

Key Facts for Students 2009



Before you arrive

Please ensure you read all the paper work you have been given before you travel.

Your contract with Concordia and your farm

Once you are placed on a farm, you must remain there until the end of the work period. Do not apply if you may have University commitments which overlap with your time in the UK. If you do leave early, your Concordia insurance will become invalid and you will be unable to work with Concordia again. If for any reason your placement is cancelled, we will try to offer you a suitable alternative.

Concordia Membership

The optional membership scheme costs £79 a year. A key element is the travel pack which includes a Sim card with free international call allowance, maps and guides and an AC travel adaptor. It also includes, travel insurance, newsletters and ongoing support and advice from the Concordia office.

Insurance

The Concordia holiday insurance is valid for one year. Details are in the Insurance Key Facts In order to claim, you must report the loss to the police within 24 hours.

Medical Care

EU students should bring their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which permits you to have medical treatment on the National Health Service. If you do not have an EHIC and you need to visit a doctor, they can choose to treat you either privately (this means you will have to pay) or on the National Health Service. For this reason Concordia recommend that you take out a medical insurance policy before you leave your country.

What you should bring

You will need a variety of warm, waterproof clothes and sturdy waterproof footwear. A warm sleeping bag is also essential. Please ensure you bring a minimum of £150 to cover travel expenses, living costs until the first pay day or in case the harvest begins later than anticipated.

Arrival

Once in the UK, telephone your employer to let them know what time to expect you. If the farmer asks you to arrive between particular hours and you arrive later, do not expect them to collect you. If you have been unavoidably delayed, ensure that your Agent notifies Concordia as it may be necessary to find another person to replace you. Similarly, you should not arrive at the farm too early as the accommodation might not be ready for you.

Starting Work at the Farm

Your employer will copy all your relevant documents (passport, work permit etc) and then give you an induction. This will include details of your hours of work, rates of pay, and other employment particulars required under UK law. Further information about your entitlements and agricultural wages can be found on the Concordia website.

Health and Safety

You must pay close attention to all the Health and Safety instructions you are given particularly with regard to the use of any machinery, vehicles or chemicals. All employees are expected to follow the rules and if you break them, disciplinary action will be taken against you.

The Work

The work on the farm can be enjoyable and very rewarding but you must be prepared to work well and consistently as required by your employer. The placement you have accepted is serious work experience and if you are not prepared to work hard you should not come.

The Weather

Agricultural work is easily affected by a number of things outside of our control; the unpredictable weather in the UK may mean your hours of work vary. If the work on the farm stops before the booked end date, due to either crop failure or poor weather, Concordia will try to offer you an alternative placement. However this cannot be guaranteed.

Accommodation

The amount of rent you pay will vary depending on your type of accommodation, but will be no more than £32.22 (this may increase slightly in October). You will be expected to keep your accommodation and other living areas clean and tidy during your stay. Some farms charge a deposit on arrival but it will be returned to you at the end of your stay provided your accommodation is left in a satisfactory condition.

For Your Safety – A quick reminder about British laws and customs

Cars & Driving

You must ask permission from your farmer if you want to bring your car with you. We strongly recommend that you do not buy a car while you are in the UK. However, if you do, you must ensure it is insured and has a road tax certificate and an up to date Ministry of Transport Roadworthy certificate (MOT). Seat belts must be worn at all times by driver and passengers. It is illegal to use your mobile phone whilst driving, if you wish to use the phone pull into the side of the road. Do not use the farm's vehicles without the farmer's permission - you may be prosecuted by the police.

Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

Alcohol can be purchased by all those over the age of 18. Please be aware that drinking too much can have a detrimental effect upon your work and can have serious Health & Safety implications. Drinking and driving in the UK is a serious offence and you may be prosecuted and imprisoned if you are caught. It is far safer not to drive at all if you have been drinking; take a taxi or walk home if the distance is not too far. It is also illegal to take any drugs which have not been specifically prescribed for you by a doctor. This includes cannabis (dope) ecstasy (E's) cocaine or heroin. If you are found in possession of, or using any non-prescription drug, you may be dismissed by your employer, liable to prosecution by the police and/or deported. Any drug related incident will also be reported to your university. Smoking is banned in ALL public areas including restaurants and bars, and on all public transport. Your farm will have specific rules and regulations about smoking both at work in and in your living area.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting is a serious offence, it means taking goods from shops which have not been paid for. If you are caught shoplifting, you will be detained in the shop and the police will be called. You will also have to return home early and your universities and parents will be informed.

A Warning about Theft

Every year some students have their money and/or possessions stolen. Do not keep large amounts of money in your accommodation. It is also not advisable to lend money to your friends or other people on the farm.

Cash cards

If your employer is able to open a bank account for you, you will be issued with a cash card to enable you to withdraw money from a cash machine. Your card will be sent to you through the post and you will also be issued with a PIN number. This will arrive separately for security reasons and is required each time you withdraw money. DO NOT give this number to other people, even friends.

Discrimination

Discrimination against anyone with regards to their gender or race is illegal in the UK. If you behave responsibly and considerately towards others on the farm your stay in the UK will be both productive and enjoyable.