standard Anytime, Off-Peak, Advance and Season Tickets, helping you to save money. A 16-17 Saver is £30 and is valid for one year or until your 18th birthday, whichever comes first.

For more information, FAQs and how to apply, please visit www.16-17saver.co.uk

16 - 25 Railcard

The 16-25 railcard will give you 1/3 off rail fares when travelling by train. The railcard costs £30 and you can save money on a wide range of tickets. You can also buy a railcard if you are a mature student. Railcards can be used all day, with a £12 minimum spend during peak times.

For further information, FAQs and how to apply, please visit www.16-25railcard.co.uk or www.26-30railcard.co.uk

Network West Midlands

If you are 16-18 in full time education and travel with Network West Midlands, you may be eligible to apply for a 16-18 Photocard. The Photocard allows you to buy child single, return and day tickets, as well as term and season tickets for the bus, tram and train.

For further information, please visit networkwestmidlands.com

Get in touch

For more information about Financial Support or travel, please contact the Student Finance Team or visit our website: nscg.ac.uk/finance

E: studentfinanceteam@nscg.ac.uk
T: 01785 275494



What's on campus

We've provided a breakdown of all the essential areas in our campus to help you get familiar, find your classes and most importantly - where to get a good brew!

Tenterbanks

We love Tenterbanks! A listed building with tonnes of character, the home to a variety of creative industry courses and many more. There are also two outdoor breakout areas that are the perfect spot for lunch on a sunny day.

- Theatre
- Dance Studios
- Recording Studios
- Practice Rooms
- Photography Studio
- Multi-Faith Room

STEM Centre

Our Science & Technology Centre boasts impressive biology, chemistry, physics and engineering laboratories, IT suites and a LEGO Education Innovation Studio together with a number of general seminar rooms and a well resourced Learning Zone.

- Victoria Square Entrance
- LEGO Education Innovation Studio
- The Apprenticeship Hub
- IT Suites
- Chemistry Lab
- Physics Lab

Riverbank

The home of the service industries; here you'll find the Academy of Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy, The Riverbank Restaurant and all of our training kitchens. On top of that, we have the Food Hall and our Costa Coffee Shop, for a quick coffee fix or a relaxing brew with friends after a class.

Ground Floor

- Victoria Park Entrance
- Student Services
- Library
- Art/Stationary Shop
- Food Hall
- Coffee Shop

First Floor

- The Riverbank Restaurant
- Mac Suite

Second Floor

- The Academy of Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy



mpus?

Skills & Innovation Centre

Brand new for 2023, our state of the art facility has leading edge skills, construction and engineering, and hybrid vehicle technology facilities, along with a 4-court sports hall, gym and 300-seat auditorium.



Term dates

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 4 September

Start of Term
CP Day (Non-Teaching Day)

Tuesday 5 September

Teaching Commences

Friday 27 October

CP Day (Non-Teaching Day)

Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November

Half Term

Monday 6 November

Teaching resumes after Half Term

Friday 22 December

Last Day of Term and Teaching

Monday 25 December - Friday 5 January

Christmas & New Year

Spring Term 2024

Monday 8 January

Start of Term
Teaching Commences

Wednesday 10 January

CP Day (Non-Teaching Day)

Monday 12 - Friday 16 February

Half Term

Monday 19 February

Teaching resumes after half term

Tuesday 27 February

CP Day (Non-Teaching Day)

Friday 22 March

Last Day of Term and Teaching

Monday 25 March - Friday 5 April

Easter Break

tes.

Summer Term 2024

Monday 8 April
Start of Term
Teaching Commences

Monday 6 May
Bank Holiday

Thursday 16 May
CP Day (Non-Teaching Day)

Monday 27 - Friday 31 May
Half Term

Friday 21 June
End of Teaching

Term dates are correct at the time of printing. Please ensure you check nscg.ac.uk/termdates for the most up to date information regarding term dates.

It begins at:

nscg.ac.uk



Stafford College

Victoria Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST16 2QR

T: 01785 223800

E: info.stafford@nscg.ac.uk

Part of the

NSCG

NEWCASTLE
AND STAFFORD
COLLEGES GROUP

The small print:

All our course information was correct when this brochure was printed. But sometimes things change at the last minute. For all the latest info it is always best to check our website.