

THAMES VALLEY UNIVERSITY, UK

'A Modern University for Aspiring Professionals'

Thames Valley University, with campuses in London (Ealing), Reading and Slough, is a dynamic and forward looking institution. With nearly 60,000 student registrations and a history stretching back to the 19th century, we are one of the most diverse universities in the United Kingdom both in the range of subjects and levels of provision we offer.

All of our campuses have excellent road and rail communications providing students with easy access to wherever they wish to go, either in the UK or in Europe. The University is fortunate to occupy such wonderful locations, with the excitement and resources of Central London, plus some of the most attractive countryside in the UK nearby.

The University constantly maintains its efforts in ensuring that it offers its students a range of relevant and up-to-date courses, excellent facilities, friendly and professional staff, and this, coupled with its location, ensures that hundreds of international students study with TVU each year.

The University has successfully meets its contracts with the Higher Education Funding Council, the Learning and Skills Council and the NHS each year. We have an enviable record in international recruitment – indeed, the number of students they recruit from overseas is increasing each year. The University is also expanding its activities in generating additional income from its work with companies and other sources. We have embarked on a comprehensive estates development programme, with our new student village at Brentford (859 study bedrooms were opened last year and a new 12,000 sq m teaching block is opening in September) and the refurbishment of the St Mary's Road site. Over the next three years we will also have brand new buildings at their sites in Slough and Reading. Furthermore, by December this year, the University will have £25 million available to invest in the future.

The outlook for TVU is very positive, with strong support from the Government for our distinctive mission, a new VC and significant resources to invest in the future work of the University.

Scholarships and support for international students

- For Postgraduate courses over £8,000, International students are eligible for a **£1,000 scholarships**
- Students will be entitled to a **5% discount** if they pay their tuition fees in full at, or before enrolment, or students may pay 50% (including deposit) of the fees on enrolment and the rest by standing order in four equal installments.
- Tuition fee are **fixed** for the duration of course.
- Free-of-charge **Meet and Greet Service** from Heathrow airport straight to the students' accommodation at Paragon.
- To help students settle into TVU and their new surroundings, the University arranges a special induction programme; the **Orientation Programme for International Students (OPIS)**; for its international students. The programme also includes cultural and social events such as tour around London and enables students to meet other international students.
- The University arranges a **free three weeks Pre-session course**, just before the start of the new academic year in August and February. The course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to settle in, to make friends and improve their study skills. This course will also enable students to build up contacts, which will help them to liaise frequently with other faculty staff as well as meet up with employers and other external providers to the university.
- Eligible international graduates may apply to stay on to work in the UK for up to one year. Overseas students also are able to obtain part-time employment for a maximum of 20 hours per week (full time during holidays). The University has an internal **Careers & Employment Service (CES)** that will help their students find

part-time work whilst studying at TVU and give help with CVs, application forms, interviews or job search methods or any other career related query.

- TVU has a **Health Centre** at each of its campuses. Highly trained nurses managed the service during office hours. These services are free to all TVU students. On the Ealing Campus, there is a Doctor's Practice, which visits the site four times a week. Students who are enrolled on a course lasting more than six months are entitled to free National Health Service (NHS) treatment.
- TVU understands how important it is for students to have secure, suitable, accommodation whilst studying at the University. The University Accommodation Services (UAS) offers a free, comprehensive and confidential service to all international students.
- Drop-in-Centre is a place where students can come and talk in confidence to staff if they have concerns regarding their studies, personal or financial issues. They will help students or arrange for them to meet with other University support services who may also be able to help.
- International Students Network can put students in touch with other TVU students from their country. It is often reassuring to be able to speak to students who may have had similar experiences.